

Speculative Realms

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2011

Pope of Alien Abduction Canonizes Self, Anathematizes Wife

Curiously Undead Saint Applies for Martyrdom Via [Appeal to Pity](#)

Always two there are. No more. No less.—Master Yoda

by Gary Haden

The funeral dirges for the Master have been sung, one by an Alien Ambassador on the earth, and the Church of Alien Abduction has touched off a holy week for itself. The Alien-Abduction Empire has apparently struck back with sufficient religious fervor to spark a revival in the Church.

It is sad that the Paranormal Community cannot recognize a religion when it sees one or an appeal to pity and a consequent attempt at martyrdom by a religious figure.

There are two concurrent controversies destroying alien-abduction hypnotism. That they parallel each other is not surprising. The current scandal was provoked by a devotee/apprentice of the abduction master presently attempting to martyr himself.

That alien-abduction hypnotism is a religion is demonstrated by the relentless refusal of the gurus involved to permit scientific review of their data. They deploy the support of psychologists and the followers of the religion deem this conclusive support for the reality of alien abduction.

Recently, something more than proof from behavioral science has been offered in the way of testing the data of the Abductionists, said to contain physical trace evidence - for instance, locks of alien hair. A professional in gene science has come forward offering to do touch-DNA testing of the physical evidence. This would appear to be a delicious opportunity for abduction scholars to verify their theories.

Apparently, the gene science professional has not been flooded with test requests. Why? Sure, the argument can be made that the gene science professional is firmly in the camp of the so-called "disgruntled ex-house frau", but that's precisely the point. The first place any scholar worth her test tubes is going to take her data is the laboratory of her theoretical *mortal enemy*.

Why? Because if the theoretical enemy verifies the data, its validity is enhanced.

Two exceedingly imported points: The gene science professional is the mortal enemy of no one. His demeanor is entirely professional, possessed of the pure energy of curiosity which is the spiritual backbone of any truly good researcher. He senses an opportunity for Nobel recognition here. Why the abductionists are not similarly excited by his emergence is somewhat concerning.

The "disgruntled ex-house frau" is a consummate professional herself and she knows what bona fide scientific research looks like. She "produced and directed films about medicine with research scientists and epidemiologists."(1) They'd "brought in considerable funding with research proposals awarded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH)."(2)

Her credentials are superior to those of her disgruntled ex-house husband, whose expertise is in the art world.

I'm not saying credentials are an accurate divining rod. Here again, the deceptiveness of credential worship surfaces. Advanced training in any discipline does not guarantee ethical conduct and it never has. The support of psychological professionals, especially those involved in controversial practices such as hypnosis, is not dispositive regarding the reality of alien abduction. Just as the advanced

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degrees of the psychiatric professionals involved in the Satanic Panic of the 1990s, which featured the mixture of multiple personality diagnoses with hypnosis, there to line pockets with insurance money, did not prevent abuses from taking place, the advanced degrees of the professionals cited by the alien-abduction gurus did not prevent the abuses evident in that scandal.

Nor do they offer significant refutation to the finding that the abduction gurus have not offered demonstrative proof of the assertion that extraterrestrials are abducting human beings. This much is evident even as the data provided in the Emma Woods scandal details assertions made by the religious figure there that he knew where the aliens were, he had pictures of them, and had shared them with other members of the UFO Research Community. That data may ultimately receive a test in court, where any attorney for Woods worth her salt will call the alien beings to the stand.

And if the pictures do exist, the location of the individuals featured ought to prove easier than producing an actual alien being. Upon being served with papers, the people being called to court might understandably not take the accusation they are alien beings very kindly.

And if upon being called to the stand, the aliens do not comply, were I the attorney in the case, I'd immediately make a motion for summary judgment.

The resulting humiliation of the ET hypothesis would constitute a "threat" to the existence of the exceedingly fragile UFO "community." This is why ETH advocates are rallying to the side of the Abduction Master here and the apprentice who started the scandal. Unfortunately, the religious fanaticism that lays dormant in that community will surface and embarrass everyone concerned.

We are asked to assent to the existence of things unseen and unaccounted for based on hypnotically retrieved memories and, now, in the martyrdom process under way with the senior abduction guru, oral testimony alone.

