**A Message From the Stars**

By: Matthew Chia

NUS High School

Hello.

We have been watching you.

We are, as you would say, aliens from another world. We defied death long ago, and escaped the horrors of war and hate long before. Now, we have transcended physical bodies, becoming one with the universe. We observe, watch, and, when necessary, manifest ourselves.

We travel the universe searching for intelligent life. We do not want to be the only ones in this universe. Loneliness takes its toll. Thus, we became curators of the universe, aiding the formation of intelligent life, and also helping them develop into a peaceful species, one that is ready to interact with other intelligent life.

You humans are one such species. In some ways, we are extremely proud of what you have become, like how a parent is proud of their child. However, we are also ashamed of some of your actions, as your species has done much wrong to each other.

Like on many other worlds, we watched as your planet cooled and formed. We watched as the rains fell on the world, covering the world with water, one of the origins of life. We watched as anaerobic bacteria thrived in the sulfur-rich atmosphere, converting it into one of oxygen, letting more complex life form. We watched as the fish evolved in the sea, and then moved out onto the land, changing into the first reptiles. We watched as the species varied and changed, and then watched as they were wiped out in swathes during the extinctions. We did not see any potential for intelligent life, so we did not interfere. We tried once before. Even with our great wisdom and experience, we cannot predict everything, and we failed utterly. Sentient life cannot be created. It must develop on its own.

Then, after 4.6 billion years after the sun formed in your timescale, we finally saw the sparks of intelligence, of consciousness. We rejoiced, as we had another intelligence in the universe, another one to look at develop, to watch, and potentially, when the time was right, to talk to and live alongside.

However, the spark was dying. The consciousness had developed in one of the most fragile of bodies, one that was at the mercy of the other creatures that roamed the land. You had tools, like the rock and the stick, but without the skills to use them. Without these, you had no chance to last on this savage world, one that had developed into one of the most fierce that we have seen.

Thus, we decided to interfere, to ensure the continuation of this intelligence.

Perhaps we were wrong to interfere. We question our decision to this day. But, to you right now, you would definitely think we were correct. And thus, as one day you would develop into beings that will question our decisions, we decided to live with this decision, and wait.

We came down in the same forms as your bodies. We slowly taught you the crude skills that would allow you to survive, like accurate throwing, the lever arm in the club, and fire. All these skills would slowly develop into the fine skills necessary to become the dominant species on the planet. And you did. You learned how to work together with these tools to survive more effectively. You evolved to be able to use these primitive technologies well and slowly spread across the world, bending nature to your will. You tamed the wild animals that you once hunted, learned to plant the plants of the land, and breed them to nurture the characteristics that you wanted.

We have seen this before, in the others species that we have watched for the past 20 billion years. However, your progress was exceptionally fast. We knew we were looking at something special.

Yes, you are not alone in this universe. Other sentient lifeforms also exist in this universe. But you cannot see them, nor can they see you. Why this is so we will explain.

We watched as you learned to harvest the ground for its substances, starting from flint and obsidian, then copper, tin, lead and silver, the first of the metals. We watched as you learned to work together to build structures, protecting yourselves from the elements. And slowly, you learned counting and numbers, learned law and order.

Some of your traits, however, were less beneficial. We saw as you bickered, fought and killed each other with the tools given to you. We hoped that, with your new knowledge, these arguments would end soon, as they had many times on other planets.

We watched as early civilizations rose and fell. Israel, Egypt, Aztec, Mayan, Babylonian, Chinese, Mongolian, Native American, Persian, then Greek and Roman, the origins of your world today. We watched as people pondered philosophy, life, law, decision making, and many deeper, interesting topics, ones that we only thought of late in our time as a physical species. We watched as leadership over a small party extended and evolved to lead larger groups, and entire civilizations consisting of many different people. We watched as the seedlings of democracy were planted, and sprouted into the sapling that would grow into the foundation that would define your world. We watched as you looked at the skies, wondering about what else was out there. We rejoiced at your progress.

