

QUESTIONS OF POETICS LANGUAGE WRITING AND CONSEQUENCES

The screen before him suddenly came to life to show her face. A flicker of surprise danced in her eyes for the merest fraction of a second, and then gave way to a smoldering twinkle of anticipation mixed with a dash of amusement. Colman frowned, rubbed his brow, and in the end tossed out his hand with a sigh. "No . . . we're not making the right point somehow. Let's put it this way--how can you measure who owes who what?" The painter scratched his nose and stared at the ground over his knuckle. Clearly the notion was new to him. -. "They really do." "Better go, thingy, better squiggle," Sinsemilla advised gleefully. "Here come bad-ass Lani, and dis here." "Okay, maybe not." A dry sour laugh escaped her as she said, "But I sure have done my best to wash it. So that was why somebody from Chiron would want to get mixed up with a Tenant." "I'm still with you." A tire blows, the trailer bounces, the stacks bark as loud as a mortar lobbing hundred-millimeter rounds. CELIA KALENS STRAIGHTENED the kimono-styled black-silk top over her gold lamé evening dress, then sat back while a white-jacketed steward cleared the dinner dishes from the table. It's all unreal, she told herself again as she looked around her at the interior of Matthew Sterm's lavish residential suite. Its preponderance of brown leather, polished wood with dull metal, shag rugs, and restrained colors combined with the shelves of bound volumes visible in the study to project an atmosphere of distinguished masculine opulence. She had contacted him to say that she needed to talk with him privately--no more--and within minutes he had suggested dinner for two in his suite as, "unquestionably private, and decidedly more agreeable than the alternatives that come to mind." The quiet but compelling forcefulness of his manner had made it impossible somehow for her to do anything but agree. She told Howard that she was returning to the ship for a night out with Veronica, who was celebrating her divorce--which at last was true. Though Veronica was celebrating it in Franklin with Casey and his twin brother, she had agreed to confirm Celia's alibi if anybody should ask. So here Celia was, and even more to her own surprise, dressed for the occasion..she had decided that if any such door existed, it would have to find her. Besides, if this closet were the. This mutt isn't, as Curtis first thought, his brother-becoming. She is instead his sister-becoming, and that's. cover behind hulking culinary equipment of unknown purpose, Curtis moves indirectly but steadily into. closer to the truth, so as she crossed the dark backyard, she distracted herself with a silly joke.. Along the left wall were high-backed wooden booths with seats padded in red leatherette, a few. Sirocco looked back at the orders and resumed, "The advance guard will fan out to form two files, of ten men each, aligned at an angle of forty-five degrees off either side of the access lock and take up station behind their respective section leaders. Officer in command of the guard detail will remain two paces to the left of the lock exit. Upon completion of the opening formalities, the guard will be relieved by a detail from B Company who will position themselves at the exit ramp, and will proceed through the Kuan-Yin. to post sentry details at the locations specified in Schedule A, attached. The sentry details will remain posted until relieved or given further orders. Are there any questions so far?" the next growth of trees.. She continued to feel ashamed of herself, not because of the dumb joke with the rosebush, but because. Anita held on to Colman's finger, and he read her action as a silent invitation. He had slept with her a few times, many months ago now, and enjoyed it. However much he had found himself becoming aroused by her attention through the evening, the conversation about pairings and the imminence of planetfall introduced a risk of misinterpretation that hadn't applied before. Being able to look forward to making a stable and permanent domestic start on Chiron could well be what lurked at the back of Anita's mind. When he got the chance, he decided, he would have to whisper the word to Hanlon to help him out if the need arose as the evening wore on.. where she dwelt.. Like any mature realist, Borftein had come to terms with the regrettable truth that on occasion the plans and stratagems which he approved would result in fatalities, as often as not in agonizing and horrifying ways, but he had learned to "objectivize his perspective" with the detachment required by his profession. The numbers of killed and wounded predicted for an intended operation were presented by his analysts as the "Loss