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The Next Steps (A4)
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ETHICAL REFLECTION ON COLONIZATION OF PLANETS THAT CONTAIN LIFE

Abstract

Humanity as a species is one that is driven by the desire to explore the unknown. Upon reaching such places we have colonized them to our comfort, often at a detriment to the local ecosystem. We are currently in the space age and are trying to expand our boundaries and understanding of the universe. Currently, there are plans to colonize Mars, and once we have achieved the technology to travel across the stars, where we will most likely try and colonize other planets too. This raises the question of whether we have the right to establish a settlement on a planet that already contains life? Should we expand our civilization there or should we leave the planet's inhabitants to their own well-being? This paper will be providing a general ethical discussion on what we might have to do are we ever to find ourselves in such a predicament.