

The Beginning

“Questions, questions. So many questions.”

The door to the new Exploration class ship shut close. Adam quickly checked all inboard systems.

“Ok. All set. Computer, prepare all engines. 4 Zorks. Engage!”

“Adam, stop! Don’t do it! There’s a problem with...”

Adam quickly closed all communication channels with the moon.

“Computer, why aren’t we moving?”

“Please specify course,” responded the mechanical voice.

“Computer, set course to anywhere. Engage, now!”

Adam watched with relief as the three ships behind him suddenly disappeared. Images of what just happened passed by the viewscreen.

“We are moving too slowly. Computer, increase speed to 82 Zorks.”

Adam watched as he overtook the light of past events.

“Computer, freeze image.”

The famous U.S.S. Enterprise D filled the viewscreen.

“What! I have only gone back 2 centuries. Computer, increase speed to 207 Zorks.”

Images of the past flashed up on the viewscreen.

“Computer, create a real life crew.”

Holographic images showed up all around the ship.

“Computer, who are all these people?”

“This is the crew you requested based on the data stored in the historical data banks.”

“I asked for a real crew but I received a crew that has been dead for centuries,” laughed Adam.

An oddly familiar item caught Adam’s eye.

“Computer, freeze. Isn’t that the British flag? Those people aren’t British. Computer, explain what I’m seeing.”

“In the 19th and 20th centuries, during the Age of Imperialism, Britain and other European countries took over parts of Africa.”

“How could humans have been so unrespectful?”

“They were not true gentlemen,” remarked the holographic teacher.

“Who are you?”

“I am Confucius. I believe all men should behave like gentlemen.”

“Like gentlemen! People are born evil. You need a ruler like me to keep control,” interjected the first officer.

“And you are?”

“I am the great King Louis XIV.”

“If you are such a great leader, why did the people of France revolt.”

“It was because of Louis XVI. He was not as good of a ruler as I,” replied Louis XIV.

“Who gave you the power to rule?” asked the second officer.

“My power was given by God,” replied the King.

“My name is Locke and I believe that humans are basically good. They have the ability to reason and have the right to choose their leaders.”

“Are you questioning my authority? I’m going to...” shouted Louis.

“Computer, remove the image of King Louis,” Adam interrupted.

Poor King Louis disappeared from the ship.

“Computer, show me the light we’re receiving from Earth now.”

A factory showed up on the screen.

“Computer, what time period is this image from?”

“This is from around the 1800’s during the Industrial Revolution.”

“Computer, why do those people seem so tired?”

“During the Industrial Revolution, people worked long hours at tiring and dangerous work.”

“We sure have improved much since that dreadful time. Now, I would like to continue with this mission. Computer, show images at half speed.”

Adam carefully looked at each image as they came slowly across the viewscreen.

“Computer, freeze image! Zoom in on section B2.”

A person showed up on the screen.

“There he is. I had an ancestor who actually did something good in his life. Computer, remove all holographic images and reduce speed. It is time to go back.”

The crew disappeared but there showed no signs of slowing.

“Warning: There is a problem,” the computer cheerfully announced.

“What! Can you be a little more descriptive?”

“Sorry, that has not been programmed yet,” stated the computer.

“Computer, analyze the problem. What is wrong?”

“There is a problem with the energy supply.”

“Energy? Energy shortage was solved in the 21st century!”

“There is currently too much energy being produced. If we stop now, the excess energy will blow the ship apart.”

“Computer, stop producing energy!”

“Sorry, that has not been programmed yet,”

“What! What has been programmed?!?”

“Your estimated chance of survival is 1 in 84,385,764.2”

Adam slammed his fist into the computer.

“Ouch! The builders of this ship sure knew what was important. Now, I will be homeless living on this ship with a crazy computer. I want to die!” muttered Adam as he fell asleep.

Slowly, the ship increased in speed. The ship passed ancient China, Egypt, and finally the dinosaurs. Soon the ship passed even the light from the creation of the earth.

“Warning: Approaching the edge of the universe.”

Adam was suddenly awake.

“Computer, what is the current speed?”

“The current speed is off the Zork scale.”

“Off! Why is the speed increasing?”

“You said you wanted to die.”

“Thanks! What will happen when we reach the edge of the universe?”

“You will be dead,” said the computer happily.

The ship slowly caught up with the edge of the universe.

POP!

The ship stopped moving. Adam looked but the universe was nowhere to be found.

“You did it again, Adam,” boomed a voice in Adam’s head.

“Who are you?”

“I am God, ruler of all. You, humans never learn. Last time, the exact same thing happened. You told me that humans can be trusted to rule themselves, so I blew up a balloon and gave you a pebble to live on, but you never seem to be satisfied.”

“I’m sorry. May I have another chance? I promise that the stupid builders of this ship will never be born.”

“Ok. One more chance.”

At least one question was finally answered.

“Adam did have a navel!”

But one question remained. “Is humankind any better in the future?” Adam tried to figure it out as he slowly lost consciousness.

And so life began.