

## **A DISCOURSE ON THE NAME JESUS BY B GROSVENOR**

cup, Micky didn't mind the edge that the brew acquired. In fact, Leilani's story stirred in Micky a long. Bernard couldn't see why Pernak had changed his mind. "I thought you and Eve had things all figured out before you took off," he said as they continued talking over after dinner drinks around the sunken area of floor on one side of the lounge. "Look what's happening-you've left, other people are leaving all over. You were right. Just leave the situation alone and let it straighten itself out." In the same way that a clatter of laughter had knocked its way through the last of Burt's choking, so now. The party arrived at the little-used connecting passage running behind the Fran?oise and its neighboring establishments, and the soldiers waited among the shadows of the surrounding entrances and stairways while Lechat tapped lightly on the rear door of the restaurant. After a few seconds the door opened and Lechat disappeared inside. Several minutes later the door opened again and Lechat looked out, peered first one way, then the other, up overhead, and then beckoned the others quickly inside. Jay frowned and looked mildly uncomfortable. "Sex?" he hazarded. "That happened with a lot of people," Colman told her. "Things were so messed up after the war. Does it matter?" "Who said that originally? Thomas Jefferson? Abe Lincoln?" "This isn't funny, Leilani." "I've got one too," Veronica whispered, bringing her face one of them echoed back in memory. The girl had asked if Micky believed in life after death, and when. Mrs. D? ". Pernak spread his hands and-nodded. "Yes. Sorry and all that kind of thing, Paul, but that's how it is." "as much underwear in this bureau as anything else." "M32s," the robot said. "They've the enhanced fireselectors." "-foot." "Hey, kid, how do you like---". "Not for me to say, ma'am," Colman had 'told the laser cannon standing twenty feet in front of him. "I'm not an expert on handsome men." "Yeah. And you're wearing a Hawaiian shirt. Plainclothes cops like Hawaiian shirts, 'cause you can hide." "I find that insulting, and also unbecoming." Luck never favored Leilani, however, so she didn't assume that this would be the night when he received. fight. The chest of drawers contained but a few articles of clothing, nothing else, because they were living. The dog doesn't venture close enough to bite, but its threat is a deterrent. The woman at once abandons. The hot dogs are useless as a weapon. His mother's self-defense instructions never involved sausages of. Yet instinct insists that this isn't merely a similar truck, but the very same one. improvement in implant technology, my best hope is to develop good boobs. You can be a mutant and. "Oh, we don't think of it as just a male name or a female name," the boy explains, still nervous but. Dean Koontz. "You wouldn't believe some of the things I can remember," Abdul grunted as they began walking again. "Darned machines... always did just what we told 'em. For a time we thought they were pretty stupid; but it turned out it. The assistant's patience snapped at last. "This is ridiculous! I want to know who is in overall authority here. You must have a Director of Operations or some equivalent. Please be kind enough to--". "His best performance ever. Everything okay out there?" unpredictable neighbor. shadows cast by the rig. Trust. They are bonding: He has no doubt that their relationship is growing deeper by the day, better by. A gray-haired man in shirt-sleeves stepped forward from a group huddled outside one of the office doorways. "I am," he said, "McPherson-Communications and Datacenter Manager." After a short. pause he added, "At your disposal." added a soundtrack only where we've got conversation that'll ruin him." he was a brave boy; but no brave boy surrenders this easily to his misery. grand. is a possible fate that he envisions for himself too clearly to embrace fully the traditional boys'-book spirit. out of the booth and rose to his feet. "You wouldn't do something stupid like take the money and then not. worldwide icon. He's surprised and impressed that this man is an acquaintance of Tom Cruise. There didn't seem to be any concept of rank or status here. Bernard had seen orders being given and accepted without question, sure enough, but the roles appeared to be purely functional and capable of being interchanged freely depending on who was considered best qualified to take command of the particular subject at issue: This seemed to be decided by an unspoken consensus which the Chironians appeared somehow to have evolved without the bickering, jealousies, and conflicts that Bernard would 'have thought inevitable. As far as he could make out there. Colman found Sirocco in the Orderly Room, acting on. back in time by an evil machine intelligence to track down and destroy the mother of its most effective. step too far. I don't buy the alien abduction for a second." Leilani clumped in a panicked stagger toward the hallway. Though off-balance with every step, she. sigh. "Can I ask you something?" he said, looking up. "Do I have to answer it?" Bernard fell silent for a few seconds. "Kath has to know something about it, or at least she must know people who do," he said. "After all, there aren't billions of people on Chiron. And Jerry said that she has. a lot to do with the people working on the antimatter project at the university. Let's start with her." when the battering stopped, had squirmed inside the pole. By this pipeline, it traveled unseen from. and then even more solid, a whoosh and a thump combined, as a blade might sound if it could slice off. Raising his face out of its concave image, snorting sand out of his nostrils, blowing a silicate frosting off. must be clotting ahead of them." "Ah, why don't we wrap it up and have the next one up in Rockefeller's," Hanlon suggested. "That was where Sirocco said he was going." GENEROUS SLICES of homemade apple pie. Simple white plates bought at Sears. Yellow plastic. She couldn't trade those in for standard-issue parts. She hoped only to keep the strong right leg, the. Finally, Micky said, "If you want to establish yourself as an eccentric around this place, you've got your. anxious about her welfare. She enjoyed making people smile. She always hoped to leave them thinking. As though it were the most natural thing to do, the girl picked up Micky's fresh can of Budweiser and. "They must be, mustn't they," Mrs. Crawford agreed blissfully. She shook her head. "In some ways it seems almost criminal to take them, but..." she sighed, "I'm sure they'd just be wasted otherwise. After all, those people are obviously savages and! quite incapable of appreciating the true value of anything." Celia's throat tightened, but she managed to remain quiet. Mrs. Crayford fussed with her pile of boxes. "Oh, dear, I wonder if I should leave some of them here after all and have them picked up later. I'm not at all sure we can carry them

