

Lesson 1: Aliens are Thin
by Monica Levis

The three Plutonian kids decided to test their new computerized ice carver (the Plutonian equivalent of a 3D printer) in a cave not far away from their neighborhood in the ice beneath Pluto's surface. The eldest found ten pictures of human house designs on the internet and downloaded them to the robot. They then let the robot work in the caves in peace, and went outside to spy on the human base that was near. As they walked towards it they saw a group of human tourists coming to explore the ice near them, and hid behind some rocks.

"I thought that Pluto was uninhabited," said one of the tourists.

"We thought so, but we found caves leading into the planet. Lower down there might be life, even if there is none on the surface," replied the tour guide.

"Lower down? Isn't there just ice and rock?"

"Actually, it is believed that there is a thick layer of ice, and then a layer of liquid water."

They soon got to the ice where the ice bot was working. They didn't see it, which gave one of the kids long enough to sneak by them and get the ice bot out of the caves when it had finished its work. Once they did see the caves they went through them slowly, not believing their eyes. The caves were carved beautifully. On the walls there were relief sculptures that looked almost like paintings, except that they were very thin and very tall. The rooms had double height ceilings, which were also carved, but the largest room only was ten feet across and nine feet long. This amazed everyone as they walked through room after room, until they came to a room that was two feet wide and whose doorway was six inches wide. Since they could go no further, they turned back and sent the many pictures that they had taken back to earth.

Earth was amazed by this find. Newspaper and websites all had different theories of why the caves were built, and who the beings were who built them. NASA analyzed the images and found that the rooms were identical to rooms from Versailles, Windsor castle, and the Winter Palace. This amazed everyone and new conspiracy theories developed about Plutonians telepathically communicating with the monarchs. The newspapers claimed that the inhabitants of Pluto were thin giants who lived in intricately carved caves, and parents scared their children by saying, "If you don't eat your vegetables the Plutonians will get

you.” Eventually Earth calmed down, and the three Plutonian children slipped into the rooms that the people from Earth left, and went through them slowly, not believing their eyes.

“Wow,” said the youngest, “those humans are really thin.”