

# Is our SUN inhabited?

by W. R. DRAKE

FROM immemorial antiquity the ancient world believed that all the heavenly bodies were inhabited by beings fashioned like man himself in the image of God, and cherished race memories of celestials like Horus, Apollo and Quetzalcoatl descending from the glorious sun to bring enlightenment to earth.

Our distant ancestors worshipped the visible sun as the source of heat and light without which mankind would perish, but it is probable that the esoteric doctrines of the priests venerated the sun as the abode of immortals, rulers of the solar family, who imparted their wisdom to the initiated in visions or telepathy. Many early Christians regarded the man, Jesus, as being overshadowed by Christ, a great soul from the sun, incarnated to reveal the cosmic mystery, and they incorporated into Church ritual many of the symbols of sun worship.

## Variety of truths

When growing materialism blinded men's souls to the secret wisdom, men arrogated to themselves the monstrous conceit that earthlings were nature's noblest work; the godless, star-clad universe was merely a sterile waste, and the great sun a giant ball of fire which had conveniently sprung into existence to shine on the follies of men on earth.

Modern astronomers who peer at the sun through a lens of atmosphere hundreds of miles thick, ridicule the credulity of the ancients and, interpreting the tracings on their photographs, spectroscopes, thermocouples and radarscopes find what first they were looking for, now give their marvelling audience the last words of unalterable, definite truth. Some of their ungrateful listeners may grumble perversely at the variety of truths, and wonder why some astronomers declare the sun is getting colder while others vow it is getting hotter, why Einstein based his questionable theory of relativity on the velocity of light and the displacement of the spectral lines, when some physicists (bemoaning the dual undulatory-corpuseular appearance of light) are

inclined to the ancient belief that light has no velocity, that light is. And no less an authority than Sir James Jeans flatly ridiculed the so-called Döppler shift in the spectrum, the fundamental basis for the alleged receding galaxies, saying that no one honestly knew whether the galaxies were coming or going.

Goethe, who divined much of the wisdom of the ancients, based his theory of colour on vortices of opposite forces of gravity and levity apprehended by the soul through man's physical eyes. He claimed to be supported by Plato, Leonardo da Vinci and many other excellent men. The great German philosopher believed the ancient doctrine of the living inhabited universe; like the inimitable Charles Fort, he scorned Roemer's alleged proof of the velocity of light from the moons of Jupiter, based on the new mechanical principles of Newton, and soundly dismissed the materialist astronomers saying to his biographer, Eckermann, "Experiments do not prove the truth, nor is it their intention. The only point professors prove is their own opinion. They conceal all experiments that would reveal the truth and show their doctrines untenable."

He waged a life-long campaign against the Newtonians and said "Their explanation is too stupid and a good headpiece is incredibly damaged when it meddles with stupidities." Those of us who muddle over the present conflicts of astronomy, contrasting the revelation of the Russian lunik that is said to have measured the temperature of space as 32C. with the solemn assurance of our astronomers who proved from their armchairs that the temperature of space must be the unimaginable - 273C., find ourselves echoing Goethe's sentiments.

## Herschel's discovery

While Goethe was fulminating against the Newtonians his fellow-countryman, William Herschel, had moved to England, and as organist in the lovely city of Bath, wrote anthems, chants and psalm-tunes for the excellent cathedral choir of the Octagon Chapel. Like many devout men of old, religious awe and humility turned

Herschel's eyes aloft to God's glorious heavens, and on Tuesday, March 13, 1781, while examining the neighbourhood of H Geminorum he discovered a shining major planet, which he patriotically named *Georgium Sidus*, soon changed to the more classical *Uranus*.

In the introduction to his paper on "The Nature and Construction of the Sun and Fixed Stars" (1795) Herschel recounts the discoveries of Newton and Galileo and says "I should not wonder if, considering this, we were induced to think that nothing remained to be added, and yet we are still very ignorant in regard to the internal construction of the sun. The spots have been supposed to be solid bodies, the smoke of volcanoes, the scum floating on an ocean of fluid matter, clouds of opaque masses, and to be many other things. The sun has been called a globe of fire, though perhaps metaphorically."

### The sun's three parts

Herschel then advanced the theories of his friend, Professor Wilson of Glasgow, who in 1774 explained that sun-spots were vast hollows in the sun's atmosphere at the bottom of which the actual surface of the sun might be seen. Herschel modified this theory with numerous observations and decided that the sun consisted of three parts. First there was a solid nucleus, non-luminous, cool, and even capable of being inhabited, second above this was an atmosphere proper, and lastly outside this was a layer which gave to the solar surface its intense brilliance. He said a dark spot in the sun is a place in the atmosphere which happens to be free from luminous decompositions above it. The two atmospheric layers of varying thicknesses about a spot will account for all the shades of darkness seen in the penumbra. Ascending currents from the solar surface will elevate certain regions and increase solar activity and this gives rise to bright streaks, *faculae*, elevated above the general surface.

He argued in favour of the habitability of both moon and sun, peopling the latter with happy, god-like men living a golden age in eternal spring. Herschel noticed the eleven-year periodicity of sun-spots and met unmerited ridicule by publishing a paper showing how the price of wheat varied according to sun-spots, an observation with a surprisingly modern topicality.

