

941 The Great Filter (*this is an edited version of my blogs 941; see also blog 942, the Great Filter redux*)

This blog - based on the videos *Why Alien Life Would Be Our Doom* and *Where Are All The Aliens?* by KURZGESAGT.org - is about our chances of surviving into the future; the question is: What does the future hold for humanity? And this question is closely linked to another: Where are all the aliens? In the context of the Fermi Paradox, there is the theory of the five filters, culminating in the Great Filter; for us to survive into the future and to be able to go interstellar, we have to overcome this fifth, Great Filter. The first filter was passed billions of years ago, when life came into being as single cells; we don't know if this happened in multiple locales, or if single cells originated in just one place and potentially asteroid-travelled through space. The second filter was overcome when those primordial living things combined and developed into higher-level, multi-cell organisms; again, this probably is not an uncommon occurrence in our neighborhood, the Milky Way. With the third filter those life-forms need to evolve and grow into a multitude of sophisticated beings, on par with the animals in our world; there is no telling how much this has happened anywhere else other than here on Earth, but it is still possible elsewhere. The fourth filter is for one species to rise above the rest; they need to develop intelligence, dominate all other beings and exploit their planet's resources ... this is the phase humans are in. Possibly civilizations have earlier been at that point in our galaxy, and elsewhere in the universe. The fifth filter - the Great Filter - is the stage humans are facing and it is distinctly possible it will doom us, as it has before doomed any other alien culture. It seems no civilization in the past has been able to overcome it, since we cannot find any aliens, even though we have been looking for decades with all the technology we could muster. Pay attention now: This is the filter that causes human-like beings to self-destruct, as they deplete the resources of their planet while developing advanced technologies. So this fate has befallen other cultures that existed before us ... other than falling victim to asteroid collisions, they indulged in innovations that pushed the limits too far. They probably caused catastrophic climate change; built weapon systems that got out of hand or created Artificial Intelligence (AI) that decided their creators hindered their progress and had to be terminated. Either one of these scenarios - or possibly a combination of all of them - may prevent humans' survival, as it apparently has happened to all previous civilizations in our galaxy. Indeed, it seems no civilization has been able to pass the Great Filter, as they may have failed to control advanced developments (such as nanotechnologies - *a research category inclusive of all types of research and technologies that deal with the special properties of matter*) which stymied futuristic endeavors, like travelling interstellar and finding new planets to exploit. If - however - an advanced civilization managed to overcome the Great Filter and will visit us, it would most likely be a catastrophe for humanity. It is likely the aliens - or worse, an AI civilization that had replaced their human-like creators - would aim to conquer our planet (just like we would theirs) and use it to replenish their own resources ... with fateful disregard for the wellbeing of the human species.