

Wonder as a Scientific Method



I took a look at Avi Loeb's interview on *The Joe Rogan Experience*. The Internet is absolutely abuzz with 3i/Atlas, especially since Loeb put on the table the possibility that it could be extraterrestrial technology. On YouTube, there are countless videos addressing the topic from very different perspectives: from those who already assume an imminent interstellar attack, through the most conservative skeptical views, to the more moderate evaluations. The truth is that I have a genuinely good time watching all the points of view that have emerged.

Among the Spanish YouTubers who adopt that middle ground, Fon Ramos and his channels *Atraviesa lo desconocido* and *Atraviesa lo desconocido Live* seem particularly suggestive to me. Fon acknowledges that, in his opinion based on the data, he gives only about a 1% probability that 3i/Atlas is extraterrestrial technology, and yet he develops all the speculative potential that Avi Loeb has been unfolding in his *Medium* articles.

In this sense, another channel I've followed for a long time, *Astronomía Web*, openly admits that without *clickbait*, the videos would hardly get any reach. And on the Internet, as in life, *what isn't seen doesn't exist*.

I also spent more than two hours listening to serious astrophysicists on YouTube, many of them indignant about the stir Loeb had caused with 3i/Atlas, without realizing several issues that caught my attention.

In the Joe Rogan podcast, Loeb says that he hasn't lost "the child within," and he repeats it several times. I find that extremely important, because there is something that goes beyond the scientific method: the fact that we were all children before we knew it.

As a kid, I was fascinated by TV shows and magazines about the mysteries of our world. In Spain, magazines like *Más Allá*, *Año Cero*, or *Muy Interesante*; programs such as those by Jiménez del Oso (*La otra realidad*, *La puerta del misterio*) and, later on, *Cuarto Milenio*.

Regardless of the education one has or develops over time, it is precisely these programs and readings that awaken a certain analytical mindset within us. In my case, I always watched them from a skeptical, reflective point of view, trying to find the most logical or plausible explanation. I didn't always find it, and that comforted me, because it kept my mind and spirit open.

I believe that Loeb's goal is precisely that: to bring everyone closer to science and have them look at it with wonder, with bewilderment, from their own point of view. And I believe that many of his critics fail to see this, because the veil of their own prestige prevents them from realizing that Loeb reaches everywhere while they cannot. That is communicative ability: the empirical foundation of our potential for influence.

All this without even mentioning the unquestionable influence of great science fiction writers who have shaped not only the technological field but also the scientific and philosophical: Stanisław Lem, Isaac Asimov, Arthur C. Clarke, George Orwell, Philip K. Dick, Richard Matheson, Ray Bradbury... and so many others.

Today, amateur research is being developed all over the world. I am convinced that there are already people walking down the street who know they've discovered something potentially incredible but lack the means to expose it. The human–AI interaction will bear fruit very soon, but if the academic perspective doesn't change and open itself to the broader field now emerging, humanity won't be able to fully benefit from these discoveries — not for lack of peer review, but because there's not even a place to present them.

The scientific world is a difficult, methodical world, full of talk and backtalk — as *The Big Lebowski* would say — and profoundly human. In that world, all points of view are necessary: those of experts like Avi Loeb, of rigorous academicists, and of those who simply observe with curiosity. Everyone is necessary.

But from my humble point of view, what is most needed right now is a profound change in the way of thinking: not so much in methodology, but in its scope — in allowing it to embrace everyone.

After all, **enthusiasm, passion, fascination, and imagination are also part of science.**

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