

Igor Bondar

*Once upon
a time in Heaven*

The nets

A fiction story

Chapter 1.

‘Hey, friend, it looks like we’re on the right way,’ said doctor Eliot Brown, studying attentively the data on his computer screen. ‘Indeed, our phantom by the new screen has increased more in size.’

‘Well, well...,’ professor Leo McQueen quickly came to his friend and sat on the near chair. ‘Hum, right... Indeed it has. Almost by eight percent. It’s interesting..., it’s very interesting.’

‘Yes, our screen magnet is growing and growing,’ El leaned back thoughtfully in his chair. ‘Indubitably, it is growing thanks to a higher resolution graphics of the screen. But where to and why?’

‘Now, only God knows,’ Leo shrugged his shoulders.

‘You don’t say so, mate! What God? I don’t believe in all that.’

‘I don’t believe in that much too. It’s a set expression, merely,’ the professor smiled. ‘But, frankly speaking, at times, I wish someone would help to find answers to many of our questions.’

El laughed out.

‘Has that been said by a lazy scientist or by a lazybones-like scientist?’

The friends shook with laughter.

‘It’s your choice,’ the professor said in a more serious tone and went back to his work table. ‘Now, let us proceed with our

matter. We haven't carried out measurements of the latest video and audio samples.'

'Well then, let's get down to work,' El replied and turned to his computer screen.'

* * *

Two angels: Glan and Ev were attentively watching the work of their earthly wards. Today, they have slightly managed to help the wards move in the direction needed.

'Right, it's a pity that the our guys have come so closely to the gist of the problem, but they don't believe in God and in our world,' a snow-white Glan said. 'They will find it difficult to express everything that happens only in the language of their formulas.'

'If it is possible at all', Ev continued and sighed sadly, 'while, the earthly time is going and now, it is going very fast.'

'That's right', Glan agreed, 'I too, my friend, think that it is exactly the case when we should ask our Father to help them advance with this issue quickly.'

'I agree, Glan,' Ev nodded. 'It is a crucial issue, indeed.'

'You are right, my dears,' the Angels suddenly heard at their hearts the softest Voice in the world. 'They should be given some assistance here indeed. Well, I will come up something convincing for them.'

'Thank you, Father!' the Angels replied in unison and their faces shone with kind smiles.

* * *

The Father looked at the earth lovingly. It is the place, where for thousands of years he has been bringing up His children. It is the place, from where all the best people have been coming to His eternal home after their earthly lives.

There was a time, when His children lived very simple lives on the earth: they travelled either on foot or by horses. Nevertheless, it did not hinder them to think about the meaning of life, seek high in it and seek for Him. And how many bright souls came to him in the Paradise! Now, they were living all together as one kind and friendly family with Him. And, it will be so forever.

Much, if not everything has changed on the earth since that time. Very little has remained from the former simple way of life. All the people now studied various sciences for many years, lived in their own houses, drive cars and travelled by planes. Almost every person now has own smartphone or computer with which he can find the information on any fact past or present. The Father has been giving the people many new opportunities, But...

God smiled sadly for how little of the people on the earth have been using all these opportunities in the right way indeed. They were interested in everything on earth, but not, what was the most important for them.

The money, worldly goods, empty talks , debauchery, different misleading opinions and false teachings. These and many things alike were taking practically all the time of the people. Very few would pay attention to problems of their own.

While, a human pride would often come to the degree of complete blindness or irrationality.

High moral standards were fading away gradually or they acquired some ugly traits. Governments of several countries and even some Christian leaders had already considered that to be normal. So, the humankind that was lead astray by lies and fog of sins sank deeper and deeper into its *civilization*, which stood rather far from the rules, which His Son had once brought.

The civilization itself did not represent evil, of course. It was like an atom, which He had given to the people once and which could bring great benefits or it could destroy their world.

Here, everything depended only on that in whose hands that lay. For kind people, everything serves for the good. His Paradise has much more than that and everyone lives there in happiness and peace. But for sinful, proud and evil people, any kind of civilization and progress always serves for the bad.

Therefore, only kind and peaceful people that had not many sins could resist all that, while keeping a healthy sober worldview. And these were His most loved children on the earth.

* * *

That night, El saw an unusual dream: he swam underwater among colorful fish and corals along the sea bed. Generally, the doctor loved the sea and would often snorkel during his vacations. Although, the idea of becoming a diver and descending deep into the realm of the sea had not come to his head somehow.

In that dream, the scientist felt rather comfortable in the blue of the water. He would turn his head around looking intently at the underwater world and its inhabitants: beautiful corals, schools of fish and sometimes, dolphins and marine turtles.

The sea bed led quite steeply down into the depth, however the scientist calmly continued to swim on along. The sunlight penetrated less and less, it was becoming darker and darker around El. Although, it did not frighten the doctor at all and he felt desire to swim further and deeper. So, instantly, it became completely dark around him there.

Right after that, the sea became unexpectedly lighter and lighter, though it appeared somewhat differently. The doctor looked around, trying to understand what was that and suddenly, he realized that it was not the sunlight penetrating there. The water shone as if by itself, each of its particles was like a tiny source of light.

‘So, that’s how it all occurs in the deep,’ the happy and amazed scientist thought. ‘Apparently, under a high pressure, the water begins to illuminate light.’

And, with a greater enthusiasm El swam further into the deep. The sea around him became lighter and after some time, the doctor turned his head up by intuition and saw the water surface not far above.

‘How can it be?’ thought he. ‘I’ve been swimming all the way down, but I came up.’

