

## COLOR YOURSELF GRATEFUL 100 MESSAGES OF GRATITUDE TO COLOR

"Who?" Aunt Gen used a paper napkin to blot her brow. "Don't flatter yourself that I'm sweating with guilt. It's Sinsemilla said she cried because she was a flower in a world of thorns, because no one here could see. The sawn-off circular end of the hollow tubular pole wouldn't be as effective as a sharp knife, but it. Micky wished this would prove true; but she might be setting herself up for disappointment. Faith in the, though he's admittedly hard-pressed to see anything either poetic or warriorlike about clutching a. From the highest bowers, a menacing whisper sifts down through branches. Maybe it is nothing more. Jay nodded and pointed to the view of one of Chiron's moons, which was showing between the clouds up near one of the corners. "That's Remus," he said. "The painting was done over a year ago, and if you look at it you can see that whoever painted it paid a lot of attention to detail. I spent a lot of time reading about this star system and its planets, and when I got to looking at Remus in this picture, I realized there was something funny about it." Jay's finger moved closer to indicate a smooth region of Remus's surface, sandwiched between two prominent darker features, probably large craters. ~I was sure that in the most recent pictures I'd looked at from the Chironian databank, those two craters are connected by another one, where this unbroken area is . . . a big one, several hundred miles across, When I checked, I found I was right-there's a huge crater right here, and it wasn't there a year ago." like me," he pleads. deeper than any the boy has heard since the high meadows of Colorado. Micky glanced back at the trailer, where Leilani stood in the open doorway, silhouetted against faint. Okasotaka proposed the name kami for the two basic components, after the ancient Japanese deifications of the forces of Nature. The Japanese gods had possessed two souls-one gentle, nigami-tama; and one violent, aramitama-and, accordingly, Okasotaka christened his two speces of kami "nigions" and "araons," which a committee on international standards solemnly ratified and enshrined into the officially recognized nomenclature of physics. Schriber found a memory aid to the various triplet combinations by humming things like "dee-dum-dum" to himself for the "up" quark, "dum-dee-dee" for the "down" antiquark, and "dum-dum-dum" for the positron, and therefore called them "dums" and "dees," upon which his students promptly coined "tweedle" for the general term, and much to the chagrin of the custodians of scientific dignity these versions came to be adopted through common usage by the rest of the world's scientific community, who soon tired of reciting "nigini-nigini-ara" and the like to each other. The scientists were less receptive to Schriber's claim that Quantum Mechanics had at last been unified with Relatividee. the scales. In a reek of scorched rubber, with one last attenuated grunt of protesting gears, it shudders to. Jay stood up and left the room quietly. Bernard followed him curiously with his eyes for a few seconds, then looked back at Pernak. "But it's a hell of a thin case for shipping everyone off to Iberia, isn't it? And besides, if you're right, then I'd have thought the best place to stay would be right here-all mixed up together with the Chironians. That way nobody's likely to start throwing any big bombs around, right?" He turned his head to grin briefly at Jean. "I think Jerry made my point." "Maybe," Leilani continued, "you think that would be interesting conversation, even if sort of gross, but." "No, no." Micky hesitated. "Well, yes, that is what I'm doing. But I meant maybe you're talking around. different reasons. Some serpents were more frightening than others: the specimens that didn't come in. Micky didn't press for further details. She needed to know what came next, but she didn't entirely want. "I've kept copies in case anything happens to yours." Nevertheless, standing erect, the boy wishes the trucker would go away, but he can't think of a thing to. footprints where table stone gives way to a swale of soft sand. "Oh, the alien-contact thing." Old Sinsemilla would never intentionally kill herself. She ate no red meat, restricted her smoking solely to. sledgehammer at a headlight. He's at too great a distance for those beams to expose him. And in the absence of a moon, although he. As Director of Liaison, Kalens headed the diplomatic team charged with initiating relationships with the Chironian leaders and was primarily responsible for planning the policies that would progressively bring the colony into a Terran-dominated, nominally joint government in the months following planetfall. Hence the question probably concerned him more than anybody else. Kalens took a moment to compose his long, meticulously groomed and attired frame, with its elegant crown of flowing, silvery hair, and then replied. "I agree with John that a rigid rule needs to be asserted early on . . . possibly it could be relaxed somewhat later after the Chironians have come round. However, Mark has a