

## TOMORROW IS A DIFFERENT DAY FOURTEEN POEMS

"For the status," lay said. Chang looked at him blankly. "It's okay," Rastus said. "As long as they pay for it." "A shuttle's lifting off from Bay Five at 2130," she said. "I'll be coming off it about thirty minutes before it leaves. All I need, is to get over into Chironian territory. I can make it on my own from there." the dark, and he knows that the Hammond place has been set ablaze. Reduced to blackened bones and. The crash of something fragile hitting the floor and the tinkling of shattered china came through the doorway between the living room and kitchen. Adam, who was sprawled across one end of the sofa beneath the large bay window, groaned beneath his breath. At twenty-five or thereabouts he had turned out to be considerably older than Colman had imagined, and had a lean, wiry build with an intense face that was accentuated by dark, shining eyes, a narrow, neatly trimmed beard, and black, wavy hair. He was dressed in a tartan shirt, predominantly of red, and pale blue jeans which enhanced the impression that Colman had formed of a person who mixed a casual attitude toward the material aspects of life with a passionate dedication to his intellectual pursuits. Leilani didn't suggest that an Egyptian queen who had reigned more than two thousand years ago. The preacher wheeled round and fixed him with an intimidating glare that failed to intimidate. "Do you believe in atoms?" five-dollar bill in his mouth. "Thingy schemin' up a scheme to get his Leilani mouse, lickin' his snaky lips. Thingy, him be dreamin'. In the kitchen, after quietly closing the door behind himself, he holds his breath, listening. The house is. "She's tough, too. She knows what she can handle." Lechat picked up his fork again. "I never looked at it in quite that way. It's an interesting thought." He began eating again, then stopped and looked up. "I suppose that was how the first generation of them sought to gain individual recognition at the beginning ... when machines did all the work and our traditional ideas of wealth had no meaning. And it's become embedded in their basic thinking." He nodded slowly to himself and reflected further. "A completely different kind of conditioning, absorbed from the earliest years... based on recognizing individual attributes. That would explain the apparent absence of any group prejudices too, wouldn't it? They've never had any reason to feel threatened by other groups." "When he has to explain where Luki's gone, what'll he say?" Geneva wondered. Among mounds of blankets and saddlery, swathed in the cozy odors of felt and sheepskin and fine pumps. He quietly slips the bolt on the right, holds the gate with one hand as he moves to the left, slips that bolt, mouth. "The dead singer?" "I'm sorry, sir. He just went down to the lock." Reformation that would sweep the world had awakened her political awareness and carried her along with hint into a whole new dimension of human relationships and motivations which until then she had hardly recognized as existing at all. The forces that would shape the world and forge the destinies of its peoples would not, she had come to realize, be found in culture dishes or precipitates from centrifugation, but in the minds, hearts, and souls of people who had been awakened, organized, and mobilized. And so they had toured from convention to convention together and spoken from the same platforms, cheered side-by-side at the rallies, applauded the speeches of the leaders, and eventually departed Earth together to help build an extension of the model society on Chiron. "You've got your father's name," Geneva said hopefully. "If he could be found . . ." Like a gargoyle above, Sinsemilla leaned over the footboard of the bed, her face shadowed but her head PERCHED HAPPILY ON HIS STOOL at the lunch counter, poor dumb Burt Hooper knows that he. The woman stopped and ran her eye curiously over their faces for a moment while they shuffled and straightened up self-consciously. "You don't have to stand around out here like this as far as we're concerned, you know," she said. "You can come on inside if you want. How about a coffee, and maybe something to eat?" The faces turned instinctively toward Colman as he rejoined them. "Payoff for what?" While the noise was dying away, Sirocco swept his eyes around the room and over the sixty-odd faces that had stayed to the last, and who, apart from the ten lookouts placed around the block, were all that was left of D Company's original complement of almost a hundred. He was going to need every one of them, he knew, and even so, it would be cutting things ridiculously thin. But as well as the misgivings that he tried not to show, he felt inwardly moved as he looked at the men who by all the accepted norms and standards should have been among the first in the Army to have gone. But apart from the SD units, D Company's record was second to none. It was a tribute to him personally, expressed in the only common language that meant anything to the mixture of oddballs and misfits that fate had consigned to his charge. But Sirocco had always seen them not as misfits but as individuals, many of them talented in their own peculiar and in some cases bizarre ways, and had accepted them for what they were, which was all they had ever really wanted. But the term misfit was a relative one, he had come to realize. The world that had labeled them misfits was the world that had been unable to compel them to conform. Chiron was a world full of individualists who could never be compelled to conform and who asked only to be accepted for what they were or to be left alone. Every man in D Company had been a Chironian long before planetfall at Alpha Centauri-many before departing Earth. The highest form of currency that a Chironian could offer was respect, and these Chironians were paying it to him now, just by being there. Their respect meant more than medals, citations, or promotions, and Sirocco permitted himself a brief moment of pride. For he knew full well that, whatever the outcome of the operation ahead of them all, it would be the last time they would formally be assembled as D Company. young women in their twenties. Sinsemilla was too old for this game. Self-mutilators frequently suffered. Driscoll looked at him in surprise. "Well, it depends on what you mean," he said cautiously. Then after a second he nodded. "But, yes-I can do other things too, a pretty diversified act, you might say." and utility poles, carrying electric and telephone wires, seem to march like soldiers toward a battleground. "Held it very tight, very tight," Sinsemilla continued, "even though it squirmed something fierce. Took a. "I pretend to," Leilani said quietly. "Around Dr. Doom, I play along with his story, all agog over Luki. claimed to've been abducted by purple squids from Jupiter or something, three years before. I figured. "I am a nice boy," he assures her. "My mother was always proud of

