

Cosmic Trigger I: Final Secret of the Illuminati Study Guide

Cosmic Trigger I: Final Secret of the Illuminati by Robert Anton Wilson

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Plot Summary

The author, Robert Anton Wilson, begins studying the legend of the Bavarian Illuminati in about 1963. The Illuminati are said to be a secret conspiracy out to run the world. Wilson takes mind-altering drugs and sees visions such as of the little green man, Mescalito. Wilson relates this to studies of people contacted by UFOs, extraterrestrials, and even stories of leprechauns. Wilson studies the work of the English occultist Aleister Crowley on sex magic. Wilson looks at coincidences in the circumstances of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. In 1964, as a journalist, Wilson first meets Timothy Leary and talks to him about his psychological experiments using LSD. Wilson studies a series of coincidences involving the number 23. Leary continues to promote LSD research, and is soon busted for transporting drugs. Wilson becomes friends with Kerry Thornley, and makes many jokes involving Thornley's pseudo-religion called Discordianism.

Members of Wilson's family claim to meet extraterrestrials in suburban New Jersey. Wilson again takes LSD and listens to a sort of prayer by Aleister Crowley on tape, and tries to contact different occult entities. Leary is in jail and in an interview with Wilson, talks about going to outer space. Wilson is working with Bob Shea to write the book, *Illuminatus*. Wilson studies Dr. Paul Segall's work on freezing the human body to revive it at a later date. Wilson is mostly unemployed and his family live in a rough neighborhood. Wilson's daughter Luna is 13 years old and is beaten up by other children, but soon recovers.

Wilson researches other writings on the occult, such as that of Jack Parsons, promoting Crowley style sex yoga magic. Other links to the star Sirius are studied, such as the masonic symbol of the eye of Horus. Wilson is fascinated that Crowley writes down the so-called Book of Law and tells of the Egyptian goddess Nuit, a connection to Sirius. Wilson is again contacted by Kerry Thornley, who now suspects that he could have been brainwashed to be an unwitting part of the JFK assassination plot. Soon, after Thornley is robbed and beaten.

Wilson finally sees Timothy Leary in jail again. Leary is denied parole, but there is a big protest by the PEN organization and soon Leary is freed. A fan of Leary, Saul-Paul Sirag tells Wilson about his experience with an alien entity. Sirag sees a Horus Hawk, and Wilson connects this with his own experiences with Sirius. This is also connected with reports that aliens are sacrificing cattle, and perhaps children. A book, *Temple's Sirius Mystery*, reports on primitive African tribes having knowledge of the twin stars of Sirius thousands of years ago. Wilson examines theories that violate ideas of locality, where space-time is bounded by the speed of light. In this way, Wilson tries to reconcile physics with observations of extraterrestrials from across the universe. Leary has a theory of 8 brain compartments or spheres. The highest circuits involve astral projections of a person's body. Leary hopes to use the two highest levels of consciousness as a way towards space migration, increased intelligence and life extension. Wilson speculates that man may soon become unrecognizable and godlike. Wilson has some writing successes, and his book *Illuminatus* is turned into a play in



England. Wilson goes on another drug trip to visit a god connected to Sirius, according to Crowley. Saul-Paul Sirag theorizes that occult events are made by themselves in the future. Wilson gets an ESP message that his son Graham will die. Soon after, Wilson's daughter Luna is beaten to death in a burglary. Wilson gets help to preserve Luna's brain for possible future revival.



pp. 1-27

pp. 1-27 Summary and Analysis

Thinking About the Unthinkable — The author, Robert Anton Wilson begins studying the legend of the Bavarian Illuminati in about 1963. The Illuminati are said to be a secret conspiracy out to run the world. Along with Robert J. Shea, the author writes a book called *Illuminatus!* which is a satire about the secret Illuminati conspiracy. This leads the author into a much wider investigation of drugs, UFOs and other phenomena.

The Illuminati are said to be begun by Dr. Adam Weishaupt in Bavaria in 1776. The Illuminati Conspiracy involves hundreds of years of plots and assassinations, and is connected to ancient Greek Gnostic cults. In the United States, there is anti-Illuminati agitation, saying that the Illuminati control the Freemasons. Some theorists connect the Illuminati to the Jewish people, while others connect them to the Nazis. Later, the author R.A. Wilson gets on radio shows to talk about the Illuminati, and is accused by a caller of being a member of the Illuminati.

As Wilson does his research, he enters a state of mind that he calls Chapel Perilous, wherein he starts to believe in the theories of magic associated with the Illuminati. The author knows that he needs to use reason, but he makes himself open to the occult. In 1971, Wilson begins reading the *Book of Lies*, by the famous English mystic Aleister Crowley. Crowley is known to have been a prankster, sexual explorer and magician. Crowley is said to have been a leader of the Illuminati.

Wilson thinks about Chapel Perilous, a place with the delights of Tantric Sex and drugs, but also with real dangers. Wilson, starting in 1973, believes he is getting messages from the star system of Sirius. After October 1974, Wilson's beliefs about his perceptions are altered by Dr. Jacques Valle, a man who studies UFOs. Valle thinks that these perceptions somehow come from within the planet Earth and involve magic. Then data from Robert K.G. Temple, an English researcher, brings Wilson back to his Sirius hypothesis. Temple has traced signals to Earth from Sirius back to the ancient Egyptians. Wilson is ironic in reflecting on his theories, since he knows that they sound absurd. He collects other reports of UFO experiences, such as a man who says that he saw aliens from a spaceship, and that they served the man some pancakes.

Two Naval Intelligence officers say that they have been greeted by visitors from the planet Uranus. The aliens are friendly and called Space Brothers. Aliens from the planet Lanalus meet a salesman in West Virginia and a law student in Washington DC, and their accounts of a UFO are said to be similar, and totally independent of each other. Wilson insists that these stories must be true, because the people telling the story did not have any incentive to lie. According to Bell's Theorem, there could be visitors from Sirius, or there could be psychics able to project such thoughts onto other people, or aliens from Sirius could be able to project such thoughts from many light years away. There could be an element of a prank, in that words from the mystical Cabbala are



used. Wilson compares these different explanations to Niels Bohr's explanation of the particle and wave natures of a single atomic structure.

Part I, the Sirius Connection — The author begins with fables about giving up the ego and the mind in order to reach Eternity. Wilson references his Irish-American working-class background. He becomes an atheist and hedonistic, and studies mathematics. At age 30, he begins to experiment with mind-altering drugs. Wilson argues that some think these drugs cause psychosis, but he believes they are a means towards consciousness expansion. Wilson reads a National Review article in 1962 that claims that peyote causes an intense religious experience. In December 1962, Wilson and his wife and children are living in rural Yellow Springs, Ohio. Wilson describes a beautiful experience on peyote, and is glad that at the time there is little paranoia about tripping on drugs. Wilson describes himself as a materialist, but slowly notices unexplainable phenomenon, as he often goes on drug trips. He thinks that he communicates with plants, and then one time, a day after a drug trip, Wilson sees a dancing little green man, identified as the spirit of the peyote plant, Mescalito, who is also described in the work of author Carlos Castaneda in the book, the Teachings of Don Juan. Wilson describes an experiment done by Marcel Vogel, who has subjects focus on pornography, and claims that nearby plants become excited by the subjects' sexual thoughts. Wilson claims that there are many legends of fairies, and others of the so-called little people. The author Arthur C. Clarke claims, according to the author, that such phenomena could be from other planets, or on this planet but from advanced technology or advanced parapsychology.



pp. 27-52

pp. 27-52 Summary and Analysis

Did a leprechaun leave the Simonton pancakes?— The little green man is compared to the Jungian archetype, such as the TV series character, Dr. Spock of Star Trek, or the Irish leprechaun. Wilson tells a Sufi story of a rider on a donkey looking for his donkey. Wilson tells the reader to look towards the human nervous system itself as the source of perceptions. People claim they see things, but the perception is colored by their prejudices and what they expect. Wilson calls these the decisions of the human metaprogrammer, who decides what the focus is.

