

C+T Helman  
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David Grinspoon, *Lonely Planet: The Natural Philosophy of Alien Life*, Ch. 9,16

### Quotes

- 142 Intelligence is impossible to develop
- 144 Rare Earth
- 146 Iron hogged all the oxygen
- 255 Science has lost desire to question its own authority
- 258 NASA has own planetary protection office
- 259 Mars—Manifest Destiny
- 261 Discovery involves risk
- 265 Chemical systems elsewhere

### Discussion

What is intelligence?—Knowing that you have intelligence

- Ability to think about your history

Are we product of earth or is earth product of us

- We adapt to our environment
- Religion says earth is a product of us
- Evolution says we are a product of earth
- Are we destroying the earth now
  - o Yes, with pollution, etc. we are taking the earth for granted

Alien Life

- Is life on other planets intelligent
- If aliens existed and wanted to take over, would they not have already tried?
- Do other planets even support life?
  - o We typically associate life with humans, however many organisms still exist outside of us.
  - o If other planets are able to support life, how will we know if we cannot travel to them?
- Would you personally interact with other life forms?
  - o Depends on their intelligence level, among other superficial things.
- Questions to think about
  - o How probable is it that aliens exist?
  - o What would they want from earth?
  - o What does intelligence give us?—ethics, greed, what else?
  - o Would other life form believe in God, or other supernatural being?
  - o Would there be competition or neutrality between us and them?

Science' own authority

- No one questions science, what if we are learning things that are wrong?
- Discovery involves risk—is it worth the risk to search planets...do the benefits outweigh the positives?