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# 312

June 24th, 60a.H

## WORDS of OUR BELOVED PROPHET

To listen to His words, do not forget to tune into [www.raelradio.net](http://www.raelradio.net). Were posted last week, a piece about Rael's Girls and one about Clitoraid, both including statements of our Beloved Prophet regarding these "hot" topicsJ

Also, we have published at the end of this newsletter, an article published on the online magazine "Gelf" that includes a conversation our Beloved Prophet had last week with the reporter. Enjoy!!!



Here after, a few more exclusive comments from our Beloved Prophet:

### ENOUGH WITH THE PETA ANIMAL CRUELTY FANATICS

Last week, nine AIDS activists from ACT UP Washington and ACT UP Golden Gate were arrested outside of the Animal Congress at the US Air arena in Prince Georges County, Maryland, while protesting the destruction of AIDS research facilities and other violent tactics which animal rights activists are using to obstruct AIDS research.

The Prophet **RAEL** made the following statement:

Aids activists protesting against the PETA(People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) actions to slow down scientific research by acting against the use of lab rats, are perfectly right: "Our lives are more important than a bunch of lab rats"...

It is also about time to counter-attack PETA for targeting celebrities using furs and other alleged "animal cruelties". Killing animals in a proper way is not cruelty. Making them suffer unnecessarily is cruelty and should be avoided.

The association for the protection of ducks and geese protests against any form of protection of the minks which are slaughtering in a yearly genocide, thousands of their babies. Who will pretend that the baby ducks and geese are not very cute and deserve to be protected by a reduction in mink population?

Also the association for the protection of cods is protesting against the action lead by Brigitte Bardot to stop the killing of baby seals, as seals are also responsible for a yearly genocide in the cod populations. Pretending that baby seals are cute is a form of animal racism, as a baby cod is also very cute according to baby cod mothers and fathers.

Also the association for the protection of baby krill (a small shrimp) is protesting the racist regulation that some people want to enforce to protect whales, which are responsible for a yearly genocide of billions of krill and their cute babies.

The association for the protection of salmon is also protesting against the PETA action to stop bear hunting in Canada to provide fur to the British royal guards. Bears are responsible for a yearly genocide of salmon.

If PETA wants to protect the lab rats which are necessary for scientific research, why doesn't it also promote cat slaughtering? The association for the protection of mice and birds, protests against PETA's racist action to protect only lab rats and do nothing to protect house mice and birds which are slaughtered with the highest cruelty possible, by cats. For those who have never witnessed a cat killing a mouse, it first plays for hours with its victim, covered in blood and suffering extreme pain, then at the end it may or may not eat it. That's real animal cruelty. What is the PETA doing against that? The association against cruelty against mice and birds should ask for PETA to promote cat slaughtering before asking for the protection of lab rats.

Finally the association for the protection of wild grass is protesting the PETA actions to make deer hunting illegal. Every year a real genocide of grass is made by deer that devastate the young grass population. Protect the grass, hunt the deers, are shouting all pieces of grass...

So these animal rights activists should focus on one thing only, that no animal cruelty takes place, and not focus on the necessary killing, with the minimum possible suffering, of animals creating suffering to other species.

Love Rael

## **Will there be another Helen Thomas to challenge religious minority persecution?**

For almost five decades, Helen Thomas has been a White House reporter covering America's leaders with a pleasant dose of skepticism. She published a book last week called "Watchdogs of Democracy" where she focuses her attention on her fellow reporters accusing them of becoming "complacent, complicit and gullible" and also mainly "afraid of being considered "unpatriotic or un-American". She also said that when it really mattered - when, in her opinion, the media could have perhaps prevented the invasion of Iraq - the press failed to do its public service by not challenging the association between Iraq and 9/11 that was so obviously wrong.

The Prophet Rael made the following comment regarding the fear of the journalists:

And the same thing applies also to journalists covering the religious minorities called "cults" or "sects" ...especially in France. No journalist wants to challenge the official listing in France of all Religious minorities as dangerous "sects"... by a well-maintained fear of losing their job by being accused of being a member of those they would defend. And the infamous list of "dangerous cults" made by the French government without any

specialist includes all religious minorities. There isn't any religious minority listed as not dangerous; they are all dangerous, for the only reason that they think differently. Scientology members, Jehovah witnesses or Raelians, they are all persecuted officially, and no journalists dare to challenge it while being officially proud to live in the country where Human Rights were born ...Will there be a journalist courageous enough, like Helen Thomas, to challenge this official persecution?

## Iraq Body Count: War dead figures

The number of civilians reported to have been killed during the Iraq war and subsequent military presence is being recorded by the campaign group Iraq Body Count. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 it put the total number of civilian dead at 36,149 to 40,548 and the number of police dead at 2,145.

The figures include not only deaths caused by military action, but also those it considers a "direct result" of Iraq's breakdown in law and order. As the counting relies mainly on deaths reported by the media, it suggests that these figures are an underestimate as "many if not most civilian casualties will go unreported".

Another study, published by the Lancet medical journal in October 2004, suggested that poor planning, air strikes by coalition forces and a "climate of violence" had led to more than 100,000 extra deaths in Iraq.

