

The Ancient Aliens Guy, His Hair, and Extraterrestrial Imperialism

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At some point during the past few years, you may have tuned into *The History Channel* in hopes of seeing *Pawn Stars* or a new documentary. Instead of finding what you were looking for, you may have come across a show called *Ancient Aliens*. When watching *Ancient Aliens*, it becomes evident very quickly that the show is trying to convince viewers that extraterrestrials have visited Earth in the past. It is obvious that many people begin watching the show for a good laugh once they realize this, because the show is continually made fun of on the Internet and in pop culture. Some people don't watch long enough because Giorgio Tsoukalos and his crazy hair make the show appear silly and incredible. The odd thing is that some of the ideas are logically possible. The Ancient Astronaut Theory, for example, is a very interesting explanation to many historical mysteries, though it is not taken seriously as a scientific theory. Tsoukalos and his team's theories on aliens visiting Earth in the past are theoretically possible, so we should consider the implications if their theory is true. What effects will alien visitors have on environmental issues, world religion and cultures, and political organizations around the world in the future? What kind of preparations need to be made by the world in order to prepare for the next alien visitation?

Giorgio A. Tsoukalos doesn't have the college credentials of a world-famous archeologist; as a matter of fact, his body building hobby and sports medicine degree are far from archeology. Even so, Giorgio has been to over fifty-four countries, and he speaks five languages fluently. According to his own Web site, *The Legendary Times*, he was named the real life Indiana Jones and is "changing the way the world thinks about the Ancient Astronaut Theory" ("Giorgio"). Archeologists and scientists worldwide heavily ridicule the theories of Giorgio and his companion Eric Von Daniken, and though the academic credentials of both men are light on the subject of astronomy, many of the show's arguments seem to be reasonably logical. Some of the show's best evidence of supposed alien visitation is the engineering found in the ancient city of Puma Punku. Episode six of *Ancient Aliens* shows the ruins of the city built of many very large, two-story granite stones, cut to a precision that is hard to achieve with modern-day engineering and power tools. Even more amazingly, the large stones were placed on a plateau that had no original granite. There is no reliable theory for how the stone got there; one theory is that trees were cut down by natives and used as a rolling platform, but there are no trees for miles. A scientist estimated Puma Punku's structure to be more than a few thousand years old after carbon dating samples on the show ("The Mystery"). How did the ancient people in South America achieve these feats? Tsoukalos argues that it was accomplished with the help of someone with technology more advanced than our current global society. Perhaps someone from another planet.

In the pilot episode from 2009, Tsoukalos presents further evidence of ancient cave wall drawings showing what seems to be a modern day light bulb. The underground Egyptian structure and its long halls couldn't be lit by torches according to archeologists, and there were no mirrors to light it ("Ancient Aliens"). These odd archeological findings, combined with the Mayan civilization's seemingly impossible knowledge of modern astronomy, and the puzzling modern crop circle patterns around the world, point to a body of possible evidence for alien life visiting earth.

Most people can agree it is far from certain that extraterrestrials have visited earth, but some theorists think it is very possible that old civilizations were much more advanced than we imagine. However, what would happen to current human society if we found out for certain that we are not alone in the universe? How would nations and personal freedoms change in an instantly outdated world? What would happen to human spirituality as a result? Genesis 1:27 states, "So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." Many people see this verse as evidence that humans are the only intelligent life. The appearance of aliens would disturb human ideology and upset the current balance of society and government. Even though the current Vatican rule under Pope Benedict XVI said it would gladly welcome extraterrestrials to this planet, because they are God's children as well (Alleyne), some people choose not to believe in aliens or extraterrestrial life forms because the existence of other intelligent life forms does not coincide with their

religion or ideology; this is already the case with much of America who chooses not to believe in evolution and other sciences. Dr. Consolmango, an astronomer who works for the Vatican observatory, said this about the contemporary American beliefs on creationism: “the word has been hijacked by a narrow group of Creationist fundamentalists in America to mean something it did not originally mean at all. . . . It’s bad theology in that it turns God once again into the pagan god of thunder and lightning” (Alleyne). He says the Vatican is “very aware” of the scientific world, and his comments point out the Catholic Church’s views on other worldly life forms, as opposed to the views of other religious fundamentalists groups. In Bill Maher’s notorious documentary film *Religulous*, Father George Coyne of the Vatican observatory makes this assertion about the dates of modern scientific discovery and when the Bible was written: “How in the world can there be science in scripture? There cannot be” (*Religulous*). Although many religious people do not think their beliefs can be complemented by the development of science, with the growth of science comes the understanding that humanity may not be so unique after all.

