

Name _____

Intelligent Life

by David Krieger

When considering the possibilities
of finding intelligent life in the universe
I struggle not to become cynical
and blurt out: shouldn't we be searching
for it here on our planet? I refrain,
for surely there is intelligent life on Earth.
It can be found in the songs of birds,
in the roar of lions, in the conversations
of dolphins. It can also be found
in the songs and dances and literature
of humans. I want to scream, it is here,
here on Earth. We've come so far,
there's no acceptable reason we won't
keep going, no reason we can't solve
the great problems that are engulfing us.
Our ancestors solved problems far
more difficult than the splitting of the atom
or the extraction of fossil fuels from the earth.
They tamed fire, invented the wheel,
sailed across oceans navigating by the stars.
Yes, there is intelligent life here,
embedded in our history and our brains,
intelligent life that just might see us through
if we can keep our cynicism in check and
our hope alive.

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