



Aliens On Earth.com

Resources for those who are stranded here



Our Bookstore is OPEN

Over 5000 new & used titles, competitively priced!

Topics: [UFOs](#) - [Paranormal](#) - [Area 51](#) - [Ghosts](#) - [Fortean](#) - [Conspiracy](#) - [History](#) - [Biography](#) - [Psychology](#) - [Religion](#) - [Crime](#) - [Health](#) - [Geography](#) - [Maps](#) - [Science](#) - [Money](#) - [Language](#) - [Recreation](#) - [Technology](#) - [Fiction](#) - [Other](#) - [New](#)

Search... for keyword(s)

in Page Titles

Location: [Mothership](#) -> [UFO](#) -> [Updates](#) -> [1999](#) -> [May](#) -> Search for Planets: Eureka a Planet! So What?

UFO UpDates Mailing List

Search for Planets: Eureka a Planet! So What?

From: Steven L. Wilson Sr <Ndunlks@aol.com>
Date: Thu, 6 May 1999 00:48:13 EDT
Fwd Date: Thu, 06 May 1999 08:05:40 -0400
Subject: Search for Planets: Eureka a Planet! So What?

The Search for Planets: Eureka a Planet! - So What?

7.08 a.m. ET (1108 GMT) May 5, 1999 By Dr. Jean-Marc Perelmuter

Imagine this: The Pope, Giordano Bruno, and Freud are sitting around watching television. As the news comes on, they learn that planets have been detected outside of our solar system. What would they say?

Giordano Bruno was burnt at the stake precisely for predicting these discoveries, and more. In his writings, he claims the luminous pinheads in the night-sky are in fact suns like ours, that planets circle these faraway suns and that intelligent beings inhabit them. This was in 1600 AD.

Had he made his claims four hundred years later, Bruno wouldn't be orbiting the Earth in a thin cirrus of ash. Not because his ideas have become popular, but because religion has had to adapt to the evidences of science.

A literal reading of the Bible, for example, would place the Earth at the center of the universe with the sun going around it. Astronomical observations have shown that it is our planet that is orbiting the sun, which itself is one of over 200 billion stars in a galaxy among millions. The Vatican has bent to the facts and acknowledged the Earth is indeed orbiting the sun: since October 31, 1992, we are no longer the center of the universe =97 at least not gravitationally.

With the detection of extrasolar planets, however, the possibility of intelligent extraterrestrial life is growing more real and religious dogma are once again challenged. The maxims that man is made in the image of God and that man has dominion over all creatures that inhabit the world seem questioned by the possibility of radically different life. As Giordano Bruno once asked, should God be multiplied on all planets, or forsaken on ours?

On the other hand, if intelligent life was proved to exist only on Earth, one couldn't help but wonder whether humanity is indeed special. It's all a matter of probability, and being special shouldn't depend on the rolling of dice. After all, one could ask the same thing of lottery winners.

NASA

Perhaps the more palpable implications of extrasolar life are

sociological and cultural rather than spiritual. This may explain the success of a TV series such as Star Trek. Racism, ethnocentrism, gender bias, miracles =97 they are all translated into outer space, in the future, and most especially in relation to extraterrestrial beings. Science is enshrined in a species called Vulcan whose members feel no emotion and base their actions on logic alone. Violence and instinct are symbolized by the Klingons, a species of warriors.

While the original series did not enshrine the spiritual in an alien species, newer versions of Star Trek do. In Star Trek Voyager, one of the characters meditates into a dream state where he experiences visions. In Deep Space Nine, an extraterrestrial religion is worshipped. The message is clear: humanity must lose its special status as a superior creation but in return gains a level of cultural maturity anthropologists could only dream of.

Another show, the X-Files, taps into the underlying social theme of faith versus reason. What matters here isn't resolution as much as conflict. And it centers around the debate on whether intelligent extraterrestrials exist and visit us.

"And that's the other sing," shouts Freud from his armchair. "Why should zey be intelligent?"

The Pope and Giordano Bruno stop bickering and stare at the psychotherapist as if he were from another planet.

"That's right," Freud goes on. "And you make zem zo powerful! ever vonder why?"

"Why?" ask the other two.

"It's all in your minds," he replies. "Sink about it. Who is all-powerful?"

"God?" says the Pope.

"Nein."

"Scientists?" ventures Bruno.

"Of course, nein. Your parents! Ze search for intelligent extraterrestrials is in reality ze search for an authority figure."

Giordano Bruno is on the verge of tears.

"So that's why we search for extrasolar planets and life?"

"Nein, nein," says Freud, "that's vhy you search for intelligent extraterrestrials. The search for extrasolar planets and plain alien life is a different matter. Fear."

"Of God?" asks the Pope.

"Of being alone," says Freud. "Existentialism. Ze fear of being ze captain of your own ship =97 Didn't you read Sartre?"

comments@foxnews.com =A9 1999, News America Digital Publishing, Inc. d/b/a Fox News Online. All rights reserved. Fox News is a registered trademark of 20th Century Fox Film Corp.

[[Next Message](#) | [Previous Message](#) | [This Day's Messages](#)]
[[This Month's Index](#) | [UFO UpDates Main Index](#) | [MUFON Ontario](#)]

UFO UpDates - Toronto - updates@globalserve.net
Operated by Errol Bruce-Knapp - ++ 416-696-0304

A Hand-Operated E-Mail Subscription Service for the Study of UFO Related Phenomena.
To subscribe please send your first and last name to updates@globalserve.net
Message submissions should be sent to the same address.

[[UFO Topics](#) | [People](#) | [Ufomind What's New](#) | [Ufomind Top Level](#)]

To find this message again in the future...
Link it to the appropriate [Ufologist](#) or [UFO Topic](#) page.

Archived as a public service by [Area 51 Research Center](#) which is not responsible for content.
Software by Glenn Campbell. Technical contact: webmaster@ufomind.com

Financial support for this web server is provided by the [Research Center Catalog](#).