

“A Call to Credibility”

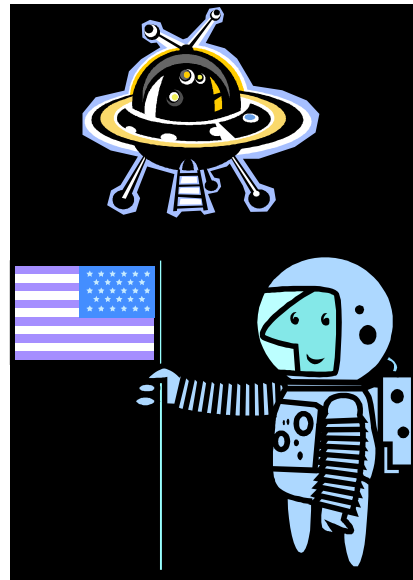
When I was a boy, the astronauts seemed were heroes. Called to their profession through military service, these early pioneers of space were all too aware of the risky business of flight – let alone to be launched into orbit.

In those early years of intended space travel and exploration, the public was also being educated by science fiction in books, magazines and movies.

From “From Earth to the Moon” by Jules Verne to Orson Wells’ classic radio-program, “War of the Worlds”; such early media was so convincing that it rendered momentary panic among the public...that’s aliens had landed...and man was in a heap of trouble.

Children imagined space as the home of other life...aliens and all sorts of creatures and craft; while adults may have pondered the notion themselves. Whether looking into the cosmos on a given night, reading a book of similar subjects, or watching a program or movie; the question or thought of “what’s out there?” has been on the forefront of our minds from the ages to the present.

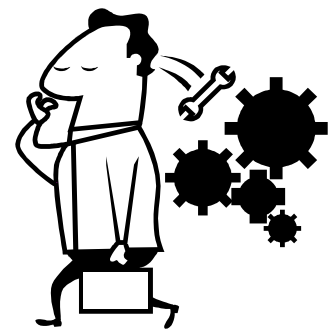
When I was a kid, such movies as “A 2001 Space Odyssey” and the series of “Planet of the Apes” supplanted in the minds of young viewers the possibility of some experiments gone bad in the human race and Outer Space; as though man had gone too far and – pushing the limits of his ability to expand – was suddenly in threat of extinction. Other programs of the ‘70’s included “Lost in Space” and “Star Trek” whereby families and multi-ethnic parties laid aside their



domestic conveniences and differences to venture off to space; and with the ever-memorable introduction of “To boldly go where no man has gone before...”, we were off for another episode of the starship Enterprise. It was a new day for television and a new age for space exploration; and while one took us to beyond the moon, the other actually landed on it – and it was not made of cheese after all!

In today’s development of computer-enhanced graphics and animation, such programs would be considered hokey. I’m not saying that I wouldn’t still be impressed – if just to be reminded of my youth – but the younger generation would probably lose interest immediately – with their insatiable diet of tetra-levels of imaging and animation. Maybe a good plot would interest them but, somehow, I don’t think it would matter for most.

Aliens and creatures, with or without spacecraft, are the most mystic matter anticipated to follow the earthen masses that streak across the night sky, are reported by reliable and not-so-reliable sources, and occasionally reach earth however small and incidental. Whether we welcome such visits or not, these foreigners have long-inspired their potential or existence; and now, if only they might show-up, we could put our minds to rest – considering that they have more brain capacity on the basic presumption that they traveled so far.



Well, with the notions and anticipation that so surrounds space and alien-forms is the issue of “credibility”. Already *touched-on* is the description of “reliable and not-so-reliable sources (of information); and over and above this, the infinite capacity of our minds to imagine an endless array of possibilities – with or without help from these so-called sources. So, with or without help,

the notions must be matched against our individual understanding of “credibility” – or our tolerance of believing the sources to be trustworthy or reliable.

Without naming names, some of these sources line the check-out counters of our local stores; and with such flashes and outlandish titles, grab your attention is just for the spectacle of it. Some of the front page may be mainstream-media; but there’s always that story that is not mainstream – but has left the stream altogether. I don’t consider this variety to be reliable.

On the other end of the spectrum are NASA and news’ agency reports but – considering that some people still think that the Apollo moon-landing was a hoax – cannot be assumed as entirely credible either. Yes, the people are real (or at least they look real), but the space video could have actually been filmed in a studio – according to the doubters or scoffers. Regardless of whether you read “The Star” or read about the stars, you cannot accept the content as being totally true, simply because it is about something you have not seen with your own eyes. We cannot be a “Doubting Thomas”, but we cannot be naïve to where such content is accepted with little or no validation or consideration beyond words.



“The Call to Credibility” is that Missouri-style mentality that says “show-me” – before jumping-to-conclusions; it is the part of us that does not yield to notions but, instead, goes to the far reaches to challenge words for their substantive worth and wherewithal. It is not the *easy-road* or convenient approach to life’s questions; but it can prove valuable by bringing to light the truth – and anything less – by scrupulous screening and thorough review of mind over matter...

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