

Chapter 10 -The past

Ellearto was in deep thinking too. He had a sense of horrible outcome, but it was not about himself or about facing anything so formidable to fight. He had gone through so many adventures and hardship, and at this old age he had no regrets and no fear for his own death. But he was anxious about the organization and his subordinates and colleagues. He could not help thinking about Lows and their friendship and working together for over half a century.

Ellearto and Lows grew up in the same town and both were singletons from a middle class family. Ellearto was about two years older than Lows, but they were neighbors and so knew each other since they were kids. They went to school together and both were engrossed in biological science.

For three generations, the Ellearto family had their sons serving the nation as military officers. In order to suffice for the expectation of his father, who was a retired colonel, Ellearto joined the army and enrolled in a military university, then continued into medical science. He finally became a medical doctor in the army and had served in many places abroad, therefore, had seen enough the extreme suffering of the civilians in the midst of battles. In the same period of time, Lows earned a scholarship from the University of California at Berkeley and studied there until he graduated as a PhD in molecular biology and medicinal chemistry. He then worked in the Northwest National Laboratory for a few years. In an airplane accident, Lows's parents and his celibate uncle died in the crash and left him a decent amount of property and money. Lows then left Northwest National Laboratory and started a small pharmaceutical company. In the same time frame, Ellearto's parents died one after another and Lows was pleased to invite him to join the company.

Ellearto found Clarks still standing behind him, a habit he kept for being his previous security officer. He never sat in front of Ellearto in public.

'Come and sit, Clarks, let's talk about your Uncle Lows. You don't know him very much and I say you are especially curious about him, right?'

Ellearto's tone was fatherly and affable. Clarks was only hesitated for a few seconds and then he moved a chair and sat down. He would listen carefully to the reminiscence. Ellearto took out the prayer beads and started to roll the beads. The beads were only made of wood, but it could shine with a pale radiance.

"Something unusual happened in a summer evening when I was playing with your brother in the yard and waiting for our dinner. It was easy and peaceful. Then, I found Lows's car driving onto our driveway and he jumped out of the car, shouting excitedly and running quickly for me. He loudly said that he had discovered the biggest secret in genetic material and could change the world. He was too eager to tell me the secret and couldn't wait to go inside the house. We just sat down on the lawn and he talked."

"During his stay in Northwest National Laboratory, he incidentally read a report from a group of data storage scientist. The report mentioned that they had

recorded a Beetle's song into the genetic material of a coliform bacterium. Now, there were new and additional genetic materials in the coliform cell. However, these new alien material was not coding any genetic function, but the content of a human song. Regardless of its redundancy, the introduced 'genetic' material was being replicated generation after generation when the bacteria naturally reproduced. Those scientists claimed they had discovered a new way to store information, but couldn't get any attention because mutation could jeopardize the accuracy of the information and a biological cell was too vulnerable in the first look. Lows said that the report was shocking him, though, and there were images flushing across his mind. He didn't remember all those images and didn't understand them, but after all he got an answer for a traditional mystery in molecular biology."

"After the two thousand millennium, genetic science and molecular biology were advancing quickly with the help of computer technology and not very long after, almost every human chromosome had been completely decoded and almost all genes were found. Surprisingly, only a small portion of the genetic material was found to be genes or related to genetic function. A very great portion of the genetic material was found redundant and having no physiological significance. And, it was not only in humans. Almost all living species on earth shared the same property. It was a universal phenomenon. At that time, most scientists still thought it was so because the scientific method was still primitive and they hadn't spent enough time to find out what the 'redundant' genetic material was doing. Yet, twenty years later, the belief was a mainstream one. The cell of every species of living things carried a lot of genetic material that was meaningless in terms of expressing the character of the species. For human beings, the portion of redundancy reached around 70%."

"When Lows spoke of the additional and redundant genetic material in a living species, I immediately grasped what he meant. It was a really frontier postulation. The genetic material of a species didn't only code for the characteristics of the species, but also coded for some other information unrelated to the biology and physiology of the species. A solid example was those coliform bacteria in the Northwest National Laboratory. Their genetic material didn't contain the portion that was original to the species, but also included an added portion that recorded a human song."

"The coliform precedent at least indicated the possibility and the postulation was not merely scientific fiction or stories in Arabian Nights. Regardless of this support, it was extremely difficult to take steps to start research. Lows said that without the knowledge of the coding table devised by that group data storage scientists, without the available biochemical techniques and computer software, it was almost impossible to decode the redundant genetic material and show it indeed meant a song. "

"As nobody was taking the bacterial data storage research seriously, Lows easily got a copy of the whole research log and a sample of the bacteria. He didn't use the coding table because he would like to take challenge. He also needed to probe the difficulty of decoding in this context. Lows was a genius and he completed the decoding in about one year, but he was humble to say that he

succeeded because he already knew the context of the information and a few details. But he said it would be totally different for a human cell, supposing it really contained such 'third party' information. He decided that he had to do the job fulltime. It was coincident that his parents and uncle died in a plane crash and he got quite a big chump of money. It was a good timing to leave Northwest National Laboratory and form his own company. While he was organizing research to continue his fruiting research on arthritis, he started to work day and night to decode the content of the redundant genetic sequence in the human cell. But first, he needed to find out the coding table. This was the most difficult part."

"English uses 26 characters and ten numerical and it can almost record all kind of information and knowledge. The computer language is binary and it looks very simple, with only zero and one. However, when a multi digit coding is used, it can represent 26 characters, with upper and lower case, punctuation and the numbers easily. It can record anything that English can do. A little bit more coding make it capable to do audio and visual. It is the more powerful tool in recording information, much more useful than any language."

