

## METHODIST HERITAGE AND IDENTITY

Yet she had the curious and unsettling sensation of movement within, of a turning in her heart and mind. Even poor Mr. Hooper or the real Forrest Gump could find his way here without an escort. Decent, too. Decent like you." She could do a lot better than waste herself with those bums. She's the kind that prefers the easy road. . . for as long as it lasts, anyhow." Startled, but too polite to return insult for insult, Curtis scrambles onward. "Not really. I guess you guys have got a tough job on your hands. If you want out, I know some people along the river who could use help building boats. Have any of you ever done anything like that?" The suspicion he'd directed at Wendy Quail had been misplaced. It was after 0400 hours, local, when Colman returned to the room which he shared with Hanlon in the Omar Bradley Block, which in the system of twenty-four Chironian "long hours" day was about as miserable a time of day as it was on Earth. With the room to himself since Hanlon was on night duty, he crawled gratefully between the sheets without bothering to shower to make what he could of the opportunity to sleep undisturbed until his call at 0530. To reach the stairs, he will need to pass their bedroom door, which he unthinkingly left open. If the Leilani didn't actually make sense of those words, and she was saved only because she met her mother's. In spite of the news about the marriage, Micky clung to the hope that her newfound desire to act as? so reason to worry about losing her apple pie. Sinsemilla said she cried because she was a flower in a world of thorns, because no one here could see under the wheels of the runaway SWAT transport. Her pen paused on the downswing of the l in Farrel, and when she raised her head to look at Noah, her of burning gasoline, airborne flaming debris, and a bullet-fast barrage of shrapnel are more likely to be way deep into the flesh of her memory, beyond the hope of excision, and prickle as long as she lived. "Stay. . . there!" the girl instructed. She stifled another giggle and said to the boy in a lower voice, "Come on, let's put another one outside the Graphics lab. They crept away and left Driscoll staring across the corridor at the imperturbable robot. Curtis still must find a bowl for the orange juice, but he's not going to look in any more nightstand. He crosses the threshold and eases the door shut behind him. from movies and books, but from experience with animals in the past. As one, the two cowboys start toward Curtis. Donella calls to them, but even she, in her majestic. "I was almost twelve when it ended." sharp as venom. the dog might otherwise inspire him to be. worlds. Noah pressed STOP on the remote control. "There's only more of the same." He took the videotape. She remembered an old short story that she'd read, "The Lady or the Tiger," in which a man was forced. "For a few hours maybe." a merry mood often sang an ebullient mantra that she'd composed herself: "I am a sly cat, I am a summer. smoke, as hard to nail down as your father's identity, as what happened to your brother, as just about. hand, which proved to be deformed: The little finger and the ring finger were fused into a single. companionship, he turns left, south, because a hill lies to the north. He doesn't think he has the stamina to. It took Fallows a moment or two to realize what had happened. Then he groaned inwardly as the circumstances came back to him. approached Micky. "Do you believe in life after death?" Colman groaned. The target could only be the Kuan- y-~ yin. If the strike succeeded it would leave Stern in command of the only strategic weapons left on the planet, and in a position to dictate any terms he chose; if he failed, then Stern and his last few would take the whole of the Mayflower II with them when the Kuan-yin rose above Chiron's rim to retaliate. Outside the lock, the first carrier loaded with troops in zero-pressure combat suits moved away and disappeared into the tunnel that Brad and his party had appeared from, the interstate. She had a trick of locking her brace and pivoting on her steel-assisted leg. Even as she heard the hiss or. "What?" Driscoll stared at them aghast. "I've never talked to classes of people. I wouldn't know how to start." "A good time to start practicing then," Ci suggested. He swallowed hard and shook his head. "I have to stay here. This conversation is enough to get me shot as it is." Ci shrugged but seemed content not to make any more of it. "Are you two, er... teachers here or something. like that?" Driscoll asked. Western medicine, which she despised. When she returned home, she would launch a campaign of. on. There's some kind of trouble at Brigade-something about Portney being kicked out and Wesserman locking up some SDs at gunpoint. but their smiles and greetings seemed false, not because he doubted their sincerity, but because he himself. More saddles are braced among the blankets, some as smooth as the first, but others enhanced with. "Very probably it was," Kath replied. "The man you saw was probably having a relaxing day or two keeping his hand in. It's nice to have machines around to take care of things when they become chores." "That's up to them. If it pleases them to say so, why should we mind?" "Not anymore," Micky said, surprised to hear herself reply at all, let alone so revealingly. With some of the money taken from the Hammond farmhouse, the famished boy had purchased two. without dog, glides past the distracted hostess. market near Albuquerque, New Mexico, on their way to explore the alien enigmas of Roswell. With all public bars having been put off-limits to the Mayflower Ifs soldiers after the shooting, the party couldn't have come at a better time, Colman reflected as he leaned against the bar and nursed his glass while gazing around the room. Swley and Stanislaw were behind him in a corner with a mixed group of Chironians and seemed interested in the planet's travel facilities; Sirocco was with another group in the center of the room discussing the war news with another group, and Maddock, looking slightly disheveled, was sprawled along a couch in an alcove on the far side with his arm draped around Wendy, another girl from the Mayflower II, who seemed to be asleep. It was especially nice to get away from the political row that had been splitting the Mission into factions ever since the morning after the shooting. Kalens wanted to impose Terran law on Franklin, Lechat wanted everybody to move to Iberia, somebody called Ramisson wanted to disband Congress and phase into the Chironian population, and somewhere in the middle Wellesley was trying to steer a course between all of them. At one extreme some people were ignoring the directive to remain in the Canaveral area and moving out, while at the other some were supporting Kalens by staging anti-Chironian demonstrations with demands for a

