## <u>2085</u>

## Redemption

Save the Earth, Save our Souls.



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Daughter, why are you so sad?

I am not sad, for I am angry.

For what reason?

All the beautiful flowers are now gone.

## **The Industrial City**

Jessica was having night sweats again. She was running a slight fever and droplets of sweat were falling from her breasts on to her stomach. It was still lockdown in her complex and dawn was more than three hours away. She rolled over to the side of her bed and threw up into a metal trash can. She could hear the red brown acid rain hitting the window. It was still night and a fierce wind was blowing outside.

She carefully took a small match and lighted a half burnt candle. Instead of illumination, the candle instead started to create a dancing shadow of demons against the wall. Total

fear entered within her inner mind as she held her rosary tight in her sweaty palms of her hands. Tomorrow was harvesting day. She needed to be well and be able to participate or else she wouldn't get enough food vouchers to eat for the month. Punishment for not being well was a harsh unkind reality that she knew to well. You either produce or you die. Survival of the fittest was all she ever knew.

Before going to bed she had already set-up cockroach traps inside her room, hoping for some extra protein. If she gets lucky, she will be able to pound them into a small mixture and added it to her mold cover bread that she was able to obtain from the black market.

At a very young age, she knew that her life was just a commodity. Her precious life was not her own, no ones life was any longer. It belong to the corporation and the total profitability of the industrial system.

The green house affect had destroyed the ozone of the planet. The world resources couldn't support life as it once did after the ozone had been depleted. All living trees were dead. All plants were destroyed. The oxygen of the planet quickly got depleted. Everyone had to wear respirator to breath. The biological wars then came. The wars unleashed killer airborne viruses. The plague took the souls of 99% of the world population. Countries couldn't exist as they once did. Cities crumbled. Only one city was able to survive and the established global economic industrial complex quickly took over.

Within the Industrial city, individual rights were foregone and were distant memories. The individual only exist for one reason and one reason only to support the profits and existence of the Industrial city. Once a person's profitability was gone, so was the individual's life.

Jessica sat silently staring at her black beaded rosary of St. Mary. It was given to her by her mother and was her great grand mothers from Ireland. She was told that her great grand mother had the "gift" that enable her to have special healing powers during her time. Town folks would come to her for all different kinds of healing and she would welcome them into her house. She used her hands and special herbs solutions to help heal them.

She was told by her mother that the rosary itself had healing powers and would give her strength. Jessica was totally out of strength, out of faith, and soon out felt that time itself will be gone for her to.

Due to lack of population, every month, harvesting occurred in the industrial complex. All fertile women had to present themselves to the office of genetic review. They would then be attached to sterile machines that would harvest their eggs and in return they would get food rations for the month. The eggs would then go through DNA testing. Any defect found and the eggs would go to the office of pharmacy for drug manufacturing. Those that deemed to have no defects would then go to the office of maternity where they would be given to birthing hosts. The eggs would go through fertilization by the best

combination of male DNA that will result in the best profitability of human life and achievement.

Off springs would then be raised to maximize their DNA talents and abilities. This will allow the industry to survive, profit, and grow. All resources that didn't meet standard, would be destroyed and eliminated so contamination will not occur. Religion and individuality had long been outlawed. Conformity, Performance, and results driven results were the Motto of the Industrial City complex. Inner Peace was measured when one exceeded production. Eternal hell was to those who under perform.

Jessica looked at her Rosary once more, and tears started to fall on to her lap and then unto the dirt floor. She turned to the small cracked hand mirror and saw her beautiful long red hair that she had as a youth cut short now to standard female regulations. There were deep purple patches under the reflections of her blue eyes. She had a small scar underneath her left eye. The worst scars where not those that could be seen. but the scars of the past of her consciousness that continues to tear at her sanity of her own inner mind. These scars were a reminder of a system that had no compassion, no charity, no faith, and no love for its citizens.

Jessica worked in Biosphere 35 and was a gardener who was responsible for planting and overall productivity of the sphere. Nothing grew outside of the Biospheres. They were the warehouses for humanity or what was left of them. The lack of ozone and red rusty acid rain killed any new growth in the outside environment.

Scientist stated that it would take thousand of years of restoration for the earth to be fertile again. Fertile again, that word had started to echo and reflect back into Jessica's mind. For within hours, it would be harvesting time for her again.

Jessica blew out the candle and laid silently on the hard mattress of her bed with her own thoughts racing. "Well its time", she watch a fly crawl on the ceiling. She remember her roots in ancestry of Ireland. Ireland is truly a land of fighters and survivors. She wasn't going to give up, and she reached within the inner depths of her soul, and found the very being of the Celtic warrior that she was. Jessica slowly got up and put her robe on. It was time to start the day and the morning nausea still followed her into the sonic shower.

The sonic shower turned on automatically. A warm glow of light engulfed her and all bacterial, dirt, and virus were evaporated into mid- air. "So much for an nice water spa treatment," she thought to herself.

She then slipped into her green worker's jumpsuit that covered the curvature of her body. Her serial number was printed on the back, number 88884444. Everybody was tracked per their assigned numbers. She put on her respirator that helped with the thin oxygen outside of her living unit. She tested the unit and took in a deep breath and then out again.

She then put on her helmet and visor to protect from the harshness of the morning sun that will soon be rising again over the desert Sonoran mountain sands.

As she stepped outside, she could feel the intense heat. It was still very early morning. The temperatures were still reaching 120 degrees and will reach close to 145 by mid day. She walked slowly across a common area that had industrial propaganda neon signs glowing and humming through the morning silence.

Jessica was now at the tram area and walked through the tram loading area. The tram is the main transportation of the industrial city. She inserted her security badge and the glass doors of the tram open. Jessica was about to step in, when a security guard with army fatigues holding a weapon stopped her to doubled checked her credentials and the electronic order.

The tram left the station without her, as the guard waiting for the clearance from the central security to be given.

Jessica was getting nervous. She just wanted to get it over with. If she was one of the first ones at the harvesting, she might be able to still be able to get to the biosphere and put in a full days work also, and this would enable her to not lose any given productivity for the week.

The guard without smiling said she was cleared, "Go and be productive". In the enclosed tram area, the oxygen levels were back to normal. So she took off her helmet and respirator. As she was waiting for the next tram, the station was still empty. Slowly more citizens started to gather for the tram. The tram ran in a large circular pattern from the industrial center to the biospheres, to the living centers, medical centers, mining areas, and then back again.

Recently, there had been rumors about a group of individuals who were against the authorities. On the large electronic screens in the tram station showed one of the individuals that was recently caught and was executed on the nightly news in public to show that any activities outside of the standard policies would not be tolerated. Jessica was not political.

She was already controlled by the fear of intolerance cruel dehumanizing force given by the authorities. Jessica said a silent prayer for the young man that died and felt her rosary inside the pocket of her jumpsuit. Her silent prayer was broken when the station tram speaker called out that the tram to the Medical center had just arrived.

Jessica let out an empty sigh and stepped into the tram. The nausea flooded through her body again and she quickly held on to one of the steel poles inside the tram to hold on to and for stabilize her footing. The tram ran on antigravity rails and was soon out of the station heading quickly towards the Medical center. All the windows of the tram had holographic images of nature as if you were visiting the Grand Canyon itself similar to

what Disneyland had along time ago. "Disneyland had Mickey Mouse", Jessica smiled to herself. "The happiest place on earth", which is not the Industrial City complex.

As the tram next stop was the industrial center complex that had the Medical building 10. The tram ran almost silent and you could barely feel it moving at all. The speaker came on, next stop in 1 minute, Industrial City Medical complex. There were more citizens at the Medical complex as Jessica got off the tram. She put on her respirator and adjusted the humidity setting and then put on her helmet.

Good morning citizen 88884444 as a newsstand droid hovered in front of Jessica. Would you like to procure an electronic news tabloid today? Jessica shook her head and by nonverbal signature onto the droid visual microchips, the droid moved on to the next citizen near by.

"Annoying Droids", Jessica said to herself. Droids, Droids, and more Droids. Droids are everywhere and because they are more productive the people they are going to become more annoying. Soon there will be no humanity at all, just Droids.

Jessica hated them and they always got in her way at the biosphere. They needed constant maintenance and attention. Her friend Joseph was a Droid technician that worked on them daily. Droids are worst than children. As she said the word children, an inner pain came from Jessica side. This must be similar to the feeling when you get kicked in the ribs from a baby. She had to stop for a second to catch her breath. Harvesting was always a time of anxiety for her.

The medical building 10 was just a few blocks away. The facility itself was constructed with ten separate dome buildings that were attached to each other. The domes were all created with thermal glass to keep the harsh climate out.

A street vendor was selling scarves on one of the corners. Citizen would you like to buy a new scarf today. There was one that caught her attention. It was purple and had sacred orange symbols on it from various religions. She notice the Christen, Judaism, and Buddhism symbols. Scarves were one luxury items that a person could purchase. The cost was three food coupons, and Jessica was down to her last one for the month so she took a moment to just look at the beautiful scarfs. She simply said thank you and gave a small bow to the vendor. "Maybe, next time", the vendor smiled back to her.

Jessica continued walking to the next cross walk. She stopped and for some reason she looked down at the corner of an empty shop keeper's doorway. She notice that lying in the corner were three food coupons. Her heart was beating fast. Nobody had notice them and she didn't hesitate but quickly picked them up herself. She then went back to the vendor who was selling the scarves.

The vendor was no longer there, gone, and had vanished into thin air. There was a package wrapped in brown plan paper that was left behind on a nearby bench. It had her citizen number on it. She looked to see if anyone or nearby drones were looking at her.

Everyone walking by seem to be busy in their own inner worlds of hardship and pain. The drones were more towards the tram area checking security. She quickly picked up the package and slipped it into her front pocket of her jumpsuit. Jessica was very curious what was in the package, but needed to hurry quickly to the Medical building 10 to enable her to be on time for her appointment for harvesting.

The medical building 10 itself had a completely sterile design. The doors opened and Jessica entered into the building. She could smelled the plastic lifeless nature of the building. A medical droid immediately flew above her and entered her data into the current data base. Her picture came up on the droid screen with all of her current medical records. It then took her preliminary reading of her current health status. Even though her temperature was high, it was still below the threshold of rejection for harvesting. The droid sprayed antivirus solution over her that evaporated once it touched her hair and clothing. The smell of the disinfected was left behind."A beautiful Raspberry perfume", she said sarcastically to herself.

"Welcome Citizen 88884444", we have been expecting you today. Please proceed to level 17 via the transportation tubes for your monthly harvesting. There were three women already in line, so Jessica had to wait in line to enter the transportation tube. She has always hated enclosed spaces and this was as enclosed as it can get.

She entered the tube, and the computer voice told her to disrobe and put her clothing into the medical bag next to her. She then opened a drop box inside the tube and deposited her items. All of her clothing and personal items would be ready for pick up once the harvesting was over.

A button next to her was flashing with number 17. She strapped a leather belt around her waist while still standing, and then pushes the blinking button. The tube started moving carrying her up the given levels. Different drugs and chemicals were automatically sprayed into the tube as she went through the preparation for harvesting. Stage 9 was one of the worst stages. At that level a small medical droid entered the tube and attached to Jessica arm. Needles then penetrated her skin, pulling out vials of blood. Ten vials were taken. A computer chip was then inserted into her arm so they could monitor the harvesting process inside her.

As she got to level 17, the tube turned horizontal so now Jessica was laying on her back. The transportation tube opened up completely and Jessica was still moving on a conveyer belt into the harvesting room. The room was dark and silent except for the mechanical electronic equipment. Two robotic arms lifted her up into the harvesting chair. Once in the chair, the metal cuffs locked in her arms and legs so she was completely motionless.

Her legs were forced open by robotic levers. She could see the medical drone move in between her legs, and a steel medical probe was activated. Jessica could not watch any longer but closed her eyes as she felt the cold steel probe entered between her legs. There was a sudden pain. Jessica could feel warm blood now flowing down out of her onto her

inner legs as her eggs were being extracted. Another sharp pain rocked her complete body and she completely blacked out.

Jessica woke up and was now in the recovery station. The walls were showing holographs images of beautiful females holding new born babies in their arms smiling. She was totally numb, and couldn't feel anything at all emotionally or physically. The intensity of the severe pain seemed to have increased through the years per each harvest, and her only defense mechanism was to turn everything off and become as cold as the world around her had become.

Jessica sat up and was still felt a bit disoriented from all of the drugs that were now flowing through her biological system. She slipped on her jumpsuit.

The recovery transport elevator took her back to ground level, where she was give her medical bag plus her monthly food coupon ration for the harvesting. She put on her respirator and helmet without making any eye further eye contact with any of the goodbye drones. She started back to her living quarters. It was as if she was walking back into a nightmare of a dream, no thoughts, no emotions, no feelings.

She was like a total walking zombie without a mind or being.

Per each harvest, it seemed like a piece of her inner beauty, soul and happiness was eternally taken away from her. Each time a procedure as done, pieces of her soul had been destroyed and could not be felt again.

Stumbling back on to the tram, she closed her eyes hoping that the nightmare would end, but it was just the beginning of her journey.



Her plan was to get back to the biosphere so she could put in a full day's work. She couldn't eventhough her inner will wanted to. Pieces were broken, she was broken, and she even wonder to herself if she could ever have the serenity or the inner peace of the sacred wholeness of God again. Reality for her now was a darkness that forever gnaws at your bones, and that then slowly wraps around your heart and mind like a weed choking the life out of you. Jessica had started to wonder if life was worth living at all.

She barely made it back to her living complex. Jessica took off her jumpsuit with moist blood still on her leg. A message was on her video unit. asking why she wasn't at her work position. I am not back at work because they butchered me at harvesting, you stupid ignorant piece of useless technology. She hesitated, and then responded back in the most politically correct manner. She answered back that she just came back from harvesting, and didn't feel well. Therefore, would not be coming into work at all today. Even though there would be severe consequences for not showing up at work, she didn't have the energy to take another step.

She had no one to help her into bed. She lifted up her sore body, and put herself to bed. She just stared at the ceiling. Jessica wanted to cry, but no tears came. She wanted some type of release from all of her pain. But no relief came, She was totally numb from head to toe. A total numbness that had engulfed her self esteem, her self worth, and her entire being.

A tiredness entered her being as she lay on her bed. She slowly faded into an unusual dream state.

She was now viewing herself and she was completely nude sitting in a chair made of human bones by a river of blood.

Cries and moans of terror from demons were echoing throughout a forbidden darken canyon, as human skulls were flying with flames coming from their eyes and mouths. She

looked at the ground and saw millions of leaches and scorpions moving like clouds over the land.

Out of the river, dead corpses came to life with leprosy and gangrene. They were the wandering soulless zombies that had no spirit and knew no joy of life. They seem not to even notice Jessica at all, but immediately started attacking each other and tearing off each other limbs for food and weapons. Packs of wolves with red devil eyes followed behind eating up the bloody remains that were left.

She felt something down by her legs. She looked down by her legs. And huge skeleton rats were starting to eat away of her flesh. She screamed but only dead silence came from her voice. "This was only a dream she said to herself" over and over again, as pieces of broken glass were floating in mid air. One large piece just severed the head of one of the living dead corpse that had just walked closely by her moaning.

The severed head hit the ground and cracked open and then rolled back down hill into the river of human blood and remains.

One broken floating piece of glass came close to her enough that she was able to catch a glimpse of her reflection. Her reflection was of an old lady with sunken eyes and yellow jaundice eyes. Most of her hair was gone and was matted. Her skin had cancerous spots and growths. Worms were crawling out of her nose. Beauty of youth was no where to be found. What she saw was a hideous image of a living corpse caught in a world of eternal damnation.

Jessica notice that one of the devil skulls was now moving towards her. The voices of the dammed started to enter her mind and gripping her inner soul. She felt a deep coldness enter her being and like a dimmer switch starting to filter through her consciousness.

"Get back you demons. I am not yours and never will be. I am of the light and you are only the hidden forces of the eternal darkness. I am not yours and shall never be of you nature. Begone now and never return"

She felt a soft breeze against her face as fresh tears were staring to fall. Her eyes were now shut because she couldn't bear seeing the final end. She then felt something suddenly touching her hand.

It was a scarf blown in the wind. She took the scarf and then wrapped it around her hand.

She look at the scarf. It was a purple scarf that had sacred orange symbols from all the various religions of the world. A voice entered her mind. "Wrap the spirit of the scarf around your flesh and you will forever be protected."

Unknown to her in her dreamscape, Droids were now working quickly over Jessica's body. The alert came from the microchip that was entered during harvesting that monitor's all patients for forty eight hours after the procedures. The microchip had alerted the medical drones that her blood pressure and temperature had dropped into the critical range. She had gone into respiratory shock, when they had arrived.

There was new pool of blood next to her bedside that was caused by the recent harvesting of her eggs. Her heart stopped beating.

One of the larger medical droid hovered over her body and told the other droid to stand back. Electrical pads unfolded and came out of its side and was placed on Jessica's naked chest. It then sent jolts of electricity into her heart to try get her heart to start beating again. The first attempt had no results. Nor the second or the third, each time the jolts were more intense. "Please stand back for one more attempt", stated the droid.

After this very last attempt, a small pulse came to life in Jessica's body.

"Get her into the transportation capsule unit for immediate medical treatment care at the emergency room at the Medical building"

The drones lifted her almost lifeless body into the capsule. Once in the capsule, two more droids came in and lifted up the capsule, and transported her to the emergency medical unit building. Pure oxygen was being placed into the capsule. Jessica was still unconscious and still lost within her inner dream.

The drones carried the capsule quickly through the living areas of the community to the Medical center. There were always drones moving cargo and packages in the air. So few folks even notice a medical emergency was even under way.

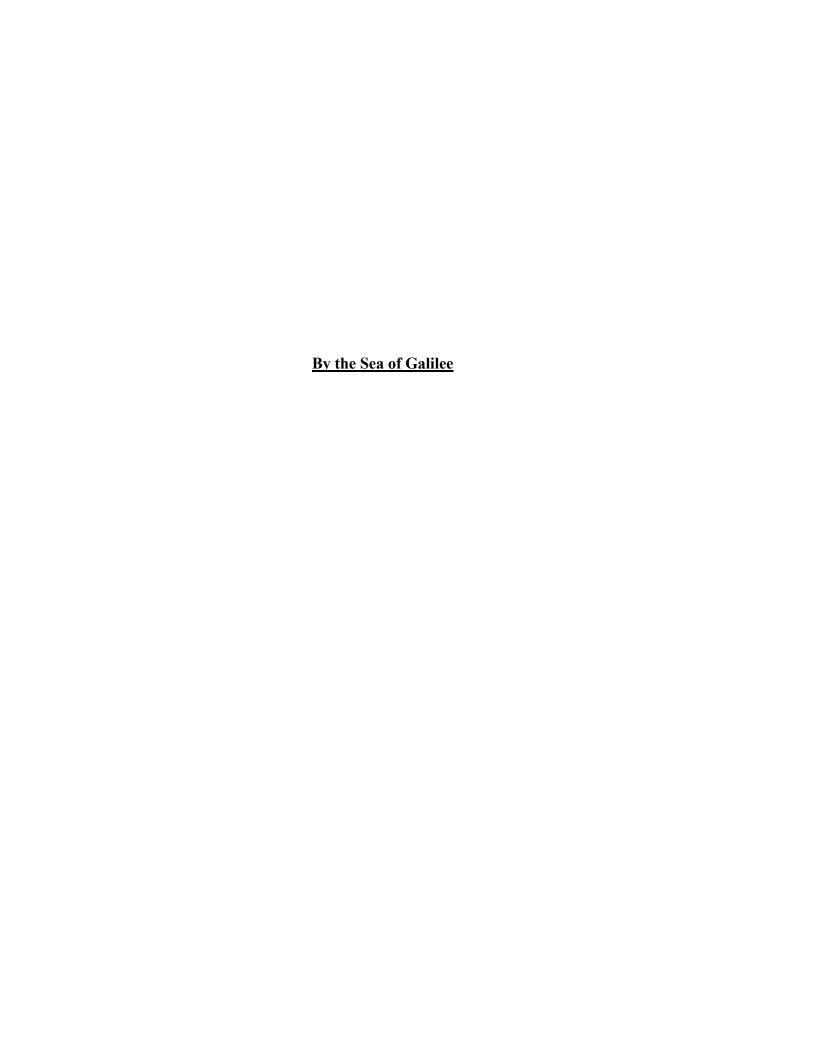
Soon she was in a sterile operation room. They started to give her a new transfusion of type AB blood. The surgical droid took an operation laser and opened her up like a can of fresh tuna. They found where the tear was in her body, and that it was causing the great lost of blood from her body. The droid used a different laser that had a green glow to it to seal the necessary blood vessels. They then closed her up and sent her off the recovery unit area.

