

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE LIVERPOOL LITERARY PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY VOLUME

For a few seconds Bernard and lay were too stunned to say anything. "But... that's crazy," Bernard protested at last. "You can't just let everybody go round shooting anyone they don't like." Celia raised her head suddenly to look up at Lechat. "But I only shot him twice, not six times as the soldiers found. And the house hadn't been broken into when I left. Don't you see what that means?" gunfire, leaps at him, like a playful dog, and tosses his hair. Bernard frowned as the implication of what Jay was suggesting sank in. "Did you ask Jeeves about it?" he inquired. "Just a friendly chat . . . about your government, how it's organized, who's in it . . . a few things like that. It won't take long at all." feeling that she now paid out to everyone she knew. "No mother can ever truly hate her child, dear. No." "No doubt," Noah said, "they were once troubled youths rescued from a life of mischief, and. Throughout the institution, the floors? gray vinyl speckled with peach and turquoise? were immaculate. "That depends, ma'am. They can lead to a heap of trouble." Switching off the overhead lights to save money and to avoid adding heat to the kitchen, Geneva said, "When you've got enough to eat and drink, then you worry about keeping warm. And when you're warm enough, you start thinking about staying safe." Colman opened his hands briefly. "When a bunch of people live together, for most of the time most of the people get enough to drink and eat, and manage to keep warm and safe. What do you think they start worrying about then?" rest against the toe of one of the boots. The parking-lot light is bright enough that from a distance of a. stocked with strange fish. The fish? actually a man with a buzz cut behind the wheel, a brunette with. "They may be a handful," Adam added from across the room, "but they control the ship's heavy weapons. We've given them every chance, and we've encouraged as many people to get themselves out of it as was humanly possible. Our whole world is at stake. If they begin issuing threats or deploying those weapons, the ship will be destroyed. They' can be no changing that decision. It was made a long time ago." It had grown in stages from constructions that began toward the end of the colony's first decade, by which time the Founders, having profited from reflections on some of their experiences at Franklin, had been more inclined to follow the bitter admonition offered by the machines, which had amounted to, "It's going to be an industrial complex. If you mess around with it, it won't work." The result was a clean, efficient, functional layout more in keeping with what the Kuan-yin's mission planners had envisaged, suitably modified where appropriate to take account of local conditions. Besides its industrial facilities, the complex included a seaport; an air and space terminal distributed mainly across the islands, which were interconnected by a network of tunnels; a college of advanced technology; and a small residential sector intended more to afford short- to medium-term accommodation for people whose business made it convenient for them to be in the vicinity than to house permanent inhabitants, although about half the population had been there for years. The Chironians, it turned out, tended to live lives that were more project-oriented than career-oriented, and they moved around a lot if it suited them. hideous and distressing story, but they could do nothing to help her. Leilani knew better than anyone that. the trembling creature on the rear lawn, where it dashed out of sight into a bed of red and coral-pink. With Stern playing what was nominally the leading role, Stormbel could afford nothing that might be seen as a concession of inferiority, which required his half of the machine to perform flawlessly, precisely, and in a way that was beyond criticism. That was what made mistakes doubly intolerable at this particular time. But what made the whole thing completely baffling and all the snore galling was that the escorts and their charge had not only checked in on time, but hid actually boarded the return shuttle-having passed safely through all the riskier parts of the agenda-before vanishing without a trace. They had definitely boarded and taken their seats, and it had been only a matter of minutes before lift-off when one of the flight-crew noticed that suddenly they weren't there-any of them. The SD guards at the boarding gate had all known what Celia Kalens looked liked, and they had been under special instructions to watch for her, but none of them had seen her when the escorts came out of the shuttle after somehow losing her; hid shortly after that, the escorts had disappeared into the base and were never seen again. Nobody reme9b~red seeing. Farrel, you're the first basset hound I've ever known with such strong principles." "Well, there's something to think about," Cromwell suggested. the interstate before fleeing north into the wildland. The atmosphere became more serious as Bernard and Lechat informed the Chironians that they now knew what the Kuan-yin was and what it could do. "We appreciate that you had to assume that the ship from Earth would be heavily armed and that it might have adopted an overtly hostile policy from the beginning," Lechat said, pacing about the room. "But that hasn't happened, and there are still a lot of people up there who are not a threat to anyone. The handful who are in control now are not representative, and their remaining support will surely erode before much longer. I'm anxious for whoever controls that weapon of yours to be aware of the facts of the situation. There can be no justification now for a tragedy that could have been avoided." to your future. Miss too many opportunities, thus sustaining too many wounds, and you wouldn't have a. GOODS AND SERVICES on the Mayflower II were not provided free, but were available for purchase as anywhere else. In this way the population retained a familiarity with the mechanics of supply and demand, and preserved an awareness of commercial realities that would be essential for orderly development of the future colony on Chiron. "Logging on early," Waiters replied. "Merrick wants to talk to you for a minute before you go off duty. He told me to tell you to stop by the ECD. You can take off now and see him on the company's time." He moved over to the console and nodded at the array of screens. "How are we doing? Lots of wild and exciting things happening?" connected scars, as intricate as lacework, decorated or disfigured her forearm, depending on your taste. debauchery were truth or fantasy, although she suspected wild exaggeration. Tough talk and wisecracks. "Just a bunch of hooey ? " What followed was a General Foul-up. The theory opened up whole new realms, Pernak was beginning to appreciate as he sat back in his office to give his mind a rest from absorbing the information being presented on

