

Cornelius' Journal



The memoir of
Dr. Cornelius

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CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

September 14th, 3977 *- I, Cornelius, son of Octavian, begin this journal at the urging of my mentor, Dr. Quinctius. He advised, "Cornelius, a good scientist always strives for accuracy; so a detailed journal is required to record your work accurately for posterity". And because tomorrow is a very important day for me, now is the right time to start.

Tomorrow I have a hearing before the Commissioners of Geology and Archeology to request the Academy's permission to mount an archeological expedition into the Forbidden Zone. This expedition is a dream I have long shared with Dr. Quinctius and he has worked hard to help prepare me for tomorrow's hearing.

Dr. Quinctius recommended that I submit my request at this time since the Minister of Science, Dr. Zaius, is away from Ape City for three months visiting villages in the provinces. He is convinced Zaius would block any investigation of the legends that a civilization once existed in the Forbidden Zone. Of course, these two scholarly Apes are old adversaries. For years Dr. Zaius has prevented Dr. Quinctius from rising up further in the Academy because, despite him being a very wise and learned Ape, Dr. Quinctius is a Chimpanzee. And as Zira, whom I am currently seeing, often says, "Dr. Zaius looks down his nose on Chimpanzees".

That reminds me, I must go now to meet Zira for dinner.

September 15th, 3977 *- The hearing was a success. The Commissioners granted me the special permission of the Academy to mount an archeological expedition into the Forbidden Zone.

I was very nervous before the hearing but Dr. Quinctius walked me to the hearing room and reassured me. "Cornelius", he said, "you are the brightest student I ever taught. You know this material better than anyone. I'm sure the Commissioners will bow to the logic of your arguments". He then patted me on the back as I entered the hearing room. (Dr. Quinctius did not come in; he felt his presence might prejudice the Commissioners against me.)

Once inside the room I was greeted not only by the two Commissioners but also by General Ursus, Commander of the Army. I wondered why the General was there, afraid that he might block my request in the name of security. But instead he was very supportive. The General seems very interested in the Forbidden Zone.

After I made my presentation, the Commissioners consulted with each other and General Ursus for over an hour. When they returned to the hearing room,

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

they granted me a travel permit for a party of 15 including myself, four colleagues, five students and five Gorilla soldiers for security. The one condition they asked is that I keep the expedition a secret from both the public and within the Academy. I readily agreed.

Now I must select my team and gather the proper equipment. We set out in two weeks so there is much to prepare.

September 18th, 3977 *- There is much to prepare for the expedition. The first order of business is choosing those to accompany me.

I had hoped Dr. Quinctius would come, but his health has not been good of late. "This is a young Ape's quest", he said to me, "I'm too old and not well enough to go". I know he has long dreamed of exploring the Forbidden Zone so he really must not be up to it.

Without Dr. Quinctius, four colleagues can join me on the expedition. So far I have decided on my fellow archeologists Drs. Valerius and Titus. On Dr. Quinctius' advice I have also invited Dr. Vitellius, an Orangutan geologist from Dr. Zaius' staff.

Each of us can bring one student along. I am taking my best student and assistant, Darius. General Ursus will assign the five Gorilla soldiers.

I still need to choose one more colleague but am undecided who it should be.

September 21st, 3977* - The most extraordinary thing has happened. Dr. Milo came to my office today and asked to join the expedition.

Dr. Milo is a genius, a prodigy, holding Doctorates in several fields. I had never considered asking him. I never thought an Ape of his great intellect would be interested in such an endeavor.

When I asked him why he wanted to come he said, "Cornelius, your expedition has the potential to be the greatest opportunity for discovery in the entire history of Simian civilization".

September 25th, 3977 *- The expedition leaves in four days. All members of our party have been selected. General Ursus has assigned a Lt. Marcus to command the squad of Gorilla soldiers. I'm still a bit shocked that Dr. Milo asked to come. His participation is a real asset to the expedition.

We've set up a staging area towards the north, close to the border of the Forbidden Zone and near some fields where the Gorillas hunt humans. There we've gathered 10 wagons of supplies. They are filled with food, water, digging

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

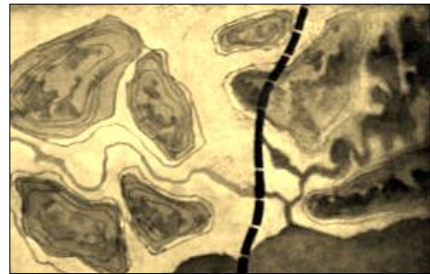
equipment and materials to build platforms, if we should need them. Dr. Quinctius gathered all the supplies. I'm sure he paid for much of them himself to supplement the meager funds provided by the Academy.

Tonight I had a wonderful evening with Zira. We had dinner and then walked along the river bank talking for hours. I've come to realize I love her and have decided to ask her to marry me as soon as I return.

I must go to bed now, am leaving for the staging area in the morning.

September 27th, 3977* - Arrived at the staging area late last night. Most of the party is now here. Dr. Vittelius and his student arrive tomorrow.

Before I left yesterday Dr. Quinctius gave me a gift, an ancient map of the Forbidden Zone. He would not tell me where he got it, only that he has had it for decades and wants me to have it to help navigate that unknown and mysterious area.



September 29th, 3977* - The first day of the expedition has gone without incident. Dr. Vittelius arrived at the staging area last night bringing with him the last of our supplies including several homing pigeons. I will use these to send regular reports to Dr. Quinctius in Ape City.

This morning, we left the staging area shortly before dawn. Our caravan of 10 wagons, with 5 Gorilla sentries keeping station alongside us, headed east into the Forbidden Zone.

It was just after sunrise that we passed the scarecrows erected by the hunt club



and entered the Zone. I drove the lead wagon with Lt. Marcus riding beside me. For most of the day he said very little. I tried to speak with him several times

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

but he remained all business.

Our party headed east for several hours until nearly sunset when we decided to stop and make camp for the night.

Lt. Marcus and his squad set up a small security perimeter around our camp.

For once I am glad the Gorillas are here. I am beginning to sense feelings of uneasiness in some of the others the deeper we travel into the zone.

This land is so desolate, so devoid of life or of anything familiar; it is enough inspire foreboding in most Apes. Dr. Milo called it, "Magnificent desolation".

But like me, he is too filled with a sense of adventure to worry.

Tomorrow we head further east to our first dig site, until then.

September 30th, 3977* - We reached the first dig site today. We arrived here in late afternoon, set up camp and began our initial survey.

Lt. Marcus and his squad have set up a rotating watch around the site. That should curb the growing sense of uneasiness in the others. This uneasiness wasn't helped by the lightning storm we saw as we traveled to the dig site.

October 1st, 3977* - We finished our first survey and found nothing. The good news is the others are settling down now that they have work to focus on. The presence of the soldiers has also had a calming effect. However, the Gorillas stay to themselves, eating and sleeping separately, and don't interact much with the rest of us.

October 5th, 3977* - We have completed two more surveys and still found nothing. Maybe the legends were just legends and this has always been a desolate wasteland. It is now time to leave here and move to the second site.

October 6th, 3977* - We began our journey to the second site today. One very disturbing incident though, a Gorilla attacked one of the students. Lt. Marcus has put the soldier under arrest. The Gorilla claimed a voice in his head ordered him to kill.

This incident has caused the feelings of uneasiness to return in some of the others. I overheard Dr. Titus saying, "We don't belong in this place and nature is rising up to reject us just as the body rejects an alien virus".

October 8th, 3977* - We reached the second dig site today. We arrived in early afternoon and began our first survey. Lt. Marcus as usual has set up a

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

security perimeter. All is going to plan. However, everyone is getting a bit jumpy. The incident with the Gorilla soldier has unnerved some of our party. Several complained of having strange nightmares. Dr. Valerius suggested we consider returning to Ape City if things get worse.

October 10th, 3977* - Two days of surveying this site and we have found nothing. The moral of the others is not improving either. One of the students awoke the whole camp in the middle of the night screaming from one of his nightmares. Two of the Gorillas got into a fight for no reason. Marcus had disciplined both. This expedition is not going at all as I hoped.

October 11th, 3977* - Today Dr. Milo suggested that he and I scout some additional dig sites to the east while the others remain encamped here. Dr. Vittelius objected when I announced it to the others. He reminded us that only these two dig sites had been approved by the Academy. But, after coming so far and finding nothing so far, I believe it is worth the risk. We may never have this opportunity again.

October 12th, 3977* - Early this morning Dr. Milo and I set out from camp with one wagon. I left Dr. Vittelius in charge of finishing the survey of the second site. Dr. Milo and I are now really heading into the unknown.

