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It is not science-fiction, although it cites myths on which that literary form has fed. Nor is it a collection of bizarre facts, though the Angel of the Bizarre might well find himself at home in it. It is not a scientific contribution, a vehicle for an exotic teaching, a testament, a document, a fable. It is simply an account - at times figurative, at times factual - of a first excursion into some as yet scarcely explored realms of consciousness. The Morning of the Magicians is a classic of radical literature, a book that has challenged assumptions and conventional knowledge for decades. It has shaken the foundations of beliefs all over the world and may be the most influential book published in the twentieth century. Louis Pauwels and Jacques Bergier spent years searching "through all the regions of consciousness, to the frontiers of science and tradition" and opened their minds to any fact or theory that went beyond the frontier of current theories. The result is this remarkable work, and the stream of possibilities that it contains: Do mutants exist, are they a future form of man? Does extrasensory perception reveal that human consciousness has advanced beyond its currently accepted limits? What connects the ancient art of alchemy and modern atomic physics?

The Morning of the Magicians Details

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From Reader Review The Morning of the Magicians for online ebook

Matthew W says

The Morning of the Magicians (as well as the piece of fantastic pseudo-history garbage The Spear of Destiny) played a major role in promoting the myths in regards to National Socialism being drive by dark Occult forces. The difference between The Morning of the Magicians and The Spear of Destiny is the first book is actually believably readable. Many of the facts regarding science, history, the Occult, and related topics are true but the book is also full of half-truths and absurd mythical claims not backed by any type of sources (aside from making claims like "we gathered thousands of documents on the SS"). The book does not even have a bibliography in the back nor sources cited.

In Julius Evola's intellectual autobiography The Path of Cinnabar, the baron discusses how The Morning of the Magicians, using falsehoods and fantasies, attempted to taint the name of pioneering Radical Traditionalist René Guénon. The authors make the claim that Nazism was "Guénon with tanks." Interestingly enough, The Morning of the Magicians author Louis Pauwels would later became a figure in the French New Right. Co-Author Jacques Bergier was a Russian Jew whose cousin Anatoly was a member of the firing squad that shot Tsar Nicholas II. One can only assume that Mr. Bergier was a little biased when writing The Morning of the Magicians, his butt-love for Albert Einstein is more than obvious.

The Morning of the Magicians is an interesting work as far as entertainment goes but not to be taken seriously.

Erik Graff says

God knows how to classify this popular melange of rumor, history and invention about the weird, the sinister and the occult. I read it as a teenager and was immensely entertained by its tales of Nazi pseudoscience, secret societies and age-old conspiracies. Now, having read so much of this stuff, I'd be more likely to recognize the sources and, so, be less impressed.

Michael Adams says

Bit of a scatter-shot delivery of concepts, but overall pretty interesting. The sections detailing the occult beliefs of the third Reich were downright chilling. The overall thrust of the book seemed to be that quite a few different Fortean phenomenon could be explained by the evolution of man into mutant; new creatures with inexplicable abilities living amongst the human race.

Priscilla Crockett says

This book is a mind blower!

Ocean says

An all time favorite. Great reading for those interested in the connections between filosofie, religion, spirituality and the past and future of humankind.

Well researched, documented and written by men who know their field. This book got me interested in mysticism and thought me to think outside the box and to feel free to switch from science to pseudo-science and that that was ok. These writers thought me that real intelligence lies in being able to think further than is allowed. Not to be afraid to "believe", not to fear intellectual rejection and snobisme and that real insight is a reward for intellectual flexibility.

Dan says

A classic of conspiracist lunacy. Influencing everything from Robert Anton Wilson's Illuminatus! to The X-Files, this book has left its distinctive mark on just about everything that followed it. Bizarre occult Nazi activities, Blavatsky's Ascended Masters and the secret masonic symbolism of Gothic cathedrals are just a few of the threads tied together in this book's attempt at a unified field theory of hidden trends in Western history. Take it with a grain of salt-- but as an exercise in creating an alternate worldview, this book can be highly entertaining.

