

Chapter 12 – One Union

Fanies was lying in a sickbed in a specially equipped ward. There were many varieties of very advanced medical equipment that could not be found elsewhere. Fanies was in a coma for the third day. Her face was pale as sheet and her silvery and shiny hair became very ashen. The medical team had no real idea what was going on. This was not an ordinary hospital, either were the doctors. This was the Headquarters of Security Force in the Western US, commonly known as HOSFWUS. It hosted a very special medical facility specialized in treating different kinds of injuries in combat. Being engaged in the dangerous business of security in the time of turmoil and brutally, a kind of faultless medical support was very needed. This was why Security Force established the facility a long time ago.

When Kim's family followed Ellearto into the rest area of the highway system, Dr. Kim infused a stream of telepathy into the prayer bead that he gave Ellearto some forty years ago, just before Ellearto ordered to start the B energy stream and the telepathic scanner and anti-telepathic shield. Kim hoped that he could use the link to communicate with Ellearto and he also expected to probe the usefulness of the scanner and the shield that Ellearto was going to deploy. When the telepathic fight was at the most critical moment, Kim sent out messages to Ellearto about the location of the enemy, but the messages turned vague because of the anti-telepathic barrier. It could not reach the mind of Ellearto directly. However, it did stick to the prayer bead, which carried Kim's telepathic signature. Ellearto had kept using this prayer bead for almost half a century and had built up some kind of delicate and subtle relationship, allowing him to grasp an intuitive message. He was then able to launch his supersonic and subsonic weapons at the right time. These complicate waves after a series of focusing could interfere the brain waves and freeze the brain activities for a short while. Ellearto thought it might be useful to disenable a telepathic master. Eventually, the telepathic offender was dismissed, not by a single strike, but likely a team work of no planned coordination. After all, if Ellearto had not saved Kim in the North Korea battlefield; if Kim had not sent the messages via the prayer bead that he gave Ellearto, or even he had not reinforced the telepathy in the rest area, or if Ellearto had thrown away that small present from Kim, there would be a very different upshot. Is this merely coincidental or is it destined by a multitude of cause and effect.

Ellearto lost two people in the engagement. Their vehicle was recovered, but the men disappeared. Andy was desperate because only he appeared in good shape. Two team members vanished in the energy station in Washington and now everyone was in a state of stupor. Fanies was critically injured. Andy was so upset about Fanies that for a moment he did not know what to do. Ellearto was generous enough to host these newly acquainted guests likely because they had fought the same enemy. He said that the HOSFWUS had the best medical equipment and doctors to look after the injured. It was also a safe

place for everyone to sit down and do some question and answer.

Security Force was such a powerful organization and very resourceful. Half an hour later after they left the cornfield and drove westwards, two helicopters relayed to take them to a bigger airport, where a medical jet plane was already waiting for them. Before midnight, they arrived at San Diego airport and a convoy immediately took them to the south border of the city where the most famous HOSFWUS was located. It was a huge building on a vast piece of land. There were numerous sentry points securing the whole area. Ellearo commented that other than those armed guards, the telepathic scanner and shield had already been set up to protect the whole facility. The enemy attacking them disappeared in the thin air and it meant that he or she had just retreated for the moment and another attack was a matter of time. Kim also told Andy that several elders of his clan had also left their monastery in the wild for State because of this formidable telepathic foe.

There were so many questions, but the most urgent one was to know who was the offender.

“In the final stage of the fight, our strikes happened to coordinate to injure this foe and his telepathic shield had a short moment of retraction and I could really see his face. I think it was also the reason that he gave me a very heavy blow before he left, obviously trying his best to eliminate me.” Kim seriously said, and he thanked Ellearo for the long lasting assault with his sonic weapons, or otherwise everyone would be captured or killed.

“He was the incumbent of the Chief Chair of One Union.” Kim then slowly spelled out the identity of the person while everyone was quietly waiting for the name.

Everyone was shocked when they heard the name ‘One Union’. No one could hold his countenance calm with this legendary name.

Since the thirties of this century, three global civilian organizations stood in the midst of the international arena. They were the ‘Good Life Foundation’, ‘One Union’ and the ‘Lows Foundation for Peace and Humanity’. Good Life Foundation had the longest history and was founded in seventies of the last century by a group of Chinese Buddhists. Based on the belief of unconditional and infinite mercy and compassion, they first practiced helping the poor and the sick in their homeland and later extended to the relief of disaster in other places of the continent. They started with a mere one-dollar donation program and grew into an international charity foundation. Stepping into the twenties of the this century, they were almost everywhere and ready to dispatch relief efforts to the suffering no matter what they believed in religion or politics or what kind of country they resided and what skin color they had. Because of their true indiscriminate in serving the global community, the organization was highly praised and respected by every country in the globe. The relief organization of Lows Corporation had worked with the volunteers of Good Life Foundation for numerous times to expedite urgent food and medical supplies to areas heavily suffering from natural disasters or military engagement. Ellearo knew several of the core members who were mostly believers of the Mahayana sect of Buddhism.

To the ordinary public, the secrecy of One Union was no less than that of

Lows Corporation. The Union was only founded in the beginning of the century in Japan. It happened to be also Buddhistic in its theme. Unlike Good Life Foundation, One Union was known to the outsiders to have merged the belief of the Hinayana sect of Buddhism and the techniques of Vajrayāna Buddhism for achieving personal enlightenment. The propaganda of practicing the belief was having a healthier body and mind, curing illness and transcending to higher level of wisdom and consciousness. The growth of One Union was exponential and within ten years, it had several millions of hardcore believers in Japan and it was inevitable to spread to all the adjacent countries. It then showed an initiative to go political and many Union officers started to campaign for public offices. By the end of the twenties, One Union was powerful enough to challenge the ruling party, which was backed up by New Shinto, a very strong national religion of Japan.

It was about half a year before the election for a new government. The communication media controlled by One Union uncovered evidence denouncing the government and ruling party being involved in illegal activities hacking into the political operations of the Union. Returning fire to the fiery accusation, the government struck back by disclosing special court orders authorizing investigating the Union's missionary activities because of numerous accusations about the use of hypnotism and related brain washing technique to obtain huge amount of donation and operators. The government further claimed to have obtained solid preliminary evidence that could not be disclosed at the moment as court process and grand jury were being assembled.

Following the announcement, One Union reproached the government's abduction of three Union One congressmen to prevent them from exercising their vote in special congress session. The Government was in a bad position, but was bold to release proper documents revealing the act was 'recommended' action following official 'criminal' charge made by the families of those three congressmen about the issue of brain washing and mind control. They were not 'abducted', but were kept in high security medical facilities with the overlooking of family members and attorneys. The government also had to announce a hearing with a grand jury. The explosive episode was that the congressman who first attended the hearing had a very sudden and lethal 'heart attack' before he spoke anything. This was instantly indicted by One Union as a means to cover up and eliminate divulgence of the illegal and criminal acts committed for the political intention of the government and ruling party. The ruling party was again in a bad position because the congressman was in their custody. Under the consent of the family, the government could only reveal all the medical records and procedures of the congressman before and after the 'medical detention', revealing no sign of heart problems. The autopsy done also provided no clue to explain why a heart attack could happen. The government wanted to made an implication that the mysterious death was indeed due to One Union's mind control act on the congressman, though it was weak.

Very close to the election date, One Union assembled two hundred thousand people to protest in front of the congress and the angry crowd sieged the building for as long as three full days and nights. The government indicted

the act as obvious means to obstruct justice because the hearing of another 'abducted' congressman was scheduled in that time. The country was very polarized and the situation extremely volatile. Everyday, there were protests and counter protests and counts of violence were increasing and they were growing more difficult to suppress. There was hearsay disclosing the intention of the government to delay the election scheduled in the following week. Up to that moment, polling showed that Union One was running ahead of the ruling party and delaying the election would surely be disadvantageous to Union One. The leadership of Union One determined not to allow the government to delay the election and it again assembled almost a million people to protest in several big cities and pleaded for international intervention. The government then had no choice but to keep the election. It announced canceling all vacations of the security force and mobilize all backup units and reserves. It set the country into an emergency state preparing the day of election.

"Isn't true that the events taking place the day before that election were still tightly covered up and it was one of the unsettled mysteries of modern history." Using a cautious and inquiring tone, Ellearo asked Kim.

