

WESSEX UFO RECORD.

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Articles by: John Cleary-Baker, Ph.D.,
Ivor H. Sercombe,
Neil Pike,
and others.

: 35 p :

EDITORIAL

A Light Centre at Warminster!

I am very well aware that this proposal will elicit anger and derision from the "nuts-and-bolts" brigade, who regard UFOs as no more than material flying machines, whether extraterrestrial or otherwise. Their opposition does not trouble me. The tide of informed opinion is running strongly against their ideas and full vindication for the point of view expressed in this publication is only a matter of time.

Back in the 1950's the late Dr. Meade Layne coined the concept of UFOs and their creators as aetherial, able to materialize and dematerialize as required. More recently, that doyen of UFO-researchers John Keel has dubbed the UFO controllers "ultra-terrestrials," beings assumed to dwell in an other-dimensional realm inaccessible to us in normal circumstances. Now Dr. J. Allen Hynek has stated anent the UFOs:

"Perhaps they are not 'physical' in the same sense as we regard 'physical.' They may not be in a Euclidean, three-dimensional universe."

It appears to me that those in the best position to know are on the verge of admitting that the UFO-denizens are psychic entities - which is what "Wessex UFO Record" has been maintaining all along.

It is patent to unbiased observers that the World is approaching a major crisis. Scientific Materialism has failed as dismally as "Old Time Religion" to point a way out of violence and chaos, towards social stability. It seems that the Arcane Tradition is the sole signpost remaining to guide Humanity to sanity and peace. Some UFO activity would appear to be initiated with the object of helping us along the way. Warminster has seen more than its share of such activity.

Is it unreasonable, then, to draw the conclusion that, for reasons presently unknown to us, this area of Wessex has been selected as a focal point of positive psychic and spiritual manifestation?

Why Warminster? Why Stonehenge, or Glastonbury, or anywhere else?

Thousands of persons come to Warminster annually, to watch for UFO visitations. Among these there must be not a few who are aware of the deeper implications of the UFO phenomenon. It would, I am sure, be of tremendous advantage to them if there existed a Centre, in or near the Town, where

facilities were available for rest, refreshment, meditation and discussion. Perhaps the Centre might include a reference section of books and periodicals devoted to UFOs and kindred topics.

No funds are currently available for the launching of such a project. "Wessex UFO Record," with its modest annual subscription, is able to meet its expenses and little more. I should, however, welcome suggestions from readers and subscribers who feel that the idea of a Warminster Light Centre is of value.

"Great oaks from little acorns grow." I do not know whether my suggestion is practicable or will ever lead to anything concrete. I am content to leave the matter in the lap of the gods.

My colleagues and I are not cranks seeking to found some sort of cult at Warminster. We believe, on the contrary, that Truth is a jewel having many facets. If ever a Centre comes into being, we trust it will afford a meeting-ground on which persons of all shades of opinion can express themselves freely and learn of each other.

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CORRECTION: Wessex UFO Record - Issue No. 5 - Lower Cover Photo. Printed up-side-down in error, so please adjust your eyes! Our apologies to Ian Scott.

WARMINSTER 1974.

In the last issue of the Record I stated that I would review the activity that had occurred at Warminster during the past year.

I would stress from the outset that the following article is based solely on my own observations during the period in question and therefore readers may have knowledge of events which will not appear in this account. I do this NOT because I distrust reports coming from other skywatchers, but because I do not have time to verify their statements. It is the policy of this publication to be as accurate as possible and to relate unverified reports could lead to the publication of unreliable information.

It has been my practice over the years to write up a diary of sightings and other events immediately following any skywatch - and it is from these notes that my account of events has been compiled.

Remember, also, that what follows is MY interpretation of events. The views expressed re. Warminster are as many and as varied as the explanations of the whole UFO enigma.

