

The Theology Around Science Fiction
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July 20, 2008

Talk about how this topic came up and how it's quite a title – and blurb – Comic-Con, space ships, aliens and universal themes...all in one.

Gazing at the stars, skyward, we ask the most basic questions – are we alone in the universe? SiFi would say, no.

Def of SiFi...and why I'm not covering all types...focus on ST because I'm a fan but also there's so much of it and it's easy to see growth patterns in thought on this from TOS through TNG to DS9 and STV. Regarding the latest series, Enterprise – all I can say is don't even get me started. (I didn't like that one, if you couldn't tell).

So why SiFi and how I came to it late in life...and how it speaks to me...

What is theology – study of that which is beyond and greater than we are; for theists it's the study of God...for non-theists it is the study of that which is greater/beyond

(a couple of ways to go about this – show links between ST universe and our principles; go through and discuss the various series and why/how they resonate with me and our uu world; ... connect the hymns with the message – especially our world is one world; blue boat home – seeing the planet as a ship...also might want to include...)

SiFi is a way to answer some questions based not on feeling or mythology or appeasement but rather on logic, on study and science. For us, we Unitarian Universalists it seems like a natural fit and yet many think sifi is only about robots, aliens, and other-worldly beings who look strange, communicate in odd ways and in general probably are not very nice. In fact, there are very few aliens in movies (that I'm aware of anyway) that are presented as nice, benevolent and friendly. Kind of puts some things in perspective when we have this understanding of the word from sifi and then call human beings alien – but this isn't a social justice sermon but a theological one...an exploration of one.

I like it best because it has principles (like we do) that it's members try to live up to; it's a universe filled with diversity and respect for all beings (like our first

principle) is inherent or at least – tries to be. And it's a universe in which its characters have flaws and experiment living together and getting along.

Now I'm not a fan of TOS – the original series...I'm too much a feminist I think to like or care about the character of Captain Kirk. I do like TNG – the Next Generation as it started.