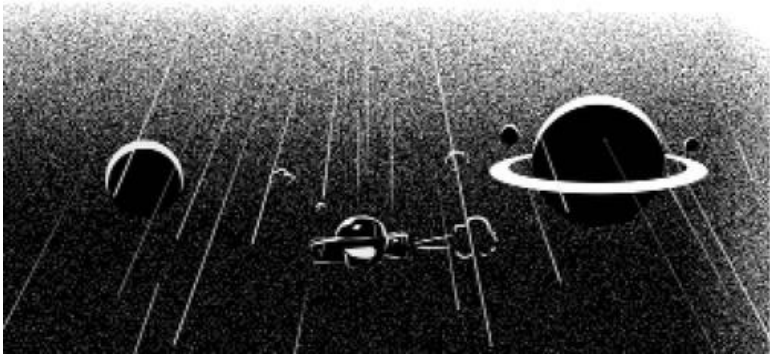




Towards planet Earth

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****Chapter One****

We were finally in the last quarter of our journey. I stared out of the spacecraft window and contemplated the utter blackness of space. I remember how we were on emergency alert at home. My family was so busy, everyone was so occupied doing something.

Everyone was getting ready and packing up to immigrate to earth!. They were all anxious and excited that they finally took the decision; nearly everyone, except me. How could I possibly abandon my memories and leave my home planet ?

I am twelve and I have my friends, my games, my tame purple maned lion. The streets of our lovely city. Why would I ever leave all this to travel to a totally unknown planet?

An unknown planet?! Ok, then as long as we're approaching that new planet I think I should go and watch some of those scientific documentaries that mom gave me. She told me it was necessary to watch them as we'll inhabit this planet sooner or later. I wandered around the spaceship. Yes, it is a very small spaceship spacious enough only for the three of us. Its main mission is to confirm the possibility of life on earth. My parents were entitled to this mission because of the nature of their jobs. They took me with them because they won't leave their only son alone.



I was annoyed as I left to the show room. I sat on a comfortable seat as I clearly uttered the words, “Planet earth – the beginnings” when a full space 3D screen played back the data. The show begins with the statement, “Please note that because our people will be the new inhabitants of the blue planet or Planet Earth as its current inhabitants call it. All the names and definitions on the show are in the tongue of its current inhabitants.” I saw dark cloud like accumulations in space and I became curious. It seems that the video shows accumulated data taken from our observatories.

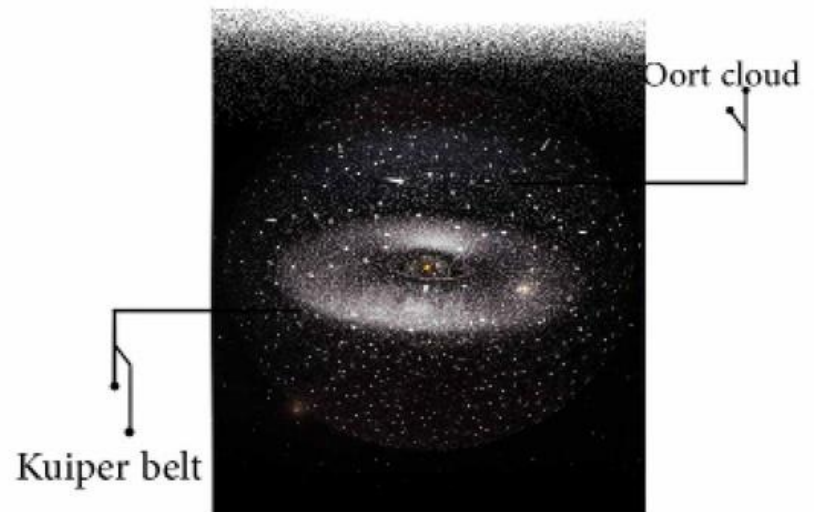
I can also see huge gas masses separating one after another. Next to one of these masses I saw the label; Planet Earth Age 4.5 billion years.” I can understand their time measurements. They’re very close to ours. Our planet orbits its axis and its sun in cycles very that resemble those in the blue planet. I mean Earth. The movie speeds up and moves on to the point where I watched this gas mass turning into a ball because of the force of gravity. It thus turned from gas to liquid. First it was an ocean of fires that cooled down forming earth’s mantle and crust.



The movie sped up again. The air around earth became denser. It looked like a layer of water vapour. Due to the cool crust and the condensed vapour, rivers and seas were formed. The rest of earth stayed dry and turned into deserts, mountains, volcanoes and volcanic valleys emitting volcanic smog.