"In the genetic realm, however, 4 basic 'characters' are used and they are biochemical molecules. Their common representation is AGCT and they are deoxyribonucleic acids, or simply called DNAs. A sequence of 3 such molecules will code a specific molecular message and billions of such messages in a proper sequence formulate the characteristics of a species as well as an individual. All the time, genetic scientists were looking for meaningful codes in a DNA sequence and neglected that a sequence needed not be biologically meaningful. On the contrary, most sequences were not biological, and they were not coding anything if we are talking about a sequence of 3 units."

"Prior to starting the research, Lows thought he needed to be very confident of a few assumption or otherwise it was difficult to formulate a proper strategy. Ordinary people would first like to ask who was putting those extra genetic materials into the living cells. It is very persuasive in these days to say some kind of very intelligent aliens had created the earth and human, in the image of God. Of course, the context of a religious god is his unlimited power. Frankly speaking, comparing the power of the coliform bacteria, the human capacity was close to what we meant as god. But the truth is that until now, we still could not just make a bacterial cell out of non-living things, Creating life was still far from reach for us. In the bacterial world, the bacteria most likely are not aware of having been manipulated, and moreover they could not know our presence. Is it a similar scenario in the human case? We had been manipulated genetically, but for thousand of years, not a single civilized being discovered the manipulation."

"To make the long story short, Lows didn't pursue for the answer as who was the manipulator, an alien or a god. Instead, he liked to assume that the manipulator had expected someone to break the code. In that sense, the manipulator would definitely leave some kind of clue for the subject."

"This assumption was very essential because if 'he' didn't want humans to discover the code, no one could really find it out, though someone, just like Lows, might discover the presence of a code. Look at the human style dynamic bit

encryption nowadays, it was absolutely impossible to decode the message without the 'key' which was created by the 'sender' or 'creator' and not by a protocol. Therefore, if a super intelligence creating the coding didn't want any humans to read the coded message, Lows said no one should even try because the code couldn't be broken.'

'Ellearto stopped for a moment for a cup of fresh tea. It was also reported that the B Energy had powered up successfully and the telepathy scanner and shielding was being initiated. All windows and doors of the convoy were automatically locked and a grayish color was seen shielding up all the vehicles and sundering the inside from the real world. Ellearto sent a few commands to the computer and then continued.

"Lows said to me many times, with a prophetic manner, that when he first read the report in Northwest National Laboratory he had many images passing into his mind, too fast for him to have one glimpse. He assumed himself the chosen one and that was the sign. He later told me that some of those images were like the content that he had subsequently decoded from his 'scientific' work. Then, he surprised me by saying that scientific decoding might not be the only way to get these information. It might even be a wrong approach. When the super species seeded the information into our genetic material, he might have also put the decoding capability into our genes. The time of expression of the gene was merely not genetic, but intrinsically complicate, involving evolutionary, spiritual and opportunistic factors."

"Lows further said that as extra-genetic material was so common in almost every kind of living species, it was likely that the super species had also stored information into the cells of other species, even with a bonus of the species-specific ability to read the information. He quoted from Buddhist sutra that every living things had the same property of Buddha and so could become Buddha one day. He looked so serious that I made fun of him by saying that eventually he might have decoded a song in the world of that super species. Lows was always humorous and he answered that it would be amazing to listen to a heavenly symphony too. Who had?"

Ellearto was about to carry on the talk when he found that the convoy was entering the zone where the alarming incident happened. The telepathic scanner had discovered an enormous and powerful telepathic energy spreading over a huge region of area and it was represented as many vortexes actively rolling around, seemingly forming a siege to something. Suddenly a bundle of the telepathic energy branched away from the core and dashed towards their location. At the same time the computer alarmed for bracing an attack.

"Scale 6.2 registered, shield holding, energy level dropping down." The monotonous computer voice reported. "A second attack is coming in two seconds!"

Clarks understood that this was the strongest telepathic strike he ever read from reports written by special agents in the organization since the introduction of such equipment. He supposed the system could not hold long if waves of attack came unceasingly. He also wondered what was really a telepathic strike and what was its physical context, if there was any. Could we

see it in a distance outside the car?

Clarks looked at his father and found a warning expression, don't even think about that!

Sue and Little Guy were after Andy too. They did not have such high tech to track down Andy's vehicle, but they knew the route Andy was taking to go home. Another important tool was that the prayer bead that Sue gave Vincent had a patch of telepathic energy from her and she could trace it. They had telepathy, but they could not fly and transport themselves telepathically. Therefore, they were in a small car and there was a third person with them. They went to meet this person first before turning back to look for Andy. On the road, Ellearto's convoy had once passed them and at that moment the third person said to Sue and Little Guy.

"Ellearto was in the convoy!"

"Dad, how are you so sure that Ellearto was inside, though the convoy was marked to be Security Force?" Little Guy asked.

This was Little Guy's father and it meant that he was Dr. Timony Kim, the renowned scientist who discovered the Dark Stone. The news declaring his death had to be a cover up of something in the Chinese government.

Dr. Kim looked older than he should be. His forehead had a lot of wrinkles and he had short hairs and they were mostly white. He also looked tired.

When I was nine years old, I met Ellearto in the battlefield. He carried me on his back to a medical camp and so I had closely listened to his 'heart', one with passion and courage. He was a good man and a very good doctor, at least that time." Dr. Kim explained.

