

Maitreya, Crop Circles, and the Age of Light: Benjamin Creme's UFO Thought

Lukas Pokorny

12.1 Introduction

A staunch flagbearer of Theosophical thought specifically indebted to Alice Ann Bailey (1880–1949), Benjamin “Ben” Creme (1922–2016) was one of the major protagonists of the New Age. He is particularly remembered as chief populariser of the esoteric Maitreya narrative. The related millenarian programme as advocated by Creme (cf. Pokorny 2021) highlights the vitally important role played by humankind’s “Space Brothers.” This chapter focuses on them and the wider ufological context in Creme’s teachings.¹ Born on 5 December 1922, into a Jewish-Catholic family as the second, and only boy, of three children in Glasgow,² Creme—by his own account—early on attracted the attention of the “Hierarchy” and, in particular, his later unnamed Master.³ Already as a teenager he was resolved to become a painter, a career path that was allegedly prompted by the Hierarchy. He married Peggy (d. 1965) and, following the end of World War II, relocated to London, where he resumed his artistic activities

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- 1 The existing scholarship on Creme is scarce. Scattered encyclopaedic or otherwise relatively terse mentions aside (see, e.g., Hammer 2015: 356; Kranenborg 1994; Melton 2001: 352), I am only aware of two very recent papers thoroughly addressing Creme’s teachings (cf. Poller 2019; Pokorny 2021).
 - 2 For Creme’s official obituary, see *SI* 35:10 (2016 December): 3–4. In 2014, Creme revealed his spiritual progress to be that of a 3.46-degree initiate. In Theosophical terms, “initiation” refers to “the process of undergoing an expansion of consciousness” (Bailey 1977: 12; cf. Rudbøg 2019), that is, one’s spiritual evolution in a multi-stage scheme. Mastership is attained at the fifth level of initiation. On Earth, there are currently only a few thousand living individuals who have arrived at the third and fourth stages (Creme 1996: 195). Hence, Creme’s self-proclaimed spiritual score renders him part of humankind’s spiritual elite. For a better illustration, while an ordinary person, who still dwells in the “0.”-degrees range (the average is 0.3 degrees) of initiation, uses some twelve per cent of his/her brain capacity, a third-degree initiate would already utilise up to sixty or seventy per cent (Creme 2010: 134).
 - 3 The Hierarchy responsible for human evolution consists of sixty-three highly evolved spiritual masters (i.e., the Masters of Wisdom), all of them being fifth- or sixth-degree initiates, under the lead of Maitreya, the World Teacher and a seventh-degree initiate (Creme 2001a: 74).

until the 2000s when his eyesight deteriorated. In the 1950s, Creme developed a keen interest for the incipient UFO phenomenon when he came across George Adamski (1891–1965; a second-degree initiate)⁴ and Desmond Leslie's (1921–2001; a 1.5-degrees initiate) jointly authored *Flying Saucers Have Landed* (1953), as well as its sequel, Adamski's *Inside the Space Ships* (1955).⁵ Driven by a surging fascination, he would become member of George King's (1919–1997; a 1.7-degrees initiate) London-based Aetherius Society from 1957 to 1958, the involvement in which was to exert a lasting influence upon Creme's ufological system. Moreover, it enabled him "to transmit the cosmic spiritual energies from the Space People" (Creme 2007a: xii), vesting Creme with the power to heal. When he parted with King he intensified his telepathic collaboration with the Space Brothers, commencing, albeit unknowingly, his work towards the emergence of Maitreya and the externalisation of the Hierarchy. At the time, Creme, allegedly, alongside George Adamski was, for a short while, part of a group of contactees, who gathered regularly in out-of-the-body meetings deliberating on their missions received by the Space Brothers (Creme 2010: 63–64). In 1959, eventually, Creme was telepathically approached by an individual, himself member of the Hierarchy, who was later to become his Master. He was informed first-hand of the Cosmic Plan, the expectation of the Christ's imminent descent, and that once it had transpired he would be called to publicly promulgate His coming. In fact, next to Creme, supposedly four other "disciples," residing in New York, Geneva, Darjeeling, and Tōkyō, were requested by the Hierarchy to engage in this task, but only Creme was to accept (*SI* 20:8 [2001 October]: 30).

When contacted by the Master, the message fell on highly receptive ears, for Creme was apparently familiarising himself with facets of the "Ageless Wisdom Teaching" since his youth (Creme 2007a: ix–xi). A first eye opener had been Alexandra David-Néel's (1868–1969; a 1.7-degrees initiate) *With Mystics and Magicians in Tibet* (1931; translation of the 1929 *Parmi les mystiques et les magiciens du Thibet*). Thereafter, in the late 1940s, he extensively studied the writings of Wilhelm Reich (1897–1957; a second-degree initiate). Another momentous read was Rolf Alexander's (1891–?; a 1.8-degrees initiate) *The Power of*

4 A recurrent popular feature of his publications was to provide spiritual statistics of mythical, historical, and recently deceased personalities. Overall, Creme explicitly follows Bailey's understanding put forth in her *Initiation, Human and Solar* (1922), adding some further details and explanations. Where available, the initiation level assigned by Creme to important figures mentioned is added. This gives additional indication, which figures of history he viewed to be following the path of Maitreya (and his own).

