

# Some Thoughts about UFOs and ETs

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The acronym “UFO” stands for “unidentified flying objects” and means many different things for different people, including “unidentified alien intelligence,” “nonhuman intelligence,” “flying saucers,” “spaceships,” “alien spacecraft,” “extraterrestrial vessel,” etc. For the purpose of this chapter, we will classify all of these as “UFO phenomena.”

During the past 100 years, peaking in the 1940s and 50s, numerous sightings of unidentified flying objects were reported all over the world, but predominantly in the United States. Many of these “experiencers” did not perceived them as a *phenomena* but as something very real, very tangible. Already quite early on, our military saw in these UFOs an *existential threat to mankind* coming from extraterrestrial beings. Under the pretense of not wanting to alarm the public, details about UFO and ET experiences were quickly swept under the rug, such as by ridiculing those who would publicize or give credence to such reports, and classified as secrets, thus making them inaccessible to the general public. Now, decades later, these documents are beginning to be declassified, and the people who worked with them at the time, now mostly retired military personnel and scientists and engineers who worked in the military-industrial complex, are permitted to speak out about their experiences. One can find many hours of such reports, and interviews with these people, on the Internet. Some of them are exceedingly interesting and poignant. But the effects of many decades of publicly ignoring and defaming anything that has to do with this topic are lingering, and the mainstream general public continues to be highly critical toward any notion of UFOs, ETs, and alike.

Meanwhile, it is all but impossible to even *attempt to describe* or summarize the wealth of information – and misinformation – about UFOs that is out in the public, or to give any sort of scholarly review of this phenomenon. And so I will refrain from doing this and refer the reader to the Internet and, in particular, and excellent book by Hernandez, Klimo, and Schild.<sup>1</sup> Instead, we will describe those aspects of the UFO experience that we consider relevant for the ensuing discussion. This is going to be biased. There will likely be large number of people who have seen or heard about UFOs and/or ETs who will disagree with one or the other point I am making.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A scholarly book about this topic has recently been published by Rey Hernandez, Jon Klimo, and Rudy Schild of the Dr. Edgar Mitchell FREE Foundation’s (FREE), titled “*Beyond UFOs: The Science of Consciousness and Contact with Non Human Intelligence.*”

<sup>2</sup> I am intentionally steering away from citing and dealing with the wealth of “academic” information about the subject, such as the *Drake Equation* (referenced in a later footnote), the *Fermi Paradox* (where I agree with the basic tenet that many earth-like planets must be assumed to exist in the universe but disagree that there is a paradox, i.e., question the proposition that we should by now have physical evidence thereof), and the multitude of attempts by many profiled researchers of *explaining* the “Fermi Paradox” (well summarized in [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fermi\\_paradox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fermi_paradox)). Instead, I prefer not to contribute to that discussion but to emphasize the conclusions drawn in the present context.

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## DEFINITIONS, CONTEXT, AND BOUNDARIES OF THIS DISCUSSION

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From the wealth of what is known about UFOs, I will now list those details that seem particularly interesting to me:

- (1) By and large, UFOs have been sighted from considerable distance, and they were seen and/or photographed in low resolution, i.e., their contours were everything but sharp or crisp. In photos, *they appear out of focus, colorless, often simply as small undefined blobs, “resembling”* the shape of saucers or imaginary spaceships or alike.
- (2) While the U.S. government, as well as other foreign governments, predominantly perceived UFOs as threatening to humanity, we notice that an overwhelming number of actual UFO experiencers, i.e., those people, who had and reported personally about such an encounter, had a *positive, uplifting, enriching* experience.
- (3) Some reports show UFO-type vessels and machinery from close distance and in good image resolution. In view of (5) below I have *reservations* that these are genuine UFO sightings.
- (4) We have ourselves observed what many people studying UFOs (“ufologists”) would call *UFO-type “spaceships.”* These sightings were from a significant distance, perhaps several km afar, during night hours, far away from any city lights. They were looking very much like distant commercial aircraft, with the exception that they had no blinking but weak steady lights, and their flight trajectories, albeit generally straight, would at times unexpectedly and abruptly change by as much as 90 degrees.<sup>3</sup> They were so far away that they essentially appeared as tiny moving dots in the sky, not at all different from how distant aircraft would appear under low-lighting conditions in the night sky, but due to the evidential abrupt change of flight direction clearly “unusual.”
- (5) Following reports about recently declassified UFO related information,<sup>4</sup> the US Government has over several decades spent large amounts of money toward efforts to cover up what they know about UFO technology, even to the extent that they contracted the top secret manufacturing of UFO-look-alike aircraft that were designed and manufactured for the primary purpose of demonstrating to the public, by deliberate information leakage, that UFOs “really do not exist,” and that it is “unfashionable” to still believe in UFOs.