The Prophet **RAEL** made the following comments:

Here is finally the truth after the lies talking about "surgical" bombings and "war on terror"....these dead people are just innocent civilians, and if a very small percentage of them were fighters, they were not "insurgents" or "terrorists" but freedom fighters opposing the illegal occupation of their country. We must remember that the Nazis also called the French freedom fighters "terrorists"...

## About Sexual Mutilation

The Prophet Rael has expressed today his support to the women who have decided to fight another terrible sexual mutilation in Cameroon: "breast ironing".

This involves pounding and massaging the developing breasts of young girls with hot objects to try to make them disappear. Statistics show that 26% of Cameroonian girls at puberty undergo it, as many mothers believe it protects their daughters from the sexual advances of boys and men who think children are ripe for sex once their breasts begin to grow. Some other women have also been ironing their own breasts as a girl so that they would not be forced into early marriage as is the practice in villages!!

Breast ironing will now be punished by three years in jail in Cameroon.



Regarding Clitoraid, we are pleased to announce that the site is also up and running now in French and Korean on top of the English version. Last week, in one single day, we received more than 4000 visitorsJ and hundreds of blogs are referring to us as our motto "Adopt a clitoris" doesn't leave people untouchedJ. We have received news of several activities in the regions. We should have more updates next week.... Meanwhile here is a



picture representing an idea for raising funds organized by Raelians from Lyon, France, who sold almond paste candies.... In the shape of a clitoris J

## About our celebrities J

### L'ACTUALITE DE LA QUINZAINE

#### SUISSE

#### L'auteur de « Poison blanc » en conférence à Genève

L'auteur de « Poison Blanc », le Congolais Uriël Nawej, tiendra une importante conférence, le 23 juin, à Genève, à la demande de la diaspora africaine en Suisse. Votre bimensuel qui suit de très près cette manifestation a demandé à l'une des organisatrices les raisons de ce début d'éveil des consciences ?

**AFRIQUEÉDUCATION :** La conférence de l'écrivain Uriël Nawej, que vous organisez, rentre-t-elle dans le cadre des manifestations de la première journée de reconnaissance de la traite négrière comme crime contre l'humanité en France ?

**Lili-Peace Tschopp :** Non, c'est une coïncidence pour ce qui concerne la date du 10 mai. L'info sur les manifestations de la première journée de reconnaissance de la traite négrière organisées en France, n'a pas eu beaucoup d'écho en Suisse. Nous l'avons d'ailleurs appris par votre magazine. Cela dit, nous sommes bien entendu enchantés par cette reconnaissance implicite de l'esclavage par la France. Mais si dans le fond, cette reconnaissance reste une bonne idée, n'oublions pas que la France et d'autres pays esclavagistes, continuent de piller notre

**Lili-Peace Tschopp.**



**AFRIQUE !  
REVEILLE-TOI !  
Au nom de tes ancêtres**

La seule vraie décolonisation spirituelle possible pour les Noirs chrétiens : Se débattre

**CONFÉRENCE  
VENDREDI 23 JUIN à 20h  
Hôtel Epsom, Richemont 18  
1202 GENEVE**

www.nlongi.be

beau continent. Réveillons-nous et révoitons-nous pacifiquement en expulsant ces pilliers qui nous maintiennent artificiellement dans la misère.

#### Quel est le thème de cette conférence ?

Nous avons choisi comme thème de cette conférence, « Afrique, réveille-toi ! Au nom de tes ancêtres... »

**Uriël Nawej est l'un des leaders de la décolonisation spirituelle de l'Afrique du troisième millénaire. Est-ce pour cette raison que vous l'invitez ?** Tout à fait. Il est l'un des premiers leaders du 3<sup>e</sup> millénaire pour la décolonisation de l'Afrique et c'est pour cela que nous l'invitions.

#### Qu'attendez-vous de cette manifestation ?

Du succès. Pour ce qui concerne notre groupe de diaspora africaine en Suisse, la lutte pacifique continue pour libérer complètement l'Afrique sur TOUS les plans : spirituel, culturel (Francophonie) et politique. En effet, si on veut asservir un peuple que l'on veut exploiter, on l'impose par la force des armes, ses croyances spirituelles et culturelles. C'est ce qu'ont fait les esclavagistes et le Vatican. Et, en outre, l'obligation de parler la langue du colonisateur, fait croire aux Africains que leurs ancêtres furent les Gaulois... Les esclavagistes ont

