

ARE WE ALONE?: PHILOSOPHICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE DISCOVERY OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE Free

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Paul Davies  
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Kevin rated it liked it Oct 26, Award-winning author Paul Davies, an eminent scientist who writes with the flair of a science fiction writer, explores the ramifications that the discovery of extraterrestrial life would have for our science, our religions, and our worldview in general. These are just three ways in which perfect solar eclipses, produced by conditions that help create a habitable planet, have fostered scientific discovery. But our argument has more mundane implications. In fact, it's not a trivial thing at all. What, then, would it take for an alien to be considered a participant in an Earth religion? There is a lot of assumptions but they are all based on mathematical fact. This book is exactly what I expected it to be: An overview of the SETI program, co The biggest shortcoming of this book is the fact that I read it 20 years after its publication. The conclusion is; of course we are not alone but the odd of anyone else surviving long enough to find us are nearly impossible. Paul rated it really liked it Jan 19, Discussing Intelligence elsewhere in the universe or in relation to non-homo Sapiens creates a lot of heated debate and contrasting opinions around the notions of intelligence and consciousness, which do not - according to some - need to be mutually inclusive. And finally, perfect eclipses give us unique access to ancient history. Davies identifies two fundamental issues that I have been pondering since reading. And vice versa. This knowledge enabled astronomers to interpret the spectra of the distant stars. About Us. This is to say nothing of having a universe with a fine-tuned set of physical laws to make stars, planets, and people possible in the first place. Planetary systems are not all alike. Properly framed and developed, however, we think the evidence for the correlation between life and discovery forms a pervasive and telling pattern, a pattern that not only contradicts the Copernican Principle, but also suggests that the universe, whatever else it is, is designed for discovery. This has some pretty interesting insights on extraterrestrial life. Philosophical Implications of the Discovery of Extraterrestrial Life. But before he gets to addressing those questions, Davies does have a fair amount to say about the underlying, threshold question--namely, what is the likelihood that such beings exist? And the first evidence is in. We reside between the Sagittarius and Perseus spiral arms. Highly recommended. Related Searches. The comedy of the story is heightened by what we recognise as a certain tribalism inherent to religion. The Psalms , sacred to both Jews and Christians, claim that God has given names to all the stars. May 10, Mrklington rated it really liked it. Home 1 Books 2. A sense of location is also critical to many religious practices - meaning that those beliefs could be bound to life on our planet Credit: Getty Images. The statistics revealed, the realism, the science behind the question is presented in nothing but rationality by Paul Davies. Share using Email. Are We Alone? If you believe in a God, why assume he is only able to love a few of his starchildren? Weintraub thinks Evangelicals might have a difficult time with Seti, because they approach their Scriptures with a high degree of literalism. Friend Reviews. Unlike Christianity, whose founder eradicated the necessity of location for religious experience, Islam is a very placed religion. Ten thousand revolutions: conjectures about civilizations. Joe rated it liked it Jan 19, Through her own experience, her work with patients, and in-depth interviews, Safer shows that the death of a parent All paths to God, in effect, go through him. Will their efforts meet with success? Our posturings, our imagined self-importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the Universe, are challenged by this point of pale light. If habitability depends on proximity to the so-called corotation circle — that region in which stars orbit at about the same speed as the spiral arm — then this thin and often broken ring could be narrower still. The biggest shortcoming of this book is the fact that I read it 20 years after its publication. A Rabbinical court is called to think about how Jews should respond to their new visitors. In Cry Havoc, historian Joseph Maiolo shows, in rich and fascinating detail, how the deadly game of the arms race was played out in the decade prior to the Any remaining life would be the microscopic vestiges of a dying planet. Because of the reflection of sunlight. Na, wenigstens sind wir einzigartig im gesamten Universum. Liquid water is a necessary condition for life, but not nearly a sufficient one. More Details No trivia or quizzes yet. At the same time, our location within the Galactic Habitable Zone offers the best overall location to be a successful astronomer and cosmologist. Since the mids, astronomers have been able to detect planets around other Sun-like stars. No, he argues, the laws of physics, as applied to biology, contain a fundamental organizing principle that leads from simple to complex. Now, as for me, I share the view Davies opposes--namely that life is a pointless accident--but I do not feel in any way robbed of dignity as a result. He sent his only Son, Jesus, to them. . . Did God do this for extra-terrestrials? A surprisingly deep analysis of the potential answers to the title question. To see what your friends thought of this book, please sign up.

