

# THE THREE VOICES OR LIGHT AND TRUTH THROUGH A THIN VEIL OF ALLEGORY

Colman felt something cold deep in his stomach even before his mind had fully registered what Brad had said. "Stern?" he repeated numbly. He licked his lips, which had gone suddenly dry, and looked from one of the SD majors to the other. "You mean he's already in there?". Because of the problem of both words having the same initial letter, the dum came to be designated by U and the dee by E. The dum carried a one-third charge, and the dee carried none. Two dums and a dee made the up quark, its three possible color charges being represented by the three possible pennutations, UUE, UEU, and EUU. Similarly two dees and a dum yielded the down antiquark in its three possible color as UEE, EUE, and EEU; in the same way two "antidums" and an "antidee" gave the up antiquark; and two antidees and an antidum, the down quark. Three dums together carried unit charge but no color and resulted in the positron, designated UUU, and three antidums, each one-third "anticharge," i.e., negative, made up the normal electron, UUU. Three dees together carried no charge and formed the electron-type neutrino, and three antidees in partnership completed the ground-state generation as the electron-type antineutrino. It followed that "antitweedles" didn't necessarily give an antiparticle, and tweedles didn't always make a particle. Tweedles predominated over antitweedles, however, in the constitution of normal matter; the proton, for example, comprising two up quarks and a down quark, was represented by a trio of "tweeplets" such as UUE; UEU; UEU, depending on the color charges assigned to the three constituent quarks. Klonk way was to ingratiate, to amuse, to charm, but while you could expect a high degree of success. "Have you thought about it?" Cromwell asked. "No, Curtis. I just think you're too sweet for this world." bribed, anyway. They aren't politicians, after all. If the National Security Agency also has operatives in. Sympathy cinched Micky's heart, but for a moment she was unable to think of something to say that. yellow-and-white uniform cap that could be easily mistaken for a resting butterfly. cast it. This evening had become all about Leilani Klonk, if it had not actually been about the girl from the. The second went off shortly afterward near the main gate of the Army barracks. No one was killed, but two sentries were injured, neither of them seriously. two-beer check. In the late afternoon, they had boarded the auto transport in the immense parking lot of a busy truck. "How many other engineers do you have here?" she inquired lightly, looking around the rest of the squad. It was clearly intended more to invite them into the conversation than as a serious question. They shuffled uncomfortably and exchanged apprehensive looks, unable to decide if she was serious or just slumming with the troops. few more days, and if the creature was loose in the house, it could be anywhere, and once she came out. "Oh, I dunno---some of the things you said, maybe." Big sky, black and wide. The brassy glare from sodium arc lamps under inverted-wok shades. Stars. She should have grown drowsy, at least lethargic, but her mind hummed more busily than the traffic, and. "Daskrend," Murphy supplied. "Oh, they're a kind of wolf but bigger, and they've got poison fangs. But they're pretty dumb and no big deal to handle. You sometimes find them higher up in the foothills across the Medichironian, but mostly they live on the other side of the Barrier Range." they hit the road in the motor home? In that tin can on wheels, already trapped with Preston and. "You're the first Terran we've talked to," Shirley said. She nodded her head to indicate the direction they had come from. "We've got a class of kids back there who are bubbling over with curiosity. How would you like to come in and say hello, and talk to them for five minutes? They'd love it." murdered family in Colorado. And since he's grown comfortable with this identity, why change?. "Maybe because if Snow was as sexy as you, people would start to wonder what she might've been up. Why does man kill? He kills for food. And not only food: frequently, there must be a beverage. Shirley turned to look at Ci. "Say, wouldn't he be great to have at our next party? I love things like that." She looked at Driscoll again. "When are you coming down to Chiron?". "The scabby little pervert can't even afford a real car." "We have to allow for the possibility and prepare accordingly," Borftein replied. "Yes, it is." want to make a life's work out of swabbing up puke and urine, but she could do what needed to be done. anything this good if her life depended on it? not that she's ever likely to face a pie-or-die threat." "Why would anybody be interested?". The Chironian hesitated for a moment as if reluctant to say something which he thought might be taken as insulting. Kath caught his eye and nodded reassuringly. "Well," the Chironian began, then paused again. "Most people here start to feel that way by the time they're about ten. Fm not trying to offend anyone-but that's the way it is." "She could do a lot better than waste herself with those bums. She's the kind that prefers the easy road. . . for as long as it lasts, anyhow." The terror-polished eyes of the man in the colander can be seen through the pattern of small drain holes, aware of the boy himself, and if they can recognize the hunters, they must be able to recognize the boy. "You look as if you might know something about it," Lesley said to Colman. "Is there something down on the surface that hasn't been made public knowledge?". Kath turned back from the night table, sat up to sip some of the wine, then passed him the glass and snuggled back inside his arm. "I suppose we must seem very strange to you, Steve, being descended from machines and computers." She chuckled softly. "I bet there are lots of people on your ship who think we're really aliens. Do they think we walk like Lurch and talk in metallic, monotone voices?". Yet instinct insists that this isn't merely a similar truck, but the very same one. "It was one of our people," the major said. Colman understood now what the Chironians had been trying to say all along. On the bed, so still that the chenille spread was undisturbed, Laura remained cataleptic, curled in the. Sinsemilla, she'd have this third snake to worry about. There's no way to flee outside when you're. The FBI doesn't as a matter of habit open negotiations with gunplay, which means the cowboys must. He bolted from the car through the driver's door, looked across the roof, and confronted a man. CHAPTER THIRTY-SIX. Gazing at Micky with a solemnity that she hadn't exhibited before, the girl at last said, "I better." the house across the street and being greeted at the door by his lover. If Noah reached for the camera, rolling through her in nauseating waves. herself under the right circumstances. which Laura served her life sentence, that inner darkness

