The Most Elegant Radio Misterioso Ever,

A Tulpic Synchronicity Triple-Play?

11/23/2014 – Radio Misterioso takes to the airwaves.

Greg is feeling a little sick, a little down, but he’s there live – “Hey! 1-1-2-3! How about that!” -- and says he’ll play music and then maybe take calls limited to ten or fifteen minutes each.

Listening from home, I see that my friend Erika is online, and knowing Greg would like to mix up his caller population[[1]](#footnote-1), I message her and suggest she call, since she’d had some weird experiences. Even though she hasn’t heard any of tonight’s show, she agrees.

Erika calls, and it’s a disaster. The connection is bad, and she is so flustered Greg has to ask for her name two or three times, though she mentions *me* a lot[[2]](#footnote-2).

Erika tries to tell her story, but it comes out in an incoherent, ditzy rush, prompting online mockery from Gil, a previous caller and ex-Paracast sales rep. Greg tries to help her along, but everything she says sounds like vain gibberish, and soon he gently gets her off the phone to take another call.

This call is from Gil, the mocker, who recites endless details of old cases as Greg re-reaches his conclusion that Ufology is stuck in a rut, because people don’t pay attention to things that don’t match their expectations – like how nuts-and-bolts folks and abductees ignore each other’s cases -- and that the only way the research is going to get anywhere is if the Phenomenon shifts gears, probably into something no one would recognize.

Greg suggests attributing odd events to something completely disconnected from flying saucers[[3]](#footnote-3), then watching to see if non-paranormal-fans start reporting incidents like that.

Even though the conversation is going absolutely nowhere, Greg gamely keeps trying to get Gil to quit chasing the rainbow of Proof No Skeptic Can Deny, until Greg finally says he’s too tired to think and is going home to bed.

The next day, I realize that Greg’s wish had been granted *before he’d even described it*. Check out the events Erika was trying[[4]](#footnote-4) to talk about, bearing in mind that she had read NO classic Ufology and knew nothing about Keel, Bender, or Barker while these past events were happening:

Erika’s ancestors were said to have bred with fairies long ago, which had given her some minor psychic ability – unreliably precognitive dreams and the like.

A couple years ago, Erika started having dreams where government agents threatened to ruin her life and hurt her friends and family unless she agreed to use her psychic gifts for them. In one dream, Erika was so terrified, she signed the contract they offered. In later dreams, agents or disguised agents would show her odd spectacles and measure her responses.

Shortly after the contract-signing dream, Erika noticed odd people coming into her work, doing a very conspicuously bad job of acting like a normal customer, making a point to interact with her, but then leaving within twenty minutes. She thought they were from the FBI, who must have a psychic surveillance department. She was less than impressed that their idea of going undercover was to wear all blue clothing instead of a suit.

In several different places, Erika was approached. One man-in-blue interrupted her as she was sitting at a small table with a guy on a date. He asked if he could join them, because “they were the only normal people there.”

Another time, Erika was getting food at a restaurant hard to reach because of construction. A man-in-blue came in and asked if he could get her some drinks and ask her some questions. She agreed, and they ended up at a costumed-server restaurant called The Magic Time Machine, where the stranger asked many questions that suggested he already knew the answers, like guessing her sister’s name slightly wrong many times in a row, then mentioning his secretary’s name – which included the sister’s name.

After Erika left, she took a lot of false turns so the guy couldn’t easily follow her, but just before turning onto the main road, she saw she was behind a white truck with a sticker many years out of date – an alien-head sticker.

Erika also had unusual traffic outside the house she stayed at, with hours of cars driving OUT of the cul-de-sac, and a sense of one of the unnatural FBI agents standing outside her window. She also saw an unusual animal, a rare high-dollar cat that ran near her car at 20 or 30 miles per hour, then sat down on the center road line and stared at her.[[5]](#footnote-5)

So when Greg was bemoaning that he couldn’t study the weird experiences of people who weren’t wrapped up in the UFO phenomenon -- so they wouldn’t have been tainted by the same-old, same-old expectations and cultural biases -- he didn’t know he had been talking with someone who fit the bill EXACTLY, but couldn’t recognize the situation and ended up re-listening again to the Classick UFO Stories he wants to avoid.

Erika hadn’t intended to call and didn’t hear the show after she was off the air – she was essentially a Cassandric avatar deus-ex-machinaed into the show – like a whirly-bird come to rescue[[6]](#footnote-6), come to think of it -- and Greg couldn’t make out what she was saying, so he couldn’t have been spinning his later lament to match the story.

Even Gil might have been the Phenomenon’s sock puppet for the evening, since he recently had a spinal tap and some kind of back surgery and thus have decreased agency -- as he came on-air, he mentioned Better Living Through Chemistry -- which might explain how he went from just-kind-of-clueless on 11/9/2014[[7]](#footnote-7) to last night’s zombie-like, “Well, what if someone woke up with no shoes or socks on? Would that make you believe in the paranormal? Well, what if they woke up and had mud on their feet? Or wet mud that didn’t match the dirt outside? Well, what about…”

Gil’s call was SO TEDIOUS, and he kept intoning that faux-taxonomy from Robert Anton Wilson, “Is it true and meaningless? Or is it false and meaningless? Or is it…” I was gritting my teeth listening to him, but I now see that the remarks that came out of him are completely on point, which I might only be noticing BECAUSE what he said was so tedious -- not only tedious, but *oblivious* to Greg’s appeals to Think Outside The Nuts-and-Bolts.

I find this juxtaposition – the already discarded windfall -- *painfully* elegant, like picking the magician’s pocket onstage then handing him back his own rabbit.

Actually, Gil’s rote taunting about “How would you react if something extraordinary happened to you? Would you be honest about it? How extraordinary would it have to be to make you react?” is like picking the magician’s pocket onstage, then betting him $10,000 that you will have picked his pocket before sunrise – a bet the magician loses the second he takes it.

I didn’t notice the *structure* of last night’s show until early Monday evening, and true to form, in my email I found this, sent around that time:

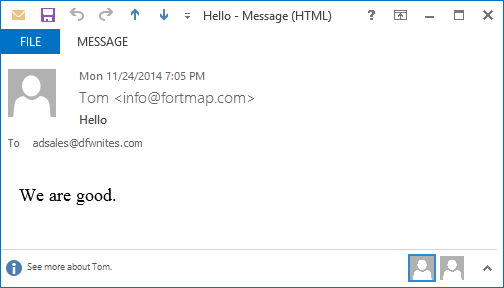


Figure : A friendly note from a source of information, a place not just of maps, but of Fort (!) maps.  
Always nice to hear from you, Phenomenon! ☺

So last night’s lesson appears to be “Widen Your Search,” cunningly demonstrated by hiding anomalies in misleading wrappers, like *junk email*, *conversations that lose your interest*, and *constellations of strangers*.

If the Phenomenon can weave a message out of *those* materials, then what *couldn’t* it use?

1. Greg: “I am SO glad you are someone who HASN’T called before!” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Exactly what I was trying to avoid – argh! [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Greg: “Say it’s caused by anything…dog bites, maybe…I don’t know.” [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. I had spoken with Erika immediately before and after her call, and she was nowhere near as scattered as she was while on the air. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. A more-detailed version of Erika’s stroy had been sent to Nick Redfern in Summer of 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. “Whirly-Bird” was the song playing immediately before Erika got on the air. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Greg: “Everyone tells me I’d like Dr. Who, but I never get into it. And then I tell them that, and they tell me I just haven’t tried the right season.”

   Gil: “Oh, well, you should really try the episodes from the 1970’s…you’d like those.” [↑](#footnote-ref-7)