

THE SECRET OF G L I E S E 518g

By Charles Coiro

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Finally!

Finally, what?

One of them has spotted us. What do you think its reaction is – surprise or fear?

Surprise first, then fear.

If another appears at the porthole, the first one to spot us was an underling.

There are two of them now, the second one at the porthole is the leader.

Did you notice, one of the others is different?

A bifurcate, a cleavage, a mate?

If you could use one term – how would you describe them?

All: Arrogant

This could be amusing to see how they react.

Yes, but only for a little while, because it also appears that they can be very boring as well.

INSIGNIFICANT!

What is insignificant?

You wondered how they could best be described

(all) Yes, ARROGANT AND INSIGNIFICANT would really be the best description.

CHAPTER ONE

Part 1

A weedy thin John Cullum sped along the ceiling pulling himself with what-ever hand holds he could reach. When he finally was able to extricate himself from floating tubes and other untied articles, he grabbed Commander Nelson's chair and burst out.

"You are going to have to see something which I think may be very important."

Commander Nelson raised his hand in a gesture of "wait" and continued with his calculations on the spacecraft's oxygen supply.

"Commander, protested Cullum, I know you are busy but this can't wait."

Nelson expelled a long audible breath, and in that way letting Cullum know that he was not pleased being disturbed,

Finally turning toward Cullum he said "Well, what is it that can't wait? I have some very important calculations to make so let's make it fast."

"Well Commander, one of the extra- vehicular people is reporting a strange, huge object about 2 kilometers from our craft. It's not doing anything and there seems to be no activity – but I looked and I am sure it's not flotsam or space debris."

"Where is this object to be seen, asked the Commander?"

"It's at the west porthole, just opposite yours and at about 8 o'clock. It's a little lower than we are."

Commander Nelson suddenly looked alarmed to hear that another spacecraft was so close. This could present serious dangers to the craft and his crew.

"I think you had better bring your binoculars," said Cullum," maybe there is some insignia or other sign that might be able to identify it". Both men quickly went to the west porthole and looked.

Commander Nelson was stunned. Just as he was told, a huge spacecraft floated along side of their capsule. Scanning the entire craft with his binoculars, Nelson was unable to find any identifying insignia, flags or numerals.

To identify the object, he could only calculate that the craft was shaped like a clamshell, i.e. it had a top and a bottom that were identical. The vehicle was approximately thirty meters in diameter and ten meters from top to bottom at its deepest dimension. Along the circumference, a black indentation of about one meter wide was intersected by another black indentation about two meters wide at a right angle to the first. The two indentations divided the spacecraft into four equal parts. There was no sign of movement nor any illumination. The upper shell of the vehicle was a bright, shiny surface that reflected the sun's rays, while the bottom half of the shell was the same metal but with a brushed finish. There were no other indentations or protuberances. For some reason Commander Nelson thought that the metal was Titanium but he couldn't be

sure. He handed the binoculars to Cullum and told him to continue watching the spacecraft and to let him know, immediately, if any activity was noticed.

Meanwhile, Commander Nelson did a back flip and returned to his post. He immediately called Houston, the launch pad operations center.

"Houston, this is Orion 1 calling, do you read me? Do you read me? Over"

"Yes we read you loud and clear, Orion. Is there a problem Richard? Over."

"No problem with the spacecraft but we have just observed that there is another space vehicle about two kilometers from us. Please advise because it is awfully close. Is it one of ours? Over."

"We read you Orion, we will put our telescopes on the area you mention. In the meantime, don't try to maneuver to get a better look, stay put until we advise. Over and out."

Fifteen minutes later, an anxious sounding Houston called.

"Orion 1, Houston calling, please answer. Over".

"Houston, Orion 1 answering your call. Have you any info on the craft yet?"

"Orion 1, we checked, it's not one of ours and we have no information from our sources that any other country has launched or was planning to launch a spacecraft in the near future. We suggest you do the following: Have the extra-vehicular astronaut return to your craft immediately. It is suggested that you make no moves that could be interpreted as hostile or threatening. Continue with your schedule but have the other space vehicle under constant surveillance and report any kind of activity, no matter how slight. Take as many photos as you can from where you are. Send pictures to Houston and give a full description, color, size, shape, approximate dimensions, etc.

Also, there is to be no type of communication with the crew and their families. If anything is amiss, we will contact the families. I suggest that you keep only your communication to Houston open. Over and out."

Commander Nelson called his crew together and said: "As you know, we have a space buddy outside flying at the same speed and in the same orbit as ours.

I have been in contact with Houston and they give a negative on the spacecraft being one of ours and from their sources of information, the craft doesn't seem to belong to any other country either.

We have been instructed to continue our work; not make any gestures that might appear hostile and while we will have a 24 hour surveillance, I suggest those not on observation duty stay away from the portholes. I am sure we would be observed and a determination made by the other space vehicle as to how big a crew we are.

Do not, I repeat, do not try to radio or communicate any information to your families about what we are confronting or if there is danger. To make sure, only inter-cabin communication will be available. Anyone noticing anything abnormal or different from what we are seeing now is to report to me immediately.

Since there are only 4 of us, we will hold observation of the craft for three hours each. The rest of the time, you will continue your specific work and also get as much rest as possible.

On the first watch we will have John Cullum, It's 20:00, you will be on duty until 23:00. (John Cullum, Navy scientist and professor in genetics and plant life. He is assigned to test the effects of radiation exposure on mice and seedlings to ascertain what, if any the radiation had on the new born.)

Next will be Ben Adams, from 23:00 until 02:00 (Ben Adams is a space technician in charge of all mechanical and electrical equipment.)

Connie Herbeck, the only woman on the crew who is assigned to follow from 02:00 until 05:00. (Connie Herbeck is a robotic arm expert and nurse.)

"I will relieve Connie from 05:00 until 08:00. The shifts will start again with John and so on."

"Are there any questions?"

Ben raises his hand. "I know this might sound silly but what if we have to use the toilet or something, do we call a relief?

"The question is a good and valid one. Since this mission and our observation might impact on the whole world, I suggest we call anyone not scheduled to observe next in line. We want each of you to get as much sleep as possible."

Next to raise her hand was Connie, she asked, "If we do observe something from the other craft, do we advise you?"

Commander Nelson replied, "No matter how slight the difference is, yes, advise me immediately."

"Houston, Orion 1 calling. Do you read me? Over"

Orion 1, this is Houston calling. "We are all working around the clock to find solution to the problem. Do you have specific questions for us? We will try to answer. Over."

"Houston, Orion 1 here. We have a common concern up here. If we are to return to earth as scheduled, we will need to prepare now. My calculations show that we are going to be short on oxygen. These last days have been stressful and we are using more oxygen than normal. Also, if we are to return to base, our window for re-entry closes in two days. What do you advise? Over".

"Orion 1, Houston here. We have advised the President of the United States of the dilemma. We may have two solutions to consider.

One is your returning to base as though all was normal. And two, to send up another spaceship with supplies as its payload. Try to keep the crew in good spirits. We know your position and are trying to figure out whether your re-entry or the sending up of supplies will

cause concern to the other spaceship. We are all with you and your crew and we will not let you down. Over."

(Later that afternoon)

"Orion 1, Houston here. Do you copy? "Yes, Houston, we copy. What news do you have for us today?"

"Orion 1, Houston back again. We may have some good news for you. A new Russian Soyuz-ST can be ready for launch at any time. Launch to be from French Guiana in Africa. We are now trying to determine if the new space vehicle will cause any trouble with your buddy up there.

We have been unable to trace design of spacecraft with any agency here on earth, so the conclusion is, it might be an alien spacecraft.

Good points and bad points: If inhabitants of craft are examining scientifically, they may not see the additional spaceship we send up as a threat.

If they are out to invade our planet, I don't know what I can say. We can only hope that a new spaceship will not be seen as a threat to them.

In the meantime, Houston has decided to go through with our original plans and have you depart for earth on the appointed day. Good luck Orion.

As commander of Orion 1, what are your thoughts as to the way least likely to create an unfriendly situation? Over and Out."

Ben turning to Connie says, "I didn't realize that we may be the first earthlings ever to see an alien craft. In one way, I'm scared as hell, but in another, that is if we get out of this thing in one piece, what a story I can tell my grandkids".

Connie shakes her head in disbelief. "I told my family that this was just a routine flight, nothing to get concerned about; a few days in space and back to my normal days at the base. But I'm with you on this, what a story I will be able to tell, that is if I ever get married and have some kids. It's really exciting!

"What's your read on this whole thing, Richard, good or bad?"

"For me, it's A-double O.K. I've been rather bored with seeing the results of exposure to radiation on mice and peas. Seriously though, I think that the Government is going to have to be assigning a lot more money on research and the space program if this turns out to be legitimate. I'm all for it!

Connie speaking to no one in particular wonders aloud. "How does one communicate with these little green men? What a field of study that would be."

"What a fascinating thought!" said John, "Would the communication be in linguistic form or non-linguistic, i.e. symbols or marks or other such things? I hope we can answer some of these wonderings, but what an opportunity for someone in the field of linguistics."

"Language is one thing, but think about what we could learn in the field of technology", asked Ben." I can't even express what opportunities there would be for the human race.

Of course, if the ship is not friendly, that is another story. But, up to this point, we have had no threats so I'll opt for the friendliness of our friends across the way."

"What do you suppose the skipper thinks of all this. For him, he would get his Admiral rating for sure, but what an honor it would be for the United States to be the first humans to be contacted. I only hope some red-neck Senator from the South ,doesn't decide that we need to shoot the craft down." Richard retorted.

"Let's keep politics and prejudices out of this, boys and girls or we are liable to settle the problem of hostilities here on board our own craft," Answered Ben.

"We have all seen this beautiful vehicle. It's really a work of art. It would put Brancusi to shame. What precision, what exhilarating beauty. What do you suppose those black indentations are for; the ones around the circumference and the other bisecting at 90 degrees? What is the source of fuel, of whatever it is they need to breathe, what about food, my God, I have so many questions that I really hope they contact us and invite us on board" continued Ben."

"Not wishing to stop this stimulating conversation, I suppose we all realize that we are due to return to Houston in two days. From what I learned, our oxygen supply has been really suffering since we are all breathing more and deeper to fight the stress. It could be a potential problem" Richard said.

"It better be soon because our window for returning to base would really be fouled up if for instance we had to land in China instead."

I've been thinking, it's really not such a good deal to put your life in some one's else's hands." Said a slightly perceived annoyance in Connie's voice.