October 14th, 3977* - Dr. Milo and I have been riding for two days now exploring the Forbidden Zone. Today he came upon an inland sea that I named 'Dead Lake'. The terrain around it was poisonous. No vegetation or fresh water. No creature could survive here.

We turned south from 'Dead Lake' and tried to travel inland but the freak lightning storms kept us close to the coast. We hope to gain more ground tomorrow.

October 15th, 3977* - Today we discovered a river flowing to the east. We decided to follow it. It flows into a magnificent sea. We've made camp on the top of a cliff above a small beach.

At dinner Dr. Milo told me how bored he was at the Academy. He spent all his time in a lab doing research. He has wanted to do research in the field for years which is why he requested to come on this expedition.

October 16th, 3977* - A wonderful discovery today. This morning I decided to

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

climb down and explore the beach below us. While climbing down I found a cave in the cliffside. Dr. Milo climbed down after me and we did a short survey. This cave is what we've been looking for all along. Even without digging we've found several crude arrowheads and other artifacts. We even found a metal disk with writing on it.



We must now return to the main party and bring them here.

October 18th, 3977* - Dr. Milo and I returned to the main camp today with the good news and could not believe what we found. Most of the students and other scientists were hiding in one of the tents. Many of them complained of nightmares filled with images of death and violence.

The situation with the Gorillas was even more alarming. Several fights had broken out among the soldiers. When Marcus disciplined those involved, they all claimed voices in their heads urged them to attack their fellow Gorillas. The Lieutenant had to restrict the entire squad to their tents, when not on duty, in order to restore discipline.

October 19th 3977* - This morning I gathered the entire party together and informed them of my and Dr. Milo's discovery of the cave. For the first time since we entered the Forbidden Zone I saw genuine enthusiasm in the others. When I proposed that we move our camp to the cave site only Dr. Vittelius voiced an objection. He said the cave was much deeper in the Zone than our orders allowed and that we should return to Ape City to petition the Academy for approval to explore this new site. I pointed out that it might take years to secure the Academy's permission to return to the Zone and that since we were already here why not exploit the opportunity. We then had the entire party, including the Gorillas, vote on the issue and all of them agreed with me. I did promise Vittelius that in my next dispatch I would inform Dr. Quinctius of the cave site and ask him to seek approval for us to explore it.

October 23rd, 3977* - The expedition reached the Beach site late this afternoon. We are all tired from our journey here which took longer than expected.

Thankfully the trip was without incident.

The nightmares that had been plaguing some of the others have subsided and I'm sensing a renewed enthusiasm in the group. Until now we had found nothing after coming all this way. I'm sure that led to the low morale of the

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

others.

Tomorrow we will begin to construct platforms that will enable us to reach the cave with ease. I must remember to thank Dr. Quinctius again for having the foresight to send proper building materials with us. Lt. Marcus has ordered some of his squad to help in the construction. He said the site since the site has natural defenses; he will only need to post one or two sentries at a time.

October 28th, 3977* - It has been a very busy week and all of us are exhausted. We finished building the platforms, did a survey of the cave and started digging. The morale of the group is high. Everyone feels that we are on the brink of making a momentous scientific discovery.

November 1st, 3977* - Today we made our first major discovery, an early ape creature at a stage of primitive barbarism. Dr. Valerius estimates the discovery dates back from 1,300 ago, a century before the Sacred Scrolls were written. Dr. Milo said to me, "We are finally learning the true history of our Simian culture".

November 6th, 3977* - We have continued digging for several days now and made more discoveries. We found cutting tools and arrowheads made of quartz. The biggest discovery is the fossilized bones of carnivorous Gorillas. (Lt. Marcus wasn't very happy about that one.) Everyone in the party is very excited at these discoveries. We are really uncovering the ancient past. Even the skeptical Dr. Vittelius is becoming enthusiastic. We are going to dig even deeper in the hope of finding even older artifacts.

November 13th, 3977* - Another several days of digging and we have made a startling discovery, human remains. Also in this deposit we found several unfamiliar objects that had to be fashioned by beings with knowledge of metallurgy. The paradox is that the more ancient culture is more advanced. Dr. Titus estimates this deposit dates back 700 hundred years earlier than our original discovery. That would make it from 2,000 years ago. And the most amazing find was a human doll found next to the jawbone of a man. Oddly, we have found no trace of Simian fossils in this deposit.



CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

November 14th, 3977* - Disaster today. A delegation from the Academy has arrived and ordered us to stop all excavation and return to Ape City immediately. Our travel permit has been cancelled because we exceeded our orders. It seems that the pigeons that Dr. Vittelius brought along have not flown my reports to Dr. Quinctius but to Dr. Zaius.

November 15th, 3977* - The expedition left the beach dig site this morning. The representatives of the Academy gave us barely a day to break camp. They would not allow us to re-enter the cave, so I could not retrieve the human doll. I did manage to pack the few artifacts that we had previously removed. I still can't believe that Dr. Vittelius was deceiving me all this time. When I confronted him last night he said it was his duty to report on the activities of this expedition directly to Dr. Zaius, the Minister of Science.

November 16th, 3977* - We traveled far today and should be out of the Forbidden Zone by tomorrow night. Unfortunately, many in our party are again feeling a strange uneasiness and nervousness. Dr. Milo sat with me during the journey today. We discussed the significance of our findings in the cave. He agrees with me that the artifacts we found are traces of a culture older than recorded time. Dr. Milo also agrees with my hypothesis that the Ape evolved from a lower order of primate, possibly man.

November 18th, 3977* - Our caravan crossed back into Ape territory late last night. It was a good thing too. The previous night several members of the party reported having disturbing dreams once again. After that I don't think anyone wanted to spend another night in the Forbidden Zone so it was a relief to all when we passed the scarecrows marking the border. Only a few more hours of traveling today and we will be back in Ape City.

November 19th, 3977* - Our caravan arrived in Ape City yesterday at noon. We were greeted by Zira, Dr. Quinctius, Dr. Zaius, the Minister of Science, and a squad of Gorilla soldiers. Dr. Zaius had the Gorillas impound all our wagons and personal effects which included the few artifacts from the cave I was able bring back. He then ordered all of us not to speak about the expedition in public. We are even forbidden to discuss it with other members of the Academy. Before leaving us with Dr. Vittelius in tow, Dr. Zaius informed me that in

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

nine days I will be required to present a full account of the expedition and its findings to a special board of review at the Academy. While both Dr. Milo and Dr. Quinctius promised to assist me prepare for this board, I fear that my career as an Archeologist may be over.

I'm so glad Zira was there to meet us. I really missed her these last few weeks. She took the day off from work so we could spend it together. She prepared a picnic lunch which was the first good meal I've had for weeks. We sat by the river, and while I had planned to do this more formally, I could not contain myself and asked her to marry me. She looked me in the eyes and said, "Oh Cornelius, it took you long enough!". When I asked if that was a yes, she replied, "Well you made me wait all this time for the question, I think I'll make you wait for the answer". I was speechless. I think my mouth even dropped open. And then she said, "Of course I'll marry you Cornelius".

November 20th, 3977* - Zira and I spent the day together visiting family & friends to tell them of our engagement.

We stopped first at the house of Zira's older sister, Mora. She and her husband were overjoyed and invited us to dinner tonight when their son Lucius was home. At one point, Mora said quietly to me, "What took you so long to propose Cornelius?".

We then stopped at the home of Dr. Quinctius. He was so happy for us, he insisted that we stay for lunch. When Zira left the room for a moment he said to me, "She's the best thing to ever happen to you Cornelius. What took you so long to propose?".

After that we stopped by Zira's office and informed several of her colleagues. One of them, Dr. Galen, asked me, "What took you so long to propose?".

We also went to my office at the Academy. Dr. Milo was there and we told him the good news. He gave us his good wishes and asked to speak to me privately. "Cornelius forgive me for asking this", he said.

"Please don't ask me what took me so long to propose", I interrupted.

"No, don't be silly", he responded, "Don't you think we should be preparing for the hearing next week? Your wedding plans can wait until after that".

I assured Dr. Milo that we would start work the next day.

Zira and I then headed back to Mora's for dinner where Zira introduced me to her nephew Lucius. The first thing he said to me was, "So what took you so long to propose?"

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

November 21st, 3977* - Today Dr. Quinctius, Dr. Milo and I began preparing for next week's hearing before the board of review. We are required to explain why we diverted from the two sites originally approved by the Academy and present all of our findings. We agreed that Dr. Milo will make the case for digging at the cave site while I will put forward our discoveries.

I discussed my hypothesis that the artifacts show evidence of a culture which pre-dates the Sacred Scrolls with Dr. Quinctius.