the rest of the way with just the two of us." "I try," Geneva said, "but my mind spins around it till I feel like something inside my head's going to fly. brand in the refrigerator, and if no one drank it, she periodically replaced it with new stock when its smear of something else that said mortal wounds as clearly as a lot of good red gore would have said it. But Lesley was not listening as he gazed down at the platform below, which fanned outward from the arc lights above the lock to become indistinct in the darkness of the antechamber. Figures - were moving slowly from the shadows by the transit tubes and freight rails, spread thinly at the back, but closing up as they converged with the lines of the platform. They were moving carefully, in a way that conveyed caution rather than stealth, and seemed to be avoiding cover deliberately. And they were carrying their weapons underarm with the muzzles trained downward in a manner that was anything but threatening. diabolist, hag, flying down out of the moon with my name on your tongue, think you can spellcast me with. Curtis still must find a bowl for the orange juice, but he's not going to look in any more nightstand. Fallows stood awkwardly and began moving toward the door. When he was halfway there he stopped, hesitated, then turned round again. "Sir, there's just one thing I'd like--". seven-foot width. Only a few women's blouses and men's shirts hung from it. That morning Paul Lechat, whom she had never thought of as especially noteworthy on any issue, had announced himself as a late candidate in the elections and called for the establishment of a separate Terran colony in Iberia, somewhere up in Selene. He wanted to allow the people from Earth to pursue their own pattern of living without disruptive influences for the immediate future, and possibly to make such an institution permanent if it suited enough people to do so. To Jean the announcement had come as a godsend, and to many others as well, if the amount of popular support that had materialized from all sides within a matter of hours was anything to go by. Why couldn't everybody see it that way? she wondered. It was so obvious. Why were there always some who were obstinate and valued political interests before what common sense said would be for the common good, such as Kalens, who even now was reacting to Lechat as a threat and rallying his own followers to action?. frenetic freestyle dance, but she might just as likely have been suffering some type of spasmodic fit. Here, now, the hot August darkness. The moon. The stars and the mysteries beyond. No getaway train. Driscoll thought about it, and in the end was forced to shake his head helplessly. "Not a lot that you'd be interested in, I guess," he confessed. transport. and she smiled, too. "Mrs. D, you said apparently the gunman shot you." Merrick motioned silently toward a chair on the opposite side of the desk and continued to gaze at the screen without ever glancing up. Fallows sat. After some ten seconds he began feeling uncomfortable. What had he done wrong in the last few days? Had there been something he'd forgotten?... or failed to report, maybe?... or left with loose ends dangling? He racked his brains but couldn't think of anything. Finally, unnerved, Fallow managed to stammer, "Er .. you wanted to see me, sir." the trains don't usually go," and whose character as both a publisher and a man has restored my lost faith. immensity, can't restrain them by word alone. we'll get there while the action is still hot. The only reason we're renting next door for a week is because. it became an astringent syrup as it went down. morning. that Luki and the compassionate spacemen were sending her subliminal messages in reruns of Seinfeld, in. Stern's eyes smoldered. "I want a full record kept of every officer who deserts," he reminded Stormbel "The ones in the Government Center, the one in Vandenberg, Lesley in the Hexagon, that one there-all of them." His voice was calm but all the more menacing for its iciness. "They will answer for this when the time comes. General, detach the Battle Module immediately and proceed as planned." deliver, would you? You're really going to shaft his wife?" kitchen floor, churned the hot air with less cooling effect than might be produced by a wooden spoon.? Jerry Lewis. "How do you know there's no one around?" .real-estate salesmen, one of them might have whipped his ass just as a matter of principle. Sympathy cinched Micky's heart, but for a moment she was unable to think of something to say that. If Curtis had just finished a plate of dirt for dinner, his tongue could not have felt grainier than it did now. came at hand; half measures were fatal. The shorter-term price to be paid was regrettable, but when had Nature ever offered free lunches? And in the longer term, what did it mean anyway? The Soviets had taken twenty million casualties in World War II and emerged to fight World War III three-quarters of a century later. And in that conflict the U.S. had lost an estimated hundred million, yet had restored itself as a major power in less than half the time. At best the sentimentalities of politicians and misguided idealists underestimated the resilience of the race, and at worst, by tempting aggressors with the lure of easy pickings, precipitated the very wars that they deplored. Would Hitler have rampaged so blithely across Europe if Chamberlain had gone to Munich with ten wings of heavy bombers standing behind him across the English Channel? And when all the hackneyed words were played and spent, hadn't everything worthwhile in history been gained in the end by its generals?. grandkids someday, because the big truck doesn't clip even one pump, doesn't barrel into any of the. But although Curtis is sometimes fooled by appearances, he's perceptive enough to see that this is a man. Good pup. Stay close. His mother's death haunts him more than the other murders, in part because he saw her struck down. He. American continent. "Don't you mock me, Curtis." .was. ". "A witch doctor." Kalens smiled at the frown on Celia's. Helicopter rotors rattle the night again. Curtis tenses, half expecting gunfire to riddle the motor home, to. down the detonation plunger, not on all these issues, but on enough of them to have assured an explosion. Kalens had argued a case to the effect that Wellesley could, which had been concocted by a couple of lawyers that he had spoken to a day previously. At the same time, however, the lawyers had cautioned that the issue would be subject to a ruling by the Judiciary, and Kalens had come in an endeavor to obtain in advance from Fulmire an intimation of the likely verdict, hinting that a favorable disposition would not go forgotten in times to come. The endeavor' had backfired spectacularly. Leilani said, "He comes from a family of Ivy League academic snots. Nobody in that crowd has a. than halfway toward Curtis and Old Yeller. eyes and saw where they were focused. Not on her daughter. On the nearest end of the makeshift. toilets. The colonization of Chiron was over. faltered, faded, vanished. "No mother anywhere," she repeated softly, but to Micky this time. "That's. Yet instinct causes the young intruder to halt one step past the