In the recovery area, there were real human nurses. There was flowers by her bedside, even though they were synthetic flowers being lighted by artificial light. Holographic screens were showing peaceful scenes of nature of a California bay. The nurse took Jessica's pulse and temperature. Jessica was now in a coma. "Half dead and Half alive",

the nurse said to herself. After adjusting her IV administration and made sure the morphine drip was still in place for the pain.

The nurse then walked back to her station to finish all of her daily administration paperwork. "Poor girl" She will be dead by tomorrow", as she started filling out her report. "Harvesting can be so deadly. The means sometime doesn't justify the end."

She has seen her fill of corpses coming from the harvesting procedure. Life is so fragile. Simply, here today and gone tomorrow. "Poor child"



His name was Peter. He was in his early twenties with a very tone muscular body of a fisherman that has been working at sea since being a small child,. The working outside in the midday heat of the sun gave him a golden tan of a Roman's God. Capernaum was his home since birth. A small peaceful fishing village by the sea of Galilee. He loved his life and to be free to fish and to provide for his family was all he ever wanted or care about.

Peter felt a pain from the back of his shoulder. It was Andrew who just slapped Peter on the back. "Its going to be a fine day for fishing. We are truly both extremely lucky men that we don't have to toil with our hands in the desert sands."

"You are right, my Brother. It's a fine early fall day to fish and live" The grapes from the summer are ripen and now being harvest, and soon we will have new wine to drink to go with our fresh fish and our mother's freshly baked breads. "There are no luckier men on this entire planet then us", replied Andrew. Peter smiled at Andrew. He loved his brother, Andrew and will always love him.

"Come now and roll up your sleeves" "The nets are ready, and its time to get the day started" said Peter. They both lifted the nets into the boat. Both were excellent sailors and swimmers, and could out fish with any of the other local fisherman. They both felt a slight wind starting to come over the lake which will help them get out into the lake swiftly once they raise their sails to the main mast. As normal that day, they were the first ones out fishing on the lake. "Early to bed, early to rise", said Peter to himself.

Once they got further out in the lake, they went ahead and dropped their fishing nets. With a large splash, the nets were now set in place next to their boat as they started to troll for fish.

In a different place and time, Jessica was still feeling nothing. She was still in a coma and unconscious. Jessica felt like she didn't have the ability to gasp for air. She was no longer in the nightmare of her past nightmare dream of demons, but was now completely under water trying to get to the surface to take a new breath of new air.

She continued to struggle through the depths of the water and could see the suns reflection sparkling on the water from above. She kept on pressing and trying to swim forward as quickly as possible, but she seems not to be making any progress. She started to take on water, and as water started to fill her lungs. "I am almost to the surface, almost there" said Jessica. She only had one choice and one direction to go and that was to continue to move towards the surface of the suns reflection to get a fresh breath of pure air.

Peter was adjusting the nets and was the first to see Jessica. Peter saw something unusual about 100 feet from the boat. He thought he saw the hands of a body reaching out of the lake. He rubbed his eyes to make sure he wasn't imaging the image like a mirage. He

then looked again at the same spot, and this time saw the red hair of a lady in the sea for just a second or two. On instinct only, he dived immediately over the fishing nets and into the water without saying a word to Andrew his brother who was occupied on the other side of the boat, and who has been looking in the opposite direction.

It didn't take long for Peter to get to Jessica's side. Peter wrapped his arms around Jessica's shoulders and was holding her above the water surface. Jessica had taken on to much water and was still unconscious. By now Andrew saw what was happening, and had pulled in the nets with only a few fish that was caught in them out of the water. He started to steer the boat quickly to Peter's and Jessica's direction.

Once the boat was along side, Peter lifted Jessica into the boat. He then put his arms just underneath her breasts and pushed into her lungs. Water immediately came out of her mouth as she immediately started gasping for air.

Jessica was too exhausted to speak, as Peter wrapped her up in a blanket that was lying on the bottom of the boat. "We need to get her to shore and to our mother's house right away" Peter said to Andrew. Andrew understand immediately and started steering the small boat to the direction of the nearest shore line.

Jessica was pale and gray as she slowly started to get come color back as she recover from the grips of eternal death itself.

"Is she dead", said Andrew to Peter while steering the boat onto the sand covered shore. Peter gave Andrew a look of unknowing. Seagulls were circling in the air as the small fishing boat landed on the shore. Peter gripped Jessica's upper body and Andrew her lower and lifted her out of the boat. It was still early morning yet and the shoreline was still vacant. Beautiful white clouds were now reflecting on the lake as the morning sun had started its daily journey through the sky. They decided to take her through the back gate of the village. They could smell the morning bread being baked from within the village homes.

They stopped at one corner edge of the village. Andrew saw them first. Six large Roman centurions wearing white robes and red cloaks marched by them in formation. Peter and Andrew were unnoticed by them, as they hide silently out of sight in the corner by a wooden and stone fence. It was tax time and the Roman's have came into the city for their collection.

"That was close" said Peter to Andrew. They both took a deep breath and move quickly again through the village once the Romans were well past them and headed again towards the small stone house were they both live.

Peter's mother had just come back from the well with the morning water provisions. She was not a large woman, but could carry the large clay water pot balance on her head. Her black hair was pulled and braided in the back ready for the morning chores.

She knew that Peter and Andrew already were off fishing and already had cleaned up the kitchen table where they had their early morning meal. She didn't expect them to be back until late afternoon or early evening.

So she was fearful when the door slammed open startling her. She saw Peter and Andrew concern faces as they carried Jessica's body into the living area. There was still a small fire burning in the fireplace next to a small bed. Peter laid Jessica on to the bed softly. She said to Peter and Andrew, who is she? Where did you find her? She must be from the North with her fair skin and her red hair of the dragons. Her eyes are as blue as a morning dove.

"Mother, said Peter. "We were in the middle of the Sea of Galilee when we found her". She was just floating and mostly submerged under the water. The girl has been unconscious since we pulled her out of the lake."

She might be a Roman slave girl. We all have heard the stories of the Roman capturing pretty young girls from the north and taking them on as their slaves.

If she was one, it would be very dangerous for us to keep her in our house if the Roman's find out. If she was a runaway, she will have both her legs broken and deformed. They might even put her to death by crucifixion depending on what she had also done to her master.

"I understand" said Peter's mother with a short sigh. Stay her and I will get a fresh robe for her, and I will also bring her new beddings for the night.

She told Peter and Andrew that they most go back fishing so the neighbors wouldn't get suspicious and notify the authorities on them. Since the Romans came to the village, no one could trust each other and informants were more common then the average house fly.

Peter and Andrew told her that they will be back soon and wouldn't put in a whole day fishing. Peter opened the front door and stepped out. The sun was now higher up on the horizon and folks were starting their morning activities in the village. "Do you think she is a Roman prostitute" said Andrew to Peter as they started back to their boat on the shoreline.

Peter took Andrew shoulder. "I don't know who or what she is?" "I do know that she needs our help and that is what we need to be focusing on." They got to their boat and everything was there as they left it. Peter doubled checked the nets and make sure everything was ready for their daily fishing run. Peter and Andrew pushed the boat off from the shore and soon they were fishing again in the Sea of Galilee, and doing what they did best and loved.

The morning and afternoon went by slowly for both of them. They were able to get several large fish from their nets as they brought the nets in after their final run. When

they came back to shore, they prepared the fish for market and brought them to the marketplace for them to be smoked and sold the next day. They had the reputation of having the best catches from the sea and was always able to sell their fish at a slight premium.

They both were very concern over the unknown lady from the sea that they found early that morning. They both hurried from the market place after buying some fresh vegetables and fruits for the nightly meal.

Peter's mother just finished giving Jessica a sponge bath and putting a fresh evening robe on her. Jessica had been unconscious all day and still had sweats from the fever that she developed from that morning.

"How is she", said Peter as he pulled up a small stool next to her. "She isn't doing well", still unconscious and non-responsive. "You said you found her in the sea just floating". "That right, we just put in the morning nets when Peter saw her just floating." "She was very lucky that you did. In her condition, I wouldn't think she would have lasted very much longer by herself."

"I brought some vegetables and fruits for tonight's dinner" "'I will get the dinner started right away. I am making yours, and Andrew's favorite meal tonight, lamb's stew."

"Thank you very much", said Peter" "Andrew and I will continue to watch her and see if there is any progress for her." She brought them their wooden bowls filled with lamb stew and drinks. They both ate half heartily as they both stared at Jessica. Wondering who she was and how her journey brought her to their doorsteps.

The sun was setting and creating a red glow to the sky. "It's a pretty sunset", as Peter stared at Jessica red flowing hair as she still lay silently before them both. They could hear an owl outside as the evening stars were starting to appear. Andrew went and got their bedding. They wanted to be with Jessica, in case things started to get worst. Andrew attended the fire place which was only glowing ambers now.

Its been a very long day, and soon the sun will rise again starting a brand new day. Andrew and Peter said good night to their mother, and made sure all the candles were blown out. They both took one more look at Jessica. She has been lifeless all evening taking in deep raspy sounding breaths once in awhile. Her soft skin reflected the moonlight that was starting to come in from the open windows. Her eyes were distant and vacant as a wooden doll made from straw.

Peter took out his prayer book and they both recited a prayer for her.

Yahweh my God, On this day, and every day, be our strength and power upon this precious child of mercy before us.

Heal her inner wounds, and redeem her lifeless body as you have nourished your tribe of Israel. from the given wastelands.

As the beloved child of Eve and Adam give her peace, joy, and inner well being

May the Angels be forever watchful by her side as she walks her days and nights until her final days on earth.

Shalom and Peace upon your new awakening.

They both put their beddings next to her and fell softly asleep. Andrew was awakened by the sound of a bell. It rang softly, and got louder. It was coming from the garden within their courtyard. Andrew put on his sandals and walked out into the courtyard where they had a small herb and vegetable garden.

By the fountain, there was a glow that looks like hundreds of fireflies. They shifted into beautiful geometric shapes and forms. The ringing of the bell occurred each time they shifted into a new pattern. Andrew saw that the patterns were very ancient symbols but didn't know their meaning. The bell ring turned into a humming sound, and then the sparkling lights turned into an image of a beautiful Angel. Andrew fell to his knees, and started to shake. "Do not be afraid", for I am here to give you a message of inner hope and love for your new found friend. "Her name is Jessica, treat her like a beloved sister."

"In the morning at sunrise", your must take Jessica to the Jordan River. "You will find a man with a wild beard in camel cloth holding a wooden staff. This holy one will be able to help her."

Andrew looks at the Angel. She was larger then a normal size person and had the most beautiful wings that were transparent and changed color. He could also smell the scent of roses, lavender, and sand wood all combined in a lovely perfume.

"You and your brother are a divine blessing to the world. Do not forget what I have said to you. Be true to yourself and you shall transform the world for the better." The humming sound stopped and the Angel vanished from the garden courtyard. The beautiful fragrance was left behind.

Andrew went back into the room where Peter was still sleeping next to Jessica. "I can't believe what just happen to me" "I just saw a miracle, an Angel larger than any person I have ever seen before." He could barely sleep for the rest of the night. Still dark, he got out of bed and got the family donkey ready to take Jessica to the river Jordan as the Angel had requested.

He carefully lifted her out of bed and put her on cotton blankets within a small wooden wagon that had already been hitched to their family donkey. Andrew left a message for his mother and Peter and headed for the Jordan River.

The early morning air had a chill in the air as he started his journey. The streets were still pitched black and only for a few torches that were still burning by the village gates. He passed the gates and was soon on the dirt road.

Andrew had heard of this wild man by the Jordan that was healing people and baptizing with water. He lived out in the desert by himself and had nothing but nature to cloth him and to feed him. He was said to feed off from the wild honey of bees. Andrew stopped and checked on Jessica. He could see a campsite by the Jordan River in the distant, as the faint glow of the morning sun was starting to appear in the eastern sky.

A large shadow appeared across their path holding a lamb in one arm and a staff in another. The man had a wild beard and the size of a giant. Andrew held tightly the rope to the donkey. "Who goes there and what do you want so early in the morning." "I am Andrew, the fisherman" "I was told to bring this child from the Sea of Galilee to see the holy man by the Jordan river, so she could be healed"

"You must follow me at once", he said swiftly. Directing him to his camp site by the Jordan River." "What is wrong with her", he said to Andrew.

"We don't know, we found her in the Sea of Galilee, just floating on the surface of the water. She was totally lifeless and unresponsive." Andrew walked the donkey down into the camp area. There were a few followers of this man already awaken in the early dawn preparing their morning meals. My name is "John the Baptist". John helped Andrew lift Jessica from the donkey next to one of the larger tents in campground.

John lifted off the ground by his own strength, and headed to the river without breaking a stride. He went into the river and raised Jessica body above his head while saying a sacred Jewish prayer. John then started to spin and water started to rise from the river and then above him and Jessica like a fountain. Within a minute, the water had totally engulfed them.

Andrew and a few of John's followers were watching form the river's edge. They couldn't see either of them as the river of Jordan engulfed them. They all heard a very loud popping sounds like firecrackers going off on the Fourth of July. The water then fell back upon the Jordan river, and John was there smiling and standing all alone by himself. John then went to Andrew, "come and have a morning meal with us, and I will tell you everything that I know."

Jessica's monitor alarms went off in the nursing unit. Her blood pressure had dropped to critical again. Several nurses came running into the unit for the code blue, and attached a new IV into her arm, while a droid gave her a shot with medication directly into her chest to keep her heart and lungs breathing.

Jessica woke up, but she was no longer in the nursing area, nor was she on the river side of the Jordan River. She was now standing on hot asphalt with a hot desert wind blowing upon her face. She was standing on the side of an empty Arizona highway. It sure is hot out here.

She could see what look like a structure of some type, just down a ways on the highway.

"Well I got no better place to set my saddle for a while", Jessica said to herself. She thought she heard the saying from an old television series of Gun Smoke, or was it the Lone Ranger.

As she got closer to the structure. She saw that it was a broken down gasoline building with open holes in the roofing. A rusty windmill was still working even though rust has taking most of the original paint off it. She notice a broken sign that was beside her.

She picked it up, and wiped off the dust and dirt with her bare hands. The sign said Nothing, Arizona. "Well, isn't that the obvious".

The heat of the desert now was starting to affect her. She head towards the shed like building for some shade. It looked like its been abandon for a while. An old wooden native Indian statue was standing as the greeter by a broken coke machine next to the front entrance. An Santa Fe bench had a woven blanket tied as a back cushion. She sat for a minute to reflect for a minute, and watched the wind blow through the desert landscape.

The door to the building was missing, so she got up and walked into the building. There was spider webs in every corner. The air was a little bit cooler, but not much. It must be over 115 outside. A voice came from the far corner of the room. "My I help you miss?" Jessica looked and it was a skeleton man with an old beat up cowboy hat on. Where am I?

"You my fine lady are in the fair city of Nothing Arizona" replayed Mr. Bones. What is your name? Jessica said to the skeleton cowboy.

"My name, My name, Nobody has asked me for my name in a hundred of year or more. "Why my name is Mr. Bones. I am the caretaker of this fine establishment. I don't get a lot of travelers stopping by any longer. Are you running away, because you killed a man?"

"Of course, I am not running away because I killed a man. What type of question is that?"

"Well, you see there are a lot of murders and bandits in these old parts", "But a question is some time just a question." "No offense taken I hope", said Mr. Bones while giving her a toothless grin. Mr Bones went back to his rocking chair in the corner and took out his harmonica. He started to play an old country western cowboy melancholy tune.

Mr bone started to speak again. "Talking about questions? You flesh people always have questions. Who am I, Where am I going? What is the true meaning? Will I ever be happy? Who will I love? What is my career and purpose in life? You all worry the flesh right off of your naked bones."

Jessica thought that Mr. Bones was stranger than strange, and she just stared at him for a minute trying to read his mind. Which may be difficult with Mr. Bones being a skeleton and all.

"It's a dry heat isn't it?" "You get use to it after a few summers living her in Nothing, Arizona"

Jessica was starting to get thirsty and she looked at the bar which was empty except for some dust filled bottles. "You look thirsty", said Mr. Bones. "I should be a better host, but you need to help me on this one."

"You first must empty your total mind young lady. Take in a few breaths and let them out.

Ok, do it a few more time until you are relax. If anything comes in that isn't welcome, you just tell that image to go away and leave you alone." Now say after me, "I am a holy entity of the wholeness and wellbeing of the universe, and that which is given is for my better good and highest consciousness"

"Now on the counter before you, I want you to visualize a mason jar full of sweet strawberry lemonade. Close you eyes and then slowly open them up."

Jessica did what Mr. Bones told her, and she opened up her eyes, and there was a ice filled old fashion glass mason jar full of her favorite strawberry lemonade. She smiled at Mr. Bones and took the Mason jar and put it against her dried lips and started to drink slowly and deeply. She now felt better after drinking the liquid and sat down on a stool next to the counter.

"Back in the old days, they use to talk about site 51 up in the deserts in Nevada. There were rumors of alien spacecrafts and biological testing. They said they brought the Roswell craft there and three dead aliens in which they dissected and then destroyed their remains. I remember stories about the Phoenix lights too and abductions of humans. You're not an alien disguised as a human are you?, Mr Bones look curiously at Jessica.

Jessica laughed and said that she was 100% human and without any alien DNA in her entire biology.

"That's good", said Mr. Bones. We don't like aliens or immigrants much here in Arizona. We would rather string one up alive, then to have their boots stand on our sacred ground for a minute longer then necessary. A large tarantula dropped from the ceiling onto Mr. Bones lap. "Here is one of my pets", as spoke he started to stroke the hairs on the back of its woolly spider's spine.

"I appreciate you hospitality, but how do I get out of here. I need to get back to my garden and take care of my plants and nature.

Mr. Bone gave a sad look at Jessica.

"You don't ever leave here, not until you grow old and turn into a pile of old bones just like me. This is your final resting place." Jessica had a look of total fear on her face. "Final resting place, Nothing Arizona is not my final resting place", she shouted at Mr. Bones.

"See I told you Mr. Woolly", now talking to his spider. "She must be a murder after all and full of anger and rage through and through out her being."

Mr Bones just kept on rocking back and forth petting his friend Wooly, the tarantula. "She is just like a plain outlaw hated by society."

Jessica had enough of this circular conversation that was definitely not going anywhere constructive. Jessica decided to investigate further and carefully stepped out of the back of the small building that they were in.

She opened the door, and it was like opening up a hot furnace. The air outside smelled hot, look hot, and felt hot. There was nothing there but dirt covered rocks and a rusted out frame of a jeep with all four wheels gone. The sound of thunder was echoing from the distance from an early evening monsoon storm that had been building up on the horizon.

