

178 Image of an Alien or “Martian”.

Photograph taken from the press.

The Gods the ancient Greeks* created during the placid hours of quietness on the perfumed banks of reeds swaying in the soft breeze, lapped by Homer’s “wine like sea”, as well as inspiring with their overwhelming beauty the most beautiful works of art, from Antiquity to the super heroes of the comics, showed a lewd and somewhat sick inclination, bordering on envy, towards their creators, the simple and plain mortals: not wasting the smallest opportunity to couple with them through the most varied and ingenious strategies, in a universe in continuous metamorphosis where the limits of forms were not clearly defined, constantly mixing everything without the least respect for frontiers among the vegetable, animal, human and super human or divine worlds (and they try to convince us that the recently coined concept of “liquid universe” is something new!).

The current aliens also seem to be quite interested in their creators, the humans, judging by the huge quantity of UFO sightings (the first was by Kenneth Arnold, in 1947) and news of abductions which have not ceased during the last seventy years. To the point that the British insurance company GRIP includes in its policies one for abduction by aliens and its possible consequences of pregnancy.

The enthusiasm of the Aliens to make tourism on our coveted Blue Planet would be such, that for quite a long time rumours have been circulating that they could have been infiltrated among us for years more or less permanently, certain guidelines existing, which if strictly followed allow us to detect them. In fact, in England, certain sectors of the population believe that the members of the Royal Family are in reality Reptilian Aliens who pass as humans. Lady Di would have discovered this in a careless moment of Prince Charles, which would have signed her death sentence.

During all this time a true Martian subculture has been created, with some more intense outbreaks, which can be appreciated above all in the cinema. Especially in the American B series films of the 50’s (among the better ones we find *The invasion of the body snatchers* by Donald Siegel is outstanding, and the delirious *Plan 9 from Outer Space* by Ed Wood, invariably acclaimed as the worst film in the history of cinema), which are a reflection of the ideology of the moment, with the Cold War and its demonization of the Other, the evil Communist, as a centre axis (having fulfilled its “civilising” mission the demonization of the savage Indians of the Plains carried out with great efficiency through the popular Westerns). Or in the delirious affair of the radio broadcast of *The War of the Worlds*, which catapulted to Hollywood a very young Orson Wells who already showed signs, fascinated during all his life by absolutist power (be it in the hands of the Borgia of the Italian Renaissance or in those of the great magnates of the North American press such as Randolph W. Hearst) and by the tight and almost indiscernible ties between the true and the false (the credibility of the audience of that time was such, that the tremendous radio descriptions which nowadays would not fool a child could arrive to seed terror and chaos in a large part of the population). And so on to the more and more sophisticated 2001 – *Space Odyssey*, *The Planet of the Apes*, *Solaris* (an interesting display of the excellent Soviet “conscience-fiction”, where the Universe is something like a brain), *Encounters of the Third Kind*, *E.T* or the more

recent and caricaturesque Mars Attack (the invariable warlike character of the Martians in current collective sub-consciousness could have its origin in the Antique myths, in sons of the God Mars – the God of the War- like Perseus, half constellation and half European warrior, as appears in the illustration of a XV century German codex collected by Aby Warburg in his Atlas Mnemosyne).

Of course, publicity would not fall behind, and its sagacious experts in marketing are already making campaigns for the promotion of determined products, transmitted by ultra sound radar, whose potential consumer is to be found some dozens of light years away from the Earth (once India and China have been “normalised, the vast interstellar spaces appear as a strong aphrodisiac to the rage of the more aggressive and enterprising businessmen).

The Swiss writer Erich von Däniken held that we are the result of a cross between Neanderthals and Martians (possibly inspired by the Maori myth of the Areois, born from the union of a male solar God with Vairaümati, the most beautiful of women). His books and films (Memories of the Future and Return to the Stars are two of his most popular titles) were very much in fashion in the seventies. Unrepeatable years when, with the help of all kinds of paid Hindustani Gurus, as well as of exotic masters of psychotropic substances such as Castaneda, all the possible ways to abandon the physical body were explored, raising, through the famous astral journeys, a serious competition to the expensive and dangerous experiments of the NASA that were on the point of leading it to its ruin.