He went on and some time later, he treaded on a plain shore, finding himself on a splendid sandy beach. But, it was a very unusual beach. As with the water, it all shone from within: each grain, each shell and each palm tree. El lifted his head and saw the sky and the birds shine unusual light.

The doctor stood looking around amazed.

‘Do you like it here, dear Eliot?’ suddenly he heard a soft voice coming from behind and turned around.

Right in front of him, there stood a well-built young man with snow-white wings smiling warmly. He shone from within as well and it looked very beautiful.

‘Hello’, astonished El spoke out in reply and, having thought a little, he added, ‘I would be much pleased, if you could tell me how you know me and where I am, actually?’

Although, a few moments later, the scientist slapped himself on his forehead in shame.

‘Oh, I am sorry... could you kindly tell me how I may address you.’

The shining man nodded his head cheerily.

‘That’s not a problem, dear Eliot. I am your Angel, my name is Glan. You may address me so. At the moment, you are in the Paradise. Well, I know you, because I have been with you for all your life. If you have any other questions, please, don’t hesitate to ask.’

Having heard that, the doctor was literally stunned and only after some time could find his tongue again.

‘Angel... But, there’s no God and no Paradise. All that is a fiction! Don’t take offense, please...’

‘What can I say, my dear? It is quite possible that I would think similarly, if I were on your place: so much information about the God is distorted and much more is forgotten and forsaken. In addition, many things on the earth do distract from this now. Even those, who wish much to figure out all this right,

find it hard to do so. That is why, I am not surprised at your answer at all, nor am I offended by it.’

The doctor kept on staring at his unusual interlocutor in surprise.

‘But, as I can see, you do exist.’

‘I do,’ the Angel smiled.

‘Well then, could you prove all this to me somehow? So that I will believe this,’ said the doctor, scratching his head.

The shining man thought for a few moments and laughed out loudly.

‘Alright, dear El, I will present one such proof for you as a scientist.’

‘Thank you,’ he replied in a serious tone.

The Angel stopped smiling and gave Eliot a serious look.

‘I have to tell you something: it is very important and it is related to your work,’ he began.

‘My work?’ the scientist became perplexed again. ‘You know about my work?’

‘I know everything about you, El, I am your Angel, the interlocutor gave a smile. ‘The subject you work on now is extremely important indeed. For many, by the way. But, there is a severe inaccuracy in your work, which will not let you understand the problem to the end.’

‘Inaccuracy?’ Eliot’s eyes shone as of a true scientist. ‘What inaccuracy? Could you explain it to me?’

The Angel nodded.

‘Namely for this the Lord has approved me to see you. Well, the main mistake of yours is that you consider your phantom a mere energy. It is not so at all.’

‘It isn’t so?’ the doctor looked at the Angel very interested. ‘Then, what is the phantom, indeed?’

‘The right question is not *what*, but *who*. That phantom is a living thing.’

‘A living thing? Oh!’ open-eyed Eliot asked. ‘How can it be so?’

‘Well, it is like many other things in our world, which you don’t believe in,’ replied the Angel, looking with a smile at the scientist. ‘Your problem is that all your research is limited by the earthly laws. You do not believe in God, in powers of the light and of the darkness. Therefore, you are not able to approach this issue from many aspects and in the right way. And moreover, you can’t assist in solving it.’

It took the doctor some time to think it over.

‘A living thing, you say..., how can it be?’

‘It can. It is a kind of parasite or pest unseen to a human eye. They appear between a screen and consciousness of a computer user. These substances can provoke addiction of a human being to the screen and they can suggest some thoughts.’

‘Could you explain it in more details?’ the scientist asked the Angel.

‘It’s simple, El. For instance, if a human being uses a computer as a beneficial tool and controls the time of its use well, there will not be such phantom, whatever the quality of the screen may be. This parasite cannot arise without a human reaction.’

‘So, well... I see,’

‘Right, but if a human being begins to turn to the screen at every reason and spends all his free time immersed in it, that means the parasite has already appeared. And, he starts influencing wishes of the human being to some extent. Better graphics will increase the speed of this process.’

‘Why does the phantom do this?’

‘There is nothing unusual in it here. Why do lianas wind around trees? In this case, energy and powers of a human are stolen. There is another point in this. As substances of the darkness, they try to draw the people into *darker* places.’

‘Oh, it is very interesting!’ began the doctor commenting on what he had heard, but suddenly, he woke up.

The end of this phrase he pronounced in his bed. El looked around slowly remembering the world he was used to. The sun began to shine through his window and the birds could be heard singing around outside.

‘Well, what a dream...,’ Eliot spoke to himself quietly. ‘I’ve never seen such a dream before.’

He lay in his bed for some time more.

‘Angels, living phantoms, Paradise. Wow! What a dream may come! That could be right a good plot for a new fairy-tale,’ El smiled and threw his blanket aside getting up briskly.

Several minutes later, the scientist was taking a shower and even tried singing out a song. Naturally, the doctor tried to forget his recent dream. There was no place in his life for anything unscientific or irrational.

When streams of warm water washed shampoo off his head, Eliot wiped his eyes with his hands and stood astonished.

Right in front of him on the shelf, there lay a small shell from his dream. It shone by itself, from within.

‘Alright, dear El, I will present one such proof for you as a scientist,’ the doctor instantly recollected the words of his last night’s interlocutor.

* * *

Amanda parked her car near the shopping centre, got out of it and walked slowly towards its entrance. She would come there nearly once a week to make purchases for her big family.

