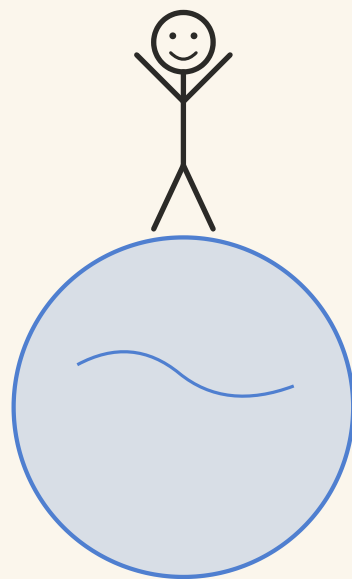




大家都去哪儿了？

Where Is Everybody?

一本给小朋友的星星绘本 • A starry picture book for the cutest

by Amberito • 作者：小卓玛阿姨



很多年以前，有一位很聪明的科学家，我们叫他**费米爷爷**。

*Many years ago, there was a very clever scientist. Let's call him **Grandpa Fermi**.*

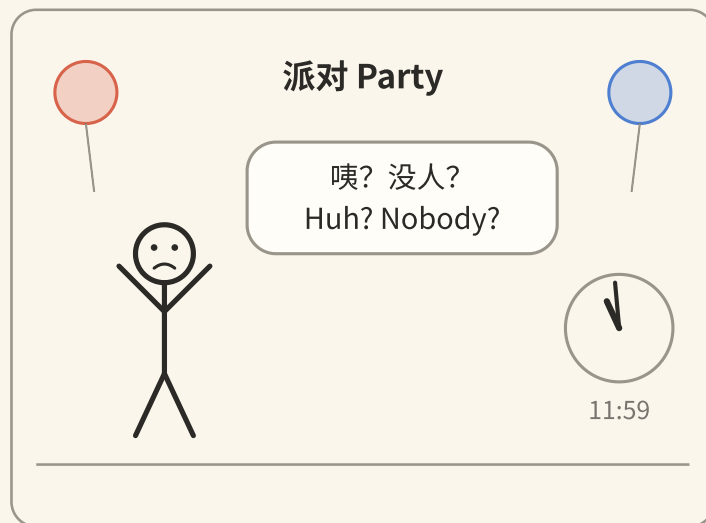
有一天吃午饭的时候，费米爷爷和朋友们聊起了外星人。他突然放下叉子，问：

One day at lunch, Grandpa Fermi and his friends were talking about aliens. Suddenly, he put down his fork and asked:

“大家都去哪儿了？”
“*Where is everybody?*”

朋友们你看看我，我看看你，谁也答不上来。

His friends looked at each other. Nobody knew the answer.



天上的星星多得数不清。光是我们住的银河系，就有大约两千五百亿颗星星——比你能数的还要多很多很多！

The sky has more stars than anyone can count. Our galaxy, the Milky Way, has about 250 billion stars — way, way more than you could ever count!

费米爷爷想：这么多星星，总有一些星星旁边住着别的小朋友吧？而且，有些星星比太阳老很多很多。住在那里的外星人，可能比我们早很久很久就学会造火箭了。

Grandpa Fermi thought: with so many stars, surely someone else lives out there, too? And some stars are much, much older than our Sun. Aliens living there might have learned to build rockets long, long before us.

