DECODING GOD PUZZLE

A VULCAN APPROACH

BELIEF V/S ALLEGED SCIENCE FICTION

BY ANDY

Decoding God Puzzle

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Presented By ARUN PRAKASH BALANI

To Those Believers

If You Eliminate the Impossible, Whatever
Remains, However Improbable, Must Be the Truth

- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Welcome to the biggest treasure hunt of all. The game plan is simple. Like all treasure hunts, we'll start with a map. Only in this case, the map will not be in our hands, but in our head—uncharted, unmarked, and incomplete, like a jigsaw puzzle whose pieces will emerge as we proceed on our quest. These pieces will continually shift shape, size, and color in tune with the seeker's frame of mind. My clue will not be the same as your clue; your map will not be the same as mine.

The rules are simple: There are none. No winners or losers. No time limit or starting point. The only thing common among all participants will be the unquenchable thirst to seek, to know, and to uncover the possible true meaning of God: the greatest enigma of mankind.

Mankind has achieved many things and will achieve many more in the future, but the thousands of years old ""GOD"" will forever remain an enigma.

I write this book fully aware of this cruel fact. Although we will never know the true nature of the god phenomenon, I may be able to satisfy myself in some small measure through my attempts to explain it with whatever little knowledge I have gathered.

About The Author

Andy is based in Mumbai, India. He is a mass communications major with a degree in film making. Writing is his hobby. He has a special interest in exploring the various mysteries mankind has come across.

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About The Book

IN HIS OWN WORDS: "Mysteries haunting mankind intrigue me the most, and I like writing about them." DECODING GOD—as the name suggests, the book is about explaining the mysterious god phenomenon that prevails in our society. I've taken a simple & direct approach to explaining the god phenomenon by taking help from research work done by others. This book is written in such a way that everyone can understand it, irrespective of his or her background in the subject. The book has been made concise so that it remains interesting to read. Furthermore, this book does not deal with the denial or acceptance of the existence of god but rather with the extent of god's influence. **It is this phenomenon that I question.**

--- ANDY

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Preface

As a child I heard, read, and watched tales from the great Hindu epics of The Mahabarata and The Ramayana, although I was too young to understand the religious significance of these tales. Back then, Krishna was my favorite. Later on, I grew familiar with the Bible and the life of Jesus, as well as Buddhism, Jainism, and Islam.

As I grew older, one thing continually puzzled me: Why did we have so many religions all claiming that “"God is One”"? In so asking, I was often told that there was only one God and the different religions were different ways of reaching him (God). Somehow, this answer didn't satisfy me.

Surrounded by believers, I was tempted to believe in God as the creator, God as the protector, and God as the destroyer. And for a brief period of time, I did believe what the “"believers believed.”"

“"Humans evolved from apes,”" our science teacher used to say, and I used to wonder where the believers’ theory fit in. I took both the scientific and the religious explanations at face value and wondered which one was true: The one that was based on ancient texts or the one that was based on facts and logical scientific speculations?

I knew that there must be some flaws in the theory about God—I just couldn't imagine what they were.

THEN:

One day I came across the book Chariots of the Gods? by Erich Von Daniken, whose ideas about ancient astronauts gave me the missing link I was looking for. Now I could explain the phenomenon of God logically, yet still imperfectly.

Daniken's book led me to several others that tried to explain the same phenomenon. At the end of the day, I was left standing where I had stood at the beginning. Throughout studying all these different theories, I found more questions raised than had been answered. And indeed, there were no easy answers. The only ones I managed to develop were based on anecdotal experiences, which unfortunately are very subjective.

In that spirit of unanswerable questions, this book does not deal with denial or acceptance of the existence of god, but rather the extent of god's influence.

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Introduction

ALL TRUTH PASSES THROUGH THREE STAGES. FIRST, IT IS RIDICULED. SECOND, IT IS VIOLENTLY OPPOSED. THIRD, IT IS ACCEPTED AS BEING SELF-EVIDENT.

