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If speed is essential in our limited mundane movements it is surely a necessity when we undertake interplanetary travel and so for our present use we shall suggest a velocity of 1,000 miles per hour. We are not now interested in the kind of spaceship we shall use except that it can attain that speed with plenty of margin to spare. Nor shall we worry about the details of accommodation except that we shall be fully provided for during our long voyage as we visit each of the planets. Indeed we shall simply use our imagination and let an imaginary committee look after all necessary arrangements.

The itinerary which this group has prepared will take us directly to the Moon and then to the Sun as centre from which we shall fly to the planets in the following order:—Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto and we cruise swiftly home again. To do this with the least lost motion we assume that all the planets will lie in a straight line outward from the Sun. Our object is to find out what we can about the physical conditions, possible inhabitants and their appearance, their occupations and their way of life, in surroundings very different from our own.

If then, we board our enormous spaceship we shall find it already pointed toward the Sun and soon the giant siren, blares a deafening blast to announce the long awaited take-off. This is a very intense moment for all on deck and some express their misgivings about the wisdom of the undertaking. But it is too late, the Earth seems to be falling away from us and silence becomes master on all sides. After an hour or so the folks begin to talk and soon we are informed that the Moon will be our first stop and we can see a very thin crescent of it as it slowly moves away from new Moon position in front of the blazing Sun. We have now been flying for a week and covered 163,000 miles and thus passed the limit of the Earth's attraction so that now the Moon's attraction will begin to felt as we swiftly draw nearer to our satellite. Only three days remain in which to complete our lunar trip and the 72,000 miles will soon be left behind us. But before we land, we shall sweep around this strange looking sphere to gaze on the other side which has always been hidden from us when on the Earth. When we arrive we discover very odd geological formations, some rugged mountain chains and thousands of craters whose origin is thought to be volcanic and meteoric. Here too we find no air to breathe, no water to drink and no food to eat, no fauna and no flora but only vast areas pierced by these jagged rocky outcrops. What a place, what a death valley!

Again, turning to our instruments, we see that the temperature is about 250 degrees Fahrenheit because there is no atmosphere to ameliorate its severity. The dark side is far beyond that point below zero. It is the frigid cold of outer space. The Moon's diameter is only 2160 miles but its mountains are about as high as ours and many of its 30,000 known craters are much larger than any on the Earth. We cannot stay longer so we shall knock off some lunar fragments to study on our bound flight.

Again the siren sounds the takeoff, It took us only 10 days to reach the Moon but it will require 10 years to arrive at our next stop. As we speed through space toward the glowing Sun we become aware that it appears to be increasing in size and we remember that its diameter is 864,000 miles and it would take 30 years to walk around it at 4 miles per hour. Long before we reach it we could not help but be amazed at its great size because its vast limbs would cover much of the sky both to the right and the left as well as above and beyond us. We also see the Earth and the Moon apparently receding into the distant darkness until it looks like a very small sunlit disk millions of miles away, and in that limitless perspective of space we were forced to contemplate the unimportance of our planet.

Five years have already passed and we are half way there and still flying at our initial speed of 1,000 miles per hour. We are now feeling the powerful attraction of the Sun and in a few more decades we shall have to stop all motors and carefully slide the rest of the way until it becomes necessary to turn them on again but in reverse because the attraction of the Sun at its surface is 28 times as great as on the Earth.
A Holiday Trip to the Planets

As we approach this colossal sphere of glowing gas we do not have to be afraid of its awful heat of 10,500 degrees and its blinding light of 3 octillion lumen. It is treated to a vast display of fireworks when several enormous jets of gas or spots anywhere from 10,000 to 50,000 miles across. If those holes were our way again, this time to a real planet named for the god of speed.

The little illusive planet Mercury is about 36 million miles beyond the trip will consume a little over 4 years of our precious time at our speed. The siren sounds again and we are off, off after a planet that is to land on it when we wish. Strange to say, it seems to keep the same hemisphere toward the sun by rotating on its axis only once during each revolution of its condition while on the other side which is always dark the temperature sinks close to absolute zero. This continual intense heat, according to writers, has produced great cracks all over the sunlit hemisphere so that the molten condition is very dangerous. Its diameter is only a little more than 3,000 miles and, the Moon, it has no atmosphere, no water and no food. We move about in search of life but find none, not even relics nor fossils of any kind but we find the molten gold in pots and store it in our air-conditioned compartment to save the place and so we prepare for our next stopping place, the very brilliant Venus.

