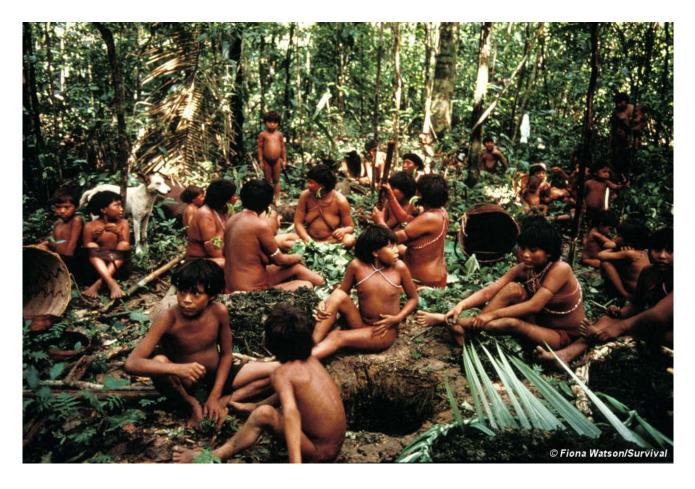
Are We the Yanomami of the Galaxy?

by Rebecca Bynum



The UFO report will soon be released by the government. It won't tell us everything the government knows, but it will give us a better idea about whether or not we are being visited by advanced civilizations in our vicinity of the galaxy. Are they studying us? Will they contact us in some kind of official capacity to tell us the truth about where we are, who we are? Are we in an isolated part of a larger administration, like the Yanomami in Brazil? Will they send missionaries? Have they sent missionaries in the past?

I wonder. Consider the fact that we have progressed from nature gods (the Yanomami are still in this stage), to tribal gods, to one God over all the peoples of the earth. Are we now crossing the threshold to understand that God is also God to many, many inhabited planets?

Joseph Smith interpreted Jesus' comment about having "other sheep, not of this fold," to mean the American Indian. But what if He was referring to people on other planets entirely?

Isaiah 45:18: For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, *he formed it to be inhabited*: I am the LORD; and there is none else.

In our primitive reasoning, stars seemed to have been formed to be lights in our sky, but now we know these multitudes of suns are mainly comprised of solar systems like our own, containing innumerable worlds. Were they also "formed to be inhabited?"

Even if extraterrestrials don't make official contact with us soon, acknowledging their existence will cause a revolution in every area of our lives: theology, cosmology, international relations and on and on. It will make the Copernican revolution look like a small blip on the screen.

Where are we? Who are we? What is our destiny? Will we be able to move into a new and higher level of civilization (which seems to lie just ahead), or will we prove unable to do so and instead descend into a new dark age of violence and catastrophe? Will they help us, or merely observe?

I wonder.