

PSYCHOLOGY

You Blush Because You Love the Truth

A BLUSH does not betray a sense of shame at the truth, but rather a feeling of shame that we have concealed the truth.

This interpretation of a red face was given to the American Psychoanalytic Association meeting in New York, by Dr. Sanford S. Feldman of the University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, N. Y.

Blushing can be observed in both sexes and all races. In people of dark skin, the blush does not look red; it makes the skin darker. Blushing occurs in persons who live nude. And persons who were born blind blush like those with eyesight.

The blush is proof that there is a basic tendency for truth, Dr. Feldman said. If truth is hidden, it appears as redness on the face.

Children represent the truth and they are not ashamed. They begin to be ashamed and to blush when hypocrisy is imposed upon them and they are taught to conceal the truth.

Several decades ago, Dr. Feldman pointed out, women were expected to be bashful and to blush at the slightest violation of etiquette, but when men blushed it was considered as weakness. Today women are not expected to blush and when men blush it is considered as rather charming.

Science News Letter, January 2, 1960

ASTRONOMY

Astronomer Believes Moon's Surface Is Slag

A RUSSIAN astronomer is convinced the moon's surface is composed of a porous material that resembles slag from volcanoes but that forms when the rocks of the lunar crust are smashed by meteors.

Prof. N. N. Sytinskaya of the Main Astronomical Observatory of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences reports her conclusion is based on "photometric, colorimetric and polarimetric investigations of the moon." It was made before the recent Russian moon

shots, one of which landed on the moon and the other of which circled the moon to take photographs of the previously unseen side.

Prof. Sytinskaya says the lunar atmosphere, if it exists at all, is so extremely thin that even very tiny micrometeorites reach the surface with velocities sufficiently high to cause explosions. The micrometeorites blast the surface at the rate of two and a half each square inch each minute. Therefore, she concludes, the action of micrometeorites alone is sufficient for the "formation on the lunar surface of a continuous film of modified material during a very short time."

The resulting slag material is dark-colored due to the breakdown of silicates and the formation of black iron oxides, she reports in *Soviet Astronomy*, a translation issued by the American Institute of Physics of the Russian publication, *Astronomical Journal*.

The lunar maria, or seas, Prof. Sytinskaya says, are darker than the "continents" because the original rocks of the maria contain a higher proportion of iron.

Prof. Sytinskaya considers that the slag layer in the region of the maria is mainly formed on top of ultrabasic rocks, while in the regions of the "continents" it is mainly formed over basic and possibly in part over intermediate rocks.

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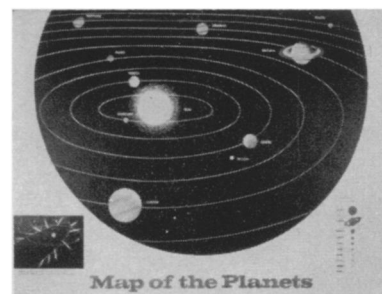
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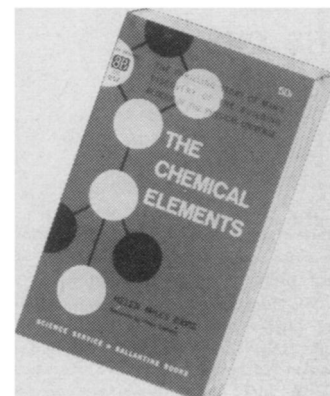
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