



An Orthodox Voice

Alien Abductions

THEY SAY THAT poor old John Mack is being persecuted, and I am really not surprised. He is a professor at Harvard University, a psychiatrist and a Pulitzer Prize winner for his book on Lawrence of Arabia. That is all very well, but everyone has a weak spot, and with Mack it is alien abductions. He studies and counsels people who have been abducted by creatures from other planets or dimensions, and he has written a book on the subject which has become an American bestseller. No wonder his colleagues are jealous. Now they are trying to drive him out of Harvard on the grounds that he is discrediting them with his nonsense.

Alien abductions are a big thing today, especially in America - though the first victim I ever met was a Belfast lad who had been shockingly molested by spacewomen. That was in 1968, and since then the phenomenon has spread so widely as now to be almost commonplace. I have since met a great many abductees, most of them women who have been traumatized by an experience which they interpret as rape by alien entities. They even have support groups where they meet and discuss their predicaments. Like John Mack I am impressed by their sincerity and the genuineness of their suffering, but I cannot follow him to his literal conclusion, that actual beings from other worlds are responsible for it all. That is the popular line, beloved by the great American UFO public, and Mack is not alone in peddling it. Another professor, David Jacobs, preaches the doctrine of extraterrestrial penetration, and he also has become a bestseller.

If you meet these learned specialists and want to make them angry, just mention the word 'folklore'. To Americans of that sort folklore is something that happened in the olden days, when people were simple and gullible. They would imagine

that they had been kidnapped by fairies, or that their baby had been exchanged for a wizened elf. They never mentioned spacecraft or alien invaders. Abductions nowadays are described in space-age imagery, and that is why the professors think that they must alert the world to the Coming of the Space Rapists.

The difficulty I have in talking about such things is that the modern mind has become so limited and single-visioned that it has lost touch with normal perception. For every phenomenon it demands a physical explanation, no matter how fantastic. Normal minds in all ages have accepted the realm of mystery, the irrational side of existence, and the monstrous phantoms that regularly arise from it. Yetis, dragons and lake monsters belong to that 'daemonic reality', as Patrick Harpur has called it, and similarly daemonic are the nasty creatures that abduct or violate people and disturb their minds. You can sell a lot of books by indentifying them as spacemen, but properly they are called demons.

The proof that modern abductions are repetitions of an ancient pattern is that in every case, from mythology and folklore to today's UFO literature, the person who undergoes contact with otherworldly beings, is mentally changed by the experience. Some minds are destroyed by it, but in many cases the effect is like that of an initiation process. The professors are quite right to be interested in what is happening, but they too are victims of the modern mind, and with their theories of space-alien they are sadly short-sighted. It is no wonder that demonic forces are becoming rife among us, and it is nothing to worry about, Nature works through the mind and brings the appropriate influence at each season. The demons we experience are precisely those that we deserve, and need.

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