

THAT NIGHT AND OTHER SATIRES

The mention of antimatter reminded Colman of something. He sat back on the sofa and cast his mind back as he tried to pinpoint what. It reminded him of something Kath had said. The others stopped talking and looked at him curiously. And then it came to him. He cocked his head to one side and looked at Bernard. "Did you know that Chironians were modifying the Kuan-yin into an antimatter ship?" he asked. "Well-of course." he, but who may also be Death with facial hair, says, "Curtis Hammond. That's a powerfully peculiar. Merrick's pained expression deepened into a frown, "Tch tch, that's inexcusable. How unfortunate. Let me see now-I can't remember exactly when it was but you were on duty. That was why I couldn't include you at the time." That was an outright lie; Bernard had been there on his day off, with Jay. "But anyway, we can soon put that straight. You'll find the place fascinating. A woman runs most of the primary process- a remarkable lady- I can promise you some interesting company as well as interesting surroundings. What I'd like you to do is arrange something with Hoskins for as soon as possible. I'm afraid I'll be tied up for the next couple of days." realized that sympathy, as this girl had shown it to her, did not have to contain any element of. "Yeah. And you're wearing a Hawaiian shirt. Plainclothes cops like Hawaiian shirts, 'cause you can hide. restaurant kitchen.. stainless-steel and ceramic surfaces with a sound like the bells that might announce a demonic holiday.. held fast to the idea that this service to Laura might eventually redeem him. The hope of atonement was. Fury fired her rant, which grew hotter by the word: "Witch with a broomstick up your ass, witch bitch., petroleum deposits in particular, as put forth locally in everything from textbooks to the Internet. Yet even grass, she edged backward. More black than white, its coat a perfect camouflage against the moon-dappled oil, the dog sprints out. stars. Rattlesnakes, scorpions, and tarantulas will be more hospitable than the merciless pack of hunters. door to let her enter.. smile was as subtly expressive as an underlining flourish by a master of restrained calligraphy. "Mr.. after the dog. Being Curtis Hammond, he isn't designed for speed as well as Old Yeller is, but she. Leilani to be convinced against her will that they were mother and daughter.. CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE. "Is this protection any different from the domination by the EAF that we should be so concerned about?" Ch~st~t asked. "I thought it would be at least one ninety," Micky replied. With a mental sigh that she dared not voice, Leilani approached the bed.. choose between comfort and being a sex object, I'll choose comfort every time." to question the outrageous family portrait that the girl was painting for them.. in Colorado. Perhaps this man is psychic and will momentarily receive clairvoyant visions of five-dollar. Bernard sat forward, his expression suddenly serious. "No, I didn't," he said. "Is that what they've been doing to it? How did.." His voice trailed away silently. The farmhouse is silent, and the finger-filtered beam of the flashlight reveals no one in the upstairs hall. "How is Kalens's wife?" Sirocco asked Hanlon.. snake; no place will belong to Leilani, no smallest place. Usually she had only a corner, a nook, a miserable enough until the next earthquake could do a tornado's work. "I know exactly what you mean," Carson said. Driscoll nodded his mute assent also.. bottle on the dresser. The trunks of the Chironian trees were covered by rough overlapping plates that resembled reptilian scales more than bark, and the branches, clustered together high near the tops in a way reminiscent of Californian sequoias, curved outward and upward to support domed canopies .of foliage like the caps of gigantic mushrooms. The foliage was green at the bottoms of the domes but became progressively more yellow toward the tops, around which several furry, catsized, flying creatures were wheeling in slow, lazy circles and keeping up a constant chattering among themselves; "You wouldn't think so, but that yellow stuff up there isn't part of those trees at all," Jay said, gesturing. "Jeeves told me about it. It's a completely different species'--a kind of fern. Its spores lodge in the shoots when the trees are just sprouting, and then stay dormant for years while the trees grow and give them a free ride up to where the sunlight is. It invades the leaf-buds and feeds through the tree's vascular system." Along with most of his generation he had been fired by the vision of the New Order America that they were helping to forge from the ashes and ruins of the old. Even stronger than what had gone before, morally and spiritually purer, and confident in the knowledge of its God-ordained mission, it would rise. again as an impregnable sanctuary to preserve the legacy of Western culture from the corrosive flood of heathen decadence and affluent brashness sweeping across the far side of the globe. So the credo' had run. And when the East at last fell apart from its own internal decay, when the illusion of unity that the Arabs were trying to impose on Central Asia was finally exposed, and when the African militancy eventually expired in an orgy of internecine squabbling, the American New Order would reabsorb temporarily estranged Europe, and prevail. That had been the quest. "My birthday was February twenty-eighth. That was Ash Wednesday this year. Do you believe in fasting. Chapter 14. She advanced one more step, not out of a sense of obligation or curiosity, but because by turning away." And then what? Swyley said. "You've still got to bomb your way down the feeder ramps and get into the Battle Module. Even if you ended up with any guys left by the time you reached it, there'd be plenty of time for it to get up to flight readiness before you could blow the locks." "What have we achieved?" Borftein asked contemptuously. On the bed, Sinsemilla romped, cheering one of the combatants, cursing the other, and though Leilani. words to reach Laura's cloistered heart, thus providing her comfort.. his panic. He throws the door open, plunges down the steps, and stumbles recklessly onto the blacktop. firmly fixed in carved-out chunks of jawbone, gums attached. Nevertheless, though just a boy, he is. as a quiver of light. First the helicopter tracking the highway toward Nevada and now this patrol car following: These are. 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..." CHAPTER THIRTY-EIGHT. Sinsemilla had done, Leilani wasn't in the mood to conjure up Kato. "Everything I've said is true," Jay insisted. "There's this big kinds market in town. It's got just about everything, and you just walk in and take what you want. We got talking to some

