

Dan Sherman Space Guardian

All Worlds

Book Two

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Chapter 11.

I wake up in a place exactly the same as the one on the Astral World! Grenwer is here, ‘am I on the Physical or the Astral?’

‘You are now in the physical body of a Tourgen!’ I rise from the table and walk around the room, I look at myself through a mirror, I don’t need clothes as the private parts of Tourgen’s are hidden inside the body for protection. My skin is thick enough to stop a knife-attack by humans but is still vulnerable, Grenwer advised me to put on a protective suit that is widely used on Terick.3, it can repel most weapons but not the blasters which the security-forces use, although they usually used the stun weapon first. (It is the same gun but on a different setting.) The population have weapons of all kinds such as blasters. Another thing to watch out for are the Ancrons, they are a dog-like creature who are very dangerous, they can kill most beings with ease.

‘How big are they?’ I asked.

‘They look like Hyenas but are twice as big,’

‘Why don’t they get rid of these things?’

‘The government doesn’t care, these types of creatures do them a favour by creating fear.’

‘How do I protect myself from them?’

‘They know they will get respect if they kill something bigger and stronger than themselves but don’t worry about them as they are in a special isolated area.’

‘So, the government, such as it is, doesn’t bother about getting rid of these creatures as they are keeping down the evil population, and creating fear. Is there anything else I should know about?’

‘There is one other very dangerous creature called the Vennam, but you won’t need to worry about them as they are also isolated in a special area. There are other animals but not many, as most have been killed by other life-forms which have been brought here by aliens.

‘What about Karma?’

‘Yes, you will have to kill other life-forms, but your Karma will be balanced out by helping to save numerous worlds from destruction.’

‘Do you really believe that could happen?’

‘Kallo had the container with enough material to destroy whatever world it came into contact with or galaxy, once it spreads there is no telling where it would go and no stopping it, once it is set free and expanded through fabrication machines that will be the beginning of the end. It is my belief that Kallo will try to use his influence in the Far-Station worlds to transport the deadly

material to most, or all, of the higher conscious planets. I think he wants to make himself Ruler of the known Universe!’

‘What about the Astral-Worlds, they will still exist won’t they?’

‘How can they? Without the physical worlds the spiritual worlds have no function.’

‘Can’t they transfer to another plane of existence?’

‘If Kallo destroys most of the higher physical planets, souls on the inner-planes would not be able to reincarnate fast enough.’

I think about Elaine and John and how life used to be so simple.

I can’t get it through my ugly tiger striped head that the future of the Universe depends on me.

‘You must get to Sionn! Only he can tell us when Kallo will strike. You have the abilities, you have the power, and you have the knowledge but don’t let that be your downfall. You will have to act stupid and aggressive most of the time, as Tourgen’s do. You also have exceptional eyesight which may help you locate Sionn. When you do find him, he will know what to do as you have been given information he will need.

‘Do you mean the mind probe?’

‘Yes, he will touch you behind the head and retrieve it.

You know, Dan, he isn’t in his light suit, and he will be in another body.’

‘What? How will I know him?’

Of course, I shouldn’t have said that, I will know him by thought, won’t I?’

‘Yes, he will lead you but you have to concentrate, you haven’t got your sense of Higher-Consciousness as you had before, so please be aware. You will be transferred onto a prison ship where you...’

‘Hold on a minute! What do you mean a prison ship?’

‘Yes, we have to make it seem as though you are a dangerous convict.’

‘How will be able to find Sionn if I’m in a prison cell?’

‘You are only convicted of a relatively minor law.’

‘What’s that? Killing thirty Ancron’s?’

‘No, you are accused of smashing up a government official’s house on Jennan 4, a planet within a short light-distance of Far-Station.’

‘Wait a minute, how come I did this if I’ve only been in existence a short time.’

‘We managed to acquire the body shortly after the crime and secrete it here to Terick 3 where we cloned another body. This is the one which you now have. The other body is in suspension at the moment.’

‘Well, this body is now very hungry! I hope I can get the mission over quickly as I suspect this body uses a lot of calories. Grenwer doesn’t usually laugh, I know that, but even he has to smile.

Chapter 12-Far-Station

‘Please, Dan, be very careful and believe you will succeed, please sit down.’

He looked into my eyes. Then, holding my head with his two hands he then closed his eyes. I know he is trying to give me some sort of protection. Over the last few days, and I suppose it has only been a few days, although with travelling to the Andromeda Galaxy who knows what time it is? All I know is I have grown very fond of these ‘Defenders of the Universe.’

You will be taken to a holding place while they access your crime and punishment,’

‘What did you say, my punishment?’

‘It will only be a flogging or something minor like being left chained to a scaffold while the locals throw stuff at you.

‘What stuff?’

‘It is usually excrement or rubbish. Please don’t resist or you will be given a harsher punishment.’

‘Will I be wearing my protective suit?’

‘No, you will be naked,’

‘Thanks a lot.’

‘You will be perfectly alright as long as they don’t throw anything harmful.’

‘What about the Ancrons?’

‘Don’t worry, they won’t be allowed to come near. Don’t forget to act animalistic and stupid. We have monitored the area, as best we can, through our agents and no one suspects anything. We believe Kallo is near but we don’t know where, he must have technology that is highly prized or a very good cloaking system.’

‘What if Kallo has, like you say, higher technology, surely he would catch on to this scam of ours!’

‘No, I told you, he has gone beyond the lower states of consciousness, he won’t know.’

‘I hope you are right.’

‘There is a hotel near to the place where you will be punished; it is called ‘The Dead Tourgen.’

‘What?’

‘Yes, one of the ancestors of the body you are in went berserk and killed many people some decades ago. He was killed by the Bourin, so they thought, but he wasn’t dead. He got up and slew many more.’