Sweat started to bead on her forehead and her cloths started to feel damp with perspiration from the intense heat of the late afternoon.

She found a bench that had some shade from the tin overhang of the building. She said down and tried to gather her thoughts. She felt pain from deep inside and she started to cry. She took her shirt sleeve and whipped her eyes dry and then she felt a nose bleed coming.

First just one drop of blood and then another as blood started to poor out of her nose. As a child, she use to get stress nose bleeds all the time and always had to be aware of them and when one was about to come on.

She held her head back as blood started to drip down her throat, as she tried to stop the bleeding. The blood had dripped on to her blue jeans and shirt. The bleeding finally stopped. She looks back into the open area next to the junkyard jeep. There standing in the open wind was a white coyote with what looks like a bloody rag in its mouth.

The coyote then transformed into Apache medicine women. She was beautiful with black hair down her shoulders and was wearing a traditional wedding ceremony garment that was made out of buffalo skins. In here hands, she was holding a live beating heart. Jessica couldn't move her eyes off her.

The medicine women approached Jessica and sat down before her holding the beating heart to her. In her native voice, she started to chanting. Even though Jessica did't know the language, she somehow was able to understand the words that she was speaking to her.

"My sacred sister" "You have come here from a distance of a different dimension of time and inner space". "Your time is not my time, but we are the limbs of the same holy tree that feeds from the sacred spring of eternity." "I lift the sacred heart before you to drink its grace of love from its fountain."

"Do not be afraid, but be healed by its substance."

Jessica felt her own heart beating faster. She fell onto her knees in front of the medicine lady as if she was in a trance. The medicine lady lifted the heart above her and Jessica opened her mouth as blood started to pour into Jessica's mouth and into her whole entire being.

Jessica started to feel an inner heat that started to rise from her inner thighs and started to rise into her hips and lower stomach areas. From there, the heat raised up through her midriff and into her moist breasts. She started to feel the waves of heat going into her lungs and into her throat. It then went up into her face and around her head.

"Let the heat of the Kundilini embrace you and purify your mind, body, and soul.

The medicine women pulled Jessica into her embrace and started to kiss her on the softness of her neck. She kissed Jessica on her mouth, and she felt a sensation throughout her body. Jessica's body started to shake. It was as if her body and the medicine women's body had become one with each other and with the total universe of all time and all space.

Jessica fell into the medicine's women's embrace and the last words she heard was:

"We are of the sacred heart and therefore we are one, and forever sacred sisters"

Jessica's eye's opened up and saw her friend Maria holding her hand's in the Medical emergency ward. Maria was one of the original clones and works in the biosphere program with Jessica for several years together. Tears were falling from her face.

"Jessica you are alive! "I have been so worried for you." Jessica felt very tired and her vision was still a little bit blurry from waking up from her coma. "Those bastards did this to you when they were harvesting from you" "They told me that there was a good chance that you wouldn't make it back to the living because of all of the blood you have lost. I had faith in you and knew that you were going to awake again and be with us."

Jessica gave a weak smile to Maria and softly squeezed her hand. "I am happy to make their prediction wrong" Maria leaned over and kissed her on the forehead. "I have to go

now, but tomorrow is the weekend so I will see you first thing in the morning." The floor nurse came over and hookup some new medicine and fluids.

"You are a very luck girl." The nurse said to Jessica. "We all thought that you were never coming back and would have to send you down to genetics for your parts to be reprocessing and cloned.

"A very lucking girl" repeated Jessica to herself as she was trying to concentrate through the current pain that remained in her head and spine. She then remembered her inner journey to the Sea of Galilee with Peter, Andrew, and John, and her visit to Mr Bones and the Apache Medicine women in Nothing, Arizona.

What did it all mean? What was the true meaning of it all? Jessica had her first awakening, and now she wanted answers, and wanted them now. She looked at the side of her bed, and there were fiber optic flowers that changed different colors depending on the mood of the patient. "Pretty little bio feedback device", she said, as she started slowly to move her fingers and toes making sure that they were all accounted for and attached.

It was now getting late in the ward, and the nurse went through the ward one last time. The nurse gave Jessica, a sponge bath, and gave her a couple of sleeping pills to take. Jessica took the sleeping pills and sipped on a class of water. She thought she heard the sound of distance thunder, as she put her head on the pillow of her bed and fell fast asleep.

The words, "We all come from the sacred heart and therefore we are all one" kept on going through her mind. She fell asleep again but no longer in danger of her given life.

The days slowly pasted by and Maria stopped by often. After a couple of weeks, Jessica was strong enough to get back to her living quarters and to start her normal activities again in the bio-sphere 35 area.

**The Biosphere 35** 

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The Biospheres where impressive engineering structures, and without them there would be no food, no plants, and no life. Jessica worked in Biosphere 35. There were thousands of wind turbines outside of the spheres that gave power to the electrical grid that gave energy to the climate controls of the spheres. Biosphere 35 was one of the largest and tallest spheres that housed the Muir redwoods that were saved from the national forest near San Francisco. The forest itself was no longer in existence only those that were transferred to the sphere prior to the ecology cascade due to global warming.

Jessica was back in the forest and to the space that she loved. She smiled touching the red texture of the spiraling giant of the redwood. She didn't want to take anything for granted with her first day back in the biosphere. She tested the water flow of the sphere and the overall temperature of the atmosphere. Everything was in normal parameters and given standards. She took some soil samples and carefully put them into test tubes to do further testing back in the lab portion of the sphere.

Jessica was wearing the celestial scarf around her neck that was in the brown paper package found in her jumpsuit. It was purple with scared orange religious symbols. It was the same exact one that she had seen in her dream. The symbols sparkled as the sun hit against the silk cloth. She felt protected wearing it around her neck against her white jumpsuit.

She was now taking water samples of the waterfall with a small stream that ran through the entire biosphere and redwood forest. A beautiful eagle nest was located at the top of the fountain. The large birds launched themselves into midair and flew across the biosphere and back again.

Jessica caught two images from the corner of her eyes. She turned and saw two black tailed deer that were frozen like statures, and then started to walk slowing towards the stream to get a taste of the clear cold water. Jessica smiled and hasn't seen these two in quite awhile. Dragonflies and bees where also entertaining themselves as they flew by the two deers down by the waters edge.

It was lunchtime and Jessica picked up her samples and walked over to the common area where there were food dispensing machines. She put in her food voucher and several protein bars came out. In addition, a liquid package came out that had her liquid and vitamins for the day. The liquid fluid was not her favorite, but the doctor told her that she needed to take all of the nutritional supplements that she can.

For the rest of the afternoon, she planted new seedlings in the forest. She held each seedling in the palm of her hand and said a blessing and surround it with a field of loving energy before she planted it into the soil.

She heard as if someone was singing a sweet lullaby coming from one of the larger redwood trees that can a open knot in the middle its trunk. Suddenly butterflies were flying out of the darkness of the hole and started to swarm together. The butterflies fused together and created a young fairy girl with pointed ears and transparent wings from the back of her pink dress.

Jessica stared at the fairy and notice that she was blind, but she started to communicate telepathically to her inner voice. "Jessica", "My name is Arial and I came as a messenger to you. You must follow me at once for our two kingdoms are in desperate peril." We must leave at once to my kingdom. If you do not follow me, then we will both fade into the darkness that mankind had already destroyed."

Jessica couldn't believe what she was hearing or seeing. She was tired and fatigue from being in the hospital. The last thing that she wanted was to follow a blind fairy into the dark forbidden rabbit hole. There won't be a rabbit with a watch, nor a queen of hearts, nor a mad hatter having tea at the end of this trail she thought to herself. "Maybe, I am having a flash back from my childhood. It has been a very stressful week and might be just the side affects of all of the medication that she had taken", Jessica said to herself.

Jessica closed her eyes. "There are no such thing as fairies. There are no such thing as fairies. Over and over", Jessica said to herself.

She opened her eyes, and instead of a fairy princess, there was now a doorway that showed images of the future. She saw an image of an explosion by the wind turbines and the cracking of the biospheres. The toxic air had invaded into the control atmosphere like a deadly poison. All trees and plants were on fired and were dying. The image suddenly went blank.

A large lime colored Luna butterfly flew out and spoke to Jessica. "You can change the future, but you must walk through the door now with total love and respect to nature. If you hesitate at all then all is lost."

Jessica head started to hurt. Stay where I am and see a future turning into a reality of the biospheres exploding, or take a leap of faith into the unknown.

Jessica, took her celestial scarf and wrapped it around her head and neck tightly and took a leap of faith through the transparent door of a future yet to come. She felt as if she was falling through air. She then felt like she was in a tunnel filled with droplets of rain ready to be rebirth into a new creation. She felled into a pile of autumn leaves of maple, oak, and ash. She sat up and saw that she had landed into a land that was full of autumn color and smell of pumpkins and apple cinnamon spices.

Fall was her favorite time of year right before the first winter's snows. On a wooden swing next to an old Victorian house was the blind fairy princess rocking back and form humming an old lullaby,

"Ariel", "where am I", asked Jessica. Ariel smiled and said, "You are now in my world. The world of fairies and make believe." We should start out now before it gets too late.

Ariel jumped out from the swing, and reached out to hold Jessica's hand. "You will be safe with me, just believe in me as you do yourself." "Trust is easy if you are a blind fairy princess", Jessica thought to herself.

Ariel smiled at Jessica. I know that you have been through a lot, but we get stronger through our experiences. They started down a dirt road that stopped by a small lake that had the name of Stony Lake. The sunlight was making the water sparkly within the cloud reflections that were drifting by. They stopped and rested for a while. The white birch trees were turning yellow and you could feel the fall season had already started to turn towards the snows of winter before long. Jessica, I need to tell you something that is important. I have to go back to my kingdom and you to yours, but I have to show you something first and its deep within the black forest on the other side of the lake.

The afternoon sun had started to fade, so Ariel brushed the sand of Stony Lake from her skirt and started towards the black forest with Jessica following behind. She had picked up a wooden oak branch as a walking stick that had a sharp tip just in case if she and Ariel ran into any trouble. Trouble was starting to be her trade name. They had walked a mile or so to the edge of the black forest. There was a camp site that was already set up with skinned rabbits that were hanging on string poles. The rabbit's blood was being drained into small tiny wooden bowls. A small fire could be seen inside of a wooden hut that was made of tree limbs, mud, and grass within the campsite.

Out of the hut, Jessica could hear someone chanting. Jessica turn to Ariel to see if she heard the same noise, but Ariel had disappeared. Who's out there, spoke the person from the wooden mud hut. "My name is Jessica, I am a traveler and I have been told that I must travel to the middle of the black forest." "Not so fast", said the shadow from the hut" You first need to go through your initiation before the forest will accept you.

"Take off all your cloths off and toss them to me, they smell like they are full of darkness, and not of the true elements of nature." Jessica wasn't sure she should trust this shadow of a figure from the hut that she hadn't even met yet. "Come on, Come on" "We don't have all night."

Jessica thrust her walking stick on to the ground, and carefully unzipped her jump suit. "You must take all your cloths off for your initiation", said the lady of the shadows. Jessica took off the last piece of clothing. She crossed her arms and tried to warm herself as an early evening breeze touched her skins. Out of the hut, came the same Apache medicine woman that she met in the Arizona desert at Nothing. "We meet again", said the Apache medicine women. She smiled at her, as she went to one of the dead rabbits on the pole, and took a hunting knife and cut its head off. She poured the rest of the rabbits blood into one of the small bowls, and told Jessica to come and sit inside the mud hut.

The hut was small and just enough room for them to sit around the fire. The fire came to life as the medicine women tossed more wood twigs onto its amber flame. The medicine women took a jar and pour special herbs and flower petals into the bowl. She started to go into a trance and started to rock back and forth. A musical hum started to come from the fire and all of a sudden she took her hand and reached into her own chest and pulled out her beating heart. She then put the heart above the bowl before her and let her own blood drip into the sacred bowl that she was creating. She then put her heart back into her chest. Jessica was freaking out, she was dripping sweat and thought she was hallucinating the whole event.

The medicine women then went to Jessica and said that she needs to drink the whole bowl. Jessica lifted the bowl and heard a wolf howling to the full moon that was now just rising above the black forest. "Drink know Jessica, this is your destiny and you will be one of the guardians of nature." Jessica drank the potion and laid the empty bowl beside her. The medicine took her hunting knife and stared at Jessica. Be still know for I must now take a sample of your blood and unite it to the transformation natural element of fire. Give me you palm Jessica. As if she was hypnotized by the Apache medicine women, she offered her left hand to her. She made a small slash in Jessica's palm and let the blood fall on a stems of rosemary and lavender. While chanting, she circle the fire three times and gave the stems to the eternal fire before them. The fire glowed green and an orb came out of the fire.

The orb floated three feet above the fire. It then turned into an image of planet earth with the stars and moons circling it. The earth was beautiful, with blue oceans and green land masses with white clouds above. It then started to turn brown and red devil vines started choking it as if cancer had invaded it. The earth became duller and duller, until it was a blacken ball that exploded before their eyes like a black hole.

"What you have seen is the vision of our precious earth," unless we change our course. The earth is our home and we are to be its guardian and not its destroyers.

The medicine women told Jessica to lay down on some deer rugs, and she brushed her naked body with a burn wand of sage and sandalwood. Your destiny is in the middle of the dark forest. You are now ready, and right before her eyes she again transformed into a white coyote. The last thing spoken to her was to follow her.

Jessica but back on her jumpsuit and scarf on. She also draped on a deer skin around her for warmth. She took her walking stick and stepped out of the hut. The moon was now full and bright above the forest. The white coyote was eating one of the rabbits and told her to cook one so she would have strength for the mid-night journey. Jessica carefully cooked the last rabbit and ate quickly and also put a couple of apples that were in a basket into her jumpsuit to eat on the way into the forest.

Jessica was slightly out of breath as she was keeping pace with the white coyote in front of her. They were now passing the town's cemetery next to a row of apple trees. She stopped next to a grave stone and read its inscription: Killed by the Car.

Another grave stone said U.S. Calvary with the years worn away and unable to be read. She then saw a large statue of St. Patrick holding a Shepard's curved staff and a celtic cross. The statue was the only one in the small grave yard, and stood as if it was the protector of all of its departed spirits. There was clover growing besides the statues. She saw a four leave clover. She stopped and picked it up and put it in her pocket. I may need all the luck I can get for this journey of the night.

There was an actual iron gate that was the entrance into the black Forest. The coyote got up on its hind feet and pushed the gate open with it front paws. It gave a loud bark as if to remind Jessica that it was time to get going on their quest. As they came into the forest it became darker and darker as the tree canopy was blocking most of the moonlight from above. Jessica could hear the noises of the nocturnal creature of the forest. She felt like something was looking at her and saw pink eyes glowing from the trees around her. She could see that they were just bats that were hanging upside down that were trying to get some rest before their midnight flight.

They came to an open glen in the middle of the forest where there was an old tree stump in the middle. The coyote jumped onto the stump and tapped on its surface rings three time with its left paw. Like a hidden door, the stump open up and out came a being that Jessica had never seen before. It looks like a man, but it wasn't one.

It was more like a tree, but in human form.

Leaves were where skin should be and vines and tree limbs were growing directly from the individual face. "Good evening my dear friends. I am the green man of the black

forest. I have been its guardian since the becoming of time itself. I am the protector of the seasons and the lord of nature itself."

The green man sat down after making this introduction. "What brings you into the forest Medicine women and why did you bring me this women." A thin mist has now entered the glen like a blank to take cover in.

The coyote transformed back into the Medicine women. "Green man, we have came to seek your wisdom. The woman next to me is named Jessica, and she has come from the future. A future that is bleak and dark for all the beings of nature. Nature is dying and is being twisted upon itself by the greed and ill will of mankind.."

The green man looked sad for a moment. He then gave the Medicine women and Jessica, a gently smile.

"All things do they not have beginnings and endings, and then new beginnings. What you say is troubling to you for you are the ones that are being transformed, and therefore it is hard to see the beginning, from the middle, from the ending."

"Like you can't see the forest from the trees" said Jessica. This made the green man laugh. "That is truly a very old saying but one that has been tested by time itself."

"Jessica, go to that stream over there, and you will find a dead dragon fly" "please pick it up and bring it to me", said the green man. Jessica walked over to the stream, and there was a yellow and green dragon fly that was laying dead between two branches as water was flowing underneath. Jessica picked up the dragon fly in the cup of her hands and walked over to the Green man. The green man body was almost transparent and seemed to have a shimmer to his leaves that were attached like skin to its body.

"Place the dragon fly into my hands." The Green man held the dead dragonfly and suddenly sparks started to flow through its body. The Green man softly blew like a kiss on to the wings of the dragon fly and it immediately turn back to life. It lifted into the air and circled around the head of the green man as if to personally thank him for the gift of life again.

"You see my child, what was dead is now alive." "The spark of the divine is in all of us and in nature itself." Jessica, started to cry. She feel into her knees and the Medicine women came to her and helped her back up to her feet while comforting her.

"Why are you crying and so sad?

"I come from a world that is destroying itself, its people, and the nature itself. There is no longer respect for nature or the inner divine." Exploitation of our treasure resources for greed and self interest"

The green man gave a serious concern eye on Jessica.

"Suffering is like heat to the skin. You take only so much of it, and then you either turn off the heat or pull your hand away from the burning flame."

"You must remember that your physical nature may suffer, grow old, and die, but your true nature of your true eternal flame will never fade and never dim. It will be eternal as your soul is and it will evolve into the most beautiful element of nature itself, and as grand as any star in the heavenly skies above".

Jessica look up and saw the milky way with its blanket of stars shinning brightly. She wiped her tears away.

"I am glad that you are feeling better. I have a present for you Jessica, and you must remember to keep it and protect it with your whole being and heart."

"Close your eyes and reach your hands out." Jessica felt something dropped into her hands. She opened her eyes and saw a small tiny acorn that started to changing color of the rainbow. "What is this that you have given me, Green man"

"It is the force of creation itself. Keep it guarded it at all times. There are people and lower energy beings, who would love to get their hands on this and use it not for creation but for their own agenda and the total destruction of the world you live in".

Jessica felt an inner tension again in her stomach. "Don't worry so much", said the Green man.

"When the time come you will know what to do, there is a path for each and everyone of us isn't there. Some paths are more challenging then others, but all are worth its own journey and pleasures."

"As for me my dear child and friend, it is also my time to say goodbye and good journey for you as you journey back home."

"I have so many more questions to ask you green man", but the green man was already started to transform into brilliant autumn colors. The pink, red, gold, and yellows all vibrated with color within and around him. He was then gone. Gone into the autumn colors themselves unlike a morning frosted starting to sparkle and then fade in a morning Irish glen.

Joseph was his name. Joseph had many scars left from the chemical biological wars. His scars were more then skin deep. and touched the very marrow of his bones and being.

He worked quietly over his work table of various pieces of drones that were sent to him for repair. In his spare time, he collected and repaired pocket watches and had several in various stages on his workbench next to him.

Even simple pocket watches were illegal in the industrial city, but pocket watches to Joseph was what life was to the average person. Each tiny gear was different, but when place and put back together in their proper place, they worked as one glorious time piece function and as if he was creating time himself. The authorities didn't want the people to own their own time. Time was not theirs but was for the greater good of the industry.

His shift was almost up. He rubbed the chemical scar on his forehead for the burning sensation came and went. Joseph was at the age where it no longer matter to him on what the final outcome of each day was and what the final count was in the game. There was no longer any winning or losing, just being. He knew that this state of being wasn't a healthy one in the Industrial City complex where everything was measured and counted for and results had to be met or else.

