

#152

A Simple Plan for Our Invasion of the Universe

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Reply L.V. 2007

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"People of the Earth. You've all been misled. Some day the sun's gonna burn out and we're all gonna die. We need to start preparing to evacuate the planet." Some guy down the hall laconically makes this announcement a couple times a week, sounding like he stole the line from a book or movie. It makes sense, although our sun's got at least 900 million more years of burn to it, & by then human life, as it's now known (see accompanying post #153), will be wiped out even from memory by then... probably. Still, it's not like we have something better to do than invade the universe.!!

Ya ever step on one of those puff-ball mushrooms that releases a cloud of spores when crushed? Think of Earth as that puff-ball. The spores would be the spaceships that bear the "seeds" of terrestrial life & are programmed to seek out planets that are enough like Earth to support the life (held in cryogenically-preserved embryonic state) on board, then activate, nourish & release that life (in a sensible fashion - don't let the lions out with the lambs) so it might populate habitable planets. This is a thumbnail sketch of the process, which, of course would require much, much more carefully thought out detail in order to work. But, in theory, it could be done, just as we landed on the moon, sent remote-controlled robots to explore Mars & other space programs.

Why should we do this? Because it's in our nature to do so. For the same reason ancient Asians & Europeans explored & populated the Americas. For the same reason more modern Europeans explored & colonized other lands. We have the instinct to live, to populate new areas & have evolved the minds & the technology to now do so throughout the universe. It's just few people think of such a big picture.

Maybe a comet will smash Earth into extinction next year, next millennium, or some other catastrophe will wipe out life on Earth. Given the unlikeliness of life developing, we owe a duty to life to try & preserve it. And, even if it takes a billion years, terrestrial life can not last forever. Preparing to invade the universe, populate it with terrestrial life would give us something more productive to do than go to war with each other & much of the other crap people do that's destructive towards each other; like religion that promotes belief in an eternal after life, focussing our energies & minds on propagating terrestrial would offer the benefits of such religions, allowing us to better cope with the here & now as we focus on a distant goal.

I'm not talking about just human life. In fact, a ship may have to first release simple bacteria, algae & such to transform a planet's atmosphere (that may take decades, centuries... to accomplish) into one that higher life forms onboard can survive in. Some ships might even just contain the primal, simple life forms that evolved into more complex life forms, eventually evolving into our own species, in the hope of "seeding" that evolutionary process on a new planet. But I believe we can construct ships that will contain the whole gamut of contemporary terrestrial life, maybe even some dodos & other now extinct species that we're becoming capable of genetically reconstructing back into existence.

Of course this would be complex, require a community of scientists from various fields (e.g. cryogenics, astronautics, ecologists, genetics, ...). But it could be done. Even human fetuses could be "raised", akin to how Superman learned of his heritage from his cradleship's crystalline computer system, to understand who they are, their history, & how to survive on their new planet. Psychologists would be needed to best construct that part of the program.

Yes, this might raise ethical concerns: Is it too cruel to send human embryos off to unknown & possibly non-existent planets to construct new societies from scratch? What embryos should be selected? What knowledge that we have should be shared and withheld from those potential humans? What about aboriginal life that may be present on those planets?

My answer to all these questions is, if you ask them, your fetus won't be on board. Do it; give them the good, the bad & the ugly & let them do what they will. Faint heart never won fair planet.

More on this to come....

Prometheus!

from: <http://betweenthebars.org/blogs/540/>

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I imagine if Bill Gates had donated his billions to developing this project! Governments can't be relied upon to fund nor run it, nor can venture capitalists, as governments are too fickle & short-sighted & capitalists... maybe capitalists could sell embryo space, & that would be a form of natural selection....