

A Stitch in Time

"Lost time is never found again"

Benjamin Franklin, 1743

The "missing time" phenomenon seems to take several forms as presented in various accounts. First there is the missing time where a person suddenly realizes, usually while travelling; that they are at a location that could not be explained by the amount of time they believe has transpired. Then, there are the missing time accounts where the person who is missing time doesn't realize anything is amiss except that they are informed by someone that they have been inexplicably missing for a period of time. Third, there are the missing time cases where the person doesn't discover anything is out of order until some form of hypnotherapy is used in an attempt to reconcile some type of problem.

There are many examples of the first type of missing time. In one case a flight from Las Vegas to Dallas arrived about 45 minutes late. However, the passengers had no indication that they were behind schedule and believed themselves to be right on schedule. To their dismay, the passenger's watches were 45 minutes behind the real time of day as if time for them had stopped for 45 minutes of the flight where they made no progress toward their destination. Where was the flight for those missing 45 minutes? No one seems to know.

In another case a man left his house in the evening to drive to the store. It was a foggy evening and he was traveling a rural road. In just a few minutes he realized his surroundings were unfamiliar as he noted the lights from a gas station he had never seen before. He pulled in and asked the clerk when this new station had been built and discovered it had been around for years. Then he found out that he was hundreds of miles from where he believed himself to be. He had traveled only a few minutes from his house yet it took him the rest of the night to get home. In this case the man had traveled a great distance in what, for him, was an abnormally short amount of time.

In a similar situation a few years ago, two women were driving from northern California to a conference in Las Vegas. During the trip they were in contact by amateur radio with a well known radio talk show host with whom they were acquainted. As they talked, the radio show host had to excuse himself from their conversation for a few minutes; letting them know he would be right back and would give them a call on the same frequency. The women drove on for a few minutes and soon heard their friend calling over the radio. Answering him, they were questioned about where they had been for the last hour or so. At first this made no sense to them because they believed they had only talked to their friend just a few minutes earlier. Finally, they realized they were no longer on the same road they had been on when they had last talked to him. In fact, they had apparently already gone through a town that they believed was still ahead of them. They were where they should be, but had no idea how they had gotten there or where the time had gone.

In one of those cases where a person just seemingly disappeared for a while, a wife saw her husband enter the bathroom in the master bedroom of their house. After the husband had been in the bathroom for an abnormally long time, his wife called out to him out of concern. Then she

got angry when he didn't reply and went into the bathroom to look for him but he wasn't there. Thinking he was pulling a prank on her she searched the entire house and got her daughter and son to help search too. They called out for him, they looked in every room, in all closets, under beds, the garage and even in the backyard where the dogs would have given away his presence if he was there. His pickup was still in the driveway but he was nowhere to be found. Later, his wife saw him come walking out of the master bedroom into the hallway and acting surprised that she was angry with him for hiding out for so long. He claimed that he was in the bathroom for the usual amount of time, then came out, but never heard anyone calling out for him.

In a somewhat similar situation an older couple paid a visit to a convenience store. The husband got around with the aid of a wheel chair, so he chose to stay in the car while his wife went in to quickly buy something. Returning to the car, she was surprised to find that her husband was not in the car. She looked around and noted that his wheelchair was still in the car but he was nowhere within sight. Thinking that he had somehow gone into the store she went back in, looked around and finally enlisted the aid of the clerk to search for him. He was nowhere in the store so they went back out to check the car where he was still not to be found. For a few moments they stood near the trunk of the car looking up and down the street where there was still no sign of the husband. However, as they turned around the woman's husband was sitting in the seat of the car exactly where she had left him earlier. The husband insisted he hadn't gone anywhere and had not seen them looking for him.

One of the more famous cases where hypnotherapy was involved in recalling a missing time situation concerns Betty and Barney Hill. This couple didn't even immediately realize they had a period of missing time. It was only after seeking the aid of a hypnotherapist to try to get to the root of nightmares they were having did they discover they were missing time during a long road trip. Eventually they recalled under hypnosis that they were abducted by aliens. In fact, quite a number of missing time cases seem to have some form of alien connection with people recalling that they have been subjected to some type of physical examination or the implantation a device or object.

Because there are cases where aliens seem to be associated with missing time, it is often supposed that the aliens and their abduction process are the cause. However, perhaps the cause has been confused with the effect.

If we assume for the moment that there are aliens from other worlds that are visiting the earth, one has to consider the reason why they would do this. Do they need something that earth possesses? This seems unlikely. Earth is really not all that unusual in terms of available minerals. In fact, almost any mineral present on earth could be more readily found elsewhere on an uninhabited planet, asteroid or comet. To think an alien species finds it necessary to travel any great distance for what we have just does not add up. Yet, there is a recurring theme in reports of alien abduction relating to missing time.

The recurring theme is that the abductees report being physically examined, poked, prodded and at times have been left with alien implants to show for it after they are released. This seems odd, but why should it? Human beings, right here on earth, every day, do exactly the same thing to other species. We capture all varieties of animal life across the planet, subject them to various

physical examinations, tag them and sometimes attach tracking devices so we can track or recapture them again at a later time. We do this for a variety of reasons, but mostly it is because we are trying to learn something.

Recently I watched, "March of the Penguins" and was particularly fascinated by the use of the "Penguin Cam" that allowed researchers to learn how the penguins fed while under the ice. By attaching the camera to the back of wild penguins they learned that penguins feed in much the same way as birds of prey. However, with penguins, they lurk near the bottom while watching the area immediately under the ice. When they see their prey under the ice near the surface they rise quickly and snatch it before it even sees them coming. Prior to the use of the Penguin Cam scientists had believed the penguins were feeding on the bottom and were diving on their prey. Not surprisingly, the scientists had been wrong. As I watched all of this I imagined two penguins having a conversation about what was happening to them.

"Then this large alien with all these funny appendages at the end of its flippers attached something to my back. I don't know what it was, but then it let me go. It must have been some kind of tracking device though because the aliens caught me again later and removed whatever it was," Penguin Smith said with all seriousness.

"Smith! You been eating bad fish again? I declare. You're some jokester you are, but I'll tell you what. If you can prove these aliens exist under controlled conditions I'll give you a million sardines!" Penguin Randi exclaimed.

So, could it be that aliens are doing the same thing with humans to find out about something that intrigues them? If so, what could it be?

Indeed aliens have been associated with the missing time phenomena, but what if this is an effect rather than a cause? That is, the aliens are not causing missing time but they show up on the scene because they detect a time slip taking place. What if we humans are doing something amazingly unique in the universe and the aliens seriously want to know how we are doing it.

There are many reports of UFOs appearing to shift shapes or simply disappearing from sight. This plus the possible distance they might have traveled, if we assume interstellar craft, would indicate that alien technology involves dimensional travel. However, if they are accomplishing this with technology, they might have very serious interest in the possibility of doing these things without technology.

As humans, we have the technology to dive to great depths yet we continue to study creatures that dive to great depths without technology. We can also fly to great heights with our technology but continue to study creatures that don't need technology to do the same thing. It isn't too much of a stretch to consider we may be accidentally doing something without technology (i.e., time-slipping) that technology dependent aliens would really like to be able to achieve. If this is the case we might be a serious frustration to the aliens simply because we don't even know how we do this nor do we apparently have active control over it. As a result, the aliens may have had to resort to detecting time slips, intercepting those who are slipping, perform examinations, and implant tracking, telemetry or recording devices to try to understand

how we do what we do.

So is this what is really happening? It's hard to say. However, when good answers to questions just are not appearing sometimes the problem is that we are asking the wrong questions.