‘So, the locals might be a little against Tourgens’ I said.

‘One more thing, be sure you don’t over stretch yourself physically, as your strength is more than your body can take; you might pull your arms out of their sockets.’

‘Why didn’t you just let me go in there as a human-being?’

‘You wouldn’t have lasted more than a day. The Bourin are vicious, they won’t give you any chance to negotiate or any form of agreement.’

‘What about a weapon, surely I need something to protect myself.’

‘Reeas will have some; there will be many such things available there,’

‘One more thing,’ I said, ‘how do I get to area 96?’

‘You will have to go by the road; it is not very good as the whole system isn’t repaired very often, also the population like to stage death games. They ride up to other road users and try to smash them with anything they can use as a weapon apart from guns, that is thought to be cowardly.’

‘Oh, no, not more lunacy,’

‘Just be aware of it. You will also have to acquire transport. Motor tricycles are large and powerful and built to withstand a lot of hard use, you won’t need any sort of licence for the transport, things like that are not needed as people don’t matter, they are left to get rid of each other in any way they can. Area 96 is some three-hundred miles from the hotel, when you get there make your way to the local park where you will meet Reeas at 1,300 hours on the seven-hundred and fourth day. Today is the seven-hundred and second day.’

‘What month would that be?’

‘There are no months at Far-Station, the days are just days. There are one thousand days in a time span, so they just say seven-o-four or seven-o-five.’

‘What about the seasons?’

‘There are no seasons.’

My God, I thought, let me get away from this place as soon as I can.

I know I am going to be in for a very rough time. I just hope I can stand up to it. No wonder Kallo picked this place to hide out. No one in their right minds would come anywhere near it. I know Grenwer hasn't told me everything about the evils in this place as it might over load my mind with panic. All I can do is trust in Grenwer and Sionn. I know he is still in existence and waiting to unlock the secret of my mind. I just had to go through Hell to get to him.

From now on Grenwer had to stay behind. I am led by more than thirty guards who are requested by radio. We leave the holding area. The security people are dressed in some sort of protective-suit and are very muscular, maybe they are clones, in fact, I'm sure they are. They can, I'm sure, beat the tar out of most people, but I know I can kill the lot of them quite easily. I am wearing restraints around my wrists and ankles, I know I can break these if I wanted to, but, as Grenwer said, I might injure myself. Just take it easy, Dan, or Cloft, buddy. I thought, use the yoga technique you used years ago, deep breathing, and mental contemplation. So, they are going to lash you, and throw some crap at you, so what, I know I can break free, but I know that would ruin everything.

We reach the boarding place for the shuttle to Far-Station. There is an assortment of people or beings, who, I would be hard pressed to even dream of. There is such a difference in body type. There are many human type people with differences in facial appearance and in size but I am the only Tourgen. I am also the largest although not the tallest and I know, as they did, that I am the most feared. As you students know by now, my face is enough to put anybody off, with my red and yellow streaked eyeballs which can turn to gold when I get angry, and my two-inch fangs, anyone would be put off.

We had our own shuttle. I don't suppose people want to travel with a large beast type man who looked like a cross between an eight feet Tiger-Werewolf. I notice a lot of the people waiting were also in custody with security guards; maybe some had hired security to guard them. One thing is sure; the job of security guard will always be needed here.

We enter the shuttle. I am told to sit down on a seat which isn't big enough for me, the head guard with his arm band which reads Captain seemed to take a liking to my discomfort but would not make eye contact with me. In fact, not one of the guards will. I can sense their fear, their hands are near their blasters, and some are already holding them. We lifted off and slotted into the air route to Junction-43. The trip will only take a short time as Terick-3 is in the same solar system as Far-Station.

Now I know what you students out there are saying:

‘What are you doing? How can you hope to find someone who is in a maximum-security fortress, and you don't even know what he looks like? You are in the body of a large beast type man, and you are going to get flogged into the bargain. Oh, and there are thirty-five armed guards restraining you.’

All I can say is, I trust Sionn and Grenwer and I have to do my best. I am a Trainee-Guardian, and as such, I work for the universal good, like you do, my friends.

‘OK big guy, this is the end of your journey and probably your life!’

‘What’ I said.

‘Yeah, you will be lucky to survive the flogging by the Bourin executioner, he uses a chain to lash the hell out of you, Ha, you poor ugly bastard.’

I get to my feet in an instant. The reaction is instantaneous panic. I get hit by three blasters set on stun; I went down like a ton of bricks in an enormous sack.

I wake up in the Astral World; in fact, I am in my own bed with my wife stroking my brow.

‘Don’t worry, you will survive the attack, please trust in the Guardians.’ I look around and there is my son, staring at me. ‘You can do anything, Dad, you’re like a superhero but just for now act like a super softie and it will save your life!’ I wake up with a throbbing headache, and a lack of use in my left arm and leg.

‘You’re not so big now, eh, fella.’

I know I have to act stupid and weak. I lay there looking at them with my cat type eyes, even that makes them uneasy. I can sense the feeling coming back into my limbs, also I know it has made me even stronger, I don’t know what has happened but I know I have to be careful of injuring myself. I am too strong even for this body. I have enough strength to squash a steel plate with my two fingers, but it will also squash my bones.

‘Out!’

It is the chief guard. I pretend to limp out of the shuttle, but in reality, I can jump fifty yards if I want to, and I want to. I want to smash everything in a mile radius.

‘In,’ shouted the same guard. An open top vehicle with a cage around it is parked nearby. I get in, but I have to squeeze into it, I feel claustrophobic, I never liked to be in small places when I was a teacher so I guess the fear stems from there. The other guards got into a large bus type vehicle nearby while two more sat at the front of my vehicle. The panic is now setting in, I feel like smashing the cage to pieces which I can do with ease, but the guards will kill me. I had to squat down and hold myself in check. Just a short time and I will be free. It takes an agonizing three hours to get to the place of punishment. It is a large courtyard with a surrounding wall and a tall steel fence with ugly spikes on top. There are cages all over the place, they are stacked outside and inside with a collection of life forms in them; some are obviously dead, some had been there a long time and were stinking!