- Arthur Schopenhauer

Let me begin with the most obvious question:

Who or what is or are God(s)?

Have you ever given a thought about it? In other words, why do you believe in god? If you do, that is.

Do you have a solid reason based on your personal experience that has led you to believe in him?

Or is it because others believe in him and have told you that you should, too?

I would call people who fall into the latter category “"intelligent fools,”" and people belonging to the former—well, I’d like reserve my judgment on them.

Whatever your reason may be, one thing is for sure: the age-old theory **that God holds the key for our survival** has to change, because regardless of what you might have been told, the “"possible truth”" is that our dear **god just might be an alien from space.** No, I haven’t gone mad, nor am I bluffing. I’m just trying to provide the best possible picture of God that emerges as we logically understand what our mysterious ancient books and archaeology are trying to say. Even if one might disagree—I anticipate a lot of skeptics—

I’ll give you enough evidence to make you think and humor the question: **Does God really hold the key for our survival?**

When I say that God might be an alien, I am not sure myself if that is true or false, but there are some very distinct reasons for me to believe so.

Keeping in mind that this book aims to be understood by people of all ages, I will try not to make this into a scientific paper but one written as a common person who has stumbled upon some of the best-kept secrets.

If we study certain mysterious ancient texts and archaeological discoveries in the context of our modern accumulated human knowledge, they provide only one answer: If the stories we read in ancient texts are true, then Earth in its past had technology that was almost 100 to 200 times superior to what we have today—which is perhaps the best-kept secret in the world.

To put it another way, let our dear God **face trial for fooling people into believing that he is the key to our survival.** This book will put forth views against this theory. By the end of the book, you should be able to be your own judge and make your own judgment.

As for myself, I don't have ""a theory,"" but I do believe that the truth lies in the mixture of some of these theories to follow. One can never be totally certain, and people who say that they have understood the true nature of GOD should either produce true hardcore scientific proof—or should have their brains examined.

SOME POSSIBILITIES ARE:

- ✓ God created humankind along with our surroundings, but was an alien nonetheless.
- ✓ God mutated some species of ape and created the first human species, but was an alien nevertheless.
- ✓ God was a teacher who introduced civilization to our barbarian ancestors, but was an alien nevertheless.
- ✓ Life on Earth evolved naturally and came in contact with aliens at some point in our distant past, which our ancestors mistook as ""GODS.""
- ✓ God is some sort of an energy. I'm not going to go deeper into this theory, because there is no scientific proof for it (at least not that I know of). Yes, there is some sort ""energy field"" around us, and yes, energy from outer space does have some kind of effect on us (perhaps on all living and non-living things). But I am not tempted to call it ""god.""

Before I go any further, let's be clear: I'm not against any religion, nor God himself. I'm only trying to understand God by my own logic as opposed to what I've been taught. Believe me, if you just apply a little logic in your thinking, then your outlook will be way different. Read this book and make your own judgment, not as a faithful devotee of God, but as one of the most intelligent species in this ever-increasing universe.

I have solved the puzzle called GOD from the pieces I had, and the picture I got was that he is an alien. Someone else will solve the same puzzle and the outcome will be different and may well be contradictory to my outcome. This is bound to happen, since what we have is a small piece of a very large puzzle. All the large pieces were destroyed or kept in secret places. One cannot derive a “"flawless”" theory of GOD. GOD is not a “"thing”" that science can explain, yet GOD is a phenomenon that can be logically explained.

So, in moving forward, I would ask you to keep an open mind that is not blocked by the mindset that you already have and analyze the facts and theories in the book to develop your own “"logical”" theory (or theories). Feel free to disagree with me—but don’t ignore the facts!

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Content List

1

Life In The Cosmos

Fiction or Reality?

