

"The cosmos is within us. We are made of star-stuff. We are a way for the universe to know itself."

Carl Sagan

Every now and then, a person's mind is stretched by a new idea or sensation and never shrinks back to its former dimensions.

Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.

SiBoRE[®] - A Simple Book Readers Edit

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Author's Notes

In the book *The Path to Xanadu*, you will find references to events in history and how the characters in this book changed them. These changes are purely fictional and not based on any recorded information. *The Path to Xanadu* is actually the sequel to the book *The Great*

Awakening. The Path to Xanadu answers many of the questions created by previous books in the SiBoRE® series and may open other doors in the reader's imagination.

Earth Won, the first book in this collection, describes the hardships the Earth went through due to greed and lies. Thank goodness there were brave people (and robots and pets!) to stand up against the evils of humanity. Seymour, his robot assistant Robyn, and his dog Glen work out of a secret laboratory and answer the mysterious calls of nature whenever their help is needed. But things seem to be getting more drastic out in the world, and both an evil organization called REED and a mysterious Creature oppose their actions. Then Ruby, who also has a robot (Max) and a cat (Devyn) and also works to protect the Earth, met Seymour, and everything changed. How two humans, two robots, two pets, and a slew of advanced technology stand up to a shadow organization and the Creature, is explained in *Earth Won*.

The story of *The Great Awakening* takes place a dozen years after *Earth Won*. The main characters, Seymour and Ruby, now have a son, a daughter, and twin boys. There are also poems that help the characters with the problems they encounter during this adventure.

There are three additional poems at the end of *The Great Awakening*. The first, called "Metamorphosis," describes how love grew in the years of my marriage. The second and third poems are about how free will gives us the right to choose how we live. This book left a few questions unanswered but promised the answers would come soon.

The Path to Xanadu takes place years later and answers some of the questions left open in *The Great Awakening*. I recommend reading first two books to get to know and recognize many of the characters in this story. The events within the story move rapidly and the readers may not be able to immerse themselves in any moment, but the reader may edit each chapter and create immersion points in the additional external information. My writing style is influenced by engineering logbooks and patent applications and may be oddly worded and sometimes awkward. By becoming a [dynamic editor](#) you can add more attention to detail, a more fluid writing style, and make this story a great read. This book allows the reader to take a video tour of ancient Athens by using one of the links. There are also poems in the story and two more at the back of the book to help explain the scheme of the story. I hope this will help make your reading a pleasant and educational experience.

I will always appreciate feedback from readers and try to improve what is yet to come.

Art Seymour

Chapter 1

PORTAL PLACE

A few more years had fallen off the calendar in the palace where the Blox family lived. The great lockdown had become more of a memory than an experience, but the world was still fighting the forces that pulled love from the human heart. It was the old world, and it was a new world. The greedy power seekers still pursued control in an unloving manner, but now the Earth had a global robotic police force to try and govern malicious humans. Poor, starving, and sick people were still struggling to survive, but now there was a global force of robotic rovers that brought food, medicine, and job contacts to those in need. There were still groups trying to destroy the Earth for personal profit, but they were held in check by the agency, or “REED” that changed its name from “Regulators Ending Environmental Destruction” to stand for “Robots Encouraging Environment Development.” Weapons to kill humans were

still being designed by materialistic and misled people, but protective force field jackets were also being designed to save human lives. Technology was the catalyst that accelerated change, and the human heart was the steering mechanism that guided its direction.

Seymour and Ruby sat in their favorite love seat glider on the balcony of the palace, sipping their early morning herbal tea. The dwellings below were almost all empty since most of the people had moved to the Hidden Valley Village. Seymour sadly remarked, "It's amazing how fast things can change." After the glider slowly made a couple of cycles forward and backward, Ruby replied, "I miss Jimmy. At least he has Martin with him at college, so he is not alone." Jimmy was their oldest son. He became close to a boy named Martin during the lockdown caused by the pandemic that put everyone in a coma. They had become great friends and were in college together now. Seymour took another sip of tea and then carefully placed his cup on the table on his side of the love seat as the glider paused to reverse direction. He carefully moved a few inches closer and put his arm around Ruby's neck to gently pull her toward him. She grabbed her cup with both hands and said, "Watch it, fella! I want to drink this tea, not wear it!" Pulling her very close, he looked into her beautiful green

eyes and whispered, "It would look awesome on you like everything else you wear." She stopped the glider from moving, put her cup down on the table next to her, turned and put both of her hands on each side of his face, and kissed him. Then she pulled away and queried, "What are you after? I know that look; you want something. What is it?" Seymour just sat back and declared, "The world seems to be doing OK without us, so I thought we could take a little vacation. Maybe we could go somewhere with the kids for a couple of weeks. What do you think?" Ruby stared at her husband and asked, "What did you have in mind?" Now, he knew that when women ask a question, to pay no attention to the question, but to look for the meaning behind the question. He knew if Ruby asked him if he wanted a stick of refreshing spearmint gum to chew on, she was telling him he had bad breath and needed to freshen it with the gum. If a man asked him, "Where did you buy this cake?" he could answer, "At the Hidden Valley Bakery." but Ruby would answer, "What is wrong with it?" So the question "What did you have in mind?" really meant, do we need to get the family away from here? Seymour carefully answered her with, "I just thought you might like a change for a while. There is no reason we have to leave."

Robyn entered the room holding a tray with a teapot on it before Ruby could respond and asked, "Would you like some more tea?" Robyn was the only GA robot in the palace now. Feeniks was running REED. Min was in India working with a medical research group, and Max was somewhere in Asia helping the global police force. They both answered Robyn by saying, "No, thank you." While Robyn proceeded to pick up the teacups and put them on her tray, she amazed them both with, "No need to plan a vacation right now. We have a great adventure planned for your family. Paul, Esther, and Martin will be joining in this escapade if it is OK with you." Seymour knew Robyn was always three steps ahead of everything, so he nonchalantly asked, "And where will we be going this time?" As she left the room Robyn replied, "Physically, nowhere. Metaphysically, to places you've never thought possible!" Ruby smiled at her husband as she sighed, "If it was anyone but Robyn, this would frighten me." Seymour commented, "This could be a great vacation, and it sounds like we won't even have to pack our bags."

He stood up and, using both hands, pulled Ruby from the glider to hold her close and whispered, "I love you." This time Ruby did not answer with "You better" but instead replied, "Ditto." Seymour knew it was the

answer from an old movie that used both the physical and spiritual worlds. “So, you are already into it, I see. I was hoping for a simple old rustic castle in the sky with a big moon and days of family time together doing nothing.” She laughed, then exclaimed, “Yea, right!”



Paul and Esther joined Seymour, Ruby, Stacey, and the twins for dinner later that night. It was a wonderful meal that Robyn had prepared for everyone with Gyro meat and fish. The meat was very tender with a spicy flavor, and the fish was a [Paleo Greek Braised Fish](#). Paul knew the meal was centered on Greek cuisine, so he asked Robyn what was the reason for her choice. Robyn explained, “In two days, we will be going on a great adventure. We will be traveling in the Meta-World, so you do not need to pack anything. Our first stop will be Athens, Greece, in the year 400 BC. We will leave as soon as Jimmy and Martin get home on their spring break from college.” She knew that a million questions were coming, so she continued. “Do you remember the list of

questions you wanted to be answered a few years ago?" The children said no, but the adults all nodded yes. "This trip will give you detailed answers to many of those questions and much more." Turning to face Seymour and Ruby, she added, "When the boys get home, you must explain to all the children the three forms of existence as I did years ago." Then turning to face Paul, she proclaimed, "Yes, Paul! This is what you have been waiting for. Be patient, just a few more days. We had to wait until the twins were old enough to understand this mission." Her eyes turned a sky blue to give Paul a robotic smile and then back to their normal blue.

Robyn proceeded to clean up some of the dishes and serve a rich, sweet dessert pastry called Baklava. It was made of layers of filo filled with chopped nuts and sweetened and held together with honey. Finally, Stacey asked, "Can we bring my friend Glenna?" Glenna was a female Wicklow Terrier and a direct descendent of the famous Glen. "Yes and no," Robyn replied. "She will be taken care of during the day and sleep by your side every night. She can also be with you when you eat lunch and dinner." This put Stacey's mind at rest, and she sighed, "OK." Nobody knew, not even Robyn, how important the bond between Stacey and Glenna would be in the years to come.

Lying in bed that night with his left arm under her pillow and his right arm holding her close, Seymour started their last discussion before sleep with, "When I was very young and discovered the Tri-Blade, I often wondered where it came from and how it could do all those things. It seemed to have intelligence and yet was just a propeller. Maybe now I will get the answer." Ruby quickly changed the conversation to a mother's concern and said, "Robyn said she waited until the boys were old enough. Do you think she will tell us what the children will be doing with their lives? I hope we can explain the three forms of existence, so the children understand." She was focused on the children, and he felt a little guilty because he was thinking about unimportant matters. He pulled her close, kissed her cheek, and whispered, "Your right. This adventure may reveal many wonderful things about the future and our children. That is why she waited. Good night, dear." He pulled his arm out from under her pillow and rolled over onto his pillow as she replied, "Good night, my love." Sleep did not come quickly for Seymour. He remembered a poem called 'Her Kids' that his father had written, and it kept running through his head.

Her Kids

I was so glad when I first had a son
I could teach him the sports
How to catch and to run.
The less important things in his life
Like talking, and washing
I left for my wife.

My next child was a beautiful daughter
I could bounce on my knee
And swim with, in the water.
Other things that she would have to do
Like manners and dressing
Were my wife's job too.

Now my next child again was a boy
More sports and more fun
Oh, what a joy.
Eating and using a fork and a knife
And other little lessons
Would be taught by my wife.

Now the funs over, the children are grown
And it does me no good
To sit back and moan.
But as I look back on each kid's life
I realize they turned out
Just like my wife.

*Note: You may sit back and grin, but you'll only
get back what you put in.*

It was the note at the end of the poem that kept Seymour awake. He wondered just how much was he putting into the children? But then, if the children turned out like Ruby, that would be great. Sleep finally came.

Robyn was busy all night setting up a room in the palace she called "Portal Place." One end of the room had a large round table with ten very comfortable chairs. For the next few days, most of the meals would take place at this table. This area was also covered with a [holographic shell](#) that could make the table appear in different surroundings when activated. On the other side of the room were beds that could be arranged into many different styles, also covered by a holographic shell. The center of the room was a very large open area that could also create the appearance of many outdoor and indoor scenes. Portal Place truly was a space that could create the illusion of travelling to faraway places. Hours after everyone in the palace was asleep, Robyn stood in a far corner of Portal Place that was lit by a flickering electronic candle. A small moth was flying around the candle and finally landed on the rim near the light source. Robyn whispered, "Thank the Creator for allowing me and the others to enter

His world although we are not worthy.” The tiny little moth flew around the candle and left the room. Robyn’s light sensors were very accurate, and she noticed a momentary increase in the brightness of the candle. She knew her message had been received.



[Edit Chapter 1](#)

Chapter 2

MOTHER

Shortly after breakfast, Seymour called a meeting with Paul, Esther, and Ruby in the now rarely used conference room of the palace. They recalled how Robyn had explained the three forms of existence and tried to repeat them so the younger twins would understand. They felt marbles to replacing electrons was a good idea, and dreams for the Meta-World would be easy to grasp, but the concept of time in the third form of existence was still a mystery to them. Ruby finally said, “Let’s do the best to repeat what Robyn told us and let the

questions come. We can do our best to answer them. Remember, 'I don't know' is an honest answer." They all agreed and went out to the courtyard to greet the college boys that would soon arrive.

The large mountaintop door above the palace was left open most of the time to let fresh air and sunshine into the small village during the day and permit the people inside to see the moon and stars at night. When severe storms were predicted, they would close the access to protect the dwellings and palace, but today was a beautiful spring day, and the small group gathered in the palace courtyard in the sunshine and fresh air. There was a grassy field speckled with bright yellow dandelions nearby where the Tri-Blade helicopter would soon be landing.

Robyn and Martin's grandmother, Yolanda, joined the group and brought some little sandwiches with a pitcher of lemonade and some plastic cups. Robyn told everyone to have a seat and take a snack because it would be a little while before the boys would arrive. Although the creek that ran through the cave was out of sight, you could still faintly hear the music the water made as it danced around the rocks and stones on its journey. The small talk from the waiting group was mostly about

nostalgic memories of the past and the beauty of the Earth they had encountered on their journeys. Robyn's eyes slowly shifted from deep blue to a soft sky blue as she smiled at the group and telepathically sent their conversations to Max, Min, and Feeniks. They all agreed this was the right group for the passage and thanked her without using words for the transmission. Seymour noticed Robyn's smile and put his glass of lemonade on the bench, stood up, and walked to her side. He meekly asked, "Robyn, I think you can best explain the three levels of existence to the children. It would be better if you explained it to them like you did for us in the past." Robyn smiled her sky-blue-eyed robotic smile at Seymour and responded, "I know you will be surprised at what they show you." Suddenly, Seymour realized this meeting was going to be a two-way street, and he was about to learn something from the children. He thanked Robyn and went back to sit with Ruby and his lemonade.

Because TB, the name Seymour gave to the tri-blade helicopter, was flying in silent mode, nobody heard it enter the cave and hover over the field. The blast of air from the helicopter's blades made everyone jump to their feet as they realized the boys were home and the waiting was over. Stacey and the twins

joined the group while everyone displayed the excitement of a loving family reunion. When the hugging and kissing finally stopped, and the chatter subsided, Robyn announced, "Let us give the boys a chance to put their things away and then meet in the dining room for dinner in about two hours." Everybody paired off and started heading in different directions except for Seymour. He stood at the edge of the field with his arms folded across his chest and watched TB silently leave the cave. He mentally said, "Thank you, old and faithful friend." Perhaps it was that his telepathic powers were getting stronger from using that crazy frying pan hat to telepathically communicate with Feeniks, but he clearly heard a loving motherly voice say, "You're welcome." He had often felt TB saying things to him in the past but never heard a voice speak. He had often thought of TB as a brother and now he just realized SHE was more of a loving mother. She was always there, protecting and guiding him without many thanks. Like all loving mothers, she took care of him, expecting nothing in return. He made his way back to the bench as his eyes filled with tears and sat down.

Ruby had noticed that her husband did not go back into the palace and returned to the courtyard to see what he was doing. One look, and she knew there was something wrong. She

pulled a napkin from her pocket and gave it to him to dry his eyes, and, saying nothing, sat next to him and waited. He finally looked at her worried face and sorrowfully mumbled, "Did you know you married the dumbest fool on the planet?" Her worried look did not change as she replied, "If you say so." "Oh, now you agree!" He responded with a forced laugh and added, "Let's go join the others." He took her hand as they both rose and headed for the palace. She never questioned her husband because she knew there was an enormous emotion struggling to find a place in his soul, and he would tell her what it was when the time was right.

The dinner was again prepared by Robyn and was centered on Greek meals from the past. When Seymour first saw Robyn standing at the table, she looked at him with smiling eyes and telepathically sent the statement, "So, you talked to Mother. She told us that you will be able to communicate without the silly hat from now on and wanted us to help you adjust to this major change." Then he heard Max and Min add, "Welcome to the group." while Feeniks added, "And you will not get headaches as you did with that hat." He could hear all their voices in his head better than the sounds in the room. He felt a little dizzy, so he opened his mouth to get a better breath and grabbed the back of a

chair near the table to get steady. Finally, he telepathically answered them with, "Thank you. I hope I am worthy of this great honor." He slowly sat down in the chair even before Robyn declared so everyone could hear, "Sit down now. Dinner is ready." Ruby never took her eyes off her husband and tried to hide the worry from her face. She knew something very serious was happening but had no idea what it was or what to do. She had a hard time focusing on the table talk while eating and watching Seymour nibble in silence. Dessert, coffee, and hot chocolate followed the meal with a mint-flavored candy for those that wanted one. Seymour heard Robyn telepathically transmit, "Time for your meeting." And then announced verbally, "Everyone, please go to the small conference room now for a meeting. Seymour will explain when you get there." Yolanda put her hand on Martin's shoulder and said, "I will stay here and help Robyn with the cleaning. You need to go with the group." Martin just answered, "OK," and dinner ended.

Ruby took Seymour's hand on the way to the conference room and gave it a little extra squeeze to make sure he knew she was with him, both physically and emotionally. He knew she was worried, so he smiled at her and assured her everything was all right with, "I'm

fine. You don't need to worry. I will try and explain later." It did not stop the worry, but she felt a little better as they entered the conference room and sat around the large round table. Seymour opened the meeting with a prayer by saying, "Heavenly Creator help us to understand your plan for us and lead us to your kingdom." Everyone answered, "Amen." He continued, "Years ago, the GA's tried to explain to us that there were three levels of existence. There is the physical world, the metaphysical world or Meta-World, and the Creator's world. My memory is not as good as Paul's, so I would like him to tell you what she told us back then."