What the Hell have I let myself in for? All I can think of is my son saying you’re like a Superhero Dad! When I came out of my nice day dream, I notice some prehistoric birdlike creatures pecking at the corpses in the cages, also rats as big as cats running about between the bars; they sure are a successful species, I suppose you can’t really improve on them no matter what planet you’re on. What am I thinking! I have to get myself together.

‘Hey, you, Tourgen, you are to be dealt with right away. We don’t want the risk of you escaping, you are to be flogged by chain until dead. The execution will be long and painful’

‘Wait a minute!’ I shouted, it is supposed to be a punishment and then I’m to be freed!’

‘No’ shouted the guard. The order has just come through, you are too dangerous.

My mind is in uproar, how come Grenwer didn’t know? Or is this some sort of plan. Was I deliberately not told? I now had to think of some way to get out of this hell hole.

Right, they think I’m stupid and easily killed, well I’ll show them, and to hell with the karma.

‘Out,’ shouted the guard.

I squeeze myself out of the cage bending the metal bars of the door doing it. I can see more than twenty guards of different shapes and sizes standing about.

‘Move,’ the head guard said. I can see the executioner about fifty yards away standing on a sort of scaffold in the middle of the area. I notice people are gathering on seats that are being placed around the area. Surely that can’t be for me?

‘You’re the star of the show today.’ said the chief guard. ‘Whenever a Tourgen gets flogged, it’s a special occasion.’

I can see there are dozens of different alien types of people, most are cruel looking but all are humanoid in appearance. The guard said ‘They know it will take ages and be cruel. That is what the people want and so we won’t disappoint them, will we?’ As we approached the scaffold, I can see the executioner is a large troll-like creature known as the Bourin. He is about fifteen feet tall and about sixty stone. If I stand a chance it has to be before he strikes with the chain.

‘Get on the scaffold,’ the head guard said. I start to climb up. The Bourin said ‘I’m going to enjoy this.’

The smell coming from his mouth is terrible, worse than anything on Earth!

‘I’m going to cut you down to the bone first and then I’ll start to smash your face. I know it will take a long time, that is why I like to execute Tourgens, It gives me a good workout.’

He fastened me into a metal loop in the floor of the scaffold. I notice there is no cage around the scaffold, maybe they think there is no place to run to or, simply that, there are too many guards, another thing I notice is that most of the guards have their weapons holstered.

‘If you believe in any sort of God, now is the time to pray,’ the security chief said. In fact, I did pray a little, for them!

As I kneel down, I grasp the chains that are around my wrists, I know I can break them easily, the question is, will I be quick enough to stop the guards. The Bourin said, ‘Right, Man-Beast I will cut your suit off first, and then I’m going to start.’ As he took out a large knife from his belt, I pull at the chains; they brake easily, with one swoop I bring the chains and the metal loop around hitting the Troll in the face killing him instantly, I then break the chains around my ankles. In the next instant, with speed that even stuns me, I jump down and onto two of the guards, one being the head guard, smashing their heads together and killing them. I then grab one of their weapons. The other guards are staring in stunned silence, I don’t have time to look whether it is on stun or kill, I just fire, luckily for them, it is on stun, they are out before they can think, I look around, there is panic everywhere. I scan the area for any more guards, but they must have got the message, all I can think of is escape, I look for an exit, I notice a figure on the wall above the area waving to me, I at once, know it is Reeas, the female Tourgen, I run as fast as I can and jump the twenty feet wall easily. ‘Come,’ she said. I know if I am really a Tourgen, and I suppose I am, I could love someone like Reeas, she is unusually attractive for a Beast-Woman, but I suppose it is the beast in me coming out, she said she has a transport a short distance away, she also said we can’t go to the hotel as the security people will be there once they find out about the incident. I said, ‘How did you know I would be given the death-penalty.’ she said she had contacts in high places. I thought, thank God, or rather, Sionn!’

Chapter 14-The Caves of Vennam

We arrive at the transport which is a motor tricycle, ‘You’ve hurt your arm,’ Reeas said.

‘Grenwer said I was too strong for this body, but it did the trick, never mind, we’ll take care of it later.’ She got on the bike and I sat behind her, I said, ‘are you sure this thing can carry us?’

‘Don’t worry, but we might have to worry about being chased, we’ll stand out like--.’

‘like couple of Beast People on a trike,’ I said, she looks at me; I can see she is fascinated by this beast that is able to converse in an intelligent way, which must be unusual, but it is also the same for me.

We set off at speed. Reeas said, ‘We will have to dump the trike and get another transport, one which we would be able to hide in.’ Reeas said, ‘We will park up and look around for suitable shelter.’

‘I notice there aren’t any other road users on this part of the highway,’

‘No, I deliberately brought us here; it is a forbidden place,’

‘What do you mean?’

‘It is the dwelling place of the Vennam.’

‘That doesn’t sound good, I was informed of them earlier, they are supposed to be in an isolated area!’

‘Yes, but the security forces would not come in here!’

‘OK,’ I said, ‘but what are the Vennam exactly?’

They are an alien race who can kill most beings with one touch.’

‘Oh, great’ I said! ‘How the hell do they manage to exist with other life forms?’

‘Don’t worry, they won’t come near us, they are afraid of us.’

‘Have you actually seen one?’

‘No, but I know what they look like, they are half-man and half-snake, the bottom half is snake,’

‘You mean they have no legs?’

‘Yes’ and their skin is dark blue in colour, also they are naked.’