TODAY, WHEN SCIENTISTS HAVE ALREADY PROVED THAT THEY CAN CLONE LIVING BEINGS, WE ARE STILL DEBATING OUR OWN ORIGIN.

The billion-dollar question according to some, but for me it is a worthless exercise—at least at our current stage of development.

The fact is that there has been no conclusive evidence of any life beyond Earth. Still, absence of evidence is not evidence of absence, as various pundits have wisely noted. Yet we do not have any solid proof of a single alien microbe or solitary extraterrestrial spore, much less the hubcap from a passing alien starship.

The late astronomer Carl Sagan estimated that there were a million technological civilizations in our galaxy alone. His more conservative colleague Frank Drake offered the number ten thousand. John Oro, a pioneering comet researcher, calculated that the Milky Way was sprinkled with a hundred civilizations. Finally, there are skeptics such as

Ben Zuckerman, an astronomer at UCLA, who thinks we may well be alone in this galaxy, if not the entire universe.

Some time back I came across an article where high-ranking NASA scientists said that humanity was on the verge of discovering alien life, possibly within the next thirty years.

""I think we're going to have strong indications of life beyond Earth within a decade, and I think we're going to have definitive evidence within 20 to 30 years,"" said NASA chief scientist Ellen Stofan.""We know where to look. We know how to look….In most cases we have the technology, and we're on a path to implementing it. And so I think we're definitely on the road.

Humanity has also developed equations to predict life in space, such as the Drake Equation and the Seager Equation.

The Drake Equation is:

$$N = R^* \cdot f_p \cdot n_e \cdot f_\ell \cdot f_i \cdot f_c \cdot L$$

where

N = the number of civilizations in our galaxy with which communication might be possible (i.e. that are on our current past light cone);

and

R* = the average number of star formation per year in our galaxy

fp = the fraction of those stars that have planets

ne = the average number of planets that can potentially support life per star that has planets

fl = the fraction of planets that could support life that actually develop life at some point

fi = the fraction of planets with life that actually go on to develop intelligent life (civilizations)

fc = the fraction of civilizations that develop a technology that releases detectable signs of their existence into space

L = the length of time for which such civilizations release detectable signals into space

The Seager Equation is

N = N*FQ FHZ FO FL FS

where:

N = the number of planets with detectable signs of life

N* = the number of stars observed

FQ = the fraction of stars that are quiet

FHZ = the fraction of stars with rocky planets in the habitable zone

FO = the fraction of those planets that can be observed

FL = the fraction that have life

FS = the fraction on which life produces a detectable signature gas

Both equations estimate thousands of civilizations out there. I believe this only reflects our present state of mind. After all, we grew up watching Gene Roddenberry's Star Trek, George Lucas's Star Wars, and countless other movies, TV shows, and fictional works dealing with life in space.

True space can be stranger than any of our science fiction shows, movies, and stories.

Yes, life is out there, and the only way to discover it is to venture into deep space. To find some intelligent life similar to the human race is possible, but it might take some searching. Our science fiction writers would have us believe that primitive life is right in our neighborhood and advanced intelligent life is just beyond the edge of our known universe. Possible, yes—but mostly wishful thinking.

At present, our knowledge of space is like that of a one-year-old baby. In time, we will understand more about the skies above us and, hopefully, develop a more realistic approach to finding life in space.

As such, the aforementioned equations are worthless given the unpredictable nature of the elements on which they are based.

When searching for life in space, the very first thing our astronomers look for is water—H2O in scientific terms.

Why is water essential for life?

According to human understanding, three things are required for all life.

THE INGREDIENTS FOR LIFE:

1) Liquid water
2) Chemical building blocks like carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, and nitrogen
3) An energy source

Life abounds in this one corner of our solar system. From the frozen lakes in Antarctica to the boiling ocean-floor springs of the Pacific, planet Earth is teeming with life. But these diverse locations all share some common ground: They all contain the essential ingredients needed to create life.