It was very difficult for the crew to execute its tasks. The excitement and fear prevented concentration and the time seemed to drag on and on. After the first exuberant conversations among the crew, there seemed to be a more introspective turn to their conversation. Duty to the assigned work was interspersed with thoughts of family and the real consequences of this event to their lives.

After a short time, Commander Nelson entered the crew's quarters.

"I am sure you are all wondering what is going to happen to us?" Echoing Connie's remarks, Commander Nelson then repeated the words of Houston as to what will happen

First off, we leave as per our original schedule on Thursday. I know this experience with the other spacecraft has left us a little less attentive to our tasks and I commiserate. But we still have a job to do and we will do it in the spirit that has been America's since we became a nation. How the presence of the spacecraft will affect us, I can't, in all honesty say. But plans are already underway to try to contact the space vehicle. Learned linguists have been called in, cryptologists, top psychologists are on board and the hundreds of other people we will need to

guide us safely through this experience and we must remember, the whole earth could be affected and foreign governments are alerting their best people to keep the citizens from panicking. Hundreds of people with access to the most powerful men and women will want to add their feelings and suggestions to an already complex problem. Some will want to contact the craft in friendly overture and others will be hell bent for blasting it out of the sky.

We are going to need all our resources and our beliefs to bring us through this. On the other hand, if we can successfully befriend these other world inhabitants, the earth will be able to gain enormously — wiping away centuries of trying to discover what these other world inhabitants obviously know. We are in God's hands and while I am not overly religious, I think I shall try to take comfort from my early teachings. This is not a time for arrogance. It is a time for reflection, a time for trying to understand that we are not alone in the Universe and that we shall have to learn to live with other worlds and all other species if we are to survive as one of God's creatures."

This whole experience will perhaps bring us to a more understanding attitude, a more tolerant attitude. If we look at how we have acted with our own species, we must admit failure in almost all ways. So, this whole experience will be up to fate and ourselves. We cannot control fate but we can certainly control ourselves.

Our meeting with a species from another planet will be difficult. We have had no experience.

I have been a fighting man, a warrior all my life and my life is dedicated to protecting my country and my people from danger. But I will say with all honesty and humility, it is my prayer that we may meet our neighbors from outer space in peace and friendship. When we decide how we will confront the other ship, we will have only the experience that extending the hand in friendship will result in the other party accepting the friendship as the basis for beginning to understand each other."

Turning, Commander saluted his crew and said, "I want you to know that I am very proud of you and the work that you have been doing."

NASA informed the President of the situation and waited until some decision was made as to the alien craft and the Orion 1 crew.

The President in turn, called on his immediate cabinet to meet and discuss the options they had.

The meeting would first consist of the President, his Vice President, the Secretaries of State and Defense, Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Heads of the Army and Navy. Rounding out the list would be the head of the CIA and the FBI. The President also included the Majority and Minority leaders of both houses. This was the smallest group he would get together because he wanted to be sure the pubic did not hear anything yet since there would be a panic that would involve the entire world.

CHAPTER TWO

This first meeting would be taking place in the President's conference room and each person was advised in strong, implicit terms to make no mention of the meeting to anyone nor to be late. The meeting was scheduled for six o'clock that evening.

When all were gathered, the President asked for quiet and proceeded in an even, deep tone.

"I have asked you all to come to this meeting because we have a duty to perform that is of the most utmost importance; not only to the United States, but to the rest of the world as well."

"Yesterday", he continued, "I was informed by NASA, that our Orion 1, spacecraft was being accompanied by another spacecraft of unknown origin. (Gasps and other exclamations of concern) We have checked out all of our sources to discover whether it is a secret space project by another country and to our shock and disbelief, we find that no country or agency is or has planned this observed space vehicle.

Since the alien craft is traveling at the same speed and in the same orbit, we can only assume that it is not of this planet. NASA and our astronomers are tracking the vehicle around the clock.

There has been no attempt made to contact the vehicle nor has there been any contact made by the other craft.

I have here for your information, photographs, and statistics of its apparent color, size, and other nomenclature. Please pass the photos to each other and return them to me after you have looked at them.

Before we start, I would like each of you who has a question to ask it before the meeting. This meeting is of the utmost importance as you can imagine.

Does anyone have any questions to ask?"

"If after we have made a decision on the way to handle this problem, how do we coordinate that decision with the rest of the world?" (Secretary of State)

"As the Nation whose space ship is being involved in this situation, and as the Nation who can lose or gain most, I will have to assume that our decision will be the final one. Although we shall share our thoughts and suggestions with all Nations, ours shall be the decision that prevails."

"Who shall be responsible on our team for the coordination and final command of any decisions?"

"That will have to be my decision in the long run" answered the President. "I shall be wholly responsible for the outcome of this crisis. What I shall need from you is your backing and your loyalty."

"So, let us begin."

"From all of the astronomical telescopes, we have asked for a list of the possible candidates that could support life, its distance to earth, the time needed to travel plus its

individual characteristics such as diameter, distance from its sun, its mass, its gravity and its composition.

Our astronomers have come up with three possibilities. These planets would have to be of the rocky type, not the gas type.

Of the three candidates, one is called OGLE 2005-BL6-390-LB. It is 25000 light years away and near the center of our Milky Way. The planet has an orbiting period of 10 years and is 3 ½ times as far from it's Sun as Earth is to our Sun. It is 5.5 times the earth mass. The surface temperature is thought not to be too extreme which is approximately -220 degrees C.

I see amazed looks on your faces, but remember we are trying to find out, as close as it is possible what is possible. In all probability, we shall not find a sister planet with our precise characteristics.

The second candidate is COROT – 7b. It is 1.7 x Earth's diameter and was discovered in 2009. Its core is believed to be of iron and it has an orbital period of 20 hours, 29 minutes and 9.7 seconds.

The third candidat is a planet that encircles the star, G l i e s e. G L I E S E is a tiny (in astronomical terms) red parent star approximately 50 times dimmer than our sun and one third as massive as our Sun. It is believed that the planet encircling Gliese can sustain water in a liquid form.

One year on the planet is the equivalent of 13 Earth days and one of the stars orbiting planets is either rocky or all water. There are believed to be three other orbiting planets around the star.

G L I E S E 518-C is a rocky planet that has a mean temperature from between 0-40 degrees C.(32 -104 degrees F). It is 20.5 light years away. For those who do not know what a light year is, it is the distance light travels at the speed of 186,287.5 miles per second in one year. It is located in the Constellation Libra. Its gravity is about 2.24 as strong as Earth, and it is mostly silicate in composition.

Our astronomers are focusing in on this third planet since it seems most likely to be like Earth. That is G L I E S E 518 C.

"Our first priority shall be whether this spaceship is friendly or unfriendly. We will also have to have a way of communicating with its inhabitants. I have asked the leading linguists in the best Universities to be available on a work of great importance. These specialists work in Linguistics and Non-Linguistic communication such as cuneiforms or written symbols, etc."

One of the Conservative Senators spoke up. "I say we treat them as hostile visitors and simply not try to make contact except with an atomic or hydrogen bomb. Since we can't talk, we would have to assume they are here to harm us."

"What about the Orion 1 that is so close to them. Do we sacrifice the crew up there while we are trying to destroy the alien space craft?" the Speaker of the House asked.

"Look, the Senator asked, If I was up there with the choice that I sacrifice myself and three others to protect the 6.7 billion human beings on the Earth, I would opt to be sacrificed. The French have a word for it, it's called triage. You sacrifice the few for the benefit of the many."

"I would sacrifice my life if it was my decision, not some else's decision to sacrifice me," the Speaker shot back.

"What about radiation fallout"? asked the Secretary of Defense.

The Southern Senator, stopped, thought, and continued, "We would bomb the spaceship over China. We all know that one day we are going to have a reckoning with China. I would say, "My life for my Country, for the people who elected me to office and to my President".

The President broke in, "That kind of talk is exactly what will start a conflagration with China, I don't want to solve one problem by creating another problem. I'm going to assume that your statement was an ill timed joke because I could not imagine a person in an important position in government making such a provocative statement. If China ever hears what you said, I would order you to make the proper and appropriate apologies."

"Look", the Secretary of Defense said, let's take one option at a time. If the decision is to extend a friendly hand, (forgetting for the moment how we would do such a thing) what does that actually mean? Wouldn't we have to put them in isolation? I don't think that sounds so friendly, do you? Wouldn't we have to have them visit us, at our industry, our government, our schools, etc. Do we know if they carry any germs, microbes, spores that could take over our health and our agriculture since we would have no means of sanitizing our guests nor any protection for them against microbes that might exist on the Earth? What would they do here? Would we share our knowledge with them (they would probably laugh at our primitiveness), and what if they want to go home, would we want them to speak of our planet, its resources, its people?

The Central Intelligence Agency spoke up, "And if they are unfriendly, do we allow them to leave or do we strike out weapons systems we know nothing about. We would be forever on the alert and in fear from other spacecraft invasions. And finally, how would we be able to protect ourselves?"

"What would our political systems be like with the countries of Europe, Asia, South America. Would there be a shift if some of their governments decide to be on friendly terms while we were on hostile terms. If we look back in history, Cortez, with some 600 men conquered thousands of the Aztecs and the Mayans because he used Indian warriors, who were enemies of the tribes he was attacking. There is a great deal to consider here – it might mean a re-evaluation of the entire political/social system." mentioned the F.B.I.

The Secretary of State, broke in: "Who will finally decide this issue. I know you said you would carry the decision Mr. President, but we are a world of many nations. How will the schism be healed between countries who say yes, destroy the aliens and the countries who say no, let us receive them as friends? Should a country like the U.S. have a vote that is weighted in

favor of their wealth and size and strength be equal with a country that is struggling to keep its head above water?"

(The President) "It seems that the only two issues here are friendship or hostility. You are all politicians, solutions must be found without the need of bloodshed and war. There must be more than just friendship and hostility. Maybe we shall have to bring the church into this discussion. After all, they have the people's trust. I never thought it would be easy but this is much more difficult to decide in such a short time.

In the meantime, I have ordered that Orion 1 follow its schedule and land in Houston this coming Thursday. Maybe they will have some input for us.

Let's break, have some dinner and think a lot more about what we can do. We will meet again at 10:00 o'clock this evening."

At 10:00 P.M. an exhausted and frightened group of advisors returned to continue the meeting that had been attended earlier that day.

The President, greeting all, began by telling them that the earlier meeting could only produce two suggestion: "Be friendly or Be aggressive. Yet there was no suggestion as to how to contact the spacecraft and its inhabitants. Has anyone come up with a suggestion as to how we could do this?"

The same Senator from the conservative State in the South ventured his opinion.

"Since I am obviously for destroying the space craft, I can only say that there would be no way to contact them, especially since our attack would have to be well planned and secret."