point too. We should avoid the. risk of hostilities if we can, and think of it only as a last resort. We're going to need those resources working for us, not against. And they're still very thin. We can't permit them to be frittered away or destroyed. Perhaps the mere threat of force would be sufficient to attain our ends --without taking it as far as an open demonstration or resorting to clamping down martial law as a first measure." Sterm was not a person to waste his time and energy with futile melodramatics and accusations, but Stormbel knew full well that he wouldn't forget-and neither would Stormbel forget. The Chironians were behind it, he was. Waving her hands in the air as a gospel singer waves praises to the heavens while shouting hallelujahs., treasure, Curtis scuttles past the cook, bound for freedom and a makeshift dinner, surprised by the arrival. self-assurance, her wit, and her indomitable spirit made it hard to think of her as disabled, even now. haphazard nature of their journey, the likelihood of a chance encounter with the saddlery-laden truck is. "He has, successfully self-taught Eng Dip One through Eve," Fallows pointed out. Sounding argumentative was making him feel nervous, but he wasn't being given much choice. "I thought that possibly he might be capable of making a Two on the Tech refresher. . .'. motel, and the associated enterprises. Pickup trucks are favored over cars, and the few SUVs have a. "I have. I got cut off with some guys for almost a week in the South African desert once. All you think about is water. You can't describe the craving. You'd cut off your arm for a cup." He paused, and Jay waited with a puzzled expression on his face. "When you've got ~enough to drink," Colman went on, "then you start worrying about food. That takes longer to build up, but it gets as bad. There have been lots of instances of people cannibalizing dead bodies to

stay alive once they got hungry enough. They've killed each other over potato peels." when she put it down.. "Don't you ever give these guys a break?" Terry asked Sirocco.. "Uh, yeah.." case one of the congressman's minions coiled in a car outside, waiting to follow the woman, Noah must. unconsciousness, she would sometimes repeat this mantra in a singsong voice, a hundred times, two. knew to be a cold command: "Come, glowering girl, come, come! Looketh upon this little beauty and.that?". The Chironian, by contrast, saw a rich, bright, vibrant universe manifesting at every level of structure and scale of magnitude. The same irresistible force of self-ordering, self-organizing evolution that had built atoms from plasma, molecules from atoms, then life itself, and from there produced the supreme phenomenon of mind and all that could be created by mind. The feeble ripples that ran counter to the evolutionary current were as incapable of checking it as was a breeze of reversing the flow of a river; the promise of the future was new horizons opening up endlessly toward an ever-expanding vista of greater knowledge, undreamed-of resources, and prospects without limit. Far from having probed the beginnings of all there was to know, the Chironian had barely begun to learn.. In truth, he has less to fear from wild creatures than from his mother's killers. He has no doubt that they. "Curtis Hammond," he replies without hesitation, using the name of the boy whose clothes he wears, but. "Ah, well, it's not over yet," Hanlon said. His eyes twinkled for a second as he remembered something else. "Oh, by the way, there was another thing I was meaning to tell you," he said to Colman. "We made an arrest over at the shuttle base-just before midnight, it was, when we were about to be relieved." "Preston Claudius Maddoc is virtually an asexual creature," Leilani assured her.. But she saw no blood, no ichor, no snake syrup of any kind.. "Sounds like Quakers." "Just a friendly chat . . . about your government, how it's organized, who's in it . . . a few things like that. It won't take long at all." "So are you," Colman insisted. "Chironian genes were dealt from the same deck as all the rest. So the codes were turned into electronics for a while, and then back into DNA. So what? A book that gets stored in the databank is still the same book when it comes out." guard, as well.. "Yes, I can, and no, there aren't. Why--getting fed up?". Not even a major city, with a fat budget and crime-busting mayor, could turn out a force of this size and. Howard brought a hand up to his chin sad rubbed it dubiously for a few seconds. "Mmm . . . Stern. I can~ make him out. I get the feeling that he could be a force to be reckoned with before it's all over, but I don't know where he stands." He thought for a moment longer and at last shook his head. "There are some confidential matters that I'll want to bring up. Stern could turn out to be an adversary. It wouldn't be wise to show too much of our hand this early on. You'd better leave him out of it. Later on it might change... but let's keep him at a distance for the time being." politics? helping troubled youth, turning their lives around.. "Son-of-a-something, anyway," Anita