



Aliens On Earth.com

Resources for those who are stranded here



Our Bookstore is OPEN

Over 5000 new & used titles, competitively priced!

Topics: [UFOs](#) - [Paranormal](#) - [Area 51](#) - [Ghosts](#) - [Fortean](#) - [Conspiracy](#) - [History](#) - [Biography](#) - [Psychology](#) - [Religion](#) - [Crime](#) - [Health](#) - [Geography](#) - [Maps](#) - [Science](#) - [Money](#) - [Language](#) - [Recreation](#) - [Technology](#) - [Fiction](#) - [Other](#) - [New](#)

Search... for keyword(s)

in Page Titles

Location: [Mothership](#) -> [UFO](#) -> [Updates](#) -> [1998](#) -> [Aug](#) -> Re: Purely Psychological 'Experiences'

UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Purely Psychological 'Experiences'

From: Mark Cashman <mcashman@ix.netcom.com>
Date: Sun, 16 Aug 1998 11:54:15 -0400
Fwd Date: Sun, 16 Aug 1998 21:37:23 -0400
Subject: Re: Purely Psychological 'Experiences'

>Date: Sat, 15 Aug 1998 03:28:32 -0500
>To: UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>
>From: John Velez <jvif@spacelab.net>
>Subject: Re: UFO UpDate: Purely Psychological 'Experiences'

>>From: Mark Cashman <mcashman@ix.netcom.com>
>>Date: Fri, 14 Aug 1998 11:13:51 -0400
>>Subject:
>>To: updates@globalserve.net

>The following news story piqued my interest.

>(excerpts from <http://www.newspage.com>)

>====
>"Illinois has moved to discipline a prominent psychiatrist
>accused of convincing a patient that she was a cannibal who ate
>human flesh meatloaf, a child molester and the high priestess of
>a satanic cult."

<snip>

>The case sighted is an aberration. A 'one off' at best. It
>_assumes_ deception and intentional tampering/fraud on the part
>of "amateur hypnotists" who work with "abductees." It paints a
>picture of the average "abductee" as a mindless boob that can
>duped into believing anything, or as P. Klass has said, "little
>nobodys who only want to get on TV."

>I'm not like that. Neither is anyone else I've met so far. Yup,
>there's always a 'joker' in the deck. But for the most part, the
>people that I have met and communicated with come from all walks
>and economic strata of life. They are for the most part, honest,
>hard working family people that find themselves in the
>unsettling position of having to deal with something that isn't
>even supposed to exist.

>Studies/tests have already been conducted on abductees that have
>shown the test subjects to be no more 'crazy' or 'neurotic' than
>anyone else. (Myself included) It bothers me that -extreme
>examples- such as the one above are presented as somehow "valid"
>or applicable inquiries. I find them to be condescending and
>insulting in the extreme.

John -

I appreciate your forthright comment on this news story. However I fear you have misunderstood my request.

The story represents something which allegedly happened. At this point, I can't say we know for sure that it did happen as alleged.

But if it did happen, it apparently took a psychological professional in a hospital setting, using drugs as well as hypnosis over an extended period of time, to accomplish putting these false memories into the psyche of the patient. This is obviously far beyond the resources of the amateur hypnotists who have been involved in some of the more questionable abduction work.

And yet, even despite the available resources, the patient apparently came to her senses.

My curiosity was aroused. This seemed to suggest that even a "brainwashed" patient could distinguish between imposed fantasy and reality given the slightest chance.

Yet, I must admit that I cannot believe that all abduction cases are descriptions of objectively existent events. Just as 70-90% of all UFO cases represent a variety of errors, misperceptions and outright lies, some percentage, as yet poorly delineated, of abduction cases very likely also represent purely psychological events, some of which are exacerbated by poor treatment by unprofessional researchers.

So my intent was not to suggest that abductees in general were nut cases or easily manipulated fools (and I thought I was clear about this in the preamble to my questions), but simply to say - if this event happened as described (i.e. the woman was brainwashed into thinking these things but spontaneously came to her senses) then what are the implications for the poorly defined percentage of "psychological" abductions? Does this happen to "psychological" abductees or not? If not, is it because, unlike the cited case, the abduction remains impossible to confirm (unlike being a cannibal in a small town, which the patient realized would have become known to others long before)?

Further, is it another confirmation that it is far more difficult than one might think for amateur hypnotists to "implant" memories, given their lack of such extensive facilities and the fact that they do not make any use of drugs?

And, finally, if the evidence suggests that manipulation by the investigators is less likely to cause "psychological" abductions, then do we need to look for other psychological causes, such as those shown by sufferers of Munchausen's or other factitious disorders?

John, these are serious questions to people such as myself who remain fence-sitters on the objective reality of much of the abduction case lore. As you know, I am very concerned about the exposure of witnesses to investigators who force their cases, particularly when it is possible that those cases may actually be manifestations of some important psychological problem which will not receive treatment due to the involvement of abduction investigators in the problem. As an analyst, I am also very concerned about the validity of abduction data, especially since large and sweeping conclusions are being derived from that data.

>Sorry man, the example that you presented not only has no
>bearing to the abduction phenom, it has no bearing to anything
>other than the study of 'freak cases' of abuse. If you are
>suggesting that there is a correlation between the above
>(freak/one off case) and abductees then I take umbrage at your
>insinuation.

As I think I've shown above, it does have relevance to the abduction question. We need to be looking at false memory syndrome, factitious disorders, PTSD, and other psychological phenomena, as well as the criminological record of forensic hypnosis, if we are to determine the validity of the abduction phenomenon, and the percentage of cases that represent a potentially objectively existent event.

But I appreciate your concern, and I hope you will understand from the above that my intent is far from what you were reacting

to.

Mark Cashman, creator of The Temporal Doorway at
<http://www.temporaldoorway.com>
- Original digital art, writing, and UFO research -
Author of SF novels available at...
<http://www.temporaldoorway.com/library.htm>

[[Next Message](#) | [Previous Message](#) | [This Day's Messages](#)]
[[This Month's Index](#) | [UFO UpDates Main Index](#) | [MUFON Ontario](#)]

UFO UpDates - Toronto - updates@globalserve.net
Operated by Errol Bruce-Knapp - ++ 416-696-0304

A Hand-Operated E-Mail Subscription Service for the Study of UFO Related Phenomena.
To subscribe please send your first and last name to updates@globalserve.net
Message submissions should be sent to the same address.

[[UFO Topics](#) | [People](#) | [Ufomind What's New](#) | [Ufomind Top Level](#)]

To find this message again in the future...
Link it to the appropriate [Ufologist](#) or [UFO Topic](#) page.

Archived as a public service by [Area 51 Research Center](#) which is not responsible for content.
Software by Glenn Campbell. Technical contact: webmaster@ufomind.com

Financial support for this web server is provided by the [Research Center Catalog](#).