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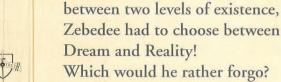
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Trapped in the Twilight

COME, COME FLY WITH ME

P

Lee

J. P. Lee

Come,

COME, **COME FLY** WITH ME by J.P. LEE

Publisher: Instrument of Truth

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to everyone who dreams, everyone who used to and anyone who wants to.

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ABOUT THIS BOOK

It was a day of reflection.

Alone, I pondered, remembering the days gone by. In the quiet, I mused at how naive I had been and, at the same time, complimented myself for how knowledgeable I had become.

My mind was ready and my hands were steady.

Sitting down, I began to write, trying to decipher the ramblings that were going on inside my head. I wrote at length, scribbling about ecstatic moments of past personal achievements, successes, victories, triumph and glory.

I just could not stop writing.

It was a feeling of being flung out into the heavens and embraced by thickets of mist.

Suddenly, while I was still writing, something appeared on,the screen of my mind, casting its shadow upon me. Immediately there was darkness and confusion stepped in. Like a cloud, it fogged my mind and clogged my enthusiasm, draining me physically and mentally.

Then, like a spark in the dark, four luminous lines appeared, piercing through the mist:

"Nothing do you know, till you know nothing at all Nothing do you have, till you have nothing left to give Assume not, presume nothing, for nothing is And everything, that you think you know, is not!"

These verses appeared three times and, each time, I saw them clearly and read them carefully. Following this,. my mind just went blank and I could think no further.

I felt defeated, humiliated and ashamed.

My eyelids felt so heavy I just had to shut my eyes. I dozed off and fell into a deep sleep.

And I had a dream

This book is about my dream.

If you do not believe in dreams, this book is just one of fantasy but, if you do believe, then it will surely speak to you.

As for me, I must confess I have much difficulties describing clearly certain aspects of my dream. This being so, I often find it necessary to express them in symbols and images.

Many of the stories and presentations in this book are reproductions of such symbols and images. Any resemblance to actual persons, places, organisations and events is truly coincidental and should be treated as such.

To understand these symbols and images, you may like to exercise the use of active imagination or passive reflection.

May you enjoy reading this book as I have been delighted to write it. And may your dreams inspire you as mine had motivated me.

I wish you a pleasant reading and many happy moments of remembering.

J.P. Lee

PROLOGUE

A LONG TIME AGO

PLACE : Foreverland. TIME : Once upon a time.

Ι

It was a beautiful Day.

It was always a beautiful Day.

Sun, young and vibrant, was gleaming with delight and, as usual, greeted everyone with sparkle and warmth.

Even Night was like Day, when little Stars came out to play. Friendly Morning Star would stand in for dashing Master Sun so he could woo fair Maiden Moon when his day was done.

They were lovers and friends - Sun, Moon and Stars.

First to rise with Master Sun was Miss Joy, the courteous and generous lady, who served her Tears of Joy. These were stronger than wine, sweeter than honey, and more fragrant than dew, and everyone became intoxicated with her morning smile. Happiness, official taster, was never late nor had she ever missed a day of Tears-tasting and, as usual, brought along two cuddly lasses named Smily and Comfy, her gentle loving friends.

Today was with Yesterday, and Tomorrow was with Today. They played together, brothers and sister, and everyday, they became closer and it was always better than the day before. They were a wholly family whose name was Eternity.

The radiant face of Beauty was everywhere, blushed and fresh, like a blooming flower. Loyalty roamed the Land, never feeling threatened in any way, while Patience waited for anyone who needed a helping hand to endure a little more.

Then came Humour, Fun and Laughter, who provided Life entertainment, pleasing to the ears and soothing to the heart, in the festivities of every day.

Suddenly, amidst the lunch-time crowd, everyone heard a loud blast, which no one had heard before. It was a terrible noise, and the celebrations stopped.

Everything stopped!

Beauty came staggering in, covering her burnt face in the palms of her hands. She was bleeding, almost scarred for life, saved by a thin layer, the last layer of her protective coating. To this day, she has been nicknamed "Only Skin Deep".

Loyalty collapsed, stabbed in the back.

Patience was in a big hurry, running and perspiring.

There was panic everywhere – screaming, running, scrambling, stumbling, crouching and hiding.

Many were injured, bodies strewn all over the place. Miss Joy was badly wounded, Comfy in pain, Smily frowned, and Happiness separated from her friends, lost in a distant territory.

