

It was very reasonable in the light of what they knew, and clear proof that the earth was round did not come until 1520 when ~~the~~ Magellan actually sailed around it. After that, of course, there could be no further question. But ~~that~~ still left the ~~question~~ unresolved. There are two facts: everything falls down, and the earth is round and yet things on the other side of it don't fall off. After Magellan went around the world it was a century and a half before the concept was found that explains how both facts could be true. The answer was found from a very strange source. It did not come from anything on the earth. It didn't come from the data seen upon the earth. In fact if the earth had been surrounded by a cloud layer so that we could not see the sky, ~~we~~ ^{it} probably never would have been discovered. But _____? _____ spent many years observing the motion of the planets among the stars, and trying to explain exactly why they moved the way they did. He developed a very complicated theory to ~~try~~ try to explain it. Kepler carried on his work, and between the two of them they developed a tremendous amount of material about the motion of the planets, exactly how they moved but why they moved that way there was no reasonable explanation. Then Isaac Newton pondered over the matter and the idea came to him that we don't fall down at all, but that everything is attracted to everything else, and he worked out a formula for the degree of attraction that would explain the motion of the planets. Today the idea of gravitation is a concept that is familiar to all of us, and seems so simple we think everybody has always known it. But it probably never would have been discovered if it had not been for the study of the planets and the motion of the heavenly bodies. I think that's a good illustration of the fact that in God's economy there may be many vital concepts. There are