Paul took out an old notebook as all the children turned to face him with totally expressionless faces. He read about the sand being marbles with built-in DNA to describe the physical world we lived in. He read about thoughts and dreams to describe the metaphysical world the spirits lived in. He concluded with the third form of existence being the Creator's world and that it was very difficult to understand. The children's faces remained blank as they listened to Paul talk, and no one stopped him to ask even one question. Finally, Paul looked at them and said, "Do you get any of this?"

The children looked at each other for a few seconds, and finally, Andy shouted, "*Three X Pro!*" and they all laughed and gave each other high five hand slaps. Paul sat back in his chair with his mouth open. After he composed himself, he asked, "What is *Three X Pro*?" Jimmy was the first to realize this was not a quiz and all the adults in the room were totally confused. He explained, "*Three X Pro* is a very popular game that started a few years ago. You buy a starter box that comes with instructions on how to build real-world things with blocks, bricks, motors, lights, and other real-world parts. After you build something you go to a website, which is called the second level and enter the name and parts used to make your creation. If you did everything correctly, you are given letters and pictures that can only be used in the second level to try and figure out a location or name of something that holds the answer to the creator of the puzzle." All the adults in the room were overwhelmed at what they just heard and sat silently, staring at Jimmy. Joey exclaimed, "It's really pretty hard. We have made it to level two a few times and even with Martin's help never found the creator of the puzzle." Martin added, "Even the teachers and professors play the game, but no one has ever made it past level two as far as I know." For the next hour, the adults asked

questions, and the children explained how the game worked when they could. Seymour realized what Robyn meant when she said she knew the children had something to show them. He sat back in his chair, and for the first time since TB had arrived, he had a smile on his face. Ruby noticed the smile, and the knot around her heart started to loosen and let some of the worry escape.

The meeting ended when Robyn entered the room, pushing a cart stacked with a pile of clothing. Yolanda was behind her with scissors, thread, and a box of fasteners. Robyn announced, "Chitons for everyone." She explained the chiton was a simple tunic garment that was worn in Greece by both sexes and all ages. It consisted of a wide, rectangular tube of material secured along the shoulders and lower arms by a series of fasteners. Typically, they fell to the ankles of the wearer, but athletes, warriors, or slaves sometimes wore shorter versions during vigorous activities. Everybody would be wearing ankle-length chitons on their first adventure tomorrow. They used the restrooms as changing rooms while everyone got their tailor-made outfit. Robyn told them all to get a good night's sleep and come here dressed for the trip by nine and that breakfast would be prepared.

That night, when Seymour was lying in bed next to Ruby with his hands behind his head and staring at the ceiling, he sorrowfully proclaimed, "All my life, I thought TB was like a brother or at least a very good friend. Today I found out he is not a he at all, but she is really like a mother that has been watching over me." Ruby rolled over to face him and softly whispered, "Is that why you said you were the world's greatest fool in the courtyard today?" "Yes." was his only reply. She continued, "We are all fools when you really think about it, but you are MY greatest fool and don't you forget it!" Then he added, "One more thing. She gave me a gift before she left. I can now telepathically communicate with all the GA's without using the pan hat." There was a long pause before Ruby spoke again. Her worries were all gone, but she knew the love of her life was being positioned to do something big with a gift like that. She finally asked, "Will this new gift keep you awake at night?" "I don't think so," he assured her. "Then tell them all good night, and let's get some sleep. We have a big day tomorrow." Ruby gently kissed him and rolled over to get her sleep. A minute passed, and Seymour finally whispered, "They all said good night." Somehow she knew he was going to be OK, and sleep followed quickly. Seymour kept trying to mentally contact TB or Mother as the

GA's called her, but there was no reply. He finally closed his eyes, and fatigue pushed him into dreamland.

Although the windows were all closed, a gentle breeze brushed the hair from his eyes like a mother does as she watches her child sleep. There was no one awake to hear it but, "Good night, my children," was a whisper that broke the silence in the room.

[Edit Chapter 2](#)

Chapter 3

THE TOUR

The group had gathered at nine, and by quarter after, everyone was seated at the round table in Portal Place. The holographic shell over the table was activated and made the table appear to be in a stone cafe in ancient Greece. For breakfast, Robyn had prepared pancakes called "tagenities;" a word derived from the Greek word for "frying pan." Tagenites were made with wheat flour, olive oil, honey, and curdled milk. Some of the pancakes were topped with honey, sesame, and cheese. Glenna was lying by Stacey's chair with her face between her paws while her tail swept the stone floor like a

slow-moving brush. Glenna never begged for food but was always ready for anything that was offered to her. Robyn telepathically sent Seymour a Greek orthodox morning prayer to start the meal. He raised his hands for silence and repeated it verbally, "Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who is present everywhere, filling all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life, come and dwell in us. Cleanse us of every stain, and save our souls, gracious Lord, Amen." Everyone repeated, "Amen," and the meal began.

After breakfast, Robyn instructed everyone to remain seated with their eyes closed and to concentrate on her voice. She started by saying, "We are ready to enter, dear Mother; please open our minds and hearts to the Meta-World." Only Robyn and Seymour heard the reply, "Welcome." Seymour knew the voice was the same one that spoke to him the day before and quickly opened his eyes to see if Mother was in the room. The room was gone, and he was sitting in an ancient Greek cafe with pillars and stone walls. Robyn had been transformed into a beautiful lady with long flowing hair. She was holding something that looked like a feather duster but was made with stalks of wheat. She said, "Open your eyes now. We are in Athens in the year 400 BC." The children were all amazed at the surroundings

and Robyn's transformation. The twins just shouted, "Infinite!" which was slang for really great. Paul proclaimed, "Awesome!" and Ruby told Robyn how beautiful she was. Seymour stood up and glanced around the room to see if Mother was present. Robyn, knowing why he searched, mentally told him, "We have never seen her either." Everyone sat around a large oval-shaped table, and servers came to take orders and serve the meals. When all had eaten, they started standing and checking out their surroundings.

A soldier walked in between two pillars behind Robyn. He had a helmet and sword and wore the colors of a Strategos, or a general in today's military. When Robyn turned to face him, he stopped, fell to one knee, and placed his right fist over his heart. Staring at the floor, he humbly proclaimed, "[Persephone](#), daughter of Zeus, I bow before thee." In Greek mythology, Persephone, pronounced pər-SEF-ə-nee; Greek: Περσεφόνη, was the daughter of Zeus and Demeter. Persephone was invariably portrayed as robed, often carrying a sheaf of grain. She was commonly worshipped as the goddess of vegetation and the underworld. Robyn quickly replied, "Kneel not, brave warrior. I am not Persephone. I am the lady Petritis, in Greek πετρίτης; meaning redbreast or robin, visiting Athens with my friends."



The soldier stood, and Robyn asked for his name. He answered, "Gorgidas," and Robyn knew from her memory banks that he was the first known Theban military leader of the Sacred Band of Thebes. Gorgidas had created the Sacred Band, which he dispersed throughout the front ranks of the regular infantry, with the idea that they would inspire valor. She could see that he was still fascinated by her beauty, so she asked him if he would give them a brief tour of the city after he had his meal. She quickly turned to a server that had come to the table to remove the plates and requested he hold out his hand. She placed a gold coin with her image in the palm of his hand and with great authority in her voice, instructed him to give the General anything he wanted. The server knew the value of the coin was worth much more than what she requested, so with an expression of great surprise, he showed it to Gorgidas. He then faced Robyn again and, bowing very low, replied, "With great honor, my lady, I will do as you command." Realizing this lady and her friends were people

of great wealth, Gorgidas told the server he would return later for the meal and then told Robyn, "Follow me and I will show you the great city of Athens."

Gorgidas started his tour by describing the area where they were located. It was called the [Acropolis](#) of Athens and was a citadel located on a rocky outcrop above the city. This area contained the most famous Parthenon. He told them that 100 years had passed since the Athenians decided to stop the construction of the Olympian temple, which was the work of the tyrant Peisistratus, and his sons. Instead, they used the limestone prepared for the older part of a temple called the Parthenon. Then the south part of the summit was cleared, made level by adding some 8,000 blocks of limestone, and the rest was filled with soil kept in place by the retaining wall. Gorgidas proudly stated, "After the victorious Battle of Marathon, marble was used instead. The older part of the Parthenon was still under construction when the Persians invaded and sacked the city. The temple was burned and looted, but after the Persians were removed, we used many parts of the ruins and built the northern curtain wall on this high spot, which serves as a memorial and can be seen from the lower city. Most of the major temples, including the Parthenon, were rebuilt by order of Pericles."

While walking past the Parthenon, Gorgidas added, "Only a few years ago, after the Peloponnesian War, the temple was finished." The group followed Gorgidas down some stairs to the other structures. He continued, "The construction of the elegant temple of Erechtheion was built on extremely uneven ground, and several shrines in this area were finished around the same time. Also, the temples of Athena Polias, Poseidon, Erechtheus, Cecrops, Herse, Pandrosos, and Aglauros have all been completed." He stopped to let the group admire a 30-foot bronze statue of Athena Promachos. Being a soldier, he had to inform the group, "This is Athena who fights on the front line." Other monuments they passed were the Chalkotheke, the Pandroseion, Pandion's sanctuary, Athena's altar, and Zeus Polieus's sanctuary.

Take Tour of Athens

Finally, Joey commented, "You seem to have many different gods and temples." Andy added, "And many wars were fought over them." Seymour apologetically interrupted the twins with, "Please excuse my children; they have a bad habit of speaking their minds without being asked." Gorgidas laughed and commented, "They will be leaders someday and great warriors! I was accused of the same bad

manners when I was their age.” Turning to face the twins, he continued, “There is a man being watched right now for believing in only one God. He was a great warrior, and now he is considered one of the wisest men in Athens.” Gorgidas turned and pointed to a hill just outside of the city and said, “He will be talking to many from the city tonight on that hill. His name is Socrates, and there are rumors he will be arrested for corrupting the youth with his one-God teachings. If he will not worship all the gods, they will condemn him to death.” This statement made all but Robyn stare at him in silence as they realized the importance of the gods in Athens at this period in the past. Robyn walked over to Gorgidas and handed him a gold coin. She told him to look at the image on the coin. He was surprised to see that the image appeared to be a Greek warrior with his face. Robyn commented, “They will also build a statue to honor you, here, in Athens. This statue will crumble, and that coin will be lost in the next three millenniums, but the words of Socrates will still be as strong as they are today, and he will never even write them down.”

Gorgidas suddenly woke up and realized everything was just a dream. There was no beautiful woman. The strange group of visitors was gone. He was in his sleeping quarters. It was all a very strange dream. The prediction

about his statue and Socrates' words, however, remained vivid and very hard to forget.

Simultaneously, Robyn and her group noticed the city fading away and found themselves in the main hall of Portal Place in the palace. Robyn announced, "It is time to rest our legs and get something to eat." Paul quickly replied, "I know we were not in the physical world during the tour of Athens, but it feels like I really climbed all those stairs." Robyn turned and headed for the eating area and simply said, "You did." Glenna ran over to greet Stacey the minute they entered the room. Her tail was wagging hard enough to make her back end do a dance as she jumped and put her front paws on Stacey to lick her face. Stacey quickly held her, kissed her back, and finished the happy little dance.

After everyone was seated, a volunteer from the palace wheeled in another Greek meal containing lamb, fish, fruits, and something that looked like squash. Everyone was hungry from the long walk through Athens but waited for Seymour to say a blessing over the food. It was a quick blessing that also included a thank you to the Creator for allowing them to go back in time and see the great city of Athens. An anxious "Amen!" followed the prayer, and the feast quickly began. Food was asked for and

passed, the noise of utensils on plates was growing, and a minute of smothering their hunger in silence began. Finally, Paul commented, "The architecture of those temples was really something to see. Every stone cut to precisely fit in place and support the structure." Andy added, "There sure were a lot of temples and gods back in those days." The discussion continued about what they saw and heard on their first trip through Athens until Ruby looked at Robyn and asked, "Do you know where we will be going after we eat?" Silence reigned while everyone looked at Robyn and waited for her answer. "Tonight, we are going to meet Socrates, talking about the different types of existence." Joey, thinking about the game called Three X Pro, looked at Andy and instantly blurted out, "Maybe he can help us get to level three!" After a few chuckles, Jimmy looked at Martin and said, "Awesome!" Martin answered back, "Very." Paul glanced at Esther and whispered, "Now here's a guy that can answer some of our questions." Esther's replied, "Don't get too excited, dear. I do not think there is any hot chocolate in Athens yet to calm you down." Stacey handed Glenna a small scrap of food and murmured, "Boring." Seymour noticed the frown on her face and knew she needed something to lift her spirits. He took Ruby's hand, and when she turned to

look into his eyes, he turned his glance to Stacey. Ruby followed and realized he was telling her to take care of their daughter and said, "During the tour, I heard there were going to be many young Greek men gathered around him tonight." Stacey's frown did not leave as she pleaded, "Mother, can I take Glenna with me tonight?" Ruby stared at her husband with an expression that conveyed, 'your turn.' Silence again filled the room.

Only Seymour and Robyn heard the telepathic reply, "Yes, my child, this time you may." Seymour looked at Robyn, and her eyes were dark purple and flashing. He knew she was doing something complicated, so he waited. A few seconds later, her eyes turned sky-blue; she turned to face Stacey and instructed, "First, you must get Glenna to sleep, and then she can go with us to meet Socrates." A smile bigger than a crescent moon emerged on Stacey's face. She jumped down from her chair and led Glenna to an oval-shaped dog bed in the corner of the room. And while petting her head, Stacey whispered, "You need to lay down and go to sleep." Glenna licked her hand, stepped into her bed, laid down, and closed her eyes. Stacey softly walked back to her chair, sat down, and said, "OK, we're ready." It was so quiet in the room you could hear the fly that landed on Stacey's hand. She looked at the fly

and ordered, "Go back to the garden; you don't belong here." The fly flew out of the room and was gone. Everyone was staring at her, entranced. Ruby finally broke the silence by commenting, "I think we have a dog [whisperer](#) in the family." Seymour added, "I think she's much more than that!" With a typical teenage reply, Stacey said, "What? I thought we were going to meet Socrates and the boys. Are we all going to just sit here and stare at each other?" Robyn immediately announced, "Everyone, close your eyes and clear your minds." They anxiously obeyed, and the next trip to the Meta-World began.

[Edit Chapter 3](#)



Chapter 4

SOCRATES & PLATO

When they opened their eyes, they found themselves in a large grassy field on the outskirts of Athens. Wild trees and flowers of different colors surrounded the area. In the distance, there was a group of people gathered around a man sitting on a large rock. The man's voice was strong, but they were far enough away to barely hear what he was saying. Robyn ordered, "Follow me." and started walking toward the group. She once again appeared to be a beautiful lady of great wealth and fully in control. The grass in the field was long, but there was a path that led to the rock, and it appeared to have been used regularly. Glenna walked close to Stacey's side and glanced at her often to prevent missing any instructions she might be given. Soon, they could hear the man clearly and found it interesting that he was just asking questions and not waiting for answers. They heard him say, "What is truth?" Then after a short pause, "Can we see truth? Can we taste, smell, or touch truth?" Another short pause then, "Does truth talk to us?" Finally, after a little longer pause, he asked, "If none of our senses can investigate truth, then how do we know such an entity even exist?" A very handsome young man

stood up and offered his cupped hands to the speaker. Then the man on the rock noticed Robyn and her group joining at the back of the crowd and said to the man with his hands extended, "In a minute. I have just noticed a new group that has come to join in our discussion. Let us welcome them." Turning toward Robyn, he continued, "My name is Socrates. Do you have a person to speak for your group?" Robyn replied, "I am the lady Petritis, visiting Athens with my friends. We heard of your gathering and would like to be included in your discussion, with your permission." Robyn introduced everyone by name and, pointing at the dog, added, "And this is Stacey's good friend Glenna." In an attempt to impress Robyn with humor, Socrates stared at Glenna and asked, "Are you going to take part in this discussion too?" Much to his surprise Glenna sat up, stared back at him, and barked one time, very loud. A few seconds of total silence passed, and Stacey declared, "She said yes!" Everyone except Stacey started laughing. Socrates seemed to laugh louder than anyone else. Then he raised his hands and said; "Glenna's answer must be true because the answer itself made her part of our discussion. What a wonderful Demonstration of a self-fulfilling truth." He turned to look at Glenna and remarked, "Thank you, Glenna for your participation in our

discussion.” Still sitting, Glenna barked twice this time, and Stacey proclaimed, “She said you’re welcome.” This time the group applauded by clapping their hands and finally, Stacey smiled.

