



PLANET OF THE APESTM

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IN THE
BEGINNING
GOD CREATED
ALL THAT
LIVES.



HIS
BREATH
STIRRED
THE DUST
OF THE
FIELDS.



HIS HAND
MOVED THE
WATERS OF
THE SEAS.


HE MADE
CREATURES TO
DIG IN THE EARTH,
TO SWIM BELOW
THE WATERS, TO
WING THROUGH
THE BROAD
SKIES.

HE MADE
WORLDS TO
PUT THEM
IN.



HE MADE
MAN.

BATTLE FOR THE **PLANET** OF THE **APES!**



AND IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME, MAN MADE GREAT CITIES AND RULED ALL THINGS.

EVEN THE BOUNDS OF TIME AND SPACE GAVE WAY BEFORE HIM.

AND FROM THAT PAST, ONE CALLED TAYLOR TRAVELLED FAR INTO THE FUTURE, EVEN BEYOND THESE PRESENT DAYS, TO A WORLD IN WHICH...

...THE GREAT APES HELD DOMINION.

THOUGH HAVING THEMSELVES BEEN SLAVES, THEY KNEW NO MORE THAN TO MAKE OTHERS SLAVES...

AND IN THAT FUTURE, THE MADNESS OF APES AND MEN BROUGHT ABOUT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WORLD.

FROM THAT DOOMED FUTURE TWO ONLY DID ESCAPE...

CORNELIUS AND ZIRA THEY WERE, BEST AND WISEST OF THE APES, WHO TRAVELLED BACKWARD IN TIME TO GIVE WARNING OF THE DOOM WHICH AWAITED.

BUT THEY WERE KILLED BY HUMANS IN THE PAST... EVEN AS APES WOULD KILL HUMANS IN THE FUTURE.



STILL, THEIR
CHILD WAS
SPARED--CEASAR
BY NAME...

"...AND HE TO WHOM WE
OWE THE FREEDOM
OF ALL APES..."

"AS HE LED APES TO REVOLT,
ALL THINGS HUMAN WERE ALREADY
REACHING THEIR APPOINTED END..."

"...AND THE NATIONS OF
THE EARTH CLASHED
IN THE FINAL
WAR..."

"...BRINGING
THAT GREAT
CIVILIZATION
DOWN TO
DUST."

"...THERE TO
FOUND THE
CITY OF
THE APES."

"ONLY A REMNANT OF
APES AND HUMANS
SURVIVED UNHARMED,
LED BY CEASAR FROM
THE RUINED CITY
INTO THE
WILDERNESS..."

THE HISTORY
OF THOSE EARLY
DAYS UP TO THE
PRESENT TIME IN
WHICH WE LIVE IS
A COMPLEX AND
TROUBLING STORY...



THIS, THEN, SHALL BE
A NARRATIVE OF THAT
HISTORY...

...A TELLING OF
THAT STORY...

HIS NAME IS ALDO. COULD HE BUT
PERCEIVE THAT THE NAME IS A
SYMBOL OF HIS FORMER SUBJU-
GATION BY HUMAN MASTERS,
DOUBTLESS HE WOULD CHANGE IT.
BUT SUCH THINGS DO NOT CONCERN HIM.

FOR, TO HIM, IT IS
MERELY GOOD TO
BE A GORILLA...

...GOOD TO BE
FREE TO RANGE
THE CONTRASTING
COUNTRYSIDE FAR
AND WIDE, FEELING
THE STRONG POWER
OF HIS MOUNT...
MASTER OF HIS
OWN COURSE.

PART I: THE WEAPONS SHOP OF **PARADISE!**

BUT HOWEVER GRATIFYING HE MAY FIND HIS SOLITARY PURSUITS, ALDO KNOWS THAT SATISFACTION MAY ALSO BE FOUND IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS...



... OTHERS OF HIS OWN KIND WHO SHARE HIS PRESENT VIEW OF THE WORLD...



... WHO RESPECT HIM AS A LEADER OF GREAT STRENGTH...



... AND AS THEIR UNQUESTIONED SUPERIOR.

YES, THERE IS SATISFACTION HERE AMONG HIS OWN KIND. IT IS A FEELING HE WOULD LIKE TO PROLONG...



BUT AS MUCH AS HE IS LOATHE TO ADMIT IT, ALDO MUST RIDE ON...



... TO WHERE A FAR DIFFERENT PURSUIT AWAITS HIM.

STILL, AS HE REACHES A FAMILIAR POINT ON THE RIDGE, HE FINDS TIME TO PAUSE AND REFLECT FOR A MOMENT...