5 Creme dated back his first hesitant encounter with the UFO subject to some point between 1945 and 1948.

the Mind (1956). In addition, he immersed himself in substantial portions of Theosophical literature as well as the writings of varied neo-Hindu masters, such as Swami Vivekananda (1863–1902), Paramahansa Yogananda (1893–1952), and Sivananda Saraswati (1887–1963; a fourth-degree initiate). The former two are believed to be avatars from outer space invited by Sanat Kumara or the Lord of the World to assist humankind in their spiritual evolution. Another even more spiritually advanced avatar, later held by Creme in highest esteem alongside Maitreya, was Sathya Sai Baba (1926–2011), whom he deemed “the *most* fully Divine Being to grace this planet with His presence” (*SI* 30:5 [2011 June]: 14) acting as the Spiritual Regent of Earth.

As a disciple and disseminator of the Ageless Wisdom, Creme considered himself to be foremostly carrying on the work done by the three chief mediators of the Plan (Creme 2007b: 3): Helena Petrovna Blavatsky (1831–1891; a fourth-degree initiate); Helena Ivanovna Roerich (1879–1955; a fourth-degree initiate); and Alice Ann Bailey (a 3.2-degrees initiate)—themselves key exponents of Theosophy. Indeed, Blavatsky’s two-volume *The Secret Doctrine: The Synthesis of Science, Religion, and Philosophy* (1888) would represent the “preparatory phase” of disclosing the Plan in our age, whereas the full corpus of Bailey’s teachings signifies the “intermediate phase.” The spreading of the “information” would ultimately come to fruition through radio and television broadcasts of Maitreya’s speeches. This last stage, the “revelatory phase” which would be imminent, has been heralded by Creme (2007a: 211–212). Of the many Theosophists—his three “predecessors” aside—Creme has been especially intrigued by Charles Webster Leadbeater (1847–1934; a 2.4-degrees initiate), whose contributions were significant for both the expansion of the Maitreya narrative and the formation of the religious UFO current (Rothstein 2013: 226–228).

Following the initial steady stream of telepathic messages, throughout the 1960s Creme virtually went into spiritual hibernation until late 1972 when his Master summoned him for a “most intensive period of deglamorization, disillusioning, training and preparation.” His Master, as Creme recounts, “forged [...] an instrument through whom He could work, and which would be responsive to His slightest impression [...]. Everything I see and hear, he sees and hears. When He wishes, a look from me can be a look from Him; my touch, His” (Creme 2007a: xiii–xiv). In March 1974, the Master had Creme invite fourteen hand-picked individuals to instruct them the basic tenets of the Plan. Twelve eventually committed to form the very first Transmission Meditation circle (Creme 2001b), that is, a group meditation reminiscent of Bailey’s Triangles (1937), which is intended to safely transmit Hierarchical energies to the world. From mid-1974, in addition to the messages delivered by his own Master, Creme became the “overshadowed” mouthpiece for Maitreya. In early 1975,

he was then commissioned to finally turn to the wider public, spreading the Plan and announcing the imminence of Maitreya's dense-physical emergence. Two years later, Creme solemnly disclosed that Maitreya was in fact beginning his mission, for he now left his dwelling place in the Himalayas and moved to London where he arrived on 19 July 1977; there Maitreya is held to be residing within the Indian-Pakistani community. His mission would culminate on the Day of Declaration from when the new age's materialisation would gain tremendous pace with the Hierarchy now having been fully externalised. Since then Creme lectured worldwide. In 1982, the publication of the magazine *Share International* commenced. Creme also established the Share International Foundation registered in Amsterdam, which serves as the core body of an international network of related institutions. His talks, columns, and messages published in *Share International* were re-published thematically arranged in seventeen books. Today, Transmission Meditation groups are found across five continents in more than forty countries. Creme passed away at the age of 93 on 24 October 2016, in London, survived by his second wife Phyllis (b. 1942) and three children. His physical absence notwithstanding, he is believed to still spiritually sustain the movement. Creme did not leave a formal (physical) successor; since his death, Creme's daughter-in-law and *Share International* editor-in-chief, Felicity Eliot, and her husband, Creme's eldest son Julian, have become the public faces of Share International.