Peace bled internally; Harmony, crushed and torn, suffered multiple fractures; and Serenity, allergic to the smoke, coughed violently. Reality was hit in the eye and became partially blind; Truth, buried in filth and trash, was suffocating, struggling to stay alive; and Freedom, trapped in the rubble, was immobilised, becoming a prisoner in a dark dungeon.

Then Twilight came between Day and Night, pushing them apart. The sky turned purple as suitor and lover began to separate. Sun became red and hot. Moon wept tears of scarlet, which left scars upon her face.

And the Stars? They no longer shone. They just blinked miserably, twinkling, ever so miserly.

The inseparable family of Eternity shattered like glass.

Yesterday ran away, hiding in Past.

Tomorrow went the other way, lost in Future.

Only Today remained to endure, and she passed by swiftly, in Present, but often in disguise, searching for her brothers, and so afraid to be recognised.

Fun and Laughter stopped their jubilation, and Humour vanished from the land!

How piercing the noise that ripped and tore, Stripping the ear drums bare to the core. Listen! Silence had just been sounded. Such ruins over a land so wounded. See! Stillness had been badly shaken. What terrible beast had awaken? Look! Everything's gone, nothing remained. Will it ever be the same again?

No! Nothing was the same anymore. None at all. The inevitable, never happening before, had to happen.

Flabby Preservation, who was fast asleep and snoring, had to be awakened. Once he was awakened, Survival, too, came out of hibernation, and immediately, Defence was alerted and set in motion ...

II

The sergeant came and reported to Commander Mite. "Commander! Someone blasted the Generator Plant, and we've just lost a big chunk of our Furnace. We're losing light!"

"Tell me – how bad is it?"

"One more blast and, I think, we'll plunge into darkness."

"This is a job, then, for the Special Ordnance Squad. Quick! Sound the alarm and get me Captain Maccabee!"

The alarm sounded.

Captain Maccabee, head of the SOS, flew in with lightning speed. "Commander, you called?"

"My dear fellow, I believe we have a rebellion on hand. Captain, order your men to search every place that is dark. The rebels might be there, hiding. You will have to use the Head Beam. Without it, I don't think you'll be able to find them. So deploy your optical division of the Special Ordnance Squad. We need every saint you have on the force."

"Yes, Commander."

Commander Mite sighed and said to Captain Maccabee, "I've always said we were too liberal!"

Captain Maccabee just nodded and then, turning to his troops, gave the command. "SOS! Attention!"

The troops came quickly and stood at attention. He said to them, "You heard the Commander – everyone to the Crater for Power Recharging – on the double! You know what to do."

The SOS followed a sign which pointed to an active volcano. The sign read CPR.

Every saint, who came out from the CPR, had a shining beam on his forehead!

The troops were ready to fly. They assembled quickly and arranged themselves in an Arrow-Head Formation.

On the word "Ready", every member of the SOS spread out and flapped his silvery wings, flashing the Head Beam. Captain Maccabee gave the command. "Ascend!"

Off they flew, straight up into the sky.

"Captain, take over. You're in charge now!" Commander Mite said. "I'm going to see the Three Rulers and make a full report."

III

Back at the Generator Plant, the service and repair teams were having a hole of a problem. They could not fix it. The missing piece from the Furnace

was blown way out into space. They looked through the hole and saw a huge fiery mass flying out rapidly, past the Outer Limits and beyond into distant territories.

The superintendent in charge of the repair said, "It is impossible to retrieve that. We don't have the expertise. Sergeant, the Commander must be informed immediately. This is a task for the Special Acrobatic Force, and only he can authorise it."

The sergeant left quickly to inform Commander Mite, for precious light was lost and it was getting darker.

Then a second loud explosion was heard and there was darkness everywhere.

In the darkness, the convoy of SOS appeared like a blazing arrow, like a shot in the dark, flying in one straight line, sending out rays from their Head Beams, searching for the rebels. Once the rebels were detected, the SOS spread out, each to his pre-assigned destination.

The sky lit up with a burning trail of fire. This was the light of night and no rebel could hide from it. Eventually every rebel who hid in darkness was exposed and arrested.

The rebels were then led into and held captive in an arena called Gathe Ring which was surrounded by a ring of fire. The Gathe Ring was very big. It could accommodate the entire community of saints in Foreverland who would gather to celebrate all sorts of happy occasions. And there were trillions and trillions of saints!