Kim did not answer the question instantly and he appeared to set himself into a short reminisce. He then said, "The day before the election, the Japanese Government announced that the independent judge in charge of the One Union case was assassinated and in the evening news, the Government further said that the assassins had just been arrested alive. After dark, numerous places in the country were having riots and the Government took advantage of these incidents to declare martial law. In that night, Japan happened to have the darkest moment in its history since the Second World War. Numerous people were fighting a political and religious war in a very uncivilized and barbaric way. "

"In early morning of the next day, the Government announced to charge Union One of instigating numerous riots in the nation and a military coup storming the capital and capturing many offices of the Government including that of the Prime Minister, many Congressmen and the Chief Prosecutor. It was said the coup tried to control the Government and destroy evidences collected in the investigation of the assassination of the judge of the One Union case. Those destroyed evidences likely suggested the involvement of ranking officers of the Union. The Prime Minister and most of his cabinet members succeeded to escape with many guards killed in the severe fight. Before dawn, armies loyal to the Government were however able to retake the Capital and neutralize the coup. The military police started to arrest officers of the Union throughout the nation, especially the Chief Master of the Union who was said to mastermind the coup. However, this person had never been captured and his whereabouts was still a mystery. " Ellearo supplemented.

Andy was careworn, but he was listening carefully to every word of the conversation as it would reveal the true identify of the enemy. Understanding your enemy was the prerequisite requirement to win. He also hoped to get some clues that might help cure the serious and strange wound of Fanies.

"I remembered this very vehement incident. At that time, I was only a junior officer in the Marine and was stationed in a base close to Tokyo. A week

before the date of election, we were already told to remain in the base strictly for full alert and there were rumors that a special force had arrived at the suburban of Tokyo to launch an important mission.” Andy took advantage of the break and said.

“In this one hundred of years, the US has intervened too many business of the world, and because of that, we lost a major portion of our tax money and uncountable lives.” Ellearto said with a tint of disgrace.

“In the afternoon of the day just before the election, my unit was assembled and ordered to fly to the US Embassy to evacuate the ambassadors and their families. We also had several other missions in the rest of the days.” Andy went on and said.

“You were not only in Japan, but indeed you had been in Tokyo and were in the US Embassy that day as well? What you guys had done later?” Kim was very surprised and said.

Andy nodded his head, but he didn’t answer the question. Kim understood that it could be some covert operation that Andy shouldn’t talk about though it was so many years after. He didn’t ask again.

“At that time, the American Government was supporting the ruling party of Japan, the reason being Japan had been building up an army under its guidance and all the equipment was all from US. The business and its profile were just too big to allow any diversion of the deal. Secondly, Japan was then able to protect itself and there was no need for a significant US army to be deployed. This would cut cost and certainly reduce the hostility of the Japanese national. As far as I knew, the US did not involve its armed force into this military conflict, but it certainly took an active role in the strategic planning and the provision of information and intelligence.”

“A few days before the election, I and Lows were already in Japan for an important visit to evaluate the situation and to determine the relief strategy once widespread social violence or even military conflict staged up. The Chief Ambassador was a friend of mine and therefore we had been invited to the embassy for a few hours to take some briefing about the tense situation. When we were heading back to our residence in our headquarters that day, Lows made a very detail analysis of the situation and some forecast what would happen next. His analysis was very correct and matched all the events that took place in the following few days. I had to admire his vision though later I leant that Lows got the picture not solely by his thoughtful and visionary analysis. The kind of telepathy that he had acquired in those days allowed him to overhear a piece of important conversation in a meeting when we passed by a conference room and were stopped for a short while for checking our identity.” Ellearto said.

“Ah, you people were all in Japan that time, but you won’t expect me there too!” Kim took a deep breath and said.

They looked at one another and were surprised by the coincidence.

“I see, Mr. Ellearto, you first continue with what you guys did in Japan and I would tell my story over there.” Kim proposed.

“O.K! Lows had several perspectives. Firstly, if election was going to take place as scheduled and nothing unusual happened, the ruling party would

certainly lose. Secondly, Japan had been running democracy for almost a century and it was natural to have rotation of government. It would at most lead to political turbulence and could not end up with a civil war. The hearsay of an imminent coupe and even a civil war had to be a canard made up and spread by conspirators. And, of course, the ruling party and its associates were likely responsible for this canard with the aim to jumble the stability to delay election or to take vicious actions in the time of upheaval. Finally, a democratic government could only assemble the military to put down violent riots and uprising, but couldn't be used to eliminate civil opposition. The ruling party was merely taking every action to stimulate One Union step by step and pushed them to the corner. Of course, the ruling party had to acquire some kind of evidence or the challenge was not realistic and powerful. Anyway, Union One was foolish enough to call for a million believers to siege the congress in the capital and the Government was happy to take advantage of the outcome to call the military into standby. But then this wasn't sufficient to topple One Union. The ruling party needed something more chaotic. Something so drastic that could put the lives of the party leaders at stake.

“Based on the above analysis, Lows concluded that the Japanese ruling party would use all measures to push One Union to launch a military coup. But there was prerequisite for this scenario. The first thing was that Union One ought to have this military capital. Most One Union specialists wouldn't doubt their military capacity because there were numerous believers in the police force and the army up to the rank of commanding officers. The second requirement was that the situation had bound Union One to think a military coup was the only option to get the government cracked down or even the only way for the organization to survive the power struggle. Finally, and it was also the most important. Union One had to get sufficient intelligence allowing them to validate the situation and to support a success with little risk. Lows said this could be the biggest conspiracy of the century and it was packing up political, religious and military elements in one shot. And you would not expect the US government was out of the loop. Numerous political leaders, religious chiefs and military commanders would be drawn into the struggle and there would be a high casualty including mostly civilians. Anyway, it was amazed that only a few seniors of both sides would know the whole plan of their own and there would be an absolute cover up of the business afterwards, no matter which side won. They would not easily expose what dirty and sordid tricks they had done in the back stage.”

“Japan was one of the biggest customers of Lows Corporation, and what was Lows's position?” Kim asked Ellearto.

“For the sake of running a business, we had dealt with the Japanese Government and the ruling party long enough to understand them and they were not much different from ordinary businessmen. On the contrary, One Union was abruptly rising up from the horizon and they really had many forbidden rules for their mystique. Anyway, being a commercial organization, we had never expressed our endorsement and it would be very unwise to do that.” Ellearto answered.

“But eventually, Lows would have his own perspective.” Kim said.

“We all know that Lows Corporation was as much praised as blamed. But, the founders of Lows Corporation were all good and decent people with great humanistic mind. Lows used to hate those political boss talking a lot of good things but doing foul games all the time in the back. The ruling party of Japan in that time was corrupt enough to make him sick, but Union One was even worse, with the ambition to unify politics and religion in the whole world and those evidences disclosing their telepathic control of minds had first made Lows bordered, then furious and repugnant.

“Isn’t Mr. Lows also good at telepathy?” Andy curiously asked.

“Andy, there are many kinds of telepathy in the universe. I believe that the kind practiced by Union One was involving digging information from the mind and even trying to alter and control the mind. Mr. Lows grew up in the free culture of US and would most respect people’s free will. Bottom line, he wouldn’t like One Union.” Sue explained.

Ellearto nodded his head and looked appreciated.

Kim had hesitated for a moment, but he went on, “It wasn’t quite right. Mr. Lows and you were the heads of the biggest corporation on the globe and had to be fully occupied with myriads of high-ranking affairs, I doubt there was a need for you two to go together just to assess the situation for possible relief mission!”

“Dr. Kim, you are only half right. Yes, we did have other business in Japan. But you also got to know that Japan was a stronghold of the Corporation. And it still is. It was then a democratic country for almost a century with very stable politics leading to affluent economy and rich livelihood. Everyone also worked hard. The Asian headquarters of Lows Corporation was in Tokyo. The Eastern World Division of the Lows International Relief Organization was also in Tokyo. Since the political confrontation started to get into dead heat, violence escalated everyday and it beat up the morale of every Japanese employee over there. Our visit would certainly be a stimulating shot. We also needed to get well prepared for the worst to happen, such as how to operate in a rioting city, with martial law declared or even having military turmoil. We had to find a way to get the company safe and to get our people safe. Finally, we were going there to interview people who would like to be transferred to our new headquarters built on an island that we ‘rented’ from one Central American nation. Due to the very tense political situation, we received a lot of application. Lows believed that the Japanese organization had to be infiltrated by One Union in many ways. He therefore wanted to interview the applicants. He wanted to filter out those guys with bad intention.”

Kim was sorry to have asked so many questions and showed an apology. But he kept on asking, “What did Lows find out?”