the wall screen opposite. What he was starting to glimpse hadn't just to do with the physics; it was the completely new philosophy of existence that came with the physical interpretation. Lechat cut him off with a wave of his hand. "Don't make any noise," he said to the whole group, who were crowding around in astonishment. "Everything is okay!" He signaled Borftein over with another wave of his hand. Over by the door the soldiers had dragged in two unconscious guards, and two of them were already putting on the SD uniforms while the steward handed them two automatics, which he produced from inside the napkin he was carrying. "There isn't a lot of time," Lechat advised Wellesley and Borftein. "We have to get you downstairs and into the Communications Center. Now listen, and I'll give you a quick rundown on the situation. . . . Of course," Celia whispered and passed him her glass. Providing for Laura was the reason that he worked, the reason that he lived in a low-rent apartment. "They opened Aunt Gen's head as though it were a can of beans." "Then is there any difference? . . . that movies are life, Bobby said, "You're not the hero. My part's the male lead. You're in the Sandra." "I'm not. He's an architect . . . and gorgeous I met him in Franklin yesterday and stayed last night. It's so easy—they act as if it's perfectly natural . . . And they're so uninhibited!" Celia just gaped at her. Veronica winked and nodded. "Really. I'll tell you about it later, I'd better go." "Take the kids for a walk round the Grand Canyon module," Walters suggested. "It's being resculpted again—lots of trees and rocks, with plenty of water! Should be pretty." . . . to be using Chironian labor with no references appearing in their books; every business became convinced that its competitors were cheating, and before long every session of both houses of Congress had degenerated into a bedlam of accusations and counteraccusations of illegal profiteering, back-door dealing, scabbing, and every form of skullduggery imaginable. "When we return, it will be a different story," Sterm told his entourage on the Bridge as the module's main drives fired and they felt it surge forward and away from the Mayflower II's nose. "But first, we have, to deal with our Chironian . . . friends. What is the report on the Kuan-yin?" More likely than not, both sociopathic owners of the Windchaser will remain in their cockpit seats for a. She felt diminished, humiliated, shaken? no less afraid than she'd been a moment ago, but now for. Sterm's face darkened, and his mouth twisted into an ugly grimace. His suave veneer seemed to peel away as his eyes widened, and far an instant, even from where he was sitting, Bernard found himself looking directly into the depths of a mind that was completely insane. He shivered involuntarily. Beside him Celia gripped his arm. "General," Sterm ordered. "Launch the missile in sixty seconds." . . . the scales. In a reek of scorched rubber, with one last attenuated grunt of protesting gears, it shudders to. with any analytic passion? why he felt obliged to slander himself. Colman shrugged and nodded his head unconsciously in the direction of Bobby and Susie. "They've got heads on their shoulders, they've got confidence in their own thinking, and they trust their own judgments. That's good." . . . evening?" "I told you once already, it's none of your business anymore. Leave me alone. I don't want to talk to you. Just go away and leave me alone." . . . heard about the courtesy of the road. Everyone's hellbent on getting to the interstate, racing around and know. "Micky had finished her second cup of coffee. She couldn't recall drinking it. She got up to pour a refill." "What other way is there?" Lechat Eked. . . . been Familiar with that strategy. . . . Seated, bowing her head, Geneva offered a succinct but heart felt prayer: "Thank you, God, for." "My aunt Lilly didn't think so. She shot me." . . . The sawn-off circular end of the hollow tubular pole wouldn't be as effective as a sharp knife, but it. IN A FAINT and inconstant breeze, waves stir through the lush meadow. At this lonely hour, in this. believe you or not, they sure won't swallow your stepfather's story about extraterrestrial healers. "Pernak and Jean looked at each other, puzzled. Bernard stared obediently at the picture for a few seconds, then looked at Jay. "It looks like a nicely done painting of mountains," he said. "Is this supposed to have something to do with what we're talking about?" . . . empty space, and hauling on a pair of intertwined lines with ~-~" his free arm, while behind him other soldiers were pulling. "It could still detach, even without Sterm". . . . mishap and calamity, she had added supplies to the basic kit. She kept it always near at hand. . . . crosslight of the moon and the fading purple dusk, but that probably matched Leilani's shade of blond. . . . Sinsemilla, she'd have this third snake to worry about. There's no way to flee outside when you're. Colman shrugged. "Strange things happen at sea, they say, and I guess even stranger things in space." . . . Finished with the hot dogs, Curtis drinks orange juice from the container? and realizes that Old Yeller is. The closet door rattles. Probably just road vibration. . . . Geneva's face puckered in puzzlement. "I was attractive in my day, but I was never in Kim Novak's. The bewildering proliferation first of baryons and mesons, and later the quarks, which were supposed to simplify them, that had plagued studies of the structure of matter to the end of the twentieth century had been reduced to an orderly hierarchy of "generations" of particles. Each generation contained just eight particles: six quarks and two leptons. The first generation comprised the "up" and "down" quarks, each appearing in the three colorcharge variants peculiar to the strong nuclear force to give six in all; the electron; and the electron-type neutrino. The second generation was made up of the "strange" and "canned" quarks, each of them again appearing in three possible colors; the muon; and the muon-type neutrino. The third generation contained the "top" and "bottom" quarks; the tau; and the tau-type neutrino; and so it went. mind, and courage is the antidote stored always ready in the soul. In misfortune lies the seed of future. immensity, can't restrain them by word alone. "She sort of flies a little." Rickster quickly closed his hands. "I'll put her loose." He glanced at the. "Yes, I can, and no, there aren't. Why—getting fed up?" "But you saw where the paths led." "You never asked me," Swyley answered over his shoulder. Veronica paused as she was about to turn toward the door. "I'm beginning to miss being thrown out in the middle of the night. How's your handsome sergeant these days? You haven't finished with him, have you?" "I know you didn't, Aunt Gen. I know." . . . opening and the brief clatter of something being fumbled from a closet floated back into the room. . . . can in her good hand. "Anyway, Dr. Doom might have been an okay professor. snake-driving mood!" . . . camera you left on the front seat." "Vice Admiral Crayford calling from Vandenberg now, sir," a voice called out. . . . To many people, the face of a victim of severe Down syndrome inspired pity, embarrassment, disquiet. . . . Leilani is as good as dead. . . . SO HER BROTHER was on Mars, her hapless mother was on

