

**Journey
to
Empycrist II.**

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**Think,
understand,
and change.**

Chapter 1:

Obviousness.

The universe, as far as we can judge from our poor knowledge and perception, is characterized by an absence of colour. Everything works as if black, or at least a very dark blue, were to be the dominant impression, sometimes contradicted by the platinum scintillation of the celestial bodies. In the Solar System, we are blessed since we have Mars, with its reddish reflection, our gorgeous gold sun and, of course, the aquamarine-like Earth. The Earth, so heavenly beautiful, so unbearably offended by the human vermin! Are you dying? It seems so! It is impossible: it is the Creator's chef d'oeuvre, the epitome of perfection. However, over the years, its empyreal blue has faded and air pollution has put a yellowish veil between the crystalline depths of its oceans and the mesosphere. It is unbelievable! The titanic collisions this planet experienced did not destroy it, and, man, this minuscule creature, could achieve what the immense universe was unable to fulfil.

Would collective unconsciousness be stronger than celestial geometry?

Planet Earth is suffocating, for mankind had no other choice but to burn fossil fuels and release the venom that will kill it. Bad luck! Another technology would have induced a better present. Bad luck? No, bad attitude of mind: they would have caused a lot of other problems, just for the pleasure of devouring themselves. Ordinary people are ogres! Their doubtful normalcy is the tip of their mental iceberg. What can we find underneath? Barbarity: all the vices they have consciously chosen before reaching a state of pure madness, the insanity of normality. Ah, where are you, reason and grace? Elsewhere, undoubtedly: in the mind of an exceptional soul, on the surface of another planet, in the logic of humane human organizations...

Their air is polluted, they have no more energy resources, and, now, they also have problems with water supply! It has to be said that global warming was a two-faced birthday present. Of course, it brought some water where it has disappeared, but, at the same time, it brought a lot of water where there was already too much. Hence, some deserts with low population densities

became livable places while most of the overcrowded parts of the world flooded. Henceforth, crops and fruit trees were destroyed, and stagnant water caused large epidemics, as usual. Very few places were spared: some drylands of the center of the United States, China and Africa. Sunny California, what do you prefer: pestilential water or the hellish reality of your burning thirst?

With fewer people on the planet, the many mistakes of man would have never led to such a disaster. Actually, 350 million must be the appropriate number of inhabitants: 8 billion is absurd. There is not enough quantity of renewable energy for so many people, even though it is not completely impossible to produce a sufficient amount of food. Moreover, since barbarity is included in human nature, one must let them spread out. They must not gather together if their level of consciousness is too low, or else they would endanger themselves and even try to kill one another. Barbarity must not be societies' fate.

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The Invictus is about to lift off. The spaceship is massive. It looks like a gigantic albatross shining under the imperious sun of Port Isabel. The weather is fine today and the sky is rather blue; no, it is rather... yellow! Captain Smith is nervous, not because of the danger of the liftoff, but because he thinks that the die is cast. All his hopes have vanished: he is here today, for he must find another planet so that the human race may survive and, perhaps, start all over again. John, you are so sad. Your grief and the bottomless abyss of your regrets are palpable. You can hardly breathe; you are quiet... Are you shivering?

Barbara is next to him. She is thinking about her chimpanzees: they are sedated. So, they won't see anything, shout, or try to escape, like the last time. She really cares about them, for she is certain that they will help her to understand, at last, why they are so different from humans, although they have almost the same genetic material and physical characteristics. She has been working with them for the last 5 years and has taught them how to speak! Well, it is clear that they understand some words, but I would not say they really communicate with her, nor with one another. Were the first hominins like them? When did they

start to speak? Why? And what was the first word ever spoken? God, sun, water, earth? Oh, no! It was I... am!

Peter is also a biologist: he studies the plant kingdom. You should see what he has done in the greenhouse of the Invictus: it is the Garden of Eden. It is even better since there are no snakes, no Adam, no Eve, and no fallen angels. But the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil must be there: he has planted so many different species. Couldn't he rather look for the Tree of the knowledge of the place of man in the universe? Everything has a place, a function and therefore a meaning. However, it seems that the place of man fluctuates or, at least, is not really understandable. Indeed, he is an element of the gigantic motion. The wasps once made him understand that he was someone really special. Actually, these small creatures always eat the fruit borne by his trees before he does: they make a little hole, which attracts other insects like the ants. In next to no time, the fruit is eaten by them. Last year, for the very first time, they did not touch the peaches. Why? He does not know. What he knows is that, without him, animals and humans would starve and disappear...

The brunette seated opposite him is Jenny. She is a linguist. She understands and even speaks many different languages, which could be useful if they found intelligent living beings on Empycrist II. She is not really convinced by that, because it is almost certain that they will not speak Chinese, nor... Latin! It is strange: the very same object, or idea, always produces many different idiomatic results. It is strange because, from a physical point of view, all humans have the same larynx and brain; so, why don't they use the same sounds to call that object? Matter does not explain everything: matter explains nothing, indeed!

As for Paul, who is seated next to her, he is an astrophysicist or a poet; well, it is the same! He is the most intelligent one of them all, a wise man who is mesmerized by the existence of everything, including himself. He would like to know the starting point of the universe and the reason for its existence. Nothingness does not exist: this overcrowded Creation comes from "something". He thinks that before the beginning of this "something", there was a thought, with its own logic, that created the universal motion. The planetary motion is therefore the reflection of the motion of the primordial will. This heavenly

geometry reveals its essence, which is perfection. This cyclopean symmetry leads to man, the only creature that does not always reach its nature. It can also alter other creatures, like Barbara's apes. Man, with his imperfections, can consciously choose his destiny, refuse to follow the logic of perfection and remain in a state of pure barbarity...

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Test director.

-How do you feel, John?

John.

-... Bad, really bad.

Test director.

-... 20 minutes before liftoff.

John.

-... Everything seems OK.

Test director.

-You know how important

your mission is?

John.

-Unfortunately! And I still think it is a stupid idea to go to this planet and organize a great migration. The problem is not the planet, it is the people who live on it. Give them another one and they will destroy it.

Barbara.

-John, if I may be so bold, it is not our responsibility to decide whether it is a good or a bad idea. We must obey: that's it!

John.

-Whom must I obey, what must I follow?

Test director.

-I got a short message from the president...

Jenny, Peter and Paul.

-Oh no...

John.

-Change the subject, and thank him
for all he has not done!

Test director.

-... 9 minutes before liftoff.

John.

-Flight recorders on.

Paul.

-John, you are not the only person who is upset.

We are all regretful.

Things could have been different, but
the reason and humanity of a few
are powerless against the thoughtlessness
of the majority of people.

Peter.

-Consciousness can always escape.

Jenny.

-That's what we are doing.

Test director.

-5 minutes before liftoff.
Connections removed.

Barbara.

-What will we find?
We know what we leave behind,
but what will we find?

Peter.

-The Garden of Eden. I hope so.

Jenny.

-Something better. Look at the Earth.
It is unbearable here.

Paul.

-Solitude, obviously.

Jenny.

-What do you mean by that?

Paul.

-Man is the only intelligent creature
in the endless universe.

Jenny.

-Empycrist II is Earth's twin sister,
why wouldn't we find
intelligent living beings on its surface?

Paul.

-Because man is the aim of the Creation.
He is the result of a decision, not of
the implementation of material factors.

Test director.

-2 minutes before takeoff.
Main engine on.

Barbara.

-... Will we find almond trees
on Empycrist?

Peter.

-No, I don't think so.

Barbara.

-I like to see them bloom in February
while nature is still asleep.

Paul, Jenny and John.