

UFO's and God  
Stanley David Gedzelman  
13 June 2021

Oh, how we crave secrets. It is one of the roots of the deliciousness of gossip. “Did you know that...?”

It is a serious question to ask if there is life elsewhere in the universe and another serious question to ask if any of that life is intelligent. That has been an abiding inspiration for so much science fiction.

We look for signs that intelligent life has visited Earth. On June 24, 1947, private pilot, Kenneth Arnold reported seeing thin, shiny convex- and crescent-shaped objects, flying in formation in what had been a clear sky in a line between Mount Rainier and Mount Adams in Washington, and which appeared dark when seen in front of snowfields.

This sighting marked the start of the modern UFO era.

Mr. Arnold's observations and report were detailed and he accompanied them with sketches. He judged the objects to be in rapid motion, but other pilots and some scientists subsequently reinterpreted them to be motionless, perhaps because Arnold was turning the plane to get a better view. The sightings were quickly dubbed flying saucers, a name that has stuck. There were a number of naturalistic interpretations of the sightings, one of which included polymath astronomer Donald Menzel's hypothesis that they were lenticular, saucer-shaped mountain wave clouds.

No sooner are naturalistic explanations found for UFO sightings, than all the excitement disappears faster than the sighting appeared. It is almost pitiful to see how deflated people are when told that their shining, blinking object near the horizon is the planet, Venus. It is the sightings that remain unexplained that rouse the greatest excitement because of the popular extraterrestrial hypotheses attached to them. The observations also occur serially in clusters, much like copycat suicides or mass shootings. For example, Mr. Arnold's sightings inspired many other similar sightings in the days and weeks that followed.

One question to ask of those who believe aliens have come all the way from distant stars or even galaxies is, “why would these aliens come all this way – zillions of light years – and then all remain elusive and secret?”

In similar vein, why would a God who so carefully and lovingly crafted human life and all necessary for our survival and success remain invisible, elusive, and secret? Theologians have certainly constructed answers. One example is, “God wants us to be independent and succeed on our own.” Construct your own answer if you will, it is far more likely that there is no God, for it surely seems to me that he would want his creations to see him.

So, I have a prediction based on our interest in UFO's. No sooner will God appear before us than all the excitement will die down immediately and all religions will end once and for all. Then we will have to find new secrets to relish.