Please, God, help us to get through this, I think to myself.

We rode for about two hours through a countryside that is desolate and featureless. Reeas then said. ‘Let’s make for a cave and hide out for a while.’ We hide the trike in undergrowth. Reeas took out a rucksack from the carrier which contained food and provisions. We then made our way to a mountain range to the Northwest. I asked her why we hadn’t seen any aircraft, she said, ‘They are banned, anything which is too technological isn’t allowed, apart from blasters.’

‘I suppose that’s lucky for us then?’

‘Yes, although they will still be looking for us, they also know there are two of us. It is now getting dark, I noticed that my eyesight is starting to improve, just like a cat; I can also see the Ancon’s stalking us.

‘Do you see what I see?’ I said to Reeas.

‘Yes. They won’t try anything yet, they know we can kill them quite easily, they will wait till later.’

We reached the Caves-of-Vennam. There are many caves, also many holes in the ground, some are very big and others are quite small. These holes are dotted all over the landscape as far as the eye can see. I don’t like the idea that there could be Vennam waiting down there. I said to Reeas these holes are probably interconnected. She said, ‘Yes, but we have to take a chance. We picked a cave and went in. I said, ‘Are you sure the Vennam are afraid of us?’ Reeas emptied the rucksack and looked at me. ‘Wouldn’t you be afraid of you?’ she said, smiling. There is food, water, medicine, also a knife, rope, bandages, a hacksaw and a blaster! I said, ‘Well done, Reeas. Why didn’t I keep hold of the blaster which I had at the area where I was to be executed!’

‘You know you can’t use the blaster on the Vennam, don’t you?’

‘Yes, I assumed so.’ I said, Reeas is smiling again. ‘Hold still and I will cut these chains off you.’ ‘No need.’ I said, I then took hold of the chains and simply pulled, they broke easily.

‘I might have difficulty getting the manacles off though?’ I could hurt myself; I am much too strong for this body.’

I am now pulling the links off one by one; Reeas said ‘You don’t need to impress me, I know how strong you are; hold still, I will cut the manacles off.’ I am feeling a little silly.

‘Sorry.’ I said, ‘I’m still in awe of this body,’

‘I know, they are very impressive, and the constitution of it is very robust,’

‘You mean they are easy to look after.’

‘Yes, also they don’t need much food or water.’

Once the manacles are off she gently rubbed some ointment into my wounds and put a bandage on them. I am really getting to like Reeas!

‘What is our plan now, Reeas?’

‘We will wait till the early hours then make our way to the transport stop at Quarter-Point, then we will break into a large truck and steal it.’

‘Wow,’ I said, ‘it sounds easy.’

‘I hope it will be. We had better get some rest for a few hours. I will take the first watch,’

‘No, let me, I don’t need rest.’

‘What do you mean, you don’t need rest?’

‘They gave me some sort of boost before I went into the body!’

‘Dan, I must say, you were really something to see back there!’

‘Thanks, but I think most of it was due to this body which is awesome, I feel I can take on anything.’ Reeas was now smiling at me.

‘We might have to before we are done.’

‘As long as I have you, I know I can do anything.’

‘What were you before you came here, Dan?’

‘Do you mean before I became a Man-Beast.’

‘Yes.’

‘I was a teacher on a planet called Earth.’

‘What did you teach?’

‘History, but all that pales into insignificance compared to what has happened since.’

‘What about you? Where do you come from?’

‘A planet called Erinon 5. It is in a triangle of Galaxies known as Zeta3. 1,500 light years away from here; our people are highly developed, technologically.’

‘What are you doing here then?’

‘I am a Trainee-Guardian, like you.’

‘What is your original physical form?’

‘I am human, as you are.’

‘How much do you know about me?’

‘Not a lot, as yet, but that is probably for security reasons. I have been here quite a while, so it was quite easy to develop my Higher Consciousness without the security forces knowing. They only monitor people coming in to Far-Station; they also don’t expect a Tourgen to have higher learning.’

‘You mean you didn’t look into the light book!’

‘No, I’m self-taught, also they can’t monitor me.’

‘That’s incredible! You’re the perfect spy. What did you do before you became a Tourgen?’

‘I was a physicist.’

‘What makes you stay here?’

‘I want to do all I can to improve life here.’

‘Very commendable, but it’s like hell.’

‘Yes, but there are people here who deserve better and I can always dream travel, in fact, if you will keep guard, I will report to Grenwer on the astral plane,’

‘OK, but please don’t be too long, this place gives me the creeps.’

‘OK, I will be as quick as I can.’

She went to a corner of the cave and settled down to sleep.

All I can do is look out at the wasteland that is Far-Station. The sky is deep red making the mountains in the distance look very menacing. The first sign that something is wrong is when I hear a sort of movement in the grass, and then I see something looking back at me from about twenty yards away, It is, sort of, sitting up, but way too tall for a normal man, and then I see it. It is on its tail. A Vennam! Without waiting it started to race over to me.

‘Where’s that blaster,’ I shouted. ‘Oh, God, no, I can’t use it.’ Before I can think, the creature is nearly on me. All I can grab is the chain that used to be on my wrists. As the Vennam comes into touching distance I side stepped it, then hit it behind the head with the chain and manacle. It is dead before it hits the cave wall. Reeas is now up and had the blaster pointed just in case. ‘I thought we couldn’t use the blaster,’ I said. Reeas looks at me. ‘I have it set on stun; but I doubt It would have worked on it. Maybe we should move on.’

‘I thought you said they were scared of us?’

‘They are supposed to be. Make very sure you don’t touch any part it. Let’s go.’

‘Did you manage to reach Grenwer?’

‘No, I didn’t have the time.’

I can’t resist looking at the creature on the cave floor, it is dark blue in colour with a face like a large lizard, the skin is also oozing a thick liquid, which is obviously poison.