The Kennedy Assassination and the Net — Wilson looks at the assassination of President John Kennedy, the alleged assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, and a man named Kerry Thornley, who has been called by some the so-called second Oswald. Thornley is a man that Wilson later meets, and who also starts a religion called Discordianism. Many theorists are cited on the incidence of coincidences in matters such as the Kennedy Assassination. Wilson finds both the conspiracy theories of the left-wing and the official story of the Warren Commission on the assassination, to be not credible.

A visit to Milbrook — In 1964, Wilson takes a job as an editor at Fact Magazine, and moves to New Jersey. Wilson gets an interview with Dr. Timothy Leary, who is in his first phase of promoting LSD. Leary is living at a so-called Ashram, in Milbrook, NY. At the interview, Leary is calm and recommends taking LSD and having sex with a loved one, in order to reprogram oneself. For Leary this is a method to reprogram the mind of a person. Leary is still quite academic, and describes the LSD experience in terms of the dose, the person doing it, and the circumstances in which the LSD trip takes place. Leary has rewritten the theories of psychology in terms of logical game theory. He refuses to talk about sickness, and only describes behavior. Leary has a theory that looks at a person and the games that he or she plays in society, and whether that person is successful. Leary is also studying the Tibetan Book of the Dead as an example of consciousness changing. Leary has a series of rules to avoid using LSD for brainwashing. He says that the subject of the LSD experiment has to decide in advance what change he or she wants to make in their personality, even calling the subject, a so-called research associate. Leary describes using LSD on prisoners and claims to have a high success rate in rehabilitating prisoners.

The Queen of Space — Soon after, Wilson and members of his family say that they have seen a UFO. In suburban New Jersey, they and some of their neighbors see a silvery space ship on the ground. Wilson's son Graham, then 5 years old, claims to see a silvery and kind space woman, who tells him to study to be a physicist. Wilson recounts the research of Dr. Jacques Vallee that in UFO sightings, children usually see silvery women aliens, and adults usually see men. Valle compares these sightings to sightings of the Blessed Virgin Mary by crowds of the faithful. In such incidents,



thousands claim to see the virgin perform miracles, but could the virgin be an extraterrestrial, Wilson asks.

The 23 Enigma — Wilson is an editor at Playboy Magazine. He hears a story about a series of coincidences involving the number 23, from the famous surrealist author William Burroughs. Wilson compares these incidences with Dr. Fritjof Capra's theory and other theories that say that everything in the universe is connected to everything else. This also is implied by Carl Jung's theory of synchronicity. If a person is concentrating on the number 23, the number will come up more. Wilson later finds that the magician Aleister Crowley connects the number 23 with joy. The number 23 is also half the number of strands in DNA.

The heresy hunt begins — Wilson again talks to Timothy Leary, who is using LSD with terminal cancer patients. Leary refers to a show where a psychologist hugs a patient, and sees the influence of Leary's Millbrook scene. About this time, the Vietnam War heats up and there is much paranoia and government disinformation. The war on drugs targets Timothy Leary's LSD research, and Leary is spoken to disparagingly at a US Senate hearing. Leary's academic LSD experiments are ended, and instead black market LSD is used by many people.

Multiple realities— Wilson hears of much LSD use, but at Playboy magazine most of the editors are smoking marijuana. He sees that he can do self-hypnosis better when stoned on pot. Wilson uses pot regularly, saying it readjusts his nervous system. Users of pot become alienated, because they absorb the notion that reality is chosen by the observer, and that society's normal realities do not have to be accepted.



pp. 53-75

pp. 53-75 Summary and Analysis

The murder of Christ: a re-run — Wilson meets Timothy Leary while Leary is doing his so-called Death of Mind road show. Leary plays a lot of games with Eastern types of public personas, trying to push the idea that LSD should be used for research. Wilson reflects that just as Dr. Wilhelm Reich is persecuted for promoting sex research, Leary is soon persecuted for promoting drug experimentation. Wilson thinks that many of the LSD scientists used to be respectable back in 1964, but this does not last. Leary is thrown into jail for possessing drugs, and goes through a series of adventures, ending with him in solitary confinement. Wilson considers it fascist that people such as Reich and Leary are persecuted for their beliefs.

About 1966, Wilson starts to write long letters to Kerry Thornley, who is the editor of the New Libertarian. Later, the two promote the space migration ideas of Leary and Professor Gerard O'Neill. Wilson becomes involved with Thornley's manufactured religion called Discordianism. This religion of so-called Discordianism is part joke, and part commentary on how distinct people and elements actually function together in a sort of unity, also called synchronicity. A Discordian Bible is produced as part of Operation Mind F#ck. The number 23 is related to $2 + 3 = 5$, and a theory about the number 5. The Discordians believe that there is no objective reality and that everything is subjective in the mind of the viewer.

Jim Garrison and the Illuminati — The District Attorney in New Orleans opens a new investigation of the Kennedy Assassination. Kerry Thornley goes to Garrison to tell Garrison about what he knows of Lee Harvey Oswald. Garrison and Thornley get along badly, and later there are charges of various sorts about Thornley. One of Garrison's aides is said to think that the Kennedy Assassination plot is related to the Bavarian Illuminati. Many on the left believe the theories of Garrison. Wilson is told to be careful, because the Illuminati, although a vague organization, is real and dangerous, a bit of foreshadowing of what will happen to Wilson and his family later in the book.

Operation Mindf#ck — The Discordians look at various conspiracy theories and Wilson and Bob Shea end up writing a huge novel called the Illuminatus trilogy. The novel includes symbolism of the number 5, which is related to Winston Churchill's sign for victory, a letter V, or the Roman numeral for 5. The Pentagon, home of the Department of Defense has 5 sides, and readers of the author's books mention other coincidences involving the number 23, which is $2 + 3 = 5$.

The Horrible Secrets of the Wicked Aleister Crowley — Wilson talks with the hippie philosopher Alan Watts and learns more about Aleister Crowley. Wilson learns of Crowley's use of Tantric sex magic, or magick. Crowley's book slightly disguises Crowley's sex magic theories, with titles like, the Way to Suck Eggs. Crowley has a secret teaching that a great way to improve consciousness is to combine marijuana use



with prolonged Tantric sex. Tantric sex and sexual yoga are used to prolong the sexual experience. These sexual practices are thought by Wilson to be part of the actual secrets of the Illuminati. Wilson admits that some of Crowley's theories are fascist and distasteful, but respects Crowley's research.