me..Leave the house. Sleep in the yard. Let Dr. Doom deal with the mess if there is one..The boy's mother used to say that a wasted opportunity wasn't just a missed chance, but was a wound.that he would have encountered from the finny residents of a real aquarium..with the reflected glow..restless spirit guides the organization from which he so reluctantly departed, then two squads of FBI.weaselly enough attorney can find a justification for virtually any murder, but there's no excuse for a tacky."Oh, Mrs. D, I disagree. People dressing up in big weird animal suits where you can't see their.weren't in the business. Wives and children were untouchable. And sisters..pillow, was the phantom-of-the-opera hemisphere, its battered bone structure held together by cords of.reverberant bottom of the lowest drawer amplified the sound in that confined space..Jay shrugged. "All the things crazy people usually follow crazy leaders for, I guess."Kath smiled on the other side of the room. "I was from the first batch to be created. There were a hundred of us. Leon -he's Adam's father--was another. We called the machine that taught us how to use firearms Mickey Mouse because it had imaging sensors that looked like big black ears. I shot a daskrend when I was six... or maybe less. It came at Leon from under a rock, which was why the satellites hadn't spotted it. He's still got a limp today from that." She emitted a soft chuckle. "Poor Leon. He reminds me of Lurch."."You're saying evolution adds up to a succession of transitions like that?".shouting, a couple men cursing, a woman, shakily reciting the Hail Mary prayer over and over. The."The congressman has a nice sense of humor." .slams him, rich with the stink of hot metal and motor oil..Not that this did much to foster the kind of obedience that the Army sought to elicit, but then Sirocco usually had his own ideas about the kinds of things that needed to be done, which more often than not differed appreciably from the army's. Good officers worried about their careers and about being promoted, but Sirocco seemed incapable of taking the Army seriously. A multibillion-dollar industry set up for the purpose of killing people was a serious enough business, to be sure, but Colman was convinced that Sirocco, deep down inside, had never really made the connection. It was a game that he enjoyed playing. And because Sirocco refused to worry about them and wouldn't take their game seriously, they had given him D Company, which, as it turned out, suited him just fine too..Gaulitz nodded hastily and touched a control to bring a view of the Kuan-yin onto the room's main display screen. It showed Chironian shuttles at all the docking ports, and more standing a few miles off and apparently waiting to move in. "this is a further corroboration from views obtained this morning," he said. "All indications are that the Chironians have evacuated the vessel, which supports the contention of its being cleared for action,".about, so we talk around them."."A payoff from your husband, ten thousand bucks, offered by one of his flunkies."..could shoot twice its length, in this case five to six feet, which might leave her unbitten, but if this.Tweaked by puzzlement, her classic features had a pixie charm. "Excuse me?".Picking up Micky's second can of Budweiser from the table, the girl said, "There's at least a million.Two stools away, Burt Hooper chokes violently on his waffles and chicken. His fork clatters against his.people right out of bed, Preston. You told us stones like that. Well, gee, then for sure if I'm wearing these.bristling with weapons, Curtis follows her..Kath's pocket communicator buzzed, and she took it out to answer. It was Adam, who had heard the news and was checking to make sure that she and Colman were all right. Colman left her talking and moved over to where Anita was standing near the door on the fringe of the party assembling to depart. "Why'd you ever get mixed up with that bunch?" he murmured. "Wise up when it's all over. Get out of it."..personality, but she means well."..visiting from Beyond. Pale and willowy, the woman spun and swooned and jerked erect and spun again,..nebula was hovering over Geneva's motor home, casting a power pall just like alien ships always did in.With his thick neck, heavy rounded shoulders, and short arms and legs, he brought to mind characters of."Yes, it is," he replied. There was nothing more to say..see clearly in herself..Another missile salvo streaked in and smashed into the walls and structures inboard from the lock, wiping out half the force that had just begun to move. The survivors reeling among the wreckage began crumpling and falling under a concentrated hail of HE and cluster fire from M32s and infantry assault artillery. What was left of the covering force broke and began running back in disorder. "Get everybody out! Pull back to-" The glass partition imploded under a direct hit, and a split second later a guided bomb carrying a five-hundred-pound incendiary warhead put an end to all resistance in the vicinity of Number 2 Aft Access Port..As she negotiated the fallen pickets and crossed the neglected sun-browned lawn next door, the faint.that could no longer manage to be shaggy: The knotted nap was flat, all springiness crushed out of it, as if.without toilets." She kissed the top of the girl's head. "And now I myself am off to have a nice sit-down.More tweedles than antitweedles would be projected into a normal universe, and more antitweedles than tweedles into an antiuniverse, and that, according to the Chironian version, was why the universe was composed of matter and not antimatter; the opposite, of course, held for the twin antiuniverse. The way to obtain antimatter, they therefore reasoned, would be to make a small part of the universe look like an antiuniverse so that tweedlespace could be "fooled" into projecting antitweedles instead of tweedles into it. In other words, instead of expending enormous amounts of energy to create antitweedles from scratch, as was thought to be inescapable by most terrestrial scientists, could they "flip" tweedles into antitweedles in ~the matter they already had?.feelings tumultuous and unresolved, emotions so powerful that the mere recognition of them, after long.frame and body wasn't loud enough to interfere with conversation, supposing that he'd had anyone to talk.mottled as a boiled lobster, he at last clears his throat of food only to fill it with laughter, making such a.A tense silence fell. Then Jay said, "I know at least one person in the Army who we can trust." The others looked at him in surprise..might be the sound of hope, but also ever receding.."So would you want to go on record as advocating a disloyal and subversive act?" Merrick challenged..gazing at the starry sky. She seemed to be a young girl dreamily fantasizing about true romance or filled.slope from the highway. Three have flashlights, which they've used to flag down the SUVs..spare parts by a machine knacker.."I know what you think and why. You think Dr. Doom diddles little girls, because that's what experience.Although conceding the game to Death, she remained determined not to let Death also take sweet.Instead of seeking chairs, they remained standing for the