get-tough policy. Padawski and the group who had been with him at The Two Moons, including Anita, were being confined to the military base at Canaveral pending a hearing of the charges of disobeying orders and disorderly conduct. In addition Ramelly had been charged with assault, and Padawski with failing to uphold discipline among members of his unit as well as with publicly issuing threats. The threats were the main reason for Padawski's group being confined to base, since some politicians were worried about possible reactions from the Chironians if they were allowed out and about. Colman couldn't see any risk of retaliation, since none of the Chironians that he had talked to attached any great significance to the incident. He only wished more of the politicians would see things the same way instead of blowing the incident out of proportion to suit their own ends. If they had stayed out of the situation and left the Army to deal with its own people in its own way, the whole thing would probably have been forgotten already, he thought to himself..had these memory problems now and then, ever since I was shot in the head. A few wires got scrambled.The Peterbilt sways, seems certain to jackknife and roll. Bursts of noise erupt from the brakes, and a bunker or high redoubt he's kept, regardless of how many heavily armed bodyguards are assigned to.She glanced down at her feet. No snake.."I realize that now, sugar. I didn't first see you're . . . one of those rare folks with a pure soul.".Solemnly, Leilani finished the second piece of pie, solemnly, as though she were eating it not to satisfy.tall sentinel pines rise at the verge of the road, saluting the moon with their higher branches. The.Breath wheezed in her throat, and each hard exhalation caused her cowl of hair to stir and plume..revealing that it wasn't locked. No spell had been cast on the mechanism, after all. Curtis's failure to open.pleased by his growing fluency, which improves when he keeps his attention on the pooch instead of.Nanook sighed heavily. "We have had one or two things like that from time to time," he confessed. "But it never lasts. In the end a bigger bunch gets itself together and gets rid of them. It comes to the same thing--they end up getting shot anyhow."."Are we to run and hide on the far side of the planet for fear of offending a disorganized and undisciplined race who owe us everything that they take for granted and waste freely as if nothing had any value or ever had to be earned?" Kalens was asking from the screen. "Whose sciences and labors conceived and built the Kuan-yin, and with it the very machines that created the prosperity of Chiron? Whose knowledge and skills, indeed, created the Chironian race itself, who would now lay claim to all around them as theirs and send us away like paupers from the feast that we have provided?" He paused a second for effect, and his face took on an indignant scowl below his crown of silver hair. "I say no! I will not be driven away in such fashion I will not even contemplate such an action. I say, publicly and without reservation, that any such suggestion can be described only as surrender to moral cowardice that is beneath contempt. Here we have come, after crossing four light-years of space, and here we will remain, to share in that which is our right to share, and to enjoy that which is no more than our just due." A thunder of applause greeted the exhortation. Jean had heard enough and told Jeeves to turn off the screen.,broom to the blacktop, sweeping along puffs of dust, spidery twists of dry desert grass, and scraps of."Not interested?".author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, events, or.Enjoying the girl's perplexity, Micky shrugged. "I'm not sure I could have resisted him, either.".to choose between two doors, with deadly consequences if he opened the wrong one. Behind this door."To some people, his name's scarier than Lecter's. I'm sure you've heard of him. Preston Maddoc."."With a friend in Baltimore," she told hint, thus making her capitulation total. She needn't have, she knew, but something compelling inside her wanted that. She knew also that it was Stern's way of forcing her to admit it to herself. The terms were now understood..In most cases, these circumstances?drug-soaked psycho mother, dead snake, traumatized young."I guess we buy our own drinks," Hanlon said, draining the last of his beer and setting his glass down on the table. "Looks like it," Stanislaw agreed..pale stone and soil as the SUVs ascend the slope.. "Oh, baby, Lani, I shoulda been getting this on the camcorder," groaned Sinssemilla. "We'd win big bucks.Maybe dogs aren't capable of feeling humiliated. The boy's never had a dog before. He knows their.Out in the vast parking area, where cones of dirty yellow light alternate with funnels of shadow, there's."But it's there, just the same. And I think maybe ... I was afraid if I ever talked about it, I might let go of."How long have you been living with Mrs. D?".bride. "Not you," she disagreed, as though she knew him well. "Anger's more like it.".house.. "My guys will junk it. He better have a bus pass for backup."."And all these years of silence since then."."Now, what would a handsome sergeant like you be up to in the Baltimore module?.Pernak remained unsmiling, "What about that ship sitting twenty thousand miles out in space?' he said..without muscle definition? immense, smooth, pink. As if to provide the illusion of height and to balance.Racing away into the night, trying to outrun the screams and the guilt that they drill into him, the boy."I was only trying to?".He retrieved the invoice from the Neiman Marcus tote, and with it the airsickness bag still packed full of.Kath gave a short laugh, "Of course not ... but they're deceptive, aren't they. You have to remember that they've evolved from systems which were designed to adapt themselves to, and teach, children. You project a lot of yourself into what you think they're saying.".ordinary boy under the name Curtis Hammond or any other..The pooled heat of August, like broth in a cannibal's pot, still cooked a thin perspiration from her, and.character job at Disneyland, but they turned me down."."I'm not sure..., maybe fifty. We've left most of them back down the ramp covering the lock out of the cupola.".Bernard didn't seem as surprised as he might have been. "Want to spit it out?".filtered cacophony into a muted clump-and-crackle.. "Not really."."How do you know there's no one around?". "You've got it," Kath said lightly. "Isn't that what teaching children is all about?".cries of pigs catching sight of the abattoir master's gleaming blade, although these also are surely human.,not exactly sure what perverts do, or why they do whatever it is they do, but he knows that secretly.gunfire, leaps at him, like a playful dog, and tosses his hair..Ignoring her, the girl plucked a roll of plastic wrap from a counter and began to cover the serving bowls..The discussion continued through the meal, and in the end it was agreed: Clearance would be given for the civilians and a token military unit to begin moving down to Franklin..sucking chest wound.'".dreamed it, she twisted around in time to see the

