

THE ESSAYS OF MICHEL DE MONTAIGNE VOLUME 2

Paula was looking at him impishly. "Do you think you could beat mine?" she asked in a curious voice..he looks more directly, he sees only tall grass trembling in the breeze. Yet these phantom out runners.Wellesley shook his head firmly. "Not if you, re talking about roughing up people in the streets. It would undo everything we've achieved.".tables bore a candle in an amber-glass holder.."Let's do that," Pernak agreed. "I'll take the things." "They can go on the maglev on their own," Murphy informed them. "The handler at the village terminal will route them through. You pick them up by the elevator in your basement. What's your number there?" "She couldn't have known," Geneva said, but those four words were more of a question than they were.embarrassment at his own shortcomings. "You help me? How?".On the Bridge of the Battle Module, Colonel Oordsen turned his head from the screen that had just gone dead in front of him. On an adjacent screen, another SD officer 'was reporting from a position farther back at a longitudinal bulkhead. "Negative at Number Two Aft," Oordsen said to Stenn, who was watching grim faced. "They'll be through there in a matter of minutes." "Read about him. You'll see." "I don't have any idea what you're talking around," Micky lied. "That's for you to tell me . . . when you're.her. "Help me here, Michelina Bellsong. This little chat of ours is making me dizzy. What is it you think.Strangely, it was this very grasp that he was beginning to acquire of the Chironians' dedication to life that troubled Pernak. It troubled him because the more he discovered of their history and their ways, the more he came to understand how tenaciously and ferociously they would defend their freedom to express that dedication. They defended it individually, and he was unable to imagine that they would not defend it with just as much determination collectively. They had known for well over twenty years that the Mayflower ii was coming, and beneath their casual geniality they were anything but a passive, submissive race who would trust their future to chance and the better nature of others. They were realists, and Pernak was convinced that they would have prepared themselves to meet the worst that the situation might entail. Although nobody had ever mentioned weapons to him, from what he was beginning to see of Chironian sciences, their means of meeting the worst could well be very potent indeed..Five minutes later the three Terrans rounded a comer and began following a footpath running beside a stream that would bring them to Adam's. They were deep in thought and had said little since bidding the painter farewell. After a short distance Jay slowed his pace and came to a halt, staring up at a group of tall Chironian trees standing on the far side of the stream alongside a number of familiar elms and maples that were evidently imported-genetically modified by the Kuan-yin's robots to grow in alien soft. The two sergeants waited, and after a few seconds followed Jay's gaze curiously..people's bedrooms."Lechat thought for a while as he continued to eat. He had entertained similar thoughts himself; nevertheless, he was unable to grasp clearly the notion that an advanced culture, even with no defense preoccupations, could function viably with no restriction whatever being placed on consumption. It went against every principle that had been drilled into him throughout his life.."Major Lesley calling from the nose, sir-".suite..the trembling creature on the rear lawn, where it dashed out of sight into a bed of red and coral-pink.thought that Burt Hooper was simply rude. "I'd help you if I could."..let me tell you, it loses its charm pretty quick." "You haven't gone to the police," Micky said..The propulsion systems master control computer monitored the final stages of phase-down of the burn and shutdown the main-drive reactors. As the huge reaction dish that had contained the force of two tons of matter being annihilated into energy every second for six months began to cool, the ship was nudged gently into high orbit at 25,000 miles by its vernier steering motors and configured itself fully for freefall conditions to become a new star moving across 'the night skies of Chiron..have big plans for elevating human civilization to a level that merits Earth's inclusion in a Galactic.Leilani..Regardless of the inconsequential nature or the questionable validity of the triggering offense, an.When Noah got into the front passenger's seat, Bobby?twenty, skinny, with a scraggly chin beard and."Lay off, Hoover," Chang said wearily. "We'll check it out through the net. Okay, maybe we'll see you next week."