1) Liquid Water

Biologists studying primitive organisms all agree on one thing: Liquid water is essential for life to evolve and survive. The search for life on other worlds often amounts to a search for places where water can exist in liquid form. But why is water so precious?

- ✓ For life to evolve, simple chemicals must combine to form ones that are more complex. Many chemicals dissolve in water, allowing them to mix together and react.
- ✓ Liquid water is the right temperature for chemical reactions to happen.
- ✓ Many chemicals have parts that are attracted to water and parts that are repelled by it—forces that also help reactions happen.

2) Chemical Building Blocks Carbon

Carbon is important because of its ability to form long, chain-like molecules, which form the backbone of organic molecules.

Hydrogen and Oxygen

Hydrogen and oxygen can both bond with carbon in lots of different ways. These two elements also form water molecules. So, if water is present, hydrogen and oxygen will already be there.

Nitrogen

Like hydrogen and oxygen, nitrogen can also combine with carbon in lots of different ways. Large molecules made from carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen tend to be very stable.

Other Elements

Sulphur, phosphorus, sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, manganese, iron, cobalt, copper, and zinc are all needed for life on Earth as we know it.

3) An Energy Source

All chemical reactions need an energy source to drive them.

On Earth, most primitive animals and plants get their energy by absorbing light from the sun in a process called “"photosynthesis.”"

Humans and other animals get their energy by eating plants or other animals. So, all animals ultimately rely on energy from the Sun to live.

But how do these ingredients combine to create life?

The general belief is that water is better at sustaining life than any other substance.

Part of the reason for this belief is that we've never discovered an organism that's demonstrated otherwise. While some organisms need less than others—the cyanobacteria Chroococcidiopsis, for instance, needs so little water that biologists think it may be able to survive on the arid surface of Mars—every organism we know of needs at least some water to survive. In fact, without water, life on Earth would have never begun. Acting as a medium in which organic compounds can mix with one another, water facilitated the formation of the planet's first life forms, possibly even protecting them from the sun's radiation.

From those simple starter organisms to the more complex plants and animals, water has played a critical role in survival. In humans, it acts as both a solvent and a delivery mechanism, dissolving essential vitamins and nutrients from food and delivering them to our cells. Our bodies also use water to flush out toxins, regulate body temperature, and aid our

metabolism. No wonder, then, that water makes up nearly sixty percent of our bodies and we can't go for more than a few days without it.

Besides being essential for our bodies to function, water also promotes life in numerous other ways. Without it, we couldn't grow crops, keep livestock, or wash our food (or our bodies, for that matter). Water has also advanced civilization, providing a means for travel around world and a source of power for factories. Because water can also exist as a vapor, it can be stored in the atmosphere to be delivered as rain across the planet. Earth's oceans also help regulate the planet's climate, absorbing heat in the summer and releasing it during the winter. And of course, those same oceans serve as home for countless plants and animals.

While no one argues against the importance of water to life on Earth, it's fair to wonder if life could exist elsewhere without it. The answer is a resounding ""maybe."" Scientists are almost certain that, at a minimum, life requires a liquid of some sort to survive, with ammonia and formamide being the most promising alternatives. Both liquids have their own sets of problems, however. Liquid ammonia only exists at extremely cold temperatures, making it unlikely that organisms could find the energy to support metabolism. Formamide, on the other hand, actually stays liquid over a larger temperature range than water, and like water, is a solvent capable of dissolving many organic materials. However, so far scientists have found little evidence that the solvent could support life.

If life forms that do not require water do exist, they would be very different from the life found on Earth. For instance, rather than being carbon-based, such life may arise from silicone compounds. A recent study even suggested that an alternative life form might be lurking in our solar system. Researchers studying Titan, one of Saturn’s moons, noticed that the hydrogen present in the moon's atmosphere was not found on the surface. One explanation for the missing hydrogen was that life forms were consuming it, just as we consume oxygen.

