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Commentary on Jerry Black's Challenge to Whitley

From: Jorma Kosonen <unicab@laatikko.saunalahti.fi>
Date: Mon, 22 Feb 1999 02:52:55 +0200
Fwd Date: Mon, 22 Feb 1999 11:14:28 -0500
Subject: Commentary on Jerry Black's Challenge to Whitley

>From: Glenn Joyner <infohead@airmail.net>
>Date: Sat, 02 Jan 1999 03:03:12 -0600
>Fwd Date: Sun, 03 Jan 1999 15:01:48 -0500
>Subject: Jerry Black's Challenge To Whitley Strieber

Jorma Kosonen:

Commentary on Jerry Black's Challenge to Whitley Strieber

It is to be noted with some mirth and perhaps even jollity that at last, as more than ten years have passed since Communion by Whitley Strieber was published, investigations are made and full analysis given in the Mr. Jerry Blackway. I regard his review valid as well as a sharp and holistic insight on this issue.

At first be it noted that I have several reasons for my commentary and support on Mr. Black. These will be shown below.

Because of the fact that I am native Finnish, there is no possibility for me to fully get perceptions of a native American reader. Because my mother tongue is Finnish, it is very hard for me to evaluate most of the details being got by a native American, upon reading Strieber.

However, I have the impression that my ability in understanding English makes it possible to evaluate English text with relatively small percentage of misunderstanding. After reading the Finnish version of Communion it is easy to a Finnish reader to step in the world opened by Strieber.

Thereafter one must read English originals or Swedish, because of lack of Finnish translations.

I have read both Communion (in Finnish) and Transformation and, in addition, some 25 % of Breakthrough. I have read most of Transformation in Swedish, too.

It is my view that some of Mr. Strieber's readers may have spent partly sleepless nights upon reading his books. Extremities may well be in somnia or other symptoms. This point of view is of utmost importance when evaluating Mr. Strieber's text. Personally, it was about two years ago that I had some insomnia-type nights upon reading Communion and even had a pause on reading to get balanced. I even returned the book to our local library for one week to get rid of everything. Later on I have got the perception that this kind of response may be

ascribed to Mr. Strieber's talented dramatization and reader's natural aptitude towards this type of subject matter. I also want to say that many readers may have got anguished for Strieber's books.

I found myself delighted about Mr.Black's review. This is because I realized having been unconsciously disturbed at length by almost exactly the same items that Mr. Black is laying on the table.

>In the front of his book, Transformation, I note the following
>transcript:
>Transformation is dedicated to those who have had the courage to
>be named in this book as witnesses to my experience.

Also, for me, the list of names in the beginning of Transformation supporting Mr.Strieber's story was left in the air after reading the book, exactly like Mr. Black noted. However, it came to my overall perception that Mr.Strieber was surrounded by complete lonesomeness in his matter; I wished he would have named at least one person being with him in a close encounter with the aliens, or at least when sighting the objects. But never. All the way he was alone. This was very disturbing for me.

Mr.Black repeatedly refers at disturbing details in the books. I think it is not necessary to put all of them here again. Be it said,as before, that almost each of the details brought forward by him were disturbing for me at length, too.

However, a detail of Mr. Black 's text (erroneously ?) reads :

>publisher, only a few people knew this information. At that
>point in time, Ed Conroy made mention to Mr. Strieber that, in
>Glen Rock, Wisconsin, there had just been a report that hundreds
>of people in the town had heard these knocks on their roofs, with

I could not find Glen Rock, Wisconsin at my Road Atlas. Instead, there is Glenrock, Wyoming. In my edition of Breakthrough, Strieber writes about Glenrock, Wyoming.

Finally, I maybe might add one more passage not given by Mr.Black. As he states there are several passages giving rise to ask if they are for writing-the-book-for-its-sake.I deeply agree with Mr.Black.

Personally, I like to add this one: In Transformation, Strieber is presenting almost a list on some paranormal phenomena at systematical conditions. He alleges to have experienced levitation, going through wall as well as having given at least temporary clairvoyance. Although his text is not a mere list on these abilities, I had the impression that what took place was a kind of purposeful and condensed demonstration on paranormal phenomena. For me, this was extremely troublesome. I can not believe that Mr.Strieber would have stood all that without being unbalanced. No doubt he may have been already, but his demonstrative show was terrible and obviously artificial. Listing paranormal phenomena gives rise to readers' thoughts that most probably was not Mr.Strieber's purpose. As stated, this was extremely troublesome for me, and it matches perfectly with Mr. Black's criticism on Strieber's text.

Undoubtedly, Whitley Strieber's work has been a notable event in the history of world ufo literature. His brilliant and talented skills are favoured by millions of readers. Personally, I would think that Mr.Strieber can be given price for making people think of possibility of extraterrestrial life.

However, as reading his books may have been a bad disservice to many people, I want to point out my opinion that the writer maybe has merely used his talents and imagination with skills for dramatizing, beyond standard level.

So you can be relaxed and, to my mind, have a good sleep.

Jorma Kosonen

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