

course of an experiment designed to test the 'reactions and the investigative abilities of local law enforcement agencies', in addition to the reactions of the scientific establishment. According to the man from the Ministry of Defence, Fontaine had indeed been placed in a drug-induced state of extreme suggestibility. (Vallée speculates that the inspiration for the scenario lay in the Travis Walton abduction in 1975.)

If this is true, then the fathomless waters of the UFO mystery become even muddier, with an unknown number of close encounters perhaps having been staged by secret government groups in an effort to gauge the reactions of the population to genuinely anomalous activity.

ABDUCTION AND BILOCATION

Most UFO investigators tend to dismiss the claims of the 'contactees' who came to prominence in the 1950s and 60s. In those days, the idea that UFOs might have pilots wishing to interact directly with humans was totally new, and not a little outrageous to contemporary researchers. The information they conveyed was also deeply suspect, consisting mainly of warnings to curtail our irresponsible development of nuclear weapons, which was having an adverse effect on the balance of the Universe, and jeopardizing the safety of a number of alien races. The aliens themselves – entirely human-looking in every respect – usually claimed to have come from various planets within our own Solar System. This claim was shown to be absolutely ludicrous in the light of subsequent unmanned exploration of those planets, all of which are totally unsuitable for the development of humanoid life.

In fact, as we learned more and more of the deeply unpleasant conditions on our nearest planetary neighbours, the ufonauts gradually claimed more distant origins: mysterious worlds with names like Baavi and Zomdic, orbiting unreachable stars. These beings were dismissed as figments of the imagination by investigators: their messages of universal peace, love and brotherhood were extremely distasteful to

those anxious to discover a hard, scientific explanation for what was doubtless a genuine mystery.

And yet the field of ufology is an immensely complex one, whose individual elements resonate powerfully, subtly echoing down through the decades, altering their surface details while leaving their essence intact. Additional details are frequently added to the core scenario, integrating them into a modified whole. Take, for example, the case of Judy Doraty.

Judy's frightening encounter took place while she was driving in her car near Houston, Texas, in May 1973. Four members of her family were also present; all five people saw a bright light in the sky. The light seemed to be following them, so Judy pulled over to the side of the road, got out and walked to the back of the car to get a better view of it. She was unable to recall what happened next; however, when she underwent hypnotic regression with psychologist Dr Leo Sprinkle in March 1980, disturbing memories surfaced.

Apparently, Judy had what is known as a 'bilocation experience' which, as the name suggests, means that the percipient seems to be in two different locations at the same time. Judy reported standing beside her car, and simultaneously standing inside the UFO that had been pacing them. The occupants of the craft were in the process of mutilating a calf that they had captured, drawing it up through a beam of yellow light. The light seemed to be filled with strange, swirling particles, and Judy had the impression that it would feel solid, if touched.

The beings themselves were very similar in appearance to the Greys, in that they were short and spindly, with pale, sickly-looking skin, large heads and vestigial noses and mouths. Their eyes, however, were different from the jet-black, featureless orbs commonly associated with this 'species'; they had yellow irises and vertical, cat-like pupils.

Judy's horror was increased immeasurably when she saw that her daughter was also aboard the craft, and was being examined by the beings. However, they assured her (communicating through telepathy) that neither of them would be harmed, adding that they had not intended to bring her into the craft; her bilocation had somehow been spontaneous.

Of the 2000 people who
 have been abducted by
 aliens, 1000 have been
 killed.