

The Question of Extraterrestrials

By Marilyn Reeves

Considering the billions of galaxies in the universe and the trillions of stars within each galaxy, it's reasonable to assume that life in some form exists on those planets that are as fortuitously positioned to their stars as Earth is to the sun. The other requirement would likely be liquid water. But given those parameters, the question foremost in our minds is whether there is human-like life on some of those planets.

Some of the points I ponder is whether those 'humanoids' would be mammals, as we are? And if so, would their evolution have necessarily been preceded by an epoch of dinosaur-like creatures as ours was? Or would their mammalian life have evolved in a more direct manner once they escaped the confines of the sea?

The next question is, would they have built civilizations similar to ours? And would some of those civilizations have developed technology advanced enough to enable them to travel the universe in search of other life-bearing planets?

But the most intriguing question of all is, have any of those advanced Extraterrestrials discovered this little blue planet we call Earth?

Many point to the so-called 'evidence' presented in programs like *Ancient Aliens* that Earth was visited thousands of years ago by beings from outer space. They show us photographs of possible runways and landing sites that can be viewed in their entirety only from a vantage point high above the Earth; and pictographs rendered by our ancient ancestors of big-headed beings, the enormous size of their heads possibly depicting space helmets. Some even think that the Earth was originally populated by immigrants from a distant planet.

Some believe that Extraterrestrials are already living amongst us. Others fear that they may come and attack us, as in Orson Welles's infamous 1938 radio broadcast *The War of the Worlds* that caused panic and pandemonium among listeners who were unaware that it was a work of fiction.

Many have born witness to mysterious lights in the sky that hover overhead and then suddenly disappear. And some insist that they have actually seen flying saucers or other types of space craft. Others claim to have been forced aboard those alien ships and subjected to probing studies of their physiology.

The majority of people, it seems, are enchanted by the idea of Extraterrestrials visiting Earth, so much so that it's difficult to separate fact from fiction. But the truth is, UFO's are simply that: Unidentified Flying Objects, which doesn't necessarily mean they've come from outer space. They're simply unidentified.

So many questions to which we may never know the answers, at least in my lifetime. But the possibility of human life existing on other planets, or of Extraterrestrials visiting ours, remains intriguing to us all.