"Someone had to keep the dammed droids working",he said to himself. The droids needed more and more maintenance over time. Spare parts have been harder to find. Joseph occasionally had to deal with the black market to fulfill his productivity measure and to meet the given repair schedule. Humanity never changes, if there is a need to be filled, than the market will open and find a way to meet demand. Regardless, if the market was a legal one or one that is under the radar.

It seemed to him that more repressive the government is, the more inhumane the culture becomes. It seemed to him that one of the important gears was missing from this society, but you can't mess with city hall. City hall has all the power and he was just a simple worker and even an honored cripple from the wars.

Joseph picked up one of the pocket watches that was recently give to him by one of the miners to fix. He carefully picked one of the tools and opened the silver metal backing. What he was expecting to find was to see the inlay of beautiful tiny silver gears. What Joseph found was a simple piece of paper carefully folded. He took his tiny tool, and careful took the note from the case of the watch. Joseph place the note under his magnifying glass.

The message was in a language that only few individuals knew.

It was Native American. Joseph came from the Hopi tribe, but knew several other different tongues, Apache, Navaho, and Cheyenne.

The note said. Our time has come, and our tribes must be reborn. Our birth culture can no longer be oppressed, by machine, or technology. Our ancestry way is not their way. We must transform and recreate our own destiny. Mother earth is calling us to act now. Meet us at the mining grid portal under South Mountain on the night of the new moon.

"Night of the new moon is this night", Joseph said to himself.

Joseph was no rebel, and at his advance age he was no threat to anyone. What was this meeting about? The authorities already caught another traitor last night and executed him on the evening news. He was just a tired old man and this fight was not his to fight.

"Conflict is never the solution", Joseph thought to himself, as the scar on his forehead started to burn into his thoughts again.

Joseph packed up his things to go back to the living quarters. He slowly made his way to the Tram station. He got in and the first stop was the mining facility at South Mountain.

The tram doors open. At first he hesitated, and then he got up and walked out on to the platform of South Mountain. Why couldn't he leave well enough alone, he didn't need any more drama in his life.

Joseph took off his respirator unit, and peered into the dusty mining portal. No one was there but he could see the footprints of the miners that have left their mark behind. He took his pocket watch out and it was a little past nine. He knew that he could never be a part of the rebel movement, but he wanted to meet the man who put the note into the pocket watch. He wanted answers.

He started down the mining shaft, when two large pit bulls came out of the shadows. He never liked dogs much, and he wasn't a fan of the pit bull breed either. "What's wrong with you Joseph?" "Don't have any fight left in your old bones any longer" Two large men were smiling at Joseph while holding the pit bulls back on chains. Foam was coming out of the pit bull's mouths, and one of the men said, "They look hungry, don't they".

"Don't you two worry yourselves about little old me. I have plenty of fight left in me"

"We been waiting for you and our boss doesn't like to be kept waiting" One of the larger man came over to Joseph, and made sure Joseph didn't have any concealed weapons. "He's clean", said the man. They told Joseph to follow them and not to say or make a given sound.

The shaft they were walking down became smaller and smaller. The shaft then shifted to the right. Instead of going to the right, there was a coal wagon in which they push to the side. They then crawled through a narrow opening to their left. Joseph wasn't use to this type of exercise and his shirt was soon soaked with sweat and his breaths became short.

"Don't die on us, old man" said the man in front of Joseph leading the way. Soon the shaft opened up into a small room that had burning lanterns lit that made the walls sparkle from the reflections on the iron ore.

There was a group of twelve men that were looking over detail diagrams on a table. One man was tall and he was doing most of the talking. Joseph knew that this must be the leader of the group. The pit bulls must also know the leader as they went to him and he reached into his pocket and gave them both a strip of raw meat to chew. The pit bulls took the meat and went to their separate corners of the room to finish eating.

"Please take a seat, Joseph", the leader said to Joseph as he pulled one of the chairs from out from under the table. "How are you, and how are things going in Lab 1 these days".

Joseph responded, "that everything is going as well as to be expected." "That may be true, but what can we expect these days", responded the leader. "I know of your valor in the bio chemical wars. Some say you are even a hero"

Joseph smiled, "You seem to know much more about me, then I of you" "I am no hero sir, but was just put in an awful position where I had to perform my duty in a time of war" "In the mist of war, duty, ethics, morality are all blended together. Most true behavior that is measured in war time is simple survival"

The leader came over to Joseph and put his hand on his shoulder. "I know how you feel Joseph, I too am a warrior, and warriors do what they have to do".

"It is time for action Joseph", said the leader. Our groups are neo-techs and we shall bring down all the drones and take control of the industrial city and all the biospheres. Once we have control of the biospheres, then they will have to listen to our demands. No more dehumanizing of our culture and violating our sacred lands or people.

We must stand up and fight or be forever under their repressive and evil hands. "You are a man of the earth Joseph." I can tell it from your eyes and the energy of your inner being.

Joseph smiled at the leader, and tossed him his pocket watch that had the note in it. "Your watch needed much cleaning, but it is a precious artifact if nothing less".

"What can I do?" "I am too old and now towards the end of my years on this plant.

"Have I not already sacrificed too much, seen too much, and gave too much to what was called for the greater good. I have heard of your neo-tech group, and the news have called your traitors and have shown the execution of your people on the nightly news."

The man next to the leader whispered something into his ear. The leader looked concern and then raised his hand and signaled two of the man to go with the man.

"Joseph, I truly understand stand your given position, but my people are becoming more and more impatient. You are needed for our plan to be fulfilled. We are not the enemy of the state. We are the fulfillment of our ancient prophecy that the earth spirit will one day reclaim its destiny under the stars and the old wisdom of the moon."

The three men came back and gave the leader a purple sack. The leader then pours the content of the bag onto the table. Joseph immediately knew what he was looking at. The electronic cubes sparkled against the paper diagrams on the table making rainbow reflections. "You know what these are Joseph." Joseph nodded his head.

"They are data interface cubes that once attached to a droid, it will shut down its defenses and power supply, and will eventually have the droid imploded upon itself. Joseph, we are not asking you to kill anyone or even believe entirely in our cause or final goals. I

know to know how it feels to be a slave of technology of production. This is our moment Joseph, to change the course of human history. We need you to take the cubes and when the security droids come in for their monthly maintenance put a cube next to each of their power supply. How easy or simple can that be?"

"Joseph, you know what technology and harvesting has done to our sons and daughters. We can not let our future generations be a captive to these destructive practices any longer. We must take action now, not tomorrow or next month."

"Go now in Peace Joseph. My man will show you the way out of the cave. Time is short, and you soon must make the most important decisions of your life. Are you with us or against us? It is my highest hope that you will decide to join our goal of saving humanity and nature itself my friend."

Joseph knew the meeting had ended. He slowly stood up and shook the leader's hand. "I have to think this over", said Joseph to the leader. "That is all I can ask for Joseph", replied the leader. "We will be in touch with you shortly. Joseph, take care of yourself and may our steps be walking on the sacred path of live together."



Maria was alive or was she. She is what some folks would call the walking dead. She came from the first wave of clone babies to repopulate the earth. But like anything new, mistakes were made, and she had an artificial bionic arm and hand. Occasionally, when she was under a lot of stress, she felt pain from her artificial limb.

This was strange because she was born without the limb itself. Phantom pain, they call it, but for her pain was just pain.

She looked at the clock by the small table in her apartment. It was past nine and Joseph has yet to arrive home. Joseph was Maria's caretaker. Each clone was given a caretaker who nurtures and takes care of the clone, not unlike a real parent.

First Jessica didn't meet Maria at the tram as she always has done after her shift, and now Joseph is missing. At ten o'clock, all individuals have to do a security check-in, and if a person doesn't check in then security drones would be issues to find out what the reason was that they were missing. Everyone needs to be productive and therefore sleep correctly for the maximum output the next day. Sleep, work, Sleep, work, It just doesn't get better than that.

"Jessica and now Joseph, where are they?" "This is not good," Maria said over and over again. Maria heard a security drone going down her corridor. They are such a nuisance, and what do they really add to society, except to monitor and control productivity. I know that Joseph's job and livelihood depends on keeping them operational, but even he had told me that they are not worth their weight in metal ore.

It was unexpected and came from the very depths of the core of the planet. The floor that she was standing on started to shake. "My God", it's another earthquake. The earthquake tremor was so strong that she fell to the floor and bruised her left knee. Dust came falling from the ceiling and sirens started wailing throughout the complex. Not only are my best two best friends are missing, but now the world itself is starting to tear itself apart.

Joseph barely came out of the mining staff and put on his respirator unit on, as the earth below his feet started to shake violently. He has experience earthquakes before, so he brace himself and he knew if he fell then the results would be a broken hip. It would not

be a very good ending to this evening that already had enough twist and turns for one day of adventure.

"Mother earth is even rebelling tonight", Joseph said to himself.

There were ropes hanging on the side of the wall next to the cave opening. He was able to grip one of them and held on, until the tremors pass by.

Joseph took his pocket watch out and it was twenty minutes to ten. He needs to get back to his apartment complex by ten or else his missing will be reported to the authority. He ran to the tram station. The very last tram was starting to pullout as he got to the platform. The door of the last car was still open due to a malfunction due to the earthquake. Joseph leaped into the moving car and landed hard. He quickly sat down on to one of the empty seats. Being late on the evening train had its advantages for it was mostly empty. He looked at his knee that he hit on the metal door, and it was started to well. "Another bruise to deal with in the morning", it doesn't get any better then this."

The silence trip of the tram gave Joseph time to think. It's been a day, and a half. Maria must be worried to death on where I have been, but I can't tell her or bring her into the situation or she will be a target herself. His job is to protect her at all cost, and not to bring more violence, more repression into her life.

Her body shook and her whole body trembled. Jessica could smell the redwoods of the Muir forest in biosphere 35. The deep trance that overcame her was broken by the earthquake. She felt something in her folded hands. She opened up her hands and there was the rainbow acorn that seems to sparkle and have strings of lights coming from its core.

She carefully wrapped it in her celestial scarf and put it into her jumpsuit pocket. The bio-sphere was going through its nightly maintenance and she knew that mandatory lock down was in progress. She knew that there was major damage due to the earthquake, but she had no time to investigate. She needed to get back to her apartment before the mandatory lock down. Jessica started to run toward the entrance and keyed in her authorization number.

The door hissed open, and she walked quickly towards the tram. She could see the last tram coming into the station.

She took off her respirator as she entered the tram, She saw Joseph in the corner talking to himself. This would be odd if it wasn't such a strange day to begin with.

She knew Joseph through Maria. Joseph was a person that kept to himself for the most part, Jessica decided not to approach him for now, but give him the space that he seems to need at the moment to workout whatever issues were pressing on his mind.

Joseph nodded to Jessica as she had entered the tram. Joseph thought the same of Jessica that it was unusual for Jessica to be on the tram so late at night. His mind still wandered back to the mine shaft where the resistance told him that he needed to be with them or not. He thought of himself as a victim just like everyone else.

They were just droids pieces of metal technology, so why not destroy them and start a new society that was fair with equality, and to be free of repression from this society.

The unseen energy and karma of the cabin in the tram was the very nature of the polarity of the balance of nature. The unique conflict of creation and destruction. Life and death, it as if the two individual was connected to the divine nature itself. Joseph has made his decision and Jessica had already made her. She felt the acorn pulsate under the fabric of her jumpsuit. It was creating a small humming sound like musical notes of a tiny small orchestra.

The tram pulled into the station, and both Joseph and Jessica got out. Being the last stop of the night, there was a security drone that was doing the last sweep over the platform.

Citizens you will be violating your protocol shortly, and will be punish. Please move on immediately to your living quarters and check in for tracking.

Joseph couldn't help himself and rolled his eyes and made a funny face to the drone. It made Jessica laugh. "It's like a drone has never seen humans late before. "Don't antagonize. the drone", Jessica said to Joseph as they both put on their respirator units on.

"Say hi to Maria for Me". Joseph nodded, they separated from the platform and entered back separately into the inner depths of the night.

The door open, and Joseph walked into the quarters. "Where have you been, Joseph, I have been worried sick about you" "They had me working late on some security drones", Joseph lied to Maria. It wasn't the first time that he had, and especially tonight he didn't want to give her any additional concerns. "I made you some soup" "Thanks", said Joseph as he said down and starting eating. "I saw Jessica tonight on the Tram", she told me to say hi to her.

"I was concern about her tonight also". The sudden earthquake and everything else that has been going on lately. "I know Maria, but everything is going to be alright. It's late and we have to get up early again tomorrow morning". Maria gave Joseph a kiss on the forehead, and took the empty soup bowl from the table for him.

Jessica set at the edge of her bed. There was numbness throughout her body and limbs. She took the simmering rainbow acorn out of her jumpsuit pocket and unfolded the celestial scarf that was wrapped around it. It starting a sweet humming noise again and them it opened up and a small humming bird flew out. It was green with a ruby red throat. It flew in front of Jessica face and made Jessica smile.

The humming bird then flew to the side of her head and put its beak into Jessica ear. It tickled and made Jessica laugh. It then started to speak to Jessica.

"Jessica, you have been brave so far and much will be asked of you going forward. The man that you were talking to on the train is in trouble and will be making a wrong decision. You have to talk to him and make him change his mind. One person can make a difference, and one action can save or destroy the world."

The humming bird then withdrew it's beak out of Jessica ear. Jessica was amazed by what just happened. The humming bird landed on the left hand of Jessica, and the acorn opened again and the humming bird disappeared inside.

"Joseph" is in trouble said Jessica. I have to talk to him and see what is going on. He must be keeping this from Maria. There was a loose board next to Jessica's bed. She knew it would be a safe place to hide the celestial scarf and the rainbow acorn. She took off her jump suit and took a quick sonic shower. She then went straight to bed and pulled the covers around her like a caterpillar's cocoon.

"What an adventure I had today, and there will be plenty of clean up from the Earthquake tomorrow. I must also talk to Maria first thing tomorrow at the biosphere."

The night passed by and Jessica was in a deep sleep. She woke up in the morning and her whole body ached. She boiled some water and put some peppermint and mint herbs that she grew at the biosphere. She stared out her window through the dark colored stained glass and saw that a violent sand storm was going through her area. She wondered to herself if blue skies and white puffy clouds would ever return to earth. She remembered an old tune from long ago. "Blue skies looking at me, nothing but blue skies do I see."

There was a loud knock at the door. She opened the door and there was a patrol drone, asking for a formal statement of why she was out so late this night night. She made up a story that she had to perform an emergency repair of an irrigation pipe that was leaking at the biosphere that was cause by the earthquake. The repair had made her late for the tram and she had to then wait for the last one of the night.

The patrol drone told her that this was her first warning, and that she need to be more aware of her productivity and time management next time. Jessica smiled and nodded as always as if she was talking to an actual human being, understanding that the drone was evaluating even the very facial expressions that she was showing.

The drone seemed to be satisfied and said thank you for the information citizen, now get some sleep so you will be at maximum productivity tomorrow. The drone then hovered a second longer loading into its data base its next assignment for the night. Jessica slam shut the door behind it while saying, "Stupid Stupid Drone"

There was another loud knock on the door. "What now, she shouted?" "I am going to have a nervous breakdown this morning", said Jessica. I can't seem to even have a few minutes to collect my thoughts. Jessica was ready for a fight this time, and threw open the door. Maria stood there with a very worried look of concern on her face.

"Are you all right Jessica", you made me concern when you didn't show up at the tram on time after work yesterday.

"Maria, come on in." "I am fine just had to fix some irrigation pipes that were leaking. I saw Joseph last night in the tram. He look preoccupied? He told me that he had to fix an important security drone last night and was running late. Talking about running late, we better get going or we will be late for our morning shift at the biosphere."

They left together and put on their respirators on as they headed for the biosphere. It seems that days are just starting to blend together. The working for the sake of survival had started to have an affect on both of them. Maria was sitting next to Jessica on the tram and was staring at her bionic hand.

She felt another of her phantom pain that gave her a small migraine. She been getting them more and more frequent, and this morning was no different.

"Jessica, do you think anything is going to change"

"I feel like we work sleep, work sleep, and go frantic like small chickens after small kernels of corn in a fenced in back farm yard. The mean farmer than comes, and takes all of our eggs away."

"Maria, Everything is going to be ok. I know exactly how you feel and you are always looking behind you for the unknown mountain lion or coyote to jump over the fence and tear you apart. Ending it all, one big attack and all."

I heard that the drone builders are creating pharmaceutical drones that will measure your behavior and will administer you mind altering enhancement drugs. Not only are they

going to monitor our very being constantly, but now they are going to be controlling it through behavioral drugs.

Joseph was telling me something about it the other day. The new drug is suppose to be very addictive and he said that he has been told that people's personalities are going to start changing because of them. We will be nothing less than zombies and slave girls. Maria made a monster zombie facial impression and griped Jessica's leg. Jessica jumped in her seat, and they both started to laugh.

A monitor in the tram then came on. "Attention citizens. Attention citizens. We have been informed that there will be after shocks throughout today. Please have your respirators with you at all time, and seek coverage if necessary. Have a very wonderful and productive day."

The tram stopped at the biospheres station. Jessica and Maria stood up together like identical twins. Jessica felt stiffness in her lower back and started to wonder if all of the drama of the past week is starting to catch up with her.

"I hope today will just be a normal day. No surprises and no drama, just a normal simple day. But what is a normal day in hell, she thought to herself."

Once in the biosphere, Jessica notice all the repair work agenda items that needed to be done right away from the earthquake the night before. Several repair drones were already flying high above her head inspecting the integrity of the dome and doing welding repairs to the given structure. Jessica checked on the air pressure of the biosphere, and it was at 98.9 percent so there were still some small leaks that still need to get repaired this morning.

She then saw a small family of quail running out of bushes in front of her. They seemed like they were all in a hurry and in some type of danger. Just like baby chickens running away from the foxes. It reminded her of the conversation that she just had with Maria on the Tram. "Protect, your hen house, Mother Quail"

## **The Gnome**

Jessica went to a small garden area where tomatoes were growing. From the corner of her eye she saw a shadow that moved from under the plants. She then saw the red hat first, and then little blue shoes of a little old man with a white beard. He was just sitting there eating a tomato with the juices falling on to his beard and then unto the ground. This little old man had on a yellow jacket and green pants. A truly colorful little creature Jessica thought to herself.

The Gnome then saw Jessica and jumped to his feet and was about to leap into hiding in the under brush. Jessica spoke to him. "Who are you?"

The gnome with a sparkle in his eye responded back with a rhyme. "I am not you" and "I am not them" "So I am the sound of the fiddle, the laughter of the brook, and the dance of a maiden in the early morning sunshine" He then started to do a small Celtic jig as a small red and black spotted lady bug stopped to admire the dance of the gnome.

The jig stopped and the lady bug flew away with a silent approval. The gnome then looked at Jessica and Jessica looked at the funny little gnome. The gnome then all of a sudden started to cry and tears were falling like marbles making a small puddle by it's side. "Don't cry little gnome, that dance was wonderful and I have never seen a more splendid creature as you before" "Oh you are just saying that to make me feel better."

The gnome then pulled out a large pink handkerchief and wiped his eyes and blew his tiny little red nose.

"Do you have a name", said Jessica. "Gnomes don't have names silly, we are just little people who live in small holes of the redwoods in the Muir woods. We got brought here when the trees were moved. We normally don't allow people to see us and normally we are seen as a small shadow of a breeze that just happen to touched that bush or that plant from the corner of your eye.

"In that case" why did you allow me to see you. The gnome smiled and winked at her. "You need my help and Ariel came to me and told me about you." "You know Ariel", said Jessica. "Why off course, all the Gnomes in the woods know Ariel. She comes and helps us and makes our clothing for us."