A Discordian signal from Aldous Huxley, deceased — Wilson does psychological experiments of Aleister Crowley. First, he refuses to think of the I or his ego, for a week. Then, he tries using Tarot cards to predict people's fortunes. Wilson tries the spiritual exercise of devoting himself for a period of time to different gods or spirits. Wilson becomes less skeptical, and still collects instances of the mystical number 23. He reads of the attempt of the wife of the late Aldous Huxley to contact his spirit, and how a medium guides her to a book passage written by the late author Huxley.

The Net or the Network — Wilson sees that his life has had many influences on it from the late Aldous Huxley, including adopting Huxley's use of mind-altering drugs. This influence is amplified by Alan Watts, and includes sex yoga and Tantric practices. Watts also introduces Wilson to Timothy Leary. Wilson wonders if Alan Watts is part of the Illuminati and sees a reference in the Koran to a certain star that soon will be named.



pp. 76-101

pp. 76-101 Summary and Analysis

The Lady of Guadeloupe — Wilson quits his job at Playboy Magazine and goes to San Miguel de Allende on assignment to write two books. Wilson learns about Father Hidalgo, a fighter for Mexican independence, who had his own connections to symbols of the Illuminati. Wilson compares the local saint, the Virgin of Guadeloupe to the Space Lady of the stars. Likewise, Jacques Vallee finds similarity between sightings of the Virgin and of space aliens. At the time, Wilson has a strong connection to the Egyptian goddess Nuit.

Wilson hears that Timothy Leary escapes prison and ends up first in Algiers under the Black Panthers, and later in Switzerland. Wilson's children become involved in the occult, with his daughter Luna allegedly being able to levitate her body across a room. This is a foreshadowing of Luna's special role in Wilson's life.

Sirius Rising — The neurologist, Dr. Andrija Puharich claims he received messages from extraterrestrials. Other famous people receiving some type of these messages include Dr. John Lilly. Most of these messages are ignored by the public. Wilson develops a sense of when he is able to predict the future. In January 1973, Timothy Leary is arrested in Afghanistan on a plane. Wilson predicts that he will smile for pictures and be happy, and that is what happens.

Wilson again takes LSD and listens to a sort of prayer by Aleister Crowley on tape. Wilson visits past lives and tries to visualize different supernatural spirits. Wilson tries to achieve the effects of LSD by prolonged yogic sex practices with a female, and soon after focuses his mind on the star Sirius. Wilson reads more literature on the occult and finds that the Dog Star Sirius is a key symbol in the Crowleyite networks of the Ordo Templi Orientus, the OTO. Wilson is amazed to find that the beginning of the dog days of summer is July 23, and there are other number 23s popping up.

The Holy Guardian Angel — With help from Jack Rowan, Wilson examines his so-called past lives and finds members of the Illuminati. Wilson wonders if he is getting messages from angels or from extraterrestrials. Some of the voices give him sage advice on how to be patient and forgiving, and his ESP continues to occur on odd occasions.

Beings of Light, etc. — Wilson compares his contact to the so-called beings of light, to reports of such beings by people in near death experiences. Wilson wonders if these beings are all knowing, but also able to make jokes. There is a report of policemen in Pittsburgh being confronted with a talking dog that then disappears. Other reports are of flying saucers. Are people in shock and see hallucinations, or is there a more powerful being doing this, perhaps from outer space, Wilson asks.



Starseed — In July and August 1973, Wilson continues his experiments with the occult. He has visions of Timothy Leary trying to jump over prison walls. Four years later, Wilson hears that Leary indeed was doing psychological experiments and trying to use occult powers to jump over the prison walls, in cooperation with other prisoners. Timothy Leary stops talking about drugs and instead in an interview talks about going to outer space. Leary makes up a symbol that he calls Starseed. Crowley also is interested in space travel and wonders if extraterrestrials already have secret agents in their power on earth. Kenneth Grant of the OTO later interprets this as groups of people dedicated to higher consciousness.

Magick, Technology or Both? — Wilson asks about the relationship between sightings of aliens and Jung's theory of collective consciousness. Since man in the 1970s is very interested in space rockets, the strange beings look like space aliens to them.

Those mysterious Sufis — Wilson is working with Bob Shea to write the book, *Illuminatus*. Wilson uses the letters he gets at *Playboy* to create various sarcastic theories of conspiracies and the Illuminati. Later, he wonders if these theories were true. Meanwhile, Wilson and his family have run out of money and have to go on welfare. Wilson wonders if the real secret of the Illuminati is that they are a group that collectively practiced sex magic and yoga. Wilson wonders if the Sufis also are part of this. One time, Wilson, with Greg Hill and Bill Broadbent, is looking for his son Graham in Berkeley, California. Wilson sees a clown and notices movements reminiscent of the Sufis. He talks to the clown Parcifal and soon after has a vision of where Graham is.



pp. 102-126

pp. 102-126 Summary and Analysis

A message from Cosmic Central?— Wilson is corresponding with Timothy Leary in prison. By now, Wilson is involved in the Discordian Society, a sort of farce and so-called new religion. Leary writes that he is protected by the warden, meaning he is often in solitary confinement. Leary also sees parallel between his life and that of Aleister Crowley. Leary writes a book with four other people called *Terra II*, where he talks of a message from outer space called the Starseed Transmission. There he says that a comet is coming as a sign. A few months later the comet Kohoutek lights up the skies.

Some Egyptian gods — Aleister Crowley is described with his then wife Rose in Cairo, Egypt, where Rose gets messages from the beyond. After testing Rose with a series of questions, Crowley decides that a being is contacting Rose. Crowley writes down the so-called Book of Law and tells of Nuit, an Egyptian goddess of stars. The work points to the star Sirius, to extraterrestrials calling to the Earth, and to finding immortality for mankind. Wilson compares Crowley's book to that of Timothy Leary, the Starseed Transmissions. Crowley's book discovers various cabbalistic numbers using Greek, including 93 referring to an entity called Aiwass. Dr. John Lilly's books refer to the Egyptian god Horus, also one that appears in Crowley's book.

A visit to CMF — CMF is the acronym for the prison where Timothy Leary is in Vacaville, California. Wilson visits Leary and talks to him for five hours there. Leary is doing much psychic research that parallels the work of Wilson. Leary also has a very strong connection to the work and person of Aleister Crowley. Leary is still rather nervous about a Black Panther, and recalls his nasty visit with Eldridge Cleaver, really a sort of imprisonment, in Algiers.

Leary briefs Wilson on Crowley's theory that people have 8 mental circuits. Four are used by normal people, and the higher 4 are first activated with drugs such as pot and LSD. Leary connects the proper use of the higher circuits to what the astronauts going to the moon experience. He also thinks that soon human life can be extended to 400 or more years. Leary is intrigued by the astronomer Carl Sagan's project to contact extraterrestrials, but wants more active measures to make this contact happen. Wilson is amazed that Leary barely comments on being in jail.