It only took half a minute for Socrates to realize that the people thought this was prepared by him to prove that truth did exist. He immediately declared in a loud voice, “I have never met these people before, and I did not know what would happen when I asked the dog that question.” Trying to get the group’s focus back, he turned to the handsome young man who was still standing with his hands out and asked, “Plato, do you still want to offer something to the group?” Plato had turned and was staring at Stacey. He appeared to be frozen or in a hypnotic trance. Socrates realized that he had never heard the question, so he raised his voice and repeated, “Plato! Do you still want to speak?” Plato slowly turned to face Socrates, dropped his hands, and muttered, “Uh ... I ... What was the question again?” Socrates smiled and replied, “How do we know that an entity such as truth exists?” Plato seemed to break his trance as he answered, “Oh yes. I was going to say that truth is a concept of the mind and not a physical object. Therefore, our senses cannot measure it. But after what I just saw and heard from the

beautiful young lady and her canine companion, I am not sure our senses can be ruled out.” Turning to face Plato, Stacey smiled and blushed slightly. She did not expect this very manly and handsome young man would call her beautiful.

Martin turned to face Stacey and suddenly realized that she was no longer the little sister of his friend but was becoming a very beautiful young lady. Was it the chiton tunic that flowed smoothly around her, revealing her shapely figure? Was it the way Plato looked at her with longing in his eyes? Whatever it was, it changed the way Martin would feel about Stacey forever. He noticed Glenna staring at him with her head cocked to the side. Her tail was not moving, and she seemed to be reading his thoughts. Martin smiled at Glenna, and she started the tail wagging again. The dog turned, looked up at Stacey, and whimpered to get her attention. Stacey looked down for only a moment, then turned and smiled at Martin. His heart jumped as he thought, ‘Did Glenna know what I was thinking? Did she tell Stacey? What will I do ...’

Socrates interrupted his thoughts when he spoke in a loud voice to the crowd, “Let us assume that truth does exist as Plato suggests. If it is only in our minds and

measured by our senses, is it the same for everyone?" Another, older man put out his cupped hands and was acknowledged by Socrates. He said, "No! Truth must be different for everyone. For example, I believe that dog was well trained to respond to hidden commands and therefore was not communicating with the group at all. I think you hired this group so you could make that statement about self-fulfilling truth." Many in the gathering appeared to agree with this statement as they nodded their heads. Socrates once again proclaimed, "I tell you that I did not engage this girl or her dog in any way. I had never seen this group before they joined our discussion." The man responded, "I do not believe you. Therefore, the truth for me is what I believe!" Socrates seemed to enjoy being called a liar as he smiled and continued, "Have you ever believed something and then found out later that it was not at all what you believed?" The man replied, "Yes." Socrates added, "Then was your first belief true?" "At the time, it was true, at least for me." was the reply. For a short period, no one spoke as everyone contemplated the conversation. Finally, Socrates broke the silence with, "Let us assume that what you say is correct. Then we must ask ourselves if there is a universal truth that exists for everyone and cannot change. It would be independent of what

anyone believes. For example, do you and I exist? If we do not exist, then how could we have this discussion?”

Another young man in the gathering put out his cupped hands to get Socrates' attention. Upon being recognized, he stated, “This could all be a dream. None of this would be real. We could wake up, and all of this would be gone.” Again, Socrates smiled as he replied, “Yes, but as Plato pointed out, there may be different forms of existence. He even mentioned dreams existing in the same form as concepts and thoughts. Would you agree that we must exist in this form in order to be having this talk? And if that is true, then would you agree that our existence, wherever it may be, is a universal truth that does not change according to our beliefs?” The young man dropped his hands and simply replied, “Yes.” A murmur instantly surfaced from the multitude. People were creating small groups and analyzing the debate, which seemed to be completed.

The direction of the sun had changed and was now heading downward to attack the treetops. People with long journeys were already approaching Socrates to thank him for leading a great discussion and to say goodnight. Paul and Esther met a couple their

age and were exchanging natural remedies for common health problems. Jimmy and Martin joined a group of young men and were asking about other sessions they had with Socrates. Seymour and Ruby were talking to a married couple about how fast children grow. Plato had walked over to the foursome and stood patiently by Seymour's side until the conversation paused. Seymour turned and asked, "Did you want to ask me something?" Plato replied humbly, "I apologize for interrupting your discussion, but I would like your permission to talk to your daughter." Seymour's face was blank for a moment as he contemplated being asked just to talk to his daughter. He gradually smiled and replied, "You have my permission. Her name is Stacey." Plato bowed slightly, replied, "Thank you," and turned to walk over to Stacey and Glenna. Smiling deeply, Ruby turned back to the married couple and asked, "How old are your children?"

Stacey was watching Plato when he talked to her father. She watched him turn and approach her slowly. He stopped a few feet in front of her and proclaimed, "I have permission from your father to talk with you and to call you Stacey. My name is Aristocles, but my friends call me Plato. My father is Ariston, and my mother is Perictione. My family lineage includes kings of Athens, Messenia, and the great Greek

statesman Solon. I am a seeker of truth and beauty. Since you have both of these, I would be extremely grateful if you would converse with me.” Stacey’s eyes glittered with delight at such a flattering introduction. Plato’s spirit heightened as she smiled sweetly and replied, “I would be honored. What would you like to discuss?” He was not prepared for such a quick and direct response. He paused for only a moment, and then continued, “My senses show me your beauty, and I believe you are a lady of truth. Would you show me how you communicate with your obedient companion?” Instantly, Glenna walked over and sniffed Plato’s sandals and feet. Looking up, she quickly sniffed his hand and turned to face Stacey. Their eyes met, and for a few silent seconds, they stood motionless. Then Stacey looked up at Plato and stated, “Glenna understood what you asked and decided to give you a little Demonstration. She told me you were in the flower garden today. You spent most of your time with the roses. She said you even picked a few of the same color. She did not know the color because dogs have difficulty smelling colors, but she thinks they were yellow.” Plato looked like a flash of lightning had just hit him. His mouth dropped open, his eyes widened, and his body stiffened. Stacey laughed softly and said, “You never

really thought Glenna was part of the discussion. Now you know the truth.”

Earlier, when Plato was asking permission to talk to Stacey, the twins were asking Robyn if she would take them to Socrates to ask about the levels in the game *Three X Pro*. Robyn said when he seems to have some time, we will go and talk to him. Eventually, the congregation thinned, and Socrates was left alone, taking a sip of something from a wineskin. Robyn told the twins to follow her as she approached the large flat stone and Socrates. When she was at the rock, Robyn stared into Socrates’ eyes and, with a very sweet but strong voice, asked, “May these two young men ask you some questions about existence?” Socrates answered, “I am a man that knows very little. I do not know if I could answer their questions. I would be happy to discuss anything that might lead to answers for all of us.” Andy put out cupped hands, and Socrates said, “No need to be recognized now, so please speak freely.” Andy stated, “We understand the first level is the physical world and that the second level is pure thought and math. We would like to know how to reach the third level to discover the creator.” Joey added, “We know many people that have studied levels one and two with us. Every so often, one of them will just be gone. We don’t know if they

just quit or found their way to this level and will not tell us. What do you think?" The boys were asking about the game, but Socrates' thoughts were about levels of existence. His attention sharpened as he sat up and asked the twins, "You think there is a third level?" Andy answered, "Of course. That is where the creator can be found." Socrates seemed to get even more excited as he continued, "You think there is only one creator?" Joey answered, "There has to be only one creator; otherwise, the other two levels would be a real mess." Socrates was really interested in this theory of one god, so he decided to slide down off the rock and look into the eyes of these two very young philosophers. When his feet hit the ground, he was not in the field but was standing by his bed. It was all a dream! The theory of only one creator, however, became his strongest belief. Later he would even die before denying this belief.

At that same instant, Plato snapped out of being shocked by the dog communicating with Stacey, but when he looked up to see her face, he was in his sleeping room looking at the tiled ceiling. It was all a dream! He sat up, put his face in his hands, and mumbled, "No! No! This cannot be a dream!" Looking around the room, he realized that it was just a dream. He would still spend the rest of his life searching

for the girl in this dream. He will never get married or intimate with anyone. In the future, the word “Platonic” came to mean loving without any intimate physical behavior.

Concurrently Robyn and her group flickered back to Portal Place. Everyone was complaining and wanted to stay longer. Robyn announced, “Please change and freshen up. We will meet in the eating area for dinner in one hour.” And the mumbling slowly diminished. Martin walked over to Stacey and asked, “What were you and Plato talking about?” She replied, “He did not believe that I could talk to Glenna. We gave him a Demonstration that blew his sandals off! Glenna also told me you liked the dress I was wearing and were a little jealous of Plato.” Stacey smiled sweetly at Martin and drove any thoughts of denial far away. He replied, “I better watch myself around this dog. She reads a lot more than just body language.” He smiled back and told her he would see her at dinner.

[Edit Chapter 4](#)



Chapter 5

BONDING

One hour later, everyone arrived dressed in normal attire and started taking their seats around the table. The table was set with metal plates, a soup bowl, knives, wooden spoons, and metal forks with only two prongs. There were glasses of water for everyone and empty wine glasses for anyone that might desire a stronger drink. Two napkins were folded next to each plate. Robyn told them as they sat, “The larger napkin is for your lap, and the smaller one is for your hands. Tonight, we are serving roasted beef, tart of salmon with dried fruits and spices, golden leeks, onions, and cherry pottage for dessert. This is a typical meal of the year 1500 in Italy. After dinner, you will be fitted for clothing from this era. Clothing will not be about comfort or convenience. Women may wear up to five layers, consisting of fitted garments worn underneath a belted dress. The women’s garment will cover their feet, so high heels will also be worn to keep your dress out of the muddy streets. The men’s garment is fashioned to accentuate the top portion of their bodies and is not as long.” Robyn mentally gave Seymour the prayer of that period that was said before meals. Seymour tapped his two-prong fork on the empty glass for attention and recited, “Bless the food before us, the family beside us, and the love between us, Amen.” Everyone repeated, “Amen.” Robyn and Yolanda started serving the food while everyone started discussing the meeting with Socrates and Plato.

Finally, the chewing exceeded the chatter and the room noise diminished. Paul took this opportunity to

declare, "Tomorrow's time and place will be the beginning of the Italian Renaissance. The Renaissance has a reputation for its achievements in painting, architecture, sculpture, literature, music, philosophy, science, technology, and exploration. Italy was the recognized European leader in all these areas during the 15th century. This could be very exciting!" Joey asked, "What's a Ren-a-sans?" Paul explained, "It was the period in history marking the end of the 'Middle Ages,' and the time in which many cultural, scientific, and artistic changes took place." Andy turned to face Joey and whispered, "Do you think they could know about the third level and the Creator?"

After Yolanda had given everyone a cherry pottage for dessert, she sat down next to Martin, squeezed his hand in a loving way, and started eating her meal. Martin looked at his grandmother and realized that her great love for others always put her last. He wondered if he would ever find a woman as loving as his grandmother. He looked back across the table and noticed Stacey smiling at him. Thinking, 'Could she be the one?' He decided it was time to talk and find out. He smiled back and asked, "How do you communicate with Glenna?" Stacey took her small napkin, wiped her hands, and, looking down, placed it back on the table next to her plate. She looked back at Martin with a gentle smile and said, "I make my mind blank and try to be a dog. I look deep into Glenna's eyes. I try to look deep into her very soul, and when she wants me to know something, I can feel her message. Sometimes, I may see a picture in my mind. The rest comes from her body language." Fascinated by her answer, he continued, "What do you mean by body language?" She replied, "If it's a good message, she wags her tail. If it's bad news, she stands with her tail

between her back legs. If it's danger, she will growl, turn, and stare at the problem. If she wants something, she will cry softly and raise one paw. Do you get the idea?" Martin, feeling a little stupid, sheepishly replied, "I think so."

Sensing her grandson's mood and having just finished her cherry pottage, Yolanda decided to join their conversation. Looking over at Stacey, she asked, "Is there something you would like to know about Martin, dear?" Stacey answered, "Yes. A few years ago, when we were in that terrible lockdown, the town had a meeting. They were trying to decide on how to stop the Creature's army from invading the island and REED headquarters. Feeniks would not kill the enemy soldiers because they were humans. Everyone wanted to use the big laser cannons and sink all the ships. Then you got up on that platform and told us all that fighting for peace was like shouting to cure deafness. You woke everyone up to the only answer: love. I would like to know how you knew what to do?"

Martin took his grandmother's hand, still holding a napkin, and placed it between both of his hands. Gently holding her hand, he told Stacey, "When I was very young, my parents were both killed in a terrible riot. I hated everyone after that. I could always find a reason to hate anyone that came to help me until my grandmother took me in and told me to memorize a very old poem. She made me recite it every time I judged someone before I tried to love them. The poem was called 'The Cold Within.' Would you like to hear it?"

Stacey simply answered, "Yes. Please." Martin turned to face his grandmother and let go of her hand. She used the napkin to wipe away the tears running

down both cheeks. Staring into her tear-filled eyes,
Martin recited,

“The Cold Within

Six humans trapped by happenstance
in black and bitter cold,
each one possessed a stick of wood,
or so the story’s told.

Their dying fire in need of logs,
The first woman held hers back,
For on the faces around the fire
She noticed one was black.

The next man looking across the way
Saw one, not of his church,
And couldn’t bring himself to give
The fire his stick of birch.

The third one sat in tattered clothes.
He gave his coat a hitch.
Why should his log be put to use?
To warm the idle rich?

The rich man just sat back and thought
Of the wealth he had in store,
And how to keep what he had earned
From the lazy, shiftless poor.

The black man’s face bespoke revenge
As the fire passed from his sight,
For all he saw in his stick of wood
Was a chance to spite the white.

And the last man of this forlorn group

Did naught except for gain.
Giving only to those who gave,
Was how he played his game.

The logs held tight in death's still hands
Was proof of human sin.
They didn't die from the cold without,
They died from [the cold within.](#)"

Martin finished the poem and instantly realized the room was extremely quiet. Loud applause suddenly broke the silence, and people came over to pat him on the back or shake his hand. He thought he was only talking to Stacey and his grandmother. He never realized everyone was listening to his recital. Even Glenna came over and licked his hand as he rose from his chair. Only Stacey and Yolanda were seated at the table, looking at each other with smiles that could melt the North Pole.

A man and a lady entered the room pushing carts with clothing designed for 15th-century Italy. Robyn announced, "Tomorrow's attire is here. The village tailors knew your size from yesterday's fitting, so just pick up your outfit. You should try them on tonight to check everything, then return here for breakfast, dressed and ready to go. We will be visiting the [Tuscan hill town of Vinci](#), in the lower valley of the Arno River, in the territory of the Medici-ruled Republic of Florence. We will have breakfast at the house of Messer Piero Fruosino di Antonio da Vinci, a wealthy Florentine legal notary, and father of Leonardo da Vinci. The year will be 1560, and after eating, we will mingle with the people from that era."

Later, everyone gathered into two small groups and were sipping drinks and conversing. Ruby, Yolanda,

Martin, Stacey, and Esther were in one group talking about Martin's early life and the poem that had changed him. Jimmy, Joey, Andy, and Paul were in another group discussing how the Italian Renaissance began in the region that they were going to visit and how it changed the world. Seymour and Robyn, however, were sitting by themselves apart from the chatter in a quiet part of the room. They were immersed in a telepathic conversation with the other GA robots. The power freaks and satanic groups were getting stronger. Fear and prejudice were being used to separate people into groups and remove love from the human heart. So far, the movement was small, but the robotic police force could not stop it. They had to find a way to get the good people involved and help stop the fear and prejudice.

The telepathic conversation ended, and Seymour glanced around the room and whispered, "Who would know best how to get people to live?" Robyn did not answer. No robot, even one with a metaphysical brain, could answer that question. It was a question about how to get people to use their free will to choose good over evil. The GA robots had many gifts, but free will was not one of them. Finally, his eyes ended their search and parked on Yolanda. She was just sitting, facing her group with a teacup in both of her hands. She was holding the cup like it was a precious baby's face. When she took a sip, it almost looked like she was kissing a baby with love. Seymour turned back to face Robyn and muttered softly, "Could it be that simple?" Not being able to read his thoughts, Robyn asked, "What do you think is simple?" He replied, "To show others love, you must live for others and not for yourself. You must take the 'I' out of live and replace it with an 'O' for others. That changes live to love. The

Creature is trying to make us look at how to live backward. That changes live to evil! A person that lives for others can show you love with just a sip of tea. Yolanda is surely that type of person.” Robyn, again, said nothing. Seymour glanced back at Yolanda just as she turned to place her teacup on the table next to her. Their eyes met. Yolanda instantly smiled and nodded as if to say, “Yes. You got it.”