In the time of devastation, there was a wounded child in the battlefield warding the dead bodies of his parents. An US army doctor saved this child and carried him to the medical camp for treatment. When the doctor left the camp, the child took off a prayer bead from his wrist and gave it to his guardian angel to show his gratefulness. The doctor never knew that the prayer bead had been given a portion of the telepathic power of this ailed kid. In the years that followed, this attached telepathy had sent signals to the doctor for imminent danger and saved him numerous times. The military doctor only felt an incomparable tranquility when he held the bead in his hand, and since then, the prayer bead never left his pocket.

"Ellearto was the Number 2 of Lows Corporation and he hadn't left his headquarters for almost ten years." said Sue. "There was no obvious reason for him to appear here in this rural town. It had something to do with Andy and us and the break-in of HLFOPAH."

"Ellearto had apparently left Lows Corporation, but he and Lows had been friends since they were kids and had worked together for almost half a century. There was a strong argument for him to be still loyal to Lows. Our break-in had seemingly 'upset' him and he was merely after the intruders. He couldn't locate us, or those high-tech militias, then, he picked up Andy. But, one thing was amazing, that we had found nothing that night. Is it overwhelming for him to lead the search?" said Little Guy.

"You are right to mention those militias. I believe they are part of what

Ellearto startled. Everyone should be deeply troubled by those weapons. My intuition is that those weapons are supported by telepathic guidance and they are a new breed of firearms.” Dr. Kim explained and then asked his daughter. “Did you feel any trace of telepathy at the moment?”

“No, Dad. May be I was too concentrated to find a way out for my life.” Sue answered with a lingering fear on her face. It was the moment of life and death. “Is that right all telepathy are suppressed by the approach of Dark Stone? This telepathy would be terribly strong if it wasn’t crippled by the Dark Stone.”

“There are so many types of telepathy in this cosmos and we should say they do behave differently. We still know very little about them and the Dark Stone as well.” said Dr, Kim, and he added. “Let’s look at the attack at the Energy Station. Though it was only using conventional weapon, the setting was the realm of the nation’s capital. Security Force has no direct business in the capital and its vicinity, but its influence was in fact embedded in the civilian level. The attack in a peaceful time is a direct offense to Security Force and an act of provoking this security organization. Of course, the one who was the most irritated and aggressed was the US government. I should also warn you that in the public the US Government was condemning Security Force because it was under Lows Corporation for a long time. Lows is too mysterious a person to lay their trust and he is also not cooperative to the American global strategy. Lows Corporation controls so many vital medicines and technologies and grew so quickly everywhere. Their brave initiative to serve the third world is inevitably looked at as a political passion and deployment and not merely a humanitarian act and had made politicians unsettled. However, in the human relationship perspective, Ellearto had served in the US military for over ten years and saved many lives. Quite a few of those people and his colleagues are then important figures in the military and government. Based on this relationship, I believe Ellearto had long been a mediator for Lows in the hawkish wing that controls the US government. And, with Security Force spun off from Lows Corporation, I could only see that the relationship between Ellearto and the US Government would become closer and more friendly, but in a very delicate and complicate way that we couldn’t grasp from a distance. Eventually, I still believe Lows is still behind every move of the whole Lows Corporation, including the spun-off Security Force.’

“Lows still has so much strong support. He is such a man!” Little Guy gasped.

“Lows’s specialty appears to be his vision and his generosity. He is never mean to anyone, especially to his founding colleagues and business partners. His Foundation has helped numerous people, but it is just not sure of his intention to be ambitious or merciful.” Sue said, and then she shrieked suddenly because she felt an undulation in the telepathic link with Vincent and it was rapidly weakening.

“Bad things happen!” She cried.

Dr. Kim’s telepathic power immediately reached out to help, but he had to admit that it was too late and too far, and the sabotage was made by a strong telepathic enemy.

In the meantime, Little Guy watched that Ellearto's convoy had left the highway for the rest station.

"Follow the convoy. Ellearto had something bordering him in this moment." Dr. Kim instructed.

Sue was very concerned about Vincent and Andy and urged to find them. Dr. Kim's look turned very serious and he was pensive for a moment.

"No, we must be patient. We are facing no ordinary telepathic master. He was extremely strong and dangerous. Any unplanned movement would only make thing worse and risk everyone's life". He explained. "Ellearto was in high alert too!"

Their small car turned to the right lane and drove into the rest station and parked close to Ellarto's convoy. There were so many cars in the highway and the rest station, their presence was unnoticeable to Ellearto's man, and after all, they did not mean to follow Ellearto in the trip.

Dr. Kim closed his eyes, but he was telepathically listening to everything in the convoy. He had to make sure the role Ellearto would be playing in this episode or otherwise he would have fire from two sides in the rescue mission. Failure was not an option and it would kill lives.

Sue and Little Guy looked relaxed regardless of their rippling anxiety. Their father really meant a very serious opponent and they knew his father's power was more than ten times they got. It was a tense moment and only they felt it. People passing by only saw a young couple taking company with their tired father having a nap in the car. They would not know it was a very tense moment

Dr. Kim finally opened his eyes and took a deep breath. He then said. "Ellearto's convoy was going to leave, follow them, but in an unnoticeable distance. They had a kind of telepathic scanner, therefore, retrieve all your telepathic signature."

It amazed both Sue and Little Guy. They were very curious because they had never heard such kind of scientific device that could discover source of telepathy. They looked at their father and awaited some kind of explanation. They also needed to know whether their father had found out the Ellearto's true intention, at least his position in this event. Ellearto was such a powerful man that no one would like to make him an enemy.