“Lows had completed the interview and he gave a name list to the Head of Headquarter Relocation. I asked him on what criteria he was selecting people. He had a bitter smile on his pale face at that moment, and just said it was all about intuition. He also asked to leave Japan immediately. A few years later, when Lows was parting with us, he then told us what really happened that horrible day.”

Ellearto paused for a moment, added some tea to his cup and likely was calling up the old memories. The room was very quiet and everyone now started to understand why Kim would keep on asking about Lows. Kim had to know something about him. Everyone was patiently waiting for Ellearto.

A moment later, Ellearto finally continued, "While we were only tracking the emergence of One Union, its masters had already laid down the secret plan to make a conquest of the Corporation. Infiltrating the Japanese organization was inevitable and it was easy. But all infiltration there could at best take out some business information or even product formulation. It was far from being able to subdue the Corporation. "

Ellearto was already seventy and had to take a break often. Kim was smart enough to figure out the rest and took the timing to say, "If Lows could be 'mentally' controlled, whole Lows Corporation could be in their hands. It was no way to get close to Lows in ordinary times and that interview had to be the only chance they had. Eventually, Lows had beaten them hard, right?"

"Infiltration really only served this one purpose and this was why we couldn't find anything wrong in the Japanese organization. They infiltrated and did nothing. They waited. Therefore we overlooked and underestimated them. Lows said if he hadn't been developing telepathic power without himself knowing its advancement, he would have been controlled by the guy and became a puppet. Lows Corporation could have been diverted from its founding principles. That was the first time Lows had a telepathic fight with a mind master. He won, but he was also badly bruised. He returned to the new headquarters to heal himself and since then he never left there. There was huge speculation about his sudden recluse move and gradually he became a mysterious person in the media, and from a mysterious person to a formidable figure. You know, nobody liked a hidden character controlling the most powerful corporation on the globe."

"You are saying that Lows was always in his Central American headquarters?" Kim was curious to ask, and the answer everyone would be eager to know.

Ellearto ended up with a wry smile and said, "That fight with a One Union master was not initiated by Lows. But he did beat up the guy badly because he couldn't control his power at that time. Vengeance was just a matter of time. The horrible experience in the fight also fluttered him with fear. He had no choice but to pick up learning more telepathy that could be the only way to protect himself and the corporation. About his whereabouts, that was tricky. He had stayed in Central American for quite some time, but now he would likely be in HLOFPAH. A few days ago, we tried to sneak into HLOFPAH and look for clues, and you guys knew the rest of it. It was a long story about Lows, but first, Kim, I would be very interested to know why you were in Japan too." Ellearto then stopped and gazed at Kim for his adventure.

"You got the idea of who we were in the trip coming here. One hundred years ago, we lost a well-prepared telepathic battle to an alien entity with enormous power and from a different dimension. A token handed down to us by Buddha was taken away. The true identity of our origin was also revealed. After a clamorous debate about our future, our tribe was eventually badly divided and

since then most had left our base. Some chose quiet places to continue a recluse living and some just traveled everywhere. A faction just vowed to take back the token that we had lost. Around fifteen years ago, I received a letter from two clan members in Japan. Could you figure out who they were?" Kim started his story.

"Are they from One Union?" Ellearto tried an answer.

"No, no. Our tribesmen practiced a kind of telepathy very different from that revealed in One Union. We were also forbidden by Buddha not to step into the realm of mind control. Therefore, all clans spurn this practice. When we learn telepathy, the first step is to learn technique keeping us from being interfered by those mind control force that is likely present anywhere in the universe. O.K. I will cut all the guesses. They were the High Mantraders of New Shinto. Mantraders means the high priests who own and read the mantra, or secret prayers. By means of these mantras, they exercise supernatural power, which is indeed a kind of telepathy. A lot of the government officers were at that time royal believers of New Shinto, the Prime Minister included." Kim continued.

"This is plainly a clash of religious belief too! Religious conflict has always been the main theme for wars in the human history." Ellearto sighed.

"In the letter, they told me what they found from Union One, especially about the kind of mind control telepathy they were using in their religious activities. They made a plea for us to go there to have a look or even help because in the most recent fight with senior members of the Union, they discovered that they were using telepathic techniques similar to those used by the alien entity that defeated our grand parents a hundreds years ago." Kim said.

"This was really pushing you guys to help the ruling party. A bloc was formed. Am I right?" Andy added.

"For more than two thousands years, our tribesmen had been living in no men's land to pursue telepathic enlightenment. Other than having the goal to go beyond the limitation of a physical world, to extricate from the desire rooted to the need of our human body, we united and committed wholly to the defense of the token against the alien entity. After the lost battle, our tribesmen were strewed to everywhere in the world. In the course of modernization and population explosion, there was no way to live uninterruptedly. We had to live with other people and to build relationship with them and it was almost impossible to do that without getting into politics and religion, and especially religion because we were indeed religious people and we possessed the religious superpower." Kim explained and continued.

"When we arrived at a secret shrine in Hokkaidō, we really had a reunion with our people in other clans. One of the clans had been working all the years trying to track down the alien that once defeated us. Their bellicosity against what they meant 'evil' was very appalling and they had a stubborn determination to eliminate all 'evil' cause. Before the meeting, several New Shinto Mantraders worked with them to made a foray into the stronghold of One Union. Though with heavy losses, they were able to abduct three One Union congressmen. They also could open up some telepathic locks in their mind and thought when they regained their control, they could tell the truth before the public and chided One Union on their sordid acts. However, they were negligent not to find some of the

locks were then lethal. One of the congressmen died just in the court hearing and put the government into a very embarrassing and adverse situation. And, the other two 'recovered' congressmen were just too afraid to appear in public and they just had to 'hide' in Hokkaidō, being protected by a very strong military presence and an assembly of powerful New Shinto Mantraders and their alliance. I had the chance of seeing two living congressmen and also examining the corpse of the dead one. And, I had no doubt that they were manipulated by mind control telepathy."

"How did you know that the One Union masters were using the same telepathic techniques that defeated your tribe badly one hundred years ago?" Andy curiously asked.

"Ordinary people or telepathic users could not know. They even couldn't tell whether a bruise was caused by telepathy or not. But it is not that difficult for masters. I can use a good example from wounds by gunshots and you would get the point. Isn't that right a forensic expert could roughly tell the type of gun and bullet causing the wound?" Kim explained and then continued after a short pause. "For a hundred years, the type of telepathy hurting us so badly was a kind of in front of us. We instantly had a missionary feel to do something, but at the same time we felt fearful because we could only be defeated again if our opponent was really something so powerful. But, we were emboldened by the fact that the telepathic signature was not indicative of such a strong and formidable enemy. Amongst different clans, the pretext to take back the token and to get control of Buddha's Real Truth to fight the alien entity was a dispute, but we were all loathly about One Union using mind control and it had been condemned since Buddha's times. We easily reached a consensus to work together to get the opponent and we had laid down an inescapable trap for the guy."

Kim stopped here and looked at his acquaintance and asked, "Guess what happened?"

Everyone was expecting an earthshaking fight, but obviously Kim had something unexpected to say. No one except Ellearto would like to make a wrong guess. He slowly said, "Our info told us that the military coup had captured the capital quickly and they headed to occupy many offices of the government and one of the most important targets was the Prime Minister. Though it was well known that most government heads were in the Capital that evening, the mutiny force just failed to hunt them down or dug out important documents to discredit the government. They then knew this was a trap. When they left the capital and try to flee, they only found the whole city sieged by troops ordered to shoot and kill. They were never offered any opportunity to negotiate and talk. Not only almost everyone in the military coup was killed, the government ordered to arrest all One Union leaders and officers in the country. And they killed as many as possible in that one night. The bloodshed was heavily indicted by the international community. But it was amazing that they never had caught the Head Master of One Union, and he seemingly disappeared into the thin air suddenly. Rumors tried to discredit him by saying that he had left Japan the day before the coup just to make sure he was safe. I guess he had been 'neutralized' by you

guys.”

“No. It didn’t happen that way. We captured no one. Our plan and deployment was just wasteful. He never came and everyone in the team couldn’t understand why, but now I really got the point and wasn’t baffled anymore.” Kim answered quickly.

Everyone was then watching Kim, waiting for him to explain.

“It is amazing that you guys still couldn’t figure it out. It was very simple in deed. The chief master of One Union had been maimed by Lows and he had to flee away quickly to heal himself. So, no one was stepping into our perfect trap and no one was leading One Union either. Losing leadership and accurate information, the forefront of One Union turned chaotic and fell into the political snare of the Government. They did the worst thing to launch the military coup trying to topple the Government, but instead giving the Government too good an excuse to slam them into Stone Age. It was too miserable to see so many innocent people killed or jailed because of the political ambition of a few.” Kim explained with a tone of sympathy.