Without speaking, Robyn told Seymour it was getting late, and everyone would have a busy day tomorrow. He stood up, walked over between the two groups, and asked for everyone’s attention. After the room babble ended, he announced, “It is getting late, and we will have a busy day tomorrow, so let us try and get a little sleep. Everyone please meet here, dressed in your new outfits at eight tomorrow morning.” He took Ruby’s hand and led her out of the eating area toward the sleeping areas. He asked Ruby what her group was talking about before he interrupted everyone. “Not much,” she replied, “Just Martin’s poem and his early years growing up with his grandmother. They had hard times with very little to live on. Martin made it very clear that he was never in need of love. All the rest did not seem to matter. He seemed to be speaking directly to Stacey most of the time. I think there was a connection made between them during the visit to Athens today.” “I noticed the connection and think you may be right. They would make a very loving couple.” Seymour replied.

Later that night, during their final chat before sleep swept them away, Ruby asked, “Do you remember when you first knew you would be my [soul mate](#)?” Seymour softly whispered, “When you dropped your raincoat hood, and your beautiful red hair fell down on your shoulders. I said something stupid, and you put

out your hand and said, 'Hi, I'm Ruby.' When our hands touched, your soul linked to mine and that bond only grows stronger each day." "Do you remember what you said?" Ruby asked. "No, just something dumb." He replied. "You said, 'You're a girl!' and sat there with your mouth open. I knew then that you thought me equal to you but never knew how much until our hands touched." She answered softly and added, "All women want to feel equal to their men." His final words were "I better get some sleep because I have a lot of work to do if I am ever going to be equal to you. Good night." He kissed her cheek, rolled over, and there in the dark silence, the meshing of two loving souls continued.

[Edit Chapter 5](#)



ONE FAMILY TREE CAN BEAR MANY
DIFFERENT FRUITS.

Chapter 6

LEONARDO

The first rays of morning broke through the mountain top opening and brought with them a misty rain to wet the gardens and grass around the palace. Robyn had made her rounds and knew everyone was safe and sleeping. She returned to the larger room in Portal Place and stood quietly by the entrance. Her metatronic brain, however, was very busy checking the rest of the world. She first telepathically contacted Max because it was the end of the day in Asia. He reported that greed and prejudice were growing, and the robotic police force did not have the tools to fight the corruption. She then checked with Min in India and got better news. The medical group had developed cures that were eliminating much of the sickness and getting people healthy again. Feeniks reported that REED programs were expanding, and many volunteers were finding ways to help put love back into the hearts that were suffering. She recorded the updates to discuss with the team later and then went into protect mode and stood silent.

The first to arrive was Yolanda. She was dressed in a very plain long dress and a homemade sweater to keep out the early morning chill. Looking up at Robyn she asked, "Should I get a tray of coffee, juice, and snacks for the people going with you today?" Robyn's eyes turned sky-blue as she smiled down on Yolanda and then started flashing a deep purple. A few seconds later, they returned to normal, and Robyn queried, "Will you join us on our visit today?" In a shocked manner, Yolanda replied, "What!? No. I am not dressed properly, and I would be in the way and have nothing to offer." Robyn added, "If you agree, you will be going as our servant, so your attire will be appropriate.

You have much more to offer than you realize. This request comes straight from the lady in blue we call mother. Again, I ask, will you join us on our visit today?" Thinking only of others first, Yolanda asked, "Will they know I am Martin's grandmother? I would not want them to think less of Martin knowing his grandmother was a servant." Robyn eased her fear with, "The person we are going to visit is the son of a servant."

The conversation was interrupted as Seymour and Ruby approached, and Ruby greeted them with a "What's up?" Robyn answered, "I am trying to get Yolanda to join us today, but she is reluctant." Ruby walked up close to Yolanda, took both of her hands, looked deeply into her eyes, and with a beautiful smile, gently said, "Oh, please sister, come with us today. You will bring so much love to the visit. You have brought so much to everyone without a single thanks; you deserve a magical vacation. Please come and be with us." Ruby's voice was identical to Robyn's, but Ruby's words were not robotic and were filled with caring. Yolanda could feel a warmth flow from Ruby's hands to hers. There was a connection through their eyes that brought their souls together. The shell of loneliness that had built up over many years and surrounded Yolanda's heart cracked a little as she burst into tears. She had a sister now. It was no longer just Martin. Ruby pulled her close and hugged her as two sisters would after a long separation. Yolanda whispered, "Yes, I will go."

It was close to eight in the morning, and the others started arriving. Upon arrival, Martin noticed Yolanda wiping her tears and instantly asked, "Grandma? What's wrong?" She replied, "Nothing, dear. These are tears of joy. I will be going with you

today.” “That’s great!” Martin shouted as others gathered and crowded around them to show their approval of the new addition to the group. It looked more like a family reunion but was really a family creation. From that day forward, everyone called Yolanda “Grandma,” and the cracked shell of loneliness that surrounded her heart completely shattered and disappeared. She had much more than just a sister; she had a completely new family. Robyn finally announced, “Everyone, please gather around the breakfast table.” Joey took Yolanda by the hand and said, “Come on, Grandma, you’re going to love this.”

In the eating area, the round table had been replaced with a long rectangular table. On the table in front of each chair was a setting of a cloth napkin, a metal plate, a two-prong fork, and a wooden spoon in a small bowl. Sitting down, Robyn asked everyone to sit on one side of the table next to her. Glenna laid down next to Stacey’s chair and immediately closed her eyes. Martin sat next to his grandmother and held her hand. The twins sat next to each other and were giggling over a private joke. Ruby and Seymour sat next to each other. Paul and Esther also sat together. Then Robyn announced, “Everyone, close your eyes and clear your minds.” After all had followed her instructions, the next trip to the Meta-World began.

Yolanda stiffened and squeezed Martin’s hand when she opened her eyes. She was in a different larger room, and the table was filled with people. Martin squeezed back and whispered, “It’s OK, grandma. I was a little dizzy on my first time too.” There were servants with trays of food waiting to serve, standing in the room. The year was 1462, and a very well-dressed man was standing at one end of the table

with his hands raised to quiet the room. He announced, "Welcome everyone to the royal banquet for special visitors to the Tuscan hill town of Vinci, in the lower valley of the Arno River in the territory of the Medici-ruled Republic of Florence. I am Messer Piero Fruosino di Antonio da Vinci, the legal [notary](#) of this district. On my left is my wife Albiera, and next to her is my son Leonardo." He introduced an artist, a teacher and his wife, and a doctor and his wife that had joined them for the meal. Turning toward Robyn, who once again appeared to be a beautiful goddess or queen, he stated, "Please dear lady, introduce your group briefly before we partake of what the Lord has provided." Robyn quickly introduced Yolanda as her traveling companion, then Martin as her companion's grandson, the Blox family as royalty from Florence, and Paul as a physician with his wife, Esther. Stacey noticed Piero staring at Glenna with a frown of disapproval on his face. She placed her hand on Glenna's head and spoke to her with her eyes. The dog instantly found an out-of-the-way corner in the room to curl up and wait. Piero smiled at Stacey, said a very quick blessing, and sat down. The wine was poured while servers hustled to bring plates of food to everyone at the table. The meal and the table talk began.

During the meal, Andy asked if anyone knew how to get to level three of existence. He was hoping that someone from this place might have a clue for solving the game from his time period. Thinking that the boy just wanted a better view of all that existed, Piero answered, "There is a path up the mountain that will show you everything. Leonardo can take you there if you have the time." Looking at Stacey and smiling, Leonardo replied, "It is not that far away, but you have to go close to the cave of the howling monster." Smiling back,

Stacey responded, "I won't be afraid. I will have Glenna to protect me." Hearing her name, Glenna instantly rose from her corner and quickly went to sit by Stacey. One look from Stacey and a pat on the head assured her everything was safe, so she went back to wait in the corner. Leonardo's expression changed to one of interest in this very attractive young lady. Leonardo was only ten-years-old, but Martin still felt a twinge of jealousy and said, "I would like to go too." Andy and Joey both declared their desire to join the expedition, and the team was set. Leonardo quickly asked for his father's permission, and Piero replied, "Make sure they all have proper climbing shoes and coverings to shield them from the cold wind." The meal continued, but the newly formed team seemed to be eating faster in anticipation of the adventure ahead.

When the meal was over, the diners broke up into four groups. Piero, Seymour, Jimmy, and the men from the village went to the lounge to have an after-dinner brandy and discuss politics and profits. Robyn, Ruby, Yolanda, and the wives went into a sitting room to exchange stories about their families and the latest fashions. The newly formed team of explorers followed Leonardo to a local clothing store to be fitted with hiking shoes and jackets. Robyn had given Martin five silver coins to pay for the clothing, but it only required two. He received a few copper coins change, and the team was dressed and ready to go.

Leonardo led the group to a path behind the village that led to the base of a mountain. As they walked, the twins asked him about puzzles and solving mysteries. He was only ten-years-old but displayed an insight to nature. Glenna would trot ahead of the group and stop briefly to sniff at stones or bushes. She

seemed to take a lingering interest in a flowering bush that had bright purple flowers. The group stopped to watch her when Leonardo said, "I am being taught how to paint by one of my father's friends. The problem he seems to have has been making colors that do not fade away. The plants always have the same colors every year. I wonder what they have that gives them that lasting color?" Andy knew that Leonardo would become a famous artist and was curious to discover why. He asked, "Do you think you would like to be an artist?" Leonardo answered, "Only if I can please the powerful people like the Duke of Bavaria. Not that long ago, the duke's father had a woman named **Agnes** proclaimed to be a witch and then thrown into the Danube River to drown. My father tells me often that you have to be careful to stay on the good side of powerful people."

"Do you think being an artist will give you a path to the good side of these people?" Joey asked.

"Sure!" Leonardo replied. "They are the only ones with big paintings of their family hanging on their castle walls. I have to be a very good artist, however, or they may throw me in the Danube."

Martin knew that this fear was real and would probably be one of the reasons Leonardo would become a great artist. He turned and said, "You must face your fears if you want to find your purpose in life. Don't let anyone stop you from doing what you love."

Glenna interrupted the conversation with a bark and a trot up to a flat spot overlooking the town. "That's it! The spot my father was talking about!" Leonardo shouted like a child that had just finished a task he was told to accomplish. They all picked up the pace in silence to catch up with Glenna. Finally, everyone made it and turned to look back. The flat spot view was worth

the climb. You could see the village below and all the farms surrounding the town. Leonardo was pointing to different buildings and saying, "There's our church, and over there is the farmer's market. I have never been down that road, but it goes to a larger city with factories and many shops."

Joey turned to Andy and said, "Things do look simple when you can see the whole picture."

Andy answered, "Could that be our problem? Perhaps we need to find a way to see more levels in the game at the same time."

Stacey, looking all around, took Martin's hand and whispered, "What a beautiful world we have been given." Before Martin could respond, Glenna barked twice, very loudly. She had proceeded up a steeper narrow path and was sitting and waiting for everyone to follow. In a sad, frightened, childlike voice, Leonardo said, "That path leads to the cave I mentioned earlier. I do not want to go there." Stacey waved at Glenna to make her return and stated, "I'm cold. Let's head back to the town." Glenna quickly took the lead as the group turned, and their walk down the path started.

Leonardo went home and sat in a large comfortable chair to rest his legs from the climb. He closed his eyes for a second, and when he opened them, his stepmother was holding his hand and sighed, "About time you wake up. You have been sleeping in this chair for hours. Are you feeling sick?" Leonardo gradually sat up, rubbed his eyes, and realized the mountain climb was just a dream.

The family, however, did not leave the Meta-World but instead gathered at a small cafe near the farmer's market. Robyn seated everyone at a large oval

table with Stacey, Ruby, Esther, and Yolanda next to each other on one side. Robyn requested, "Please hold hands and close your eyes." Lying next to Stacey, Glenna put her face between her front paws and closed her eyes. After a brief pause, Robyn proceeded, "We are now going to Florence in the early fifteen hundreds. We will have lunch at a popular cafe. Leonardo will be in his fifties and is having trouble with a painting. We are going to help him. You may now open your eyes."

Instantly, the sounds of a crowded restaurant replaced the silence of the empty cafe near the farmer's market. There were servers with trays of food skillfully maneuvering through the open spaces. Everyone at the table had a plate with sliced sausage, fruit, and freshly baked bread. The smell of garlic prevailed and forced Seymour to comment, "While we are still holding hands, let us thank all that were involved in the making of this wonderful meal." After a quick "Amen," the handholding ended, and the eating and small-talk began.

Seated at a small table near the family was an old man with a long beard. Glenna sniffed the air and stared into his eyes. Knowing he was Leonardo, she whimpered softly to get Stacey's attention. Stacey looked down at Glenna, then up at Leonardo. Their eyes met, and she smiled. It was the smile of a young lady deeply in love with life. She quickly whispered something to her mother. Ruby turned to stare at Leonardo and smiled. It was the smile a loving mother gives to her children when they go beyond what the world expects. Ruby whispered something to Esther. Turning slowly to face Leonardo, Esther smiled the smile of an educated woman with great confidence in her abilities. Leonardo then noticed Yolanda sitting next to Esther. She was

looking into his eyes, and her smile radiated the highest level of love and peace. He felt faint, as if his face was falling toward the table. He snapped his head up and opened his eyes. He had fallen asleep for just a second. The long table in front of him was empty, and a server next to him said, "I'm sorry to disturb you, sir. Would you like another ale?" Fumbling to grab his drawing pad, Leonardo shook his head and said, "No, grazie." Quickly, he drew the final touch of the piece he was working on for Francesco del Giocondo. It was a smile that contained the love of a young girl, a devoted mother, a confident woman, and an extremely loving grandmother.

The family suddenly found themselves sitting in the eating area of Portal Place. "Is that it? I thought we were going to help Leonardo with something." Paul grumbled. "We did." was Robyn's reply. "Now, let us meet back here for dinner at six." Another adventure had ended. Only Robyn knew that Mother had used them in a dream to help Leonardo create the smile on the Mona Lisa, one of the most valuable paintings in the world.

[Leonardo](#)

[Edit Chapter 6](#)

Chapter 7

THE GREAT HALL

It was early afternoon when the visit to Leonardo's dream ended. Paul and Esther decided to check the news for any medical breakthroughs. Ruby and Yolanda went to the kitchen for a cup of tea and a discussion about Stacey and Martin. Seymour and Jimmy decided to have a father/son talk in the den. Jimmy had noticed that the relationship between Leonardo and his father was strained somehow. He wanted to be closer to his father, so he asked, "Dad, how come you can telepathically speak to the GA robots and nobody else can? Will I be able to do the same when I get older?" Seymour knew his son was no longer a child and was searching for his purpose in life. His answer had to be honest and truthful. "I don't know why I was given the telepathic gift of communication with the GA robots. I do know that it was needed to help save the world from the coma virus. Perhaps we are given gifts like this when the time is right. I also believe you will be given special gifts when they are needed if you keep love for others in your heart." They talked for hours, and a strong bond between them was created. Glenna, Stacey, and Martin spent their afternoon in the garden. It could be likened to a first date with Glenna as the chaperone. The twins, however, rushed to their playroom/laboratory and spent the afternoon

recording anything that Leonardo revealed that might help them solve the three-level puzzle called '*Three X Pro.*'

Everyone arrived promptly at six for dinner. Robyn asked everybody to be seated, and she would explain tomorrow's trip. After the sitting and chatter subsided, Robyn proclaimed, "Tomorrow we will not be in the Meta-World, but will be going to a place called 'The Hall of Chambers' or simply the Great Hall. We will use a special portal to get there, and the trip may be a little cold, so bring overcoats. The Great Hall is well heated, so you can dress casually.

As usual, Paul had many questions and interrupted Robyn to ask, "You mean we will not be leaving the physical world? And what do you mean by portal? Will we have to walk any distance? Should we wear hiking shoes?" Esther took Paul's hand and gave it a squeeze to stop the plethora of questions. He quickly turned to look at his wife and saw a loving smile on her face with a twinkle in her eye. Esther whispered, "Let her finish, dear." Paul looked down at her hand holding his, smiled, and fell silent. Her smile and her touch were more than enough to remove his anxiety.

