

53rd IAA SYMPOSIUM ON THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE (SETI) –
The Next Steps (A4)
Interactive Presentations - 53rd IAA SYMPOSIUM ON THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL
INTELLIGENCE (SETI) – The Next Steps (IP)

Author: Ms. Samiksha Raviraja
University of Leicester, United Kingdom

Mr. Zygimantas Vainauskas
University of Leicester, United Kingdom

Mr. Orestis Delardas
United Kingdom

Ms. Fiona Poda
University of Leicester, United Kingdom

Ms. Joanna George
Airbus Defence & Space, United Kingdom

Mrs. Gaia Di Tommaso
Politecnico di Milano, Italy

THE DISCOVERY OF ALIEN LIFE AND HOW THAT COULD IMPACT FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN
BELIEFS, SOCIETAL VIEWS AND PHILOSOPHIES

Abstract

The discovery of alien life could heavily impact human beliefs about God and religion in several significant ways, rooted in the bonds between science, philosophy, and theology. The very existence of extra-terrestrial(E.T) life (by distant discovery or a visit to Earth) will challenge traditional fundamental paradigms, prompting individuals to reassess their understanding of everything in existence.

The discovery of alien life will prompt a re-evaluation of religious texts and doctrines. Many religious traditions have narratives that center around Earth and humanity, and the revelation of life beyond Earth might necessitate a reinterpretation of these scriptures from a more scientific perspective. Theologians may engage in interpretations to harmonize the newfound knowledge within their sacred texts, seeking to integrate the new-truth of E.T into the texts. Perhaps the drawings from Ancient Egypt will have solid explanations.

The discovery of E.T may stir philosophical debates about God, the purpose of human existence and theories of the universe's creation itself. Questions regarding uniqueness of human life might pose a threat to our own perception of our species. Depending on the intelligence level of the found E.T, and the technology or knowledge, it possessed, it could further scientific advancements as a species (e.g FTL), beyond the solar system, possibly even new dimensions, becoming a galactic species.

The discovery of alien life leads to a paradigm shift in the perception of the creation of the universe, and humanity's purpose, whether low-level-negligible decisions do factor into the 'butterfly effect'. Regarding religion and atheism, the knowledge that humans gain from E.T, determines which belief "wins". The rise of a whole new religion becomes a possibility too, if the E.T is more god-like.

The more fundamental the knowledge the E.T possess, the higher the threat is to humanity's fundamental belief's and systems, potentially causing a global-wide mass panic, wreaking havoc. Things humanity previously assumed to be facts, but no longer are- could be too big of a leap to take.

The impact of finding E.T on beliefs about philosophies, is complex and multifaceted, this paper would aim to explore the different outcomes. The newfound knowledge could even potentially aid towards

solving or understanding The Theory of Everything(Quantum Relativity). Whether through conflict, reinterpretation, or confirmation, the discovery of E.T can influence profound changes in how humans view themselves in the the grand scheme of things, and maybe have the answer to whether or not God "plays dice with the universe".