Everyone felt the sensible argument, but there was no way to find any supportive evidence. It had been fifteen years and it had to be a tight cover up eliminating all tracks of foul deeds.

“After the fiasco in Japan, One Union could rise up again and make-over to become a global civilian organization comparable to Good Life Foundation and Lows’s Foundation for Peace and Humanity. This was the most awesome way of One Union!” Sue added.

“This is really a surprise. The proliferated arrest had forced numerous Union One officers and believers to flee the country and seek refuge in the rest of the world. And many sought asylum in northern America and Europe. They regrouped to form branches of the Union and they taught all their techniques for healing diseases and transcending the human minds. After a few years, many millionaires and renowned scholars turned out to speak for them and tell their healing experience and the good ethical belief of the Union. Enormous amounts of money flew into the revived organization and money could make things easy and right. One Union successively built up their newspaper, satellite network, cultural organization and lobby institution. They also placed a lot of money into rescue and relief charities all over the world. Better than their last counterpart, it only took them fifteen years to grow into a huge international organization. And this time they have strongholds almost everywhere. Just five years ago, they had elected a new Chief Master for the Union and launched to build their headquarters and an international university in Vienna of Switzerland. It was a pompous move.” Ellearto continued.

“In these years, we have never given up watching One Union and we consistently send undercover into their branches to try the publicly taught techniques and to look for clues. But, we really found nothing suspicious, no one was practicing mind control or other telepathy. And, about those meditation exercises, they could at best strengthen your body and mind in the long run. But we doubt they could heal different terminating diseases in just several months. The claim to keep you from evil spirit is almost a superstition. Though we find

nothing, we believe One Union still has its secrecy that is just too hidden for us to find.”

The first day discussion ended when Selena interrupted the meeting. She was the doctor heading the medical team looking after Fanies. She brought a bad news that Fanies had fallen into coma and her organ system was breaking apart. Her vitality was now merely maintained by a sophisticated medical system. Andy left the sunny and bright conference room immediately and quickly walked with Selena to the intensive care room. Sue and Little Guy offered a company. Kim was bruised in the telepathic fight and had to walk slowly with Ellearto.

“Are you really sure that he was the incumbent chief master of One Union? You know, like you guys, we have also been probing One Union for all these years and couldn’t find a single clue that One Union had used telepathy for its benefit. You would agree that the capacity of the telepathy that we confronted in the cornfield was too enormous for the previous incumbent to match. And how could this younger incumbent be so strong? Would it be just a mask?” Ellearto asked Kim.

”The previous incumbent of One Union was a very mysterious person. There was no record that he ever had appeared in front of public. Until now, no one could say for sure his identity. The way he looked from various record sources might just be faked. On the other hand, the present incumbent was a lot casual thought he didn’t very frequently appear in front of crowds. A lot of ordinary people had seen him in close distance and talked to him face to face. There were photos, news video and interview that allowed me to recognize him. The problem was that it was only a brink that our enemy in the cornfield lost his telepathic shield and so his face revealed. It was only half visual and the rest was a telepathic sense. Nothing was certain. Our enemy liked to play treacherous tactics in the fight and it was very possible that he could reveal himself as a different person to confuse us. But I say, One Union should not be taken lightly.”

Chapter 13. The rose

Andy didn't take part in the second day talk. He was so worry about Fanies that he rather would just stay beside her. Sue offered to be his company, but Andy insisted that he would like to be alone with Fanies. Sue then turned to go to visit Vincent. The young man had woken up several times, but he was just not very conscious. His physical was also weak.

Before Andy went to the intensive care ward in early morning, Kim talked to him about Fanies's maim, "Fanies was struck by a telepathy and despite of all the sophisticated medical equipment and advanced medicine here, it might just not the right way to deal with. I was sick and hurt, and I am too weak to help her now, but several elders of my clan are coming and they will be more than willing to help. Besides, you know, I guess you could be the key to revive Fanies. You are the most important person to her. And, look at the battle in the cornfield, by now you should know that you really have a lot of potential in telepathy and that isn't fortuitous and accidental. In the meantime, you couldn't take advantage of those hidden strength within your mind, but I hope my elders could give you advice and guidance."

Andy walked slowly in the very quiet corridor leading to the intensive care ward. It was just too quiet to be a place like a headquarters. Andy understood Kim's every word, but it was just too hopeless to believe that his telepathic potential was a key to save Fanies. He only heard about telepathy recently and he was now told that he got this endowment and he needed to use it to save his beloved. It was hurting because he had no idea of how.

"You've got to believe your telepathy, and Fanies would be really hopeless when you give up on her!"

Andy stretched his shoulder and emboldened his will. He then walked on.

This was a very huge underground facility consisting of a medical research center and a central control. The ground level was a complex including a specialty hospital and a series of administrating units. The underground environment however looked very natural, though artificially simulated and controlled. For the benefits of the patient and the workers in the facility, every sector and room was installed with fake, but looked genuine, windows with programmable views with the light intensity changing diurnally like the real thing. There were real plants everywhere and the air conditioning system delivered very clean air and at the right temperature along the day.

"Everything here is computerized and automatic and therefore it has no use of human hands?" Andy thought. He had only seen only a few faces since he came.

Fanies's intensive care room was equipped with a great variety of medical monitors and life support tools. But the environmental design followed the same idea of the whole building. The head of the bed was beside the wall, the pattern and color of which could be set to one of the numerous choice according to a verbal command. The other side of the bed was a series of windows with

programmable views and lighting. There was a big skylight in the ceiling and one could find the moon and the stars in part of the night. Medical experts had long known that the environment was very important to the healing process, but only the most resourced institutions could implement the concept to the greatest benefit of the patient and Ellearto's organization did it remarkably well.

In the changing room, as instructed by the computer, Andy left everything in a locker and walked through a decontamination chamber and then put on a visitor's gown. He passed through another chamber where he was scanned to make sure he did not bring in bacteria or harmful chemicals. He then finally saw Fanies, sleeping on the bed very placidly. She had no vitality. Andy moved a visitor's chair to the side of the bed and sit there still for a while. He picked up and whisked Fanies's long silvery hair, which now looked very dull and lifeless.

Andy was thinking hard.

"When Fanies was young, she had long hair and she liked it. She then cut her lovely long hair after she enrolled in the military college, following my footstep. Leaving the military and leading a civilian living in the farm, she started to have long hair again and frequently she put make up and dressed fashionably. She was still beautiful and glamorous, but she lost her vivaciousness. Deep in her eyes was dribble of sadness. She didn't give her youth to her country as a soldier. Instead, it was earnestly offered to me. And it was a fault not committing to give her happiness and to keep her forever young. The telepathic fight in the cornfield had opened up a new window for me to look at things vividly. Regret wasn't a solution to making mistakes and it only meant to keep me passive and concealed. My ludicrous deeds in Guatemala had already hurt you so much and how come I hadn't done anything to replenish you. Instead, you always try hard to soothe me. In return, oh, gosh, I even chose to escape from you in times and it grieved you so badly. I was just too shameful and selfish. Because I wasn't happy and so you were somber too. It was just because I had locked myself up. But now I wouldn't hesitate to leave the past behind us and I vow to protect you, to give you happiness and pay back your lost good times. Wake up and give me the chance."

"Fanies, it is passion and it is also love. You are my only love and I will only look forward now and I will be on your side always and forever. If you die, I will bury you in our house in our hometown and around you I will plant the rose that you like so much."

When Andy thought about that 'rose', he was enlightened by a thought. It was an important one and he instantly ran out of the room, without noticing that a few drops of years had dribbled out from Fanies's eyes. Love could really beat telepathic seals locking up Fanies?

In the conference room, there were two other founders of Lows Corporation. They came secretly last night to take a briefing from Ellearto and they would leave soon after this meeting. They operated the Nanorobotics Corporation and Space Transport, Inc. They expressed that serious actions had been taken to alert their own empire to brace for attacks. From this kind of closed relationship, one had to conclude that the disunity between the different divisions of Lows Corporation was a fake one and only superficial.

HOSFWUS, or the Headquarters of Security Force in the Western US, was really a stronghold of Security Force. All the control units were in underground fortified by very thick and special concrete walls. Not only it could just resist the attack of very powerful ordinary weapons, it could intersect and disrupt telepathic force. The whole facility's energy source was geothermal and there was no worry for any weakening of the supply and intended interruption, such as by the power company if the energy source was external. This source of energy was especially useful to power up the B Energy Supply for operating the telepathic shield and scanner.