12.2 UFOs and the Pursuit of the Millennium

Creme's penchant for things ufological pervade his movement's major communication channel, *Share International*, with a rising number of articles and notes from the 1990s and, especially, the late 2000s. The latter shall reflect the increasing activity of UFOs in the face of the soon-to-unfold Day of Declaration. *Share International* volumes are replete with pertinent book reviews, interviews, reports of UFO sightings and traces of their activities, and related photographic evidence. Almost always enclosed readers find a confirmation of authenticity and/or clarifications/corrections given by Creme. The information is scattered throughout decades of *Share International*—frequently in the form of brief responses in the Q&A appendix. In 2010, when *Share International's* attention vis-à-vis the UFO subject went to new heights, Creme released a structured compilation of previously published information. The volume entitled *The Gathering of the Forces of Light: UFOs and Their Spiritual Mission* was dedicated to “a very brave man and colleague, George

Adamski” (Creme 2010: v), the veracity of whose ufological accounts Creme emphatically confirmed.

12.2.1 *The Pursuit of the Millennium*

Creme’s UFO thought is deeply rooted in and only comprehensible by looking at his wider millenarian doctrine. Drawing specifically on the messianism of Annie Besant (1847–1933; a 2.15-degrees initiate), Leadbeater, and Bailey, Creme’s teachings centre on the reappearance of the Christ (cf. Bailey 1978). “Christ” refers to the embodiment of the Christ Consciousness or Christ Principle, the energy of spiritual evolution, which navigates the human soul—a “spark of the Almighty” (Creme 2005: 38)—on a trajectory to the Universal Logos or God. Through his action, the Christ or World Teacher awakens this energy in humans, therefore unleashing a general commitment for spiritual progress, that is, fostering self-realisation. This collective turn of consciousness would create a new system based on sharing, for “[s]haring creates trust. When there is trust among the nations there will be peace among the nations” (Creme 2001a: 27). Moreover, on an individual level, sharing and subsequently trust will remove anger and resentment (Creme 2007b: 11), creating increasing self-awareness which spells out as happiness and harmony. The new age (or Age of Light) so envisioned would be close at hand. In fact, after World War II the Christ had announced to descend in the flesh in 1950; however, the burgeoning Cold War kept him from doing so until 1977. Since 1982, he would be ready at any given time to come forth from his London abode (he switches between Hindu temples), telepathically and via TV and radio broadcast addressing humankind globally on the Day of Declaration (Creme 2001a: 70). Creme now identified the Christ to be an individual named Maitreya, the leader of our Planetary Hierarchy. Multiple times already the Day of Declaration was delayed owing to the Forces of Darkness, which persistently attempt to thwart the dissemination of the Plan. The Plan refers to the truth of our own divinity, the way how to unravel it, and its implications for creation. As the central facilitator of the Plan, the head of the Forces of Light (i.e., the Hierarchy), Maitreya, is thus sought to be stopped by evil from fully reaching out to humankind. For if Maitreya succeeds, salvational change would accelerate effecting the consummation of the new age, a borderless world of bliss and peace. As Maitreya has it:

My plan is to take you on a journey into a New Country, a new approach to living in which all men can share [...] to realise within you that which you truly are, to show you that you stem from the Godhead Itself, and to

that Divine Source you must return [...] to show the path which must be trodden [...] into Harmony, Beauty, and Justice.

CREME 1992: 54, 134, 32

12.2.2 *The Space Brothers*

The Master of Masters, Maitreya can seemingly count on many helping hands in his salvific mission—the Hierarchy; adepts of the Ageless Wisdom such as Creme himself, of which some of them deliberately spiritually “fell on” Earth from other planets;⁶ a range of extraterrestrial Avatars, twenty-four of which were living on Earth as of 2008; and the Space Brothers in general. Normally ranging from initiation stages six to nine, Avatars are temporary Earth dwellers hailing from other more evolved celestial bodies. They descend on Earth in response to spiritual-evolutionary needs, bringing with them cosmic salvational energy. Most human-incarnated Avatars named by Creme largely fall into three categories: Indian gurus;⁷ historical-religious/mythical figures;⁸ and other historical personalities.⁹

The Space Brothers, sometimes called by Creme “Space People” or rarely so “Extra-planetary Brothers,” shoulder especially important tasks, occasionally resulting in deeds of utter self-sacrifice. Without their caring assistance, humankind would not only be already extinct largely through self-annihilation, but much more spiritually inhibited. Chiefly, the term “Space Brothers” is used by Creme in reference to those on board of extraterrestrial spacecraft or

6 They do so because while on Earth they are capacitated to carry out very distinctive spiritual work. In order to incarnate on the dense-physical Earth, they need to lower the vibrational rate. Examples given by Creme include, among others, Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750; a 3.1-degrees initiate); Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827; a 3.1-degrees initiate); Maria Callas (1923–1977; a second-degree initiate); and especially the Venusian George Adamski.