Dr. Kim did not explain anything. He muttered. "No one has really seen Lows exercising telepathy, but so many facilities of Lows Corporation are protected by powerful telepathic shields and it is difficult to believe that Lows has nothing to do with it. Now, Ellearto has come up with telepathic scanners and anti-telepathic shields. Are they really in trouble with each other? How and where did Ellearto get all those fancy equipment? But, how did Lows get telepathy in the first place? Is it really true that Lows now possesses the stolen token from Buddha and from it he got the supreme telepathic methods?"

They drove their small passenger car very carefully after the convoy. They also retracted all their telepathy. It was important that their telepathic presence was not to be detected or otherwise it could be interpreted as hostile intention.

"Ellearto is also looking for Andy, and Andy is now being attacked by a telepathic power. There got to be some kind of link. You guys have any

suggestion?” Dr. Kim asked his children.

Sue and Little Guy looked at each other for any clue, but soon turned back to their father for an exposition.

“Everything has a cause and effect. For one event to happen or not to happen, there is an explanation behind it. When we feel confused, it is because we haven’t paid the necessary attention to all the circumstances, or we really don’t have the wisdom and knowledge to sort out all the circumstances.”

Dr. Kim stopped for a short moment to organize what he is going to tell his children and then he continued.

“One hundred years ago, our clan mobilized almost everyone to fight a battle against an alien power from the immaterial universe. Despite that the fight had been organized and planned for almost two thousand years, we were destined to fail because our capability was far inferior compared to the invading alien messenger. However, before the battle started, all of us were very hopeful and confident. The single reason was religious and it was the belief in Buddha.”

“Before the battle, almost everyone was only aware of the coming of a ‘messenger’ from another ‘world’. He was sent by his realm to take away the religious token handed down from Buddha. And, everyone was destined to protect the token from being ‘robbed’ away. Only one person knew the whole truth of the matter.”

“The person who knew the truth was only ten years old at that time. He was a reincarnation of a previous master of our clan. He was known as the ‘Master Child’ and traditionally he was the one keeping the token. Now, we know that the ‘Master Child’ had his own perspective about the token. His understanding and enlightenment was very much based on the proper Buddhist thinking that everything was only momentary and the whole universe was ever changing. We shouldn’t be so stubborn holding up a possession forever, no matter how sacred and precious it was. We would have more freedom and tranquility for owning nothing to one’s possession. Furthermore, the telepathic methods had already well been extracted from the token, meaning that it had already served its purpose and it should go back to whatever places it should go. Keeping it longer than we were capable of was going to cause disaster and misfortune and it was surely not the good intention of Buddha.”

“The Master Child didn’t explain all this to his fellow people because it would only lead to dispute and it would break the unity and harmony needed to fight the battle. Then, the moment that our clan had been waiting for two thousand years finally came. Under the most severe offense, the ‘Messenger’ could still very easily crumble our defense line. He then broke into the secret chamber where the Master Child and the clan seniors were guarding the token. He again neutralized all the attack from the clan seniors.”

“Even before the battle, the Master Child very much recognized that the telepathic power practiced in this material world had no match to the pure telepathic entity from the immaterial universe. He wouldn’t know why Buddha had to arrange such a serious fight, but he was confident that Buddha had his good reason and it was meant for the prosperity of the clan or even the human kind. Now, the battle had well been fought and the mission was simply accomplished.

It was not very important that whether the token could be retained or not. He didn't resist the offensive force from the 'Messenger' and he readily 'surrendered' the token to the 'Messenger'. It might be, in the first place, the 'Messenger' didn't expect the 'Master Child' would give away the token so easily, or for some other reason, he had to open up slightly his telepathic shield for a moment to get the token. This was weird, an immaterial entity accepting a physical thing!"

Dr. Kim then paused for a moment.

"The Master Child had to use this chance to embed a powerful patch of telepathy into the token and try a last assault. Is that right?" Little Guy said.

Dr. Kim did not answer right away and his countenance turned very respectful. He would like to accurately describe what he was once told about the Master Child. In order to do that, he would need to reset his presence as if he was overseeing that battle, that small secret chamber, full of telepathic turbulence, and that startling battle against the invincible. After a short moment, he then said, "Nobody would really know what the Master Child was thinking at that moment. The outcome was that he didn't really launch an assault nor he had protected himself from the exterminating power of the 'Messenger'. He embedded all his life force onto the token and this included the memories of all the reincarnations, his thinking and reasoning and especially his will. This might be another kind of strike-back or his strong will to sacrifice had touched the 'Messenger'. All of a sudden, the 'Messenger' and the token disappeared."

"Ah, the Master Child sacrificed!" Sue whispered and she felt miserable for the Master Child.

Dr. Kim sighed and said, "It was certainly a thoroughgoing sacrifice because he wouldn't be able to control his life force anymore and it meant a real death"

"But, what is this to do with Andy in this present day?" Little Guy asked.

"This is what I am going to tell you. You know, there was an epilog and a lot of aftermath after the fight and the death of the Master Child". I was told that the life force of the 'Master Child' had simultaneously activated a message left in the token by Buddha and the message had reached the five seniors in the secret chamber. The message was not only telling the seniors about the whole matter, but it was itself a powerful telepathic entity able to make the seniors understand what they were listening to. Lastly, the message said once the 'Messenger' had taken the token, he would return to his own realm. The covenant between our ancestor and Buddha would then be fulfilled and everyone should go and pursue his own destiny and enlightenment and shouldn't even think about the token again. Everyone was free then."

"Practically speaking, this was dissolving the clan. The ending would not be that simple!" Sue said.