We are being asked, in other words, to take the existence of alien beings on faith. We are asked to take the reality of the abduction and psychological, sexual, and physical torture of human beings on faith. No being is introduced. No saucer is on display. Verbal testimony alone justifies the claims.

This constitutes the dispensing of a new Word of God, before which we must bow, the implied hypotheses of which we are not allowed to test, demanding a faith significantly based on our pity for an old man facing the ruination by refutation of his life's work.

The alien-abductionists' bluff has been called.

This can't be emphasized enough: the humiliation of one's life work is a psychologically devastating experience and the denial of said humiliation, even if it occurs at the expense of covering up the truth, is absolutely essential if the death before death, a gut-wrenchingly unbearable experience, is to be avoided. The recourse to martyrdom is the only closing move available to a cult figure who faces exposure, even a cult figure who presents a benign mask to the public.

The appeal to pity is a classic logical fallacy. Both abduction masters assert it.

An old man's battle with illness has nothing really to do with the value of the data he has collected. It has everything to do with the effectiveness of an application for martyrdom and is a defining character trait of a religious figure, especially one whose narrative is badly flawed by insufficient evidence and a horribly inadequate research modality. The spin the gentleman places on his data collection, that conscious memories of abduction, undiscovered hence unpolluted by hypnosis, contribute to the validity of his findings, ironically weakens his findings that much more. His ploy to improve the data backfires.

Scholars and researchers do not tend to attempt verification of their findings by appeals to pity, no matter what their physical condition. One's pitiable condition does not reanimate one's pitiable theories.

Equally an appeal to pity is the assertion by the Master's Apprentice that his family has been threatened. Indeed it has, by his own pitiable psychological absorption into the fiction he created, a storyline which includes his own death as a feature element. His death in the Woods narrative is a potential ticking time bomb in his own hopelessly unanalyzed psyche, a product of thirty years or more of unanalyzed transference, filled to overflowing with identification issues and backfiring self-contempt. In fact, upon inspection of his books in conjunction with the Woods hypnosis, one discovers a minefield carefully laid by the Apprentice's self-contempt, aimed at destroying his body of work and the Church of Alien Abduction with it.

On levels the Apprentice may not be aware of, there exists profound contempt and

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resentment toward the "community" rallying irresponsibly to his defense.

Abductionist claims are extravagant and involve the possible repeated psychological injury of the research subjects. Justification of the research must be based on production of the being complained of or the research *was an offense against the person of the subject*. This is true even of the subjects who worship the ground abduction hypnotists walk on.

It is worth remembering that in everyday life, research subjects do not tend to worship researchers.

That in and of itself is proof that this is a religious practice, involving the abduction gurus' mandatory admiration as UFO messiah *cum* satori dispenser, responsible for the personal if sadistic salvation of abductees literally starved for cosmic connection, even at the expense of mental health and even given the very real prospect that they will be publicly humiliated by the practitioner if they deviate from the King James version of the abduction narrative.

This to-be martyred guru seems to be in essence another, more sophisticated, less toxic, more personable, seemingly more secular [Marshall Applewhite](#), whose winning demeanor even now seduces attention from the tectonic instability of his findings. With the narrative of his Apprentice including a bad end for the master there, accumulating evidence indicates a final solution mimicking the Heaven's Gate conclusion, narrowed to the canonization of the two abduction masters involved, post martyrdom, and the resulting continuation of the research via religious revival.

That doesn't legitimate abduction research as science. That doesn't verify its findings. It solidifies its religious status and its taxonomic identification as a church at best, a destructive cult at worst.

Even worse is the true intent of the martyrdom here which is to refute claims against the saint by an appeal to emotion, another fallacious maneuver, and thereby inspire hatred of the identified religious persecutors. What we are speaking of is the annihilation of infidels.

This is a religious attack on infidels in pure form and it is a move made typically by cult leaders and members of fundamentalist priestly castes all over the globe and throughout history.

The alien-abduction hypnotists are gurus, not scientists. Their followers are devotees, not research subjects. What is worse, with the devolution evident in the Apprentice's work, the sociological status of the devotees has deteriorated to the level of psychological slave. Alien abduction is a slaveholding church, if not a cult.

