

Chapter 2 - A mysterious enterprise

In 2047, the biggest enterprise in the world was Lows Corporation. Dr. Charles K. Lows was the founder of the company and he invented the medicine and the procedures to cure arthritis. He broke the acquisition plans of several large corporations and finally succeeded to make the company public and therefore collected a huge amount of investment money, breaking the stock market record. With the monetary resources and an intelligent research team, Lows Corporation expanded exponentially and was able to introduce new medicines for major diseases. Fifteen years later, it was no longer in pharmaceutical business only. It had divisions in nanorobotics, space transport and in armed security. By that time, Lows and his founding colleagues had already bought back a major portion of the public shares of the company and several years later, they made the company private again. Lows announced to move the head quarter of the enterprise to a company-owned island in Central American and declared to start a new stage of research and development in extreme high tech biotechnology. Since that time, no outsiders had really seen Dr. Lows, and the head quarter of the company became a well-known forbidden place for research.

The nation most disregarded with Lows Corporation was the United States of America. Even before the move-out of the corporation, the United States Government had many times publicly criticized the Corporation to involve in and even conduct many secret and covert operations in the third world. The corporation was named to plan secret researches in biological weapons for sale into the market of terrorism. However, the United States Government could gather no solid proof regarding all these 'prosecutions'. In classified documents, it was reported that many penetrations into the various central laboratories and data centers of the Corporation had failed. Even if a secret agent could physically broke into a facility, his memory regarding his dwelling in the facility looked like altered to keep the Corporation clean from any wrongdoing.

The most powerful United States had no reason to recede to any entity that she disliked and could destroy it in many means including arranging an assassination of Dr. Lows. Yet, because of the dependence on many medicines the Corporation made, no ruthless action had been taken despite the confrontation was tense.

Responding to the extreme criticism from the United States, the Corporation deployed huge resources to support the Public Broadcasting System of the Nation trying to gain the sympathy and trust of the general public that

eventually held the votes for any democratic government. The Corporation also utilized the long found Lows Foundation for Peace and Humanity (LOFPAH) to fund numerous medical and social programs for the poor and the needed and by these activities, the Enterprise had gained growing support of the ordinary people of the United States and many politicians and government officers as well.

The Headquarter of Lows Foundation for Peace and Humanity (HLOFPAH) was situated in the sub urban area of Washington, DC. The establishment was often looked at as a kind of challenge to the American authority. The Lows Foundation Square was worth for billions of dollars in its construction and the magnitude and delicacy of the engineering project was taking the breath of the globe. However, the management and security of the whole area was very different from that implemented for other facilities of Lows Corporation. The management and security was contracted to a renowned security company having no relationship to the enterprise. That meant there was no special corporation owned armed force guarding the Headquarters.

The Lows Foundation Square had two sets of buildings. There was a series of buildings of three levels high and they were situated to form an outline like the human heart. At the apical position, there was an eighteen storey high cylindrical tower. Only the dwarf buildings and the lower three levels of the tower were used by the administration organization of LOFPAH. The rest of the tower was rented to other charity organization with a good offer. The top most levels of the tower were a viewing station and an elegant restaurant. There were thousands of visitors every day and the restaurant fully booked in any moment. It was an extraordinary income for the Foundation.

"There is obviously no special force guarding the Headquarters, but it doesn't mean that one could easily break in, even for the trained." Andy said to Little Guy.

"Exactly! The protection of the Headquarters is not materialistic. The secret core is even under telepathic safeguarding yearlong. It is unbeatable by physical means." Little Guy remarked.

"Telepathy? Where is the secret core?" Andy inquired astonishingly.

"We believe it was the deepest level of the tower."

"We have all the architectural drawings and inspection records during the construction. There is no such level in the tower. You know, during the inspection, we had put in numerous surveillance sensors and camera in the building and most of them are still working. They show no post completion add-on for another level in the basement."

"See that we are talking about the extremely able and mysterious Lows Corporation, nothing less"

Andy was a discharged Captain of a special combat unit in the Marines of United States. He now ran an ecological farm inherited from his father and in his leisure time, he led a farm militia and trained people who came to learn for organized defense and combat. However, being a farmer was only part of his identity. He was also the commander of an independent armed unit formed solely to defend the Nation in crisis time. It was a classified operation. Andy was a Red Indian and a famous military trainer in the area. When winter came and farming

paused, he would set up training camps for people who came to learn for serious stuff in the military business

Organizing militia started to grow popular in the heartland states by the end of last century. They also became more professional and electronic. Some analysis held that it was due to the lack of confidence in the government and so people likewise chose to be prepared for their own defense and to fight for their constitutional right. There was, however, another opposite opinion denoting the belligerent tendency of the general American public.

