

# The Strange Case of Flat-Earther Elliot

John Eriksen

## **Excerpt from the court dialogue:**

Prosecutor:

"Very ingenious, but how can the common man be assured that all this science is accurate and we do indeed live on a spherical planet? After all, not everyone is a master of trigonometry and physics."

Dr. Weinstein:

"Well, the common sailor has long realized that ships go out to sea only to disappear slowly over the horizon. First the lower part of the ship disappears, then the top mast finally fades over the Earth's curvature as the ship moves out to sea and around the globe."

Prosecutor:

"Around the globe, very well. And just how did early scientists come to verify the Earth as a sphere?"

Dr. Weinstein:

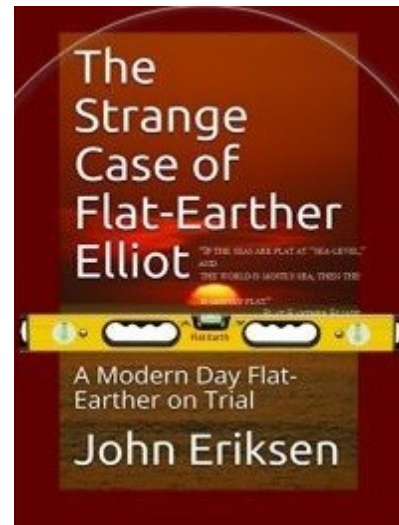
"Well, students of science know that Galileo's observation of Jupiter's moons, perceived to be spheres revolving around Jupiter, formed the basis for his verification of the Copernican theory that we do the same as we circle the sun."

"Additionally, our own moon circles the Earth approximately once per month. This gives great credence to our knowledge that we live in a cyclic system of revolving heavenly bodies. The fact that the moon shows the Earth's curvature during eclipses adds to the evidence that we live on a spherical Earth in motion around the sun. I myself can confirm that the Earth is indeed round, having flown around the globe several times going to various conferences."

*(The prosecutor looks at the globe resting on his table. He spins it as before.)*

Prosecutor:

"Dr. Weinstein, are you saying that ships and planes demonstrate a spherical earth when they circumnavigate the planet?"



Dr. Weinstein:

"Absolutely! Since Magellan's voyage in 1519 there have been many ships on sea and air to circumnavigate the planet, landing at the same place as they started. Probably the most famous were the flights of Dick Rugan and Steve Fossett flying non-stop around the globe. Now of course, there are plenty of NASA photos showing the whole Earth from a distance. In fact, my brother worked for NASA's photolab during the fifties and sixties and told me he personally processed many of those early photos from outer-space."

*(The defense counselor suddenly stands.)*

Defense:

"Objection, judge. That last statement is out of court information, and we contend misinformation offered to prove or affirm the truth of the prosecutions claims. It is clearly hearsay."

Judge:

"Sustained. The jury will disregard the last statement from the witness concerning the doctor's brother."

*(The Prosecutor holds up a NASA photo showing the Earth from space.)*

Prosecutor:

"Your honor, we offer this official NASA photo taken of Earth as Exhibit A, as evidence the Earth is spherical and obviously not flat."

Defense:

"Objection, Judge. That photo constitutes out of court evidence not yet established as fact and is hearsay as it attempts to prove the matter asserted. Unless there is some verification of who took the photo, or even if it is actually a photo and not a computer image or artist rendering, we object to the exhibit."

*(The Judge shakes his head back and forth with disgust.)*

Judge:

"Sustained. The jury will disregard the exhibit."

Prosecutor:

"Doctor, you've supplied us with a good foundation for our heliocentric place in the solar system. Is there any reason left to still believe in a flat earth?"

Dr. Weinstein:

"Not scientifically, albeit there are still a few castaways—I'd say mostly Christian fundamentalists and Muslims who continue to cling to their ancient views."

Prosecutor:

"Thank you Dr. Weinstein. We have no further questions at this time. Your honor, we call Flat-Earther Elliot to the stand."

*(The defense counselor advises Flat-Earther Elliot to watch his temper as the prosecutor will try hard to provoke another emotional outburst. The judge gives Flat-Earther Elliot a look of contempt as he takes the oath.)*

Prosecutor:

"Elliot, you are charged with disturbing the peace, inciting unrest, and being a threat to your own safety and those around you. Do you now understand the nature of these charges and why you are here today?"

*(Flat-Earther Elliot nods affirmatively.)*

Flat-Earther Elliot:

"I understand what you're trying to do and it won't work."

Prosecutor:

"I see from your college transcripts that you studied engineering at Stetson University. You obviously had a firm grasp of science at one time. Can you explain what happened to cause you to fall for this flat earth nonsense and become a Flat-Earther? Did you fall off a ladder, or receive a bump on the head or something?"

Flat-Earther Elliot:

"No sir. No accidents and I'm not just a Flat-Earther. I'm a fact finder."

Prosecutor:

"Oh, I see. And do you also consider yourself a conspiracy theorist?"

Flat-Earther Elliot:

"No sir, I don't believe in conspiracy theories. I'm a realist. I believe real facts, including conspiracy facts."

Prosecutor:

"Yes, I see from reviewing your medical reports that your version of the facts have come to the attention of the Federal Drug

Administration. I have a letter here from the FDA which alleges you claim to cure cancer and that you post blogs warning that vaccines and autism are rela...."

Defense:

"Objection, those issues are irrelevant to the case."

*(The judge grimaces and shakes his head.)*

Judge:

"Sustained. Mr. Prosecutor, I suspect you are trying to get to the defendant's state of mind, however stick to the issue at hand."

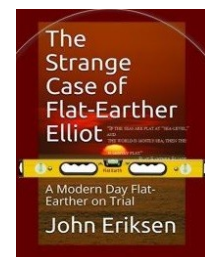
Prosecutor:

"I withdraw that line of questioning, your honor. Now Elliot, let's talk about your personal philosophy. Do you feel God has called you for some particular purpose?"

Read the entire eBook. Topics examined include:

- the development of the Copernican theory
- the unproven assumptions at the base of modern astronomy
- determining the distance to the sun and other heavenly bodies
- hidden scientific experiments not generally taught in universities
- little known aspects of the moon and eclipses
- surprising quotes from famous astrophysicists
- scientific books & papers examining alternate models of cosmology

The trial is bound to be a landmark case and the facts uncovered will surprise the most astute students of astronomy. The mental diagnosis (per the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) for Flat-Earther Elliot, the trial process itself (e.g., jury rights), and legal procedures are also discussed. Continue to learn from Flat-Earther Elliot's huge bibliography of over 100 books and nearly 60 online references for both spherical and flat earth cosmological models--which also exposes a surprising amount of historic information already in print on this debate from the last 150 years.



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