

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

Flying Islands

In 1726 Jonathan Swift published anonymously his now famous *Travels Into Several Remote Nations of the World*. The book was published under the pseudonym of Lemuel Gulliver, and we know the work today as *Gulliver's Travels*. The *Travels* are in four parts: a first voyage to a land of little people, a second to a nation of giants, a third that is a potpourri of tales, and the final voyage to a country of horses. These stories have provided entertainment, pleasure, and puzzlement for many since their first publication nearly 300 years ago. Although today the *Travels* are considered popularly as a children's classic, scholars have always regarded them as a major work of literary satire. Unfortunately, during the intervening centuries, literary experts have disagreed strongly about the true nature of the satire. As one said:

Gulliver's Travels . . . has been the subject of furious debate among historians, philosophers, and literary critics . . . Writers claiming to do no more than appraise its philosophical content have been driven to paroxysms of denunciation. Somehow the foremost exponent of lucidity in the English Language has left as his chief legacy a grotesque enigma.

Swift recognized the controversial nature of his work. In a letter to Alexander Pope dated Sept. 29, 1725, he said:

I have employed my time, besides ditching in finishing, correcting, amending, and transcribing my *Travels*, in four parts complete, newly augmented and intended for the press, when the world shall deserve them, or rather when a printer shall be found brave enough to venture his ears.

. . . but the chief end I propose to myself in all my labours is to vex the world rather than divert it; and if I could compass that design, without hurting my own person or fortune, I would be the most indefatigable writer you have ever seen, without reading.

Why did Swift generate such controversy? What created such great puzzle for the intervening centuries? Why have literary scholars debated with one another over Swift's work?

The reason is simple. He used satire, a common literary vehicle of his day, to hide revelation. The strange figures and scenes created by Swift sparked great debate. They contained implications that went beyond the scholarly views of his critics.

This fact is easily demonstrated. He exactly described a Flying Saucer but no one, over nearly 300 years, recognized the true shape of his Flying Island. We see what we expect to see.

This fact is a strong exhibit of the profound influence our Planetary Supervisors can have on our understanding, and how they can keep revelation screened from our eyes until a day of revelation.

Swift was part of a program of unfolding revelation but the generations were oblivious to the nature of his strange satire.

Why was the Flying Saucer so important as an instrument of revelation? Because it substantiates and gives intellectual proof of the phenomena which has unfolded in our skies today.

Comparison of Reports from 1726 and 1959

Report #1

Data: Date: June 26, 1959

Time: 6:45 PM

Place: Boianai, Papua, New Guinea

Conditions: Clear

Witness: William Booth Gill

Reported in:

Australian Flying Saucer Review

Vol. 1, No. 1, Dec 1959

"I came out of the dining room after dinner and casually glanced at the sky with the purpose, I suppose, of seeing Venus. Well, I saw Venus but I also saw this sparkling object which was to me peculiar because it sparkled, and because it was very, very bright. . . . The whole thing was most extraordinary. The fact that we saw what appeared to be human beings on it, I think, is the important thing. It is certainly the important and exciting thing to us. They were not noticeable at first. The object came down at about, I should say, four hundred feet, maybe four hundred and fifty feet, perhaps less, maybe three hundred feet. It is very difficult to judge at that time of night and, not having experience in measuring elevation, it is purely guesswork, but as we watched it men came out from this object, and appeared on the top of it on what seemed to be a deck on top of the huge disk. There were four men in all, occasionally two, then one, then three, then four - we noted the various times that men appeared, and then one, two and three ap-

peared and one and two, and then numbers one, three, four and two and so on. And then later all those witnesses who are quite sure that our records were right ...signed their names as witnesses of what we assume was human activity or beings of some sort on the object itself."

"Another peculiar thing about it was this shaft of blue light which emanated from what appeared to be the center of the deck. They would bend forward and appear to manipulate something on the deck, and then straighten themselves up occasionally, would turn around in our direction, but on the whole they were interested in something on the deck. Then from time to time this blue light, rather like a thin spotlight, emanated skywards to stay on for a second or two, and then switch off. I recorded the times that we saw that blue light come on and off for the rest of the night. After all that activity it ascended and remained very high."

"The craft looked like a disk with smaller round superstructures, then again on top of that another kind of superstructure, round, rather like the bridge on a boat. Underneath it had four legs in pairs pointing downward diagonally. These appeared to be fixed, not retractable, and looked the same on the two nights (we observed the phenomenon), rather like tripods. On the second night the pencil beam came on again for a few seconds, twice in succession."

Mr. Gill was questioned concerning the size of the object. He disclaimed ability to make such estimates but said he thought it was thirty-five or forty feet at the bottom, and perhaps twenty feet at the top. He then was asked if he attempted to establish contact with the pilots of the craft.

"We did. As one of them seemed to lean over as though over a rail and look down on us, I waved one hand overhead and the figure did the same, as though a skipper on a boat waving to someone on a wharf. I could not see the rail but he seemed to lean over something with his arms over it. We could see him from just below waist up. Ananias, the teacher, waved both hands overhead and the two outside figures waved back with two arms overhead. Then Ananias and I both waved arms and all four figures seemed to wave back. There was no doubt that the movement made by arms was answered by the figures."