7 In more recent times, Avatars seem to be predominantly incarnating on the Indian sub-continent, such as Vivekananda; Sai Baba of Shirdi (d. 1918); Ramana Maharshi (1879–1950); Yogananda; Anandamayi Ma (1896–1982); Swami Premananda (1951–2011); Ganapathi Sachchidananda (b. 1942); Balasai Baba (b. 1960); and, most importantly, qua Cosmic Avatar Sathya Sai Baba.

8 Creme mentions the likes of Hermes; Adi Shankaracharya (eighth century); Moses (a 2.3-degrees initiate who’s originally a Martian); Siddharta Gautama (fifth century BCE); Hercules; Krishna; and Rama. The last five are currently dwelling on Sirius, incidentally, in company of the biblical John the Baptist, who is slated to become an earthly Avatar in 500 or so years.

9 Most prominently featured in Creme’s teachings are William Shakespeare (1564–1616; a 3.5-degrees initiate) and Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519; a 4.4-degrees initiate). Whereas the former entered Earth’s evolutionary system coming from Jupiter, the latter was a Mercurian, presently living on Sirius as an eighth-degree initiate.

UFOs, some of which decide to visit or even live on Earth temporarily. “Space Brothers” may also include those who willingly enter human evolution for some time (see note 6). Creme estimates the number of Space Brothers currently residing on Earth at around 2,000 (*SI* 29:2 [2010 March]: 13). The origin of Earth-dwelling or -visiting space folk is exclusively limited to our solar system, with the majority being Martians and Venusians. Mars and Venus are the two planets within the solar system most influential for Earth. Mars, like almost every other celestial body in the universe is populated, yet, ordinarily their inhabitants cannot be perceived for they are of etheric matter (in the case of Mars this shift from the dense-physical state occurred some three million years ago).¹⁰ Creme states that Mars is bustling with nine billion people; typical Martians would look like smaller-sized humans. Overall, Mars is spiritually on a par with Earth but technologically tremendously superior because they did not make the many “mistakes” humankind did (Creme 2001a: 231). Creme divides Martians into three categories of spiritual evolution: those who are like gods to us; those of lesser but still remarkable spiritual progress; and those of very low spiritual quality. Moreover, contrary to humans, Martians are mostly holding fast to the Plan; however, unlike Earth, Mars has hitherto not witnessed the creation of a Christ. Like Earth, Mars is not considered a “sacred planet.” Both are in their fourth round (of a total of seven) in terms of planetary evolution, which renders them lagging behind the other ten [*sic*] planets of the solar system.

Vulcan, the planet closest to the sun, is the most advanced having recently completed its seventh round of planetary evolution and thus transitioned to the highest level etheric matter.¹¹ Vulcan is also home to the headquarters of the Interplanetary Parliament with its representative being the “most distinguished” (*SI* 31:9 [2012 November]: 23).¹² Consisting of envoys of all twelve planets where they are parts of the respective Hierarchies, the Interplanetary Parliament’s objective is to assist each other in pursuing the Plan. Collaborative

10 Creme explains that etheric matter is tantamount to dark matter, which had already been discovered by Wilhelm Reich. He called it the “orgone.” In this regard, Creme recommends scientists to turn to the esoteric literature such as Blavatsky’s *The Secret Doctrine* in lieu of, for example, building cyclotrons worth many billions of pounds (Creme 2010: 66–67). What is more, Creme unveiled that the universe would follow the Big Bounce scenario (*SI* 33:3 [2014 April]: 23), so the current scientific mainstream theory of Big Rip/Heat Death would be wrong.

11 According to Creme, spiritual progress generally expresses itself in rarefying matter density be it in people or entire planets; hence, upon completing its seventh evolutionary round Vulcan shifted to the most subtle etheric matter.

12 In this regard, Creme, for example, confirms Adamski’s famous account in which he reported to have attended a meeting of the Parliament in late March 1962 on Saturn.

efforts are fed through emotional links in addition to the fact that all the planets are intertwined energetically. Hence, every single planet affects the other parts of this interplanetary energetic network.

