

## Space Brother Heritage

# The Cosmic 'Good Guys'

By Vicki Cooper

Just as the news media always seem to give wider play to bad news, for the most part the UFO community has been consistently drawn to theories and reports of "bad" aliens. Witnesses claiming to have interaction with "benevolent" aliens, especially ones transmitting ET "spiritual messages," are the quickest to be ridiculed. In the minds of most ufologists, "contactee" bears more than a slightly pejorative connotation.

This marked division began in concert with the growth of popular interest in "flying saucers," which began over 40 years ago. The rise of saucer clubs and cults inhibited the efforts of legitimate UFO researchers such as Maj. Donald Keyhoe, James E. McDonald and Coral Lorenzen, who very much wanted to mobilize both officials and the public into treating the UFO situation as a serious one meriting the utmost in scientific attention.

While these investigators tried to correct mistaken impressions about themselves and about the UFO subject, contactees got the press by telling marvelous but sometimes simple-minded tales of meeting "elder brothers" from outer space. The '50s-era benevolent extraterrestrial/alien was the picture of Aryan transcendental wisdom and beauty: blond, fair-complected, kind and cosmically spiritual. This image of the Space Brother served as a near-perfect stand-in for Jesus Christ.

The Brothers' urgent messages, which contactees would enthusiastically publicize, contained warnings about Earth's penchant for war and especially atomic weapons—which ETs claimed were upsetting the delicate balance of the solar system—and would gently lecture earthlings about the infinite love of the Infinite Creator for all of His beings. (Many of the most visible contactees were ultimately exposed as charlatans.)

In today's ufology, nearly single-minded attention to the abduction

phenomenon has all but smothered Space Brother theology. But something akin to it—call it a stubborn refusal to accept the alien interface as all bad—has begun to influence wider numbers of people, even within the ranks of legitimate research.

### 'Initiation'

In light of this more accepting attitude, even "greys" don't always get a bad rap. According to psychologist and UFO contact researcher Dr. Leo Sprinkle, of the hundreds of UFO abductees he's counseled over the years, a significant number have ultimately undergone positive transformations as an outcome of their experiences. Sprinkle sees the UFO-alien encounter as part of a

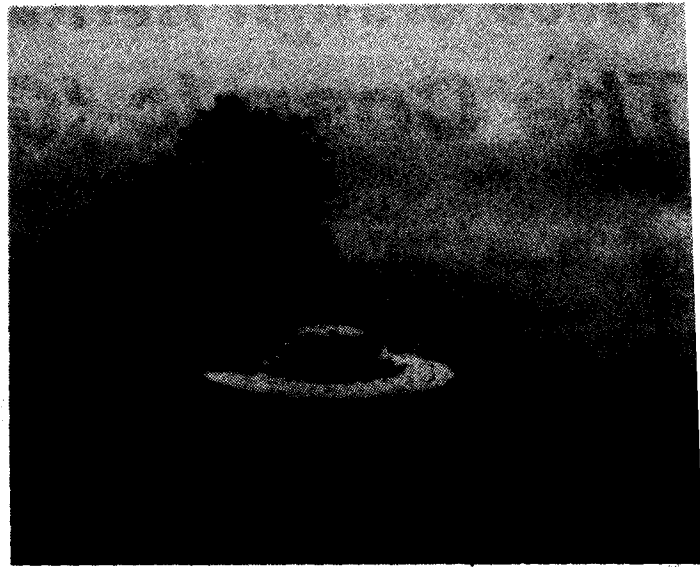
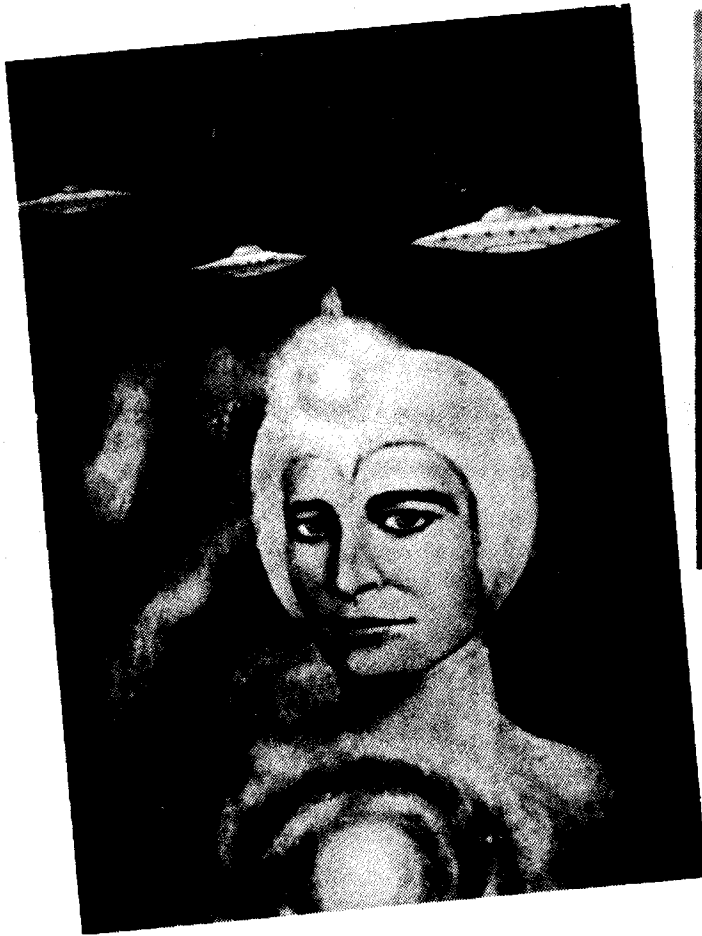
species-wide educational program, the purpose of which might be individual and collective initiation into a new and revitalized vision of Earth and human life—humanity's emergence into "cosmic citizenship."

