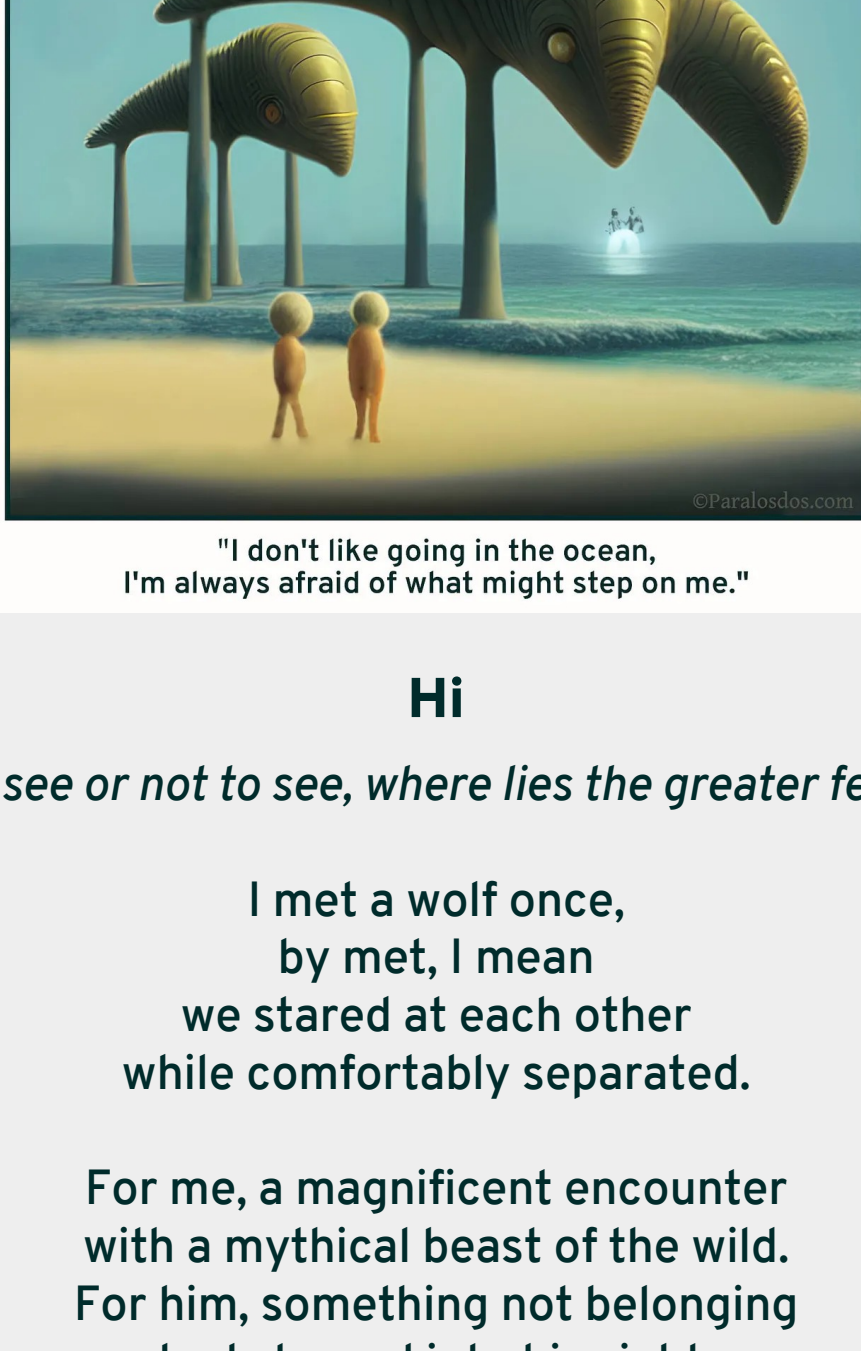


Change Happens

Have a great day,
find your way

The Alien Life



"I don't like going in the ocean,
I'm always afraid of what might step on me."

Hi

To see or not to see, where lies the greater fear?

I met a wolf once,
by met, I mean
we stared at each other
while comfortably separated.

For me, a magnificent encounter
with a mythical beast of the wild.
For him, something not belonging
had strayed into his sight.

With nothing much to say,
we carried on the day.

It never occurred to me
to be afraid,
sunny days in the woods
with freshly fallen snow
are not disposed to fear,
so I was not.

However, a cracking, unseen
big or small, from nearby by
in any woods, is a momentarily
terrifying thing not to see,
on this, the wolf and I agree.

The sum of our parts

Humans may not have survived without Neanderthals

"Far from triumphantly breezing out of Africa, modern humans went extinct many times before going on to populate the world, new studies have revealed.

The new DNA research has also shed new light on the role our Neanderthal cousins played in our success.

While these early European humans were long seen as a species which we successfully dominated after leaving Africa, new studies show that only humans who interbred with Neanderthals went on to thrive, while other bloodlines died out."