Furthermore, the Parliament is connected to an even higher organisational entity, the Galactic Federation of Light, which encompasses civilisations across the universe (*SI* 32:9 [2013 November]: 23). Unsurprisingly, our solar system's Interplanetary Parliament is also in constant contact with other Interplanetary Parliaments, such as, most importantly, that of Sirius.¹³ Following Vulcan in terms of planetary evolution and representing altogether the Seven Sacred Planets are Mercury and Venus (7), Jupiter (6), Saturn, Neptune, and Uranus.¹⁴ The non-sacred ones are Mars and Earth (4), Pluto, the 1977 discovered 2060 Chiron orbiting Pluto and not the Sun [*sic*], and the 2002 discovered trans-Neptunian Quaoar (2). Of all the planets, Venus carries a very distinct position being Earth's "*alter ego*, our Higher Self" (Creme 2001a: 229). Venusians are extraordinarily evolved. In fact, Sanat Kumara (a ninth-degree initiate), that is, the reflection of Earth's planetary logos, is a Venusian who moved to Earth some 18.5 million years ago to instil the Plan in early humankind. Sanat Kumara is known by many names; he is the one God of the Abrahamic traditions. Upon his arrival he created Shamballa, Earth's central energy node "located in the Gobi Desert, on the two highest etheric planes" (Creme 2007a: 67, 116), from which he governs the planet. While the Plan was originally introduced by a Venusian, the first humans stem from the Moon (*SI* 29:8 [2010 October]: 23).¹⁵ The Moon was actually created through a surplus of gas when Earth aggregated. Today, the Moon is scarcely inhabited, mainly by small animals; in contrast, the sun is thought to be abundant with life. Reincarnational planetary travel is not one-sided; in fact, many higher degree initiates aim to—Creme, for instance, reports that Diego Velázquez (1599–1660; a 2.4-degrees initiate) would be eager to relocate to Mercury—or effectively move on to other planets—Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528; a 2.4-degrees initiate) would now dwell on Vulcan as a Master—both to speed up their spiritual progress. Others travel even outside our solar system, mainly to Sirius, where the progress develops at

13 Similarly, Earth's Hierarchy is viewed as a branch of the Sirian Hierarchy.

14 Creme largely adopts Bailey's esoteric astrology but introduces some rearrangements and novelties, which he does not always handle consistently. For instance, in another earlier list (Creme 1996: 167) Uranus ranks as our solar system's most spiritually progressed planet, followed by Mercury and Vulcan. The figures in the brackets indicate the planet's present evolutionary round.

15 Some humans, apparently, stem from a predecessor solar system of ours. More concretely, Creme indicates that the Jewish people "as a group came from the previous solar system" (*SI* 25:9 [2006 November]: 31).

an incredible pace. Only Masters of the fifth initiation stage may choose the Path to Sirius; famous figures who have done so upon achieving mastership include, among others, Andrea Mantegna (1431–1506; a 2.2-degrees initiate), Michelangelo (1475–1564; a 3.3-degrees initiate who is now already a seventh-degree initiate), and (the mythical) Lǎozǐ (a 4.2-degrees initiate)—all of them now being at the initiatory level of Maitreya or even beyond, such as da Vinci, who presently is an eighth-degree initiate on Sirius. In addition, initiation into the fifth degree bestows the power to communicate directly with the Sirians. Sirius is not only one of the Seven Sacred Solar Systems of our Galaxy that centre on the Galactic Logos, the One About Whom Naught May Be Said, but it is to our solar system what Venus is to Earth—its alter ego. Hence, the two maintain a special connection. The light received from Sirius, for example, would manifest as the Law of Cause and Effect or Law of Karma (Creme 2001a: 229–230).

12.2.3 *Spacecraft*

Up to ninety per cent of the UFOs in our solar system are held to be manufactured on Mars, variously called the “great factory planet” of space ships (Creme 1997: 337) or the “spacecraft factory for our solar system” (*SI* 28:7 [2009 September]: 26). Other civilisations order most of their spacecraft with their own distinctive technology and design from the Martians. UFOs are constructed by pure thought and, like the Space Brothers themselves, consist of etheric-physical matter. Consequently, UFOs are invisible (unless one has etheric vision) and cannot be harmed, let alone destroyed if not caused purposely by the crew. On board of a typical UFO are largely male crew members, and among them may often be Masters or even members of other planetary Hierarchies. Creme claimed to have been entering UFOs multiple times. When UFOs are indeed observed, this is because their pilots want them to be recognised for a particular reason, which will be discussed further below. In order to do so, a space ship’s vibrational rate is lowered and thus transitions into dense-physical matter. However, even then would an UFO preserve its invulnerability due to an impenetrable magnetic field that “protects it by deflecting any missile aimed at it” (*SI* 35:9 [2016 November]: 23). Occasionally, UFOs are disguised as clouds. Also, condensation trails might be traces of spacecraft. UFO technology allows for crossing any kind of distance instantaneously, for time and space is deemed simply an illusion that is voided at “higher levels,” to which it grants access (Creme 2010: 59, 128). UFOs appear in a wide array of forms—cigar-, bell-, fish-, or saucer-shaped; some can effectively morph into any form (*ibid.*: 55). UFO mother ships may be up to 6.5 kilometres long, whereas regular scout ships are around eight to ten metres in diameter. UFO bases are to be found almost everywhere on Earth—under the oceans as USOs, or unidentified

submerged objects, traveling under the seas (*SI* 25:2 [2006 March]: 31); in caves; or in mountainous areas. Altogether, Creme counts some 400,000 [*sic*] active UFO bases on Earth as of early 2012 (*SI* 31:1 [2012 January/February]: 35). Since 2007, UFO sightings worldwide are thought to be skyrocketing, a harbinger of the soon-to-transpire Day of Declaration.

