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In 30th Century: Contact, Book 3 of His Award-Winning Sci-Fi Series, Author Mark Kingston Levin PhD Explores Challenges that the Arrival of Aliens Might Bring Provocative new book just released February 22, 2019.

SAN DIEGO, California (03-11-19) – In *30th Century: Contact*, the AI, *Vesta Two*, is more of a leading character in the storyline than the 22 Xinians it brings to Earth on its asteroid spacecraft. Yet this alien species, transported from a tidal-locked planet 50 light years away, provides a subplot through which the author explores the possibilities and dangers of first contact. For instance, how might our initial encounter with extraterrestrials come about?

“I wanted to warn people that we don’t know when or how space aliens may come,” says author Mark Kingston Levin PhD. “It could be Artificial Intelligence that brings them. We can’t send humans to find them. The distances are too far, and too much radiation would be experienced during these long missions.”

To reach the red-dwarf planet Xinia, for example, would take 500 years at 1/10th the speed of light. A promising “nearby” planet for life is Proxima, 4 light years away. At 1/10th the speed of light, we’d get there in 40 years.

Vesta Two was given five missions by its AI parent, *Vesta One*, which was on a suicide assignment to save Earth. One mission was to bring different life forms together to exchange ideas and culture. When *Vesta Two* does, Jennifer Hero Zitonick—the series’ protagonist and a clandestine agent from the 30th century—is delighted by the idea of first contact. But many humans in the 21st century are fearful of the aliens and believe this is *Vesta One* gone mad. Thus the Earthlings attack *Vesta Two* with powerful nuclear weapons, which the AI easily deflects from its space ship above Earth.

“If the humans had any respect for the aliens on board, they would not have done that,” the author points out. “One of the questions I raise in this book is how would human beings treat aliens if they arrived in the present day? Earthlings also are not careful enough with the aliens’ physical exposure to our human biology. The Xinians are hurt by prions, something discovered to be involved in Mad Cow Disease.”

Prions, made up of abnormally folded protein, cause progressively neurodegenerative conditions. They induce other proteins in the brain to also fold abnormally. Dr. Levin got the idea of using prions as an element deadly to the Xinians from the work of American neurologist Stanley B. Prusiner. The author admired his controversial research, read a lot about him, and incorporated some of Prusiner’s theories into his story. Eventually 20 Xinians die from exposure to human prions, and their bodies are frozen. Will a way be found to bring them back to life?

“If we find aliens, they’re likely to be quite different from us,” the author notes. “Their behaviors and make-up are going to be different. To play it safe, we’ll need a long period of no physical contact while in communications.”

Dr. Levin’s Xinians started in the sea as an amphibious life form. He tapped his interest in oceanography in creating their biology, as sex-changing beings living half their lives as females before transforming to males (similar to grouper). Their life span is 400 years. Yes, the Xinians are green, but they have a somewhat human-like body (though with horns on the head and an armor-like fin in the back). Threatened by a super-nova burst, they were relocated to their current home of Xinia by robots operated by advanced aliens called Kaziums (ETs fleshed out later in series). Not rotating like their original planet, Xinia offers limited land suitable for life (mostly too hot or cold). Their technology is similar to the 21st century.

After working on the Apollo and Mars missions, Dr. Levin studied quantum mechanics under Nobel Laureate Paul Dirac, obtaining a PhD in 2.5 years. He subsequently founded two companies and was awarded over 30 US patents. He retired in 2014 to write science fiction. For a full press kit, his blogs and more, go to: www.markkingstonlevin.com.

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