Wilson discovers that scientists are predicting that human immortality can be achieved. One scientist is demanding a massive US Government project to end death. In Leary's book, *Terra II*, it is hypothesized that astronauts could keep alive for 400 years and, through relativity effects, return to Earth billions of years later. Cryogenic science is being developed to freeze humans until they can be revived in the distant future. People in computer science want to program a robot with a human being's personality and brain waves.



pp. 126-148

pp. 126-148 Summary and Analysis

Stopping the biological clock — Another immortalist in contact with Wilson is Dr. Paul Segall. Segall is researching approaching to human immortality such as freezing the human body, transplanting many organs and other approaches. Segall becomes a follower of Timothy Leary and researches topics such as using cybernetics to program a human into a computer. Segall is working on a chemical he has found in the body called tryptophan, and thinks that life can be extended by depriving the body of this chemical. Statistically, Segall has examined how scientific progress solved problems like flying in airplanes that were thought to be impossible. Maybe the next breakthrough is a huge jump in human lifespan.

Appearances and disappearances — Wilson's interview with Leary is published, and various students of the Illuminati contact him. Then, Timothy Leary loses contact with the outside world. In September 1974, there are leaks to the media that say that Leary is cooperating with the police and the FBI. Leary is being held incommunicado.

A lesson in karma — Wilson has arguments with his 4 children over magic and astrology. They mimic Wilson's interests but in a way that Wilson dislikes. Finally, Wilson is able to communicate with his children better. He loves his daughter Luna's paintings of a mystical clear light. Luna is disturbed one day because she is beaten up by a gang of black kids, but soon is able to relax and feel better. She wants to stop what she calls the karma of hate. It is apparent that Wilson and his family live in a rough neighborhood, and his children are often not supervised or protected. Luna is 13 years old and a vegetarian, and a symbol of the dangers in Wilson's life.

Witchcraft — Wilson is working magic with a coven of witches of the OTO. He suddenly gets a vision of his son Graham confronting the police in Arizona. With help from the group psychic powers, it seems that Graham is protected from any confrontation, and calls his dad, Wilson, in the morning to say that he is all right. Wilson reflects on the strange mix of messages in Aleister Crowley's writings, and collects reports of others who contact spirits and extraterrestrials.

Nikola Tesla, secular shaman — Tesla was a scientist famous for his successful electrical experiments. Tesla reports in his autobiography that some of his discoveries were triggered by voices that seemed to be supernatural. Wilson compares Tesla's experience with that of gurus of yoga and others, who report an experience of near death and rebirth. Tesla stays secular all his life, even in regards to his reported abilities in ESP.

Other starry signals — Radio experimenters report picking up strange signals from outer space. The astronomer Carl Sagan reports such radio signals from an unknown source. Other researchers like the physicist George Lawrence are making tests involving



telepathy from plants. Jack Parsons, a founder of Cal Tech, and member of the OTO, dictates a book promoting Crowley style sex yoga magic. Parsons is also involved in designing space rockets.

The footsteps of the Illuminati — Wilson reads a book about the mystic Gurdjieff, and finds another mystic who revered the star Sirius. Other publications are related to secret societies said to exist for thousands of years and to the Theosophy Society of Madame Blavatsky. A person who claims to have contacted aliens claims to have collected examples of the language of creatures from the star Sirius. These are more links to Sirius, the Dog Star, and also the famous Masonic symbol, the eye of Horus, a symbol of Sirius.

Dope and divinity — Wilson studies Gurdjieff more and finds that Gurdjieff believes that man is heading towards immortality. Wilson finds the source of ancient religion to be shamans who take various mind-altering drugs. This goes on in Europe and also in the ancient Americas. Carl Castaneda in his book, *Tales of Power*, writes of the drug trips and visions of the shaman, Don Juan.



pp, 148-180

pp, 148-180 Summary and Analysis

The horrors begin — Wilson is upset because he is aged 42 and unemployed. He does yoga exercises to feel love for everyone, in order to control his fears. Wilson is again contacted by Kerry Thornley. Thornley has been a target of US Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation into the assassination of President John Kennedy. In a change of heart by 1975, Thornley suspects that he could have been brainwashed to be an unwitting part of the assassination plot. Thornley fears that he acted as a false lead in the investigation. Thornley served in the Marines with Lee Harvey Oswald, and looks like him. Thornley hears that a similar false lead was created in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. Shortly after Thornley comes out with these theories, he is robbed and pistol-whipped.

Ishtar's walk, a guided tour of hell — Wilson believes that all who seek knowledge of a great conspiracy are soon persecuted. He wants to fight against this, but is worried. There is much paranoia in the air in the networks of admirers of Timothy Leary and the Starseed project. Timothy Leary suspects government agents around him, especially after the death of one, Dennis Martino. People on the political left, such as the US Labor Party, claim that the entire left-wing is one big government conspiracy. The Wilson family is living in a slum, where a woman is half-crazed and lives with her young son who is dying of cancer and others with strange problems. Wilson is close to getting his book *Illuminatus* to be published. Wilson still has a part-time job for a local paper, and reads a review book there about the Illuminati conspiracy. Meanwhile, local witches claim that Wilson and Leary are running a conspiracy that they fear.

Mystery Babylon — October 12th is an occult holiday called Crowleymas. Wilson is at a party with various people in the occult. He is called up by a man who is about to go crazy on LSD, and needs to be calmed down. Another man at the party also needs Wilson's help to avoid plunging into insanity. Wilson argues with Grady McMurty of the OTO, whether extraterrestrials are speaking to people, or are they other types of entities. The two men wonder why leading occultists always get sent to jail.

Leary emerges from darkness and Sirius rises again — Leary begins to write letters again to Wilson from jail. Leary is concentrating on questions about space migration. After *Illuminatus* is published, Wilson gets letters about UFOs. An anti-illuminati writer sends Wilson a tape entitled *Sirius Rising*. Wilson gets a strong feeling of a connection to the star Sirius. He connects this to research that he does about the Masons, and the number 33, connecting it to Cape Canaveral, where NASA shoots off rockets. These connections are characterized by Wilson as synchronicity, a pattern of too many coincidences.

The Horus hawk and Uri Geller — Wilson finally sees Timothy Leary in jail. Leary insists that he testified against only 4 people who were supposed to help his defense. He did



not testify against the Weathermen. Leary is denied parole, but there is a big protest by the PEN organization that his trial was tainted by government agents. Leary suspects that the COINTELPRO program deployed government agents against him that were simultaneously terrorists. Wilson befriends one of Leary's supporters, Saul-Paul Sirag, who tells Wilson about the experience with an alien entity called SPECTRA of Uri Geller. Sirag sees a Horus Hawk in Uri Geller's ideas and Wilson connects this with his own experiences with Sirius. It is also believed that cattle are being sacrificed by a large organization or by aliens.

The Mothman Prophecies — The Mothman Prophecies is a book by John Keel on unexplained incidents in West Virginia. These incidences include the famous Men in Black (MIB) who scare people and mutilate cattle. Contactees make predictions involving events such as the Robert Kennedy assassination in 1968.

Doggiez from Sirius — Wilson takes LSD and is contacted by Irish elves. He watches a TV show called Harvey, and sees other allusions to Crowleyite magic involving an invisible rabbit. An obscure candidate for US President has propaganda that mentions so-called doggies from the star Sirius, as a joke, just as the book Illuminatus had been a joke.



pp. 183-196

pp. 183-196 Summary and Analysis

Part II, Models and Metaphors:

Further Fables and Allegories — From the Sufis - A man goes to heaven and challenges a heavenly voice to prove that it is authentic. From the Jewish - A rabbi proves the disciple's nose is real by punching it. From the German - Schrödinger's cat will be killed by poison gas triggered by quantum decay, but when does it exactly happen?