So far, however, we simply do not have enough information to say whether or not life could exist without water. We know with certainty, however, that life on Earth definitely could not.

Until recently, it was thought that life could not exist anywhere that was shaded from the Sun's light. However, scientists have recently discovered organisms living deep beneath the ocean. These organisms absorb energy directly from chemicals in the water around them.

Of course, there is a catch.

All life on Earth is based on carbon and water; this could also be true of life forms elsewhere in the universe. However, other elements might also be capable of providing a basis for life. Silicon is usually considered the most likely alternative, though still improbable

Most scientists hold the view that if extraterrestrial life exists, its evolution would have occurred independently in different places across the universe. An alternative hypothesis, held by a minority, is "panspermia," which suggests that life in the universe could have stemmed from a single initial distribution of spores that provided the basis for all living beings to develop. If true, this theory would suggest that life may exist throughout the universe in various, yet similar, forms.

Silicon-Based Life

Most scientists regard silicon-based life as improbable. Superficially, the chemistries of carbon and silicon are similar: just as carbon can form methane (CH_4), silicon can form silane (SiH_4), both elements that can form long chains of polymers.

But silicon's affinity for oxygen means that it cannot easily be used for respiration. Whereas CO_2 is a gas that can easily be removed from the organism, SiO_2 is a solid that will instantly organize itself into lattices, making it hard to dispose of. On top of that, silicon fails to give rise to many compounds that exhibit chirality (when a molecule is not superimposable on its mirror image), which is a common feature of carbon-based molecules that is essential to the proper functioning of enzymes.

There is also astronomical evidence to suggest that silicon-based life is unlikely. Wherever astronomers have looked, they have failed to find the simplest precursors to silicon-based biochemistry. Complex carbon-based compounds are abundant in space, but concerning silicon, most of what we have observed in space are simple oxides with no record of more complex molecules such as silanes or polysiloxanes (inorganic polymers consisting of a silicon-oxygen backbone). Despite this, silicon-based life remains a favorite in science fiction, such as in the episode of the original Star Trek series that included a silicon life form called the Horta.

Ammonia-Based Life

All life on Earth relies on water and its numerous chemical properties; indeed, a large portion of modern chemistry is devoted to the study of aqueous solutions. However, numerous chemical reactions are possible in an ammonia solution, and liquid ammonia has some chemical similarities with water. Ammonia can dissolve most organic molecules at least as well as water does, and is additionally capable of dissolving many elemental metals. Given this set of chemical properties, it has been theorized that ammonia-based life forms could be possible.

On the other hand, there are problems in considering ammonia as a life source. The heat of vaporization for ammonia is half that of water, and its surface tension is three times smaller. This means that hydrogen bonds between ammonia molecules will always be much weaker than those between water molecules, which in turn means that ammonia is less able to concentrate non-polar molecules through a hydrophobic effect. For this reason, mainstream science has questioned how well ammonia could hold prebiotic molecules together in order to allow the emergence of a self-reproducing system.

A biosphere based on ammonia would likely exist at temperatures or air pressures that are extremely unusual for terrestrial life on earth, which usually exists within the melting and boiling points of water at normal earth pressure (between 0°C [273 K] and 100°C [373 K]). At normal earth pressure, ammonia's melting and boiling points are between -78°C (195 K) and -33°C (240 K). At such extremely cooled temperatures, biochemical reactions are slowed down tremendously, and some biochemicals may precipitate out of solution due to their high melting points. Ammonia could be a liquid at normal temperatures but boil out at much higher pressures—for example, in a 60 atm environment, ammonia boils at 98°C and melts at -77°C.

So the question remains: Is there H2O out there? The simple answer is YES.

In recent years, it has become surprisingly apparent that, contrary to previous belief, Earth is not the only place in the solar system with liquid water.

As of 2015, there have been confirmed reports of water found on Mars, Europa, and Enceladus, with Pluto also being a likely candidate. Based on recent studies, there are also at least dozen space rocks (like planets and moons) where H2O might exist or have existed in the past.