"You are right. When the five seniors told the people the message that they had received, not all of them could accept the reality. As the whole clan had been living in a mysterious and religious setting for thousands of years, the precept of 'god' versus 'devil' and 'good' versus 'bad' was deeply impregnated in their thinking and behavior. Many young members especially felt a shame about the loss of the token to the 'devil' and vowed to take it back from the realm of the

'devil'. They were determined to use every measure to search for the telepathic methods brought to earth by Buddha and to use it against the 'devil' they assumed in the fight. Up to that time, the clan was greatly divided." Dr. Kim nodded and said.

"You ought to know that we belong to the order of the Master Child. After all of the other orders left the locale after a fierce and unhappy dispute, only your great grandfather and a few colleagues stayed there to manage the cremation of the body of the Master Child. During the cremation, they found resplendent lights coming out from the sarīra. The radiant and colorful rays likely activated another message left by Buddha in that site. Every move of the clan was known to Buddha long time ago!"

"Buddha was delivering his last teaching to his most loyal disciples. Despite that he would bless every human kind, he was sure that there was no optimism. When technology started to kick off, the spiritual realm of humans would go down hill more quickly. The thinking of unrestricted personal freedom would one day flood the human kind and we would lose control and damage the collective consciousness of the human generation. It was essentially impossible for us to give up the relish of the modern enjoyment and the primitive lust of our greedy desire. Accelerated growth of human population would greatly destroy the natural habitat and other species and cause more 'natural' disasters and billions would die and suffer. On the other hand, the culture of possession would precede sharing and sacrifice. Wars of bigger and bigger magnitude would happen again and once again, leaving unforgiven hatred to last generation after generation. He hoped the true Buddhists would uphold his teaching to be graceful and kind, passionate and sharing, and saving lives from the suffering of poverty, disease and war."

"Lastly, the Grand Master said that the knowledge he brought from his home world would have no practical use here and this was why he picked our world to preserve it. However, he had later put down all the knowledge that he acquired from this physical universe in the same storage site that he referred to as the 'Western Realm'. We could find those records in the 'beings' living there. "

"For the matter about the 'Messenger' who came from the other universe for the knowledge he brought here, the 'token' he grabbed would contain sufficient telepathic message making him go back to his own universe instantly. But likewise, he would leave behind the knowledge that he gained in this world and in his own perspective. This act had no bad intention at all, however, as he had only stayed in this universe for a short period of time and he had no insight of humanity, he wouldn't put encryption into it to select a good and appropriate user. Then, it would most likely be acquired easily by humans and in the wrong hands, leading to disastrous outcomes. Furthermore, if humans were not to be exterminated by the foolish acts the small groups of leading class were making day by day, then, humanity had to face more and more visitors from the other universes. They almost would have much higher intelligence than humans and they likely came to this universe and this star system through the 'opened channel'. In lack of a peaceful and humble mindset, disastrous wars would inevitably result...."

When Dr. Kim was about to continue, their car had just turned into a rural route leading to the approximate location where Andy and Vincent had lost their signature. They were sensing very strong and wide telepathic fields ahead of them and it was expanding and pressuring them. Dr. Kim's face turned even paler. They had no time for the talk anymore and needed to get ready for a fight.

"I am supposed to reveal the full message from Buddha to Andy when I meet him, but our enemy is now in front of us and he is dangerously powerful. Time is running out and I must say that if I couldn't save Andy and retreat, you guys have to flee away as quickly as possible. Go back to our base to recover the sealed message and instruction. " Dr. Kim likely was giving his last words to his two kids.

Sue and Little Guy pretty much knew that their telepathic strength was no match for their father's and yet the old man had little confidence to defy the unknown enemy. He even meant something really bad would happen to him. When father was in jeopardy, could the children escape for their own lives? They looked at one another and had no idea of what to do.

Chapter 11 -The telepathic fight

It looked like Dr. Kim was walking along a very narrow path leading to a concealed valley. The two sides of the walkway was steep and cliffy, full of jagged rocks of irregular and weird shapes. From time to time, will-o'-the-wisp flew around from behind the rocks and exploded into vivid sparks and noisy cracks. There were so many of them that apparently the man was besieged, but he was just walking step by step and he looked like seeing nothing, totally not distracted. He believed that just if there is a walkway, then he could move closer and closer to what he was looking for. Even there wasn't such a walkway, he could still cut a way out of nothing. The whole history of human civilization is about walking a way out of darkness.

"But, isn't it lonely for you to walk alone?"

"Besides, how about if you are walking the wrong way? Or, if you are merely going to hell!"

Sue and Little Guy had an impression that their father was advancing towards a flaming inferno. There were screaming cries and horrible outlooks and why their father was not aware of that? They could not give any warning or even move a bit because the opponent had already launched a full telepathic strike. The telepathic force had tightly guarded every inch of the space and sealed every exit. The enemy knew very well that taking down the 'kids' was a short cut to defeat the parent easily. Who else has no passion for their beloved? There were pages of history about people being struck down by caring too much their love ones. .

Kim very well knew that his kids were the shortcoming in the fight. If they were left alone to flee from the fight, they had to become more vulnerable and would invite the enemy to flatter them. However, an obvious weakness could be decorated and set into a trap. Anyway, staying together was better than splitting up, which only allowed to be struck down individually and more easily. Kim would not allow his telepathy to move away from his kids. Patience and defense was important in this fight and the only good time to assault was when the enemy was too happy to have found the 'weakness' of the defense and had one moment of negligence. But, could the enemy set up a counter trap using the same perspective?

The formidable telepathy from the enemy apparently surrounded Sue and Little Guy. But, the siege was contracted cautiously without exposing any weakness to any possible ambush. Unless, there was a much stronger offense, there was no way out. However, Kim did not put down a real trap. The 'Sue' and 'Little Guy' over there were only telepathic entities deployed to divert and distract

the enemy. They never stopped marching towards a 'valley', which Kim thought to be the source of the hostile telepathy. Andy and his friends had to be trapped in that place.