I discovered that it was a huge planet. It was much bigger than our planet. I found this to be very interesting. I became even more attentive to the show. My eyes were still, while I watched comets hitting this new planet. It seems that these comets left craters that looked like volcanic eruptions. When lava and magma flowed, they formed a layer on earth. I read some the footage while I watched. It stated that Earth's air didn't have any oxygen before. It only had water vapour.

Suddenly the movie stopped playing. It was dark. I wasn't sure what was going on. Sirens were all over the place. I knew that the safety rules were to stay seated but I was so curious, so I hurried up to the closest window and when I looked out... I was terrified to death.

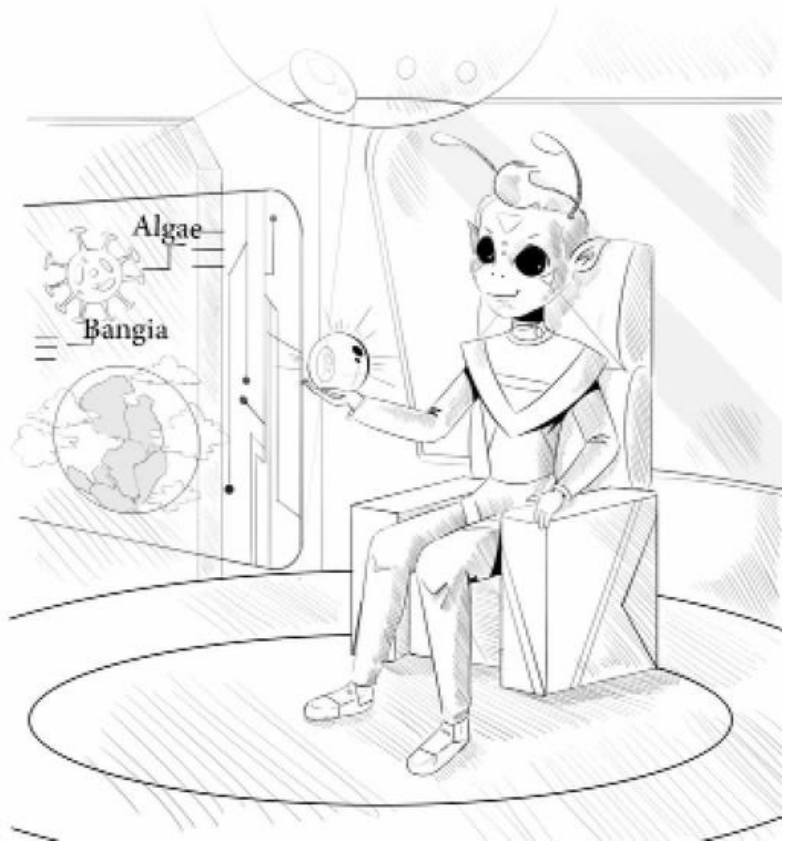


****Chapter Two****

When I looked out of the window, I couldn't believe my eyes. The long mere blackness of space all the trip long disappeared. I suddenly found our spaceship floating amongst millions of different sized and shaped icebergs. They were infinite. Then the auto-announcer said, "The spaceship is now going through circumstellar disc in the outer Solar System; Kuiper belt. This area is a vast rim of primordial debris. This dangerous area begins with Pluto and ends with Neptune. I found difficulty maintaining my balance and it took me forever to go back to my seat. Then I yelled, "current trip course", when a 3D screen of our spacecraft appeared among celestial bodies. I glimpsed a dwarf planet called Makemake as we passed by with maximum speed.