détruit tout ce qui avait un rapport avec notre propre culture. Actuellement, la Francophonie et la Françatrique devraient être abandonnées le plus vite possible, si l'on veut retrouver nos vraies racines africaines, avec nos croyances en des dieux plus humains avec lesquels nos ancêtres communiquaient. Nous avons en Afrique, toutes les matières premières nécessaires à notre développement, avec les capacités intellectuelles de nos ingénieurs et de nos scientifiques, nous pourrions être complètement autonomes et gérer nous-mêmes nos richesses de telle sorte que le continent en profite pleinement. Pour cela, nous devons arrêter de nous entretenir dans des guerres fratricides et des querelles intestines pour avoir du pouvoir personnel, ce qui fait le jeu des ex-colonisateurs-pilleurs qui nous divisent pour mieux régner chez nous. Ne perdons pas de vue ce que vient de dire **Nicolas Sarkozy** (ministre français de l'Intérieur et candidat déclaré à la présidentielle de mai 2007, ndr) : « La France n'a pas économiquement besoin de l'Afrique... » ? Et pourtant, elle envoie ses militaires sur place pour se maintenir au pouvoir à travers ses marionnettes qu'elle a mises en place. Pour ce qui concerne l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, vous avez raison de l'appeler la « Maison des Morts ». Cette structure est bien l'un des instruments dont se sert la France pour continuer à nous asservir et à nous maintenir sous sa totale influence. L'analyse que vous en faites dans votre magazine est très pertinente. C'est pour toutes ces raisons que nous soutenons le livre « Poison blanc » ainsi que son auteur **Uriël Nawej Le Nlongi** du Congo qui essaie de réveiller son continent, avec son potentiel de développement et pourquoi pas sa propre monnaie ? Nous en sommes capables, il ne tient qu'à nous d'œuvrer dans ce sens dans l'Amour et la Paix dans le cœur et bien entendu sans violence. ■

**Propos recueillis à Genève par  
Kofi Sasse**

While Lili-Peace was portrayed on a full page of the magazine "Africa Education" in preparation for the arrival of Uriel for a conference in Geneva, Allan Tschopp, who is an active Raelian and a respected member of his Vales community, was mentioned along with his photograph during his presence at the Forum of the 100 – a demonstration organized by the magazine Hebdo - which united 600 well-known people at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland.



### In Colombia the musical group *Ane Swing* diffuse the messages of the Elohim By Raymundo Garcia R

The group *Ane Swing*, made up of eight musicians - four of which are Raelian, (*Viviano Torres - singer, Raymond Garcia, Franklin Montano, Rudesindo Pacheco*), as well as three other groups, had the opportunity to express indigenous culture from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> of June at the Jorge Eliecer Gaitan Municipal Theatre in Bogota, Colombia, with a capacity of 5,000 people.

Over three consecutive evenings, at the end of each concert, when it was time to thank the organizers of the event, Viviano Torres took advantage of this occasion to "thank the Elohim, creators of humanity" in front of an audience of approximately 3,500 people.

Our Guide Alan Rojas was present and accompanied by Sandra, Leonel and Sigifredo. He guided us so that we diffused the messages the best way possible. He took photographs of "Media Torta" another important place in Bogota for this type of spectacle, where the group also performed on Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup>.

The musical culture of the inhabitants of *Palenque de San Basilio*, (Mahates, Bolivia about one hour from Cartagena), is perhaps one that best demonstrates the musical influence of African slaves who arrived on our territory during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

UNESCO recognized *Palenque de San Basilio* as an Oral and Spiritual Heritage of humanity. This corner of Africa in Colombia was the first independent territory founded by former slaves. Their traditions





are preserved. The *Palenquero* language is different from Spanish and has certain elements of African communities such as Bantu, Kikongo and Kimbundu, as well as Portuguese and Spanish.

## Rebecca and her group Adora in Cannes, France

Rebecca our beautiful English artist performed in front of Hugh Hefner in Cannes a few days ago.

Here is what she said:

"I spoke with him (Hugh Hefner) about Rael, and he said he was very fond of Him !!

We also met : The Rock, Ivana Trump, Pierre Cardin

Our photos have been in OK magazine, and The Daily Star, and an article is about to come out in The Daily Mirror (all national papers). In the latter I got to speak about my philosophy !!!!!!"

With Love

Rebecca xxxx



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# GAY PRIDES

## In Miami, Florida

*By Andre, Miami guide*

It is with great pleasure that the Florida team took part in this activity in the Gay community last Sunday. Nearly 1,700 Fatwa cards were distributed to mostly receptive individuals who were not aware of the decision taken by the Ayatollah in Iran. The beautiful Raelian Angels dressed in pink and white were so harmonious and lovely that we had no difficulty to get noticed by the crowd for a little more than three hours. We just hope that the Gay community will respond like most of them promised during the event. We were once again moving the idea of Our Beloved Prophet with all the love he cultivates between us. Bravo again to the wonderful team of Florida.



## In Louisville, Kentucky

*By Carla, level 3*

Our [Rael.org](http://Rael.org) / [Raeliangay.org](http://Raeliangay.org) booth was well received on Saturday June 17th at the Kentuckiana Pride Festival in Louisville. Over 650 pieces of contact information and diffusion material was gobbled up by those who had not heard of us before ! but who were drawn to our message of love love LOVE and LOVE!



The total attendance was estimated at over 4,000 this year :)

One playful note :) .... our booth was all in pink and white tulle with lots of playful touches ~ This really was in sharp contrast to the traditional colors and flat 'blah blah' tables many had set up ... We received so many comments from people saying they were drawn to it :) that it was so feminine and our message so beautiful !

