CE317 Assignment – The Hero’s Journey

**The Call to Adventure**

The year is 2055. Decades of war and bloodshed has led to a newfound peace where borders no longer exist, and Earth has united; centrally governed by the United Nations (UN). Artificial intelligence technology has advanced substantially to the point where most things are operated through Ai. Jason is a 36-year-old software engineer who works for the UN along with several other top software engineers who helped develop the CAI (Central AI). All phones are now set to be connected through the CAI app; however, Jason has no idea that the app is truly a secret weapon to control Earths masses. The day before the app release, while Jason was at work performing final tests, he receives an email from unknown reading, "It's time to save the world", attached to it a sketchy program.

**Refusal of the Call**

At first Jason didn’t know what to do but to laugh to himself. Someone must be playing a prank on him is what he thought; they were in times of peace like never before, why in the hell would the world need saving? He had no doubt that the program was probably a virus trying to hack into the CAI, he was no hero, but he was no fool either.

**Supernatural Aid**

Jason overlooks the email regarding it as spam, that’s when it happened. Suddenly his phone started flashing and he heard a voice speak to him; it said, “It’s time to save the world”. He couldn’t believe his ears. He grabbed his phone and as soon as he did, he felt a shock surge through his body and visions course through his mind. The visions showed him the near future – which revealed the secret the UN was hiding. The future he saw wasn’t pretty. It was like a dystopian hell where everyone was governed by the CAI.

**The Crossing of the First Threshold**

Overwhelmed by everything he had just seen Jason was in a state of panic; the app was due to be released the next day at noon, but he knew he had to stop this at all costs. After calming himself down, he found himself staring at the email, contemplating whether to click the program or not; there was still a part of him that thought it could be a prank, but the visions felt too real. He decides to run the program, he must know how he can prevent the future he saw. The program output a map with coordinates, and todays date on it, Jason believed someone wanted him to meet them at the coordinates on the map, so he rushed out not saying a word to anyone.

**Belly of the Whale**

Jason reaches the coordinates and its in the middle of nowhere, just grasslands as far as the eye can see. He was prepared to wait all night, luckily, he didn’t have to. Suddenly the ground started shaking, sparks started flying through the air; Jason couldn’t believe his eyes. Right in front of him, an aircraft was appearing out of thin air. As it landed, the doors opened and Jason waited for someone to emerge, but they never did. Nervous, Jason slowly approached the aircraft trying to get a glimpse of the inside. It was empty. Jason entered it and the doors closed him in. It was like it had a mind of its own. Once inside the floor started shaking again, in front of him Jason saw a display reading different coordinates and the year 2012. Could it be, was he inside of a time machine? And in that instant, Jason didn’t know what to believe but he quickly realised he had to strap himself in as he felt otherwise his soul would leave his body.

**The Road of Trials**

Moments later Jason landed in 2012. He exits the time machine but isn’t exactly greeted with a warm welcome. As Jason looks around it would seem he’s in some sort of top-secret government facility and they may not be too happy to see him as they all have their guns pointed to his face. Naturally the first thing Jason says is that he comes in peace. Jason is handcuffed and thrown in an isolated room. He didn’t know what to expect but he didn’t expect to be treated like a prisoner. How did he get here? Who sent him that email? All sorts of questions were running through Jason’s mind, but he just didn’t have any of the answers.

**The Meeting with the Goddess**

Enters a woman who looks about Jason’s age. She introduces herself as Dr Penny Hamilton the creator of the time machine he flew in on. She continues to explain to Jason why he was brought here. The development of the CAI was a project originally proposed back in 2012 but it was top secret only the highest government officials new about it. Around the same time Dr Hamilton was making huge breakthroughs in the theories of time travel to the point where she had prototyped two time machines. However, disaster struck when one of those machines was stolen by parties who would later become part of the UN. They used the machine to change the past to suit their needs and put themselves in positions of power, but inevitably their goal was to unite the world just so they could control it with the CAI. That technology was still years away for them, not with a time machine, however. The only way to stop the UN from successfully carrying out their operation would be to stop them at their root, by locating the stolen time machine and preventing history from being played with. The machines were built with trackers, so every location visited is logged. Jason must venture through time preventing the UN from taking form and turning the CAI into a weapon.