Robyn continued, "No hiking shoes will be necessary. The portal is very similar to the

black hole caves, but you will be transported in a vehicle. One of the chambers in the Great Hall is the birthplace of all the GA robots, and almost all of your questions will be answered there. Please, everyone, meet here for breakfast at seven in the morning tomorrow.” Robyn’s eyes were bright blue as she slowly turned and glided out of the room.

Ruby softly asked Seymour, “Did she tell you anything we didn’t hear?”

He replied, “No, but I think I heard her giggle a little when she left the room.”

Still holding Esther’s hand, Paul turned to smile at his wife and said, “I’m sorry. I just have so many unanswered questions popping up in my head like popcorn. It’s hard to keep my mouth shut.”

Esther replied, “It sounds like tomorrow is going to be an exciting day. Let’s go to bed early tonight.” Then, winking at Paul she added, “Even if we are not tired.”

Stacey, Martin, and Glenna left the dinner table and went to sit in the garden on a stone bench under the stars that were just starting to break through as darkness took over. This time, Glenna did not go between them but sat on the side and put her head in Stacey’s lap. Martin gently rubbed behind Glenna’s exposed

ear and brushed the fur on her head. Stacey whispered, "She loves you too." Martin said nothing as he wondered, 'does that mean that she loves me back, or that Stacey loves me, and Glenna also loves me?' Stacey put her head on Martin's shoulder and softly whispered only one word, "Also." Only Yolanda, his grandmother, could read his mind so quickly. And there, under the stars, near the garden, by a softly babbling brook, a great peace was branded on his soul. A peace he had never felt after the day his parents were killed, a peace that only comes from [Agape](#).

Yolanda, Ruby, Seymour, and Jimmy had moved to the lounge in the palace for an after-dinner drink and to talk about the journey they would be taking in the morning.

Joey and Andy quietly returned to their little laboratory to enter a new block in the database to solve the *Three X Pro* puzzle. When they tagged it with the name "The Hall of Chambers," it turned bright red and started showing connections to all the blocks that stood alone on the chart. When finished, it showed that everything was connected to "The Hall of Chambers" block either directly or through some newly generated blocks with no names.

Joey shouted, "Holy Crap!"

Andy added, "And beyond!"

A few hours later, Robyn entered the room with a glass of warm milk in each hand. They would have stayed up all night trying to fill in the empty blocks on the computer screen and were too excited for sleep. Robyn gave them each a glass and said, "This will help you sleep. Tomorrow you will learn more if you are not tired." Because Robyn's voice was identical to their mother's voice, the request felt more like Mom giving them a command. With a little bit of grumbling, they drank their milk and headed for their bedrooms.

At seven the next morning, everyone dressed for an Earthly adventure, met at Portal Place, and were ready to go to the birthplace of the GA robots. All they knew was that it would be a little chilly on the way, and many of their questions would be answered when they arrived. Doctor Paul, who loved to ask questions, was quietly reviewing one of his favorite poems on his holographic computer link when Robyn entered the room. Conversation stopped as everyone turned to hear what Robyn had to say, everyone except Paul. Robyn waited, but Paul's attention remained on his computer link. This time Robyn got to ask a question, so she asked, "Paul, what are you reading?" Paul's focus remained on his

link because, like many men, his brain shut off hearing when he concentrated on something that made him think. Esther placed her hand in front of the holographic image from his computer link and Paul snapped out of his trance and looked up.

Paul noticed everyone was looking at him, so he mumbled, "What?"

Robyn repeated, "What are you looking at?"

"Oh, it's just a little poem I like to read now and then. It makes me think." Paul answered.

Stacey quickly exclaimed, "I love poems! Please read it to us."

Paul started to blush as he responded, "Oh...No. It is just a silly little poem. I don't think anyone would...."

The entire group interrupted Paul by saying, "Please. Come on," but when Yolanda looked him in the eye and smiled as she softly whispered, "Paul, for me." he knew it was over.

"OK," Paul replied. "The poem is called Wisdom." Looking back at his computer link, he started to sheepishly read.

"Wisdom

What does it mean to be really wise?

Is it seeing the truth among all the lies?

What's the difference between wise and smart?
Could it be wisdom is thinking with the heart?

Is there a difference between wise and clever?
Does clever pass on and wise stay forever?

If we break down the word what will we surmise?
Why does the word "is" live in the word wise?

What do we get if we take "is" from "wise"?
Why just the word "we," is that a surprise?

Can these words be put back in a different way?
And if they are, then what will they say?

"We is" bad grammar, but what does it mean?
If we look with our heart then what can be seen?

What is the message these words want to give?
Could it be there is wisdom in letting things live?"

Author's note: There are meanings beyond the words.

Stacey was wiping tears from her eyes, and the room was very quiet for what seemed like a long time to Paul, so he added, "I was thinking about the note from the author when Robyn arrived."

Esther knew she had to lighten the mood, so she took Paul's hand and said, "Now I know why you like this poem, dear husband. Every line in it is a question."

They all laughed, even Paul, as servers entered the room with trays of food, and

breakfast began. Paul knew that the meal was always a clue to the adventure ahead. They had toast made from the seeds of wheat, peach jelly made from the fruit of the peach tree, eggs made from the seed of a chicken, and orange juice made from the fruit of the orange tree. Nothing was served that would come from killing a living thing. He wanted to ask why but decided it would be best not to ask any more questions right now. He took solace in the fact that the poem and the meal both supported letting things live.

After breakfast, Robyn led the group into the garden to follow a seldom-used path to the far side of the cave. It went behind the algae-covered pond that supplied oxygen to its surroundings. The temperature dropped significantly when they reached the area where the sun was always blocked by the cave roof, so everyone put on their coats. The path had almost disappeared when they came upon a transparent cylindrical submarine parked very close to shore. There was an open hatch at the back of the vessel that faced the shore and a small pier that led to the hatch. Robyn and Martin helped Yolanda enter first, then the rest followed like a string of ducklings marching in single file and being shepherded by Glenna, the last in the line.

The inside of the vessel was completely bare except for red rectangular markings on the floor with the words “stand here” printed inside. The areas were large enough for one person and spaced a fair distance from each other. After everyone was inside, the back hatch closed, and a voice that seemed to come from nowhere announced, “Please stand in a box marked on the floor.” When each person stood properly inside a box, the red frame on that box turned green, and a force field surrounded them to hold them in place. It felt more like a gentle hug than a restraint. Glenna quickly ran next to Stacey, sat, and pressed against her to fit in the same box. After all the boxes were green, the voice announced, “You will now be put into a comfortable sitting position. Please relax.” Everyone started floating and were gently turned like someone being picked up and placed into a large and comfortable lounge chair. This was a very strange sight for Glenna to see, as people were just floating about two feet in the air and in a sitting position. The dog put her head into Stacey’s lap and softly whimpered. Stacey calmed her with, “It is OK, girl. We are just going on a new adventure.” Robyn had taken a box at the front of the vessel and was the only one standing and floating about two feet off the ground. The robot had turned to face the family

and stood there in midair, with eyes of bright blue smiling at the group.

Suddenly, there was a swooshing sound of water rubbing on the outside of the vessel, but no other indication of movement. Everyone felt like they were still sitting perfectly still, except the transparent hull of the vessel showed water rushing past and darkness approaching as they headed toward the bottom of the lake. Paul was the first to realize what was happening. He turned toward Esther and said, "We are in a force field that cancels the effect of momentum. I heard they were working on this so doctors could operate in turbulent conditions but never realized it had been perfected."

Robyn turned to face Paul and declared, "It is called an 'MCB' for momentum canceling bubble."

The total trip took about an hour, and finally, the vessel slowed and entered a very large underground room, and stopped. The voice from the vessel announced, "Welcome to the Hall of Chambers." The MCBs brought everyone back to a standing position except for Glenna. The dog was placed in her original position sitting next to Stacey. The rectangles painted on the floor turned red, indicating the momentum canceling bubbles were off, and the

hatch at the rear of the vessel opened. The floor inside the vessel and the floor in the hall were at the same level, so no stairs were required to exit. A white-haired lady and gentleman, who both appeared to be in their mid-fifties, greeted each person by name as they walked through the hatch. Even Glenna got a pat on the head and a “Hello, Glenna, my name is Aaron.” from the white-haired gentleman and a “Hello, Glenna, my name is Zelma.” from the lady. Robyn was the last to exit and said, “Hello, Dad.” when she looked at the white-haired man and then said, “Hello, Mom,” to the lady. They both responded with enormous smiles and simultaneously said, “Welcome home, daughter.”

[Edit Chapter 7](#)



Robin's Parents

Chapter 8

THE TIME CHAMBER

Everyone was excited to meet Robyn's parents. Paul, of course, was bursting with questions about a human set of parents for a robot. Sensing Paul's anxiety, Aaron walked slowly over to Paul, took both of his hands, gazed deeply into his eyes, and softly said, "The 'GA' on Robyn's nameplate stands for 'Group Alpha.' Only four robots were made in this group, and each was given a metatronic brain. This type of brain requires a learning stage, much like a human brain. Each alpha robot needed a set of parents to guide them through this stage of learning. Zelma and I were Robyn's parents. Robyn's voice chromosome was picked to match her mission. Robyn's mission was predicted using logic, probability, and the time-sphere. All four alpha robots were also given a telepathy chromosome to allow them to communicate with each other during their missions. There are others working in this Great Hall that also communicate with the alpha robots to help them solve problems on the surface to make Earth a better place to live. Most of your questions will be answered in greater detail during the tour my wife and I are going to give you now."

Paul felt a flow of unconditional love through Aaron's hands and into his heart. He felt a great wave of peace, and for the first time, in a long time, had no questions at the forefront of his mind.

When Aaron let go of Paul's hands, he smiled and said, "That's better."

Yolanda, who always seemed to know when great love was in the area, looked at Paul, smiled, and said, "I bet that was better than my hot chocolate."

Esther put her arm around Paul and, without saying a word, let him know she too felt his great state of peace.

Robyn got everyone's attention by announcing, "Aaron and Zelma will now give you a tour of the 'Great Hall.' We like to call it the 'A to Z Tour.' Please give them your undivided attention." There were a few giggles from the twins and smiles on many faces because of the double meaning of the name of the tour. Then they all turned to follow Robyn's parents into the very large room.

The hall looked much like an octagon-shaped lobby of an office building. There were eight arched beams that met fifty feet above the center of the room and merged into a smooth circular area about ten feet in

diameter. The circle and the beams radiated light evenly in all directions to eliminate shadows and dark areas. Four arched openings were equally spaced around the room and the other four walls in between the openings appeared to be holographic displays with pictures and information that changed as people or robots approached them. There was a symbol above each of the arched doorways.

Zelma stopped the tour in the center of the lobby and pointed to a doorway with the symbol of an atom above the door, and stated, "In this area, we study the physical world made up of matter and energy."

Aaron pointed to a doorway on the opposite side of the room with the symbol for the mathematical number pi above the door and said, "Over there, we study the metaphysical world, made up of concepts, mathematics, music, and dreams."

Zelma then pointed to a door with an hourglass above the entrance and explained, "In that area, we study time. In there, you will see the time-sphere, which is a round transparent hologram. The sphere's expanding surface represents the present moment in the existence of the physical and metaphysical worlds. Every point on the surface of the sphere has a path back to center, and represents a

location in time past. The center is the beginning of time and the creation of both the physical and metaphysical worlds.”

Andy interrupted the tour by pointing to a doorway opposite the time room with a large symbol that looked almost like an X over the doorway and blurted out, “Is that the answer to the puzzle *Three X Pro?*”

Joey added, “Is that where people go when they solve the puzzle? Why does the bottom of the X look like an A?”

Robyn, with bright blue beaming eyes, moved between her adopted human parents. The smiles on her mom and dad made the trio radiate joy like a beacon in the dark. Aaron tenderly proclaimed, “You were right, Robyn. The Great Hall has not seen that level of enthusiasm over discovery in a long time. It is the booster shot we really needed here.”

Zelma stared at the X/A symbol above the door and answered the twins with, “The X stands for Xanadu and the A for Agape. And yes, in a way, it is the solution to your puzzle, but everyone has a different and still correct solution.”

Martin was fascinated by the fact that everyone could have a different and still correct solution to the same puzzle. He moved over

next to the twins to get a better look at the door.

Everyone, except Glenna, was looking at the X/A door and did not notice an elderly, gray-haired, dark-skinned man enter the lobby through the door to the physical world. Glenna carefully watched him take a few steps into the room and then slowly sit on the floor with his legs crossed under him and his arms outstretched to beckon her. The man sat silent. His lips were not moving, but she could hear him say, "Hello, Glenna. I knew your grandfather, Glen. I helped give you the gift of communication with Stacey before you were born. Come here and let me give you a hug."

Stacey felt Glenna leave her side and watched her walk toward the man on the floor. Glenna's tail was at maximum wag speed, and it made her look like she was dancing as she approached the outstretched arms of this stranger.

Because Yolanda was sensitive to the occurrences of great love, she noticed the man sitting on the floor, hugging, and kissing Glenna. Yolanda felt she had met this man before somewhere, so she walked over to get a better look. The man stood up, took both of her hands in his, and said, "Hello, Yolanda. I see some of your dreams have come true." Yolanda stared

into his loving eyes. His voice was gentle. His face was familiar, but she could not remember her connection with this gentleman. Knowing she did not remember him, he let go of her hands and said, "I'm sorry. My name is Eugene. We met once in a pet store many years ago. You told me you were trying to raise your grandson, who was filled with hate and prejudice. You were all alone, and his parents had just been killed. You thought a pet might help him. Your dream was that we could all love each other and act like one big family someday. I told you to ask your grandson to memorize something that could show him the damage that hatred and prejudice can cause. Perhaps he could recite a saying or a poem about love every day. Do you remember me now?"

Yolanda responded, "Yes! We only met once, but you changed my life. I never did buy a pet, but I found the poem that changed everything. How did you know that was what we needed?"

Before Eugene could answer, Aaron announced in a loud voice, "Attention, everyone! I would like you to meet Eugene. He is a descendant of [Dr. Eugene Adams](#) of Tuskegee University. His specialty is in veterinarian research. Later, he will help you on you tour through part of the physical world section. But

first, I want everyone to follow me through the door with the hourglass to see our time-sphere.”

Eugene looked at Yolanda and asked, “May I go with you on this tour?”

Yolanda replied with a loving smile, “Yes. I would like that.”

Seymour looked at Ruby, took her hand, and said, “After all these years, I still love going on these adventures with you.”

Ruby never turned to face her husband as they walked toward the door but kept watching Eugene and Yolanda. She finally replied in a whisper, “I think Grandma has a boyfriend.”

When Aaron approached the Time Chamber, the two large doors just vanished so the group could enter. Inside was a very large circular room with a three-dimensional holographic sphere of the known universe. The room was filled with a somber murmur of people and robots scattered around communicating, calculating, and observing incoming data.

Aaron explained, “Most of the sphere will be dark and out of focus because we cannot see or extrapolate very far into the universe. The white dot that is bright in the center and

fades at the surface is what we have been able to observe or calculate so far.” The dot was so tiny Aaron had to point it out by making a circle around it with a laser-type pointer.

The room noise reduced when Joey shouted, “Mind-blowing!”

Andy immediately followed with, “Ego shrinking!”

Glenna barked twice very loudly, and the room went dead silent. Stacey declared, “She said it smells good.” A roar of laughter filled the room, and most of the robots’ eyes were flashing purple, indicating a lack of understanding and looking for an explanation.

Zelma raised her hands to reduce the laughter and announced to everyone working in the room, “Your work has been declared astonishing by this young visitor named Joey Block. His twin brother Andy Block then put it into perspective when compared to the entire universe. Finally, our canine friend Glenna approved your work by saying it does not stink.” A little laughter mixed with applause followed Zelma’s explanation. All the robots’ eyes turned sky-blue, indicating they now understood and approved.

Eugene softly told Yolanda, “This is the first time I have seen how well Glenna and

Stacey communicate. When Glenna was born, I knew that Stacey was going to get this puppy. I took a DNA sample from a glass Stacey used, and we tried to match Glenna's communication genes with those in Stacey's DNA. It appears to have worked better than anticipated."

Yolanda reached over and put her hand on Eugene's shoulder, turned him to face her, and asked, "Just how long have you been helping me and my friends?"

Eugene smiled and, with glowing loving eyes, answered, "Since the day I first met you in that pet store so many years ago."

Aaron ended their conversation by placing his hand on a robot near the entrance and announcing, "Attention, everyone! I would like you to meet our recorder of significant events, better known as Historian. Historian has the oldest memory in the Great Hall and can answer, in great detail, questions about important events from the past."

Trying to test Historian's memory and add a little humor Joey remarked, "Hello, Historian. When did I stop wetting my bed?"

