

Around the world in Eight Legs

- By Dhruv Nair

It was a fine evening. I was sitting in my room, listening to the radio and working diligently on my essay. Suddenly, all was quiet and my room filled up with a light as bright as a thousand suns. I whooshed around and my heart fell to my stomach. Staring right back at me was a bizarre-looking alien standing in front of a mysterious spaceship. The alien said in a friendly manner, "Hi Earthling! I am Zyptos. I really need your help. My grandfather buried an important device that can help save my people from extinction, but the only clue I have is this postcard of your world. If you help me, I will reward you with this interstellar spaceship." Of course, I said yes, and like a bolt of lightning, we were off in his tachyonic spaceship.

I carefully studied the postcard; it had a few important sites scattered across the globe. The closest was The Great Wall of China, so we started there. The Great Wall twisted and turned like a long dragon and we zoomed up and down, scanning with a special sensor on the spaceship for any alien materials hidden within. Sadly, we found none. With unshakeable zest we continued our search: in the royal tombs of the Taj Mahal that shone golden in the moonlight, under the spiral seashell shaped roof of the Sydney Opera House, across the open arms of Christ the Redeemer, in the burning flame of the Statue of Liberty, between the chiming bells of the Big Ben, within the dazzling Eiffel Tower that seemed to be lit by a nonillion fireflies. And finally we reached the Grand Egyptian Pyramids.

As we entered the chambers of the Pyramids, I had an eerie feeling that we had been followed. In the King's chamber, the sensor beeped loudly and Zyptos jumped happily, we had found what he had come looking for. Just as Zyptos was going to grab the device, another bigger alien zapped into the room. It said, "Earthling, stop him! You mustn't let him have that device. He wants to use it to destroy the entire Earth, not to save his own planet." I thought for a minute and I decided to trust Zyptos. Unfortunately, I found out my decision was wrong. Because shortly after that, Zyptos greedily opened the tablet to reveal a ticking bomb. Like a speeding bullet, I rushed to Zyptos, grabbed the tablet and threw it across the chamber knowing that he would try to rescue it. Immediately the other alien rushed me outside and sealed the door shut and put a magnetic field around the chamber. The loud 'BANG' that followed proved that the bomb had exploded. We both sighed in relief, we were safe!

The good alien thanked me for my help as we flew over the Pacific Ocean in his spacecraft. Once I was back home, the alien bid me farewell and vanished with Zyptos's spacecraft. Slowly, the music on the radio came back on, ". . . and I think to myself, what a wonderful world!"