

Sherlock Holmes and the survey of the known universe.

When the opportunity to make a survey of the known universe arrived, Holmes was not hesitant. I was not obliged to go but I did so. A being emulating the outer form of Alexei Sayle had been passing a nearby galaxy and being a fan of both Arthur Conan Doyle and of surreal late twentieth century television satire and its spinoffs, decided to help Holmes out and assist him in compiling a swift but relatively complete survey of the universe over the course of a few afternoons in May.

One planet stood out as an even more dangerous place to live than the planet earth, Holmes and I discovered. The planet contained two hundred countries, all but one of which had named themselves Israel and claimed to the promised land for jews.

They all had a wide variety of nukes and bioweapons and p.r. departments. Only one country which wasn't Israel existed on the planet, populated entirely by Rachel Riley clones.

The early history of the planet is that a nefarious American intel agent who briefly found himself in the possession of useful alien technology when the alien being took him for a techie from Uxbridge, transported an ancestor of Rachel Riley, an ancestor of Ben Gurion and an ancestor of Tony Blair to the planet, whose entire population of a hundred billion Israelis and a hundred million Rachel Riley clones were descended from three people, other than the clones who were just copied from one.

This incestuous planet of Israelis was on the brink of nuclear war all the time, each nation threatening Rachel Riley land with annihilation if it didn't back up their individual claim to be the real Israel.

"Thank God people like that will never evolve sufficiently to get into space by themselves," Holmes said to me.

"One day we'll have to send robots down to calculate how long the radiation will take to dissipate once the inevitable nuclear war between Israel, Israel, Israel, Israel and Israel breaks out, with only Rachel Riley adjudicating for the first few minutes (they'll obviously nuke the Rachel Riley clones first, since they're not 'real Israelis')."

"Perhaps," I said to Holmes, "we should round up Tony Blair, Rachel Riley and the population of Israel and ship them to that planet. It can be our own intergalactic Rwanda!"

"I'm surprised at you, Watson," said Holmes. "Even as a joke that statement is in very poor taste. Israelis, Tony Blair and Rachel Riley may on the whole be genocidal criminals likely to eat their own family and kill anything they can for a bit of sport, not just for their lunch, but that doesn't mean you and I should ever emulate their base ways or abandon that which we have and they do not - an adherence to morality."

"If we were to send anyone to that planet," Holmes then added somewhat dryly. "I feel it should be twenty million clones of Emmanuel Kant."



Matt Berry, as
Sherlock Holmes



Richard Ayoade,
as Doctor Watson



Alexei Sayle, as being
emulating outer form
of Alexei Sayle