Little Guy offered a company to his father in the meeting. Except Little Guy, everyone in the room was world grade scientists and executors as well. Ellearto had already talked with his colleagues about the details in yesterday's meeting and now he just had to explain to Kim how Lows found the additional and redundant genetic material in the coliform bacterium and how it lead to the discovery of the coding embedded in the additional genetic material in a human cell.

Ellearto then made an opening remark, "Combining all the relevant information so far disclosed, we would tend to think that 'One-Part', who was known as Sakyamuni Buddha, had embedded the knowledge from his dimension of immaterial world into the human genome. What I would like to iterate is that, until around thirty years ago, all the coded materials are very practical knowledge on this planet. We named it as the 'Peripheral Real Code', which were pictures, diagrams and schematics. They opened up the bottleneck of our knowledge in many scientific fields. They gave our scientists a push and jump-started many innovated products and technologies."

"In early thirties, around the time the Headquarter of Lows Foundation of Peace and Humanity was completed, Lows then told us that he had decoded quite a lot of information which was obvious not scientific."

Ellearto used to pause and savored a cup of hot green tea before going on. Now he went on, "I had seen a dozens of this pictures and they were like snapshots of our planet millions years ago. Lows thought that these were records taken down by the super being who had manipulated the human genome. He then named those materials the 'Real Core Code' simply because he respected history and culture more than science. I still remember one of those pictures. It was really like a satellite map of earth, showing early separation of the super continent of our earth into continental plates. Lows thought the alien visitor had to come here before seventy millions years ago. At that time, mammals just started to flourish, and it was widely believed that there were no human life forms, even the most primitive ones. OK, supposing One-Part was the alien visitor, I say he couldn't have the chance to save the knowledge from his dimension into the human genome, unless he did it later and, Dr. Kim, that wasn't the case you told me." The last analysis was addressed against Kim's earlier thought.

Eventually, Kim's greatest curiosity and concern was Lows's telepathy. He asked, "Not long after the grand opening of the Headquarters of Lows's Foundation for Peace and Humanity, we inadvertently discovered that there was extensive telepathic force protecting the facility and we finally revealed that the

kind of telepathy was very similar to ours. Frankly speaking, at that time, we're suspecting that Lows had acquired the token that we lost a hundred years ago. That token was very related to the practice of telepathy and it contained secret sutra on different telepathic subjects too. We had several times slipped into the building, but we had been barred by the very strong telepathy deployed there. With your explanation, Lows's telepathy had come from the 'Real Core Code', right?"

"About sutra, Lows had told me that some of the decoded manuscripts resembled characters. He had consulted many experts but he had no obvious answers. But, there were three paleographers saying that was a kind of very ancient Sanskrit. Another Inca archeologist said he remembered seeing such characters in an Inca ruin in Central America. Anyway, Lows handed over a part of those characters to an artisan and carved them onto the walls in the front lobby of the HLOFPAH. And, you guess what, he had also carved the whole human genome onto the floor of the lobby and that was the root of the secrecy of Lows Corporation. Nobody would have thought about that. Ha, Ha, Lows is always an interesting guy." Ellearto answered with a smile.

The other two founders of Lows Corporation showed an understanding smile. They respected and admired him as well. Kim might not feel the same way. Even you posted it on the floor of the mostly visited hall in the world, who would have known that the human genome had bigger secrecy on top of its biology? And, even you were aware of that, where was the code of breaking the encryption?

Ellearto felt that he had not really answered Kim's question and he came back with a direct answer, "Yes, Lows's telepathy came from the decoding too, but it wasn't so direct as those scientific knowledge. In fact, we didn't know too much because we simply couldn't understand. Cut it short, Lows told us that when he was deeply involved in the decoding process, he got the power of telepathy as a bonus. He also found a lot of interfering thoughts slipping into his mind and was likely peeked all the time by something. He also sensed that much of those 'things' had posted some evilness. From ancient religious scriptures of the East, he learnt that this type of experience was typically of many kinds of Tantra meditation. He was then aware of the need of a vigorous knowledge of countering those evil interferences. Without that, it would be easy to turn sidetracked into uncharted territory. At that time, all he wanted was knowledge of the physical world, and he had no ambition for the telepathic realm. He was a very determined person and he was able to stop. But the Japanese encounter with the telepathic offender had flipped everything. He struck the guy hard unintentionally, but he was badly hurt too. He knew that he had to go back to the telepathic domain to find a cure for him. He also needed the power to await a vengeance."

"Yes, I understand that. Lows has a very proper understanding of the matter. In the training of telepathy, circumstantial occasion is more favorable than tenacious pursue, the latter would usually go wrong at the end." Kim responded.

"We later knew that Lows was very worrying about his going back to telepathy. But once he decided, he was steadfast. After that fight in Japan, he

stayed all the time in the new headquarters to concentrate. However, before he retreated into obscurity, he ordered to inject a huge amount of money into the LOFPAH and the 'Heart's Community' campaign. He also decided to split the company and ordered the planning and the stepwise deployment. Then, two days ahead of the grand opening of the HLOFPAH, he secretly assembled us for a table of fine food he himself made and served it with very good wines." Ellearto then went on.

Ellearto then stopped to take a deep breath and said, "It wasn't easy to manage a huge corporation. In years, we had no moment of a break and hadn't engaged in a single dinner just for pleasure and a jubilant chat. We were only close to our fifties, but we all looked weary and droopy. Most of us already were planning to step down and retire. We were satisfied enough to have built up such a huge and influential organization. Our harangue went on to late night and almost covered every heroic and famed move of our times. Lows then spoke out to the proper business. Before the meeting, everyone would guess there was something serious for Lows to tell us, but after all we were still shocked by that seriousness."

"Lows started with that Japanese trip and not until then, we really didn't know why he looked so fatigue and ill after the interview and why he had to fly back to the Central America head quarter immediately. We also understood why he was so determined to demand us to plan for the split up of the corporation."

While Ellearto was disclosing a critical event of the past, Andy had just a strange thought. He quickly left the intensive care ward and ran fast back to his room. He opened up Fanies's kitbag and took out a very exquisite wooden casket. Andy knew that there was no jewelry of any kind, but a few withered rose petals. When Andy thought about planting roses everywhere around Fanies's grave, a mystic light came across his mind.

Andy's father planted a number of roses around the house and they were the same species. It bloomed from early summer until frost. The flowers were not huge, but they were glamorously bright red and had a balmy fragrance. The old man was always proud of the rose because he had repeatedly said you just could not get it in any nursery. It was a treasure of the tribe from the old world. Legends claimed that devils and monsters were fearful of the scent of the plant, and especially the floral fragrance. They wouldn't come close. Because of that, the rose plant had been widely cultivated in the old days. But, everything had its downfall. The plant had too many sharp spines and if stung, one would feel very painful for several days. Because of that, the rose gradually fell out of favor and most families would not plant them. When Andy first met Fanies, he happened to be helping his father to prune the plant. It might just be a child's innocence or it could be a kind of destined affinity, Andy cut a few twigs of the rose, carefully removed all the spines and offered it to Fanies as a greeting present. This started their relationship and it lasted indissolubly. Fanies watered the roses carefully to keep them as long as possible and when they withered, she collected the leaves and the petals and kept them in a safe place. As years went by, most of the petals and leaves went bad or bitten by insects, and only a few remained. Fanies treated them as her most precious jewelry and finally stored them in a

wooden casket given to her by Andy's mother. The casket was always with Fanies.

The adventure of these few days, plus Kim's tips, turned Andy to believe that his tribal origin could be unusual. The many mystic and ancient legends might not be just forged stories for their amusement. It could be some real happenings in the old world. He grasped the wooden box, but he did not open it right the way. He was wildly thinking. The evil telepathy striking down Fanies was just like Daddy's saying a soul being seized by evil spirits. And, the special red rose was good at driving evils away. Could it do that really? The village of Green Grass also had this rose and Green Grass had also said that it could heal many diseases.

At last, Andy slowly opened the box and he found nine pieces of petals and a languished twig. Several petals were full of insect's bite. Andy took one of them and put it close to the face and tried to inhale hardily. There was not a trace of scent any more. Andy naturally showed a bitter smile. It was really naïve to think a dry up petal could still keep its rich scent after almost forty years. It would really be a miracle. He put back the petal, closed the cover, but he was reluctant to let go. He held it in his hands and sit there stiff until the communicator woke him. Selena, the chief medical officer looking after Fanies, called him to come forth to the medical ward to review some new information that looked promising for Fanies.