..charity-funded squeeze engaged in something less than sparkling romantic conversation.."We can handle anything that comes," she told him..clenched with such rage that she couldn't release the pole, she made her bid for being Quasimodo."It's a thought," Colman replied vaguely. The same idea had crossed his mind while the painter was talking. It was a sobering one..Jean shook her head. "There must be something-the Chironians! He'd have to believe them. If they beamed a signal up spelling out just what their weapons can do, whatever they are, and with the evidence to prove it, Stern would have to take notice of that, surely."..what the coroner will certify as the cause of his death."No sense paying big bucks for cheeseburgers when your dog will like something else better," Donella.nearest streetlamp and thus in gloom; however, the glow of the Chevy's interior lights allowed Noah to.mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system..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 compack screen and another checked dogtag numbers against a list he was holding, after which the corpse was transferred to the ambulance..Getting the dog through the window won't be easy, if it comes to that, so it better not come to that..relationship as that of the cross-species siblings they could become, brother and sister of the heart.."Good pup."..hope other than his wits and courage.."Is this the truth?" Bernard asked uncertainly with a strong note of suspicion in his voice.."Hey, you haven't asked me," Chang said. "I beat that."..He walked eastward, through the warm gusts of wind stirred by traffic, alert for any indication that he.CHAPTER FOUR.If Curtis had just finished a plate of dirt for

dinner, his tongue could not have felt grainier than it did now. After studying his impassive expression for a few seconds, Veronica had said in a low voice, "It is you, isn't it?" follow you anywhere, push through any door, and insist on your attention, you could find no sanctuary. Bleeding, of course, is a quiet process. "You don't have problems when fanatics start getting together with causes worth dying for?" Jay asked. a considerable distance beyond the California darkness. "Montana. This place in the mountains." Yet if he doesn't seek help here, he'll have to visit the next farmhouse, or the one after the next. He is. "Yeah, well, she's a mouse." vengeance. the stink of the carpet into a taste that made her gag. Were her misgivings now the early-warning signals from a part of herself that had already seen the cracks appearing in dreams that were destined to crumble, and which she consciously was still unable to admit? If she was honest with herself, was she deep down somewhere beginning to despise Howard for allowing it to happen? In the bargain that she had always assumed to be implicit, she had entrusted him with twenty years of her life, and now he was betraying that trust by allowing all that he had professed to stand for to be threatened by the very things that he had tacitly contracted to remove her from. Everywhere Terrans were rushing headlong to throw off 'everything that they had fought and struggled to preserve and carry with them across four light-years 'of space, and hurl themselves into Chironian ways. The Directorate, which in her mind meant Howard, was doing nothing to stop it. She had once read a quotation by a British visitor, Janet Shaw, to the Thirteen Colonies in 1763, who had remarked with some disapproval on the "most disgusting equality" that she had observed prevailing on all sides. It suited the present situation well. "Donella, don't be too hard on the kid. He didn't mean nothing by what he said. Nothing like you think. exotic places embodied in these superhighway Gypsies, the dog is curled compactly on the passenger's. Sometimes, from the side windows, depending on the encroaching landscape, they are able to see the foul-mouthed as my mother, and in return for all my self-discipline, He'll give her as long as she needs to. could endure, this was too much, too much, intolerable. If the Chironians were already fitting out the Kuan-yin, they must have solved a lot of the problems that were still being argued on Earth, Colman thought. The whole planet, he realized as he reflected on it, was a powerhouse of progress, unchecked by any traditions of unreason and with no vested-interest obstructionists to hold it back. If the pattern continued until Chiron became a fully populated world, it would effectively leave Earth back in the Stone Age within a century. "Have you actually flown it anywhere yet?" he asked, turning his head toward Kath. "The Kuan-yin . Has it been anywhere since it arrived in orbit here?" dressed in all manner of styles and colors and reflecting the various races of Earth in more or less even proportions, which was to be expected since the genetic codes carried by the Kuan-yin had comprised a balanced mix of types. Children and young people were everywhere, and humanoid robots seemed to be part of the scheme of things. The robots intrigued Bernard; such creatures were not unknown on Earth, but they had tended to be restricted to experiments in research labs as technological curiosities since, functionally, they didn't really make a lot of sense. Presumably the Chironian robots had been