The Sirius Evidence — Wilson reviews evidence of messages from extraterrestrials from the Sirius star system. Leary receives messages during the Sirius dog days of summer. A book, Temple's Sirius Mystery, reports on primitive African tribes having knowledge of the twin stars of Sirius thousands of years ago, before the second star Sirius B could be seen by telescope. Temple believes that extraterrestrials told men about their star about 4500 BC. The Egyptian gods Isis and Osiris are symbols of Sirius and its companion Sirius B, the dark star. The OTO ritual for Osiris is described as the so-called black rite.

ERP and Bell's Theorem — It is theorized by the ERP Theorem that quantum particles can be in direct contact from opposite sides of the universe, if the theory of quantum mechanics is true. This is further developed by Bell's Theorem. A physicist named Wheeler suggests that there are billions and trillions of universes existing simultaneously. These theories violate theories of locality, where space-time is bounded by the speed of light. In this way, Wilson tries to reconcile physics with observations of extraterrestrials from across the universe. These extraterrestrials can manifest themselves as so-called demons, like in the Mothman Prophecies, when they predict to contactees various disasters. Disasters are predicted, but often the information is too garbled to let anyone do anything to prevent the disasters. Wilson explains such phenomena under the name of synchronicities.



pp. 197-218

pp. 197-218 Summary and Analysis

Tunnel Realities and Imprints — Leary tries to figure out the mysteries of contacts with other entities by a theory of 8 brain compartments or spheres. The first 4 levels of brain activity cover normal life, including biological survival, emotions, learning skills, and social and sexual activity of humans. Human beings that have not developed are interested in things like eating and mating. Some humans are dominant in the social order, while others are submissive.

The fifth circuit is usually reached by drug use or prolonged yoga-style sexual activities. The preferred drug to use for this is marijuana. Some of these fifth circuit experiences also match the experience of astronauts in gravity-free space. The sixth circuit involves using stronger drugs like the hallucinogen mescaline. The sixth circuit often involves contacting extraterrestrials, or other entities that in medieval times were described as angels or demons. The seventh and eighth circuits are described as involving extremely mystical experiences, and sometimes they can be reached by using LSD. Seventh and eighth circuit experiences can involve astral projections of a person's body. Leary uses these two levels as consciousness as the way to implement his SMI<2>LE program, which is space migration, increased intelligence and life extension. Many doctors are doing research on life extension and immortality. In popular culture, the Star Trek TV series touches on some of these themes, especially space migration.

The octave of energy — Wilson and his collaborators further develop the idea of the 8 levels of brain activity. They compare this to the ancient theories of Pythagoras about the universe and the musical octave. There are also the 8 families of elements in the periodic table of elements. There is a table of the first 4 levels or circuits, which are earth-bound, and the next 4 circuits that are inter-stellar. Each element has 3 descriptions, so there are 24 elements, like the 24 elements of the Hebrew alphabet used by the Cabbalists.

The law of acceleration — People like Henry Adams in the 1890s, and more recently Alvin Toffler have speculated on an accelerating rate of technological progress. A book, the Invisible Landscape by the McKenna brothers speculate that this may lead to the so-called omega point theorized by Teilhard de Chardin. The McKenna brothers also use drugs such as psilocybin. They speculate that by 2012, human civilization will accelerate and spread through the galaxy.



pp. 221-238

pp. 221-238 Summary and Analysis

Part III- Trigger — A Final Fable- From the Egyptian — Isis marries her brother, Osiris, but Osiris is killed by the jealous Set. Isis finds Osiris' body parts and reunites them in the black ritual.

Sirius Rises Again — Another occultist tells of being contacted from the star Sirius in 1973. Other references to Sirius are in the works of Freemason Albert Pike. The book, the Curse of the Pharaohs, also talks of long tunnels used to see stars in daylight. These are all seen as more hints to Wilson, and point to Sirius.

Blood of the Gods? — There is a theory that people such as Wilson who are in touch with outer space entities, are descendants of extraterrestrials. Wilson's work is recognized and a stage version of the book Illuminatus is performed in Liverpool, England. The anarchistic and wild production, including a nude black mass is somehow performed under the patronage of the Queen Elizabeth II. Wilson is also invited to dive in the Bermuda Triangle, where an ancient pyramid is discovered underwater. Both of these events are predicted by the fortune teller, Penny Looney. Wilson is corresponding with several men who claim to be the actual head of the Illuminati. An English playwright sends Wilson an old play about outbreak of chaos, and the ascendance of forces from Sirius. The writer goes insane during World War II, while millions die in war.

The Dark Companion — Wilson goes on another trip to visit the god Hadit, who is connected to the star Sirius according to the works of Aleister Crowley. Wilson gets an eerie feeling when Time Magazine shortly after has a review about Sirius. Saul-Paul Sirag theorizes that events are made by themselves in the future, such as a Rolling Stone article with associations to the book, Illuminatus. Sirius is still important, as a star with a twin star black hole, needed for time travel.

Via Dolorosa — Wilson is in a seminar on ESP with Sirag and others. There he gets an ESP message that his son Graham will die. Wilson uses his parapsychology techniques to try to deflect this danger, or make himself strong enough to bear this pain. On October 2nd, Wilson tells his fifteen year old daughter, Luna that he loves her. The next day Luna is beaten to death in a robbery at her after school job. Wilson and his wife Arlen experience horrible grief at losing Luna, whom Wilson calls a bearer of clear light.

Wilson gets a call that Paul Segall and Bay Area Cryonics Society will fundraise to help preserve Luna's body for possible future revival. The body becomes too decayed and only Luna's brain is ultimately cryonically preserved. Wilson thinks back to the reports of John Keel in West Virginia of cattle mutilation and the sacrifice of children. Wilson consoles himself by thinking that in the universe there is no true separation of Luna from him, in an ultimate sense.



The killer is caught in a few days, a young man who is a Sioux Indian and a sort of radical. Was Luna killed in revenge for the Wounded Knee incident, thinks Wilson. Wilson thinks that in a world of people who are mentally asleep, it is hard to escape such murder. Timothy Leary sends a consoling note that Wilson is surrounded by a network of love. Wilson and his wife Arlen look at how Leary survived his imprisonment, and try to draw strength to overcome their grief at the death of Luna. Wilson and Leary promote the ideas for interplanetary travel of Princeton Professor Gerard O'Neill and the L-5 Society. Leary tells Arlen that the only way to face negative people and events is to radiate positive energy even more strongly. Wilson calls this the real secret of the Illuminati.



Characters

Robert Anton Wilson, Wilson, R.A.W.

Robert Anton Wilson is the narrator of the book, and the main character. The book is an autobiographical description of Wilson's explorations in the world of the Illuminati, drugs, magic and study of extraterrestrial beings. Wilson is an interesting mix of rationalism, mysticism, caution, and recklessness. His obsession with mind-altering drugs may be shocking, but he is quick to excuse this habit as a form of scientific research. Wilson admits that he is not a unified personality. He is a self-described agnostic in his religious beliefs, but then has reports of personally talking to supernatural entities. Like his close friend Timothy Leary, Wilson links drug use with space travel, and the quest for immortality. Wilson's search for new experiences leads him to quit a high paying job as a Playboy Magazine editor and instead write books. It takes many years for him to publish *Illuminatus*, his big opus written with a collaborator. In the meantime, Wilson is on welfare. Perhaps as a consequence of living in a bad neighborhood, his daughter Luna is murdered. This is Wilson's biggest source of grief. In a sense, Wilson wonders if one of the supernatural forces he has contacted has arranged the murder of Luna by a Sioux Indian violence-prone man. Wilson believes that anyone who researches the Illuminati will be eventually persecuted.