(Secretary of State): "Let's not be too precipitous in agreeing to destroy before we attempt to extend friendliness. I still want to believe that there can be a harmony in not only the world, but in the Universe as well. Do we shoot first and then find a rationale as to why we did not attempt friendliness first? Isn't that what is happening on our own relationships with other countries?

(Speaker of the House) "Would there be any way of circling the spacecraft as a means of saying, "We can destroy you but as you can see, we are being friendly?"

(Army Chief of Staff): "That would not be possible on two counts. One is that the maneuver you suggest would be impossible for us and are outside our abilities. And two, there is only one space ship available from Russia, the Soyuz ST, and that is in Africa."

(The President) "While we have been on our dinner break, I was able to contact Noam Chomsky, a world renowned authority on Linguistics and he may be able to work with us even though his position in politics is vastly different than ours. But, he is the best!

We have also contacted Harvard University and they have given us a possible start. Since we have the use of the Russian Soyuz ST, it was proposed that we do something as naïve and primitive as to unfurl a large tail, similar to the type the old flyers used to announce some circus or product some 70 years ago. The "tail" would have 3 or 4 drawings on it. The first would be a

depiction of their craft which they would certainly know and recognize; next to that would be the Earth, pale blue on a black background, the way the alien spacecraft would have observed us. Only this time, the Earth would be hinged open on the diameter as though it were inviting the alien spacecraft to enter and be friendly. The third drawing would show the Earth and the spacecraft side by side"

"I know it sounds naïve, but it could perhaps be a start. After all, this spacecraft was able to travel here from who knows how many light years away so they must be more advanced than we are."

(Senator from the North) "To me, the first impression I get is that if we show an open earth, it seems more like we will swallow we will swallow them – and I don't think that sounds too friendly."

(President) "Never-the-less, we must start somewhere. I am getting in touch with the Russian President to ask that we proceed immediately with the idea and that he ask his engineers to resolve the problem of unfurling the tail with the three impressions."

CHAPTER THREE

Senator Dan Millingham, distinguished senator from the great state in the south; chairman of the Senate Armed Forces Committee lost no time in contacting some of his closest advisers and constituents. He personally was violently opposed to any alien nation sending craft to our planet to what he felt was certainly to be for unfriendly reasons. He, Dan Millingham had worked too long and too hard to see any outside force which would or could lessen his influence and power in government. His long range plans, (perhaps not so long range) was to build a power base from which he would be able to launch his plans to being elected the next President of the United States.

Any intervening actions by liberal party members which could be read as a successful maneuver would dilute his chances as a protector of the American people and lower his public profile in the eyes of many.

At the dinner break between the first and second presidential meeting, Millingham contacted Senator Anthony De Liso, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee Senator Dewey Sehring, powerful

Millingham, speaking on "safe phones" in a conference call outlined the situation to the others. There was no need to caution the others to secrecy since they were all aware that probably the other side was doing the same thing. The importance as to the public perceptions

of the parties as either protectors or as people who could lead the world to annihilation was too strong a factor to not take advantage. Why this could be the entire campaign in one issue.

It was going to be necessary for Millingham's powerful friends to make the public see Millingham's candidacy as the savior of our civilization and the opposition's position as the people who would try to gamble with our world and perhaps destroy its existence and all the people of the world at the same time? "A resounding "NO": Our party would never relinquish its sacred duty to defend the mothers and children of the world to the crass sensationalistic tactics of the opposition to win an election."

Plans, exciting plans could be developed around this theme and Millingham intended to use this gift, this "coup" to his advantage. He, Millingham was going to be the first to show his position to the people; to show that he was never going to allow some misunderstanding or misinterpretation to endanger the world. If a wild beast was ready to devour some helpless child, you didn't wait to see if the intentions of the beast were intentions of curiosity or wonder, no, by God, you eliminated the danger and protected the innocence and fragility of the threatened child. You shot first and then you could reason if there was danger or not. In the meantime, you would have protected the innocent and helpless life from all threatened danger."

Actually, this sudden event could not have happened at a better time. Millingham was as excited as a young child on Christmas morning. What gifts were they going to receive?" He excitedly awaited the 10:00 P.M. meeting to both make his objections known and his position very clear and also to use this inside information to further plan his campaign.

Millingham and his aides realized that there were plans to be made and to meet as soon as practicable in order to focus on how their election campaign could be interpreted as the saviors of the United States and how they would receive the everlasting gratitude from the rest of the world.

When the Committee for the Election of Senator Dan Millingham met, the emphasis was on immediate strategy. No time could be lost or this golden moment might bypass them. First in importance was to "leak" the information that the United States was in grave danger and that the foresight of Senator Dan Millingham was creating plans to eliminate that threat. First they would have to have the entire story written and then leaked to the conservative press. They would give the New York Post, the Wall Street Journal and the Washington Times the information for the big cities. At the same time, conservative newspapers like the Manchester Union Leader and the Daily Oklahoman would focus on the small cities and the central part of the country. Also, at the same time, plans would have to be made to have Millingham appear on various talk shows; Larry King, Jay Leno, Rush Limbaugh, Glenn Beck, Mark Levin, Michael Savage, Sarah Palin and even an attempt to get him on the Oprah Winfrey show. The interviews could be with liberal as well as conservative shows to bring in exposure. The exposure would be fantastic and it would be FREE.

Crews, which had been assembled to make appeals by phone for campaign funds would have to be fast forwarded because the time was ripe. Ordinarily, the campaign was to be started a little later but one could not overlook the fantastic opportunities that had presented themselves.

In each article or interview, Senator Millingham was to appear as the modern day savior. His intimate knowledge as the Chairman of the Armed Services Committee and as a United States Senator were his credentials.

Millingham condemned those who leaked this most vital information before a solution could be prepared, and he had nothing but words of contempt for these traitors for placing our country and the world in such danger. But, since the traitors had leaked the information, he, Dan Millingham would carry the ball.

With the leaked news of the alien craft some 200 miles above us and with only Dan Millingham offering some solution, the campaign funds solicited for the Senator started to build to gigantic sums. The more funds Millingham received, the more he paid for ads and propaganda. The conservative press, released story after story telling of the stalemated liberals and soon the entire country, if not the world started to believe that the only solution was Dan Millingham's and they forced consensus on his ideas within their own parties and organizations. The world would be united under one banner – not the banner of the United States, but under the banner of conviction, solidarity and action of all to save our planet. Meanwhile, anxious liberals could see that the writing on the wall was going to push under all their beliefs plans for a liberal world. Powerful leaders in all countries first organized themselves within their own territories and then extended their hands to liberals in other countries. The hope was to quell the surge of believers that the only way out was the conservative way, and that meant destroying the foreign craft before it had a chance to wield its influence on our planet.

This frenzied activity was taking place all over the world and it was only with the contact made by the alien spacecraft that things ground to a halt.

The first reaction was panic! Where to go, how to escape, what to expect! And while some started to leave the large cities, others, like some rodents, unable to move while facing a snake, froze in terror and awaited what fate would bring them. People could only wait to see what the outcome would be, for there was no place to run to nor seek shelter and safety. For once, there was only you and some terrifying force whose pleasure or displeasure rested on unknowns.

CHAPTER FOUR

Up above, the four astronauts did not have too much time to wonder about what was happening or what would happen when they made their pass towards the Earth. Everyone was busy getting his experiments in order and preparing for the descent.

During rest times or exercise times, they did ask each other what the other thought the alien craft would do when they were ready to go. Speculation was high but all seemed to feel that without any aggressive moves made by the alien craft that perhaps they would be able to descend as planned. Sometimes, the air was lightened by Ben, the crew clown with some of his pointed jokes. They needed to have some sort of relief valve and Ben's irreverent jokes and asides brought the needed relief.

Thoughts of home and loved ones was uppermost in the minds since they had been unable to communicate with Earth. Questioning the Commander was no more revealing as to the status of things so that they no longer looked for answers from Commander Nelson.

"I just passed my house Ben quipped. Here we are, some 220 miles from my back porch, I could spit and hit the roof but it seems like we are a million miles away and even though we are restricted to not communicating, we could at least be told what is happening down there."

Connie asked, "Do you think they have some kind of plan – I don't mean about getting us home but what will happen next as far as the aliens are concerned?"

"John, what do your plants say? Do they seem to be at peace with everything. I remember reading (I was quite young then) that plants can sense when there is tension in the air."

"No", replied John. "My peas are keeping quiet but they are in good shape so I think that may be a good sign."

"I'm not sure, but I think I overheard the Skipper say something about "Where did that idea come from?" when he was talking with Houston. So, there must be some kind of plan afoot. It bothers me though that although we are here facing the "who knows what" we are not privy to anything that is being planned."

Connie spoke, "Tomorrow is our re-entry date. Has anyone noticed anything with the space craft? What do you think they will do, seeing us wave goodbye? Well, we start re-entry procedures at 06:00, that's less than 5 hours away. I don't think we will have long to know. I'm going to try to get in forty winks, I may need it. Don't forget to wake me up if something happens. Well, goodnight, guys."

Since no one required Connie's services as medical officer or Robotic Arm expert, she was the one person who had little to do. After about 3 hours of twisting and turning, there suddenly was seen a wobble in the alien craft, with one half of the clamshell body lifting itself from the other. An intense light illuminated the Orion 1 spacecraft and the crew jumped to attention.

Commander Nelson got on the phone and tried contacting Houston but discovered that an extremely powerful electric field prevented any phone emissions. Nelson immediately got the crew together to tell them that he could not get through.

"I'm going to open radio communication back to Earth from each of your stations in the hope that one of us can get through." Said Commander Nelson. "If not, we continue to check out systems in preparation for our descent. Any questions?"

CHAPTER FIVE

Then the strangest thing happened. Suddenly, the intercom system crackled loudly and a voice not quite mechanical but also not human said.

"We know of your re-entry plans and of everything that is happening on Earth. We know about the meetings your President has been having and what was being discussed.

Also, the novel and naïve way you are planning to communicate with us. You can cancel the flight with the message on the end of the new space craft.

We will be sending you two magnetic spheres that your Earth brothers can use to communicate with us. It does not matter what country or what language you use, we will both understand and be able to talk with you. In a short time, you will hear two objects striking your spacecraft and will be held there by a magnetic force until we break the field. The two metal spheres are to be delivered to your President and we will instruct him as to what to do.

By the way, you Earthlings are a remarkable people. You seem not to have any moral or ethical principles at all. We especially enjoyed hearing your Conservative Senator explain that you should bomb us over China since he felt that there would be some trouble there in the future and any fallout would descend on the Chinese people.