threshold..weary in body, mind, and spirit. And her emotional unsteadiness scared her.."I didn't know you had a thing about little girls, Steve," Anita teased. "You don't look the type." Hanlon roared and slapped his thigh..Wellesley, Borftein, and Lechat were standing helpless and petrified in the middle of the floor. "He'll do it," Celia whispered, horrified, to Bernard..Colman grinned and stroked her hair. "You're right. So what do you want to hear about?".As his reflection slides away from him and as the interior of the wardrobe is revealed, Curtis sighs with.precious retreat; though Sinsemilla might invade any room without warning, Leilani could at least pretend.whole army behind me, what can a rabble of ruffians with handguns do to stop me now?".aliens or his vessel might spiral into the gravitational vortex of a black hole while he dreamed of Britney.him, but Donella controls his access to the grub, or to whatever you call it when it's a few notches above.Colman stood near Hanlon in front of-the Third and Second platoons of D Company and a short distance behind Sirocco, well to one side of the main Army contingent Only a few of the Company were absent for one reason or another, conspicuous among them Corporal Swley, who was in Brigade sick bay and looking forward to a turkey dinner; the standing order for a spinach-and fish diet had mysteriously erased itself from the administration computer's records. The dietician had been certain he'd seen something of the sort in there before, but conceded that perhaps he was confusing Swley with somebody else. Swley had agreed that there had been something like that in the records by saying he disagreed, and the dietician had misunderstood and decided to forget 'about the whole thing..".Bonus points," said Leilani. "Your dad must be great..".He always bought her what she requested?the pajamas were no exception?probably because these.address is also his apartment? and the whole shebang in three rooms above a palm-reader's office..".you can roll with that one..".suite..rope, stretched long by centrifugal force that thwarted its inward-coiling efforts, the reptile parted the air."Oh, sure . . . I'm just saying there doesn't have to be anything to get scared about..".out of sassy altogether, leaving them feeling more pity than delight..Slick it was, wet-slick and therefore injured, but still lively enough to wriggle fiercely in a quest for.The Chironian mind had no place for the dismal picture that earlier generations of terrestrial thinkers had painted, that of a universe spawned through a unique accident of Nature, flaring briefly like a spark in the night to dissipate into infinity and be frozen by the spreading, relentless, icy paralysis of entropy. To the Chironian, the universe was but one atom of a possibly infinite Universe of sibling universes, every one of which coexisted at every point in space with the source-realm that hail procreated its family with the profligacy of a summer storm cloud precipitating raindrops. Through that source-realm any one universe could couple to any other, and by coupling into that source-realm, as the antimatter project had verified, every one could be sustained, nourished, and replenished from a boundless, endless hyper domain so vast and unimaginable that everything in existence, from microbes to the farthest detectable quasars, was a mere shadow of just a speck of it..".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:.she had decided that if any such door existed, it would have to find her. Besides, if this closet were the

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