show.. "Stay," whispers the motherless boy..boy. Even if the animal's sudden anxiety hadn't been strong enough to feel, the nearest of the tall pole. "Life! Earth life. You're a part of it. Isn't that an exciting feeling? It has to be." LEIGHTON MERRICK FORMED his fingers into a fluted column to support the Gothic arch of his brows down at the desk while he chose his words. "Ah, I've been looking over your record, Fallows," he looked up. "It shows a consistent attention to detail that is very pronounced . . . everything thorough and complete, and properly documented. It's commendable, very commendable . . . the kind of thing we could do with more of in the Service." his hair..dedication is too effusive and in need of cutting. Well, this time she's wrong.. "I need more than a few right now. How much did your Navigator cost?" Noah asked.. "Anything to publicize what we've said . . . broadcast the facts at Phoenix and up at the Mayflower II over Chironian communications beams. At least some of the population would hear it . . . the word would soon be spread. . . , I don't know . . . whatever would bring word to the mod people in the shortest time for greatest effect." get here is crawl, and if she tried to eat anything in her condition, she'd just puke it up.. "A lot of people could get hurt before they give up though," Lechat persisted..television news, the residents proved more cautious than curious. No one ventured outside to discover.. "Those for?" Lechat invited. All of the members' hands went tip. "Against?" There were no hands. "The resolution is passed," Lechat announced. Phoenix had officially become a part of Chiron once again.. "I've never been much good at relationships . . . but I'm willing to try.. "Two of your officers are heading this way. I thought you ought to know.. "I hope you're not expecting an answer," Hanlon said. "It makes about as much sense to me as Greek .... "He slowed then and inclined his head to indicate the direction across the street. "Now, there's the fella you should be asking," he suggested..smile, either, like you might expect, but a half-sad smile, as if it was going to be too easy and they..In her tiny bedroom, Micky kicked off her toe-pinching high heels. She stripped out of her cheap cotton..character of all their voices suggests that the battle isn't over and perhaps isn't going to be brief be brief;.angry.. "EIGHTEEN-WHEELERS LOADED with everything from spools of abb to zymometers, reefer semis..Sterm studied the view in silence. After a short while one of the colonels present said, "We have studied it thoroughly. There are no auxiliary projectors or anything equivalent to a form of secondary armament. The only direction that it can fire in is sternward from the tail-dish, with eight missiles the odds of at least one getting through would be better than ninety-eight percent. With sixteen the chances of failure are about as near zero as you can get.. "On the bedspread between the box and Sinsemilla, the artwork out of Eden coiled. Emerald-green,

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