dope, and her stepfather was on a. Her eyes rested momentarily on his chevrons. "Are you Sergeant Colman--the one who's interested in engineering?" With a whimper, the dog squats and pees..in the publishing industry, or business, or folly, or whatever else it might accurately be called.. "No. My father just wants to see the gore.". That was why Colman had no doubt in his mind that the Chironians had had nothing to do with the bombings. He had talked to Kath, and she had assured him no Chironians would have been involved. It was an act of faith, he conceded, but he believed that she knew the truth and had spoken it. The Chironians had reacted to Padawski in the way that Colman had known instinctively that they would--specifically, with economy of effort, and with a surgical precision that had not involved the innocent.. "Not for me to say, ma'am," Colman had 'told the laser cannon standing twenty feet in front of him. "I'm not an expert on handsome men.". off the flashlight. Holds his breath..ahead was the room that her mother shared with Preston..spiky hair in the passenger's seat?stare back at him with the lidless eyes and the puckered-O mouths. "How about that?" Hanlon shouted delightedly. "The guy did it!". where both the brave and the foolish have gone before them, in ages past: boy and dog, dog and boy.. "In fact," Leilani continued, "old Sinsemilla?that's my mother? is a little nuts, period.". Extracting the cheese tray from the refrigerator, Micky said, "Are you cooking for a cellblock full of.treasure, and they won't be distracted..Maybe they aren't sure if he's his mother's son or some other woman's child. Maybe he could fake them. Bernard shook his head in protest and tore his eyes away to look at the screen still showing Kath. "You can't let this happen," he implored. "Those are your own people up there in Selene. This will just be the first example. Then it' II get worse.". Nevertheless, instinctively he crouches when the lights point toward him, making himself no taller than.local authorities would probably decline to do battle with him..About all he was good with outside things like that was cards. He couldn't remember exactly when his fascination with them had started, but it had been soon after Swyley, then a fellow private, had taught him to shuffle four aces to the top of a deck and feed them into a deal from the pall. Finding to his surprise that he seemed to have an aptitude, Driscoll had borrowed a leaf from Colman's book and started reading up about the subject. For many long off duty hours he had practiced top-pass palms and one-handed side-cuts until he could materialize three full fans from an.nervous settlers wending westward when the interstate had been de-lined not by pavement and signposts

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