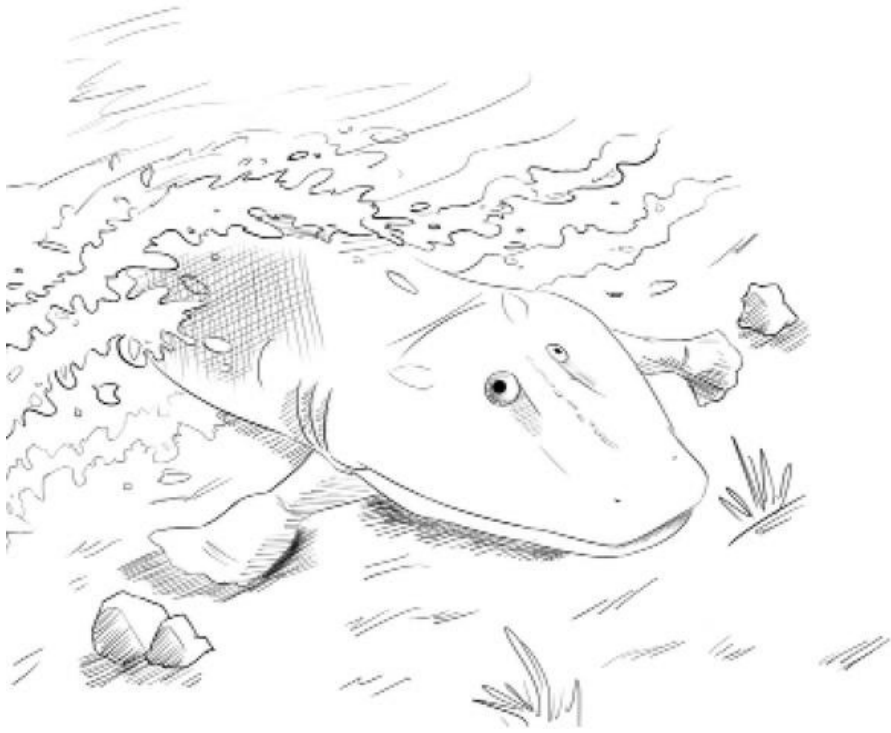
Dad skilfully and quickly got us out of Kuiper belt. I noticed Neptune too as we passed swiftly. Only then, I was sure that we're out of this circumstellar disc.

I took some time till I managed to take a deep breath once more. I looked out of the window to find that the pure black space is back. It was finally calm again.



Then, I was curious to find out more about the history of Planet Earth. I turned on the show once more and began to watch different forms of primitive life on the planet, until life first began on it.

I watched different forms of bacteria, the footage said, "After another two hundred million years this form of bacteria produced oxygen for the first time." Two billion and five hundred years passed until the earth piled up to form one giant mass surrounded by water. The first continent was called Rudina. In another part of the video I watched ice-ages passing one after another. Temperatures decreased, the first continent cracked and a new continent called (Baniga) was formed. It rained a lot, while blue algae started forming. Blue algae produced oxygen which started spreading all over the air.

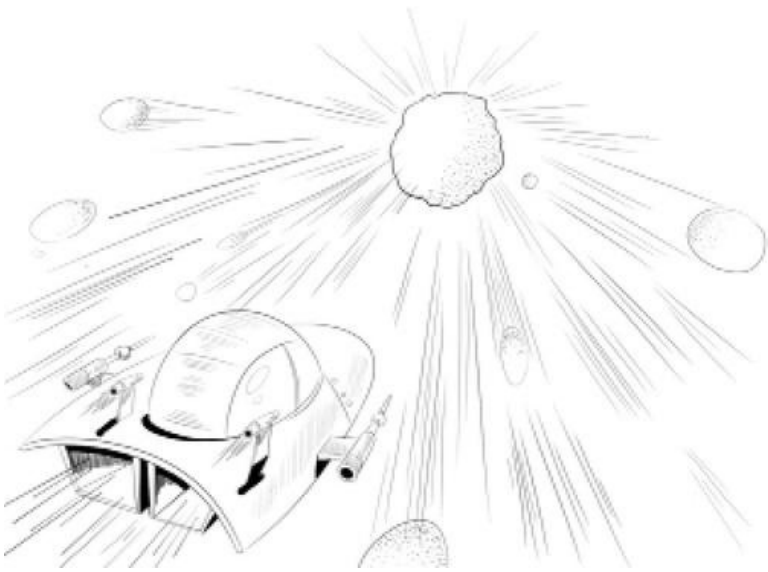


Four legged tiny creatures began to emerge. The inhabitants of earth called them frogs. Earth was four billion three million years old at that time.

The footage (Two hundred fifty years from now) attracted my attention. I noticed that a huge area of Baniga cracked, to be precise, northwest Baniga. This mass started to crack and it gradually separated as it drifted towards southeast. There I read the name (America). As I watched the movie, I saw the development of creatures on this lovely planet, I was fascinated by what I saw. It was a land called the land of dinosaurs. It reached the utmost of its power, strength and size one hundred and forty-five million years ago. I was surprised. Dinosaurs were like huge giants. They were around ten meters tall, but in our planet, they are only twenty centimetres maximum. The show explained that these creatures are fierce and carnivores, while on our planet they are domestic tame animals with nice voices.

Suddenly the space-craft jolted. I was terrified to death. The spacecraft jolted again then it orbited around itself.

It was only then that I realized that something terrible must be happening outside.