"Tread carefully Cornelius", he warned, "some will call your theory heresy. While most enlightened Chimpanzees do not believe the religious dogma of the Sacred Scrolls; the Gorillas and, more importantly, the Orangutans who control the Academy still do".

Zira, of course, thinks my theory is brilliant and said it fits with her study of the human anatomy. According to her, humans have adequate speech organs but that part of their brain has atrophied over centuries. She believes that humans may have once had the ability to talk. Several of her colleagues even tried brain surgery on a few human subjects to stimulate their speech centers but Dr. Zaius ended those experiments. Never one to quit, Zira still hopes to one day teach a human to talk through her behavioral studies.

In the meantime, Dr. Zaius has agreed to release the artifacts he impounded (with the condition that they don't leave the Academy) so we can prepare for the hearing. I only wish we had been able to bring more artifacts back from the cave site.

November 28th, 3977* - Our hearing before the special board of review was today. Dr. Milo, Dr. Quinctius and I have been working day & night this past week to prepare. I've hardly seen Zira these last few days. I am lucky she is so understanding.

Only Dr. Milo and I attended the hearing. Dr. Quinctius felt that his long feud with Dr. Zaius might hurt our case.

When we entered the chamber Dr. Zaius was already seated with the Commissioners of Archeology and Geology on his right and left. No one else was in attendance, not even a recording officer.

Milo began and made a brilliant argument, with flawless logic, for why we diverted from the two sites originally approved by the Academy. The two Commissioners seemed impressed but not Dr. Zaius.

I presented our findings from the cave site and showed them the few artifacts that we were able to bring back. Then I went too far by relating my theory that

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

this was evidence that Apes had evolved from a lower order of primate, possibly man. There was an audible gasp from the two Commissioners when I said the words but only silence from Dr. Zaius. When I finished my presentation Dr. Zaius stated that the board would confer privately to determine if I am to face charges for my actions, including heresy.

Afterwards I met with Dr. Quinctius to tell him what had happened. He said that he would quietly present my case to key members the Academy. But, I don't think that he can save me.

December 1st, 3977* - Tomorrow the special board of review reconvenes and I will learn my fate. I am not confident of the outcome. Dr. Quinctius has quietly discussed my theory with members of the Academy, half of them said it was heresy. There is nothing I can do now but await my fate.

December 2nd, 3977* - I am still trying to grasp all the events of today. This morning I appeared before the board to hear their verdict. Dr. Zaius said that while I exceeded my orders and my theory bordered on heresy, no action would be taken against me. He stated that in the board's opinion there was no malice in my actions "just the overzealousness of a young Ape with a shovel".

Everything impounded from the expedition will be returned with the provision that the artifacts and other certain items (such as Dr. Quinctius' Forbidden Zone map) are never to be removed from the Academy.

I was overjoyed at the outcome and immediately went to Dr. Quinctius' office to tell him. That is when I found out the price of my exoneration.

Dr. Quinctius was packing his belongings and preparing to leave the Academy. He made a deal with Dr. Zaius to retire if no charges were brought against me. For years Dr. Zaius and the quota system kept Dr. Quinctius from advancing, now he has sacrificed himself to save me. I pleaded with him to stay but he said Dr. Zaius kept his part of the bargain, now he must keep his. The last thing he said to me was, "Cornelius you are like a son to me, continue my work and make me as proud as you always have".

December 24th, 3977* - It has been three weeks and I am still very upset about the sacrifice Dr. Quinctius made for me by retiring. Dr. Milo says that it was a small price to pay for our discoveries. However, he believes that Ape society is not yet mature enough to face the truth about itself.

"Maybe next time Cornelius we should not be so public regarding the

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

exploration of the Forbidden Zone. We need to tread quietly and not openly threaten the status quo that our leaders find so comforting", he stated.

But I have no intention of returning to the Forbidden Zone in the near future. For the moment I am content teaching and working on projects approved by the Academy. In fact, I have just been assigned to assist Dr. Horatius in analyzing artifacts he uncovered near Southern City believed to come from the time of the Lawgiver. It is very interesting and important work. Although I would be lying if I said I didn't miss the guidance of Dr. Quinctius for he was my mentor from my first day at the Academy.

Zira thinks the Orangutans who head the Academy were afraid of Dr. Quinctius because he put truth and science before adherence to the Sacred Scrolls. While I believe that the Sacred Scrolls are a vital window into our Simian culture and history, Zira thinks they are just silly myths. It is the one subject I try to avoid with her because it always leads to an argument. On a happier note Zira and I have set our wedding date for December 30th, 3978* just a little over 12 months from now. I plan to keep clear of any controversies until then. That should be easy enough for me to do.

January 7th 3978* - I have been very busy the past two weeks working with Dr. Horatius and helping Zira with the wedding plans. Mora, Zira's sister, has long been planning the wedding of her little sister and yesterday she dragged us all over the Ape City to make arrangements.

First, we had to stop at the Chapel and speak with a minister about performing the ceremony and get his approval for Mora's husband to give Zira away since both her parents are deceased.

After the Chapel it was on to the marketplace to arrange for the food to be served after the ceremony. I asked Mora why did we have to order the food now for a wedding almost 12 months away. She looked a bit annoyed at me but said politely, "Cornelius, the merchants need to inform the farmers in the provinces what to plant for the next season. What if you want to have strawberries on your wedding cake? Would you want to take the chance that the farmers didn't plant enough of them?".

Speaking of cake, the baker that Mora took us to had us sample more than a dozen different kinds. My stomach ached the rest of the day.

And by the way, we selected a cake that doesn't have strawberries on it.

Then it was on to another merchant to discuss the flowers. If I had known that the wedding would be this much trouble; I would have asked Zira to elope (my

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

expedition into the Forbidden Zone took less effort).

Zíra told me later that she could care less about all of this but she wants to make her sister happy.

January 14th 3978* - I visited Dr. Quínoctius the other day. I have missed him very much these last few weeks, so it was gratifying to sit and talk with him again.

I told him all about my work with Dr. Horatius and the artifacts that he brought back from his dig near Southern City. Dr. Quínoctius was very familiar with this expedition. He had helped Dr. Horatius in the planning stages and secured funding for it from the Academy.

Dr. Quínoctius said that many historians believe the Lawgiver left Ape City and took a sabbatical in the south, near Southern City, for health reasons. He had hoped Dr. Horatius' expedition would prove this historical theory and that actual artifacts of the Lawgiver would be discovered. Sadly, I could see the regret in Dr. Quínoctius' eyes that he was not able to examine these artifacts himself. If it is possible, I will try to bring some of them the next time I visit him.

After talking to Dr. Quínoctius, I am a bit in awe thinking that I could be holding in my hand something that the Lawgiver may have once held in his hand all those centuries ago. This seems to have even piqued the interest of Dr. Milo. He has been snooping around our lab this week.

Zíra doesn't believe that there was a real Lawgiver. She thinks the Lawgiver and the Sacred Scrolls are fictions manufactured by the Orangutans to dominate other apes.

I told her only a female would think something that ridiculous.

January 21st 3978* - This has not been a good week. Zíra and I had a terrible argument stemming from my remark that it was ridiculous to think the Sacred Scrolls were fictitious. I should have known she was deeply offended when she didn't answer me back immediately. The next night at dinner she was very cold and distant so I asked her what was wrong.

"Just because I question the doctrine that has been hammered into every Ape since childhood doesn't mean I'm ridiculous", she snapped back.

"Don't be so silly Zíra, I was only kidding you. But as scientists it is foolish to question something without any evidence", I replied.

"Oh now I'm foolish and silly too. Isn't it equally foolish and silly Cornelius to

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

blindly believe something without proof?"

"But we have proof Zira. The Sacred Scrolls are real. They exist. So did the Lawgiver. The artifacts I'm studying with Dr. Horatius are of the Lawgiver."

"Didn't you ever consider that the Scrolls were made up by the Orangutans and that your beloved Lawgiver was just an ordinary Ape and not divine. Or am I just being a foolish and ridiculous female for thinking so?"

With that she got up and left and refused to speak to me for several days. I had to send her flowers and candies and even a fruit basket before she finally forgave me. But she did insist on having the last word and told me, "Next time you send me a fruit basket, remember that I loathe bananas!"

One final note, yesterday I got a request from General Ursus to meet with him next week. I wonder what he could want.

January 28th 3978* - I was ordered to General Ursus' office earlier this week and was very anxious about what he wanted with me. When I arrived at army headquarters Lt. Marcus informed me that the General had some questions about our expedition into the Forbidden Zone. That made me more nervous and I reminded the Lieutenant that the Academy ordered our silence about it.

"Don't worry this meeting is top secret Doctor", Marcus snapped back, "And remember, the General supported your proposal so you are indebted to him".

