

THE INFINITE

A SHORT STORY BY ANDREAS INGO

It's a futuristic vista. An alien desert passing by underneath us in high speed. It's a huge desert. A desert where huge segments of yellow sand are intersected with brown pillars of wind-torn cliffs. Where the howling wind and yellow sand have torn the brown cliffs into imaginative shapes. Almost human figures gazing upon the desert with penetrating looks.

Into frame comes three hover bikes flying in high speed. One of these belongs to a young adult called Angel Night-Crawler. He shares space with two other young adults. One of these is called Nina Three-Eyes, a young woman with a spiky hair-style. The other one is called Neil Time-Twister. They pass a convoy of futuristic rover vehicles. A convoy of industrial looking rover vehicles. Driving upon the sand to create thick dust clouds.

In ore mining valleys huge tractors work restlessly to dig into the sand. Giving room for drilling equipment.

The young adults have finally arrived at their home planet. A massive space-ship has established an orbit above the atmosphere. A space-ship used to travel outer space contrary to average expectations.

“Home at last.” Angel Night-Crawler says to the others, “It feels like a past life-time! An odd occurrence.”

The youngsters slow down speed to enter a huge gorge. A gorge where human civilization flourish to decorate the walls of the gorge with futuristic buildings. Walking platforms and bridges connect the two sides of the gorge with each other.

The gorge is so enormous that it's hard to see the end of it with normal vision. The sides of the gorge protect humans from alien

winds. It's like a complete civilization built on an escape from natural disasters.

The young adults slow down a bit to discover restaurants and futuristic item stores along the sides of the gorge. They land their hover bikes on a platform extending from the side of the gorge to make the youngsters remember.

"It's not like yesterday." Angel says to the others, "But I still recognize this place."

"Me too." Neil Time-Twister says.

When the youngsters arrive inside a building they get to see that some details have remained intact and others have changed. A wall inside the building displays images from new excavations. It's images with torn shapes of human colonists. Older people and younger ones too.

They are complaining about the current state of affairs. But they hint that this work is also necessary. Necessary to counteract the unrestrained dimensions of the afterlife.

"How strange." Nina Three-Eyes says to the others. Removing her space-helmet to display the greasy spikes of her blonde hair. "This idea of the afterlife is very odd." Nina says, "That people now search for some kind of limitation."

"It has to be investigated." Angel Night-Crawler says.

The young adults have to ease down to find some time of sleep. The adventurous journey into the depths of space has made them strong and full of vitality. But they still are pretty exhausted.

They enter a futuristic hotel with several rooms. Tables twist and turn to create sleeping spaces. It's a comfortable vision of alternating furniture. Even the images on the paintings change.

The young adults instantly stop to stare at black shapes in one corner of the room. The shapes are connecting to each other in a web of alien origin. Building patterns with mathematical precision. Looking a bit

like something from the aquatic kingdom but still fit for the dry environment on the planetary land.

“What about the black shapes?” Angel asks a porter.

“It’s the new government!” The porter says to Angel, “Haven’t you heard?” He says, “It’s about the necessity of current times!”

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Neil, Angel and Nina walk together over a bridge to the other side of the gorge. They have heard stories about a new cave entrance. Leading to a huge cave pattern descending down into the brown rock.

They find the entrance to the cave. Inside the cave they are struck by the alien presence. The human element of futuristic design is mixed with an aura of otherness. This is visible in technology such as elevators, air support units and water piping. The area contains multiple support lines regarding these kind of technologies.

The youngsters walk up to a magenta liquid container. Cut in organic design containing liquid for the alien species. And hybrids, mixed with alien and human D.N.A, walk the shared ground wearing space-suits and human air support.

The young adults find themselves staring into the magenta liquid. Watching a huge alien shape slowly move under the surface. The alien cave shaft is huge. Stretching for thousands of meters into the brown rock. Water is dripping from the upper levels of the cave.

Above the young adults human shapes are working with some kind of drilling operation. To widen the cave. To build another form of alien support unit.

“Hi.” A man says to Angel Night-Crawler that has seen the young adult’s colourful shape. “Are you a visitor?”

“I was born on this planet.” Angel Night-Crawler says, “But what about this? Why are you working for an alien species?”

“It’s about the limitation.” He says, “As times were too easy before. We need the experience.”

