

P L E A S A N T T H O U G H T S

Dreams are ordinarily of such an exceedingly transient nature that no memory of them lingers even more than a few minutes. Occasionally one of them remains with you for hours, days, even years and a few stay with you from childhood to old age. It is possible that the fever made this particular dream, I would almost say, vision, so vivid that it remained with me. For days and nights I lived it. During the first week of last December I had developed a cold which gradually became worse. I commenced to get chills and soon realized that I was also acquiring a decided temperature. On the eighth of the month I had to return home from the office before the middle of the morning and on the following day was unable to get up. Twenty-one days in bed and nearly that long before they could rid me of my temperature. My good friend the Doctor almost despaired and was wondering if his diagnosis was correct. This, however, is not a story of a sick man, or an operation. But being laid up with more than an ordinary severe case of intestinal flu is, I believe, part of the picture necessary to explain why, for sometime, I lived so intensely with my new found visionary friends.

It will be well to also briefly describe the setting of our home as this also enters into affairs as they progress. The house is a very substantial modern, two story brick house set back about twenty-five feet from the sidewalk. Attached to the house, well toward the front on the east side, is a double garage which is approached by a good cement drive which by a graceful curve widens out to twenty feet at the garage doors. These doors each in three sections fold back when the garage is opened. The right section in the left door is arranged so that it can be opened like a house door and it is fitted with a knob and lock similar to the side and rear entrance doors and the same master key unlocks it. We use this door considerably because it is on the "town side" and affords a little nearer and quicker entrance to the house when coming from that direction. Through another door and short hallway and one is in the main hall of the house. In the wider part of the drive our son often has his roadster parked with the front bumpers about three feet from the garage. With this setting hurriedly sketched it is now proper to relate what happened.

My wife, son and self were walking home, shortly after nine o'clock from the early evening movie and started up the drive to enter our home through the garage. As we neared the door two shrouded figures came toward us from in front of the parked roadster and frightened us a bit, to say the least. They appeared so suddenly that we did not have time to think, but before we could decide on anything and in such a case there is not much use in making any decision, one of them said: "Do not be afraid, we mean no harm and only want to be your guests."

Our fears were immediately allayed and we invited them into the house. Here they were, two perfect strangers, completely concealed by their covering, and yet we did not hesitate a moment to welcome them as our guests. There was something about their speech and manner which not only seemed to compell obedience but at the same time you were instilled with perfect confidence in the sincerety and the honesty of their request. In fact you felt as if their presence would be welcome. Then before making another move they both said, "Do not touch us under any circumstances." Somehow or other we instinctively felt that to violate this instruction would mean instant great harm to either the one that touches them or to the forms themselves. Who or what they were we did not know. We simply and agreeably obeyed.

We all went into the house and into the large living room. The lights were turned on and then we had the first good look at them. They were apparently human forms about six feet tall and they walked and talked as we did but their shroud covered them so completely that no distinct body line could be made out, except there appeared to be more bulge at the arms, nor could one tell what their features were for they were completely hidden. I called the covering a shroud, and so it may have been in a sense, but it was of a material and color that we could not define. The nearest description is that the color was a rose brown, more like shades of amber, but the fabric was more difficult to describe. It looked something like celophane and again like silk. It appeared translucent and yet concealed everything. There was an artistry in the draping for it always hung lightly and with an exquisite grace. Women would have envied the beautiful

folds and lines.

They always stood close to each other and when they spoke one could not tell which one was talking or if they both spoke at once. They never said "I" but always "we", yet I have an impression that it was the man who carried on all the conversation. I cannot relate everything they said verbatim but will record it as my memory best permits.

We were gazing at them with a mingled feeling of awe and wonderment when they spoke. I must use the plural "they" as "it" would be improper and, on account of their inscrutability, I could not with positive propriety say either "she" or "he".