1974, in comparison to previous years (from the point of view of sightings) would seem to have been rather uneventful. On any clear night it has been possible to witness 'lights in the sky.' A large proportion of these have been travelling in an easterly direction at approximately satellite speed and have the appearance of a moving star. Accounts of this nature can be found frequently in any UFO publication and for all practical purposes are virtually worthless.

Fortunately, every so often a LIT will appear which does not behave in the usual manner. On Tuesday, 20th August, at 11.50 pm, an object was observed from Starr Hill, travelling in a westerly direction and moving in a very erratic manner. It appeared to zig-zag and the light intensity varied from very dull to a glaring white. The object was viewed by nine witnesses for a period of five minutes. One person had the impression that the LIT was very close to hand - say one mile distant and at a height of 1,000 feet - but on the night in question there was no cloud cover, so that is pure speculation.

A similar sighting was made by myself and eight other witnesses at the

same location, under the same sky conditions.

The last occasion on which I observed a LIT of this nature was on Monday, 21st October at 8.45 pm, again from Starr Hill, under ideal weather conditions. Once again, an object appeared, moving in a zig-zag fashion, pulsating at irregular intervals. It was visible for five minutes, but was on this occasion travelling in the opposite direction i.e. West to East.

The usual type of LITs can often be explained away as aircraft, satellites, etc., whereas this second type does not conform to any known flight pattern. Speed and direction are both irregular and a light of exceptional brilliance pulsates at varying intervals. Were it not for observations of this nature, I would reach the conclusion that LITs are the most boring and unrewarding aspect of ufology. They have been witnessed for years at Warminster and in many other areas, but our knowledge of their nature has advanced not one jot. Other than stimulating the mental processes of the observer when first seen, their appearances would seem to be pointless. Perhaps they are merely beacons, guiding people to areas of UFO activity and thereafter their role is complete.

Readers will probably be aware that on occasion various electro-magnetic failures have been recorded when UFOs are in the vicinity, especially with regard to motor vehicles. I had no first-hand experience of this aspect of the phenomena until Saturday, 29th June. Having left a sky-watch at Starr Hill at 11.00 p.m., I was driving along the farm track leading to the main road when, having just driven over the railway bridge, my car motor cut out. The vehicle coasted on, eventually coming to a halt about 250 yards from the main road. I poked around with the aid of my torch but was unable to trace any apparent reason for the engine failure. There was plenty of fuel and all the connections seemed OK. After 15 minutes I gave up all attempts to restart the car and walked the rest of the way to my home in the town. I should point out that at no time during the day had my car been standing out in the rain, so I feel that water in the contacts or dynamo can be ruled out.

On returning the following morning with a neighbour (not withstanding the fact that there had been torrential rain overnight) the car started instantly. From that day to this there has not been a recurrence of this failure. Of course, the incident COULD have been caused by some perfectly

normal malfunction and were it not for the fact that a further instance of E/M failure occurred at a later date, I would probably not have been so quick to evaluate the occurrence as being in any way connected with the UFO phenomenon.

On the evening of Monday, 21st October, whilst sky-watching at Starr Hill, in the company of Arthur Shuttlewood, the second experience of E/M effects took place.

My car is equipped with parking lights. These are positioned on each side of the bonnet and are battery operated. They had been inoperative for many months and as they are not a legal requirement in England, I had not attempted to trace the reason for their failure.

At precisely 9.05 p.m. the light on the passenger side of the car became illuminated. At that time Arthur and I were some distance from the vehicle. We returned to the car and I found that the switch controlling that circuit was depressed. This could easily have happened when we vacated the vehicle on our arrival 20 minutes earlier. With the aid of a flash-light we both examined the wiring. Then we waggled the bulb holder to ascertain whether there might be a loose fitting. All attempts to extinguish the light by any means other than the main switch failed dismally. After five minutes the light was turned off by means of the switch. We then switched on again but to no avail. We resorted to wire fiddling and once again had no success. Up to the time of writing this account the parking light has not worked again.

Perhaps there are logical reasons for both occurrences, but I find the experiences, especially the latter, rather mystifying.

