

HOME ALONE ??? alexis dolgorukii © 1999

There are, I have been given to understand, some two hundred billion stars in our “home” Galaxy, and at least a hundred billion other Galaxies, some of them very much larger than our own, or “home Galaxy” and yes, indeed, that’s “billion” with a **B!**

Now it seems to me that any reasonably intelligent person would at least *think* about the utter absurdity of a notion that says that within that tremendously enormous context, intelligent life would, or could, only have developed on this one planet upon which we live. Remember, we are talking about trillions upon trillions of star systems, and many of these stars are statistically likely, based upon the present state of knowledge, to possess planets. Now in all likelihood that means we are talking about what can be no less than billions of planets. It simply goes totally against reason to assume that the conditions conducive to some form of intelligent life can exist only upon this planet. The only thing that is not likely or reasonable is the assumption (religion based) that life exists here and only here.

Being of that opinion I have volunteered my two home computers to be used in the “SETI at home” program which I believe to be a very worthwhile effort.

Now, it’s very easy to understand why all major human religions reject the idea that “we are NOT alone”. Because the existence of non-terrestrial intelligence throws their whole scam into a “cocked hat”. Their whole scam is based entirely on the premise that “God” created the Universe and that this planet is it’s center and focus. Religion is, of all things the most solipsistic and therefore anything that removes religion and it’s subject people from their position as central to creation, destroys their premise.

Governments reject the idea, that “we are NOT alone” because if there is intelligent life that is not native to this planet, or even to this galaxy, they are in a position or situation over which they have very little control, and control is the all and end all of their existence. The current mythology anent extraterrestrials would indicate that they are very much more technically advanced than we are, and that terrifies Governments for many reasons, some of the more valid than others.

Now it is less easy to understand establishment science’s hostility. I believe much of it is based upon ego, and ambition, and a very bad case of “Not Invented Here”. What I find hardest to accept is the absolute lack of curiosity they display. Here we have a long term series of phenomena, phenomena moreover that are quite clearly amenable to scientific methods of investigation, and they refuse to seriously investigate. Some of it, I imagine, results from Government Pressures, some from Religious Commitments, and much of it from simple pig headedness.

However, that's not what I am aiming at in this essay. The Question is: "Are we alone in the Universe?" As I am sure you can already see, that is not something I believe to be a viable possibility. While, of course, I cannot honestly say I **KNOW** there are other intelligent cultures, I strongly believe that it is very much more likely to be true than it is to be not true..

O.K. That being said, I think it follows naturally to make some remarks on the subject of extraterrestrial visitations and the general subject of "UFOS". Given that I believe very strongly in the likelihood of other intelligent cultures, and even in the idea that some of these cultures may be "space-faring" (as are we), does that mean I accept the notion that they have visited us, or even have contacted us?

The answer is: "The jury's still out" on that one. The question is: What do I know? What do I believe? And What don't I know? Or rather what do I need to know to bring the jury back in?

The first question, of course, is "Have I any personal experience of the subject of UFOs?" The answer is "Perhaps". Many years ago (I think it was in 1956) I was out on a Yacht in the Gulf of Mexico, and something flew overhead. It was not a meteor, I've seen too many of those to make that mistake, but it was certainly nothing I'd ever seen before. One of the other guests on the Yacht was a high-ranking Officer with the Strategic Air Command. In response to me question: "What the hell was that?" He said: "Oh it's what they call a UFO but that's not what it is, because we it's not "unidentified" we know what they are. They're Space Vehicles of Unknown Origin. We see them regularly on our Trans-Polar Flights, I must however, hold you to absolute confidence on this as we are absolutely forbidden to discuss this." He later told me that he felt secure in discussing this with me because of my family's Pentagon Connections. I feel comfortable about mentioning it because the Officer in Question has passed on, and 43 years have passed. I have seen nothing at all of this sort since, either from my own yachts or on my travels, and I've certainly looked.

Now then, does this mean I am secure in the idea that I "saw" a UFO? Not really. I saw no real details, nor did I see it "close up". I saw something, that is for sure, and what it left me with was a feeling that it was the wisest course to be open on the subject.

The second question then, has really got to be: "How have I processed the ongoing stream of information that has come forth on the subject in the intervening years?"

As I take very seriously my own admonition that one can never be too knowledgeable; I have in the last 43 years read everything I could find on the subject, interviewed people with opinions pro and con, watched Television "Specials" on the subject, etc. Now the first thing I have to say regarding my processing of the subject is this: there is probably no single subject I have ever encountered that mixes good evidence with such a tissue of pathology and nonsense as this one. Much of the pathology is sexually connected. But once you have removed all the scams, insanity, absurdity and ego, there is a really impressive solid core of empirical evidence that there is substance to the idea that there

are extra-terrestrial intelligences, and that they may have been visiting us, or observing us, for centuries if not millennia. I don't feel any need at all to "re-hash" this evidence as there are far too many sources wherein one can do this.

What I have difficulty in accepting on the part of our establishments is their absolute refusal to accept any anecdotal evidence, even when it is attested to by large numbers of otherwise unimpeachable witnesses. I don't know about you folks, but to me, some of the rationales proffered by professional "debunkers" are even more absurd than most of the UFO theories. Certainly there are probably cases in which "Marsh Gas" or "Venus" or "Weather Balloons" may have been responsible, but even the professionals admit (albeit reluctantly) that there are many cases which are not amenable to such rationale and are therefore inexplicable

What I have difficulty in accepting on the part of the "UFO Community" is the religious nature of their beliefs, or rather the religious "flavor" of their beliefs. There is far too much of an element of "Deus ex Machina" in the "UFO Community" for my liking. That is, I am afraid, a very dangerous thing.

So then, what exactly do I believe on this subject.

Well firstly, I think it is almost entirely likely that "We are **NOT** alone in the Universe". In fact, I truly believe that the most truly unlikely thing is the idea that we are alone. It is so statistically improbable that I find it very difficult to believe that anyone could doubt it

Secondly: I really cannot deny that there is a really enormous amount of empirical evidence and a phenomenally large amount of anecdotal evidence that what is called "The UFO phenomenon" is real. And I must admit that I fully believe it to be so. I clearly don't accept all the details, but I do fully accept the basic premise. That I think is all any reasonably intelligent and unbiased person can do.