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THE PROBLEM OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL CIVILIZATIONS
AND ITS PHILOSOPHICAL ASPECTS

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In this article we will discuss the very ancient and fundamental problem in science: is mankind alone in the universe? In our universe are there no "reasoning brothers"? It should be stated at once that the just formulated problem for the time being has not been solved. Moreover, it is unknown when this problem will be solved. Finally, is its solution possible at all? In the considered case we see a complete contradiction between the clarity in formulating the problem and the absence of its solution. At first glance only some deep theorems in mathematics (especially the theory of numbers) have such a property. But, to be sure, there is an enormous difference between formulation of our problem and the mentioned mathematical theorems. For example, if the "great Fermi theorem" is formulated faultlessly, the "clarity" of formulation of the problem of extraterrestrial civilizations is only apparent. The fundamental concept of "reasoning life" is by no means elementary and requires a profound analysis.

It is far from my intention to give exhaustive answers to the enormous number of questions, including philosophical, which arise in connection with the problem of extraterrestrial civilizations. The purpose of this article is more limited: to formulate and refine some of these questions.

First of all, a small historical aside. It is untrue to believe that the problem of a multiplicity of inhabited worlds has been solved differently (to be sure, speculatively) by philosophers of the materialistic and idealistic points of view. However paradoxical it may seem, the overwhelming majority of philosophers in both directions has been unanimous on