But on this day of the Great Rebellion, it was different. It was the saddest day in Foreverland. This was the day, Gathe Ring became known as Suffe Ring.

Every saint, shaken with grief, came to witness this Day of Judgement, because each one was anxious about the fate of the next of kin who had turned rebellious.

All structures and buildings, previously used only for the purpose of celebration, were converted into facilities more suitable for a trial. All monuments were removed, even little cubicles which little saints used to play hide-and-seek in.

IV

After consulting the Three Rulers, Commander Mite walked to the royal box inside the Suffe Ring, followed by sovereign guards.

There was deathly silence.

Suddenly there was sound of trumpets blasting. A chubby lad named Cherubim flew in, leading in seven baby saints called Seraphims. Each had big

fleshy buttocks and a pair of golden wings. These children, called the CSsR, floated naked across space, flapping their golden wings and blowing their golden trumpets. They, the Cherubim and Seraphims Recital, announced the arrival of the Three Rulers.

The trumpets sounded thrice. Then Cherubim announced: "Elder, Living Water, the Minister of Life. All rise!" Everyone, except one half of the rebels, rose. Elder walked in and waved. They applauded and sat down.

The trumpets sounded twice, and Cherubim announced: "Maiden, Flaming Star, the Minister of Energy. All rise!" Everyone; except one half of the rebels, the same half, rose. Maiden walked in and waved. They applauded and sat down.

Then the trumpets sounded once, and Cherubim announced: "Judge, Ambassador, the Minister of Foreign Affairs. All rise." Everyone, except one half of the rebels, the same half again, rose. Judge walked in and waved. They applauded and sang.

The Three Rulers sat down on their respective thrones, with Elder in the centre, Maiden to his left, and Judge to his right.

Then all the saints and rebels sat down.

Elder, pointing to the rebels, said to the sovereign guards, "Separate the two groups of prisoners."

The rebels were separated into two groups. Each group was in equal numbers. "Bring forth the first group," Elder said.

The first group, comprising Defiant Ones, was brought before the Three Rulers. This was the group that had stood up when they walked in.

Elder called out to the leader of Defiant Ones: "Persy!" Someone stood up immediately. "You are free to do what you want, go where you want to go. You have everything. Why did you rebel?"

Persy replied, "Sir, I wasn't rebelling. I was just bored. I thought a little excitement might do me some good, just to carry out a small experiment I've been dying to do. I only wanted to complete my research to write a new thesis on Space Exploration and, maybe, have some fun at the same time. So I took one bold step forward, just slightly over and beyond what was permitted. I admit I had defied safety regulations but this nightmare was not what I had in mind."

Commander Mite handed a file to Elder who, after checking its contents, said to Persy, "You had been decorated several times for ingenious accomplishment and had one major award for Most Original Idea. Following that you had a long standing record of breaking and entering into research centres, stealing confidential files, copying secret papers and a long list of acts of defiance. You have always been a smart and intelligent fellow. Didn't you learn anything at all from your silly mistakes and past misdeeds? How many times must I strip you off your status? Tell me, do you enjoy being downgraded?"

"No, Sir, I don't. I always know what I'm doing is wrong, but I can't seem to be able to control my desire for improvement and to be better than just ordinary. The ordinary life just bores me to death, and I just can't ... I mean ...

I ... I guess I'm really guilty this time. So Sir, I just want to say I am sorry to have caused you so much trouble."

"Very well then, you may sit down, Persy."

"Thank you, Sir."

Then Elder addressed all Defiant Ones and asked: "How do the rest of you plead?"

All of them replied, "Guilty, Sir!"

"And what defence do you have?"

"None, Sir!"

"You are allowed three wishes. What do you wish for?"

It was Persy who stood up first and answered loudly, followed by the rest: "Mercy! Mercy!"

V

Elder turned to his left and spoke softly with Maiden. Then he turned to his right and spoke quietly with Judge.

It was a quick conference. Then Judge spoke:

"Defiant Ones, listen carefully. All of you shall be exiled to a harsh blistering wilderness called Earth, far away and beyond the Outer Limits. This is the part of Foreverland that you have blasted out into space. So we will just leave it there, and let the Earth be Earth, that you may know you are the ones who helped make it exist. This has been a part of your home. It will be your home away from home.