However, despite the early hours, the shopping centre was crowded. Mostly, there were young people, waiting in line at an electronics shop. The woman had never seen this before, so she came slightly closer. Her curiosity took over and she addressed a guy, who was standing in the line.

‘Good day, young man, could you tell me what are all these people after here?’

The white-haired lad turned to her politely.

‘Good day, madam. Haven’t you heard that a new mobile phone *Orange 100*, the sales start today?’

Amanda nodded her head negatively.

‘Oh, haven’t you?’ the lad wondered. ‘We’re looking forward to it much, so everyone in this line want to buy it first. Some of them have been here since last night.’

‘Really?’ the woman spoke slowly, being slightly surprised. ‘It appears that there’s something special in the phone, right?’

‘Oh, yeah’, the young man nodded, ‘it has much more advanced user interface, seven-core processor unit, and, in addition...’

Then, for the next couple of minutes, the woman kept listening to the words that were unknown to her.

‘I see, emm...,’ she replied finally.

Amanda was about to thank the lad and then go, further for a shopping cart, but, suddenly, one more question came to her mind.

‘Do you know if this phone is for sale only today?’

‘Well, nope,’ the young man replied. ‘It’ll be available for sale constantly from now on.’

‘Can’t it be ordered online, then? Or taken away in a few days, when there won’t be a long line for it here?’

The young man gave a shiny look.

‘Not, of course! I must have it today. It’s very important!’

‘Ah...,’ the woman replied languidly and, having nodded to the lad, she walked for the shopping cart.

But, while making her way, she stopped immersed in her thoughts and took out her two-year old Samsung mobile phone. Having turned it in her hands thinking, she shrugged her shoulders uncertain and put it back. After that, she took a shopping cart and began pushing it forward along the shelves.

* * *

As usually on a Sunday morning, professor Leo was out fishing. Every weekend, he and his wife managed to get out to the country, to their small house by the lake. From there, Leo loved much to steer his boat to a place for fishing in the morning hours.

And on that day, with the first rays of the sun, he embarked his small cutter with his fishing rods and set off to a small island, near which he loved to fishing. Usually, there were various kinds of lake fishes. The professor reached his fishing spot, dropped anchor and threw bait around there. After that, he uncovered his two fishing rods and, a moment later, two colorful floats began drifting on a calm water surface.

Leo settled himself comfortably at a small table and poured some fruit tea from a thermos flask. There was not a single bite that morning. It had been quite a long time after the professor had finished his tea and sandwiches, but the floats did not move at all.

‘That’s strange,’ Leo thought and looked at the sun that had already risen high above the horizon. ‘I haven’t had such bad luck fishing, as far as I can remember.’

Having watched his motionless floats for twenty minutes more, the professor decided to end his dull venture and head for home. He reeled in his first fishing rod. All the baits on the hooks there were untouched. Leo folded the rod, encased it and put it back to its proper place. Then, he stretched his arm to take the second rod.

But, he hardly touched it, the float suddenly went underwater.

‘Well, at last!’ the fisherman’s heart leapt cheerily.

He sharply pulled the rod. Jerks from the fishing line prompted that there was something on the hook. And, it seemed that something hooked there was not small. In a moment, the rod bent toughly into an arch.

Nevertheless, the professor was a seasoned fisherman: in some five minutes, his fish was struggling somewhere near the boat. Leo did not hurry, as he knew that a tired fish is easier to be drawn. After a new series of jerks, the fish’s resistance faded. The professor pulled his catch up.

As if following his wish, the fish swam out to the water surface and held. Leo glanced at it and stood in astonishment. He had never seen such a catch before: the fish weighing near a kilo was shining by itself in the water.

Leo rubbed his eyes with his free hand and looked at it again. Nothing changed. A big, beautiful fish was moving its fins slowly, shining quite brightly from inside.

‘What’s happening?’ was the first thought of the professor ‘Such a fish can’t be!’

Though, he suddenly recalled a children’s fairy-tale about a golden fish that made wishes come true. Leo smiled somehow sillily and even giggled.

‘Alright, I must take it out anyway and then, we’ll sort it out,’ he reflected and took a scoop-net that lay along the board of the cutter.

Leo dipped it cautiously into the water slightly aside from the fish. The shining fish stood on its place, as if nothing happened, looking at the professor trustingly. The fisherman

began moving the scoop-net closer to it. When it almost approached the fish, suddenly, it jerked and...

Every fisherman knows the feeling of despair, when a catch comes off the hook. Leo felt that to the full extent.

‘Mmm...,’ he moaned in a helpless disappointment. ‘Got away...’

He pulled his rod up and the float and two hooks began swaying in front of him.

‘It’s slipped away,’ sighed Leo and sighed deeply again. ‘And who will believe me that I’ve seen a shining fish? Ah, I should’ve taken a picture of it...’

* * *

That day, two Angels looked at their earthly wards much more cheerily. And sometimes, they even laughed remembering some episodes from the wards’ recent past.

‘I’ve been thinking all the way, friend’, Angel Ev smiled, ‘who of our lads had more rounded eyes: my professor when he saw a golden fish in the lake or your doctor, when he saw a shining shell in the shower room?’

‘I can’t tell,’ Glan laughed in response. ‘But, to my mind, their normal eyes’ shape has not returned to them yet. And for sure, there lies a lot of wonder for them, when they meet again.’

‘Right, the Father figured out it all brilliantly for our wards,’ Angel Ev noted.

