

'Terraforming is a process of planetary engineering, specifically directed at enhancing the capacity of an extra-terrestrial planetary environment to support life. The ultimate in Terraforming would be to create an uncontained planetary biosphere emulating all the functions of the biosphere of the Earth – one that would be fully habitable for human beings.'

(M J Fogg, 'Terraforming' 1995 pp 89-90. Society of Automotive Engineers.)

Terraforming 'demonstrates at least two serious defects of moral character: an aesthetic insensitivity and the sin of hubris....to change whole planets to suit our ends is arrogant vandalism.'

'Hubris involves glorying in one's own powers, a false optimism about them, and a haste to put them to the test. A lack of self-knowledge and self-reflection is also characteristic.'

(R Sparrow, 'The ethics of terraforming' 1999 pp 227-236.
Environmental Ethics Vol.21.)

'Mars may someday provide a home for a dynamic new branch of human civilization, a new frontier, whose settlement and growth will provide an engine of progress for all humanity for generations to come.'

(R Zubrin, Chief Engineer of Lockheed Martin, 'The case for Mars; the plan to settle the Red Planet and why we must.'
1996 pp 248-9. The Free Press.)

`Mars, the Red Planet, is a beautiful and interesting place in its own right. It has magnificent canyons (Valles Marineris is longer than any canyon on Earth) and soaring extinct volcanoes (Olympus Mons is 26 kms high), together with beautifully-sculpted white polar caps containing frozen water and carbon-dioxide, and a great variety of cratered and geologically layered terrain. Mars has seasons and its own weather system – high white clouds,

ground mists and frosts, and planet wide dust storms that last for months.

Terraforming would, of necessity, change or destroy much of this.

Although Mars harbours no life forms..as far as we know, it has significant intrinsic value – a value that exists irrespective of any value that humanity may place on it.'

(P. York, PhD student (studying Terraforming issues) at the University of Queensland, Australia.)

'God created man in his own image...and God said....fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'

(Genesis 1:27 - 28)

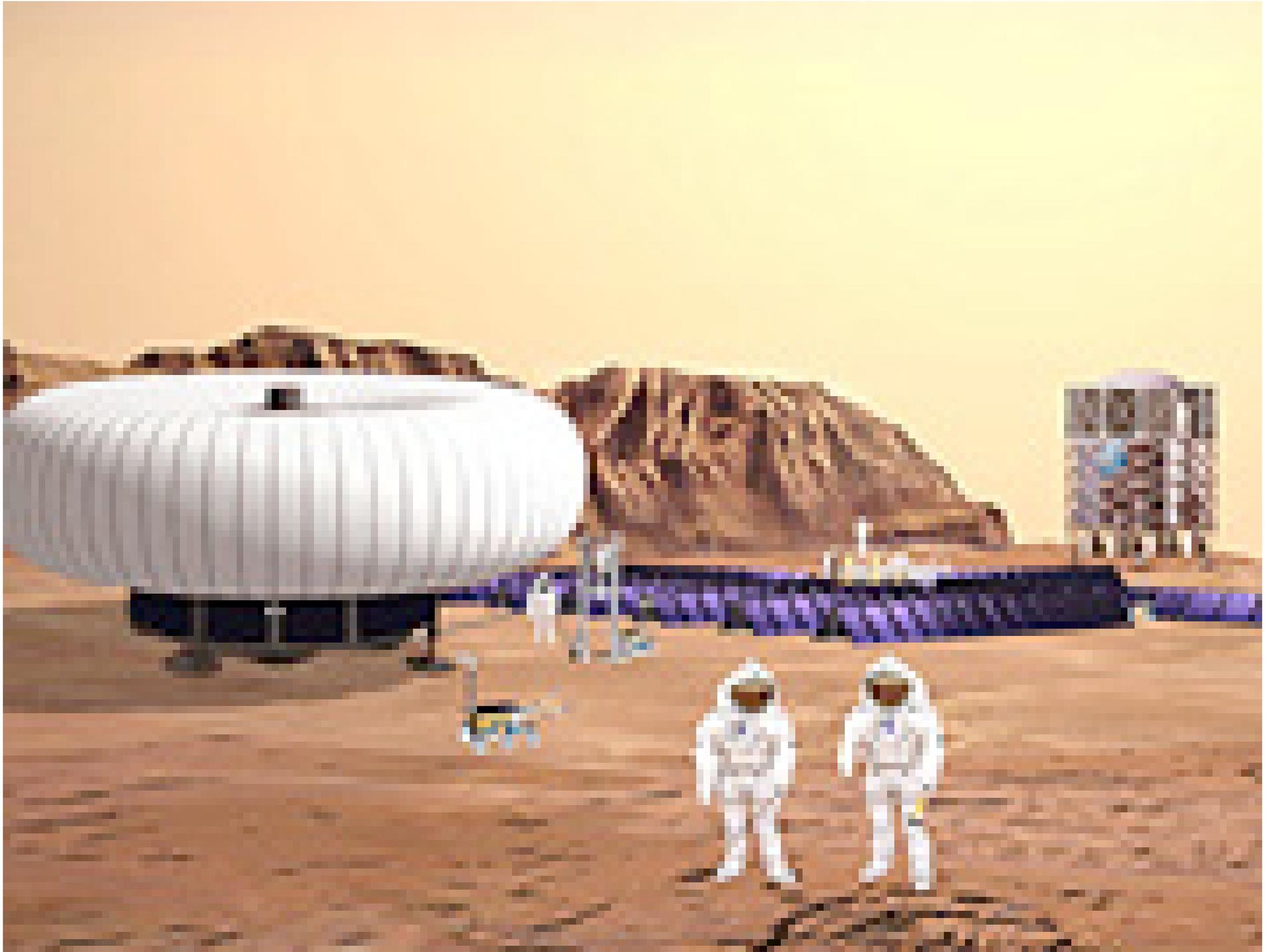
'That's what we're born
for – to stand on a new
world and look for the
next one – that's who
we are.'

