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Into the Forest

This is why I came here.

We must all perform our duty to humanity. The Circle says that fixing the evils of those who have since lived and perished on this earth is of utmost priority. So, I travel back to a time where evil was widespread and evildoers rampant - the early 21st century.

I come from the 42nd century, the era when many acknowledge that humanity has reached its pinnacle. Over the past one thousand years, our civilization has not advanced at all in society or in technology. Around the 31st century, humanity was struck by The Light, an all-powerful force which restored humans to their original, uncorrupted roots. Following years of continuous suffering from the evils that man-made civilization concocted, Light was bestowed upon us and reconnected humanity to nature. The Light was the force that brought about the creation of humanity. We were an experiment at best. The Light created an intelligent species as an addition to the various other life forms It had already created. It did this to examine the effects of a smart and self-aware species on a natural, uncorrupted environment. It allowed humans to develop freely without a barrier on their abilities. However, The Light *did* instill some attempted restrictions into the minds of humans. This all-powerful force would bestow a discovery to one human, such as the usage of fire. That individual would spread the discovery to his companions

and others around him, leading to a new “invention”. The Light would also provide aid in various ways to humans, such as rains to help upkeep the maintenance of crops, and wind to reduce the effects of a blisteringly hot day. But when The Light was unhappy with humans, It punished them with periods of drought and disease outbreaks. The Light hoped that these occurrences would maintain the connection between humanity and It, and it did help to some extent. Though humans were engineered to be an intelligent species, their brains did not have the ability to understand the phenomenon that was The Light. Therefore, humans began referring to this incomprehensible force of life as god.

Humans having the perception of an all-powerful being or force was thought to be a beneficial thing by The Light. It believed that humans would remember to maintain their link with It, preventing a descent into greed and jealousy. But The Light was wrong. Its idea backfired. Humans began using The Light, or god, as a method to justify evil acts like corruption, greed, and jealousy. This thought process grew to envelope humans’ ideas and led to their demise. Every hour and every day and every year and every century stood to deteriorate what The Light had hoped for humanity. Every sense of the true connection to It was gradually escaping from minds of humans, the minds that The Light itself had created.

To prevent this tumble into hell, The Light donated even more discoveries to humanity, seeking to remind them where they came from and to what they should be paying allegiance too. But it was too late. Technology that The Light donated to humans led to the creation of destructive weapons used to gain land, resources, and money to satisfy evil peoples’ greed. This led to horrific wars and famines, killing millions of innocent humans. The Light continued Its experiment until the 31st century, hoping that humanity would restore itself – but nothing improved. Finally, after about 400,000 years conducting the human experiment, The Light

decided that enough was enough. It sent a powerful wave of Light through every human alive which scoured each individual to find their weaknesses and their strengths. Any human who was observed to have committed an act of evil was eliminated, leaving an innocent and pure group of only about 10,000 people to repopulate and reinvent the human race.

In addition to the elimination of evil humans, an exclusive group of nine renowned Goodness Spreaders was chosen by The Light. They are referred to as The Circle and They are the ones responsible for maintaining the connection between humans and nature, preventing the risk of invasion from civilization, which would inevitably bring about evils in the human population. As a species today, we live in full harmony with nature. Our homes are built nestled in bushes in such methods to avoid harming other living beings. We only consume natural food items and we are forbidden to consume animal matter, as ancient humans once did. Everything we do is to please The Light and maintain what It wants for us.

As a member of the inner circle myself, I am expected to forego missions to various time periods of human history. Our duty is to aide humans in other timelines and make sure they maintain their link to nature. We also work to prevent another event similar to what happened to us in *our* 31st century. Today, my mission was to travel to the year 2018.

The year was a time of much despair. A poverty-stricken globe was overflowing with unbridled corruption, while few callous individuals utilized the poor's suffering to their advantage. The horrors of life in that era are too grim to describe in detail, and one should be glad that we no longer live how these savages once did. But for It, I risk my precious life to mend the broken souls of evildoers in 2018.

I was a twelve-year-old.