"You are wondering who or what we are, where we came from and what our mission or business is. We are not of this earth but are visitors from another world and came here to observe and study the human beings of this planet. It is three days since we arrived and though we have seen and heard much we have particularly occupied our time in studying. We have observed and listened to you and to many other people, and have already occupied your home since our arrival. You are skeptical as we can see but we must confess that when we so desire we can instantly become invisible and as we have solved the fourth dimension it was easy for us to enter your home. Our secrecy was occasioned by the desire to first learn your language. The educational methods which our people have acquired through long ages of application and study enables us through the training which we have received to learn to speak and read any language within one or two days. Without being able to offer any explanation or to converse with you we have so far withheld the knowledge of our presence to you."

Why they came to our home in the first place, just where and how they arrived, we never knew. They did not seem to volunteer the information and somehow or other it seemed that whenever they did not care to give certain information that we did not ask. I do not recall that any of us ever asked them any embarrassing questions for they always enlightened us readily on any subject inquired about, yet they must have had the power to forestall the undesirable.

They continued, "We ask you now (meaning my wife, son and myself) that unless we ask it that you do not divulge to anyone our presence here or say anything about us. You will not be embarrassed as we will not be seen by anyone and any visitors or callers may come and go as usual. No one will be aware of our presence until we decide to make a public appearance." We acquiesced promptly and sincerely knew in our hearts that we would keep our promise and we knew also that they knew we would.

"Furthermore," they said, "you need not worry about us as we require neither food nor drink. We were scientifically prepared for this trip with great care so that our physical wants would not suffer during the period of time allotted to us for our trip." They then told us that it was absolutely necessary that their trip in its entirety be confined to ninety days. They preferred to hold well within this limit and intimated that grave risks might attend them if their stay was unduly prolonged. It seemed that by severe training and intense scientific study, in collaboration with friends and associates who fully appreciated the hazardness of their journey, they had thoroughly fortified themselves both mentally and physically, having all the benefits of the accumulated wisdom of their people. As will be seen their knowledge far exceeded ours. It had taken them fourteen days to travel from their planet to ours and allowing for the return trip it only left them a maximum of sixty-two days for their sojourn and investigation on this earth.

Continuing their conversation of the first evening they said, "Please do not think that we are superhuman or more divine than you. We are human beings much like you. We did not wish ourselves here, although our speed and ease of travel far exceeds any conception you may have of personal transportation, but we were enabled to make this trip through power of mind and intellect. Like you we must have rest. Becoming invisible and passing through your walls consumes energy and we desire to conserve as much of this as possible. We find you have a fairly good library with plenty of reference volumes and also newspapers (we take a daily New York, Chicago, Detroit and Lansing paper) and

from these we can obtain a quick survey of your conditions, habits and history. This will help us to a better and quicker understanding of those things which we may hear and see as we go about unseen. You may wonder how much we can absorb in a short space of time out of a few shelves of reference books alone when it would take you many days to just read one volume. We have the power to concentrate on any written or printed matter and know at once what portions to eliminate so that we can confine ourselves solely to those parts containing the subject matter in which we may at the moment be interested."

As near as we can recall this ended the evening of the first day of their visit. Their presence, either noticed or unseen, did not bother us in the slightest degree. In fact there was something about them which made us cheerful and we were continually at an ease which we had never before experienced. As guests they were par excellence.

To relate all that was said or done in chronological sequence is in the main immaterial. I will refer to our conversations as they occur to me, keeping them only in order as suits the continuity of this tale. Our part of the discussions is more or less immaterial as it was confined to a great extent to interrogations. I do remember that on the second day they told us that they were brother and sister and that each were married. We wondered why they had left their respective mates and they replied:

"First of all we are much of the same temperament, our inclinations are along the lines of scientific research and as we were educated alike our ideas coincide to a great extent and we co-operate almost perfectly in our studies. Secondly, it is the belief among our people that both husband and wife should never voluntarily be exposed to any hazard at the same time. Should we perish here or on our return journey there would still be left an adult member of the family which in our judgment is better than to lose both heads of the family at once."

Although nothing was said about it we inferred that they had children.