As to your bombing us, your puny A bombs and H bombs are just that. Puny! Each of the two metal spheres we are attaching to your spacecraft are 1000 times more powerful than your Roadrunner computer with its 1026 petaflop/5 speed and power. So save yourself the trouble. You will discover that we are a peaceful planet and have evolved for more than 100,000 years more than you. We achieved our peaceful ways by eliminating everything that did not follow the laws of peaceful living. In that way, we are like Nature which does not have a sense of compassion, only a sense of what will permit the continuation of the species as the mores to follow. The one thing what we disdain most is arrogance, of which you seem to have a surfeit, but I do not think your arrogance will have us back down. Just to assure you that you

will lose any battle you intend to wager, we will black out the cities of Washington, D.C. and New York City for 48 hours.

We are permitting your spacecraft to re-enter your atmosphere to safely return to your base. You shall receive the 2 metal spheres so that we can continue communicating. And as you so glibly say, Over and Out."

CHAPTER SIX

As soon as Commander Nelson heard the "Over and out" at the end of the alien message, he immediately called Houston. This time, he was able to get through.

"Houston, this is Orion 1 calling, over"

"Orion 1, we are receiving you, over".

"Houston, we have received a message from GLIESE 518g and send transcription for you to read. We don't know whether you will be able to receive message so we have made a copy of the message to be read to you as soon as we land. Houston, there are some critical points made in the message so just in case you do not receive the transcription, we will read these special points to you, now.

First, we must be prudent in our suggestions concerning attacking the craft with A and H bombs. The spacecraft has warned us that if any attempt is made by using atom or hydrogen bombs, as has been discussed, they will deal harshly with us. They called the bombs puny. They seem to know about all the conversations held by the President and his staff; what we are saying to each other here and that they are going to attach two special spheres that we are to deliver to the President. Supposedly, they can communicate with any country using the specific language of that country.

I offer a personal opinion here and that is that they know exactly what we have discussed, and therefore I would recommend caution.

The spacecraft claims that each of the two small spheres that they are attaching to our vehicle are 1000 times more powerful and faster than our 1026 petaflop/5 computer. Could you check out the 1026 computer to know where a thousand times faster and more powerful computer would leave us?

To stress their point, we were informed that both New York City and Washington D.C. would experience a 48 hour black out. Over. "

"Orion 1, we read you loud and clear. We shall inform the special Presidential meeting of what you have reported. Good Luck on the re-entry and we look forward to seeing you soon. Over and Out."

Fortunately, Houston was able to contact the Presidential meeting and informed the President of all that was said. Houston indicated that it would hold a special meeting with the rest of the world leaders to keep them apprised of what had been taking place and to be prepared to meet at some agreed upon location when they were contacted.

Reports of the alien spacecraft had been leaked. Some believed they could safely tell their wives even though they were sworn to secrecy. Of course, no person is not going to not prepare his or her family of some impending doom. As a consequence, word appeared on special news programs and newspapers about an imminent invasion. And of course, people started to panic. Automobiles, loaded with personal belongings started to pour into the rural parts of the land hoping that they would escape the punishment the large cities would receive.

Throughout all this, the President was trying to maintain calm and at the same time, arrange a worldwide meeting to discuss the options.

Some third world countries raised their voices in protest. Why was an American satellite flying around in space? Now that the Americans had induced other planets to come investigate, who was going to suffer? The nations with all the technology or those countries which had little or non-existing economies? They would be the ones to suffer for the vicious greed of the few.

People massed in huge groups holding placards and bull horns denouncing the United States in the hopes that those creatures poised above would know that the greater part of humanity would be the ones to suffer; that they were not responsible in any way.

The real truth for many of the protesters would come when the two large cities o New York and Washington D.C. were blacked out for 48 hours. This was surely the end of everything and people did not make merry as though this was to be the last fling. No, it was not like Carnival which was the beginning of Lent, of fasting and repent, of one last fling no, this was serious. A sense of dread spread over the population and many parents paid less attention to their children. Pets were ignored and left unfed. A grey malaise spread over the people and not even the sunshine was a relief. People flocked to the churches, made religious vows, sat sullen or cried for relief. But no relief was in sight. Finally, anger replaced depression, a scapegoat must be found; sacrifice must be offered to appease this apparently non-feeling god who was poised there ready to destroy. Big Business offices were sacked, there was a great frenzy to attack those who the public felt were responsible for the incurring of this wrath. Luxury automobiles were smashed, beautiful homes in exclusive neighbor hoods were broken into and stripped of their furnishings. The police could not be marshaled together to stop this obscene behavior since many of the police themselves privately blamed this group of "have's". It was, in one sense, the final equalization that the poor felt was a long time in coming. It was the eye of Moloch poised above them and all because of the corruption of those who were pushing the

Earth to ruin to satisfy their greed. Yes, all were being punished for those, who even though they were unworthy, received the best jobs, knew of and benefitted from the opportunities, that only they were aware of. It was that group who decided the way a nation would vote, they who were the candidates, they, they – it was always they that would come out unscathed, while the little person, the poor person was always the one to suffer in the end and left with the few crumbs that the "haves" so magnanimously left them. Adding insult to injury, the few crumbs left to the poor were always given with the unspoken admonition, "you really don't deserve this, but we are tolerant and not greedy, as you are".

When the reality did take place and the two cities were blacked out, it was thought; we can bear the inconvenience of two days. But, the people were not prepared for the fact that electric generators would not operate, nor would any battery driven device. Anything that had to do with electric pulse and magnetism was affected.

Hospitals that would normally switch on to generated electrical sources found that they were without power. Critical patients has to be carried by horse driven carts when they could be found since even automobiles could not be driven. Many patients who could not do without equipment driven by electricity died.

The people set up a clamor of discontent. Automobile tires were set ablaze to offer both light and disturbances and there was a feeling of morbidity, fear and anger, which ran through the minds of the people. The National Guard was called out, but without transportation or radio or other types of communication, they were for all purposes, ineffectual.

Radio, news and television commentators around the world spread the word of horror and the people in the other countries, unknowing and helpless, destabilized the atmosphere of tragic fear even more.

The leaders of the countries of the world reported to each other and made hasty plans to meet to see how they could appease these conquerors. But, where to meet, how to arrange for interpreters and stenographers to write down the thoughts and agreed to methods of continuing were a nightmare of logistics?

Finally, when the Orion 1 spacecraft did reach Houston, the two communication devices attached to the spacecraft were released. They were delivered immediately to the President who had flown to Houston to meet the spacecraft and its cargo. Upon receiving the two spheres, the message from the alien spacecraft was heard. The spheres dictated that the President should gather all the heads of the countries that comprised the Earth to learn the message that was to be given to them. The President was told that no nation need bring interpreters and that each nation would be able to speak in its own language to communicate with all the other nations and be understood. Each nation was told to turn on radios, TV, computers, any listening device they had and that each nation would be spoken to in its own language.

Each nation's leader was told that the meeting was to take place over three days and that each leader was to provide himself with food, and supplies for the extent of the meeting.

It was agreed that the meeting would take place in the United Nations Building. Hurried preparations were made to meet the exigencies of the meeting; local hotels were to prepare for the leaders and people already in the hotels were moved out under emergency conditions.

When the 48 hour blackout was finally over, a people, already beaten down and ready to accept whatever punishment it was to receive, prayed fervently that they would not be treated too harshly. What had we done? We had never threatened these new conquerors. We did not even know they existed!

Part 2

The beginning of the meeting between the alien craft and the Earth began on the day of the new moon. Why the date of the new moon? Was it co-incidence or calculated? What was it supposed to mean? Speculation ran rampant. The best minds tried to unlock the meaning of the new moon with the new conquest. Actually, no one knew.

CHAPTER SEVEN

At the commencement of the meeting, all ears, eyes and minds were focused on what was to be something of utmost importance to the Earth. Recording devices, transmitters, computers, all were plugged in waiting.

Suddenly, in a sibilant voice, the spheres translated the message:

You will know us by your own name for us, G L I E S E 518 g. We lie within the constellation LIBRA some 20.5 light years away. You discovered our star on the 4th of April in 2007. Since that first sighting of our star. We have been watching you and learning about you. It was not our intension to visit your planet but we had what you call a "Glitch" in our computer and we found ourselves in your atmosphere. Since we were so close, we decided to stay for a short time to examine what you are, who you are, what creatures live on your surface and mostly, to discover how you think.

You have surprised us greatly. Not only are you in the beginning stages of destroying your planet but we were astounded at what a fast rate you are destroying yourselves.

We had a similar experience. We also were on the way to extinction. It would not have mattered much if we did cease to exist because there are many other planets that support life as we know it but also life as opposed to our life.

We have always felt that we were the "Chosen People" as some of you believe yourselves to be; that all other forms of life, different from ours were to be used for our needs, whatever they might be. We recognized only ourselves as being superior with the right to rule and conquer. We abused other forms of life and we were ignorant, barbaric and arrogant. You also are ignorant and barbaric. But you are even more arrogant than we were.

Fortunately, there were some among us who were intelligent and patient. When all was crashing down around us, they had the strength and the gift to lead us out of the quagmire we had created for ourselves.

We started to convert ourselves in a slow but patient manner. We considered all the things that were worrisome and troublesome and that were leading us to commit mass suicide.

Perhaps the most important thing we discovered was that of all the layers of life on our planet, the position in the layering is superficial. Being on the top layer does not mean that those in that place are superior, only different. When you layer life and existence, there must always be a top and a bottom. Our fundamental error was that we felt we were the "chosen ones", and were meant to rule over all other life forms. We had overlooked and ignored that the planet was a special floating body in space, total in its conception and governed by the faith of a creative force which gave us what we had and were. We were not the "chosen ones", we were only a part of the whole—never, THE whole.

We also looked hard at what you call Nature. Before we existed in our present form, our planet existed and was the recipient of other forms of life and the resultant changes that came about with the passing of time. Some went on to fulfill their special niche while others simply waited until change could convert them from one form to another. Change is not the same for all creatures. Some creatures change very fast and become other than what we observe. Other creatures evolve slowly. Each aspect of life must be given its time to change in a natural way. Understanding this, we attempted to be like other creatures. We would find our sustenance in the same way as they did, that is, we would let nature provide for us. Any creature of Nature must "work" to provide itself with food. Most of what you call "animals, birds and insects" on your planet do just that. Their time is taken up seeking sustenance. That is their term for work. Granting that our species is more advanced in development, we use some of our advanced development in the growing or storing of food.

