

## PARADISE IMAGINED

*Into a limbo large and broad, since called, 'The Paradise of Fool's. To few unknown. John Milton*

*Millions are fascinated by the plan to transform the whole world into a bureau, to make everybody a bureaucrat, and to wipe out any private initiative. The paradise of the future is visualized as an all-embracing bureaucratic apparatus....Streams of blood have been shed for the realization of this ideal. Ludwig Edler von Mises*

I am a member of a rather select and unique team. We are 'Space Wanderers'. We seek planets where there is a possibility of living creatures that have evolved to a certain level of intelligence. We are not in quest of refuge. Our goal is to solve problems that the inhabitants of these planets have not been able to cope with. We are not interested in any compensation. Our reward is the benefits that bestowed. We also attempt to make sure that none of the natives of these worlds are aware of our existence. We wish them to feel that without any outside assistance they solved their difficulties by themselves. Fortunately, in most instances we were and are able to provide solutions to their difficulties without too much trouble. We come from a variety of backgrounds with differing skills. These abilities enable us to fulfill our stated goals. It remains a mystery as to how and when we became such a unique group with such a benevolent mission.

Few problem areas required ingenious effort on our part. However, one caused us a great deal of consternation. To a very large extent, natives of that world were characterized by truly objectionable traits. Ignorance, greed, a propensity to violence, slavery, mistreatment of animal life and the environment, infallible beliefs especially those of a religious nature, sexism, blind patriotism, tyranny and many others are just examples. It is true that it was not all black. Some of them sought harmony, peace and truth. They were rare.

We considered promoting their positive traits, hopefully to break the vicious circles that their destructive character entailed. After much deliberation, we decided upon a soft approach. Using holographic technology, we infiltrated this world with human-like persons that would appeal to the few good individuals, giving them a reason to spread a gospel of truth and brotherhood of man. Some were, Buddha, Moses, Jesus Christ, Socrates, Maimonides, Spinoza, Marx, Adam Smith, Beethoven, Bach, Mozart, Verdi, Shakespeare, Hugo, Zola, Darwin, Newton, Einstein, Freud, Jefferson, Lincoln, Chaplin, Mother Teresa, Schweitzer, Sadat, Roosevelt, Mandela and others of their ilk. While in many instances their influence was notable, it was temporary, frequently distorted and challenged by the ignorant and superstitious. In other words it did not do the trick.

After further deliberations, we decided to fight fire with fire. Again, using holographic technology, we started inhabiting the world with the likes of the Snake in the Garden of Eden, Cain, the Philistines and Goliath, Delilah, Cleopatra, Genghis Khan, Attila the Hun, Alexander the Great,

Judas, the Leaders of the Inquisition, those responsible for the Burning of Joan of Ark and the Witches of Salem, Robespierre, Rasputin, Hitler and his cohorts, Stalin, Mao, Bin Laden, Idi Amin and many more. There were others who, while not malevolent, provided the means to obliterate populations and to destroy the environment. Various polluting industries, unsafe working conditions, the technologies that led to gunpowder and subsequently to lethal weaponry such as guns rifles and long range cannons, the National Rifle Association that promotes the use of these weapons as a right, ultra toxic poison gas, and nuclear bombs were examples. The end result of these machinations was even more horrific than our previous effort. It was only because of a balance of power that this world did not completely destroy itself.

There was one more thing to try..... our last effort. One of us namely me, has the power to read peoples' minds and to collectively plant ideas in them. I started by managing to get close to the world's supposed leaders. It was not difficult since I was able to read their minds and anticipate what they wanted, thereby providing them with advice that they deemed suitable. Once I had their complete confidence, I inserted opinions, judgments, beliefs, feelings and views that promoted peace and good will into their psyche and subsequently to the world's populace.

It took a while but peace and harmony prevailed. There was a recognition that humanity could only survive if everyone cooperated with each other even if, in some instances, there was rivalry between individuals, groups and nations. Violence became a thing of the past. Trade became a win-win situation, Management-Labour strife disappeared when both recognized their mutual need for each other and acted accordingly and finally a true Green Revolution took place to everyone's advantage.

I found it necessary to remain longer in this world, although I suspect that wielding the power I had garnered had possibly corrupted me and made me enjoy my current situation more than it should have. The only fly in the ointment was that after a period of a couple of hundred years I found myself bored out of my skull. This world had become a static entity, with no real progress in the Arts and Sciences. I considered reintroducing some of the old destructive ways but quickly discarded this notion. The only way to fight an idea is with another but I cannot think of one. I would appreciate any assistance anyone could provide.

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