Between their quiet behavior in the rooms assigned to them, their reading in the library, while Jack (my son) and I were out and Mrs. Haarer was busily engaged in other parts of the house, and with their frequent and sometimes extensive invisible trips of observa-

tion in the outside world, we did not see much of them for several days. No visitors could bother you less. One evening, it was clear and starlight, they took me to the rear upstairs hall and pointing through the window to the southwest said, "There is our home." Looking at the myriad of stars I saw for a moment one that stood out from the rest like a golden fiery disk about the size of a silver dollar.

"We hope that it will be a clear night like this when we are ready to return." Expressing surprise as to any difference it might make to them whether the sky was clear or overcast they explained:

"Energy of some kind is required no matter what any of us may do. If we start back on a clear night we have a visual objective and the course of our flight can be set at once. In hurtling through space at the terrific speed that is necessary to accomplish our journey in fourteen days it may be vital that our calculations are correct. Should we be compelled on account of the time element to make our start under unfavorable conditions and commence our flight blindly we might find that we had made a slight deviation. Our sense of orientation would soon make this apparent to us and then it would take a tremendous amount of energy to right ourselves into the proper course. It is better that we make no mistakes."

It came to my mind that their bodies must offer a tremendous resistance to the air and even to the lighter forms of atmosphere, gases or ether which we expected they would pass through and were partially enlightened to the extent that intense mental concentration, the knowledge of the fourth dimension and special preparation enabled them to pass through space with a minimum resistance. How it was actually done they did not volunteer to say. It is possible they thought and presumably rightly so that we could not comprehend any explanation.

We became thoroughly aware of the fact that their knowledge far transcended that of any human being on this Earth. In speaking one day of education and achievements, they said, "The people of your world have only made slight progress though you may think highly of what you have done in a material way. You have yet much to learn. Tens of

thousands and tens of thousands and tens of thousands years ago, (they repeated it three times as I distinctly remember) yes, one hundred thousand years ago we were farther advanced beyond your present stage of so-called civilization as you are now in advance of your stone age."

The conclusion came to us that they must have developed into beings of super scientific minds whose only pursuit in their existence was the attainment of further knowledge of the unlimited marvels of science and that nothing else could gratify them. Perceiving what was passing through our minds we could hear them chuckle, being the only time that they gave any audible sign of mirth. They could figuratively and literally smile up their sleeves without our being aware of it. On our part there was no implied criticism as we knew they were on a most serious undertaking.

"We can readily see why you think we are cold and unemotional for the business we are now about is one that commands all our power of observation and what we here see, hear and learn we are soberly and diligently storing away so that we can make a clear and comprehensive report of our findings. But we do not want you to think that we are always as reserved. Our people at home have much amusement. With the increase of our learning we have also learned to play. If you could behold the inhabitants of our planet you would hear more sincere laughter than you ever heard here; you would find more sorts of recreational contests, all of which are conducted with utmost fairness, and one never sees any display of ill will between either contestants or spectators. Clean sports and amusements are after all the more enjoyable.

"Our observations so far, and of this phase we know we are right, has led us to one positive conclusion in regards to affairs on your earth. The sum and substance of all your trouble is evil thinking. The people of your several countries and of all nationalities appear thus cursed. By evil thinking we mean all that the word may imply, such as hatred, jealousy, envy, distrust, lust, avarice and whatever thought may lead to the discomfort or harm, physically or materially, of some other being. All your history

substantiates this conclusion. Individuals and governments have left trails and are making new paths strewn with neighborly jealousies, the lust for power or wealth and the terrible greed to desire and acquire what belongs to others. Eliminate the evils causing crime and you would not need police or prisons. Greed and distrust are the reasons that your governments maintain huge armies and navies and their people are burdened with the cost of war, its cause and aftermath. We note that the people of all nations are crying against the load of taxation which they must bear. If you could do away with the evils of crime, greed and distrust, you would dispense with the major cost of government and the tax payer would be proportionately relieved.

