Images of the Mind and Images for the Eye. An Iconographical Approach to UFO-Mythology

Mikael Rothstein
University of Copenhagen

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Abstract

In the study of contemporary new religions and popular religious or metaphysical notions, the iconographical sources are often sadly overlooked. In this article it is the intention to present an iconographical approach to one single, although significantly versatile, aspect of modern, non-traditional mythology, namely the notion of "flying saucers" or UFOs (i.e. Unidentified Flying Objects). The actual UFO-religions may be insignificant in terms of adherence, but the very concept of UFOs holds a strong position in contemporary metaphysics and spirituality, as we find it in the so called New Age movement and elsewhere. Starting with the very notion of strange circular phenomena in the sky, a vast and very differentiated mythology of “flying saucers” or UFOs has developed. As far as the iconographical presentations reflect the narrative structure(s) of the UFO myth, these pictures are integrated elements of the UFO story, and sometimes even agents of a further ufological development.

Keywords: Iconography, Unidentified flying objects, Religious movements, Popular, New Age movement, Narration, Idols and images, United States, Alien abduction, Esotericism, Media and religion, Raelian Movement, Science and religion
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Out of all the hundreds images depicted on stove tiles throughout Central and Eastern Europe, George is the most popular character. No great wonder, considering the dimensions of his cult in the late Middle Ages, in both western and eastern traditions. What is interesting is that the military saint is only represented on stove tiles in the episode of slaying the dragon, although in other artistic fields he is also represented during the lengthy narrative of his martyrdom, in an iconic manner, as a standing or mounted saint or in the context of his miracles. As everywhere else, in Transylvania, a description and classification of images much as ethnography is a description and classification of human races: it is a limited and method of procedure, therefore, authenticity. we deal with the work of art as such. stories and allegories as manifestations of underlying principles. attempt to work out this interpretation for itself. [The suffix "graphy" derives from the Greek verb graphein, iconography is an invaluable help for the establishment of dates. UFO mythology is similar to the message of the classical religions where God sends his Angels as emissaries who offer salvation to those who accept the faith and obey his Prophets. Today, the chariots of the gods are UFOs. There are many other signs that UFO mythology has become a space-age religion and that it is not based on scientific evidence so much as emotional commitment. Witness the revival of astrology today; or the growth of Scientology, which proposes space-age reincarnation to their Thetans and