12.2.4 *UFO Activities*

All of the Space Brothers' action is viewed to be driven by one all-pervading purpose, namely to assist humankind in its spiritual evolution. Born out of great love and service for Earth and the solar system at large, their overall activities establish a spiritual platform to receive Maitreya. According to Creme, there are no evil space-faring extraterrestrials. This does not mean that there does not exist evil outside Earth. In fact, on planets like Mars or Pluto we would encounter evil, yet it is contained and therefore cannot enter into space. The mission pursued by the Space Brothers is indeed most crucial, especially so with the inception of the atomic age, for humankind on several occasions was at the brink of self-extinction, which could only be averted through the Space Brothers' intervention. An example oft-times shared by Creme concerns the early Cold War hostilities erupting, among others, during the Cuba or Berlin Crisis. Apparently, it has been largely Martians and Venusians who via government contacts successfully counselled President Kennedy (1917–1963; a 2.4-degrees initiate) how to have the tensions relieved. They were thus capable of “nullifying” the negative energies at play (Creme 2010: 10–12).

The Space Brothers have always been present; accordingly, UFO sightings go back to ancient times. In this respect, Creme, for instance, confirmed Alexander the Great's (356–323 BCE; a 1.5-degrees initiate) UFO encounter— additionally disclosing that the space ships were actually from Mars (*SI* 25:2 [March 2006]: 30–31)—a story which enjoys popularity in the wider ufological community (Makeeff 2019: 365). What is more, the biblical “Chariot of the Gods” would indeed allude to UFOs; the Star of Bethlehem guiding the biblical magi was nothing other than a UFO; likewise, several of the biblical angels were effectively Space Brothers. Given their apparent angelic portfolio, the Space Brothers may indeed be contacted through prayer; and they will act on it (*SI* 29:10 [2010 December]: 26). It seems that establishing contact may be particularly easy when humans go to space. Already during the first Moon landing mission, three UFOs approached Neil Armstrong (1930–2012; a 1.2-degrees initiate). Astronauts while in space are in steady contact with the Space Brothers ever since.

The range of help provided by the Space Brothers spans from very minor rescue missions, such as the extrication of Laika, the dog sent to space by the

Soviets in 1957, to the continual stabilising of Earth's axis through a "ring of light" put there by the Martians in 1979 to prevent a devastating pole shift, as well as the perennial transmission of enormously powerful salvific cosmic and planetary energies to Earth's Hierarchy, which subsequently passes it on to humankind through the Transmission Mediation groups qua energetic transformers. Another feat accomplished by the Space Brothers at times alongside the Masters of our Hierarchy is to regularly deflect potentially dangerous meteors on their trajectories to populated areas (*SI* 32:3 [2013 April]: 22). Notably, this happened, for example, at the 1908 Tunguska event or with the Chelyabinsk meteor of 2013. Another most pivotal field of UFO action concerns global nuclear decontamination. A recurrent topic in Creme's lectures pertains to the all-devastating potential of nuclear energy and weapons. Indeed, the rising number of nuclear powers—Creme counts twenty-eight—is considered the very reason for Maitreya to have descended at this point in time.¹⁶ The nuclear pollution heretofore created would have rendered this planet uninhabitable already many times. It was again thanks to the Space Brothers that this grim scenario did not run its course, for they keep cleansing our planet from pollutants, specifically nuclear radiation. It is the latter that is deemed the number one cause for death worldwide. Nuclear radiation would enfeeble our immune system, generally increasing the level of vulnerability to illness or enabling some diseases to crop up after all, such as AIDS or Alzheimer's disease (Creme 2008: 56). Creme (2010: 29) elucidates:

The space people are concerned with making this planet habitable. They go through the skies [and the oceans] mopping up and neutralizing large amounts of the nuclear waste and the general toxic filth that we pour into the atmosphere. They are not allowed by karma to clean up the planet completely, but within karmic limits they do so. Otherwise life on this planet would be very painful indeed: more people would be dying [...] and daily we would be more and more asphyxiated. So we owe the Space Brothers a tremendous debt.

