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“In the treaty councils the commissioners have claimed that our country had been sold to the Government. Suppose a white man should come to me and say, ‘Joseph, I like your horses, and I want to buy them.’ I say to him, ‘No, my horses suit me, I will not sell them.’ Then he goes to my neighbor, and says to him: ‘Joseph has some good horses. I want to buy them, but he refuses to sell.’ My neighbor answers, ‘Pay me the money, and I will sell you Joseph’s horses.’ The white man returns to me and says, ‘Joseph, I have bought your horses, and you must let me have them.’ If we sold our lands to the Government, this is the way they were bought.” – Chief Joseph, 1876

Mathó Thípila: Minor Races are those races in the Galactic Space, which positions may encounter from time to time, who have not attained Stardrive, that is, have not passed fully into the 1st Era of interstellar technology. Most will actually be non-technological or very primitive even by our current standards (otherwise, they may have been ‘noticed’ sooner due to the electromagnetic energy indiscriminately emitted into space by early technological cultures). This is not to suggest that given sufficient time, a Minor Race would not have discovered Stardrive technology on their own; rather, it is just bad cosmic luck that other alien species did so first and found them before they learned to stand and run on their own (in the same way that Europeans invaded everyone else’s timeline, see *Invading Timelines*, 4 Order, p. 576, *supra*).

When encountering a Minor Race,¹ a position might decide to do any of the following:

- ✓ They might conquer/enslave the Minor Race.
 - ✓ They might exterminate the Minor Race.
 - ✓ They might contact the Minor Race.
 - ✓ They might ignore the Minor Race.
 - ✓ They might protect the Minor Race.
 - ✓ They might attempt to surreptitiously ‘help’ the Minor Race.
 - ✓ They might openly ‘help’ the Minor Race.²
 - ✓ They might Land a colony on the Homeworld of the Minor Race.
 - The breakthrough intellectual moment of the Calvin & Hobbes comic occurred when Calvin, playing is favorite character, Spaceman Spiff, who crash landed on an alien planet, suddenly realized that indigenous natives were not the aliens on their planet, he and Hobbes were!
- **Roanoke Island Colony:** The colony Landing on the Homeworld of a Minor Race may or may not be friendly. There are a range of options here, well known from the history of our own world, but in all cases, participants should consider the issue of xeno-microbes and disturbance of the biosphere (see *Bad Exchanges 4 Expansion*, p. 924, *supra*). Also, it is possible to Land a colony at the Homeworld of a Minor Race without making First Contact with them; for example, suppose chlorine-breathing aliens had landed a colony on the Moon in 3,500 BCE? Such a colony might be a Specialized Colony (see *4 Expansion*, p. 925, *supra*) to observe the primitives as our planet would be of little interest to chlorine breathers otherwise. Again, because GGDM does not look at planetary details, there is room for the partici-

pants to have any scenario, for example, suppose the colony is Landed on an Optimal Habitability Class moon (like Pandora in Avatar) and the Minor Race is discovered in the upper atmosphere of the gas giant the moon orbits or on another moon, e.g., Europa Report (2013).

- ✓ The uncontacted Sentinelese people of the Andaman Islands of India have been called the “last Stone Age tribe in the world” (Dan McDougall, *The Observer*, February 2006). Observers have seen no evidence of agriculture or fire making activities, though they do apparently use fire. They use bows, arrows, spears for hunting, fishing and to ward off outside contact, they have bamboo and wooden containers, woven baskets for carrying, and fishing nets and outrigger type canoes suitable for coastal fishing only. Their language is not mutually intelligible with any of the surrounding tribal languages. Though they have no metallurgy, they have taken and used, and sometimes adapted, metal objects obtained from the outside world. In 1996, the Indian government discontinued all attempts to contact the Sentinelese, after several hostile situations, including the 1974 attempt by a National Geographic film crew (arrow wound), and discourages any approach to their island. They are occasionally monitored from the air, for example, in census attempts. Gleaned from Wikipedia article, “Sentinelese,” May 31, 2018.
- *Parens patriae*: All Minor Races are controlled by the Concierge. Minor Races are mostly in the game for story purposes; it is irrelevant to the Concierge what positions do when they discover Minor Races. It is not irrelevant to the Minor Races, however, and the Concierge will react accordingly, from the viewpoint of the Minor Races, to whatever the positions decide to do. The story arc or story of the game and positions is not a consideration from the point of view of the Minor Race.

It is not impossible within the GGDM rules for a position to have First Contact and share a Diplomatic Space and form Treaties with a Minor Race. It is, however a lopsided relationship, and the Concierge will need to represent the interests of the Minor Race, without engaging in excessive private diplomatic communications with the position players, in addition to still being the Concierge. There is a careful balance in this, because other positions may feel that someone in the game is getting free Diplomatic Spaces and goodies, so there must be some level of responsibility and cost to the relationship. The Minor Race may also act, through the Concierge, to break Treaties and damage the Diplomatic Space shared with the Major Race. However, there is also great promise in such relationships in regards to the story of the game (e.g., uplift), and mature interstellar culture.