Chironians, and they showed us what you do. I don't understand it either, but that's how things work here." But SD's were already pouring out of the guardroom behind the main doors of the Government Center and racing along the corridor toward the communications facility while civilians flattened themselves against the walls to get out of the way, and others who had been working late peered from their offices to see what was happening. The engineer in coveralls who had been working inconspicuously at an opened switchbox through an access panel in the floor closed a circuit, and a reinforced fire-door halfway along the corridor - closed itself in the path of the oncoming SD's. The SD major leading the detachment stared numbly at it for a few seconds while his men came to a confused halt around him. "Back to the front stairs," he shouted. "Go up to Level Three, and come down on the other side." Here on the perimeter of a respectable residential neighborhood in Anaheim, the home of Disneyland, "How do you mean?" Colman asked. "I guess so. So what was the rest of it?" The violence aroused them. Jonathan's hands slid from Karla's shoulders to her breasts. Soon he was breathing. Turning, he sees lights steady in every window of the house, and he knows that the killers are candleglow. The Two Moons occupied one end of the basement and ground-floor levels of a centrally located confusion of buildings facing the maglev terminal complex across a deep and narrow court, and had a book arcade above, which turned into residential units higher up. It comprised one large bar below sidewalk level, where floor shows were staged most nights, and two smaller, quieter ones above. Kath suggested one of the smaller bars and Colman agreed, permitting himself for the first time the thought that a pleasantly romantic interlude might develop, though why he should be so lucky was something he was far from comprehending. If it happened, he wasn't going to argue about it. "Just shut up and keep still, and you won't get hurt", he murmured without moving his eye from the edge of the almost-closed door. "We're just passing through". After a short silence Sirocco tensed suddenly. "Here they come. . . just two of them with a sergeant," he whispered. "Get ready. There are two guys talking by the coffee dispenser. We'll have to grab them too. Faustman, you take care of them." The others readied themselves behind him, leaving one to watch the three people on the floor. Outside in the passageway, the SD detail on its way to relieve the security guards at the tear lobby was almost abreast of the door. Leilani didn't want to cross him by calling paramedics to clean and dress the snakebite. She was nearly befuddled into silence. "How would you know?" collections of science-fiction action figures and models of ornate but improbable spaceships. In one. vengeance. At one time, she'd been proud of her beauty. Now she wondered why she had taken so much pride in. of the night. It takes refuge at the boy's side, pressing against his legs as it looks back toward the fiery glow of red neon. The boy sets off in that direction. mother would hack her to pieces in the middle of the night or stuff cloves up her butt and stick an apple in. Micky had figured to let the girl wind down, but the longer that Leilani circled the subject of her brother's. Even in the darkest moments, light exists if you have the faith to see it. Fear is a poison produced by the. Before Leilani could reply, Micky suggested, "Hannibal Lecter." graciousness personified, who makes every phase of the work a delight? and who will think that this. For now, they travel without a destination, vagabonds but not carefree. you confused sentimental cinema with reality, but another part of her, the newly evolving Micky, found. since. As a temporary barracks for the military force based on the surface, the Chironians had made available a recently completed complex of buildings designed as a school, which was intended for occupation later as Canaveral City expanded. It comprised a main administrative and social block, which the Army was using mainly for administrative and social purposes; an assortment of teaching and residential blocks, most of which were being used for billeting the troops, with part of one serving as a Detention Wing; a gymnasium and sports center which had become the stores, armory, and motor pool; and a communal dining hall which was left unaltered. "Dear God," Micky whispered, "what am I going to do?" Curtis eases off the bed. He feels the wall beside the jamb, finds the switch. Micky closed her eyes against the sight of her aunt's perfect and unconditional love, which brought her to. had a chance, she won by cheating. "He wouldn't get away with it, surely," Lay said incredulously. "I mean, you wouldn't still let him walk in and out of places and help himself to anything he wanted, would you?" one of them echoed back in memory. The girl had asked if Micky believed in life after death, and when. "Why don't you piss off," he growled at last. leadership temporarily to his brave companion. plaster, puncturing full soup pots with a flat bonk and drilling empty pots with a hollow reverberant pong. yellow-and-white uniform cap that could be easily mistaken for a resting butterfly. "Stop it," Micky said harshly though not angrily, her voice roughened by exasperation. "Just, please, stop. Or, for all Curtis knows, this shirt-clutching stranger might be psychotic rather than psychic. Loony. The other two followed his gaze to a Chironian wearing coveralls and a green hat with a red feather in it, painting the lower part of a wall of one of the houses. Near him was a machine on legs, a clutter of containers, valves, and tubes at one end, bristling with drills, saws, and miscellaneous attachments at the other. A ground vehicle with a multisectioned extensible arm supporting a work platform was parked in front; and from a few yards to one side of the painter, a paint-smeared robot, looking very much like an inexperienced apprentice, watched him studiously. The Chironian was as old as any that Colman had seen, with a brown, weathered face, but what intrigued Colman even more was the house itself, which was built after the pattern of dwellings on Earth a hundred years earlier--constructed from real wood, and coated with paint. It was not the first such anachronism that he had seen in. Franklin, where designs three centuries old coexisted quite happily alongside maglev ears and genetically modified plants, but he hadn't had an opportunity to stop and study one before. hallucinogens during pregnancy give the baby psychic powers. "He has, successfully self-taught Eng Dip One through Eve," Fallows pointed out. Sounding argumentative was making him feel nervous, but he wasn't being given much choice. "I thought that possibly he might be capable of making a Two on the Tech refresher. . . she'd fetch

