

FRIENDS

Hold your friends close and your enemies closer! An old adage

Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born. Anais Nin

He makes no friend who never made a foe. Alfred Lord Tennyson

The best mirror is an old friend. George Herbert

A man cannot be too careful in the choice of his enemies. Oscar Wilde

I have this friend who has always been and still remains a mystery to me. My name is Yakov and his is Arch Galax. It seems that I am the only person that has any sort of linkage with him. Up to very recently, I had no understanding of this state of affairs, since I could never figure out why he had befriended me. Both physically and mentally he was greatly superior to me and for that matter probably to anyone else he may have contacted. His knowledge of human history, the humanities, the arts, the various sciences and especially mathematics, was infinitely profound. His physical abilities also seemed to be exceptional. He was stronger, more agile, faster and had more stamina and fortitude than probably anyone and that includes all the well known athletes both professional and amateur.

He never talked about his family or where he came from. I had no idea about his age. His tongue was without any accent. It did not matter which foreign language, vernacular, dialect, slang or patois he conversed in. He was equally adept in all the languages of our world including Braille. He could easily lip read so that communicating with those hard of hearing was no problem. In summary, it appears that there was nothing he did not know and could not do. His memory was legendary.

Again, until he finally confided in me, I did not understand why he had befriended me. Our get-togethers usually consisted of game playing which while I enjoyed, I always lost and questions that he constantly asked and which I answered truthfully. Curiously his queries were mostly aimed at discovering things about me and my family that were rather personal. I did not mind. I felt that he was engaged in some form of research of an academic nature. When I asked him similar questions, he responded that at the present time he was not able to reply but that he would when he could. That moment arrived. He went on to provide his account

"I am pretty sure that you will find it nearly impossible to accept what I am about to say. Please suspend your disbelief and accept it at face value. I am alien to this world. I come from a world that is light years away from here and which is populated by beings who are just about totally different from humanoids who reside here. We are creatures whose minds control just about

everything we do and most other variables of our world. You must have surmised that I have an extraordinary one compared to yours. There are others in my world who are as superior to me as I am to you. Our mental abilities and powers allow us to alter and move material entities as we desire. Naturally, we cannot create something out of nothing. However, it is our minds that are the key to who and what we are. Logical reasoning is what we enjoy and employ without exception, unlike most of you who hardly ever use it.

You must be wondering why I have come to your world and why I chose you to communicate with. We have been studying your world for a long time and have difficulty appreciating it. Humanity throughout its history has been ruled largely by emotions which makes your behaviour, for the most part, impossible to predict. Your emotions, such as love, hatred, greed, envy, pride, a need to belong, violence, anger, revenge and especially fear are behind much of your deeds. To further complicate our task, these emotions of yours are not constant. Love and hate are often interchangeable. So are condemnation and forgiveness, as well as fear and courage and many others. We do not have such sentiments thus we are not governed by them.

Further, you appear to be subservient to ideas that are frequently based on superstition, myth and ritualistic nonsense. Perhaps the worst example is misguided patriotism that is often used for nefarious purposes. Samuel Johnson, a well known English author stated succinctly that, "Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel." This is emphasized when the young are incited to go to war to kill and be killed. The villains are those who profit from war, by manufacturing armaments that are used during these conflagrations. You also fall blindly under the influence of individuals that are, simply put, evil. We also have those that have tremendous influence. However we are perfectly free to accept or reject their views without any backlash whatsoever.

Our world is one of contemplation which allows us to live in peace and harmony. We do not understand why the prevalence of violent behaviour, cruelty, sadism, bloodshed and carnage has been unbridled during your turbulent history. I came here to try and appreciate your character and discern whether we can do anything to temper your negative passions and forcefulness. We tried by planting scientific ideas in your minds with the hope that that they would convince you to change your ways. While there was partial success they also allowed ingenious persons to create weapons that could destroy every living thing in and on your planet. Fortunately, it has as yet not occurred. As stated earlier, since your behaviour is unpredictable, it just might. It is true that there have been some amongst you that committed, heroic, unselfish, imaginative and artistic acts. A few examples are Moses, Confucius, Jesus, Socrates, Galileo, Einstein, Shakespeare, Zola and Beethoven. However compared to the evil that was and is tolerated by most of you they meant very little.

I then decided to establish a strong link with one of you. After examining many, you were chosen because you appeared to be rational, curious, genial and intelligent despite being blessed and perhaps cursed with many of the emotions previously mentioned. You must have wondered why I never bothered to acknowledge the presence of your co-beings, Indeed I have totally ignored them. The answer is very simple. Pardon me for employing one of your adages which is, 'There are none so blind as those who do not see.' Simply put, I made myself invisible to them. You are the only one who can see me.

We are aware that if our two worlds ever meet, indeed, you might destroy us. That is why we sought you out, to try and prevent this. This is a most disturbing irony. We helped you create the means to accomplish this. We have the means to destroy you but not the will. The only hope is that you might evolve into sages imbued with beneficial wisdom, something that we hope may be positive and that we may have played a key role in promoting.”

As Arch Galax suggested, ‘And so it came to pass.’ Maybe! Amen!

Jack Basuk, June 1, 2013