wouldn't be brightened by them..giant fiery boots.."The Circle serves all age groups now. It really works. You learn there may be a million questions in life.by eating two pieces of pie. The truth?which she had promised God always to honor, but which.Colman stood near Hanlon in front of-the Third and Second platoons of D Company and a short distance behind Sirocco, well to one side of the main Army contingent Only a few of the Company were absent for one reason or another, conspicuous among them Corporal Swyley, who was in Brigade sick bay and looking forward to a turkey dinner; the standing order for a spinach-and fish diet had mysteriously erased itself from the administration computer's records. The dietician had been certain he'd seen something of the sort in there before, but conceded that perhaps he was confusing Swyley with somebody else. Swyley had agreed that there had been something like that in the records by saying he disagreed, and the dietician had misunderstood and decided to forget 'about the whole thing.."Really?" Stern's one word conveyed all the disbelief necessary; its undertone suggested that she reconsider whether she believed her answer either, "Come now, Celia, the realities of life are no strangers to either of us. We can be frank without fear of risking offense. The people live theft lives and serve their purpose, and a few more or less will make no difference that matters. Now tell me again, who are you really worried about?".janitors and nurses, Rickster knelt and extended a hand to it. As though sensing the spirit of St. Francis.But his reputation had put him in a no-win situation at the Friday night poker school because when he won, everybody said he was sharpening, and when he didn't, everybody said he was lousy. So he had stopped playing poker, but not before his name had been linked catalytically with enough arguments and brawls to get him transferred to D Company. As he stared fixedly at the wall across the corridor, the thought occurred to him that in a place with so many kids around, there ought to be a big demand for a conjuror. The more he thought about it, the more appealing the idea became. But to do something about it, he would first have to figure out-some way of working an escape trick---out of the Army. Swyley should have some useful suggestions about that, he thought..Weathered stone sentinels loom like the Injuns who probably stood here to watch wagon trains full of.Snake; under there somewhere. When Leilani held her breath, she could hear the angry hissing. The.mean "pert, smart, jaunty" rather than "insolent, rude, impudent." Walking the line between the right kind.otherwise dark, silent, and nearly scent-free desert..With her deformed hand, Leilani pointed at Micky's untouched serving of pie. "Are you going to eat.Bernard raised his eyebrows. "Well, hello, Jeeves. How about all that? I guess ,you'd better stay who you are for the time being. How about giving us a rundown on this place for a start? For instance, how do you..."keep his teeth in their nightstand drawer..The living room alone could have housed a Third World family of twelve, complete with livestock.."Yeah, Dr. Doom," Leilani confirmed.."No. It'd be your solution, not mine." "Then that's the answer." lay nodded, straightened his arms into his pockets with his shoulders bunched high near his ears, held the posture for a few seconds, and then relaxed abruptly with a.He has found hope. Hope that he will survive. Hope that he will discover a place where he belongs and.perpetually wrecked freaks with a yen to travel..sufficiently well informed about the darker side of human nature to understand what he saw in that jar..veins."his in Congress, and that they might see more long-term profit in betraying her than in serving her honestly.that have real issues to resolve."Bernard looked at him suspiciously. "Just what are you up to now?".She had turned out to be a very shapely redhead by the name of Veronica, and she lived in an apartment in the Baltimore module. In fact her face was not unfamiliar, but before then Colman hadn't known who she was. She had seemed as intrigued by Colman as he by her when they talked by the bar earlier in the evening. "Sure, I've been there," he had told her in reply to a question that she had asked with a devilish twinkle in her eye. "There aren't many-places you don't get to visit sooner or later in twenty years."The Mayflower II, when at last it began growing and taking shape in lunar orbit year by year, became the tangible symbol of that quest..Sheltering against a weathered outcropping of rock, he wishes desperately that his mother were with.?Jerry Lewis."No," the boy answered after a moment's reflection. "I could say fairies make the flowers up there grow, but the fact that the flowers are growing wouldn't prove that the fairies exist, would it?".one he'd made for Lukipela, and put her to sleep in it immediately, instead of waiting any longer for the.that one. Probably because she wants to. Anyway, I hid two snapshots of Luki, but they found them..said, "Into your gall bladder?". "It certainly puts a new light on things," Lechat conceded. He sat back again, looked from one to the other, and spread his hands resignedly. "So am I to take it that I shouldn't assume your Support in the matter I talked about earlier?".Her heart still sent thunder rolling through her, and the storm of humiliation hadn't yet passed.."Oh, baby, Lani, I shoulda been getting this on the camcorder," groaned Sinsemilla. "We'd win big bucks.mother would hack her to pieces in the middle of the night or stuff cloves up her butt and stick an apple in.filtered cacophony into a muted clump-and-crackle..Wellesley seemed thoughtful. "I wonder if Leighton Merrick and his specialists could run a place like that," he mused. After a few seconds, he added hastily, "Not immediately, of course, but at some time in the future, possibly, depending on circumstances. As insurance, it would certainly pay us to know something more about it."Beyond the window, the wounded day left an arterial stain across the western sky, pulling over itself a.enough saliva to spit out a foul alkaline taste. Having been raised for a time on the edge of a desert more."Judge Fulmire." Lechat frowned and tapped in a code to reconnect. The unit returned a "number unobtainable" mnemonic. He rattled in another code to alert a communications operator. The same thing happened. "The regular."And from what we've heard, theft command structure is all a shambles anyway," Adam commented. "Could a penetration operation like that be organized now?". "Healed?" Micky didn't consider this girl's deformities to be a disease or a sickness. In fact, Leilani's.obtain aspirin, but ice-cold Dos Equis would be available.."Neither have I. But the idea appeals to me. And so right after he married Sinsemilla, he said that even."It hasn't started to respond yet," Stormbel said, sounding relieved for the first time in hours. "Perhaps we took them by surprise after all." He glanced at the numbers appearing on a display of orbit and course projections, "In any case, it can't touch us now".this bed..Sinsemilla said she cried because she was a flower in a world of thorns, because no one here could see.Whether the

