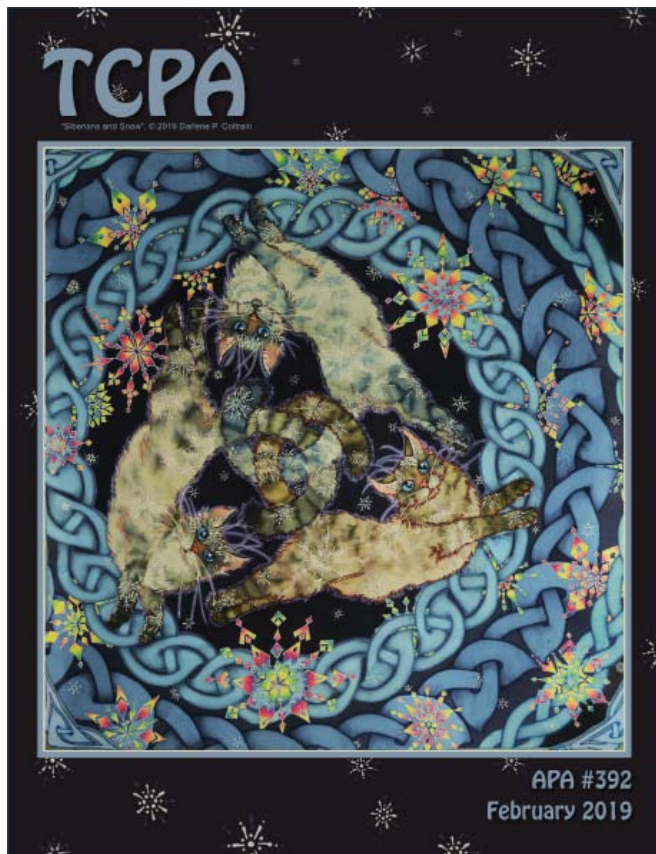


OrionWorks Sonova Quark

Brought to you by Steven Vincent Johnson and Darlene P. Coltrain, mailing address: 6666 Odana Road, #213, Madison, WI 53719. Email Steve: orionworks@charter.net. Email Darlene: dpcoltrain@gmail.com Web: <http://OrionWorks.com>. All material is Copyrighted © by Steven Vincent Johnson and Darlene P. Coltrain unless otherwise specified. Quark is brought to you by *OrionWorks* with occasional help from **Grasshopper Press** when I feel an inspirational mood overtake me. Final layout is assembled in InDesign CS5. Printing done on a HP Color Laserjet Pro MFP M277dw. Some might be asking how do you pronounce "Sonova Quark"? There isn't one.

This edition was created for *Turbo Charged Party Animal*, #392.
Completed somewhere around February 21, 2019

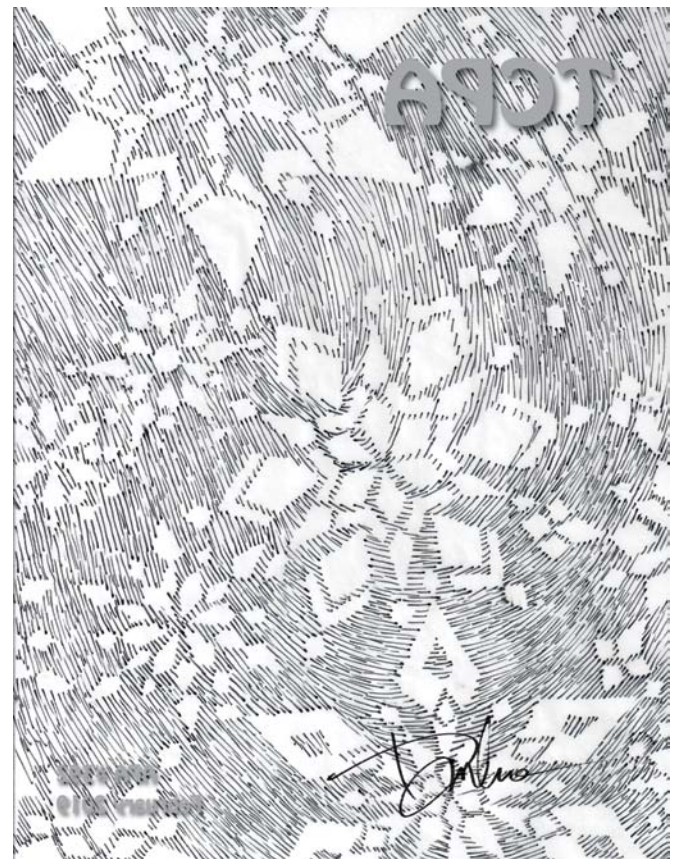
This Month's Front Cover



Siberians and Snow
© 2019 Darlene P. Coltrain
Hand painted silk scarf 35"x35" (approx)