Timothy Leary

Timothy Leary is a Harvard University professor who is fired for his out-of-control drug experiments. Leary becomes a media personality, and later a close friend and collaborator of Wilson. In the beginning of their friendship, Leary is sponsored at Millbrook, a comfortable upstate New York estate. Soon, Leary is arrested for drug trafficking and spends many years in jail. At one point, Leary escapes and is a guest of a leading Black Panther in Algeria. Leary is caught on an American plane flying to Afghanistan. Despite his long incarceration, Leary continues to advocate his favorite causes. These switch from research with mind-altering drugs, to space travel and migration, and contact with extraterrestrial beings. In the process, Leary is finally released from prison, and becomes a close collaborator of Wilson.

Kerry Thornley, Thornley

Kerry Thornley is a founder of a pseudo-religion called Discordianism. Discordianism is constructed by Thornley as a joke on conspiracy investigators, among others. Thornley is an anarchist and a magazine publisher. He becomes interested in the John F. Kennedy assassination, including because he knew Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged assassin, in the Marines. Thornley is suspected by District Attorney Jim Garrison of being involved in the assassination plot, as a sort of second Oswald, or look-alike. Later,



Thornley suspects that Garrison was partly right. Thornley thinks that he had been brainwashed as part of a false trail to divert investigators in the Kennedy assassination.

Aleister Crowley

Aleister Crowley is an author and occultist who is often referenced in the book. Although Crowley is deceased at the time of the action in the book, his theories and beliefs are often retold by Wilson. Wilson admits that some parts of Crowley's life mark him as an evil man, but he continues to be interested in Crowley's methods. Crowley is a source of many of Wilson's theories, including about the star Sirius being a source of messages to Earth.

Luna Wilson, Luna

Luna Wilson is the youngest daughter of Robert Anton Wilson. Luna has strong occult experiences and the author claims that she once is able to levitate her body. Wilson characterizes Luna as a kind child, who smiles and spreads a clear light to the people who know her. Luna is murdered in a store burglary when she is 15.

Dr. Saul-Paul Sirag, Sirag

Dr. Saul-Paul Sirag is a doctor and researcher into the occult. Sirag works with the psychic Uri Geller, and sees the face of Horus on his head. Horus is a god who is associated with the star Sirius. Sirag is involved in other events, such as an alpha-wave seminar, where Wilson gets an ESP flash saying that his son Graham will die.

Grady McMurty

Grady McMurty is an acquaintance of Wilson in the Bay area of California, who claims to be the head of the OTO. McMurty disagrees that the entities that he contacts are extraterrestrials. Instead he believes that these entities are projected by forces on the Earth.

Aldous Huxley

Aldous Huxley is a deceased British author who writes the story about using mind-altering drugs that first inspires Wilson to take drugs. Later, Huxley's wife is reported to have contacted Huxley through a psychic medium, including directing her to a book passage that Huxley wrote.



Gurdjieff

Gurdjieff is a deceased occult master, who is purported by Wilson to have connections to the OTO, the Illuminati, and the Sufis. Gurdjieff has a strong connection to the dog star, Sirius, which fascinates Wilson.

Graham Wilson, Graham

Graham Wilson is the author's son. At the age of 5 he claims to talk to a female extraterrestrial, who urges him to become a physicist, which Graham later does. Later, Robert Anton Wilson is searching for Graham and has a vision of where Graham is located.

Dr. Paul Segall, Paul, Segall

Dr. Paul Segall is a fan and supporter of Timothy Leary. He is an official in the Cryogenics Society. Later, Segal helps Wilson raise funds to have the murdered Luna Wilson's brain cryogenically preserved.

Jim Garrison, District Attorney Garrison

Jim Garrison is the District Attorney in New Orleans who launches an investigation of reports of a conspiracy to assassinate Pres. John F. Kennedy. Garrison succeeds in getting indictment, but in convicting no one. At one point, Kerry Thornley is a target of the Garrison investigation, as a second Oswald, or a sort of decoy in getting investigators off the trail of the real assassins of John F. Kennedy.

Gurdjieff

Gurdjieff is a deceased mystic whose works are extensively studied by Wilson and Leary. Gurdjieff believes that it is possible to reach human immortality. He is connected to the Sufis, a mystical sect, and by some to the Illuminati.



Objects/Places

Discordian Bible, Discordianism, Catmas

The Discordian Bible is a parody of a Bible. Instead of dogmas of belief, the Discordian Bible has so-called catmas. One of these catmas is that the number 5 is sacred. The Discordian Bible is essentially an anarchist document under the supervision of Kerry Thornley.

LSD, Mescaline, Peyote, Mind-altering Drugs

LSD, Mescaline, Peyote and other mind-altering drugs are used by Wilson, Leary and others for so-called mind expansion. Wilson is quite angry when what he considers a witch hunt starts and these drugs are outlawed.

Sirius, the Dog Star

Sirius, the Dog Star, is a very bright star that becomes an object of obsession among Wilson and other occultists. Sirius is actually two stars, a very bright star and a companion dark star. The dark star companion was discovered only several decades ago. Wilson reports that there is evidence that primitive African tribes know about the dark companion star of Sirius thousands of years ago.

The Illuminati, the Bavarian Illuminati

The Illuminati, or the Bavarian Illuminati is the name of a legendary group that is said to conspire to take over the world. Later in the book, Wilson thinks that the Illuminati is a group that practices magic and tantric sex yoga. Wilson identifies to some extent with the Illuminati.

Our Lady of Space, BVM, the Blessed Virgin Mary

Devout Catholics claim to have seen the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM), according to Wilson. Wilson identifies the BVM with female extraterrestrials that tend to be seen especially by women and children.

Chapel Perilous

Chapel Perilous is a figment of speech used by Wilson that denotes the state of mind of communicating with spirits, angels, extraterrestrial and other supernatural entities. The easiest way to enter chapel perilous for Wilson is by taking mind-altering drugs.



Operation Mindf#ck

Operation Mindf#ck is an operation related to the Discordian religion, and other deliberate attempts to make jokes about conspiracy buffs. Later, Wilson wonders if Operation Mindf#ck has gone too far in its sarcastic attacks on people who believe in coincidences and conspiracies.

Tantric Sex, Sexual Yoga

Tantric Sex or Sexual Yoga is a practice associated with Aleister Crowley and other researchers into the occult. It involves prolonged sexual practices designed to produce drug-like effects on the people practicing it.

Cosmic Central, Synchronicity

Cosmic Central is an imaginary entity hypothesized by Wilson. He speculates that Cosmic Central is ordering the coincidences in his and other people's lives. These coincidences are thought to be ordered in some unknown way, and are also called synchronicities.

OTO, Ordi Templi Orientis

Ordi Templi Orientis (OTO) is an organization that practices deliberate attempts to contact entities, angels, and extraterrestrials. The organization is associated with Aleister Crowley. Other people such as Grady McMurty claim to be the present head of the OTO.