Accounts of activity at Warminster are incomplete without mention of 'The Invisible Walker.' Mysterious footsteps are heard by sky-watchers, but no presence is visible. Until the evening of Tuesday, 20th August, I had never heard this sound. On this occasion there were eight other persons present, including my wife, when, at around 11.00 p.m., footsteps were heard in the rain-puddles immediately in front of the Starr Hill barn, no more than twelve feet away from us. We did not notice any movement on the water surface, but the sounds were clearly audible. It was an exceedingly clear night and any human being or animal would have been easily visible at a distance of some yards. This occurrence defies conventional explanation and adds confirmation to previous reports of this unusual phenomenon.

For some odd reason, many ufologists can accept without question the presence of 'the Invisible Walker' at both Starr and Cradle Hill, but balk at the idea of there being any other paranormal activity in the area. This is a pity, for there is far more concrete evidence for the existence of psychic realms (phenomena being reported as far back as the written record exists) than there is for physical reality of the UFO.

The nebulous outlines of figures which in recent months have been dubbed "Giants", (although to my vision they would not appear to be any taller than seven feet high) have been witnessed by many people skywatching at Starr Hill during the past year. I often wonder if I had not been so hasty in reporting my first observations of these 'beings' in October, 1971, would they have become such a common feature of the Warminster scene? I would like to make the point that these figures remain 'fixed' in one position and appear to be observing us, the sky-watchers.

During the past year these presences have been observed by my friends and I on many occasions. On one such occasion it seemed possible to observe the terrain on which they were standing, which differed substantially from the physical surrounding at Starr Hill. Like LITS, their purpose is unknown; perhaps they represent just one more step along the road to spiritual enlightenment for those who witness them.

In all probability the activity at Warminster during the next twelve months will follow the current pattern. It is probably wishful thinking to say that an outstanding ufological event will occur, but if it does then it will be fully recounted in future editions of this publication.

- Neil Pike -

WARMINSTER SKYWATCH CARAVAN will be available from Easter until the end of October; details from Mrs. M. Carey, 61, Corton, Nr. Warminster, Wilts, or Mr. A. West, 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex.

PRACTICAL USE OF MEDIUMSHIP

- Ivor H. Sercombe -

The study of psychic and allied phenomea presents a most rewarding subject for open-minded persons who, in the search for Truth - or such degree of Truth as we are capable of understanding whilst on the physical plane - are prepared to discard preconceived ideas where necessary, while not deciding in advance that anything is impossible, however bizarre, as experience shows that todays impossibility is tomorrows commonplace.

As the quest for knowledge of life and the cosmos progresses, the frontiers of the universe are being pushed ever further away and now that science has begun to show us the possibility, if not the probability, of such extensions of consciousness as parallel universes and time continua, co-existing with our own seemingly limitless material universe, we are compelled to realise how small our understanding of Reality must inevitably be, while limited by physical senses.

When it is realised, also, that man appears to be a trinity of body, mind and spirit and that we all possess latent psychic and spiritual faculties which can be developed and used if we so choose, then not only does the possibility of understanding something of the nature and purpose of existence become more possible, but our physical existence can become happier, healthier and more worthwhile in every way, as we become more conscious, firsthand, from the evidence of our own senses, of the oneness of all creation, ruled by the inexorable law of Cause and Effect. Of this we must gain some understanding if we wish in some degree to control our circumstances.

An unbiased outlook soon makes evident how closely linked are all the unusual phenomena in which, currently, a growing interest is being shown; this includes such aspects as: UFOs - ESP - Psychic Phenomena - Healing - Dowsing - Radionics - Etc.

Speaking personally, I have been interested in psychic matters for some 47 years, spending what time was available during a high-pressure business career in investigation and practice in this field - and many strange and fascinating experiences have befallen me accordingly.