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<sup>3</sup> These observations occurred on May 23rd, 2014, at Eceti Ranch in Trout Lake, WA, at the foot of Mt. Adams, on the property of Ufologist James Gilliland. They were witnessed by a group of 20 other seminar participants, including Gundi and myself.

<sup>4</sup> Dr. Stephen Greer (e.g., in “The Disclosure Project”), and others.

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## PROBABILITY CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING LIFE IN THE MILKY WAY GALAXY

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We are now making a series of assumptions that are all, by their nature, unsubstantiated – because conclusive better answers are not yet available – but, in aggregate, may not be all that terribly wrong:

- A. Our Milky Way galaxy has about 100 billion ( $10^{11}$ ) stars and perhaps an equal number of planets (probably more, but let's, for reasons of simplicity, use this number).
- B. If we assume that, at some point in time between the Big Bang and now, every million<sup>th</sup> of these planets evolved some sort of biological life, this would mean that 100,000 planets in the Milky Way may have had life on them.
- C. Let us assume that 1% of these, or 1000 of those developed into conscious civilizations with technological capabilities similar to humankind.
- D. Very conservatively, each of these 1000 civilizations may have succeeded in technological capability of interstellar travel for a period of 1000 years, after which it is/was extinguished due to self-destruction or some cataclysmic event.
- E. These intelligent civilizations are assumed to have occurred (“lived”) randomly during the last 10 billion of the 13 billion years life span of the galaxy.

With these assumptions,<sup>5</sup> each of which cannot be scientifically substantiated, we come to a combined total period of one million years (1000 civilizations times 1000 year each), during which the Milky Way Galaxy may have had a civilization that was potentially capable of interstellar travel. This is only 1/10,000<sup>th</sup> of the last 10 billion years of the life span of the Galaxy (1 million/10 billion =  $10^{-4}$ ). Therefore, even if each one of these 1000 civilizations had developed the technology to travel **to any place in the galaxy**, the probability of finding another civilization that was also **concomitantly** at the peak of its technological evolution,<sup>6</sup> was 1 in 10,000, or 0.01%. Or, in other words, with 99.99% probability there are at this time no other life forms anywhere in the Galaxy with which we could attempt to make contact, even if they were capable of interstellar travel at unlimited speeds, i.e., so fast that we could reach anywhere within the galaxy in relatively little time.

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<sup>5</sup> This is, in part, a simplification of the “Drake Equation” (Frank Drake, 1961 -- <https://www.space.com/25219-drake-equation.html>):

$$N = R_* * f_p * n_e * f_l * f_i * f_c * L$$

Where:

N = The number of civilizations in the Milky Way Galaxy whose electromagnetic emissions are detectable.

R\* = The rate of formation of stars suitable for the development of intelligent life.

f<sub>p</sub> = The fraction of those stars with planetary systems.

n<sub>e</sub> = The number of planets, per solar system, with an environment suitable for life.

f<sub>l</sub> = The fraction of suitable planets on which life actually appears.

f<sub>i</sub> = The fraction of life bearing planets on which intelligent life emerges.

f<sub>c</sub> = The fraction of civilizations that develop a technology that releases detectable signs of their existence into space.

L = The length of time such civilizations release detectable signals into space.

<sup>6</sup> Again, it is important to emphasize that we are talking about technological evolution, not the evolution of a biological species. On Earth, for example, we had an advanced evolution of the “dinosaur” biological species some tens of millions of years ago, but it was not technologically advanced.

