

## **Extraterrestrial Fallacies**

**By Avamaria Marra**

Mars had been a mystery that fascinated man for thousands of years. Man had longed to reach and eventually colonize the red planet. In the year 3564 A.D. they finally had enough advanced technology to make that first trip. There had been many attempts in the past, of course, but each of them failed, took too long, or had negative effects on the astronauts. This Monumental aircraft was named the *Endeavour*, and was operated by the greatest astronauts of their time. The team had planned to send out rovers to collect samples of the environment, and take pictures and measurements. With this information they would come back to colonize Mars. However, it was not lack of space on Earth that inspired this movement, for millions of years, humankind had thrived quite comfortably on Earth. It was curiosity that pushed the *Endeavour* into space, the thought that there might be something better waiting for them there.

It was the second of October 3564 A.D. and the world buzzed with anticipation on that monumental day, every set of eyes fixed upon the sky. This was the day when man would finally make contact, and possibly colonize, another planet. The humans did not think they would encounter any Martians for their analysis showed no signs of intelligent life and they had full faith in their supreme technology. In an explosion of white and gray smoke, man was on his way to Mars.

When the *Endeavour* landed, the astronauts quickly got to work setting up the rovers and rockets that they had brought with them. It all took only eight days and after their work was done, they returned to planet Earth. However, unbeknownst to the team, some Martian youths witnessed all of this and reported to their leaders what they had seen. "Alien machines are taking our resources, putting them in rockets, and shooting them back to their planet!" they cried.

The leaders of Mars saw that they had to do something about this perceived threat, so they used what they called their Advanced Artificial Intelligence Network, AAIN for short. It is very similar to what humans call

the Internet, and used it to research how humans treated their own planet. What they found horrified them—pollution, pesticides, global warming, and other ways Earth was abused by its inhabitants. The various leaders discussed their concerns.

“We must stop this at once!” cried one.

“Look how they abuse their own planet; imagine what they would do to ours!” declared another.

“They obviously are planning to destroy our planet, look at all the evidence!” proclaimed another leader. “We must let them know they are not welcome here!”

And so it was decided among the leaders of Mars that this sort of behavior would not be tolerated. So they immediately formed to make sure people on Earth got the message. The Martians would sneak down to Earth and destroy all of the human’s space vessels, so that way they couldn’t return to the Martians’ home. The Martians went to work and quickly carried out their plan.

Seven observatories around the world, almost simultaneously, confirmed they had seen a strange spacecraft visit Earth that night from the direction to Mars. When the humans found their precious, multi-million dollar spacecrafts ruined they were outraged! All the leaders of the World came to a meeting to negotiate what they should do next.

“This is obviously a threat and needs to be stopped,” said one of them.

“They probably have been spying on us for years,” said another. “We must protect our resources, wives, children, we must protect our planet!” cried another.

So instead of trying to explore the reasoning behind the Martians actions, man declared war with Mars, a war that would define mankind as well as Martian history. Each side would switch between offense and defense, destroying whole countries and millions of lives on both sides. For generations both planets described the other as low, sinful, heartless creatures.

Both civilizations suffered great losses and with no real victor, although both sides claimed victory. What were once two happy and thriving planets

were now two broken and cold ones consumed by revenge and hatred. Both could have changed the course of history for the better, of course, but neither of them made the leap to a reasonable discussion or an apology. All of this was observed by the inhabitants of their fellow planets. After witnessing the fall of their sister planets, they all resolved from then on to unite in times of trouble and try to explore the others' reasoning behind their actions first, to avoid making decisions based on fallacy.