Using that logic, we would also be subject to the same abundance, harshness and scarcity, G L I E S E 518 g provides each of its creatures. Yes, we could store foods when there was a time of abundance the same as some creatures do, but we would also be subject to the stresses that come when one follows nature. If there were enough food, only those capable of providing for themselves would survive. For you see, there was also the problem of overpopulation. So

those creatures among us who could not or were not capable of finding sustenance in either what they stored or could find were left to the vagaries of nature. Nature does not have either a conscience or pity. Those creatures unable to pass on to their progeny the necessities for survival must consequently give way to those who can provide for themselves and their offspring. Therefore, we work in a different way. All food is grown either individually or collectively. Since there is no pay or money system, we consume what we have all collectively produced. As we need it. Our work consists of growing the food, others process the food or make it suitable for products and then some of us prepare some of the foods which is then distributed to all. However, if you do not work, you will face Nature's solutions, i.e., you will not survive.

It is the same with crime. In order to weed out the combative, non-participatory, rule breaking element in our nature, we act in the same way as Nature, i.e. we do not permit the creature whose disruptive nature makes it difficult to live in our society. In that way, we continue lowering our population and improve the quality of our race. Eliminating the social misfits also means we do not have incarceration, nor buildings nor guards to watch the misfit. When I use the word, misfit, what I am saying is that the harmony for all must be the societies concern. All the effort we would have expended on keeping our society safe is now allocated to projects that will help us as a Nation. Everyone feels safe, there is no danger in the streets or places where we walk and the notion of fear is unknown. Our children do not know fear or aggression and their lives are better for it.

In your liberal society, you place the emphasis is on curing, for us the emphasis is on removing. Again, in the way that Nature resolves problems. We have all but eliminated the aggressive genes in our make-up.

I keep emphasizing population. It was the cause of practically all of our problems. More children meant the need for more food, more products, more infrastructure, more medical facilities, more transportation and simply more of everything. Since we love our children very much, (we are aware that they are our continuation on our Planet, we pay special attention as to how they are raised, how they are educated, how they are nourished, and how they are kept in good health in body and mind.

In our society, we have generally agreed to go through 2 passes. By that I mean that the average age during 1 pass is 100 years, more or less the same as you here on Earth. However, most of your later years are spent in vegetating. You cease being productive in your mid sixties. For us, we reach the plateau of sixty in full command of ALL our body functions. How we achieve that is that we have developed electro/magnetic machines that are capable of scanning with the entire spectrum of rays and wavelengths the entire body.

We first are scanned at your comparable age of twelve. In the first scan, every organ of the body, including the brain is measured, it's shape noted, it's intake and output of blood, it's color, density and mass. All are archived in the individual's file on health. The scanners, are set up in a small building where each group of people live. Every year, which is 13 Earth days, we

pass through the scanners. It is a requirement strictly adhered to by the entire settlement. Each 13 days, the scan will reveal whether or not any organ of the body has experienced change in any way what so ever. If a change is noted, the individual is further examined in a more thorough way at our hospital. In that way, any difference in the organ is treated at the earliest change and we are able to treat and cure any disease or organic illness before it has a chance to interrupt the functioning of the organ and consequently effect any additional organs. We remain disease free for all of our first pass. During this time, the individuals are gaining experience, understanding and wisdom which the two can then pass on to their progeny during their second pass through of life, usually at 125 years to 150 years. This keeps our population down and our health up. It also permits the individuals to raise their offspring in a more comprehensive way. We have noticed that you, here on Earth, often permit children of 14 or 15 years of age to raise and prepare their children for life. What can a child of 14 or 15 know about the raising of children? Each of our child raising parents raises two children, to replace themselves

For what would be an unhappy subject for you, here on Earth, we also believe that the 200 years that one is allotted to live, we feel that in that period, each individual will have had enough time to experience their potential in life. We understand that we each have our limitations and that to simply continue to exist would make us "takers" and not "givers". If we do find some outstanding individual, we petition them to go through an additional pass or even two to take advantage of their gift of knowledge, understanding or genius. Normally, the individual who has made two passes is willing to submit to a painless euthanasia procedure.

We of the Planet G L I E S E 518g, also follow nature in that we remain where we are born. As a result, we do not need transportation systems suited for each individual. For us, mass transit suffices and the many roadways, parkways and traffic systems you use take up much too much of the land. Since most of our cities or villages are the same, we see no need to travel to see what we already have. Again, I must repeat, the creatures of our Planet remain within certain territories with the exception of birds and some insects, which must migrate to raise their young. So our remaining in the areas in which we were born are more in Nature's way, in other words, we do with what we need to live our lives. Our excitement comes in contemplation and enjoyment of what "life" really is. We sense joy with the whole of our being and do not need unnecessary stimuli as do you. You say that only you, can appreciate what life is. We would argue that you miss most of what LIFE is by trying to escape with different forms of diversion. Just think of the word diversion, it signifies anything that distracts away from the reality of things.

The concept of "no growth" is foreign to your culture. You of this Planet Earth believe that progress only comes with the growth of your factories and businesses. You believe that the accumulation of useless growth is the answer to solving your problems of employment, production and the many other fictitious beliefs you harbor. No enterprise can conceivably

report that it has experienced "no growth". That company or business would be considered a failure. Yet, you think nothing of the profanation of the Earth in your scramble to mine, extract, drill, and take from the Earth that which you feel is your inherent right. You rape and you accept the congratulations of your fellow rapists when you make profit. You have only now, concentrated on a very small program of recycling. In order to bring your economies to full growth, you return money to your citizens so that they can purchase goods which would then require your manufacturers and developers to seek even more raw materials. You do everything only for the profit you can reap and you pollute and destroy at a rate that is not only incredible but also profane. The few among you who espouse the "Let's see what we are doing to our homeland", are considered enemies of industry and growth instead of the voice of concern.

WE WATCHED OUR PLANET AS IT STARTED TO DIE JUST AS YOU ARE DOING NOW!!!!

Now, I shall tell you what we did. Are we happy, are our lives better you might ask? Do we live less stressful lives, healthier lives both physically and mentally? These are questions you must ask and evaluate for yourselves. Again, we have no interest in your planet nor in your inhabitants. We are remaining here for a short while to see what our planet experienced at the hands of our leaders at that time.

We will neither leave you our secrets or discoveries since you must create your own and not depend on ours. You know that we have more than 100,000 years in development; things you cannot even imagine. We only know that you are arrogant but we feel that you will have time to change - if you do so in a short time, and then perhaps, you will remain a part of the Universe.

We know and knew of your plans to bomb us out of existence even as you mentioned them. You must be made aware that although we are a peaceful species, we will brook no threats. We have eliminated all that was contrary to our rules on our Planet and you may be assured that we will settle the problems that are facing you in a manner that shows no pity or compassion. Remember, we know what each of you says and thinks as it is happening within your minds and brains. Once you have attempted to annihilate us, you will be finished.

But back to our explanation as to how and what we did. After we had reached the point of no return and discovered that there was nothing we could do to reverse the adverse changes on our Planet, we also faced the fact that these changes were a result of an optimism based on the false idea that we would be able to reverse the many changes that we had caused. Some of these changes were so minute, or so we thought, that we gave them no credence when the few among us foretold the calamity that was sure to come. You see, we too were arrogant- perhaps even as you are. We had the answers to all the questions except we did not see how vulnerable we were in the face of the mighty Universe.

When we started to realize that many of our inhabitants were dying off, we finally sat down with our wisest inhabitants to discuss and act on what we were being shown. It was going to mean not only a change in our way of doing things but more so in the philosophy of our thinking. When one has everything, it is very difficult to change your thinking on what is important to you and to then have the conviction that you would agree to those changes, no matter how drastic.

Yes, we had debates and debates, and warlike bands trying to destroy whatever we could agree to, but even those roving destructors could see the fallacies of their reluctance to change. We simply had no choice.

After much debate by our greatest, most trusted minds, it was finally decided that we must start from the single, simple premise.

WE MUST FOLLOW NATURE'S WAY WITHOUT DEVIATION.

That was to be our war cry. Whenever there was a question, it was always resolved with "What was the way Nature had intended us to survive. We simply observed the other species of our Planet to see how they resolved the problems of survival. Once survival was assured, we could adjust to take into account the gifts of intelligence that would make our living easier. But, it was always to be based on Nature's example.

Some of our ways were harsh, just as Nature is harsh. Nature has no pity nor does it have clemency. Anything that goes away from improving whatever the species is, must be destroyed or to satisfy your sensitivities, is not permitted to survive and increase. That was to be our policy – without change.

Among our first challenges was the population problem. We held, as it appears you hold, that there is to be no ruling on how many newborn we bring into our lives. So in order to satisfy the dictum that whatever is against Nature, one must eliminate, we felt that overburdening our resources and food required that we have many fewer newborn.

It was then that we decided by general agreement, that any person could have two successions – that is, that each person could opt for a life span of 200 years. During the first 100 years, each couple would be required to refrain from having offspring. As I mentioned earlier, the first span of 100 years was to prepare the parents to gain the experience of properly raising and caring for their offspring. Not only did we hold down our population but we could also carefully gauge the balances between food, space and resources necessary to keep us in harmony with our environment.

Returning to the two passes we have on our Planet to live life; we have all agreed that at the end of that period, we willingly submit to a painless euthanasia, much as many of your people did in past times such as your Eskimos and the Spartans of Greece who practiced a passive type of euthanasia by placing their newborn on mountain tops to ascertain that they could survive. For us, active euthanasia is considered a happy way to end your existence on the Planet.

Since the question of food would be uppermost in most minds, we agreed to again follow the dictates of Nature. Each species, as it now exists, even on your Planet, (excepting of course yourselves) partakes of the food the Planet presents them with. Seeds, plants and flesh are required by each specie according to its makeup. All food then, requires just the taking, and the work required is either the search for or hunt to acquire that food. As our species relied on systems such as you have today, we required a means for obtaining the "goods or foods". We, as you now have, developed a system of trade for tokens (money I believe you call it). We discovered that the system of using tokens exempted too many of our inhabitants from the actual work. These (shall we call them opportunists) opted for growth while their only function was to accumulate profit without the benefit of labor on their parts. These "Middle men" were corrupt and were a profanation on the lives of the many. They simply acquired more and more and gave back little, if at all. Profit, excessive growth, utilization and waste of raw materials with no one to hold them to account for the degradation they caused.

You, today, have no businesses that are not dedicated to growth. You literally rape the land and the sea and the raw materials below the ground to keep your growth constant. Once you have despoiled your own land, you despoil the lands of other nations all with the altruistic notion that you are giving jobs and food to nations that cannot keep up with the highly developed countries of your world. You seek to exploit smaller, poorer nations by pushing your high profit commodities on them. You attempt to energize and make poorer countries desire the output of your factories and services so that you can sell more, expand more, destroy more in raw materials.

