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cloudy atmosphere would discourage astronomy, hence space travel. The same holds true of the other planets where such poor prospects limit they can be ignored.

In the next few paragraphs, we shall speak of Mars. It should be indicated that most of the remarks apply equally well to Venus.

Various people have suggested that an aliened race may have been visiting Earth from Mars or Venus at intervals from decades to years. Reports of objects in the sky seem to have been handed down through the generations. If this were true, a race of such knowledge and power would have established some form of direct contact. They could see that Earth's inhabitants would be helpless to do interplanetary travel, if afraid of mysterious diseases, they would at least try to communicate. It is hard to believe that any technologically accomplished race would come here, "leave its ability in mysterious ways and then simply go away. In this writer, long-time practice of space travel implies advanced engineering and science, weapons and ways of thinking. It is not plausible for many fiction writers to do this space stuff with legends. Furthermore, a race which had enough initiative to explore other planets would hardly be too timid to "give thought when the job was accomplished.

One other hypothesis needs to be discussed. It is that the Martians have kept a long-range routine watch on Earth and have been alarmed by the advent of our space age as evidence that we are warlike and on the threshold of space travel. (Venus is eliminated here because her cloudy atmosphere would make such a survey impractical). The first flying objects were sightings in the border of 1947, after a total 5 atomic bomb explosions, i.e., Alamogordo, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Crossroads A and Crossroads B. If true, the first two were in positions to be seen from Mars, the third was very doubtful (at the edge of "orb" to Mars to daylight) and the last two were on the wrong side of Earth. It is 31875 miles Martian kilometers, with their time converter, could help make up his mind to see direct exploration of Earth, even though we were 160 and 155 million miles away, respectively, on the Alamogordo and Hiroshima dates. The weakest point in the hypothesis is that a continual, intensive watch of Earth for long periods of time, (perhaps thousands of years) would be dull work, and no race that was really intelligent would undertake it. We haven't even considered the idea for Mars or Venus, for example.

The sum and substance of this discussion is that if Martians are now visiting us without contact, it can be assumed that they have not recently succeeded in space travel and that their civilization would be practically absent of ours.

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