

英文和訳

問題 I・1 以下の英文を読み次の問に答えよ。

問 1 内容を 300 字以内の日本語に要約せよ。

問 2 この英文が書かれた当時は明らかでなかったことが、その後の観測・観察により明らかにされた箇所がいくつかある。その箇所に相当する英文を一つ抜き出して和訳せよ。

Why are we here? Are others like us to be found elsewhere? Difficult questions indeed! Despite millennia of thought the answers available today are little more satisfying than those that were available to our distant ancestors. New insights have been more than counterbalanced by new puzzles. Religion tells us we were created by God. Science tells us we were created by chance. Yet neither theologians nor scientists are quite happy with these pat answers. Both probe for greater insight. Are we God's only charges? Has chance operated successfully elsewhere? Perhaps someday God will reveal himself or chance will be duplicated in the laboratory. In the meantime, humans will continue to puzzle and probe.

While we as yet have no way to know whether living beings who match or exceed our ability to appreciate, to reason, and to exploit reside elsewhere in the universe, science is providing some very valuable constraints on such speculations. Two approaches are being taken. One is geological. It has to do with the likelihood that habitats suitable to life have come into being elsewhere. The other is biological. It has to do with the likelihood that given a suitable environment, life will evolve. Although, to date, only a few steps have been taken along these long roads, important progress has been made. In this book I attempt to summarize the success of the geologic approach.

In trying to assess the likelihood that other settings suitable for intelligent life exist, we must first have an idea of how many planets and moons there are in the universe. This proves to be an awkward question, because to date even planets associated with our nearest stellar neighbors are undetectable. Since they do not glow, we cannot see them. They are too tiny to create shadows or to measurably perturb their host star's path. Newly developed sensors mounted on the soon-to-be-launched space telescope will, it is hoped, give us our first view of distant planets.

【中 略】

In order to assess the likelihood that Earth conditions are duplicated elsewhere in the universe, we must go back to the beginning. Even the very early events in the universe left their mark on the Earth.

theologian: 神学者

出典 : *How to build a habitable planet*, W.S. Broecker, Eldigio Press, NY (1985)より