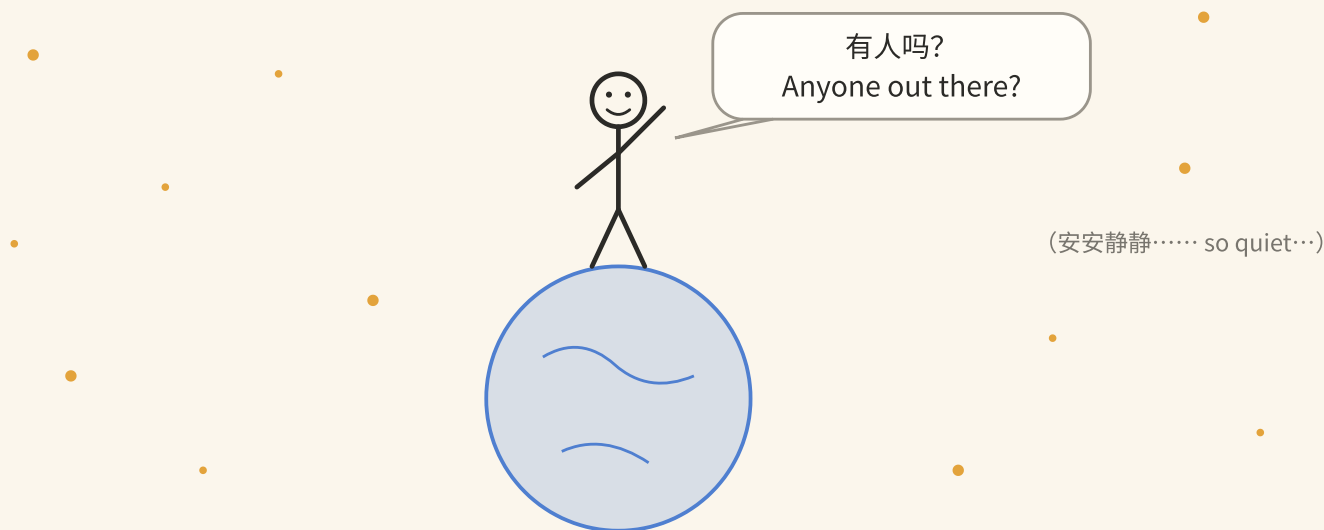
这就像一个很早很早就开始的大派对。我们是最后才到的小客人，都快半夜十二点了！可是我们推开门一看——

It's like a big party that started a long, long time ago. We are the very last little guests to arrive — it's almost midnight! But when we open the door —

咦？一个人也没有！

Huh? Nobody's here!

想法一：也许只有我们 · Idea 1: Maybe it's just us



科学家们想啊想，想出了三个可能的答案。

Scientists thought and thought, and came up with three possible answers.

第一个想法：也许，宇宙里真的只有我们。

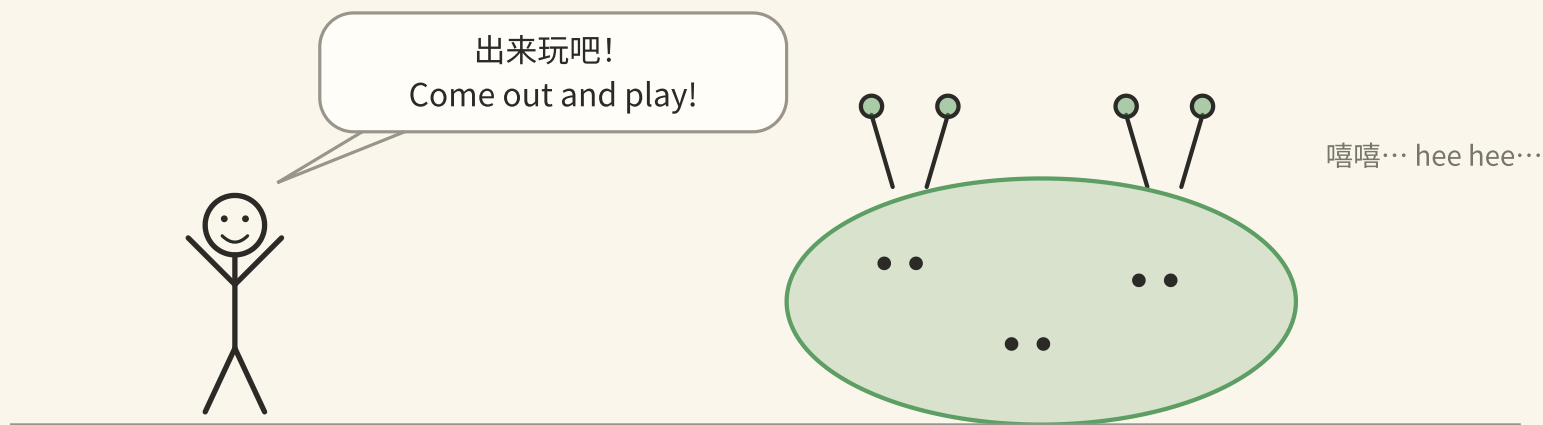
Idea number one: maybe it really is just us.

