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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:13,760

Every year thousands of people observe strange phenomena in the sky.

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00:00:13,760 --> 00:00:20,560

Are they catching a furtive glimpse into another universe or simply observing natural phenomena?

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00:00:20,560 --> 00:00:26,560

It's the search and the desire to know the truth that determines how the object will be labeled.

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00:00:27,120 --> 00:00:31,600

IFOs for Identifiable Flying Object or Real UFOs.

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00:00:33,040 --> 00:00:36,800

British writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's hero Sherlock Holmes said,

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00:00:37,360 --> 00:00:43,600

when you have eliminated the impossible whatever remains however improbable must be the truth.

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00:01:26,720 --> 00:01:30,960

Discussions on the nature of UFOs remain extremely polarized

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00:01:30,960 --> 00:01:35,440

between those who support the extraterrestrial theory and those who oppose it.

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00:01:36,320 --> 00:01:42,000

This polarization is putting up a wall in debates and preventing the examination of further possibilities.

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00:01:42,640 --> 00:01:48,880

In 1997 at the invitation of American billionaire Lawrence Rockefeller, well-known scientists

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00:01:48,880 --> 00:01:56,080

gathered in Pocahontico, New Jersey to discuss UFOs. It was the first time since 1969

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00:01:56,080 --> 00:02:00,560

when the Air Force dropped its investigation into the matter that a panel of scientists had

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00:02:00,560 --> 00:02:07,040

gotten together to discuss UFOs. Led by astrophysicist Peter Sturrock, these discussions brought the

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00:02:07,040 --> 00:02:19,600

strange sightings to the academic forefront. Mark Rodiger and John Schuchler were among the

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00:02:19,600 --> 00:02:25,520

scientists invited to the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was designed by Peter Sturrock

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00:02:26,160 --> 00:02:34,960

to do at least two things. One was to be a rebuttal as it were of the Condon Report. The

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00:02:34,960 --> 00:02:41,040

Condon Report of course had come out in the late 1960s and it had said that UFOs were not worth

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00:02:41,040 --> 00:02:46,400

studying scientifically. Sturrock had been very critical of that and he had always hoped that he

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00:02:46,400 --> 00:02:51,040

could get a group of scientists together to look at the phenomenon objectively and reach a different

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00:02:51,040 --> 00:02:55,920

conclusion which he thought would be justified. So that was the first thing. The second was to

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00:02:55,920 --> 00:03:04,160

present some of the latest UFO evidence to a panel of distinguished scientists to see, to get

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00:03:04,160 --> 00:03:11,280

their advice on the subject, to see how they would react to UFO evidence that the scientific

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00:03:11,280 --> 00:03:19,840

community normally doesn't ever view. The meeting was held in 1997 to allow the examination of

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00:03:19,920 --> 00:03:27,280

physical evidence presented by people that do research in the UFO field to be examined by people

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00:03:27,280 --> 00:03:33,040

outside the UFO field. In both cases these people were scientists, scientists receiving the information

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00:03:33,040 --> 00:03:39,360

of presenting it and then the scientists examining it and they were selected based on people that

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00:03:39,360 --> 00:03:45,520

could present the actual physical evidence, not stories, not wishful thinking, but evidence of

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00:03:45,520 --> 00:03:52,240

things happening, real photographs, real videos, real medical effects, real ground trace effects,

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00:03:52,240 --> 00:03:58,480

and that sort of thing. And in this field there's quite a bit of that. It isn't often talked about,

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00:03:58,480 --> 00:04:04,160

often discussed and Dr. Sturrock thought it would be well to be able to expose this to an independent

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00:04:04,160 --> 00:04:10,080

panel of people that had no interest or no knowledge of the subject and get their opinion on what could

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00:04:10,080 --> 00:04:14,560

be done or what should be done and how important it was. So that was the reason we met.

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00:04:15,520 --> 00:04:20,720

There wasn't anything amazing in the reports from the panel. I think the evidence was solid,

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00:04:20,720 --> 00:04:26,080

of course. I was there and presented some of it. I think it was evidence that the phenomena is anomalous,

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00:04:26,720 --> 00:04:33,280

but there wasn't anything so compelling that you would read the report and say, oh, why, this is

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00:04:33,280 --> 00:04:41,200

astounding evidence. This really shows that this UFO phenomena is unearthly or alien or

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00:04:42,080 --> 00:04:47,040

can't be explained by science, absolutely. No, it was just good solid UFO evidence.

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00:04:54,640 --> 00:05:00,080

The scientists gathered at Pocantico concluded that the UFO problem was not simple and was

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00:05:00,080 --> 00:05:05,920

certainly not the result of a general or single phenomenon. The report added that each unexplained

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00:05:05,920 --> 00:05:11,280

observation presented the scientific community with an opportunity to make new discoveries

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00:05:11,280 --> 00:05:16,800

through the study of these phenomena. However, out in the field, the main difficulty in studying

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00:05:16,800 --> 00:05:24,560

UFOs is learning how to pinpoint what's relevant. Over the years, UFO circles have become such a

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00:05:24,560 --> 00:05:30,640

melting pot for all phenomena that it takes a lot of serious research to find any significant proof

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00:05:30,640 --> 00:05:39,040

within UFO reports. Between 1991 and 1994, Nick Pope was tasked by the British government

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00:05:39,040 --> 00:05:44,720

to assess the pile of UFO sightings recorded by their Ministry of Defense. He therefore had

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00:05:44,720 --> 00:05:49,360

ample opportunity to appraise the quality of the statements made by witnesses.

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00:05:49,840 --> 00:06:02,880

I think it's quite clear that 90 or 95 percent of UFO sightings are either

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00:06:02,880 --> 00:06:09,840

misidentifications of something quite ordinary, but perhaps seen in unusual viewing conditions

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00:06:09,840 --> 00:06:16,240

or by a witness who is not familiar with the particular object or phenomenon. But there are

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00:06:17,040 --> 00:06:24,960

these hard core of cases and there has been, you know, right from the beginning of our official

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00:06:24,960 --> 00:06:30,160

investigations in this. And this is as true for the Americans with Project Blue Book as it is for

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00:06:30,160 --> 00:06:37,040

the British. There are these sightings that we can't explain. Good quality sightings. I'm not

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00:06:37,040 --> 00:06:43,440

talking about cases where we have insufficient data. I'm talking about the sorts of cases where we have

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00:06:44,080 --> 00:06:51,520

say police or military witnesses or pilots say who are seeing solid structured craft.