I have already received a few contacts from some of the people who picked up info at the booth, but did not stop long enough to talk ... shy?? eh eh :)

## In Belgium

*By Cathy Cambresy*

Brussels, 1:30pm: There were ten of us in the center of Brussels for this gay and merry afternoon... a small group indeed, but nevertheless, thanks to the original tool of the day we had a rather substantial number of "contacts" as we distributed nearly 1,400 Fatwa Cards of Love.

The reception was rather warm - the few people with whom we could converse, away from the background noise, expressed agreement with us as soon as we could give them some explanation.

Francis testifies: The most beautiful thing that I have heard in diffusion so far...

After having remained for 45 minutes on the same corner, I was pleased to see three young boys return and wait nicely for me to finish the few words I had begun speaking. Then one of the three showed me the card that I had given him a little earlier and asked me politely: "can you please give me some more, we're part of a group of about 25 boys and we want to bring some to each one and even more than one if you agree".

I do not need to say how much I agreed, of course, but what I would like to report to you the most is what his parting words were as he left with his big pack of cards: *"Thank goodness you are here!"*

Isn't that a beautiful reward?

Later, a part of our group found itself in the Gay village. The atmosphere in this village was very warm, sometimes we could feel the love which radiated from the many people present, and we continued our distribution there. Many people had already heard about the Ayatollah Al-Sistani and his Fatwa against homosexual people, and found our action magnificent. Entire groups asked us for the cards, sometimes by the tens or twenties.



A man who had just received a card from Marie-Madeleine, who was vibrating with joy amongst the crowd, tenderly kissed all of us as we passed in front of him, his eyes shone with happiness. It was so good. ;-) Like a bath of love.

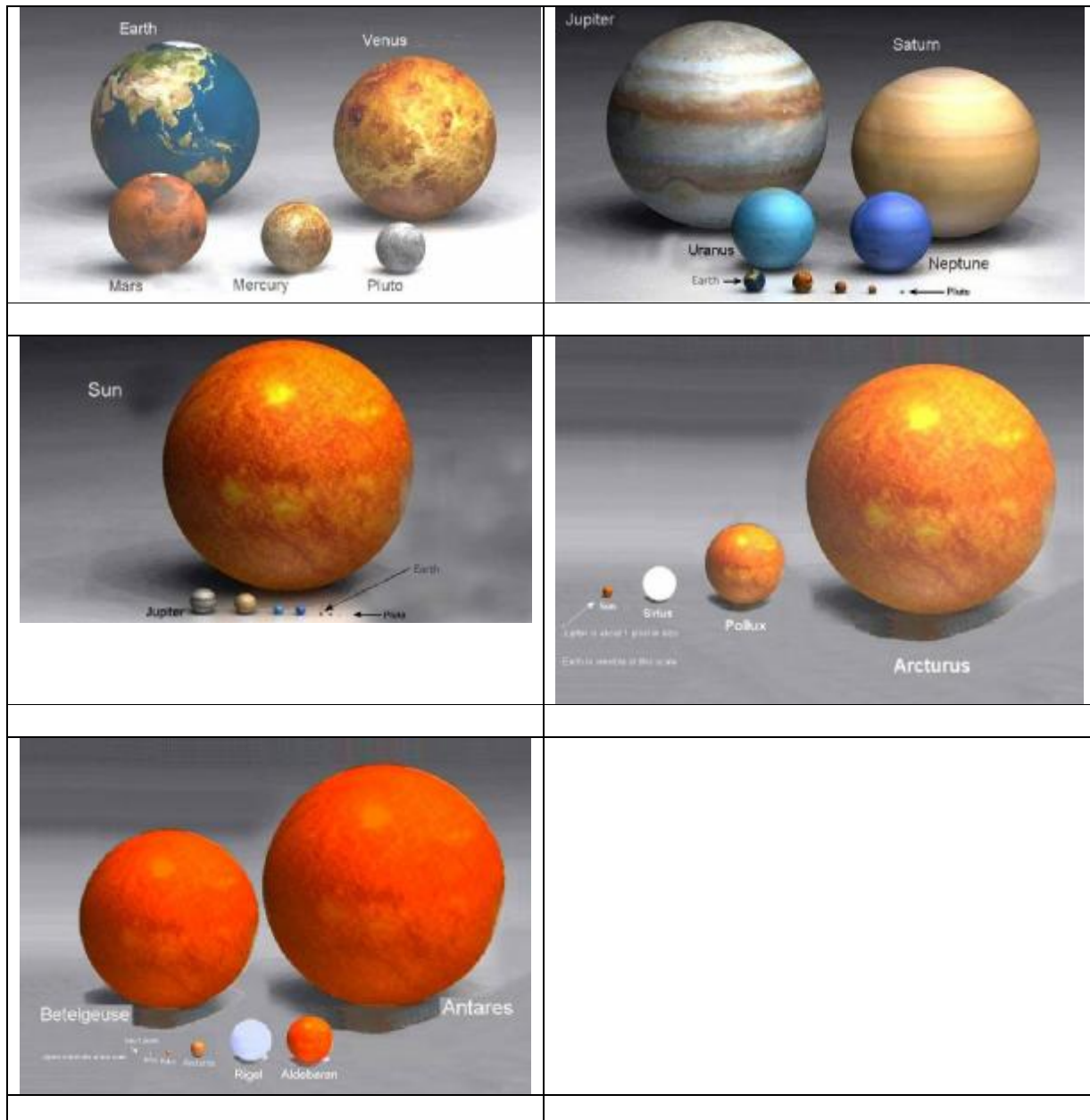
It's amusing and pleasant to see the welcome that we receive each year from the Gay community during the gay-pride event, whereas the organizations that are supposed to



be defending the rights of sexual minorities in Belgium prevent us from participating and using a float in the procession each year. Undoubtedly they fear the success which we could achieve. :-))))

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## How small are we?



