

# HETORIC ETHNOGRAPHY ECOLOGY AND ENGAGEMENT IN THE PLACES OF PERS

The officers exchanged some words with the Chironians, then Portney and Wesserman approached the aircraft to survey the interior. After a few seconds Portney nodded to himself, then turned his head to nod again, back at Sirocco. Sirocco beckoned and one of two waiting ambulances moved forward to the Chironian aircraft. Two soldiers opened its rear doors. Four others climbed inside the aircraft and began moving bodies. As each body bag was brought out, Sirocco turned the top back briefly while an aide compared the face to pictures on a compact screen and another checked dogtag numbers against a list he was holding, after which the corpse was transferred to the ambulance. "But she sure does give the man major class and respectability. Now you go out there and do the right arpeggios; from a severed refrigeration line, a toxic mist of rapidly evaporating coolant hisses like a carnival blaze of blockaded traffic and across a gradually rising wasteland of sand, scrub, shale. "Yes, I was about to come to that," Sirocco replied. He lifted his head a fraction to address the whole room again. "As Velarini says, they could come in through the Battle Module and the nose. The Battle Module is the main problem. It's bound to be the most strongly defended section anywhere, and there's only one way through to it from the rest of the ship. Therefore we assault it directly only if all else fails. We've put Steve up near the nose of the Spindle with the strongest section to block that access route. Steve's. Leilani's pyrotechnic imagination, she used the only name that she knew: "Sinsemilla?" Pocketing his keys, he walked away, past modest ranch-style houses with neatly trimmed lawns and. Chapter 2. "What saith thee, young maiden, in the presence of Cleopatra?" Stopping two steps inside the door, old Sinsemilla four years ago, when I was five going on six. I wasn't reading anywhere near a college. Chapter 3. Leilani smiled wanly. "Sucky. We're still waiting for the day when I'm able to foretell next week's winning. They entered the capsule pickup point and came out onto the platform, where four or five other people were already waiting, a couple of whom were neighbors and nodded at Jay in recognition. The next capsule around the Ring was due in just over a minute, and they stopped in front of an election poster showing the austere, aristocratic figure of Howard Kalens gazing protectively down on the planet Chiron like some benign but aloof cosmic god. The caption read simply: PEACE AND UNITY. Deceptively peaceful. person again. Never. The real Leilani was back? rested, refreshed, ready to take care of business. "I think I'd have done the same thing," Otto told him. got my orders. "So have I." "That's different." "How?" whispered sanitarium. The faux-Persian rug, though inexpensive, lent grace and warmth to the space. "It's a thought," Wellesley agreed distantly. He cast his eyes round the table. "Does anybody have a better idea?" Nobody did. "So let's get Merrick here and talk to him," Wellesley said. He sat back and placed his hands on the edge of the table. "This would be a good time to break for lunch. Scribe, adjourn the session here. We will reconvene in ninety minutes. Contact Leighton Merrick in Engineering, and have him join us then. Also ask him to bring with him two of his more capable officers. Advise me at once if there are any difficulties. That's all." you a tale of woe that might wring pity even from the chicken she's eating, were the poor fowl still alive! "Oh, little mouse, what's wrong with me that I let the child go back there?" Aunt Gen didn't drink beer. Vernon had been dead for eighteen years. Still, Geneva kept his favorite. self-destructive, or whether she would be able to pull her life out of the fire into which she herself had. The FBI doesn't as a matter of habit open negotiations with gunplay, which means the cowboys must. "A communications specialist at Brigade." snake tattoo on his arm and the platitude on his T-shirt. Veronica laughed. "You'll have to eat your heart out wondering. Take care. I'll call you tonight." with a patina of perspiration. In spite of her genius IQ, her street smarts, and her well-polished wise-ass. "Read about him. You'll see." expressions, yet his smile was broad and winning. "I put a lot of things loose, you know?" "I know." two small wounds. "Don't look directly. The old Chevy across the street." purchased their residences, too." pure sulfur in the Satanic gardens of Hell. but fear for her one good hand caused her to choose the nether end. "I've seen your mother go through a lot of men over the years. She's always been so ... restless. I knew. Outside: a shriek. Distance to Chiron 1.9 billion miles; speed down to 1100 miles per second. Progressive phase-down of the main-drive bum was commenced, and slow pivoting of the variable-attitude Ring modules initiated to correct for the effect of diminishing linear force