Anna Prejanò says

Spero che in futuro qualcuno riesca a scrivere di nuovo un libro come questo, ovvero un libro che candidamente - barbaramente, direbbero gli autori - propugni un nuovo modo di pensare e quindi di agire, perché un'idea che non diventa parola non è una buona idea e una parola che non diventa azione non è una buona parola. E perché nonostante siano passati più di cinquant'anni, la tenaglia di una logica binaria e tutti i pregiudizi figli di visioni dualistiche fossilizzate (razionalismo vs. spiritualismo sopra tutte) continuano a modellare la vita umana. Qualcuno ha rinunciato a capire, magari sventolando la bandiera di un nichilismo d'accatto, qualcun altro insegue un utile distacco sulle orme di filosofie orientali altrettanto d'accatto. Molti continuano semplicemente a non porsi domande che non siano di ordine pratico e a tenersi per buone le certezze tramandate. Riusciamo ancora a dare un senso a una frase come questa: "Più capisco, più amo, perché tutto ciò che è capito è bene"? Forse. E a questa: "Se l'epoca che noi viviamo è dura, abbiamo tanto più il dovere di amarla, di penetrarla con il nostro amore, fino a quando non avremo spostato le pesanti masse di materia che nascondono la luce che risplende dall'altra parte"? Questa è più tosta da mandare giù. Lo fu anche per Pauwels: suo padre, socialista di stampo romantico, l'aveva sottolineata in un libro. Per tutta una vita il figlio volle allontanarsene, salvo poi ritornarci con ardore. Eh, la saggezza dei padri. Il futuro è cominciato da un'eternità.

David says

Reality is not only stranger than we suppose but stranger than we can suppose. -J. B. S. Haldane
Quit thy childhood, my friend, and wake up! -Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Absolutely mind-expanding! In this book, the authors expound a thesis of "fantastic realism" and explore the mind, not in the subconscious or conscious states but in what they believe to be ultraconsciousness. The book is able to cover virtually every topic from atomic energy, to secret societies of alchemists, to the influence of the occult upon Hitler, to parapsychology and consciousness, and finally to the upcoming superman - a mutant capable of astounding intellectual feats. The authors cite numerous previous explorers: Rene Guenon, Teilhard de Chardin, Carl Jung, Charles Fort, Gurdjieff, and the work of mathematicians, especially Cantor's theory of the transfinite. Bizarre theories are considered: Horbiger's theory of "eternal ice" (and its influence on Hitler), Teed's theory that we live on the concave inner surface of a hollow earth, theories to explain the origins of civilization, the work of the alchemists and their possible knowledge of atomic physics, theories regarding mutation of the human species, and theories propounding alternative origins for life on this planet. The authors are able to consider all of this and put it together in a coherent whole, under the idea of "fantastic realism". They dare to ask such questions as: Are we all in a collective conspiracy to hide the truth, is science such a conspiracy? (Do secret societies exist and do they have an influence upon history?) What special knowledge did the ancients possess that we may not possess now? (What role did secret societies play in the origins of Nazism,) and in the "Nazi Black Order?" How were the Nazis able to rise to power and what did such a phenomenon represent amidst our modern world?... What is the historical meaning of the atomic bomb? What does the future promise for our civilization? And, Do supermen live amongst us men, and if so, have they always? Hypotheses are put forth in answer to all these questions. The authors reject a magical worldview and they also reject the narrow confines of scientific positivism. However, they consider it necessary to keep an open mind when examining these phenomena, and they refer to themselves as "barbarians" seeking to search out a scientific explanation to be imposed on the fantastic. The book is simply amazing, and truly life-affirming. You MUST read it! Not just to understand yourself and your world, but also to understand your future. You will never be able to perceive things in the exact same light again. Get this book and discover the mysteries of the world for yourself! :)