Due to the karmic restrictions, the Space Brothers are able to remove around twenty-five per cent of the nuclear radiation and some forty per cent of other pollutants soiling the Earth (*SI* 30:9 [2011 November]: 23). An ensuing effect of the Day of Declaration would be a surging consciousness towards the

¹⁶ Interestingly, it has been the Hierarchy, after receiving approval by Sanat Kumara, which gave American scientists access to nuclear weapons in the first place in order to end World War II (Creme 2001a: 204).

ongoing enormous level of contamination of the planet and, concomitantly, a timely response. In all the major nuclear incidents, UFOs were not only coping with the immediate disastrous consequences—in Chernobyl, for example, the Space Brothers reduced the radiation all across the contaminated areas in Russia and Europe saving millions—but they remain on the spot in order to be able to respond quickly if the need be, as in the case of Fukushima, where they could hitherto neutralise the most severe levels of radiation. Their decontamination work aside, UFOs also engage in mitigating the effects of karmically induced natural disasters as in the case of an earthquake near Tōkyō in the aftermath of the 2011 Tōhoku Earthquake. Some Martian UFOs reportedly absorbed the earthquake energies and thereby prevented catastrophe (*SI* 30:4 [2011 May]: 11). Similarly, the Space Brothers keep turning to decision makers to give warnings regarding impending man-made disaster, such as, most saliently, in the case of 9/11 where President Bush was approached three months prior to the attacks but to no avail. Many Space Brothers who took permanent residence on Earth are acting as advisors in transnational companies or political agencies, which allows them to positively influence the ruling elite. Moreover, both the Hierarchy and the Space Brothers are collaborating with scientists. For example, the incipient American and Soviet space programmes only progressed because Earth's and other planets' Hierarchies imprinted on the minds of scientists (Creme 2007a: 223). Since then it has been largely the Space Brothers who offered training to various scientists. In addition, UFOs are now and then intentionally crashed on Earth by the pilots who are also killed in the process. This happens in order to enable scientists to closely examine both UFO technology and extraterrestrial physiology. Traces of these great sacrifices, however, vanish soon, as Creme argues (*SI* 35:8 [2016 October]: 23) with a reference to the Roswell (Martian) UFO crash of 1947:

There were five occupants, four were killed immediately and one survived for a time. [...] After some time the bodies disappeared, melted into a jelly-like substance, because they have bodies of etheric matter. [...] The US authorities learned a lot; they gathered a lot of information from the vehicle before it, too, disappeared or disintegrated.

Following the Day of Declaration, the Space Brothers will openly and even more comprehensively collaborate with humankind. They will embark on releasing “their divine science” (Creme 2007a: 219). First, cold fusion will be introduced, which allows for unlimited access to energy. In a next step, perhaps only a few decades from now, humans will eventually gain full access to the Technology of Light directly harnessing the energy of the sun. This technology, utilised by the

Space Brothers, will have an unbelievable impact upon humankind. Humans will enter the interstellar space age, healing will be ubiquitously available, and all forms of pollution can be wholly eliminated, just to name a few fruits of this virtually limitless technology. The Space brothers work in various ways in order to proliferate the Science of Light. On the one hand, they have already granted scientists in the USA and Russia to experiment first-hand with this technology, albeit only in a very basic fashion. On the other hand, UFOs commenced to reproduce Earth's magnetic grid to set the physical conditions required for the technology's fully effective usage. Some condensation trails are traces of this process. Another more durable sign of the Space Brothers' work of worldwide energetic replicating is the crop circles.¹⁷ According to Creme, the vast majority of crop circles are authentic; only some four per cent he considers to be hoaxes (Creme 2010: 187). Collecting and discussing photographs of crop circles have become a central point of interest within the Share International movement, also sustaining attention within the wider esoteric community.

Crop circles also serve another key function on top of being "an outer expression of the grid of energy [the Space Brothers] are making" (Creme 2012: 147). They are verily "calling cards" (as are, incidentally, the Nazca Lines and similar geoglyphs) crafted through thought-cum-technology foremostly by the Martians and Venusians to make humankind mindful of their presence and the Plan.¹⁸ In this way, the Space Brothers are also countering the political elites that are honeycombed by the Forces of Darkness, determinedly trying to smother the existence of space people and UFOs.¹⁹ They are afraid that once the truth is revealed their materialistic world order would fall into ruin. Agencies like NASA, as Creme exposes, would fear that they will be "superseded because

17 These "vortices" of magnetic energy or "batteries of energy" are thought to be produced worldwide also on other surfaces like bedrock or water where they are not seen. They resemble mostly Atlantean ideograms, whose ratios are all based on the number "9," the true all-underlying mathematical ratio instead of "10" (Creme 2010: 190). The Atlantean age is viewed as humankind's Golden Age (which, however, will be greatly surpassed by the Diamond Age that is nigh). The building up of Earth's indigenous Hierarchy was taking great leaps during this time with Maitreya and the Buddha (who since recently is an eight-degree initiate at Sanat Kumara's council on Shamballa acting as the intermediary between the Hierarchy and Shamballa) receiving their third initiation. At the time particularly highly evolved Space Brothers invited by Sanat Kumara during Lemurian times formed an interim Hierarchy (Creme 2007a: 63).