He then escorted me to Ursus' office. The General was sitting at his desk reading as I entered but looked up and spoke before I had a chance to sit down.

"Doctor Cornelius, Lt. Marcus has given me a full report on your foray into the Forbidden Zone. His report says that you and a Dr. Milo left the main group for several days to explore on your own", he said.

"Yes that is true General", I answered, nervous about where he was going.

"During that time did you find any evidence of life in the Zone?"

"No General, it is a desolate wasteland. Nothing could survive there."

"Did you see any evidence that another jungle might exist beyond the Zone?"

"None at all General. May I ask why you are interested?"

He glared at me for my temerity and then said, "Ape City may be facing famine. The human beasts have been decimating our crops. The farming communities to the west and south are having the same problem. We must find new a feeding ground soon. It is a matter of Simian survival".

With that he dismissed me and I returned to my office greatly relieved.

January 30th 3978* - I've been sitting in my office all day with nothing to

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

do. Normally Dr. Horatius or his assistant will bring the artifacts he wants me to examine to my office. But today no artifacts have arrived. I wonder if there is some sort of problem.

February 1st 3978* - After waiting for two days I decided to go to Dr. Horatius' office. When I got there I could hear an argument going on inside. I stood very near to the door and thought I heard Dr. Zaius' voice. I could only make out fragments of what he was saying but it sounded like he was calling something 'evil' and that 'they should be destroyed'. Dr. Horatius was objecting and said something like 'this is our heritage'. I soon decided to return to my office and continued to wait.

February 2nd 3978* - I went back to Dr. Horatius' office today. He wouldn't let me in but apologized for forgetting about me and promised to send more artifacts to my office tomorrow morning. Then he told me to never come to his office again and shut the door. However, over his shoulder I could see several locked boxes that must have come from the dig. I wonder what is in them.

February 4th 3978* - As promised, Dr. Horatius sent me several artifacts, including pieces of parchment, the next morning. The next day Dr. Milo came to my office. He was very curious about Dr. Horatius' Southern City dig. I showed him the artifacts I was analyzing but he wasn't interested in them.

February 8th 3978* - Today is the Feast of Aldo which all Simians commemorate as the anniversary of the day an Ape first spoke. According to the Sacred Scrolls, God created the Ape in his own image, giving him a soul & mind, to make him the lord of the planet and Aldo was that first Ape. Zira believes that Aldo is just a myth since nothing else is known about him. I've learned to just nod my head and not argue these points with her. Earlier today we attended the public services to celebrate the Feast. Dr. Zaius was there and was very cordial to Zira and me as if there had never been a dispute between us. I looked for Dr. Milo but he wasn't there. I wanted to ask him why he was so curious about Dr. Horatius' dig near Southern City. After the ceremony we went to Zira's sister's house for the traditional Feast day meal and had a very pleasant time.

February 11th 3978* - Someone broke in to Dr. Horatius' office during the

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

Feast celebrations, but nothing was stolen. Some locked boxes were opened and the contents examined. Dr. Horatius said these boxes contained his equipment but if they are the same boxes that I saw in his office last week, they surely came from the dig. I wonder what is really in those boxes.

I have been analyzing pieces of parchment from the dig that appear to a part of letter which has disintegrated over a 1,000 years. Only a few words are still legible such as: 'Chief Defender', 'Virgil's Prophecies' and 'services for Simiankind'. It is a shame that the whole letter didn't survive intact.

February 19th 3978* - The Ministry of Science has suspended all work relating to Dr. Horatius' Southern City dig. I've been ordered to return the artifacts I have been examining so they may be put into storage. Dr. Horatius' is very upset about all of this. He had hoped that we would find true a relic of the Lawgiver. Such a discovery would have put him in line to be Commissioner of Archeology one day. When I asked him why the Ministry had suspended such an important project, all he would say is 'politics'. I wonder if the break-in last week has anything to do with this.

For now the Academy has assigned me teaching duties to occupy my time. I like teaching but it is not as interesting as going on a dig or even analyzing artifacts. But after all the drama of the last few months, I could do with some quiet.

Zira had some good news. She's been promoted. She will now be able to get extra space and equipment to pursue her animal behavior studies. I am so proud of her. I took her to dinner the other night to celebrate. She said that Dr. Maximus, the Commissioner for Animal Affairs, informed her personally. He also told her that Dr. Zaius is to be regularly informed of her findings.

I finally ran into Dr. Milo. I wanted to ask him why he had been so curious in Dr. Horatius' expedition. But when I brought the subject up he seemed a bit nervous and said, "My only concern was that the Academy had assigned you to work equal to your talent & ability".

June 11th 3978* - This is my first entry in a few months. I have been busy teaching and things have been very quiet of late. Zira is happy in her new position doing behavioral studies of humans. Overall life is good but a bit boring.

I did go to see Dr. Quinotius this week. I told him that I missed the challenge of a real dig. He said that I should not waste my skills in a classroom and get

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

back to real archeology. Of course I cannot go back to the Forbidden Zone and I doubt the Academy would approve an expedition south to follow up on Dr. Horatius' dig. That leaves the west and north. But where?

November 25th 3978* - I'm very excited. After months of looking for where to launch a new expedition, one of my students showed me a piece of pottery he found while visiting a farming village in the west. This pottery is at least 500 years old. From what the student told me, the farmers have been finding many similar pieces when they plough their fields.

The past several months have been so uneventful; I can't wait to mount a real archeological expedition again. The only problem is that Zira and my wedding is little over a month away. I hope she will not be upset if I leave for the dig shortly after we return from our honeymoon.

I am so excited about going into the field again; I went to my office early this morning to begin planning. As I walked there I saw a shooting star in the sky heading east. I hope that is an omen of good things to come.

December 2nd 3978* - Have been very busy all week planning for my new archeological expedition in the west. I am to make my presentation to the Commissioners of Geology & Archeology in three weeks. I hope I am ready. I am so busy I don't have much time for Zira. Luckily she seems preoccupied with a human who she says was recently captured wearing strange clothes.

December 16th 3978* - I'm up for a raise. Dr. Horatius told me the good news yesterday. The last two weeks he has been very helping me prepare my presentation to the Commissioners. Dr. Horatius even found a village up north where we can buy horses and supplies much cheaper than here in Ape City. He said the Commissioners will be more likely to support my proposal if it won't cost the Academy too much money.

The only annoyance is that to get to the village you have to pass by General Ursus' army camp. The General requires all civilians passing near the camp to be stopped and searched. The military have such suspicious minds.

Dr. Horatius said my presentation is so good I should have no problems when I meet with the Commissioners next week. Then I'll only need Dr. Zaius' support to get the final approval from the Academy.

I've hardly seen Zira the last few weeks. When we do get together all she can talk about is this new human she has named Bright Eyes. She said he is the

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

smartest human she has ever studied. I promised to meet her for lunch next week at the animal compound to see this marvel for myself.

December 18th 3978* - I'm still trying to fully understand today's extraordinary events. The day began normal enough. I went to my office at the Academy to put the finishing touches on my presentation to the Commissioners later this week.

At lunchtime I walked across the causeway to the animal compound to see Zira and the human, Bright Eyes, she has been telling me about. Bright Eyes did not seem very exceptional and got into a fight with another human. Dr. Zaius was there and asked me to come to his office to discuss my new expedition. I was very excited since he seemed so supportive and rushed back to my office to gather my notes. But just as I was about to leave Zira arrived with Bright Eyes and made startling announcement, the human can write!

I thought Zira was joking at first but he began writing right before my eyes. He claims his name is Taylor and that he is a space traveler from another planet. He walked to our jungle with two other talking humans after their ship crashed in the Forbidden Zone. Of course his story is pure nonsense. Zira thinks that he could be a missing link, a mutant, who proves the theory I developed last year after my expedition into the Zone.

Unfortunately before we could question him further Dr. Zaius arrived and Bright Eyes (or Taylor) was taken back to the compound. I spent the rest of the afternoon going over my proposal with Dr. Zaius but I was still preoccupied with the human. He too seemed very preoccupied and worried.

Now I can only wonder how this human will impact all our lives.

December 20th 3978* - Events have gotten out of control. Zira's human, Bright Eyes (or maybe I should call him Taylor), escaped from the animal compound yesterday morning. He ran all through Ape City creating havoc everywhere. But the real crisis started when Taylor was captured. He talked! Dr. Zaius immediately ordered that Taylor be remanded to the custody of the Ministry of Science for the time being. However, because so many Apes witnessed Taylor speaking there needs to a public disposition of his case. Last night I went to see Dr. Quinctius to seek his advice and he recommended that Zira and I petition the Academy on Taylor's behalf. He even volunteered to help us prepare. I discussed this with Zira and she is all for it. But I am concerned that even if we win this could end our careers.