Andy joined the military when he was about to go to college. He continued to serve the Nation after graduation in a military college and had participated in several regional wars against terrorism. Seven years ago, he was discharged from the military for his refusal to conduct an offensive mission. He then returned to his hometown and started to run the farming business left to him long time ago by his family. However, all these events were used as coverts for his secret assignment to train and maintain a unit of military to respond in very critical times when the regular force should fail and collapse. Andy knew he was not alone and there were other similar units in other areas.

Two years ago, he got an unbinding request from his superior to 'take' a look at Lows Foundation for Peace and Humanity and especially the Headquarters. He was told that this place was keeping many secrets of the Foundation and the Corporation as well. Andy had slipped into the Headquarters twice, but was blocked by unexplainable events and could not find anything. It was necessary to mention that Andy had a very strong mind and he was always able to sense peril before damage could take place. He withdrew from the Headquarters quick enough to lose nothing.

In last winter, Andy met a very capable trainee called 'Little Guy' who came to talk to Andy the first night he started the training. Joining the camp was obvious only a way to hide his real identity. Little Guy made a proposal to break into the Headquarters of Lows Foundation for Peace and Humanity (HLOFPAH). Little Guy likely very well knew Andy's initiative for HLOFPAH and his failure to get anything, so far. H also seemed to have known Andy secret identity too.

Little Guy said the protection of HLOFPAH was all year round and was non-materialistic, however, his associates could protect Andy and his people. Little Guy further explained that though they had telepathic capability to resist the 'force' in the HLOFPAH, they needed high tech support from Andy and his armed force as well. He further admitted that it might not be a bargain for Andy since they could not expect to stay long inside the building. On the contrary, nobody knew exactly where the core of the building was and what kind of secret was secured in this place. Eventually, it might be a fruitless operation for Andy.

"Because you guys already have telepathic ability to break into HLOFPAH, what make you come to look for our help? It looks like we are of no use to you. By the way, what do you want from HLOFPAH?" Andy said.

"Right, we have telepathy, but, we also have our own weakness, and we don't want to say too much about that. We very well know that your 'militia' can give us a strong cover. You guys are our right choice." Little Guy explained.

"OK, but how do I know that what want from HLOFPAH is not the same as

what we want?" Andy asked.

"Sure, you have some disadvantage in this matter. It was because we know very well what we are after, but you guys are just searching, and without a clear target. But, in case that we can successfully break into HLOFPAH, you guys can look for anything inside. All information is precious in HLOFPAH. But, you need to know in advance that the time that we can freely move in HLOFPAH would not last more than half an hour. Because no one knows exactly how and where Lows Corporation stores her information, you guys might end up with nothing." Little Guy answered.

Lows was more than an eminent scientist. He was also a visionary administrator. He stored his precious secret in the heartland of his biggest enemy. This was really the safest place. No enemy would really believe this as it was used in movie and novel plots. Anyway, even when his US enemies would take actions, then they could find it difficult because this was such an important place of prime attention for the world. They could not just use brutal force to break into HLOFPAH because this was eventually a place of law. Sneaking could neither work because the place storing the secret was likely year around protected by telepathy. However, what kind of secret was hidden? Was it the scientific know-how to make the invaluable medicines? Was it the information about their plan of making biological weapons? Is it about their telepathy? The answer was really a secret, too.

Andy did not try to make sure the true identity of Little Guy. He pretty much knew that it would not be easy. He also had the attitude of believing his partners, or otherwise he desired not to work with those people. Andy felt a kind of sincerity in Little Guy though he was mysterious and hiding something. Andy used to believe his intuition in knowing people. But, this time he was dealing with a person with telepathy. Would it be possible that Little Guy had used his telepathy to affect his thinking and post a false image.

Little Guy gave a date and time to break into HLOFPAH. The time was not negotiable. He did not explain why, but he had reiterated that the right time had to be very important. Little Guy asked Andy to dispatch a capable and well-equipped team to do the business. He said he could cover up around ten people from telepathic influence from HLOFPAH. Little Guy showed a kind of impish smile when he said that.