"Don't you think she has a keen eye for fashion", as the little gnome did a small little cat walk and took a fashion spin around just like an actual model. Jessica couldn't hold back her laughter and started to laugh, and this made the little gnome laugh too. They both started to roll on the ground.

"I have a small gift for you", said the gnome and pulled a daisy with rainbow petals out of his red hat and gave it to Jessica. Jessica took it and put it in her hair. Why thank you little gnome. The gnome then did a small little jig and took a small bow. He was then gone in a flash back to the Muir woods.

"That was a strange encounter said Jessica" A group of gnomes living in the woods. I always had a feeling that something or someone was always watching me when I was in the forest. I wonder why Ariel told him to contact me. Jessica took the flower from her hair and smelled it perfume. It had a smell that was similar to a blending of jasmine and strawberries.

Jessica continued to have her thoughts go back to her encounter with the tiny gnome as she continue her work chores by the edge of a pond that held rainbow trout. The pond fed the supply water to the Muir woods. By the edge of the pond were tall cat tails and some of them were already turning to seed. The seeds were like tiny parachutes that floated through the air and then making small landings upon the water. Next to the cat tails floating on the water were pink and white water lilies.

She saw an item that was white and was floating next to the cat tails. She first thought it was a medical trash specimen bag that they use to collect items in.

As she moved closer, she notice that it moved and that it was one of the beautiful white swans that inhabited the pond. The swans makes its nests by the ponds edge every spring next to a small gathering of elm trees.

The beautiful swan was very still and Jessica notice that the wing was at an unusually angle and she gasp when she saw blood coming from its beak. So much for this swan being in a Christmas post card this year, a piece of the biosphere during the earth quake must have falling and struck the poor animal.

Jessica went to get an animal medical kit and took some wading boots from the closes security storage unit. She took one of the kits after she put on the wading boots and went quickly back to the pond's edge. But it was too late, the swan was floating upside down on the top of the water.

Jessica was surprised when she felt a hand on her shoulder. She turned around and there standing behind her was a celestial angel. She had beautiful blue eyes and wings of gold and silver.

"May I have the flower that the tiny gnome just gave you." Jessica said that it would be her pleasure for she had never seen a more beautiful creature then this angel before her.

The Angel went and walked on top of the water to where the dead swan was floating. She then reached down and picked up the lifeless body. She held the swan in its arms and touch the top of its head with the flower from the gnome.

The Angel's hands started to sparkle and the swans limp body came back to life. Both the Angels and the swans bodies were now sparkling together as one creating beautiful fireworks that exploded together into billions of tiny stars that faded into the pond. The swan and the Angel had both disappeared back into the depths of inner creation itself.

Jessica waded into the pond to the area that the Angel and the swan were just standing. There wasn't anything left in the water except for single white wing swan feather floating

on top of the water. Jessica picked up the feather and it started to sparkle around its edges. She put the feather in her pocket.

Jessica couldn't understand all of the activities that were occurring in the biosphere that morning: The special meeting of an angel, a funny gnomes and the plain cleaning up from the earthquake.

There was even more activity in the mining area of the industrial complex. Men and drones have been working all night trying to get miners that were hurt and trapped in the deeper part of the mine out as soon as possible. They had been trapped after the earthquake had hit.

Unbeknown to the drones, the group of men that they were trying to get to were the injured miner of which one of them was the rebel leader that had just been planning to destroy all drones and the whole system just a few short hours before.

The rebel leader was one of the most injured and was trapped when the ceiling caved in by the force of the earthquake. His whole half of his body was pinned down and he had lost total feeling in both of his legs. The rebel leader had been starting to fall in and out of consciousness. The feeling of pain was not new to him, but his body was starting to go into deep physical shock. He looked at his legs and he could see pieces of bone coming out of the skin.

He and a few of his men were still making their way out of the mine shaft after their meeting with Joseph and were going over current rebel strategies in their fight against the drone when the earthquake hit. They didn't have any time to react as hugh boulders from the cave's ceiling caved in upon them.

The trapped miners had heard noises coming close to them and they made sounds as loud as they could making sure that the folks that were trying to reach them knew where their location was. The first person that reached the miners was not a person at all, but was a medical drone. "I can't believe it, A Fu---ing drone", was the last word from the rebels leader's mouth as he pasted out.

The drones were fast to calculate the situation at the emergency site, and what type of responses were needed. The drones used their thermal imaging to see where the miners where and what needed to be done. As the medical drone got ready to help with the injured, the technical drone hovered over the wreckage, a device came out of its portals, and it was a laser. A green beam was activated and it started to split the huge boulders into small pieces within seconds.

A portable MRI/Ultra sound platform came out of the Medical drone. The Medical drone made several passes above the body of the leader.

After the analysis of the data was completed, the drone went into immediate surgical action. The leader's legs had to be amputated immediately to save his life. The leaders

blood pressure continued to drop into the lower numbers. Another laser came out of the drone and this time instead of cutting boulders, it started to cut skin and bone. The leg was taken three inches above the knee. It then bandaged up the rebel's wound as a medical transport had already moved in to lift the injured patient, and transport him to the trauma station that was created right out side of the cave.

All this time, the leader was dreaming that he was in a race, and was running and running down a dirt road. He saw the finish line and a line of people where clapping and smiling at him. As he crossed the finishing line, he looked down and his two legs were gone, and instead he had stainless steel biotech legs that had microchips that were flashing a pale green light.

As the medical transport came out of the cave, the leader came to consciousness. There was a film crew that had his image being scan to all the media screens in the Industrial city. Underneath his image was the caption that kept moving across. Miner trapped in mine saved by drones. A microphone was shoved into his face. "If you step one move foot closer, I'm going to take that microphone and make you a brand new a\*\*\*\*\*\*." He then felt a jab on his side and a medical drone had injected a combination of morphine and pain killers into his body.

Jessica was looking at one of the large media screens seeing the miner come out of the cave. I feel so sorry for that man who just lost both of his legs. Jessica was waiting for Maria to see if she wanted to take a lunch break together. Maria came around the path and saw Jessica. "Ready of Lunch", and Maria nodded. "Lets go to the pond"

They both sat next to the water's edge in a white sandy area sharing their monthly rations of nuts and berries. They both threw some into the pond to feed the rainbow trout.

"So how's your day going and did you see the miners that were saved by the drones". Jessica hesitated for a second and didn't know if she should talk about her two encounters, one with the gnome and one with the Angel.

"Its been fine, but a lot of clean up because of the quake last night. "I haven't seen so many drones in my entire life". "They must have deployed the entire lot of them". "Joseph is going to have a lot of work this week keeping up with the busy repair and maintenance of them; normally they have a rotation so they can keep them fully operational at all time.

"I am sure they will be fully deployed, until all of our systems are repaired and fully operational again" said Jessica.

"Hey Jessica", "Do you know what they are inventing now? Joseph just told me. "Nope, but I am sure Maria that you are going to tell me".

They are creating pleasure drones that will give all women the most exciting sexual experience in their entire lives. These drones will analysis the specific parts of your female bodies and then make the proper adjustments to enable you to have the maximum experience.

Jessica looked at Mary and started to laugh. "I am serious", said Maria. Jessica started to laugh again and started to pick up the leftovers from their lunch. "It's getting late and we don't want to be penalized for being late from lunch" They finished picking up their person items and started back to their work stations to finish the rest of their day.

Since his youth, he aways wanted to be an explorer. Not just any explorer but an astronaut. One who would travel the cosmos circled by blackness and having just the guiding light of the heavenly stars before him to travel by. He was now heading back from earth from Mars. He had lost contact with the earth relay station over a two years ago. Mission protocol is to stop all scientific activity and to return home if the communication link is malfunctioning or there has been no communication from earth.

He has been in his deep sleep chamber for over a year and was awaken when a deep space sensor on the spaceship had picked up an astroid that was heading towards his spacecraft path back to Earth. There was a total of two crewman and the other individual was still in deep sleep. The computer only awoke one person from deep sleep to save overall useable resources on the important trip back home to Earth.

The commander slid into the control module of the spacecraft and turn on screens to see what was being picked up and tracked on radar. The astroid was still to far away to get a good visual image of it. What ever it is, it looks large and coming directly into their path.

"Good day Commander", said the voice through the computer intercom. "Good day to you", said the commander. "Next time don't wake me up from deep sleep until we are close enough to see an actual visual of what is actually occurring within our mission." "Sorry, Commander", "I will make a note of it in the ship's log and update security protocols."

He made the correction to the navigational system to make sure that the spacecraft would not get to close to this unknown object's path that was coming straight towards them, but still close enough to see what it actually was.

He opened up the deflection shutters to the main observation windows. He could see some distant stars but most everything was pure darkness. A few of the crafts tracking lights were reflecting off the multiple solar panels of the craft.

"We humans are still just a bunch of lonely sailors", he said to himself.

"We have our spacecrafts like the sailing ships of old are still guided by the North Star. I wonder how Earth has changed. It has been frustrating not have received any recent messages from Earth or Mission command at all.

He doubled checked his communication log and still no messages from earth. The last message was that everything was fine and not to worry. Its not what you know that has you worry while on a mission, but what you don't know or have no control over.

He has been in the military way too long to know that home base only feeds you information that they wanted you to know about and not what you really should know about for the mission. He knew that his mission to Mars was to conduct the necessary surveys to enable the global economic industry to start exploiting the Mar's planet of its rich resources. He knew that he was the most expendable part of the mission. They had another team already trained and set to go if for some reason they would not be able to complete the mission.

He got out of the commander chair and went to the cafeteria unit. He felt dehydrated since waking up from deep sleep, so he grabbed a couple of orange juice fortified pouches to drink. He looked at the day on his watch. It was March 17th, St. Patricks day. "May the luck of the Irish be with you". It's good to be Irish today and maybe some luck will actually come my way after all.

Suddenly, all the alarms went off at once is the spacecraft. "So much for my Irish roots" He went to the nearest command computer interface screen. It had touch screen control. A grid appeared on the screen showing that there was a small oxygen leak in the storage unit area near the back of the spacecraft.

It looks minor enough, but just to be on the safe side, he put on his exterior space suit. He started his way back into the storage area. The alert stated that it was in area AB of the storage container unit.

There were large containers in the storage unit that had special material samples from the Mar's survey. Everything seems normal. He then saw movement from the corner of his eye, or what seems to be just a shadow from his light. He then saw what looked to be a small fracture on the inner hull. He took out his soldering tool and pour liquid metal into the small fracture. The metal sealed the fracture and the alarm went away. "Peace and quite again, this bloody tin can better stay together until we make it safely home."

I better check the sleeping unit chamber of my partner, who was in deep sleeps still. He walked to the sleeping unit and there she was still in her unit safe and sound. Her hair is cut by a small robotic unit inside the chamber. While he was looking at her, the image of snow white came to his mind. "We just need the twelve dwarfs to appear, and we could all be set for a happy ending back on good old mother Earth."

He crawled back to the command unit of the craft. He put in an old western movie with John Wayne. Now this big guy knew how to take care of a situation, and no one, I mean no one was going to get in the way of the Duke. The commander had a deep love for the wild west. It was one of the last frontiers that humans explored on Earth. He saw about a third of the Western movie that was filmed just outside of Tucson, and then faded into a deep sleep. The commander slept peacefully for hours and then was awaken by the alarms, and lights were flashing on the command control pads in front of him.

The ship was now coming up to the astroid, but it wasn't an astroid at all. "All my God," he said to himself. He just saw what looked like a human skeleton floating in front of his spacecraft. He look at his monitor to get a better look. The large item that the computer sensors had picked up were large pieces of what once was the International Space Station that had once been in a secure orbit that circled around earth, but now was floating in space.

The pieces look like there had been some type of impact explosion that occurred to the station itself. He made sure that the images where being recorded by the spacecraft's exterior cameras. The craft was now moving past of what was left of the international space station. We must still be at least a week away from earth's orbit.

How did the space station exploded?, and how did it's remaining pieces get into deep space as far as it did?

All different scenarios was now running thorough the commander's very logical mind. He mind was having a difficult time grasping what just occurred. The commander thought it was time now to wake up his second in command, Jody, who was still in the deep sleep chamber. He went to the monitor that was controlling the chamber and put in the activation code numbers to start the awakening process.

It will take a few hours for her to be fully awake, so he went back to the control module. He went carefully over every recorded pictures of the broken pieces of the space station that was taped. His analytical mind trying hard to figure out what really happen. Was it an internal explosion?, or some type of astroid impact to the station? Was it because of some type of aggressive activity of one of the rebel states back on earth?

It wasn't difficult to take the next simple leap in logic that if this happen to the space station then what had happen back on earth. He started nervously to play with this celtic cross that he had around his neck since his very first mission.

Jody was now awake and was debriefed by the commander. Jody was the scientist on board of the mission and was very concern about the news of the space station. She asked if it would make sense to go back to the station to retrieve any recordings of what happen. The commander said that there was too much damage, and pieces were floating in every direction. They also couldn't use up any more of their resources for they were already marginal with their total energy reserves in getting back to Earth.

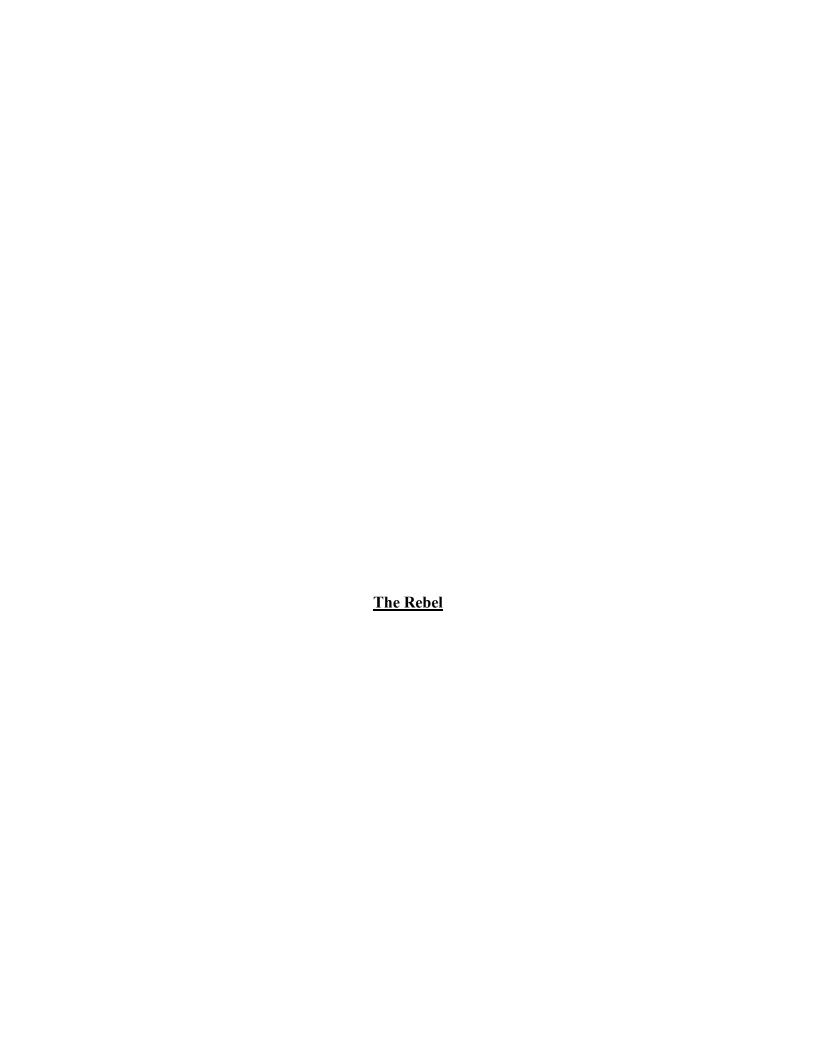
Jody went to the communication station and try sending a message back to earth. The equipment indicated that the the message was sent, but only static being returned back. She then played with the frequencies of the radio receiver, and still there was no hits. It was a total black out and they now were going back to Earth with more urgent questions than the answers that they found on Mars.

She put on some soft music to try to smooth and calm her nerves when the commander came around the corner. He asked if there was any success to report from her communication attempts to Earth. She said, "unfortunately nothing to report Commander."

The commander just nodded trying not to show his grave concern of what the near future will bring for them. "Please notify me at once if any contact is made".

The commander looked at his navigational settings and the time of arrival to Earth was still counting down on the mission clock in weeks, days, minutes, and seconds: 4 weeks, 3 days, 32 minutes, 22 seconds.

"How I wish I had a cold Irish Beer", the commander said to himself while looking into the emptiness of space before him.



The rebel was on a medical treadmill. His bio-tech artificial legs were being calibrated with their final adjustments. Soon, he would be able to leave the medical rehab building. His thoughts as he went through the exercise was not focus on his legs but of the future of his project to disassemble every last drone on this forsaken planet.

There was no need for any of them. They are the eyes and ears of the authorities. Once he gets out of the medical facility, he will contact Joseph and have him move forward with the project to destroy the units. The end game is almost upon us, and then the workers will take control of the industrial complex and have true freedom and progress. No more suppression of the workers, freedom and true human rights, no longer machine rights. It is way pass the point of no return. We must act now as a collective and be decisive to the mission on hand.

The final testing was finished on the treadmill, as one of the members from his band came to the rehab station. The rebel leader didn't hesitate and gave him the go ahead to put in motion their given plan.

The rebel leader spoke softly to him so no one else could listen to the conversation. "Go and contact Joseph and ask him one last time if he is with us or not. If not, then I guess one last worker around this forsaken planet isn't going to be missed. It is our time now to be brave and to have the solidarity for humanity rights for all workers and not machines."

The member of the rebel band nodded to the leader and gave a small bow.

It was quitting time and Joseph was extremely tired for it was a long day. All the extra overtime that was caused by the earthquake was catching up to him. Joseph seem to feel his old age more then most days. He remember when he was young again and there use to be social security. There was a culture of the younger generation taking care of the other more older generation. The elderly use to be respected due to their age and wisdom of years. They were not discarded like used tissues, but we an important honored individual with the family dynamics.

Now there was no safety net, no social security, there were just exterminations once you become to old and no longer productive to society. Joseph's long extra hours just enables him to meet the minimum standards, and still he only gets his simple food rations like everyone else.

Joseph's thought patterns were broken by a soft knock on his lab door. He opened up the door and there was no one there. On the floor, there was a red bag full of resistors with

viruses built into them to destroy and disable all of the drones and make them into useless scrap metal for recycling.

There was also a small ivory skull in the bag which was the sign that the rebellion told him that he would receive. I was now time to start his mission. He knew that he now only had three days to put in the resistors into all of the drones. Once completed, the drones would all explode and be deactivate. The whole community of drone matrix would collapse like domino's being pushed by a single finger.

He knew deep in his heart that he really had no choice. The rebel would kill him and his entire family if he didn't comply. What did he actually owe to the drones? There was no hope left. Hope had been replace by raw fear and intimidation. The rebel may not be 100% right, but to continue to be a slave to the machines and technology would not to be alive at all.

Joseph took the red bag and found a solid container in the lab to hide it in. He then went to the water basin and washed his hands as if he was trying to wash some type of invisible guilt form his skin.

"It is time for me to make a stand. If I don't help, they will kill me and my family. They will have no mercy. I am not just one man." Another knock on the lab door.

"Who is it" This time it was just Jessica and Maria asking if Joseph was ready to go back to their living quarters now that their long shifts had been finished. Joseph gathered up a few of his items that he had brought to work and headed back to the tram with Jessica and Maria by his side. The day was truly finish. One of final decisions and of personal fate.

