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Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm
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My dear Rabbi Lamm:

When I read your article, "The Religious Implications of Extra-terrestrial Life" in the 1965/66 Vol. 7-8 issue of TRADITION, it came to my mind how GABIROL in his *Sefer HaIkkarim* tried, in his own way and partly based on the available knowledge of his time, to "penetrate" the great mysteries of the Universe.

It was my intention to write to you soon after I had tried (to use the same word) "to penetrate" and to understand your 'flight' into outer space. But, as it happens so often, my letter then to be written to you, remained unwritten - until now.

I was, however, reminded of that intention when I happened to see, in a recent New York Times Sunday edition, an article about Saturn and its "rings" and "moons". (All this is completely beyond the scope of my knowledge. Young students may learn and know more about such phenomena than the older generation to which I belong).

I opened Gabirol's great hymn of which he wrote in his introductory words: *ה' אלהינו הוה אחד* and I wondered whether it would not be worthwhile, in connection with your above-mentioned essay, to present to the readers of TRADITION an analysis of *Sefer HaIkkarim*, both his amazing insight into, and interpretation of, extraterrestrial areas, but also his brilliant, though somewhat flowery effort to cross the bridge from our human-Jewish existence to the mysteries of G-d's creation...

" *אם כהוה אלהינו הוה אחד*
I thought the idea might interest you. Since you wrote the article about "The Implications etc.", I could think of no one who would be better qualified to write, so to speak, a continuation of that venture into the Unknown, just as Gabirol did in his own days.

We had the custom to read at least part of *Sefer HaIkkarim* at the very end of the *Kabbalat Shabbat* Service. The Rüdelsheim Machzorim have it preserved for those who still want to find in it a source of inspiration. And is it not indeed in a way closer to us today in our "famous" age of space exploration?...

I suggest that such an article on Gabirol's *Sefer HaIkkarim* would be most appropriate in the TRADITION issue for Tishri 5728 !

May I end with a personal note? Please, accept my sincere, though a little belated, *Chag Sameach* for your outstanding achievements in many fields, your Ph.D. title, your new, additional position in the educational field, in the academic community. Your writings speak for themselves.

Yours sincerely,
(Prof.) Karl D. Darmstadter