

## CHAPTER TWELVE    JUDICIUM

Since the day they had witnessed a plane crash near Dresden, the four attorneys knew what was about to begin had never before happened.

Preparing their cases, they were in touch with animal behaviorists from different parts of the world. Were the experts noticing anything unusual and different? As weeks and months passed, the answers they received were shocking.

The World Court, the International Court of Justice is the primary judicial organ of the United Nations. Its main functions are to settle legal disputes submitted to it by States and to provide advisory opinions on legal questions submitted to it by duly authorized international organizations, agencies and the United Nations General Assembly.

It was the first thing the attorneys explained to their clients. “You don’t have to attend the trial. Your governments will not extradite you to the Netherlands.” Everyone, including Ayres the orangutan and Victoria the chimpanzee, gave the same response. “I will be there.” For obvious reasons, no one was to discuss the lawsuit before it became a matter of public record on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

After years of negotiation, the signing of a peace treaty was to take place in Amsterdam in early September. The leaders of two totally opposed belief systems/ideologies had arrived at an agreement. A crowd had been gathering since early morning to witness the historic event. The representatives of both countries were seated at a long table, the extraordinary number of security forces and press/media seldom seen. Although not obvious to a casual observer, the animosity and distrust between the two heads of state, one male, one female, was far from over.

When two Labradors, one yellow, one black, slowly walked toward the area, both leaders waved off the security guards, who’d instantly blocked the animals from approaching. As the dogs, belonging to the two heads of state, walked to the table, something happened. The dog belonging to one leader went to sit at the feet of the other leader, looking into her eyes. The other dog did the same. Why did both labradors, instead of going to their owners, go to their owner’s opponent?

The two leaders stared at one another, not speaking or moving for over a minute. The crowd, not understanding, was silent. What was happening? When the dogs walked away, they were limping, as if exhausted. Had they, in some way, diffused the level of anger and toxicity between the two heads of state?

September 28<sup>th</sup>. Shilli, Emilie, Julian, Asha and Lapis were ready. Before leaving for court, they decided to meditate, concentrating on their optimism for the future of the human race. Instead of “empty mind” it was a focused meditation of positive thoughts. They were not arrested or detained, but granted release pending trial. In less than an hour, the news of the lawsuit was disseminated worldwide.

Leaving the courthouse, neither the attorneys nor their clients were surprised to see several stags walking toward them. In the sky, different colored lights began flashing, circular and triangular indentations appearing on the walkways. Outages and cascade failures, satellite relays, airport screening systems, cell phone towers, radar stations, power grids, weapons factories, television hubs, drones, nuclear plants, missile systems, power lines, a catastrophic failure of all the battery powered and electricity driven devices in the world. It would last only twenty four hours. A reminder.

The day following the filing of the lawsuit, every human being had a dream. Seven billion different dreams: a male was a female, an ill person healthy, a pacifist a soldier, a rich person poor, a child an adult, a politician homeless, a hunter the hunted, the powerful powerless.

Creatures of the forests, seas, mountains and deserts began to make their presence known: howls, barks, caws, purrs, grunts, whistles, clicks and pulsed calls. Flocks of swans preparing to overwinter joined with fireflies, wild horses, bumblebees, and baby lizards. In the months that followed, in order to get the attention of the human species, birds joined animals, insects and cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) by consciously and purposefully doing things that went against their natures. What was happening could not be explained by ethnologists.

A pebble in the stream.

“We must generate courage equal to the size of our difficulties.”