We pack our stuff and carefully scan the outside before we stepped out of the cave. Reeas had the blaster ready just in case.

‘I’m sure glad you weren’t asleep, Dan.’

‘And I’m sure glad you’re here Reeas. You know, Reeas; the name of this body is Cloft, don’t you?’

‘I like Dan, better.’

Chapter 15-Quarter-Point

It is still dark as we make our way to Quarter-Point. My senses are tingling, but I can’t see anything that is aggressive. The animal life has been, more or less, eliminated by the Ancrons, and the Vennam. I think we have been fortunate not to meet any Ancrons, but sod’s law; there they are, about 50 yards away.

I said, ‘I thought they didn’t hunt in packs.’

‘Normally they don’t, but I think they know who we are. You know they are consciously aware, don’t you?’

‘Yes, but are they intelligent?’

‘No, of course not, but they can interact with each other, so we will have to be very careful. The stun feature won’t work on these creatures, so we’ll have to kill them, and we probably won’t be able to get them all before they reach us,’

‘You have the blaster, Reeas, and I will have the knife and chain.’ Before I can get the words out, they are on us. We stood back-to-back as the first one reached us, I hit it with the chain and

it fell dead. Reeas blasted two as they tried to grab her. The biggest one is eyeing me up, as it backed away from the blaster, it lunged at me grabbing the chain, I brought the knife in under its jaw and it exited through its head. The other dogs started to back off having now seen the carnage. If ever I need someone to watch my back it is Reeas. The power of this body is truly awesome. I thought the light suit was something special and it is, in fact, the light suit is invulnerable, but the feeling of power in this body is something extra! Reeas said, 'You really came through again, Dan.'

I said, 'And you, Reeas.'

'The Ancron's don't usually attack in numbers, but we saw them off!'

She touched my arm in a little gesture of affection. I smile, as best I can, in this tiger like face.

With all the excitement going on, we didn't notice the ring of Vennam surrounding us, and behind them more Ancrons!

'There is no way we can get out of this, Dan.'

Don't count us out yet, Reeas, just be still and wait till they come nearer. Which way is it to Quarter-Point?'

'Northwest.'

'Right, I suppose we can't shoot any Vennam?'

'No, the poison might spread over us.'

'OK, how are you at landing, Reeas?'

'What?'

'I'm going to jump us over this problem, I have enough strength to lift us about forty yards, but I don't want you to get injured when we land.'

'Don't worry about that, I will take my chances.'

'OK, I'll wait till they get within about twenty-feet, then you climb onto my back, then I'll jump. When we land turn around and blast as many Ancrons as you can.'

The Vennam are closing in, I can see the look on their faces, they are devoid of any emotion.

'Now,' I said. Reeas climbed onto my back. I summoned all my power and jumped. I am surprised at the distance we travel; it must be a hundred and fifty-feet, Reeas jumped off before we landed and rolled over several times, luckily, she is OK, I landed heavily but am also OK. The Ancron's are charging down on us, fast. Reeas changed the setting on the blaster to spread and aimed low, she blew the legs off two Ancron's and wounded a third. The second largest dog managed to come at me from the side I grabbed it by the neck as it jumped and then I held it up for the others to see before I killed it. That is enough for them! The Vennam must have been impressed also, as they just stayed put.

'I'm sure glad you brought that blaster, Reeas.'

'And I'm glad you have the extra strength, let's get out of here.'

We started to run, and I must admit, we could go pretty fast, there isn't much cover from the landscape, most of the land is desert and the occasional bush.

I said, 'how are we going to get near Quarter-Point?'

'We will find a place to hide out till later, and then break through the barrier and find a transport.'

After travelling about twelve miles, we came to some roughly built houses near the perimeter of Quarter-Point, we knew they were abandoned as there was no one around, but we still had to be careful as we entered the first one.

Reeas said, 'This used to be a village for travelling people years ago, but the Vennam and Ancrons drove them out.'

‘Why do the government put up with these evil beings?’

‘As long as the Vennam and Ancron’s are isolated where they are, they are tolerated. The Vennam can’t be killed with blasters, and we know that they are immune to any known poison, the only thing that can kill them is direct contact, such as what you did to one of them, also the Ancrons can kill one or two now and then, and eat them, as they have developed a tolerance for them over the years. There is no actual government as such; it’s more of a Mob-State!’

‘Well, what do the Vennam live on?’

‘They don’t need to eat very often, they are like snakes in that respect, but when they do, they usually eat the weakest of their kind!’

‘You mean they cannibalize their own people?’

‘Yes.’

‘How can a race of beings like the Vennam evolve into any sort of intelligent civilization?’

‘You haven’t studied the other planets throughout the Universe, have you?’

‘I haven’t had the time, as yet.’

‘Believe me there are far worse creatures than the Vennam out there!

Please God, help us, I thought.

‘Dan.’

‘What.’

Reeas said, ‘I didn’t say anything!’

‘No, I am up here,’ the voice said.

I am so shocked, I can’t think. Reeas said ‘What’s wrong?’

‘I heard a voice,’ It said, ‘up here.’

‘I can’t hear anything.’

‘She can’t hear me, just you!’

I can now see the owner of the voice; it is a small pixie like creature of about six inches in height with butterfly wings; it is sitting on one of the beams above us. Reeas, can by now, see it, and had the blaster at the ready.

‘Please don’t shoot! I am a friend.’

I tell Reeas to lower the blaster.

I said, ‘I can understand it.’

‘Actually, I’m a she; I’m called Deria.’

‘Will someone tell me what’s going on?’ Reeas said.

‘I can understand it; she says she is a friend, please be patient, and I will find out what she wants.’

‘How do you know my name?’

‘I have a message from Sionn!’

