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Re: That Ol' Extra Terrestrial Hypothesis

From: clark@mn.frontiercomm.net [Jerome Clark]
Date: Fri, 28 Nov 1997 17:44:54 PST
Fwd Date: Sat, 29 Nov 1997 06:59:10 -0500
Subject: Re: That Ol' Extra Terrestrial Hypothesis

> From: DevereuxP@aol.com [Paul Devereux]
> Date: Fri, 28 Nov 1997 09:15:19 -0500 (EST)
> To: updates@globalserve.net
> Subject: That Ol' Extra Terrestrial Hypothesis

> explained by some notion of spontaneous time travel (past and
> future memories, if you like) - or temporally-'loose' imagery of
> some kind.

Oh, dear. Of course the evidence for these sorts of loopy "explanations" is somewhere between nil and nonexistent, and they're interesting only because they come from somebody who routinely alleges that the ETH has no basis in evidence. You have to decide, Paul, whether you want to be a scientist or a mystic. It seems to me that you're blurring the distinction all the time.

> The mental state or states I am discussing are also - *in part*
> - the subject of David J. Hufford's "The Terror that Comes in
> the Night", which you may have noticed Jerome Clark refer to a
> couple of times recently (and in some pretty peculiar ways too,
> if I may say so).

'Fraid not, old chap. Hufford and I are mutual admirers. (See his kind words about me and my approach on the back cover of High Strangeness.) When my review of his The Terror That Comes in the Night was published in Fate in 1983, he told me I was just about the only reviewer who seemed to grasp the point of the book. (Others read it, in common [I gather] with Paul, as an exercise in reductionism, when in fact it was devastatingly critical of reductionist explanations of anomalous phenomena as counter to the spirit of truth-seeking in science.) By the way, I recommend The Terror to anyone seeking to understand the sorts of cultural biases implicit in beliefs and arguments such as those Paul habitually reflects and employs.

If anybody is using Hufford strangely, it's Paul here. Hufford once wrote me a hilarious letter parodying the theories of Michael Persinger, one of Paul's heroes. Hufford is not -- by any stretch -- on your side of the argument, my friend, and it ill behooves you to imply otherwise.

Jerry Clark

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