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

We also considered postponing our wedding which is to be in 10 days but Zira's sister, Mora, would have none of it. "What foolishness", she said to us, "Letting the needs of lowly human dictate your lives and ruin the wedding we've been planning for a year". Because Mora & her husband have been kind and generous to us, we agreed go forward with the wedding as planned. Finally, Dr. Milo came to my office this morning to ask about Taylor. I showed him everything Taylor had written to us. Dr. Milo was most interested in the human's claim of being a space traveler whose ship crashed in the Forbidden Zone. I think it is a fairy tale. It is bit too convenient that this ship sank in dead lake. But Dr. Milo was still intrigued and said, "It would be the scientific coup of a lifetime to find such a miraculous machine".

December 29th 3978* - I'm very nervous. Tomorrow is Zira and my wedding day. I didn't think that I would be so nervous my last night as a single Ape, but I am. Maybe it is all the stress of the last 10 days.

Since the human Taylor spoke in front of half the populace of Ape City, Zira and I have been working furiously on petitioning the Academy for a hearing. Dr. Quinctius was an enormous help to us. It was so good to work with him again. Dr. Quinctius even went to the President of the Academy himself to present our request. He and the President, a history scholar, were classmates together years ago. Thanks to Dr. Quinctius efforts a hearing has been scheduled for three weeks from today. Until then all matters regarding the disposition of Taylor will be out on hold.

January 7th 3979* - Zira and I have just returned from our honeymoon. We had a wonderful time and it was good to get away from Ape City.

Of course our wedding was wonderful too. Because her parents are dead, Zira asked Dr. Quinctius to give her away. He was so touched that she asked him. After the ceremony we retired to Mora's home to celebrate. Mora, her husband and their son, Lucius, were marvelous hosts. Many of Zira and my friends and co-workers attended. We all ate and danced long into the night.

I invited Dr. Milo but he didn't come. In fact no one has seen him for days. Now we have less than two weeks to prepare for Taylor's hearing. Tomorrow we are going to Dr. Quinctius' home to begin. I hope we are ready in time.

January 14th 3979* - I am distraught. Dr. Quinctius died of a heart attack three days ago. Zira & I were at his home preparing for Taylor's hearing when

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

he started to complain about chest pains. I got up to get him some water but before I could get back he had collapsed. Zira did all she could to save his life but to no avail and he died in her arms. It is all so tragic. After over a year in retirement, I could see the joy in his eyes to once again be working on something ground breaking of scientific importance.

The funeral was yesterday. Because Dr. Quinctius had devoted his life to science, he never married nor had children; so Zira & I made all the arrangements. Every Chimpanzee scientist at the Academy was there to honor him (all except Dr. Milo who seems to have disappeared). Even several Orangutans came to funeral including Dr. Horatius.

After the funeral we were informed that Dr. Quinctius had willed his papers and possessions to the Academy, all except for his house which he bequeathed to me. I thought the will must be a mistake but they assured me it wasn't. It is such a beautiful house at the end of the road leading out of Ape City. I still cannot believe he left it to me. I also received a note that Dr. Quinctius instructed was to be given to me upon his death. It said: "Cornelius, You are the most brilliant student I ever had the honor to teach. I could be no prouder or loved you more if you my own son. The best you can do to honor me is to continue your work and become everything I know you are capable of becoming."

January 18th 3979* - Taylor's hearing is tomorrow. I hope it goes well. I am disturbed that the Tribunal has not sent us a brief defining the purpose of the inquiry. We have submitted our pre-hearing brief, so this is unusual. Still Zira & I have been preparing our case in order to save Taylor from mutilation. Our strategy is to present Taylor's story and hope that the Tribunal accepts it. If they don't accept it, we will make the case that Taylor is a missing link who proves my theory that the Ape evolved from man. On a personal note, we have completely moved in to the house that Dr. Quinctius left to us. Mora and Lucius did most of the work though. I must find a proper way to thank them for all they've done for us.

January 19th 3979* - The hearing did not go well today. First the Tribunal refused to define their true purpose. Then the prosecutor, Dr. Honorius, charged that Zira and a colleague, Dr. Galen, had operated on Taylor to give him the ability to speak. The Tribunal completely rejected Taylor's story of travelling here from another planet. To make matters worse, the human became violent

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

when shown that one of his companions had been given a lobotomy. As planned Zira and I presented my theory but the Tribunal refused to listen. Thinking of how these Orangutans had treated a great Ape like Dr. Quínotius all of his life, I became angry myself. It was an unfortunate outburst that I quickly regretted. Now Zira and I face a charge of scientific heresy. The indictment should be handed down in a few days.

January 20th, 3979* - I need to start planning Zira's and my defense. We will be indicted in a few days. Unfortunately, without additional proof of our theories we don't stand a chance of acquittal. If only I had been able to bring back more artifacts from my dig in the Forbidden Zone. I wish Dr. Quínotius was still alive; I could use his counsel right now. I have sought out Dr. Milo for his advice, but no one knows where he has gone. Zira is also worried about what will happen to the human Taylor. She insists that we find a way to save him. I wish I knew what to do.

January 21st, 3979* - We have made a radical decision. Zira and I must return to the Forbidden Zone to bring back proof of our theories. It is our only chance. We have also decided to break out Taylor from the animal compound and bring him with us. I am still working out the details of our plan. We cannot gather the needed supplies here in Ape City. It would draw too much attention. However, we can secure supplies from the village up north Dr. Horatius recommended for my proposed expedition in the west. The only problem is we have to pass by General Ursus' camp. We are sure to be stopped and searched. While news of our indictments should not have reached there yet; we won't be able to bring Dr. Quínotius' map of the Forbidden Zone with us. If they were to find it, they would detain us and notify the Academy. But we'll need that map so we don't get lost in the Zone. I must find a way to bring it with us.

January 22nd, 3979* - Zira and I have been informed that we will be indicted tomorrow morning. We have been ordered to present ourselves for arrest by midday. Zira's sister, Mora, and her husband are away on their annual trip to Southern City; so we have arranged for their son, Lucius, to bail us out right after we are arraigned. He also volunteered to assist us in our plan to free Taylor and travel to my dig in the Forbidden Zone. Thank the Lawgiver that Mora is away for she would never allow it.

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

Now that we will have Lucius' help we can split into two parties. As soon as we are bailed out, I will leave for the village up north to buy our supplies. Zira & Lucius will remain behind in Ape City. They will wait until midnight to break Taylor out of the animal compound.

Since I will be to be searched when I pass General Ursus' encampment, Zira & Lucius will bring the Forbidden Zone map with them. Tonight when I left my office, I took the map home with me. After Taylor is freed, they will stop at our house to get it on their way out of Ape City. It is a roundabout route but safer in case anything goes wrong when they try to free the human.

January 23rd, 3979* - So far events have happened as we expected and planned. I got to the village earlier tonight and am now sitting in a cafe waiting for the local merchants to gather the supplies I ordered. It is after midnight. I pray that all went for Zira & Lucius. I have to rendezvous with them at dawn so I hope I don't have to wait too much longer for the supplies.

January 24th, 3979* - The plan was a complete success and we are now in the Forbidden Zone. Zira & Lucius did encounter several hunters on the causeway after freeing Taylor, but they were able to dissuade the hunters from commandeering their wagon. After that, made the planned stop at our house to get the Forbidden Zone map and then headed for our rendezvous northeast of Ape City. I was able to buy the supplies and horses we needed in the village and met them shortly after dawn.

There was only one minor problem. Taylor insisted on bringing a human female, whom he named Nova, with us. We had never planned on Nova being along; so I did not have enough water for her. Luckily, Taylor was familiar with the area where we rendezvoused (he had been captured near there) and was able to direct us to a water fall near the border of the Zone.

While Lucius and I collected the extra water, Taylor found some objects that he said had belonged to him and his companions. Most of the items were broken, but two metal objects that Taylor called "dogtags" were still intact. What was most interesting about these "dogtags" is that they had Taylor's name imprinted on them. If I get the chance I would like to examine them more closely. Zira thinks they give validity to Taylor's story but I still have my doubts.

After we collected the water, we headed into the Forbidden Zone and traveled



CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

until sunset. I must get to sleep now. We have far to travel tomorrow.

January 25th, 3979* - Day two in the Forbidden Zone. We travelled far today but the feeling of uneasiness that afflicted members of my first expedition has returned. Lucius and the human female Nova seem to be the most susceptible. Even Taylor complained about it. However, this remarkable human does not let it hold him back. He said to me, "I'd rather be free in this wasteland, than in a cage back in Ape City".