Before we continue, let us look at the *reasonableness* of our assumptions and, perhaps, consider some upper and lower limit variations. The biggest unknown is likely a combination of assumptions B. and C. One might argue that there are more than 1000 planets in our Galaxy that had, at some point in time, civilizations capable of interstellar travel. One might even argue that this number is off by as much as a factor 1000, i.e., that there were 1 million such planets. However, in that case the duration during which this capability persisted before these civilizations became extinct may have *averaged* more like 100 than 1000 years. This combined adjustment of our assumptions would reduce the probability that at least one such civilization anywhere in the Milky Way coincides with humankind at this time from 0.01% to about 1%. On the other hand, one might say that there are many fewer planets with significant civilizations, perhaps only 100. In fact, there are modern schools of thinking – albeit equally unsubstantiated – stating that this number may be more likely in the *single digits*. This would then decrease the probability of overlap in time to something of the order of 0.001%.

We therefore think that, for the purpose of the ensuing discussion, our earlier presented estimate of ***0.01% probability that there is highly intelligent life anywhere else in our galaxy at this time may be a conservative approximation.***

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#### PROBABILITY OF PHYSICAL UFO CONTACT WITHIN OUR GALAXY

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This low probability of finding concomitant life in our Galaxy is further ***very significantly*** reduced by the ***realism*** of interstellar travel. We do realize that many futurists make the blunt assumption that somehow, given enough time for technological development, it will be possible to devise the technology with which ***physical objects (or beings)*** can travel faster than at the speed of light. In fact, they would have to travel not just a bit faster but ***by many orders of magnitude faster*** than the speed of light, to reach destinations anywhere within the Galaxy within some reasonably short time. They would even courageously state that the probability of reaching this degree of technological perfection is (or “*must surely be*”) very high. I will make the opposite assumption and boldly state that this is ***not possible***.<sup>7</sup> Intelligent *physical* life, as I am assuming as basis for this thought experiment, is  *tied to physical mass*, which to move in any way at speeds ***many orders of magnitude*** greater than the speed of light is impossible.<sup>8</sup> Even getting anywhere *near* the speed of light will be excruciatingly difficult, but we will, for the sake of this argument, concede that it may be possible.

We then further assume that, realistically, no intelligent being, human or alien, will likely want to undertake a space travel taking more than, say, ten years to get to the destination. However, the nearest planet outside the solar system is about 4.5 lightyears away from us, and the average distance between stars is about 5 lightyears. So the number of planets outside our solar system that we could conceivably reach with interstellar travel at the speed of light is ***extremely limited***, to the number we can reach within

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<sup>7</sup> I am emphasizing that I relate this statement to ***physical objects or beings***, not to nonphysical beings of any kind. It is very important to make this distinction for this train of thought.

<sup>8</sup> I am deliberately phrasing it this way to circumvent arguments that it has been proven that some processes (involving minute amounts of physical mass) can move at speeds a bit faster than the speed of light, but not many orders of magnitude faster).

such a reasonably tolerable travel time, certainly less than, say, ten.<sup>9</sup> And the probability that any one of the 1000 planets that may have ever seen technologically highly evolved civilizations is among these ten is then 10 in 100 million ( $10 \cdot 1000 / 100,000,000,000$ , or about  $10^{-7}$ ). If we multiply this with the above derived probability ( $10^{-4}$ ) that this star happens to have life **concurrently with us**, at this very time in the history of the universe, we come to a total probability to ever meet conscious life in our Galaxy of about  $10^{-11}$ , or somewhere around a billionth of one percent. This is a **very** low probability, indeed. Winning big in the lottery would be about a thousand times more probable<sup>10</sup> than that ....