I am stunned!

Reeas said, ‘All I can hear is squeaking.’

‘Deria said, ‘You have the ability to understand me, Dan, you were chosen to look into the light book.’

Reeas will begin understand me in a short while.’

‘Yes, now I understand, Sionn said I would be able to understand other life forms. Where do you come from?’

‘Our planet is Sandora in the Galaxy of Sauteir. We were over-run by a cruel race of people known as the Cryons; they looked on us as pets, and transported us throughout the Universe.’

I can't get it through my brain what I am hearing from Deria. She said that Sionn is being held prisoner at the high security complex of Black-Wall in area eighteen at junction 50! When I told Reeas the info, even she looked stunned.

'How are we supposed to get in there? It is the most secure jail at Far-Station?'

'OK,' I said, 'let's take a break; I want you to keep guard while I report back to Grenwer.'

'Please don't be long.' Reeas replied. I found a dry corner of the building and am surprised to find that I go to sleep quite easily. Immediately I am in the same room that we shared on the astral planet of Terick 3.

Grenwer is staring at me. He said, 'Did you meet Reeas?'

I told him the story so far. After careful consideration he said. 'We are almost certain that Kallo still does not know about our plan. You have the information in your mind that Sionn needs to capture Kallo, and Sionn has the information that Kallo needs to destroy the Higher Worlds! If you were to be captured everything will be lost!'

'Why do you say that?'

'They would not use ordinary torture techniques on you, they would use mind probes of the cruellest kind, and that is probably what will be happening to Sionn right now!'

I am astonished. I said 'Why can't Sionn just kill himself and escape back to the Astral World!'

I know I have put my foot in it, again.

'I'm sorry,' I said, 'I can't think straight.'

'You're forgiven! You have been through a lot, and you have done well! Now is the time to act. When you get back go to the far right-hand corner of Quarter-Point; locate the building known as the Heavy-Mech section. you will have to break the door open, it is made of titanium and is reinforced but I know you will get through, once you are in ask Deria to get the key to the tunnelling machine. Deria will also be your guide to the security complex where Sionn is being held.'

'Do you mean we will tunnel right into the complex?'

'Yes.'

'Won't they expect something like this?'

'No, that is the thing; they will expect a more technological approach.'

'Yes, but guiding a tunnelling machine underground is, I suppose, technological, isn't it?'

'Yes, but we know they won't be able to pick any signs up from Deria as she is too high in consciousness.'

'What about Kallo? Will he not know?'

'We believe Kallo has lost a large portion of his higher self through being at Far-Station, that is why we must act fast to save Sionn before he is lost.' I didn't want to say it but I did.

'What if Sionn is lost?'

'Then you will have to kill your selves or die fighting to get back here.'

Not much of a happy ending, I thought.

I wake up with a jolt. Reeas is on guard, and Deria was still sitting on the beam. I related my story to them.

'We better wait till early morning so no one will be there, said Reeas.'

'There is no time to wait, according to Grenwer we have to go now!'

'OK, she said, but it's risky.'

'we'll have to take a chance on that, I'm hoping that if we get away with it, they will think it's only thieves.'

We ran across to the railings which I can see are strengthened as is everything at Far-Station. Reeas pulled at one railing and I pulled at the other, and we managed to make create a space big enough for us to get through. We didn't want to risk jumping over as we might be seen.

'The door won't be that easy,' Reeas said. I know she is right. It is still dark, and there isn't anyone around. We had to be careful as we made our way to the Heavy-Mech section.

'I will need some sort of tool to break open the door. Hold on a minute, what about the roof, maybe I could jump up there and break in.' Deria said she would fly up and look. Within a minute she was back. No luck, she said, it's heavy concrete. I'll fly around and check out the area, and try to locate something for you to use. I said to Reeas,

'We are lucky to have her.'

'Yes, Dan, I just hope we can see it through to the end.'

'I said, if you are here, I will be happy.' Reeas smiled.

Deria came back and said there is a metal bar some way off. Reeas said she would get it. I said,

'Be careful.'

Reeas said, 'I can look after myself.' I said, 'Yes, but who will look after me?' She smiled again.

I looked at the door and think, these people might be lower beings, but they sure know how to build things to last. The whole building is made of heavy steel and concrete.

Reeas came back with a big crowbar and a piece of scaffold board. I placed the board on the floor put the bar on the board, then I shoved the bar under the door, I heaved, the door started to move a little, after about two minutes the door was starting to give. I said, 'Stand back.' I then took six paces back and ran putting my shoulder to the door it gave way with a thunderous noise.

'Quick, I said to Deria, go and get the keys while Reeas and I look for the machine.' All Deria has to do is fly between the bars of the office to get the keys which are labelled for each machine. There is no mistaking the tunnelling machine as it is massive, with a corkscrew front. We have to climb up a ladder to get to the door; the machine is sitting on a giant truck. Deria is having trouble carrying the key as it was nearly as big as her, but she made it. We went inside the machine. Dear God, I thought, please make it start.

'Lock the door.' I shouted, as I ran to the front, I put the key in and turned it, and lo-and-behold it started. The controls are very basic, just a joystick, and pedals, also a depth-meter and warning lights such as air tanks, and fuel, I look at the fuel, and again, luck is with us, a full tank! I don't know what type of fuel it is, but I'm not concerned with that. 'Here we go.' I said, I pointed the joystick down the machine rumbled; I put my foot on the pedal, and it started to move, I can't see anything as there is no screen but we know we are moving as the front of the corkscrew hit the concrete, I know also part of the roof of the building is gone as the framework of the machine had risen up before we can slide down the ramp. I just hope the metal corkscrew can stand up to the concrete floor. By this time, I think, the security forces must be on site.

'What about weapons I said, do they have blasters?'

