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Ursula K. Le Guin: Vaster Than Empires And More Slow

Personally, this is not a paper I would willingly read in my free time, but was a fascinating read. It is quite distinctly fictional as we haven't even discovered another planet that humans can land on themselves, rather than through proxies like rovers, much less discover another sapient species. This story is heavily steeped in psychology and sociology. A distinct example in the story is the initial wariness of meeting Osden which quickly spirals into distaste and mutual hatred. The steps that lead to the eventual hatred sprouted from the initial empathic response. We learn later in the story that what Osden does when interacting with sapients is to essentially create a barrier around himself, though it is a barrier full of holes, and reflect as many emotions off of that barrier. While such a method can possibly yield fantastic results, in the story it leads to a compounding hatred to the point of violence and a paralyzing fear created from the rebounding planetary node fear. While I'm sure that empathic powers and extraterrestrial worlds will most likely never apply to day to day situations the way the story portrays emotional ownership and the emotional ties created does very much apply to day to day life. In a world where interpersonal connections and consciousness are abstract concepts what is represented in words and visuals and how other people perceive them is critical. No one would not put a flashing neon rainbow background on the landing page of their portfolio because first impressions are important and that first emotional response can set the tone for the rest of the portfolio just like it did with the crew and Osden. Vaster Than Empires And More Slow is a good first reading, as it really shows the importance of interpretation of self and understanding the interpretations of others which is critically important when it comes to website and UI/UX design, and the story format made it more palatable. All in all a very enjoyable start.