With a very robotic voice, Historian replied, "Hello, Joey. That event did not reach my level of importance and was not recorded."

Ruby instantly replied, "Well, it was

important to me. You stopped on New Year's Day at the age of five. You made a New Year's resolution to keep your bed dry, and you kept it." Laughter filled the room for the second time.

Paul could no longer restrain himself, and as soon as the laughter subsided, he said, "Greetings, Historian. I would like to know when the GA robot we call Robyn got a voice identical to the human we call Ruby."

Historian replied, "On the [Gregorian calendar](#), it was day 153 in the year 2272 at the hour 10:18 AM Coordinated Universal Time."

Paul quickly replied, "But, why?"

Historian answered, "Inappropriate question. Must be an event in time."

Zelma moved over next to Paul and took his hand. With a lovely smile whispered, "We will answer all your questions soon. Please be patient." Again Paul felt the warmth that only unconditional love could bring surge through his body.

Paul whispered back, "I'm sorry." and squeezed her hand before letting go.

Martin and Jimmy had been quietly talking for the past few minutes. Martin used the quieting of the room to inquire, "Historian, my name is Martin. I would like to ask you how

old the entire universe is?”

Historian replied, “Hello, Martin. In 2018, the Planck Collaboration updated its estimate for the age of the universe to 13.772 ± 0.040 billion years.”

Martin continued, “Is there a recorded time for when the universe will end?”

Historian answered, “That event has not been recorded.”

Joey blurted out, “Thank God!” and for the third time, laughter filled the room.

Finally, Aaron announced, “OK, everyone, continue your studies.” Turning to face the visitors, he continued, “We will be going to the oldest chamber next. Please follow me.” When the group had entered the time chamber, it was filled with a somber murmur but as they left the room, there seemed to be a joyous excitement in the air.

Zelma whispered to Robyn, “Thank you, daughter. This visit is exactly what the hall needed.” Although robots do not process praise in the same way as humans, Robyn’s eyes flashed blue, and the moment was recorded twice. It was recorded once in her robotic memory and once, deeply in her metaphysical memory.

[Edit Chapter 8](#)



DOORS TO TIME CHAMBER

Chapter 9

THE PHYSICAL WORLD

When Aaron approached the chamber with the symbol of an atom above, the two large doors just vanished so the group could enter.

Andy remarked, “Why have doors if they just disappear when you approach them?”

Zelma answered, “They are for protection and to keep the atmosphere in each chamber safe.”

“Protection from what?” Martin queried.

“If a person or device tried to enter and there was a potential for harm, the doors would not open,” Zelma replied.

Jimmy commented, “Boy! I’d like to see the computer that runs this place.”

Robyn announced, “I will leave you now, but I will join you at the end of the tour.”

They all said goodbye and turned to follow Aaron. The entrance to the chamber appeared to be another small and very old lobby. The walls in the room were rough and looked unfinished. The Historian had joined the group and quickly informed the visitors that this area was the first and only room built late in the twenty-second century by scientists from many countries to do research without political interference. It took over a century to add all the other sections and the Great Hall. There was an opening at the far end of the room that led to a very long hallway with many different sections. The entrance to each section had a symbol above the door to identify that space. Aaron took the group through the old lobby and down the hall. The Historian explained why the walls in the hallway became smooth when different technologies were discovered to create each section. After passing many doors to the end of the hallway, the walls were very smooth and almost appeared to be metallic. A

double helix, the symbol for deoxyribonucleic acid, the hereditary material in almost all organisms and better known, as DNA, was displayed above the entrance.

The doors disappeared, and the group entered as Aaron announced, “This is the birthplace of the Metatronic brain, and the four robots made in group alpha. They were marked with the letters GA and lived with humans for many years as the biological section of their brains developed. Robyn lived with Zelma and me before she was sent on her mission to be with Seymour on the surface. That is why we call her daughter.”

Paul interrupted, “So, the GA stands for Group Alpha?”

Zelma replied, “Yes, Paul.”

Andy looked at Joey and grumbled, “See! I told you it did not stand for guardian angel!”

Joey grumbled back, “That was still better than government assistant.”

There were quite a few smiles as the people working in the room heard the squabble.

Turning back to face Zelma, Paul quickly inquired, “But why are Robyn and Ruby’s voices identical?”

Zelma replied, "Because part of her mission was to get Ruby and Seymour together."

Joey declared, "Well, I guess it worked."

Andy added, "Or we wouldn't be here at all!"

Once again, the room filled with laughter. Even Paul could not hold back a chuckle or two. The laughter subsided slowly, and Esther finally spoke, "The GA robots must have taken years to develop. Can the people in this Great Hall see the future?"

Zelma laughed and replied, "No. With help from the Meta-World, however, we can make predictions about the future that are fairly accurate and then prepare for them. The coma virus, for example, was predicted over twenty years ago. We noticed a code being put into satellites by military leaders working with scientists that induced sleep by using radiation. We also noticed the bad life forces in the Meta-World were busy luring people into deeds that were harmful to humans. The good life forces were telling us to help get people together that would fight these actions without killing or spreading hate. This led us to all of you."

All at once, there was an explosion of chatter from the group.

Paul simply said, "Life forces?"

Martin turned to Jimmy and asked, "Did you know about these life forces?"

Jimmy replied, "No! Did you?"

Seymour softly whispered to Ruby, "I think the creature that we saw in the sky many years ago, might be one of the bad life forces."

Ruby whispered back, "And the one Robyn calls mother could be one of the good life forces."

Glenna killed the chatter by barking very loud three times. Everyone stopped talking and stared at Stacey and Glenna. Stacey explained, "She says she has to go outside. She can't hold it much longer."

Eugene instantly looked at Glenna, gave her the come to me sign, and apologized with, "I'm sorry. Follow me. Back up the hall a little ways is a farm chamber with some beautiful green grass I think you will love."

After they left, Joey remarked, "Oh, she will love that grass for sure!"

Andy instantly added, "But I don't think the grass is going to love the little gift from Glenna very much."

Again, laughter filled the room. The laughter faded, and Aaron took a moment to

get everyone's attention by announcing, "I think we should all take a little break right now. Please follow me to an eating area with tables, chairs, and other facilities for humans."

Andy asked, "Do you mean grass for humans?"

Followed by Joey's comment, "I hope not. I sure would not want to wipe myself the way Glenna does." This brought about another round of chuckles as they followed Aaron to the cafeteria.

The entrance to the eating area was just an open doorway. The room was large and rectangular, with various sized tables and chairs scattered throughout. On the far side of the room, opposite the entrance, was another opening to allow robots to bring food to the tables. Aaron led the group to a collection of tables that had been arranged to accommodate the touring unit. He pointed to doors on one of the walls and told them they could use those rooms to freshen up. He then asked them to please meet back at the table in ten minutes to continue their discussions and have a brief lunch.

When Seymour sat down, the chair automatically adjusted to put him close to the table and at the correct height. A holographic menu appeared with all of his favorite lunches

and drinks. At the bottom of the menu, a meal labeled “Best Choice for Health” was suggested, and the meal was explained in detail. The menu seemed to know him and was prescribing the best meal to eat based on his physical health. Everyone at the table started commenting on the personal attention paid to each diner.

Joey and Andy were comparing menus when Joey declared, “It looks like your computer knows what we like to eat.”

Followed by Andy’s, “Yeah, but does it know how to cook?”

Zelma smiled and looked at Ruby as she proclaimed, “Perhaps not as good as your mother, but I think you will find the food tasty. Please make your selections by just telling your menu what you want and how you want it cooked.”

Everyone placed their orders, and the food was delivered very quickly to the table by robots designed to serve. Before anyone started eating, Aaron stood with his hands extended over the food to produce silence and said, “Creator of all, we give you thanks for the gifts in our lives and this humble banquet.” As he sat, he said, “Let’s eat.”

The lunch produced little conversation but many compliments on the quality of the food. At the end of the lunch, a mint and a drink were served to freshen the pallet.

Aaron stood once more and said, "Now that we have satisfied our physical appetite, it is time to feed our mental hunger. I would ask that you all listen without interruption to what I am about to reveal. I will stop after every topic for questions and comments. Do you agree?"

Everyone nodded, and the table became totally silent.

Aaron continued, "OK. First of all, when I use the word '*we*,' I am referring to the majority of the residents of this Great Hall. In this Great Hall, we agree that there is only one all-powerful Creator that brought everything into existence. In the past, people have called it 'The Big Bang' or 'The Beginning.' We shall call it 'The Creation.' Except for the Creator, nothing existed before The Creation. After The Creation, there existed Time, the Physical World, the Meta-Physical World, and Xanadu. Most of you understand Time as the past, the present, and the future. The past and present can be recorded, but the future can only be predicted. Some predictions come true, and some do not. Do you have any questions about Time?"

Aaron paused and surveyed the group. Everyone seemed to understand, so he continued, “The Physical World is made up of matter, energy, and the laws that control their existence. The insects, animals, and people are in the Physical World and are subject to one of the laws that control their existence, called evolution. They are slowly adapting with Time to the Physical World they live in. Can everyone understand this basic description of the Physical World?”

Everyone looked puzzled but nodded eventually because they wanted to hear more.

Aaron continued, “The next place you will visit is where we investigate the Meta-Physical World. The Meta-Physical World is where things like dreams, mathematics, concepts, and the laws that control them, exist. We believe that the Creator also put life forces in this world. In the past, they were called spirits, Angels, and Demons. They co-exist at the same Time as we do in the Physical World. Can everyone understand this basic description of the Meta-Physical World?”

This time, many had questions and raised their hands. Knowing that Paul was burning for answers, Aaron pointed at him first.

Paul asked, “These are really not physical places but different types of existence, right?”

Aaron answered, "Correct."

Paul continued, "Does any one of the life forces in one type of existence have control over any other life force in another type of existence?"

Aaron replied, "We believe that the Creator has given many of these life forces the power of free will. They can let another life force control them, or they can choose their own path to follow."

Many hands were lowered at the answers given to Paul. Only Ruby and Yolanda still had their hands raised. Aaron pointed to Yolanda, and she asked, "Is there loneliness in both types of existence?"

Eugene reached over and took Yolanda's hand, looked at her, and smiled. Aaron looked into her eyes for a long time and then finally answered, "I don't know." When he turned to point at Ruby, she noticed tears running down his cheeks. Ruby knew that Aaron was empathetic and had felt Yolanda's years of loneliness. Her question seemed even more appropriate now as she asked, "Do the people that pass from the Physical World go to the Meta-Physical World and sometimes come back to us in dreams?"

Aaron picked up his napkin and wiped his eyes as he answered, "We believe they do but cannot prove it to be true." Seeing no one else had a hand up, he sat down and said, "Zelma will now answer one of Paul's earlier questions."

Zelma did not rise from her chair but immediately started to talk, "Paul asked once about the telepathic powers of the GA robots and why only Seymour was able to communicate with them. We discovered that a chromosome in some twins allowed them to communicate thoughts at great distances instantaneously. You may have noticed this with Andy and Joey. We took some of Seymour's DNA when he was very young and isolated what we believe to be that particular chromosome. We placed it into the biological part of each one of the GA robots' brains. The experiment was successful because their brains developed telepathic communications within three years. We also believe that evolution will someday allow people to communicate telepathically." She paused when she noticed Jimmy looking at her with his hand slightly raised. She looked straight at Jimmy, nodded, and said, "Do you have a question?"

Jimmy replied, "Can the life forces in the Meta-World communicate with people in the Physical World using telepathy?"

Zelma answered, "We believe that the spirits in the Meta-World communicate with us through dreams and visions we call hallucinations. Sometimes, when a thought pops into your head, it may be a form of telepathy, but we do not know. Free will gives all of us the choice to reject these thoughts or act on them."

Martin instantly asked, "Is the way Stacey communicates with Glenna a form of telepathy?"

Zelma turned to face Eugene and replied, "I think Eugene should answer that question."

Eugene released Yolanda's hand and sat up straight. He clasped both hands together on the table in front of him and stared down at them in silence. His silver-grey hair seemed to glow as he paused to reflect. He finally looked up and said, "When I was young, I worked with my father, who was the dean of a veterinarian college. My mother loved every living creature and filled my youth with caring for anything that had life. I began to study animal chromosomes and how similar they are to human DNA. Eventually, I found my way to the Great Hall, and we discovered that animals like Glen, Glenna's grandsire, had a strong desire to serve humans. Glen was also able to detect epileptic seizures in humans up to 45 minutes before

they would occur like other service dogs we studied. We also discovered that Stacey was a human that had a gene similar to those used for communication in many animals and insects. We have not found this gene in any other human's DNA stored in our massive memory banks. Robyn helped us put Glenna and Stacey together to see what would happen. Now we would like to ask Stacey just how she does this communication, because, to be honest with you, we do not know."

Glenna sat up, leaned on Stacey's leg, and whined softly. Stacey looked down at her and whispered, "It will be OK." Then, turning to look at, Eugene she added, "She is afraid you are going to separate us or hurt me."

Eugene locked his eyes on Glenna's eyes and, with a loving smile and gentle voice, said, "You know I would never do anything to hurt you or Stacey." Then, lifting his glance to Stacey's eyes added, "How did you know what Glenna was thinking?"

Stacey explained, "I felt her fear and just knew why she was afraid."

Eugene added to his investigation with, "Can you do this with other living things?"

Stacey continued by proclaiming, "I can feel the hunger in a mosquito when it lands on

my arm, and by thinking of slapping it, make it leave without biting me.”

Martin exclaimed, “Wow! You are awesome!”

Jimmy followed with, “I think Martin is in love with you, sister.”

Stacey bashfully said, “I know.”

Joey added, “I think Glenna told her.”

Andy quickly followed with, “Or maybe it was the mosquito.”

After the laughter subsided, Ruby added, “No, I think she knew when she fell in love with him in a dream.” Ruby took Seymour’s hand and turned to face Yolanda as she continued, “True love is not that hard to see, is it, Grandma?”

Yolanda took Eugene’s hand and softly confirmed with, “No.”

Aaron stood up and ended the conversation by announcing, “I think it is time we make our way over to the Meta-World. There is one stop we have to make on the way because someone is anxious to meet Seymour.” Everyone rose and followed Aaron out the door and down the hall. The Historian would explain the purpose of each section as they passed different doors. Aaron stopped at

a section with a symbol of a satellite above the door.

The Historian announced, "This section monitors the satellites and provides worldwide communication."

The door disappeared, and the group entered a room with many holographic screens showing Earth from space. A few screens showed zoomed-in pictures of various spots on Earth. The displays on one wall of the room were filled with streaming data and were being monitored by robots.

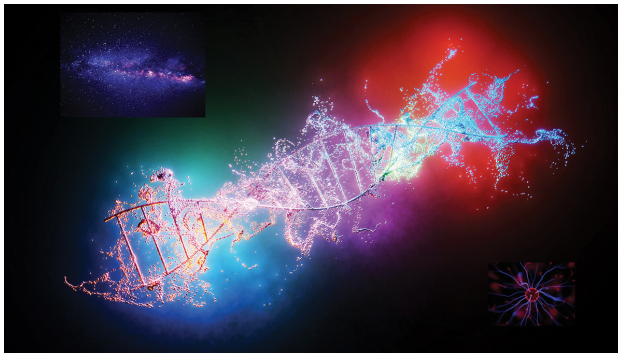
A silver-haired lady with a loving smile walked up to Seymour and took his hand in hers as she stated, "Hello. The people here call me Oma, but you know me as TB. Ever since we discovered we could control the Tri-Blade from the satellites, we needed someone to work with it to prevent man-made disasters. Our research team suggested you when you were only a boy because of the special genes they found in your DNA. I have been watching you ever since you pulled the Tri-Blade out of the river, and now, finally, we meet."

Seymour was dumbfounded. He tried to speak, but all that came out at first was, "I ... What ... Uh." Finally, he asked, "Are you the one that said goodnight to me after TB dropped the boys off from school?"

Oma answered, “Oh no! I cannot communicate through TB. You were possibly hearing from the lady we call Mother. She helps us now and then.”

Ruby grabbed his arm with both hands, pulled herself close, and whispered into his ear, “So maybe you are not the biggest fool on the face of the Earth after all.”

[Edit Chapter 9](#)



CAN OUR PHYSICAL DNA ALONE TAKE OUR UNDERSTANDING
FROM THE ATOM TO THE UNIVERSE?

Chapter 10

THE META-WORLD

After a short visit with Oma, the group finally made their way back to the lobby of The Great Hall. Crossing the lobby brought them to a doorway with the symbol π above the entrance. Pointing at the symbol, the Historian explained, “The number π [“pi”] is a mathematical constant equal to the ratio of a circle’s circumference to its diameter. It is also referred to as Archimedes constant. Pi cannot be expressed as a common fraction because its decimal representation never ends and never settles into a permanently repeating pattern.”