Right now, if you could see what your inhabited areas, your cities, your towns, your industry have done to the surface of the Earth you would see what you have done as a giant scab, infesting the natural aspects of your Planet. All this, you call progress and civilization! What you call progress is what has brought you to the sorry state you in which you find yourselves. There are those who deny your destructive ways because they only see growth and profit as the positive aspects of your life. However, you will learn or be forced to concede that your "way" will lead to your disappearance. And do you know what, your disappearance from this Planet will not have mattered at all, because you make up one small aspect of that Planet. The other forms of life will, with time, evolve as is their natures and you will be nothing more than the latter day dinosaurs.

For us, the balance between species was of utmost importance. We first started by eliminating our arrogant ways of considering ourselves supreme. Yes we were on the top of the species chain but we simply never realized that when there are more than one species occupying a Planet, there must always be a top and a middle and a bottom. It does not mean that there is a hierarchal position if one is below or above. It simply means one starts and stops without the starter or the finisher being either superior or inferior.

For thousands of years, we on our Planet have not mined the elements we need. Our recycling started when we decided to change our ways of living. No article, no matter what the

material is ever "thrown away", it is always recycled. Our mines are literally non- existent except for the newly discovered raw materials that we are using. We recycle everything that we use. All things are returned to the soil in the form of fertilizer for our plants, our water for irrigation and even the gases we breath. Nothing we use or discard is not used again and again.

I cannot give you minute detail on what our life is like but I can explain some of the broad outlines which might be of interest to you.

We have eliminated the use of other creatures to do our work. No animal or creature is part of our work force. We have advanced too much to consider the labor of other creatures as either necessary or just. Therefore, without the need to have creatures to do our burdensome work, we have none and the particular creature is left to exist as all other creatures. There are no giant herds of creatures which we cultivate for food.

Our food, along with the food we gather and plant is a carefully planned, balanced product we can survive on without problems. To us, it is suited to our tastes and is nutritionally sound and provides all the requirements for our needs. We too utilize roots, seeds, nuts, fruits and other flora as you do.

We have eliminated the individual source of travel. All our travel and shipping is done by mass transit or transport. We have reclaimed all the roads and transportation centers not necessary and have returned the land to Nature. Our energy sources are from our Red Star (like your Sun), our winds, our seas and any natural flow of energy that we can tap into.

Since we remain mostly in our places of birth and work, we have no need to have grand highways. Our inhabitants do not have the desire to visit other places since practically all developed places are the same. We travel only when there is dire necessity to do so. I am receiving waves which ask, "Isn't that boring?" Our answer is again, look to Nature, its creatures remain in the environments that can best provide that creature the maximum of protection and food. Perhaps, one day you will learn that. Your created need to travel is geared on earning more money, and as another source of business. Again, all is for profit, not necessarily for living, and certainly your efforts to create desires to travel in your people cannot be other than the creation of haves and have-nots, another form of dichotomous social engineering; a division of upper and lower, or a sense of superior and inferior beings.

In your pseudo sophisticated thinking, your initial thoughts upon learning that there was a other planet spacecraft in your atmosphere was to destroy it. There was only very slight interest in contacting that spacecraft for friendly reasons. In many ways, you are facing life-threatening dangers because of your anthropogenic arrogance. Not all life threatening processes are reversible.

Our communication skills are way in advance of yours. As you can understand, while we are communicating this message to you in your language, every country and language is receiving the same message in their own idiom. Also, all you need do is think what you want to say, and the message comes to us directly. Because of this "gift", we had to forsake something

else and that was our audible voice has atrophied so that all communication is done by tuning in to the brain wave activity and by use of our superior computerized components, we can separate out each thought even though the thoughts are myriad. We receive the subtleties and inflections, the sense in which the thoughts were formed and the truth in which they are thought. It is fairly formidable as a point of communication and one finds that one hardly ever tells lies.

Since we have no interest in your planet but simply curiosity, we shall not try to offer you any advice on the problems we encountered when we made our transition. Simply put, you will have to find your own solutions as we did. Some will take a great deal of effort and even more time than one can think for we all find it difficult to change our mode of living and our beliefs. But if intelligence prevails, eventually you will find your particular answer. We found it was always going back to the basic notion of Nature to guide us. Perhaps you will too.

When we depart, the powerful computers we left in your possession are programmed to self destruct so you will not be able to trace or understand their workings but you will be aware that possibilities exist that you have as yet never imagined.

Although we are more than 20.5 light years from your universe, we shall leave you with one idea. To date, our discoveries have always resulted in the basic fact that there are always two facets to every force. While we speak of 20.5 light years, there is considerable difference when one travels through black holes since most of the galaxies are inter-connected. You should have your astronomers think about that aspect. Other than that, we offer you the challenge of defining your position with regards to the damage you are creating in your world and the intelligent solving of the problems you have created.

With that, a large static sound was heard and the two small computers that were left to humanity self-destructed.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Part 3

Utter confusion and surprise overtook the planet Earth. People, after hearing and understanding what was being said to them looked at each other in disbelief. "Did what we just witnessed and heard really occur? Was it some advanced scientific achievement by the United States or Russia or China? It seemed that each of us was being called upon to solve the problems we find ourselves confronting. Some of us are greatly affected some less, yet in the end, we are all touched by the phenomenon taking place."

NASA was bombarded with questions. which it simply could not answer. NASA was advised by the intelligence agency not to divulge any information what so ever until some logical thinking took place and the world's powers could give answers.

News, television, computers, and any- and-all sources of communication clamored for information to bring to their listeners or viewers but they too were left without information.

It was about 4 or 5 months after the episode of the communication from the alien spacecraft that the first small signs were noticed. At first, there was too much confusion and the topic of conversation all over the world was the message from the spacecraft. However, after that short period, people became a little more uncertain and introspective. It was not unusual to see people of all countries searching the skies as though frightened that some apparition would appear.

Students were the first to indicate signs of uneasiness and loss of interest. Many students after being sent to schools simply met in groups in parks or out of the way places. There were the few who faked bravado, especially if young girls were part of the group but in general all discussions were related to the spacecraft; as to what it meant, who were the inhabitants, from which planet, and of course, what would the resultant circumstances be. Youth in general wanted to do away with anything that interfered with the environment but they still wanted the newest cell phone or computer. The attitude of loss of interest was not great but one could sense the questioning of youth as to what was the use of studying as long as the uncertainty remained.

Many of the youths displayed placards of protest as to what group they were against. The logical groups were the bankers, the miners of coal, iron, aluminum and minerals, the loggers, and the armament manufacturers. The young protesters eschewed the news media, television, radio and newspapers as being tied in with the giant economic consortiums. Instead, they relied most exclusively on cell phones, YouTube, twitter, and Facebook. Using these programs, they could rely on the information that was coming from their own groups and not information changed or manipulated to conform to the Government's policies. Still, many of the young wanted to be part of the movement for change. Unfortunately, their interest waned just as it does today when they are bored or can find another cause to create disorder.

Governments, concerned with the divergent opinions from the young and left leaning Liberals started to show alarm at the unruliness of the opposition and the signs of anarchy that was being displayed.

Proposals were sought from all branches of learning that might help. Psychiatrists were engaged to study the problems and offer solutions. Many of the psychiatrists felt that a great part of the unrest was that we were still within the doldrums of winter and enthused that many of the problems would disappear with the bettering of the weather.

There were many signs, some very subtle, of small changes taking place. What was frightening was that these changes were taking place all over the world. It was not groups of

people opposed to some country or policy as it usually is but discontent with government that was not attempting to solve the problems they were facing.

As the months went by, groups, opposed to big business started marching around the headquarters of these businesses. Executives were named and their places of residence threatened including their families.

To counter this danger, police were called in and privately hired forces were called into protect life and property. Many executives, under the pressure of violence, sent their families to safer areas and they themselves sought places to conduct business away from their own Headquarters. The results were a deterioration of their businesses and the loss of jobs for many of their people.

The consequences were like a line of dominoes. Every disturbance created others, affected jobs, output of product, reduced sales and a general softening of whatever the business had built so that one business toppled upon the other and affected the totality.

What was most disturbing was the destruction of law and order. Just as in catastrophic events such as hurricanes or floods, a large part of the population take advantage of the lack of law and discipline and engage in looting, arson and other law breaking activities, anarchic groups started to emerge. Often the firebrand leaders of religious breakout groups fanned the fires of discontent and found large followings. To offset the emergence of the anarchic groups many communities organized vigilante groups to compensate for the lack of law and order forces.

When National Guard troops were called in to quell some hotspot of activity, many of the troops themselves were sympathetic and refrained from promoting law and order.

While all this was happening, there was a rise in hospital attendance because of an extreme increase in depressive illnesses and insomnia. Tensions from the lack of order brought more illnesses and exaggerated others. While all this was happening, drug use, used to dispel the anxieties increased everywhere. Interestingly, studies on female fecundity dropped alarmingly and fewer and fewer babies were being conceived and born.

Concomitant with everything else, the economy of the world was suffering. Materials and products from one society were often cancelled, or not paid for at delivery and spoilable foodstuffs rotted in the warehouses and piers. No country escaped the loss of business and the eventual drop in the GDP. Money was not sought from the banks and expansion all but stopped in building and commerce. There was no future.

An interesting phenomenon that was taking place, was that the Real Estate business noted a heavy increase in people seeking to buy or rent properties in the under populated areas of the world - forests, desert areas, mountains that were practically inaccessible became the focus of many of the requests. There were still some people who hoped that fleeing to unpopulated areas would assure them some safety.

Weapons, especially rifles became the weapon of choice for people fleeing. Knockdown shelters, food supplies that were non decaying or long lasting and water extraction devices were

suddenly sold off the shelves. Everything needed for (it was hoped) a few years of survival until the madness wore itself out.

In many countries, bands or tribes of rebellious nature, stalked the streets and demanded protection money from businesses. They were practically free to do as they wished since there were not enough law enforcement personnel to prevent the tribes from doing "business". It was another form of Mafia.

Some leaders in other countries used the mass disorder to foment nationalism and selected the groups they wanted to overthrow as the scapegoats. There almost seemed to be a glee in breaking the laws and the rules. Women were at the mercy of rapists who knew they would never be prosecuted or punished for their acts and so the women stayed hidden in their homes.

CHAPTER NINE

Part 4

Within these troubled times, Howard Horii, his wife Chizu and their two children, Jiro his son and Hisa, his daughter tried using Japanese stoic to continue to live what might be considered a "normal" life.