I had to undergo an extensive procedure to prepare my body for time travel. After the process – which involved a submersion into liquid oxygen – was over, I was placed in a time capsule and was sent to the past. After a dizzy sensation which barely lasted for a second, I find myself nestled under the soft covers of a warm bed. There is no sound other than the gentle air wafting out of the air conditioning vents like a cool summer breeze. I glance around the dimly moonlit room and see some items The Circle told me I would encounter in the 2010s. I notice a little red object which is a circle with three red blades sticking out, each blade with a small hole in the middle. I was told this was called a “fidget spinner” and that young people played with these in their free time. Another object I observe is a shiny black rectangle that has a thin, white cable connected to it. Every so often, a portion of the rectangle would illuminate, and the rectangle would let out a faint buzzing sound. I was told that this was called an “iPhone,” and that people of all ages used to use this device to connect with others without having to directly converse with them. I identify various other objects placed carelessly about the slightly cluttered room that They told me I would need to know about.

After finishing my quick inspection of the room, I lull myself to sleep because an arduous day lies ahead of me.

The ghastly outdoors.

It was the first day of school. Well, *my* first day of school. They told me I would be attending middle school, the educational institute that fell between elementary school and high school. I would be in the 6th grade, the very first year of this “middle school” institute. My assignment was to observe what young humans are being taught.

As I stride beside the dark road on the grey sidewalk, I notice cars – powered by the ancient form of fuel – gasoline – quickly whizzing by me. It is warm and the air smells of freshly cut grass, and a gentle breeze whistles over my head. However, aside from the cars zooming through the black asphalt roads, the setting is desolate. Not a single soul is to be seen roaming about outside – although they have reason not to. Their outdoor world is filthy! It is a concrete jungle packed with roads, sidewalks and houses, all invading upon nature’s domain. Yes, there are few grasses, shrubs, and trees allowed to grow as embellishment, but their growth is heavily monitored so as not to ruin the brick and mortar houses’ presences. How could humans have lived like this?

I was shocked by what I saw. A complete disconnect from nature and from what The Light has given was apparent. Humans’ were so absorbed in society and civilization that they gave no mercy to Its creations. By just observing humans’ outdoors, I realize that my mission today is going to be tough, but I must work as diligently as possible to help restore humanity to its prime state in conjunction with nature.

Amidst the savages.

As I pull open the brown glass door to enter the middle school, I see chaos. Young humans ranging from ages 11 to 14, both tall and short running around, screaming, and throwing things. They act like hyenas fighting for meat. Savagery! I was just standing by the doorway observing the scene when a group of students shoved me out of their way to hurry on to their classes.

“It is not appropriate behavior to push and shove people around like that,” I told them.

“Shut up!” exclaimed a short boy with blonde hair as he hurried away.

The Circle had tried to prepare me for this situation, but in all honesty, no preparation could have readied me for this mission.

In the classroom.

I went to my first class, science. Nothing very interesting occurred in that class. Although, we were learning about other planets and the teacher declared that it is unknown if extraterrestrial beings do or do not exist. I raised my hand and corrected that aliens *do* in fact exist, as we have already made contact with them several times. The teacher, however, dismissed my statement with a miffed shake of the head and continued with her lesson.

On the other hand, my next class, social studies, is a very different story. We were learning about famous individuals throughout American history. The teacher taught about influential leaders like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, along with cultural icons like Harriet Tubman and Sacagawea. Soon, however, we began learning about famous people who had built financial empires. Greedy businessmen like John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie were the topic of discussion, and the teacher was praising them for their contributions to society! The only contributions these evil people made was instilling greed in the minds of Americans, as well as in the minds of others around the world. They were parasites that infiltrated innocent human minds. The Circle said that these businessmen saturated the earth full of greedy, selfish people that would lead to the eventual demise of the human race. So, I stand up and make my voice heard.

“Humans like John D. Rockefeller and Andre Carnegie are disgraces to humanity,” I confidently stated. “And you teaching innocent students that what they did is correct makes you just as much of a disgrace as they were.”

But then, the unexpected happens.

“Sir, you better sit down right now or else you *will* face consequences,” she firmly said.

“Don’t *ever* disrespect me like that again.”

Me, a member of the prestigious Circle, was being talked back to? I would not have this. I will not conform to what she ordered me to do. I will not conform to this society. She was sorely mistaken about those evil people. When I was taught, The Circle imparted that wealthy businessmen were the worst of humanity and anyone who seeks to be like them should be put to death. It was beginning to seem like this teacher needed a lesson.

“Do not talk to me like that you puny human. Who do you think you are? What kind of power do you think you have? People who think like you do not deserve to live as equals upon this earth. Back down or *you* will face the consequences.”

She immediately picks up a black rectangular object as fast as a bolt of lightning and speaks into it. Moments later, other administrators arrive at the classroom. The other students around me sit frozen, staring in complete disbelief.

“Come with us right now to the principal’s office young man!” a tall man yells at me.