Lets add a few words with regard to the accuracy of such “back-on-the-envelope” considerations. A few decades ago, my esteemed Ph.D. thesis advisor, Applied Physics Professor Dr. G. Möllenstedt of the University of Tübingen, Germany, who was then also head of the university’s reputable Department of Astronomy, phrased in his lectures the wise statement, “*There is nothing that signifies the ineptitude of a physicist or an astronomer more than calculating with excessive numerical accuracy.*” In our case, more accuracy would be irrelevant for the purpose of this discussion – it would not change the fact that, for all practical purposes, **humanity will never be able to communicate with physical life from other planets or stars. This is simply impossible. End of argument!**

I should then remark that this statement is limited to **communication**, such as meeting up with ET-type intelligent beings, or directly **seeing** them or their spaceship. The probability of **intercepting signals** from other planets in our Galaxy that are, or were at some point in time, home to intelligent life is much higher. Such signals would be of the electromagnetic wave type, traveling at the speed of light, and, even though faint after very long “travel” through space and dispersed (not deliberately focused toward Earth), could arrive at Earth and be detected with large parabolic antennas designed for this purpose, even after millions of years of travel. Such information could then be coming from very far away, from deep within the Galaxy, and not just from the few planets closest to the solar system. But of course, this would just be an academically interesting *one-directional* receipt of some sort of information indicating the existence of intelligent life somewhere in the Galaxy. We might even be able to pinpoint from which star or planet, or at least from which general location within the Galaxy it originated, but due to the long travel times involved, it would of course be **impossible to respond and thus actually communicate** with that life form.

Therefore, if we translate this finding to the topic of UFOs, we can, for all practical purposes, **eliminate that there are physical space ships** of any imaginable kind, and that they carry any “extra-terrestrial beings” of any kind from any planet from anywhere in our galaxy or beyond. **It is not only unlikely, it is impossible.**

But what then are UFOs? If there are no **physical** ETs, no **physical** UFOs that could ever visit us, what is it that multitudes of people over the decades have been seeing and convincingly reporting about?

Before we entertain this very important question, let us take a look at the probability of **contemporaneous existence** of conscious life *outside of the Milky Way* galaxy.

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<sup>9</sup> Much more realistically, we would have to call this probability **zero**, but we do not have to commit to that extreme for the purposes of what we are trying to establish here.

<sup>10</sup> Mathematically, the probability of winning the Powerball Lottery is about 1 in 175 million ( $10^{-8}$ ), which is of the order of a 1,000 times higher than  $10^{-11}$ .

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## PROBABILITY OF INTELLIGENT LIFE ELSEWHERE IN THE UNIVERSE

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We are asking what the chances would be for physical/biological life to exist, *at this very point in cosmic time*, anywhere else in the universe. How probable might it be that there are other planets in the universe that happen to have similar conditions to Earth that are favorable for the evolution of **physical/biological life** of some sort, to the extent that such life forms evolved to a technological advancement similar to, or even greater than that on Earth. Again, with this question I am very explicitly addressing **physical beings**, like we assume ETs to be, who would have **physical mass** and would physically live on some sort of planet, subject to gravity, and requiring vehicles to move from place to place on that planet and perhaps into its spatial vicinity. I am specifically not including beings that have no physicality, such as those that we would describe as spirit or angelic beings.

It is estimated that there are about 100 billion ( $10^{11}$ ) galaxies in the universe. I don't think that there is any pertinent information available that would justify the assumption that the probability of conscious life in these other galaxies is any different than that in the Milky Way galaxy. So, let us assume that we have 100 billion times a situation that is similar to that of our own galaxy. This would translate to a clear prognosis that ***it is extremely likely that somewhere in the universe there is an intelligent civilization at this very time***, i.e., overlapping in time with humanity, that would be capable of some sort of space travel. The probability for that to happen *concurrently with humanity* in the Milky Way galaxy is, as we stated, very low (of the order of 0.01%), but given the huge number of galaxies we have to contend with, we come up with a likelihood that not only one, but actually ***a very significant number of civilizations like humanity exist at this very time somewhere in the universe***. We are simply multiplying a small probability ( $10^{-4}$ ) of temporally overlapping civilizations for one galaxy (Milky Way) with a very large number of galaxies existing in total in the universe ( $10^{11}$ ) to come up with a large number of civilizations (with our assumptions about 10 million) that can be assumed to exist at this cosmic time in the entire universe. Additionally, ***several orders of magnitude more*** such civilizations have likely existed at some point in time in the universe but have long been extinct.