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00:06:51,520 --> 00:06:56,560

I'm talking about the cases where things attract on radar. I'm talking about cases where

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00:06:57,520 --> 00:07:03,760

Air Force jets have been scrambled to try and intercept these things and where perhaps we have

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00:07:03,760 --> 00:07:12,000

good photographic or video evidence that has been properly analyzed and enhanced. These sorts of

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00:07:12,000 --> 00:07:22,720

cases. And when looking at these cases, I certainly, I am quite favorably disposed to the extraterrestrial

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00:07:22,720 --> 00:07:29,200

hypothesis because when I've eliminated everything else, that seems to be a very real possibility.

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00:07:29,200 --> 00:07:36,640

Can I prove it? No, I can't. We do not have proof. But in my mind, we do have good evidence.

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00:07:37,200 --> 00:07:44,560

UFO sightings are an undeniable fact proven by the thousands of statements and recordings that

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00:07:44,560 --> 00:07:50,880

have been submitted. These sightings happen. Explaining them is another thing. Making a broad

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00:07:50,880 --> 00:07:56,400

statement that they're all false or they're all true based on a single explanation seems rather

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00:07:56,400 --> 00:08:03,120

simplistic to me. The truth of the matter remains to be seen. It's true that most cases are false

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00:08:03,120 --> 00:08:08,080

alarms. In our work, we have proven that most cases are the result of an honest error made by

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00:08:08,080 --> 00:08:13,200

the observer. While now and then we see cases where the error was made intentionally or designed as a

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00:08:13,200 --> 00:08:25,120

hoax. In actual fact, what happens most of the time is that a person comes face to face with

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00:08:25,120 --> 00:08:31,760

something that they do not understand. And they contact the police in the hopes of getting an

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00:08:31,760 --> 00:08:39,200

answer to the mystery. Of all the sightings that are reported, practically none of them turns out

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00:08:39,200 --> 00:08:50,640

to be a hoax. I would say maybe one hoax per thousand cases reported. But for all of the other

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00:08:50,640 --> 00:08:57,200

cases reported, there is no reason why there needs to be one single explanation. The proof is the

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00:08:57,200 --> 00:09:02,000

fact that we're discovering new things every day like sprites in the upper atmosphere, which we

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00:09:02,000 --> 00:09:07,440

discovered a few years ago. They might explain some of the strange lights seen by aircraft in the

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00:09:07,440 --> 00:09:13,920

sky. So there's certainly a whole gamut of explanation. The extraterrestrial theory is

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00:09:13,920 --> 00:09:20,240

simply a projection based on a desire to believe and for good reason. If we take a look at aviation

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00:09:20,240 --> 00:09:25,760

files and radar data which seem to show objects displaying intelligent behavior, we're very tempted

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00:09:25,760 --> 00:09:32,560

to believe just that. In actual fact, it's only one possible explanation. Unfortunately,

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00:09:32,560 --> 00:09:38,400

ufologists usually have nothing more to go on than statements made by witnesses. How valuable are

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00:09:38,400 --> 00:09:43,040

these statements really? Rationalists tend to discard them under the pretext that a statement

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00:09:43,040 --> 00:09:48,880

alone has no inherent value. We must exercise caution in considering these statements, but they

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00:09:48,880 --> 00:09:54,080

are still a valuable source of information. If statements people make are truly of no value,

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00:09:54,080 --> 00:09:58,800

then we might as well shut down the court system. Critics like to point out that when it comes to

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00:09:58,800 --> 00:10:04,320

witnessing a UFO phenomenon, most people are not used to observing phenomena in the sky,

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00:10:04,320 --> 00:10:13,520

even police officers and pilots. Arguments are always being raised against UFO stories,

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00:10:13,520 --> 00:10:18,720

usually by rationalists, because there's a difference between scientists who work as researchers

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00:10:18,720 --> 00:10:24,400

and rationalists who adamantly oppose any stories of UFOs. Their argument is that astronomers don't

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00:10:24,400 --> 00:10:30,160

see UFOs. If all these things were flying around in the sky, then scientists, especially astronomers,

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00:10:30,160 --> 00:10:35,680

would see them. The problem is that astronomers spot UFOs the same way as everyone else. We know

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00:10:35,680 --> 00:10:40,880

that for a fact. Peter Sturrock, an astrophysicist from Stanford University, did a study back in

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00:10:40,880 --> 00:10:48,000

1977 which showed just that. Another study showed that 5% of UFO observers were astronomers,

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00:10:48,000 --> 00:10:52,720

so they do see things too. But what does an astronomer actually do? He doesn't look at the

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00:10:52,720 --> 00:10:57,920

whole sky, just like scientists don't look at nature. They look at their instruments. A telescope

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00:10:57,920 --> 00:11:03,760

has a very small field of vision. If an astronomer were to see a UFO, it would only appear in passing

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00:11:03,760 --> 00:11:09,280

like a satellite, a meteorite, or a bird. It would be very rare. They wouldn't have time to focus on

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00:11:09,280 --> 00:11:14,320

the object. It would be gone before they knew it. When they see a meteorite fly by, they don't make

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00:11:14,320 --> 00:11:20,080

anything of it. So astronomers do see strange things in the sky, but not usually while they're

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00:11:20,080 --> 00:11:28,560

working. There's a genuine problem. When UFOs are discussed, some people say that they don't exist.

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00:11:30,000 --> 00:11:35,120

The problem is not whether UFOs exist or not. The problem is that tons of arguments seem to be

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00:11:35,120 --> 00:11:41,440

based on the idea that scientists observe nature, so they should be seeing UFOs. Scientists do not

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00:11:41,440 --> 00:11:47,600

observe nature. They produce facts under laboratory conditions, very specific artificial conditions

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00:11:47,600 --> 00:11:51,840

that do not correspond to the image of science portrayed in popular science magazines.

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00:11:56,160 --> 00:12:01,440

Most UFO sightings have a perfectly rational explanation. They should not be considered

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00:12:01,440 --> 00:12:05,760

of alien origin until all of the elements involved have been thoroughly analyzed.