Herschel communicated to the Bath Philosophical Society certain mathematical papers relating to central forces other than the force of gravity but these were lost; it is interesting to speculate whether these divined the at-present

undiscovered resonating electro-magnetic force, or Goethe's force of levity which oddly enough is now being considered as a force of repulsion repelling the distant galaxies. As a matter of historical interest it is said that the quest for this force of anti-gravity or levity occasioned so much mirth that the word levity lost its precise significance and came to be associated with humour. Modern astronomers justly extol Herschel's brilliant fundamental stellar researches yet by that notorious lacuna in the modern materialist mind dismiss his solar theories as nonsense. Such behaviour accords with the well-known practice that if a man agrees with a recognised authority he is a fine fellow, should he venture to disagree he must obviously be a fool.

Modern materialist science, which has banished God from the universe, makes the arrogant and wholly unproven assumption that since terrestrial instruments obscured by thick atmosphere cannot discover life on other planets in all the one thousand million galaxies, each glittering with a billion stars, human beings are confined solely to our tiny earth, therefore life on the sun cannot be considered. A more obvious reason is that life on the sun is laughingly impossible. Since everyone knows that light and heat emanate somehow from the sun, physicists are obliged to envisage the sun as a giant luminous sphere with an alleged mass of 2,000 million, million, million, million tons where nuclear explosions every second fuse 564 million tons of hydrogen into 560 million tons of helium radiating 4 million tons as light, heat and other energy. We are asked to believe that in its 5,000 million year history the sun has, therefore, radiated the equivalent of one hundred earths already; the surface temperature is alleged by some to be 6,000 C., by others to be 11,000 C. soaring at the centre to the utterly meaningless 20 million degrees, although others deprecate such inexactness and swear to the phantasy of 40 million degrees. At present human imagination has not felt able to surpass this estimate, but no doubt some astro-physicist will feel patriotically obliged to proffer a more flamboyant guess.

### A scientific leg-pull?

Lost as we are in wonder, love and praise of the master-minds who can truthfully analyse a heavenly body said to be 93 million miles away, we must agree that if this singularly diverting information is really truth at long last, life on that celestial bonfire is rather unlikely. Yet some of us feel like the little boy in Hans Andersen's

salutary tale of "The Emperor's New Clothes," who, while his dutiful elders admired the suit of gold, tried to protest that the monarch was ambling around in the nude. We are nagged by the suspicion of a scientific leg-pull; in this wonderful universe all things are possible. Were all the ancient savants fools, might not their intuition, not mesmerised by our ultra-modern instruments, be somehow nearer reality?

We remember that all our astronomers once swore that the moon was an utterly dead, icy planet. Last November, however, a Russian perversely photographed an active volcano. If many of us associate volcanoes with heat, burning with oxygen, volcanic ash with fruitful soil, soil with people, people with civilisation, then we are soundly condemned for wild romanticism by the astronomers who grumble that it is just like the Russians to try to force them to revolutionise their preconceived conceptions. If the same astronomers sat on a lunar crater and peered at the earth with the same instruments they would declare that all the earth's atmosphere was unbreathable hydrogen, that the earth had no heat of its own. They would report that telescopes showed not the slightest sign of human life.

### **Astronomer's claim**

It is a source of constant wonder that while our geologists admit their ignorance of the constitution of our own earth, the astronomers claim direct unimpeachable knowledge of the centre of the far distant sun.

If the sun really is a tremendous furnace it is difficult to understand why comets are not incandesced by it instead of returning in orbit, why the temperature does not become higher instead of lower as we ascend nearer to the sun and why it is not lighter but darker in the upper atmosphere; equally cogent arguments can be advanced against the alleged velocity of light. When the inhabitants of Mars see patches of our earth through the clouds no doubt they refer to them as "earth-spots."

We are led to wonder if the heat and light reaching us via the sun are not provided by methods other than nuclear explosion on the sun itself. Initiates of Lemuria and Atlantis believed that our sun was controlled by the primary force of its superior sun in the constellation of Sagittarius around which it revolves; our own sun being negative to this force of the controlling sun reflects it as positive to the negative inferior planets, which in turn reflect it as positive to

the, to them, negative and inferior satellites. Our earth was said to generate a centrifugal force, a gyroscopical force and a great electro-magnetic force. The universe was thus motivated by four great forces symbolised by the swastika. The ancients believed that light and heat did not travel from the sun; the phenomena of light is caused by the interaction of the sun's affinitive force meeting the earth's electro-magnetic force; heat is said to be a subdivision of the electro-magnetic force stored in the earth's surface; when this force meets the sun's force heat manifests as waves in the atmosphere.

### **Tempting conclusion**

A similar explanation is advanced by space intelligences who tell of a resonating electro-magnetic field. Some modern intuitives appear to agree with the ancients and with Goethe that the radiations of the sun manifest light and heat only when they impinge on the negative radiations of earth; the ancient doctrine of vortices is represented in a modern form to agree the various phenomena of radiation.

To those of us who lack imagination this explanation seems much more plausible than the astronomers' dictum of the sun as a whirling ball of flames, racked with nuclear explosions, with temperatures of scores of millions of degrees miraculously discharging light and heat across millions of miles of a space which is claimed to be fantastically cold.

With Goethe and Charles Fort we are tempted to conclude that even in this enlightened age astronomers believe what they want to believe.

### **A new Apollo?**

But so do we! It is not suggested that flying saucers come from the sun; no doubt the Celestials will leave it to the beings on other planets to rehabilitate men of earth until we can mingle with our brethren in the solar family. Yet the possibility exists that one day a new Apollo may descend to earth to redeem mankind again.

Is the sun inhabited? Who knows? Should we not be really scientific and suspend judgment until man gets there?

- **This is the first of a series of articles on the fascinating subject of the possibilities of life on other planets.**