



Sci-Fi & Spirituality: Contact

1. What did you like or not like about the film?
2. After Palmer describes his experience of God as an intense feeling of not being alone, Ellie asks whether he had this experience because some part of him needed to have it rather than it being the presence of God. How do you describe your own faith or the faith of others?
3. After the funeral, a priest tells young Ellie that sometimes we aren't meant to know the reasons for why things happen and we just need to accept it as God's will. Do you agree, why or why not?
4. Palmer wonders if the world is a better place because of science and technology and what we are really looking for is meaning. What do you think? How do you think meaning is related to science and technology if at all?
5. Do you consider the actions of the suicide bomber to be those of terrorism, or simply extreme measures of faith to prevent a potentially disastrous outcome for humanity? What do you feel defines "an act of terrorism"? In your opinion, what is the difference between faith, and irrational conviction?
6. The alien says that humans are capable of beautiful dreams and frightening nightmares. How do you feel that this statement meshes with the concept of good and evil? What would you propose as a remedy for humanity's sense of being 'cut-off, and alone' as the alien described?
7. At the inquiry, Ellie admits she has no direct proof that her journey ever happened. As a human being she insists that she is changed forever. How do you think science and faith are different and or similar? What do you feel is the value of science and faith?
8. Achem's Razor: That all things being equal, the simplest explanation is usually the correct one. What experiences in your life support or disprove this theory. Do you think it is appropriate to apply this theory to faith?
9. After the inquiry, Palmer says that both he and Ellie are searching for truth even though their methods are different. How do you look for truth scientifically or religiously?



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