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1844 'Moorites' "Heaven's Gate" Religious Cult!

From: **bikebob** <bikebob@MO.NET>
Date: Sat, 29 Mar 1997 20:50:43 -0600 (CST)
Fwd Date: Sun, 30 Mar 1997 08:47:53 -0500
Subject: 1844 'Moorites' "Heaven's Gate" Religious Cult!

1844 'Moorites' "Heaven's Gate" Religious Cult

On the Thursday, March 27, 1997, edition of the NBC "Today" show's coverage of the 39-people mass suicide by the "Heaven's Gate" religious cult, they interviewed a physicist (didn't catch his name) who was supposed to be an expert researcher on religious cults. He mentioned that back in 1844 there was *another* "Heaven's Gate" cult known as "Moorites."

The 1844 Moorites (100,000 of them!) were followers of a man named Moore (didn't catch his first name). Moore preached that a comet was the harbinger of imminent earth cataclysm (End of the World).

The physicist said that Moore instructed his followers to take off all of their clothes and climb onto the roofs of their houses on the night of the either the Spring Equinox or just before Easter (can't remember exactly which he said for sure). The purpose of this was supposed to be so that they would be "closer to Heaven" and make it "easier for the angels" (possibly from "spacecraft" -- that's what the physicist said Moore told them) to pick them up and take them up to "Heaven's Gate."

The physicist said that Moore's theory was that with the harbinger (the comet) of the imminent End of the World that "Heaven's Gate" (which Moore and his followers were convinced was of limited *physical* dimensions on another plane) that it was imperative for he and his followers to get a head start to/through it before it became jammed/overcrowded with the coming inundation of all the souls/spirits from the mass of humanity that would soon perish! Moore preached that only so many souls/spirits could pass through "Heaven's Gate" (again, because of its presumed physical limitations) at one time.

As it turns out (according to the physicist being interviewed), apparently not too few of the Moorites ended up dying from either falling off their roofs in the dark, and/or committing suicide. (It is not clear whether or not they committed suicide as a "preemptive strike" in order to try to get an advance jump on "Heaven's Gate" on their own, or out of depressive desperation when the predicted "End of the World" did not materialize as Moore predicted.)

Bob Soetebier

St. Louis County, Missouri

[P.S.: Sorry for the gaps in some of the details in the above info. I was busy with other things at the time and just half listening to the after-the-fact news coverage of the event as I did other things.]

Tailwinds to you...

See you ON the road!

/// BICYCLE BOB ///

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