I think the whole group feels safer having an individual of Taylor's strength of will and character along with us. Even if he were an Ape, this human would still be a very interesting and unique being (despite his insistence on carrying a rifle with him at all times) who has been of invaluable assistance on this journey. Last night when we made camp Taylor quickly built a fire, fed the horses and helped Lucius make a minor repair to the wagon.

He also has a genuine curiosity about us and our culture. As we sat around the fire and ate, he asked many questions about Simian culture and about how Zira and I became interested in our respective professions. When I spoke of Dr. Quinctius and mentioned that he had recently passed on, Taylor expressed his deep sorrow. He said that Dr. Quinctius reminded him of a scientist from his planet who also argued against conventional thought.

"If you ever met him, Cornelius, I can image you and he being respected colleagues; but of course he is dead by now", Taylor stated sadly.

Must get to sleep now. We still have far to travel to get to the diggings. We have to reach the river by noon if we hope to get to the cave by nightfall.

January 26th, 3979* - Our third day in the Forbidden Zone. We reached the cave site just after sunset and made camp. During dinner Taylor told us of his two companions, Dodge and Landon. We all saw how Dr. Zaius had lobotomized Landon but we didn't know Taylor found Dodge stuffed in the Zaius museum. An ironic end for a man Taylor called dedicated scientist. It is now too dark to enter the cave so we'll have to wait until morning.

January 27th, 3979* - So much happened today I don't know where to begin. Dr. Zaius and a squad of Gorillas arrived at the dig site this morning. Our whole party was placed under arrest.

Thank the Lawgiver for Taylor. He risked his life to make a deal with Dr. Zaius for our clemency. Taylor had Dr. Zaius agree to let us present the

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

artifacts from the cave to prove our theories. And we were successful; the human doll I found last year could talk. It said "Mama". No Ape would ever make a human doll that talks. It was an historic find. But Dr. Zaius broke his promise and had the Gorillas blow up the cave. It seems that Dr. Zaius knew all along that Man had a civilization prior to the rise of Simians. Now we are under arrest on our way back to Ape City to face trial for heresy.

The one good thing is that Taylor and his mate, Nova, got away. We last saw them riding up the shoreline heading deeper into the Forbidden Zone. Zira and I will miss him. In the end, he proved to be as good a friend as any Ape. I wonder what he will find out there or if we will ever see him again.

January 28th, 3979* - We are in custody and on our way back to Ape City to stand trial for heresy. Zira is tending to one of the Gorillas, Corporal Artorius, who was shot by Taylor during an exchange of gunfire with the soldiers. The Corporal is very close to death and I'm not sure Zira can save him. Lt. Marcus is Artorius' brother so he is very worried.

I had a chance to talk to Marcus earlier and he told me after it was discovered that we had freed Taylor and fled; General Ursus dispatched several scouting parties into the Forbidden Zone to search for us. Dr. Zaius was convinced we would return to the cave site so Marcus was chosen to lead this squad since he accompanied my previous expedition.

Dr. Zaius has not spoken with us since we left the cave site. I don't wish to see the Lucius' life ruined because he helped and hoped to convince Dr. Zaius to drop or reduce any charges against him. But Dr. Zaius refused to even speak with me. He seems to be very concerned about something. Maybe he regrets letting Taylor and Nova get away but his sullen mood is very odd.

January 29th, 3979* - Good news. Zira was able to save Cpl. Artorius' life. When we stopped for the night and retrieved our wagon, Zira used it to operate on him and remove the bullet. The Corporal is now conscious and doing much better. Lt. Marcus is very grateful and said that he is in our debt. Unfortunately, I doubt there is anything Marcus can do to help us after we return to Ape City tomorrow.

January 30th, 3979* - We have returned to Ape City and Lucius, Zira & I are in jail awaiting trial. Much has happened in Ape City since we left. Several of the scouts General Ursus sent into the Forbidden Zone to find us have

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

disappeared. There is great concern about this throughout the city. The General has sent even more scouts to find them and is rumored to be planning a military reconnaissance into the Zone if the scouts don't return.

Also, and this is very curious, someone broke into the Academy four days ago and stole several of the locked boxes Dr. Horatius found on his dig near Southern City. Dr. Zaius was very alarmed when he was told of the theft upon our return. I wonder what is in those boxes that have him so concerned.

Lt. Marcus came to visit us in our cell this evening. Being in the military he was allowed to speak with us privately. He asked what he can do repay his debt to us. Zira requested that he get a message to her sister (Lucius' mother Mora) who is away visiting Southern City with her husband. I asked the good Lieutenant if he would testify at our trial that Dr. Zaius ordered him to blow up the cave thus destroying our evidence. He said that he would be willing to testify but would have to get General Ursus' approval to do so.

Lt. Marcus also used his influence to bring to our cell some of our belongings that were impounded by the authorities, including this journal. If only he knew I hid the Forbidden Zone map between some of the pages.

One last thing, Zira has been feeling ill the past few days. At first I thought it was all due to being in the Zone but am now concerned it is more serious.

January 31st, 3979* - Good news, Lt. Marcus visited our cell today to let us know that General Ursus will allow him to testify at our trial. Marcus asked who else we would like to testify and he offered to contact them for us.

I am still worried about Zira's health. She was sick again this morning. Zira says it is nothing but I am very concerned.

February 1st, 3979* - Interesting developments today. Lt. Marcus came to inform us that all the Apes on our list had agreed to testify (all but Dr. Milo who is nowhere to be found in Ape City.) We thanked Marcus for his help but he said that it was General Ursus who had persuaded them. Marcus then extended an offer from the General to help us prepare our defense. If we accepted, we would need to turn over all our documents & notes regarding the Forbidden Zone to the General. Zira whispered to me we would be making a 'pact with the devil' to agree, so I told Marcus we would consider it.

This evening Dr. Zaius came to our cell. He warned us that General Ursus was planning to use our trial as a propaganda tool to gain power. To stop this Dr. Zaius proposed a secret agreement between us. He would have all the charges

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

dropped if we agreed to never divulge what we had learned in the Forbidden Zone. Zira made one condition though, that Dr. Zaius give us access to the secret passages of Sacred Scrolls that confirm our theories. He reluctantly agreed but only if I leave the field of Archeology. While I hate to give up Archeology, I decided to make the sacrifice for Zira & Lucius' sake.

February 2nd, 3979* - This is the happiest day of my life! Zira is pregnant! I'm going to be a father! But I am getting ahead of myself.

The day started with a short hearing to drop all charges against Zira, Lucius and myself per our agreement with Dr. Zaius. After the hearing we saw Lucius home and then met with Dr. Zaius in his office. As he promised, we were allowed to read sections of the Sacred Scrolls that have been kept secret from the masses for centuries. All of our theories were confirmed. Humans did once have a great civilization but they destroyed it by warring among themselves. Worse, after a plague that killed their pets, Humans took Apes as pets and over time turned them into slaves. That is until one ape spoke and said 'No' to his human masters. I can now finally understand why Dr. Zaius saw Taylor (and our work) as such of a threat.

One odd thing though, in the secret scrolls there was a reference to 'Virgil's prophecy' but no further information about it. When I asked Dr. Zaius if he knew what it was, he became very evasive so I dropped the subject.

Before we left, Dr. Zaius reminded us of our promise to never reveal what we had learned. Zira began to argue that the truth should not be kept secret, but I assured Dr. Zaius we would be silent. He also said that he had arranged a new position for me working with Zira. I start tomorrow.

Zira was still not feeling well when we left so I took her to see a physician. He examined her for an hour and then announced that Zira is pregnant. We are overjoyed. After all we've been through it's about time we had good news.

February 3rd, 3979* - Today I began my new job working as an Animal Physiologist, well not exactly. Per my agreement with Dr. Zaius to give up Archeology, he has assigned me to work with Zira. My job is to select humans to be sent to Zira's lab for examination. Every day I'll have to ride up to the Hunt Club's camp to make the selections.

Zira took me to her lab this morning to meet her colleagues. All were very friendly except for Dr. Galen. He is upset that his name was besmirched at Taylor's hearing and holds us responsible. It seems that his family has long

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

been trying to live down a reputation for being human lovers that goes back centuries to an ancestor who relocated here from Central City.

After lunch we went to the Zaius museum to see the human exhibits in the great hall. Zira wanted to show me the characteristics to look for when selecting human specimens. There we saw Taylor's two friends. First was the one called Dodge. I had never seen a human like him before. His skin was dark brown, almost black. The one called Landon was there too. He must have died recently and put on display. I thought Zira would be upset but rather she proudly said, "Thank God we saved Taylor from this fate".

