

The defendants, Shilli, Emilie, Julian, Asha and Lapis had been told their rights. They spent most of their time researching the changes they each had chosen to champion in court. Working with their attorneys, they were looking forward to defending the human race, knowing well their testimony would be all important. Optimistic, they saw their involvement as a privilege.

ICC. The process of the law. To open a case, there must first be a request to begin an investigation. This is done by the pre-trial chamber which can receive information from different sources. Never before had the pre-trial chamber received so many requests.

A case can be referred by different states or nations. This was done by Namibia, Denmark, The United States, India, Lebanon, Russia and the Czech Republic. A case can also be referred by the United Nations Security Council. Was it a coincidence that Raoul Lapin, who witnessed the plane crash near Dresden, worked at the United Nations in Geneva?

Individuals and organizations not attached to a government can also refer a case. Hundreds of letters poured into the ICC. Legal proceedings could take place anywhere. To be considered, crimes against humanity must have happened after 2002. In this case, it was humanity, the human race, who had done, and was continuing to do, the harm.

Regarding the issue of global literacy and education, Julian began by writing several different petitions, sending them to students worldwide. Over three million signatures had been submitted to the pre-trial chamber.

Jane Green had arranged for Ayres and Victoria to stay on her farm in Virginia. Having never had an orangutan and chimpanzee as clients, she cherished their time together. Mutual affection and trust grew daily. Her reputation as a prosecuting attorney was well known. Many lawyers were anxious to assist her in drafting the indictment against the human race. Never before in her illustrious career had the highly regarded Jane Green lost a case.

A year had passed. When the defendants arrived in the Hague, their mood was unanimously positive. With the possibility of a negative outcome, many involved with the lawsuit couldn't comprehend why the accused weren't at least somewhat trepidatious. Was this simply the vitality and optimism of youth or was something else in play?

Once settled in their respective embassies, (the press having been told no one was arriving for two days), Shilli, Emilie, Julian, Asha and Lapis ventured out, deciding to meet at a local art gallery. The shapes, colors and forms of the abstract paintings evoked identical feelings in everyone. A friendly warning: be cautious, be careful, be true to yourself. Was this something to do with the soon to begin trial? When asked why the name of the artist was not shown, the gallery owner replied "It's the artist's choice." Only he knew the truth. The paintings had been created by a yellow Labrador and an orange tabby cat.

When the man who had killed Marcus walked into the gallery, everyone's emotions leapt out of control. Lapis shouted angrily "Why are you here?" "I read about the trial in the Prague paper and wanted to speak with all of you. Seeing the poster for this exhibit, I knew, somehow, you'd be here. Please, will you come with me to the Czech embassy? Our ambassador would like to speak with you." Reluctantly, everyone agreed.

"My family was starving. When I went to jail, I was told they'd be cared for financially." Lapis - "Do you know why the person who gave you the money wanted Marcus killed?" "No. My conscience told me what I was going to do was wrong, but I did it anyway. I manipulated the truth to convince myself what I was doing was all right, because I was taking care of my family."

"Why are you here now?" "To ask all of you to forgive me, to tell you how sorry I am for what I did. Since getting out of jail, I've devoted my life to animals, am studying to be a veterinarian. My wife and I have a shelter in Prague, the best medical care, we take the animals to visit the elderly and children in hospitals. I'm working on forgiving myself. Here's my card. *The Marcus Home Shelter*."

The Czech Republic's ambassador was charming and kind. "We were disappointed when none of you arrived at the party in your honor at the Palace in Prague last Christmas Eve. We now understand you never received our invitation. If there is anything I can ever do to help, please let me know."

The human race was on trial in the Hague. In light of the omnipresent international press, the defendants appreciated the hospitality of their embassies; they could spend time with their families, friends and attorneys without interference from the media.

The first day, Nicholas and Irina arrived early at the courthouse. Suddenly, seeing someone in the distance, Nicholas' face contorted. "That's her. The person I told you about. She was just a girl, but I'd know her anywhere. She's the one who told lies to me and my friend." Irina answered. "Calm down. People change, Nicholas. She was very young. We all did stupid things when we were young." "Some people change, some don't. Samuel always said to pay attention to our instincts. Will you please tell Mr. Osprey, Mr. Lapin, and Mr. Hibou, to be on guard. Why is she here?"

In response to Irina's inquiries, everyone used the same word. Manipulative. Having failed, repeatedly, to become an attorney, this woman would do anything to get invited to a private party or fund raiser attended by one or more lawyers. Purposely leaving her keys behind, she would then have a reason to reconnect with the attorney the following day. After her pattern was discovered, she was no longer welcome in the legal community.

World wide attention focused on the first day of the trial. The courtroom was full, cameras not allowed. Irina, Nicholas, Wayne and Neil sat with Samuel's parents. When a yellow Labrador and an orange tabby cat walked into the courtroom to sit beside them, everyone was shocked. The yellow Labrador could have been Marcus' twin. The cat had Snug's identical markings, caramel colored vertical parallel stripes on his white chest, white sox on his back paws. Like Snug, he sat with his front paws crossed.

Jane Green, Attorney for the Prosecution. “I would like to begin with a quotation. “Everyone is a genius. If you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will live a whole life believing that it is stupid.” This was said by a man named Albert Einstein. We are here to see things we haven’t yet given ourselves permission to see. Facts are science. It is a fact that animals can and do communicate.”

