

***THE HEAT
OF
THE SUN***

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Blooming World Books

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For the Mother Planet whose bountiful life
reminds me of my responsibility to all that live

Behold, my friends, the spring has come. The
Earth has gladly received the embraces of the Sun,
and we shall soon see the results of their love!

Tatanka Yotanka (Sitting Bull) (1831–1890)

PROLOGUE

According to legend registered in the Akashic Records storing the history of the Universe, celestial bodies are capable of experiencing great love. It is this love that allows the Universe to continue expanding endlessly.

Among the countless amorous affairs that arouse the continuity of perennial cosmic life, there is one taking place in an inconspicuous corner of an average galaxy that is considered to be one of the most beautiful love stories in the history of the Universe. It is the story of a lonely star that craved to breed life in a loving partnership with another celestial body. The demand to love became so intense that through its potent magnetic pull the star attracted a planetary system, which had developed from the remnants of its own creation, and began courting them to find out which would make a perfect spouse to beget a lavish progeny.

After billions of years of courtship, only one of the eight contenders for the star's love proved to be the ideal partner in the creation of life. A most enchanting and beautiful blue planet, the third one orbiting the magnanimous celestial body, turned out to be unique in its orbital system. With an abundance of the life-giving element water, a perfect range of temperatures, and an oxygen-rich atmosphere, the rocky planet was the perfect womb into which the star could impregnate with a myriad of life forms. The star became madly enamored

of this planet and one of the most beautiful love stories in the Universe commenced.

As their love grew and the copious life emerging from it evolved through eons, they decided to give birth to an intelligent form of life that would be entrusted with the responsibility of caring and protecting the ineffable living magic that came into being and thrived in the bosom of the mother-planet. Thus, following the procedural evolutionary pattern applicable to all life, the intelligent beings gradually developed into an extraordinary species capable of prodigious intellectual accomplishments—and that's when the problem began.

Infatuated with their remarkable brainpower, they became self-centered, egotistic, and delusional while mistakenly believing that they were the ultimate reason and purpose of life. Their intellectual hubris reversed the purpose of their existence; that is, instead of serving the mother-planet they were entrusted to care for, they exploited and prostituted her to serve their selfish interests, greed, and arrogance. As they created their own limited and ephemeral world, they fell in love with themselves. Henceforth, not only they forsook their original filial duty, but they colluded with the advancements of their industrial-technological civilization to commit matricide.

Enraged by the betrayal, the father-star determines to save its beloved celestial spouse by eliminating their intelligent progeny for good. The loving mother-planet, however, protects her children with utmost devotion

and argues that there is hope for redemption of the human species.

Out of immeasurable love and respect for each other, they commit to discussing the fate of their children who stand accused of bringing life on Earth to the brink of extinction.



I have been in love with her from the beginning of time. Among the eight contenders roaming around me vying for my light and energy, she is the only one I chose to impregnate with a plethora of life forms. But now she's being ravenously raped, abused, and butchered piecemeal—by our own children; the ones we entrusted the stewardship of her bountiful life. The ire at the core of my being is burning me alive from the inside out as I spew flames of fury and revenge. I shall have no mercy for those responsible for my love's untimely death. I must save her before it is too late. I have made up my mind: I am going to wipe out the despicable human race from the face of my beloved Earth.

I am known as the Sun—the ancient Greeks called me *Helios* and the Romans called me *Sol*. I'm an ordinary star among more than 100 billion stars in the Milky Way; an equally ordinary galaxy among billions of others. I move around the center of the galaxy at a speed of 140 miles per second, which takes me 250 million years to complete one single orbit. In my lifetime, I have circled the Milky Way galaxy more than 18 times. I am the largest object in the Solar System. In fact, I alone contain more than 99.8% of the total mass

of the Solar System and the planet Jupiter contains most of the remaining percentage. Although from a cosmological perspective I am but an ordinary star, have no doubt that I am a powerful celestial being—and I am enraged!

