

# NOTES ON "URI," AND YET ANOTHER "CONTACTEE"

Charles Bowen

MY first meeting with Andrija Puharich, author of the book *Uri* (published 1974 by W.H. Allen & Co. Ltd., 44 Hill Street, London, W1X 8LB; 285 pages, price £2.95) was about five years ago. He was here on a brief visit and, before an invited audience including doctors and members of the press, he gave a lecture, supported by films, on the work of that remarkable Brazilian healer, Arigó.

However deeply impressed some of the pressmen might have been on that occasion, I cannot recall that any word of that lecture found its way into their newspapers; what I do recall is that one or two of the doctors present were quite hostile in their attitude to Dr. Puharich.

For the record, Andrija Puharich, a neurologist, is an MD with many years of hospital and laboratory experience behind him. He also implies that he lives comfortably from the proceeds of some 50 patented inventions, and now devotes himself to "...the full-time study of the mysterious powers of the human mind." This has brought him into contact with people like the remarkable paragnost Peter Hurkos, and the psychical surgeon Arigó and, of course, Uri Geller.

Arigó is alluded to many times in the book *Uri* — importantly, it will be seen — and this is one reason why I write about him now. I feel sure that had Dr. Puharich published a work on Arigó's miraculous feats at the time of his London talk, few would have believed him and he would have had a rough time at the hands of his colleagues in the medical profession. Yet, in itself, the subject of that lecture was not a new one to me, for there, with me at that time, were my friends Anne Dooley\* and Gordon Creighton, who had both undergone spectacular operations performed by another Brazilian healer, Lourival de Freitas. I had also been present with scores of other witnesses when Lourival had performed an exploratory operation on one of Gordon's eyes.† His implements were a penknife and a teaspoon, and he used no anaesthetic. So I had no need to be convinced by the Puharich films, for it was obvious that when he spoke about Arigó's talents he was talking about something very real.

After the lecture I had a short talk with Dr.

Puharich and he told me that he had had a number of UFO experiences while studying Arigó in Brazil. It seemed at that time, however, that he knew relatively little about the UFO phenomenon as a whole.

## The advent of Uri Geller

It was in the Spring of 1973 that reports began to filter through to us of the remarkable feats in the realm of ESP and mind-over-matter by a young Israeli named Uri Geller, and, not surprisingly, the itinerant researcher Andrija Puharich was at the heart of things. Because it was stated that UFOs were involved, Gordon Creighton and I became very interested in this, and an article was prepared, based on the material we had in hand, for the September-October, 1973, issue of FSR. It transpired that before this article had a chance to appear (thanks to our multifarious publishing problems) Uri Geller suddenly and staggeringly became known to millions of people in the United Kingdom. That was when he took part in David Dimbleby's live BBC-TV presentation, before an invited audience, and with Professor John Taylor and Dr. Lyall Watson on the platform with him. We all witnessed Uri's powers of telepathy in reasonably controlled conditions, and his skills as a watch "mender" and as a fork bender — a select few of the many feats it is claimed he can perform, including the disintegration of metallic and other objects, the apparent dematerialisation and (re)materialisation of objects, and the transporting — or teleporting — of objects, all seemingly by the powers of the mind.

Uri Geller's performance on the Dimbleby show was very convincing. So convincing that the reaction from certain quarters bordered on the hysterical — with conjurers being paraded in front of TV cameras to demonstrate, far from convincingly, that they too could bend door keys (it should be noted too that unlike some of Uri's keys and forks, their sleight-of-hand props did not continue to bend after being put down).

Scientists who have been involved in the Stanford University Research Institute investigations have told members of the FSR team that Uri's powers are absolutely genuine, and that the research scientists are staggered by what they have seen.

So, as with his lecture on Arigó's psychic surgery, I am sure that Andrija Puharich is involved with something very real when he writes about his study of Uri Geller, and about Geller's acquisition of his powers. The accounts in the book *Uri*, of their experiences in the Sinai Desert, and the fact that

\* See *Every Wall a Door*, by Anne Dooley (Abelard-Schumann Ltd., London) for descriptions, and photographs, of her operations.

† See *Beyond the Senses* by Paul Tabori and Phyllis Raphael (Souvenir Press Ltd., London) for a description of the operation on Gordon Creighton's eye, in which a growth was removed from the back of the eye (the exploratory operation, which I witnessed, took place a few days later—C.B.)

soldiers with them did not share their experiences, come as no surprise to us. Nor too does the claim that Uri's powers come from that cosmic force that controls the UFOs, the same force, we are told, that permitted Uri Geller to photograph UFOs over the Israeli Army HQ, and from an airliner over Western Germany (this photograph has been published in *Psychic* magazine for June 1974).