However, travelling to or from there, and meeting up with such cognizant concomitantly living physical beings, is totally and entirely beyond any probability – unless someone wants to spend far upwards of 2.5 million years to get there while traveling at the speed of light – because this is the number of light years by which just the ***nearest*** galaxy, the Andromeda galaxy, is away from us. Therefore, ***the probability that we would ever meet any spaceship or ET or have any other form of intelligent information exchange from/with beings from another galaxy is zero*** – not  $10^{-11}$ , which we crudely calculated for the case from within our own galaxy, but it is for all practical purposes ***zero***. Again, this is based on the assumption that it will never be possible for a ***physical*** entity of any kind to travel at speeds that are ***by many orders of magnitude*** faster than the speed of light. Any argumentation to the contrary, i.e., any proposition by people that they have witnessed physical UFOs and/or ETs, would have to refute this assumption, i.e., would have to include the untenable assurance that these UFOs and/or ETs were able to travel at speeds not just a bit faster, but by many orders of magnitude faster than the speed of light. “Beaming” of people and equipment from one place in the universe to another may be possible in the minds of futurists and filmmakers, but not in real “reality.”

Let us stay with the ramifications of this conclusion a bit longer. We have established that it will essentially *never* (with a probability of about  $10^{-11}$ ) be possible for our civilization to have *physical encounters* with a civilization outside of our planet. But, on the other hand, *there is an overwhelmingly high probability that many such highly evolved civilizations do exist elsewhere in the Universe* – we have just no chance to ever *meet up* with any of them. *Existence and being able to make contact are two very different propositions. The former is essentially certain, the latter is essentially impossible.*

Therefore, a conclusion that homo sapiens might be the only species capable of evolving that, which God is, would be highly presumptuous. The universe appears to be designed in such a superb way that *any* evolution of consciousness, in *any* thinkable and unthinkable direction, is *by design*. The grandeur of this *Grand Original Design*, which is underlying the creation of the entire universe, is indeed *unfathomable. It involves not only humanity but countless other conscious civilizations anywhere in our galaxy and the universe at large. But the Design includes that one will never meet the other. This is AWESome.*

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## UFO AS NONPHYSICAL PHENOMENON

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Prior to my realization that it is statistically impossible to be visited by *physical* beings from a different world, as I described above, I had tentatively divided UFO experiences in two categories, physical and phenomenological. What experiencers predominantly believe ETs to be would only fit in the first of these categories, because there seems to be little doubt that the reports about them implied that they were of a *physical nature*. Now that this must be taken out of consideration, it appears that the only reasonable conclusion left to be taken seriously is that *UFOs and ETs are nonphysical phenomena*. This is a striking conclusion; one that will certainly not fit well with many *ufologists* all over the world.

It is, then, not farfetched to compare the UFO phenomenon with the Orb phenomenon, which we have studied extensively for many years. There are several interesting commonalities and differences. Orbs are relatively small and often not well-defined in their contours – as are UFOs. But sometimes, orbs have non-circular outer contours,<sup>11</sup> or very intricate interiorities, for example human-like faces. We have described this in detail in “Orbs, Their Mission and Messages of Hope.” Similarly, UFO sightings sometimes include remarkable visual details about the nonhuman “flying” object that was observed.<sup>12</sup> However, while faces or interiorities inside orbs can be quite intricate, they are not at all as clear as photographs of real physical objects. The same holds true for typical UFO sightings.

Perhaps one major difference between orbs and UFO phenomena is that spirit orbs are not normally visible with the human eye. They are *detectable* on photo or video recordings. Only very few people can actually *see* them. We present examples in our book “Orbs.” It appears to be the other way around with UFO phenomena; they were at first (*perceived as*) *seen* with the human eye and then recorded with cameras.

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<sup>11</sup> One usually sees orbs from the front, as if “looking at you.” But we have also seen them from the side, as shown in this rare photo (courtesy of Christine Coveney, 2011), where – due to mirroring effects – the camera “happened to” see the orb from the side. The similarity to some sort of “flying saucer” is astonishing. Note that the photo on the left shows the arrangement: we are inside a room; the photographer is looking at some sort of desk or dresser containing a mirror which creates a reflection of the flash, and the orb – in the top left corner of the photo – is “looking” at the flash coming from that mirror and not, as it would usually be the case, directly into the camera flash. The right photo shows this orb in large magnification.