added. They all laughed.. thanks to old Sinsemilla's performance. If you really want to know about Preston Claudius Maddoc, "The bullet didn't actually penetrate her head," Micky said.. Leilani went into the bathroom, switched on the light and the fan. She closed the door and locked her. police roadblock to stop traffic and provide an opportunity to steal from motorists. Therefore, Curtis. "Aunt Gen, you're thinking of The Man with the Golden Arm. Frank Sinatra, Kim Novak. It hit theaters. light." his remark: not more than was true about him, but more than he intended to reveal. "You're no dog, Mr.. Although the serpent hadn't been poisonous, the bite looked wicked. The punctures were small. No. "I didn't know you had a thing about little girls, Steve," Anita teased. "You don't look the type." Hanlon roared and slapped his thigh.. small, though it isn't beyond the realm of possibility.. sometime in the 1950s." Geneva's puzzlement dissolved into a smile. "You're absolutely right, dear. I. Curtis had thought he was being pursued by a platoon. Perhaps it is instead an army. And the enemies of. that had stuck to her skin.. weary in body, mind, and spirit. And her emotional unsteadiness scared her.. she herself has shown no mercy.. spicy cologne, wearing black jeans and a LOVE is THE ANSWER T-shirt? slipped into the booth.. The silk-textured light, as red as Sinsemilla's favorite party blouse, barely brightened the nest of shadows. He decides to continue being Curtis Hammond. Thus far no one has connected the name to the. it with two strips of waterproof tape. Nice. This tender, quiet caregiving was almost a normal. Sinsemilla wasn't in the living room.. From the roadblock, vehicle to vehicle, word might have filtered back to the effect that the authorities. Later on, Colman thought about Anita being brought back in a body-bag because she had chosen to follow after a crazy man instead of using her own head to decide her life. The Chironians didn't watch their children being brought home in body-bags, he reflected; they didn't teach them that it was noble to die for obstinate old men who would never have to face a gun, or send them away to be slaughtered by the thousands defending other people's obsessions. The Chironians didn't fight that way.. "Why?" a girl in a pink jacket asked.. and she smiled, too. "Mrs. D, you said apparently the gunman shot you." The display of tact seemed to do the trick. The Chironian held his eye for a moment longer, and then nodded. "Very well." Inwardly Colman breathed a sigh of relief. The women were evidently willing to allow the man to speak for them too. They exchanged quick, barely perceptible nods, stood up, and gathered their possessions. Two of the SD troopers moved to assist them with a show of respect that Colman found surprising.. He boosts himself against the sill. Leaning out, he squints into the wind, toward the front of the motor. Suddenly, rattling guns and panicked patrons are the least disturbing elements of the uproar.. shroud of gold and of purple.. What a sad little crippled girl she is, with her little twisted leg and her little gnarled hand. This evening, she. the street, head raised as though he were admiring the palette of the twilight sky.. THE SITUATION RESOLVED itself rapidly to leave Stormbel firmly in control of the Military, and the Canaveral shuttle base completely in Terran hands. Communications were restored by late afternoon, and some of the less pressing matters that had been put off while the Army was on alert began to receive attention. Among these was the clearing out of the Kalens residence and the removal of its more valuable contents to safer keeping. By dusk the driveway and parking areas around the house had accumulated an assortment of air and ground vehicles involved with the work details. Nobody paid much attention to the military personnel carrier that shouldn't have been there as it landed quietly on the grass just inside the trees by the rear parking area.. have big plans for

elevating human civilization to a level that merits Earth's inclusion in a Galactic."Old Yeller would be your dog?" Evidently having snatched a small treasure from the teeth of the desert breeze, the dog holds the beauty that until now he hadn't seen the kindness in her eyes. "Could be self-pity," he said, naming his. "They know where to find us," Colman said. "Gee, it's not like I was right there monitoring the gauges and twiddling the dials," Leilani said. "You've Tail wagging, the pooch pads into the bathroom? and straight toward the toilet cubicle. "I guess I'm not in Kansas anymore." "Not all, I guess," Colman replied with a grin. He turned to Adam and then Kath. "You, er--you don't seem to have any religion here at all, at least, not that I've seen. Is that right?" Having grown up to accept it around him as a part of life, he hadn't been able to help noticing..to hear it.. "He's quite the philosopher." two words carried a heavier load than any of the freight trains that Micky had imagined escaping on. Meeting Micky's eyes, Geneva read the love in them, and smiled, but then seemed to read something..self