Neither could an ambit as serious and respectable as that of science escape the arbitrariness of the human. As can be seen in the fact that the astronaut Edwin Aldrin, who, in July 1969, together with his colleagues Neil Armstrong and Michael Collins, amazed half of Humanity (the other half did not have a television yet) on staring in the heroic gesture of the first Moon landing, in the unforgettable Apollo II space mission**, once he left his famous and indelible foot print on the Moon surface (as Abraham left his for eternity in the Makram Ibrahim in La Mecca), he rushed to commune like the good Presbyterian Christian he was, making his “First Communion” on the Earth’s satellite. Not enough, imbued with the pioneer spirit of the first Fathers of the Church***, he placed under some stones a micro file with some verses of the 8th Psalm, directed to God (as if for the Eternal Father, in possession of the talent of ubiquity some kilometres of difference would make the most minimum difference): “When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the Moon and the Stars which thou has ordained, I ask: what is Man that thou art mindful of him?”. It is clear that, disposed to ask God for explanations, it would have been better to ask not only why he had created Man, but the entire Creation, hoping, like Woody Allen, that for the matter he “would have a good alibi”.

In this entire convoluted affair, what is truly notable is that, the more “scientific” the source of the information is or tries to be, the more we enter into pure fiction. As when we are informed that certain civilisations who live in parallel universes have managed to dominate the time dimension and are those who develop our reality (like in the novel by Stanislaw Lem on which Tarkovski based his film Solaris, where the Universe is like a white and cloudy brain – which resembles the viscous rivers and oceans of Titan, the largest moon of Saturn, or even a landscape by the Surrealist Yves Tanguy – where dreams and desires, as well as the human’s worst nightmares, take on life). Or when we read that, according to military, governmental and intelligence sources (if in doubt, consult www.Exopolitics.com), a humanoid civilisation lives under

the surface of the Red Planet (like those somewhat moth-eaten enormous felt worms, like sculptures of Joseph Beuys, which live below the rusty surface of the planet Arrakis in the film by David Lynch, *Dune*), who would be our first visitors when the government of the Universe who has decided it would break the quarantine to which its unjustly (as we must not forget that we are their tender and imperfect creatures) has submitted us to. Returning to “reality”, what really seems to be increasingly clear is that the real aliens are us, as has been demonstrated by the recent finding of Glycine, an essential amino acid, in a comet; or the also recent discovery that an intense rain of 24 Themis asteroids brought more water to the Earth than the comets. This would “scientifically” demonstrate the beautiful and poetic theory that we are made from star-dust (although poetry does not need to be scientifically “demonstrated”, given its capacity, in the words of Dovzhenko, of “reflecting the entire Universe within a drop of water”).

* This anthropocentric tendency to give human (and animal) form to Gods, Stars, Constellations and Galaxies aroused the suspicion of Xenophanes of Colophon who, four hundred years B.C., considered God to be “a thinking spatiality”, bringing Man down to size and placing him in the humble place corresponding to him in the Universe.

** Who would have said to the pioneers of the spatial adventure, during the splendid “Kennedy Era”, that in the next 40 or 50 years, no-one would repeat the achievement. Abandoned by the USA (remaining the present Russia, after losing the Cold War, as unquestionable winner of the Space Race, in a similar way to the Japanese and Germans, losers of the Second World War, later won the war of dominating the economy), like other golden dreams (more or less delirious) such as cryonics (currently applied exclusively, although with great success, to ailments) or the conquest of the deep seabed (at the same time as life has been extinguished on it).

***Without any doubt, the summits of “sci-fi” are the sacred books of any of the World’s religions (including the current religious-scientific sects). In the Bible we can read, in II Kings 2:11, the following “...there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven”. And could not Christ have been the most illustrious Alien to have visited us until present? Looking at the disagreeable and unjustified role of scapegoat given to him (the possible reason why he would be, as Nietzsche said, “the only true Christian”), it is not strange that these Aliens would limit themselves to being observed in their spaceships, without daring to put foot on Earth. As they could be pacific and loving, super developed on the emotional plane and not aggressive and hyper technological as our poor imagination is determined to present them.