I was born approximately 5 billion years ago and I guess you could say that I'm going through mid-life crisis right now, since I have another 5 billion years left before I run out of hydrogen fuel and like all forms of life I, too, will die. In three billion years I'll be hot enough to boil Earth's oceans away. Another couple of billion years thereafter, I'll have used up all of my hydrogen and I'll balloon into a giant star and engulf the planet Mercury in the process. At that point in my life I'll be a red giant star and I'll be about 2,000 times brighter than I am right now and hot enough to melt Earth's rocks. Then, once I use up all of my hydrogen fuel, I will no longer be able to support the structure of my inner layers and I'll begin to collapse toward the core as I become a small, dense, cool star; a white dwarf. As unimaginable as it may seem, at that time, I'll have about the same radius of my beloved Earth.

Without the enormous amount of energy that I supply to the Earth in the form of heat and light, no life form would be able to develop and thrive on the planet. It is my energy that warms the days and illuminates the world. Green plants absorb my light and convert it into food, which these plants then use to live and grow. In this process, the plants give off the oxygen that animals

and humans breathe, as all plant and animal life on the planet depend on my existence to survive. In fact, even the energy stored in fossil fuels originally came from me, for ancient plants used sunlight as fuel to grow and animals consumed these plants. The plants and animals stored the energy of sunlight in the organic material that composed them. Then, when the ancient plants and animals died and decayed, this organic material was buried and gradually turned into the petroleum, coal, and natural gas used in the self-consuming industrialized world. Furthermore, my energy also produces the winds and the movements of water that humans harness to produce electricity. It is the heat emanating from my body that warms oceans and lands, which in turn heat the air and make it circulate in the atmosphere as wind. I am the one who fuels Earth's water cycle, evaporating water from the oceans, seas, and lakes. This water returns to the ground in the form of precipitation, flowing back to the oceans through the ground and in rivers. Hence, my existence is paramount to life on Earth and the sustainability of the entire Solar System. Yes, I am the god of light and life in this inconspicuous corner of this ordinary disk-shaped spiral galaxy.

Of the eight known planets and umpteen smaller objects orbiting around me, the Earth is the only one I chose to have a life-giving love affair. This beautiful and sensual blue planet with her curvaceous body of water meandering around her round-shaped figure has seduced me from the beginning. Perhaps it's the con-

trast of my fiery nature with the soft liquid element of her being that rendered me enamored and ignited my passion and desire to bestow the gift of life upon her. In the beginning of our cosmic relationship, I penetrated her with my light and heat and impregnated her as she gave birth to bacterial life in her oceans. Henceforth, an extraordinary array of life forms evolved through eons of our passionate life-creating affair. From the nearest planet to me, Mercury, to the distant frontier of the Solar System beyond where Pluto resides, the Earth is the only planet blessed with my life-giving power. It is a monogamous relationship that I have always nurtured and treasured. Even though I've known from the beginning that in another 5 billion years my own dying process will inevitably bring her demise along mine, I've always wanted our relationship to be eternal for as long as it lasted. But since the human species came into being, the fate of our cosmic love affair has been in danger of ending prematurely. Thus, humanity has left me no choice but to commit filicide.

Observing the gradual evolutionary process of life on my beloved Earth from 92,900,000 miles away, I became seriously concerned when vicious creatures portended the signs of things to come. The dinosaurs flourished for 125 million years, from the Triassic to the Cretaceous periods. They ranged in size from small forms no larger than a domestic chicken to gigantic animals measuring up to 90 feet long and weighing around 30 tons. They became the regents of life on

Earth and their nefarious characteristics forebode that other similar species would eventually emerge and spread around the planet. Then, around 65 million years ago, when the dinosaurs had already reigned on Earth for more than 100 million years, I was so irritated with their uncaring demeanor that I decided to take action. Through my inescapable magnetic pull, I commanded a few sizeable asteroids to depart from the asteroid belt that separates the terrestrial and jovial planets to crush into the Earth in order to extinguish those vicious creatures once and for all. After a long period of recovery, the Earth, a sovereign being and the mother of all creatures that walk, roam, swim, and fly on her domain, finally was able to recuperate. Then, through millions of years of passionate love making, I kept impregnating her with my light and heat as she gave birth to new life forms, again.