Some 30 years of working in a voluntary capacity on public platforms as a medium, demonstrating Clairvoyance, Psychometry, Healing, etc., has produced

a miscellany of happenings, some sad, some uplifting and some quite hilarious, which have combined to make life indeed more interesting and to give an assurance of the continuance of consciousness without loss of personality when the physical body has been discarded, together with a realisation of the guiding power which is always available for us to use during the daily ups and downs of life.

If some degree of clairvoyant vision is developed - as indeed it frequently can be - then new doors are opened and one begins to realise, from the evidence of one's own senses, the truth of the reality of life on planes other than the physical, separated from us only by the differing vibrational rates of their make-up. Other planes appear to be just as 'real' to those dwelling upon them as the physical does to us, for reality would seem to be a matter of consciousness of the mind.

Among personal experiences when using clairvoyant vision was an occasion when in company with a Wiltshire News reporter and camera man, I visited a house in Devizes which had been haunted for some years, to the consternation and annoyance of the occupants.

The spirit form of an elderly man was seen and described in detail before being persuaded to leave by a 'guide' on the psychic plane. Subsequently, on one of the photographs taken by the cameraman, the spirit form described was clearly seen - even details of dress, etc. - to the amazement of the press men.

A show jumper purchased in 1959 was subsequently found to be suffering from an incurable disease of the front feet - confirmed by several veterinary surgeons and also by X-Rays. Later the animal was cured overnight by a spirit vet. whom I saw and spoke to in the stable.

The mare was returned to show jumping with great success and ridden for many years. Her soundness was testified to in writing by another vet. (a physical one)!

Spirit healing is now perhaps the most widespread form of public mediumship and many are there throughout the world who testify to its efficacy though we know little of how it operates and how non-physical vibrations can effect physical matter. There is a field for rewarding study here.

As an ordinary business man who has developed a slight degree of

psychic perception, I can state from the evidence of my own senses that the barrier between our present plane of existence and other planes is not impenetrable; that it is there mainly because our physical senses can only appreciate a very limited range of the vibrational rates which actually exist, outside of which contact has to be made, firstly by instruments and then, further up the scale, by psychic faculties.

When one considers that in addition to the virtual impossibility of understanding the physical universe - both astronomic and microscopic - we have to consider also parallel universes and psychic planes, it begins to seem a bit much and a lifetime hardly long enough!

Perhaps though, if more of us got on with the job of learning what we can about these things which, after all, are of fundamental importance to our health, wealth and happiness - instead of chasing more money for less work - we might be able to make the world a better place to live in.

COVER PHOTO:

Supplied by Mrs Betty Stead.

Taken at Warminster, on an unspecified date, by Mrs Stead and her party whilst on a skywatch.

Technical data as follows:-

Zenith B Camera .

200 mm Soligor Lens.

Exposure: Shutter locked open at F 5.6 for about ten minutes.

Film: Kodak, rated at 1200 ASA, developed in ACUSPEED.

The object shown in the picture is similar in shape to that in a photo taken in Paris by Paul Paulin in 1953.

BOOK REVIEWS

"SECRET OF THE AGES: UFOs
FROM INSIDE THE EARTH"

by

The Hon. Brinsley le Poer Trench
Souvenir Press. Price £2-60.

Brinsley le Poer Trench is a valued friend and colleague and a leading UFO-researcher and I cannot help regretting that he has now espoused the discredited "Inner Earth" idea.

The late Rear-Admiral Byrd's own accounts of his flights over the North and South Poles can be found in the following issues of the American "National Geographic Magazine." September 1926: October 1947: August 1956. Anyone who can peruse these articles and still believe that he discovered or even believed in a subterranean realm, with or without mammoths in residence, must be incapable of understanding plain English! On May 9th 1926, for instance, Byrd and his co-pilot Floyd Bennett, using a "sun-compass," navigated their plane to the North Pole and flew around it at an altitude of 3000 feet. Their field of view was 120 miles in all directions and they saw no polar opening.

The Americans have constructed the Amundsen-Scott Polar Station at the South Pole. In 1958, a series of 52 theodolite observations of the star Canopus revealed that the Station's astronomical loft is situated 1650 feet from the Geographical Pole.