- ✓ “Hey! How Halloweeny can you get!” – Bugs Bunny after Marvin the Martian disintegrates the ground around his rabbit hole in “The Hasty Hare” (1952).
- ✓ At work one day in 2006 or 2007, I was tasked with calling a doctor who had been sued for malpractice to set up a time for his interview with the attorney assigned by the insurer to defend him. It was a First Contact situation since we had not represented him previously. He was livid that he had been sued (it was his first time) by his patient and was waiting for someone to pounce on; he bent my ear for 45 minutes or more venting and fuming before I could politely extract myself from the call. It didn’t matter what he told me, I was not his attorney, he’d have to repeat it again.

“Why does any advanced civilization seek to destroy a less-advanced one? Because the land is strategically valuable, because there are resources that can be cultivated and exploited, but most of all ... simply because they can. You have experienced much the same on your own world. There are humans for whom the words ‘never again’ carry special meaning. As they do for us.”

– G’Kar, Babylon 5, “And Now for a Word” (1995) ³

Why Not Again: Contact issues with Minor Races might be best regarded as Why Not questions (see initial discussion, 2 Disruption, p. 269, *supra*). The history is well known, *religion did not provide any deterrence* to Why Not destroy, enslave, and plunder indigenous natives.

- ✓ “In their madness, they obliterated a civilization. In the name of piety, in a mockery of their religion, the Spaniards utterly destroyed a society with an art, astronomy, and architecture the equal of anything in Europe. We revile the Conquistadors for their cruelty and shortsightedness, for choosing death. We admire La Pérouse and the Tlingit for their courage and wisdom, for choosing life.” – Carl Sagan, *Cosmos*, Episode 13.

In fact, in the name of evangelism, Western religions encouraged it. The regrets of later generations mean nothing until the next Why Not. If there are technologically advanced, starfaring alien species out there and they are aware of us, and the least bit curious, it is likely that their answer to the Why Not question is all that prevents First Contact: Their answer to the Why Not question is humanity’s current adolescent understanding of the Existential Void and our historical answers to the Why Not question on Earth. That we have not destroyed ourselves yet is but mediocracy (i.e. simply avoiding a foreseeable terminal result), not an achievement.

- ✓ If I were to surreptitiously help a promising primitive species to eventual technology, I would give them the mathematical concept of zero. Put simply, without zero, we don’t have computers. And a whole lot of our advanced math. And even our cyclic counting system (e.g., 1 with a zero added is 10, which comes after 9, and the next number is 11, *et seq.*) that you learned in kindergarten. The question of when and how zero developed has fascinated scholars for ages and the issue is not settled; recently it has emerged that a predecessor to zero⁴ was in use between 224 and 383 A.D. (George Dvorsky, “Origin of Zero Symbol is Centuries Older than Previously Thought,” Gizmodo, September 14, 2017, discussing the Bakhshali manuscript).
- **Gua Effect:** “We were like you once. There’s a time for peace and inner-growth, but we became complacent; and when the invasion force landed, they took us down. One rebel led us to freedom. That’s when we took the name Gua; it means ‘power to overcome.’ Over the centuries, science and industry achieved perfect focus. We created a military machine to ensure our freedom, permanently... We’re here because we’ll never be victims again.” – Joshua Bridges, *First Wave*, “Joshua” (1998).
- ✓ This backstory for the Gua in the *First Wave* series (1998-2001) suggests a domino effect of invasions (nice for *epic story* purposes) similar to the chain reactions caused by the Huns when they invaded Europe or the southward spread of Chinese power

along the coast in ancient times that inspired successive migrations (the name Vietnam referred to the lands of non-Chinese people to the south since the 3rd Century B.C., it is thus a Chinese name).

- Never Again: There is a reason why France and Israel (e.g., the Samson Option) have nuclear weapons. It is to insure the *never again*. The history of Jewish treatment in Europe is well known; France was the victim of German aggression three times in about 70 years (1870, 1914, and 1940), losing twice, and being bled dry the other time when it successfully defended. The results of each attack on France were worse than the previous, and arguments were made that French losses in WWI contributed to manpower shortages in WWII. Israel has no expectation that they would be treated differently by Muslim states than they were in Europe, and Israel has the peculiar problem of only being 30 miles wide at its narrowest point, meaning it could be cut in half by an armored column in a day of fighting.
 - ✓ Thus the dichotomy: Israel is both one of the least likely countries in the world to use nuclear weapons (which they won't admit they have) but is also the one place in the world where it was most likely in the late 20th Century that the circumstance prompting the use of nuclear weapons would arise. France, of course, was protected by NATO and by a divided Germany.

It is taken as a general precept that 'responsible adult' nuclear club members would only use strategic nuclear weapons against an *existential threat* (the issue is slightly less clear with 'tactical nuclear weapons,' but there is a clearly-mapped, slippery-slope risk there) as a last option or in retaliation for a nuclear attack.

- ✓ For example, nuclear-armed Britain did not threaten Argentina with nuclear destruction over the Falkland Islands War in the 1980s, it would not have been appropriate.

