• Logical Possibility vs. Logical Impossibility

Possibility vs Impossibility

- Erich von Däniken (Chariots of the Gods) once wrote:
 - "...nothing is incredible any longer. The word 'impossible' should have become literally impossible for the modern scientist. Anyone who does not accept this today will be crushed by the reality tomorrow."
 - (New York. Bantam Books, 1970) pg. 30.

- Example: Meteorites
 - Lavoisier (1743 1794) French Chemist
 - Thomas Jefferson
- Erich von Däniken → Nothing is impossible

Interesting ...

- According to a 2001 National Science Foundation Survey:
 - 1) 60% of people polled hold that some people do possess psychic powers or ESP
 - 2) 30% of respondents agreed that some of the unidentified flying objects that have been reported are really space vehicles from other civilizations.

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 - 4) 28% believe in astrology
 - 5) 26% believe in witches

Possible?

- 1) Time Travel
- 2) Psychokinesis
- 3) Ancient Astronauts

Are these logically possible?

Logically Possible

 Logical impossibility = Claim that violates the rules of logic (primarily the Law of Non-Contradiction)

- Examples:
 - John, who is a bachelor, has been married for 9 years.
 - This circle is a square.
 - The largest number is X.

Logically Possible

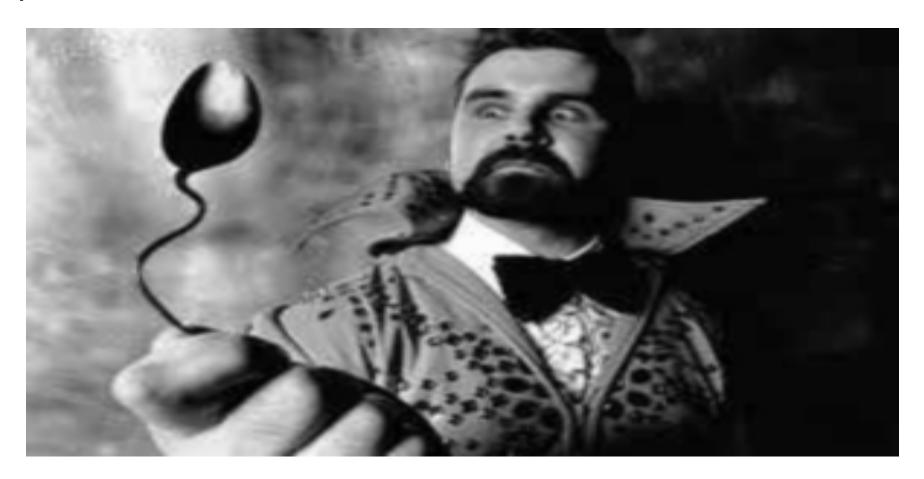
- Logical impossibility = Claim that violates the rules of logic (the Law of Non-Contradiction or A = -A)
- Examples:
 - John, who is a bachelor, has been married for 9 years.
 - This circle is a square.
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- What is logically Impossible cannot exist
- **Logical Possibility** = Claim that does not violate a rule of logic one where there is no logical contradiction present.

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 - Violates the law of non-contradiction

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 - But: Note: Just because something is logically possible, does not mean that it is authentic or real
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- Is psychokinesis physically possible? → NO
- Something can be physically impossible although logically possible
 - Logical possibility is more inclusive than physical possibility

• 3) Ancient Astronauts?

- 3) Ancient Astronauts who visited the Earth?
 - Logically Possible
 - Physically Possible (well... depends really)
 - ISSUE: Perhaps Not Technologically Possible

- 3) Ancient Astronauts who visited the Earth?
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 - Option 1: Traditional Propulsion System @ 25% speed of light → would require more fuel than is available from all the matter in the universe

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- Not impossible (both Logically and Physically Possible maybe not option 2) just not very likely → does not = it being actual/real

What About...

- 1) Moon Jumping Cows?
- 2) A Bunny That Lays Multi-Colored Eggs?
- 3) This Soccer ball is completely red and completely white at the same time.
- 4) Jane is taller than herself.
- 5) It was crazy. During her last concert appearance in Sacramento, while on stage, Brittney Spears turned into a frog. A real frog!
- 6) John robbed all the banks in Sacramento in one day.
- 7) This triangle has four sides.