The satellite photographs reproduced in Brinsley's book do not prove the existence of a northern polar opening. The polar regions are not photographed by the cameras of some satellites, owing to the inclination of the satellites' orbits to the Equator, so that a circular blank area around the poles results. This was pointed out to Mr. A.R. Pace by the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough in 1970. The more usual cause of apparently blacked-out polar regions in satellite photographs is, however, as communicated to Mr. Pace's brother by the Meteorological Office at Bracknell, as follows:

"The answer to your question is that the pictures were taken during our winter months, when the North Pole was in darkness and the South Pole was in daylight. If the pictures were repeated during our summer then the reverse would be the case."

I am afraid that a heavy responsibility rests upon such writers as Raymond Bernard, Robert Dickhoff, "Michael X," F.A. Giannini and Ray Palmer, for perpetuating the worn-out "Inner Earth" legend. The idea goes back a long

way beyond the Illinois corset-salesman Marshall B. Gardner, who revived it in the early years of this Century. An amusing account of its earlier vicissitudes is to be found in, "The Square Pegs," by Irving Wallace, published in 1958.

However, Brinsley le Poer Trench's book is well written and is deserving of perusal, if only for the attention it focuses upon a number of genuine mysteries of the polar regions.

J. C-B.

"A FOR ANDROMEDA" by Fred Hoyle & John Elliot.
Souvenir Press. Price £2-50.

I well recall the pleasure I derived from this SF masterpiece when it was serialised some years ago by the B.B.C. It is a gripping tale of radio signals from outer space, leading to the construction of a super-computer and of a humanoid being out to conquer the Earth.

Extraterrestrial beings in fact, are conspicuous only by their total absence. In fiction, they seem to exist in vast numbers and to share a common obsession with dominating our planet.

The name of Fred Hoyle guarantees the scientific impeccability of the narrative. I feel that possibly Sir Bernard Lovell and his colleagues at Jodrell Bank are glancing uneasily over their shoulders!

J. C-B.

"IN SEARCH OF ANCIENT GODS" by Erich von Daniken.
Souvenir Press. Price £2-95.

Despite my firm personal conviction that von Daniken's imagination knows no bounds, I still admire the beautiful pictorial lay-out of this volumn.

This latest work contains no new 'evidence', but attempts to back up the author's previous claims in eye-bending rather than mind-bending style.

Worth the purchase for the photographic plates alone, but don't expect much food for thought here.

S.P.

"COLONY EARTH"

by

Richard Mooney.
Souvenir Press. Price £2-80.

Although I do not personally support the ETA hypothesis, this concisely written book states its case in a most sensible and entertaining manner. The author (a layman, incidentally) makes none of the wild claims of von Daniken and his imitators and the whole thing is compulsive reading from start to finish.

I would recommend this book most highly to any discriminating reader.

"THE CARRY-COT"

by

Alexander Thynne.
W.H. Allen. Price £1-90.

A competently written occult/psychological thriller, building slowly to a really thought-provoking climax.

Although this novel does not relate to ufology in any way, Wessex UFO Record decided to recommend it to all its readers because of its quality and ingenuity.

The climax is as subtle as Arthur C. Clarke's, "2001 - A Space Odyssey" - and open to as many different interpretations!

S.P.

ATLANTIS BOOKSHOP: Specialists in all Occult subjects, the Tarot, Magick, Wicca, Astrology, Crowley, etc. Books bought and sold. 49a Museum Street, London, W.C.1. Tel: 01 405 2120.

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ATLANTIS THE GOLDEN

- John Cleary-Baker, Ph.D. -

Thousands of books and articles have been written about the Lost Atlantis and it is fair to state that much of the material embodied in these has been vitiated by the assumption that everything which Plato wrote on the subject in his "Timaeus" and "Critias" ought to be treated as sober history. In fact, in addition to a mythopoeic element, Plato appears to have confused the Thera disaster of about 1470 B.C., which wrought havoc in the Minoan Kingdom of Crete, with an earlier and much greater catastrophe which gave rise to the legend of a Universal Deluge and in which Atlantis was destroyed.