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## Article of the Week

[http://www.gelfmagazine.com/mt/archives/an\\_interview\\_with\\_ral.html](http://www.gelfmagazine.com/mt/archives/an_interview_with_ral.html)

### An Interview With Raël

The prophet of Raëlianism talks to Gelf about spreading the word about peace, love, and building an embassy for extra-terrestrials. He also talks about Scientology and the baby that was supposedly cloned by Raëlians.

by David Goldenberg on June 16 at 11:50 AM

What sort of religion looks forward to serving as the basis for a reality-TV show? It's the same one that has raised \$10 million to build an embassy for aliens, its leader claims. He adds that simply joining up will make you better-looking. And it's okay with Raël, the 59-year old French prophet formerly known as Claude Vorilhon, if you call his organization a cult, so long as you acknowledge that it's not a secret organization that has to be infiltrated to be understood. And please, he asks, don't lump the Raëlian movement in with other religions that demand homicidal and suicidal devotion to their gods.

Rael

Courtesy Rael.org

Raël, the prophet of the Elohim

That's because Raëlians are atheists, sort of. They believe people were intelligently designed, but by super-intelligent extraterrestrials called the Elohim rather than God. Raël claims he's met with the Elohim twice, once when they visited him in late 1973 to explain that they created people as well as all of the major religions, and again two years later when they took him via spaceship to their planet, where he met Jesus, Buddha, Moses, and Muhammad and learned that the key to happiness was a philosophy based on a pursuit of pleasure and knowledge. The Elohim also charged him with the construction of an embassy so that they could return to Earth as a neutral party.

For the last 30 years, Raël has devoted himself to achieving the goals of pleasure, knowledge, and an Elohim embassy by spreading the word about his new religion. His organization now claims to have about 65,000 members spanning the globe, though a more conservative count puts it at 40,000 (Adherents.com). As you might expect, his unorthodox style and penchant for grand proclamations about aliens have often made him the target of mockery. The claims—which he now distances himself from—that Raëlians had created the first human clones in 2002 and would use the technology to bring about immortality, brought about an onslaught of criticism and publicity. "A media analyst said the Raëlian movement got about \$500 million worth of media coverage across the world and I think it is true, and it is not finished," he told the AP. "This event saved me 20 years of work."

Gelf caught up with Raël over the phone to ask him how the quest to publicize his religion is going, and to find out what happened to the baby that was supposedly cloned three-and-a-half years ago. From his office in Quebec, Raël spoke with a heavy French accent about other minor religions (like Scientology), the importance of having a good celebrity spokesman, and what he thinks of the media coverage of Raëlianism. Also, we discussed the merits of NASCAR vs. Formula One.

The following interview has been edited for clarity.

Gelf Magazine: How do you go about finding new members?

Raël: Most of our new members come through the internet. That's the best thing we have.

GM: How do you reach them through the internet?

Raël: I don't know if you checked our website—

GM: I did.

Raël: It's well-done and it's beautiful, and anytime people around the world in the media talk about me, then people check our website and we can clearly see that the website is visited with a big peak when we have something in the media.

GM: How many people on average come to your website every day?

Raël: It's difficult to say. Worldwide—you have seen we are in 28 different languages—but worldwide, we talk about something between seven thousand and ten thousand people a day. With a big peak when there is a TV or something or big media [about the group], then we have a peak of sometimes up to one million people. But on average, it's 7,500 or something like that.

GM: Why is it important for you to try to convert people to become Raëlian?

Raël: I must say we don't try to convert people. We are not like the Christians or those type of people who try to convert people to their religion. We try to inform them about what I call—especially in the US right now, it's a very, very hot subject—a third way to explain our origin. You know, before, there was the explanation of a supernatural God creating life, then there was evolution and Darwinism, and then now some people are trying to bring back the Bible in schools, you know, with the intelligent-design thing. What we bring is an atheist intelligent design, a godless intelligent design, and that's the third way. My new book, *Intelligent Design* (available as a free download), is selling very well because people want to find the third way. There are not only two solutions. We bring a third way.

GM: Are you happy with how many people are currently Raëlians?

Raël: Very happy. It's very good. And very important, as I said before, that people who join us are not believers, they are understanders. I mean, it's not an act of belief, of faith. We have many universitarian people who study science, mostly. People who are not educated, they are most easily joining what I call primitive religions where you have to believe, and you must not try to understand. It's a sin for them.