When asked about the reaction of the natives at the signal, Gill replied:

"Surprised and delighted. Small mission boys called out, and everyone beckoned to invite the beings down but there was no audible response, nor expressions discernible on the faces of the men, rather like players on a football field at night."

Gill was asked if they tried other methods of signaling. He stated they used an electric torch.

“Yes, we flashed the light and the object swung like a pendulum, presumably in recognition. When we flashed the light toward it, it hovered, and came quite close toward the ground. We actually thought it was going to land but it did not. We were all very disappointed about that.”

Report #2

Date: Unknown

Time: Unknown

Place: Unknown

Conditions: Clear

Witness: Jonathan Swift

Published in 1726

“The Voyage to Laputa: Book Three of Four Books”

From “Travels to Several Remote Nations of the World” (Now known as “Gulliver’s Travels”)

“The sky was perfectly clear, and the sun so hot, that I was forced to turn my face from it; when all on a sudden it became obscured, as I thought, in a manner very different from what happens by the interposition of a cloud. I turned back and perceived a vast opaque body between me and the sun, moving forwards toward the island (where I stood). It seemed to be about two miles high, and hid the sun six or seven minutes, but I did not observe the air to be much colder, or the sky more darkened, than if I had stood under the shade of a mountain. As it approached nearer over the place where I was, it appeared to be a firm substance, the bottom flat, smooth, and shining very bright from the reflection of the sea below. I stood upon a height about two hundred yards from the shore, and saw this vast body descending almost a parallel with me, at less than an English mile distance. I took out my pocket-perspective, and could plainly discover numbers of people moving up and down the sides of it, which appeared to be sloping, but what those people were doing, I was not able to distinguish.”

“. . . The reader can hardly conceive my astonishment, to behold an island in the air, inhabited by men, who were able (as it should seem) to raise, or sink, or put it into a progressive motion, as they pleased. But not being at that time in a disposition to philosophize upon this phenomenon, I rather chose to observe what course the island would take, because it seemed for a while to stand still. Yet soon after it advanced nearer, and I could see the sides of it, encompassed with several gradations of galleries, and stairs, at certain intervals, to

descend from one to the other. In the lowest gallery, I beheld some people fishing with long angling-rods, and others looking on. I waved my cap ...and my handkerchief towards the island; and upon its nearer approach, I called and shouted with the utmost strength of my voice; and then looking circumspectly, I beheld a crowd gathered to that side which was most in my view. I found by their pointing towards me and to each other, that they plainly discovered me, although they made no return to my shouting."

Commentary

These two reports are both remarkable in their own right. They describe humanlike creatures occupying strange craft which hover in the air.

They are both even more remarkable in that one is a contemporary report of an alien craft while the other is a story buried in a major piece of satirical literature - yet they agree in many details.

GILL versus SWIFT

Shape of Object

G: "huge disk"

S: "an island in the air"

Swift later gives exact dimensions to show it was a huge disk.

Floating In The Air

G: "hovered"

S: "seemed for a while to stand still"

Motion

G: "the object swung like a pendulum"

"came quite close toward the ground"

"ascended and remained very high"

S: "to raise, or sink, or put it into a progressive motion"

Occupants Look Like Human Mortals

G: "human beings on it"

"there were four men in all"

S: "numbers of people"

"beheld some people"

"a crowd gathered"

Historic Confirmation

Gen 19:1 Two angels came to Sodom in the evening; and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and bowed himself with his face to the earth,

Heb 13:2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Acknowledgment To The Ground Below

G: "I waved one hand overhead and the figure did the same, as though a skipper on a boat waving to someone on a wharf"

S: "I found by their pointing towards me and to each other, that they plainly discovered me, although they made no return to my shouting."

In neither case do they respond to shouting from the ground below.

Purposeful Activity

G: "They would bend forward and appear to manipulate something on the deck, and then straighten themselves up occasionally, would turn around in our direction, but on the whole they were interested in something on the deck."

S: "In the lowest gallery, I beheld some people fishing with long angling-rods, and others looking on."

Appearance

G: "it sparkled, and because it was very, very bright."

S: "the bottom flat, smooth, and shining very bright "

Structure

G: "with smaller round superstructures, then again on top of that another kind of superstructure, round, rather like the bridge on a boat"

S: "encompassed with several gradations of galleries, and stairs, at certain intervals, to descend from one to the other"

Astonishment

G: "The whole thing was most extraordinary"

S: "The reader can hardly conceive my astonishment"

"not being at that time in a disposition to philosophize upon this phenomenon"

These many items show the amazing strength of the parallels between the two accounts. Although there are differences in activity, the time of day, and the circumstances, the similarities are striking.

Importantly, the activity seems designed to bring attention to our Visitors. They produced an event which was written indelibly upon the minds of the witnesses.

Even more, the parallels are so striking that one is led to believe the activities were coordinated over centuries of time to provide these highly illuminating accounts.

The report by Gill can be taken at face value; it is simply the account of an experience contemporary with our own time. The account by Swift cannot be taken at face value. It occurs in a work of satire, always regarded as fiction since it was first published in 1726.

Gill was a graduate of Brisbane University in Queensland, Australia, and ordained as a priest of the Church of England. He had worked on the staff of the Anglican Mission in Papua, New Guinea for thirteen years when the event took place. The phenomenon was observed on several consecutive evenings; thirty-seven witnesses signed affidavits attesting to the event.