"That was a way going to hell!" There was a whisper.

Ellearto and his men were watching the data on the display panels and understood that the energy supporting the anti-telepathic shield was lowering down moment by moment for the defense. Yet, the telepathic scanner had no detection of the location of the source and without any coordinates, nothing could be done.

"Do we have a weapon to strike down telepathy?" Clarks did not know it existed, at least not here and right now with the convoy that he himself arranged. But he was sure that he had brought several new weapons. They were all protected within the shield from being spoiled by the attacking telepathy. Ellearto thought firing those weapons were their only chance, but without an accurate location, it was in vain.

Not long after the attack, Ellearto discovered that there was another entity of telepathy 'slipping' into the area. It was a lot weaker and tried hard not to confront the wide spreading telepathic force over there. There was only minor contacts of these two telepathic, but the observation was that they were likely enemies of the mysterious telepathic stronghold, rather than friends. Anyway, the presence of the second telepathic entity did impede the attack of the redoubtable force toward the convoy. Ellearto and Clarks felt more hopeful for this movement, but they could do nothing other than watching closely for a right timing to strike.

Finally, the attacking force was so close to 'Sue' and 'Little Guy' that there was inevitably a direct contact and fight. In one instant, 'Sue' and 'Little Guy' disappeared and the same was the 'force'. Kim did not leave his kids alone to laid down a trap and yet the enemy was only trying to look like diverting a lot of his energy to strike down the 'left-alone'. The wise enemy was likely having all of his force hidden somewhere, patiently waiting for striking down Kim and his kids. It was the strategy of getting the enemy exhausted while taking ease.

Kim and his kids arrived at the 'valley', which was seemingly only a telepathic object. Why was it in the form of a valley? What was its representation? It meant an easy place to laid a siege and a trap? It meant a place with the entry easy but leaving was difficult? Or, this was really the telepathic signature of the enemy? Kim needed to make a final decision to go in or not, especially by now he also knew that the enemy had not been distracted by his deployment of a fake 'Sue' and 'Little Guy'. He did not know where was his enemy and had no clue to discover it. How about Ellearto? Was the enemy confronting him too?

Fanies was being manipulated by grudge and hate. They were the most negative human feelings. No matter a primitive being or a civilized person, it was so easy to get it overflowed in the 'rational' mind and then causing the greatest damage of human relationship, many times lives were even wasted.

Fanies had only one man in her life.

She always remembered clearly the first time she met Andy. He was helping his father to prune the roses in the front yard. When Andy saw the little Fanies just moving into his next neighborhood, he was so nice to cut a few roses, took away the spines, put them into a small vase and give it to Fanies as a welcome gift. Fanies was an abandoned child and was not adopted from the orphan house until she was five. The flower was the first gift that she ever got from people other than her foster parents. Fanies very carefully took care of the flowers until the last petal withered dead. She then saved and stored the petals and the twigs in a wooden box.

When Fanies was a small kid, she was really ordinary in her look. She was also reticent and could please no one. Her foster parents could not understand the mind of an orphan kid and was not really satisfied with the adoption. After a while, her foster mother had a miserable automobile accident and had broken one leg. Her foster father then had to take up all the household routines after office work and to care for his beloved wife. He really had no time and energy for Fanies.

Because Fanies came from an orphan house of little resource, she was not pampered like kids in most middle class families. She cherished everything and wasted nothing. Her living was very tidy and clean and though she often had no smiling face. She was also very obedient. Andy's parents were especially fond of this little girl and Andy took her as his little sister and had no hesitation to protect her in school and in the neighborhood.

After the auto accident, Andy's mother often went to Fanies's home to help. She was a good company of the depressed mistress. She also taught Fanies to help the household. Andy's father also invited them to his magnificent farmhouse for the weekends to get the sadness away in the open field. Gradually, the two families became very close friends.

Friendship and caring of Andy's family gradually scoured away the unsociable character of the little girl. And, as she grew up, Fanies turned very beautiful and alluring. Of course many boys were enchanted by her charm and tried to date her with every means. However, they all had to admit that Fanies had no one in her mind, but Andy. This could be easily discovered with her rosy kind of smile on her face when she looked at Andy. Everyone just quitted from the competition. The look of Andy was only ordinary and not handsome in any sense, but he was tall and strong, energetic and vigorous, talented with leadership. He was also passionate and always liked to help others. No one would dare to challenge him for Fanies's adoration.

After starting high school for a short while, a wretched incident came along with Andy's family. His mother was diagnosed to have a very rare hereditary disease and her health was quickly deteriorating. Nothing could be done about it. The two families were intensely sad. Fanies's foster mother had long adapted to her handicap and now it was her turn to take care of Andy's mother and to soothe her pain.

In one autumn afternoon, Andy's mother appeared to be better and she purposely sent Andy and her husband away to buy some grocery. She then asked Fanies to put her on the wheel chair and asked Fanies to sit with her in the

balcony. She told Fanies something that the teenager could not fully grasp at that time.

“Fany, you know we were Red Indians.” The sick mother asked Fanies.

“Ya.”

“We were told that our homeland was originally somewhere in Guatemala. No one really knew how long our ancestors had been living over there. Many Maya tribes surrounded our community, but we were forbidden to do any business with them. The Maya people were said to be weird and strange. In fact, we were no better. We got no friends in the whole area.

When the Spanish people came to occupy our land and killed everyone, we were forced to move to other places in the continent. However, at that time, our tribe had only a few thousand people left. Guess why?”