"People sometimes see these (alien contact) experiences as ridiculous, and sometimes they are," Dr. Sprinkle admits. "But if a person persists and says 'hey, I still want to find out what's going on,' then he or she is perceived as loyal to the cause and willing to take that silliness and ridicule and still continue to do the work. The work as I see it is very practical, but very scary—it's soul work."

According to this view, that is, the human soul cycles through various experiences and various incarnations, assisted and corrected by strategic



An artist's conception of the kindly face of a top ET, Commander Ashtar.



**HIGHER IMAGE**—Commander Ashtar (left) and an alleged Pleiadian saucer (right), popular representations of benevolent ETs. Painting of Ashtar by Celeya Winkler, from the cover of *Ashtar: A Tribute* by Tuella, Guardian Action Publications. Photo of Pleiadian scout ship by Billy Meier, from advertising flyer produced by Genesis II Publishing.

alien intervention.

At this philosophical juncture, the idea of positive ETs comfortably fits in with many New Age belief systems, which emphasize reincarnation, personal and planetary health, self-improvement and an array of spiritual teachings from an equally vast array of sources. In some circles—quite distinct from legitimate UFO research—an entire cosmology has been constructed, based on the alleged telepathic “transmissions” of alien beings.

#### *The ‘Ashtar Command’*

Perhaps the best-known of the channeled ETs, Ashtar, is purveyed as a prototypical Space Brother, sort of the Captain Picard of the Heavenly Host: head honcho of the Ashtar Command (whose interplanetary beneficence and militaristic structure make it sound very much like the fictional United Federation of Planets from the “Star Trek” series.) Followers will tell you that handsome Ashtar, aloft in a huge starship above planet Earth, beams down his messages to our troubled Earth to

help “lift the planet’s vibrations.” Writes Tuella, a long-time Ashtar channeler who wrote a book about him, “Commander Ashtar is second only to beloved Commander Jesus-Sananda in responsibility for the airborne division of the Brotherhood of Light. Ashtar has been widely known in UFO channeling circles for over three decades.”

If Ashtar is the undisputed patriarch of brotherly ETs, the Pleiadians (harking from the Pleiades star system) comprise an entire civilization of interstellar spiritual teachers who currently top the contactee/channeling charts. The purported Pleiadians—of course, they’re depicted as wise, blond and beautiful—were first popularized through the epic-sized claims and crisp, clear saucer photos of a Swiss contactee, Eduard Billy Meier. The Pleiadian mythos stands principally on the strength of Meier’s photos, films, garrulous telepathic transmissions and a huge public relations campaign.

Chances are if you run across a channeler, he or she can and will dictate some gems of Pleiadian cosmology. According to Lyssa

Royal, a Sedona channeler, “For thousands of years they have stepped in either to protect us from danger or to control us like children ‘for our own good.’ . . . this has been a source of great shame to them.”

Such ET repentance has not quelled the surge of hopefulness infusing belief in “good guy” aliens. It’s a short hop from New Age platitudes to overt religiosity, just a turn of mind from abject fear to placing even the most traumatic of abduction cases into a whole new context of alien benevolence and goodwill.

Ultimately, it seems likely that the subjective judgments of people experiencing UFO phenomena may tell more about their own beliefs and psychological makeups than about the reality of the beast itself. When, if ever, we discover the true intelligence or cause of the phenomena, perhaps it won’t resemble either extreme within our fields of reference, but instead fall neutrally somewhere in the realm of possibilities, unaffected by the categories and boundaries we set. We can only trust that when the time arrives, humankind will be ready.