

## VISITORS FROM BEYOND

FROM the dawn of civilisation, man has been tantalised by glimpses of the supernatural — from the monsters depicted in prehistoric cave art to fairies and alien abductions. But could they ALL be encounters with the same mysterious beings from a parallel dimension? In a startling new book, bestselling author Graham Hancock suggests just that. This is the second of two exclusive extracts ...

**T**HE SWARM of UFOs was spotted above the city of Basel in Switzerland just after sunrise one August morning. According to witnesses, 'many large black globes were seen in the air, moving before the sun with great speed and turning against each other as if fighting. Some of them became red and fiery and afterwards faded and went out'.

Five years earlier, there had been an equally spectacular display over Nuremberg in Germany. Flying discs and globes were sighted in large numbers, whirling in the sky near the sun. Onlookers described 'great tubes in which three, four and more globes were seen'.

All of which sounds strange enough, but the dates involved are even stranger. For astonishingly, these UFO sightings — recorded, with engraved illustrations, in contemporary broadsheets — happened five centuries ago: the Basel incident in 1566, the Nuremberg display in 1561.

Their significance was pointed out by the great Swiss psychologist Carl Jung. He wanted to show that the UFO phenomenon has an extraordinarily long history, even though 'flying saucers' did not seize the public imagination until after World War II.

Jung's inclination was to treat UFOs as 'a 99 per cent psychic product' — a projection of our own unconscious minds — yet he admitted he was baffled by their 'apparently physical nature'.

This is a problem that becomes even more puzzling when we move from UFOs to supposed alien abductions, a subject that had not received any publicity at the time Jung was writing in 1958, but which has since generated thousands of weird and vivid accounts.

The belief that you have been kidnapped by alien entities is generally taken as a sign of an unbalanced mind, and provokes ridicule. Yet extensive studies of 'abductees' in the U.S. have failed to link their experiences with any kind of psychological disorder or emotional disturbance.

Psychologist Elizabeth Slater, who conducted in-depth tests on a range of abductees to see if their stories could be explained by mental problems, concluded simply: 'The answer is a firm no.'

Given how bizarre some of these stories are, this is remarkable. After being transported onto spaceships by 'beams of light', abductees routinely describe being forced to undergo humiliating medical examinations

### They are lifted onto spaceships by beams of light

and painful but incomprehensible surgical procedures.

And one of the most astonishing yet consistent claims — made independently, in case after case — is of sexual contact with the 'alien beings'.

Women frequently report being impregnated by their captors, and later having an alien-human foetus removed and stored on the UFO. Male abductees describe acts of intercourse with female aliens, or having sperm samples taken for artificial insemination.

Before amateur psychologists rush in with the obvious suggestion that these are wish-fulfilment fantasies, it is worth making the point that this sexual contact is rarely experienced as being pleasurable and is reported in almost exactly the same terms, over and over again, by hundreds of abductees.

Harvard psychiatrist Dr John Mack, who made an academic study of abduction testimony, concluded: 'I am convinced that the repro-



by  
**Graham Hancock**

ductive narrative is powerfully real for the experiencers.

'To the best of my knowledge, after thousands of hours of investigation with scores of abductees, no Freudian or other individual psychodynamic explanation seems to account for its basic elements.'

So what is going on? Before revealing my own theories, I wish to state very plainly that — like Jung — I do not believe that UFOs are physical, nuts-and-bolts spaceships from other planets.

Nor do I believe that the so-called abductees are literally being plucked off the Earth by alien creatures, taken off into space and forced into experiments or reproductive programmes.

No one can rule out such possibilities entirely, but the evidence I have gathered suggests that these phenomena are something far more interesting and mysterious — and that they offer tantalising clues to the fundamental origins of belief in the supernatural.

In the first part of this series, I explored the idea that the human universe may run in parallel with other dimensions that are normally invisible to us.