SMI<2>LE

SMI<2>LE is an acronym coined by Timothy Leary. It is his campaign to promote Space Migration, a development of so-called cosmic consciousness or intelligence (squared), and life extension towards immortality.

Horus, the Eye of Horus

Horus is a war-god who, according to Crowley, is associated with the star Sirius. The Eye of Horus is a Masonic symbol and is also associated, according to Crowley with Sirius.



Nuit, the Egyptian Goddess

Nuit is an Egyptian goddess, that is also associated by Wilson with later manifestations as the Blessed Virgin Mary. Nuit is a goddess of the stars. According to Crowley, Nuit seeks to have mankind visit and explore the stars.

UFO Contactees

UFO Contactees are people who claim to see people that arrive on Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). Usually these people are not believed, especially when they have absurd stories. This is typified by the contactee who claims that space aliens gave him cakes as a gift.

The Number 23, the Enigma of 23

The number 23 becomes Wilson's favorite number for coincidences and special events. The number 23 is also connected to the sacred Discordian number of 5, since 2 plus 3 equal 5.

Playboy Magazine

Wilson works for five years as an editor at Playboy Magazine, in charge of letters to the editor. He gets some of his material for wild conspiracy theories from reading these letters. The job at Playboy is an exciting and financially rewarding job, but Wilson gets bored and finally leaves it.

Bay Area Cryonics Society

The Bay Area Cryonics Society is a group that promotes cryonics or cryogenic freezing of dead persons, in the hope that they later can be brought back to life. This group is lead by Paul Segall, who raises funds to freeze Luna's brain after she is murdered.

The Bay Area

The Bay Area is the area on the coast of California, including the cities of San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley. Berkeley is also home of the famous Berkeley University. This city is the Wilson Family's home during the latter part of the book.



Themes

Drugs and Magic

One of the themes of the book is that mind-altering drugs, though dangerous, can have a good effect in promoting research into the human mind. In Timothy Leary's theory of 8 levels of brain circuits, the main way to access the 4 higher circuits is by using drugs such as LSD. Under the influence of drugs, Wilson sees his first supernatural entity, the spirit of the drug plant mescaline, or Mescalito. Wilson's studies of Crowley's magic are just an extension of using drugs, and studying extraterrestrial phenomenon. Wilson admits that readers may think that he is mad, but asks the reader to at least consider his arguments. Leary first uses LSD to allegedly help prison inmates to change their personalities and not commit crimes, another instant solution to complicated problems.

Later, Leary and Wilson become somewhat critical of the popular drug culture, because they see that millions of people use drugs only for recreational use. Leary compares people taking drugs for pleasure to an adolescent who obsessively masturbates after he or she discovers sexuality. After the crackdown on illegal drugs and Leary finally gets out of jail, there is a shift towards other methods of achieving what is called higher consciousness. These methods include Tantric sexual yoga practices, and the use of extended meditation. Still, Wilson never really leaves the American popular drug culture. For example, Wilson and Leary champion the good-sounding causes of life extension and space migration, but their means of success are primarily of a magical nature. Wilson's book is a bizarre mixture of mind-altering drug use, along with investigation of topics such as UFOs and extraterrestrials.

The Friendship Between Wilson and Leary

Wilson first meets Timothy Leary and interviews him when Wilson is a journalist. Wilson is fascinated with the topics that Leary discusses, including mind-altering drugs and changing and improving human consciousness. In fact, the book develops as a classical buddy-type story, with little description of Wilson's wife Arlen and their children. Wilson has a pleasant interaction with Leary and does not take this relationship too seriously until he feels that Leary is persecuted. Wilson respects the daring of Leary to continue to promote mind-altering drug research, when this research becomes a political target. Wilson gets a vicarious thrill when Leary escapes prison, and when Leary is recaptured and continues to promote his theories of space migration and contacting extraterrestrials. Wilson and Leary's friendship undergoes a tough trial when Leary is accused of giving information to the FBI about the Weather Underground and other people in the radical movement. Wilson gives Leary the benefit of the doubt, and refuses to break with him, as many people do in left-wing politics.

Due to the fact that Wilson stands by Leary, they become much closer friends when Leary is released from prison. The source of Wilson's ideas is largely from Leary at this



point, and not from Aleister Crowley. True, Leary is also a student of Crowley, but he tends to interpret the ideas in a more optimistic way. Leary promotes the slogan SMI<2>LE and goes on tour, often accompanied by Wilson. Although Wilson and Leary's ideas are fundamentally irrational, there is a real sense of optimism about them. This gives Wilson the strength to deal with the horrible murder of his daughter Luna.

Exploring the Human Psyche

Wilson writes a very ironic book, where he admits to not believing in many of the things he states. He calls this an agnostic viewpoint. This is contradicted by Wilson, with the help of Leary, when he gives a strong and forthright statement of his beliefs. What gives the book an added edge is that many of the things that Wilson does are dangerous and adventurous, although often absurd. For example, although many readers are against Wilson's demand for the right to experimental drug use, this practice is defended as a new adventure. There is a funny sense of adventure in the book, although in a certain sense, little happens because the book has an academic quality. At first the drug trips and occult characters described are alien and weird. Then Wilson explains that many of the entities discovered are part of human tradition for hundreds or thousands of years. Although the reader may refuse to believe what Wilson says, his historical explorations of human thought are interesting and fun. The little green man Mescalito, who seems so weird, is reinterpreted as a friendly Irish leprechaun bearing gifts of food. Later, the same Jungian archetype is also related to the pointy-eared character in the TV series Star Trek, Dr. Spock. Weirder, and harder to swallow are the esoteric theories of Aleister Crowley. However, even these wild and magical theories have a certain appeal. Who does not want to go to a fair and have his or her fortune told? The reader becomes interested in the Crowleyite magic as something that is entertaining, though that cannot be taken too seriously.



Style

Perspective

The perspective of the book is autobiographical. This works very well in giving a sense of credibility to the often unbelievable and incredible material of the book. Wilson is clear that he is not asking the reader to believe anything. His personal perspective is agnostic, though he deals with many ancient religious faiths, as well as Catholic Christianity. Wilson's perspective is one of cultural relativity. He does not aim for any absolute truths, but instead looks at events from as many cultural standpoints as possible.

Despite an attempt at an empirical scientific perspective, Wilson's book is quite shocking. Wilson with his collaborator Timothy Leary believes that mind-altering drug use can have very positive effects. Leary's theory is that mind-altering drugs are a necessary tool to enable people to change their desires and personalities. Leary first uses such drugs on prisoners in the Concord, Massachusetts prison. Leary insists that before he gives the prisoner the drugs, the prisoner agrees to a mind-altering objective. Otherwise, Leary admits that he would be liable to a charge of participating in experiments in brainwashing. Wilson is fully recruited to Leary's beliefs. After Leary is released from prison, Wilson and Leary's propaganda emphasis shifts to space migration. In part, they agree with standard space exploration as carried out by NASA astronauts. In fact, Wilson has a fascination with what he reports as mind altering states produced in astronauts while in space or on the moon. Wilson also is interested in magical and mental methods to achieve space migration, which are outside the realm of science.

