**Some Theories To Explain The Absence Of Compelling Evidence Of ET Technical Civilizations**

I. We are alone -- the only Technical Civilization (TC) in the Galaxy.
   A. Starting life is not easy -- life is rare.
   B. Simple life is abundant, but complex lifeforms are rare.
   C. Complex life is abundant, but intelligent life is rare.
   D. Intelligent life is abundant, but TCs are rare.
      1. Intelligent lifeforms with appropriate manipulative appendages and suitable environments are rare.
      2. Planets with sufficient access to the materials necessary for technology are rare.
      3. TCs evolve occasionally, but they do not last long.
         a. TCs tend to use up their supplies of raw materials needed to sustain their technical activities.
         b. TCs tend to destroy themselves via nuclear war, pollution, overpopulation, etc.

II. There are other TCs like us, but none much more advanced.
   A. The nearest TCs are too far away for us to have found or contacted them within our lifetimes.
   B. TCs exist relatively nearby, but they are not sending any signals to reveal their presence.

III. Advanced Technical Civilizations (ATCs) exist that are far beyond our level.
   A. ATCs are not aware of us: our discovery of them would be accidental.
      1. ATCs are not searching for TCs, via either radio signals or space probes.
      2. ATCs communicate by some advanced method that is undetectable by us.
      3. ATCs communicate with radio signals but we have not intercepted any yet.
         a. The signals may be beamed in another direction.
         b. They may use a frequency or bandwidth we have not used or cannot use.
         c. We may not be listening when they are transmitting.
      4. ATCs send out space probes but they have not yet come here.
         a. They have not had time to examine all suitable planetary systems in the Galaxy.
         b. They do not have the resources to conduct a thorough search of the Galaxy.
   B. ATCs are aware of our presence.
      1. ATCs are trying to contact us.
         a. They do not know where we are.
         b. They have a pretty good idea where we are.
            i. They have sent radio messages in our direction.
               a. The messages have not reached us yet.
               b. The messages have arrived but we did not receive them.
               c. We received the messages but did not recognize them.
            ii. They have sent space probes towards us.
               a. The probes have not arrived yet.
               b. The probes are here.
                  1. We have not seen them.
                  2. We have seen them as UFOs.
            ii. They are coming to visit us.
               a. They have not arrived here yet.
               b. They are here.
                  1. We have not seen them.
                  2. We have seen them as UFOs.
                  3. We see them among us, but we do not recognize them as extraterrestrials.
      2. ATCs are not trying to contact us.
         a. They have no interest in us.
         b. They have an interest in us but do not want us to know about them.
            i. They want to observe us secretly.
               Perhaps they want to see what type of life we are before they let us into the 'Galactic Club'.
            ii. We are an experiment in their laboratory.
               Perhaps the Earth was 'seeded' with life long ago, and now they are watching us (without interfering) to see what develops.
            iii. They are dabbling in our affairs.
               Perhaps they are actually here among us, participating in or interfering with our everyday lives.
            iv. We are an exhibit in a Cosmic Zoo.
               Perhaps we are considered to be 'wild animals', interesting for ATCs to watch, but not something they care to talk to or interact with.
      3. ATCs are God.
         They talk to us, perform occasional miracles, and are so far advanced that they appear as omniscient, omnipotent gods to us.