

The Extraterrestrial Hypothesis

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The Book of Dzyan is comprised of legends which were finally gathered into manuscript form when man learned to write. It is one of the oldest chronicles of India. One of the stories is of a small group of beings who supposedly came to Earth many thousands of years ago in a metal craft which orbited the Earth several times before landing.

As told in the Book: *"These beings lived to themselves and were revered by the humans among whom they had settled. But eventually differences arose among them and they divided their numbers, several of the men and women and some children settled in another city, where they were promptly installed as rulers by the awe-stricken populace."*

"Separation did not bring peace to these people and finally their anger reached a point where the ruler of the original city took with him a small number of his warriors and they rose into the air in a huge shining metal vessel. While they were many leagues from the city of their enemies, they launched a great shining lance that rode on a beam of light. It burst apart in the city of their enemies with a great ball of flame that shot up to the heavens, almost to the stars. All those who were in the city were horribly burned and even those who were not in the city - but nearby - were burned also. Those who looked upon the lance and the ball of fire were blinded forever afterward. Those who entered the city on foot became ill and died. Even the dust of the city was poisoned, as were the rivers that flowed through it. Men dared not go near it, and it gradually crumbled into dust and was forgotten by men."

"When the leader saw what he had done to his own people he retired to his palace and refused to see anyone. Then he gathered about him those warriors who remained, and their wives and children, and they entered their vessels and rose one by one into the sky and sailed away. Nor did they return."

This story was taken from a textbook entitled:

Introductory Space Science – Volume II, Chapter XXXIII
Unidentified Flying Objects
Taught in the Department of Physics
United States Air Force Academy (1968 – 1970)

Long before Columbus accidentally ran into the West Indies, Greek philosophers knew that the Earth was round. They also believed that everything is made of tiny, indivisible atoms of the four basic elements: fire, water, earth and air. They believed that the total number of atoms was infinite, and they assumed that the same processes that created our world must have created other worlds.

Atomist Philosopher Epicurus in about 300 BC said:

"There are infinite worlds both like and unlike this world of ours...we must believe that in all worlds there are living creatures and plants and other things we see in this world."

Aristotle, however, didn't agree with the atomists. He believed that the Earth is the center of the universe and believed that we are unique...there cannot be other worlds.

It wasn't until 1543 that we *knew* we were not the center of the universe, when Nicholas Copernicus found that Earth was just one of several planets orbiting the Sun. Aristarchus, in 300 BC. had proposed the same thing, but his was a philosophical assertion, not a scientific one.

One by one we learned about the planets in our own solar system and discovered galaxies beyond our own. We learned that our solar system was born 4.5 billion years ago, and we learned that, at that time, the universe was already *ten* billion years old. And we learned that the stars in the universe were older than our own sun.

But it wasn't until 1995 that the first clear-cut discovery of an extrasolar planet was made. Since that time more than 250 have been discovered.

In 1960, Cornell University astronomer and astrophysicist Frank Drake conducted the first radio search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence.

Drake's equation, which he introduced in 1961, sought to determine how many intelligent, communicating civilizations there are in our galaxy:

$$N = R \times f_p \times n_e \times f_l \times f_i \times f_c \times L$$

R = the rate of star formation

f_p = the fraction of stars that form planets

n_e = the number of planets hospitable to life

f_l = the fraction of those planets where life actually emerges

f_i = the fraction of planets where life evolves into intelligent beings

f_c = the fraction of planets with intelligent creatures capable of interstellar communication

L = the length of time that such a civilization remains detectable

N = The number of detectable civilizations in space

The conclusion, as recently as 2008, was the potential for 100 billion habitable planets in the *universe*. If 1 million of these is enough like Earth to eventually give rise to a civilization, then we have the potential of 100,000 civilizations...some of whom just might be advanced enough to pay us a visit from time to time.