Nuclear weapons are better as a background threat than in actual use. Further, it follows that it is unlikely that nuclear weapons would be used against a state that does not also have nuclear weapons; no state without nuclear deterrent of their own would likely push a nuclear-armed state to the position where they would need to use nuclear weapons. And that is the thread by which the world hangs.

- ✓ The geopolitical problem of certain countries who are trying to (and probably have) developed nuclear weapons is twofold. The first is that we don't think of those countries as being 'responsible adults' in the current world and thus not responsible enough to have nuclear weapons (in addition to the possibility that terrorist might obtain a functional nuclear weapon) and second, that once they have nuclear weapons, those countries are no longer protected by a moral obligation to not use nuclear weapons on conventionally-armed countries. That is the problem.
 - Sometime a few months after the 9/11 attacks, I saw a person wearing a t-shirt that said something like "Mecca 2002" over the picture of a city being nuked as a U.S. bomber flies away. The message of the shirt is obvious, not intended to be satirical. Quite aside from the fact that Saudi Arabia does not have nuclear weapons and is not an existential threat to anyone, there are countries out there ruled and radical groups led by people who would wear that t-shirt proudly. This includes a couple of countries that actually have nuclear weapons, unfortunately. That is the problem.

“In the sky over our planet, other people blindly fought out a brutal war – a war between people we didn’t even know.”

– Müil Princess, from *Valarian and The City of a Thousand Worlds* (2017)

War of the Worlds: This short battle sequence brings together many elements discussed in GGDM thus far; in a confusing cinematic minute, the expected tragedy occurs, the human fleet cripples the main alien warship, using a doomsday missile, which then crashes into Planet Müil below, explodes, destroying the planet and the primitive Müil sapient species.

Generally, a Minor Race has little or no chance against an interstellar civilization in a conflict, regardless of what Hollywood shows in the movies. It comes down to a contest not only of technology, but also of resources and time. Even a Minor Race that has colonized system space, is at a major disadvantage against starships and an interstellar civilization. If the Minor Race wins the initial defensive battles (i.e. Earth in the typical Hollywood alien invasion movie), and maintains their independence for awhile, the attacking fleet can simply retreat and leave the system.⁵ The Minor Race, lacking Stardrive technology, cannot follow and take the war to their enemies, so they can only sit and wait while the interstellar power builds an even bigger fleet and comes back again. A Minor Race, confined to a system, cannot match the industry, technology and resources of an interstellar power who has time and the resources of the galaxy.⁶

- ✓ For example, the metallic asteroid called 16 Psyche – which may be the remnant core of a destroyed planet – has metals – mainly iron, nickel – estimated to be worth \$10,000 quadrillion. It is predicted that the influx of metals from this asteroid alone would destroy the world metal commodities market and trigger a collapse of the world economy (possibly similar to the influx of gold from the New World into Spain).⁷ Consider those nations whose significant income is from mining metal ores and whose population are already living in poverty. This is but one asteroid in our own solar system; multiply by millions or billions of times those resources available to an interstellar culture. This suggests that interstellar (or even system) colonization would cause an epochal change in Earth economy. Such changes have already occurred in the past, for example, the change from barter to metal coins (first level abstraction) and later from metal coins to paper currency (second level abstraction) to whatever we have now. The current world economy probably could not operate on a metallic-coin-based currency.
 - A somewhat similar situation to a Minor Race occurs when a Major Race position loses all or most of its warships, and can then only sit and wait on the defense while enemy fleets concentrate against and capture isolated colonies one by one. This is a signpost on the road to extinction.⁸

The only means for a Minor Race to survive this conflict scenario would be if another Major Race intervenes on their behalf, or if the attacking power simply loses will or interest and/or is disorganized, or has an attack of moral conscience, e.g.:⁹

- ✓ This is more or less true of most contests where there is a great disparity in resources: “I think that the North fought that war with one hand behind its back. At the same time the war was going on, the Homestead Act was being passed, all these marvelous

inventions were going on, in the spring of '64 the Harvard-Yale boat races were going on and not a man in either crew ever volunteered for the army or the navy; they really didn't need them. I think that if it had been more Southern successes, and a lot more, the North simply would have brought that other army out from behind its back. I don't think the South ever had a chance to win that war." – Shelby Foote, *The Civil War: A Film by Ken Burns* (1990), Episode 7.