Chapter 3 – In the way to

HLOFPAH

Like everyone in the world, Andy made dreams. He made at least several dreams in a sleep. He still could remember many funny and lovely dreams he made when he was a child. There was some romantic dreams too when he turned a teenager. After he joined the military and commit missions of combat and killing, he started to have nightmare and most of his dreams were not nice. Sometimes, he made some strange dreams, but like other dreams he forgot almost all of those dreams. However, he had one or two dreams that he repeatedly made and he did not know why. In one of those dreams, he was looking at a huge burning object in the shape of a 'heart'. The heart was special because its apex was broken. That was close to something that his father had told him since he was a child. In very ancient times, his tribal ancestors would often set up a fire and they made a circular formation like the shape of a heart. They then danced and sang trying to communicate with an ancient almighty master. His father told him time after time and Andy thought this might be the reason he made those dreams.

When he first watched the satellite photo of HLOFPAH, he was struck because the whole complex was just like a heart having a burning perimeter when the very powerful and torch like spotlights on the roof of the buildings would light up the dark sky every night. It was very close to what he had watched in his dreams. The HLOFPAH was not a single building, but a series of uniquely positioned structures to form a heart shaped outline.

Andy accepted the mission to investigate HLOFPAH for an important reason. He was thinking to do 'something' in case that his superior would order to take military action against HLOFPAH. Andy knew that most of the people in HLOFPAH were civilian and they were innocent. Furthermore, no one ever found LOFPAH guilty of anything. His logic and thinking were nothing close to a soldier. But, if we knew what happened to Andy seven years ago, we could pretty much understand why. After the event, he could no longer just obey and do what his superiors said. He understood that it was time to retire and made a request to discharge. But, his superiors very much knew he was a really good soldier and asked to pass on his valuable experience. Precisely, he was assigned a post to lead and train a regiment of soldiers to handle scenario for critical times when regular military failed.

Andy had a lot of his life and death colleagues in his unit, but Fanies was special. She was an adopted girl of a family next door to Andy. They grew up

together and had much romance and adventure together. If that affair had not happened seven years ago, they might have already found their own family.

While Andy was thinking over the myth of the LOFPAH, Fanies came into his room and asked him to watch a TV recording of some international news. It was about a report in the other corner of the globe, China. An eminent and renowned astronomical scientist by the name of Timthony Kim had just died in a car accident in the heartland of China. Dr. Timthony Kim was a legendary figure in many ways and therefore the report was all about his life and little was mentioned about the accident. Everyday had numerous auto accidents and as a matter of fact, everyone was similar and nothing interesting.

Dr. Timothy Kim was not only an eminent scientist, but also a monk. He was a Chinese Korean. His parents were killed when US struck North Korea to destroy her nuclear facilities. An American medical officer saved him in the battlefield when he was only seven. Later, a Chinese couple adopted him. He was then found to be a science genius and it only took him a few years to catch up his learning in US and another few years to get his PhD in astronomy. He was then only twenty three years old. When China finally declared to schedule a roadmap for a democratic reform, he decided to join a big crowd of Chinese scholars returning to their homeland to make a difference in culture and high tech science. He did not carry on his professorship in China. Instead he accepted an offer from the Chinese government to lead a national research laboratory to study the risk and countermeasures of outer space comets. That laboratory was called the 'Eye of the Outer Sky'. Three years later, he declared himself a monk and retreated from joining public conferences and meetings, though he continued to report on his findings in comets. Since then, he was subsumed into a long list of mysterious scientists.

The end of the TV news was about his funeral service that was typical of a Buddhist. The video showed his wife and also his only daughter and at this moment Fanies paused the recording and she looked at Andy for an answer. Being staying together for years, they could understand each other without a word. The first look at the face of the mother and daughter, Andy instantly thought about Little Guy. His face resembled that of the young lady in the video. Were they related?

The last remark of the news was that a mysterious comet, the Dark Stone, discovered and named by Dr. Timothy was closing to the solar system in a few days.

Andy assembled six people in this mission. The crowd was smaller than what Little Guy said to be able to protect. They had expertise in computer security, transport, weapon and combat. They traveled in a full size container truck and on the way they had quite a lot of fun. Nobody looked at this trip as a combat mission. Everyone was tired of killing.

Vincent was the youngest one and he had never visited the Capital. Therefore, they planned to arrive at the sub urban one day ahead and took the time to see around the city. In the afternoon, they had the Capital Hill in front of them. Vincent looked around and he found some thirty people practicing mediation in an open space. They had strange posture and all had their face

looking at the Capital Hill and they were whispering something.

"Who are these people?" Vincent was very curious and asked.

"These bastard cults!" Anson yelled. He was a Catholic.

"Sh, Sh, lower your voice. Their attorneys might be just around." Fanies said.

Anson muttered, but said nothing.