('Maggie' in video 'Mission to Mars')

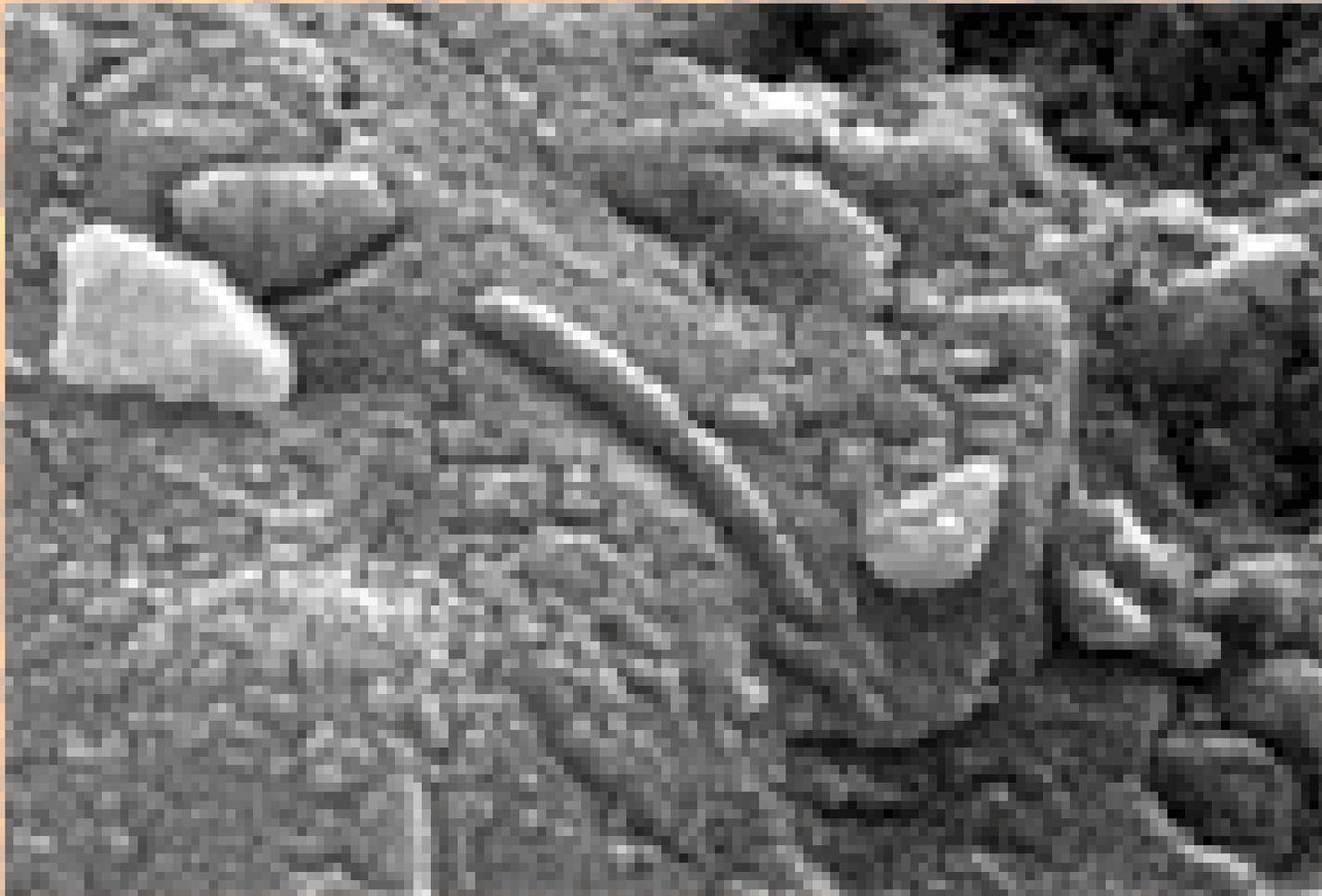
'The term richness is typical for the deep ecology order, that you will have abundance, not killing nearly every whale until they are threatened, but so that they are all over the Atlantic, so that a ship will have to change course, 'Oh there's a blue whale...' to have abundance all around you, all creatures and humans.'

(Arne Naess, Norwegian ecological philosopher; on Australian radio broadcast, 98. Naess also discusses the rights of non-living entities elsewhere.)









Mars Microbes?