While on the tram, a miner sat next to Joseph. He smiled showing a toothless grin. Joseph felt a gun shoved up against his ribs.

"Joseph, I am here next to you to make sure that you don't become a hero. We are all watching you. You must put all of the viruses into the drones starting tomorrow. If you don't, we will kill you and then Maria, and all of your closes friends. Do you understand me? Did I make my point clear?"

Joseph was sweating and his heart was racing a thousand miles per hour.

"I understand", said Joseph. The miner puled back the gun from his ribs. "Good, very good, and Joseph take care of yourself and have a nice night." The Tram stopped at Joseph exit and he stepped out of the tram.

Joseph felt weak and only drank a small cup of water before falling on to his bed.

Jessica got back to her room. She was tired and also had no more energy left. She wanted to check on the rainbow acorn. She open the floor board and the scarf with the acorn was still there. She put the floor board back into place being satisfied that no one had disturbed it while she was away at work all day.

Silently, Jessica ate her food rations. She then started to get ready for bed. Time to get some well deserve rest before another busy day begins.

Unaware to Jessica, a returning space craft was on its way back to earth. The Commander ate another food ration that tasted like sawdust. "I will never get use to these. No better than dog food". He than activated a holograph picture of his family. The last message was when he was still on Mar's from his wife. She was concern about another war that was on the horizon on Earth. The news was making her nervous. His two daughters were growing up without him. They said that they were not interested in boys, but he new that things were going to change shortly for them. His little girls were growing up without him.

"You miss them a lot, don't you?", said Jody. As she notice the commander looking at his picture of his family. "Honestly, I really do", said the commander. Central command said that they were only going to send single personal with no family on these deep space missions to Mars. They quickly change their minds once the psychologist found out that married men were more psychological committed, stable, and focus than their single counterparts. The command authorities didn't want the trip to become one big million dollar inter galactic cosmos party ship.

Jody laugh, "I don't see our mission every turning into that"

"We should be seeing the moon shortly and then earth", said the commander. "Tomorrow is going to be a big day for us." "We should then get all the answers to our questions on what has been happening back on Earth and find out why exactly Earth command has stopped responding back to our communications. Maybe they will hold a big welcome back party for us with cake and candles."

They both laugh and said at the same time, "it will just be nice to back home again

As the spacecraft got close to the moon, alarms started to echo through the ship. Both the commander and Jody stopped what they were doing and went to the closes control interlink computer consuls. Jody open up her computer screen and saw a red square image that was transposed on the moon surface as a warning and data started pouring into her station. Jody gasp. Her monitor was saying that tactical missiles were being locked on to their craft.

The clear image on the moon that was plotted on her computer interface screen was an anti-meteorite missile site. It was solar run and unman. Its sole purpose was to destroy meteorite that were targeting Earth. Normally, such a site would identify the spacecraft as a non-threat and not activate its missiles.

The commander shouted to Jody that he was going to access the Moon's missile site computer link directly and see if it could be overridden. The link came up, and it was just as he feared the missiles had come out of their silos unto their launching pads. The count down has already began, it was down to ten minutes and counting.

Jody went over to the commander. "Do you have the deactivation codes to abort the launch, Commander." The commander gravely said, "He didn't, Only earth command would have them" They tried to notified earth command again of their arrival, and still no replied response. only pure static, and then emptiness.

Time was now running out. Now just down to five minutes and counting.

The commander put the craft on automatic pilot. They both ran to the escape pods at the back of the ship. They both rush to put their space suits on and then to equalize the internal environmental pressure. The pods were single occupants. The commander gave Jody a tight hug and a thumbs up. I'll race you done to Earth, may the best astronaut win. Jody gave an uneasy smile and then they both got in to their escape pods, and close the hatches,

The pods were launched from the Mar's spacecraft towards earth. It seem only seconds when the missiles made direct impact. The Commander and Jody both pulled down the shielding of the viewing protectors to the pods so they wouldn't be blinded by the explosions.

The missiles hit to the spacecraft with the equivalent of thousands of tons of dynamite.

They created a large flash of light and then millions of sparks faded into the darkness of space like fireworks on the Forth of July. Large pieces of the broken spacecraft flew by the pods. The escape pods were to close to the actual explosion and the shock wave violently propelled both of the pods out of control.

As the commander was trying to control his pod and thought to himself that the worst must be over. He saw Jody's pod exploded as a large piece of the exploded craft hit her pod. There was no way that Jody could have maneuver the escape pod away from the impact.

All types of emotions were now going through the commanders mind with the lost of his science officer and ship. Warning lights flashed as his navigational unit announced that the shock wave had push the commander's escape pod out of earth's entry orbit.

The commander pod would now soon be out of earths orbit. He tried the thrusters on his escape pod, but the explosion wave had damaged them. The commander took off the small chain with a celtic cross that his daughters gave him.

"God, I know that I am a man of scientist and not very religious or even a good man compare to other. But I know that you are now here with me, and that if there is any way that you can spare my life that you will. Please help me, my God."

Just as he finished what he thought was his very last prayer, he got out his suicide syringe of a cyanide and sodium thiopental mixture. He was not going to die a slow death in the void of space. His clock was counting down the seconds until he would be out of earths orbit. A voice then came to him from the emptiness of space and inner soul, "My son, do not harm yourself."

As he heard the voice, a solar wind gently picked up the pod and place it exactly in a entry orbit that was necessary for reentry back towards earth. "Unbelievable," said the commander. and he place the syringe back into its case and put in the reentry codes into the pod's navigational system.

"Thank you God, Thank you God" with tears running down his face as the commander blacked out due to the G forces that started to pull upon the tiny Pod as it reentered the earth atmosphere.

Jessica always like looking up at the heavens before going to bed. She saw a large flash in the night sky by the north star.

A shooting star. Jessica had been told that some cultures see them as an omen. She always thought they were messengers or God from the depths of heavens with gifts of better days yet to come. A special wish upon a shooting star. She hasn't done a special wish since she was a small little girl. Jessica couldn't remember the last time she thought about the past and when she was able to look at the stars in total wonderment and joy within the milky way.

Joseph was now on his way back to work the next morning. Jessica and Maria were beside him on the tram. The same miner from the tram the day before was in the same car staring again at Joseph with his toothless smile. Joseph made his decision and will comply with the rebel wishes. He couldn't let harm happen to either Maria or Jessica.

As he entered his lab. Joseph took the resistors out of the hiding place. He started to refurbished the given drones by putting in the resistor chips next to their power supply unit. The work week went by as normal, and no one expected what Joseph was doing to the entire system units of drones.

When he was done, Joseph was told to give the small ivory skull to the toothless grin miner that has been watching him in the tram. He was now finished, so he stood next to the miner. Without anyone seeing him, he quickly dropped the skull into the man's pocket. The miner reached into his pocket and gave a toothless smile and then gave a hardy pat on Joseph shoulder. "Truly, I say Joseph, this will be a day that they will remember in history for generations yet to com" Joseph didn't react, and only looked blankly out of the window of the tram as it moved on to its next station.

## **The Desert Wilderness**

After seeing the shooting star that lit up the past evening sky, she said her nightly prayers and went to bed. A few hours after midnight, she was awaken by a humming noise. She though it was the rainbow acorn again, but the sound wasn't coming from that direction. Instead, the humming was coming from the ceiling above her bead. It was a soft sweet sound. She was looking at the ceiling wondering where the sound was coming from.

Gabriel, the Arch Angel appeared floating down through the ceiling.

The angel was wearing a green robe, and a gold crown with diamonds and rubies. He was holding and playing a silver harp. Jessica took a wash towel that was next to her bed and moisten her forehead. She was wondering if she was getting sick again.

Gabriel then spoke to her directly so there would be no misunderstanding on what he was about to say to her.

"Listen to me, Jessica, for it is extremely important what I am about to say to you. You must leave the Industrial city immediately at first daylight and go to the town of Nothing, Arizona. You must take the celestial scarf and rainbow acorn with you. You must travel alone. Remember my holy child, that you a true daughter of the light and your path will forever be shinning before you. Go now in peace and be brave within you blessed cause."

The angel then faded into the air leaving a fragrance of pure jasmine and rosemary in the air.

"Here we go again", said Jessica. Nothing arizona. Nothing arizona is 100 miles N.W. from the industrial city. The industrial city was where Phoenix Arizona use to be. "There is nothing there in Nothing, AZ. I really mean it."

She remember the dream she had when she almost died in the hospital unit. I remember Mr. bones and the Apache medicine women that she met in Nothing, but that wasn't real. It was only a dream. It seems that my dreams and reality were starting to blend into one reality. Where do dreams start and reality begin? Isn't dreams just an alter state of conscious reality of true inner awareness.

Even though, her mind hesitated, in her sacred heart of her soul, Jessica knew that she had to go. She would have to leave her friends behind. She had a backpack that she use at the biosphere. She put in enough provisions for two weeks. She then needed an environmental protections suit. She knew of one at the biosphere that she could borrow. Maria and Joseph would worry about her, so she decided to write them a letter telling them where she was going to travel to. The last thing she did was retrieve the rainbow acorn from its hiding place along with the celestial scarf. Getting out of the industrial city was the easy part, getting back will be the challenging part.

Security drones order to kill anyone coming into the city due to the potential of further viral or radiation contaminations from partial dead zombies.

On public television video, they showed a mutant zombie captured and was then put into a vaporization chamber to be vaporized. They wanted to make a strong point and place the whole public community on notice. It was easy for Jessica to get back to the biosphere and put on one of the environmental protection suits. There was a stun gun in the cabinet also. Jessica did not hesitated and put the gun into her jacket. She also took a long knife and place it into her boot outside her sock. I truly feel like the original tomb raider as she finished dressing for her journey into the wilderness of the desert Sonora.

Jessica left a personal note for Maria at the biosphere and then boldly started her journey to Nothing, Arizona. She knew that the journey was going to be very hard and difficult for her. There was no shelter from the harsh environment except for a bed roll and solar blanket that she had taken with her. As she left the city limits, she notice how red the sand was and the dust that was in the air from all the recent sand storms. "I could be just

as well walking on the plant Mar's then old mother earth", she thought to herself out loud.

Mar's was no the last thing on the Commander's mind. The reentry pod had a very tough time getting through the harsh Earth atmosphere. The parachutes did opened up. The batter and bruised reentry pod slowly fell to the earth over a state call Arizona . The pod was like a red hawk's feather as floated in the sky. The pod landed hard, and skidded on a flat desert mesa.

The commander open up the hatch and immediately starting coughing. There was red dust in the air and an unbearable heat that was drilling down on his shoulder. In the pod, there was an air respirator and an environmental jumpsuit for such harsh climates. He retrieved them, and put them on immediately which took away the unbearable discomfort. The commander then took all of the food and water provisions that were in the pod plus he pulled all of the rechargeable solar batteries. The solar batteries were the only thing of value left on the pod and he may need them for power later on.

The commander looked in all four directions to determine which way he should go. He then realize that he could go in any of the four directions. Each path, Each direction would be a different path for me. "Well, my intuition says to go South, so South it is." There was a dead saguaro cactus next to the pod. He went and pulled one of the spines out that he had decided would be an excellent a walking stick. A small lizard came out of the saguaro. "Hello little guy" You look like you are the only living animal out here." He than spate on the ground and started his journey by walking south.

The rebel leader got his top followers together to explain what he was going to do We are going to deactivate the entire drone complex today, and take over the leadership that is in control of the industrial complex. The rebel leader was leaving the hospital today with outpatient therapy to finish up. The man with the toothless grin came up to him, and gave him the ivory skull. The rebel leader said, "Nice work and gave him pat on his shoulder. See good old Joe, cooperated after all"

As he was being wheelchair out of the medical unit, he ask for his cell pone to be returned to him. He just had to simply make one phone call to activate all of the resistors in the drones. Once the phone was place in his hand, he dialed the tactical number and hit the enter key. He could immediately see small explosions within the industrial center, and the power grid itself went out of control. Unknowing to the Rebel leader, the final solution set the self destruct sequence of the Industrial complex into place.

"One step, two step, three step four." "I can't believe that Nothing Arizona was ever put on a map." The wind was hallowing now against Jessica body. She started to look like a

walking sandman like a phantom in a mist of reflections of sunlight. Jessica inner self was focus and determined by an iron will. Once she has decided on a given action then normally nothing would get in her way. She doubled checked her respirator and environmental suit and continued her trek towards Nothing, AZ.

She remember seeing an old TV series where people could just beam from one location to another in just given seconds. Now that would be something to experience and would be fantastic to have on this occasion. She continue taking steps towards Nothing and maybe the lovely Mr. Bones will still be there.

Jessica knew that it would take her at least two days of walking. She already felt tired and it has only been the first 1/2 mile. The industrial city was now totally out of site. She hopes that Maria and Joseph will understand why she had to leave them and go on this journey.

There were no longer any roads for her to follow, so she was using a hand held GPS unit to guide her that she borrowed from the biosphere labs. When the archeologist went out searching for dormant plant seeds, they normally took one along with them and were stored in the lab for further usage. I am positive that they would understand my mission of this exploration and would be happy for me to have one.

The day was now already half gone. So far the scenic views of her trip were some half destroyed building structures and bridges that were once freeways. As clouds of red dust continued to push against her, she saw large pieces of garbage blowing like tumbleweeds in mid air making strange shadows against the ground in front of her.

She did started to notice something interesting. About every quarter mile, there were stones that started to glow that give out a soft tone as if they were given to her by the Angels as guideposts for help.

She suddenly stopped. There was a canal that was blocking her path. She looked down at the canal and it was at least a three hundred foot drop that she wouldn't be able to cross. "This roadblock is now going to be adding miles to my journey." She sat down in the thick red sand to think her next steps were going to be.

An inner voice came to her and said, "You can cross the river bed with just your faith alone."

Jessica was surprise to get this message. "I see, I can just be like superwomen and fly across the canal untouched by gravity." Jessica went up to the edge of the canal and it was definitely a long and hard drop to the bottom.

She then saw a small spirit girl in an Easter Pink dress with tiny black satin shoes twilling and spinning. "Do you like my new clothes".

Jessica smiled and said, "Yes, I do, you look very beautiful" "So you have been sent to me to teach me how to walk over the canal by faith alone."

"Yep", the little girl said with an inner glee and a sparkle in her eyes. "Just hold my hand, and walk with me"

Jessica, held the girls hand and she couldn't stop laughing to herself. The spirit girl then did a dramatic hop in mid air and instead of falling into the canal a piece of a land bridge appeared. "See, how easy it is". Jessica than took a step carefully on the bridge and it glowed, just like the guideposts did. It seems to hold her weight, so she put her whole weight on it and it supported her weight. The little girl clapped her hands and took another step, and another piece of the bridge appeared. The little girl then started playing as if she was doing the old game of hopscotch. Pieces continued to appear. and Jessica and the spirit girl jumped and played all the way across the canal.

Once on the other side, the spirit girl smiled and said her final goodbye to Jessica. "Thanks for playing, you always had the faith inside of you. You just needed me to bring the innocent little girl deep inside of you back out to play." Jessica laughed and the spirit girl gave her a hug before fading back into another dimension of time and space. "This is going to be a very interesting adventure:, Jessica said to herself. She picked up her traveling bag and started back on her trek towards Nothing, Arizona.

The astronaut commander wasn't having the same type metaphysical journey that Jessica was having. He was still heading south and unaware that he too was heading towards Nothing, Arizona. Science and Faith were now in a direct alignment to each other. Yin and Yang of a destiny towards a higher calling and the crossing of the stars and plants above.

"What happen to our Earth?", the astronaut said while making his steps. One trip and fall would mean a broken bone and it seems to him that there would not be any type of medical assistance near by. He had turn his navigational pod alarm before he left so if there was a rescue party sent out for him by mission control. They would be able to find him in minutes.

For miles, he hasn't been able to see or find anything but a few rusted pieces of metal. He stopped and to his left he saw something that look like a metal sign that was turned over. He went to the sign and turned it over. The sign said, "under construction". The sign had bullet holes through it as if it had been used for target practice. His mind has been in a constant chatter since his reentry back to earth. He thought about his wife and children and how did they get through this madness that he was now seeing before him for the first time. He was also still grieving over the lost of his science officer, Jody.

Underneath the sing he found also a piece of paper. He went and pulled it up from the sand. The piece of paper read, "Repent now or you shall go to eternal hell" The commander smiled. "Its a little bit too late for that, I truly believe that I am already in hell itself."

The commander kept on walking and he said that there must be an answer. Everything can always be broken down to their simple building blocks and elements. Once true understanding is found, then human logic can always find the answer and the proper course of action. Logic and Science will always find the answer to our questions.

The sun was now getting low on the horizon and the commander saw a small cliff overhang that would be good to use to block the cold harsh wind. He unbacked his gear and slipped into his thermal sleeping bag. He could see a few stars coming out of the nights sky above. Its nice to see that the constellations are all still here and haven't changed at all. He pointed out the constellation Leo to himself as the stars started to appear.

Jessica had also stopped for the night. She saw a small cave that look like it had been used by ancient indians as a dwelling at one time. There were beautiful cave drawings on the walls. There were the images of the seasons of indians planting and harvesting corn. There were then also images of birth, growth, and death of one of the tribal chiefs.

Jessica laid a blanket on the floor and the wind was blowing furiously outside. She felt very blessed in being lead to this cave and she fell softly asleep.

Jessica awoke and smell the perfume of gardenias was in the air. Next to her was a bouquet of them. She gentle lifted them up and she smell the inner beauty as it touch her total being.

"I have never seen such beautiful flowers in my life, and they touched Jessica deep within her soul" She then notice the Apache medicine women sitting next to her on a rock that was by the inner cave wall. She smiled at her as she was weaving a dream catcher.

"You are on a true vision quest my beloved sister. I know that you have struggle much in this life and there are still yet more struggles that are yet to come. Remember that the past are lessons that we had to learned and grow by. They gave you the wisdom that you have today. Do not be sorrowful of what is lost, for what is lost is just an element of our journey that has already been transformed into a precious gift that is just waiting to be found again."

"I wanted you to know that there is a spirit that wants to greet you tonight." The first spirit came out from behind the wall of the medicine women. The spirit was one that she recognized right away and that it was the spirit of her friend, Maria.

"Jessica do not grieve over my transformation, it was just my time and it was not of my choosing or self. It was an accident, do not blame Joseph. It wasn't his fault. He had no choice in the matter, and the outcome would have been the same if he had help or didn't.

Fate and choices are all intertwine like the vines of the dream catcher that is being weaved before you. The biospheres have all been destroyed. The Industrial city is gone. I wanted to tell you that I love you and always will love you. We are kindred sisters and spirits. Your journey will change the world for the better. Do not be lonely or miss me, for we will meet again once your journey is ended. We will meet again in the land of milk and honey. I will always be with you"

Tears were running down Jessica's face. "I love you Maria, tell me what happen to you and Joseph."

"It was just our time and it will be your time as we all must leave our temporary human existence and evolve into our spiritual souls." Maria put out her arm, and a beautiful owl came and landed on her forearm with golden feathers.

"Be good to yourself, Jessica" "Joseph and I will be there when it is your time, but you have a blessed destiny to follow that will change the world forever."

"Maria, don't go. Please don't go. Don't leave me here alone." I have to go now they are calling me. Jessica could hear a beautiful indian flute being played. Maria take these gardenias with you. Maria took the flowers and her body started to sparkle and then faded into the darkness of the cave. The Apache medicine woman then went up to Jessica and gave her the small dreamcatcher that she made.

"Dreams are the messages of our souls. Be grateful and have courage on your journey before you. Blessings my sister until we meet again."

The Apache medicine women then faded just like Maria did. Jessica was now alone within the inner womb of the ancient cave. She reached into her bag and pulled out the swan feather that she had from the biosphere, and put it into the dream catcher as sacred remembrance to nature and its unending cycles of death and rebirth.

