



STRANGERS IN A STRANGE AND WONDERFUL HABITAT



Lewis Michael Rhinehart

I believe that our presence on Mars is already infringing on the rights of the Martians to protect their sovereignty. We from Earth are already there and that fact, in and of itself, is okay because we Earthlings should also be accepting of others visiting our beautiful planet. According to Robert Dean, we have set up at least one military base on Mars. I would ask, "For what reason?"

I am able to understand things by reduction. For example, would it be acceptable if someone visited your home and set up camp there permanently? I think not. Most would not consider doing such a thing, yet The Powers that Be on Earth do so anyway on Mars simply because they can and because they think it is in their best interest. This is sad and totally unacceptable.

Before we put a larger footprint on Mars, we must consider what is really happening there. First of all, the Martians have been rebuilding for thousands of years following the catastrophe caused by what may have been the Vela supernova explosion about 11,500 years ago. While this event affected the entire solar system, Mars took the brunt of the devastation. Why take advantage of Mars when it is down and rebuilding? In my mind, this is just plain wrong – period.

The diversity of life on Mars is absolutely amazing and awe inspiring! The images of Mars given to us through the NASA orbiters and rovers have provided us a revelation of the existence of life on Mars – both past and present – that for me has been no less than mind and spirit expanding.

After he published his landmark paper *The Discovery of Life on Mars* in 2008, Andrew D. Basiago stated that NASA image PIA10214 is "a cosmic treasure trove of life on Mars." I have found that this is not only true of image PIA10214 but many images taken on the Red Planet. The diversity of life on Mars is incredible! The majority of Mars life is humanoid, that is, they have a head, a torso, two arms, and two legs. In many cases, their heads are somewhat bulbous. It would seem that Charles M. Schultz attained his inspiration from Mars life long before Sir Charles Schults ever found a seashell there and mistakenly declared Mars once inhabited! Many of the Martian humanoids are like characters from a Dr. Seuss book. There are beings there with tufts of hair on the top of their heads reminding one of cartoon characters like the Road Runner. I have seen in NASA's Mars images beings that have beaks resembling chickens and others with long faces like the cartoon character Goofy. These beings are almost invariably humanoid!



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That is only the half of it! When Andy went to Mars for the second time in August 1981 with Courtney M. Hunt of the CIA, he encountered a creature with a bald human head and a muscular upper body with lower extremities that Andy has described as “grub-like.” This being was attached by a chain to a metal post next to the stone cottage of a Mars colonist that was, to say the least, distraught! Andy has recounted how this apparent hybrid creature uttered a grunt-speak that was halfway between the snarl of a man and the bark of a dog.

I propose that the so-called “mythical creatures” that appear in the literature of past civilizations are, in fact, real. A good example is The Scorpion Man that Andy found in image PIA10214 and wrote about in *The Discovery of Life on Mars*. I have had the good fortune of finding another human-scorpion hybrid in a different image from Mars that has corroborated Andy’s original find. It is probably not an accident that the goddess known to the Egyptians as “Serket” was half-human and half-scorpion, for the High Egyptian civilization reached Mars, and this hybrid probably entered the Egyptian pantheon not via human imagination but, in fact, cultural diffusion.

Whereas such human-scorpion hybrids seem somewhat rare on Mars, serpents of many descriptions abound there. Let us never underestimate the biodiversity of our arid neighbor. The animal life on Mars is as diverse as its human life is. During his second trip to Mars, the one he took with Courtney M. Hunt of the CIA in August 1981, Andy had to literally run for his life from a plesiosaur to get to the underground base that housed the “jump room” that would return them to the Hughes building in El Segundo, California by which they had reached Mars.

The atmosphere on Mars is by no means as breathable as Andy found it upon first visiting the Red Planet in July 1981, when you might remember he wore a space helmet and breathing device, but took both off upon encountering three human beings from Earth on Mars who were not similarly attired. I have found in NASA’s own images visitors to Mars who cannot breathe the atmosphere and therefore must wear a “spacesuit.” Their white suits and round helmets do not tell us whether they are all necessarily from Earth, but they do reveal the contours of the cover-up of life on Mars that Andy and my other colleagues on the vanguard of contemporary Mars anomaly research have heroically sought to end.

I agree with Andy’s surmise that our first test of cosmic citizenship is to protect Mars from visitation, exploration, habitation and colonization by humans from this planet. We are finding that the inhabitants of Mars are very artistic. Rock carvings are endless on Mars, with most of them marking a dwelling. We on Earth mark our abodes with signs such as *The Rhineharts* but the Martians are more inventive and use a likeness of them as a home sign post. This discovery is fraught with significance. From the fact that the Martians possess a sense of both artistic sensibility and domestic exclusivity we can infer that they are, at least a little, like us.

Life on Mars is diverse and abundant. It is also, from our perspective as Earthlings, strange and wonderful. It seems to be re-emerging from a long period of stasis, in forms that are sometimes shocking, but most often quite whimsical. Albert Einstein once stated that the ultimate question is whether or not the Universe is friendly. I think that we will find that Mars is friendly. With each passing day of my own Mars discovery, my heart beams when I contemplate what we shall encounter on Mars in the 21st century.

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