Darlene has created a series of silk scarves, of trines with felines in various configurations. This scarf was produced in 2014. The subject material has proven to be popular in the dealer's room, rarely remaining available "for sale" for more than one or two conventions. Fortunately, I have shot high-definition photos of Darlene's creations with our Nikon D3200 digital camera. Darlene's trine series has produced excellent greeting cards, often selling out by Saturday afternoon or Sunday.

This Months Back Cover



Snowflakes (detail)
© 2019 Darlene P. Coltrain
Pen and Ink, 16 1/4"x12"

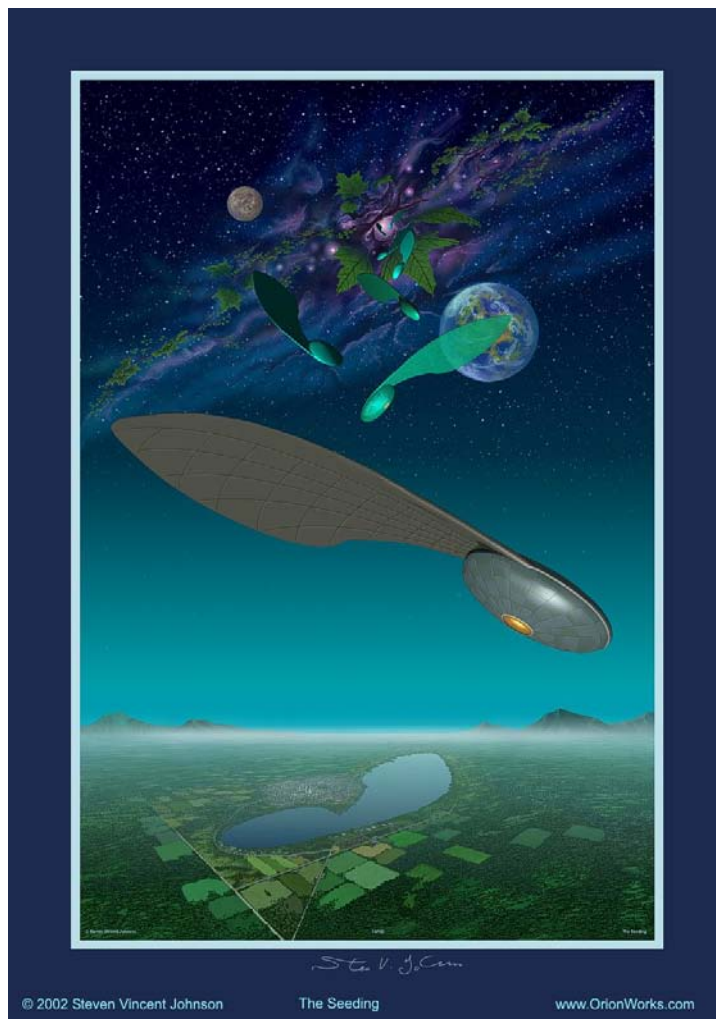
Or

REMEMBERING CLOVIS

The Great Migration to Earth

Part 1

Andy Hooper's thoughtful essay, *CONTRADICTING CLOVIS*, focuses on accumulated archeological evidence and speculation concerning how and when humans migrated over to the New World. Reading about these archeological findings reminded me of a fantasy extrapolation of my own, a fantasy that has been percolating inside me for a while. My version focuses on conjecture that our ancestors were not originally from Planet Earth. Ahhh...Ok... There are many UFO authors like Erich von Daniken who claim that thousands of years ago extraterrestrials visited our world and altered our specie's evolution. Since rejoining TURBO I have steered away from topics of this sort. There came a time when I began to realize dwelling on speculative topics which I know damned well I'll never get to the bottom of is not necessarily a productive way of managing what dwindling time I have left on this planet. This is particularly the case if I want to produce something I believe might of more lasting value. That said, every now and then I still enjoy brief romps into ET'landia. It's a good distraction when I need to take a deserved break from computer programming and racking my brains over turgid math and geometry associated with my on-going Orbital Mechanics research project. I hope a few TURBO readers will find the following essay fantasy story-line engaging.