18 Occasionally, also Space Brothers from outside our solar system attempt to make humankind aware of their existence. Most recently hello signals were supposedly sent from the planet Gliese 581g.

19 Creme repeatedly recounted the story of his visit to the British Air Ministry in the mid-1950s. He enquired about UFOs and was surprisingly given the opportunity to skim through a number of classified flying saucer files (*SI* 29:1 [2010 January/February]: 22).

of the attitude they have taken vis-à-vis UFOs" (*SI* 34:8 [2015 October]: 23). Responding to this threat, the governments secretly (by frequently mobilising their military) spread misinformation about the "aliens"—evil greys who would carry out mass-abductions, cattle mutilations, and other conspiratorial stories are devised to portray the space people in a negative light. Creme views this as a vicious circle, for the more the Space Brothers are brought into discredit, the greater the governments' fear to divulge the truth. More precisely, the authorities "are also afraid of panic, because they have sown so many seeds of hatred, violence and mysterious occult practices in the minds of the public about the Space Brothers" (Creme 2010: 48). Supporting this global cover up, a plethora of formerly decent UFO websites were subverted over the years by "shadowy groups [...] ridicul[ing] and debunk[ing] sighting reports" ever since (*SI* 29:9 [2010 November]: 22). Creme assures to have truly first-hand knowledge that the British Ministry of Defence pays farmers to cut down the crop circles on their properties. With London being Maitreya's present-day "point of focus," the south of England has become the hub of crop circle appearances, specifically the southwestern county of Wiltshire. Their number will increase even more in the years ahead. Parallel to this, a rising accumulation of other signs are heralding the Day of Declaration such as the emergence of wells of healing water,²⁰ wondrous salvific light signs put in place all over the world since 1997/1998 by Maitreya and the Space Brothers, and, more recently (i.e., since late 2008), the appearance of the Maitreya Star. The Maitreya Star is actually four "stars," which are no stars after all but gigantic (about 500 metres long) shape-shifting, mostly appearing as rounded diamond-like space ships—two from Mars, and one each from Venus and Jupiter—called in by Maitreya²¹ and hovering in the four cardinal directions. Their purpose is to symbolically reenact the Star of Bethlehem, that is, the heralding of the Christ.²² According to Creme (2010: 98):

20 They are created by Maitreya and charged by him with cosmic energy. Eventually, their number will reach 777 worldwide.

21 Creme stated that Maitreya possesses his own UFO, the Light-Ship. He frequently takes people there to give them glimpses of future events. Creme even recalled that, upon being tasked to work on behalf of Maitreya, the latter brought him to his ship to show him a panorama of time involving the past and the future (this is how Masters would perceive time, both past and future being steadily present) as well as his own future spreading the Plan (Creme 2010: 102–103).

22 In Creme's thought, Jesus was not Christ (or Maitreya) himself, but he was overshadowed by him starting when he was twelve years old. When he passed away he was a fourth-degree initiate. Since 1991, Master Jesus lives in Rome. Two members of the Roman Curia are his disciples.

These huge spacecrafts have a propulsion system that needs to be charged directly from the sun. For some hours each of them goes higher in the atmosphere so that they are nearer the sun and recharge the batteries. That means they cannot be seen all the time.

12.3 Concluding Remarks

Woven into Benjamin Creme's UFO thought one encounters a large variety of popular ufological narratives and wider conspiracy theories, engrafted into a Theosophical mindscape. Poller (2019: 161) thus speaks of a "*bricolage* of existing Theosophical and ufological discourses." Notably, Creme always stridently criticised what he deemed to be actual conspiracy theories, largely taken by him as crazy inventions hailing from the USA, such as chemtrails or, generally, the negative imagery concerning the space people. To him, most self-professed encounters, experiences, or channelling messages of Space Brothers, the Masters (including Maitreya), or spirits and deities, were either deliberate falsehoods or based on overheated astral-imaginings, that is, a "glamorisation." Working through the vast corpus of esoteric literature he likened to a veritable minefield; the seeker had to be very cautious in knowing his/her way around. Creme saw his own role exactly at this juncture. Following in the footsteps foremostly of Blavatsky, Roerich, and Bailey, he would be relating the voice of truth in our times. Empowered by his Master and Maitreya, he would point to the shining beacon, that is, the Plan, guiding the seekers on the right path. His immediate followers (outwardly largely those practicing Transmission Meditation) he deemed part of a growing spiritual elite, being somewhere in-between the first and the second stage of initiation (Creme 2001b: 172) but also above. Together with Maitreya, the Space Brothers, and their many aides, they would be the spiritual builders of the Age of Light.

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