“Are you serious?” Angel asks to the man. “This work is madness from my point of view!”

“How come?”

“Because you’re just exhausted!” Angel says, “Complaints can be heard from almost everyone! And you’re not feeling anything of importance!”

The man stares at Angel in silence.

Neil and Nina push Angel aside to make him walk away from the humans and the hybrids. The situation seems threatening. Mysterious. Confusing. They take Angel aside to talk with him in soft tone regarding the working operations.

Nina says they travelled the depths of space to find a way to live differently. They saw the wonders of human colonization. And other worlds beyond those. They found a sense of adventure and true happiness. But never had they seen such madness! Such a mad descent into work and routine!

Just for limitation.

“I think it’s time to start to think about our accomplishments.” Angel says to Nina in a serious tone, “We found subjective knowledge and true happiness but we took it for granted.”

“You have a point.” Nina says.

“Here is how I see it.” Neil Time-Twister says, “We went away in a time where different currents were blowing in the air. The human colonization project was just coming to completion. And we disappeared without a trace before everything degenerated into law and order.”

“So we came to see another reality than the others?” Angel asks.

“Pretty much so.” Neil says.

Suddenly an alien hybrid takes hold of Nina in a strong movement. The hybrid holds her steady in his arms. Angel watches it and takes up a futuristic ray gun. He shoots a beam towards the alien hybrid that loses his grip. Nina runs for the cave entrance. The others run after her. A horde of alien hybrids run after the young adults. Taking up weapons to shoot after the human shapes that take shelter beyond human air support units.

“It’s madness!” Angel screams at the alien hybrids. “To create temporary suffering for a stupid end!”

Three alien hybrids approach the young adults from the side. Rolling on the ground to escape the beams from Angel’s ray gun. Nina and Neil take up ray guns too. And start to shoot at the alien hybrids. With faces half-human, half alien.

Blackened faces with human flesh in between. Their eyes staring into darkness.

“Why did you do it?” Angel screams to the alien hybrids, “Why did you enslave human beings?”

“It’s about the everlasting problem of the multi-verse!” They scream in a high-pitched vibration, “About a loss of meaning due to simplicity! We came from the ocean. From the bottomless abyss of the ocean. To establish the prospect of a new future.”

“But it’s just about madness in the end!” Angel screams.

The humans in the cave are listening. But there is no answer.

The youngsters run out of the cave towards their hover bikes. They jump up on the bikes. Start the jet propulsion engines and fly away from the closest area. They are shot at with sentry guns.

Neil is hit and descends towards the bottom of the gorge. Where the hover bike hits fire and consumes Neil in flames.

Angel and Nina continue to the end of the gorge. Where they are met with a vista of a magenta ocean. Huge waves crash up towards the cliffs in majestic movements.

“Do you see the island beyond the coastline?” Angel asks Nina over the radio. “We have to escape.”

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The two survivors try to contact Neil over the radio but can't establish a connection. They have to assume Neil is dead and they take to the remote island to escape the threat of the hybrids.

On the island they find shelter between a couple of cliffs where they call down the space-ship from orbit. They sit silently upon the brown rock to watch ripples upon the ocean.

Circular motion caused by opposing layers of alien liquid.

“We need to enter the astral planes to search for Neil's soul in the afterlife.” Nina says to Angel.

“I agree.” Angel says.

Half an hour later the huge space-ship descends from the starry skies. It's glimmering with night-time reflections. To a background of several moons coloured in grey.

On the ground the two space-travellers enter the space-ship to walk right up to the sleeping modules. They lie down, close their eyes and project their consciousness to dimensions beyond the physical. It's a procedure that demands good time and concentration.

To concentrate on the real-time zone on the astral plane. Where they eventually get to meet Neil once again.

“I died.” Neil says to the others on the astral plane, “And time passes quickly in the real-time zone. I know you would come for me.” Neil says, “But I have already found my home in the astral.”

“Can you show us your home?” Nina Three-Eyes asks.

“Off course.” Neil Time-Twister says.

The young adults are taken to a paradise environment. A lush mountain region where a huge mountain overlooks Neil Time-

Twister's home in the afterlife. The mountain looks down upon him with a look reminding the others about Neil's own face.

Actually it's a copy.

