

Elaytay's Adventures in Space and Time

"We Came to Visit"

by
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As I lay here in this dark, damp vault of the King, my life is swirling before me. I can see my youth as if it were yesterday. And I find myself wondering what tomorrow will bring if I can find my way home again. I hope they can find me in time to figure out the correct space-time configuration before the air gives out.

Elaytay The 7th of Satchur 2472

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We Came To Visit

Chapter 1 What a Bunch

Walking briskly, Master Enahsto made his way down the winding path to the lake. Epsilon was lying peacefully under a tree, watching the clouds drift lazily by.

“Epsilon!” Master Enahsto’s voice blasted loudly through his wandering thoughts.

Walking along the path to my first class at the Space Academy, I had noticed Master Enahsto walking briskly towards the lake. Thinking it strange, I wondered who was teaching his class right now. Then I heard his booming voice bursting through the silence.

A few keptrons (minutes) later Epsilon came running up the hill from the lake as if a fire was chasing him.

Waving my hands and yelling, I tried to slow him down. "Wait, Epsilon,"

He slowed down a little as I joined him. We ran together toward the classrooms as he related to me, between heavy breaths, what had happened.

Now Epsilon was an old friend, and everyone that knew him, knew he would rather be napping under a tree somewhere than to be in a classroom. He had always been the joker of our little group. He was always trying to get out of something, especially if it meant work was involved. Epsilon was a little shorter than me, with short blonde hair that would turn almost white in the sun. His large blue eyes and innocent looking features made it hard to believe that he was responsible for some of the pranks he had been caught doing.

"You know, I think that Master Enahsto has a *sintho* that he is using to help teach class and give his test," he huffed.

"A *sintho*? You mean one of those android-type creatures that take on the personality and actions of their owner?" I ask.

"Yeah, yeah, one of those," he puffed. "I'm telling you, I just left him down by the lake and he is testing students inside at the same time. So you figure it out," still excited he took off running even faster for class.

It was already hot and it wasn't even noon yet. The purple skies of Cyterrious shined with an extra brilliance.

I had just received orders from the Space Missions Department of the United Planets Alliance and wanting to tell Master Enahsto first, I walked faster.

I looked towards the lake then towards the science building and in the window of one of the classrooms I spotted Master Enahsto.

Walking into the science building, classes were just letting out, and there in the hallway, talking with another teacher was Master Enahsto.

He was one of the academy's best teachers. As always, he had on a long white flowing robe and a vestment of emerald green. His silver hair hung in shoulder-length waves on his long vestment. He had a slight limp to his right leg and was now getting ready to teach his next class at the Mission Academy.

"Master Enahsto, wait up!" I shouted.

He turned to see who was shouting at him. "Ah, Elaytay, what can I do for you?" he asked with a sparkle in his large, dark blue eyes. He always seemed to be happy and at peace with his life. As I came closer, the thought raced through my mind-would Master Enahsto really use a sintho? Pushing the thought away...

“I just received the papers for my first space exploration and data tracking mission and I wanted to talk with you before I had to leave on my mission,”

“Well, I have a class right now, how about if we meet under the Boonak tree at noon?” he said looking toward his classroom.

“Okay, I’ll see you then.” I replied.

Turning he went into his classroom. I ran down the hall and got through the classroom door just as the bell sounded. Hurrying to my seat, I managed to sit down before the teacher turned around.

This class always seemed to go by very fast. I loved to study the behaviors and health of the different races and life forms we had discovered. Our people, as well as others from the Alliance, had been tracking the progress of life and collecting data from other planets for a long time. My next class was the study of plants, their uses and what each race used them for. Where these plant used for food or medicine, or just for shelter and recreation. In this class, I was required to learn the major planets, the plant life, the regions in which they grew, and their purposes and usage.

Everyone that was assigned to exploring teams was also required to learn basic medical training and survival techniques.

Snatching up my books I headed for the Boonak tree. I got there early so I could take a closer look at my mission orders before Master Enahsto arrived.

I've always loved the Boonak tree. It was always cool in its shade, even on the hottest sestrons (days). When I was younger, all of the kids from my area would have club meetings under its branches because of the way it grew. It was the only type of tree that had anywhere from three trunks to as many as eight at the same time, and all of its major branches grew together.

When I received my papers to travel, I was also given the names of the other team members and the solar systems we were to explore and help. Sometimes missions were just to explore the worlds and take data on the different types of creatures, plants, races, waters, soils and air. That way we could better track the progress of each planet we discovered.

Taking a look at the team members list for my mission, I found that Elatron was going to be the captain. It was going to be hard for me to call Elatron, "Captain". We had grown up in the same area and everyone had called him Tron, and now, I was going to have to call him "Captain!" I had never thought of him as a Captain, but we had always chosen him to lead our group when

we went exploring. We knew he could be very stern when times called for it and playful at other times, but always fair. He was always big for his age, and knew what he wanted. Even then he stood two to three lanfas (inches) taller than most, with dark collar length hair, dark, almost black eyes, and was always well groomed.

Seeing the next member's name, made my heart sink, it was Epsilon. He was to be our navigator. Our nickname for him was "Oops" because of the blunders he had caused as a teenager. I didn't think he had grown any since he was 14 sectos (years) old. He was still short and wastes time goofing off instead of studying. I would often see him sleeping under a tree near the lake instead of going to class. Having Epsilon as our navigator on this trip, gave me a bad feeling.

"Elaytay," Master Enahsto's voice burst through the quiet and startled me. I jumped and he laughed, "I didn't think I had been that quiet! And I didn't think that a young woman of your training would be so jumpy."

"I was looking over my travel orders and sestron (day) dreaming."

"About what, may I ask?" he asked softly.

Pointing to my list, "Well, I just noticed Epsilon is going to be our navigator,

and as an elder, you must remember as well as I do, how he used to get all of us kids into trouble,”

He patted me gently on the back. “Sometimes people change. Give him another chance.”

Protesting I tried to explain, “But I can remember a time when he got us all lost in the Caves of Omalon, and if it weren’t for the extraordinary senses of our pet nanastoo (small monkey type animal) we would have died there.”

“He has had many classes of training now and has proven himself on other short missions. He will do a good job,” Master Enahsto encouraged.

“I just want to make it back in one piece. I still have my doubts,” I said feeling worried.

“Let’s see who else you have on your team,” he said, as he changed the subject, and looked over my shoulder at the list.

Looking at the list again I saw Elazephron as engineer and that made me smile.

“Elazephron is going to be our engineer. I like him. When we were younger we called him “Zephee” and I had a crush on him.” I said, feeling shy.

“And still do I suspect?” he questioned, raising one eyebrow.

Feeling suddenly shy, “Well, yes, I guess I do, sort of,” I answered while shuffling one foot.

“Does he know that? Does he know that you had, and still have a crush on him?” Master Enahsto prodded.

“I don’t think so. Grams said it may get in the way of our studies, so I’ve just kept it to myself,” I answered looking down at the ground. “Why do you think you like him so much?” he asked with a grin.