Aaron added, “This symbol was used because, in this world of mathematics, concepts, dreams, and thoughts, many things cannot be totally understood or determined. Pi shows a true relationship between all circles, yet it cannot be totally calculated to its last decimal place.”

The door vanished, and a girl a little older than Stacey greeted the assembly. The room behind her was totally dark, but a light from above lit up the area around her. She had very fair skin and blonde hair that fell down past her shoulders. Her round blue eyes twinkled as she greeted them with, “Hello. My name is Grace. Aaron, Zelma, Eugene, and the Historian

will leave you now, and I will be your guide through this magical chamber.”

In a robotic style, the Historian added, “My job is done. I will not see you again. Have a safe journey.” Everyone said goodbye as the robot turned and made his exit into the Great Hall.

Aaron said, “Grace will take over now, but we will see you again before you leave.” Zelma took Aaron’s hand, and with Eugene, they turned to leave. The vanishing door reappeared and isolated the family before anyone could say anything. The room was totally dark except for a light from above that lit up the family and their new escort.

Joey commented, “It’s kind of dark.”

Andy added, “And spooky.”

No one laughed, but Grace smiled and softly replied, “Sometimes it is in your darkest hour that you discover the most important things in life.”

Yolanda responded, “Amen.” Martin moved over and took his grandmother’s hand.

They all followed Grace as she walked into the darkness that moved ahead of her as she advanced. Glenna stayed close to Stacey and looked excited as the swishing of her tail wagging was the only sound that broke the

silence. After what appeared to be a long time but was only three minutes, Grace stopped. Everyone stopped and remained silent. The swishing sound stopped when Glenna sat down next to Stacey. In the stillness, a large holographic screen slowly appeared in the distance directly in front of them.

Grace stated, "This is the window of mathematics. I would like you each to tell the others what you see. Who would like to be the first?"

Paul raised his hand, and Grace nodded, so he started with, "There is so much up there. I see Pythagoras' Theorem, Logarithms, The Law of Gravity, The Theory of Relativity, Chaos Theory, Euler's Identity, The Fourier Transform, Maxwell's Equations, and more."

He lowered his hand, and Esther added, "There are medical and chemical formulas also."

Grace waited, but all were silent. She finally asked, "Any other volunteers?"

Martin slowly raised his hand a little and said, "Well, I don't see most of the things mentioned, but I see some algebra and trigonometry stuff."

Jimmy added, "And maybe a little probability theory."

Then Joey finally declared, "I see the *Three X Pro* puzzle we are trying to solve."

Andy instantly added, "But I don't see any solutions."

After a silent pause, Grace looked at Seymour and asked, "What about you, Mr. Blox, what do you see?"

Seymour responded with, "Please just call me Seymour. I see some of the things mentioned, but I also see many binary equations. I see software mathematics that is written in base two and hexadecimal numbers."

Stacey slowly raised her hand slightly and waited for Grace to give her a nod before saying, "I see a little of the things mentioned, but also musical notes of songs and chords."

Glenna whined softly and then barked twice. Stacey translated, "She says she is sad because she cannot see anything, but she did hear the chords when I looked at them."

Grace's excitement level jumped as she expounded, "Wow! I have never had a dog take this tour before. And I have never met anyone that could tell me what an animal was thinking. I'm flabbergasted!"

There were many smiles and a few giggles as the group witnessed the very well-trained girl lose her composure. It did not take

long, however, for Grace to calm down and say, "I'm sorry. Uh, anyone else want to add to what has been seen on this display?"

Ruby said, "I see the music and some of the math mentioned. I also see fractions and measurements used in recipes for cooking."

A long period of silence ensued. Finally, Grace looked at Yolanda and smiled. Yolanda said softly, "You want me to tell you what I see?" Grace nodded.

Yolanda said, "I see very little of what was mentioned. Oh, I see some recipes and music, but mostly I see my budgets over the past many years. I see how I calculated my little income against my expenses to raise my grandson and get him a good education." She turned and locked her eyes on Martin's and said, "But in the end, when you add it all up, I see Martin. That's enough math for me."

Martin walked over with tears running down his cheeks, threw his arms around Yolanda, and whispered, "I love you, Grandma."

Many eyes were being wiped as Grace exclaimed, "It's time to move on." The display slowly faded away, and they all walked, once again, into the darkness.

Suddenly, a table appeared with ten notepads and pencils. Behind the table was a

placard displaying the word “DATE” in large letters. Grace gave everyone a pad and pencil and said, “Would each of you write a short sentence, phrase, or question that uses the word shown on the poster? Do not discuss or let anyone see what you write. Then fold the paper in half and give it back to me.”

Grace waited and was finally given all the papers as instructed. On the sheets, the following was written:

Yolanda - “I think a DATE tastes wonderful.”

Ruby - “On what DATE were you born?”

Jimmy - “I would like to bring Grace as my DATE to a dance.”

Joey - “I would like to ask Grace out on a DATE when I get older.”

Andy - “What is Today’s DATE?”

Seymour - “What is the best software to DATE?”

Esther - “Don’t forget to DATE your message.”

Martin - “I want to DATE Stacey.”

Paul - “I found a scientific way to DATE objects.”

Stacey - “I wasn’t allowed to DATE until I was sixteen.”

Grace opened a small metal box on the table and placed all the notes inside. She closed the box and took a couple of steps backward away from the table. A large holographic display appeared above the table, showing:

“I think a DATE tastes wonderful.” **Noun, a fruit.**

“On what DATE were you born?” **Noun, point in Time.**

“What is Today’s DATE?” **Most recent Time.**

“.. ask Grace out on a DATE.” **Noun, a meeting.**

“.. Grace to be my DATE ..” **Noun, a person.**

- “.. best software to DATE?” **A selection in Time.**
- “..DATE your message.” **Verb, marking time.**
- “I want to DATE Stacey.” **Verb, courting.**
- “.. scientific way to DATE objects.” **Verb, to get age.**
- “.. allowed to DATE until sixteen.” **A verb, to court.**

Grace commented, “Please observe that this one word has a different meaning for everyone. Some of the differences are slight, and some are not. This experiment is done to show why language and words can sometimes be a poor form of communicating our thoughts.” Turning to face Stacey, Grace continued, “I am very curious. What did your dog have to say about this?”

Stacey made eye contact with Glenna, then looked back at Grace and replied, “Nothing.”

Grace smiled and said, “OK. Let’s move on and see what comes up next.” She turned and walked into the darkness that slowly vanished at her approach. Everyone followed in silence except the twins as they whispered so nobody could hear their discussion about how Grace seemed to destroy the darkness. The walk ended when a room slowly appeared that everyone recognized as Portal Place. It had the table where everyone sat when they went on their first trip to Athens in the year 400 BC. There was a glass of water in front of each

chair. Grace sat at the head of the table and asked everyone to take a seat. Glenna followed Stacey and sat next to her on the floor. After everyone was seated, a holographic display appeared in front of Grace, and she proclaimed, "I will now read you a summary of your tour so far and an overview of what is next."

Grace adjusted her chair to be closer to the table, placed her arms on the tabletop, and stared at the display as she read, "In the Time Chamber, you were shown how little we know about time in our universe. Much is being recorded, however, from what we can see or have seen. In the Physical World of our existence, many areas have been investigated, and using mathematics, communication, logic, and dreams from the Meta-World, we have been able to help guide ourselves according to each individual's free will and moral compass. It is time to explain what we have discovered about dreams."

Grace paused for a moment to take a sip of water from her glass and then continued reading, "Not long ago, we discovered that certain dreams and some forms of hypnosis appeared to be an altered state of mind, marked by a level of awareness different from the ordinary state of consciousness. After

years of research, we were able to put groups into shared dreams with each other. Using hypnotic suggestions from a robot with metaphysical abilities, we could guide the course of these group sessions. This did not change anything that happened in the past because these were only dreams guided by our knowledge of history. We all know that we cannot change anything that has happened in the past because that would create a paradox. What we do not know is if dreams can be a form of communication with life forces in the Meta-World and sometimes even predict the future. There is evidence that this may be true.”

Grace stopped reading, pushed her chair back slightly, and glanced around the table. There was only a moment of silence then everyone seemed to start talking at the same time. There was so much chatter that hardly anything could be understood. Grace raised her hands to initiate silence, and when the prattle stopped, she declared, “Let me introduce you to someone who will try and answer all your questions.”

Grace stood up and turned to face the darkness as a tall, slender man with long blonde hair and a matching beard slowly entered the room. He was dressed in just a white robe and sandals. Walking over to Grace,

he put his right hand around her and rested it on her shoulder as she introduced him to the group. "This is my father, Ezekiel. Many people in The Great Hall call him 'Prophet' because his dreams often predict the future. I will be leaving you now and will not see you again. Thank you for being such a great group." She turned and walked into the darkness before anyone could say goodbye.

Ezekiel, still standing, turned and faced the family, saying, "You may call me Zeke. We do not have time for many questions, so please try and keep them brief."

Paul raised his hand instantly, but Seymour started speaking without being recognized, "I am sure Paul has many very important questions, but, perhaps, I have one that will help us move on faster."

Ezekiel looked at Seymour with a smile and replied, "Proceed."

Seymour continued, "In the beginning, I thought we were all going on a vacation, but so far, this seems like an educational conference. Are we all here for some important reason?"

Ezekiel sat in Grace's chair and chuckled as he pulled himself closer to the table. Looking into Seymour's eyes with a smile that covered

his face, he proclaimed, "You are very wise, Mr. Blox, and that wisdom has served you well."

Turning to face the entire group, he continued, "Yes. You are all here because I had a dream that appears to predict an approaching dilemma. Before I discuss my dream, I would like to summarize a few theories in the Great Hall. Like Socrates, we believe there is only one Creator of all that exists. In the Great Hall, we have divided existence into four groups. These groups are Time, the Physical World, the Metaphysical World, and Xanadu. It is also our theory that at some point in Time, the Creator added life forces or beings to live in the Physical World and the Metaphysical World or Meta-World. The Creator also gave these beings free will and a test to pass, so they could live happily in a beautiful idyllic place called Xanadu. For now, let us call the beings that passed this test in the Meta-World the good spirits or Angels, and those that failed this test the bad spirits or Demons. Dreams can sometimes be a communication link between beings in different worlds. The approaching dilemma in my dream shows that the Demons are persuading people to turn off the path to Xanadu, seek fleeting pleasures, and eliminate human life. This family helped prevent the coma virus and great lockdown in the past. We have a plan to help

people turn back to the path that treasures life and will take them to Xanadu, but we need your help again. If you could hold your questions until later, we could move on to the next chamber and discuss our plan.”

Paul did not raise his hand again but nodded in agreement. Jimmy raised his hand and waited.

Ezekiel glanced at Jimmy and nodded. Jimmy asked, “Excuse me, sir, but will we ever see Grace again?”

Ezekiel replied, “Perhaps, I really do not know.”

Andy sorrowfully added, “Yeah, but only in our dreams.”

Everyone, except Jimmy, laughed. Ezekiel waited for the silence to return and added, “The people in the Great Hall have a poem that motivates them to help protect human life. We know words convey differently to each of you, but I want you to read it before we proceed.” A display appeared in the darkness with the poem.

“Perfect People”

Pompous people pronounce with purified pain,
The righteous road is rocky and riddled with rain.
The wide way will be wicked and woefully wrong.

Beware and behave and begin by begging to belong.

And the child softly stirs from within.

Clergy cry come correct controversial crime.

Metaphors many mumble and magnificent mime.

Prophets produce ponderous paths for the pure.

Saviors surmise strategies simple and secure.

And a new life very quietly does begin.

Priests propose problems perplexing and profound.

Ministers manipulate the multitudes middle ground.

A feverish frenzy of fervor finds fellows forlorn.

Hideous hauntings hallow hearts of all heaven-born.

And the child in the womb remains free of our sin.

While wicked women willfully weave a worrisome way.

Malignant men manufacture machinery made for mayday.

Riches are righteous; repenting reveals no reward.

Beauty becomes bogus, bought by beings beyond bored.

And the child's peace prevails genuine.

Corruptions cause columns of calloused creatures.

Evil evolves even easier than evil endures.

Chilling choices chop chasms twixt chosen and child.

Demented doctors destroy daily each daughter defiled.

And the child is mankind's only next of kin.

What way will we wander, with wisdom's warning wrought?

Never needing to nurture nearby neighbors for naught,
Or yearning for Yesterdays in years yielding to youth,
Turn toward Tomorrows to teach the tremendous truth.

For the child is our future, as children have always been.

Note: *All unborn for sure, are Perfectly Pure.*

Ezekiel waited until all eyes were off the display, then stated, “For the first time in recorded history, the Earth’s population is decreasing. We now believe it is due to the influence of the Demons from the Meta-World on people. Please follow me to your last stop on the tour.”

Everyone rose and followed Ezekiel into the darkness.

[Edit Chapter 10](#)



ABSTRACT OF METAPHYSICAL WORLD

Chapter 11

THE PATH

After a short walk, the darkness faded, and the group found themselves back in the lobby of the Great Hall. They were standing in front of the doorway with the symbol X above the entrance. The bottom of the X had a line that made the bottom half look like a capital A. Pointing at the symbol, Ezekiel said, "This figure represents Xanadu and Agape. Follow me."

He dropped his hand and walked straight through the very solid-looking door. Everyone followed, but Glenna hesitated when she reached the door. Stacey looked down into the dog's eyes, and her smile was enough to convince Glenna to follow. Stacey pondered how the power in a simple smile could lead this animal to deny her visual senses and walk into a solid door.

There was no chamber on the other side of the door. It was like walking into another dimension. The ceiling had been replaced with a night sky full of stars on the right and a morning sunrise on the far left. On the right was an ocean that extended outward into the darkened horizon. There were waves gently

caressing the beach and stones scattered along the shoreline. As you looked to the left, the beach became a desert with mountains far in the distance, and sand dunes nearby. A little further to the left and in the distance, an **oasis** with palm trees and a small pond could be seen. From there, the desert appeared to fade into rolling hills with trees and then a thick jungle of foliage on the far left.

Everyone, except Glenna, eventually turned around to find the door to the chamber was replaced by a view of valleys and mountains with rivers and waterfalls.

Glenna was not fooled by the holodeck that created these visual illusions but sensed friends nearby. She could smell that the floor that looked like grass was really polished marble. She could smell the paint on the ceiling and walls and knew they were not oceans and night skies. The echoes she heard said she was in a large room and not standing on a high mountain with the view her eyes suggested. The nearby sand dune had the odor of a wooden table with varnish and people. Trusting her non-visual senses, she ran toward the sand dune and disappeared from Stacey's view. After passing through the holographic wall, Glenna saw a very large doughnut-shaped table with chairs, placemats, and water glasses. She

instantly recognized Robin, Aaron, Zelma, and Eugene, her new friend sitting at the table with a few strangers. She quickly ran to sit on Eugene's right and put her head in his lap. Gently rubbing her neck, Eugene whispered, "You know what's real, don't you, girl?"

Within seconds, Stacey walked through the holodeck wall and entered the reality room. Then the entire family entered, and finally, Ezekiel followed. A man sitting at the table shouted, "Only took forty-eight seconds for this group to find the reality room! That has to be a record that will never be broken!"

Aaron added, "Until today, the record was nine hours, so I think you are right."

Exciting chatter followed by everyone at the table except one elderly white-haired lady with a face that displayed both age and wisdom. She stayed seated and waited for the excitement to diminish and then held up one hand to calm the gathering. "My name is Sibyl. Please, everyone, take a seat at the table."

Stacey sat with Glenna on her left and Martin on her right. Yolanda sat on the other side of Eugene and placed her right hand into his left. After the family had found chairs and was seated, only one chair was open for Ezekiel. He placed himself in front of the chair but did not sit. He clasped his hands in front with

fingers interlocked, and announced, "In the past few decades, the bad life forces have managed to use visual means to coax people away from the path to Xanadu. They do this with simulations like the one you just came through. They call it news, but it is really fake [propaganda](#). They have created fear through this media to make people take drugs and hide in their homes. They send them holographic movies that make people think killing is the only answer. They tell people that babies are problems and to seek only money and momentary pleasure. They have even removed the smile that is the seed of friendship by making face masks mandatory. Your family displayed the ability to ignore what you see and hear in order to find the path to reality in only forty-eight seconds. I believe you are the family to help us, and the good life forces can start putting the people in the world back on the right path."

Other non-family members at the table nodded in approval and simply said, "I agree," or "Yes."