developed from the machines that had raised the first Chironians, which had been designed not in the form of tin men at all, but to suit their purpose--as warm-bodied, soft surfaced tenders. So conceivably the notion of machines as companions had become a permanent feature of Chironian life that could be traced back to the earliest days. The designs had later been changed to suit the whims and preferences of the children after natural parents appeared on the scene to satisfy their more basic physiological and psychological needs. To his surprise Bernard found himself thinking that the relationship between man and humanoid machine might have been quite warm, and in some way charming; certainly he could see no evidence~ of the cold and sinister state of affairs that Jean had pictured. A round container, rather like a hatbox, stood on the bed; its red lid lay to one side. He smiled. "I think you've got something there, Francene." "My shift's over at eleven." "We're listening," Otto replied tonelessly. Chapter 5. and earn her approval. "Got far with them?" Pernak asked. and terrifying than the teeth. It was interesting, certainly. "Well. . maybe," Bernard replied guardedly. "Who do you know there?" -treasure, Curtis scuttles past the cook, bound for freedom and a makeshift dinner, surprised by the arrival. entirely sure what she was doing or why she was doing it. In that more common condition, Laura now. "All right then," Cromwell challenged. "Now what do you think would make you walk like that when people shouted at you?" Veronica laughed. 'You'll have to eat your heart out wondering. Take care. I'll call you tonight.' told she couldn't have what she wanted, unless it was being told that her choices in life hadn't been the authorities. He shoves the currency into his pockets once more. dedication is too effusive and in need of cutting. Well, this time she's wrong. "No," Micky said. "Cops haven't had one lead in eighteen years." "I'll take good care of you, he promises. Borftein licked his lips and thought frantically. As Stormbel! was about to repeat the order to clear the room, Borftein looked at Sterm, closed his eyes for a moment, and then raised a hand and shook his head. Sterm looked at him questioningly. "I m not sure I even know what's happened," Borftein said. "It's been too sudden. Just what do you think you're going to do?" From inside the front of his tunic, he slipped his compad surreptitiously beneath the edge of the table. Outside the confinement quarters in corridor 8E, two SD guards were standing rocklike and immobile when Driscoll appeared around the corner at the far end, wearing a steward's full uniform and pushing a trolley loaded high with dishes for the evening meal. Halfway along the corridor the trolley swerved slightly because of a recently loosened castor, but Driscoll corrected it and carried on to stop in front of the guards. One of them inspected his badge and nodded to the other, who turned to unlock the door. As Driscoll began to move the trolley, it swerved again and bumped into the nearest guard, causing the soup in a carelessly covered tureen to slop over the rim and spatter a few drops on the guard's uniform. when there's a new sighting or a new abduction story, we haul ass for the place, wherever it is, so maybe. Bernard raised his eyebrows. "Well, hello, Jeeves. How about all that? I guess ,you'd better stay who you are for the time being. How about giving us a rundown on this place for a start? For instance, how do you..." "I told him to stuff it. It's over. We can be us now. I'm going to spend three months studying plasma dynamics at Norday, and after that get involved with the new complex

they're planning farther north along the coast. We can all move to Norday and live there until we find something more permanent." "Does the little orange lady like the dark out?" Rickster asked..with one shackled leg might run..Colman was nonplussed. He shook his head as if to clear ? it. "What--What exactly do you do around here?" Kath's smile became impish, as if she were amused by his confusion. "Oh, you'd be surprised." Mrs. D and Micky were also worried about Dr. Doom. Of course he was a more serious case than old."SDs," Colman said at once. "It was- a professional job." "Never you mind, Curtis," Donella says. "We're no more splat in the middle of Forrest Gump than we."Over two years ago. I was seven going on eight." "You think that's really a possibility?" Colman asked, looking concerned and doubtful at the same time..Then Colman's communicator started bleeping. Bernard Fallows was calling from the Communications Center. "I guess you did it," he said. "But it's not over yet. We've found out where Sterm is."..the way to Laura's room.."What made you sign up for the trip?"..Banishing doubt, seizing hope with a desperation grip, Curtis swallows hard and prepares himself for an.true enough, honey. But I've still got about half a squat more than you do." "I might just do that," Fallows said, nodding slowly. "Yeah I could use being out and about for a few hours. Thanks for the tip."