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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Ideas, Viewpoints And Positive Discussion

From: **John Cussen** <john.cussen@cmgplc.com>
Date: Mon, 18 May 1998 11:22:50 +0100
Fwd Date: Mon, 18 May 1998 13:05:17 -0400
Subject: Ideas, Viewpoints And Positive Discussion

Dear All,

I am a new subscriber to this list and extend a warm greeting to all other subscribers and contributors alike. :)

It is particularly refreshing to be able to voice one's ideas and opinions without fear of ridicule by others, no matter how naive those ideas and opinions might appear to some people. It is difficult enough to discuss topics such as this with people who *do* have empathy, let alone with those who have a sceptical viewpoint. There is no definitive answer or concrete proof to the questions we all ask, not yet. But we are all, to some extent, searching for those answers whether it is joining a discussion list such as this, reading a book on the subject, attending a lecture, or are one of the many people who devote much of their free time (and often for free) trying to find out the answers for themselves and for others.

We all disagree on some aspects of ufology, even over the terminology itself - disagreement, in it's most positive form, highlights conflicting viewpoints which might each have valid basis. Attempting to force a viewpoint usually results in something else being lost. We can probably all recount personal situations where our disagreement with someone's viewpoint was in danger of becoming a personal conflict. It usually blinds us to everything that person says - and that is usually when the one nugget of valuable information is overlooked and lost or simply suppressed.

We want others to show us tolerance for our beliefs, just as they want the same in return. Sometimes it's extremely hard to do. What each of us feels to be important may mean nothing to someone else, but what we each feel is important and we all have the right to change our minds when the occasion to do so arises. Disagreement is, of course, healthy if it allows us space to move to an altered viewpoint. Confrontation doesn't afford the same luxury.

Please excuse me for speaking out of turn if that is what I have done. I'm just concerned that some disagreements are rapidly become personal and is potentially damaging the reputations of those involved when played out in public within a list such as this, when we should be aiming to help one another with a common goal. If we can't tolerate each other, it's harder to expect it from other people.

I am glad to have become a subscriber of this list and look forward to all future postings.

Warmest regards to all,

John

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