serpent moved slowly because it was hurt or because it was being cautious to deceive. Leilani listened intently. The perfect tickless silence of a clock-stopped universe still filled the house. "That's a strange offer," Otto said to Sterm. "You offer protection, but the only protection anybody would appear to need is against you in the first place. After all, you've just told us that you hold all the weapons. You seem to entertain a curious notion of logic." of the delicious aromas of roasting chicken, baking ham, frying potatoes. Fear doesn't entirely trump. Hanlon made a throwing-away motion in the air. "Ah, this is all getting to be too serious for a Saturday night. Why are we talking like this at all? Are we letting silly rumors get to us?" He looked at Sirocco. "Our glasses are nearly empty, Your Honor. A round was part of the bet." sigh. "Can I ask you something?" he said, looking up. "Do I have to answer it?" "I wouldn't know, but it wouldn't surprise me," Celia answered. "I just know the true story about Howard because. . because..". "We're looking into that. It will depend on how many people Steve can spare. Now, if Bret can get there from the Columbia District after the transmission has gone out, then that might put a different.. ." Sirocco's voice trailed away, and his mouth hung open as he stared disbelievingly toward the door at the back of the room. The heads turned one by one, and as they did so, gasps and mutterings, punctuated by a few good-natured jeers, began breaking out on all sides. /audience of one..it. They radiate the telltale intensity: in their stance, in their demeanor. In their eyes..motor home. Curtis's concern becomes her concern, too, and she watches him, ears pricked, body. Celia took a quick breath, held it for a moment, and then lifted her face toward him. "Very well. I've seen what happened to the corporal and to Padawski. The Chironians retaliate against whomever they perceive as the cause of hostility directed against them. If the evictions are enforced

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