****Chapter Three****

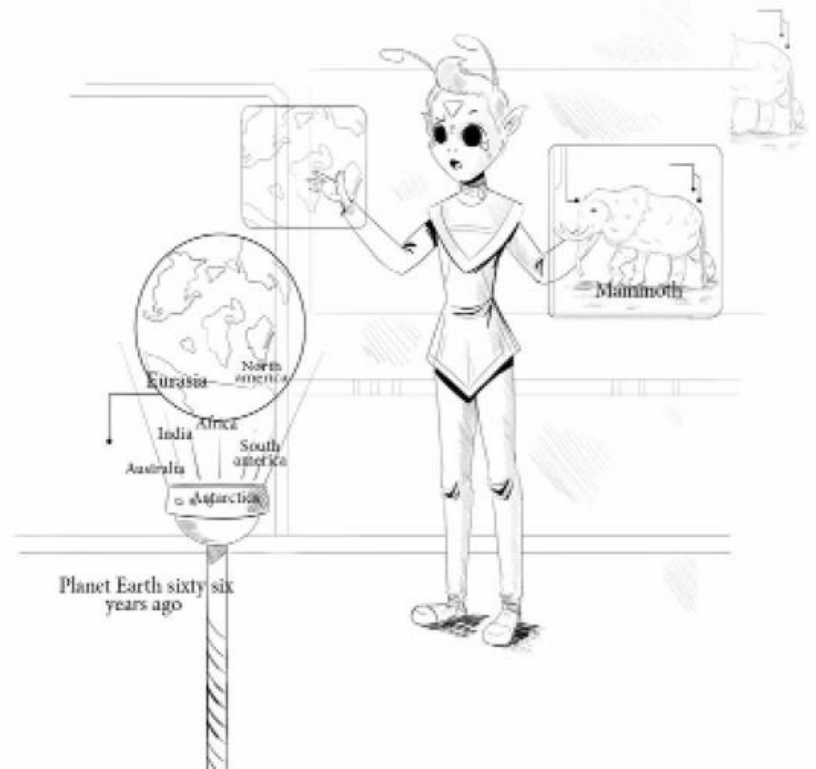
I was terrified and decided to run to mom and dad. Then I decided I'll act brave. I'm sure that the last thing they need is now is to calm down their scared son. They need to concentrate while they conduct the space craft. I fastened the extra seat belt while I yelled, "current trip course". A 3d image showing the course of our trip emerged. It was right between the fifth and fourth planets from the sun. I read their names; "Mars" and "Jupiter". There is an asteroid belt is the circumstellar disc in the Solar System located roughly between the orbits of the planets Mars and Jupiter. It is occupied by numerous irregularly shaped bodies called asteroids or minor planets. Most of them are enormous if compared to our spacecraft. The problem is that these asteroids and minor planets have intersecting orbits. The asteroid belt is a border line between the inner and outer solar system. I read the information about this while I held my breath. Something happened to the side of the spacecraft. The sirens boomed everywhere. I was dying out of horror. There is no way out. Even if we make it through the asteroid belt and reach earth.

I don't think our space craft can make it back again. And even if we can go through all what we've gone through again, we could never make it if we face a huge comet, in the size of our spacecraft coming towards us. I hardly maintained my balance with all the manoeuvres mom and dad were trying to do to keep us safe from the danger. Peril seems much more than it seems to be.

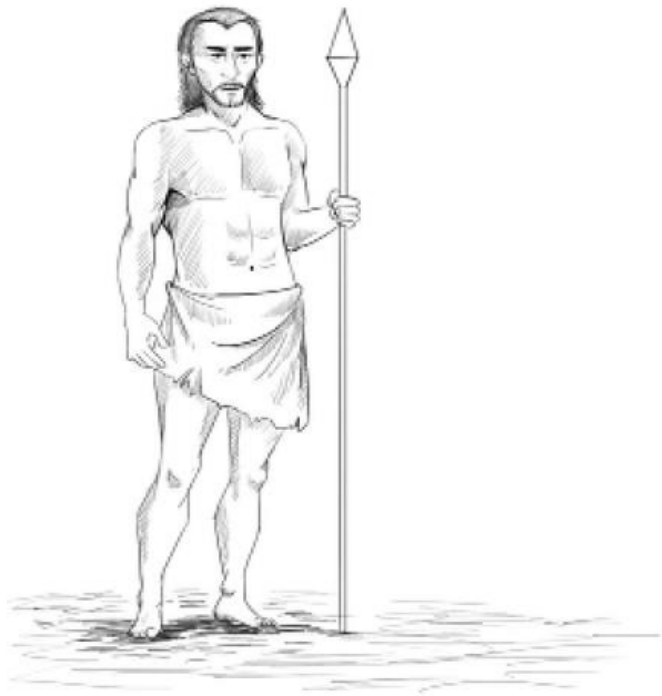
The temperature was rising quickly, and I knew that danger was coming closer and closer. I was terrified of all the consequences. Although I was terrified from the thought the ending was so near, but I pitied more about our planet's inhabitants who had lots of hope that our that thought our mission will be a success. They really counted on us to get them out of our polluted planet and go to earth. I already missed my parents. I closed my eyes and prepared myself for the end. But the end didn't seem to come yet. I opened up my eyelids to see what was going on. I was surprised to see that the flashing and sirens stopped. I tracked the course of the trip and was proud to discover that mum and dad managed to escape the giant comet. Not only that, they also managed to leave the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. I yelled, "Spacecraft diagnosis" Lots of numbers appeared in front of my eyes, but for someone my age, I didn't know how to interpret those numbers technically. Then I saw the green colour next to each of the numbers, which meant that mom and dad also managed to Secure the aircraft as well.