- The North feared European intervention, but it never happened, any chance was dashed by the Emancipation Proclamation, which would have placed European intervention as *in favor of* chattel slavery.
- ✓ For example: In *Avatar* (2009) the natives won one. Good for them. But there is nothing, other than a lack of political will that would prevent the Earthers from coming back again, and again, with more military power, regular military forces, and colonist with machines, until the native populations are decimated. The situation in *Avatar* is directly analogous (as was intended) to the situation faced by the Native Americans, Zulus, Afghans, etc.:
 - The Native Americans could not prevent the Europeans from landing anywhere and coming back again and again, even if they defeated the initial landings (e.g., the Calusa drove off Ponce de Leon in 1513).
 - This goes to the core of the Major and Minor Races discussion, 5 Beginnings, pp. 51-52, *supra*.
 - The Native Americans had no ability to attack the Europeans in Europe and later, to even attack the eastern coastal cities after approximately 1650 C.E.
 - See population density, next page, *ut infra*.
 - King Cetshewayo of the Zulus seems to have understood that the great Zulu victory over the British at Isandlwana in 1879 had so humiliated the British that a negotiated resolution was impossible; the British would return with a larger army. Some victories are counterproductive.
 - The British burned Kabul in 1842 in revenge for the Massacre of Elphinstone's Army by Afghan tribesmen.
 - L. Ron Hubbard showed in *Battlefield Earth* (1982) just how easily modern Earth was conquered by a single drone from an advanced civilization.

"It's a hell of a thing, killing a man. You take away everything he's got and everything he's ever gonna have." – Clint Eastwood, Unforgiven (1992)

This Side of Dead: The emotional punch of the preceding line is the loss of potentials. Although this line could be arguably true of the death of any living thing ... including aliens, the sentimental and moral lamentation of the loss of potentials only applies generally to persons, that is, humans.

Unless an animal is the featured character in a story, generally an adult animal is viewed as having reached its potential, especially if it has reproduced successfully, and thus the death of a "non-person" animal is not viewed as a loss of potentials (not even in our favorite pets do we

view death the same way as for humans). On this level then, persons and sapience are defined mainly in terms of potential of the living matter in question.

“I know that my race must change. We cannot hold our own with the white men as we are. We only ask an even chance to live as other men live. We ask to be recognized as men. We ask that the same law shall work alike on all men.”

– Chief Joseph, Lincoln Hall Speech, January 14, 1879

Cossacks: The people who went to Lincoln Hall that day to hear Chief Joseph speak already knew the story. They were probably not surprised to receive a post-mortem tongue lashing from the Native American Chief. I have thought that is exactly why many of them went; it was understood by that time that many very wrong things had been done. What surprised them was that it was delivered with calm measure and eloquence, and with dignity and gravitas befitting any orator known from classic antiquity. And that is why his words still cut today.

- ✓ The Lincoln Hall speech is available online from places such as http://psi.mheducation.com/current/media/prints/pr_105.html (Primary Source Investigator, McGraw Hill, found November 2018).

Unknown to most of the West, the situation of the Cossacks and Tartars has marked similarities to that of the Native Americans.¹⁰ Back in the United States, in the dawn of the 20th Century, a wave of guilt and remorse passed over the country as, following the close of the Western Frontier in 1890, the population began to evaluate the enormity of what had transpired in the drive West, began to comprehend the massive crimes that had been committed against humanity. This remorse reached its peak in the late 1960s and carried into my youth in the 70s; it probably merged with or was extended by the collective world guilt over the Holocaust and mounting Cold War fears. Yet, at the same moment, we are the result of what was done, and the bell cannot be unring; it would be nearly hypocritical for us to completely repudiate the results. In the same way that it would be hypocritical for Amazon to repudiate the invention of the internet.¹¹

Dances with Wolves: *You always ask about the white people. You always want to know how many more are coming. There will be a lot, my friend. More than can be counted.*

Kicking Bird: *How many?*

Dances with Wolves: *Like the stars [Speaking Lakota] It makes me afraid for all the Sioux.*

– from *Dances With Wolves* (1990)

Population Density: Of the dozens of factors – from small pox¹² to technology (in fact, the Native bow was initially superior to the European musket) – that have been offered as reasons why the European colonists, immigrants and descendants overcame the Native Americans over four centuries in the New World, one that is most overlooked is population density.

Simply put, even if technologies were equal and disease didn't play a large part, the European-style population density – cities and towns – with the attendant requirements in resource production, reproduction, and social/governmental organization, would have been a great challenge for the Native Americans to hold back.¹³

When the Europeans arrived in the New World, they saw vast uncleared forests and unimproved agricultural land (see Loren Eiseley's "Adamic Eden," 4 Writs, p. 453, *supra*). Coming from Europe which was densely populated (relative to North America) and mostly cleared, improved farmland and cities, the scattered Native American tribes and the land they occupied appeared 'uncivilized' (especially following the collapse of Mississippian civilization, about which they did not know or care). The feel of *population density* was thus a deciding factor in the initial European impressions, cognition, and relationship to the native people of North America.¹⁴

- ✓ "For the natives, they are neere all dead of Small poxe, so as the Lord hath cleared our title to what we possess." – John Winthrop, Quoted in Alfred W. Crosby, Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900 (1986), p. 208.
 - If you think you read this before, you did, in 4 Expansion, p. 924, *supra*. It is worth repeating, it speaks what Europeans thought at the time.
- ✓ A young Native American male of a Pueblo, Wichita or Pawnee tribe – recognizing the existential threat of the Spanish – attempted in 1541 to lead the Spaniard Coronado and his army away from his people into the Great Plains in search of the Seven Cities of Gold. He probably hoped that the Spaniards would perish on the Great Plains, being caught in the open by winter. The Spaniards killed him after finding Quivira with no golden city. The expedition returned to Mexico in 1542, but Coronado was bankrupted, lost the governorship in 1544, and died 1554.
- Funnel Effect: During the Great Migrations, Western Europe acted like a *funnel* forcing the westward migrating humanity into a smaller and smaller area, with more coming behind them, like cattle into a chute. This funnel effect also caused the rapid accretion of cultures in Western Europe and increased population density, much as the southward migrations of the Danube peoples created the classical Mediterranean cultures of antiquity. Like silt accumulation in the delta of a big river. Europeans became accustomed to greater population density, even though they were regularly decimated by wars, famine, and plague.