Throughout human history, stories have been told of gods who descended from the heavens in their chariots of fire. Erich von Daniken explored this radical notion in his landmark book, *Chariots of the Gods*, published in 1970. In it, he chronicles their stories and their monuments and relics from ancient Egypt, Peru, Japan... Persia.

The cradle of civilization, as we all know, was in the fertile crescent known as Mesopotamia, between the Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers. It was inhabited 6,000 years ago by the

Sumerians , an advanced civilization who left copious records of their culture in the form of pictographs on clay tablets. Among these discoveries are clay cylinder seals, on which the complete solar system, as we now know it, is depicted. These documents include descriptions of Uranus...which wasn't discovered until 1781, and Neptune in 1846. What technology enabled them to have this knowledge? Or was the knowledge passed on to them by colonists who had traveled to Earth from another planet?

Skeptics maintain that it's technologically impossible to not only travel such distances but do so in the span of a lifetime. But if we truly believe that there might be civilizations on other planets older and far more advanced than ours, why can't we believe they've developed the technology to make such travel possible. As for a 'lifetime', if we believe the stories of the Bible, then we know that Adam lived 930 years and Methusaleh 969 years, so how can we define what a 'lifetime' might be on other planets.

Astrobiologist Jeffrey Bennett in his book *Beyond UFOs* (published in 2008), explains the challenges of space travel with this analogy: If the Sun is a grapefruit with the Earth – the size of the tip of a ballpoint pen - orbiting approximately 50 feet away from the grapefruit, to get to the next grapefruit (or Sun) you'd have to cross the United States.

In December 2008 (just 4 months ago!), a final report was submitted by Stanford University and NASA on the results from Gravity Probe B, one of NASA's most complicated satellites. It proved 'to a precision of 1 per cent' the assertion Einstein made 90 years ago: that an object such as Earth does indeed distort the fabric of space and time. In other words, instead of traveling to a destination, you bring the destination to you.

Sightings of strange objects in the sky have been documented throughout history, but in our recent 20thc history, the heavens seemed to be teeming with strange sights.

World War II in particular saw a marked increase in sightings. Perhaps the most well-known were nick-named "foo-fighters". They appeared to be small remote-controlled aircraft that buzzed about during missions and were reported by Allied, German and Japanese pilots.

Because they never posed a threat, many thought they were some type of *psychological* warfare device. After a thorough investigation by the US Eighth Army Air Force, they remained unexplained.

Pilots saw other strange aircraft...often massive in size and capable of speeds unheard of at that time.

It is noteworthy that with the advent of the Nuclear Age, there was a marked increase in sightings culminating in an unprecedented number in 1947...more than 900 in fact. It should also be noted that most often, sightings occurred near sensitive nuclear and military installations.

On **May 15, 1947**, a V-2 rocket was launched from White Sands Proving Ground in New Mexico. As it climbed to an altitude of 40 miles, radar technicians watched as an unknown object instantly appeared to the right of the missile, causing it to veer off course and crash.

The military base was put on heightened alert for 'unknown airborne intruders' and became determined to bring one or more down for scientific and technical evaluation.

The first known post-war attack on unknown flying objects occurred on **May 29, 1947** at White Sands. A surface to air missile was fired at unknown targets that were hovering to the SW of Launch Row. At an altitude above 60,000 feet, the warhead detonated. Ten minutes later there was another explosion approximately 30 miles south. The target finally crashed about one mile south of the Buena Vista Airport near downtown Juarez, Mexico. It is reported that "there was a blinding flash, followed by a tremendous pressure wave and the appearance of a mushroom cloud. Locals thought an atomic bomb had exploded. The ground shock was felt for 35 miles from the impact crater. "

It was reported to the press that it was a V-2 rocket that had veered off course and crashed in Juarez, but no evidence of a V-2 rocket was found in the crater, nor anything else.