Let us be clear from the beginning that Atlantis was not a great continental land-mass extending from Greenland in the North to the Strait of Magellan in the South, as Paul Le Cour and others have maintained. The Theory of Continental Drift disposes of such a notion. It was a large and fertile Island situated in the Gulf of Mexico, known to its inhabitants as "Aztlan" and the centre of an extensive maritime Empire. (Britain was the same, within the memory of the writer, only, whereas the Atlantean Empire ended with a bang, the British Empire vanished with something suspiciously like a whimper)!

There are a number of minor planets or asteroids which may on occasion approach the Earth very closely as it moves in its orbit around the Sun. One of these, Hermes, missed a collision with us at the end of October 1937 by a narrow margin of less than a half a million miles. The Austrian scientist Otto Much, in his, "Atlantis, die Welt vor der Sintflut," published in 1958, calculated that Terra was not so lucky on June 4th 8496 B.C., when at about 8 p.m. Eastern American Time, an asteroid some six miles in diameter exploded in the atmosphere over the North Atlantic, showering sea and land below with gigantic meteorites. Much assumes that the asteroid's core split into two pieces with an aggregate weight of 500 million tons, which rent the ocean bed near the Azores Plateau. The Island of Atlantis was overwhelmed by the waves in the subsequent chaos. Earth's axial tilt was altered and its speed of rotation increased so that the year acquired an additional $5\frac{1}{4}$ days. The planet assumed an equatorial bulge, which, under the impetus of solar action, initiated the

axial wobble known as the precession of the equinoxes. Seismic and volcanic activity flared everywhere. Humanity, as the late Harold T. Wilkins somewhere observed, became, under the stress of a long period of natural disasters and deteriorating conditions, afflicted with the collective paranoia which still expresses itself in the form of a need for propitiatory blood sacrifices, whether in the shape of wars or directly as religious rites. (From the grubby little man ranting about "the blood" in a tin tabernacle, to the Aztec priest tearing the hearts from living victims atop a teocalli, is but a step to go)!

H.S. Bellamy in, "Moons, Myths & Man," and Immanuel Velikovsky in, "Worlds in Collision," have established within the framework of the World's mythologies the essential truth of the description given above of a great global disaster. Both men, unfortunately, subscribed to bizarre astronomical hypotheses which have detracted from the impact of their researches. I have merely adopted the more credible "asteroid impact" theory of Otto Much to explain the origin of the catastrophe.

What were they like, these people of Aztlan? What scientific and technological knowledge was theirs?

For a beginning, we shall be safe in disregarding such notions as that the Atlanteans were giants, (Sautat), semi-gaseous, (Besant & Steiner), or other-worldly super-beings, (Shaver). They seem to have been a generally handsome, well-built and intelligent race, fair-haired and of light complexion. The world in which they lived was, on the whole, more equable than ours in terms of climate. If we are to accept the testimony of the myths they were a peaceful people, fond of trade and concerned to transmit the benefits of their culture to the more primitive communities with which they came into contact.. Plato paints the Atlanteans as warlike. There is no indication in the legends that they were unduly so and his object was presumably to enhance the reputation of Athens by representing its imaginary prehistoric prototype as the champion of Liberty in the face of Atlantean encroachment.

Atlantean science and technology, if inferior to our own, undoubtedly surpassed those of the nations of Classical Antiquity. There is evidence from Hindu and other mythologies that the Atlanteans possessed

airships of some kind and legend credits them with a profound knowledge of magnetism and crystallography. In one field they are reputed to have been very much more advanced than we are - that of the Arcane Wisdom, involving ESP and the like. I feel, however, that we must draw the line at the notion of Atlantean spaceships, as advocated by von Daniken and his imitators.