Niklaus says

Mi dispiace dare due stelle data la mole documentale e lo sforzo degli autori di raccogliere tutti i dati letterari, storici, scientifici, etc etc ma il libro è oggi oggettivamente un reperto fuori tempo massimo, verosimile nei dubbi che poneva (o meglio nel lasciare aperta la porta alla possibilità di una realtà diversa) nella prima metà del secolo ma non oggi. Un grave errore è semmai la decisione della Mondadori di pubblicare una nuova edizione nel 2014 senza prendersi la briga di una profonda revisione almeno per rimuovere (o contestualizzare con note a margine) le affermazioni oggi non più accettabili. Non si può ad esempio leggere ancora della teoria dell'atomo con elettroni che occupano gli orbitali raffigurati come gli anelli di Saturno oppure sollevare i dubbi sulla costruzione delle piramidi quando oggi (rispetto a 60 anni fa) le conoscenze sui metodi di costruzione egizi ha eliminato le fantasiose ipotesi della necessità di tecniche fantascientifiche.

Insomma peccato perché era corretta l'impostazione di non dare nulla per scontato usando come esempio le affermazioni dei fisici di fine '800 che ritenevano la fisica finita ... peccato che dopo pochi anni sia arrivata la relatività, la fisica quantistica e altro a rivoluzionare il pensiero e la consapevolezza di quello che c'era ancora da capire.

Jeff Johnston says

This was just not my cup of tea. Perhaps it is that I am not destined to become an 'Awakened man'. Or is it that this poor review is really camouflage to ensure that I am not identified as a superior 'mutant'?

There were some nice illustrations, anecdotes providing a form of validation of men having super consciousness (Ramanujan, Cayce, Boscovitch). I will probably look into these guys further, so this was a positive.

The book also touched on a few of the ancient civilisations. 'Tiahuanaco' in Bolivian sounds out of this world (pretty much what the writer was intending) and is now on my ever growing bucket list of places to visit.

Friedrich Mencken says

Aliens ruled the world in antiquity, alchemy pre-dated the discoveries of nuclear physics, extrasensory perception and pre-cognition explains how writers or other people could make, for the time, fantastic statements that at some later time in the future “came true”, National Socialism was based on occult mysticism and black magic etc. etc. So what is the supporting evidence for all this? Religious mythologies and artwork that are interpreted, it can be argued to fit the bill, old texts making unsupported claims, claims of personal experiences, meeting a strange unknown alchemic master for instance, quotes without any mention where it is taken from or any reference...

Probably the worst piece of trash I have ever read, von Däniken is a completely sensible writer with meticulous references in comparison. Over half a million copies sold and an excellent rating on Goodreads. It seems as long as you bash those horrible Nazis all critical thinking goes out the window.

Robert Beveridge says

Louis Pauwels and Jacques Bergier, **The Morning of the Magicians** (Stein and Day, 1960)

The Morning of the Magicians, Pauwels and Bergier's Charles Fort-inspired catalogue of absolute nutterdom circa mid-twentieth-century, has long been forgotten by pretty much everyone. (Given some of the predictions made in this book, many of which had been conclusively disproved within the decade, this is not a surprise.) I read it for the same reason pretty much anyone else who seeks it out these days does—there's a section, actually a single sentence, on page 131 that inspired the 1977 revivification of a movie subgenre that has persisted, on and off, to this day—the Nazi Zombie movie. “When he had recovered his speech he declared that he had just seen a phantom array of German soldiers in uniform lying on the bottom of the lake, together with a caravan of chariots and horses in their harness standing upright...”, the authors report. In the

DVD extras for the 1977 movie *Shock Waves*, which kicked the subgenre off again after almost thirty years of dormancy, one of the screenwriters (I think it was John Kent Harrison, but don't quote me) mentions that he got the idea for the movie from this book. Having been a rabid *Shock Waves* fan since I first saw it in the late seventies, my destiny was pretty much sealed at the moment I heard that. It took me some five years to track down a copy of this book. It then took me another year and a half to read it. And I can guarantee you, since if you've even heard of this book at this point in time you, too, are probably a fan of Nazi Zombie movies, the quote above is the only part of the book you need to read.