Neil has become something of a god in this non-physical dimension. He has a house, helpers and local water-supply. The water contains shapes that look upon him with keen curiosity. And also praise Neil due to his countless victories and defeats.

"There is a problem here though." Neil says to the others.

"What problem?" Nina asks Neil.

"The problem of no problems!" Neil says. "I have everything taken care off! I have my water supply, my food, my sleeping unit and also countless pleasures."

"So you mean the hybrids were right?"

"Far from it!" Neil says, "This is just a different environment."

Nina listens but is disturbed by a beating clock on the physical plane. She exits the astral projection and wakes up in the physical with some headache.

Angel follows her.

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The following weeks the two remaining survivors talk about their past experiences on the astral plane. They remind themselves they were avid astral travellers in the past. As Neil said the problem on the astral plane is that the entities living there actually have it too easy. They are not challenged by hard living conditions.

Some things are pretty similar though. Most people have ordinary jobs but these jobs are jobs they have chosen due to their past occupations on the physical plane. There is money. A certain money flow. But most individuals have what they need for a safe journey home.

"Now things get interesting." Angel says to Nina, "It seems the inhabitants on the astral planes have the opposite problem compared

with people on the physical plane. There is suffering. But a suffering of a different kind.”

“I agree.” Nina says. “But what can one do about it? As most enlightened teachers says: The problem with the infinite is that everything already is done.”

The two travellers end their conversation to focus on matters in the physical. There is a huge population on the planet that is enslaved in the most horrid ways. And they also come to think about a problem they never have thought about earlier.

The fact was that Neil’s hover bike contained an energy module that is needed for a safe journey to outer space. The inhabitants on the planet would be hard to convince regarding the life they have chosen. So they have to enter the zone of the gorge late at night. To find the remains of Neil’s hover bike and extract the energy module from it.

“We leave for the gorge tomorrow night.” Nina says.

The journey happens at intended. They leave a starry night where the grey moons above the horizon send their grey reflections upon the swirling water. Later, as the young adults enter the gorge with cloaked lights, they start to search the bottom of the gorge for Neil’s hover bike. They find it after some detective work. They isolate the fragments of the bike and find the energy cube in a safe box close to the burned remains of Neil’s body.

But to their own horror they are soon detected by human shapes coming out of several buildings.

“We’re just leaving.” Angel says to a woman with shining eyes.

“Why leave?” The woman asks Angel in somber tone.

“To not disturb the aliens.” Angel says.

“You don’t have to go.” The woman says, “The aliens are gone.”

“Why gone?” Angel asks.

“Due to the impression you made on the workers.”

Angel is surprised.

To make a long story short the people noticed the arguments made concerning Angel's opposing views. The people never wanted to work in the first place. They were easily convinced by the young adults as they always held the same views subconsciously.

They just listened to the alien species due to their own arguments.

People took for granted they had to work hard as they always had done in the past. The alien rulers just used this mind-set (common-sense reality) to convince the colonists they had to abandon their own comfort for greater meaning.

Angel and Nina are introduced to the new life of the colonists. The aliens went away a week ago. They did it without complaint as they only did what they did for the people.

Not the other way around.

Now Angel and Nina are invited to a party. A party along the gorge in futuristic buildings.

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Angel and Nina leave later towards unknown horizons. They exit the atmosphere with the space-ship and a sound of thunder echoes below.

“What about the afterlife then?” Nina asks Angel Night-Crawler in a serious tone. “All hard tasks on the physical plane have come and gone.” She says, “What about the afterlife?”

“We need to change approach to the afterlife.” Angel says, “It must contain more than nice diversions.” He says, “Some kind of mission where we can indulge in true passions. Reverting the philosophy of ease and calm and do something hard for a change.”

“Changing the approach of the afterlife?”

“Yes.” Angel says, “We need to take it easy on the physical plane but we also need to make things harder on the astral plane.” He says, “To

work hard for the benefit of our own future. Not limited to concepts of ‘infinity’ but work harder in time for absolute freedom.”

“What freedom?”

“The freedom to indulge beyond all so called concepts of infinity and actually explore new concepts, new places and entities. And not just explore but to create consciously. To find the subtle details of the infinite form of the multi-verse. Creating for change.”

“You might be right.” Nina Three-Eyes says to Angel Night-Crawler,
“The Infinite is also unknown in origin.”

THE END