On June 24, 1947 Businessman and private pilot Kenneth Arnold was flying over the Cascade Mountains of Washington State when he saw 9 saucer shaped objects flying in formation. He said, "The flying objects had no tail, but rather were round, saucer shaped, metallic and highly polished. They flew like a saucer would if you skipped it over water." Arnold's description finally gave the world a name for the unusual crafts they had been seeing.

On that one day alone...June 24, 1947...there were reports of 20 sightings.

By July 5, flying discs had been reported over *thirty-one* states, particularly in Southern New Mexico and West Texas.

The following article appeared in the *El Paso Times*, June 28, 1947:

Now - ' Falling Objects' New Mexicans Add to Mystery Reports

Mysterious falling objects reported near Tularosa and Engle NM Friday had not been located or identified late Friday night. There were no rockets fired from the White Sands Proving Ground Friday.

There was much conjecture as to whether the falling objects had any relation to the mysterious flying discs which had been variously reported seen recently from Oregon to Oklahoma.

Lt. Col. Harold R. Turner commanding officer at White Sands said that he had received reports that a track walker said he had seen a falling object near Engle, NM and an Army captain

flying his own plane reported seeing an object falling from the skies near Tularosa.

Search parties were sent out from White Sands in attempts to locate the objects or secure additional information.

Was it debris from these falling objects that Mac Brazel, Manager of the J. B. Foster Ranch reported on July 7?

On July 2, a saucer-shaped object was seen by several witnesses flying NW over the town of Roswell. Could *this* be the object that crashed on the Foster Ranch?

On July 8, the following was the lead story in the *Roswell Daily Record*:

RAAF Captures Flying Saucer On Ranch in Roswell Region

No Details of Flying Disk Are Revealed

The intelligence office of the 509th Bombardment group at Roswell Army Air Field announced at noon today that the field has come into possession of a flying saucer.

According to information released by the department over authority of Maj. J. A. Marcel, intelligence officer, the disk was recovered on a ranch in the Roswell vicinity, after an unidentified rancher had notified Sheriff Geo. Wilcox, here, that he had found the instruments on his premises.

Major Marcel said a detail from his department went to the ranch and recovered the disk, it was stated.

After the intelligence office here had inspected the instrument, it was flown to "higher headquarters."

The intelligence officer stated that no details of the saucer's construction or its appearance had been revealed.

Within hours, the story was retracted and a press conference was held showing material that was supposedly retrieved from the crash site. The material they showed was of a weather balloon. Major Jesse Marcel, the Intelligence Officer who was involved with the debris recovery confirmed in an interview with author and Nuclear Physicist Stanton Friedman in 1978 that what was shown in the press conference was, indeed, a weather balloon, but it was NOT the debris that was recovered from the ranch. He stated that the 'Material was foil-like: but you couldn't cut it, or burn it...it was thinner than the foil packaging in a cigarette pack, couldn't drive a pin knife through it...indestructible.' He also said that 'the wreckage had been spread out over ¾ mile – too large for a weather balloon, and the pieces had strange markings...'not of this earth'.

In an affidavit dated September 1991, Retired Brigadier General Thomas J. DuBose confirmed that the material shown in the photographs taken in Maj. General Ramay's office was a weather balloon and that the weather balloon explanation for the material was a cover story to divert the attention of the press. (at the time of the event, General Dubose was a Col, serving as Chief of Staff to Maj. General Roger Ramey, Commander, Eighth Air Force.)

General Dubose in an interview said:

You have to understand what was happening in this country at the time, things that had never happened before in the history of man. We had just gone through a world war. We had seen the firebombing of great cities, atomic bombs, destruction on an unprecedented scale. Then came this flying saucer business. It was just too much for the public to have to deal with..."

Before we move away from the Roswell incident, I think it's time for a little geography lesson:

- The crash of the alleged flying saucer took place on the Foster Ranch in NM.
- The Foster Ranch is located between Roswell Army Air Field and Corona, NM
- The crash will sometimes be referred to as having taken place at Corona, because it's the town closest to the Foster Ranch.
- The Foster Ranch is 31 miles from Corona and 70 miles from Roswell.