After a relatively brief introduction that acquaints us with some of the foundations of Pauwels and Bergier's thinking (and an intro, of course, to the work of Charles Fort), the book is divided into two sections, which had the authors been a bit less flowery could have been entitled "The Past" and "The Future". The former examines the supernatural/new-agey/totally insane ideas and beliefs behind the Nazi movement, including such wonders as Hollow Earth and the Doctrine of Eternal Ice. (Interestingly, there's not a single mention of the obsessive quest for the Spear of Destiny...) If you're going to read the book, this is the section to read it for; the stuff you will find here is fascinating, in a batshit-crazy sort of way, and it's sobering indeed in today's culture to remember that it is, in fact, possible for a country of people who have no idea what their leaders are *actually* thinking to be controlled by a handful of wingnuts who have much more of a place in the asylum than in Parliament. The latter is where things get crazy, and to be fair, reading Pauwels and Bergier's catalogue of silliness is really no different than, these days, reading Alvin Toffler's *The Third Wave* or Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* or even those MTV adverts thrown around by environmentalist groups back in the eighties (remember when the rainforests would be denuded altogether by 1985 and the ozone layer would be entirely depleted by 1990?). The difference, for which I have to give Pauwels and Bergier grudging props, is that these guys never offer up any of this stuff, save the stories of what has come before, as documented fact. Pauwels even says, a number of times, that he expects much of the conjecture in the book to be proven wrong as time goes on, but that the authors hope someone will take some of the threads they have gathered and run with them, in a scientific sense.

But this conjures up some questions, the most obvious of which is this: when you have just spent a hundred pages or so making fun of the Nazis for believing the crazy stuff they believed, and then you spend the next hundred pages cataloguing things that are, at base, just as nuts, how can you expect to have *any* of it taken seriously? **

Dean Andersson says

I first read this book in its first American paperback English translation. It introduced me to many things that have since become "mainstream," the connections of Nazi Germany to occultism, the writings of the American collector of unexplained events, Charles Fort, the deeper concepts behind Alchemy, and the precepts of Fantastic Realism in general..."Only the Fantastic is real." It was an eye-opener of a book, and rereading it now, it still is. If you have any interest in the fantastic or the hidden history of the world, give it a try. I think you'll enjoy it.

Peter Mcloughlin says

First warning the author entertains pseudoscience and extravagant claims. Don't be fooled my relatively high

rating is not for that aspect of the book. The book also has a strong strain of mysticism and spiritual impulse that I can say I often share with the author as well. The author writing only a decade and a half from the Cratering ruins of the second world war like many Europeans was attempting to make sense of a world after the camps and the bomb and human destiny and our place in the cosmic picture. The grim context of early postwar Europe sent people looking to make sense of things when idols of progress seemed eclipsed. I get this guys impulse in many ways we are living under the same shadows as the generations of the mid twentieth century. This book was one of the inspirations of the counterculture of the sixties but is deeply informed by the cataclysms of the first half of the century. Those flower children in so multi hued a decade of the sixties are the progeny of darker times. Connections between the age of Aquarius and calamities of the first half of the century share a strong connection that is often overlooked. It is the spiritual thirst for transcendence that was made extremely acute by the darkness of Holocaust and the H-bomb. The counterculture was a struggle and experimentation that tried in many ways to come to grips with the dark tenor of the postwar period. One can forget when one sees the fripperies of new agers that they were an attempt to grapple with some dark stuff of the recent past. So while I get that the nonsense of the sixties and the new age is fairly laughable it would be a mistake to disregard the impulse behind it.

Andrew says

Weird book. Completely bogus, vaguely or maybe pre-New Age story-telling about supposedly true events in the paranormal/mystical world we live in. Incas encountering UFOs bearing nuclear weapons... basically a reflection on marginal science that was surely influenced by the psychedelic era. All the same, it's kind of an interesting, "creative" read even if you have to take it with a heaping pile of salt.

I found this book in my mom's library. For her, I'm told, books like this were more than enough to satisfy the "mind-bending" experiences her peers were finding through drugs.

Books are my family's anti-drug.