从小小的细胞，一路长成会造火箭的我们，可能非常非常难，就像要翻过一座又一座高高的山。也许只有我们翻过来了。

Growing from tiny cells into people who build rockets might be very, very hard — like climbing over one tall mountain after another. Maybe we are the only ones who made it over.

如果真是这样，那地球，还有我们每一个人，都特别特别珍贵。

If that's true, then Earth — and every single one of us — is very, very special.



第二个想法：也许他们在，只是我们还没找到他们。

Idea number two: maybe they're out there, and we just haven't found them yet.

也许他们住得太远太远了，远到说一句“你好”，要很多很多年才能传到。

Maybe they live so far away that a single “hello” takes many, many years to arrive.

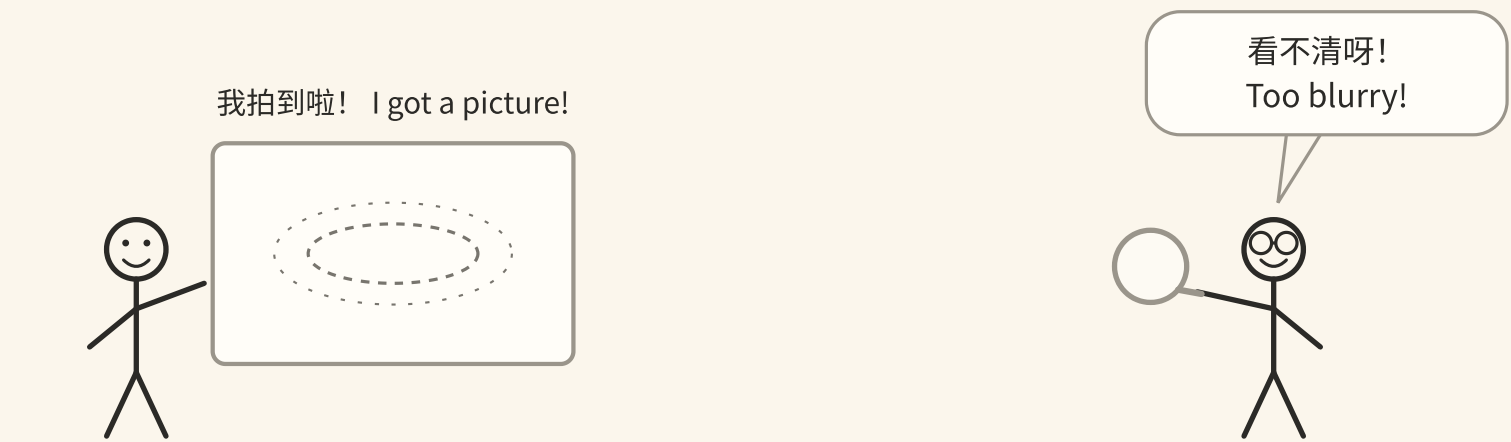
也许他们很害羞，就像我们悄悄看树上的小鸟，不去吓跑它们。

Maybe they're shy — like how we quietly watch the birds in a tree, careful not to scare them away.

也许他们太忙了。就像我们走在路上，不会停下来和每一只小蚂蚁打招呼。

Or maybe they're just very busy. When we walk down the street, we don't stop to say hi to every little ant.

想法三：他们已经来过了？ • Idea 3: Did they already visit?



第三个想法：也许他们已经来过地球了！

Idea number three: maybe they've already visited Earth!

有些人说，自己在天上看到过奇怪的亮光。连开飞机的飞行员也这么说。

Some people say they've seen strange lights in the sky. Even pilots who fly airplanes have said so.