I suggested that these parallel universes may become visible to us only when we are in states of deep trance and hallucination — triggered by drugs, esoteric rituals, or a natural capacity for visionary experiences that seems to exist in around two per cent of the population.

I also argued that 'aliens' may simply be the latest incarnation of the occupants of these other worlds — supernatural beings who have manifested themselves to us in many different guises over time, from the spirits depicted in the cave art of our prehistoric ancestors to the fairies of the Middle Ages.

As I tried to show, there is considerable evidence to suggest this might be so, because the images of cave art, fairy lore and UFO testimony have so many fascinating similarities and connections.

But this begs the question of what such supernatural beings might want with us. And the answer — as suggested by alien abduction stories — is quite astonishing.

One classic abduction report comes from a rich young Brazilian named Antonio Villas-Boas. The 23-year-old was working on his father's farm one night in October 1957 when he allegedly saw a UFO land nearby and was forced inside it by four small beings with large heads.

He was stripped naked and a blood sample was taken from his chin. Then a small, nude female with the ethereal looks of a fairy — thin

Concluding a provocative and fascinating

# Fairy changelings, alien babies and a truly astonishing question — are there spirits from another dimension guiding our lives?

blonde hair, large slanted eyes and high cheekbones — entered the room and began to embrace him.

'Her body looked human, her feet were small and her hands were long and pointed. She was about four-and-a-half feet tall,' Villas-Boas recalled.

Two vigorous bouts of sexual intercourse followed, leaving the young man feeling that he had been used like 'a good stallion to improve their stock'. He was then thrown out into the night.

Were this an isolated story, it would be easy to mock. But other abductees talk of the aliens creating and rearing hybrid children — born of human mothers or fathers — in what resemble 'battery' conditions.

Some recall being taken to a part of the spaceship where they were shown large numbers of hybrid babies stacked up in rows of tanks.

One woman described the tanks as resembling 'drawers in a cabinet', each filled with hundreds of 'little foetuses'. Another woman claimed to have seen cases stacked from floor to ceiling and lit from behind. She described them as containing 'baby versions' of the aliens, 'all in a liquid'.

Of course, this sounds like pure

science fiction — but broadly similar stories stretch back far into history. There are even reports of UFOs, and of humans interbreeding with alien-like beings, in the pages of the Bible.

There we can read about the prophet Elijah's ascent to heaven in a 'whirlwind' associated with a 'chariot of fire', and of Ezekiel's vision of mysterious creatures on

### The Bible tells of women having monstrous babies

board great 'wheels' that 'lifted them up from the Earth'.

We can also read descriptions of what sounds like a superior race of beings with whom humans must have dealings and 'who come from a far country, from the end of heaven'.

Most significantly of all, chapter six of the Book of Genesis tells us of mortal women having intercourse with heavenly supernaturals and bearing them monstrous hybrid babies. These 'Sons of God' appar-

ently 'came unto the daughters of men and they bore children to them'.

All this has echoes in the beliefs of primitive societies such as the Warao tribe of eastern Venezuela. One of their modern-day shamans, or spiritual leaders, described to visiting ethnographers how he had followed in the tradition of his ancestors by entering 'a round white house in the sky'.

