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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### Re: 'Fake' and 'Self-Proclaimed'

From: **Greg Sandow** <GSANDOW@prodigy.net>  
Date: Mon, 30 Dec 1996 00:02:27 -0500  
Fwd Date: Mon, 30 Dec 1996 10:42:46 -0500  
Subject: Re: 'Fake' and 'Self-Proclaimed'

Jorgen clarifies a point that, as he points out, I didn't quite understand. (Again, apologies to all, I'm catching up with some old mail.)

I had wondered what would happen if we showed a group of experiencers various depictions of the standard gray alien. Would a majority pick one as closest to what they say they've seen?

So Jorgen wrote:

> > > *Alright if it was a single alien-person, but to me it sounds like*  
> > > *showing a picture of a black man to a race of whites and they will go*  
> > > *"Yeah! He's black alright!"*.  
>  
> > > *I don't mean to offend you, but you're not talking about a person -*  
> > > *you're talking about a whole supposed alien race here, right?*  
>

And later, to make sure I understood, he restated this way:

> *Does all aliens look exactly the same (no individuals)? The descriptions*  
> *vary a lot from what I've read and heard.*

Hmmmm. Don't know about aliens as individuals, but I wonder if it matters. Chimps and gorillas vary as individuals, as do baboons and orangutangs. But each species has common characteristics.

So if someone who didn't know simian species well said "I saw an ape," you could show pictures of chimps, etc., until our observer says "That one!" Meaning not that exact baboon, but definitely a baboon, as opposed to a gorilla or rhesus monkey.

Of course, we're not dealing with a known species here! So the enterprise is obviously more speculative. Still, I'd offer this thought. The artists' representations of "grays" do vary. Some have rounder heads, some more elongated heads...I guess I could pull out various pictures and describe the differences in great detail. The Strieber alien was, to my eye, more fetus-like than other representations I've seen, and also struck me as having a narrower chin.

The differences -- assuming now for a moment that these aliens are in fact real -- strike me as being greater than variations from one individual to another. It's as if many people had seen a chimp, in a world where primates other than humans didn't exist. No photos of the chimp exist, so artists attempt to draw the chimp from the descriptions given by people who've seen it. Naturally, they don't quite get it right. Which drawing comes closest? Maybe it's the one picked by various chimp-spotters, when they're shown a group of possibilities, and asked to pick one.

As for variations between white and black people...yep, we've got that

on earth, but maybe they don't on Zeta Reticuli. In any case, there are places on earth where people look far more alike than they do in New York (to pick the human habitation I know best). I spent two weeks in Japan once, and was amazed by a fact that's obvious, but not striking until you actually see it: Virtually all Japanese have the same color hair. That's quite different from what we see in western countries.

Maybe the grays, if they exist, are like Japanese...their coloring doesn't vary as much as ours does. Other features might vary less, too. So your situation of the white people picking a black drawing might not arise.

Greg Sandow

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