One last thing, this morning I saw another shooting star. The last time I saw one was shortly before Taylor's arrival so I took this one as a bad omen and I was right. One of General Ursus' scouts has returned from the Forbidden Zone where it seems he was tortured. The General has called for a special meeting of the Citizen's Council for tomorrow and I fear what he will say.

February 4th, 3979* - I don't feel like myself today. It must be the bizarre turn events took. General Ursus gave his speech to the Citizens' Council declaring his intention to invade the Forbidden Zone. Since his scout returned he is convinced that the Zone is inhabited. However, after two trips there I doubt that any life form could survive in that vast wasteland.

Zira acted terribly at the meeting and almost caused a scene. But it was when we got home that we made an extraordinary discovery. Nova was here waiting for us with another talking human. At first we thought it was Taylor but he said his name was Brent. He told us he had been sent to find Taylor. Somehow he encountered Nova and she brought him to our house. She must have remembered it from when Zira & Lucius stopped here to retrieve the Forbidden Zone map on the night they freed Taylor & Nova.

Speaking of the map, I'm so glad I hid it when we were arrested. I still had it here and was able to show Brent where we last saw Taylor (where he is now and how he and Nova were separated is a mystery). Zira is very worried.

Unfortunately, Dr. Zaius came by the house while Brent & Nova were here and we quickly had to hide them. Dr. Zaius plans to accompany the army into the Zone and was concerned that we would not keep our promise to keep silent while he was away. Poor Dr. Zaius, after all his behind the scenes maneuvering with Ursus, the General still got his war. After Dr. Zaius left we finished helping the humans. Brent was dressed strangely so we gave him proper human clothes. Now all we can do is hope & pray that they find Taylor.

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

February 5th, 3979* - Again today I do not feel like myself. It is almost like watching someone else pretending to be me. It is most likely due to the events of the last few days. After Dr. Zaius dropped the charges against us and we found out Zira is pregnant; I assumed things would settle down to normal. But the opposite happened. Now it feels as if events are out of control. General Ursus has the army training full time, preparing to invade the Forbidden Zone. On top of that another talking human, Brent, has arrived. He is searching for Taylor who has disappeared into the Forbidden Zone.

I encountered him and Nova again this morning. I rode up to the Hunt Club's camp to select humans for experimentation in Zira's lab and they were there being loaded into a wagon to be used for target practice by the army. I ordered that they be sent to Zira's lab instead. One Gorilla, a sergeant, objected but I overruled him by invoking Dr. Zaius' name.

Unfortunately, as Zira later told me, when they arrived at the lab General Ursus was there and ordered that the humans be sent to the target range. Zira then took a very big risk to help Brent and Nova. She unlocked the door of the wagon right before it left. We hope the humans were able to escape safely to find Taylor but I am concerned about the consequences if Zira's actions are discovered by the authorities.

Tomorrow at dawn the army leaves for the Forbidden Zone. Dr. Zaius is going with them. I can only hope that General Ursus respects Dr. Zaius' wisdom and advice for I cannot help but feel a disaster is looming.

February 6th, 3979* - It's has been a terrible day and it isn't even noon yet. Shortly after dawn Dr. Zaius & the army left for the Forbidden zone. Not long thereafter, as we were preparing to leave for work, Corporal Artorius (the Gorilla shot by Taylor) came by to warn Zira as repayment for her saving his life.

Artorius has been working in the military police office while he recovers.

Yesterday a wagon failed to report to the target range and they were called to investigate. The wagon was found abandoned; the driver, the horses and the two humans it was carrying were all missing. The driver was found unconscious nearby and the mounted patrol reported two humans riding horses toward the Forbidden Zone. They gave chase but are still looking for the humans.

At first it was assumed the driver had an accident enabling the humans to escape. But when the wagon was examined, they found that the door was unlocked. The Gorilla at the compound who loaded the humans said he locked the door and gave the key to Zira. Now they believe that Zira unlocked the

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

door, enabling the humans to escape and attack the driver. Such an action in wartime is considered to be high treason. The police are waiting for the driver to regain consciousness to confirm their theory, when that happens Zira will be arrested.

I knew that helping Brent & Nova was a risk but am unsure what we should do now. Even if we flee to Southern City, or as far as Central City; they will eventually track us down. There is nowhere in the known world we can hide. I must go now. Zira just told me that Dr. Milo is here. He picked a bad day to return from where ever he's been but wants to discuss something very important. However, right now I can think of nothing more important than saving Zira.

February 7th, 3979* - Events have taken another bizarre turn and I am back in the Forbidden Zone for the third time in my life.

Yesterday Dr. Milo arrived at our house and informed Zira & me that he had located Taylor's spaceship. After I related Taylor's story to him, Dr. Milo set out by himself to find it. He traveled to Dead Lake and found a raft & a small flag. Milo said that he was sure he had seen the flag before. Using the raft he followed the currents and eventually found the ship lodged on a sandbar not far from the shore. Luckily the tide was low so part of the ship was now above the waterline. When he began examining the ship, Milo realized where he had seen the flag.

Last year, I worked with Dr. Horatius examining artifacts he uncovered near Southern City. There were several locked boxes that I was not allowed access to. Dr. Milo broke in to Dr. Horatius' office and examined the contents of these boxes. They contained devices that are far beyond Simian technology and understanding. When Milo examined the ship he realized that those devices were components for a ship like Taylor's. Dr. Milo then returned to Ape City, stole several of the boxes, hired a team of 12 horses and headed back to the Forbidden Zone. Using the horses to pull the ship back to the shore, Milo replaced damaged components on Taylor's ship with ones he stole from Dr. Horatius' office. Once the ship was reactivated, he discovered that it designed to fly automatically. Thus, it was possible for him to take a trip in the ship. He returned to Ape City for additional supplies and decided to offer us the opportunity to join him. Since Zira was likely to be arrested for high treason, we jumped at the chance.

I must go now, we still have far to travel tonight to reach the ship by dawn.

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

February 8th, 3979* - This will be my final entry in this journal. Dr. Milo, Zira and I reached Taylor's ship about a half hour ago. Where we will go and what we will find is a mystery. But remaining in Ape City meant sure death for Zira. At least this is a chance for life for her and our unborn child.

Dr. Milo is now preparing the ship for flight using manuals and instruction books he found on board. We should be ready to leave in an hour, just after dawn. Dr. Milo has an interesting theory about Taylor. He contends that since the replacement components used to repair the ship came from Dr. Horatius' dig near Southern City; Taylor was not from another planet as he claimed but from this planet but from long ago when human's had a civilization. I wonder if Taylor ever realized this. Or maybe he knew all along. Still it is of no matter now.

It seems so long ago that I began this journal yet it was less than two years ago, back in those heady days when Dr. Quinctius and I were planning my first expedition into the Forbidden Zone. But so much has changed since then.

How I miss Dr. Quinctius to this day. At times like this I could use his wise advice. Now I must prepare for our journey. Dr. Milo found special suits we will need to wear to survive the flight. We will take along our regular clothes in Zira's carpetbag. Unfortunately, Dr. Milo says we can't afford the extra weight so I can't bring this journal with us. I am going to bury it. Hopefully some future archeologist will dig it up one day and it will help set the record straight of these volatile times. Or at least it may inspire the future archeologist who finds it. But for me it is time to stop writing and get ready for our journey.



BW

BEVERLY WILSHIRE

Beverly Hills

September 16th 1973 - This is my first entry in my new journal. I must remember to thank Lewis. I merely mentioned to him in passing that had kept a journal so Lewis purchased this for me in the hotel's gift shop.

But I am getting ahead of myself. So much has happened since I made my final entry in my original journal. Of course that journal must have been destroyed. And once again I am getting ahead of myself.

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

It has only been a few days but it seems like a lifetime ago that my wife Zira and I travelled into the Forbidden Zone with Dr. Milo to escape in Taylor's ship that Dr. Milo had found, salvaged and repaired. Poor Dr. Milo, he was such a genius. He was even correct about Taylor coming from Earth's past. But there I go again jumping ahead.

After I buried my first journal and changed in to the flight suit (I hope that is the right term). The three of us boarded the ship to set out on our adventure. Dr. Milo pushed a few buttons and the ship slowly rose but then began to pick up speed. Unfortunately shortly after takeoff there was a terrible explosion. We looked out the windows and saw that it came from Earth, from not far from where we took off. What fools they were (Dr. Zaius and General Ursus) going to war against an unknown enemy. They never imagined that the enemy might have a weapon capable of destroying the entire planet. They ended up killing themselves along with Lucius, Mora, Dr. Horatius, Dr. Galen, Julius, Nova, Brent, Taylor and everyone else we ever know. It is almost too horrible to think about.