In 2011, two teams of astronomers discovered the largest and farthest reservoir of water yet detected in the universe. The water, equivalent to 140 trillion times the amount of all water in Earth's oceans, surrounds a huge, feeding black hole—called a quasar—more than twelve billion light-years away.

""The environment around this quasar is very unique in that it's producing this huge mass of water,"" said Matt Bradford, a scientist at NASA's jet propulsion laboratory in Pasadena, California. ""It's another demonstration that water is pervasive throughout the universe, even at the very earliest times."" Bradford leads one of the teams that made the discovery. His team's research is partially funded by NASA and has appeared in the Astrophysical Journal Letters.

The question today is not whether there is life out there, but how do we reach it.

If we leave the conspiracies and science fiction out of it, I believe the answer to the question of life beyond Earth is pretty simple. In fact, it's right in front of us.

We all know about twins: individuals who look identical. While true twins are from the same parents, we are all familiar with the idea of a doppelganger—a person unrelated but appearing identical to another person. Why shouldn't this same idea apply to planets?

Earth is not a unique planet. Some may think it is, but in reality, Earth was formed from materials found in space. What's true on Earth can be true somewhere else out there.

Why hasn't anyone visited us if, by all scientific calculations, the universe is inhabited by thousands of civilizations? The answer should be simple, but it has unfortunately turned into one of the most controversial topics throughout human civilizations.

Another thing worth mentioning is that mankind has been scanning space in an attempt to reach out to anyone out there for last 150-160 years or so—which from a cosmic perspective does not even amount to half a second. Besides, the tools we use for communication are too primitive in nature: To effectively communicate, we would need similar technology at both ends. Furthermore, we are also assuming that whoever is out there is also searching for life in space.

There are many different ways of sending and receiving messages in space. Searching the Internet will produce a long list along with their pros and cons. I'm not here to discuss that, but to point out an effective means of communication that is not currently available. Communication

at the speed of light is the best method that the current scientific community can agree on. Did you know it takes a little over eight minutes for sunlight to reach Earth's surface from sun? To reach Pluto, it takes around 5.5 hours.

In this scenario, interstellar communication is a very time-consuming process and rather ineffective considering all the other political and economic situations on Earth. It may be preferable if humanity concentrated on developing faster methods of travel through space—perhaps the only way humankind has any chance of coming in contact with extraterrestrial life.

Yes, there is a very realistic chance that our satellites out there will pick something up, but real communication between vast distances in outer space is technically possible yet unlikely with our current technologies. Time remains the biggest villain in outer-space communication.

The American science fiction TV show Star Trek Voyager (episode "'Blink of an Eye'" in season 6) demonstrates my point of view. In this episode, the spaceship Voyager is stuck in the atmosphere of an alien planet.

The perception of time held by the crew of the Voyager differed greatly from the perception of time experienced by those on the planet's surface. From the Voyager's point of view, they had only spent a few months in the planet's orbit, but in that time they were able to witness a stone age civilization transform into a pre-space age civilization. In other words, what had only been few months for the crew of the Voyager were in fact thousands of years for the civilization on the planet below.

In 2013, NASA announced that Voyager 1 was officially the first manmade object to leave our solar system. It had been launched in 1977.

Although there is no definitive proof that life exists, the hope remains—a wishful thinking that we are not alone in the universe. I believe alien civilizations are out there, but we too often assume that species we find will think and behave as they do on Earth. We have the urge to discover alien life—but the alien life out there might not. I doubt that there are thousands of races out there, as in Gene Roddenberry's Star Trek, but I suspect that there are few, and the only realistic chance of finding them is to develop good, effective, fast, space travel.

As long as mankind keeps developing the way it has, I predict that there is a sixty percent chance that we will discover alien life in the next 1000-1500 years. Yes, this is a huge time span—but if we know nothing

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