‘Right spot-on. Thank you very much, Father!’ Glan looked upwards gratefully.

‘I am always pleased to help you, my dears!’ the Angels heard a dear voice in their hearts. ‘I am sure that this will help our guys to understand everything that is right and advance forward.’

‘Of course, Father!’ Angel Ev smiled. ‘Now, we shall guide them where needed.’

‘Good luck to you, and you are welcome to address me, if you need something.’

The Angels waved warmly in response.

* * *

As usually on Monday morning, Leo and Eliot met at their work. At first, following their tradition, they sat down to have some coffee. However today they looked at each other in some strange manner.

‘You know, El’, Leo began the talk, ‘I went fishing on Sunday.’

‘Great,’ the doctor reacted and sipped his coffee. ‘Did you catch anything?’

The professor looked at Eliot intently.

‘You’ve known me for quite awhile now El. I reckon you believe that everything is okay with my mind,’ he started.

‘What do you mean, mate?’ the doctor wondered. ‘Certainly, I know that you are one of the most intelligent people I have ever met.’

‘Thank you, but there is something I have to tell you and it will sound very strange,’ Leo continued slowly.

The doctor lifted his brows questioningly.

‘You’ll laugh at me, but I caught a golden fish yesterday. To be more precise, it was an ordinary fish, weighing near a kilo, but it shone by itself from inside.’

El choked from surprise.

‘Oh, really? Show it to me!’

‘You know, it left at the last moment,’ Leo shrugged his shoulders helplessly.

Doctor Eliot kept silent thinking it over.

‘You don’t believe me, do you friend? I understand it,’ the professor sighed. ‘But, it was there indeed, I saw it as well as I see you right now.’

‘I’m not keeping silent because of that, Leo,’ El replied. ‘How did it shine?’

Having heard an unexpected question, the professor shrugged his shoulders in amazement.

‘Well, I don’t know, as some light globes usually shine, perhaps, not too brightly. I was absolutely sure that the light was coming from inside of it.’

‘It’s curious,’ the doctor could only say.

‘What is curious?’ the professor asked in uncertainty. ‘So, do you believe me or not?’

‘I believe, my friend. I believe you very, very much,’ El replied looking at his interlocutor somewhat weirdly.

Having said this, the doctor rose from the armchair and went to his work table, where he pulled the upper drawer and took out a small box. Having come back, he put it down in front of the professor.

‘What’s this?’ Leo asked amused.

‘Open it and you will see,’ the doctor replied smiling enigmatically.

The perplexed professor opened the cover off and took slowly out a small shell. The whole shell was shining from inside, right as his fish did yesterday.

‘Where did you find it?’ Leo asked after a minute of total silence.

‘In my dream last night,’ El replied.

Having noticed his stunned friend’s look, he retold his recent dream in details. After that, the friends went on to drinking coffee for some five minutes without saying a word.

‘What’s happening with us, El?’ the professor began, finally.

The doctor shrugged his shoulders in respond.

‘The only reasonable answer that comes to my mind was that my dream was true. And your catch only proves that.’

‘It seems that you’re not far from the truth...,’ the professor spoke out slowly, turning the shining shell in his hands.

‘During the weekend, I tried to understand the reason of its shining,’ El said. ‘But, I figured out nothing. It simply glows from inside without any cause.’

‘Apparently, it comes right from some other world,’ Leo responded thoughtfully.

A minute later, the professor put the shell back in the box and stretched to take his cup of cool coffee.

‘Tell me your dream in details once more, friend. And try not to miss any, even the slightest detail.’

‘Alright, Leo,’ El replied and he began retelling his dream.

Chapter 2.

A screen troll Sluic was awaiting impatiently for his inseparable Mike to awake. It was almost ten o’clock in the morning, but the guy did not seem to want to get up. Unfortunately, Sluic could not shorten people’s dreams.

The troll was seven years old. Namely that many years ago, Mike bought his first computer. At first, Sluic was very tiny in size. Although, the lad’s draw to gadgets with displays and the troll’s slyness did their job, so, at the moment, it was much bigger than the screen itself.

Sluic looked towards Mike’s bed and giggled contentedly: his mate was rubbing eyes with his hands.

‘Come on, Mikey, come on. Wake up, finally! You’ve got a whole bunch of news in your computer,’ the troll began to send thoughts to the young man through a channel they had long been connected with.

The guy began to move in his bed. Having stretched and thrown his blanket off, he trod to his computer. However, on his way, he suddenly fidgeted and turned for the toilet.

‘Of course,’ Sluic grumbled displeased, ‘it’s always that I’m only the second for him in the morning.’

A minute later, the lad set down at the computer and began scrolling endless chats of his friends. Meanwhile, the troll was having his full breakfast. Mike’s energy that had accumulated during his night’s sleep was then given away to the him too.

After five minutes, Mike felt the need to go to the kitchen and grab a bite.

‘Stop, stop, Mikey!’ rebelled the troll, which did not finish his breakfast. ‘Where are you hurrying to? You haven’t looked at Steve’s messages at all. Or, have a look, there’s a beauty at the display’s side. Mm, she has so few clothes...’

Mike followed this suggestion obediently and the troll continued taking his food. Having eaten to repletion, it leaned back to rest behind the computer screen.

‘Oh, fine,’ it waved its tendril on Mike, ‘now, you may go to have a good breakfast, mate. You need a lot of energy for us,’

Mike closed his laptop down and trudged to the kitchen. While, the troll threw his one tendril on another and began whistling his favorite troll’s song.