- It seems that we, Homo Sapiens and Neanderthals share much in common. Our long ago shared ancestor was, most likely, Homo Erectus. Homo Sapiens evolved in Africa, and Neanderthals evolved outside of Africa. Our people made several forays into Europe that ended in extinction. It was only after we interbred with the Neanderthals that we finally survived out of Africa. And even that was after a final extinction event that included us, Neanderthals, Denisovans, all the bipeds. It is with the Neanderthal DNA that we finally prevailed. We know this because now we can read genetic code from the bones. From the bones we know our past.

Reading the past

The Rosetta Stone Unlocked the Secrets of Ancient Egypt

"Contrary to popular misconception, the Rosetta Stone isn't a trilingual text. It's a bilingual one with three separate scripts. Think of the hieroglyphs as a complicated form of calligraphy and the Demotic text as ordinary letters. Both are written in ancient Egyptian, but they look so different that observers initially thought they represented different languages."

"'You've got to think back to before it was discovered. All we knew about the ancient world was Greece, Rome and the Bible. We knew there were big civilizations, like Egypt, but they'd fallen silent. With the cracking of the Rosetta Stone, they could speak with their own voice, and suddenly whole areas of history were revealed.'"

- A great article on the deciphering of the Rosetta Stone and what it represents historically and for the furthering of our understanding of ancient cultures. It was an enormous undertaking and a game changing discovery. Essentially, it was the Nerds of 200 years ago pouring over the text as if a puzzle and eventually solving it. The text itself is mundane, admin blather and glad handing the king. The value was as the key to unlocking other texts that had much to say.

The robot's first words

A series of mysterious bleeps and bloops defined the early days of the internet

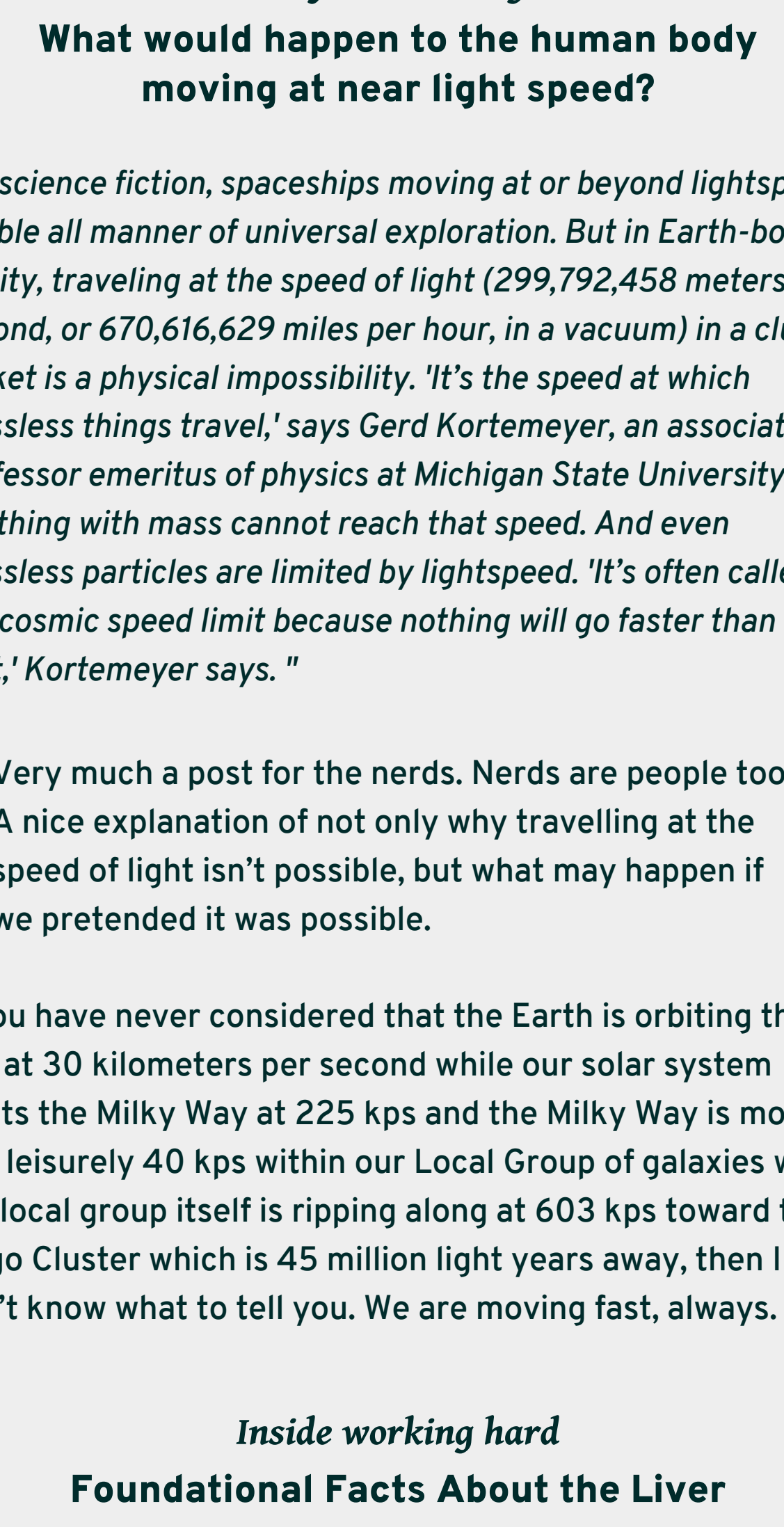
"Once upon a time, going onto the internet was a journey through sound. Before all our phones were online all the time, before there were wifi connections in houses, planes, libraries, and coffee shops, we were logged off before we made the conscious decision to log on. Doing so meant listening to familiar dial tones, then a series of mysterious bleeps and bloops, and finally a loud static-y crash that sounded like a radio stuck between stations (if you remember that sound too)."

