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The Privileged Planet: How Our Place in the Cosmos is Designed for Discovery

Rating: ★★★★★ - Lonely planet

WHY is it so important for Earth to be unique? With all the human curiosity, if not need, to know whether there is intelligent elsewhere in the universe, what is the logic of preferring the answer NO to YES? How does designing us to want company and yet to be alone show design?

As for the notion of suitability for learning about the universe: if knowing whether we are alone or not, special or not, is so important to us, why is it so hard to figure out? We can neither observe another planet with intelligent life nor show that none exists.

The book is nicely written, but scientifically, psychologically and theologically vacuous.

Rating: ★★★★★ - hilarious credal statement of faith in nothing

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Cydonia -- The Face On Mars?

(September 22, 2006)
-- The European Space Agency's Mars Express has obtained images of the Cydonia region, site of the famous "Face on Mars." The High Resolution Stereo Camera photos include some of the most spectacular ...
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High Hourly Air Pollution Levels More Than Double Stroke Risk

(September 22, 2006)
-- High hourly levels

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i love this tid bit from the official review above: "but it's important to note that the vast majority of scientists reject the intelligent design argument, and this book is unlikely to persuade many to change their minds." SO IT"LL ALL BE OK MEE FELLOW DARWINIST BABYCAKESSES.. LOL LOL LOL

along with all the similar ways the randomness bootstrapping science worshippers boost each other and console themselves with little editorials...the pages of Discover magazine drip with them...

"EVOLUTION PROVED!! [err..as long as some intelligent programmers set up parameters, goals and meaning for the virtual critters] but dont worry, this somehow means even more scientifically that it all sprang spontaneously from nothing and fully formed randomly or lotsa randomlies...OF Course! PHEW! all us rational folks know that this ID stuff has no impact on first-cause or ultimate issues...right? don't we?!"

ROFL

we will always be on the razor's edge on this issue, cause God wants us to be, and to leave the room for Faith as is meant to be for this not-World of consequence only...

g

Rating: ★★★★★ - New Questions, New Answers
 Science is not supposed to answer questions of "why?" Only the "what?" questions are considered acceptable grist for the scientific mill. Unfortunately for traditional science, the "why?" questions are some of the most important and intriguing. For example, Einstein was continually puzzled by the fact that humans can understand what are biologically irrelevant phenomena (e. g., black holes). Indeed, what survival value is linked to our ability to investigate and understand aspects of the universe beyond this earth? We can easily propagate this planet without knowing Earth is part of a solar system which in turn is part of a galaxy system. This ability has no evolutionary value, yet our ability to know persists and even grows. So, what's up?

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Fatty Acids And Caveolin-1 Are Essential In

Liver Regeneration

(September 22, 2006)

-- Lipids are the energy source used during liver regeneration. Now researchers, led by Dr. Albert Pol and with members from IDIBAPS, Universitat de Barcelona and Queensland University, have unveiled ... > [full story](#)

Gene Offers New Lead In Cleft Lip And Palate Research

(September 22, 2006)

-- Researchers report that a much-studied gene called SUMO1, when under expressed, can cause cleft lip and palate, one of the world's

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Richards and Gonzalez have an intriguing answer to a troubling question: Why is Earth so well-suited for complex life and observation of the universe by its inhabitants? More critically, is there evidence, scientific evidence, to suggest design-a purpose that explains more than the sheer permutations and probabilities which allow for complex life-form existence?

Guillermo Gonzalez (Ph.D., Washington), Astrobiologist, and Jay W. Richards, Philosopher (Ph.D., Princeton), seem to be obsessed with finding some sort of reason behind irregular phenomena. They seem particularly obsessed with challenging some fundamental principles of scientific investigation. Not all obsessions are bad, and when coupled with premise challenges, they can be mind-boggling. Such is the case with *The Privileged Planet*.

Copernicus discovered the Earth was not the center of the solar system, and certainly not the center of the universe. But the medicine we ingested intellectually to avoid the toxicity of anthropocentrism has had a negative side effect-we have assumed, unnecessarily according to Richards and Gonzalez, that the Earth is not special. Sagan called it a little blue dot in a vast cosmic arena. Sagan is clearly right quantitatively, but qualitatively? Perhaps there is more to the Earth than its size.

Qualitatively, why is the Earth so well configured for life? Theists, of course, have a ready answer. But, science normally leans on the huge ledge of time which affords google-sized permutation possibilities. "Why?" is not a particularly popular nor socially-appropriate question to be asked by a scientist. Some fear losing their credibility by asking "Why?"

Richards & Gonzalez are fearless. Challenging traditional premises, they re-examine the empirical record in biology, chemistry, astrobiology, and especially physics. A rather startling conclusion accumulatively emerges: rather than being a pale blue dot insignificantly placed in a galaxy, evidence supports a quite different conclusion-the Earth is uniquely positioned to support complex life, and-here's the real news-uniquely positioned to observe the

most common birth ...
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**Siberian 'Hotspot'
Warning: Global
Warming Experts
Consider**

**Accelerated
Greenhouse Effect**
(September 22, 2006)
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not hold true for long
given the threat
posed to them by
global warming
according to experts
at the University of ...