* * *

‘Yeah, friend, it seems that our education starts to expand in the direction we did not expect,’ said Professor Brown after El finished his narration.

While saying this he was thoughtfully twirling a luminous shell in his hands.

‘Well, I would say that it is still too early to talk about that for sure. Although there are already enough facts for such reflections,’ replied the doctor. ‘So, what are we going to do now?’

‘I wish somebody would tell me,’ Leo shrugged his shoulders. ‘Maybe to start with we should read something about God and Angels? How does everything work there? Because we are real ignoramuses in this sphere.’

‘Not a bad idea,’ doctor agreed and then chuckled. ‘I really did not think that someday I will seriously have a talk about that topic.’

‘Yeah,’ professor smiled, ‘and, as I remember, someone even laughed at me for a few words about God a few days ago.’

Both of them laughed cheerfully.

‘Oh, indeed... Though on the other hand,’ Leo proposed more positively, ‘the wider the interest of the scientist, the more interesting.’

‘There is something true about this,’ his friend nodded, ‘however, this area, in our case, goes somewhere up.’

‘That is ok, we will cope with that,’ professor said optimistically, ‘but just imagine - our phantom is a living being! The psychology adds here and probably biology or zoology and who knows what else.’

‘But we will be able to truly fight with it as a result of such an approach. And without this we will only measure it all the time,’ doctor smiled, ‘Yes, this news changes everything fundamentally.’

‘You bet! Imagine that something new and alive arises from the screens of a computer and consciousness of a human. And it

is living by itself but apparently strongly depends on both the first and the second. All this is incredibly interesting! Here you can do a lot of experimenting.'

'Exactly, I was talking about that too,' his friend agreed and laughed suddenly, 'We may, for example, try to enclose this shell to the screen.'

They both laughed again.

'Well, now we will have to attach a lot of things to it,' the professor summed up and habitually went to make a coffee.

* * *

'Well, everything turned out,' Angel Glan smiled joyfully.

'Yeah, buddy, now it only remains for us to add some new, helpful information to our smart ward's heads,' said Angel Ev.

After that the Angels sighed.

'Oh, it will not be easy to do this with our very wise guys.'

'You are right,' Glan put a hand under his head, 'about two hundred years ago very few people doubted in the existence of God and dark beings. And now people have invented all sorts of different scientific names instead of the old ones and lost a simple and clear core.'

'Don't worry, we will explain it to them somehow,' said Angel Ev and then asked, 'so, friend what useful book are we going to give them first?'

Both Angels sighed again. The choice of useful books on the language understandable by their scientists was very small.

‘Ok, we will try to give them something,’ said Angel Glan.

‘I have also a good idea about that,’ suddenly the Angels heard the cheerful voice of the Father.

* * *

Soon after Mike went to school, troll Sluic headed to chat to his pals. Two other trolls lived in a flat - Mo and Og. Troll Mo was fed from Mike’s mom. She led her through the endless shopping, cosmetic salons, threw her long-lasting TV series. Troll Og was fed from Mike’s dad. He liked to drag him into bars and provoke him to start different scandals. He also found unsuitable TV shows for him. Mike’s parent did not like computers very much but the numbers of TV programs was enough for many plans of trolls.

‘Hi, Sluic’, the troll heard a voice of his pals after he got into the next room.

Giggling, Og and Mo were sitting in the sofa.

‘Hi, dudes’, Sluic responded, ‘well, how are you?’

‘Not so bad’, Mo replied, ‘yesterday my ward bought two expensive dresses and, in the evening, a wonderful scandal was held about the money spent.’

‘Yeah’, said well-fed troll Og, ‘my client said so many bad things to his wife that they will sulk at each other for a week. So, we have a lot of food now!’

Both trolls giggled loudly.

‘It is always pleasant when friends are doing well’, said Sluic with a little envy, ‘oh, I wish my ward found a girlfriend sooner.’

‘Yes, everything is much cooler with scandals!’ troll Mo nodded to Sluic. ‘Because it is like you are always sitting on a diet with this TV series. There are of course couple of emotions but it is not enough and of course it can’t be compared with a nice quarrel.’

‘Well, I would not say so’, the troll Og giggled, ‘sometimes I immerse my ward into such a film from which I get a salad, second dish and even champagne for lunch.’

‘Oh, and I am eating so well only on shopping’, troll Mo signed, ‘When my lady enters the store she cannot stop until all the money runs out. Oh, I have learned to tempt her so well! And it almost always ends up with a scandal...That is when I have a great feast! But it is a pity that her husband keeps cutting her budget all the time.’

‘Yeah,’ Og respond with a feeling ‘some of our colleagues are so lucky to live with millionaires. I have met some of them a couple of times. They are huge like elephants!’

All the trolls signed enviously.

‘Do not complain’, finally said Sluic, ‘two floors below there is a highly moral couple. So, their trolls are of the size of balls for table tennis.’

Og and Mo put the tentacles to their mouths in horror.

‘Yes, dudes, it is a sin to complain about our life’, said troll Og with a feeling in a moment.

After chatting a little bit, trolls said goodbye and went to their corners to wait for their breadwinners.

* * *

‘Well, how are you doing, friend? Did you find anything interesting?’ Professor Leo closed a book with a red cover and put it on top of a stack of other books.

After that he looked on El with dull eyes.

‘God, devil, prophets, demons. Then again demons, prophets, devil and God. And not a single hint about our phantom’s nature’, the doctor smiled wearily, ‘Well, all this, of course, can confirm my recent dream. But it definitely can not make us closer to the solution of the main question.’

