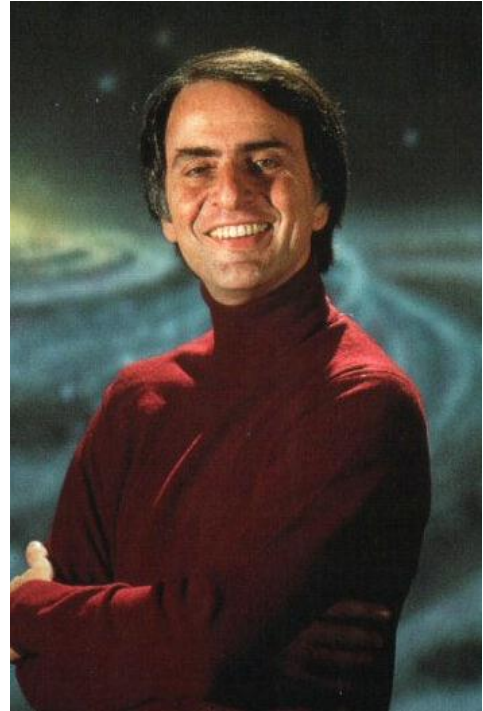


The King's University – Assignment #1

God, Physics and the Human Prospect – Review of the movie Contact

In today's class you will watch most of the 1997 movie **Contact**. The movie is loosely adapted from the book of the same name by the late American astronomer Carl Sagan. Sagan was a much loved popularizer of science and advocate for scientific freedom – especially when threatened by extreme fundamentalist political forces in the US during the 1980s. Although an outspoken atheist he was not entirely unsympathetic to persons of faith and their positions. The movie works with some of these tensions and ideas and develops a number of stereotypical versions of the relationship between science and religion. Your assignment is to examine a number of characters and discuss whether or not they reflect some of your own thinking about potential conflicts and/or accommodations between “science and faith”. For **each of the following characters**, in one or two paragraphs discuss a particular position that they represent in the Science-Religion spectrum. Comment of whether or not you agree with this “stereo-type”. Major characters are:



1. Dr. Eleanor "Ellie" Arroway
2. Palmer Joss
3. Dr. David Drumlin
4. S.R. Hadden
5. Richard Rank
6. Un-named religious extremist

Please submit a paper copy of your response by Wednesday, January 11