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[Taken from the personal diary of Dr. Robert Brown, a Senior Astrobiologist at NASA. It is believed that Robert Brown made the following entry while he was doing a pilot experiment with Zebrafish at the International Space Station]

Snamu is the most intelligent race in the known universe. They are not the giant-headed creatures with monster eyes – the way we have classically portrayed alien life on Earth. Not even close to what researchers at SETI and NASA Astrobiology Institute (NAI) ever predicted about extraterrestrial beings, and nothing like the claimed alien sightings on Earth or the Area 51 fantasies.
Snamus are, in fact, only slightly different from humans—biologically and socially. Snamus live on Miasmi, a planet at the far end of the Sombrero galaxy. Their planet too is very similar to ours. It is this similarity in the planets that set things as they are today. A major biological difference that I have come to know between Humans and Snamus is the hereditary molecule. While we possess DNA, Snamus have prion-like proteins—the infectious proteins on Earth as their genetic material. Evolutionarily, we might reach there one day—prions seem to be the next stable self-replicating molecules lined up after RNA and DNA.

I was told that Snamus are looking for answers to some questions which bothered them since their existence on Miasmi, the home planet of Snamus. One of these events occurred 100 million years ago (Mya) on Miasmi. It is important to note that time on Miasmi runs much slower than how we know it on Earth. They want to trace that moment in their evolutionary history when an evolutionarily distinct yet phenotypically similar species disappeared from Miasmi. This unrelated species are said to have had surprising similarities with Snamus, and to my surprise this extinct species is Homo sapiens.

It was the sixth mass extinction on Miasmi that wiped out Homo sapiens, the first intelligent animal that appeared on Miasmi. Snamus want to know what caused the extinction. While this would add to their knowledge, they also think this would help them avoid such a circumstance in future. Thanks to the information recorded by the pre-Snamu humans on Miasmi, they know a lot about Miasmi until the point in time 100 Mya when humans disappeared from their planet.

While we humans on Earth evolved from a line that diverged from fishes in the Silurian period around 500 Mya, Snamus are the direct descendants of fish and diverged much later from the fish-line. On Earth, the emergence of Snamus would actually take only another 5 million years, according to the evolutionary timeline of our planet.

Fishes are interesting creatures on Earth. They were the first animals to occur on our planet and since then the planet has seen amphibians, reptiles and other creatures. Fishes escaped some of the greatest mass extinctions in the history of planet Earth which includes the great Jurassic extinction.

On Miasmi, 90 million years (their time) after the extinction of humans, fishes gave rise to Snamus—a highly intelligent but also physically very able species. They could live in water and on land. The air sacs of the fish had now been evolved into proper lungs. Our studies always said that the mammalian lungs share a close relation to the air sacs of the fish. But we had no idea (one can literally never predict the shrewd games of evolution) that the air sacs would again independently evolve into the lungs by natural selection.

We would be long gone before witnessing this marvel. At Miasmi, nature does not seem to have shown a bias to select good brains over other characteristics. This might have made all the difference. We often, very wrongly, interpret ourselves as the most developed species on Earth. Are we actually the most advanced organisms on Earth, let alone the universe? How do you measure this advancement?

Darwin said, fitness is a measure of only reproductive fitness. Then if the measure is fitness, there are many more animals better at it that can reproduce more than humans. Insects, probably? If it is Lifetime, there are animals that live much longer than humans. What about the biologically immortal lobsters, hydra and jellyfish? Intelligence to me cannot be the sole criteria for this measure. Emergence of a neo-cortex from an over-selection of the brain cannot be something that makes us superior to other organisms. There were costs involved for this benefit too.

To solve this giant 100 million years old scientific riddle of human extinction, Snamus started an even more gigantic simulation study. The idea was to simulate the extinction of humans, an event that occurred 100 Mya on Miasmi. Simulation studies like this are a usual experimental approach followed at Miasmi. The simulator is what we know today as EARTH—the greatest-ever scientific and social experiment.

As I said before, time runs faster on the simulator. Rather, the illusion of time runs faster on this simulator. The time on Miasmi when the extinction
event occurred is this very millennium on our planet. Evolution as we know it today on Earth, is nothing but a part of this grand experiment — not a consequence of random events but a complex algorithm the closest Snamus have reached to simulate evolution as they know it on their home planet), which is beyond the imagination of the pre-programmed limits of human brains.

What we seem to do or achieve on this planet is nothing but a part of their study. What we know is only what we were supposed to know or we were simply let to know. We are providing data to Snamus and it turns out that we have proved to be really good subjects, providing innumerable data to Snamus. After planting life on this uninhabited planet some 4000 Mya, Snamus have only once interfered with the natural course of their simulator.