The global position at the End of the World that was a strength for the Roman Empire turned into a liability when impersonal waves of migrating humanity reached the End of the World and crashed into a weakened Rome. But as much as all that, the Roman Empire, of course, did themselves in because they refused and/or were unable to change. A better government and social structure may have survived, technology would have helped. But the surviving Roman Empire would not have been "Roman" any longer.

- ✓ The importance of the discovery of the North American continent is apparent: While the Europeans knew of Africa and had sailed well south along its coasts, the discovery of America for the first time meant that Europe was no longer the End of the World. See *Circumambulation*, 1 Expansion, p. 875, *supra*.

“The great achievement of polytheism is the articulation of a common semantic universe. ... The meaning of a deity is his or her specific character as it unfolded in myths, hymns, rites, and so on. This character makes a deity comparable to other deities with similar traits. The similarity of gods makes their names mutually translatable. ... The practice of translating the names of the gods created a concept of similarity and produced the idea or conviction that the gods are international.”

– Jan Assman, Moses the Egyptian: The Memory of Egypt in Western Monotheism (1997), p. 45

You know he doesn’t like that name: *Interpretatio graeca* is a comparative discourse in which the ancient Greeks sought to understand myths of other religions within the concepts of Greek mythologies, *Interpretatio romana* is the Roman continuation that led to the merger (wholesale looting) of Greek polytheistic religion into the existing Roman pantheon, along with reinterpretation of Gallic and other religions in Roman terms. There was a process through the Middle East, around the Mediterranean Sea and through Western Europe, of comparing gods of different religions and identifying similar or compatible spheres of influence, myths, heroes, so that gods of one religion were identified with similar gods of another pantheon, translating all religions to an international, intercultural commonality. If alien races have religions, this is possibly one of the first processes by which views are shared and commonality formed (or not) in interstellar civilization *beyond* math and science.

- ✓ “Apart from the small and ethnically circumscribed exception of the Jews, the ancient world had never known an exclusivist faith...” – Prof. Michael Kulikowski (Pennsylvania State University), “Christians were Strangers: How an obscure oriental cult in a corner of Roman Palestine grew to become the dominant religion of the Western world,” *Aeon*, January 30, 2017.
- ✓ “The Jews had kept themselves separate for as long as anyone could remember, but Greeks and Romans were used to that. Jewish communities were concentrated, nowhere large, and they were exempt from mandatory participation in a public cult. Around the Mediterranean, people could look at Jews with a sort of tolerant, if uncomprehending, disdain.” *Id.*

The Jews, those fanatic monotheistic iconoclasts of the ancient world, sitting on strategic land routes between Syria and Egypt at the eastern end of the Mediterranean, refused to identify with any other religion and refused to have Jehovah identified with any other religion’s supreme ruler (e.g., Jupiter).

- ✓ This is possibly the reason why the Romans removed religious artifacts from the Second Temple and destroyed it after the First Jewish-Roman War (66-70 A.D.). It is not clear that the Romans initially intended to destroy the Jewish ethnicity and religion (as opposed to the later Nazis), but over time, that is what developed (e.g., Jerusalem was renamed as a Roman City, Jewish practice was restricted after 70 A.D. and they paid a tax for being Jewish, Jews were barred from Jerusalem after 135 A.D.). The remaining Jewish population was sold into slavery and/or became Hellenized.

Further, in the 2nd Century BCE, there was a strife between traditional Jewish factions (Maccabees) attempting to expel Hellenistic Judaism from Israel. Hellenistic Judaism was the result of syncretic attempts by apologists to identify *Hellenistic philosophy* (but not Greek pantheons)

with Judaism, so that reason and wisdom came to man from Jehovah. The Romans, of course, brought additional waves of Hellenization, preferred Hellenized Jews, and destroyed the Hasmonean ruling dynasty (descendants of the Maccabees revolt) through their proxy, Herod.

- ✓ Herod the Great (Herod I) may have been of Maccabee descent, as were some later Herodian rulers, however, there is significant record of his perceived disrespect toward the Jewish religion and his fondness for Roman baths and elements of Romanized Hellenistic culture. He certainly had full Roman support, the *Roman Senate* elected him king of Judea in 40 B.C. His brother, Phasaël was Governor of Jerusalem, his son married Herod's daughter (his first cousin).