<sup>12</sup> See also the section on “Interiority of Orbs,” where we show an orb in diamond shape.



Orbs carry messages from the unseen, non-physical reality. And so do, by inference, UFOs. These messages are very real and often very personal. They communicate that there is, based on our very limited frame of reference of the physical reality that we are currently experiencing, a much larger “real” reality than what we think there is. And most importantly, that invisible reality is benevolent to humankind and its evolutionary development.

From our orbs research we learned that the nonphysical entities communicating these messages make use of our own physical technical achievements. They would make every effort to appear in such a way that they are *noticed*. In the case of orbs these technical achievements have been highly energy-sensitive photographic recording devices that are in the common domain, readily available to multitudes of people at relatively low cost. The little opaque orb circles became clearly noticeable. They are undeniable. The shape of the orbs, so we learned, is generally in accordance with what would most readily attract the attention of those for whom the orb messages were intended – orbs with faces, orbs with different outer shapes, orbs in colors, etc.

Before digital cameras took hold in the early years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, spirit orbs were practically unknown, and the nonphysical entities used other, then available technological achievements that would lend themselves for producing *attention grabbing* and *energetically feasible* phenomena. Since the 1930s, aircraft were such a fascinating technological developments. We have seen orbs during bright daylight. So it is not surprising that “orbs in the shape of flying objects” were designed by the nonphysical beings in the unseen reality to get our attention at that time. They needed to be visible in daylight, noticeable with the bare eye, and persist long enough that they could be photographed or filmed with the analog photographic equipment available at the time.

These “apparition”-like UFO phenomena would certainly require more energy to “manufacture” than is nowadays required for recording of orbs on highly sensitive CCD-camera charge plates. This is unquestionably possible for beings in that realm – we know this from recordings of high-resolution orbs with regular, much less sensitive emulsion film cameras.<sup>13</sup> But it is perhaps a bit more difficult than recording “standard” orbs, which may explain why UFOs are nowadays observed far less frequently than orbs.

Our conclusion that *physical* UFOs and ETs cannot exist means that many UFO and ET-related reports by “experiencers,” including reports of “abductions,” must be re-interpreted. It is not feasible that people can be physically picked up by a “spaceship,” taken to another planet or just kept on the spaceship for some physical time, and then be redelivered into our physical reality. We are not stating that such reports are unsubstantiated, but they were *misinterpreted*. ***They are phenomenological, not physical.*** They involve nonphysical aspects of human beingness. The physicality of the experiencers is not involved. Their physical bodies remained exactly where they happened to have been before the completely nonphysical encounter with beings from the nonphysical reality started.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> See the work of the Dutch professional photographer Ed Vos, who photographed many beautiful, large orbs with his professional emulsion film analog photo-cameras.

<sup>14</sup> This is, for example, corroborated in numerous credible near-death experiences (NDEs), where the experiencers reported having seen their own physicality from afar, such as lying on the operating table and being operated on by physicians.

What is the relevancy of all of this? It's huge:

- It conveys that we, humanity at large, are on our own. There are very likely other intelligent civilizations in other galaxies at the very time during which our own is peaking. However, we will not have to fear being taken over by creatures from another world. All we have to deal with, and fear, is belligerent adversaries from other countries on our own planet, but not from other planets. Our problems, big enough as they are, are limited, a known quantity. There are no unknown monsters out there who might overrun us – the enemy is among our own species.
- It conveys that there is a reality out there that is non-physical, that has no spatial or temporal boundaries, with highly evolved conscious nonphysical beings that are benevolent toward humanity. They want to help us in all situations of life but need, on an individual basis, our concurrence to let them do so. They want to communicate this to us and try out every possible way to get our attention for this to happen, which is difficult given our general human state of hubris.
- It also conveys a feeling of humility, in that we learn that humanity is not the only thinking species in the Universe, but there may well be, and have been, billions of other highly evolved civilizations out there who have similar struggles and development potential to that given to humanity. They are all part of the *Grand Original Design* – or, depending on one's religious persuasion, one might say that *they are all God's creation*.

We will pick up this discussion in a subsequent chapter in which we draw conclusions from a large variety of phenomena, including spirit orbs, crop circles, apparitions, and spirit-directed healing.