### Contact

The book *Uri* is for me a fascinating account of strange happenings, accompanied as it is by a doubly fascinating explanation for those happenings. No doubt this book will prove an indigestible morsel for many — even some of those who have witnessed Uri's work. The contents will stick in the craw of most of the scientists who read it. Already, "friendly" scientists have said: "I'd rather he hadn't published it." For the one thing that is immediately apparent is that Andrija Puharich has become a "UFO contactee." His statements to that effect are there in the book for all to read.

With the remarkable and gifted Uri Geller as the medium, Puharich says he has been contacted by a cosmic being from an extra-galactic planet "Hoova." And this spokesman, under the name "Spectra," communicates with him, somewhat enigmatically (for the benefit of "Hoova"?) either through an entranced Uri Geller, or by way of recordings induced on cassettes of a tape recorder. This cosmic being, we are told, eventually directed him to write this book. But, as with all "contactees," there is the usual snag: the evidence invariably disappears. In this case the cassettes just dematerialised — so it is stated — after they had been played.

It is difficult to see how the Puharich reputation in our "nuts and bolts" world can survive this sort of thing. Perhaps his standing is big enough; perhaps he will be "protected" in the manner he has already described in the book. We can only hope that those scientific teams which have commenced to study Uri Geller and his remarkable talents will continue to do so. Who knows, it may well lead to a better understanding of the UFO contactee syndrome.

While researchers generally have preferred to cast scorn on the contactee claims and claimants, the *Flying Saucer Review* standpoint has long been that serious attention should be paid to everything said or written by the contactees. If they are induced by outside forces — or by other forces masquerading as outside forces — to say or write the things they do, then why? What is the purpose behind the contact? Here then is one very good reason why everyone involved in this subject should be sure they read this book.

### Quotes, and the ultimate questions

To underline what has been written in these notes, here are extracts that will be of interest:

I. See page 124. Two-way communication is stated to have taken place on December 9, 1971, at 10.59 p.m., via Uri Geller, as medium, in hypnotic trance...

A. Puharich: "Are you behind the UFO sightings that started in the United States when Kenneth Arnold saw nine flying saucers on June 24, 1947?"

Yes.

A.P.: "When did you first notice me?"

In 1946.

A.P.: "Why was I noticed?"

*Our computers studied everyone on earth. You were noticed for your abilities as the ideal and perfect man for this mission.*

A.P.: "What is this mission?"

*Do not ask. It will be revealed.*

Thus, Andrija Puharich the contactee.

Can it really be that Dr. Puharich was unaware of the fact that UFO sightings and reports began long before 1947; that there are voluminous records of these earlier sightings? It would appear that he has taken the *beginning of modern publicity for the subject* to be the beginning of the phenomenon. Furthermore, it would seem either that the contacting entity, or power, was also none too well versed in these matters, or that it didn't bother to correct its contactee. Yet...before we yield too readily to temptations to scoff, let us consider one other small, but intriguing, fact. Gordon Creighton has pointed out that all the remarkable psychic healers like Arigō, Lourival and Tony Agpaoa, began to develop their powers around about 1947.

II. See page 248. Message by tape recorder — at the tail end of a lengthy section dealing with Hoova's alleged involvement with human evolution, and their present need for secrecy in view of the human tendency to panic, or to worship them, etc., when they landed here (a practice now discontinued)...

A.P.: "During the past quarter of a century there have been many space visitations reported. Are these yours?"

*Most of these reports of humans are due to hallucinations and aberrations. But some of our units have landed. But most of the reported landings have been from other visitors from space — some of whom we do not see, but which you can see. They are of different vibrations, different spaces, different velocities. We are the only ones who are mostly here. The other visitors come and go. We stay. This tape will vanish when you hear it. Farewell.*

As always.

A friend, an anthroposophist (student of the teachings of Rudolf Steiner), was heard to remark, after reading the book *Uri*, that it "smacked of Ahriman." This is interesting, for one of Dr. Puharich's scientific helpers during early days in Israel, was Itzhaak Bentov, and he (see page 113) was very worried as to whether the power that they were beginning to realise was controlling Uri Geller was "good" or "evil."

That is the ultimate question. Does this control emanate from the realm of good, or from the realm of evil? Has Andrija Puharich served a purpose by steering Uri Geller from showbiz "magic" in Israel, to the scientific world of the West, which is now very well aware of his formidable talents in E.S.P. and mind-over-matter?

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