We've seen gentle old men lead us to ruin before. It need not happen here. But the religious fervor with which the old man is being canonized leads me to believe the confusion of church with science will continue.

And infidels will suffer accordingly.

What is the way one turns *FROM* the Dark Side? What does one do when one is disgusted, perhaps unconsciously, with one's religion? Don't our secret devils get the best of us and steer our behavior into atrocious acts to strike back at what we hate, without our even knowing it or without our being able to control it? Isn't that why a choir boy gets molested or an unsuspecting hypnotic subject is given a suggestion she has multiple personality disorder? Was she the ultimate target? Was the choir boy the target or was the Pope? And the Pope's religion?

Was the abductee the target or was it alien abduction?

Whose face is really behind the debunker's mask?

Notes

- (1) [Paratopia Preview](#).
- (2) *Ibid.*

Follow Ups

[Funeral Dirge for Still Living Saint at Alien Jigsaw](#)

[A useful reverie from Pop Culture by Morton Trailer Guy](#)

Kelly Lambert, Scott O. Lilienfeld. [Brain Stains: Traumatic Therapies Can Have Long Lasting Effects on Mental Health](#). Scientific American Mind, October, 2007.

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- [The Skeptic Zone #145 - 29 July 2011](#)
- [The Skeptic Zone #144 - 22 July 2011](#)

Additional Readings on the Appeal to Pity:
[Appeal to Pity, Logical Fallacies.info](#)

[Changing Minds Dot Org](#)

Douglas N. Walton. [Appeal to Pity: Argumentum Ad Misericordium.](#)

Posted by Gary Haden at 7:11 AM 
Labels: [alien abduction church](#)

5 comments:

Carol Rainey said...

Gary—When I read this column, then two or three more that follow, I'm almost shocked by the depth of your insights into the profoundly religious and deeply cult-like atmosphere of certain camps within the alien abduction community. Not to mention the undercurrent of sexual dominance. It's as if you were there. I did live inside this subculture for 10 years—and I am still drawn to the mystery of these individuals' personal experiences and the mystery of UFOs.

But like you, I have become gradually aware of the consequences to experiencers and to the culture at large of participating in such high stakes psychological gamesmanship and employing research tactics that are astonishingly naive.

Knowing both Hopkins and Jacobs, I can say that they are two of the least self-aware human beings I have ever met. Much of the recent writings, radio shows, and conference speeches of the pair (activities they often do in tandem) reveal men who are simply detached from consensus reality, heap contempt upon detractors, take no responsibility for any consequences of their amateur play inside people's minds, yet who fully expect and encourage adulation.

Although Hopkins, especially, encourages large personal followings and devoted acolytes, there is a hidden contempt for them that will surface in a flash if his judgment or his own interpretation of the abduction phenomenon is called into question by any one of those acolytes.

And you are right, as I've discovered: Infidels are pointed out (cue ululation) and the prophet's followers rush in for the kill. Even friends of the newly-declared infidel—friends who apparently were not ever friends, but the sorts of camp followers who make their way through the world by cosying up to the the guru's partner.

But, like you, I'm not dead and the head hasn't stopped talking or the fingers writing. I'm takin' it to the street!

February 17, 2011 9:09 AM



Brownie said...

Pt. 1 post-

I clicked the link to the "funeral dirge" on Kay (Katharina) Wilson's Alien Jigsaw website. Wilson, btw, is very big on MLABS, something that Hopkins (and Jacobs) hardly embraced.