Fanies shook her head.

“It was because of a uncanny tradition that nobody knew when it started. The man and woman of our tribe would take no outsiders to marry. Gradually, many babies died early and kids could not grow up. And, adults could easily get strange diseases. As a result, the population quickly diminished. Therefore, my disease was not unexpected.”

“You are telling me that one day, Andy and Uncle would likely get sick in the same way.” Fanies was very afraid and asked.

Andy’s mother tried to soothe the teenager. “It was uncertain. You know, both my father and mother had lived over sixties and they died naturally.” She sipped a little bit tea and thought a short while before going on.

“You know, even without such a cultural tradition, the man and woman of our tribe wouldn’t likely marry someone from outside. The reason wasn’t that they rarely saw someone from outside like in the old days, but it was because they had some special attribute that could bind them together, very much like bees are after flowers. It is not what they could control.”

“But, isn’t it true that Andy liked me so much?” The teenager girl was confident to ask.

“This is why I am telling you some things that happened long time ago. It was about me and your Uncle Andy. You must listen carefully.” Andy’s mother said.

“Our grand parents started to get education in the modern world and would very much like to break that ailing custom. Therefore, when your Uncle Andy was still a kid, his family moved away from the tribal community with the good intention that he would meet other girls from outside one day. This plan was a good one and it worked. Your Uncle Andy had really fallen in love with a white girl in the university and was planning to get married after graduation.”

“But things usually don’t work the way you want exactly. Before the end of the final school year, your Uncle Andy’s family had to go back to the tribal village to honor the funeral of the Grand Ma. That was the first time I met him. It was some thirty years ago, but I still could remember every details of the moment,”

The pale face of the woman showed her permanent satisfaction and a timeless smile and continued.

“I’ll cut the story short. We fell in love in the first sight and couldn’t

separate from each other. For thirty years, I've been thinking this really hard. Your Uncle was a very passionate man and responsible. There's not a single reason he could forget his beloved girl in the city and fall in love with an ordinary village girl in one instant. You know, I wasn't a pretty woman and I didn't know how to please him. After all, I thought it was because we had special genes in our body that had expressed into some kind of unique attributes attracting and binding each other."

"Though your Uncle Andy couldn't hold back the love in me, his heart was very unsettled because he had hurt his girl friend. He couldn't face her again and he never returned to the city. I very much understand that he still feels very guilty after all these years and he wouldn't forgive himself, even the day he died. And, I feel sorry for both of them too."

"This marriage and love of ours made our clansmen know that the tribal intermarriage wasn't a kind of custom and norm, but rather it was a kind of odd need bound to our physiology. If we wanted our tribe to survive, the only way out was not to live together anymore. We needed to move away from one another as far as possible. At that time, there were only a couple of families in the village."

"At first, we didn't dare to have any kid because we feared to have our baby died prematurely. Then, as we grew older, we eventually couldn't resist the allure of having a child. At the age of mid thirties, we had given birth to Andy and we were fortunate to have a very healthy baby and child. Doctors couldn't find any hereditary ailment in Andy. But then, we were worrying about his future if we stayed in the village. He would definitely intermarry with some girl and had to go through everything that his parents did. After a thorough discussion with those families having kids, we were only left with the same old option of moving away, just for the goodness of our children. "

Andy's mother stopped here and gazed at Fanies and tried to see whether the teenager could understand the significance of the whole story. However, Fanies was still too young to get the point, especially the worry of a mother for his son.

"Fany, you know by now our tribe should only have a few dozens of people in the world and they are in different parts of the country or even in other parts of the globe. But, destiny is unpredictable and it would like to tease us. I am afraid that one day Andy will meet a girl from our tribe somewhere. You know, no matter how much he loved you at this moment, he couldn't control himself from binding to the other woman. Even he knew the excuse, he would only carry the same old burden as his father did for the rest of his life. He would never see you again."

Andy's mother paused again and she looked hesitated to say something and her eyes showed a beseeching visage. But, she didn't speak it out and several days later she died.

As a teenager, Fanies really did not realize the subtle appeal of Andy's mother and only years later when Andy got an affair in Guatemala, she recollected all the words Andy's mother said that day, she finally could grasp the whole picture. Things might not happen in the worse case, but a dying mother likely had a kind of peculiar vision of the uneasy future. She told Fanies

everything with the good intention of helping Fanies to find a way out of a sudden breakdown when Andy turned to another woman. But deep in her heart, there was a request for Fanies to pardon Andy and to help him lift his burden. She did not want to see his son walking the same regrettable path his father had. Eventually, she did not make the request. It would be too harsh and stern for a young kindhearted girl.

The mother pretty well knew that his son should resolve all these by his own endeavor and commit to seek for forgiveness, or otherwise he would carry the burden all his life like his father and sad regret could forever grasp his destiny tightly.

“If such things happen, what could I do?”

Andy’ mother spread out her hands and Fanies bent over in her embrace, with a lot of tears for a reason she could not tell. The dying mother whisked the silvery hairs of the young girl and comforted her with warmth and caress. “Don’t be silly, it will never happen. You guys will be happy and my soul is going to look after you. Be happy! Promise me.”

Fanies nodded her head repeatedly and she was about to cry out loud. The young girl’s tears had wetted the clothes of the feeble woman who looked at the distant hills with trees almost shedding all their leaves. She was also tearful and her vision blurred. At this moment, the far away horizon sprinkled down the vibrant colors of the setting sun and the whole balcony was soon swathed in the dusking flush.