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00:12:06,560 --> 00:12:09,600

This analysis stage contains many hidden traps.

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00:12:11,280 --> 00:12:15,120

Although they represent a very small percentage of objects reported,

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00:12:15,120 --> 00:12:21,600

weather balloons can be mistaken for UFOs. Even seasoned observers like civil and military pilots

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00:12:21,600 --> 00:12:24,080

have been fooled by these large silver spheres.

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00:12:27,520 --> 00:12:34,320

Don Ledger, a Canadian civil pilot and co-author of Dark Object, took a keen interest in UFO

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00:12:34,320 --> 00:12:40,960

sightings reported by his colleagues. He is familiar with the most common misinterpretations,

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00:12:40,960 --> 00:12:47,520

like weather balloons, Venus, aircraft, auroras, meteorites, and billow clouds.

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00:12:49,600 --> 00:12:56,320

Normally, getting off track a bit here, usually large scientific balloons, and they are large.

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00:12:56,320 --> 00:13:01,280

Some of these things are 300 feet across. They're filled with helium and they're carrying scientific

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00:13:01,280 --> 00:13:08,640

packages. We'll get a no-tam as a pilot. You'll get a no-tam with your boat every three months

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00:13:08,640 --> 00:13:13,200

in the mail from Transport Canada. It's no-tam that this thing is going to be lifting off from a

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00:13:13,200 --> 00:13:17,600

certain area, usually up north, where the air is more stable and where they're investigating anyway.

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00:13:17,600 --> 00:13:22,720

These things will go up 80,000, 90,000 feet. As they go up, you've probably seen the older

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00:13:22,720 --> 00:13:26,960

pictures of them. They look long and skinny, almost like a baseball bat, and they start looking like

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00:13:27,040 --> 00:13:31,520

an ice cream or a parachute. But by the time they get to altitude, they bloom right up because the

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00:13:31,520 --> 00:13:37,840

air pressure is less up there. So they turn into this big oval shiny thing because of the makeup of

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00:13:37,840 --> 00:13:42,320

the material, you know, the cavilar, or not cavilar, but the mylar that makes these things up,

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00:13:42,320 --> 00:13:48,080

and can carry up to 4 million cubic feet of helium in there. And they can drift around up in the

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00:13:48,080 --> 00:13:53,520

upper atmosphere for days and days and days, reflecting sunlight, and people will report them.

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00:13:53,520 --> 00:13:57,120

And that's really, they have every right to, because it's quite anomalous looking up there,

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00:13:57,120 --> 00:14:01,920

and it's sparkling away. So they account for some UFO reports and so on.

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00:14:03,440 --> 00:14:09,200

There aren't that many weather balloons. They're launched in northern Quebec. Winds are predominantly

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00:14:09,200 --> 00:14:13,840

from the west, so don't try to tell me that these supposed weather balloons are traveling from north

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00:14:13,840 --> 00:14:18,400

to south. Okay, now that I've made that perfectly clear, let's drop this whole weather balloon

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00:14:18,400 --> 00:14:22,800

business. Skeptics better come up with a better explanation than that, because according to them,

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00:14:22,800 --> 00:14:27,680

weather balloons are everywhere. All UFOs are weather balloons. Observers have more chance of

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00:14:27,680 --> 00:14:32,400

seeing an aircraft since planes are aluminum and may be painted white, so when the sun is low on the

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00:14:32,400 --> 00:14:38,240

horizon, it can reflect off the cabin. The wings can't be seen. Just a fine white line in the sky,

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00:14:38,240 --> 00:14:43,040

so since the object is far away and can't be heard, it can be mistaken for UFO.

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00:14:44,560 --> 00:14:51,120

Venus is also a possibility. Most people in Quebec travel between Montreal and Quebec City.

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00:14:51,680 --> 00:14:58,400

So they travel east-west on highways 10, 20 and 40, which means they may spot Venus setting in the

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00:14:58,400 --> 00:15:06,640

west. If you see Venus setting in the north, call me, because it isn't Venus. Of all the planets,

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00:15:06,640 --> 00:15:12,880

Venus is the one that is most often mistaken for a UFO. So what I'm saying is that people may be

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00:15:12,880 --> 00:15:18,160

mistaking aircraft and planets for UFOs. That's true, but it's time they stop trying to tell us

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00:15:18,160 --> 00:15:20,160

that people are seeing weather balloons.

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00:15:23,600 --> 00:15:30,560

In the spring of 2002, a Montreal businessman filmed a curious sight in the sky. It was very early

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00:15:30,560 --> 00:15:36,960

in the morning and the object showed up clearly against the morning sky. Upon analysis, it was

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00:15:36,960 --> 00:15:41,680

discovered that the object was nothing more than a male plane arriving at the local airport.

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00:15:42,240 --> 00:15:48,560

At times, the source of confusion is much more simple. Officer Nelson Jean with the Quebec

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00:15:48,560 --> 00:15:52,560

Provincial Police recalls a UFO sighting recorded at his station.

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00:15:56,560 --> 00:16:02,160

At the time, we were responsible for covering Monterey G, Montreal, Laval, the Laurentians and

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00:16:02,160 --> 00:16:08,240

L'Enaudière. As I recall, it happened near Saint-July. People called to report colored lights in

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00:16:08,800 --> 00:16:14,000

the sky. When our police officers arrived at the scene, they traced the lights back to a dance

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00:16:14,000 --> 00:16:19,520

club. Someone was either accidentally or intentionally projecting laser beams into the

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00:16:19,520 --> 00:16:24,240

sky, which was leading people in the area to think that they were seeing something from

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00:16:24,240 --> 00:16:28,240

outer space, perhaps a UFO or a signal from extraterrestrials.

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00:16:31,360 --> 00:16:36,720

Other than laser beam projectors, aircraft and weather balloons, we also need to consider

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00:16:36,800 --> 00:16:42,000

objects entering Earth's atmosphere, orbital debris which is becoming more and more common.

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00:16:42,880 --> 00:16:47,600

A few years ago, during a similar incident over France, the state police were inundated

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00:16:47,600 --> 00:16:52,480

with calls throughout the country from citizens wishing to report a UFO sighting.

