

‘OUR NEED

for the guiding principle of

REVERENCE FOR LIFE’



The reception party

I had had a
flavour of what
direct encounter
with this man
was like,
and it set me on
a path along
which I am still
traveling.





“Our need for the guiding principle of Reverence for Life”

And I want to examine this with you under three headings:

1

Who’s need, and where & when?

2

What is meant by Reverence for Life?

3

How can Reverence for Life be a guiding principle?

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1

**WHO'S NEED,
WHERE
&
WHEN**

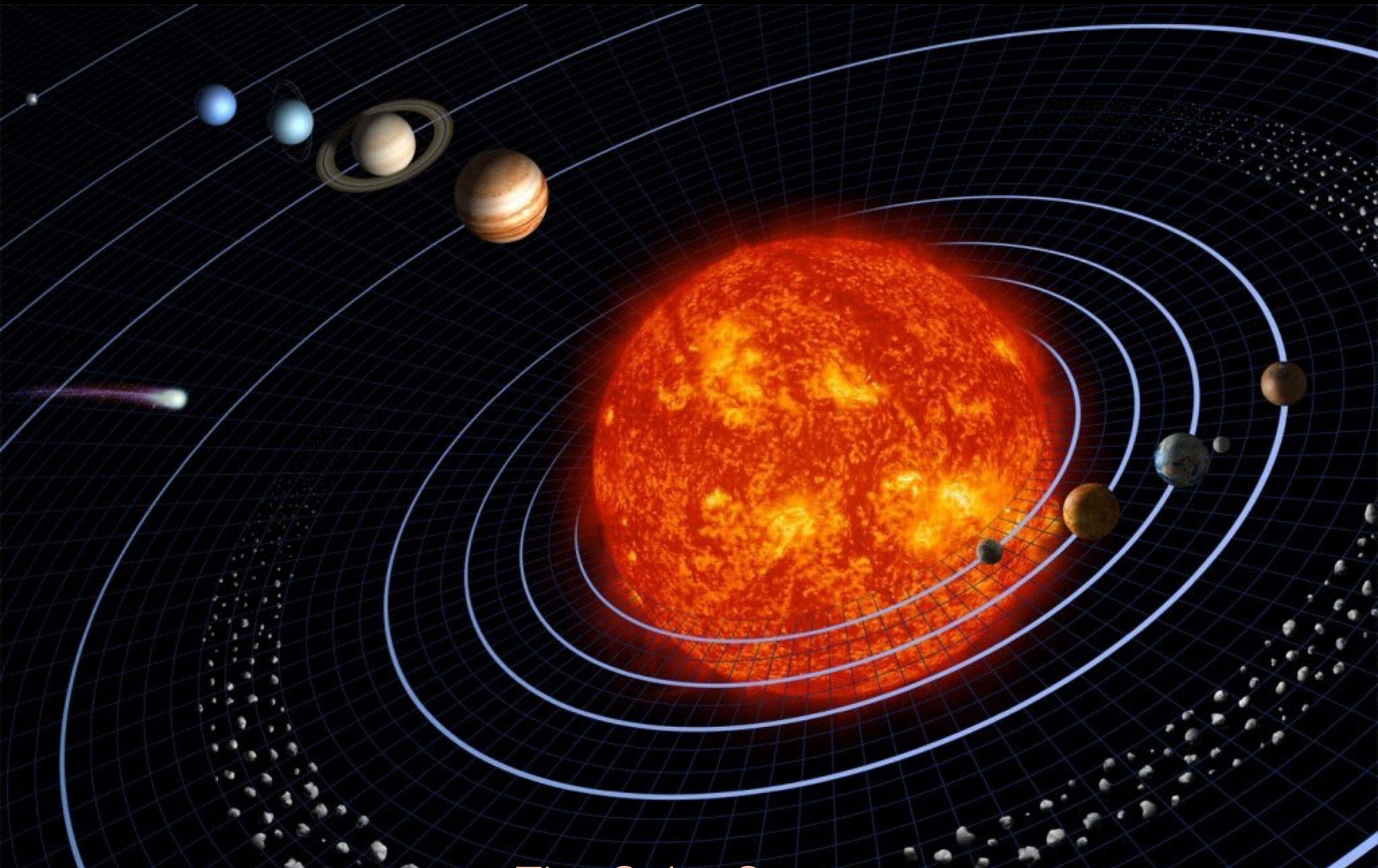




Millions of galaxies



The Milky Way Galaxy



The Solar System

**What a thin and delicate
mantle the earth's
atmosphere is!?**

And how vulnerable ?

Schweitzer wrote in 1939

“The slightest disturbance of the now existing atmospheric conditions can bring life on earth to an end. Should there be a deviation in the earth's rotation around its own axis or around the sun, or should for any other reason the surface temperature vary either up or down, or should she no longer be enveloped in a gaseous protective mantle which serves as temperature regulator, then she will again be without the life which thrives on her now.”





There is now
a wide consensus
among scientists,
that the earth is a self-
regulating, living entity.
It has been named
“GAIA”
after the Greek goddess
of the
Earth.

As such,
it is part of a
living solar system
in a living galaxy
and
“Reverence for Life”
includes them
all.



Taking evolution during the 13.8 billion years since the Big Bang as **one year**, then our species starts to walk upright 1 hour before midnight on the last day - equivalent to the thickness of paint at the very top of the Empire State Building. Language begins **1-1/2 minutes** before midnight; followed by the development of arithmetic, painting, sculpture, architecture....etc. The Buddha attains enlightenment **5-1/2 seconds** before midnight.

But whose 'NEED' are we considering?

Is it -
each one of us individually?

Or is it **us - in this room?**

Or is it **us - in the UK?**

Or is it **us - humans?**

Or could it be -
the need of all of life on this Earth?

2

What

do we understand

REVERENCE FOR LIFE

to mean?



*“...lost in thought I sat
on deck of the barge,
struggling to find the
elemental and universal
concept of the
ethical...”*

...the meaning Schweitzer intended:

an attitude that experiences

LIFE as AWESOME

and deserving of respect!

AMAZING! - MYSTERIOUS!

**A vision of human co-existence with one another
and with Nature as a whole,
in which a positive and progressive attitude to life
is infused with ethical values.**

In essence:

**“I am life that wills to live
in the midst of life that wills to live”.**



“I am in complete disagreement with the spirit of our age, because it is filled with contempt for thought.

We have come to doubt whether thinking will ever be capable of answering questions about the universe and our relationship to it in a way that would give meaning and substance to our lives.”

3

**How can
REVERENCE FOR LIFE
be a guiding principle
for us today?**

Ideas about
Beginnings and fundamental thoughts:

Adam and Eve in paradise.....

St John:
In the beginning was the word.....

Goethe:
In the beginning was the act.....

Descartes:
I think, therefore I am.....

Schweitzer:
**I am life that wills to live
in the midst of life that wills to live.**

**“Let
your actions be guided by
kindness and truthfulness
towards yourself and others
with a care for the common
good”**