## Are We Alone? Philosophical Implications of the Discovery of Extraterrestrial Life

However, a large collection of such molecules does have the quality of wetness. On Earth, this kind of cognition is at best a few million years old. Will their efforts meet with success? He outlines the history of speculation about aliens since antiquity; scientific theories about the number of alien civilizations and why we haven't found any signs of them; and the actual search for alien communication signals by radio telescope. Many faiths require specific rituals associated with spiritual experiences Credit: Getty Images. Would the discovery make believers feel insignificant, and as a consequence, cause people to question their faith? The two moons around Mars are much too small to stabilize its rotation axis. Philosophical Implications of the Discovery of Extraterrestrial Life" by Paul Davies I wonder whether we are being naive in the way we search. Na, wenigstens sind wir einzigartig im gesamten Universum. I'm sure these fields have grown in interesting ways since Dick According to the Talmud, God spends his night flying throughout 18, worlds. God chose a very specific way to redeem human beings. Shklovskii, though more than 30 years old, is still the best on the subject. According to the Talmud , God spends his night flying throughout 18, worlds. Believers may need to question whether their religion - and its routes to salvation - would apply to all alien beings Credit: Getty Images. Naja, innerhin steht sie im Zentrum des Universums. Maybe they have attained a more perfect spiritual existence than we have at this point in our development. With few exceptions, most of the discussions about Seti the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence tend to stay in the domain of the hard sciences. Friend Reviews. Perhaps this is a bigger challenge to Judaism and Islam than it is for some forms of Christianity, which place less emphasis on daily rituals than other religions. Discussing Intelligence elsewhere in the universe or in relation to non-homo Sapiens creates a lot of heated debate and contrasting opinions around the notions of intelligence and consciousness, which do not - according to some - need to be mutually inclusive. Think of Islam, which requires its adherents to take up embodied behaviors throughout the year. Times Store. The book was too short really. To be persuasive, the argument needs more detail, more evidence, and more rigor. Can life exist in the Antarctic ice, in the deep subsurface, in dilute sulfuric acid, in hot springs-even on Mars? And the spiral arms are much more hostile to planetary systems aspiring to habitability than is our location between spiral arms. However, it is interesting to note that if he is right, other life forms must exist in our vast universe - and as Davies points out, they will probably have had a much longer time to evolve into something far more intelligent than us. Related Papers. It was a stupendously improbable accident 3. Galaxies are filled with dangerous radiation hazards, and many regions are either so low in heavy elements as to prohibit terrestrial planets from forming, or so high that planetary systems will be hostile to life. Sort order. These examples are merely illustrative. First, these observations helped disclose the nature of stars. That is, suppose we beat the odds, discover other beings somewhere in the cosmos and actually exchange messages with them. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves. But when religion is involved, that

separation takes on a cosmic dimension: us and them, and God is on our side. I do not expect to know the answer to any of these questions in my lifetime. Jul 10, Suzanne rated it it was amazing. That planetary system must be nestled in a safe neighborhood in the right kind of galaxy, with enough heavy elements to build terrestrial planets. This is an amazing scientific essay on the possibility of life on other planets, particularly intelligent life. There is a lot of assumptions but they are all based on mathematical fact. Jan 01, Andy Stone rated it liked it. I would argue that this concern is misguided. Second is the principle of plenitude, which affirms that everything that is possible will be realised. He argues that this discovery would knock the stuffing out of the standard scientific view that the universe and human life are pointless and that everything is just an accident of chemistry and physics. Kevin rated it liked it Oct 26, Among scientists, at least, it comes not so much from scientific discovery as from an assumption called the Copernican Principle or Principle of Mediocrity. How unique are we? When Copernicus took the Earth out of the center of the universe, should people have felt robbed of dignity as a result? Paperback , pages. Realisations of divine life would not be in contradiction with each other or with creation. Save to Library. If you believe in a God, why assume he is only able to love a few of his starchildren? Perennial questions, even when officially ignored, have a way of bubbling up. It just didn't happen and never will. Christian Rasmussen rated it really liked it Feb 29, By clicking accept or continuing to use the site, you agree to the terms outlined in our Privacy Policy , Terms of Service , and Dataset License. Average rating 3. Is there any way we could tell? Why this pervasive opinion among scientists, the media, and the public at large? Goodreads helps you keep track of books you want to read. As far as we know, life on Earth is the only life there is. This book is exactly what I expected it to be: An overview of the SETI program, co The biggest shortcoming of this book is the fact that I read it 20 years after its publication. If we made contact with aliens, how would religions react? My favorite passage is one wherein he explains his view that intelligent life is neither a crazy accident, nor a miraculous act of the divine: I believe that consciousness is not as trivial a thing as it appears in the standard biological picture. May 06, Lia rated it really liked it. Dieter Orens rated it liked it Apr 09, On the other hand, that same vastness of the universe presents a daunting problem: Where should we look?