The Seeding
© Steven Vincent Johnson

Numerous well-oiled SF tropes revolve around the genesis of how we homo sapiens came to be. Some of these stories employ the assistance of extraterrestrials meddling with prototype anthropoid monkey apes. Related tropes involve of our distant ancestors having been transported to Earth millions of years ago when the planet languished in a feral state. Look no further then popular SF stories such as: *2001 A Space Odyssey*, *Babylon 5*, *The Star Gate* series, David Brin's Uplift series, *BattleStar Galactica*, and perhaps my favorite trope of all, *Professor Quatermass and the Pit*, a well-received "B" SF film that had been released to American audiences retitled as: *Five million years to Earth*. While the scientific establishment tends to scoff at such conjecture, their continued telling in countless SF tropes seems to pull on the strings of many readers. If only we could sift through countless

layers of dust and fragmented bone, arrowhead, and fossil buried in our Earth's history and discern if the truth is really out there.

One migratory tale of our origins, the one that pulls my strings revolves around conjecture that our ancient proto monkey ancestors were transported to Earth approximately 20 to 25 million years ago. We were brought here by a race of space faring extraterrestrials that were the equivalent of a group of Sierra Club enthusiasts. (I'll call them the Sierrans.) They were benevolent ETs dedicated to the ideals of allowing indigenous feral planetary ecosystems to evolve naturally with no technological intervention. Perhaps there existed a sense of guilt and a need to pay penance to the long lost eco system of their own technologically plundered home world. The Sierrans realized a group of ape-like species now living among them on their own home world would not have the chance to evolve naturally. There was no more natural habitat left on the planet's surface where they could evolve at ponderous geological time-frames. The Sierrans also didn't like the fact that many of these primitive apes were being used in manual labor positions where high intelligence was not a requirement. While advanced civilizations like the Sierran's loved, played with, and meticulously cared for their anthropoid pets (many of whom also served in manual labor positions in their households and industrial complexes) it was clear that their destiny would remain locked in servitude. Slave labor for their benevolent masters. At least that's how many Sierrans perceived their fate. It's likely those who owned and benefited from a cheap labor force probably disagreed. *Hey! We care, feed, and play with our furry family members all the time! We pay their vet bills. Why shouldn't we benefit having them do the laundry, take out the garbage and sweep our floors?* But the eco-minded Sierrans were a determined lot. They lobbied the planetary government council to have all of these primitive apes removed from their cushy home worlds stocked full of free nutritious pet food, warm and safe shelters to sleep in, and a life filled with non-life-threatening activities. They would be transplanted to several feral worlds devoid of any advanced sentient species and technology. A transplantation program of this magnitude tends bend a lot of ecological rules concerning strict non-intervention guidelines for the management of feral planetary systems. But with a well-paid staff of lawyers (and a few paid-off politicians) one can always petition for an exception to the rule.

Perhaps some readers with some knowledge of how the theory of evolution works might find themselves doubting if such an operation could actually be pulled off. Yes, it's true all of these chosen feral worlds flourished under favorable Goldilocks Zone conditions, agreeable temperatures, atmospheres possessed of oxygen, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen in ratios compatible to each other. But over geological spans of time involving hundreds and millions of years there should be a huge amount of divergence in how indigenous life on all the different worlds would evolve into. Each planet would produce a plethora of unique biological configurations baring little resemblance to life evolving in tandem on other Goldilocks Zone game preserve worlds. Granted, there might exist certain evolutionary tendencies to produce life structured around practi-