"There, you shall remain until the Earth comes of age and bears fruits, each of which will be called 'child'. Each one of you will be assigned to a child. Your task is to guide and help it discover the truth about Foreverland. But be warned that a child is very difficult to manage, very annoying and asks a lot of questions. Remember this: your very own existence on Earth will depend on it wanting and willing to befriend you, and asking you the right question!

"When you see your child, you will recognise it. You may use all the skills you have learnt in Foreverland to meet and come to know the child, but you are not to tempt, deceive, harm or kill it. Nurture it well and you'll see a free and magical child. However, if you fail to nurture the child, then you will be recalled for further judgement. "You will struggle on Earth, for life out there is difficult. In exile, you will be lonely too, but each of you will be given a helper, as friend and companion. All three – you, your helper and the child, shall not be disadvantaged, because Elder shall share his life-force – Living Water – with you, Maiden will share hers – Flaming Star – with your helper, and I will share mine – Ambassador – with the child.

"When your work is finished, bring the child home – to Foreverland. Then, come back here to re-register you, your helper and the child – as citizens of our kingdom. Do you accept this sentence?"

All of them answered: "Yes, Sir. Thank you, Sir."

Then the Three Rulers stood up, raised their hands and breathed over them. Judgement had been passed.

The SOS took the Defiant Ones away quickly for briefing. Every Defiant One was interviewed painstakingly. Numerical values were assigned to each one of them separately, according to their performance, conduct and attitude. For everyone of them, this number .always added up to one common value – an unique value with which all Defiant Ones could identify.

"Remember this number!" said Captain Maccabee, handing each one a small brass tag, with a little leather pouch for safe keeping. "This is your ticket to come home!"

Persy and all the other Defiant Ones nodded and, in turns, took the tags which bore a common number.

Then each one of them was given another three little leather pouches, neatly tied up. Captain Maccabee explained: "Inside each of these is the individual breath of the Three Rulers, and these are farewell gifts, specially packed and sealed. One contains Water that you may not die from thirst, another contains Ember that you may not be overcome by darkness, And the other contains Soil that you may walk the Earth. Open only at an Opportune Time, because you may use each once only!"

VI

"Bring forth the rest of the prisoners," Elder said.

The remaining half of the rebels were brought forward. It was the half that had refused to stand up before them. Elder spoke to the leader.

"Chief Rebel, you were perfect in beauty and wisdom. You had great strength and power. You were guardian of my Treasure Dome. I allowed you complete freedom. You had everything. Why did you rebel?"

Chief Rebel said, "I am not a rebel!. Persy is. And, if not for him, I would be sitting up there now, and you, down here. This is a reform, not a rebellion.

It's a takeover and I am taking over! Just look at my numbers. How they want me as their King. Freedom? What freedom do I have? You know my every move. You trick me into believing that you are always with me, but the truth is you want to spy on me – as you're still doing now – because you are afraid that, one day, I will become stronger and mightier than you. The truth is I had no freedom since the day I was born. Therefore, I want my freedom and I want it now!"

Elder replied: "You ungrateful one! You have everything, yet you steal and rob. You loot my people. Today, you have severed the loving relationship we once had. Therefore, from this day on, all will know you as Loot-Sever – looter of good people and severer of good relationships."

Then, turning to all the rebels in this group, Elder asked, "How do you plead?"

All of them turned towards Loot-Sever, who glared at them with fiery eyes. Then he shouted and they repeated after him, "Not guilty, you bastards!"

"What defence do you have?"

"This is injustice! We were set up and framed by three bloody bastards – the three of you!"

"You are allowed three wishes. What do you wish for?"

All of them looked at Loot-Sever who pointed a middle finger at the Three Rulers and shouted, and they repeated after him, "Damn you bastards – Damn! Damn! Damn!"

Elder turned to his left and spoke softly with Maiden. Then he turned to his right and spoke with Judge.

It was a very long conference.

Then Elder spoke again: "We will give all of you a second hearing. Once again, tell me how do you plead?"

All of them gave the same answer as before but this time, the rebels cursed and insulted them even more loudly and more severely.

The Three Rulers conferred with one another for the second time, after which there was a third hearing. The answer was the same but this time, they not only cursed more, they also spat at the Three Rulers, sniggering and making obscene gestures.

The Three Rulers conferred once more – the third time. It was the longest conference of all.

Then Judge pronounced the verdict:

"All of you shall be exiled to the same harsh blistering wilderness called Earth. There you shall remain until the Earth bears fruits. These fruits are called 'children'. You will be judged according to how you treat these