‘Maybe one more cup of coffee?’ proposed Leo.

‘Oh, no! And from coffee to me it is already bad too’, doc shivered and suddenly his eyes gaily flashed, ‘maybe we would better drinking a little Hennessy? Do you remember how that cognac frequently helped us to find different interesting solutions?’

‘Mmm, Hennessy?’ professor asked more cheerfully ‘Why not? At the same time we will disinfect our throats from the books dust settling there.’

Another twenty minutes later, friends chatted more joyfully at their coffee table.

‘Yeah, mate, it seems like we will not find anything interesting here even for a thousand years’, said doctor Eliot, ‘they lived in a completely different world. Kings, plowmen, potters. I did not notice even scientists, not to mention computers.’

‘All this is true, my friend. But our glowing shell is only a few days old. And that means that another world still is alive and well. And somebody from modern times must surely know about that at least someth...’ here the professor suddenly stuttered, but after a second he happily slapped his palm against his forehead, ‘Yes! There is a solution, friend!’

‘What solution?’ asked doctor with pleasant anticipation.

‘Tom Bering! Do you remember our classmate Tom Bering?’

‘Well, yes, I remember. We were not close friends then but he was a nice guy. I remember he even helped me with my coursework a couple of times’, the doctor scratched his head, ‘And why are you asking about him?’

‘Do you know who he is now?’ Leo mysteriously screwed up his eyes.

‘No’, doctor answered, ‘I have not seen him since that time’.

‘I met him a couple of years ago at the university reunion. You were away with your wife that time, remember?’

‘Yes, so what?’

‘Well, nothing special’ professor leaned back in his chair joyfully, ‘but now he is a priest in one of the temples’.

The doctor’s fork rang loudly on his plate.

‘A priest?’ he asked surprisingly.

‘Yes!’ the professor cheerfully nodded, ‘And he is the one who can really help us right now a lot’.

The doctor thought for a few seconds.

‘Tom is a physicist, and therefore he is well familiar with the basics of our question. He is a priest and that is why he knows

much more about different scriptures and other sources of information on this topic' Eliot reflected aloud.

'Exactly!' Leo nodded and cheerfully turned his gaze to the table. 'Pour in some more drops of this clever liquid, mate, and after that we will search for his coordinates on the Internet'.

Two scientists clinked their glasses happily. Five minutes later professor Leo McQueen was already arranging by phone a meeting with the priest Thomas Bering.

* * *

Angels Glan and Ev stood not far away from the armchairs and smiled happily.

'Phew', Ev signed with relief, 'oh, finally, we seem to have a wonderful and short way out to the right information for the guys. Thanks to our Father, He helped us so much.

'You are so right Ev! I remember Tom since student days. He thinks in a very right way', Angel Glan looked up with a warmth, 'Yeah, Father chose a more interesting option than all of our books. Tom is the best candidate for different sorts of explanations.'

'Of course, he is a former physicist and that means he can tell a lot to El and Leo in a language they will understand. And this is very important now', El agreed.

'I hope so much that soon they well hear everything they need', Glan smiled.

* * *

The computer troll Sluic this morning as usual lay next to the screen and whistled his song. His breadwinner Mike had recently gone to school and troll had spent time waiting for him. Suddenly his rest was broken.

‘Hey, dude, haw are you?’ he heard the well-known voice of Og from below.

‘Hi’, he responded and quickly jumped off the table ‘What can happen to me? Internet works, computer is alright and this is the most important thing. I get enough food. And as far as Mike, I hold him tightly now. He will not run away from me.

Both trolls gaily giggled.

‘Computer is, of course, a really good thing’, Og agreed and scratched under one of his tentacles, ‘And we are with Mo doing well, too. But we have a thought, may be we should try to make them addicted to something else?’

‘Are you serious?’ Sluic flinched with interest, ‘It is always good to cause new addictions, but which of them do you want to add concretely?’

‘The rumors reached us’, the neighbor responded ‘They say that head trolls organized special courses. They teach our trolls how to make people addicted to something and what new addiction to choose. There are almost all the latest novelties for which clients are clinging to today. And it is interesting that the boss himself organized all this.

‘Courses from the chief?’ Sluic even straightened up, ‘That is really very curious. We should definitely go there - always need

to be close to his ideas. Look how he taught us to use computer and television dependency on people.’

‘Mo and I thought the same’, Og smirked, ‘So, let’s go there together after a couple of days? Well, I suppose they will tell everything about where it is better to drag our breadwinners and what’s the best thing to do.’

‘I will be ready at any time, fellows’, Sluic replied gaily.

After that they say goodbye, slapping loudly at each other with tentacles.

* * *

As soon as the professor and the doctor parked their car near to the temple and get out, the priest descended to them on the steps.

‘Leo, El, I am so glad to see you! I really did not suppose that I would ever meet you again. And especially in my temple’, the priest gaily screwed up his eyes, ‘As I remember you have always been convinced atheists.’

‘We have... Hi Tom, I am very glad to see you, too’, the professor embraced the former classmate warmly and after that gave way to the doctor.

‘Hello Tommy!’ the doctor smiled, ‘And I found out about your new job only yesterday.’

‘And today you are already here. It seems that science is getting close to religion indeed,’ the priest laughed, ‘Well, ok, let’s go to my room. I will make you some coffee and you can tell me all about the reason for your visit.’