Your progress in other regions, however, was less satisfying. Conquest via violence was a path that you always took, and used liberally. Segregation and bias was common in that era. The ones in power fell to corruption, or governed according to their own private whims. Rarely could you find one that ruled justly, and they were quickly swept away. There seemed to be no hope for your civilization, and no place for such a destructive society in this universe. Thus, we separated your system from the rest of the universe, to ensure that your violent ways would not result in your destruction by others. Still, we saw glimmers of hope.

We saw, in Israel, a people that were held together by a belief in a savior. They had already set in place various prophecies, and had been a great advocate for peace before. Now, we sent one of our own, in human form, down to spread the message of peace. He did not last long. The people of the world rapidly denounced him out of pride and selfishness. They took away his human body, but he still managed to get out some of his message. We hoped it would be enough.

This was the second time we interfered with your species. We cannot say that it was ideal. We watched as people fought over this new idea, this religion that we had started. We watched as the ideas were warped to accommodate leaders’ whims and wants, deviating from the original message for peace. We saw as conquests and wars were fought in the name of this religion. We also watched as two parties holding their own ideas about what the religion once was, fought each other bitterly, feuding violently with each other.

And still your technology progressed. Wars forced your advancement forward at a dizzying pace. Iron, steel, poisons all progressed forward as tools to kill more effectively. The sword and spear, weapons once used for survival, now were perfected for the art of killing one another. Fighting with bare hands also progressed to an art, a technique of conflicts. We were saddened to watch the technology that was once used to achieve peace, now used to cause wars.

However, not all was lost. The skills in war were also adapted to peace. Peacetime inventions were numerous as well. Paper, the brush, carving, crafting, the fine arts were all perfected as a means to give joy and add life and meaning to existence. We saw as your thirst of discovery continued, leading you to discover new lands, analyse the world around you, and figure out how to improve your lives in better ways. We hoped that someday, the peacemakers would help you settle your differences and live in harmony. Then, we could drop the shields separating you from the universe, and you can live in harmony with them.

The age of machines was next. We watched as you learned to harness and distribute energy to the masses, and use the energy of the ground to drive your inventions, ones that existed to aid you in convenience. The steam engine, the motor, the generator, these inventions ushered in electricity, another essential component to the future. We then watched as you aimed to unravel the secrets to the universe, starting with forces from the age before, then the atom, then the electron, proton and neutron, then the pile of subatomic particles that you now know about. We watched as you refined your form of governance, aiming to be fair and impartial. We watched as the greatest thinkers were no longer persecuted, but instead were free to question the motives of the people, and come up with ideals.

Still, your ways did not change. Wars still were fought, and violence was still a part of your lives. Even with so much knowledge of the consequences and the evils of fighting, you still did so. Knowing the issues of greed, wrath, envy, lust, gluttony, sloth and pride, you still fought. Pride, greed lust, was many a person’s fall.

We were afraid for the universe. Upon learning how to harness the energy of the atom, you unleashed it upon your fellow species. Many conflicts followed, leading to bias, and distrust. The governments still do not cooperate. Conflict is regular, and misinterpretation is common. Segregation and short-sightedness is common among the people and the leaders. People stir up trouble and still kill and destroy each other out of beliefs or pride. They refuse to see other perspectives.

With all of this, and in your current state of development, we cannot allow you to meet the rest of the universe. You already know how to traverse the stars. You will mistake gestures as conflicts. When coupled with your thirst of destruction and revenge, you will annihilate other species without second thought. This has been thought of by some of your own, but you still do not change.

Now you know why the sky seems so empty. We, right now, cannot let you encounter other species, as you will destroy them.

However, we still believe in you. That is why we are telling you all this. We hope that you will listen and change. In conflict, peace is the only way to true victory. We want you to know this, so that you will turn your sights skyward permanently.

At that point, when you can settle your own conflicts with peace, you will be able to pick up our legacy and join the others among the stars.

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