There is so much left to tell but I've become very tired just remembering all of it. I think I will look at the television while Zira takes something called a 'bubble bath' and continue this in the morning.

September 17th 1973 - Zira just left with Stevie to speak at a human females' club. Lewis will not come for me for another hour, so I have time to continue our story which I had started last night.

After Zira, Dr. Milo and I witnessed the destruction of earth; the ship was hit by an enormous shock wave. It hit with such force we were almost thrown out of our seats. Then before we knew it the ship has fallen out of orbit and started descending, to where we did not know. But it wasn't before long that what Dr. Milo called a parachute unfurled and the ship gently landed in the water. Soon we began to hear voices coming from outside the ship. Whomever was out there towed the ship to shore. Dr. Milo suggested that we keep silent until we found out the identity and nature of our captors. Once the ship was ashore, the door was opened and we discovered they were humans, intelligent talking humans like Taylor and Brent. Dr. Milo theorized that somehow the shock wave threw us back in time 2,000 years. To the time when human's had a civilization and apes were still dumb. Since we decided not to talk, the humans assumed we were dumb animals and sent us to a zoo where we were caged next to a primitive gorilla. It was there that the gorilla killed poor Dr. Milo. He was so eager to

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

explore this new world. It is a tragedy he won't have the chance. It was also at the zoo that we met Lewis and Stevie, animal psychologists sent to test us. Once Zira & I revealed that we could talk, they proved to be good friends and allies. They helped us prepare for a hearing before human officials the next day. And they are the only humans we've told about earth's destruction. Thankfully, despite some awkward moments, the hearing went well and the humans have been treating us royally ever since, much better than apes treated Taylor. Maybe humans are not so bad after all. Lewis is here to take me to a place called Disneyland, so I must go. Will continue this later.

September 29th 1973 - The humans have certainly been keeping Zira and I busy. It seems that we have become celebrities in their culture. I was worried that it might be too much for Zira in her condition. Last week she fainted while on a tour of a museum. Dr. Hasslein was with her and took her back to our hotel. He stayed with her until I was able to return which was very nice of him. Dr. Hasslein a member of the human's Presidential Commission which has been investigating our flight. He is the only member who we've met outside of the hearings. He seems nice enough but I get a strange feeling from him, especially that night. Reminds me of the feeling I got from Dr. Zaius after I returned from my first expedition to the Forbidden Zone, cordial but hiding something under the surface.

Dr. Hasslein flew back to Washington, their capital city a few days later and we haven't seen him since. Remarkable technology these humans have being able to fly across great distances so easy.

October 13th, 1973 - It has really been a whirlwind of activity for Zira and me. Last night we appeared on what Lewis called a talk show. The host a human named Johnny was very nice and very funny. He made several jokes about our flight but never said anything to insult us. It was a very delightful experience.

Also on the show was a group five singing brothers. I can't remember their name but they were all dark skinned humans like Taylor's friend Dodge. They were very talented but I'm afraid that Zira and I may have scared the youngest one. I hope he is alright and gets over it. I would hate to think that we traumatized the boy for life.

By now Zira and I have seen this entire city and been treated like royalty the

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

whole time. Lewis tells me that Dr. Hasslein returned last week and that the Commission has been meeting non-stop ever since.

In the meantime, Lewis & Stevie are taking us to see a movie tonight, something about a capsized boat.

October 20th, 1973 - Today Zira & I had lunch with representatives of the human's national congress. Most of them were very pleasant, smiling mostly while making innocuous conversation, much like Simian politicians. There was one who was a bit rude. A young man named Breck from the eastern part of their country. His wife was nice though. She delighted in telling Zira of how she let's pets name themselves.

Several members of the Commission were there including Dr. Hasslein. I wanted to thank him again for talking such good care of Zira last month when she fainted in the museum but he was very stand offish. He seemed to not want to talk to Zira or me at all. He just stood in a corner whispering to other members the Commission the whole time like he was waiting for something. He's a very odd human that one.

October 26th, 1973 - Today Zira & I were informed that we are to be taken to human military base for interrogation. The Commission requested this a few weeks ago and the human's President has decided to grant their request. Now I know what Dr. Hasslein seemed to be waiting for the other day.

Today started normally enough. We were given a tour of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, one of the human's space flight facilities. There we met two of their astronauts, a Captain Lovell and a Lt. Jones. Both were very nice especially Captain Lovell who insisted we call him Jim. Lewis said that Jim once flew on a mission with Taylor.

During the tour, Lewis received a message. I could tell from the expression on his face something was wrong. When we left, he told us of the President's orders. We were to go directly back to the hotel and not leave our suite until escort arrives in the morning. Lewis & Stevie will be coming to the base with us; so I've decided for the time being to entrust Lewis with this journal for safe keeping. Now all we can do is wait in our suite. Hopefully there is a good movie on TV tonight.

November 16th 1973 - I have a son!!! Zira gave birth to him just a few hours ago. I had originally wanted to name him after my father or Dr. Quinotius but

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

we decided to honor the memory of Dr. Milo. If not for Dr. Milo we would not be here and the baby would have never been born.

Unfortunately things are not good right now. After weeks of being confined to and interrogated in the human military camp, we broke out and are now in hiding. Tragically, I am responsible for the death of a young human. He was teasing Zira and I thought he was just knocked out when I hit him with a tray. He must have cracked his skull when it hit the floor. I will never get over the guilt I have for causing his death. I've never killed anyone before and hope to never do so again. But from what Lewis tells me if we hadn't escaped from the base, the humans were prepared to abort Zira's pregnancy and kill the baby.

Speaking of Lewis, he & Stevie brought us to the circus of their friend Armando. He is a wonderful and kind human. He has offered let us stay with his circus when it travels to someplace called Florida. He says there we can live in secret and raise little Milo.

November 19th 1973 - We must leave the circus. Dr. Hasslein has ordered that all circuses be searched. I really loathe that human. He seems to have such hatred for us.

Once again Lewis knows of a place we can hide from the authorities. And once again I will be leaving this journal with Lewis for safe keeping.

My only concern now is that Zira and Milo are safe. But I am worried. Dr. Hasslein is relentless. He won't give up the search for us easily.

But now we must leave Armando's circus. I can never repay him for his kindness to us. Zira is saying goodbye to a primitive chimpanzee here, Heloise, and is taking a long time about it too. I wonder what she could be doing in there.

August 29th, 2008 - It has been 35 years since Cornelius entrusted me with this journal for safe keeping. Cornelius was right about Dr. Hasslein. He would not quit his search and eventually tracked down Cornelius & Zira. Both of them and the baby were shot and killed. Hasslein was also killed in the exchange of gunfire.

For almost 20 years I believed that the baby had been killed that day. Armando never told me or Stevie Branton that Zira had switched Milo with the baby chimp in his circus.

Armando and his circus quietly left California for Florida and never returned. It was only after the first Ape revolt 17 years ago that what really had happened was revealed to the world. By then I had left the

CORNELIUS' JOURNAL: THE MEMOIR OF DR. CORNELIUS

LA Zoo and retired to the hills of Oregon.

Almost immediately after that first Ape uprising back east, Apes all over the country, and soon the world, began revolting. Since the bulk of the military was still in the Middle East preparing to liberate Kuwait, the task of quelling the uprising was left to civil authorities who were quickly overwhelmed. The President declared martial law and recalled the troops but by then it was too late. The whole western world was in chaos. Due to our withdrawal the Iraqi dictator swept into Saudi Arabia and in the USSR a group of hardliners took over in a coup. Once again the entire world was at war. A war that lasted over 15 years.

There was some hope. The President began peace negotiations and the outlook was promising. But then he was killed when revolting Apes attacked Washington. His idiot son (whom he had appointed as Vice President a few years before) took over and ended the peace conference. He decided to threaten our enemies with a new weapon, the Alpha-Omega bomb. To demonstrate its power he launched the prototype at the moon. Instead of surrendering our enemies launched a full nuclear attack, we retaliated and human civilization came to an end. That was 2 years ago and just as those of us who survived thought the worst was over; the real horror began. Smaller debris from the moon began to rain down on the earth in a storm of meteors killing and destroying the few habitable areas left. This morning the Mayor of our town called the elders together (of which I am one) to inform us that one of these meteor storms has been sighted heading right for us. There are only a few hours till it gets here. Some are fleeing for caves but that will only delay the inevitable. Now I sit here waiting and reflecting back at the events of my life and wonder. Was Dr. Hasslein right after all? Is there another Alpha-Omega bomb out there? Was that the weapon used when Cornelius & Zira saw the Earth destroyed? Maybe I'll find out in the afterlife for the meteor storm has begun and I am about to die.

Lewis Dixon