“Never!” I shouted.

Before I could react, they grab hold of my arms. They then proceed to drag me to this “principal’s office.” I feel their relentless pressure restricting my limbs’ free movement. I lose control of my legs and no longer have the ability to walk. But I refuse to go with them and to conform to this backward society’s cruel teachings to innocent children. I will *not* be deterred. I struggle against their combined strength, but it is a worthless battle. It is only my weak twelve-

year-old body against several large adults manhandling me, forcing me to come with them. I almost surrender, but I remember something important. Despite my circumstance, I am not completely defenseless.

The Circle had given me a Power Crystal just before I was warped back to 2018. The tiny white crystal marble can give immense, almost immortal powers to whoever breaks it. I was told not to use it unless humanity absolutely needed it, and seeing the state that society was in, along with my own state, the time was right.

As the administrators continue to lug me down the barren corridor, I slyly slip my hand into my pocket and pick out the white crystal. After confirming that no one else was watching, I immediately throw it at the ground with a firm downward thrust of my hand. I hear the crystal shattering into thousands of miniscule pieces, and I feel a surge of power flowing into my body through my mouth, ears, hands, legs, eyes, and everywhere else. Everything is a blur and all I see is a bright white light, and I think I am in heaven. Soon though, my vision clears.

I am floating.

Teaching a lesson.

I release my wrath.

I give a violent stare at one of the administrators that had been dragging me. Finally, he seems to have understood who I was. He promptly falls to his knees and begs for my mercy.

“I’m sorry, I’m sorry, I’m so sorry!”

But I give no mercy. With a swipe of my hand, all the administrators fall to the ground and perish. I dash back into the social studies teacher's classroom and point a stern finger at her. Moments later, she too perishes. They are finally learning their lesson.

I quickly realize that the 21st century world is full of adults teaching incorrect things to students, harming their future beliefs. I observe teachers around the school evacuating their students, *away* from me. I am their savior, not their destroyer. This world's education system is flawed, and it is apparent that the adults that have grown up in it have been taught to resent nature and to encourage the greed that comes with civilization. They cannot continue to teach lies to their students. I make a triangular gesture in the air, instantly putting an end to all teachers in the middle school, along with all teachers around the world.

The children.

The school was anarchy. Students run around, not knowing what to do. They just witnessed their teachers perish right in front of them, and I understand their grief. Nevertheless, what I had done was for their own good. They will no longer have bad influences on how they think and how they continue with life.

I walk around the corridors of the school and gather up the children. At first, it seemed to me that it would be quite difficult to get a child to trust another child they do not know, who is floating around and telling them to follow him, but that is what they did. There was an absence of civilization within them and no rules applied any longer, but as soon as I passed by, they immediately calmed down like lions being tamed. Maybe the Crystal provided some other helpful powers to calm down children.

I continued to gather the children and I led them to an open area right beside a forest, so there would be a more space for them to gather. Seeing their disheveled faces and their terrified expressions, I realize that all their pains have been caused by the destruction of humanity's connection to The Light. They had not had the opportunity to grow up amongst nature and with its powers. Of course, it was not necessarily their parents' fault for trying to instill greed in their minds, as their parents' generation had also grown up with society corrupting their thoughts. But to completely reset children's minds to the primitive state, all corrupted adults had to be eliminated. So, with a snap of my fingers, every adult on planet earth perishes.

No more adults.

Cars lose control and collide with one another, electricity and water services cease to function, and children run out of their houses crying, because their parents are no more. Though a tragic scene surrounds us, it is a necessary step to take to restore humanity to its glory days. I make a statement to the children gathered in front of me.

“Your parents are no more. You will no longer suffer from the pains of civilization that you have been made to cope with for all these years. Follow me and I will help you return to the primitive state.”

Silence abounds.

Not a single voice is heard from the children. Perhaps from shock, or maybe sheer disbelief at what had just happened. Nevertheless, I continued.

“I come from a different time. I can teach you how to live righteously and how to connect with nature. I will help you reconnect with The Light and free you from your sorrows.”

Some nod, some continue to stare, but there is still no sound. So, I walk.

Into the forest I lead them, and they follow. The first step in restoration is a reuniting with nature. I have much to teach them, and I acknowledge that it will take time before I can return to my era. But I cannot leave without helping to create a new race of humans, a new race that will raise their children, and their children's children, to be good, and righteous, and kind, and selfless. This new generation will return humanity to its prime and will maintain the vital link to nature. They will change their world for the better.

This is why I came here.