Christianity, a Jewish cult that became Hellenized – it's politics, they were rejected by the Jewish traditionalists – has properties traceable to non-Jewish religions: A mortal woman giving birth to the son of a god (Virgin Mary, Io from Greek mythology), the man claimed a right to rule by divine lineage (as did Julius Caesar and others, though the same existed in other places), his Earthly acts were godlike and he was unconquered (image of Caesar that led to his assassination), he was a top priest or above the priests of the day (Caesar had been *flamen Dialis* and later *pontifex maximus*, note that the Pope is called the pontiff), he was considered divine (Roman *divus*), died prematurely by the hands of his enemies (the assassination of Julius Caesar), and was deified and obtained a cult after his death (as Julius Caesar's cult to *divus Julius*), and someone later was appointed high priest of the new cult (Marcus Antonius became *flamen of the divus Julius*, Paul became the leader of the new Christian cult), and that person died shortly as well (Marcus Antonius committed suicide, Paul and Peter were executed in Rome).

- ✓ The record is not encouraging: **Paul** was beheaded in Rome, **Peter** was crucified inverted in Rome, **Andrew** was crucified in Greece, **Thomas** was killed by soldiers in Syria, **Philip** was executed in Asia Minor by a jealous Proconsul, **Bartholomew** was martyred on a missionary expedition, **James** was stoned and clubbed to death, and **Simon the Zealot** (the Zealots were the fourth sect of Judaism, active during the Second Temple period, and instrumental in the First Jewish-Roman War, they persecuted Christians) was executed in Persia, **Matthais** was burned in Syria, and only **John** lived to old age, in exile on the Island of Patmos. Information on the fates of the Twelve Apostles taken from Ken Curtis, Ph.D., "Whatever Happened to the Twelve Apostles?" Christianity.com, originally published April 28, 2010.
 - According to Wikipedia articles, **Jude the Apostle** (aka Thaddius) was killed with Simon the Zealot in Beirut in 65 A.D. (which I do not believe was part of Persia in 65 A.D., *ut supra*, thus there are contradictions in the various stories) and **Judas Iscariot** committed suicide. And that makes twelve bad endings, eleven of them violent – noting that the various lists can't even agree on identities of the Twelve (I certainly do not claim to be an expert) and Matthais may have joined after Judas' suicide.

"The Hero with a Thousand Faces is, after all, the story of ourselves, or anyway, the story of our lives that we would write if we had our fingers on the Keyboard in the Sky, which is why our professional storytellers keep telling it to us again and again throughout the millennia, and why we are always willing to live it vicariously one more time."

– Norman Spinrad, Science Fiction in the Real World (1990) (emphasis in original)

Keyboard in the Sky: The modern version (revival) of this process began with Joseph Campbell's Hero with a Thousand Faces (1949), which had an influence on the Star Wars films of the 1970s. My college orientation featured mainly a Joseph Campbell analysis of Star Wars.

- ✓ “Campbell explores the theory that mythological narratives frequently share a fundamental structure. The similarities of these myths brought Campbell to write his book in which he details the structure of the monomyth. He calls the motif of the archetypal narrative, ‘the hero’s journey.’ In a well-known quote from the introduction to The Hero with a Thousand Faces, Campbell summarizes the monomyth: ‘A hero ventures forth from the world of common day into a region of supernatural wonder: fabulous forces are there encountered and a decisive victory is won: the hero comes back from this mysterious adventure with the power to bestow boons on his fellow man.’” – from Wikipedia article, “Hero with a Thousand Faces,” January 30, 2019.

In GGDM, participants do have their fingers on the Keyboard in the Sky ... but it’s not about you. Really. What will you type into reality? Are you a monkey working on Shakespeare?

- ✓ “And if you never saw an angel cry, words cannot describe to you the show that Boshel put on then. They are still at it tonight, typing away at random, for that last sad near-victory was less than a million-billion cycles ago. And only a moment ago – half way back into the present cycle – one of the monkeys put together no less than nine Shakespearean words in a row. There is still hope. And the bird has now worn the rock down to about half its bulk.” – R. A. Lafferty, “Been a Long, Long Time,” (1969).¹⁵

“One remarkable fact is evident from study of these works, as well as from specific statements in other parts of the Old Testament: that Israelite Wisdom was similar to that of neighboring peoples like the Edomites, and had antecedents and counterparts in the much older cultures of Phoenicia, Egypt, and Mesopotamia. It was in fact part of an international, intercultural, and interreligious school of thought whose beginnings can be traced to early times in Sumer and Egypt, and which was to make its impress eventually on the New Testament and the Talmud.

... In the neighboring cultures, and also in Israel, the Wisdom literature was of two main types that apparently represented divergent tendencies among the sages. The first is represented in the Bible by the Book of Proverbs (except for 8:22-31 and 30:1-4), the second by Job and Ecclesiastes (Kohelet). The spirit of the former is conservative, practical, didactic, optimistic, and worldly wise. The latter type is critical, even radical, in its attitude to conventional beliefs; it is speculative, individualistic, and (broadly speaking) pessimistic. The former expresses itself characteristically in brief rhythmic adages and maxims suited to instruction, as well as in longer admonitions; the latter, chiefly in soliloquy and dialogue.”

