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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Nightwatch Online - Discussion with Velez

From: **Greg Sandow** <gsandow@prodigy.net>
Date: Mon, 4 Aug 1997 11:57:02 -0400
Fwd Date: Mon, 04 Aug 1997 19:54:18 -0400
Subject: Re: Nightwatch Online - Discussion with Velez

My respects to my friend the Duke, but I believe he's missing the point.

>From: Peregrine Mendoza <101653.2205@compuserve.com>
>Subject: Nightwatch Online - Discussion with Velez
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>

> Gawd strewth, spare me days. I didn't say Javier PdeC MUST react to
> *anything*. I said that if he HAD had a change of heart (however
> this
> may be established) then those inclined to believe he was abducted
> on
> the night in question would have a small piece of circumstantial
> evidence on their side. (Imagine *that*! "SKEPTIC RECANTS! Dread
> Duke
> Mondo supports Linda case!" would be as accurate an interpretation
> of what I actually said as the above from Greg.)

In an earlier post, wondering what de C's environmental beliefs might be, our favorite nobleman noted:

>It would still be interesting to know what the answers really are,
>even if it would be somewhat unkind to ask why no one raised these
>questions before.

So the point is that the worthy Duke, from the vastness of his Welsh fortress, does in fact believe that de Cuellar's environmental record might just possibly provide evidence (even if only a small piece) in the Linda case.

And it's exactly this that made me exasperated enough to call Peter "naive." He then suggested I might be "defensive," but this is not my problem at all. I'm just tired of seeing abudctions discussed without proper data. Peter's impish commentary depends on an unstated assumption, namely that abductees change their behavior in ways that correspond with what they believe the aliens have told them. There is no evidence for this. There are no scientific studies (or at least none that I know of) about abductees' reaction to their belief that they've been abducted. But there's plenty of anecdotal information, and from what I've picked up from meeting many of the abductees Budd Hopkins works with, and from attending support group meetings, I'd say that abductees react to their abductions in a variety of ways. Some wholeheartedly embrace the aliens, and believe everything they think they've been told. Others don't go that far, but still feel that their abductions were a significant, life-changing experience, one that forces them to reconsider everything they believe.

Others, however, simply learn to get on with their lives. And some -- one published source that makes this clear is David Jacobs' book -- fiercely resist accepting anything they think the aliens do or say. You don't have to believe abductions are real to recognize that this spectrum of reactions exists. You just have to listen to a large number of abductees talk.

This, then, is the data, pending scientific study. Many of Hopkins' abductees believe they've had environmental messages from the aliens. Not many, to the best of my knowledge, have acted on them. On the basis of this data, there is no way to predict how any abductee will react to a believe that he or she has received these messages. Therefore there's no way to predict how de Cuellar would react. And because of that, there's no way that his environmental record could possibly provide even circumstantial evidence suggesting that he does or doesn't believe he's been abducted. Any environmental position would be consistent with past abductee experience -- even fierce anti-environmentalism, which de Cuellar (or any abductee) might move towards, as a way of denying and resisting abduction beliefs.

What's especially sad here is something obvious that Peter missed. De Cuellar, after all, was not the only abductee allegedly involved with alien environmental messages in the Linda case. There's Linda herself -- who, unlike de Cuellar, admits that she's an abductee, and is right here on this list, available for questioning on her own environmental beliefs. Her involvement, in fact, was much stronger than de Cuellar's, since she's depicted in "Witnessed" as the aliens' environmental agitator. She presents de Cuellar with a dead fish, and declares "Look and see what you have done!"

So is Linda an environmentalist today? She should correct me if I'm wrong, but I haven't noticed that she is. And I HAVE heard her say that she remains as politically and culturally conservative as she was before her 1989 abduction. From other things she's said, I'd place her firmly in the camp of those who resist what she believes are her alien experiences. I don't think she's going to yield an inch to the aliens -- she wants to live her life on her own terms, and is horrified by everything she's come to feel the aliens have done. So what about it, Peter? Will you accept Linda as an example of an abductee who's not visibly influenced by the environmental messages she believes she's not only received, but helped the aliens convey? And if she wasn't influenced, why should de Cuellar be?

(And yes -- I know, even though Peter didn't mention this, that de Cuellar mentions in a letter he allegedly sent to Budd that he's going to devote his life to things the aliens told him, or words to that effect. But he said that, or supposedly said it, in the first flush of discovering what he believed were his experiences. It's common for abductees to change their minds many times about what their experiences mean, and if de Cuellar -- assuming for the moment that he really believes he was abducted -- first rushed to embrace the alien message and then backpedalled and decided he wasn't sure it was valid, he would hardly be the first abductee to make such a shift.)

This whole discussion makes me sad. If we began from accurate information, we wouldn't have to have it.

Greg Sandow

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