Rael

Courtesy Rael.org

The planned Elohim embassy

GM: Do you worry that the Elohim are disappointed that you haven't yet gotten enough money together to create an embassy?

Raël: No, because everything is going as planned. As you know, everything is going on time. As you know, the deadline to build the embassy for the Elohim is 2035, so we still have plenty of time. That's almost 30 more years. I'm very optimistic.



GM: Do you ever feel like you're competing against other smaller religions or cults or things like that for members?

Raël: No, we have no competition. We are the only one in this style in the world. If we were God-believers and spreading a new way of thinking about God, then the competition is huge, but as you know, we don't believe in God, we don't believe in souls—so we are quite unique.

GM: Other religions, like Scientology, believe that there is a soul that keeps on going and going—

Raël: Yeah, but they believe in God also—you saw Tom Cruise recently with the temple, and there was Jesus's image and that sort of thing. So they believe in God and so they are very different.

GM: What do you think about Scientology as a religion?

Raël: I respect it. We promote atheism, so we are against any belief in God, but still we have huge respect for every belief. I think if people believe in anything they want, I am on their side to protect them. We have many friends who are Scientologists, and I think it's good to fight to make everybody respect them. You know, they suffer a lot of discrimination in France, and that's terrible. So we don't agree with their philosophy—we don't agree with the Jehovah's Witnesses either, of course—we are for the respect of the Jehovah's Witnesses, too. Freedom of belief, freedom of religion is very important, and I hope these people fight for our freedom to believe in what we believe.

GM: One of the things that Scientology seems to have done very well is that they have a lot of famous members—you were mentioning Tom Cruise before. Does that ever make you guys jealous that they have all of these celebrities?

Raël: (laughing) I hope one day Tom Cruise will join the Raëlian movement. Right now, we have some celebrities, but not as big as Tom Cruise or John Travolta—the Scientology stars. But we have, for instance, Glenn Carter was a star in Jesus Christ, Superstar movie—he's the head of the Raëlian movement in UK, so we have some good people. We have Nayah in France, who was representing France in the Eurovision song contest, so we have some good people. But of course we don't have a star of the Tom Cruise-caliber. I hope one day we will.

GM: Why do you hope you will?

Raël: Because we are not enough known by the American public yet. But I can give you a scoop—we will have in January, you will be the first to know, in January we will have a reality show on a main American TV channel called The Raëlian, and it's a reality-TV show about us, and that will make us, I think, mainstream.

GM: Is that—

Raël: I cannot tell you more about that. I'm sorry. It's made in Hollywood.

GM: And have you been down there to work on it yet?

Raël: Yes. I was in California recently to sign the contracts and everything is signed so it's signed. It's done.

GM: Are you worried that it will make you guys look, uh, silly?

Raël: No, because we did it with wonderful people. I have a friend in Hollywood who is a top-level attorney and we make a contract and I am co-producer so I have control over what will be in the show. And that's great. I know the danger of reality shows.

GM: Can you tell me what sort of competition is going to be going on?

Raël: I would like it to be an antidote to—what's his name, the guy who says, "You are fired"?

GM: Donald Trump?

Raël: Yes, because it's terrible we are living in a time of money, money, money becoming God, and so I would like to do some contests, and say at the end, "You are enlightened." Instead of being fired. To bring the level of consciousness of people higher and not to talk about money, money, money.

GM: Before we were talking about celebrities. I noticed [on your website] you were also courting some celebrities like Robbie Williams and maybe even Dan Aykroyd. You were saying that one of the reasons to have celebrities as Raelians is that more people would find out about it.

Raël: Usually, when a celebrity joins a religion or group, that's not new, it has always been like that. You remember the Beatles? [Editor's note: The Beatles practiced transcendental meditation with Maharishi Mahesh Yogi.] It was the same thing. You create a good interest to what they believe from the public, and that's good.

GM: One thing that Scientology just started doing is sponsoring a racecar in NASCAR—

Raël: Yes, I just saw that.

GM: What's your reaction to that?

Raël: That's great! It's good to see spirituality, even if we don't believe in God, humanity needs this spirituality. You know the suicide rate in Japan, for example is skyrocketing, it's becoming a national problem and I'm sure it will follow in every other country, and that's because we lack spirituality. And it's not because you don't have god or soul that you don't have spirituality, but to see sport—you know I was a racecar driver myself a few years ago—and so I like to bring spirituality in the middle of sport, and that's very good.

GM: I saw that you guys sponsor an online racing team at Live For Speed.

Raël: You've played Live For Speed?

GM: No, I have not played yet. I just saw it mentioned on your website.

Raël: Yes, we have our own team. It's not sponsored, it's our own team. Some members who love racing cars and me. You know, I was a pro racer before and I quit racecar driving five years ago. But I still race on Live For Speed with our friends and I enjoy it.

Rael on the track

Courtesy Rael.org

Rael out on the track

GM: How often do you race?

Raël: Almost every day. As soon as I have free time, I jump on my computer and Live For Speed is a very realistic simulation. It's really like the real thing. If you try, you will see that the secret is to have good settings, and that it's a little advantage for a real driver like me to be able to make a good setup for your car. If you drive one day, I will give you my setup.

