



First Contact Protocols with Alien Life Forms

A Communication of the Intractable Studies Institute

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The need for 1st-Contact Protocols

A high-ranking NASA scientist predicts humans will find evidence of Alien life by 2025. As is evidenced among human cultures, 1st contact often leads to conflict and war. There is no reason to think that initial contact with an intelligent alien life form will automatically go smoothly nor predictably. If the intent is to avoid war with aliens, then Protocols for First-Contact are critical. Contact will likely occur ad-hoc by chance, not in a special meeting room where everyone is prepared. If you at least have these Protocols handy, when it happens you can quickly read them to come up to speed.

The core guiding principles of the 1st-Contact Protocols come from common sense and the desire to **minimize conflict**, and these can be applied to inter-human 1st contact as well. Imagine if Columbus had these protocols when exploring the western hemisphere.

1. How to treat alien life forms? The answer is trivial by answering the reflexive question, "How do you want alien life forms to treat you?" With respect, of course. This is simply the **Golden Rule** that we are supposed to learn in our early school years.

2. **Tolerance.** If you want alien life forms to be tolerant of humans and our many cultures and ways of life, then we should be tolerant of them and their ways. Don't impose your culture on them.

3. **Liberty.** Placing an alien life form under arrest for no reason other than being an alien life form should be illegal. You enjoy liberty, and you don't want aliens to kidnap you and put you under arrest, so treat them the same. Inform the alien of the need to register and to get a travel visa.

4. **Smart.** Smart is the best tool in a 1st contact situation. Be prepared to learn things you never expected. Every culture offers new ideas to other cultures when contact is made.

5. **Altruism.** Be prepared to render assistance if the alien seems to be in trouble or in distress. You could get a free space ride for helping out. Friends help friends. Show some concern for aliens. **Altruism** is a virtue. If 1st contact didn't go so well, be patient, maybe they just had a bad day.

The Erroneous Assumptions

It is an error to assume that alien intelligent life will appear like us. Keep an open mind. If you don't grasp this, you may not be qualified for 1st contact.

1. **Scale** – Do not assume that extra-terrestrial life is the same size as humans, nor that it is individualistic, it could be group-based.

2. **Speed of thought** – Do not assume that extra-terrestrial life thinks at the same speed as humans. The slower one wishes the other has patience.

3. **Communication** – Do not assume that extra-terrestrial life communicates with sound in an atmosphere. They may communicate with flashes of light or wavelengths of EM we cannot see with our eyes. 1st contact could have communications time lags of decades across stars.

4. **Habitat** – Do not assume that extra-terrestrial lives in an atmosphere. Oxygen could be toxic to alien life. They could be methane-breathers, liquid swimmers, flyers, etc. Their habitable zone could be the cold outer regions of a solar system, and water could be like hot magma to them.

5. **Food** – Do not assume that extra-terrestrial life consumes bio-mass for energy replenishment. It could be solar powered. They may not have esophageal tracts. Water could be toxic to alien life. Offering water could be an act of war.

6. **Territory** – Do not assume you own the space and/or planets, asteroids, comets that you encounter around other stars and interstellar space. Find the nearest governing body in space to find the rules for acquisition in your sector.

7. **Space Junk** – Do not assume you own any uninhabited spaceships that you find in space around other stars and interstellar space. If you crash your car and leave for help, you expect to still own it when you return. Don't get greedy.

8. **Peaceful or Warrior** – Do not assume the life you encounter in space is peaceful nor warlike. Use the L3-IQ-Scale to measure the L3 IQ of the life forms, and thus determine their peacefulness.