I had to chuckle when one praiser put Hopkins in this interesting group of people: "Copernicus, Michelangelo, Jefferson, Lincoln, Pierre & Marie Curie, Einstein, Orson Welles, Benazir Bhutto, Obama, Hopkins"....Well, maybe Orson Welles and Hopkins did share some similarities. ;-)

There's a mixed bag of nuts giving praise to Hopkins such as "Eve Lorgen, MA, CHt, Abduction Researcher and Author". This gal has been shilling her story on CtoCAM and various ufology/newage conferences. She has a reptoid lover and she also writes songs inspired by him. Her story gets even stranger when she explains her past lives - she actual *was* her reptoid lover hundreds of years ago. Now that gives a literal meaning to the old phrase - "go f*** yourself!";-)

I noticed, in most of the comments, attacks on Hopkins ex-wife Carol Rainey and generalized attacks on anyone who has criticized/questioned Hopkins. I'm assuming this is because he's dying. Dick Cheney is dying too and no one should be any less critical of him though he has a temporary heart pump stuck in him (but we know we'll hear lots of folksy tales about how warm and kind 'ole Dick is/was, as his life nears its very end before he's gone to hell in a handbasket).

- [The Skeptic Zone #144 - 23 July 2011](#)
- [The Skeptic Zone #143 - 15 July 2011](#)
- [The Skeptic Zone #142 - 9 July 2011](#)
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MONSTERTALK

I feel far more sorry for the many potential "abductees" that Rainey noted, would call Hopkins repeatedly but he wouldn't return their calls because their stories just weren't juicy enough.....not book-worthy enough. That's who I feel for. Not an old man who's lived a long life and made money off of the suffering of others.

And let's not forget the viscous and small-minded nature of Hopkins being front and center defending his nut-bud in abductionology Jacobs -- personally attacking Emma Woods.

~ Susan
(pt. 2 cont. next)
February 17, 2011 8:34 PM



Brownie said...

cont. Pt. 2 --

I feel far more for the many potential "abductees" that Rainey noted, would call Hopkins repeatedly but he wouldn't return their calls because their stories just weren't juicy enough.....not book-worthy enough. That's who I feel for.

Linda Cortile (Napolitano), who hung around the abductee groups and meetings in NYC, hoaxed Hopkins. 'Nighteyes' by Garfield Reeves-Stevens is the story of 'Witnessed: The Brooklyn Bridge Abduction' by Budd Hopkins. 'Nighteyes' was a number of months before Napolitano claimed to have been abducted out of her apt. When I read the Stefula, Butler, Hansen critique (link below) I had to read 'Nighteyes' myself and was astounded and so disappointed!

Yes, I already knew that 'Witnessed' was one convoluted hot-mess of a multiple abduction feast with law-breaking kidnappings (human to human and no reporting to the police), forbidden romance, sex, pregnancies and throw in the U.N. top diplomat (at that time). Just as 'The Threat' was that loony-toons moment revealing Jacobs damaged psyche, it could be said 'Witnessed' was the same for Hopkins.

Hopkins wife Rainey warned him about all the red-flags with Linda Cortile but he pressed forward with his book. I believe Hopkins, an intelligent man, *knew* he was hoaxed, but was in so deep and had shared bits and pieces of this abduction story for years - to various audiences - that he proceeded full steam ahead because of his ego and a desire to be the preeminent alien abduction researcher.

<http://www.tricksterbook.com/ArticlesOnline/LindaCase.htm>

~ Susan
February 17, 2011 8:44 PM



Emma@ufolioalienabductee.com said...

I noticed the contempt too. Dr. Jacobs was so nice when you were doing exactly what he wanted, but if you deviated from it at all, he managed to convey that you had a worm-like quality for having the temerity to do that. It was total obedience to him, or you were an enemy to be annihilated, with no morals.

February 20, 2011 4:23 AM



Brownie said...

Carol Rainey wrote: "Knowing both Hopkins and Jacobs, I can say that they are two of the least self-aware human beings I have ever met. Much of the recent writings, radio shows, and conference speeches of the pair (activities they often do in tandem) reveal men who are simply detached from consensus reality, heap contempt upon detractors, take no responsibility for any consequences of their amateur play inside people's minds, yet who fully expect and encourage adulation." - - -

The self-awareness issue is an idea I hadn't thought until reading your comment, Carol.

Considering their (Hopkins/Jacobs) body of work.... refusal of any true scientific study of their work... and the way they treat those who don't follow their beliefs or criticize them... it does relate to a self-awareness issue. And they certainly need to rely on each other (as you noted) for all practical purposes, to the point of being enablers to each other.

~ Susan
February 24, 2011 9:07 PM

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