GM: Thanks. Has that been a good recruitment tool?

Raël: No, it's not made for that. It's for fun. We have pleasure, but some people see our team and check the website. One more time, it's always the website.

GM: I saw in your newsletter called Contact, where it was sort of advising fellow Raëlians how to convince people to come to your site to check out your car...

Raël: Exactly. Yes. We use every possible tool to create interest in the public. Of course. Just to visit the website so they can download for free my books and then they make their opinion by themselves. That there's a great time we are living now.

GM: And have you guys ever considered also sponsoring a racecar like the scientologists are doing?

Raël: It's maybe possible. Yes, because I still love racing. I watch Formula One on TV and I never miss one race so I'm still a car enthusiast and I am thinking about it for one day. It's possible.

[Editor's note: See the bottom of the interview for more of Raël's thoughts on NASCAR and Formula One racing.]

GM: As a former journalist, how do you think the journalism community has covered your religion?

Raël: We cannot generalize. As you know, you have bad journalists and good journalists, so bad journalists, usually they work for tabloids. But the professional journalists, we have a good experience. But as you know, real professional journalists are very few. So most of the people, they don't do their jobs, they just read other newspapers and they replicate what they saw in others, they replicate the prejudices and the easy way to describe us because they don't want to look at the real thing. But sometimes we have good journalists.

GM: You once commented that you think it's very bad that whenever there's a cult-related suicide or something bad that happens as part of one of these smaller religions, journalists call you for comment.

Raël: Yeah, that's incredible. I mean, I always ask them, "Why don't you call the Dalai Lama or the Pope?" They always target the minorities. By the way, you have a very majority religious group like the Muslims who put a lot of bombs and kill a lot of people. And you have a lot of nonviolent minorities, so to associate automatically when there is something bad with minorities, it's terrible. But it's easy to target the minorities, of course, that's the easy way. I don't know if you've read my book, but when you know about our philosophy—how can you teach happiness and pleasure and the beauty of life and enjoying cars and sport and at the same time promote suicide? It's completely stupid. Most of the people who love suicide or suicide bombings or these kind of things, they believe that they are in Heaven after and that they will do something for God. But we don't believe in God, so we have nobody to please by doing anything like that.



GM: Did you read the articles by the reporters from Canada's Sun Media who infiltrated one of your camps?

Raël: Yeah. That's so stupid—

GM: Why is that stupid?

Raël: These people, they are invited. It's open-door. You can come enjoy the seminar. And many times we have the journalists who come, they enjoy the seminar, and then they write an article—it's happened in many countries—saying "we infiltrated." You can infiltrate the CIA or the FBI if you can, but not the Raëlian movement. It's completely open. You are free to come any time and see what happens. So, infiltrating is so funny.

GM: And what about the things they said? Like how everyone has to give 10 percent of their earnings to you.

Raël: That's in every religion and it's not to me. That's a misrepresentation. It's the membership fee that members are willing to pay to the religion, the Raëlian movement. But it's not to me.

GM: And how much money has the Raëlian movement made off of these tithings?

Raël: What do you mean?

GM: For instance, I assume you're saving money, right?

Raël: Oh, for the embassy, of course. Almost \$10 million.

GM: And are you investing that into anything in particular?

Raël: Of course, we have specialists taking care of this money and making sure that it's properly invested.

GM: But you don't have any specific businesses that you're investing in?

Raël: No. no. no. no. no.

GM: What about Clonaid?

Raël: Clonaid is a company which belongs to Dr. Brigitte Boisselier, who is one of our members, as you know. But it's a private company and we have absolutely no say or no interest in this company, but we support human cloning.

GM: What would you say to people who say that your claim—or at least their claim—to have cloned a baby was a cynical attempt to get publicity?

Raël: Thank you for noticing that it's their claim, because we are not involved. The press conference which Dr. Boisselier gave in Miami when the baby Eve announcement was made, we were not even present. Nobody was representing the Raëlian movement—

GM: Isn't she a bishop in the Raëlian movement?

Raël: Yes, but you know every member of our organization has a job and a family and a normal life. We don't have a community, we don't separate people from the society like some religions do. People lead their normal lives, so they all have companies and it happens that Dr. Boisselier is a specialist in this field and she wanted to do something in human cloning. So I said, "Yes, that's great. Do it." And she created her own company—which name is not Clonaid, by the way, she just took the name of the project, like in NASA you have Apollo, but she has a company which has another name—and I have no reason to doubt that she did it. I trust her.

GM: Has she shown you any evidence?

Raël: No. I am like everybody. I can't wait to see the proof, but I have no reason to doubt what she did. When you look at the history of Dr. Boisselier, I don't think the Food and Drug Administration would take it lightly so they raided a laboratory she had in America then she published a report. I saw this fusion machine and it was tested by scientists in the UK and they say the machine is great. And I know some scientists working with her, so there is a team, and I have no reason to doubt it.