"Personal hatreds and jealousies cause much suffering and unhappiness. Evil thinking in any of its manifold forms, no matter how great or slight, cause a corresponding mental and physical depression. This effect on the human system will, of course, vary much with the individual. Some people think evil rarely, others quite often, and some almost continuously. Besides the ^{debilitating} ~~debilitating~~ effect on themselves the evil thoughts of people emanate from them and thus contaminate others. As a stone dropped in a quiet pond causes a succession of circles, increasing in diameter and circumference though diminishing in intensity as the distance from the scene of disturbance increases, so do good or evil thoughts spread themselves. Unfortunately among you the baser minded people predominate and they all but destroy the almost hopeless minority of the right-minded. There have been some valiant struggles during your existence to overcome this evil and in the man you call Jesus your world had a wonderful leader and teacher of correct and clean thinking.

"You can thank God, and we are saying to you now that your God and ours is the same, that the teachings of Jesus and of other righteous minded teachers still live. Unfortunately you have had and still have many preachers who did not, nor do now, follow their own precepts so that the faithful few stand out with even more prominence in the general relief. And we emphasize the fact that no good thought, however strongly assailed, ever dies. Your world still has a long way to go until the clean ever living thoughts of

peace and right dominate and overcome the evil. We were many, many thousands of years in doing this."

We then asked them if there were no evil minded among them or if such evil did not sometimes crop out. "Yes", they said, "we do once in awhile have cases where evil thoughts are developed being caused most often by a taint of inheritance harking back to a more or less remote ancestor whose progress did not equal that of his contemporaries. Those afflicted are quickly noticed and in ordinary cases a cure is rapidly effected by continuous contact with the kindly suggestions and good humor of relatives and friends. On very rare occasions there is found an individual whose wrong thinking has permeated his whole system. His evil thoughts can find no outside lodging and perforce must abide with him causing such a toxic poison that early death is the result. We have not yet come to the end of the road leading to the attainment of perfection as it requires time and patience without limit."

And now they had been with us about three weeks and had not yet made themselves manifest to anyone but we three. They brought up the subject of their own accord as to whether or not they should show themselves locally to a few selected persons so that we could later with authority speak about our celestial visitors. Unless there was ocular evidence there would be few that would believe our story. After a very short discussion we all realized that their strange appearance would subject us and our home to a mob of curious sightseers. We said that it even might be dangerous to which they replied:

"On that score you need not have any fear as we can ward off anyone with intent to do harm or mischief. Without your knowledge you have been thoroughly safe-guarded while on your premises. One of the first things done by us was to drop what we call a "good thought" curtain around you, in fact we dropped it around your entire square. While this invisible screen is suspended no intentional personal violence can be done to anyone within the enclosure. No obstruction is offered except to those with base intentions. Should the latter approach they will unconsciously turn in their path, for the

evil thought in their mind, directed against anyone within, will gradually be dissipated as they come nearer to the curtain and their mind and way will be diverted."

In further discussing the subject of their appearance it was decided that a short time before their return journey they would appear in public as they felt that as they had been making a sociological and scientific study of our people and their methods, it was no more than fair that some of these people be at least allowed to see what they looked like, even if they were in mufti, and also they desired to converse with various people.

There was only one individual in whom they expressed a positive interest and who they wanted to meet and that was Prof. Einstein. Even with all their wisdom they allowed that his knowledge of subjects that they were intensely interested in was such that a discussion with him would prove mutually beneficial. They were especially interested in finding out if their calculated homeward flight would agree with his measurements of the shortest line between the Earth and their planet. They did not worry about making an appointment with anyone they might care to see as they asserted that their good will would overcome any hesitance or diffidence that might arise. Asked if they wanted to meet the President of the United States they did not evince any undue interest and stated that they might do this but would not let such a visit encroach on any of their time. They were more interested in mass psychology and events. In this I am merely voicing their views.

A visit to our largest city, New York, was however looked forward to, together with a stay in a prominent hotel. They anticipated they could make some interesting observations. Although I had never stopped there I had been through the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel and on my recommendation it was decided to make that their New York headquarters. I told them about the subways but they did not care to ride on them.

"Our sense of perception instantly warns us of any danger from a human source and by preparation nearly all others, but we are not voluntarily subjecting ourselves to any sudden unlooked for accident that might befall us through one of your mechanical devices.

