

Do you believe in space aliens?

How do you stand on UFOs?

- 1) Balderdash.
- 2) Well, maybe.
- 3) No way.

I tend to sit on all three fences (one at a time) after reading one of the latest books on our alien visitors, written by Dr. John Mack, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author.

Mack, to give him his full honors, is a professor of psychiatry at the Cambridge Hospital, Harvard Medical School. He is founding director of the Center for Psychology and Social Change.

The book addresses many of the questions generally asked about UFOs, but makes no guarantees nor endorsements of the answers many of the abductees believe were given to them.

Remember, this is a psychiatrist talking. He includes the case histories of a baker's dozen patients, out of nearly one hundred cases he has interviewed both directly and through hypnosis. He deliberates upon the experiences of all these supposed abductees, he recalls experiences and reports on the events and impressions most often encountered.

If you're looking for light summer reading, or something to while away an evening or two when TV is particularly boring — forget it. This is not easy going, and I'm inclined to think the writer could have tried to write in a clearer, even more entertaining vein. But then he won a Pulitzer and I didn't, so maybe it's sour grapes.

Where do they come from? We are all aware of the sightings of saucer-like or sometimes cigar-shaped ships in the sky, assumed to come from other planets or galaxies. Some who claim to have seen them have been given the impression that these UFO appearances are created by the aliens to make a physical connection with humans — give us something material we can see and understand.

They have also taken on a more or less physical aspect that is called humanoid, and the descriptions of different abductees seem to agree in most details. There is some indication that they may come from the future.

The general belief is that they are alien beings of higher spiritual consciousness than humans and they may exist on a higher plane and in a different time element. They choose certain persons and are in contact with them from childhood with the explicit purpose of creating hybrid alien/humans. This, according to those who have been there (inside a UFO) has already been done, and they have even held these children that are theirs as a result of crossbreeding and genetic alteration on the part of the aliens.

Some of these people, after

Muddled Musings



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overcoming the initial fear and anger of being manipulated and controlled against their will, have formed a friendly, even loving relationship with one or more of their captors. They may even believe they are aliens themselves who have been sent to Earth to warn us of the coming destruction of the planet if we don't mend our ways, as to pollution and the destruction of natural resources.

The aliens want to "breed out" the more unattractive aspects of human nature such as hate, fear, jealousy, and the violence that is so rampant in the world today. On the other hand they admire our more passionate ability to love others and seem sometimes anxious to be loved by the humans that meet them.

A HIGHER consciousness or the original source is sometimes referred to that we might interpret as God. Some refer to "going Home," in a way to suggest they are from another plane of existence. Reincarnation is referred to as a fact of life, and some believe they have not only lived many lives on Earth, but the soul travels to other galaxies — living in other life forms besides the human.

A note of comfort is in Dr. Mack's conclusion that the whole abduction process is not evil and that these abductors of humans do not wish us harm, but rather are embarked upon a project of saving the earth and changing human consciousness to the degree the creator intended. They may have not only our well being in mind but their own, as it is suggested the destruction of the Earth may disturb the cosmos.

He suggests that mankind may be at the center of an intelligence in a cosmos we have heretofore regarded as uninhabited and meaningless. We may be helped to realize we are a species that has special gifts of caring, rational thought and self-awareness. We may yet open up to acknowledge other life forms to whom we are connected.

The book has the chilling element of the unknown and unfamiliar. It also offers a seed of hope for a better world and a better human being, and who can argue with that?