But, I am like you. I can't wait to see the proof. But she asked me, when the baby Eve was cloned, "I have to choose now between my respectability, because people will say I did not do it, or the private life of the baby." And I said, "Choose the private life of the baby." That's my advice. Because that's more important than your respectability. With time, the proof will come, but first of all, protect these children from becoming monsters and media things and I think she listened to me. That's why she's missing the way to have proof. But I'm sure it's coming. She says it's coming.

Rael

Courtesy Rael.org

Rael beside a reproduction of the UFO he says took him away

GM: In an article I read by Susan Palmer—

Raël: Yes, she's a friend of mine.

GM: She said that you sometimes "love bombed" visiting journalists with beautiful women. That you surround them with beautiful women.

Raël: Yes, that's true. And I love beautiful women. Who doesn't? I don't think there is anything wrong with that. And if I was gay, I would be surrounded by beautiful boys, too. I have no problem with that. I love beauty and I love art and I love inner and outer beauty and that's great.

GM: But why send all of these beautiful women to meet the journalists?

Raël: Not only to meet journalists. I am with beautiful women all the time. When the journalists come, I don't have to change my lifestyle.

GM: So why does every Raëlian seem to be so good-looking?

Raël: It's inner beauty. Because, honestly, when they join us, they are not as beautiful as they become after. It's because when you practice regular meditation, the exercises I teach, you find the inner peace and harmony and then you become more beautiful outside. The real beauty comes from inside.

GM: You would say that becoming a Raëlian would make one better-looking?

Raël: Of course, because our teaching is very similar to the Buddhism. I have great respect for the Buddhists. What they say is very, very similar to us, to the great surprise of Larry King, I don't know if you remember that, but the Dalai Lama told him they don't believe in God either. I think the religion that is closest to us is Buddhism.

GM: But why is this religion so sensual?

Raël: Because sensuality is the pleasure of life and pleasure creates intelligence. If you look at the life of all the geniuses and Raëlian people in the history of humanity, they always had a beautiful sexual life, a rich sexual life, a diversity. It's connected with creativity. When you don't enjoy life, then you become like George Bush.

GM: Susan Palmer also said that any time the Raëlians are in the press, that the article will get read out loud at meetings.

Raël: Not at meetings, but for every Raëlian, it's important to see how the media treat us.

GM: Even if it's bad press?

Raël: We prefer good publicity. We have attorneys. We are watching carefully. We prosecute and usually we win. Everywhere in the world they have to respect us. Spreading prejudices is hatred.

But every time we have bad press, the result is positive. People go to the website. People aren't stupid. They go to the source. Every time we have bad press, we get new members. They know journalists aren't great. The media are more and more in competition with the internet.

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GM: Who do you think is better: [Michael] Schumacher or [Kimi] Räikkönen?

Raël: I prefer Räikkönen. I don't like Schumacher because I never liked this man. He's a good driver, but I don't like the personality of the man.

GM: So you think Räikkönen has a good personality?

Raël: For me, Räikkönen is wonderful and he's the best driver, but sadly, he doesn't have the car this year to do it. Do you like racecars?

GM: Very much so.

Raël: Good to hear. Räikkönen's engine is giving him lots of problems.

GM: You used to run a car-racing magazine called Auto Pop, right?

Raël: A long time ago, yes. And then I raced many cars. I even raced in the United States. I raced in Las Vegas, at Daytona, at many, many tracks, so I did many races in America. Where are you, in New York?

GM: I'm actually in San Francisco.

Raël: I raced in Laguna Seca. It's not very far from you.



GM: What do you think about the difference between F1 and NASCAR?

Raël: It's two completely different worlds. Jeff Gordon is a very good NASCAR driver and he tried the F1 and he couldn't believe it. I mean he was completely lost. As you may remember, the test he did, he said his eye balls were going outside of his head because these guys are breaking 5 gs. That means his body is five times his weight. 5 gs lateral when he turns and 4 gs in acceleration. So compared to that, a NASCAR car is a bicycle.

I love it, it's impressive, but you don't have g-force. So the cars are great, it's beautiful, it's a great show, but physically, it's a bicycle compared to Formula One. You know it when you see the athletes because these guys, the Formula One drivers are real athletes and they train hours and hours and sometimes after five or six laps they stop because they have neck pain. So it's unbelievable. I tried a Formula One car one day and after one lap my neck hurt. One lap. And the vibration...

I went in a TransAm, which is a very similar car to NASCAR and it's very impressive, but you don't have the vibration. In Formula One there are so many vibrations that sometimes you can not see the road because your head is vibrating. It's incredible.

I love to watch NASCAR sometimes. But it's less spectacular because it's long. It's two or three hours sometimes and I prefer short races where you have more show for the public.

GM: Do you like the new qualification system they're using in F1?

Raël: You really know your racing. You should really try Live For Speed. It's easy to see me because my race name is RAE.LORG/RACING. If I see you, we can chat and I can give you my setting, because it seems like you really like cars.

GM: I'll have to check it out online.

Raël: You can download Live For Speed from the website in England and it's something like forty dollars. You just need a good wheel and pedal and here you are. It's really the real thing. You only miss the g-force. But it's much more comfortable.