Tone

On the one hand, Wilson tries to maintain a scientific tone to his investigations into drugs and supernatural phenomenon. On the other hand, the book also has the tone of a recruitment document for the theories of Aleister Crowley. While Wilson and Leary have their own independent theories on UFOs and extraterrestrial beings, much of their beliefs are based on Aleister Crowley. Wilson makes a clear effort to apologize to the critics of mind-altering drug use. He protests that he does not know if drug use will actually boost human intellectual abilities. After these reservations, Wilson goes on and pushes Leary's theory of eight levels of mental circuit, which is totally based on the theory of using mind-altering drugs to expand human consciousness.

Wilson is similarly apologetic on the matter of his study of Aleister Crowley. Wilson admits that Crowley has been characterized as a horrible person, and even that some of his ideas are neo-fascist. With that said, Wilson plunges into an intense study of the works of Crowley. Wilson's entire theory of using Tantric sexual practices to achieve higher consciousness comes directly from Crowley. Likewise, Wilson's obsession on



Sirius as a source of extraterrestrial communications comes from Crowley. Crowley was a leader of the OTO, and as such can be considered as a leader of the Illuminati. Therefore, in a sense, certain of Wilson's critics are right. The book is a recruiting document for Crowley, the OTO and the Illuminati. This is balanced by an admission that the theories of the Illuminati are wild and in many cases absurd. For Wilson, there is no formal organization of the Illuminati, because it is merely a psychological approach towards enlightenment, using forms of secret knowledge involving drug use and weird sexual practices.

Structure

The book is divided into three parts, with the first part 180 pages long. The second part is 38 pages, while the third part is only 20 pages. Each of these parts is divided into many sub-divisions that are divided by subtitles. This report divides the book into ten sections that contain complete parts marked off by sub-titles. Wilson's biography is given. He is married, a father of four, and a writer. Much of the book is organized around Wilson's attraction to the person and ideas of Timothy Leary and to others such as Kerry Thornley.

Wilson further explores mind-altering drugs and topics such as extraterrestrials. He is kept going by his fascination with the theories of Timothy Leary and his drive to publish his book, *Illuminatus*. The first part ends with Leary being released from jail. There is an additional warning concerning the Mothman Prophecies by John Keel; research into extraterrestrials and the Illuminati could be dangerous.

Part II is a brief exploration of the theories of eight levels of mental circuits. Wilson speculates if human life can be dramatically extended and if people can even become immortal. In Part III, Wilson has his book published and meets with other success as a writer. Still, he begins to fear that he has gone too far in his studies of the occult. Wilson gets an ESP message that his son will die, but instead it is his 15-year old daughter Luna that is killed. Still, Wilson feels that he has done his best as a person to follow his calling.



Quotes

And, of course, anti-Illuminati diatribes of all schools somberly agree that "accidents have a way of happening to those who find out too much about the Bavarian Illuminati."
p. 5, Thinking about the unthinkable.

It seemed that, as a materialist, I had to accept one aspect of Huxley's book that Kirk had not noted: the strong implication that consciousness is chemical in nature and changes as its chemistry changes. That was provocative.
p. 21, The door to chapel perilous.

The Irish form of Mescalito is the leprechaun, noted for playfulness, trickery, and—oddly—for leaving behind gifts in the form of food, just as the alleged "UFO-naut" left Joe Simonton a gift of pancakes.
p. 28, The door to chapel perilous.

Catholics now call the BVM "Our Lady of Space." She is, of course, another archetype from Jung's collective unconscious, and was around long before Christianity. The Egyptians called her Nuit and connected her specifically with the star Sirius.
p. 42, The Queen of Space.

One of the first Discordian catmas was Kerry Thornley's Law of Five's, which holds that all incidents and events are directly connected to the number five, or to some multiple of five, or to some number related to five in one way or another, given enough ingenuity on the part of the interpreter.
p. 59, The Murder of Christ: a Re-run.

Crowley was actually saying that oral sex could be a method of meditation.
p. 68, Operation Mindfuck.

Phoenix was Crowley's secret name in the Ordo Templi Orientis.... The Phoenix was also an ancient constellation in which Southis, or Sirius, was the chief star...
p. 87, Sirius Rising (original source: Magical Revival by Kenneth Grant).

As recounted in Terra II, during July-August 1973, Dr. Leary had formed a four-person telepathy team in an attempt to contact Higher intelligences elsewhere in the galaxy.
p. 105, A message from Cosmic Central?

"You aren't supposed to just turn them on, go into bliss, and sink into a hedonistic silk-lined womb."
P. 117, A visit to CMF (Quoted from Timothy Leary).

Beelzebub's Tales to his Grandson, Gurdjieff's major prose work, concerns interstellar Higher Intelligences who seek to aid and advance evolution on Earth.
p. 146, Dope and divinity.



Grady McMurty—Caliph of the Ordo Templi Orientis—said, in effect, that the theory of higher dimensions made more sense to him than the extraterrestrial theory in terms of actual space ships entering our biosphere.

p. 162, Mystery Babalon.

From that time to this, Keel has regarded the "ultra-terrestrials" (his name for the entities behind the UFO phenomena) as malicious and vicious.

p. 178, The Mothman Prophecies.

Temple also demonstrates that the whole Egyptian calendar revolved around the movements of Sirius—the year began with the "dog days" when Sirius started to rise behind the sun (July 23 in our calendar; the date I had my first Sirius experience)...

p. 189, The Sirius Evidence.

On a recent lecture tour, I have spoken to literally hundreds of scientists about the SMI<2>LE scenario, and the majority of them agree that we can indeed have Space Migration, Intelligence<2> and Life Extension by the 1990s.

p. 218, The law of acceleration.

I wondered if I would get a flash of that sort, and immediately it told me that my son, Graham, would die soon.

p. 229, Via Dolorosa.

Tim Leary and I are both deeply involved with the L5 Society, a group of scientists who are determined to send out the first space-city (designed by Prof. Gerard O'Neill of Princeton) by 1990.

p.237, Via Dolorosa



Topics for Discussion

Why does Wilson decide to study the Illuminati? What secrets or knowledge does he hope to gain?

Discuss the use of mind-altering drugs. Generally, these substances, such as LSD, mescaline and peyote, are not legal for sales and distribution. Does the reader agree with Wilson that these drugs can have positive effects?

Discuss the friendship of Wilson and Timothy Leary. What attracts Wilson to Leary? What qualities of Leary make a strong impression on Wilson?

Discuss the idea of space migration. Timothy Leary shifts the emphasis of his message from drug research to space migration when he gets out of prison. Do Wilson and Leary promote space travel in the sense of NASA sending out rockets? Or do they promote a more esoteric and supernatural version of space travel and space migration?

Discuss the Illuminati. Does Wilson make a good case that the Illuminati exists? If the Illuminati does exist, are their intentions good or evil?

Discuss life extension and immortality. Both Timothy Leary and Wilson make a strong argument that it is possible to extend the human life span and even achieve immortality. Is this plausible? On what basis do they think it is possible to have cryogenic freezing of people and to revive them at a later date?

Discuss Luna Wilson and her death. There is considerable foreboding by Wilson that he is in danger because of his investigations of the Illuminati. Does Wilson view Luna's murder as a sort of revenge against Wilson for daring to investigate the secrets of the Illuminati?