

## Review of the book *Astrobiology and Humanism* by Julian Chela-Flores, published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing (2019)

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*Astrobiology and Humanism*, albeit a relatively thin volume, contains all the aspects of what you need to know about the relationship between astrobiology and humanism, as well as the origin of the field of astrobiology, a modern, interdisciplinary science.

We read about the dialogue between faith and reason and various approaches to it, inquiries that began in ancient times, as well as the application of advances in science. The book is aimed at scientists and general readers with inquisitive minds. Also cited is the contemporary, growing body of literature, along with efforts in science communication that help to guide the general reader through the labyrinth of the plethora of material. Otherwise, it would be difficult to clearly understand the arguments made in this volume.

The issue of the origin of life through creation (Genesis) is a question of theology that has not been excluded. The issues of science and ethics are involved in terrestrial life. In *Astrobiology and Humanism*, you will read about the origin of life, humanism, life itself, philosophy, distribution of life, theology, Divine action and more.

Yes, this book is aimed at believers and non-believers as one community of readers, which includes scientists and humanists. We read about topics covering ethics, humanities, health, happiness, freedom, knowledge and other rich experiences.

An appendix offers short biographies of figures key to the book's main topic, from classical ones to scientists and philosophers through the ages, so the reader can keep their contributions in perspective.

The author, Julian Chela-Flores, has published several books and numerous research papers. He is active in research in Trieste, Italy (at the ICTP). In the same UNESCO Centre, in the past he organized several international conferences on Chemical Evolution, The Origin of Life, and Astrobiology (see the photos of these meetings in the appendices).

Darwinism, and its influence is discussed in the Introduction. Divine action has also been given some space within different religious traditions.

Faith and reason have been antagonizing each other since ancient Greece, but this is understandable. The author concludes that culture, science, philosophy, theology can live together. On the other hand, a branch of Astrobiology studies moral implications related to extraterrestrial life. In this book the possibilities of life in extraterrestrial space are discussed, including searching for life on Mars, and beyond in other solar systems. Europa, the satellite of Jupiter, is also discussed with the hope of finding life there in the future.

Since this is a small book, the author gives some advice to his readers how to read the text, even with the help of audiovisual means that have been provided.

This volume should be in every library for the benefit of science and humanism, as well as on the bookshelves of general readers, since the topics discussed will certainly become ever more pivotal in today's world.

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