... TIME TO CONTEMPLATE THE TWO CONTRASTING VISTAS SEPERATED BY THE RIDGE, AND BY HIMSELF...



ON THE ONE SIDE, HE GAZES WITH CURIOUS LONGING OVER A VAST PANDORAMA OF BLEAK DESERT AND DESOLATE ROCK... AN EERIE, RAW PLAIN OF NATURE LAID BARE...



WHAT MYSTERIES LIE HIDDEN THERE...? WHAT SECRETS AND DANGERS LURK BEYOND THAT VAST AND STARK HORIZON...? MORE, WHAT ADVENTURES AWAIT HE WHO BRAVES SUCH TERRAIN...?

THE ANSWERS MAY ONLY BE GUESSED... ENHANCED FAR BEYOND THEIR REALITY BY THE WANDERLUST OF IMAGINATION...



BREATHING A SIGH OF RASPY SORTS, ALDO TURNS UPON HIS MOUNT, NOW TO SURVEY THE VIEW ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIDGE... A LUSH VALLEY DAPPLED IN GREENS AND BROWNS WHERE TREES AND FLOWERS JOIN IN UNION WITH A... CITY...



...A CITY SEEMINGLY CARVED FROM THE WONDERS OF PEACE AND PARADISE.

BUT TO ALDO, THE SCENE HOLDS TOO MUCH SERENITY... TOO MUCH PEACE AND COMPLACENCY...

HE SNEERS, AND THEN GRUNTS... SEEMINGLY PUSHED TO RELENTLESSNESS BY THE SIGHT OF SO MUCH CLUTTERED BEAUTY AND SO LITTLE CHALLENGE...



THEN, WITH A TOO-FORCEFUL KICK TO HIS MOUNT'S FLANK'S, HE RIDES DOWNWARD... INTO THE TABLEAU WHICH INSPIRES SO MUCH CONTEMPT WITHIN HIS FIERCE BREAST...

...DOWNWARD, ON THE WRONG SIDE TO THE HATED CITY WHICH IS HIS HOME...



...AND WHICH IS ALSO HOME TO OTHERS NOT OF HIS OWN KIND.

COME ON-- HARDER. PUT OUR BACKS INTO IT--!

WE ARE-- BUT WE'RE STILL NOT GOING TO LIFT THIS WAGON WITHOUT SOME HELP...!



SMALL WONDER THAT ONE SUCH AS ALDO SHOULD RESENT THIS CITY, SHOULD BECOME ANNOYED BY ITS TRIVIAL PROBLEMS...



...BY THE HAIRLESS CREATURES WHICH INHABIT IT, MASQUERADING AS NEAR EQUALS TO ALDO AND HIS KIND...

... WHEN EVERYONE KNOWS THEY ARE MERELY WEAKLINGS TO BE SCORND AND DESPISED.



NOW.



THANKS, ALDO. WE COULDN'T LIFT THIS WAGON TO SAVE OUR LIVES.

GOOD THING YOU CAME ALONG-- YOU'RE PLENTY STRONG.



ALDO... STRONG.

BUT MAN... WEAK-- WEAK!

WELL, MAN'S SMART...



HAH!

THEN BE SMART...



BUT DO WHAT WE SAY--!



MAC DONALD, I'M GETTING AWFUL SICK OF THAT BIG APE...

I KNOW, JAKE. A LOT OF US ARE. I'LL SPEAK TO CEASAR ABOUT HIM.



THE INCIDENT HAS INCREASED ALDO'S RESTLESSNESS. INDEED, IT HAS INDUCED A STATE OF HELPLESS ANGER...

... ANGER WHICH IS NOW CHANNIELED IN THE ONLY POSSIBLE DIRECTION--



--RECKLESS, FURIOUS SPEED.

LOOK OUT --MOVE--!!



UNNFFF--!!



HE ALMOST KILLED ME--! I DIDN'T DO A THING AND HE ALMOST KILLED ME!



YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO GET IN AN APE'S WAY.

