## Life on Other Planets Is Called Compatible With Jewish Ideas

planet is compatible with Jewish theology, according to a leading Jewish scholar.

Writing in the spring issue of Tradition, a quarterly journal of Orthodox Jewish thought, Rabbi Norman Lamm tains that the discovery of intelligent creatures elsewhere in the universe "will deepen and broaden our appreciation of the mysteries of the Creator and His creations."

Rabbi Lamm is associate rabbi of the Jewish Center in New York and visiting assistant professor of Jewish philosophy at Yeshiva University. He is a founder and first editor Tradition.

The challenge that confronts Judaism in regard to extraterrestrial beings, the writes, can be divided into three parts: The question of the uniqueness of man, the uniqueness of the Creator and the relation between God and man.

According to Rabbi Lamm, the Bible does not advocate the uniqueness of man.

the fact that people are born the Milky Way. some with superior and opportunity," he notes.

·an idiot from a renowned genius with me."

The existence of rational hu-may both be impressed by the man beings on some distant divine image, by the summons to transcend the merely natural. If the image of the Absolutely One God can be impressed upon the manifold individuals within the human race, it can be similarly bestowed upon a multitude of races.

> "The capacity for creation is the primary meaning of man's divine image. If, therefore, man will discover the secrets whereby living matter is produced from inanimate stuff, he will not be challenging God, but quite the contrary, fulfilling in an unparalleled manner his function of imitating God in the assertion and exercise of his creative genius.

> "Man, we may learn conclusively in the not too distant future, may no longer be regarded as the purpose of creation. But his actions and his destiny are of significance to a Creator who, in His infinity, is not bewildered by numbers.

"Man will be humble, but not humiliated. With renewed fervor he will be able to turn to God, whose infinite goodness and providence are not limited "All human beings are cre- to, but certainly include, one ated in the divine image, despite small planet on the fringes of

"We may yet learn that as endowments and some with a rational, sentient and self-contragic poverty of both talent scious creatures, 'we are not alone.' But then again, we have "In the same manner, races never felt before nor need we of intelligent beings that differ feel today or in the future that from each other as radically as we are alone. 'For Thou art

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