At this exact moment, the two dogs, one cat and three birds in the courtroom joined Ayres and Victoria in communicating telepathically with the judges. Alarmed and confused, the judges turned right and left, looking at one another, immediately calling for a recess. Once outside the courtroom: “Did you hear something?” “No, I didn’t hear anything, but thoughts came into my mind.” “The same happened for me.” “What just happened?”

During the recess, Julian and Lapis approached the dog and cat they’d seen in the courtroom. Julian - “Are you all right?” “We have something to tell you.” “Would you like to stay with me?” “Yes. I am Silas, pronounced c-class. This is Pentacles. Dreams are real. We plan to send dreams to the judges.”

Before leaving for their respective embassies, everyone met in the lobby to join hands and repeat what Paul Ospray, the British attorney, had taught them. “Keep calm and carry on.”

Day two, the attorneys were told the trial would be postponed for twenty four hours. A bomb threat had been received by phone. No one was told any details. The courthouse was now under full surveillance. The previous night each judge had a dream. “Watch for a white crow.”

The third day, when one of the judges made an disparaging comment about animals, Jane Green’s law clerk, Neosha, seated at Julian’s right, knew she had to get a message to her, surreptitiously. She whispered to Julian. Silas, the Labrador sitting on Julian’s left, communicated. “Remember the Easter egg hunt.” When Julian whispered to her, Neosha wrote something on a small piece of paper to put in Silas’ collar. When the dog got up, walked over to the table where Jane Green was sitting, bowing his head for her to pet him, dropping the note into her lap, no one looked twice.

The note was clear. The judge who made the comment had been involved in multiple occasions of animal abuse. When, privately in chambers. Jane Green brought this to light, the judge resigned. The paradox was obvious. The Netherlands ranked fourth on the list of worst countries for animal abuse and cruelty. At the same time it was the first country to elect an animal rights party to parliament.

That the questioning of Ayres and Victoria was challenging for the defense was obvious. As the orangutan and chimpanzee's sign language communications were translated, things moved very slowly. On the fourth day, when one of the attorneys interrupted Jane Green as she was speaking, Ayres, the orangutan, stood up. "I conscientiously object!" The judge replied "Please sit down." It was the first time anyone had heard words from an orangutan.

In closing, as a short film on dolphins was shown, Jane Green read the following. "We began ten million years ago. Our culture is unique. We are non human persons and have a bill of rights. Underwater noise, pesticides, industrial pollutants are harming us. With the exception of humans who do us harm, we have few enemies."

It was now up to the defense to present their case. It rested on the commitment and imagination of five optimistic young people.

Before introducing his client Lapis Lishin, Rene Hibou asked the judges to ignore the evidence presented by the prosecution. His argument was simple. An orangutan and chimpanzee could not be trusted. He continued. "Before answering questions, Mr. Lishin would like to ask your permission to tell you a short story." The permission was granted. Lapis - "A little girl is walking home. As she turns the corner, a boy appears out of nowhere and grabs her, trying to steal the package she's carrying. She starts crying. A boy then turns the corner and sees what's happening. He grabs the bully, tells the girl to run home, taking off his belt to tie the bully's hands together. Then a man turns the corner. What does he see? A boy tying up another boy who's yelling. The man grabs the boy, telling the bully to run away. Things are not always as they seem."

Rene Hibou's first question. "Do you know why you are here?" "I am here to defend the human race. It is profane to treat something sacred with abuse, irreverence or contempt. My generation understands the importance of making changes, staying informed and involved, showing up, working hard, never giving up, being as good as our word, allowing the possibility of wonderful things to happen."

For the rest of the day, Lapis answered questions related to his Synesthesia, commonly known as a "union of the senses." Over sixty types had been reported, experiencing colors when sounds are heard or words are read, days or letters evoking distances. Not an illness, Synesthesia was a gift. Discussing the changes he would work to implement, Lapis explained how tone and color, both affecting the brain, can be used to communicate.

When Shilli Louwrens was called to testify, Matheus, his twin, walked to the stand in his place. Even though all of Shilli's friends knew immediately it wasn't Shilli, no one said anything. The attorneys had no idea. After less than five minutes of testimony, Matheus (pretending to be Shilli,) said he didn't feel well, asking to rest for a few minutes. The judges nodded. "We'll continue tomorrow."

Matheus asked everyone to return with him to the Namibian embassy, explaining how, the night before, Shilli had disappeared. Matheus, still recovering from his own kidnaping years ago, hadn't known what to do. His parents weren't arriving until tomorrow. Should he tell someone at the embassy? Perhaps Shilli had just decided to go out and meet someone? When Shilli hadn't returned by morning, Matheus decided to go to the court in his place. He felt far more comfortable talking about what happened with Shilli's friends than with anyone else.

Asha was the first with a suggestion. "Let's ask Ayres and Victoria." Julian - "They're at my embassy. Irina, will you come with me?" Within a half hour, the call came to the Namibian Ambassador from the U.S. Embassy. "Please go to this address and take the police with you." Shilli was found, unharmed, having no memory of anything that had happened. Appearing in court the next day, he passionately discussed, in great detail, his commitment to be an advocate for reform in the field of medicine.