One hour later El and Leo finished their long narration. Tom was silently sitting in an armchair all the time, thoughtfully twisting a luminous shell in his hands. Finally, after a while, he spoke with a smile.

‘Something like that can be heard rarely. Very rarely. My congratulations, friends! It looks like Heaven loves you for something, because you were shown so many things.’

‘Or what we are working on now is important for them’, the doctor proposed his version.

‘And this is also, of course’, Tom agreed, ‘but to bad guys will not be shown even anything close to this.’

The priest added some coffee into his friend’s cups.

‘And as for your investigations with phantoms and computers, they are really important. Darkness sticks very quickly to the new technologies nowadays and then influences on people. Here there is no longer time to say but to sound the alarm.’

‘Darkness?’ doctor asked in confusion, ‘Could you tell us in some detail what it is? Leo and I have flicked through a dozen books in this direction and we still have no understanding.’

‘I feel sorry for poor physicists’, the priest laughed cheerfully ‘Ok, I will try to explain everything to you in understandable language. However, it won’t be a short story.’

‘The longer, the better my friend’, Leo looked seriously into Tom’s eyes, ‘This is what we came for. This question seems to become the most interesting and important in our lives. And we need to know about this as much as possible.’

‘Well, then it is better to explain everything from the very beginning’, said priest Tom and leaned back in his armchair.

* * *

Og, Mo and Sluic entered a quite large basement hall. The enormous trolls with different posters sat everywhere along the walls.

‘Wow, they all are so huge here!’ said Og with envy, ‘It seems that all these new methods feed them very well.’

‘Yeah’, Sluic nodded rubbing his tentacles, ‘Something tells me that we came here not in vain.’

‘Hey, dudes,’ a large grey troll literally came up on them, ‘My name is Gro. What did you come for?’

‘Well, we wanted getting our clients addicted to something else. We heard that you have information about all the novelties’, said Og, ‘And, also, they say that you give consultations on all these issues.’

‘Of course’, troll smiled in a sugary way demonstrating all of his ninety-three teeth, ‘Boss himself organized this project. He is very interested in people getting addicted to something else with a greater force.’

‘We are so lucky to come here!’ Mo could not restrain his joy, ‘What are we better to start from?’

‘Firstly, you should go to our psychologist, dudes. He will help you to reveal the predisposition to new tendencies of your clients and give you some necessary pieces of advice.’

‘It is clear’, Og nodded, ‘and then?’

The huge troll burst out laughing.

‘And then, my dear, we have several hundred options. Modern sticky electronics, endless computer games, obsessive advertisements, eternal forums and other types of chatting, different newfangled esotericism and so on. Our successful experience almost everywhere. We do not waste our time here. So, let’s firstly find out your costumer’s aptitudes and after that develop this or that area’, he blinked with one eye, ‘Or maybe you will come up with something by yourself. Usually, people, that get addicted to something, believe almost everything.’

Og, Mo and Sluic exchanged glances cheerfully.

‘Why did not we come here before?’ Mo said, ‘I have spent so many dietary days because of this boring TV series!’

‘Absolutely right, dudes,’ troll Gro nodded ‘always follow the boss’s novelties. So, let us go to our psychologist now. He starts to consult with you about your clients in an order.’

And all the trolls moved further down the hall.

* * *

‘So, friends, let us get started’, the priest said and smiled, ‘But first try to forget everything you learned at school and University at least for a while’.

The doctor and professor nodded their heads in agreement.

‘Very well. So, the entire world, everything that you see around, all the rivers, seas and mountains, were created by God. He is very kind and omnipotent. Besides, He wants to have real,

kind and loving children very much. For people, by the way, such a desire is not a rarity, too’, the priest smiled again, ‘However, kindness cannot easily emerge on the Earth by itself. A tree will not become kind even in a million years and an animal also will not become kind in a million years. And as for human, if everything will be well-explained to him and he will try to do it all then he can become kind. Because he has a soul which is a compass from God. It will always show the direction to love and kindness.’

Tom interrupted for a moment, took a sip of cooled down coffee and continued.

‘So, namely because of this the Lord created a place where a human can attend to this most important school of life. He created our planet Earth and after that gave people rules through His Son. Following them, people can reach this kindness and love. Am I explaining this clearly?’

El and Leo nodded their heads together.

‘Then, we move on. Now let us talk about darkness’, Tom continued his narration, ‘Unfortunately, not all people on Earth choose love, kindness, and light. They want to have nothing to do with, and it is possible too, because real freewill - always freewill. And God gave the opportunity of free choice to everyone. That is why people have a right to choose other routes even if they are a dead-end.’

‘Dead-end?’ Leo asked surprisingly.

‘Yeah,’ Tom shrugged his shoulders ‘Who will need all this darkness? To the Creator of this world Who is Kindness and Love? No, of course, not. That is why all the darkness is temporary and will definitely end. The Son of God told about it many times when He was on Earth.’

‘Well,’ Doctor Eliot frowned a little, ‘Actually, there are other versions about that.’

‘May be you will tell it some other time, El?’ the priest laughed, ‘You promised to forget about your knowledge at the time of the story.’

‘Yes, friend, let us be quiet a little now’, Leo agreed with Tom, looking at the shell in his hand, ‘Because in recent times science cannot explain everything.’

The doctor smiled and nodded his head in agreement.

‘Ok, Tom, I am sorry. We ourselves came to you to get the other answers... Continue, please!’