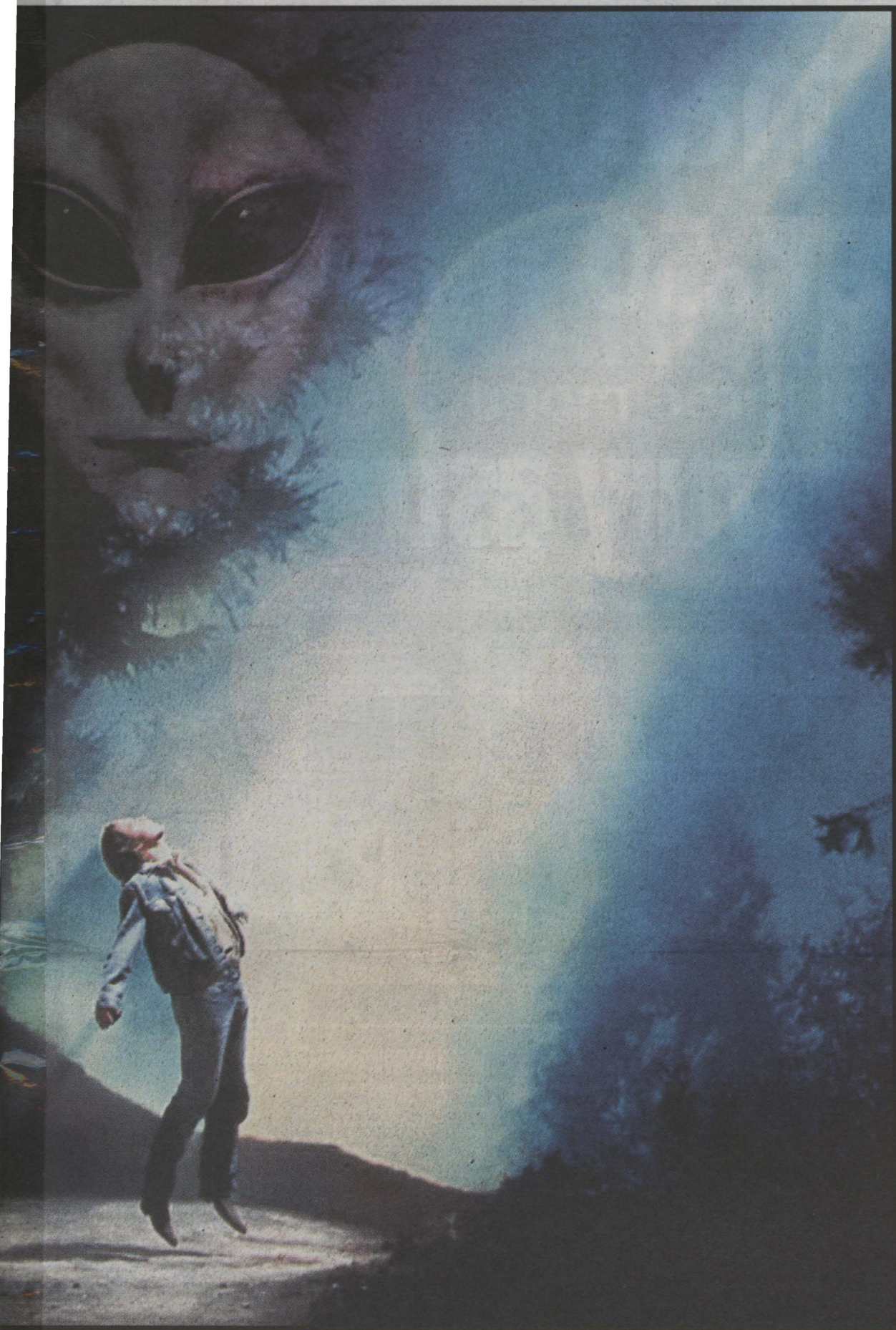
This was inhabited by spirits in insect form. One of them was a 'beautiful bee girl' with whom the shaman had repeated sexual intercourse and fathered four hybrid children.

Closer to home, there are numerous closely linked accounts from the Middle Ages onwards of humans falling for, having sex with and even marrying spirits in the form of fairies.

In Ireland, where fairies are known as the Sidhe, the story is told of two Sidhe women who loved a young prince and suddenly took him away into a fairy palace and kept him there for three years.

Similarly, English chivalric romances of the Middle Ages describe the plight of a young man

## series by one of Britain's most respected writers on the paranormal



seduced and kidnapped by the Queen of the Fairies to spend seven years serving her in Fairyland. These are, quite patently, abduction stories.