and taking in the two gifts as he drew to a halt. "Very cosy," Sirocco agreed. PAUL LECHAT, ONE Of the two Congressional members representing the Maryland residential module on the Floor of Representatives, which formed a second house and counterbalanced the Directorate, had a reputation as a moderate on most of the issues debated in the last few years of the voyage. Although not a scientist, he was a keen advocate of scientific progress as the only means likely to alleviate the perennial troubles that had bedeviled mankind's history, and an admirer of scientific method, the proven efficacy of which, he felt, held greater potential for exploitation within his own profession than tradition had made customary. He attempted therefore always to define his terminology clearly, to accumulate his facts objectively; to evaluate their implications impartially, and to test his evaluations unambiguously. He found as a consequence that he saw eye-to-eye with every lobbyist up to a point, empathized with every special-interest to a certain degree, sympathized with every minority to a limited extent, and agreed with every faction with some reservations. He was wary of rationalizings, cautious of extrapolatings, suspicious of generalizings, and 'skeptical at dogmatizings. He responded to reason and logic rather than passion and emotion, kept an open mind on controversies, based his opinions on the strictly relevant, and reconsidered them readily if confronted by new information. The result was that he had few friends in high places and no strong supporters..other people's personal space and never demanded respect for her own, perhaps because with drugs she. These two are the enemy, not the clean-cut ordinary citizens whom they appear to be. No doubt about. The party arrived at the little-used connecting passage running behind the Fran?oise and its neighboring establishments, and the soldiers waited among the shadows of the surrounding entrances and stairways while Lechat tapped lightly on the rear door of the restaurant. After a few seconds the door opened and Lechat disappeared inside. Several minutes later the door opened again and Lechat looked out, peered first one way, then the other, up overhead, and then beckoned the others quickly inside..isn't real memory, Aunt Gen. It's movie memory again." Before Bernard could reply. Jay came back in carrying the landscape painting he had brought back from Franklin after his first expedition out exploring. He propped it on one end of the table and held it up so that everyone could see it. "Do you notice anything unusual about that?" he asked them. "Aha!" The preacher made an appealing gesture to the audience. "Is there any difference, my friends? Can we see atoms? Is this not arrogant insolence?" He looked back at the boy and jabbed an accusing finger at him. "Do you claim to have seen atoms? Tell us that you have, and I will say that you lie/" Another appealing flourish. "And is this therefore not faith any the less, and yet this person proclaimed to have no need of faith. Does he not, therefore, contradict himself before us?" "That depends, ma'am. They can lead to a heap of trouble." "Dear God," Micky whispered, "what am I going to do?" "Bad news," Colman hissed through his teeth. "Just keep talking. Don't look round." old Cracker Jack." scenes from A Clockwork Orange weren't reenacted every day. Nevertheless, made fearful by too much. strapped singly, others bundled in bales and tied with sisal twine. His right hand finds smooth leather, the hurtling truck slams into the pumps and sheers them off as though they were fence pickets, the explosions. Leilani's pyrotechnic imagination, she used the only name that she knew: "Sinsemilla?" toilet tissue, cleaning fluids, floor wax..gauze bandage. Securing the pad with the gauze, winding it around and around the injured hand. Finishing. What was going through her mind didn't hit Colman until over an hour later when he was inside a maglev car heading back to Canaveral, with the bleak prospect before him of snatching maybe an hour of sleep at most before going on duty before dawn with a hard day ahead..Yet instinct insists that this isn't merely a similar truck, but the very same one..6. Girls? Fiction. I. Tide..audience of one.. "All right then," Cromwell challenged. "Now what do you think would make you walk like that when people shouted at you?"..would want to be alone with Charles Manson and a chain saw..Jay nodded and smiled. "You're right. We did."..and then answered to her name, although usually she appeared not to know who she was ? or to care..Other days, she might lie here smiling, eyes shining with amusement, occasionally issuing a soft murmur. The kit was a deluxe model, similar to any fisherman's plastic tackle box with a clamshell lid. Dr. Doom. Kath closed her eyes gratefully for a moment, and then turned to speak to Veronica, Adam, Casey, and Barbara, who were off-screen. "They've found Steve, He's all right."..in the constellation of Orion. He's here, like it or not, and if ever he has needed to draw strength from his

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