cal configurations such as symmetrical bilateralism with pairs of appendages on opposite sides. But established evolutionary rules that we see constantly played out Earth involving the rules of Fibonacci math (2, 3, 5, 8, 12...) might strongly influence the number of paired appendages and attached digits that eventually dominate the genetic architecture. The agreed upon Fibonacci number is totally up for grabs on each world. There would come a point in the reconstruction of a planet's evolutionary tree where anthropologists would come face-to-face with blatant gaps when trying to fit in our monkey ancestry in. Consider the legacy of our own simian skeletal architecture. Focus on our gift of manual dexterity, specifically two hind and two front leg appendages each possessed with five digits (5, a Fibonacci number) attached to two hands and two feet. (2, also a Fibonacci number) What are the chances that any indigenous branch of the evolutionary tree belonging to other planetary eco systems would *specifically* possess the same combination of Fibonacci numbers? Our uniqueness would stick out, blatantly so, like a missing link.

There also could be some serious concerns over whether a transplanted species would be able to consume all of the necessary combinations of amino acids, vitamins and minerals necessary for their unique biological needs. Indigenous animals and plant-life may flourish abundantly on the new home world. But that doesn't necessarily mean a transplanted species would easily find abundant recipes of amino acids appropriate for their unique needs. But I'm going to give a pass on such concerns. I'm going to assume the Sierrans studied the eco systems of potential home worlds very carefully. They made sure the planets they selected contained all the necessary nutritional requirements.

Of course, while all of this might be fascinating speculation, the fact of the matter is that when we look at the history of our own simian evolutionary tree it turns out our ancestors seem to fit into Earth's evolutionary tree nicely. Our skeletal structure fits in quite well with countless warm-blooded vertebrates, like canines, felines, bats, rodents, squirrels, and possums. Most of these creatures at one time or another possessed the equivalent of five digits on their front and back legs, even though there are a few exceptions to the rule, like equines who successfully morphed their ancestor's original five digits down to what is currently a single dominant thickened finger appendage. Evolution suggest we really are a totally indigenous species spawned from the womb of Mother Earth. Case closed. Move along. Nothing to see here.

Or is it? Could there still have been some evolutionary redirection going on? If so, how could that be possible?

We have no idea if Earth had been visited in the distant past and possibly genetically meddled with. Neither can we say with definitive conviction that such events never happened. But perhaps... just perhaps... Our progenitors rose to galactic heights only to fade away as the fragments of their proud civilization spawned countless offspring who, in turn, ran with the baton. Over the span of hundreds and millions of years, how often have legendary interstellar civiliza-

tions passed through our solar system and took notice of the 3rd planet, and perhaps the 4th as well? Recycle, rinse, and repeat. An excellent visual representation of this creative rinse-and-repeat process comes from viewing the classic animation film: *Allegro Non Troppo*, (Released to USA in 1977). And, again, I remind everyone of David Brin's *Uplift* novels.

Perhaps interplanetary cross-fertilizations need only occur every couple of million years or so between another contact event in order to produce a kind of genetic equilibrium across a number of similarly visited worlds. Would it be any different than countless coconuts floating in the currents of our planet's oceans, eventually shoring up and sprouting their progeny on countless remote islands? Perhaps *This Island Earth* along with countless other planetary systems were repeatedly visited and subsequently fertilized with the same genetic recipes. Perhaps this was done intentionally, complements of *Chariots of the Gods*. Other events may have been through careless actions, the result of candy wrappers tossed onto the virgin surface of Mother Earth before departing. By the way, it certainly doesn't have to be just our own immediate monkey ancestry that would have been affected, or transplanted. Just about every conceivable life-form could have been influenced or transferred. Canines, felines, bats, and butterflies. Crabs, squid, and jellyfish. Paramecium, and bacteria. Of course, playing the vinyl record of evolution may occasionally cause a skip in the track every now and then. Where the hell does the platypus fit in?

Go ahead. Lust after Spock, or Worf if that is your preference. *She has your eyes!*

I realize I have no proof to justify my extraterrestrial fertilization hypothesis. I will instead point to a UFO abduction account that hit the newsstands back in the 1950s. It was one of the most thoroughly investigated accounts of its kind. I hang my circumstantial evidence on this particular case. Stay tuned for Part 2, under the title of:

REMEMBERING CLOVIS
The Abduction of Antonio Vilas Boas
Part 2

Or