Jessica could hear the wind outside of her cave as she clears her inner thoughts. When I was a child I wanted to be a princess and married a dashing prince that rode a white horse that was valiant and kind. But here I am out in the wilderness with my two best friends now gone. "Am I just wandering endlessly upon this round about vision quest."

I should have stayed at the biosphere. I might have been able to make a difference there after all. She laid down on her bed roll and closed her eyes. She just didn't have the strength any more to say awake for one minute longer. All the recent events were too much for her and she just wanted to fall asleep and get some rest. Rest is all I need right now, and she fell into a deep deep sleep.

Another day begins, the commander woke up and everything was completely covered by a thick layer of red dust and dirt. He spitted away the dryness from within his mouth and took some water to washed his face. He was starting to grow a beard and didn't have the time or patience to shave.

He ate one of his protein bars and look again at the precious picture that he had in his wallet of his wife and daughters. "What has happen to them? I will never give up. I am going to find the answers if it takes the rest of my life." The commander started walking again. The heat was oppressive even in the early morning hours. He had some survival training, and he knew what type of cactus to cut into to get some emergency moisture if needed.

He came over a high ridge, and he saw something in the valley below that look like some type of ruins.

He decided to go and investigate further. As he got closer, he could see that it was an old adobe mission church. It's walls were fallen in and only the altar of God was left standing as the last symbol of faith. He came closer and there was red graffiti written on the side of the alter. "Save the Planet, Now"

On the altar was a broken crucifix. The commander said, "Is there nothing left. This is just madness. Has all of creation been destroyed by man's ignorance and greed for lust of oil, gas, and all of our natural resources." "Didn't they see the signs, the global warming, the famines, draughts, the violent storms of nature."

He heard a hissing noise behind him. He turned around and there stood a mountain lion. The mountain lion was foaming at the month and looks as if he was going to jump on the commander for its morning meal. As the mountain lion started to circle, the commander went into a defense position and jumped up onto the altar in a defensive position.

Out of no where, A man in a brown robe appeared walking out the depths of the sands themselves. He had on a monk's tan robe and brown sandals were on his feet. He told the mountain lion to stay down at once.

"This man before you on the altar was not the cause of your home being destroyed nor the deaths of your cubs. You may not harm him in any way." The mountain lion growled but then obey the command. The man gave the mountain lion some meat that was in his pouch that he was carrying. The animal ate as if it hadn't had a solid meal in days, and then laid next to the man's feet.

"You may now come off of the altar my friend, so we can talk." The commander carefully stepped down. He said who are you?

You know me and you even had a stature of me in your garden as a child. "My name is Saint Frances". I am God's caretaker of all animals in this world and heaven. That is why

I can talk to the animals and they will listen and obey me. But enough about me, for I have been sent here by Jesus himself to talk to you, Commander, You may not have faith in him, but I can assure you that he has total faith in you and your true mission."

"You must help protect the new ark of the new world. The world is now taking its last gasp of air and you must gather the living, care for the sick, and the needs of all species of life. If your mission fails then all life on Earth will be lost for eternity."

"But St. Francis, I am only one man. Where is God?, Why isn't he not making the world right again" "Does God not have eyes to see, ears to hear, or a voice to speak" "I am tired, I am afraid, and I am so very sorrowful for all of my losses"

St. Frances went to the Commander and put his arm around him.

"It was not God my friend to be angry with, but it was our free will and arrogance. God so loved the world that he gave us his only precious son and the free will to make our own voices heard and make our own individual missions into realities. You must find the faith that you once had as a child, where you helped your mother in the garden planting and tending each precious seed of God's creation."

"Take this sheep skin pouch, Commander" It will help you on your journey.
Talk to this mountain lion for he will listen to you for you are now his caretaker.
Be the blessed caretaker that you are truly meant to be for all the living creators that are left on this plant.

"I must leave you now."

The commander stepped to the side and a bright light opened up above the altar of God. St. Francis smiled and said, "I will always be with you commander and than disappeared."

Jessica was awaken by the light of the early morning dawn. It was still dark outside the cave, but she could see that the sky was starting to open up by the morning sun reflections. She made a small fire and made some herbal tea that she drank slowly trying to get grounded from the night before.

Maria and Joseph were no longer on the earth plane. The biosphere was also gone and therefore she had no home, nor village to go back to. She knew that her old life was completely gone. She felt as if she was shedding her skin leaving the old behind like the Arizona gecko. She must be strong. She hopes to get to Nothing Arizona by late afternoon.

She packed her things and went out into the morning air. Jessica checked her directions and starting her journey. She continue her journey again towards Nothing, Arizona. She looked back in the direction that she came to see if she could see any smoke or fire from that directions. She was too far away and couldn't see any of the destruction left behind. She gave a small sigh and continue to walk. She came to the edge of a small canyon and started to walk by its edge. Everything was so silent and still.

There were no birds, nor crickets, or any living thing that she could see. The emptiness of the endless sands just seem to spread for miles and miles on end.

"I still can't image of what could have happen to Maria and Joseph back at the biospheres." She felt pain in her ankles. She had just walked over a fire ant hill, and her ankles were now their morning meals. Jessica wiped the ants quickly off her skin and small allergic rashes started to appear. "Stupid ants", as she continue down into a fork in the road. The road splinted apart, one was to the south and the other to the west. "

Jessica took the south road for it shouldn't be that much longer to Nothing. She was reminded of an old Robert Frost Poem, "The Road less Traveled".

"And I took the less traveled by, and it meant more than anything else in the whole world"

She slowed down when she came the a ruins area that looks like an old mission church.

Jessica stood very still when she saw the paw prints of the actual mountain lion.

She felt very peaceful in the ruins even though this animal may be near by.

Jessica then notice the male foot prints next to the mountain lion foot prints. These shoe prints look more like boot prints and not like regular shoe prints. Jessica was now getting more scared of who these boots belong to.

Jessica felt the need to pray, She tenderly knelt down at the altar of the church, and said a short prayer while at the same time reaching for the knife that was in her boot for needed protection.

As she was praying an image of a hand appeared before her. There were four elements that were circling a bright star that was pulsating in the middle. She could tell that one was fire as it glowed a red flame. The second one was blue and look like it contained water. The third one was green as the color of the grass. The fourth one was a milky white not unlike cloud vapor in the sky.

You must discover the alchemist in side of you and create a world full of peace and inner harmony. The elements then pulsated more intensely and their orbits became closer and

closer. They then merged into one globe that was the image of the Earth of a majestic blue globe in the sky.

The image then faded away. Jessica got up and brushed the dirt from off her knees.

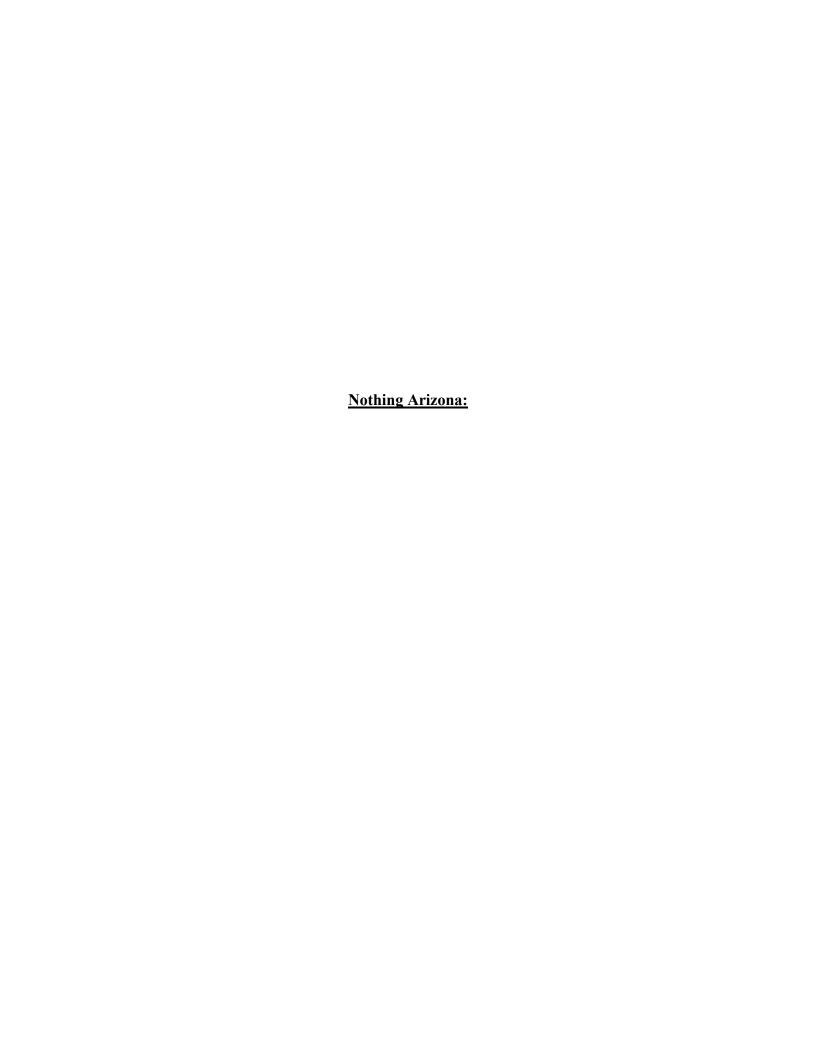
The spirits now want me to be a chemist, not a biologist.

She had heard of ancient ones from a scared land call Atlantis that were able to change normal matter into gold.

Atlantis was the last space shuttle that went to the space station. Science and Magic, they are always intertwine. There is always a nugget of truth in every myth, and a bit of faith in all the science of the world.

Jessica but the knife back in her boot, and continue to travel on her journey heading south.

It was now late afternoon, but her spirits jumped up as she could see the old gas station. of Nothing Arizona in the not to far distance in front of her.



The commander had arrived at Nothing, Arizona first. He and his companion, the mountain lion, carefully review the situation. It was like a ghost building. Dirt covered gas pumps that looked like mutant animals that haven't been used for years. There were pieces of broken glass scattered across the weed covered parking lot. The commander careful opened up the door leading inside. He told the mountain lion to go and lay down in the shade next to the mesquite tree.

"So I am the new Noah" I don't have an ark to protect, and I am not handy with carpenter tools either. We all have our callings in are given life times. Mine was to be an astronaut and to travel the cosmos, not a desert ark builder or the innkeeper of exotic animals in a floating zoo.

The commander walked in and he could sense someone staring at him from the corner of the room, but there was only an old dead skeleton in a rocking chair. He went up to the skeleton and there was a thick layer of dust on his skull that shows a gun shot to the back of his head. Poor guy said the commander. Looks like this guy never had a fighting chance and then to his surprise a pair of eyes popped into the skeleton's eye sockets. The commander jumped back from the chair and the mountain lion was now next to him growling at this nonhuman thing that was sitting in from of him.

"What are you", said commander.

"The question is not what I am, but who am I? My name sir is Mr. Bones. I own this fine establishment for the past number of years." "Would you like a drink of our finest Irish whiskey?" said mr bones. "It will take the skin right off you", smiled Mr. Bones.

"Sure I will take a drink of Irish whiskey", just to calm my nerves. I am talking to a skeleton am I not. Mr Bones smiled and went behind the counter and took the very best bottle of Irish Whiskey and pour the commander a shot of the finest.

"So where am I", said the commander. "You are in Nothing Arizona", said Mr. Bones. "I see. Can you tell me what happen? Where did all the people go?"

"You are not from around here are you? It hasn't been a pretty picture my friend. Global warming, globalization of humanity, and then the chemical biological wars. Viruses got out of control and starting attacking the total population. Plant life could not exist either and the chain of life was broken and it all fell into pieces of dust".

"A couple of days ago, I was told there was a nuclear explosion that destroyed the last industrial city on this plant. Not that I am a big fan of machines and drones", smiled Mr.Bones. It would seems that now I have much more competition on getting that perfect last graveyard site now.

At that moment, the commander turned. Jessica was standing staring at Mr. Bones and the Commander.

"Welcome back my friend", said Mr. Bones to Jessica. "It has been way too long. I thought you might be all skin and bones by now. I say this now is becoming a real party. Should I put on some music?, and you can put on your dancing shoes."

The mountain lion went up to Jessica. Jessica gave the mountain lion's head a pat. "Good girl," Jessica said.

Jessica stared at the commander and their was an immediate familiarity of a karmic connection. "So what would you like to drink, Jessica," said Mr. Bones. "Would you like a fancy prickly pear margarita or some nice green tea freshly made."

"Just plain water, please", Jessica said. A water bottle appeared in Mr bones hands and he gave it to Jessica to drink. Jessica notice some skeleton sparrows next to Mr. Bones. "Oh. I see that you see some of my new friends. Its gets a little lonely in Nothing Arizona, so I am glad that they have found their way to me."

"Let the party begin seeing that we are all now", said Mr Bones. "We, old bags of water and bones, in all of our human pride have destroyed the entire Earth and now the two of you are the only ones left. There will be no more pages to turn in this history book of ours my dear friends. You are welcome to stay with me as long as you would like for my world is now yours to use for eternity."

The commander was glaring on Mr. Bones ready to strangle his little bony neck.

"Ok, I see commander. This party is already getting to old for you. I see that your level of testosterone must be rising and your Darwin's survival instincts are kicking in your linear brain functions. Fight or flight, Right Commander. That's you action plan isn't it, Divide and Conquer. Just like the Roman's and English. Well come on, you old Irishman. I will take you on for a couple of boxing rounds. Give me your best shot".

Mr. Bones was then starting to do dancing boxing steps and pretend air punches in the air as if he was in an actual boxing ring.

The mountain lion was now circling Mr. Bones and staring at Mr. Bones ankle bone that it would be a nice afternoon treat to sharpen its fangs on. The mountain lion jumped and latched on to his ankle. Mr Bones started to dance on one foot trying to kick the animal to release its grip. The harder Mr Bones dance the more tighter the mountain lion gripped on to its ankle bone. Jessica started to laugh. "This is no laughing matter", shouted Mr bones.

"I am sorry Mr. bones, but you are wrong on this one. You do look extremely funning dancing in a circle with your new friend."

The command then shouted. Enough already. The mountain lion listened to the command and release Mr. Bones ankle.

The mountain lion then went and sat next to the commander.

"Is this the way you repay me for my hospitality", stated Mr. Bones.

"I am sorry sir, I am sure that the mountain lion had no intentions of injuring you, but was only trying to protect us." "I see ", said Mr Bones, as he rubbed his ankle that now had chew marks and salvia on it.

"So it is what it is. I am sorry for stating the awful truth, but the Earth is dead and you to both be shortly. For there is no further answers, You have reached the end of this old Western trial. Mr bones then collapsed dramatically into a pile of bones right in front of them."

"Well that was dramatic", said Jessica to herself. She walked out to the back of the garage and look upon the dump graveyard that was still there. Old pieces of trucks and cars scattered everywhere. "God doesn't make Junk".

"All the time", the commander said standing behind her. "Its what you make out of the junk that counts. They both laughed together.

The commander was now standing beside her with the mountain lion behind them. "So it is true that we are the very last ones." Jessica couldn't make eye contact with him. It maybe true that humankind had destroyed the earth and themselves, but as long as there is one breathing life form there is still hope for humanity. If you still have hope then all things are not lost. There is still a unique spark of creativity left and our unique adventure and journey continues on.

So what are the next steps after coming now to Nothing?

"We should stay inside for the night and then we should leave in the morning. I have heard of another biosphere north of Tucson that was used for research by the University of Arizona, but I don't know if it is fully operational or if there are any life forms there left either. Its important for us to keep moving or else the desert is going to take all that we have left."

They shared provisions that they had for an evening meal, and then settle in for the night. The conversation was light and they both were drain from their journeys so far. The darkness came fast and they made a little fire to keep themselves warm. The mountain lion went to sleep next to the door as if to keep guard from any night time zombies that might be lurking in the midnight hours.

"So what do you know about this biosphere north of Tucson." "Well it was created as a research lab from private investors that was then ran by the University to increase knowledge and education of usage our natural resources of the planet, and to help show

the harm done by global warming. It was a very important project, but as you can see it wasn't enough. Mankind didn't listen and we continue to waste and abuse the world's resources"

"So where did you come from, you don't look like you are from the industrial city", said Jessica. "You are right I am not from your city, I am from Mar's. I am an astronaut from NASA. My return vehicle crashed in the Sonora desert. My family or my family use to live in Carlsbad, California. Do you have any information from California when you were back at the Industrial City."

"I am very sorry Commander, but Carlsbad like all of the West Coast cities are now under water. Industrial city was the only human outpost left on earth that we were aware of.

But tomorrow's is another day, and once we get to Tucson. We might be able to get more answers for you and information about what happen to your family."

The night drifted on and the sands of time weight heavily on both of their shoulders. Is the biosphere north of Tucson still active or will it be just another graveyard that has just been left behind.

The sun shined through the windows and woke up the commander and Jessica at about the same time. The commander reached into his saddlebag and threw some meat to the mountain lion. They are breakfast quickly, and packed up their items. Putting out the fire that was barely making any flames any more, they said their formal goodbye to Nothing Arizona. "Well it was great visiting you, but now our destiny is to the south." The three of them started towards Tucson making footprints and paw prints in the given sands.

The three of them walked for miles in silence. Sands and and occassional tumbleweed. Emptiness surrounded them and their inner thoughts. They came to what looked like a fence that was half buried in the sands. There was a sign that was bearly readable.

It said Palo Verde Nuclear Plant, NoTranspassing or Electrical Devices Allowed.

The commanders radiation badge on his jumpsuit turned bright red.

The commander looked at Jesscia. "Wasn't there a Palo verde nuclear power plant just north of Phoenix." Jessica nodded.

"It was one of the largest and then the unthinkable happen. Well, we are going to have to stear clear and go around this area so we don't get contaminated any further then necessary by the high radiation levels. that we are picking up"

The commander started walking around the perimeter of the fence. They came upon three flag poles standing like silent soldiers. "Its going to get better", the commander said to himself. They kept walking and then they saw an image of what look like a jeep coming to them. As they got closer, it was an old pickup, but it wasn't going anywhere soon with the tires completely gone and the windshield broken.

The commander checked out the pickup to see if there was anything they could use inside. He opened up the glove department, and there was some old papers but nothing else.

Jessica smiled at him and touch his shoulder saying, "lets get going before night falls". They continue to walk through the high desert. Jessica remember the story of Moses from the Old Testament. Forty years in the desert until the tribe of Israel got to the promise land. I can't evern comprehend being out in a desert for a single year, vs. forty years. "Patience is a virtue that I truely never had", Jessica smiled. The mountain lion had stopped and his ears have heard something. Jessica is now hearing it too. It sounded like rock and roll music. The commander was hearing it to. They all started towards the source of the sound. It was the old Bob Marley song, "Redemption".

It was coming from an old aluminum trailor. I can't believe that there is anyone alive. The commander knocked on the trailer door and there was no answer. He tried opening up the trailor and the trailor door opened. Looks like no one had live in the trailer for years. There was a solar CD radio in the kitchen that was hooked up to a power cell pannel outside. It looks like it had been playing the same CD over and over again for the past years.

Jessica checked out the rest of the trailer and it was empty. There was a book that looked like a diary. She opened up the leather diary.

"If you are reading this, then you know that we are no longer living. The plague has come to our community and is taking all the living. The fever has started, and I took the antivirus serum, but as you know nothing has been working. I will not lose faith for their might be a cure shortly. I have been hearing gun shots at night as chaos is starting to take hold of our community. We all are starting to break away from our civil grounded reality into a madness of inner insanity and destruction.