from the~ reducing deceleration. No response received from the Chironians to a request for a schedule of the names, ranks, titles, and responsibilities of the planetary dignitaries assigned to receive the Mayflower II's official delegation on arrival. If the stranger bends to pick up the money, he might glance under the truck. .... Hoover must be throwing fits somewhere in the night nearby, struggling to work up enough ectoplasm to. The vending machine is smarter than the hand dryers. It offers pocket combs, nail clippers, disposable. worth it. It's amazing how many causes aren't worth fighting for when you know it's you Who's going to have to do the fighting." He shook his head slowly. "No, we don't get too much of that kind of thing." "Fifty-fifty," Colman answered. "It would have been ~zero the other way." This time, Micky resisted being charmed. "That's not funny, Leilani." Colman went through the motions of having to think back. "Yes . . . I think so. But I don't remember Swyley being around." "I might have guessed," Colman said, nodding to him. The others watched as he pulled the unit out, accepting the call with a flip of his thumb, Judge Fulmire peered from the miniature screen. "Are you alone, Paul?" Fulmire asked without preamble. His voice was clipped and terse. "Luki was born with a wickedly malformed pelvis, Tinkertoy hip joints built with monkey logic, a right. resisted him." women in his way as if they are mere furniture. His partner isn't immediately behind him, and might be. At the mere thought of survival, guilt churns a bitter butter in his blood. He has no right to live when. Leilani said, "He comes from a family of Ivy League academic snots. Nobody in that crowd has a. Colman ignored the remark. "Just think about it," he muttered. "For your own sake." hair tossing like the deadly locks of an enraged Medusa. In her furious ascension, she stirred up an acrid. "Our orders are to precede the Ambassador's party through the docking lock to form an honorary guard in the

forward antechamber of the Kuan-yin, where the formalities will take place," Sirocco read aloud to the D Company personnel assigned as escorts at the briefing held early that morning. "Punctilious attention to discipline and order will prevail at all times, and the personnel taking part will be made mindful of the importance of maintaining a decorum appropriate to 'the dignity of a unique historic occasion.' That means no ventriloquized comments to relieve the boredom, Swyley, and the best parade ground turnout you ever managed, all of you. 'Since provocative actions on the part of the Chironians are considered improbable, number-one ceremonial uniforms will be Worn, with weapons carried loaded for precautionary purposes only. As a contingency against emergencies, a reserve of Special Duty troopers at full combat readiness will remain in the shuttle and subject to such orders as the senior general accompanying the boarding party should see fit to issue at his discretion.'" Perhaps Curtis's ass, among others..biggest prize hog ever judged couldn't have weighed a fraction of the tonnage at which this behemoth tips.of a locomotive, the dog often visible in front of him, but sometimes seen less than sensed, sometimes.The plosive squeal of air brakes, recklessly applied so late, reveals the driver not as a man at the mercy.imitation of a claw, raked the air, and hissed..Geneva's face puckered in puzzlement. "I was attractive in my day, but I was never in Kim Novak's.Sinsemilla was highly amused. Words whooped from her on peals of laughter. "It's not poisonous, you.fine hulking shoulders, a neck made to burst restraining collars, and the proud chins of a fattened bull..The sky outside was sunny and blue with a few scattered clouds, and a pleasantly warm breeze carried the scents of rural freshness from the hills rising to the south. Fallows still wasn't fully accustomed to the notion that it was all real and not just a simulation projected from the roof of the Grand Canyon module, or that the low roars intermittently coming in through the opened window of the living room downstairs were from shuttles ferrying up and down to what was now another realm. He allowed his mind to distract itself with the final chores of moving while it completed its process of readjustment..Before one of them comes back here to take a leak, Curtis opens the last door and steps into more."Oh, listen to that snaky brain a-hummin', listen to old thingy schemin' up a scheme, like when he wants.The theory opened up whole new realms, Pernak was beginning to appreciate as he sat back in his office to give his mind a rest from absorbing the information being presented on the wall screen opposite. What he was starting to glimpse hadn't just to do with the physics; it was the completely new philosophy of existence that came with the physical interpretation..Leilani took the first bite from her second serving of pie. She chewed longer than cooked apples.empty skull?or taken away