– Rev. R.B.Y. Scott, excerpts from Proverbs and Ecclesiastes (1965), published on myjewishlearning.com, captured July 30, 2018

Endnotes.

¹ Commentary: If we find in exploring the universe that humanoid (or vaguely Earth-like) life forms exist across the galaxy in discernable repeating patterns, it is likely that the universe was procedurally generated. Cosmic MMOG?

² Citation: “It wasn’t so bad really, being conquered by the aliens. I mean, they were pretty decent about the whole thing when you stop to think about it. Like when they were going to blow up Venus to demonstrate their power. People protested and said how much Venus means to us and everything and they listened... they really listened, they were willing to compromise. So they blew up Mars instead, which was just a dead hunk of rock anyway. And some people bitched about that, too. Some people are never satisfied.... I don’t know if they even fired a shot, the aliens I mean. Seems like we did all the blowing stuff up. They made us get rid of all our nuclear weapons first thing when we signed the peace treaty.... but everything else stayed pretty much the same. The governments were still the same, the economic system... there was still crap on television. The aliens had the last word on everything but they didn’t really mess in our personal business much, not enough to do any good. We still had crime and poverty and all that, just like the old days.” – Jan Strnad (story) and Neal McPheeters (art), “Duet,” *Epic Illustrated*, Vol. 1, No. 27, December 1984.

³ Citation & Commentary: “‘Possession’ is a unifying theme in Tolkien’s imagined world. The fallen Melkor wanted to have God’s power of creation. The pathetic Gollum was twisted by his possessive love of his ‘Precious.’ No one epitomized this quality more than Smaug. The hobbit’s dwarf companion Thorin could not hide his contempt: ‘Dragons ... guard their plunder ... and never enjoy a brass ring of it. Indeed, they hardly know a good bit of work from a bad, though they usually have a good notion of the current market value; and they can’t make a thing for themselves....’” – Chris Armstrong and Steven Gertz, “J.R.R. Tolkien: Did You Know?” *Christian History Magazine*, Issue #78, 2003 (quote from J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit* (1937)).

- ✓ Though Smaug’s attack was characterized as ‘punishment’ for the Dwarves greed (possibly caused by the corruption introduced by the Dwarven rings) ... in the end, it appears that he took it (i.e. possessed it) *because he could*, morality tales aside. He did not, for example, attack Lothlorien, Rivendell, the Shire, the Gray Havens, Minas Tirith, or challenge Balrog for Moria. And the dwarves were lessened – impoverished and homeless – to the exact same extent that Smaug was enriched – having taken their mountain kingdom and made a bed on all of their wealth – see Zero Sum discussion, 6 Diplomacy, p. 1171, *infra*.

⁴ Commentary: Zero as a place holder in counting systems seems to have proceeded math operations, possibly as an accounting function.

⁵ Commentary: History is full of short-lived states following military victory; for example, the Jews in Judea did eventually accept a Messiah, a leader named Simon bar Kokhba (né Bar Kosiba) and a revolt erupted in 132 A.D. (the Bar Kokhba revolt or Third Jewish-Roman War). Simon took the title of Nasi Israel (Prince of Israel), coinage was minted, and Jerusalem and parts of Judea were independent for over two years. But the Roman armies closed in slowly pushing the rebels back; engaging in total war, the Romans devastated Judea, killing, enslaving or displacing most of the Jewish population, destroying hundreds of towns and villages. And then there was the Islamic State....

⁶ Commentary & Citation: Science fiction occasionally attempts to demonstrate this effect, e.g., in the space-opera *Race for the Galaxy* card game (2008), the Alien Data Repository is worth 3x the entire Old Earth (which is a goods-consumption black hole), and the galactic Rebel Underground is twice as valuable as the old Earth.

⁷ Citation: Shivali Best, “Nasa plans to explore a \$10,000 quadrillion asteroid that could cause the world’s economy to Collapse,” *Daily Mail*, January 17, 2017; Sean Rossman, “NASA planning mission to an asteroid worth \$10,000 Quadrillion,” *USA Today*, January 18, 2017.

⁸ Commentary & Citation: e.g., the alien revolutionaries at the end of Mike Resnick’s *Birthright: The Book of Man* (1982), having learned total war from the former human Galactic Empire, could not tolerate the existence of even a small isolated human colony. The remaining human population of a few families explosively destroyed their planet to avoid alien invasion (similar to the ending of *Beneath the Planet of the Apes* (1970)).

⁹ Citation: This was the subject of a couple of *Stargate SG-1* episodes about mining on primitive worlds, including “Spirits” (1998) featuring a Native American-inspired culture, and “Enemy Mine” (2003) featuring a primitive humanoid alien culture, the Unas. It was perhaps inevitable that the series would touch this subject given the weekly proliferation of cookie-cutter, primitive, frozen-in-time, Earth-derived human cultures (and similar humanoid alien cultures) discovered on each planet-of-the-week accessible by *Stargate*.

