

On the transparency of the Universe,  
by Dr. Olbers in Bremen,  
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The concepts of spatially large and small are clearly relative, as we can imagine creatures for which a grain of sand is as big as for us is the whole Earth; as well as we can imagine, on the contrary, another order of the things in which bodies, whose sizes exceed those of entire planets and stars, are just what appear to us to be the smallest grains of sand. Even so, it remains natural for human beings to evaluate largeness or smallness according to a scale which is based, indirectly or directly, on the size of their own bodies and, compared to these, of their closest surroundings. Humanity evaluates only according to this scale the largeness of things, and thus it has to observe with astonished wonder the monstrous dimensions of that part of the universe that uncovers itself more and more to humanity's always more equipped eye.

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