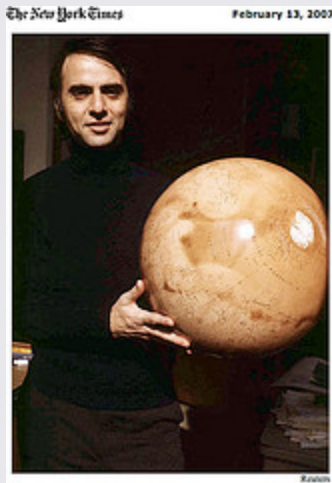


[« Article: Schools, libraries finding second life in Second Life](#) | [Main](#) | [Library 2.0 Book Cover »](#)

Carl Sagan: Rejoining the Debate



It's been a long 10 years since we've heard Carl Sagan beckoning us to consider the possibilities inherent in the "billions" of stars peppering the sky and in the "billions" of neuronal connections spiderwebbing our brains.

...In his absence, the public discourse on his favorite issues — the fate of the planet, the beauty and mystery of the cosmos — has not fared well. The teaching of evolution in public schools has become a bitter bone of contention; NASA tried to abandon the Hubble Space Telescope and censor talk of climate change; and of course, religious fanatics crashed jetliners into the World Trade Center, leading to a war in the Middle East that has awakened memories in some corners of the Crusades.

Now, however, Dr. Sagan has rejoined the cosmic debate from the grave. The occasion is the publication last month of "The Varieties of Scientific Experience: A Personal View of the Search for God" (Penguin). The book is based on a series of lectures exploring the boundary between science and religion that Dr. Sagan gave in Glasgow in 1985, and it was edited by Ann Druyan, his widow and collaborator.

*...Near the end of his book, Dr. Sagan parses the difference between belief and science this way: **"I think if we ever reach the point where we think we thoroughly understand who we are and where we came from, we will have failed."***

[Full article link.](#)

Posted by Michael on February 13, 2007 08:00 PM | [Permalink](#)

➔ Post a comment

(If you haven't left a comment here before, you may need to be approved by the site owner before your comment will appear. Until then, it won't appear on the entry. Thanks for waiting.)

Name:

Email Address:

URL:

☐ Remember personal info?

Comments: (you may use HTML tags for style)

Preview

Post