Jesscia put the diary down. The commander stated that they should stay in the trailer for the night. Jessica agreed that it will be better then being out in the elements.

One more day, just one more, and they should be at the Biosphere II in Tucson. Jesscia was hopeful and the Commander could feel her excitement of the expectation that lighten everyone's mood. The mountain lion's engery level also seem just alittle bit higher with a little more bounce to it's steps.

They all settled in for the night in the trailor. Jessica laid down on the bed in the bedroom, while the commander took the sofa in the other room. The mountain lion curled up next to the commander's side. Jessica was exhausted from the day's journey. Her mind was still racing and her thigh muscles started to cramp. She took a potassium salt pill to help with the cramping. She looked up at the ceiling and she could see something moving from the corner of the ceiling. It was glowing and started to fall from the ceiling on a web. "Radioactive spiders". She took her flashlight out and scanned where the spider had fallen. She couldn't see any thing and the spider had gone out of site. Well, atleast I can see them in the dark.

She zipped up her sleeping bag and put some mesh over her head just to protect her from any more crawling creatures in the night. She fell into a deep sleep.

At first she thought that she maybe just dreaming of the most receant earthquake. She felt the trailer move back and forth. There had been many aftershocks since the recent big earthquake. But the shaking didn't stop. She could then hear some moaning coming from outside of the trailer.

She could hear the window being smashed at the rear of the trailer. The trailer then was flipped onto it side. Everything went tumbling. The commander was awaken as he hit the side of the kitchen cabnet. The drawer to the cabnets fell on to the floor next to him. He now heard the moaning outside of the trailer. He grabbed a large craving knife that he found in one of the drawers beside him. Jessica came to his side and asked if he was ok. He nodded. He told her and the mountain lion to stay where they were and he was going outside to encounter what and who was doing this to them.

He decided to go out the vent ceiling panel. He kicked the panel open and crawled into the blackness of the night. Gathered around the trailer were three large radioactive zombies. They were the walking dead that were cause by the fall-out from the Palo Verde nuclear plant. They were skin and bones with long hair and faces, with their actual jaw bones showing through their rotten skin.

The zombies saw the commander and they started their attack like a pack of wolves. They circled the commander and started to tighten the circle around him. They all were holding sharp metal piping with nails in them waving them at the commander. The first zombie leaped at the commander. The commander was able to counter and shove the knife into the heart of the zombie. Red blood sprayed on the commander and the zombie fell to its death infront of him. The other two attached simultaneously. The commander was able to fend off the second one, but the third one hit the commander with his homemade weapon on the back on the head spliting his skull in two.

The second zombie was dying from his wounds, while the third zombie howled at the moon like a madman in pure hatred and vengence. He started to dragged the dead commander away to be eaten, but suddenly the zomie felt a spear thrusted through his back.

Jessica had taken a homemade spear and ran had ran it through the zombie, not just once, but a second and then a third time. The third zombie fell into its own pool of blood.

Jessica fell to the commander side and check his breathing. The commander was on his last breath as the gray color of death had already started to take a hold. The commander looked at Jessica, "I was told to protect the Ark". "Are you ok", said the commander. Jessica, knodded, and thought he was delerious. She tried to confort him the best that she could."Don't leave me Jessica" "I will never leave you commander", replied Jessica. Death waits for no man, and he came in just a few minutes, and took the commander home. Home to where his wife and daughters were waiting for him.

Jessica saw a shovel at the back of trailer. She dug a gravel for the commander and laid his body to rest. She wrapped the body in a torn American flag that was hanging inside of the trailor. She said a prayer for him.

"Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. may you rest in eternal peace my Irish friend. My you now be with the tender celtic spirit of you wife and daughters. It was an honor to have known you and have walked by your side. Thank you for your protection and guidance these past two days. Amen"

She gathered her items and took the pouch that the commander had. Jessica also found the solar energy batteries in the commander backpack. Jessica decided to burn the zombie bodies. So before she left, she put the three dead bodies of the zombies together and but gasoline over them. She lite a match and threw it onto the pile. The bodies went up in flames and the smell of human flesh was lifted up into the air.

The mountain lion went to Jessica side and rubbed its head against the pouch. She took a look at the pouch and saw that there was some dried meat in it. She took out the meat and gave it to the mountain lion for breakfast and ate some herself. The darkness was now lifting and fading as the morning sun started to rise once again.

"Goodbye Commander. Your mission is now completed." Jessica look at the mountain lion, and smiled as tears started falling and evaporating in mid air. "Its just us now. buddy. They started walking towards Tucson and the biosphere.

It was flat desert from were they were to Tucson. Everything was the same, dust and more dust. Just a few stray catus. She could then see the Catalina Mountains appearing

from the distance. She rubbed the mountain lion's head. We are almost there now. She found the old express way and the highway sign said Tucson 20 miles.

There was a rest area that she stopped at. All the vending machines were smashed and emptied a long time ago. There was a snicker bar that was melted and was like petrified wood. Jessica picked it up and smiled. I can't remember the last time I had a piece of chocolate or a good cup of coffee.

"Well lets go Bobbie", she said to the mountain lion. If its just the two of us, you have to have a name. Its time to see where our destiny is. She started the last miles with a reflection of the past and a hope for the future.

Jessica stopped and look down at her shaddow. There was not only her shaddow but a second shaddow. She looked behind her and there was no one there but the second shaddow still remained by her side. She got a nervous feeling in her stomach. The shaddow then rose up infront of her. It took on a more human like form, but it smelled like the eternal depths of hell itself. "Who do you think you are", it said to Jessica.

"All alone in the wilderness. You know that you should turn back and go back the way that you came from. There are no answers where you are heading. Just a waste of time and engery"

"Now I have a solution for you, one that can solve all you problems. All you have to do is bow down to me and asked me to save you. I can then turn all of your troubles and the madness that surrounds you around, my poor dearest one."

Jessica was now starting to shake. "I have only one lord and one God, and that is not you. You are but a forsaken snake, and a lier. Go back to the hell hole that you came from and leave me alone forever."

"I see that you may need more convincing. His hands reached out and thousands of diamonds, rubies, and emeralds shinned before her. Come and take theses treasures as a gift, and all the treasures of the whole world will be yours, A Crown Queen for eternity."

"Those gems have no meaning to me. You can keep all the gems of the world, and I will not take even one for my own keeping. For gems and treasures will not bring me the peace nor the beauty that I am searching for."

The shaddow tried one more image. It transfigured into a hansome man with little clothing, holding a plate of grapes and cheeses. "Bow to me now, and you can be feed and make love for eternity by this handsome man."

"Kiss my hard sexy a--", said Jessica. "I will not take this man nor any other human that you offer to me My soul and total being have already been given to the God of Mary and Joseph, with the eternal protection of the holy angels of heaven above. You are a

shaddow demon of the underworld and I command you to be gone and never come back to me again."

The shaddow transformed to a hiddeous demon and scream as it left Jessica side. Jessica was weaken by the experience. She spitted on to the sand. "Begone, and if I see your ugly face ever again, I wll make sure I crush you into the pile of trash that you are."

"I don't have the patience or energy for this sh-t any longer", Jessica said to the Bobbie, the mountain lion. Once again, there were just only two shadows again moving forward to the biosphere . I hope that biosphere is still operational, and usable. The walking was getting more difficulty for them. The sun was no longer high in the horizon. Jesscia moved up the pace wanting to get to the Tucson Biosphere before dark fall.

Jessica couldn't believe the situation that she was in. Alone, and moving towards an unknown destination. Should she just take pills now and forget it all. Maybe life doesn't have any meaning. Maybe, its time to just fade into the nothingness. She knew she was having one of her moments because of all the stress that she has been under hasn't calm her true inner being or peace for a very long time.

She just face a major demonic force, and now she was having doubts. "Its what humans do", she said to herself. "But the fact that we do have inner fears and inner doubts makes us the humans that we are, We must never let the doubts get the best of us. We must focus on the very best attribute of our sacred beings and be the best for mankind."

The mountain lion brushed against the food pouch she was carring. "So Bobbie, you want another beef Jerky". She put her hand in the pouch and took another piece of dried meat and fed the mountain lion. She could remember all the poor people in her life that took drugs, prescribtion or illegal, to take the pain alway from their lives, but instead they had destroyed them by become drug addicts. It took away their pain, but also took away their drive and the true nature of who they are and their beloved souls. Pain killing drugs are like a cancer to any given living organism. It deadens the very nature of one's being. It creates a slow death by having a uncontrol drug addiction.



She was again back on the highway heading south to Tuscon. It was isolated and nothing but a few sage bushes and the pieces of bones of some animals that were dried up from the extreme heat of the desert sun. Jessica had an inner sense that she needed to continue on to the biosphere. There were no other options left. She had to see this whole adventure out and see how the final chapter ends.

She then an odd sound and wonder where the noise was coming from. She then notice that it was from her own respirator unit. It had started to malfunction. She couldn't believe what was now happening to her. Her breathing was starting to become more difficult. She was so close to the finishing line of her journey, almost to Tucson and the biosphere. If her respirator failed then she would fall victim of the elements of the dry extreme heat of the sun now bearing down on them. She knelt down in the sand where she stood, not able to take another step. The noise suddenly stopped and the respirator rebooted itself through an unknown automatic shut down and restart procedure.

Jessica had to sit down and rest on a rock to wait and see if her next breaths were of new purified air, or would the unit fill up with the dust and contaminates of the Arizona Sonora lands. The reboot process took just a few seconds, but to her it felt like a whole eternity. She started coughing having a gasp reflex, and then purfied air started flowing again. "Pure air, thank you God. I can't believe that we once took your pure air and water for granted." All this time the mountain lion was never to far from her side.

The Mountain lion was a mutant that had lungs that had already adapted to the harsh environment. Dawin at his finest. Evolution is not against God, but is a part of God bigger picture and plan. It is the ego of man that create false concepts that tries to divides us, labels us, and control us by the miss use of power and authority.

But with God, there are no labels, nor concepts, or hidden agendas of control.

Just the pure divine natural healing of love that accepts us for who we are, regardless of the evolutionary level that we are on or which step of the spiritual ladder that we are climbing.

"We are, We are, climbing Jacob's ladder, we are, we are climbing Jacobs' ladder." For some reason that childhood song kept going around and around in Jessica's head. "Next step are just one step closer to the bioshpere," my dear mountain lion friend.

Rest time is over, time to get going as Jessica lifted herself up by her bootstraps and kept walking on, walking on, just traveling on and making imprints in the sands.

It started as if she was seeing a mirage. She though she was just watching the swirling sands in the air before them. She then started to see an images standing before them.

The image was of the Apache Medicine Women was with a very large black bear that was standing by her side. Jessica came walking up to them and raise her hand in greeting.

The Medicine Women said. "Well, Jessica, Why did it take you so long to get her" Jessica started to laugh and cry at the same time. Its been a Journey and a half, but I am glad to see you Medicine Women.

"You are alive are you not?" "You still have much work before you my sister." The black bear made a large growl noise, and raised on to its back feet as if reaching towards the eternal sacred sun above. I have been sent here to help you finish your mission. The Medicine Women then made a short bow. "Shall we go". The four of them, Jessica, the Medicind Women, then Bobbie the Mountain lion, and the big black bear continue heading south. They sure were an odd looking bunch, Jessica smiled to herself. She was happy not to be alone any longer.

Eventhough in Arizona's, It's a dry heat. They made good progress to the biosphere. Jessica was surprise how large the biosphere was. The glass structure made it look like a diamond glimmering on a sand dune.

The biosphere was still mostly intact, but didn't look like it had been in any operational condition for years. We have to see if we can get the power back on. She remember the solar batteries from the commander ship that she still had in her backpack. She looked at a diagram of the biosphere on one of the entery walls. She say that the the power unit was in the middle of the center part of the underground basement of the biosphere.

She started towards the power support grid unit area. She looked around and all of the floral and trees were completely dead in the biosphere. There use to be a fountain and stream that ran through the entire facility and it had dried up a very long time ago. I need to just get the power support grid unit functioning then we can get the water pumps back on line. The water will then refresh the eco system. Everything is built on the precious elements of water and air combined.

"It just may takes a Women to safe the world afterall", Jesscia said as she continue to go through the thought process as she walked.

This technical IT puzzle was good for her. She has always felt better if she had an issue or problem to solve. It was when the problemsolving is over, that she had a bad time dealing with her emotions that have been repressed by the overall conditions she has had to put up with and deal with her entire life on Earth.

She got to the power center, and open the door. Cobwebs were all over, and dead scorpions were scatter on the floor. It was pitch black and she turned on her flashlight giving light to the darkness.

In the middle of the floor was a rattlesnake staring at her. "You didn't think that it was going to be this easy to save the world do you. Its over. Your time as a human race is over. You had your oportunity. Instead, of being a co-creator of nature, you destroyed nature by your greed for power and the total mismanagement of your resources. It could have been different outcome. Your leaders had time to turn this around, but the relentlessness of greed, power, and corruption had destroyed your planet, your world. Once you called this paradise, what do you call it now?

Jessica looked into the rattlesnakes eyes. There was an emptiness there and she could see that the emptiness was deep inside this creature blocking her path to the power unit.

"What do you want"

"It's not a bargin my poor friend", said the rattlesnake. "Its not a commodity that you buy or sale. Do you not see what your consumerism society had done to your total being and soul"

"Just pieces of broken vessels, and then the heartbreak that you have endured way to long. Where are all your friends Jessica? Thats right they are all dead, and the Medicine women is nothing but a witch. She will take your to the inner depths of hell all by herself without you even knowing it, and without me having to help at all."

Jessica look at the snake. "Well Snake" "Aren't you the Talker"

"I guess you are right and the talking is surely over, and there is not room for negotiations or compromise". "Its time for tough love you and I" "I have such a taste for Chicken meat tonight and guess who is going to be invited for dinner."

Jessica took out a knife out of her boot, and started to walking around the rattler's position, waving it in the air.

"Yes, my sweet, Jessica". "The game is on and isabout to be over for you. The loser of the game will not just lose their life, but the total distruction of your eternal soul."

The rattlesnake look like it was starting to turn transparent, and flames were starting to come from its entire being. She was no longer looking at a rattlesnake, but a demon full of fire and hatred. The demon laugh and started moving towards her.

Suddenly, the big black bear that was with the Apache medicine women jumped in front of Jessica. The black bear tranfigured into a knight of the Templar of the ancient guard to protect the sacred femmine of God's creation. The Templar had the holy cross on it's shield and wearing a knight's robe of honor. His sword had been drawn and at the ready. My fair lady it is not safe for you here, run, run with all your might out the door before you."

He shoved her again towards the door, and Jessica didn't turn her back but ran out of the door with all her might and energy that she had left.

The templar knight told Jessica to lock the door behind her, and don't come out until she heard him calling her.

She turn the latch, and could her screams coming immediately from inside. "All I ever wanted is to have the freedom to be me and to become the person that I was meant to be in this life. I never wanted to harm anyone or cause anyone any grief or pain. I am not a superwomen or wonderwomen that has any special powers or ability to save the world."

"But you are", and she turned around and saw the Apache medicine women with the mountain lion staring at her, and giving her a gentle hug.

"Open the door", she heard from the other room. She quickly opened it and the knight fell before them in his own blood by their feet. The Templar knight transformed back to being a black bear. The Templar knight was covered in blood and was breathing its last breaths of this lifetime.

"Let me take care of him now and help his journey back to heaven". "It's critical now that you get the power back on, for us to have any chance in saving the plant," said the Apache Medicine worman to Jessica.

Jessica took the solar power pack and race into the power control interface monitor. There was blood everywhere and the rattlesnake was no where to be seen. She saw the grid station itself and where to upload the solar batteries. She took the old batteries out and put the new ones in.

We used these solar batteries to put a Man on Mar's to find possible life. We are now using the same batteries to bring life back on earth. She pull the main power swith that control the grid to the biosphere. Nothing happen. She did a complete reset and pulled the energy switch a seond time.

She could actually hear and feel the different areas of the biosphere coming back on line with power.

The Apache medicine women took Jessica into her arms to comfort her.

"The Templar knight, where is he. I want to thank him.", said Jessica.

"He is no longer here with us, but he has told me to have you look for him in your dreams. He will be there ready to protect you and to defend you at all costs when you need him again. He will always be there for you my friend."

"There is still one more task that we have left to do together", said the Apache medicine women. She lead her back into the main facility of the Biosphere. The water had aready started to flow though the entire facility.

"Do you still have the rainbow acorn that the Green man from the forest gave you?"

Jessica knodded. Please give it too me. The Medicine wormen took the rainbow acorn and planted it next to the stream and close to the fountain in the middle of the biosphere. She took her sacred walking stick with an image of a bear carved on it. Chanting in her ancient Apache voice, she started circling the area where the acorn was just planted. She started to wave the stick in mid air in a trance and started dancing to an inner song of forgiveness and rebirth.

A tree started to come out of the soil from where the rainbos acorn was planted. It started small, and then grew faster and faster with all different colors of flowers covering its limbs. The tree was in a very short time now bigger then Jessica. The tree would grow to three times as tall and twice as wide.

"Jessica, behold." This is the tree of Yahweh of what the prophets of old had spoken of in the Holy book of Genesis. A beautiful image then walked out of the tree. Jessica knew at once who this sacred holy being was and fell to her knees.

"Arise, Arise, my dearest fairest child of mine. I am the Mother Mary. The Wife of Joseph and the blessed mother of Jesus, our lord."

"She had on the most beautiful light blue robe with a white lace veil covering her head."

Jessica could feel the maternal love, the grace and the power that was coming from Mary's total being. It warmed Jessica's soul and took the darkness of her journey completely away. She fell gracefully into her blanket of peace and holy inner harmony.

Mary reach her arms out to Jessica. "Please Stand and come to me". Jessica walked in front of her with her head still bowed to the ground before her.

The Holy Mary of Nazareth put one of her hands on Jessica's forehead and another just below her stomach area where her overies where.

Jessica felt a sudden rush of energy and blissfulness entered into her. She then saw two large magnificient angels by Mary's side. One was the Arch Angel Michele, and the other was the Arch angel Gabriel.

The Arch Angel Michel spoke to Jessica. "You have been chosen as Mary had been chosen years ago. Two lives are now inside of you. These two twins will start a new world and create a new begining for all mankind. A mankind that will cherish nature, and all the blessing of the Earth, and create a community that will not destroy the holiness of God's creations through pollution, greed, or power. The Lion and the lamb will now lay down together.

"Jessica, you must teach and nuture your children well, and create in them a cuture of mutural respect of love, and kindness towards all God's creature big or small.

The Holy Mary Mother was then lifted up by the mighty Angels towards Heaven disappearing from her sight.

The Apache medicine women bowed down to Jessica. You are now the protector of the trees, make them all grow strong and tall. May grace always fill your heart and may you live with peace of God in your heart. My sister, My friend, and she gave her a soft kiss on her forehead. She then walked into the very being of the tree of Yahweh, and disappeared into to the beauty of Heaven's inner mist.

## 10 Years Later: Little Mary and Joseph came running up to Jessica who was in the garden planting. "Mother, Mother, you won't believe what just happen to us."

"What just happen?, she said smiling back at them.

"Well, we were both in the middle of the biosphere next to that big beautiful tree in the middle. The tree spoke to us.

"It said that we were blessed and that we are to be the keepers of the trees."

"You are true blessings of the earth my children. Now run off and play, but be back in an hour when dinner will be ready to be served."

Mary and Joseph went skipping off together holding hands. glowing with inner hope and love with the inner knoledge that they are to be the trusted sacred keeper's of God's beloved planet called Earth.

A monarch butterfly appeared and tenderly landed on Jessicas's hand.

## The End