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00:16:53,280 --> 00:16:58,640

At the time, Jean-Jacques Velasco was already heading up the French group CEPRA, which tracks

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00:16:58,640 --> 00:17:03,600

objects entering Earth's atmosphere. It is an agency working for the French National Space

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00:17:03,680 --> 00:17:09,680

Research Center, otherwise known as CNES. We've noticed that these days, a lot of sightings

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00:17:09,680 --> 00:17:16,640

result from debris falling from objects in orbit. This was the case on November 5th, 1990,

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00:17:16,640 --> 00:17:24,640

when we witnessed an amazing display of debris from a Russian rocket. The debris was scattered

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00:17:24,640 --> 00:17:28,640

throughout the skies over Europe, particularly over France.

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00:17:33,920 --> 00:17:38,880

Films and photographs can be useful tools to ufologists, as they try to make heads or tails

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00:17:38,880 --> 00:17:46,880

out of a UFO sighting. But once again, a visual aid in itself does not constitute proof that UFOs

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00:17:46,880 --> 00:17:54,880

are alien in origin. This is true even more so, now that new computer technology is being

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00:17:54,880 --> 00:18:00,880

allowed to fake photos that look as professional as anything produced in Hollywood.

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00:18:02,880 --> 00:18:07,680

Well, as you know, I'm quite familiar with the field of photography, since I worked as an expert

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00:18:07,680 --> 00:18:13,520

in this area when I was with CNES. I came to the conclusion that it is one of the most disappointing

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00:18:13,520 --> 00:18:19,200

aspects of UFO cases. Why do you think that this is the case? Because it is a very complex

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00:18:19,360 --> 00:18:24,560

I came to the conclusion that it is one of the most disappointing aspects of UFO cases.

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00:18:24,560 --> 00:18:29,680

Why do I think that? Well, first of all, it's the element that evokes the most emotional response

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00:18:29,680 --> 00:18:35,120

and most expectations from the public. We often hear people say, if only we had a good picture

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00:18:35,120 --> 00:18:40,400

of this, we could check into it further. In actual fact, nothing is further from being solid proof

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00:18:40,400 --> 00:18:47,040

than a single photo on its own. That was true even 15 or 20 years ago. Back then, I received funding

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00:18:47,040 --> 00:18:54,160

to study all the tricks involved in photo analysis. We noticed that some people were very clever

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00:18:54,160 --> 00:19:01,920

at faking photos. Nowadays, with computer technology, anyone can use commercial software to touch up

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00:19:01,920 --> 00:19:10,080

photos. I've had a bet for 10 years that no one can produce a photo able to withstand photo analysis

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00:19:10,080 --> 00:19:16,720

tests. There are two types of photographs of so-called UFOs. There are the cases where the

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00:19:16,720 --> 00:19:21,600

witnesses are in a state of panic over something that they saw and there is little information

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00:19:21,600 --> 00:19:27,440

available. These pictures are typically a small white light against a dark background, or if

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00:19:27,440 --> 00:19:33,760

taken during the day, the object appears as a small dot in the sky, as was the case in Voip,

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00:19:33,760 --> 00:19:40,720

France, a few years ago, when object was photographed against a clear blue sky. Even using the most

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00:19:40,720 --> 00:19:46,560

powerful tools possible, the information extracted is minimal. Then there are the photos for which

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00:19:46,640 --> 00:19:52,320

more information is provided. At the other extreme, you have fake photos. They don't pop up as often as

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00:19:52,320 --> 00:19:57,200

you might think, but they still seem to be profitable in some countries. When I traveled in certain

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00:19:57,200 --> 00:20:02,320

southern countries, I noticed that books were being sold with fake photos in them. Generally,

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00:20:02,320 --> 00:20:07,840

they're pretty easy to spot. Then there's a majority of cases where an honest error is made.

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00:20:08,480 --> 00:20:14,080

This happens when a person sees something that appears strange to them, and they take a picture

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00:20:14,080 --> 00:20:20,000

of it only to discover later that it was simply the Aurora Borealis or some other uneventful

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00:20:20,000 --> 00:20:25,520

occurrence. There are also cases where something odd happens in the camera when a picture is taken.

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00:20:25,520 --> 00:20:30,560

Cases of optical phenomena or cases where something is on the film, I once saw a photo that had me

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00:20:30,560 --> 00:20:37,840

stumped for the longest time until I analyzed the film under a microscope. As far as misinterpretations

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00:20:37,840 --> 00:20:43,360

go, with respect to photos or home movies, a lot of people mistake reflections for UFOs.

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00:20:43,360 --> 00:20:48,640

Many people use small camcorders these days, which is great for us UFO researchers,

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00:20:48,640 --> 00:20:52,480

since these films provide us with good visual material to analyze.

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00:20:54,480 --> 00:21:00,640

I'll give you a quick trick for figuring out whether or not your photo or film has a reflection on it.

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00:21:05,440 --> 00:21:11,680

You just need to draw an X across your photo. Take a ruler and draw a light line with a pencil

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00:21:11,680 --> 00:21:16,960

from one corner up to the opposite corner. Then do the same with the other two corners.

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00:21:17,920 --> 00:21:23,040

This will give you the center of your picture. If the brightest object in your photo is a reflection,

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00:21:23,040 --> 00:21:27,760

then it will cross the center and keep on going an equal distance in the opposite direction.

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00:21:27,760 --> 00:21:33,120

The reflection can't be anywhere else. The angle of reflection is equal to the angle of incidence.

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00:21:33,120 --> 00:21:38,560

This is a basic law of physics. People often take pictures through a window or a glass pane,

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00:21:38,560 --> 00:21:43,360

and cameras also have a protective lens covering, which can create reflections when a picture is

201

00:21:43,360 --> 00:21:48,800

being taken like a street led or distant car lights. The photographer doesn't see the sources in his

202

00:21:48,800 --> 00:21:54,320

reduced field of vision. A car passes by, shines on the lens, and a small lens-shaped reflection

203

00:21:54,320 --> 00:22:00,160

appears on the photo. Before you call the press to say that you've just photographed a flying saucer,

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00:22:00,160 --> 00:22:03,840

you should double check to make sure that there are no reflections in your picture.

