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The first chapter is devoted to setting out details of planets. This includes first an account of the Solar System as the one set of star and planets that we continue to explore in growing detail. Then we consider the structure of planets in general making a distinction between a normal planet and a heavier super-planet. This is followed by an account of the exo-planets discovered so far orbiting solar type stars other than the Sun. The orbital and physical details of the orbiting bodies are considered in detail. Four, or perhaps 5, exo-systems are highlighted which appear to have structures not unlike the Solar System and could have Earth type planets. There naturally arises the question of whether there might have developed technologically capable creatures there. This sets the scene for the rest of the book.

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the past about mathematics and its rôle in logic and understanding and this brief Appendix aims to clarify one or two of these issues.

Compendium 315

This compendium contains a wide range of entries the greater majority of which are referred to in the main text. Others are also included as a help to the reader who might wish to pursue matters further. It is hoped that this compendium will be extended by the reader and so form the basis of a comprehensive personal study.

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