Assuming that aliens exist, the biggest question to answer is where they are. Back in the 1940s when Enrico Fermi, an atomic scientist, asked this question, he and his colleagues came up with the Fermi Paradox (Schombert). The Fermi Paradox states that the possibility of alien life is theoretically infinite, but is contradicted with the complete absence of evidence for extraterrestrial life (Huang). Many theories have been made in response to the Fermi Paradox; the possibilities are limitless as to why humans haven’t openly encountered extraterrestrials in recorded history. It is probable that alien races would see our race as destructive, as they can decipher from our weapons and global warming. The Zoo Hypothesis is an interesting theory that proposes that we haven’t made contact with extraterrestrials “because they deliberately prevent us from detecting them,” and they know we don’t have the technology to detect them without a response (Forgan 341). Professor Forgan from the University of Edinburgh gives two more reasons why the Fermi Paradox could be flawed. First off, Forgan explains that theoretically “only one extraterrestrial civilization exists within contact range.” Forgan’s second idea is that “a universal legal policy or treaty exists which forbids signatories to interfere” (341). With Earth’s technology growing at an exponential rate through the past century, extraterrestrials could finally find the reason to intervene in Earth’s affairs, whether it be for productive aims of teaching us new things or for their own colonization and resource consumption.

If aliens have been to earth before, should we be optimistic about them coming back? Brother Guy, an American Jesuit priest told reporters this about aliens: “Any entity—no matter how many tentacles it has—has a soul” (Cookson). But famous physicist Stephen Hawking says we should be scared. Hawking presents a logical situation in which he illustrates a likely consequence of aliens coming to earth:

We only have to look at ourselves to see how intelligent life might develop into something we wouldn’t want to meet. I imagine they might exist in massive ships, having used up all the resources from their home planet. Such advanced aliens would perhaps become nomads, looking to conquer and colonize whatever planets they can reach. . . . If aliens ever visit us, I think the outcome would be much as when Christopher Columbus first landed in America, which didn’t turn out very well for the Native Americans. (Peter)

Unlike Giorgio Tsoukalos, Hawking has world-famous credentials as a physicist and as a scholar. Many people would agree with Hawking that any civilization that becomes so advanced that it spreads its empire to another world could pose a threat to our human cultures and way of life, much like the Roman Empire and Alexander of Macedonia. We can only hope that the extraterrestrials are looking to aid our civilization’s growth, because if they want to wipe us out, they probably could. According to a joint report by NASA and Pennsylvania State University, there are theoretically infinite possibilities about what to expect from an alien encounter. Aliens could be a physical biological hazard to earth, or they could intentionally hurt us for any number of reasons to fulfill their ideal quest to shape the galaxy as they see fit (Baum, Haqq-Misra, and Domagal-Goldman 2124).

How can the human race prepare for such a cataclysmic change in the world? Many people would probably suggest we welcome the aliens as partners and request they share their technology for our personal gain. Other people, likely including many politicians, might say to prepare for interstellar battle here on Earth. However, judging by the technology it would take to travel light years to earth from another inhabitable planet gearing up for war is probably a futile effort against extraterrestrials. In order to prepare for the most beneficial welcoming of extraterrestrials, humans need to work on fixing society as if the well-being of the planet and our citizen’s health is the main concern. I suggest humans do this: clean up the

planet's ecosystem, create more international cooperation between countries, and create a society that is beneficial to all members. For example, the fact that we as nations have allowed global warming to get so far out of hand that it destroys our ecosystem may make extraterrestrials angry, because they will know from traveling light years to reach earth that inhabitable planets are far and few between; they may destroy us for the ethical reason that we are a danger to ourselves and the planets we could hypothetically colonize later into our existence. We cannot rely on capitalism and limitless profits to please aliens; we can almost guarantee that dollar diplomacy is not what they will be looking for, because capitalism centers around greed, something we can assume might not be valued by more advanced societies.

There is no doubt that the appearance of an alien race would forever change politics. During war, America has signed treaties with certain allies for better defense against large threats like Germany, Japan, and the USSR; the whole world would have to do the same thing in the event of an aggressive alien invasion. Issues such as gay marriage that were once thought of as a threat to the ideal American culture will fall by the wayside. Where the people of the earth were once divided, nations would immediately be more cooperative in order to provide protection against larger threats to earth. Due to the need for centralized control, the United Nations would most likely take much greater control over making laws worldwide in order to keep the people safe.

Until then, it is a safe bet that the world's politicians are not giving alien invasion a single thought. Some scientists say this is a mistake: "Ignoring the possibility [of alien life] and hiding your head in the sand, waiting for them to find us certainly isn't a scientifically intelligent way to proceed or a good cultural way to anticipate something like that either," says Mary Voytek, senior scientist for astrobiology at NASA. "Our approach to it has been to be prepared" (Peter). Even though the likelihood of alien visitation is low, it is clearly a situation to prepare for.

Today's world governments promote limitless individual profit at the expense of issues like global warming and poverty, but solving these problems not only could gain the support of otherworldly races, but would save our own planet's ecosystem in the process. We must implement environmental engineering, political progressivism, and social reform before the space alien invasion, or there is a more probable chance that the world could be caught in an H. G. Wells-like scenario. Maybe the *Ancient Aliens* guy is crazy, but there may come a day when he says "I told you so."

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