Andy stood up and came close to the kitbag and tried to put the wooden box back. But he hesitated for a while and ended up putting it inside his pocket. Then, Andy left the room. About ten minutes later, he was seeing Selena in the medical control room. Selena was Spanish and she was a blonde. Her long hair was now combed into a bun. Andy saw that she was wearing a long greenish earring with a bright red jade flower. There were several doctors, all very busily working in front of medical computers and equipment.

Selena belonged to the first front of core scientists that Lows Corporation had fostered. Since the company went public and well funded, Lows Corporation had established scholarship and assistantship programs to share a portion of the cost of higher education for the kids of its employees. The program also intended to seek out for talented teenagers and help them succeed. Selena was an orphan and she benefited very well from the program. She had been with the company for almost twenty years.

Selena greeted Andy with a cordial voice and offered Andy a comfortable seat. Then, she said, "We have been monitoring her brain waves and it is obvious that her brain turned to have some specific activity when you were talking to her. This is very good news, and even you could see that after a long languished pattern, irregular brain waves showed up. Those waves subsided eventually after you left. We strongly suggest you to talk to her very frequently. This turns out to be an effective healing tool in many coma cases. "

She then asked the computer to show a close up of Fanies. She told Andy, "See, there were few drops of tears in Fanies's cheek. Fanies teared by the time you left. This was no coincidental, and it was a positive finding. It simply told us that Fanies knew you were there and even she could understand what you had

said to her. You know, a teardrop could tell us a lot about the state of mind of the subject. From the composition of the teardrop, we were now able to reconstruct the state of mind and to some extent the physiological state of a person. This would be very useful in our diagnostic. I could tell you that in a few hours, we would have a complete analysis.

Andy very well knew that Selena and her team was only exploring every possibility and not even close to proposing any therapy. But, he also understood that this place was already the best medical facility for Fanies. She would only get a failing routine treatment in an ordinary veteran hospital. Andy thought it would be very right just to stay close to Fanies and he was about to stand up and say goodbye. But he remembered those rose petals in his pocket. He thought it would be superstitious to talk to Selena about that and he hesitated.

Selena noticed the hesitation. She said, "We are instructed to set Fanies's treatment as our priority. We couldn't afford not to examine every lead in this case. I am long enough in the corporation and I could tell you that we knew very well the presence of telepathy. It is no longer a forbidden subject. We even possess equipment to scan the force of telepathy and create a shield to protect our people. But after all, it is too esoteric. We know very little about the physiological and mental action of telepathy and have no immediate way to heal the bruise. It is real and not superstitious. Oh, sorry, I have said too much, but my words fail to deliver what I really mean. Frankly speaking, I should just say we are very perspective and we could consider every possibility. Feel free to tell us anything!"

With Selena's pushy words, Andy took out the wooden box in his pocket. He still felt slightly embarrassed.

"There are a few pieces of rose petals, I would like to see whether they have medical potency, just take it as herbal medicine."

Selena took the wooden box and opened it very slowly. She found a short piece of a twig and a few pieces of floral petals. She carefully took one of the petals and examined it under a microscopic. She put back the petal and took out the twig and inspected it for a minute or so. She then suddenly turned her head back and asked, "Are you sure this is a rose?"

Andy was thinking how to explain to Selena about the medical potency thing and did not expect Selena asking a different question like that. Since he was a small kid, he was told this was a kind of rose, and in fact it was nothing but a rose. At least, no body in the neighborhood had ever questioned about that.

"This plant has been cultivated from generation to generation in our clan and its name is just 'red rosy', thought it was a translation from our tribal words." Andy explained.

"You know, I'm a woman very much fond of flowers, especially roses. So, I'm quite familiar with roses. These petals were dried up, but their shapes and the pattern of veins are still observable. It is not a rose. The discernible evidence comes from this twig. The spines were cut, but we still could see how they had grown. See, they were in pairs. The spines of rose do not grow that way. This is not rosy. What kind of medical potency it has?" Selena explained and asked.

Andy vacillated and felt difficult to explain exactly the way his father told

him long time ago. Eventually, he said, “My Dad told me that the scent of the flower could drive evil spirits causing us sick. I guess a kind of telepathy bruising Fanies was a situation quite close to my Dad’s way of saying the evil spirits. So, I think these petals might be useful. But, they are very old and have no fragrance at all. And, there are only a few pieces. I would not expect them to do anything.”

Andy made his appeal very obscurely, but Selena understood him and she said to him after thinking for a short while, “Right, there is no scent at all, but there are still ways to discover the chemicals producing the fragrance. Don’t forget that Lows Corporation’s excellence is biotech. These dried up petals are dead, but they are still composed of cells that bore the genetic materials of the whole plant. We could sequence all the genes easily. Then, with reference from botanical database, we can try several possible gene initiators for floral fragrance for did some trial biosynthesis. The only problem is the time, and it could take a few days to months, with the trial and error approach. I say, there could be a better way. Where are this ‘rose’? We have our own jet planes and airfields, and it only takes a day to go to cities as far as in the east coast. “

Selena had prompted Andy with a new perspective, but it also made him uneasy. Since Andy’s dad passed away, there was no one taking care of the old house and the garden. Seven years ago, when he came back to the fallen old town. He found the house too broken. So, he built several new houses close to the farm and lived there with Fanies and his peers. He could not remember seeing any ‘rose’ in the garden of the old house. Without proper care, only the wild flowers could outlive. Andy knew that the same kind of rose was once grown in the garden of ‘Green Grass’. But the place was deep in the wild jungle of Guatemala, too difficult to find. And, as ‘Green Grass’ had died, who else would have those flowers grown. Andy was also reluctant to tell Selena about ‘Green Grass’.

Andy told Selena about the possible outcast of the rose in his old town. But, Selena was a very discreet person and she did not want any mistake. She ordered two operatives to go there to find the ‘rose’. She then took the twig and one piece of the petals and called the Sequencing Laboratory to prepare. Before she left, she urged Andy again to accompany Fanies and talk to her. Andy was actually thinking about that. After falling short of Fanies’s expectation for so many years, he now knew for sure the right direction he was heading.

By the end of last century, a small biotech company in California invented the biochip technology to probe DNA sequence of genetic materials. A single high density biochip could sequence the whole genome of many organisms. After the two thousands millennium, several huge corporations headed for the competition of this kind of technology. In early 2000, the central laboratory of one of those corporations announced they had preliminary success in using nanopore technology to sequence genetic materials. But, the technique had never become practical because the whole platform lacked several supportive hardware of the same scale. After Lows Corporation went public, the patent was acquired by the new biotech giant and was redeveloped. A miniaturized high pulse rate differential magnetic field was created to force a single strand of DNA to pass through nanopores quickly and exit into a single chip mass spectrometer to

determine the type of DNA exiting the nanospores. This technique enabled a very fast and accurate sequencing than the traditional biochip technique that depends on chemistry.

After continuous improvement and renovation, this technique became the mainstream methodology for gene sequencing and even faster. It could sequence all the genetic materials of a fairly complex species in a few hours. Selena took several approaches simultaneously. First, she asked to sequence the whole genome of the 'rose'. It was fairly a simple task. She also asked for a detailed analysis of the chemical composition of the cell ingredients of the petals. Despite of the age and decay of the petals, a complete biochemical markup might help reconstruct the chemical structure of those fragrance compounds. This was straightforward and it took time to study and postulate. Lastly, she went through a database search for all the possible initiator gene sequences in similar plants for the synthesis of floral fragrance for the future mapping into the genetic sequence of the 'rose'. Lastly, she resorted to plant experts. She contacted a bunch of floral plant taxonomists and biochemists and asked them to offer professional opinion.

Ellearto's Security Force was now a spin off of Lows Corporation, but it didn't mean it was less powerful. Its business basis was as huge as Lows Corporation and it had a colossal fortune. More important, due to its historical background, it possessed weighing political influence on the global arena. Very quickly, Selena received a lot of replies and every taxonomist agreed with Selena that the rosy plant was indeed not a rose. It was even not a member in the Family Rosaceae. With only a visual image of a small twig and some petals, the experts were reluctant to speculate the classification of the plant. Lastly, Selena got a very interesting call from a renowned professor in medical herbs. Professor Poiceeko was a famous researcher in the State University of Honduras in Central America.