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00:22:04,480 --> 00:22:09,680

Only then should you consider that perhaps there really was an object in the sky. If there was

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00:22:09,680 --> 00:22:15,200

an object, then it's time for what I refer to as the investigative process, noting the color of

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00:22:15,200 --> 00:22:20,320

the object and calculating distances and so forth to determine the size and possibly the weight of

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00:22:20,320 --> 00:22:31,440

the object. At times, the so-called UFO is nothing more than an unidentified optical object.

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00:22:31,840 --> 00:22:37,440

In the early 1990s, there were several sightings of discs with scalloped edges, vaguely reminiscent

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00:22:37,440 --> 00:22:44,560

of the symbol used by the comic book hero Batman. According to the reports, these bat-shaped discs

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00:22:44,560 --> 00:22:49,920

first began to appear over Belgium, before spreading to Spain and then the United States.

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00:22:51,120 --> 00:22:57,040

Unfortunately for mystery lovers, there was nothing exciting behind these UFOs. The image

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00:22:57,520 --> 00:23:03,600

was nothing more than a bright object, such as the moon or a streetlight filmed out of focus,

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00:23:04,160 --> 00:23:10,320

due to the focus ring on camcorders that had just come out on the market at the time. Speaking of

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00:23:10,320 --> 00:23:16,560

images, Earth is now constantly monitored by a network of satellites. Each day, these spies in

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00:23:16,560 --> 00:23:22,960

the sky take dozens of pictures of the Earth. Why aren't there any satellite images of UFOs?

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00:23:23,440 --> 00:23:30,080

Another mistake that ufologists often make with respect to satellite images is that they think,

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00:23:30,080 --> 00:23:35,120

if UFOs are flying around the Earth, we should see one appear on the satellite image now and then.

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00:23:35,120 --> 00:23:39,680

When they say that, they obviously do not realize that remote sensing satellites circle

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00:23:39,680 --> 00:23:46,480

Earth every 90 minutes at an altitude of 500 to 600 miles. If we look at satellite images,

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00:23:46,560 --> 00:23:54,160

all we see is a bunch of tiny dots on a huge surface. Even if an army of 100 huge UFOs landed

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00:23:54,160 --> 00:23:59,680

on Earth within the space of a few hours, it is highly unlikely that they would be detected by

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00:23:59,680 --> 00:24:07,600

any of the dozens of satellites hovering over Earth. As we try to identify the unknown,

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00:24:08,240 --> 00:24:15,040

some UFOs defy explanation. At least, it would seem so at first glance. However,

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00:24:15,040 --> 00:24:20,080

just because we can't correctly label an object doesn't mean we should jump to the conclusion

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00:24:20,080 --> 00:24:26,240

that we're being invaded by aliens. Remember the term UFO does not necessarily mean

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00:24:26,240 --> 00:24:32,640

an interplanetary craft. Jean-Pierre Farrabeau was a research engineer working at a physics lab

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00:24:32,640 --> 00:24:39,360

within France's Polytechnical Institute. A few years ago, he wrote a book about unidentified flying

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00:24:40,080 --> 00:24:49,120

weapons. One possible explanation for UFOs is that they are secret military aircraft.

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00:24:53,120 --> 00:24:58,640

A historian from the CIA even wrote a report claiming that most unexplained UFOs could

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00:24:58,640 --> 00:25:02,400

be attributed to flights by an aircraft referred to as the U-2.

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00:25:02,800 --> 00:25:14,000

Well, it's true that some of the U-2's flight plans did coincide with UFO sightings.

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00:25:15,200 --> 00:25:19,760

But in my opinion, this happened in a very small percentage of cases.

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00:25:22,960 --> 00:25:27,920

There's also the fact that the U-2 was flown for the first time in 1955,

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00:25:28,560 --> 00:25:36,960

whereas UFO sightings began to be reported regularly as of 1947.

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00:25:40,000 --> 00:25:43,920

So the U-2 could certainly be used to explain some of the sightings,

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00:25:44,800 --> 00:25:47,760

especially since it flies at a very high altitude.

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00:25:51,040 --> 00:25:53,920

And it has what you might call a halo effect.

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00:25:54,240 --> 00:26:00,960

Although it is shaped like a glider, glare from the sun's rays may cause it to look circular

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00:26:00,960 --> 00:26:08,000

instead. The fact remains that it appeared in the sky too late to explain the first eight years

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00:26:08,000 --> 00:26:15,040

of UFO sightings. And there's still the fact that only a few of the U-2's flights correspond to

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00:26:15,040 --> 00:26:21,920

UFO sightings. There were other aircraft built after the U-2 that could have been mistaken for

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00:26:22,000 --> 00:26:27,200

UFOs due to their speed and high flying altitude. They were called Blackbirds.

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00:26:28,480 --> 00:26:31,520

Two different aircraft were built that closely resembled each other.

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00:26:32,080 --> 00:26:40,720

The CIA's A-12 and the Air Force's SR-71. But once again, the A-12 was flown for the first time in 1962,

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00:26:40,720 --> 00:26:43,680

so it could not account for any sightings before that time.

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00:26:43,680 --> 00:26:47,520

Naturally, it could account for some of the sightings reported since then.

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00:26:47,680 --> 00:26:52,080

While engineers at the Lockheed Aviation Corporation were designing the U-2 spy plane,

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00:26:52,720 --> 00:26:57,760

officials in charge of technical development within the U.S. Air Force were already conceiving of an

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00:26:57,760 --> 00:27:05,280

even more ambitious project named Project Silverbug. Their goal was to build a circular craft capable

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00:27:05,280 --> 00:27:11,760

of vertical lift off and able to fly at an altitude of 80,000 feet and a speed of Mach 3,

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00:27:12,160 --> 00:27:17,360

or three times the speed of sound. Development of Project Silverbug was assigned to engineers at

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00:27:17,360 --> 00:27:22,160

the Canadian firm Avro, which had designed the lightweight Arrow CF-105.

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00:27:22,160 --> 00:27:28,160

The Avro car was an engineering study by the same company that produced the Arrow,

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00:27:28,160 --> 00:27:34,560

the infamous aircraft that was built by the Canadian government and then eventually cancelled.

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00:27:34,560 --> 00:27:38,720

In fact, there is a popular movie about it quite recently starring Dan Akroyd.

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00:27:38,960 --> 00:27:45,120

At the same time they were producing this jet aircraft, they were producing a circular vehicle

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00:27:45,120 --> 00:27:50,000

that was said to be able to rise up on its own power and fly through the air.

