Dodging a Bullet

It took the aliens' First Contact specialist days before he dared ask the obvious question. Over drinks in the human diplomatic offices, he casually asked his opposite number, "So. I noticed that there weren't any dinosaurs around?"

The human diplomat blinked. "Well… no?" His face -- so like the alien's -- cleared. "Oh! Yes, we had them, but they went extinct millions of years ago. We think an asteroid hit the Earth. Why, are they common?"

The alien smiled, not showing a hint of relief. "Yes. A tragedy they died, here. But not **your** fault." *And what a good thing it's not…*

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