¹⁰ Commentary & Citation: While I have placed the plight of the Cossacks as comparable to Native Americans (as victims), others have culturally compared them as rugged individuals to the “gun-toting freebooters of the American West.” Narrator Indiana Nidell opens the “History Of The Russian Cossacks Until World War 1” video on the Great War YouTube Channel with this claim, backed by an unattributed book quote at about the 3-minute mark.

¹¹ Commentary & Citation: If you knew that the Japanese were going to launch a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1942 and went back to the summer of 1942, would you tell the authorities (quite aside from the fact that

they would probably confine you to an institution)? Would you act in any way to prevent it, to prevent the loss of millions of lives and create a paradox fatal to your existence, your parents and children’s existence, and the entire world you know? Or would the choice to do nothing be easy because without it, your timeline, your history, the world you know, would not exist, the world would be much different, and there would be no U.S.S. Nimitz.

- ✓ *What if certain people in 1942, not from any future time, knew with certainty what would happen, and the outcome of WWII inasmuch as the United States becomes a dominant superpower armed with a weapon of unimaginable power? Would they allow it to happen, knowing that millions of people would die?*
- ✓ *Though they cannot have imagined the world of today ... there seemed to be a conspiracy theory in my youth that the U.S. Government deliberately allowed the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor (see 3 Government Titles, EN 18, p. 625, supra). Perhaps their reasons were more mundane, e.g., that Germany would declare war on the U.S. if the U.S. declared war on Japan, perhaps political and pecuniary profit from war was a motive. The military-industrial complex has always been suspected of promoting war for profit, and there is always politics of employment, prosperity, union labor involved in it.*

¹² Commentary & Citation: Although smallpox is officially ‘extinct in the wild’ and represents one of the few diseases that have been eradicated, samples are kept in Russia and Atlanta under heavy security:

- ✓ *“Most Americans born since 1972 have not been vaccinated for smallpox. Under a 1979 WHO agreement, the only remaining official live smallpox stocks are kept at CDC in Atlanta and the VECTOR laboratory in Novosibirsk, Russia. Every few years, WHO considers whether these last stocks should be destroyed. At a meeting in May, WHO members again postponed a decision because some experts argued that the stocks are still needed for research.” – Jocelyn Kaiser, “Six vials of smallpox discovered in U.S. lab,” Science Magazine, July 8, 2014 (available free online).*

This is known as the ‘small pox retention debate.’ Given the role of small pox in history and the history of the world, the gravity of this debate is ominously obvious and largely unreported, overshadowed in the late 20th Century by nuclear weapons and now by climate change. As the article title indicates, to the horror of those in the world who understood, six forgotten vials of smallpox were discovered in a government laboratory in Bethesda, Maryland in July 2014; the article also indicates that smaller samples had been found in forgotten stocks in various laboratories (with much less news coverage), for example, cloned samples in South Africa in 2013.

- ✓ *According to NPR (Fran Kritz, September 9, 2019) there was a gas explosion at the VECTOR lab. The small pox samples kept there were not compromised, but again, the retention question is raised.*
- ✓ *See also Bad Exchanges discussion, 4 Expansion, p. 924, supra.*

¹³ Commentary: In the town where I grew up, in center city and the old areas, there were huge mountain stone churches, which I noticed when I was young, had rifle slits and high windows. These citadels were built in the early days, I was told, after the Big Runaway (1778-1779), as defenses in case the Native Americans penetrated into the settlement. I seem to recall from some history that the last Native American incursion in the area was a raid on the less protected settlement or trading post on the south side of the river stemming from a trade dispute around 1800. Sullivan’s Expedition (1779), disease, scorched-earth policy and increasing population density, buildings, and organization doomed the Natives.

¹⁴ Citation: “Long-term solutions included agricultural intensification and the establishment of a hierarchically managed economy. These were not permanent solutions, however, for the archaeologically-evident pattern of population growth indicates that, with each establishment of a higher-capacity production system, population simply rose further. The military option must have been perpetually tempting.” – Joseph Tainter, The Collapse of Complex Societies (1988), pp. 171-172.

- ✓ *“The insecurity that this created among the rural population selected for nucleation around secure, regional centers (Sanders 1981a: 361; Webster 1977: 348). This in turn further intensified subsistence stress, as populations aggregated into smaller areas, leaving large hinterlands with comparatively fewer people and less agricultural production (Webster 1977: 348)...” *Id.*, pp. 171-172.*
- ✓ *“That’s because food production was critical for generating large surpluses that could support non-farming specialists, and the buildup of large populations enjoying a military advantage over others.” – Jared Diamond, Summary of Guns, Germs, and Steel (2017), p. 45, Kindle Edition.*

¹⁵ Commentary: This is the first story in Brian Aldiss’ Galactic Empires Vol. 1 (1976) that I read when I was probably about 14 or 15 years old. Amazingly, considering all that has happened in 35 years, I still have the original hard-cover books (with dust jackets!) of my youth on my shelf.