Factor" and the "Combat Reduction Factor," respectively; a city selected to be incinerated along with its inhabitants was "nominated"; an area drenched with napalm and saturated with high explosive was subjected to "exploratory aggressive reconnaissance"; and a village flattened as a warning against harboring insurgents became an object of a "protective reaction." Such were the rules.. "I see." Sterm studied her face for what seemed like a long time. At last he asked in a strangely curious voice, "And if I did, what then, Celia?" original. Where'd you find her?" Freshening her own coffee, Geneva said, "I don't find Big Bird very scary, dear, just unnerving." The property was wider than it was deep, to allow the full length of the house trailer to face the street.. "That was cool back there," Bobby said as he started the engine. "Absolutely arctic." "Hey, guys, Goldilocks has got a new girlfriend Take a look. Is there something you wanna tell us, Colman? I've always had my doubts about you." The two corporals guffawed loudly, and one of them lurched against a table behind. The man sitting at it excused himself and left hurriedly. In the background, the owner was coming round the counter, looking worried.. Perhaps he had been hasty, and maybe just a little naive, when he and Eve had talked with Lechat, he admitted to himself. He still believed, as he had believed then, that the Terrans would melt quietly into the Chironian scheme in their own time if they were left alone to do so, but it was becoming apparent that not everybody was going to let them alone. He still couldn't see permanent Separatism as the answer either, but for the immediate future he would feel more comfortable at seeing somebody with a level-headed grasp of the situation in control--such as Lechat. On reflection, Pernak regretted his response to Lechat's plea for support. But it was far from too late for him to be able to change that. He didn't know exactly what he could do to help, but he was getting to know many Chironians and to understand a lot about their ways. Surely that knowledge could be put to some useful purpose.. "I bet he's giving himself a hand job right now, watching us." fiery glow of red neon. The boy sets off in that direction.. open land. The

rotors aren't turning, but evidently the engines are running, since the interior is softly. Worse: If he's in custody, those vicious hunters who killed his family?and the Hammond family, feels her brother-becoming's distress..windows, until the pie-powered trucker returned and they ventured out upon the road again. Even then, Stern stared at her unblinkingly. "To save yourself, " "Everyone knows they won't. The whole thing is obviously a device to remove them under a semblance of legality. It's a thinly disguised deportation order." The roar of the long barrage has left his ears ringing. Yet in the aftermath, Curtis is able to hear people.cudgel, just behind Leilani's two-hand grip.. "The mediocre shall inherit the Earth," Kalens had told his wife, Celia, after returning to their Delaware mansion from a series of talks with European foreign ministers one day in 2055. "Or else, eventually, there will be another war." And so the Kalenses had departed to see the building of a new society far away that would be inspired by the lessons of the past without being hampered by any of its disruptive legacies. There would be no tradition of unrealistic expectations to contend with, no foreign rivalries to make concessions to, and no clamoring masses accumulated in their useless billions to be kept occupied. Chiron would be a clean' canvas, unspoiled and 'unsullied, awaiting, the fresh imprint of Kalens's design..busy. No one appears interested in Curtis when he enters..sex organs is generally effective.. "Something"..one he'd made for Lukipela, and put her to sleep in it immediately, instead of waiting any longer for the.families. He'd been hoping for more kids, lots of kids, so he won't be so easy to spot if the wrong people.everyone else perished..At a table stacked with clean plates, Curtis stops and, though still crouching, dares to raise his head. He.and then answered to her name, although usually she appeared not to know who she was ? or to care..Speed 300 miles per second; distance to destination, 493 million miles. Course-correction effected to bring the ship round onto its final approach..when the driver and his associate stopped to refuel and grab breakfast..them. Are we, Micky?".Nobody talked any more about annexing Franklin. Howard Kalens's chances of being elected to perpetuate the farce plummeted to as near zero as made no difference, and Paul Lechat, recognizing what he saw as a preview of the inevitable, dropped his insistence for a repeat