As for producing hybrid offspring, one of the most enduring ideas about fairies is their propensity for abducting babies from their cots and leaving behind strange half-human, half-fairy 'changelings'.

I could list many more examples but it is clear that these strange, unsettling themes have run through stories of supernatural encounters from time immemorial.

If they point to some underlying reality — a core of truth that different cultures and different ages have struggled to describe in their own terms — what can it be?

To me, it is as if the occupants of another, parallel world were seeking intimate, transformative contact with humanity in order both to give and to receive something precious.

The persistent suggestion among alien abductees is that they are being used to strengthen and enrich 'alien' stock, by passing on an infusion of human strength and physicality.

One abductee, Lori Biggs, who claimed to have been snatched from

Redondo Beach, California, in 1970, said her captors told her that they were able to manifest themselves as beings made up out of light but that they were unable to hold this form for very long.

'They wanted to learn how to combine human solid form and their luminous form into a more permanent, more powerful being,' Biggs said.

Can it be mere coincidence that the very same 'race strengthening' scenario was the one most often put forward to explain why fairies were interested in breeding with humans?

According to folklorist Peter Rojcewicz, 'the most significant form of fairy dependence upon mortals' was precisely this need to draw on human strength to revivify their own population.

In folklore traditions across the world, says Rojcewicz, 'humans are essential to fairies for a healthy bloodline'.

The Irish poet WB Yeats likewise believed that 'the Sidhe (fairies) need human robustness'.

But what does humanity receive in return during this unusual transaction? The answer appears to

be the gift of knowledge. Despite the traumas they report having suffered at the hands of their captors, many alien abductees appear to regard their encounters as important learning experiences by which their own inner resources are bolstered, either intellectually or emotionally.

One of Dr John Mack's patients, named only as Joe, reported that his

### The aliens pass their wisdom to those they abduct

alien abductors told him: 'We are with you. We're here to help you. We're here to guide you through your difficult times.'

Another of Mack's abductees, Jean, an academic and lecturer, claimed that repeated abductions had greatly strengthened her creative powers and insights. They left her 'neurologically reprogrammed' and better able to 'take in knowledge and put it out for others'.

There are interesting parallels

between this and the beliefs of societies where shamans continue to operate. According to these tribes, spirits from the otherworld bestowed great knowledge upon their forebears — teaching them skills such as healing, controlling the weather and how to husband animals.

Indeed, it is commonly suggested in such societies that all important wisdom, and knowledge of how to lead developed lives, was originally passed on by spirit teachers.

If we put aside the automatic scepticism of our age, this raises a profoundly significant possibility. Could it be that such imparted knowledge might explain the very birth of civilisation — the mysterious 'before and after' moment which occurred in human history some 40,000 years ago?

Before that moment, other than a very few scattered and isolated examples, there is nothing in the archaeological record left by our ancestors that we would instantly recognise as human behaviour.

After it, we suddenly start to find evidence of a total evolutionary transformation — art, the use of sophisticated symbolism, innovative thinking and imagination: the signs that humanity had discovered its creative spark.

This dramatic and electrifying change — embodied in the spread of Stone Age cave painting — has been described by scientists as 'the greatest riddle in human history'. All the human qualities and skills that we value most highly appeared already fully formed, as though bestowed on us by hidden powers.

And perhaps that's exactly what happened. Besides being the world's earliest examples of sophisticated art, the cave paintings of the Upper Palaeolithic period are also the first definite evidence for beliefs in supernatural realms and beings.

Could it be that the spirit guides depicted in those paintings were the ancient teachers of mankind? Was it they who provided the catalyst that transformed anatomically modern but dull, uninspired and spiritually void human beings into behaviourally modern, spiritually aware ones?

So far, I have talked about such intervention in our lives as being the work of supernatural beings who might exist around us all the time in some parallel dimension. But there is another intriguing possibility that I find equally compelling.