Vincent inquisitively said, "What the hell is going on?"

Andy gave a hand signal and lead them walk towards a quiet area. On the way, Fanies made fun of Vincent, "Young man should read more news!"

"I did everyday, really." Vincent could feel some heat in his forehead.

"Young man, you are watching only reality TV." Anson grumbled.

Since the two thousands millennium, young people had a trend of finding no interest in news. They were at best immersed in electronic communication, phone talks and messaging all the day. Then, it was all those virtual reality games and mid night dating occupying their time. You think they would have time to watch the disastrous reality. No!

Andy made sure there was no other tourist around and he then explained, "They are the current believers of this generation of 'One Union'. This organization was found some fifty years ago in Japan, firstly as a meditation health club. It expanded rapidly and gradually the Grand Master added a lot of religious and moral context into the practice and finally it even metamorphosed into a political party and well received by the general public. It could probably grasp the government in an election about twenty-five years ago. However, in one political crisis, it launched an armed coup in one night trying to overthrow the enemy government, but it failed. Since then, the Grand Master disappeared and most leaders were shot dead in the so-called counter coup or in the intensive arrest that followed. 'One Union' was then banned in Japan. However, many members continued to be hunted by the Japanese government in the following days and they had to go into exile into other countries. Long stories made short, they reformed the organization in many big cities around the globe and unexpectedly they were more blooming even than in Japan. They have a lot of donation money and numerous attorneys working for them to challenge all people disregarding them. Anson's "dirty" word is enough for them to charge him 'discrimination'. We now live quite a quiet life and it is not worth to let them border our good time.'

"Why are they sitting in front of the Congress and what are they saying?"

"Every religion believes in praying. They are just praying, but they believe that group praying works more effectively"

"What are they praying?"

"Accordingly to 'One Union', it is about a peaceful and good prefect world."

"It is said Bufokis, the head of the Congress, was one of them." Anson made a remark.

"Bufokis is a formidable person!" Andy exclaimed without responding to Anson directly.

It was close to evening and they left the capital city and arrived at a poor suburban. Andy pointed to a very far away tower and told them this was the

tower building of the HLOFPAH.

“OK, let’s take our dinner in ‘One Meal Only,’ Andy said and explained, “One Meal Only’ is a kind of sight seeing spot that we should visit. It was the cafeteria of Good Life Foundation, a world-renowned charity found by some Asian Chinese some seventy years ago. Now, it was the biggest charity organization in the world. In ‘One Meal Only’, ordinary people and visitors have to pay while the poor can have one free meal per day up to the tenth day, then he needed to start doing volunteer work for the charity in order to get another meal. This is not only a place offering free meals to the poor, but it was also a community center. The amazing thing is that the place provides showers to those homeless and demands them to clean up before taking meals. They give out new clothing and take the dirty one to recycle. The center also has free medical service and many fun rooms for every age.”

A moment later, they entered the ground floor of a three storeys building. It was a big restaurant with a capacity of more than 200. The place was very clean and bright. All walls were painted softly and many paintings were hung there. The decoration was quite elegant for a place to offer free meals to the poor. There were even hostess and waiters serving the ‘guests’. It was past the dining time, yet there were still hundred people there and most of them were elders and kids.

After the meal, Vincent exclaimed that the food was unexpectedly good and said he initially was very worried. Only the quantity was not enough and they refused to accept more order and not even an extra rice bowl. The waiter said it was for our good health. There were so many rules.

Leaving the restaurant, they toured around the rest of the facility with a volunteer guide. Finally, they were at the end of a corridor and the guide said on one side there was the donation room and guests were welcome to make any amount of contribution or else they could just leave the facility on the other side.

Vincent was the most impressed and he grasped almost all his pocket money and that of his colleagues and entered the room. There was nothing to see inside and there was no one except an old woman sitting in one corner with a young man standing and reading a book. They were in the uniform of the Foundation. Vincent placed the money in the machine and took the receipt and the crowd left the room and then the building.

When they were a distance from the building, Andy suddenly asked, “Anson, did you find we were watched in the room?”

“Yes, yet they hadn’t even moved their eyes for a blink”

“It is also unusual that a Good Life Foundation volunteer would say nothing to visitors. They kept still this long as if nobody else was around.” Fanie added.

In the donation room, the young man ‘asked’ the old woman, “These people carry special ‘attributes’ and they are so different.”

“You are right, but, do not follow them, especially tonight. They already knew you were watching them. They don’t come from there.” The old woman ‘said’.

They did not look as if they were talking with spoken words.