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00:27:50,880 --> 00:27:56,480

A number of other devices like this had been produced, but this was the Canadian government's

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00:27:56,480 --> 00:28:01,680

own attempts. Curiously, midway through the development, it too was cancelled.

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00:28:08,880 --> 00:28:17,360

Unable to rise more than a couple of feet off the ground, the Avro car was a failure.

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00:28:18,320 --> 00:28:25,440

Its instability made it dangerous to fly. In 1961, Project Silverbug was terminated,

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00:28:25,440 --> 00:28:30,400

and one of the only two models built is now installed on a pedestal in front of the U.S.

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00:28:30,400 --> 00:28:38,320

Army Transport School in Virginia. Could UFO tales have been inspired by test flights of

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00:28:38,320 --> 00:28:45,360

the Avro car or other secret prototypes with an unusual aerodynamic shape like the YB-49,

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00:28:45,360 --> 00:28:52,560

or perhaps the V-173, nicknamed the Flying Pancake? Or in more recent years, perhaps UFO

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00:28:52,560 --> 00:28:59,440

observers spotted the B-2 stealth bomber or the F-117A fighter, both of which have an unusual shape.

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00:29:00,240 --> 00:29:05,760

According to rumors, recent UFO sightings could be flights of a secret prototype being built in

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00:29:05,760 --> 00:29:10,880

the legendary Area 51, a triangular craft known by the codename Aurora.

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00:29:17,120 --> 00:29:23,120

Rumors that the Aurora exists have been spread by a magazine that is generally quite serious in

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00:29:23,120 --> 00:29:31,760

nature, the Aviation Week in Space Technology. An article was published in 1990 in which they

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00:29:31,760 --> 00:29:37,440

stated that there had been more than 40 sightings or telephone confirmations by sources within

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00:29:37,440 --> 00:29:44,960

the military, proving the existence of this aircraft, capable of flying at incredible speeds such as

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00:29:45,680 --> 00:29:52,640

Mach 5 to Mach 8 at extraordinary altitudes, much higher than the Blackbirds could fly.

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00:30:02,720 --> 00:30:08,960

I heard a lot about this aircraft. Around 1991, and for a year or two afterwards,

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00:30:09,760 --> 00:30:16,720

we heard reports of what were referred to as skyquakes. They were like earthquakes, but

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00:30:16,720 --> 00:30:22,640

they came from the sky. They came from the Pacific Coast over California,

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00:30:23,680 --> 00:30:30,640

and headed in the direction of Area 51. They would occur every Thursday morning like clockwork.

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00:30:32,320 --> 00:30:37,200

This was rather odd behavior for either a natural phenomenon or extraterrestrial beings.

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00:30:37,760 --> 00:30:42,960

We're not sure why Thursday morning was so important to them. So it seemed to be pretty

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00:30:42,960 --> 00:30:47,600

much of an established fact that it existed, and then we never heard anything more about it.

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00:30:48,960 --> 00:30:52,320

The U.S. Department of Defense formally denied that it existed.

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00:30:53,520 --> 00:30:57,680

We're under the impression that there are sightings of man-made crafts that we should normally be

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00:30:57,680 --> 00:31:02,880

able to explain, but they must be secret military craft, and that's why we can't explain them.

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00:31:03,920 --> 00:31:06,320

But even those don't explain all of the sightings.

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00:31:12,560 --> 00:31:17,120

There are other phenomena which might help to explain several UFO reports,

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00:31:17,120 --> 00:31:22,880

but they are more difficult to zero in on. There is a whole field of natural phenomena

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00:31:22,960 --> 00:31:28,160

which are mentioned now and then in scientific papers, but remain mysterious and unexplained,

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00:31:28,880 --> 00:31:34,160

such as the case for seismic lights, or earthquake lights, as they are sometimes called,

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00:31:34,160 --> 00:31:40,080

lights created by earthquakes. France Saint-Laurent has taken an interest in this strange phenomenon.

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00:31:42,800 --> 00:31:49,760

A few UFO reports, and I mean just a few, a very low percentage, can be explained by

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00:31:49,760 --> 00:31:56,560

earthquake lights. But I mean real earthquake lights. As far as I'm concerned, to be earthquake

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00:31:56,560 --> 00:32:02,480

lights, they have to occur during an earthquake or immediately before or after it. There also needs

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00:32:02,480 --> 00:32:09,600

to be a link with tectonic strain. Before an earthquake occurs, there may be a period of months

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00:32:09,600 --> 00:32:15,520

or years during which major forces are at work under the Earth's surface at particular locations.

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00:32:16,320 --> 00:32:22,560

And as this stress builds, it can produce what I call tectonic lights, what others refer to as

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00:32:22,560 --> 00:32:32,400

earth lights. Well, actually the interest in luminous phenomena or UFO reports began with,

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00:32:32,400 --> 00:32:39,280

really, an empirical approach. We were looking at the, we meaning Juslain Lefrenier and I,

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00:32:39,280 --> 00:32:44,800

were looking at the relationship between unusual phenomena, balls of light, unusual animals,

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00:32:45,840 --> 00:32:51,040

and we tried to find out what could be related to them and we found that earthquakes tend to

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00:32:51,040 --> 00:32:56,480

occur in the same areas. So, as any science would, we pursued that and found out that,

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00:32:56,480 --> 00:33:01,280

sure enough, luminous phenomena throughout the centuries have preceded increases in

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00:33:01,280 --> 00:33:05,920

earthquake activity. Let me address UFO phenomena, which are the balls of light, the unusual colors

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00:33:05,920 --> 00:33:11,440

of lights that inundate, or I should say inundate one's perceptual field, but they show an oscillation,

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00:33:12,080 --> 00:33:16,960

they often look like they're turning and basically different temperatures reflect different wavelengths

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00:33:16,960 --> 00:33:23,280

and different colors. Those are physical phenomena generated by the Earth's itself, strain within

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00:33:23,280 --> 00:33:28,160

the Earth, stress within the Earth, before earthquakes generate these balls of light.

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00:33:28,160 --> 00:33:33,440

And we know that's correct because in any given area, there's an increase in luminous phenomena

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00:33:33,440 --> 00:33:35,040

before earthquakes occur.

