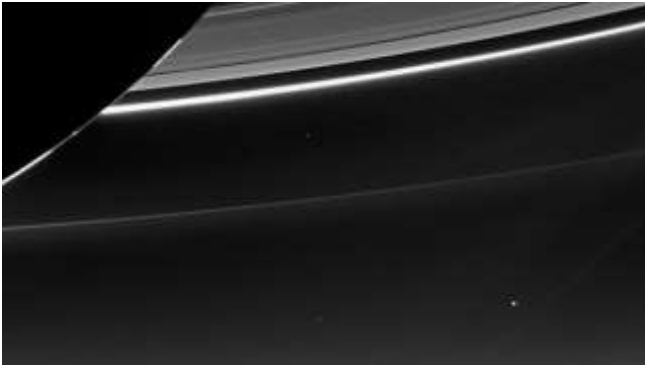


## THE ADSTOCK SCIENCE CLUB



A short time ago NASA released a number of amazing images of the Earth and Moon taken by the Cassini probe while orbiting Saturn, nearly 1 billion miles away. One of these showed the Earth as a small bright spot in the bottom right with part of Saturn's rings visible, see picture.

This picture says it all! We are a small vulnerable world, surrounded by an infinite void, all alone with no way of getting any help if we find ourselves in serious trouble.

We occupy a thin life sustaining layer of atmosphere, which only exists because of Earth's strong magnetic field protecting us from powerful solar winds. Mars, not having a magnetic field, has long since lost most of its atmosphere. We are very, very lucky.

With this in mind we know we need to take extra care of our planet, however as far as I can see there are four things that us humans suffer from, that may cause us to self-destruct: - greed, stupidity, lack of foresight and altruism. I know you can understand why the first three, but altruism? I'm sure you must have heard the saying "no good deed goes unpunished", if you take a look at what's currently going on in the Middle East, you may also see my point. Of course there is always just bad luck, like the odd rogue meteorite with our name on it.

One way to enhance our chances of continued survival is through the teaching and use of Science. We need more people trained in scientific fields using their degrees for Research & Development and not wasting them in the city devising quicker ways of making vast sums of money for a few rich bankers. But be warned, Science is a double edged sword, it can bring many wonderful advances and opportunities but can also be used by the "Dark Side" for unspeakable evil and control. Let's hope that we can get past our current growing pains and mature into something a little more sensible quickly and use our amazing brain for the benefit of all.

Email me if you have any comments, which if suitable may be included in the next issue of the Clarion.

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