



## A REVIEW

### ***Life in the Universe***

by Marshall Vian Summers

A REVIEW BY MICHAEL BROWNLEE (1057 words)

For this reviewer, the arrival of *Life in the Universe*, just published by New Knowledge Library, surely marks an historical threshold in human evolution.

Just at the very moment humanity is awakening to the full scope of our collective predicament—a convergence of planetary crises now rapidly diminishing the life-sustaining capacities of the Earth (referred to as the “Great Waves of Change”)—we learn that we are simultaneously being thrust into an entirely new arena of existence. We discover that extraterrestrial interlopers in the form of resource-exploiting commercial collectives have been increasingly trespassing here, thus precipitating a new era of unprecedented challenges. Life on Earth from this time forward will be far more difficult, radically different from the historical past—and we are woefully unprepared.

Our situation is hauntingly parallel to a time some centuries ago as the first European explorers and settlers began to make their way across the New World. That encounter ultimately changed forever (and almost brought to an end) the existence of native populations who had long lived in relative isolation from Western civilization.

Now we are the natives of Earth, and we are discovering that in addition to our own self-generated crises we are simultaneously being dragged into premature engagement with the “Greater Community,” an incredibly complex and competitive universe of intelligent life into which we are emerging as a young and dangerously naive species. Like our native forebears, we are vulnerable to deception, manipulation, and exploitation by foreign races about whom we know nothing. Our very survival as a species is potentially at risk. Human freedom and sovereignty are almost certainly at risk. Without extraordinary guidance and wisdom in this situation, the human experiment could easily fail.

At precisely this epic moment, a message arrives in the form of a small book known as *Life in the Universe*. The communication in *Life in the Universe* is part of a greater New Message, a revelation that the Creator of all life is sending “to prepare humanity, both to face the Great Waves of change that are coming to the world and to prepare for the reality and spirituality of life in the universe and all of its difficulties and hidden opportunities.” The messenger for this new revelation is Marshall Vian Summers. This radical proposition demands careful consideration, a process that every serious reader will ultimately be drawn into.

But for the moment, it is perhaps best to set aside the questions of origin and authorship and reflect on the content of this book itself, which is but the beginning of an “adult conversation.” Herein we find warnings and admonitions about harsh realities, along with wisdom, beauty, inspiration, and hope. Call it tough love, perhaps. It strikes me that no other book in current human literature speaks so candidly and compassionately about the larger realities and dangers we face, nor does any other text speak so directly and personally about meaning and purpose and destiny. Experiencing this is often very disorienting, for we are not accustomed to such penetrating communication.

In this message we are hearing what we likely most need to know at this time—as individuals, and as a young species just beginning to emerge from adolescence. The speaker evokes the image of an unimaginably wise elder, an ancient teacher. The voice is unlike any other we have heard or read, yet it is hauntingly familiar, at once intimate and plausibly universal.

How should we approach such a book? Warily, I would say, with humility and openness. Reading *Life in the Universe* is rather like receiving a point-blank briefing just prior to being sent out on an extraordinarily crucial and dangerous mission. Reverence will likely follow, for I think in time we will come to regard this as a sacred text, a masterpiece of evolutionary communication.

The scope of the teachings in this brief text is breathtaking, unveiling the broad panorama of life in the universe, with particular emphasis on the evolution of technology, the evolution of societies, and the evolution of spiritual awareness and ethics. While clearly introductory material, it is hardly superficial. It seems to be carefully condensed down and crafted to convey what is most essential for us to know at this moment.

The picture that emerges is of an unimaginably vast multiverse, replete with great varieties of intelligent life that are extremely diverse in terms of degrees of freedom, technological advancement, and spiritual evolution. Hopefully, this picture will quickly come to replace what the voice refers to as our current anthropocentric “child's view of the universe.”

As for the realities of the Greater Community, we may have no immediate way to intellectually evaluate much of what is revealed here. But this does not mean we cannot know at the core of our being—with what *Life in the Universe* calls “Knowledge”—what is true. “Your heart will know,” we

are told. This is the beginning of a “higher education” that must be activated at the deep interior of our being and, with discipline, manifested in our unfolding lives.

The message transmitted in *Life in the Universe* is far more than the extraordinary words that appear on the page. This is a message that can catalyze a revelation of the most profound and personal sort. *Life in the Universe* is nothing less than a reconnection with the Mystery that has brought us to this world at this pivotal moment in human history, and the opening of a pathway to our destiny in the universe. Yet this is no mystical or esoteric doctrine, for *Life in the Universe* is remarkable for its practicality and applicability to daily life.

To enter the doorway to life in the universe, a certain readiness and willingness is required. Perhaps not all are ready. Nevertheless, what it speaks of can likely impact the everyone in this world, and all those who will surely encounter it.

I appreciate the suggestion in *Life in the Universe* that our task is not to try to understand God or the Greater Community (for both would be impossible), but to “follow what God has placed within you to follow and to receive what God has placed within you to receive.” This is the fundamental challenge—and promise—of *Life in the Universe*.