

It remains now to give the recipe for a planet such as ours; and I imagine it ought to run something like this, as it would appear in Mother Stellar's Planetary Cook-book:

"Weigh out roughly two septillion kilograms of iron, adding ten percent of nickel as stiffening. Mix well with four septillion kilograms of magnesium silicate, adding five percent of sulfur, to give it that tang, and small quantities of other elements to taste. (Use 'Mother Stellar's Elementary All-Spice' for best results.)

"Heat in a radioactive furnace until the mass is thoroughly melted and two mutually insoluble layers separate. (CAUTION: Do not heat too long as prolonged heating will induce a desiccation that is not desirable.)

"Cool slowly till the crust hardens and a thin film of adhering gas and moisture appears. (If it does not appear, you have overheated.) Place in an orbit at a comfortable distance from a star and set to spinning. Then wait. In several billion years it will ferment at the surface. The fermented portion, which is called life is considered the best part by connoisseurs."