It has been put forward by Swiss anthropologist Jeremy Narby, who believes that we are guided not by supernatural beings but by an otherworldly mechanism planted deep within our DNA.

In essence, his theory is that billions of years ago, hidden messages, teachings and revelations might have been coded into our DNA by mysterious entities in the hope that a creature clever enough to benefit from such information might one day be produced by evolution.

When we are in hallucinogenic states, perhaps we are able to access this information — and the spirits, fairies and aliens we think we see are in fact 'virtual' teachers in the equivalent of an incredibly vivid and interactive learning video.

The idea that our chromosomes carry some kind of communication seems far-fetched until we consider that, so far, we know only the function of three per cent of the chemical codes which make up our DNA.

The purpose of the remaining 97 per cent remains a mystery, but an American study suggests that it may be far from what scientists refer to dismissively as 'junk DNA'.

The research, at Boston University and Harvard Medical School, made ingenious use of a mathematical test known as Zipf's Law, which uses the relative frequency with which words appear in a particular piece of text to decide whether it is part of a genuine language — be it Russian, Hindu or Inuit — or whether the letters have simply been generated at random.

First, the researchers applied Zipf's Law to the chemical codes on the three per cent of DNA whose function is known.

Unsurprisingly, given that it is just

a set of chemical instructions determining physical characteristics such as hair colour and height, this section of the DNA did not obey Zipf's Law. In other words, it had none of the recognisable features of a language.

Things were very different when the scientists conducted the same test on the remaining 97 per cent of our DNA. Astonishingly, this supposedly 'junk DNA' obeyed Zipf's Law in every case.

If its chemical codes had been books filled with pages of indecipherable printed letters, then this result would oblige us to conclude that the letters were not random alphabet soup, but words in an organised language.

It therefore seems surprisingly plausible that our DNA might really contain some kind of hidden messages for us.

But if so, who or what might have put them there?

One fascinating theory was put forward by Nobel prize-winner Francis Crick, the co-discoverer of DNA. He recognised a fundamental problem with the idea that all life on Earth evolved from the spread of the first DNA-based bacteria between 3.9 billion and 3.4 billion years ago.

He pointed out that DNA is such a complex mechanism that it must itself have evolved from something simpler, but there is no evidence that any such simpler thing ever existed on Earth.

In some sense the system appears to have been engineered, even 'created' before it ever went into action here — but by whom?

Crick's suggestion was that the

### Could there be a code hidden inside our DNA?

seeds of life and of all future evolution must have been sent here by an alien civilisation.

Their motive, he speculated, might have been to overcome the certain doom of a planetary explosion, or some such cataclysm, by preserving their DNA in stripped-down bacterial form and sending it out into the universe in crewless, automated ships.

These were programmed to seek out and crash into certain sorts of planets at certain stages of development — there to release their cargo of bacteria and begin all over again the long process involved in the evolution of fully conscious beings.

It is a fascinating theory but — much like the idea that supernatural beings exist alongside us in a parallel dimension — it cannot be proved or disproved, for the moment at least.

What is certain, however, is that there must be some explanation for that mysterious 'before and after' moment in our development all those years ago.

Whether it was the work of entities remote from us in time and space or of supernatural beings interacting with us at closer hand remains to be seen, but either way it seems we must face an intriguing but scary possibility.

This is the notion that, although we may think of ourselves as free human spirits, our lives have been governed for many tens of thousands of years by non-human and apparently non-physical intelligences.

Their first dealings with us appear to have been documented in cave art painted many millennia ago, but it seems they may still be exerting their influences over our lives today — ensuring that we follow their agenda according to their own mysterious timetable and purposes.

■ **ABRIDGED extract from *Supernatural: Meetings With The Ancient Teachers Of Mankind* by Graham Hancock, published by Century at £18.99. © Graham Hancock 2005. To order a copy at £15.99 (plus £1.99 p&p), telephone 0870 161 0870.**