**Woman as Temptress**

Jason still remembers the visions of the future he saw and wants to help prevent it, however the more involved he got, the more it felt like he didn’t know which side to take. After working for the UN for so many years Jason had unconsciously developed a sense of loyalty towards the cause. He started to think about how life was before the UN; growing up a child of war he never wished it upon anyone ever again. He was reminded of the years of peace and all the pain that was endured to make it possible. However, he was also reminded of how all that pain and suffering would be for nothing if the CAI is released; everyone will lose their freedom which is like fighting a war against yourself.

**Atonement with the Father**

Jason heads back into the time machine, destination is set to the year 2022, the year it all started. Originally the great war started over resources. Earth was becoming overcrowded, and the less economically developed countries were struggling, they didn’t find it fair that their neighbouring countries were living in prosperity while they starved. In the future Jason knew, this wasn’t the case; the war started over land, suddenly, what was then known as the United States began invading the less economically developed countries and taking over their governments, claiming the lands in the name of their country. The governments being overthrown didn’t take lightly to this and thus started full scale attacks on the US. The mastermind behind all this was the future head of the UN who had stolen the time machine and changed the past to put himself in position of power as the president of the US. Jason’s mission here was to confront the president before he could launch the invasions and attacks. He managed to sneak into the white house and enters the oval office, faced with armed guards Jason doesn’t have much time. He explains to the president the consequence of his actions and what the future holds. Millions will die all for his selfish desire for control.

**Apotheosis**

Everyone else in the room had no idea what Jason was talking about, but the president knew all too well. He decided to give Jason a chance and spoke to him privately. The president explained they kind of world he was trying to create. One where everyone is equal, and life is equally fair. Jason explained that unfortunately it’s too good to be true, he had seen the future and the CAI was a curse not a blessing, it took away people’s ability to think for themselves as if the whole population had become Ai. This wasn’t a future the president was wishing for, so he decided to heed Jason’s warning, there must be another way to create the world he’s hoping for.

**The Ultimate Boon**

The president agrees with Jason that the future he described isn’t desirable and he would like to work with him to pave a better future. He discloses the location of the stolen time machine so Jason can go and retrieve it. They both go back to 2012 returning the time machines to Dr Hamilton. One of the time machines was destroyed along with the idea for the CAI to prevent the dystopian future from coming to pass. The other was kept safe as Jason needed it to return home.

**Refusal of the Return**

Jason may have needed the time machine to return home, but he wasn’t too sure where home was anymore, what would it mean to return to the future? Jason couldn’t imagine just how much the future must have changed after preventing the CAI from being created. He thought to himself that he would much rather stay and live his life out in this timeline to see the changes with his own eyes.

**The Magic Flight**

Unfortunately, Dr Hamilton explains to Jason that this isn’t possible. The longer he stays in the wrong timeline, the more dire the consequences are, eventually he would be erased from his original timeline which would also mean he couldn’t exist in this timeline either, it would be like he never existed altogether. He had to leave on the time machine before it was too late.

**Rescue from Without**

Suddenly Jason felt lightheaded as if he had been holding his breath this whole time. He was starting to fade away from reality. He quickly jumped into the time machine, set his destination, waved goodbye and in a flash he was off. This journey wasn’t the same as when he was travelling to 2012, the whole time he could feel his presence fading, but he also heard a voice calling to him telling him to hold on. The time machine crash landed in the same grassland it picked Jason up. Waiting for him was none other than Dr Hamilton. She helped him out of the time machine and took him to shelter to recover from almost fading away.

**Crossing the Return Threshold**

After making a full recover, Jason wakes up to see Dr Hamilton but she’s much older now. He asked her what had become of the world, and she had nothing but good new to tell him, Jason was so relieved. The advancement of Ai continued but the CAI project was scrapped and never resurfaced. Jason would be able to go back to work knowing that the Ai he’s developing won’t take over the world and he’s one of the few people aware of the possibilities of time travel.

**Master of the Two Worlds**

This experience has taught Jason how to bring matters into his own hands and to fight for what’s right. Now armed with a time machine, Jason believes there are many more injustices in this world, and it’s become his responsibility to correct them; so now he ventures through time, his past and his future all intertwined, fighting for the masses.

**Freedom to Live**

When Jason isn’t correcting the injustices of the world, he’s free to go on adventures in the time machine with his new companion Dr Hamilton.