The Atlanteans seem to have been great tunnel-diggers and are by some commentators credited not only with the construction of underground cities in various parts of the world but with the preparation of a global system of subterranean passages.

Perhaps I have been unduly cautious in my description of possible Atlantean achievements. Professor Frederick Soddy, not a crank but a Nobel Prize winner and the discoverer of isotopes, wrote in 1909:

"Can we not read into them some justification for the belief that some former forgotten race of men attained not only to the knowledge we have so recently won, but also to the power that is not yet ours."

He was referring to the traditions of prehistoric times!

W.A.T.S.U.P. NEWSLETTER:

Journal of the Wessex Association for the study of unexplained phenomena: published quarterly.

Superior UFO magazine; details and subscriptions available from Brenda Handley, 9 Norman Road, Southsea, Hants.

H.P. LOVECRAFT - DREAMER ON THE COSMIC THRESHOLD.

- Sally Pike -

In the novel and short stories of Howard Phillips Lovecraft, there is a recurring theme - the idea that evil entities lurk just beyond the fringes of man's consciousness, waiting to attack him during the hours of sleep, when he is least able to protect himself. Were these projections mere fantasies, or nightmares, as Lovecraft himself claimed? Or was he in fact under Astral attack, from beings of malevolent intent?

Few people realise that Lovecraft's stories are based on dreams which haunted him for most of his brief life. He believed (if one is to accept most of the biographical notes on Lovecraft) that these dreams, or nightmares, were caused by acts of malice and evil deeds in his early incarnations, when he was a magician of not inconsiderable stature. He accepted that these bad dreams were a form of 'penance' for the bad Karma he held to his debt.

Many of Lovecraft's letters have been published by his literary executor, August Derleth. They indicated that he was a sober-minded ascetic, who appraised himself and his writings in very modest terms.

"All my stories", wrote the author, "are based on the fundamental lore or legend that this world was at one time inhabited by another race who, in practising black magic, lost their foothold and were expelled, yet live on outside ever ready to take possession of the earth again."

Some critics have claimed that Lovecraft's fantasies were induced through the taking of hard drugs, but Lovecraft always denied this. He revealed that he had been dreaming vividly and at length since the age of six or seven - and that these dreams always featured some sort of intercourse between himself (representing man) and cosmic elementals, who dwelt just outside the earth's atmosphere, waiting for the moment when they could regain power of the earth. Through these dream visions, Lovecraft created his greatest masterpiece - an ancient book of spells and forbidden knowledge, which helped man to communicate with the nebulous denizens of other worlds. This Key, or Grimoire, was called the Necronomicon and its authorship was ascribed to Abdul Alhazred, 'the mad Arab' of so many of Lovecraft's tales.

Kenneth Grant, writer of many learned exegesis on Magick and head of the O.T.O. in Europe, writes of the Necronomicon:

"This grimoire, during the course of its mysterious career, is supposed to have been translated by the Elizabethan scholar Dr. John Dee, into Greek under the title of Necronomicon. It contains the Calls and Keys that unseal forbidden spaces of cosmic sleep, inhabited by Cosmic Forces that once infested the Earth. The Keys are in a wild, unearthly tongue, reminiscent of the Calls of Chanokh or Enoch, which Dr. Dee actually obtained through contact with non-terrestrial entities during his work with magician Edward Kelly, whom Aleister Crowley claimed to have been in a previous life."

Lovecraft remembered that he had worshiped pagan gods in his past lives and said he could recall leaping around woodland shrines, built in devotion to Pan, Apollo and Diana.

It could be supposed that the enigmatic 'dreams' of Lovecraft were triggered by subconscious feelings of remorse or guilt - and the need to suffer to cleanse himself - but it is more likely that, unbeknown to himself, he was leaving his physical body whilst asleep and travelling onto the Astral Planes. His fearful descriptions of grotesque monsters in the void and of cosmic energies which lurk just outside of the threshold of man's consciousness, tie in very well with the elementals of the lower astral levels.