Howard, an architect was the chief designer of an international architectural office. At one time, the office could not handle all the commissions it received but with the difficulties of the world, the firm was still working on plans for some farsighted client who thought he would build in the future when the life became "normal". His wife, Chizu, was graphic designer in her own firm.

The children, 16 and 18 were just entering the university and the gentle, quiet life was serene and ordered. The high degree of intelligence of the parents was passed on to the children and because the family was Japanese, they were socially exempted from many activities involving groups. The notion that intolerance and discrimination no longer existed was of course false and while the family was aware of the intolerance, they faced it with objectivity and friendliness and intelligence.

Howard's grandfather was one of the Japanese detainees when the United States was attacked on December 5, 1941. In 1942, the Government, acting under the fears and suspicions that anyone with a Japanese background or ancestry was highly suspect and capable of inflicting damage in the form of spying and sabotage. The result was that many thousands of Japanese Americans were committed to the camps. In those days, fear and panic were part of the paranoia that inflicted itself on the people. There were daily false reports of Japanese submarines offshore

on the Los Angeles coast and civilian patrols, flashlights in hand, scoured the seas and beaches. Anyone resembling an Asiatic was suspect and when calmer voices tried to quell the panic, they were answered with, "They are Japs and look what the Japs did to us in Hawaii. I wouldn't trust one any farther than I could throw one."

Later, when the realization of the errors committed and the shame of acting on impulse, was proclaimed, the Japanese, released from their imprisonment undertook an approach that was more a quiet dignity than an angry, fierce, position of reproach. This, of course, did not lessen their feelings of silent resentment and was a further proof that the "white man" was not as altruistic as he purported to be.

It was just prior to the "spaceship" events, that Howard and Chizu discussed the possibilities of introducing Jiro and Hisa to their Japanese culture. Howard and Chizu felt that their time away from their heritage was put to good use but there was the draw of spirit and pride, as well as the continuance of family that strongly impelled them to consider the move. Howard could find work as an architectural designer and hopefully, open his own office in time. As for Chizu, she had cousins that were well connected and she too was sure that some position was possible.

As far as the children, they had the basic education and more importantly, the English language as an advantage and now, it was felt they should learn Japanese and understand the Japanese culture. As it was, both youngsters always felt the slight restraint that their American friends had with them.

But foremost in the minds of Howard and Chizu was the desire to refocus on their Japanese origins and to re-integrate into the Japanese society. They both hoped for Japanese mates for their children and Japanese grandchildren. Too many of their Japanese American friends had children that were marrying into the Caucasian race.

Just at about the time that the Horii's decision was finally agreed to, the event of Gliese 518 C had occurred. Howard had put his apartment up for sale and it had been decided that as soon as the school term ended, Chizu would travel to Japan with the youngsters and stay with her aunt in Yokuska. Yokuska was not too far from Tokyo and was within travel distance to Kyoto. The plan was to enroll the children in a Japanese/English school to enable them to make the transition from English to Japanese. In the meantime, Chizu would check out the possibilities for finding work and ascertain what the market was for Howard's skills. As soon as Howard was able to sell the apartment in San Francisco, he would join the family in Japan. For both the children and Howard would be the difficult task of learning Japanese. Chizu, who was born in Japan had some recollection since she was almost five years old when her mother and father travelled to San Francisco to permanently take up residence. Meanwhile she would be sharpening her use of the language and would be teaching her children as well.

Now, just at the time they had planned to leave, the occurrences made them stop short to re-evaluate the decisions they had made. For one thing, the real estate market died. No one had

the certainty of what would be happening and so it was a rarity to find someone buying a property. Secondly, the banks were reluctant to lend money since they could not be sure if they would have their loans repaid.

This then was the climate of the entire world. The violence, the hopelessness, the anger against those who in the minds of the masses were responsible for the conflict, those who had all the advantages, those who received all the benefits were in the minds of the masses those who were responsible.

This thinking which also provided a scapegoat for the troubles was an outlet where people could vent their fears, frustrations and revenge that had festered so long in their minds. The immediate "enemy" were those who were different. The Germans of the Nazi era were now too dispersed to discover since they were Caucasians and had intermarried so that group was more or less ignored. But, the Oriental, those who bombed our country in the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, they could be identified. Hiding behind their quiet ways, they were the ones partly responsible for our having to maintain enormous concentrations of troops and other war equipment at the ready. And now, the Chinese were also on the horizon as aggressors who would threaten our way of life. So it was easy to focus the hate and blame on those one could accuse and point out and feel justified in attacking them as well.

This phenomenon was taking place, not only in the United States, but in every country where groups of citizens under the thumbs of politicians or the wealthy felt justified in settling the scores that general citizenry had to put up with since time could remember.

Anarchism, on a world scale, replete with terrorism was led by various fractious groups, each with their own ax to grind against whatever part of society they hated.

At first, Howard and his family, ignored the slurred remarks made audible to them but at a distance. While the remarks hurt, the Horii's reasoned that with no one to blame, they, the Asians were being earmarked because of some hidden anger and mostly because they were different.

Soon after however, Howard had Jiro, his son, accompany Hisa, his daughter to and from school. With all the indigent young men and women, avoiding classes, the truants needed something to sustain their reasons for not attending schools. Later, the heckles became louder and more aggressive and finally, Jiro had to tell Howard that it was necessary to seek the help of understanding adults to escape the hoards.

As an immediate solution, Howard had to hire a car and a driver to take the children to school, but after a short while, the costs were too high and the delivering of his children to school had to be abandoned. Chizu, more than Howard had hard words for what was happening. She muttered, "yes, "One Nation, Indivisible ,With Liberty and Justice for All". If it were not so tragic, I would laugh. Words, all words, is that all there is?"

The Horii's spent time looking for an apartment in the Japanese and Chinese sections of the city. They were met with the same tales of hoodlums and racists who threatened the residents and the businesses unless "protection" money was paid. Worse still was the reluctance of the Chinese and Japanese communities to unite. They too, it seemed had their own scores to settle with each other.

Howard and Chizu discussed settling in cities where there were only small populations of Asians but reasoned that there too they would be the butt of antagonism and hatred. Finally, Howard suggested that Chizu and the two children would have to move to Japan. It was part of their original plan so in effect, they were doing what they had planned all along.

Howard would have to remain to protect their apartment and hopefully, be able to sell the property even if it was going to be at a loss. But they both agreed, there was no logic to staying in what might become a calamitous situation that could cause bodily harm to themselves and their children.

Fortunately, like most Asians, the savings of the Horii's would hold them over for a while and so the problem of solvency was mitigated, at least for a while.

After stoic displays of serious affection Chizu and the children boarded the plane for Japan. Howard and Chizu promised each other that they would be in contact twice a day by email and that the youngsters would also write so as to keep the integrity of the family. This was to be understood as a temporary situation with the hopes that "things" would get back to normal. But in the minds of each, "normal" could no longer be counted on since the entire world was now threatened. Values, long hidden within the hearts would now come into play if some sense of order was to prevail.

CHAPTER TEN

Some 18 months had passed after the original encounter with G 1 i e s e 518 C. Most, if not all countries made some plan and worked through the United Nations since the plans required funds to see them realized. No small nation could make the preparations necessary and in one way, the world was brought closer together. Law and order trickled back and the bands of anarchical threat were starting to become weaker with the return of some law and order.

People, while still frightened, started to put their lives back in order. It was very slow at first but one could see that improvement in the national thinking was making progressive. Businesses started to offer services again and the return to basic living was revived. While the attitude was positive, there was a healthy dose of caution as well.

There was a marked difference between the different races. After having been exposed to what was felt the real feeling for each other, the reserve was now stronger. You did not sense the false tolerance that existed before and perhaps you could say there was an "honest response

to the way people felt". It seems we live by slogans and sayings and then congratulate ourselves for being tolerant. Bigotry was only a word you accused others of being, it was never part of your makeup. Oh no!

Eight months passed and Chizu reported that economic conditions were responding very slowly. The laggard economy was simply not moving. Jobs were almost at a standstill and her inquiries as to architectural work for Howard were just about nil. As for herself, she was able to get a job in an office because of connections but as far as her profession was concerned, nothing. She was relying more and more on her relatives and without their apartment, she seriously doubted she could hold out too much longer.

The only positive thing was that Jiro and Hise were doing well in school. Jiro, the linguist of the family was doing so well that when his friends came over, the conversation did not reveal any hesitancy when Jiro was talking. Both children enjoyed school, had made many friends and both expressed a genuine interest in their backgrounds. Hise especially enjoyed the cultural and historic aspects of Japan. Mother and daughter went often to performances of Noh theatre and Hise was making the first attempts to write Haiku poetry. She was particularly impressed with the XVII century poetry of Matsuo Basho. Her natural inclination towards things creative eased her into the many cultural heritages that she inherited from her forebears.

Howard's office had many adjustments to make. More than 2/3 of the staff was let off since there was no work. Howard was kept on because of his success with the firm but even he often felt that paydays on Friday would bring bad tidings with his earnings. He simply could not be sure of what the next week would bring. He tried to convey some of this to Chizu but always attempted to soften the reality and tried to appear as optimistic as possible. Nothing was happening with the apartment and Howard, on the advice of his realtor, lowered the price for the third time. It would take time and even more, a change in outlook for the world – something that in the hearts of people they could not truly feel.

The emails between Howard and Chizu attempted to bolster the spirit of each but after receiving some of Howard's emails, Chizu felt a stab of pain. You could use words of encouragement but they could not hide the spirit's depression from each other. The intervals between emails went from weekly contacts to one every month or two. The news was never encouraging from either of them.

Eventually, the expected notice to Howard that the firm could no longer carry him came. The office's work was almost nil now and the two principals decided that they would handle the work themselves. Howard was taken to dinner and assured that as soon as things broke, the office would be in touch with him as early as could possible. A dejected Howard put off informing Chizu with the hopes that he would be able to find another job soon.

Howard's inability to sell or even rent the apartment was now becoming critical as he still had to pay taxes and had to maintain the apartment. The apartment was starting to become the

burden of Sisyphus to him. Just when Howard thought he had a sale or a rental, the hope became a weight and failed to come to fruition and everything had to start again.

For Chizu too, the news was bad. This shift in the world's thinking and optimism was just that, world- wide. Every country felt the resistance of business to expand and consequently the economies of each country was under pressure to somehow float until the tide changed. After a while, Howard did not mention any prospective sale or rental; the experiences of failure were too much and too often and he did not want to bring false hope to Chizu.

