

17 july 2011

The other day I happened upon mention of what I assume is a popular program on some TV network, providing regular imaginations of what the planet might look like after humans have disappeared. I saw only the last half of a clip, missed the details. Someone said the name of that program, but could not write it down in time. Apparently it is gaining viewers who are curious what a world of nothing but ruins might look like. The back and forth was getting psychological. Why the fascination of a world without humans? Apparently it is an acceptable “what if.” What amazed me was that I had not come across that anywhere before. I had never before had evidence that maybe millions of people are considering, thinking about, a world without humans. That never occurred to me even in my darkest imaginations. From what the men who talked said it seems that all imaginations of a humanless world are assuming that there is very little other life left as well. Just empty worlds of ruins, concrete and twisted metal, ashes blowing in a desert storm. Bleak.

On amazon I found there is a book: *The World Without Us*, Alan Weisman —from the review he makes a story around the very unlikely idea that all of a sudden all humans simply vanish. The Christian apocalypse? The review did not say.

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To counter such nihilistic imagining, this wonderful 17 minute movie:

http://www.ted.com/talks/nalini_nadkani_on_conserving_the_canopy.html



Abandon Earth—Or Face Extinction

STEPHEN HAWKING

Theoretical Physicist

Stephen Hawking says all we have to do is survive another two hundred years and the human race will be saved, because by that point human

settlements in space will already be well-established. [WATCH »](#) **You**

Spoke, We Listened. Announcing Big Think's Idea Competition Winner.

In a [previous post](#), Big Think asked you which scientific idea--out of five presented by Big Think experts--would have the most impact on our world. The experts featured included [Stephen Hawking](#), [Ray Kurzweil](#), [Michio Kaku](#) and others, who shared their ideas with Big Think about subjects such as biotechnology, climate change, fusion energy, the brain and colonizing another planet.

As this competition of ideas was measured by the volume of your Facebook "likes," the clear winner was [Stephen Hawking](#).

