



Chemistry of the Lower Atmosphere

By S. Rasool

Springer. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 352 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.8in. About three years ago Catherine de Berg and I published a short article in Nature in which we attempted to explain why the chemistry of the atmosphere of the Earth is today so completely different from that of our two neighboring planets, Mars and Venus. Our atmosphere is composed mainly of N₂ and O₂ with traces of Ar, H₂O, CO₂, O₃, etc., while the atmospheres of both Mars and Venus are almost entirely made up of CO₂. Also, the Earth appears to be the only one of the three planets which has oceans of liquid water on the surface. Since the presence of liquid water on Earth is probably an essential requirement for life to have originated and evolved to its present state, the question of the apparent absence of liquid water on Mars and Venus suddenly acquires significant proportions. In our paper in Nature, and later in a more detailed discussion of the subject (Planetary Atmospheres, in Exobiology, edited by C. Ponnamperna, North Holland Publishing Co.), we tried to describe why we believe that in the early history...



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