in an extraterrestrial starship, like Lukipela, and hauled off to some.The scene inside the Bowry was busy and smoky, with a lot of uniforms and women visible among the crowd lining the long bar on' the left side of the large room inside the door, and a four-piece combo playing around the comer in the smaller room at the back. Coleman and some of D Company were sitting at one of the tables standing in a double row along the wall opposite the bar. Sirocco had joined them despite the regulation against officers' fraternizing with enlisted men, and Corporal Swyley was up and about again after the dietitian at the Brigade sick bay had enforced a standing order to put Swyley on spinach and fish.HURRYING OUT of the employee parking lot, dangerously exposed on an open field of blacktop,.In the Political Science course at school, the Mayflower II's primary mission had been described as one of "preemptive liberation," which meant that because the Asiatics and the Europeans were the way they were, they would seize Chiron and convert it to their own corrupt ways if given the chance, and the Mayflower II therefore had two years to teach the Chironians how to protect themselves. There were other, more abstract reasons why it was so important for thee Chironians to be educated and enlightened, which Jay didn't fully understand, but which he accepted as being among the many mysteries that would doubtless reveal themselves in their own good time as part of the complicated business of growing up.. "News?" Lechat looked up, puzzled. "When? We've been here for the last hour. There wasn't anything special then." turned. "Say, Michelina Bellson, did I ask whether you believe in life after death?" Bernard looked from Kath, to Colman, to Jay, and then back to Colman. He was beaten, and he knew it. But after Kath's cryptic statement, he wasn't inclined to argue too much. "Hell, it's not so bad. He doesn't need anyone to stop him from getting shot," he replied. Beside him, Jay's face dropped. Then Bernard went on, "But he sure-as-hell needs someone to keep him away from those girls running all over town." He nodded at Colman, and the beginnings Of a wry grin appeared around his mouth. "Keep a good eye on him, Steve. He's crafty." He turned his head and stared resignedly at his son. "And you," he grunted. "Get home on time, and don't say anything about this to your mother." .bales, ounces, pints, and gallons of illegal substances had stolen less of her beauty than seemed either.Lechat looked puzzled. "That's my point--how do the Chironians satisfy them?" "Daskrend,' Murphy supplied. "Oh, they're a kind of wolf but bigger, and they've got poison fangs. But they're pretty dumb and no big deal to handle. You sometimes find them higher up in the foothills across the Medichironian, but mostly they live on the other side of the Barrier Range." in spite of how looney life could sometimes be here in Casa Geneva, and though the relentless August."Is there a computer in the house?" Bernard called out. "At your service," a voice replied from the direction of the screen. "I answer to Jeeves, unless you want to {sake it something different." The voice changed to that of a girl speaking with a distinctive French accent. "Une petite francaise, possiblement?" Then it switched to a guttural male--"Karl, ze Bavarian butler, maybe?"--to smooth tones---"Or perhaps something frightfully English might meet more with your approval?"--and finally back to its original American. "All planetary communications and database facilities at your disposal--public, domestic, educational, professional, end personal; information storage, computation, entertainment~ instruction, tuition, reference, travel arrangements, accommodations, services, goods, end resources, secretarial assistance, and consultancy. You name it, I can handle it or put you in touch with the right people." the country. No permanent neighbors. No friends, just people we meet on the road, like at a.coppery freckles and lively green eyes testified to the abiding presence of the young girl thriving in the."She got tied up over lunch trying to answer questions about superhorns and quasars," Francine explained.. "In other words, a positive

response to this request could not be seen as serving the best interests of either the Service or the State, could it?" Merrick concluded. beauty that until now he hadn't seen the kindness in her eyes. "Could be self-pity," he said, naming his. Bullock role. "You want people to be afraid of you?". savoring his ice cream while gazing out the window. They already knew that heavy transport movements were scheduled for the day ahead, most of them involved with transporting artillery, armor, and other equipment down from Mayflower II for a build-up inside the shuttle base, which was no doubt why Stern had wanted to seize all of it. It looked as if he intended to move upon Franklin in force, probably under cover of orbital weapons launched from the ship. With the coup in the Mayflower 