Surprisingly, Professor Poiceeko didn't talk about the science in the very beginning. He first introduced himself in a special way, talking in detail his family and his ancestors several hundreds ago. Selena knew there had to be its cause and therefore patiently listened to him. Professor Poiceeko said his family had been in Central America for several hundreds years and his ancestors were amongst the first few batches of immigrants going into the area. The family included three brothers, a minister and two medical doctors and their wives. Five hundred years ago, when the Spanish military started to slaughter the Inca people, the minister stood up for the Inca civilian and appealed to the Catholic court for help and justice, but he was turned down. The three brothers then joint the resistance of the Inca people and helped them rebel the Spanish army. The minister was killed in a decisive battle and his brothers wounded. The remaining Inca rebel brought the two brothers and their wives into the deep jungle to evade from the Spanish manhunt. The two families stayed in the jungle for many years until they had kids and they grew up.

Being medical doctors, the two brothers served and practiced medicine in many Inca tribes in the wild jungle. One of the brothers had written a journal about his medical practice and what he heard and saw in the wilderness. One of

the adventures was about the two brothers meeting a 'witch doctor' of a Maya tribe. This witch doctor had cultivated a kind of rose-like plants with their spines on opposite sides.

Professor Poiceeko paused shortly, but Selena was patient enough not to hasten him. She also understood why the professor had to start with his family history. This was about credibility. Professor Poiceeko went on with the journal.

The journal logged down a period of about four years when the two brothers had resided in a Maya village. They were not practicing medicine and on the contrary, they had stayed there to learn medicine from the 'witch doctor'. The brothers knew that the 'witch doctor' had abounding medical knowledge and skill and they were far more inferior.

In the video, Selena found Professor Poiceeko's voice and countenance turning more engrossed and serious. He said, "It was in one occasion that the little daughter of my forefather discovered a secret garden of the witch doctor and she was instantly taken up by the vibrant red flowers. She was stung by the spine when she came too close and tried to pluck a small branch of the shrub. The pain of the prick was so intense and lasting that the girl was crying without a break. My forefather had no choice but to beg the witch doctor for a cure. But, the witch doctor earnestly said no medicine could do that, and he then reassured that the sting would mean no harm to the girl, instead, it would be good to the body. He then told the brothers stories about of the red rosy plant."

"The witch doctor turned his head to look at a mountainous terrain in the far side and said the plant came from a dying 'Red Indian' tribe over there. He said that the plant only looked like a rose, but it wasn't a rose, 'inside'. Coincidentally, the tribe residing there only looked like Red Indians, and they were indeed not Red Indians. The witch doctor said the 'inner side micro characterizing substance' of the people had no Red Indian characters. My grand grandfather deemed the term 'inner side micro characterizing substance' was meant to be the genes coded by the DNA in cells. At that time, my forefathers wouldn't know about it and could only describe the crude meaning. As you know, the concept of heredity wasn't known until the mid nineteen century of the last millennium when G.J. Mendel did breeding experiments on peas."

"The witch doctor said the ancient records in his Maya archive showed that this mysterious tribe had once flourished very well and populated everywhere in the mountain. But they lived by their own and made no contact with the outside world. That meant they had to marry with their own people and the consequence of endogamy would mess up the body's 'characterizing substance' and lead to unhealthy development of the human bodies. Babies died and adult didn't live long. But, the witch doctor was puzzled by what had caused the bad things of endogamy to surface since they had been doing that for millenniums. The witch doctor had curiosity to find out what was behind this, but he was reluctant to go to the settlers because for generations, the clan of witch doctors had serious warning and adjuration about not spying on this neighbor and not going into their settlement without an invitation. It was said "their inner mysterious power' guarded their land all year long."

Selena made a remark here when Professor Poiceeko took a break,

“Because the witch doctor had possessed the rosy plant, it was pretty sure that he had finally visited the forbidden land. It was clear he was not harmed in anyway either by this ‘their ‘inner mysterious power’, then I assume that he was invited as a doctor to treat those genetic diseases that were killing the people there, right?”

With a tone of admiration, Professor Poiceeko approved of Selena’s accurate deduction and said, “You are very right. The witch doctor was invited. But he also didn’t forget the generation old warning that his clan left behind. He put on his very best ‘uniform’ and grasped his ‘scepter’ with him. He told my forefathers that the ‘uniform’ could resist the penetration of even the ‘smallest unseen evil things’ and through his ‘scepter’ he could see all kind of dangerous and mystic ‘power’. My great grandfather believed that the Maya witch doctor class had been the keepers of science and technology of Maya tribes. From his writing, he said he could instantly made a serious picture of the witch doctor wearing a very special body armor that could screen out all biological and chemical agents, and his scepter was a multifunctional agent scanner. The witch doctor was in full alert when he went into the mysterious forbidden settlement, as if he was to confront a formidable ‘evil’ opponent.”

Selena already knew that the witch doctor had safely returned, but she was sure there had to be an adventurous event. She suspected what was said to be “inner mysterious power” was in fact telepathy. She was hesitated to ask, “The witch doctor did really scan some kind of “inner mysterious power?”

The question likely amazed Professor Poiceeko who obviously didn’t know why Selena was so interested in the “inner mysterious power”. But, he didn’t seem to concern. He himself was still occupied by the finding of the witch doctor. The professor continued shortly, “The witch doctor didn’t say so. He had stayed in the settlement for a while and made a comprehensive investigation and study. He didn’t find the tribesman dreadful as described in ancient records of his clan. They didn’t have a class of esteemed clergy or witch doctor and they even didn’t have a chief. The social units were families and every family appeared to share equal rights. There was no caste system in the settlement. As for the norm of endogamy, nobody knew when it had started. It was long long time ago, much earlier than their most prominent era. The witch doctor was overwhelmed by his hypothesis that endogamy had caused the trouble and he wanted to discover what had suppressed the scourge of endogamy. And, what had eliminated the suppressor. He visited and interviewed every family and took samples to study. Finally he was able to relate the business to the rosy plant that you asked me about. He observed that most healthy families had cultivated this rosy plant, and those families without planting the rose usually had members suffering from some kind of genetic diseases. The rosy plant had a long history and just like their endogamy, no one really knew when it was first cultivated. It had been widely planted because of its vibrant colors and irresistible fragrant scent. But, it was a very delicate species and required a lot of care to flourish. It was also full of sharp spines that often stung the caretaker no matter how careful he was. And, the sting was very painful, especially to the kids who happened to run into shrub while playing in the garden. It was this reason its fondness and popularity grew

less and less. The witch doctor said he was finally able to relate the scent of the flower and the painful sting of the spine to rectify the impairment caused by endogamy. He was then curious about how the flowering plant could interact biologically with the people. But, the tribe had no real written words and there was no written history of any kind.”

Professor Poiceeko paused again and Selena asked, “Is that right the petals had special medicinal potency?”

The professor was shocked by Selena’s idea or knowledge about the medical value of the plant and his voice turned nervous, “Your scientists had already known all the biochemistry of the plant?”

“No, not at all. I just get the sample and it is a dried one. It is not too possible to recover the biochemical components of the bloom. On the other hand, I believe that you would have all those information. Right?” Selena quickly answered and probed the professor for his research.

Professor Poiceeko showed hesitation to answer the question directly. Instead, he went on with the adventure of the witch doctor, “The witch doctor had said a lot about the ‘chemistry’ of the plant, especially the petal and the scent, but it was all beyond the erudition of my forefathers. And so, they didn’t take it down in words. It was surely a great loss of knowledge. But, there was something very interesting in the record. It was about some girls and women in the tribe who liked to eat the petals of the flower and this caused their body to produce a special substance like a kind of human pheromone attracting the males. This had strengthened their bond and consequently they would not be interested in outsiders.”

Selena saw that the professor hadn’t answered her question on his study of the biochemistry of the plant. She had an instinct that the professor had indeed studied the rosy plant for years, and being an expert on Red Indian herbal medicine, he could have obtained significant progress. It was the old journal from his forefathers providing the jumpstart information and initiative. He had those plants.

Ellearto’s Security Force was no longer in Lows Corporation, yet in the eyes of small businesses and independent researchers and scholars, Ellearto’s organization was not less aggressive. It was difficult to deal with such a formidable contender. Being a devoted scientist, Professor Poiceeko would not hesitate to discuss new findings and brainstorm unsolved mystery with other scholars. The problem, however, was that in the real world there were numerous infidels paying no respect to intellectual property. Lows Corporation was mysterious and powerful enough to the professor, that he was much baffled by the pretext that his painstaking work would be just taken away.