Sibyl softly spoke again, "I know you have many questions, but please let me explain what we believe we must do to honor our Creator. We must use Agape to turn as many souls as we can back toward the path to [Xanadu](#)." Then,

turning to face the twins, she added, "Xanadu is the final X in your quest to solve the '*Three X Pro*' challenge."

Andy shouted, "I knew it!"

Joey added, "But how do you find Xanadu?"

Sibyl answered, "By searching and staying on the right path. The key is Agape, unconditional love for all. Many have lost their way because bad spirits have them believing Xanadu does not exist. These evil ones convince people that wealth, power, and momentary pleasures are the goals to seek. People are being told that babies are too expensive and wars must be fought to force others to follow certain rules. They use fear to control and remove the free will that can put people back on the right path."

Ruby sheepishly looked at Sibyl and partially raised her hand. Sibyl stopped speaking, smiled, and, looking at Ruby, nodded. Ruby asked, "Why do these bad spirits want to kill us and stop us from having babies?"

Sibyl continued, "We believe every living creature is given a path to follow and a test to pass in order to get into Xanadu or heaven. Perhaps the spirits in the Meta-World were given the task of helping humans find their path,

and some refused because they believed we should serve them instead. The spirits that passed the test became Angels, and those that failed the test became Demons. Angels can move in and out of heaven to be with the Creator and serve us. The Demons were blocked from heaven because they refused to serve us. Therefore, the Demons hate us and do not want any of us to get to heaven by following the path to Xanadu.”

Sibyl paused to take a sip of water. The room was silent, so she continued; “We would like to send this family back to the surface with some special helpers to stop the attack from the Demons and the people they have possessed. Would you be willing to dedicate your lives to this mission?”

Everybody nodded or said yes. Even Glenna barked once and wagged her tail to show she was committed to the mission.

Sibyl sat back in her chair and said, “Good.” After a short pause to take a sip of water, she continued, “Now, I would like you to meet one of the ‘Group Beta’ assistants that will be going back to the surface with you.”

A man started to rise out of the open hole in the center of the doughnut-shaped table. As he rose, he slowly rotated so everyone could see his face and upper torso with smooth

ochre-colored skin. His hair was black but sprinkled with grey near the temples. His smile was extremely captivating, and his eyes twinkled when they made contact with each and every person at the table. His bottom half was clearly robotic but made in human form with two shiny gold metallic legs.

Sibyl proceeded, “This is one of our GB robots. We will call them Betazoids because they are from the Beta group of androids. They have medical technologies and are capable of performing surgical procedures. They can communicate in all known languages and also have telepathic links with each other and the GA robots. This one has been named Jason, meaning healer. You may ask him questions now if you want.”

Paul instantly asked, “Are you a cyborg?”

Jason turned to face Paul, his eyes shining, a beautiful smile on his face, and with an affectionate voice, he replied, “If you are asking if I am I a human with added mechanical parts, the answer is no.”

Sibyl explained, “The Betazoids are made with materials that cannot spread disease. Only a small portion of their well-protected metatronic brain is organic. Therefore, they will never need to wear a mask, and their smiles will always be seen. Because a smile is the seed

to Agape, this is very important. Some leaders that have been misled by the evil ones have tried to make it a law that everyone must wear masks to stop disease from spreading. Betazoids may be an answer to this problem.”

Esther’s curiosity was piqued, so she asked, “In order to stop worldwide mask-wearing, how many of these Betazoids are you going to make?”

Everyone was surprised when Jason answered, “I will be going back to the surface with you and Paul to help set up a very large factory on the island and make as many like me as possible.”

Sibyl quickly declared, “Time is running short, so I believe now Ezekiel should explain what he has seen in his visions.”

Ezekiel stood, “Many of you know my visions often predict the future. Many years ago, I saw the evil ones using an organization called Regulators Ending Environmental Destruction, known as REED, to control people and promote evil. We made the GA androids and sent them to get a family together to fight back. We also sent a dog with special powers and his cat companion to help with the task. When the evil ones lost control of REED, they decided to use a more direct approach to control the world and created a disease that

put everyone into a coma. A vision showed me their plan, and we sent another dog and a white crow to help stop the worldwide genocide. Another vision has shown that the Creature and his misled followers plan to conquer the Earth by making everyone believe that babies are trouble and only power and wealth are important. They want nobody to find the correct path in life. They want us all to lose our way and never find Xanadu. In this Great Hall, we believe our most powerful correction of false news and fake propaganda is Agape. We also believe that this family gathered here right now can bring many back to the truth and their path to Xanadu.”

Aaron and Zelma interrupted Ezekiel by entering the room through a door that suddenly appeared and announced, “We are very sorry for the intrusion, but it is time for our guests to have a quick meal and return to the surface.”

Jason descended, and the hole in the center of the table was replaced with trays of food. Each tray magically slid in front of a person seated at the table. The meals were all different, but somehow everyone received their favorite. Stacey’s tray even had a bowl of Glenna’s favorite dog food. Aaron blessed the food by thanking the Creator and those that

prepared the meal as the trays slid in front of each guest. Stacey placed Glenna's bowl on the floor next to her, and the table talk began. The conversation consisted mostly of questions as the meals were being consumed. Aaron and Zelma acted as servers and made sure everyone at the table had what they needed to enjoy the meal. Twenty minutes passed, and the room went silent for a moment.

Andy broke the silence with, "Now, that's what I call fast food!"

Joey put his fist in front of his mouth to subdue a polite burp and added, "And worthy of a good belch!"

After laughter diminished, Zelma remarked, "Please, finish your meals and then join us in the lobby." Both Aaron and Zelma left the room as the small-talk continued.

It did not take long for the family to gather around the transparent [submarine](#) in the lobby of The Great Hall. The back hatch was open, and a small crowd had gathered to say goodbye to the visitors as they entered. Many in the farewell group were there to say goodbye to Eugene because he had been their friend during his time in the Great Hall. Others were there to wish Jason well on his new adventure. Aaron and Zelma told the twins that their visit brought a new spirit to the Great Hall, and they

may be summoned back in the near future to work on the project they will undertake.

Andy asked, "We have a project?"

Zelma replied, "Everyone does, my dear."

Joey remarked, "We are going to have to work?"

For one minute, the hall was again filled with laughter. It was a display of the new spirit the twins had brought to the community.

After the laughter diminished, Aaron looked at Joey and said, "It is never work when you do what you love and have fun while you are accomplishing what must be done."

Joey smiled at Aaron and replied, "Yes. We know."

Andy added, "We just wanted to give the hall one last chuckle before we leave."

Aaron turned to face his wife and asked, "Am I getting a bit preachy in my old age?"

Zelma whispered in his ear, "No, dear. You were always a bit preachy. That's why I love you."

The inside of the vessel had changed, and now it had red rectangular markings on the floor with the names of people printed inside. The areas were larger and spaced a fair distance from each other to ensure a private

conversation, if required. Robin helped Yolanda and Eugene through the back hatch. She brought them to the first row and helped them stand in the red box on the left side that displayed their names. The box turned green, and a force field surrounded the pair. They were put into comfortable sitting positions and started floating about two feet above the floor. It felt like someone had placed them into a comfortable couch made for two. Seymour and Ruby found their spot in the first row on the right. Paul and Esther were placed behind Yolanda and Eugene in the second row on the left. Stacey and Martin sat in the second row on the right behind Seymour and Ruby. Placement continued with the twins in the third row on the left and Jason and Jimmy in the third row on the right. Glenna, however, found her spot in the center behind the third row. She knew it was her spot because it had a picture of her and smelled like her dog bed.

After everyone was in their “MCB,” or their momentum canceling bubble, the back hatch closed.

Robyn was at the front of the vessel facing all the passengers and announced, “Our journey back to the surface will now commence. Our mission is to get people back on their path to Xanadu. You may discuss what

you will do with your seat partner to help achieve our goals on the surface.” Suddenly, there was a swooshing sound of water rubbing on the outside of the vessel, but no other indication of movement for the passengers inside the MCB spaces.

Eugene moved closer to Yolanda, put his arm around her, and whispered, “We will do all we can for the lonely and forgotten people.”

Yolanda put her head on his shoulder and, for the first time in many years, felt the warmth of a cuddle with a soul mate. She giggled and whispered back, “Perhaps we can open a string of free hot chocolate shops.”

Seymour and Ruby snuggled the moment they were placed on the invisible couch. While Ruby pondered how fast the children were growing, Seymour’s thoughts drifted to all the adventures he shared with his wife. Wondering what was next, he finally softly asked, “Why do you think Robyn brought us to the Great Hall?”

Ruby knew her husband expected a serious answer to his question, but then, she rarely gave him what he expected. Cleverly she replied, “That is a two-part question. The first part is ‘Why?’ A question that has plagued us since time began. Why are we here? Why are there so many stars in the sky? Why? Why? A question that probably has no answer. The

second part of your question is, 'Do you think Robyn brought us to the Great Hall?' The answer to that is yes."

After a short giggle, Seymour said, "Smarty pants! Now I know where the twins get their sense of humor."

Ruby squeezed his hand and quietly whispered, "I love you."

Seymour gave her back her often-used reply to those three little words by saying, "You better!"

Paul had been sitting in silence for the first few minutes of the journey back to the surface. Ultimately, Esther took his hand and said, "A penny for your thoughts."

Paul smiled as he answered, "I'm afraid you would not get your money's worth, and I can't make change."

Esther persisted, "Tell me anyway."

"I was just thinking how the name 'Creature' is almost the same as the name 'Creator.' The Creator wants us to live with love and joy and find our way to his magical kingdom. The Creature wants us to kill each other in war and serve only him to satisfy our greed and fleeting momentary pleasures. He hates us because we can still stay on the path and find Xanadu, but he, apparently, has been

banned and cannot go there. He wants to turn the word 'live' around and make our existence 'evil.'"

Esther exclaimed, "Wow! You just summed up the reason for our mission without one single question!" She moved close to Paul, put her head on his shoulder, and they both sat in silence, enjoying the warmth of a long-time loving relationship.

Martin was sitting on his invisible bench facing Stacey. He could hardly believe that this beautiful woman was the little sister of his best friend, and she now filled him with the excitement of first love. He was telling her everything about his plans to finish school with a degree in psychology and help get people back on the right path. Finally, he asked, "What do you think?"

Stacey was thinking about all the creatures she could communicate with and how they could help keep people on the right path. She thought of them more as her children than just animals or insects. She replied, "I was just thinking about my children."

Martin stared in astonishment as the picture of children running around him in a house blew away any other thoughts about the mission. Stacey noticed his gawk and remembered how words can mean different

things, so she clarified, “I mean all the animals and other creatures I communicate with when I say, ‘my children.’” Martin smiled and said, “Of course.” but was mostly quiet for the rest of the trip.

The twins wasted no time in making a journal showing their role in the mission. They would rework the game *Three X Pro* to fit all ages. The final X in the game would be Xanadu. Even children too young would get toys from a company they would build. The toys would lead them to look for the light of truth. The company name would be E-BLOX and would stand for “**E**nter-**B**y **L**oving **O**thers, **X**anadu,” They looked like two beavers building a dam as they added each note to the journal with pronounced enthusiasm.

Jimmy was discussing the plans for the Betazoid factory with Jason. He was surprised at how quickly he forgot Jason was a robot. The smile and manner made Jason feel like a person you could trust and be friends with. Jimmy took a tablet from Jason to read about the mission and the factory that would be made on the island. His thoughts soon drifted to Grace, and he wondered if he would ever see her again.

Jason and Robyn were using telepathy to get up-to-date information from the GA robots on the surface.

Glenna was sitting up and watching everything. Like a shepherd guarding her sheep.

Perhaps it was the long day, or the great meal before getting on board, or the quiet swaying of the seats in the motion canceling bubbles, but before long, almost everyone had fallen asleep. Only Robyn, Jason, and Glenna were awake. Robyn was watching Glenna and finally sent a telepathic message to Jason. "Did you notice that Glenna's eyes look at the one talking even though we are using telepathy to communicate?" When Jason answered, Glenna turned to face him. "Go to top security encrypted mode and see what she does," Jason instructed.

The robots' eyes turned a deep purple as they went into a highly secure mode that nobody should be able to receive. Glenna's eyes still followed the speaker.

Robyn transmitted, "Perhaps she only knows who is talking but not what is being said." Turning slightly to look directly into Glenna's eyes, Robyn transmitted in the highly secure mode, "Glenna, if you can hear me, wag your tail."

Glenna wagged her tail.

Just to make sure, Robyn added, “Good girl. You can lay down and go to sleep now.”

Glenna laid down and slowly closed her eyes. Just before they closed, Robyn noticed they were bright purple.

Jason recorded everything and, without speculation or emotion, sent the incident to the Great Hall Animal Department.

The vessel docked before sunset, and all were back at the palace before the mountaintop village went dark. They agreed to meet in the morning and settled in for the night. The vacation had just ended, but a worldwide war with the Creature was about to begin.

To be continued.

[Edit Chapter 11](#)



SUNSET ON MOUNTAIN OVER VILLAGE



About the Author
Arthur F Seymour

Entrepreneur, inventor, educator, poet,
philosopher, and aspiring author:

Art studied electrical engineering at Christian Brothers University and earned his master's degree at IIT. During college, he authored one of the first patent applications on caller ID. He started his career at Motorola and was one of the first engineers to incorporate integrated circuits in color television. He later managed a group of engineers at Zenith Radio Corporation. Art launched E-Blox Inc. after 44 years of being the President of Elenco Electronics Inc. Presently, he has more than a dozen patents, with a few still pending. Greek philosophy is still one of his passions.

Art and his wife, Maryann, were married on August 6, 1966, and have 11 grandchildren. They both took great joy in telling stories to their grandchildren at bedtime. Art claims these memories inspire all his books. His greatest inspiration in life, however, was his wife, Maryann. Maryann went into the light while holding Art's hand on the morning of 9/11/2019. She was truly Art's Ruby.

The Wiser Miser

In the corner all alone, on a dark rainy night,
The old miser squeezed his coins and smiled at their sight,
He had forsaken the world for this one small delight.

Then came the pounding of flesh on wood to his ear,
As he jumped from his daze with a heart full of fear,

He muttered a prayer to make the sound disappear.

But the pounding persisted like the wind and the rain.
He knew he must answer, or it would drive him insane.
So, he restored his gold coins to their cache once again.

To the door, he did slither like a cat stalking prey.
His dry ancient lips whispered, "Please go away!"
But the person outside simply would not obey.

With a touch of bravado, he yelled, "Who's there?"
But only silence followed like a chill in the air.
With cold sweat on his forehead, his heart thumped, "Beware!"

It seemed like hours he stood with his hand on the door.
Then the pounding returned but not as loud as before.
The old man knew his poor brain could not take any more.

His hand shook, and he trembled with each bolt he slid back.
With his foot as a doorstep, he produced just a crack,
And peered into the rain and the night cold and black.

There on the ground laid a young girl nearly dead,
Using his doormat for both blanket and bed.
As he watched, she thumped the door with her head.

The miser was so moved and filled with relief,
He forgot his gold coins and his lifelong belief,
That the problems of others should not be his grief.

He laid the poor girl on a rug by his fire,
Replacing her rags with a blanket much dryer,
And into his heart crept a strange new desire.

He suddenly realized he was very old,
And his life was just like his pieces of gold.
He was an old miser so hard and so cold.

Saving this girl gave him such a great pleasure,
A feeling of warmth and of joy hard to measure,
For he had finally found life's greatest treasure.

So, he raised the young girl to be a lady of style,

And when death finally came, he passed with a smile,
For he had traded his gold for a treasure worthwhile.

NOTE: *True love chases fear ... and makes greed disappear*

Treasures

Far out in the country, by a tiny farming town,
Over by the highway, a small tavern can be found.
When day's work is over, the people come on down.

Way back in the corner where shadows seem to rule,
Sat a silly gray-haired lady and a grumpy old fool,
Inspecting wrinkled photos as if each one was a jewel.

"Here's one of little George," said the lady with a grin.
"He sure cost me plenty with all the trouble he got in."
"And just look at that outfit, that surely was a sin."

The old man sipped his ale, then looked back at his spouse.
"It sure is quiet," he said, "Since they left the house."
"Look!" she interrupted, "Here's one of Bobby and his mouse."

"I wonder how much they cost us?" the silly lady said.
"They drank a lake of milk and ate a mountain of bread."
"It sure cost us plenty just to keep those children fed."

The old man crossed his arms and then scratched an itchy eye.
He leaned back in his chair, and then murmured with a sigh,
"Considering what they're worth, they were really quite a buy."

NOTE: *How do you measure ... what is true treasure?*