Reading for the Class of December 1, 2016

Dear Gang of Twelve,

So, we come, at last to the final meeting of our group. I’ll miss you. You’ve been a fine group. You’ve held up your end of the bargain and I hope that I held up mine. What will we have to do on Thursday evenings after this? ;-)

Towards the end of our previous session, in response to one of your comments I mentioned a piece of literature that pointed out that our hero Galileo, about whom you read earlier in the semester, may well have played a role in bringing some of his famous troubles down on himself; that he might not have been completely the victim of a stubborn and reactionary religious hierarchy. If you think back to the entry on Galileo in the *Encyclopedia Catholica* that I had us read and discuss, you may see some commonality between it and Michael F. Flynn’s piece, “The Great Ptolemaic Smackdown” that appeared in *Analog* in 2013 that I have posted, with the publication’s permission. I think that the ideas expressed here should allow us to a good platform on which to end our inquiry into how we have come to do research.

Enjoy the article and have a fine and happy holiday.

LBB

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