Area 51, located at the Groom Lake Base in Nevada, is often associated with Roswell and the crash of the alleged flying saucer, but it's nowhere *near* Roswell or the crash site (In fact, it's 892 miles from Roswell).

The Groom Lake Base is a top-secret military base located 90 miles north of Las Vegas. It's in grid number 51 of the Nevada Test Site, so it's called Area 51. The United States Air Force Flight Test Center controls the base. It's best known for testing exotic aircraft and weapons. The base was created in 1954 as a place to test the secret U-2 spyplane that was used to fly missions over the Soviet Union. Since then, Area 51 has been thought to be the test center of captured UFOs because of strange lights in the night sky.

Sightings in Washington DC in July 1952 received world-wide attention. A press conference was held at which time they were explained as mostly having been caused by a 'temperature inversion'. (Although they had solid radar evidence and had scrambled jets to intercept the 'temperature inversion'.)

According to Major Donald Keyhoe, during the period UFOs were being tracked in the DC area, 'gigantic' objects were tracked orbiting Earth. He said, "I talked with one of the pilots who was

in the jet squadron that was trying to get up near one of these things. And he told me, 'I have never been more terrified in my life. Just to look at that thing you could tell that you would be crazy to go up there and try and shoot at it. Thank God we couldn't get up that close'."

Col. L. Gordon Cooper was one of the seven astronauts in Project Mercury, the first manned space effort by the United States.

In 1951, he was in Germany flying with the 525th fighter Bomber squadron, US Air Forces Europe. One day, his squadron took off in their F-86s to respond to what they thought was a sighting of Soviet MiG-15 jets. Cooper said: "We reached our maximum ceiling of around 45,000 feet, and they were still way above us, and travelling much faster: I could see that they weren't balloons or MiGs or like *any* aircraft I had seen before. They were metallic silver and saucer shaped. We couldn't get close enough to form any idea of their size, they were just too high." "For the next two or three days, the saucers passed over the base daily. Sometimes they appeared in groups of four, other times as many as 16."

In his autobiography, *Leap of Faith*, Cooper recounts the landing on May 3, 1957 of a flying saucer in a dry lake bed at Edwards AFB. He had sent a camera crew out to film precision landing systems and what they *caught on film* was a landing of a different sort. They reported that the saucer flew over them, hovered above the ground, extended three landing gear; then set down about 50 yards way from them.

Cooper immediately reported the incident to the Pentagon and was ordered to have the film developed but not to run any prints. But as Cooper said, no one told him he couldn't look at them.

He said: "I was amazed at what I saw. The quality was excellent...the object, shown close up, was a classic saucer, shiny silver and smooth."

The film was flown to Washington and Washington was silent on the matter. Cooper was amazed that no inquiry was launched. It was as if the incident never happened.

In 1985 in a message to the United Nations, Cooper said, "I believe that these extraterrestrial vehicles and their crews are visiting this planet from other planets, which are a little more technically advanced than we are on Earth. I feel that we need to have a top level, coordinated program to scientifically collect and analyze data from all over the Earth concerning any type of encounter..."

Of course, there had been programs in place since December 1947, when The Air Force established an official investigation into the UFO phenomenon – called **Project Sign**. After a year of research, the report concluded that UFOs were of extraterrestrial origin. However, it was rejected by Air Force Chief of Staff General Hoyt S. Vandenburg who ordered all copies destroyed.

In December 1948, Project Sign was changed to **Project Grudge**, and this change reflected a shift in official attitude towards the matter of UFOs.

Air Force Captain Edward J. Ruppelt, who served as director of Project Grudge and then Project Blue Book from 1951 to 1953, is credited with coining the term *Unidentified Flying Object*.

It was in March 1952, that Project Grudge was changed to **Project Blue Book**.