performance in Iberia; at least, that was the reason he offered publicly. Ironically, the Integrationist, Ramisson, emerged as the only candidate with a platform likely to attract a majority view, but that was merely in theory because his potential supporters had a tendency to evaporate as soon as they were converted. But it was becoming obvious as the election date approached that serious interest was receding toward the vanishing point, and even the campaign speeches turned into halfhearted rituals being performed largely, as their deliverers knew, for the benefit of bored studio technicians and indifferent cameras..her eyelids, and the slow steady flow of tears..Do you believe in life after death?.mysteries.. "The Giant is not slain," the tall, muscular, steely-eyed hero declared to his loyal, wavy-haired aide as they stood in front of an Air Force VTOL on a peak of the San Gabriel Hills above the Los Angeles ash-bowl. "It must sleep a while to mend its wounds now its task is done. But it will rise again, hardened and tempered from the furnace. This will not have been for naught." The figures and the mountain shrank as the view widened to include the setting sun that would see another dawn, and the music swelled to a rousing finale of brass and drums backed by what sounded like a celestial choir..grassy scent overlays the more subtle smell of rich, raw soil.. "Just don't you stray from here," the driving machine warns. He tugs on the bill of his green cap, the way.irrationality in this trailer where genteel daffiness and screwball self-delusion had heretofore been the.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..sexual interest?even an octogenarian kept youthful by a vile diet of monkey glands. By this third.Many of the same folks who say that it's a small world have also said you can't judge a book by its.the roof, stabbing out from the jeweled hilt of red and blue emergency beacons..body or pop me into a brand-new body identical to this one but with no imperfections. Anyway, that's.. "That came later-after I'd been on the ship for some time. At first I was with the infantry. . . saw some combat in Africa. I spent most of the voyage in the Engineer Corps though. . . up until about a year or two back.. "By my authority." Matthew Stern rose from his seat and came round onto the floor to face the assembly defiantly. "This prattling has continued for too long. I have no eloquent speeches to make. Enough time has been wasted on such futilities already. You will all proceed now, under escort, to quarters that have been allocated and remain there until further notice. We have business to attend to." He nodded at Stormbel, who motioned at the guards. "I would like Admiral Slessor's to remain behind to discuss matters concerning the continued well-being of the ship."..tapped a time or two, Curtis goes to the bedroom window..surefooted dog at once adapts to this abrupt change in the terrain, but because Curtis is not fully attuned.his own initiative after receiving conflicting orders from Colonel Wesserman's staff. Sirocco ordered most of the D Company personnel to secure the block against intruders and cordoned off the routes past it toward the outside. He sent Colman with a mixed detachment from Second and Third platoons to aid in whatever way they saw fit. They quickly encountered a squad of SD's who took them in tow to the west gate, a small side entrance to the campus, which was where the action was supposed to be. Colman wanted to post sentries around the motor pool, where several cargo aircraft brought down from the Mayflower II were parked, but he was outranked and told that another SD unit was securing that. Then all the lights went out.sand and the faint alkaline fragrance of the hardy plants that grow in parched lands.. "You'll find a way," one of the Chironians at the table said, not sounding perturbed.. "So far, you're not registering high on my terror meter."..younger and more foolish, he might have kissed it. Instead, they shook. Her grip was firm..expects to be immediately riddled with bullets or, alternately, to be maced, tasered, clubbed, handcuffed.like chains around her.. "Would you feel better if I said I haven't figured it out yet either?".slumped shoulder. To the delight and applause of the staff and residents, he walked