Selena very much apprehend the professor’s fidgety. It was not her first time dealing with this kind of renowned scholars. She was frank enough to explain her present choky situation and intense need for help. She then assured him of the vigorous policy of Security Force on intellectual property. She instantly asked the legal department of the corporation to issue proper legal disclosure and binding agreement to the professor. But the most prominent assurance was wiring of a significant sum of cash into the professor’s Research Fund in the

University. The contribution was written not binding any right on the professor's work and it was just a contributive support on science and technology.

Professor Poiceeko was very happy about the authentic assurance and solid support. He also felt good about the kind of candor from his client. He finished up the talk without a break, and with a sincere invitation to bring the patient to visit him.

"The witch doctor took a few bushes of the rosy plant from the tribesman and cultivated them in his own garden. And, he did a lot of experiments on its leaf, trunk, flower and spines. He finally discovered that there was 'something' in the spine of the rosy plant. This 'something' could repair the 'mismatching' of the body's 'characterizing substances' caused by endogamy. In terms of modern science, it was meant to repair the defective genes caused by endogamy and prevent the occurrence of natal death and inborn genetic disease leading to shortened lifetime or deficiency. Alas, these precious and invaluable records were all the time embedded in the pile of old books and family journals in a storeroom in the old family house. Nobody had ever bothered to read them for centuries until my great grandfather. Since he was a little kid, he had the hobby of playing in storerooms and searching everything inside. When he's fourteen, he found the old journal and since then he's drown in the reading. When he was up to the story of the red rosy plant and the witch doctor, he's further beaten by the factuality of the whole journal because he could see the rosy shrubs, just in the family garden. Until that time, he wasn't fond of plants and flowers and he had never taken a good look of the 'rose'. He wasn't hesitated to go out to the garden and let one of the spines puncture his finger. In his own journal, he described the feel as an "extremely sober pain". In his will passed onto me, he said because of that record in the old journal, he finally became a psychiatrist and he had many instances of using the spines of the flower to treat patients having very weird mental symptoms. He also became an amateur archeologist. He had devoted a great portion of his time to study the plant, but due to limited technical know how at that time, he had more questions than answers. Regrettably, he's too early to die. However, before he passed away, he had used a great sum of money to establish a trust which was managed by a famous international law and accounting firm. The firm also managed his will, which was obviously a weird one. He required his will, the trust benefits and a box of his collectables to be passed to the first family descendant who did very well in biological science. These relics were kept longer than a hundred years and finally passed into my hands. The box contained his journal record of all the happenings I told you as well as his research record and medical practice. And it also had a pocket of seeds of the 'rosy' plant and the instruction to grow and care them. For this reason, I turned to study this plant for its chemistry and pharmaceutical potency and it had been almost thirty years. It's impossible to communicate to you everything in the videophone and I say the best thing to do is to bring the patient here and I would say the chemicals in the flowering spike could at least help bring her back from the coma." Professor ended the conversation here and waited for Selena to act.

Selena told the professor that she needed to talk to the family of the

patient. Before calling Andy, she first talked to Clarks and then ordered a security check on the professor, especially on his family history, and with special reference to his great grandfather. She then met with Andy and told him everything, and asked him to decide whether he would like to try this option, going to Honduras. Andy understood that in the meantime regular medicine might not be able to save Fanies. Since the invitation and proposal had come from a renowned pharmaceutical scholar with thirty years of research on the rosy plant, it was likely the best option. Andy then pleaded for Selena's accompany to talk to Ellearto to arrange a trip to Honduras. On the way to the conference room where Ellearto was still staying, Andy again found the corridors terribly quiet and no one was working. He unwittingly asked Selena about that. Selena said the whole enterprise had declared a state of emergency and this facility was on the highest alert. Except the most needed, all employees and patient had been secretly relocated to other concealed places. Selena's tone was tranquil, but Andy could catch a kind of tightness and choke from the words. Something explosive got to happen soon. It was his gut feeling.

When Andy and Selena came to the conference room, the meeting there had ended. The two executives from the spin-off of Lows Corporation also left. Clarks and Dr. Kim and his family were back to their quarters. Only Ellearto stayed in the big space. After listening to the update, he also agreed to try the professor's cure. He told Andy that he would order to arrange everything and it would be quick.

After Andy and Selena went back to the medical ward, Ellearto left for his own office and Clarks was already waiting for him in the doorway. They went into the office together and after roughly an hour, only Clarks came out. The door behind him automatically closed. In his way back to the central control room, he had around half a minute staying in the doorway and on his face showing a trace of cherishing countenance. He then straightened up his trunk and walked on. His heavy footsteps naturally reverberated in the quiet corridor for a while.

While Andy was packing, Ellearto called him directly about the preparation. Dr. Kim would stay here to meet the seniors of his clan. But he was kind enough to send Little Guy and Sue to protect them from possible telepathic attacks in the trip.

Selena was setting up the medical requirement of the trip. The hardware included a medical helicopter and two armed escorting helicopters. She also asked the Travel Department to arrange porting documents for the trip and told Professor Poiceeko about the trip. While she was doing all these, he got a report that the two people going to Andy's old hometown for the 'rose' had lost their contact. A search team had just been sent out to investigate. Her shrewd thinking was that this was a sign for real perils. She remembered Clarks's words. The enemies were dreadful.

Both Selena and Clarks were orphans, born in an era called the 'Orphan Bloomer'. By the end of the twenty century, because of the bold act of Secretary Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev of the Communist Party of the old Russian Empire (USSR) to divert the totalitarian political path of the nation, the whole communism complex in Russia and the East Europe was initiated to crash and it

crashed rapidly. The fifty years cold war era was ended and at that moment numerous ordinary human beings were thinking about a new era of peace, and prosperity would finally come to this planet. But very soon, this was just another sweet dream of the tame fraction, and the dream broke down very quickly. The wait for the good humanity to reign had to continue. Very shortly after the beginning of the two thousands millennium, the United States were attacked by a new kind of enemy, called the Islamic Extremism Terrorist. They hijacked several civil airplanes and drove them to hit several landmarks of the State, and the two World Trade Centers, standing for the formidable economy of the United States, were hit and smashed. More than three thousands died and numerous harmed. The world was shocked by the incident. Then, there was the uprising of the hawkish wing of the State Politics, borrowing the excuse of anti-terrorism and launching waves of preemptive wars against dissident countries in different areas. On the surface, the US appeared to be stronger and stronger in the military might, but the internal economy was badly hurt because of the enormous amount of money used and as a result of poor international relationship everywhere. The quality of life of ordinary people dropped gradually and the queue of poor people was longer year after year, and welfare didn't exist anymore. Numerous families under the poverty line could have times with no food and no medicine when they were sick. Many had to leave their newborns in the orphan houses ran by charity and many committed family suicides. Abandoned babies were common in those days and it was a serious social issue.

Clarks was adopted by Ellearto when he was a kid. He got a family and its warmth. Selena was not that fortunate and she was all the time raised in the orphan house. But, having no nourishment from parents didn't cause anything bad in Selena's personality. She was by nature tender and forgiving and the disciplinary life style in the orphan house had given her independence and diligence. She looked sweet, but she had very strong personality and would not bow to any kind of duress and intimidation. When she was sixteen and graduated from high school, she was awarded a first class scholarship from Lows Foundation of Peace and Humanity and came to Stanford University to study medicine. In the University, she made an acquaintance with Clarks, who was pretty much a man doing things alone and with no interest in making friends in the University. But they were friends. When Clarks was about to graduate, one day she watched Clarks appearing in the TV news. It was a small funeral, limited to the attendance of families and very close friends. The comment was that the significance of the funeral was much bigger than its size of participation. It was an invaluable piece of record and every government in the whole wide world would keep a copy of that in their archive of information. The funeral was for the Director of African Operation of the Lows International Organization for Disaster Relief. She then knew that the dead man was the only son of Ellearto, the number two man in Lows Corporation and Clarks was Ellearto's adopted son. Clarks's brother was killed by unknown fire when he was leading a major rescue convoy in central Africa. Twenty more volunteers were dead in the same mission and it was the greatest loss of the Organization since its establishment. This was considered the blasting fuse for Lows Corporation to really pursue for armed

protection of the rescue convoys and their relief bases. The news video had another eminent value because Lows had attended the funeral and this was the last time this legendary figure showed up in a kind of public place.

While Selena was still in the remembrance, she heard a door knock and she knew it was Clarks. She went to open the door for him. Clarks walked into her office. When Clarks was staying alone with Selena, his face totally changed. He became attached to the world, rather than detached, and concerned rather than unconcerned. But we had to leave them alone. And, if the windows were real, we could see from outside a couple in love was just saying goodbye. It was sad.