Then in January 1953, the CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence convened a panel to review the evidence on UFOs and determine the possible *threat to national security*. Headed by Dr. HP Robertson, the panel met for three days...from January 14 – 17...and concluded that: reasonable explanations could be suggested for most, if not all, sightings; that there was no evidence of a direct threat to national security; and they found no evidence that the objects sighted might be extraterrestrials.

Because of growing public interest and concern, the panel recommended that the National Security Council begin a program to debunk UFO reports and that a policy of public education be instituted to reassure the public of the lack of evidence behind UFOs.

Placing all of this in its historical context, the Cold War was heating up and Joe McCarthy seemed to be accusing everyone of being a Communist. So, it's no surprise that another recommendation of the Robertson Panel was that private UFO groups be monitored for subversive activities.

After the report was released, the Blue Book staff was reduced to three and Captain Ruppelt requested a transfer.

Meanwhile, in 1950, the Canadian Government established its first secret committee to investigate aerial phenomena, code-named Project Magnet and headed by Wilbert Smith. In a 3-page top-secret memorandum, Smith stated:

I made discreet enquiries through the Canadian Embassy staff in Washington who were able to obtain for me the following information:

- The matter is the most highly classified subject in the United States Government, rating higher even than the H-bomb.
- Flying saucers exist.
- Their modus operandi is unknown but concentrated effort is being made by a small group headed by Dr. Vannevar Bush
- The entire matter is considered by the United States authorities to be of tremendous significance.

In 1952, information was leaked from a high ranking Air Force official to Washington Columnist Robert Allen that the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) at Wright-Patterson AFB had conducted a study based on more than 1,800 UFO sightings from 1947 – 1952. These sightings comprised approximately 20% of all sightings reported for the period. It should come as no surprise that the most significant of these occurred at such places as Los Alamos National Laboratory, White Sands atomic plant and testing ground, Oak Ridge atomic plant, O'Hare

airport and at various Air Force bases around the country, including those in Greenville and Spartanburg, SC.

The military has been rather schizophrenic on the matter of UFOs by conducting secret studies while at the same time, publicly denying their existence.

For example, after a sighting by more than 200 witnesses in Michigan in March 1966, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, astronomer and scientific advisor for Projects Sign, Grudge & Bluebook, was sent to investigate. After sloshing around in the swamp, the sheriff took him back to his office in Ann Arbor and, as they were discussing the situation, a call came in for Dr. Hynek from Washington. When he returned to the room, he said...**Swamp Gas**. It was swamp gas that they saw.

In 1965, the government had contracted with the University of Colorado to conduct a *scientific* investigation in the matter of UFOs...which received widespread support from skeptics and supporters alike...until it became apparent that its director, Dr. Edward Condon, was anything but objective. In a speech given at the Corning Glass Works shortly after the study began, he said: *It is my inclination right now to recommend that the government get out of this business. My attitude right now is that there's nothing to it....But I'm not supposed to reach a conclusion for another year."*

The study was concluded in 1968 and published in 1969.

Of the 550 unexplained cases in Project Blue Book's files, only 3 were studied by the Condon Committee.

It stated: *Our general conclusion is that nothing has come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge. Careful consideration of the record as it is available to us leads us to conclude that further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby.*

On December 17, 1969, Project Bluebook was closed. Since that time, the official policy of the US Air Force has been not to accept any UFO reports at all. People are told to contact their local authorities. There are non-government organizations that receive and investigate UFO reports. The National UFO Reporting Center (or NUFORC) was founded in 1974 and is located in Davenport, Washington.

The oldest UFO reporting organization is MUFON...or Mutual UFO Network. It began in May 1969 shortly after Project Blue Book was closed. Its mission is the scientific study of UFOs for the benefit of humanity. It truly is a network of researchers across the United States, and you can watch their work in action on The Discovery Channel and the History Channel.