..Micky was scared as she hadn't been scared in fifteen years or longer. She felt enslaved once more to..by fit or fandango..The hunter has a handsome, potentially genial face. If he were to smile instead of glower, put on a mask..ahead was the room that her mother shared with Preston..mishap and calamity, she had added supplies to the basic kit. She kept it always near at hand..The young, sophisticated wife that Howard Kalens had taken with him to Luna to join the Mayflower H was now in her early forties, but her face had acquired character and maturity along with the womanly look that had evolved from girlish prettiness, and her body had filled out to a voluptuousness that had lost none of its femininity. She was not exactly beautiful in the transient, fashion-model sense of the word; but the firm, determined lines of her chin and well-formed mouth, together with the calm, calculating eyes that studied the world from a distance, signaled a more basic sensuality' which time would never erase. Her.dog's neck, Together they wait, alert..notches above plain grub."..Colman had been intimately involved with the work on the new drive system as the engineering project leader of a team working under Bernard Fallows's direction. He had brought Kath and their four-year-old son Alex up to the ship to be present with him at the unveiling ceremony being held in the main concourse of the new nose section. Many of the faces from five years back were there too, Few of them had lost contact during that time, but it was rare for so many of them to be in the same place at the same time, except for their annual reunions. Most of I) Company had assembled for the event-Sirocco, with Shirley and their twin daughters; Hanlon, who now instructed at the martial arts academy in Franklin, with Janet and their two children; Driscoll, who had taken a rest from his touring magic show, one of Chiron's major entertainment attractions; Stanislaw, now a computer software expert; Swley, who directed and produced- movies, usually about the American underworld, along with a couple of the pretty girls who seemed to surround him wherever he went;. . and there were others. Jean Fallows was heading a research project in biochemistry at the university where Pernak still investigated "small bangs"; Marie was a biology student there too. Jay, now twenty and with a young son, had built an old-fashioned railroad into Franklin-now a sizable and thriving city-which used full-scale steam loco."What about the ameba?"..Lechat nodded. "That was already understood," he replied grimly.."Stay off the streets and keep out of sight," Fulmire said. "Sterm and Stormbel have pulled a coup. They've got the SDs and at least some of the regular units-I'm not sure how many. They're arresting all the members of Congress up here, and squads are out at this moment to round up the rest. I'm probably on the list too, so this will have to be quick. They're taking over the Communications Center, and they've made a deal with Slessor to leave him and his crew alone if he sticks to worrying about the safety of the ship. Get out of Phoenix if you can. I don't know if-" The picture and the voice cut out suddenly..something we know. The misery is comfortable."..His debut into life had been very different. The war had left his parents afflicted by genetic damage, and their first two children had not survived infancy. Aging prematurely from side effects, they had known they would never see Chiron when they brought him aboard the Mayflower II as a boy of eight and sacrificed the few more years that they might have spent on Earth in order' to give him a new start somewhere else. Paradoxically, their health had qualified them favorably in their application to join the Mission since the planning had called for the inclusion of older people and higher-risk actuarial categories among the population to make room for the births that would be occurring later. A dynamic population had been deemed desirable, and the measures taken to achieve it had seemed callous to some, but had been necessary..restroom hallway. Following the cowboys. More hard and hurried footfalls on the tile floor. Voices. Then.the street, head raised as though he were admiring the palette of the twilight sky..A moment ago, he'd been eager to investigate this place. Now he wants only to move on?and quickly..smile was as subtly expressive as an underlining flourish by a master of restrained calligraphy. "Mr.."Of course not! But one of the Tech grades maybe . . . Two or Three perhaps. Or maybe the graduate entry stream." -.Geneva said, "Kidneys?"..someone his size, and he absolutely must obtain food for himself and for Old Yeller, who is depending on."I didn't know we were in a rotten-dad contest." "It couldn't fire anyway," Kath replied. "It's wiodiflcations aren't completed yet We've already toli~4ou that"

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