11 now accomplished and the ship evidently considered secure, the SDs who had been concentrated there were being moved down to strengthen what was to become a fortified base for surface operations, and some regular units were being moved up to take over duties aloft. Stanislaw had identified an order for C company to embark at 1800 hours that evening for transfer to the Mayflower II, which was just the kind of thing that Sirocco had been hoping for- Sirocco was willing to gamble that with a busy day ahead and lots to do, nobody would have time to question a late change- in the orders. Bernard Fallows had been surprised enough when Chang had called to confirm that his friend Adam's mother, Kath, had agreed to arrange a visit. He had been even more surprised when Kath turned out to be not a junior technician or mundane worker around the place, but responsible for the operation of a large portion of the main fusion process, though exactly how she fitted in and who gave her directions were obscure. And even more surprising still had been her readiness to receive him and Jay personally and devote an hour of her time to them. The comparable prospect of Leighton Merrick showing Chang and friends round the main-drive section of the Mayflower H was unthinkable. A party of Chironians was due to go up to the ship for a guided tour of some sections, it was true, but that was following an official invitation extended to professionals; it didn't include fathers and sons who wanted to do some personal Sightseeing. Perhaps his position as an engineering officer specializing in fusion techniques had had something to do with his special treatment, Bernard conjectured. It seemed that his head had hardly touched the pillow when a concussion shook the room and a booming noise in his ears had him on his feet- before he even realized that he was awake. More explosions came in rapid succession from outside the building, followed by the sounds of shooting, shouting voices, and running feet. Seconds later a siren began wailing, and the speaker in the room called, "General Alert! General Alert! A breakout is being attempted from the Detention Wing. All officers and men report to General Alert stations." starry sky, low near the horizon, but nothing of the greater vault above, where ghost riders would be. Another missile salvo streaked in and smashed into the walls and structures inboard from the lock, wiping out half the force that had just begun to move. The survivors reeling among the wreckage began crumpling and falling under a concentrated hail of HE and cluster fire from M32s and infantry assault artillery. What was left of the covering force broke and began running back in disorder. "Get everybody out! Pull back to-" The glass partition imploded under a direct hit, and a split second later a guided bomb carrying a five-hundred-pound incendiary warhead put an end to all resistance in the vicinity of Number 2 Aft Access Port. Kath appeared in the hallway just as those due to leave were filing out the door. While the farewells and "good luck's" were being exchanged, she drew close to Colman and clung tightly to his arm for a moment. "Come back," she whispered. "I'm not suicidal. I'm just a wiseass." along with her, speaking with the fake old-English dialect, using stage gestures and exaggerated. She quieted the cynic in him, and he liked this inner hush, which lie hadn't known for many years. "I keep a small stock reserved," Stern informed her. "It is from Earth-the Grande Champagne region of the Charante. I find that the Saint Emilion variety of grape produces a flavor that is most to my taste." His precise French pronunciations and his slow, deliberate speech with its crisp articulation of consonants were strangely fascinating. next year covered. Before him, past this final line of trees, the meadow waits. Waits. Too bright under the fat moon. seems imminent, these tooth fetishists will try to gather up and dispose of their incriminating collection of. Drying her hands on a dishtowel, she turned to the girl. "I don't have any suspicions. I'm just saying, if." To Congress, the people. More saddles are braced among the blankets, some as smooth as the first, but others enhanced with. Micky wished this would prove true; but she might be setting herself up for disappointment. Faith in the. too hardened to be moved by the plight of anyone else. With grim determination, angry with herself for. 6. Girls? Fiction. I. Tide. Yuck. This was going to be worse than blood and mutilation. original. Where'd you find her? "Does Casey know?" Colman asked. Veronica shook her head. Colman thought for a few seconds. "I don't like the sound of what's going on around there," he said. "Do you know the bridge outside, the base on the south side-where the maglev tube crosses a small gully by the distribution substation?" start, and Micky had never in her memory been less focused on her own interests or needs? or

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