At the beginning of this paper, I read to you a passage from a textbook that was taught from 1968 – 1970 at the Air Force Academy in the Department of Physics. I read the entire chapter and was amazed to find statements such as this one:

"The UFO phenomenon has been global in nature for 50k years...that it is not psychological...that some UFOs appear to be craft controlled by aliens and that there might be as many as 4 different types of alien groups."

It also recommended intensive scientific study of the subject, saying that no such study had yet been undertaken at the necessary levels of intensity and support. And concluded by saying, *The best thing to do is to keep an open and skeptical mind, and not take an extreme position on any side of the question.*

Unfortunately, with the release of The Condon Report, official minds were closed and the chapter was rewritten.

On March 13, 1997 a UFO Phenomenon was witnessed by thousands of people in Arizona and Nevada. Known as the Phoenix Lights, it is perhaps, the best known sighting in recent years. It was described as a profoundly massive triangular shaped object that flew slowly and silently across the night sky...it was a solid object that blocked the stars. The FAA offered no explanation. The military said they were flares. Frances Barwood, who was serving on the Phoenix City Council at the time attempted to investigate, but got no response from the government. She was either told they were not going to talk about it at all or that there was nothing to it.

Responding to pressure from his constituents, Governor Fyfe Symington (1991-1997) in an interview on June 19 said that he was going to order a full investigation and was going to get to the bottom of this and find out if it was a UFO. Later that day, he held an unscheduled press conference and announced that he had discovered the source that was behind the Phoenix Lights. At that moment, his chief of staff was ushered in, dressed in a silver space suit and a large rubber alien head. The Governor laughed and said, 'Well this just goes to show that you guys are entirely too serious.'

Ten years later, the former Governor wasn't laughing when he admitted that he, too, had seen the Lights:

As a pilot and a former Air Force Officer, I can definitively say that this craft did not resemble any man-made object I'd ever seen. And it was certainly not high-altitude flares because flares don't fly in formation.

"... I know just about every machine that flies. It was enormous and inexplicable. Who knows where it came from? A lot of people saw it, and I saw it too. It was dramatic."

Dr. Edgar Mitchell, the 6th man to walk on the moon, is a vocal advocate of full disclosure. He said,

" I've had no personal encounters with UFOs, though I wish I had so that I could speak from first-hand experience. I have, however, met with credible professionals within two governments who have testified to their own first-hand experiences with 'close encounters' during their official duties. A wealth of classified information on the subject resides in military and intelligence files which, in my opinion should be released to the public."

One can't help but believe that the evidence is there...somewhere hidden deep in vaults that are marked 'above top secret'. And what will we do with that knowledge when it is revealed? How will it affect our thinking ...about the universe and our place in it?

In his book, *The Way of the Explorer*, Dr. Mitchell says:

"Earth is our cradle, not our final destiny. The universe itself is our larger home. And without doubt we will meet other species along the way, if we haven't already, who, like ourselves, have begun to explore the cosmos.

"Will they be hostile to our kind? Probably not. By the time a species is capable of exploring the deep cosmos, they have surely learned more about themselves than we, and the value of benevolence. It's safe to say they will be intelligent creatures who already fully recognize that all life is connected, though it may have different form and appearance. They should already recognize that the only way to conquer the universe is to know its ways and align oneself accordingly."

BJ Koonce, April 30, 2009

Extra Info:

In his 1972 book, *The UFO Experience: A Scientific Inquiry*, Dr. Hynek introduced three kinds of encounters with UFOs:

- Close encounters of the First Kind: a sighting of one or more unidentified flying objects.
- Close encounters of the Second Kind: An observation and associated physical effects from the UFO, such as heat or radiation, damage to terrain, electrical interference or lost time
- Close encounters of the Third Kind: An observation of what Hynek termed *animate beings* observed in association with a UFO sighting.

(Go to the Air Force Office of Special Investigations website and search for UFOs/unexplained aerial phenomenon...even swamp gas...and you get nothing.)