On this part of our trip we travel only 31 million miles and accomplish about 32 years to find that the planet's brilliance is due to the presence of thick cloud envelop which surrounds the entire sphere and cuts off the whole from their view. When we arrived we had to plunge directly into and through cloud to reach the surface which would have been very dangerous if we were not our radar equipment. Once safely landed we sought for a division somewhere in the cloud through which we might check on the rotation period but none could be found during our stay on the planet. We remembered, however, that the diameter about 7,000 miles and it is a very good twin for the earth which about 7900 miles through, that its orbital velocity is 25 miles per second but period of rotation is not yet known. Some writers that, like Mercury, it rotates only once during each revolution and therefore keeps the same hemisphere toward the sun; others feel almost sure that it rotates in about 30 days.

Some that the astronomers on Mount Palomar, with their unique equipment, will be to solve this difficult problem. With regard to surface features we who are the ground can vouch for some self-evident facts for we have found that the clinging cloud is truly an awful hinderance, not only to air navigation, but also understanding of the universe outside. The excessive moisture and the tropheat are very oppressive since Venus is only 57 million miles from the sun and it circles in about 225 days. Strange as it may seem, we found no signs of life but only vast forests and jungles of tropical trees, shrubs and vines, from time to time fall in tangled masses to gradually form potential coal stores for some distant future race to enjoy. May we say then that people like ourselves cannot exist on this planet at the present time, and our advice to all tiring space travelers is, 'Don't go!' And now we shall prepare for our next stop, the ruddy war planet Mars.
MARS
A HOLIDAY TRIP TO THE PLANETS

In this trip from Venus to Mars we have to cover 74 million miles or 1000 miles per hour, which will take slightly more than 8 years and we are all trying to guess the appearance and nature of the inhabitants we expect to meet when we set down on our mighty space ship on that interesting planet, which is only a little more than 1000 miles in diameter. Mars rotates to make day and night there in 24 hours and 37 minutes, which is only about a half hour longer than an earth day and it revolves around the Sun, on 67 earth days or nearly two earth years, at 17½ miles per second. Some writers seem to think that people live on Mars and we have been asked if we have ever seen anybody over there through our big telescope, but, of course, we have no answer in the negative because no one with a telescope any object would have to be about 10 miles long or twice the people of such dimensions would be enormous. Think of meeting a man several miles high or a woman that far around. Needless to say there are no such gigantic beings anywhere in space. It would be a gargantuan creature should such a creature exist. Red rocks and red soil, and for others ordinary folk, astronomers do not think anything special on Mars.

We might have chosen to go at a more favorable opposition when the distance would be less than half the great belt in the aurora we are using the average distance from the sun for each of the planets.

Eight years have now passed and after circling Mars in continual daylight by lowering our speed we have been able to explore its polar white caps, its sandy areas in the temperate zones and the greenish areas around the equator. And now with reversed motors we glide in to a soft landing just beside the “Sea of Mars” a little lake called Solis Lacus, which means the中间 lake and it is now with the temperature of 80 degrees F. This heat is only temporary for on account of the rare atmosphere, Mars cannot hold it and by nightfall the mercury drops to around zero every evening and by early dawn it is far below that point. Added to the rarity of the atmosphere there is the distance of 141½ million miles between the Earth and the Sun. There are few clouds and rain seldom falls in the mountains so that the vegetation is sparse, the soil scanty and of poor quality and can grow only beside the salt marshes and smaller inland bodies of water. The reddish areas prove to be nothing more than dried and small rocky ranges from which the soil and other materials have long since been carried away.

We were thrilled at night by the appearance of Mars two little moons that are not more than 20 miles across and are 200,000 miles away. These almost blended together and rose in the east and then set just after the Sun and rose again as the Sun was setting in the west and then passed each other somewhere between the two stars Aries, and Virgo, and near, "Polaris," this comedy was repeated once more there, the Sun gave way to the Moon and Venus.
Mars

A Holiday Trip to the Planets

Now the question arises, "Can folks like me live on Mars?"

1. We cannot get there except in imagination, even at the speed of light or thought.
   2. We cannot breathe there because the atmosphere is rare, unless we carry sufficient oxygen with us.
   3. We cannot eat there because the vegetation is poor and of a kind similar to our marsh grass and reeds, and most of the food animals have probably disappeared centuries ago.
   4. We cannot drink there because there are probably no springs nor streams but only sluggish pools and marshes to be found.
   5. We cannot put up with the unbearable temperature caused in from space every night and especially in the winter.

(y) to enable other communities to profit from the experience in London to promote and conduct similar institutes.

Yours truly,

Odin W. Anderson

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