

Different Jim

ISSUE #1



Intelligent Life

When we were told that the planet had intelligent life on it, I cried. I would often lay on the ground staring at the stars. I would imagine planets circling some of those stars and thought about what life would be like on those planets until I fell asleep. This news was a fantasy coming true.

Now, many years later, we have been told that we have communicated with the other planet. Soon, our planets would start exchanging information about ourselves. What do we look like and what do they look like? We will learn about each others' geography, plants, animals, and weather.

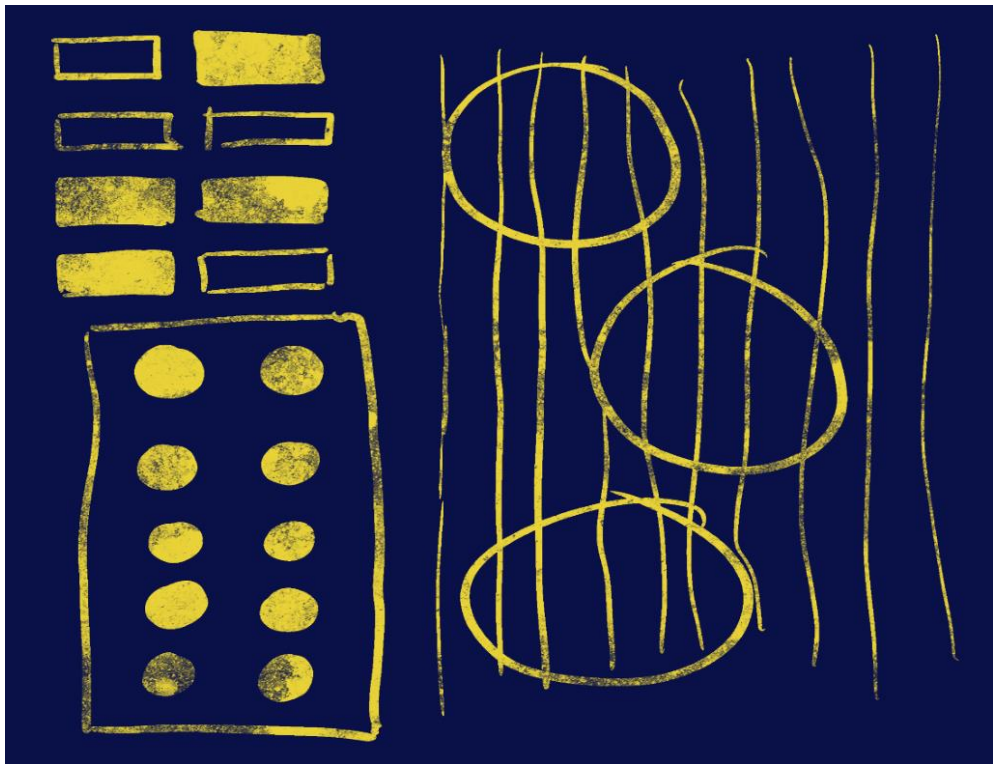
It's the social atmosphere that will be the most difficult to explain to one another. What will we tell them? What will they think of our politics? Our religions? Do they have religions? Do they live as families? Do parents raise their children?

Do they use money? Do the people with the most money have the most power and influence on their planet?

What happens to those without power and influence on their planet? What if someone has no money on their planet? Do people on their planet have mental illnesses? What happens to them?

Will my planet tell them that people like me exist?





Beyond Repair

We were quite amazed when the alien probes arrived. We all livestreamed their every move. We watched as the probes drilled little holes in the ground, analyzed samples of plants, and, we think, collected air samples. After a few months, they each stopped functioning. The lights no longer blinked, the gadgets did not power on. That was it. And now, we are left wondering if we passed the test.



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Other Worlds

From how many other worlds is our Sun visible as a star?

How many of those worlds have beings that look up at the night sky and wonder what is beyond?

How many of those worlds have civilizations that are intelligent enough to devise a way to determine that our star has planets orbiting it?

How many of those worlds can tell that our planet is habitable?

How many of those worlds can tell that we are on this planet?

How many of those worlds will reach out to us?

How many of those worlds have people that are starving while others have to throw food out because they couldn't possibly eat it all?

How many have a child that lays out in the open at night, staring at the night sky, imagining other worlds with other beings that care for one another instead of hit each other for not being perfect?

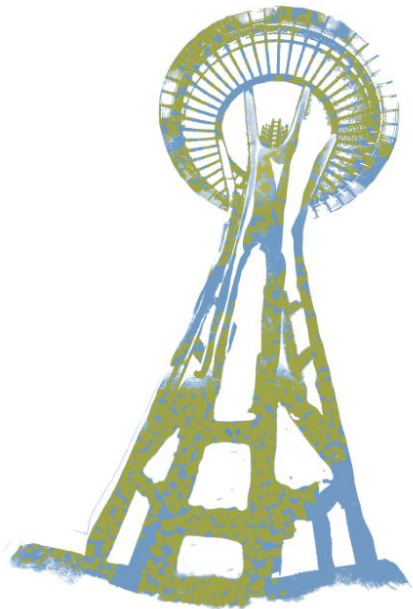
How many have a child that lays out in the open at night because their family has no place to live or because nobody noticed or cared that she left?

How many of those worlds have civilizations that proclaim devotion to a supreme being that will judge them harshly for not protecting the least among them but ignore or systematically blame the least among them?

How many of those worlds will judge our world harshly for our treatment of each other?

Back to the Grind

Before we talked to aliens, I served coffee. After we started talking to aliens, I served coffee. I still sleep in my little bed in my little room with paper thin walls next door to the guy that goes on his own trip every night.



Scoundrels
believe that
everybody
is a
Scoundrel