可是，拍到的照片总是模模糊糊的。

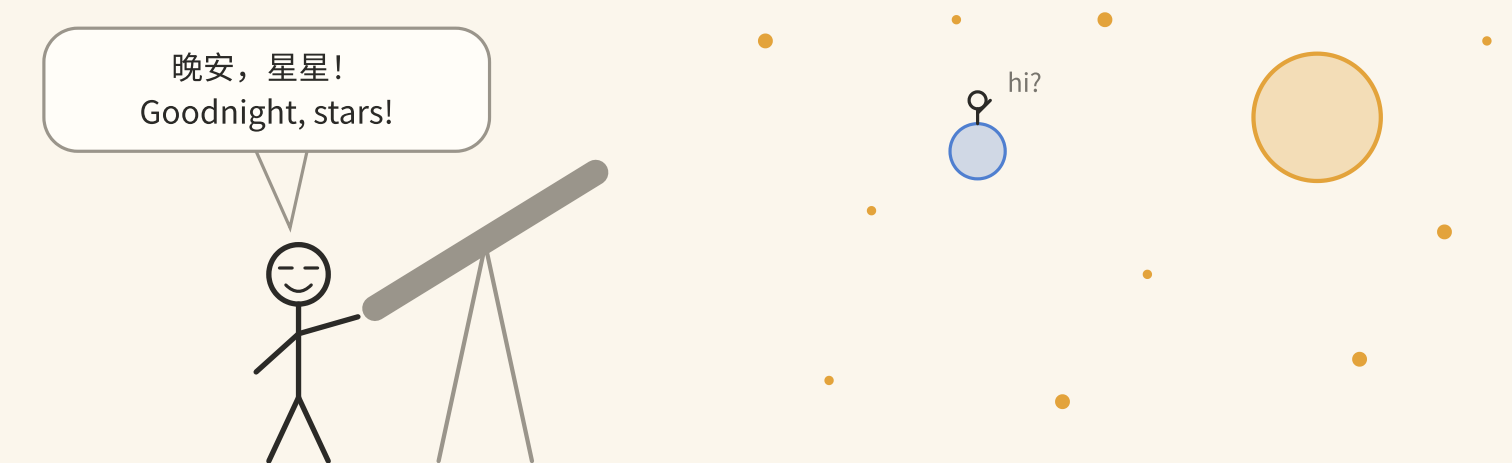
But the pictures always come out blurry.

科学家说：“我很想相信你！可以给我看看更清楚的照片吗？”

The scientist says: "I'd love to believe you! Can you show me a clearer picture?"

这就是科学家的超能力：充满好奇，同时也会问一句“你是怎么知道的？”

That's a scientist's superpower: being super curious, and also asking, "How do you know?"



到底哪一个答案是对的呢？现在，还没有人知道。

Which answer is right? Right now, nobody knows.

也许有一天，找到答案的人就是你。费米爷爷要是知道了，一定会很开心！

Maybe one day, you'll be the one who finds out. Grandpa Fermi would be so happy!

那么，今晚睡觉之前，记得抬头看看星星。

So tonight, before bed, remember to look up at the stars.

咦，你看，远处是不是有人在跟你挥手？

Look — is someone far, far away waving at you?

晚安，地球上的小朋友。

Goodnight, little one on planet Earth.

给大人的话 · A note for grown-ups

这本小书讲的是“费米悖论”。书里的费米爷爷，就是诺贝尔物理学奖得主恩里科·费米（Enrico Fermi）。1950 年的一次午饭上，他问出了这个问题：宇宙这么大、这么老，应该有很多文明，可我们为什么一个也没看到？书里的三个“想法”，对应物理学家史蒂芬·韦伯（Stephen Webb）在《地外文明在哪儿？》里归纳的三大类解释：没有别的文明；有，但还联系不上；已经来过，只是我们不知道。

This little book is about the Fermi Paradox. Grandpa Fermi is Enrico Fermi, the Nobel Prize-winning physicist who asked this question over lunch in 1950: the universe is so big and so old that it should be full of civilizations, so why haven't we seen any? The three “ideas” match the three families of answers that physicist Stephen Webb describes in *If the Universe Is Teeming with Aliens... WHERE IS EVERYBODY?*: there's no one else; they exist but we haven't connected yet; or they've already been here and we don't know it.

来源 Sources

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