'Yes' said Reeas, but they won't be effective against this machine.'

It is too late anyway, as we are free of the concrete and going down fast. Deria sat at the side of me, we must have looked a comical site as I am much too big for the chair and she is much too small.

Chapter 16-The yalton Realm

I said, 'how do they steer the thing.'

Deria said they probably have a machine which guides it from the surface. 'Go left Dan, I don't know how long it will take, or how far we will have to go, all I know is, I am getting a signal from the left which is stronger.'

We all know that the security forces can't follow us as the waste from the front of the machine is being thrown to the back. 'What about air I said?'

Reeas said, 'There is a notice here, it says we can go for two-hours without oxygen then we have to surface, it also says the top speed is twenty-miles an hour!'

'I said, these people might be are low in consciousness but they can make a machine like this which is way ahead of Earth's technology?' Reeas said, 'They haven't always been like that, this world was once highly technological, but was invaded by numerous aliens, so over time it became what it is now.'

After two hours, I know we will have to surface for air, but before we can do that, there is a big jolt and we came to a stop.

I said, 'what's wrong?'

Deria said, 'It feels as though we are in the open.'

'We can't be the depth-meter says fifty-feet.'

'Well, we will just have to look outside,' Reeas said.

'Get the blaster' I said, as I pushed on the door and opened it. I am amazed to find we are in a massive cave system!

'It looks as though we are stuck,' Reeas said, 'we can't go back as the corkscrew is sticking out at the front, and we can't go forward as we are over a chasm.'

'I said, 'how did they get around a problem like this?'

'Reeas said, maybe they had maps in the office or something.'

Deria said, 'the signal is very strong now, we may be able to reach Black-Wall through the cave system.' Deria started to cling to my arm.

'What's wrong,' I said.

'There are other beings approaching.'

'Step back from the door,' I said, 'we don't know who these people are.'

The front of the tunnelling machine is over a drop of about fifty feet, with the door just behind the corkscrew. We are safe enough, but we are trapped. I am trying to figure out how we can get out of this mess when a tiny voice shouted from below.

'Are you Dan Sherman?' I am astounded; all I can think of to say was, 'yes.' A crowd of small human like creatures are standing and looking up at us! They all started to shout in unison; 'Please help us, please help us.'

'I shouted, 'who are you?'

A person came forward and said, 'We were informed you would be coming this way, we have been waiting for you!'

'How did you know about us?'

He said Sionn had contacted them through mind power!

I am shocked again; how can Sionn get himself trapped by Kallo with the immense knowledge and power he has. I am starting to worry that Kallo is stronger and more powerful than us, and that he is beyond our capabilities to detain, if he can take Sionn with such ease, what can we do?

'I said, do you know where Sionn is?'

'Yes, he is at Black wall.'

'OK,' I said, 'let's get down there and figure out a way to get to Black Wall from here.'

We scrambled down the rock face. The leader of the crowd said, 'I am Fagil, I am the elder of my people here, we are called The Yalton.'

I ask him if there is any way to get to Black Wall from here. He said, 'Yes, but we want you to help us first!'

I told him that time was of the essence and the whole balance of the Universe is at stake. 'Yes,' he said, 'but the way to Black Wall is guarded by an Underground Devil!'

I think this is going from bad to worse, what do they want of me? I am only one person!

Fagil replied, 'I know you are feeling down at the moment, it is the consciousness of the planet that does that!'

'What do you mean?'

'This used to be a highly evolved and spiritual place. We were on the verge of total mastery of the mind when we were invaded. Now we are nothing more than vermin to those on the surface. If you will help us get rid of the Underground Devil, we will help you to find Sionn, and then he will also help us to rid ourselves of the surface people once and for all.'

Wow, a pretty tall order, I thought.

'OK,' I said, 'we will help.'

By now, the group of people had grown, and I notice the light in the cavern is getting brighter!

Fagil said, 'I see you notice our light?'

'Yes, it's extraordinary.'

'No. It is something that evolved many hundreds of years ago. We only need one thing to survive here on our planet, and that is food, which we dig out of the planet itself.'

'That reminds me,' I said, 'I am hungry.'

one of the Yalton came over with a small bag, he reached in and pulled out a small lump of rock. 'Eat this,' he said.

I looked at it. I think, is this for real? I took it, thanked him, and bit a piece off, it melted in my mouth, and I suddenly felt full!

'This is our sustenance, Fagil said. Please, Reear, take some, and Deria.'

'Our people are massing at the border of junction 50. This is the time of the Yalton.'

I said, 'What do you mean?'

'If we can get through the border and meet with our tribesmen, we may be able to overthrow the evil forces on our planet.'

'I said, 'how are you going to do that?'

'We will prevail with the help of our, God-man.'

'Oh, I said, and who is that?'

'Sionn,'

Now it is starting to make sense. This is all part of Sionn's plan to overthrow Kallo! He let himself be caught! But, why didn't he let me know? Was this all some sort of test for me? My mind is in a whirl, but my attention is on the Yalton, they all look alike, but now, as I studied them, I can faintly see their bones and inner organs through their skin! They had on garments that seemed to glow in the dark, but as I observed them, I can see that the light is coming from within them. They also have large eyes. They remind me of the classic alien type creatures that we had become accustomed to on TV, and in UFO stories back on Earth.

Fagil said, 'We have been waiting a long time for this moment, if we can reunite with enough of our brothers, we will be able to raise the consciousness of other beings at Far-Station, or rather, 'Yalton,' this is the original name of our planet.'

'How come the surface people never tried to exterminate you from above? I said.'

‘They are low in consciousness and are afraid of coming down here; they look on us as ghosts, and they know they can’t use any sort of explosive device as it would ruin the planet.’

Deria said, ‘There are others of my kind on this planet, which will also respond to higher consciousness.’

