

JET-AGE MESSIAH?

The amazing Uri Geller

(By EVE SYMON)

Uri Geller does not believe in religion or, more accurately, does not believe that religion makes people different, but he deeply and humbly believes in God.

Is he a modern-day Messiah or a showman extraordinaire, a psychic phenomenon or a clever trickster? I don't know, nor do I care.

What he represents is incredible but acceptable. He scares but, at the same time, he is most comforting intelligent and very sure of himself, while almost modest. Paradox? Yes.

With no relevance to his former profession, Uri could be the model of a young Israeli. He is the tall, dark, handsome Jewish boy every Yid-

Jewish boy every Yiddishe momma would like to have as a son-in-law. But he projects some frightening powers and a seemingly limitless energy, which would be impossible to fathom, let alone match. He is a friendly soul, but a loner, if for no other reason, because nobody could possibly keep pace with him.

He has no manager, just his headquarters in New York, which he dictates by remote control (the conventional, long-distance phone-kind) while travelling around

while travelling around the globe.

VARIED

And his interests are so varied, it must keep a large number of people busy.

Uri just finished cutting his record, Baron Janis' music to his own poems in seven languages (He does not speak them all, but learned them phonetically).

An exhibition of his paintings will open in Milan shortly.

He has just finished his book "Uri Geller — My Story." The previous book on his life was titled "Uri" and was written by Dr. Andrija Pundarich, a neurologist and author of "The Sacred Mushroom" and other bestsellers on

telepathy.

Although the book

claims to be his authorized biography, and Uri accepts all the facts reported in it, some of the claims made by Dr. Pundarich, (about Uri being the agent of some extraterrestrial beings), are considered somewhat presumptuous by his subject.

SUPERMAN?

**Is Uri a superman?
Agent of out-of-space
powers? A new Messiah?**

“I don't think I am. But who knows?” He says he has seen and photographed unidentified flying objects, heard voices inaudible to others around him, but he does not know whether they were beings or some kind of intelligence.

Can he see what lies in the future?

“I don't want to know what happens in the future.”

future.”

“When a young man becomes a lawyer, he aims to have a big office, good clientele. I have no such goals. I have everything. I have been happy and healthy in all my life,” he says.

Yet, for a man with no set ambitions he works very hard on recognition and acceptance.

He makes live appearances on television and stage all over the world. He has just signed a contract with Robert Stigwood, producer of

“Jesus Christ Superstar”, for a science-fiction movie based on Uri.

It will probably be directed by Ken Russell. And he will soon start a newspaper column, three times a week, syndicated in 700 newspapers, on any subject he chooses

The young Israeli paratrooper, has become a world celebrity, who is taken seriously by enough reputable scientists not to be dismissed lightly.

It has been said that Uri's biggest downfall is that he settles for the easy, popular way of convincing people: bending metal, starting broken-down watches and demonstrating telepathy. But what better way is to make people sit up and listen.

Yes, I did take a spoon with me to the interview, and he bent it by gently striking it with one finger. And I drew a Magen David in the office, which I kept hidden and the moment I asked him to tell me what the drawing was, he scribbled it on the masthead of a copy of the Jewish Times.

But, as he himself stresses, these can be

stresses, these can be done by any clever magician with the aid of some devices. I tend to believe that Uri is genuine with these manifestations, more so, I believe that he is a kind man whose views on the world are benign.

He takes almost



• *Left: The Magen David drawn by Eve Symon before she left the AJT office to interview Uri Geller. Right: Uri's drawing.*





- *The spoon bends as Uri demonstrates his power to AJT editor, Eve Symon.*

childish pride in bending a key, yet, he is profound in his belief in peace and understanding.

And it is in this field that a little bit of magic, could well be used by the world.

Uri Geller loves people and scorns politics.

He considers himself an 'Israeli, although he made his home in New York

his home in New York and is quite open in his criticism about the political leadership (of all sides) in Israel.

Peace with the Arabs is his only political stand.

He has a number of Israelis around him (his bodyguard, for instance), but he trusts others who work with him, just the same.

There were attempts against his life (somebody shot at him in Germany and, not once, bombs were found in halls where he appeared on

stage) but he does not know whether they were Arabs or mentally disturbed people upset about the strange powers surrounding him. He does not seem to care.

Uri Geller, the paradox, the man, whose life inspired magazine articles and books (and who wrote one himself) says he never reads a book. He loves the movies, but theatre bores him and the only sport he enjoys is skydiving.

Only the jet age could produce a man like Uri Geller in his full dimensions and he makes the most of it. One day here, tomorrow at the other end of the globe, talking in a

of the globe, talking in a
record in one's own
livingroom or blasted on
a huge audience on the
w i d e s c r e e n .
Technicolor, Uri Geller
belongs to today.

*Yet, who knows maybe
he is really from
tomorrow . . .*