Lovecraft's early death, at the age of 47, was no doubt precipitated by the 'visions' he had received over the years. He undoubtedly lived in fear that he had found the Key to some forbidden Cosmic Secret which, when released upon mankind, would translate into reality the denizens of his worst and most morbid 'dreams.'

Advised reading:

Published by Panther Books:

- The Tomb and Other Tales.
- At the Mountains of Madness.
- The Case of Charles Dexter Ward.
- The Haunter of the Dark and Other Tales of Terror.
- The Lurking Fear and Other Stories.
- Dagon and Other Macabre Tales.
- The Shuttered Room and Other Tales.

We pass on now to the much-disputed topics of Reincarnation and Karma.

Let us be clear as to what it is which reincarnates. It is the spark of the Universal Spirit, the Atma, clothed in the highest of Man's vehicles, the Karanopadhi or causal body, the essential self.

Sometimes we hear something like this. "John Smith is actually the reincarnation of a Roman patrician and before that of a Greek priest and an Egyptian court official." Immediately, we experience a vision of Mr. Smith clad in a toga, or in an himation, or perhaps adorned with the elaborate head-dress of a vizier of the land of Khem.

Not so! John Smith, having lived his life, here on Earth and in whatever astral realm may be appropriate to his post-mortem condition, sheds the Sukshmopadhi, the vehicle of personality, after which John Smith is no more. What we should say is that Imhotep the Egyptian, Ariston the Greek, Marcus the Roman and John Smith the Briton, are all of them facets of the gem which is the True Self or Individual. If you like, they are beads and the True Self is the thread which links them together.

The purpose of reincarnation is the perfection of the True Self, through a great variety of experiences, as man and woman, noble and pauper, saint and sinner. The good and the bad deeds of a life on Earth generate Karma, which moulds character and opportunity in lives to come.

Karma is simply the Law of Cause and Effect. It is not a harsh, mechanical process but a simple and natural method by which the Self attains once more to the perfection which it seemed to forfeit when it entered upon the long round of births and deaths.

Is it not unjust, some may enquire, that a man or woman should suffer for wrongdoing in a former life and by a vanished personality, which they cannot even remember? A man may not recall falling on his head at the age of nine months but may very well experience epilepsy as a consequence of that fall. Nature's ways are not always easy of explanation. We may rest content in the assurance that all works for the best in the long run, even though this may not be immediately apparent.

Why, others may ask, does the Self forfeit its perfection only in order to find it again after an age-long cycle of painful experience? Note that I wrote above that the Self "seemed to forfeit" its perfection. We can view the peregrinations of the Self only within the space-time framework of our limited vision. Ultimately, when we cast off the veil of limitation which is ours and view Reality through the eyes of the Eternal, the meaning of the Whole will be rendered clear.

Like it or not, Reincarnation and Karma are facts and there are on record several thousand examples of hypnotic regression which prove them to be so. One may cite as typical the experiments of the Frenchman Colonel de Rochas and those of the late Dr. Alexander Cannon. That most talented of seers Edgar Cayce was driven by his visions to accept as truth the twin doctrines which, as a Christian Fundamentalist, he had formerly repudiated. It is not too much to say that Reincarnation is as firmly grounded in experiment and experience as any scientific dogma. It is, in truth, a great deal better established than many of the latter.

There are critics who complain that Reincarnation and Karma are fatalistic ideas which impose shackles on the mind, rob those who accept them of hope and initiative. This is not true if they are properly understood. Rather do they abolish the tyranny of blind chance or of arbitrary Divine mandate and put in their place the Rule of Law and Justice.

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General correspondence and UFO reports should be sent to Mr. Neil Pike, address as above.

Items and articles for publication should be addressed to J. Cleary-Baker, Ph.D., 3, Devenish Road, Neeke, Winchester, Hants, SO22-6EA. (Telephone: Winchester 2691. STD Code 0962).

Editor: J. Cleary-Baker, Ph.D.

Associate Editor: Neil Pike. Secretary: Sally Pike.

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