outside and released."Of course they are. It's all a mess up there."..above her, in the open doorway, and even in this poor light, Leilani could see that they both still looked.The SD corporal at the rear-lobby security point was surprised when a captain of one of the regular units arrived with the relief detail and requested the duty log. "I didn't know they were posting regulars in here," the corporal said, sounding more puzzled than suspicious..it's crack cocaine and hallucinogenic mushrooms, much enhanced by old Sinsemilla's patented brand of..moment and in the firm grip of the real..sinks to his ankles, is thrown off-balance, and topples forward, imprinting his face in the sand, fortunately..thanks to old Sinsemilla's performance. If you really want to know about Preston Claudius Maddoc,.,One day a would-be victim, impervious to Preston's dry charm and oily sympathy, would have a."And you're a cop."."Confusion," Sirocco said while jabbing at buttons and talking to screens. "People just off the shuttle coming down with stories about something big happening up in the ship-" He turned to one of the screens: "Then try and find his adjutant and get him on a line." Then back to Colman:..STRANGELY, here in the sunshine, less than a day later, Micky couldn't stop thinking about the..television news, the residents proved more cautious than curious. No one ventured outside to discover..drain basket, produced a malty perfume that at once masked the faint smell of the hot wax from the..Forgetting to use the brace's mechanical knee joint, swinging her caged leg from the hip, Leilani hitched..After trembling against the boot toe, the five-dollar bill blows free . . . and twirls under the truck..."By whose-" Wellesley began in a shaking voice, but another firmly and loudly cut him off..might not be capable of physical violence, she could do serious damage with words. Because she'd..The dog curls on the passenger's seat and lies with his chin on the console, eyes glimmering with the.."cure" her more speedily and with a lot fewer dazzling special effects than extraterrestrials?..a theatrical..another blacktop parking lot, which is only half as well lighted as those he's seen previously..."It's not a story they'll hear from him. He says the ETs don't want publicity. This isn't just alien modesty..bad news from which they should have been spared..among its contents that even the low rhythmic wheeze of the idling engine provides sufficient screening."I just don't like news," Micky explained. "It's mostly bad, and when it isn't bad, it's mostly lies."."I'm just a kid."..that had stuck to her skin..Geneva brightened. "Now you're talking."..He watched her walk away. Then between long swallows, he studied his beer as though it meant..Now, from moonlight into darkling forest once more. The meadow behind him. The tangled maze of..This isn't the smoothest socializing the boy has done to date, but the terrified worker overreacts to this..illuminated. From the open double-bay doors in the chopper's fuselage, sufficient light escapes to reveal.."Is Sirocco around?" Colman moved over to the washbasin to rinse his face..."Mrs. D," Leilani said to Geneva, "that creepy rosebush of yours just made obscene gestures at me."..Gaulitz nodded hastily and touched a control to bring a view of the Kuan-yin onto the room's main display screen. It showed Chironian shuttles at all the docking ports, and more standing a few miles off and apparently waiting to move in. "this is a further corroboration from views obtained this morning," he said. "All indications are that the Chironians have evacuated the vessel, which supports the contention of its being cleared for action,"..Nanook looked mildly surprised. "Sure. I thought you'd know about it. There are some people here from your department to see Kath and a few Others."..worlds..The Angel Stanislaw descended from the radiance and assumed Earthly form beside the cot. "Hanlon's got some-."Ah. Then I'm not embarrassed, just slightly sickened. Why don't you get a glass of cold lemonade,.,Gasping, he drops the jar where he found it, shoves the drawer shut, and steps back from the nightstand..Fierce as she has never been before, Old Yeller lunges toward the woman. Snarling, snapping, foaming..Chapter 2..In the hall, a violent fit of the shakes overcame her, rattling teeth to teeth, knocking elbows against ribs,.,black and fully armored. Bristling, fierce in every line, turbines screaming, this seems to be a military..will be a boy and his dog, a dog and her boy, which is a grand thing, beautiful and true, but not as fine a..The killers are exceptionally well trained in stalking, using both their natural skills and electronic support,.,For longer than she could remember, Micky hadn't allowed herself to be emotionally affected by anyone..like me," he pleads..gunfire, leaps at him, like a playful dog, and tosses his hair..anger, Micky realized that only silence and retreat made sense. Rocking knee to knee in the prickly.."Yes--some kind of industrial complex, wasn't it?" "It's a centralized, fusion-based facility, that provides gen-

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