It was ~200 Mya when Snamus installed a ‘Conflict-of-Will’ programme into the ‘intelligent’ human minds so that we don’t act to the reality that we may see while we sleep — the only time when our brains don’t run on their installed programme. Thanks to the ‘Conflict-of-Will’ programme, however vividly we see a dream, we wouldn’t believe it.

Most of the events until 2060 were already predicted by Snamus. The most interesting phase has only come now. The algorithm ends here. The outcomes of the result from here are most unpredictable and interesting for them. This was the time in the entire history of the Earth simulator that Snamus waited for. The results so far are very interesting. I thankfully have access to their findings here at the International Space Station.

I do not completely recollect the events of that night when Snamus took me to Miasmi. Snamus, the direct descendants of fish, were probably not happy with my experiments on Zebrafish. It is there that I befriended Bauba, a native senior researcher of Miasmi who is a part of the Earth simulation study for the last many years. She gave me a copy of the digital book “Findings on Earth Simulator v.113992068”. This copy was last edited and updated in 2068 and has a data of a thousand million billion terabytes.

While I am making this diary entry, I am browsing through some of the results. The results of most of the scientific experiments were as expected by Snamus until 2060. The results under the ‘Social Experiments’ section of the book seemed to be very different from what the Snamus had predicted. Their prediction methods for the scientific experiments were more reliable when compared to the social experiments. In social evolution, the evolutionary clock took a slightly different turn for the Homo sapiens.

They observed that in addition to the existing six basic emotions, unpredicted complex emotional changes occurred in Humans — contempt, jealousy and resultant characters like greediness increased in humans to a level which was never observed before in the animal world. There should be an urgency to realise this problem.

But wait, we now don’t even want to identify ourselves as animals. We think we are far superior. A lot of us would still ridicule the idea that we ever shared a common ancestor with these lowly beings. Reproduction is hard-wired into every animal (even the tinniest of the organism) by natural selection as it’s essential for the survival of the species and to pass-on the genes. While a majority of animals out there are simply there to reproduce selfishly, it has become a choice for humans.

Turns out, our selfishness is also quite different from that of other animals. Sexual pleasure I would assume arose probably to overcome the damages of this choice. It takes a great deal of effort to nurture your tiny cells into decent citizens.

Altruism was not selected by nature for no reason. We are definitely at a unique and exciting moment in the history of this planet and no animal has ever reached this far, at least on Earth. But where are we heading to next?

What the Snamus predict to be the cause of extinction of their evolutionarily distinct yet phenotypically related race of Humans is the action of these complex behavioural aspects on decision making — decisions that decide our survival. The final results of the simulation would still take some time — that is good news for us. But will the Simulation be a success? That will be a defeat, a second defeat for the Human race.
Or, will Humans make the evolutionary clock tick differently than how it did 100 Mya on Miasmi? Probably, it was predetermined, or probably not, for me to have met Bauba and share the simulation results with you. If it was predetermined, did the Miasmi humans also meet someone from the outside space? Is this an infinite loop? Then, who runs the Miasmi simulator and why? How will this news affect our future on this planet?

The bad decisions that Snamus point at, are not very distant. I am afraid we have already made some. While we were quarrelling about the causes of global warming and whether human-made carbon dioxide emission is a cause, and greedily fighting over research funds, Earth has become three times hotter since 2014 — the year NASA had started their experiments on zebra fish to understand the atrophy of muscles under microgravity; our large-scale carbon sequestering projects designed to artificially entrap carbon dioxide, which started decades ago did not yield the expected results.

What would the increasing temperature and the melting of polar ice-caps mean? The answer is not very difficult — the Fish would survive. All the animals that once left sea for land and are now going back to the waters will rule the future Earth if things don’t change (my 6-year-old grandson says that they were too annoyed by the mammalian creatures on land and hence went back to water).

I had no clue that when all the while I was experimenting on fish at the International Space Station, it was only a part of a greater experiment by the fish-descendants on us. Interestingly, *Findings on Earth Simulator v.113992068* also mentions about the wrong decisions on climate change and global warming that are being taken by us.

Snamus have very often encountered such an increase in global temperature — what we call Global Warming is a recurring but manageable phenomenon on Miasmi.

For Snamus, we Earthlings are nothing more than good experimental animals. For us, the

*Earth simulator is not an experiment. It is everything that we have. Are we going to repeat history or change it? The decision lies with us. Can we make a decision without contempt, jealousy and greed to save the human race to live a ‘free’ life which the Snamus can no longer predict? It is important to realise that we are not saving Earth, we mortals can’t do so."

The Human race is put here for a tiny fraction of a second on the geological time scale of this planet. At the most, what we can do is try to save the existence of Human race on this planet.

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