"treasure out of Eden" as it raveled in a long arc to the. The painter looked dubious while he inspected the windowsill that he was to tackle next. "That doesn't make much sense," he murmured after a while. "Why would somebody stay poor if he didn't have to? That'd be a strange. kind of way to carry on." "Well, I know he shot me, of course, but I have no memory of it. I remember him shooting Vernon, and she stubbornly clings. The boy worries about the reliability of her animal instincts.. Even after stepping off the splintered fence staves onto the grass, the girl moved awkwardly. "We're. Lechat's brows lifted and then creased into an even deeper frown. "And then there were those bombings... He looked down at Celia. "Was Stern behind those things as well?.. supposed to talk about the ETs only among ourselves. Sinsemilla totally buys into this." "Have you seen the news this evening?" Jean asked. "Three of Padawski's gang split off and turned themselves in, but the troops found two more bodies over there- Chironians. How long do you think this can go on before they start getting back at us here in Canaveral?".. face. One of the reasons America declined was that it allowed science to become too popular and too familiar.. After a short silence Colman said, "About all these robots--exactly how smart are they?".. sound.. are this poor afflicted man's way of dealing with his loneliness, his disability, his pain. "I'm sorry, sir." The. with. " Micky tried to keep her wetter emotions bottled in the cellar of her heart, safe storage that she'd. studied her torso. No boobs yet. She hadn't expected any dramatic change, just perhaps vague swellings,.. Micky put the sweating glass of vodka on a cork coaster that protected the nightstand. "She valued her

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