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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### Re: Abductions: A Funny Thing Happened...

From: John Rimmer <[jrimmer@magonia.demon.co.uk](mailto:jrimmer@magonia.demon.co.uk)>  
Date: Sun, 10 Oct 1999 21:51:14 +0100  
Fwd Date: Mon, 11 Oct 1999 16:43:19 -0400  
Subject: Re: Abductions: A Funny Thing Happened...

>>From: Jim Mortellaro <[Jsmortell@aol.com](mailto:Jsmortell@aol.com)>  
>>Date: Sat, 9 Oct 1999 03:14:55 EDT  
>>Subject: Re: Abductions: A Funny Thing Happened...  
>>To: [updates@globalserve.net](mailto:updates@globalserve.net)

>>My memories are not pretty hazy. Some are memories of a room  
>>with a haze, as if cloudy but the memory is vividly real and in  
>>great detail. I am able to describe the detail of what I saw at  
>>age three or four, laying on a table in what I imagined was a  
>>hospital room. I'd never been to one. I was taken there by  
>>ambulance. I'd never seen one, yet the picture is indelibly  
>>imprinted in my memory.

The problem with "vivid" memories is that they develop over time. They are not frozen in an instant like a polaroid photograph, or recorded sequentially like a video-tape. Every time we tell someone about our memory we help to fix it in our mind: we create a narrative by repeating it. Doubtful parts are edited out, other parts are reinforced by repetition and by comparison with other accounts we hear and read. The more often we recount our experience the closer we get to a continuous, coherent - and vivid - narrative.

Memories are infinitely malleable. They are overlaid with things we have heard and read and been told about. I had a serious operation at the age of three and still bear the scar, but can remember nothing about it. My colleague Peter Rogerson had an operation at about the same age and has strange and vivid memories of it. I doubt that my lack of memories denotes "missing time" or that his involve abduction. But I'm sure if either of us had met an abduction researcher at some time in the past (before we started Magonia, of course), we'd be fully fledged abductees by now.

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John Rimmer  
Magonia Magazine  
[www.magonia.demon.co.uk](http://www.magonia.demon.co.uk)

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Operated by Errol Bruce-Knapp - ++ 416-696-0304

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