

Science

Science and God

DR. WERNHER VON BRAUN.

"It is one of the tragedies of our time, that science and religion have become adversaries", says Dr. Wernher von Braun, who is one of the world's leading space-researchers, head of the George C. Marshall Space-travel Centre in Alabama, one of the brains behind the Gemini Project and the U.S.A.'s project for the first manned moon rocket, to be sent up in 1969.

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THE TWO STRONGEST FORCES which go to create our present-day civilisation are science and religion. Through science Man seeks to learn more of the mysteries of Creation. Through religion he seeks to understand the Creator.

They are not independent of each other. It is just as difficult for me to understand a scientist who cannot perceive a Higher Reality behind the origin of the Universe, as it is to understand a theologian who denies the advances made by science. Science and religion are far from being independent of each other, neither are they opposing forces; on the contrary they are as brothers. Both are striving for a better world. While science seeks to uncover the forces of Nature around us, religion is trying to discover the forces in Man himself.

As we gradually gain a greater knowledge of nature so we become more impressed and humbled by its orderliness and never-failing perfection. Our extensive knowledge of the Universe and its laws has made it possible for us to send people out from their natural surroundings into unknown space and bring them safely back to earth again.

ENDLESSNESS OF THE UNIVERSE.

Manned space-flights are pioneer works. But until now they have only begun to open the door out toward the endlessness of the Universe.

That which we can see of the mysteries of the Universe through the crack in that door only confirms our belief in its Creator. Mankind with its limited understanding cannot comprehend an omnipresent, almighty, all-knowing and eternal God.

Every attempt to create a picture of God and reduce Him so that He can be comprehended offers but further proof of His Greatness. I believe it best if one, through Faith, accepts God as a proof of Goodwill, which throughout history manifests itself more and more as the ability of Mankind to understand, grows.

It gives peace of mind to think of God as the Father of all, and the resultant thought, that all men are brothers, is an ethical guide-line.

Scientists only know that in nature nothing is destroyed without being converted into energy. Not even the tiniest particle can disappear without leaving a trace. Nature knows nothing of annihilation, only change. Would God have had less consideration for His Masterpiece, the Human Soul?

For me immortality means a continuation of our spiritual existence after death.

Mankind has had a belief in a life after death since the dawn of history. This has been as essential part of the primitive cultures' religions and it has been preserved in higher developed religions and philosophies.

The significance of this is of far more importance than the pronouncements of philosophers and theologians about what we can expect when we leave this world. From the dawn of time the conception of immortality has had its influence on untold millions of people.

THE SOUL DIVIDES MANKIND FROM OTHER CREATIONS.

The soul separates Man from the animal. An animal's actions are dictated by its inborn impulses, i.e. hunger, fear and self-preservation. These im-



UFO CONTACT WISHES TO OFFER ITS DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO
THE FAMILY OF A BRAVE SOVIET PIONEER -
COSMONAUT VLADIMIR KOMAROV
WHO DIED ON A SPACE VENTURE, APRIL 24th 1967.

other planets. I retold much of what I had written in my second book. The major questions of our conference dealt with our future in outer space.

Awareness of time was lost as we all grew interested in the conversation about outer space. What began as a forty-five minute interview lasted two hours. Finally the Queen reminded me that my lecture started in less than an hour. Interest was so great in the topic, if it had not been for the lecture, we could have kept talking for hours.

When the Queen reminded me of the time, I arose and we all shook hands in a very friendly manner. I was deeply impressed with the firm sincere grasp of Her Majesty and the Prince. The spokesman for the Prince escorted me to the car. During the conference he had stated he would like to take a trip with the space people and he repeated the request as we descended the steps to the waiting car.

As we were leaving the Palace grounds, I noticed a large group of people standing across the highway and facing the Palace. As the car came through the gate, many of these people gave the familiar salute. Possibly they only wanted to get a look at the common man who had been granted a private interview with the Queen, and whom the press had described as an "objectionable" visitor. On the fast trip back to the hotel, I noticed crowds of people along the highway, saluting as we passed.

Arriving at the hotel, we found a car waiting to take me to the lecture at The Hague. The Queen's chauffeur asked if he might attend the lecture and was granted permission to do so.

Due to the long interview at the Palace, I arrived twenty minutes late at the lecture hall where a capacity crowd was waiting. The people present were filled with curiosity and anticipation in regard to my meeting with Queen Juliana. Reporters especially were insistent that I give them all the details. This I could not do, for the meeting had been on a level of dignity that denied me the privilege of speaking until the Queen spoke first. All I could say was: "The Queen was very kind, and if there were more people like her the world would be a better place to live in." A tremendous burst of applause took place, and from there on the lecture proceeded as normal.

After the lecture, the reporters crowded around me asking, "What did the Queen say?" "It is the Queen's honor to speak first," I replied. This made the press very dissatisfied with me. Some went so far as to write up a fictitious interview, complete with questions and answers.

When I returned to my hotel I was grateful that no one knew where I was, for now I could relax and go over the events of the day.

A radio was in my room, and the next morning I tuned it to the BBC since I could not understand the Dutch of local stations. On an early-morning program called The News of Europe, I was very much surprised to hear a report from a Russian scientist stating that the moon was not composed of volcanic dust, but rather of granite formations sim-

ilar to Earth. Many green spots that looked like vegetation had been observed on the other side of the moon. This confirmed some of the things I had told the Queen during our two-hour conference.

I was curious to know just how the Russians had gained this information. My friends and I discussed the possibilities later that morning. Was it possible that a Russian had made a trip as I had, or did they receive the information from their moon shot that went into orbit around the sun? (Information received at the time of this writing seems to confirm that they did.)

Before the morning was over I was asked if I would accept an interview with Fox Movietone in downtown Hague. I would be called for and taken to the appointed place so I agreed.

The selected place was a large hotel in the centre of town. Our car was parked across the street from the building. I was told to walk across the street and enter the hotel. Camera were ready and set for operation, but I had to rehearse the walk several times before pictures were finally taken. In the final take, the large glass doors, framed in brass, opened automatically and I entered the hotel.

I was greeted by many people, including the manager of the hotel, and received the customary salute. This was not photographed. I was taken to a large room where cameras and sound equipment were in place. Here I was seated beside a small mahogany table which held a bouquet of American Beauty roses. My interrogator was seated on my right. His first question was: "The world wants to know what the Queen had to say."

My answer was that Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were deeply interested in the future of outer space development. The interrogator was very dissatisfied with my reply and tried to get me to relate our conversation in some detail. When I refused, he hurried through the other questions, and the news conference was over. I was told this newsreel would be shown all over the world, but I have no reports of it ever having been shown.

It is interesting to note that, after my visit to the Palace, wherever I went in Holland I received the salute from those who recognised me. Perhaps this is a customary honor paid to one who has been received by the Queen.

On Friday May 22nd, I received an invitation from the manager of the City Theatre in downtown Amsterdam, to attend the preview of an Italian film, Death Comes From Outer Space.

The death that came from outer space was a gigantic asteroid travelling at terrific speed directly toward the earth. This asteroid was formed from all the debris blown into space by our atomic and hydrogen explosions. The people of the Earth were in a panic, for they were warned that at any moment it could hit our planet and cause complete destruction. Meanwhile, huge tidal waves and heavy earthquakes were wreaking havoc in many places throughout the world.