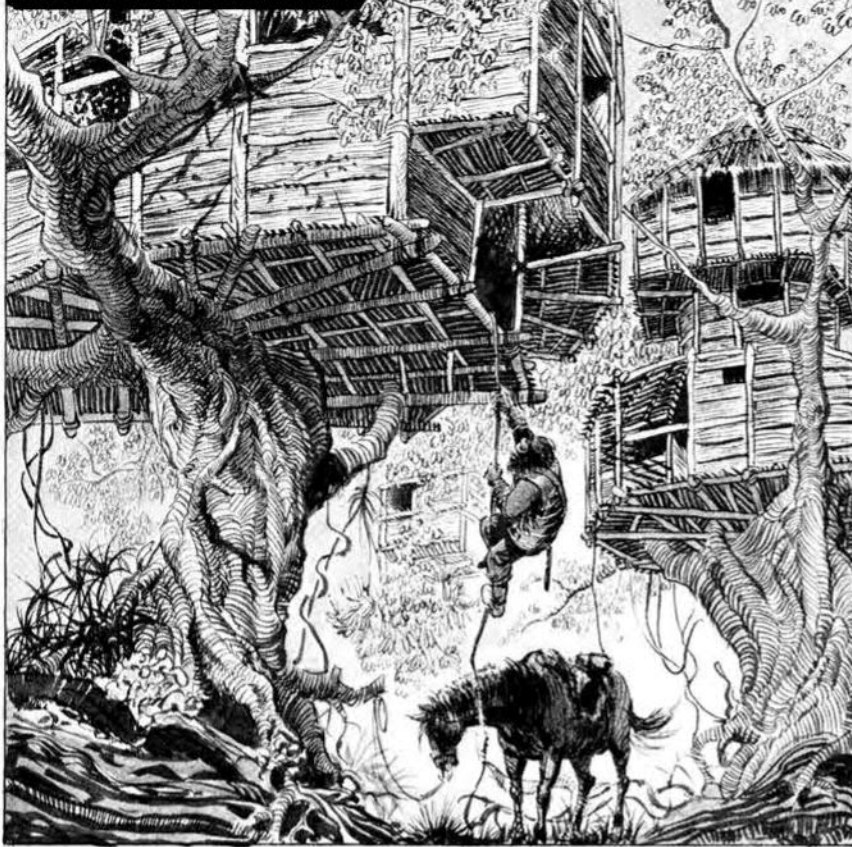
SEE THAT IT DOESN'T HAPPEN AGAIN.



ALDO REACHES HIS UNWANTED DESTINATION, KNOWING THAT THE SPEED MUST COME TO A HALT...

...BUT THAT HIS ANGER WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD SUPPRESSED ONLY WITH A SUPREME EFFORT OF WILL.

WHY MUST HE COME TO THIS PLACE EVERY DAY?
WHY IS SO MUCH IMPORTANCE PLACED ON THE
MEANINGLESS RITUAL?

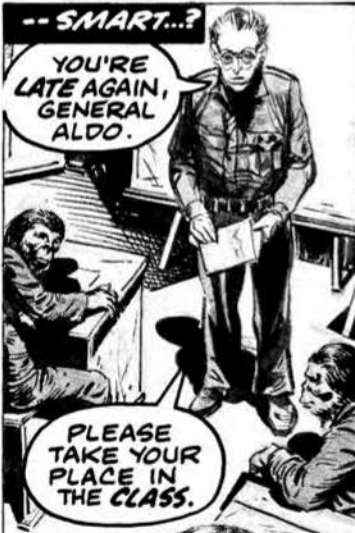


WHAT IS THE VALUE OF
THIS ROUTINE-- OF
LEARNING TO BECOME--



-- SMART...?

YOU'RE
LATE AGAIN,
GENERAL
ALDO.



PLEASE
TAKE YOUR
PLACE IN
THE CLASS.

BUT, AS USUAL,
ALDO IGNORES
THE INSTRUCTION.
AND SEATS HIMSELF
ALONG WITH OTHERS
OF HIS OWN KIND.
SIGNIFICANTLY,
THE TEACHER DOES
NOT OBJECT...

NOW SHALL WE
RESUME OUR
LESSON. CORNE-
LIUS, REPEAT AFTER
ME: APE SHALL
NEVER KILL--
APE.



APE
SHALL
NEVER
KILL--

EXCUSE ME,
CORNELIUS,
WE CANNOT
PROCEED UNTIL
WE HAVE THE
ATTENTION OF
THE ENTIRE
CLASS.

ALL RIGHT,
YOU GORILLAS.

YOU
MUST BE
QUIET AND
PAY
ATTENTION.
YOU KNOW
CEASAR'S
ORDERS--
YOU ARE
TO LEARN
TO TALK
AND READ
AND WRITE.



ALDO KNOWS THAT
THE MENTION OF
CEASAR'S NAME WILL
QUIET HIS FELLOW
GORILLAS... AND FORCE
HIM TO FOLLOW THEIR
EXAMPLE. IT DOES
NOT PLEASE HIM...