Being benevolent and docile was liable to the harm and even slaughtering by the brutal strong-arm. But overcoming a kind and compassionate heart and altering it to act ruthlessly was also not that easy. An unknown telepathic power was vigorously attacking Fanies and trying to manipulate her thinking. Fanies was not any kind of holy being and she had made numerous mistakes in her life, including killing innocent civilians in her missions. However, essentially she was just an ordinary woman with a gentle and good heart and the most important thing right now was that she was in love of Andy on no conditions. This love was independent of any manipulation coming from genetics, like the one between Andy and Green Grass. It was the most essential, primitive and precious human passion. The injected hatred and envy could not get resonance in Fanies mind. It could not waken her negative feelings and emotion that could be very well amplified and recomposed in a form useful for breaking down Andy’s defense. The unsuccessful outcome was not due to Fanies having a strong mind to resist or she had telepathic power for her protection. It was merely because the offender had taken the wrong way. But the offender did not instantly get the picture and he felt shameful for not able to conquer a weak woman in one instant. Therefore, he continuously pumped up the telepathic power to bend Fanies’s thought.

Dr. Kim gradually had some feeling about the delicate situation and so did Andy. The emotion that was projected from Fanies onto Andy started to have no accusation, hate and vengeance and on the other hand it was only love, tolerance and understanding. This was very useful to unbind Andy’s only burden

that was having an affair with Green Grass. Unlike Fanies, Andy came from a Red Indian tribe having a strong religious belief and mind control. Telepathic power could overcome his physical body, but it was hard to cheat his mind, manipulate his thought and search his memories. But the offender obviously was not aware of that in advance. He first thought that it would be easy to knock down Andy and Fanies as well as Vincent and Anson. Instead he was stuck with the couple. With Kim's arrival and his telepathic participation, the offender started to have worries. Then, he found a third party had come by and obviously they had power to resist his telepathic attack. He was hesitating to finalize the fighting strategy. If he would withdraw all the energy spent on Andy and Fanies, he could have given Kim a lethal hit and then turned back to knock out Ellearto who in fact did not really have any solid weapon towards telepathy. Of course, the offender was not aware of that. He did not dare to retreat from the siege on Andy because he had already felt some hidden telepathic signature in Andy's mind. It would be a disaster when Andy struck back when he withdrew. He did not really know that Andy's telepathy was so far only protective and not offensive.

The offenders had laid down many telepathic traps and illusions to deceive Kim's perception and to make Ellearto confused enough not to make any move. These were all made from telepathic energy, and when he excessively exported his energy to deal with Andy and Fanies, the frontline attacking Kim and Ellearto gradually weakened and ended up with some loopholes. Kim was a very powerful user of telepathy and he instantly sensed the difference, but he was also hesitated to take advantage of that because it might be another deception arranged by the opponent.

Hesitation in a fight of two people or a massive battle was often detrimental and lethal because an advantageous opportunity might just be very instantaneous.

Andy's self-awareness grew stronger and stronger and he suddenly could wake up from his nightmare. He immediately understood that he had just been attacked by some telepathic entity. His second thought was to look for Fanies but found her unconsciously lying in her seat. Andy was very afraid that Fanies could get hurt and he sprang up from his chair and at the same time shouted out loud for Fanies's name.

The offender was shocked by Andy's strong will to emancipate himself from his telepathic control. On the other side, Kim was now sure this was not a hoax. The enemy's telepathic barrier had partially broken down. He instantly sent out two telepathic messages and at the same time launched an unreserved strike.

The offender had only one short moment of startle and he discovered that Andy did not possess the telepathic power to strike back and he was also aware of the mistake that he just made in the action trying to conquer the minds of the passionate couple. He instantly retrieved all the telepathic energy used in the mind control and operated another tier of telepathic force to grasp Andy. In the meantime, Andy's shouting had also woken Fanies and she found Andy painfully struggling, likely fighting with an invisible monster. Andy's facial muscle was twisted and deformed terribly and he was pulled backwards steps by steps. A big

bang simultaneously shocked the whole container and the carriage had a big hole broken open behind Andy's body. Strong light was shining in from the hole and blinded Fanies's eyes, but she knew that Andy was almost dragged to the outside. She had no second thought and dashed towards Andy and held him firmly in her arms. Once she touched Andy's body, she felt an extreme pain like being punctured through by numerous arrows repeatedly. She gave a bloodcurdling scream and instantly lost her consciousness, but she was still holding Andy firmly. She would never release him to the spirit-taking devil.

At this last moment, Kim's assault had engaged in a direct fight with the offender and Sue and Little Guy were working to block the telepathic force manipulating Andy and Fanies. The two sides were now fighting at close quarters and it was a life and death plight. The unknown enemy was very formidable and strong and Kim's family was quickly pushed into an inferior position. But the severe fight had given Andy a break and he became conscious enough to notice that Fanies had almost no breath, her face turning bluish and eyes tightly closed. She was on the verge of death. Extreme torment instantly filled his whole heart and so the rage and they burst into a seemingly telepathic flame that dashed through the big hole of the container truck and struck at the unknown enemy. At the same time, Ellearto had also fired his weapons.

This telepathic battle dropped its curtain at sunset when the golden rays started to shine onto the big spreading cornfield. Little Guy was emaciated, but he was still fine enough to help his dad stand there, panting. The old man face looked terribly ashen and bloodless. Sue did recover Vince and Anson from the container and was leaning on the side of the broken vehicle, totally exhausted. Andy stood still in the field, tightly holding Fanies in his arms. In the far side, Ellearto and Clarks stepped out of their high tech vehicles and were deeply breathing the ever so fresh air of the open field. And, they were walking towards the haggard fighters.