Remember that if we are not forwarned we are subject to physical injuries as you are and keenly feeling that the results of our mission are anxiously awaited, we have a desire to return intact and on schedule."

Appreciating their wonderful and seemingly absolute control over us humans, when they so willed, we were still wondering what would happen if some gunman out of either maliciousness or curiosity would take a shot at them and plainly asked them what would happen under these circumstances. Their answer was:

"No one would attempt anything like this unless the urge to do so was created by an evil thought. The thought naturally must precede the action and being specific and direct would be recorded by us instantly. Our minds, devoid of all evil thought, would not be receptive and as all thought must lodge somewhere and find a place of rest, it would in this instance recoil and be hurled back with all its venom to the sender. All this would be done in a flash like a message by radio and the poor wretch who conceived the idea would die instantly from the virulent poison permeating his system by the return of his malevolent mental creation."

We inquired if they desired police protection while in public and they stated that this would not be necessary unless we wished it as they would be able with their own power to keep those not desired at a proper distance. As they had thrown a "good thought" curtain around our neighborhood so would they create one around the Waldorf-Astoria during their sojourn there. Our family was to be with them on this occasion and we were asked to proceed in advance to New York and arrange for the accommodations, a suite for them and for us. We were to inform the hotel management for whom we were reserving the extra suite and felt quite sure they would be honored by the presence of such unusual guests.

Inquiring as to how we were to notify them and how they would travel they told us to think of them when arrangements were completed and in a short space of time thereafter they would be with us.

"The speed which enables us to arrive here in a few minutes is slow compared to that needed to travel back to our own country. We will be invisible until we arrive in the rooms selected for us."

At this juncture a thought occurred to me which had not entered my mind during any of our conversations or at any other time while they had made their abode with us. Like multitudes of others I was under a severe financial strain. Our friends had been no expense to us so far, but suddenly I realized that this New York visit would prove decidedly expensive. It would be embarrassing if I was asked to defray this cost. There was nothing else to do but to make a clean breast of it. So I told them of my several bank obligations and as I spoke to them of the banks the facades of the banks appeared before me, each with its name in a horizontal sign across the front and as I looked the facades blended into one harmonious whole, yet all signs still showed up clearly and each sign had a ribbon of liquid fire stretched across its entire length. Our Celestial friends then expressed their sorrow and said our financial worries would cease. In this way, they explained: "There are yet many places where there is surplus money. To obtain some of the same for yourself is easy.. Go to any such corporation or individual and simply say: "_____." At this very instant my good wife entered the bedroom and said, "Is there anything you want?" She little knew what might have been told me in this visionary dream and it may be that it is well, even under the circumstances, I did not hear what was about to be said.

It might have been dream stuff but who can tell of what import those few words might have been, for in dreams and visions one often sees and hears things that could not be conceived in waking moments. Sometimes one can go to sleep again and pick up a dream where it was interrupted but try as I might I could not do this. For days in my dozing and day-dreaming I tried again and again to commune with my friends of the

other world for they seemed to be always beside me and I lived contentedly with them most of the time while confined to my bed. All my efforts to re-establish the former relations were in vain. I missed them and I knew that the world at large could have bettered itself by knowing them. As it is I can only in my feeble way pass on what to me for the time was a real experience. How long I dreamt I do not know, it may have been a few seconds or a few minutes, but the time covered was over three weeks.

Again I wracked my sub-conscious mind for the untold secret, the "Sesame" that would unfold riches, for I know that one's subconscious self knows much it does not tell. And as I was thinking and thinking the whole thing over and over as to what kind of a thought I must be able to fix there came to me several times "Pleasant Thoughts". The more I thought the more pleased and satisfied I became that even in these two words there was much peace and quiet comfort. What a change in us and all the world if we all had "Pleasant Thoughts". Our troubles would become less and our whole view on life would be rosier.

In your social and business contacts whenever you observe a downcast mien become a bearer of quiet cheer and let your greeting be

"Pleasant Thoughts".

Written in February, 1933

by John W. Haarer.