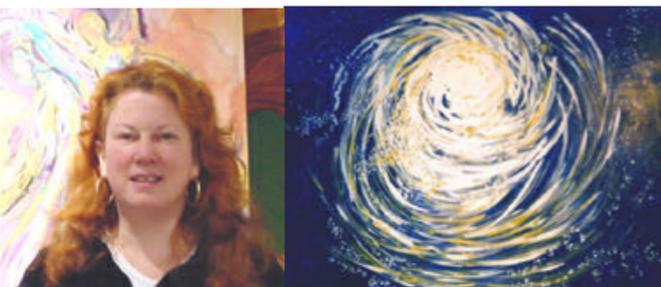


## 2001, Your Personal Space Odyssey

*Leah Lubin*



Once upon a time, in 1968, scientist Arthur Clark worked side by side with filmmaker Stanley Kubrick to make a movie that would move us all. We believed that 2001 would bring about space travel with passengers daily shuttling into space. Hilton Hotels would open luxury suites in space orbit. Computers like "HAL" could talk to us, feel emotion, and have a conscience.

So, as I struggle with my computer's voice recognition system to try to teach it to type for me, 2001 is here with us and we humans rule, not the machines. Yes we have a space station manned by professionally trained space scientists known as astronauts, not inhabited by tourists. Space exploration is still our goal, but this time we know how expensive and how volatile this precious science is.

At this point I would like to declare that "little red man from Mars", "alien beings" and "space tourists" all belong in movie theaters. I have always believed that we humans are better off on Earth with the trees and the waters, and that the beauty and all out awesomeness of the Cosmos belongs up above in our skies and onwards. There for our inspiration and uplifting value that can be received from the true art and beauty of it all.

As we look up to the sky and enjoy, we can try to remember that we all share the Cosmos. Thankfully, with no borders or limits to one nation or group type. In fact, it's there for us all to share. We are grateful to the space sciences that the research, the telescopes, and the brave astronauts will bring us more. More sites than the naked eyes can see alone. Concepts that thrill us into new ways of thinking. Dark energy, black holes, comets, and galactic mysteries of planets far away.

So what is up there? Secrets of waters once flowing now dried up on Mars. Plenty of rocks, dust, and natural matter.

So where did the aliens come from? Well they didn't come from outer space, but from our subconscious minds. I've always believed that aliens are our modern day versions of dragons. In fact, people's descriptions of them are very similar. They come suddenly and grab you and take you away. Huge fears need a modern day answer.

As we all know, the Knights of the Round Table in King Arthur's time killed the last of the dragons on Earth. As dragons retreated into the subconscious mind, it would take many years until Orson Welles and a radio show would bring them back in a new and modern form as "alien beings" landing comfortably on Earth with their spaceships from above.

As we on Earth continue into 2001 with our reality-based issues of peace, relationships, health and well being, I say bring on the future, but please help us with our day-to-day needs.