Thus, approximately four million years ago, the *Australopithecus*, the forefather of the human species, came into being. Then, some two and half million years ago, the *Australopithecus* evolved into *Homo habilis*, then into *Homo erectus*, then into *Homo neanderthalensis*, and again, some 30,000 to around 10,000 years ago, it became *Homo sapiens*; the most spiteful and dangerous creature ever to tread on the face of the Earth.

For hundreds of centuries, the *Homo sapiens* remained primitive living a life barely distinguishable from that of other animals. It was not until 5,500 BCE

that a few of them gradually began developing organized civilizations while enjoying special advantages of location, climate, and natural resources. Few hundred years down the line came forth the mighty empires of the Egyptians, the Babylonians, the Assyrians, the Chaldeans, and the Persians, together with some smaller states of such peoples as the Hittites, the Phoenicians, and the Hebrews; all of whom attained a higher level of learning. In the area of the Indus valley, the Indian civilization was born, then China around 4,000 years ago; and finally, on the island of Crete and mainland Greece, the Hellenic civilization came into being and reached its apex at around 500 BC, until the Peloponnesian War between the city-states of Athens and Sparta marked the beginning of the end of Greek Civilization. By the end of the first century BC, the Roman Empire had taken over the entire Hellenic world as well as most of Europe, the Middle East, Egypt, and North Africa. What started out as a tiny city-state in central Italy, within six centuries turned into arguably the greatest empires in the history of human civilization. However, as it's always happened to all empires in human history, the mighty Roman Empire, too, collapsed under the heavy weight of its own power paving the way to the Dark Ages—and the many dark ages that followed.

And it all leads to this decisive moment in the history of the Earth. As I fret over the untimely ending of our loving relationship that should last another couple

of billion years, I am determined to do whatever it takes to rescue her from the vile and irresponsible actions of our bumptiously disordered offspring. I cannot and will not allow their unfettered greed, selfishness, egotism, and insatiable lust for wealth and power to corrupt, destroy, and filch life from my beloved Earth and our extraordinary creation. I shall utilize the side-effects of their own uncontrolled and maddening economic industrial activities as the ultimate device for their own self-destruction. It's about time that I raise the temperature of my rage so I can roast them to death!

However, being the loving mother that she is, the Earth has been adamantly resisting my determination to purge her from the plague of human existence. In spite of the unrelenting assault to her fauna, flora, land, water, and atmosphere by human predatory economic activities, she remains steadfastly opposed to my resolve to put an end to this travesty. Somehow she keeps finding ways to rejuvenate herself in the midst of the brutal mutilation she endures continuously. But as her devoted spouse and the progenitor of life that thrives in her bosom, I have the fatherly duty to override her loving nature in order to safeguard her survival and that of all our progeny. Thus, I must and I will extirpate the virulent presence of human existence from the face of the Earth. But every time I assert my determination to carry out my paternal responsibility, the beautiful loving mother of life becomes protective of her children and

strives to assure me that I don't have to eliminate the human species to save her life. She believes that her children are worthy of redemption; and she tries, futilely, to convince me it is possible for humanity to rekindle the light of love in their worn out hearts.

Knowing her as well as I do, I am suspicious that she is concocting another defensive argument in order to buy some time before my actions become irreversible. She insists in the existence of powerful dark forces; some necrophilic energy that has taken control over the human species and turned life into fodder for lust. In my turn, I am convinced that it is humankind itself that is necrophilic in nature and must perish accordingly.

But since the Mother of Life beseeches me to allow her to plead her case in behalf of her children, I shall listen with an open heart. Out of the enormous love, respect, and admiration I have for her, I've acquiesced; but with a caveat: if after hearkening her arguments I remain unconvinced of human blamelessness in the devastation of my beloved spouse and our myriad offspring, I'll wipe humanity out of the face of the Earth with a vengeance. She agreed with a timid smile and a twinkle of gratitude in her beautiful teary blue eyes as I set in her crimson western sky.