‘Very well, then let us move on,’ the priest spoke again, ‘So, the darkness which is completely unnecessary to God will disappear later. But now it may even be useful in some way. Well, it is just like the weight on the bar for the athlete. However, in this case darkness helps kind people to become stronger in opposing evil. It is impossible to make a conscious choice among only the good.’

Tom interrupted for a minute and finished his cold coffee.

‘Next, let us move on to your question about a phantom. The phantom, that you are studying right now, appears only with the participation of a person. Now of course, dark forces provoke people to take this or that incorrect step. But without reciprocation of a person himself it does not make any sense and the phantom will not emerge.’

‘And what about the higher graphics of computer? Does it lead to the growth of the phantom?’ the professor asked him.

‘The quality of the graphics only speeds up all these processes’, the priest answered, ‘but the principle itself remains

unchanged anyway. If a person does not accept the rules of dark forces then the phantom does not appear. Reasonable usage of computers does not lead to the appearance of phantoms. This principle, by the way, manifests also in many other areas of human's lives. Moderation in food, alcohol or the time you spend watching TV, for example, does not give rise to your addictions. But immoderation does. And a person can always hold on to moderation if he wishes so because the Lord never gives us loads above our strength.'

'Never?' the professor said surprised.

'Everything is always according to the capabilities of a person, Leo', the priest nodded with a smile, 'Not a gram more than one person can bear.'

'However...', El shook his head, 'Is God really that omnipotent and accurate?'

'Of course, He is a Basis of both power and accuracy my friend. And you cannot even imagine to what extend', Tom seriously looked at him and laughed suddenly, 'How do you think, why I once left an enthralling physics lab and got interested in God?'

'It is cooler here?' the doctor asked intuitively.

'A million times more mate', nodded the priest.

'Yeah', Leo sighed, 'And we had only gaps before luminous shells and fishes in this question.'

'It's not a catastrophe; and it will be more interesting for you now. Always more interesting to learn more for real scientists', Tom said with a smile.

All fell silent for a couple of minutes.

‘And how are we supposed to fight with the phantoms, in your opinion?’ the professor finally asked the priest.

‘Perhaps, it is just like fighting with other addictions of people. The main thing for the person here is the understanding and awareness of the problem. People need to understand well and see when his communication with computers is normal and when the dependence already appears. That’s half the battle in this. And if people like everything in this question, then why they will fight with something and change something in their life in general?’

‘I agree’, nodded doctor.

‘Me too’, said professor, ‘But we need to outline this problem for people very earnestly. And preferably in a language they understand with a lot of arguments and supports. We will have to justify scientifically the principles of computer addiction. Otherwise, who is ready to believe in an invisible phantom?’

The priest sighed with a smile.

‘It is true, friends. And it seems that it will be your further work. You should look for and find the most convincing arguments’, he said, ‘only then will they believe you.’

* * *

‘Well, friend’, Angel Glen jumped joyfully, ‘the main thought was managed to be convey to our geniuses!’

‘Yes’, Ev rejoiced next-to him, ‘they finally understand what they should do and in what way.’

‘And, in addition to everything, they became believers themselves. The Father has turned everything so awesomely!’

‘Yes, children, today we have a thing to be happy about, indeed’, they heard a dear voice from above, ‘Well then, a lot will depend on our guys themselves.’

‘They will not fail, Father. We know them from their childhood’, said Angel Ev.

‘I believe in them very much too’, the Angels heard in response.

* * *

Trolls Og, Mo and Sluic were returning back home in a great mood.

‘It is so awesome, dudes, that you decided to go there’, said Sluic enthusiastically, ‘We learned a lot of new and useful things there! Now I will try my best to seduce my Mike.’

‘I will do my best to catch my lady, too’, Mo giggled cheerfully, ‘I want to be as large as that troll from the exhibition. Oh, I will find out very soon how else I can eat very well.’

‘Well, if others can work this out then we may succeed, too’, troll Og agreed, ‘I also do not mind making my ration extended. So, dudes, we are starting to work today.’

‘Right now’, Sluic grinned, ‘I will, firstly, test my Mike when I come home. What others tendencies does he have? I wish there were more of them.’

‘We will soon know everything’, said Og, scratching himself.

After that, they entered the flat.

* * *

It was already dark when Leo and El drove home. A little rain drizzled quietly outside the window and the car wipers periodically knocked the drops off the windshield.

The scientists were silent. They learned so much new information for the last few days that now they just wanted a little bit silence. They needed to think this all over slowly, to feel and probably make something of this as part of themselves. Because humans are, above all, what they think and feels.

‘Our project with phantom got an incredible continuation despite the fact that initially he did not seem to be very serious’, said Eliot quietly.

‘Yep’, professor responded in the same quite way, ‘I am even getting a little vertigo because of all this news.’

From time to time other cars passed by them. The lights of their headlights beautifully reflected in the drops of water on the sides of the windshield.

‘Yeah, friend, our task seems to be not the easiest one’, finally said Leo, ‘the serious research is forthcoming.’

‘I agree, but we like our jobs. Besides, it is not the first time that we’ve had a lot of work’, the doctor replied optimistically, ‘The most important thing is that now we understand what we need to do.’

‘Yes, I practically have no serious questions left. It is going to be an ordinary job from this point on indeed’, Leo nodded.

‘Not so ordinary, friend’ El smiled, ‘Now we have got something in our job that we did not have before.’

‘Really?’ the professor asked surprisingly, ‘And what is that?’

‘The help of Heaven’, answered Doctor Eliot in a voice that sounded a little different.

www.DolphinsDivingDreams.com

Contents:

Chapter 1 2

Chapter 2 19