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00:33:42,160 --> 00:34:01,120

The majority of luminous phenomena are tied to imminent earthquake activity, stress and strain

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00:34:01,120 --> 00:34:05,920

within the Earth and the reason we know that is that in areas where there's a buildup of water,

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00:34:06,160 --> 00:34:12,800

for example in reservoirs, or when people pump water into an area, for example to bury

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00:34:13,440 --> 00:34:19,200

hazardous fluids, there's increases in earthquakes locally and also an increase in luminous phenomena.

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00:34:20,160 --> 00:34:25,680

A very small number of luminous phenomena are associated with people having the experience

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00:34:25,680 --> 00:34:30,320

of contact with an alien or contact with some other entity.

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00:34:30,880 --> 00:34:40,880

We knew that in order to be seeing what we were seeing, there had to be a very strongly charged

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00:34:40,880 --> 00:34:51,520

electric field producing these luminous displays in the sky. We knew that since the 1960s and 1970s,

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00:34:52,160 --> 00:34:58,960

scientists have been trying to discover what causes these Earth lights to appear in the sky.

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00:34:58,960 --> 00:35:02,800

They made some discoveries and came up with a few theories.

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00:35:04,640 --> 00:35:09,680

Some scientists researched the lights in a laboratory setting, but what they often found

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00:35:09,680 --> 00:35:14,640

was that their theories only partially explained what was being observed.

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00:35:16,880 --> 00:35:20,480

There were gaps in their theories, but that doesn't matter, that's just normal.

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00:35:20,480 --> 00:35:23,040

After all, they were just starting to research the phenomenon.

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00:35:23,280 --> 00:35:27,440

Well, one thing we do know is that tectonic strain,

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00:35:27,440 --> 00:35:31,520

strain building up before an earthquake, is distributed along earthquake faults,

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00:35:31,520 --> 00:35:38,240

very often along riverbeds or creek beds on the top of hills, and a variety of unusual phenomena

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00:35:38,240 --> 00:35:43,680

can be generated. Balls of light are simply one. Also, ultrasound can be generated, which very often

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00:35:44,240 --> 00:35:50,160

rats or dogs can hear. Sometimes odd smells are generated. Sometimes if you have a peltier

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00:35:50,160 --> 00:35:55,840

phenomena, you get a decrease in temperature locally, or sometimes an increase in spontaneous fires.

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00:35:56,480 --> 00:36:00,240

If you happen to be unfortunate enough to walk through these fields, it's going to stimulate

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00:36:00,240 --> 00:36:06,560

your brain directly, and very often people experience a haunt. In our research, we find

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00:36:06,560 --> 00:36:11,760

that wherever you have luminous phenomena showing up, so-called UFO flap, you also have an increase

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00:36:11,760 --> 00:36:16,960

of all kinds of other parapsychological phenomena. Haunts, poltergeist reports,

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00:36:17,760 --> 00:36:22,640

basically strange things in general become more frequent, including mundane things, like more

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00:36:22,640 --> 00:36:29,200

light bulbs burned out, more alternators in your cars burned out, cars not starting, more anomalous

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00:36:29,200 --> 00:36:34,800

behavior by humans, for example, more suicidal behaviors from protracted depression. These

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00:36:34,800 --> 00:36:44,080

things often occur in clusters. Even though research into earth light is still in its early

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00:36:44,080 --> 00:36:50,880

stages, some scientists are beginning to find possible explanations. One of these scientists

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00:36:50,880 --> 00:36:56,160

is Friedman Freund, professor of physics at San Jose State University in California.

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00:37:00,240 --> 00:37:08,560

Clearly by accident, I recently came across a scientist who works at San Jose State University

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00:37:08,560 --> 00:37:17,440

in California. He also works for the NASA Ames Research Center. He proposed a theory

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00:37:18,560 --> 00:37:27,680

and created a model to explain how these lights were being produced. I found his theory interesting

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00:37:29,040 --> 00:37:36,480

because it also explained why earthquake lights sometimes do not occur, since we have observed

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00:37:36,800 --> 00:37:42,720

that they do not occur with every earthquake. What is interesting about his theory is that it is

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00:37:42,720 --> 00:37:49,600

based on a discovery that he made several years ago. Below the earth's surface, among igneous rocks,

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00:37:49,600 --> 00:37:56,800

which form most of the earth's crust, can be found something called charge carriers. I will not

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00:37:56,800 --> 00:38:04,240

explain the chemistry behind it since it is pretty complicated. So he discovered these charge carriers,

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00:38:04,240 --> 00:38:13,600

which he called positive hole pairs. When there is not much tectonic strain, these charge carriers

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00:38:13,600 --> 00:38:22,160

lie dormant in the rock. On the other hand, when the tectonic strain builds to the point where

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00:38:22,160 --> 00:38:29,840

an earthquake is about to occur, these charge carriers become quite mobile. In his laboratory,

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00:38:29,840 --> 00:38:35,920

Frund calculated that these charge carriers could move as fast as 1,000 feet per second.

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00:38:35,920 --> 00:38:42,640

That's pretty fast. So around the time of an earthquake, we have these charge carriers moving

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00:38:42,640 --> 00:38:49,680

about, spreading throughout the earth's crust. As these charges move, by definition, each one is a

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00:38:49,680 --> 00:38:57,280

current. In electronics, we call it a whole current. It has a positive charge due to a lack of electrons.

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00:38:57,520 --> 00:39:04,880

When these mobile charges hit the earth's surface, they generate electromagnetic waves of various

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00:39:04,880 --> 00:39:13,040

wavelengths. They then create a strong electric field at the earth's surface. Frund calculated

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00:39:13,040 --> 00:39:19,040

that in an ideal setting, for instance, at the top of a mountain, the charge could get as high as

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00:39:19,680 --> 00:39:25,840

1 million volts per centimeter. That's a pretty powerful electric field.

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00:39:28,800 --> 00:39:36,240

Once this electric field is created, it puts a strain on the air, which is normally an insulator,

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00:39:37,840 --> 00:39:44,880

and the air changes from an insulator to a conductor and produces luminous displays in the sky.