Jiro and Hise, especially Jiro were also changing. The disciplined, good characters, the willingness to study and excel were starting to crumble, especially in Jiro, who with his new friends could not withstand the changes brought about by the weakly supervised youngsters and they too started to drift. For Jiro, stories of Japans past with its emphasis on the warrior Samurai culture, Japanese nationalism was attracting his and his friends attention. Jiro had suggested that he would be interested in joining the Japanese military academy as a candidate for officer. Chizu, not wanting to alarm Howard never mentioned Jiro's request and it was hoped that he would be interested in pursuing a career that was more stable.

Fortunately Hise still preserved her good upbringing and she remained a joy to her parents.

It was more than five years now since the world was informed of the dangers from outside our universe. There was somehow, a wanting to forget and a desire to start moving; to take up again where we left off. Committees on planning for the future were still operating but now they had almost become so ineffectual that people simply alluded to them as the United Nations Protocols. The plans were only discussed in the U.N. and even the most staid newspapers gave them very little space. Whenever the discussion for "what to do" came up, the leaders always turned the problem over to another committee in the U.N. and in that way, convinced the people that the problem was being worked on. The politicians, quite frankly, had no solutions that were viable. They simply did not know what to do.

In this way 20 years passed. The new generation heard of Gliese but it had no more impact on them than the events of Pearl Harbor, Hiroshima or the Nazi takeover in Europe. Soon, even the people of the world had to take hold of the reins and start the optimistic push that was present before Gliese.

Congress returned, year after year, its emphasis on getting re-elected and/or having a majority in government. The Pork Barrel add-ons to each bill buried the world's concerns with the promise of work and prosperity. But change, if any, was tortuously slow. This depressed, timid approach was taken on by all governments; everybody was included and one country could not prevent any other country from falling apart.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

With the passing of time, strange statistical happenings were taking place. For reasons probably ingrained by their parents and/or the general knowledge of the Gliese event, women were holding off on their reproductive duties and desires. For the first time in 25 years, the birth rate was actually going down and not only in the wealthy countries but also in the poorest countries. These poor countries generally had many more children since so many died and did not live to maturity. The result was that maternity hospitals and personnel connected to maternity duties suddenly had extra space in the hospitals and personnel. This space was made available to other illnesses and the practitioners shifted to treating other sicknesses.

Day care facilities, kindergartens, and elementary schools suddenly became available to more students and concomitant classes were smaller. Bus service to drive the young to school became surplus materiel and businesses and manufacturers, catering to the young had to diversify to continue in business and the list went on and on.

At first there was a cry of alarm, especially from manufactures and providers of all the needs of young children. Many of the smaller companies simply went out of business or changed into other kinds of companies. Also, the feeling was that there would be too few people to buy goods, to manufacture, to ship and to sell. The claim was that the decrease in fertility would weaken an already soft economy.

Women were encouraged to have more children. They were told that more companies could provide better, healthier products and foods for their infants and so on. However, even though not visible, the dark cloud of "what will the future be for my children?" was predominant. Fewer jobs were available and this too was a large factor in the decisions to have smaller families. The fact that the entire world was thinking in this way had a strong effect on population.

After a while, the effects of a smaller population began to be noticed in a more forceful way. Military men, those involved in war and peace keeping felt the strain of a diminished source of manpower for their armies and navies and sounded the alarm that each country was in danger of being invaded or overtaken by another country. Along with the military, businesses warned of fewer jobs and agriculture pressured the people into believing that the farmers would be producing less if there was no one to purchase their products.

People were frightened and for a short while, more babies were being born. When the population started to rise again, it was seen that we were using our resources too quickly with no way to replace them. Again, the forces for population reduction won the minds of the populace and the double dip fall/rise/fall took dominance; but not for long for now people had too much separating them from the sighting of Gliese (more than 30 years had intervened) and the threats were less viable in the minds of the many.

"Why are we trying to follow the ways of Nature? We are not birds or squirrels. Finding sustenance in those primitive ways belies the fact that we have progressed since the time that that type of subsistence was necessary." We need more than worms, insects and nuts than our feathered and furry friends. We also need stimulation, experience, discovery and exploration in our lives. Besides, why live for two hundred years when there is nothing more than existing or hunting for seeds and nuts? The Gliese way was their way of solving their problems. And yes, we are aware of the problems we have but we will find ways of solving those problems through technology."

The clamor for growth, population, and business was loudest in the under-developed countries. As it was, returning to the "normal, population growth would add about 150,000 people per day or 54,000,000 people per year. The economy needed those people to re-establish itself if growth was to continue. Growth brought the need for new ideas and new solutions to the problems we confronted, so excluding growth only created more problems.

"Using the Gliese model will keep us in same state of under- development as we were. Only those countries with already developed technologies will retain the lead and we will be left the same." Thus, the shifting back and forth settled itself in retaining the model and actions of the world before Gliese. Besides, the threats and fears of either invasion or un-resolvable problems of the environment were almost forgotten, especially by the young.

CHAPTER TWELVE

With so much time intervening since the Horii's separate living. The longer the interval of time of living apart, the more difficult it was to rejoin the family. Howard had not had any success in selling their apartment and after losing his well paying job, he had to do much maneuvering to stay afloat. It was not that he enjoyed being alone but he honestly felt a great burden was lifted from his shoulders since he had only to make decisions for himself. This was a first time experience for Howard and he felt a certain kind of relief. Besides, he reasoned, I am getting on in years; how am I going to find a suitable job in Japan? What do I do about the language? He and Chizu had discussed the possibility of Howard's studying Japanese in a private school but Howard's job required him to spend odd hours at work when there was a rush to make a presentation to a client. After a while, the need to study was buried under the pressures of selling the apartment and then with finding another job. After a period of time had elapsed, the talk of moving to Japan was less frequent and both parts of the family grew and

lived within the strained circumstances. The children now no longer asked when their father would be coming, they simply saw themselves as an altered unit from before.

Taking Howard Horii as an example, one could see the deleterious effects Gliese had on the population. In Howard's case, his family had to maneuver in such a way that the order and structure of his family life was fractured. Howard was not alone, for others, while the cases might not be the same, also suffered upsets in their normal lives.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Ever since the contact between Gliese and the earth, one very important disclosure had not been made known except to an important very few persons.

At the time of the broadcasts made by Gliese to the world, an obscure but very talented electro-physicist, George Vermokowitz had been studying the ways in which either one or both of the powerful computers used by Gliese could be retained here on earth for further study. After thinking about the matter, he resolved that in some of his esoteric experiments, he could enclose the instrument he was studying in a very thick layer of lead and molybdenum and still have it operate but which at the same time could not be affected by outside influences. When the time came for the two powerful computers to self-destruct, only one of the devices destroyed itself. The other computer, unknown to the crew of the Gliese space craft, remained in the hands of the United States. The device was studied in secret by only a select few physicists to try to unlock the secrets of its power. After more than 30 years, the complexity of the device still gave no clue as to how it worked.

Tests were made by using the recorded voices used by the Gliese computers when they "talked" to the entire world. It was hoped that perhaps vibrations would partially activate the computer the earth had been able to salvage.

Quantum mechanics theorists like Edward Witten and Michio Keku examined the possibilities of the findings of the "String Theory" and "M-Theory" physics could bring some answers. The Theory of Everything" where M = matrix, mother, mystery were taken as a possible answer to the many questions that needed to be answered.

The only thing the physicists learned was something, mentioned by the "voice of Gliese" and that was that they, the Gliesens discovered that there were always two poles, or opposite forces whether they be electrical, physical, or chemical. It was this principle that the physicists started using to unravel the deciphering of the small, powerful computer. Progress was being

made but there was still a great deal to learn. The laboratory was hidden in a mountain laboratory, deep within the mountain and could only be reached by helicopter.

Countless times over the years, the original crew on Orion 1 were interviewed to see if any scrap of information was overlooked in their report and the crew was questioned in minute detail about the alien spacecraft to ascertain that no detail was overlooked. They had even asked (Ben Adams who had been in space doing repairs) whether any smell or odor was emitted when he returned to the Orion 1 spacecraft. Of course, any odor would only be detected after the spacesuit was safely aboard their spaceship. The thought was that perhaps there were residual pheromones that could be detected. Every avenue of possibility was taken and examined.

Connie, in her chat with her spacecraft crewmembers laughingly told the crew that when one of the questions asked was the question of smelling something from the spacesuit. "I don't know about you, but the only odor I remember is the constant odor of "outgassing", nothing, but nothing stays in my mind as much as that and you Ben were the "outgassingest of all".

In some of the debriefings, the crew members were questioned separately and in others the entire crew responded to see if anything could bring a forgotten recollection. These meetings took place sometimes twice a year and the crew, even though separated by now and retired were able to keep up a friendly relationship with each other. They often remarked on the changes in they noticed and the impact their meeting of Gliese had on the world. Quite often, since they were the only humans to actually see the Gliese craft, they were treated as very special people.

"Not bad to be recognized for only looking at something" said Ben Adams. You know, with the exposure in the public's eye, I am seriously thinking of writing a book."

"The book will never sell" said Connie. "No one wants to read a book that is all formulas, computations, and scientific observations. I've seen some of your reports", she joked. "It would have to be a book with some elements of romance, and if memory is something important in our lives, you would only be remembered by one thing Ben, and I won't mention it again".

"Seriously though," Commander Nelson retorted, "we can say that our experience changed the world. I don't know where we will go from here but our adventure was a world mover."

Even though the 4 person crew was tiny, the effects on them and the entire NASA crew plus those special few who were informed of the secret retrieval of one of the computers were affected and certainly the world in general that heard the voices of Gliese 518 g would never be the same again.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

Senator Dan Manningham became an unknown now that his scheme for destroying the aliens was shown to be a sure way for the destruction of our planet. His campaign stopped in its tracks and he disappeared from government importance.

Gradually, the habits of old took charge and we continued to do damage to our environment. But there was change! In accordance with our actions of the past, every new decision that could impact on the environment was considered, each decision carefully weighed and the resulting possible damage lessoned or averted. Perhaps our most important discovery was the fact that we are responsible for everything that happens. (outside of course, a meteor or other heavenly body crashing into our planet) But at least, the entire world was privy to the information and the underdeveloped countries could apply pressure on the more developed nations to avoid measures that would have an effect on all of them. In that way, the world advanced slowly but always steadily toward adopting measures that were thought out and less invasive. We had fewer children because quite frankly, it cost us money to have too many. Slowly but steadily, we prevailed upon our manufacturers to study ways to give us what we wanted but with systems that would hurt us less in health even though they would cost us more economically.

When we voted, we voted not simply on what we wanted but how we would be leaving the world to our grandchildren. We emphasized these values to our children so that they would continue and improve what we were leaving them. We were not going to let the world die. We had been given fair warning and we would respond.

YOU MAY COUNT ON IT!!

THE END

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