I can’t help thinking how a relatively small number of weak creatures would be able to overcome the powerful forces at Far-Station!

‘Please let us be on our way,’ said Fagil.

‘Well,’ I said, ‘we shouldn’t have too much trouble from the Bourin, as we have the blaster!’

‘No!’ Shouted Fagil! ‘You cannot use the blaster it would cause untold damage to the rocks!’

‘How do you mean?’

‘The slightest contamination from a blaster would do untold damage to the planet!’

‘Surely it must have been done before, with the different alien races which tried to dominate the planet.’

‘Yes, but that was on the surface where the light doesn’t affect the rocks. You will have to kill the Devil with your strength!’

‘Well, I did kill the Bourin executioner at the start of our troubles, didn’t I?’

‘This won’t be an ordinary Bourin, it is twice as strong, and cannot be killed with a blaster anyway.’

‘OK, but I can use the knife’ can’t I?’

‘Yes, but it probably won’t help.’

‘What’s he made of, Rock?’

‘No, but something nearly as tough, its bones are very strong, and the inner organs are protected by more bone. You will have to smash it with whatever you can lift!’

Great, I think, the future of the Universe depends on two big beasts smashing the hell out of each other.

‘How are we going to get there? We only have about half a day to reach Sionn, I said.’

‘You have only ten hours!’

‘How far is it?’

‘Thirty miles, please follow me.’

When we get into the other shaft, I am amazed to see well-constructed roadways with lamps set in the walls.

‘The lights are for your convenience; will you be able to keep up when we start to move?’

I think he is joking, but I soon realise, he isn’t. They set off and I can see that they are not touching the ground, but floating above it; they didn’t even need to move their legs. I said to Reeas, ‘Are you OK?’

‘Yes, I’m just wondering what fate has in store for us, Dan.’

‘As long as you are here, Reeas, I am OK.’ She smiled again.

I estimate we are doing about ten miles per hour, so it would take us three hours to get to where we need to be. After about two hours we come to a stop next to a big doorway off to the right. Fagil said, ‘Please follow us in. I am amazed to see a giant cavern with ornate carvings and statues; it looks like a spiritual place. Fagil said, ‘It is one of the centres of higher consciousness on the planet.’

I notice that the walls are glowing slightly, and there is a faint humming noise coming from somewhere within the planet. The Yalton people are holding hands and standing in a large circle. Myself, Reeas and Deria are in the centre. Fagil started to chant some words which I’m not familiar with. I notice that the walls are starting to glow! After five minutes the light is quite

bright, and the noise is quite loud. The bodies of the Yalton people are also glowing, and I can see their hearts beating through their chests! The experience to me is of deep spirituality. I also feel confident and totally rested.

‘We have given you what extra strength you will need to defeat the Bourin.’ Fagil said.

‘Thank you, I may need it!’

Fagil then went to a large stone door; he opened it with a little help from his brothers. He said, ‘Please take out these weapons.’ I went over and saw a collection of weapons which looked very old, one is a sword, there is also a battle-axe and other things. I asked Reeas to hold the sword, while I took the axe. It feels strong, and I feel strong, I just hope we are strong enough! I asked Reeas if she still had the knife in her rucksack, she said yes, I know this knife to be extra strong as if made for someone my size, maybe it was. I then asked Fagil if he had any string, he went to another room and came back with a length of twine which I tied around the handle of the knife and then I sling it over my neck so that it hangs down behind my back. ‘OK,’ I said, ‘I’m ready!’

Now for you Students: Yes, I can hardly believe I got this far myself! All I can say is I know I can get back to base even if I died so that in itself is a plus, the other thing is, I have very good help. Please don’t forget to upload your thoughts to central database. We always appreciate your efforts. Onward!’

Chapter 17-The Underground Devil

We start to move again and after a short while Fagil said, ‘The hallway where the Bourin lives is five-hundred yards further up the roadway.’

I said, ‘If we are lucky, he will be asleep.’

‘No.’ Fagil said. ‘He will smell us long before we come into view!’

‘Yes, and I can smell him,’ the stench is terrible. After another minute I can see it, it is a giant of about twenty feet tall and around three tons in weight. I can see a collection of weapons, and there is a small grotto or cave where it probably slept or ate.

‘I said, ‘why doesn’t it come into our area?’

Fagil said, ‘The light drives it back!’

It was pacing about as though it knows something is about to happen. It grabbed a large club from the floor and came nearer. I told Reeas to stay clear unless I am about to get killed. She is holding the sword as though she knows how to use it, and she probably does.

‘Right, I’m ready.’ Reeas said, ‘Be careful.’

I walk nearer until I am about fifty yards away then I stop. I looked around at the immediate area sizing everything up; I notice there is a ledge at the rear of the Bourin about thirty feet above the wall. The creature is surprisingly agile, I notice, it swayed from side to side moving the club from one hand to the other. I look back and notice the Yalton are in prayer again, they are standing in a ring and holding hands.

I said a small prayer lifted up my axe and charged. I then slid on my side as I reached my opponent; I hit it in the leg with my axe. To my surprise it didn’t fall, but tried to stamp on me. I got up quickly and swung my axe which hit the Bourin’s club. My axe was now stuck in the club! I leap back. Reeas had seen what had happened and came running. I shouted to her to get back but she didn’t do as ordered; she swung the sword and hit the Devil on the side making a large gash. The Bourin stepped back took hold of the axe and pulled it out from the club. Reeas again swung the sword, but the Bourin also swung the club at the same time. Hitting Reeas, I didn’t think anything of it, I know Reeas is strong, but I underestimated the strength of the Bourin. Reeas lay still. I wanted to go over and help her, but I know what I have to do. The Bourin now has both weapons. I ran while grabbing the knife from around my neck and jumped. I hit the

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