The three-dimension show, revealed a huge part of land called India. This land was united with Africa. It started nudging to the east since 200 million years. After nudging northeast, It united with Asia since 110 million years, until it finally became the Indian peninsula now. I looked at the world map. I was so confused to see how its geography kept on changing. Then I wondered where mum and dad intend to live. On which continent? I found my eyes going towards what is called South America. I thought of going to them, but I was so curious to know more about earth, so I resumed watching the documentary about earth before we finally arrive there.

I yelled, "Resume show."



The documentary showed that south America as well was nudged away from Africa towards the west before one hundred and fifty years. Then I thought about settling in Africa. Africa has no continents near it east and west. I was surprised to see North Africa before 66 million years, when it was totally covered by the sea. Our observatories captured wonderful pictures. They were so clear and attractive. I really feel proud of the scientific progress on our planet. I also watched the water evaporating from North Africa after a warm climate dominated earth. Later on, this area turned to be a woodland. I sat upright when I saw the first appearance of elephants and monkeys before 25 million years. We have some creatures that resemble the so-called elephants, but we don't have anything like monkeys. The documentary clarified that the New age of earth started only four million years ago, when earth finally took its current state and climate.



Ice ages follow, between each ice age there was a warm age. The last Ice Age ended before ten thousand years, when the mankind first appeared. I marvelled as I saw the photo of a human being.

They resemble us to a very great extent. They only differ in hair colour and size. We only have green or blue hair. Regarding size... hmmm, human beings are literally giants, while our sizes don't exceed thirty centimetres.

I was so much overwhelmed by the documentary, I didn't feel it was daylight. This means we're finally there. We finally arrived to earth and our soaring in its sky. Mom came to me and pointed to the window, with a smile on her face. She pointed to the window so I can have a closer look at the new planet. It was such a fascinating scene. There are huge differences between this planet and ours mostly in colours.

I heard dad's voice through the amplifier calling for mom. I didn't notice his anxious tone then. Mom hurried towards him, while I stood in my place watching the fascinating view.

After a short while, I left to the control room, where my parents are. Dad furrowed his brows, while mom explained, "the observatories on the spacecraft are recording high rates of pollution, much more than the rates we could've ever expected. Our bodies are don't have the capacity to tolerate all this pollution. It will kill us. Dad exhaled and said, "The leaders were right. We couldn't depend on the results of our remote observatories. We had to go through this mission and see for ourselves.



My mum whispered desperately, “If we all moved here altogether straight away, it would’ve been a major disaster.”

Dad said as he followed up the numbers carefully, “But in spite of everything, it’s obvious that they are trying their best to save the planet from the pollution. It’s obvious from the numbers in front of me.” Mum said in certainty, “but even if these rates are ok, they are not enough for our planet’s inhabitants to live.” Dad seemed desperate, while he prepared himself for the trip back and said, “We’ll have to go back quickly and update our planet.” I sorrowfully said, “It’s a beautiful planet Dad, I am afraid they’ll suffer from same consequences we’re suffering from if pollution rates increase.” Mum gently tapped on my green hair and said, “Don’t worry my dear, they’re doing their best.” Dad said, “I guess our leaders will have to move on to plan B.”

Mum wondered, “Do you mean the turquoise planet? I was so excited and yelled, “You mean Kepler 22b according to the inhabitants of earth.” Dad seemed desperate, while he prepared himself for the trip back and said, “We’ll have to go back quickly and update our planet.”

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Dad told me, “They’ll send another mission to discover how it is over there. Our mission is done.”

Mom kindly took me by my hand to my room in the spacecraft and said, “I’m glad you studied the milky way. I fastened my seat belt then she waved to me and hurried to her seat next to Dad.

The spacecraft blasted off in maximum speed. I gazed at the wonderful planet earth and saw it as it became farer and farer.



The End