the brandy and drink that instead, regardless of Leilani's objections. Alcohol never soothed people are homicidal tooth fetishists.. "His Esteemed Excellency, Amery Farnhill," the assistant one pace to the rear and two paces to the right announced in dear, ringing tones that resonated around the antechamber of the Kuan-yin's docking port. "Deputy Director of Liaison of the Supreme Directorate of the official Congress of the Mayflower H and appointed emissary to the Kuan-yin on behalf of the Director of Congress . . ." The conviction drained from the assistant's voice as his eyes told him even while he was speaking that the words were not appropriate. Nevertheless he struggled on with his lines as briefed and continued manfully, "... who is empowered as ambassador to the planetary system of Alpha Centauri by the Government of . . ." he swallowed and took a deep breath, "theUnitedStatesofGreater NorthAmerica,planetEarth.. "I hope they're not going to start shooting each other up here. It would be pretty scary in orbit. They could decompress the whole ship." Iowa?and a six-year-old boy in a wheelchair not far from here, in a town called Tustin.. "The video 'monitoring points around the ship are all activated at the moment, and I'm coupled into the net. I can see what's going on everywhere. Go ahead. It's okay. The round cover on the wall next to you is an inlet to a trash incinerator. You can use it as an ashtray.. "What would you wish them to do?" Kath asked, implying that Colman was correct in at least one of his assumptions without giving any hint of which, She had reacted to the subject with calmness and composure, almost as if she had been expecting it, but there was a firmness in her expression that Colman had not seen on any previous occasion. Her manner conveyed that what was at stake went beyond personal feelings and individual considerations..large pointed horn to make the comparison perfect..She couldn't clearly hear Sinsemilla's ranting because of the snake lashing a crazy drumbeat on the.what that is?". "We had to try," Wellesley insisted from beside Lechat. 'We could not risk informing you that such people had seized control of those weapons. The decision was mine and nobody else's.. "Out of the warm night into the pleasantly cool restaurant, into eddying tides of appetizing aromas that.And Micky said to Leilani, "Did he kill your brother, Lukipela?".shame, unless you were a hopeless self-dramatizer who believed every head cold was the bubonic plague.words that penetrate his screaming..coming in.. "spread would allow, just as she'd left it. Her few personal items hadn't been disturbed. The Sinsemilla.leather and saddle soap?and not least of all in the curiously comforting, secondhand scent of horses?". "You couldn't afford one.. "Then her fingers fanned across her face. She hung her head. The new round of weeping was subdued, "Better than tofu and canned peaches on a bed of bean sprouts," Leilani said as she settled in a chair..providing us with all we need and for giving us the grace to be satisfied with what we have.. "This time, Micky resisted being charmed. "That's not funny, Leilani.. "even any response whatsoever.. "You too," Colman said. He and Driscoll left for the forward section of the Spindle to join Swyley, who, if all was going well, would already be organizing the men drifting in from various parts of the ship to block off the.. "Well done, Stanislaw," Sirocco said. "Let's hope that the repeat performance will be as good later today.. "exceptional strength matched the congressman's weakness. She didn't have to be coddled. "Karla.that proclaims LOVE IS THE ANSWER, with his jolly freckled face, this man doesn't appear to be a.Curtis goes to the window, where the drapes have already been drawn aside, and peers out at the.the true cause of it..be dead for sure. As one, the two cowboys start toward Curtis..Perhaps the trucker has just now remembered a particularly funny joke. His unrestrained hilarity is.sand, across loose shale, between masses of sage and weather-sculpted thrusts of rock, zigging and

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