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**Walking Not
Enough For
Significant Exercise
Benefits** (September

22, 2006) -- Walking
is a popular form of
exercise, but may not
be enough to
experience significant
health benefits, a
University of Alberta
study ... > [full story](#)



**Researchers
Watch
Seeds In 3D**

**And
Discover An
Unknown Air Path**

universe. Einstein was puzzled that humans have such ability; it is a challenge for biologists as well. Just what is the survival value of being able to understand, for example, a black hole?

Scientists who assumed a deity are not unusual; Newton, Pascal, Copernicus, and Einstein are just a few of the more famous. But, today is different. Deity is neither a premise nor a possibility in traditional science. And to be fair, Richards and Gonzalez are not arguing for deity, per se, but arguing that the empirical evidence of life, chemistry, astrobiology, and especially physics accumulatively suggest purpose, not random permutation.

Amidst the evidence supporting a purposeful design is the rather startling precision of the relationship between the moon's mass/distance from the Earth and mass/distance from the sun. One scholar extols, "were it not for the moon, we would not be." In fact, Gonzalez discovered that the size of the moon is precisely what allows solar eclipses to be scientifically rich experiments. If it were slightly smaller, or larger, we could not observe solar flares (and starlight bending from the sun's mass, a major confirmation of Einstein's theory of relativity). Furthermore, it is the moon's precise mass that stabilizes the Earth's axis to maintain a temperate climate whereby complex life forms can exist.

Richards and Gonzalez continued to reveal a variety of accumulated evidence which supports two pillars of thought: (1) the Earth is particularly well-suited for complex life forms, and (2) the Earth is particularly well-suited for observation. Specifically, Gonzalez argues that both sides of the equation must be considered; i.e., not only the number of possibilities, but also the number of factors that must be precisely "in tune" to support complex life-forms and an observational platform. Small changes in just one factor (e.g., gravity) remove all possibilities of complex life. And there are more than a score of factors which must be precisely tuned not only to a given level, but also tuned systemically with all the other factors. It turns out the probability for a well-suited environment for observing complex life-forms trumps the "other side of the

(September 22, 2006)

-- Researchers from the CNRS, the University J. Fourier of Grenoble and the ESRF have recently visualised a plant seed in 3D using synchrotron light. This new view has revealed that there is a network ...
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Insulin Receptor Stops Progression Of Alzheimer's Disease

(September 22, 2006) -- A study from Rhode Island Hospital and Brown Medical School shows that you can treat Alzheimer's in its early stages and almost completely halt neurodegeneration. This means that patients with early ...
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'Meth Mouth' Can

Leave

Users Toothless

(September 22, 2006)
-- Methamphetamine is a powerfully addictive drug that can seriously damage

equation."

The debate will continue, and it should. After all, there are few questions more important than "purpose." To be driven by purpose is one definition of obsession, and Richards and Gonzalez are obsessed. Perhaps we too need to be obsessed-as scholars we have some work to do. Surely, there is more to our purpose than mere propagation.

D. Thomas Porter, Ph.D.,
School of Mass Communications,
University of South Florida

Rating: ★★★★★ - The Truth Will Set You Free
Last night 1/25/05 I was at The University of South Florida for the grand premiere of the Privileged Planet. Dr. Jay Richards was there and he answered questions after the showing. He was challenged by one of the questioners about life on other planets that might not need the same physical makeup of our life forms and maybe these life forms are different than our life forms. His answer was pure genius. Dr. Richards said that we cannot base fact on an assumption that will prove another assumption as truth. Truth must be the standard by which we base truth.

I used to feel that it was us (Christians) against them (Scientists) and no matter what the truth was science would never acknowledge intelligent design. Here is an example of this philosophy.

Dr George Wald is one of the most famous evolutionists. Before his death he was a Harvard University professor and Nobel Prize winner in physiology and medicine. Dr Wald wrote and I quote "One has only to think about the magnitude of this task to concede that the spontaneous generation of a living organism is impossible. Yet here we are-as a result, I believe, of spontaneous generation"

Dr Wald was asked why he would defend evolution even though he himself said it is impossible. DR. Wald said "I will not accept that philosophically because I do not want

oral health,
destroying a person's
smile and natural
ability to chew,
according to the
American Dental ...
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Boosting Levels Of Protein Found In Muscle Staves Off Heart Failure

(September 22, 2006)
-- Boosting levels of a
protein might help
protect against the
development of heart
failure, particularly in
those who have had
heart attacks.
Cardiology
researchers found
that increasing levels
of the ... > [full story](#)

Watching DNA Repair In Real Time

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of DNA are giving
new insights into how
genetic material is
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Republic Of Congo Announces Two Massive Protected Areas

(September
22, 2006) -- The
Minister of Forestry
Economy of the