- This is an oddly joyful article about modems and the squeaking, squawking and buzzing noises they made and why they made them. I had never really considered before how a modem worked. I just knew that it made noise and if everything went as planned, at the end of the noise I'd have access to the weirdness that was the interweb. The word modem stands for modulation demodulation, which is the process of translating the data to sound and back. The modem transmits a stream of digital information, ones and zeros, the bits and bytes that still make up the flow of information today, over a telephone line. It does that using different sounds and then translating those sounds back to digital information in your computer. The robot was chatty back in the day.

December 18, 1865

Thirteenth Amendment

Slavery Abolished



Wiki Rabbit Hole

"Though three million Confederate slaves were eventually freed as a result of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, their postwar status was uncertain. To ensure that abolition was beyond legal challenge, an amendment to the Constitution to that effect was drafted. On April 8, 1864, the Senate passed an amendment to abolish slavery. After one unsuccessful vote and extensive legislative maneuvering by the Lincoln administration, the House followed suit on January 31, 1865. The measure was swiftly ratified by nearly all Northern states, along with a sufficient number of border states up to the assassination of President Lincoln. However, the approval came via his successor, President Andrew Johnson, who encouraged the 'reconstructed' Southern states of Alabama, North Carolina, and Georgia to agree, which brought the count to 27 states, leading to its adoption before the end of 1865."

Very weird things

What would happen to the human body moving at near light speed?

"In science fiction, spaceships moving at or beyond lightspeed enable all manner of universal exploration. But in Earth-bound reality, traveling at the speed of light (299,792,458 meters per second, or 670,616,629 miles per hour, in a vacuum) in a clunky rocket is a physical impossibility. 'It's the speed at which massless things travel,' says Gerd Kortemeyer, an associate professor emeritus of physics at Michigan State University. So, anything with mass cannot reach that speed. And even massless particles are limited by lightspeed. 'It's often called the cosmic speed limit because nothing will go faster than that,' Kortemeyer says."

- Very much a post for the nerds. Nerds are people too. A nice explanation of not only why travelling at the speed of light isn't possible, but what may happen if we pretended it was possible.

If you have never considered that the Earth is orbiting the sun at 30 kilometers per second while our solar system orbits the Milky Way at 225 kps and the Milky Way is moving at a leisurely 40 kps within our Local Group of galaxies while the local group itself is ripping along at 603 kps toward the Virgo Cluster which is 45 million light years away, then I don't know what to tell you. We are moving fast, always.

Inside working hard

Foundational Facts About the Liver

"You may not think much of your liver, hidden as it is deep inside your body, unless you over-imbibe at a party. But your liver runs multiple functions on your behalf to keep you healthy. Not only is it your largest internal organ; it is in charge of hundreds of bodily processes ranging from fighting infection to manufacturing proteins and hormones to helping your blood clot."

- With Christmas and New Year's right around the corner it seems like a good time to have a refresher on the liver. The liver serves a multitude of purposes way beyond processing booze. It's main job is to act as a blood filter, a detoxifier of chemicals and a metabolizer of drugs. An interior workhorse. Odd that we can name all these organs but often don't really know what they do. Seems like a good time of the year to get reacquainted if you were already acquainted, and if you've never been acquainted, then here we are.

How we left the sea

Meet the mudskipper: The remarkable fish that lives on land

"The mudskipper is a small fish that can leap with a flick of its tail. Watch one particularly agile specimen in action here as he overcomes serious obstacles to find his mate, bring her home, and start a family."

- Generally I don't include articles that are basically video only in Change Happens, but this is worth watching for the awesome weirdness that is a mudskipper. If you've ever had any trouble believing that we evolved out of the sea to become what we are now, this will help you make the leap. Watching this creature rip across the land on adventures is really something to behold. It's a fish that's using its it's fins to walk, you know, on land. Plus it's a love story.

"The point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer."

Rainer Maria Rilke

it's your life
you understand

Please feel free to forward [Change Happens](#) to anyone you think might enjoy it and have a most excellent day