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00:39:49,200 --> 00:39:56,160

One of the conclusions that scientists arrived at during the Pucantico meetings in 1997 was that

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00:39:56,160 --> 00:40:04,000

UFO sightings do not boil down to one single phenomenon. Research by Dr. Michael Persinger

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00:40:04,000 --> 00:40:09,600

at Laurentian University in Sudbury shows that the assessment of these sightings goes beyond a mere

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00:40:10,320 --> 00:40:19,440

I believe in UFOs or I don't believe in UFOs. One of the lessons we learn in science is that

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00:40:20,720 --> 00:40:27,280

phenomena such as UFOs, luminous phenomena, that is an over-inclusive label. I'm giving an example.

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00:40:27,840 --> 00:40:35,360

In the late 1800s, the word vapors was used to describe pneumonia, emphysema, tuberculosis,

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00:40:35,360 --> 00:40:41,280

the common cold, and flu as well as cancer. They were all called the vapors because they

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00:40:41,280 --> 00:40:46,240

influenced breathing. Now imagine what would have happened if penicillin was developed then,

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00:40:46,240 --> 00:40:51,040

and you gave it to people with vapors. Well, only those with pneumonia would have been beneficial,

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00:40:51,040 --> 00:40:55,920

and people would have dismissed penicillin because it did not treat vapors. The problem is the label.

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00:40:56,560 --> 00:41:03,200

It's over-inclusive. The same thing with the UFO label. It over-includes a lot of strange phenomena.

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00:41:03,840 --> 00:41:09,200

Most of them have very clear natural bases that we know about now, but there's still others we

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00:41:09,200 --> 00:41:15,360

have to be open-minded about. And just because we're open-minded doesn't mean it's never measurable,

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00:41:15,360 --> 00:41:21,680

which means we ultimately can measure it. In the perspective of science, anything is probable,

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00:41:22,480 --> 00:41:29,120

and if we have a phenomenon such as UFOs or basically luminous phenomena, that's more

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00:41:29,120 --> 00:41:34,160

appropriate way to describe them because UFOs is a pejorative label with all kinds of negative

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00:41:34,160 --> 00:41:41,200

connotations, odd luminous events. Most of them we know from our data analysis, more than 80%,

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00:41:41,200 --> 00:41:45,600

are clearly tied to tectonic strain. We're talking about the real ones now, not the misperceptions.

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00:41:46,240 --> 00:41:52,640

The remaining 20%, it's hard to tell what the actual natural forces are, and the possibility

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00:41:52,640 --> 00:41:59,440

that there are other phenomena yet to be discovered, including other intelligences,

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00:41:59,440 --> 00:42:01,840

we still must be open-minded to that possibility.

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00:42:03,680 --> 00:42:10,320

In general, the scientific community is not interested in UFOs. Why? Obviously,

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00:42:10,320 --> 00:42:15,200

there is the ever-present funding problem. What self-respecting financial institution would

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00:42:15,280 --> 00:42:22,480

put its credibility on the line by financing research into UFOs. No funding, no research.

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00:42:23,280 --> 00:42:28,800

But there is a worse problem, prejudice. To most scientists, the logic is quite simple.

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00:42:29,440 --> 00:42:34,560

If UFOs were real, then there would have to be extraterrestrial spaceships. And since

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00:42:34,560 --> 00:42:41,520

interstellar travel is not possible, UFO reports cannot be true. In all research,

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00:42:41,520 --> 00:42:47,360

observation must take precedence over theory. As Robert Layton, one of the pioneers of modern

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00:42:47,360 --> 00:42:53,120

physics, once said, if something happens, it's because it's possible for it to happen.

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00:42:54,400 --> 00:43:00,640

But of all the strange cases that defy explanation, how many are really prototypes of secret military

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00:43:00,640 --> 00:43:07,120

aircraft, and how many are really due to natural phenomena as yet unknown? Could the other cases

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00:43:07,200 --> 00:43:13,120

really be visitors from outer space? For now, it's impossible to say for sure. If there's one

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00:43:13,120 --> 00:43:18,160

thing that holds true in the police world, it's that if you want to solve a problem, you must

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00:43:18,160 --> 00:43:24,560

take an interest in it. We noticed that the science community turned its back on the

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00:43:24,560 --> 00:43:30,320

Pocantico report. We weren't too surprised, since they've always had that attitude where

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00:43:30,320 --> 00:43:36,720

this subject is concerned. I recently did an audit on the CNES Research Center, and along the way,

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00:43:36,720 --> 00:43:43,280

I met some prominent scientists from the technical field. I won't name any names, but I was stupefied

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00:43:43,280 --> 00:43:48,720

by what some of them had to say. In their minds, the only things that truly exist in the field of

399

00:43:48,720 --> 00:43:54,160

science are things that can be created in a laboratory setting. If the great minds of science

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00:43:54,160 --> 00:43:59,440

in all countries think like this, then we're not about to make much headway in the science of observation.

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00:44:01,360 --> 00:44:06,640

The problem with UFOs is that we don't see them in abundance. We can say the same thing about

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00:44:06,720 --> 00:44:12,320

scientific facts. Who has ever seen a scientific fact? If anyone ever has, I'd like to meet them.

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00:44:12,320 --> 00:44:18,320

It's impossible. Scientific facts are charts, diagrams, and things you read about in magazines.

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00:44:18,320 --> 00:44:23,440

You never hear anyone say, look, I just saw a scientific fact. If we take a cloud, for instance,

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00:44:23,440 --> 00:44:28,880

sure it's a scientific fact, but only because it's been studied. Scientific facts do not appear

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00:44:28,880 --> 00:44:34,080

out of thin air. Apples falling from trees were used to make jam long before they became associated

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00:44:34,080 --> 00:44:39,040

with the law of gravity. Newton had to invent the law of gravity first. By the way, the apple

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00:44:39,040 --> 00:44:44,880

story never even happened. So we have a problem. To become a scientific fact, it must first be

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00:44:44,880 --> 00:44:50,000

placed in the proper context. So the question is, what can we do with these UFO reports to capture

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00:44:50,000 --> 00:44:54,480

the interest of scientists? We need to word the problem differently. Just because it's worded in

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00:44:54,480 --> 00:44:59,360

terms of UFOs doesn't mean that the problem should be discarded completely with the claim that UFOs

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00:44:59,360 --> 00:45:02,640

don't exist, that's simply not reasonable.