

As he neared the end of his journey, Sagie was not surprised to hear the deep voice booming from above.

"Ho, Sagie, greetings! I have not seen you in quite some time, where have you been hiding?"

"Well, somebody has to get the work done, or at least do something besides leaning on pillars, my good Alalcomeneus" replied Sagie as he advanced closer.

"Ah! You are weary, I see. Your diplomatic hat is slipping, my friend." mused Alalcomeneus humorously.

"Yes, and your perceptiveness is as ever sharp as your guardianship, my old friend, you are well named."

"So..., you are back from traveling again. Which location are you coming from this time?" inquired Alalcomeneus.

"I've traveled about on the 3rd planet, the usual solar system.," was Sagie's reply. You are familiar with those inhabitants if I remember correctly."

"Yes, we have been assigned there many times, have we not?. Hmm, covering famines and war again, I suppose? There have been some very dishonorable occurrences in that particular place" Alalcomeneus said presumingly.

"No, a new assignment, but just as disturbing at times from what I've seen already. The residents of that planet have a new form of entertainment, something they call movies. This is a visual way of telling stories and communicating ideas with each other."

"Ah,... new?" Alalcomeneus wondered in puzzlement. "They have been doing this for eons have they not? While assigned there, I have watched many a group as they interact with others on what they call a stage. Very lively those are.."

"No, there is no one on a stage in this case, only moving pictures on a wall that they watch, with some sound added to listen to." corrected Sagie.

"No interaction? Well, I guess for a short time that would not be so bad to stay awake and watch such things," exclaimed Alalcomeneus.

"Well, actually they sit and watch for quite awhile. Sometimes for as long as 2 to 3 of what they call hours" reported Sagie.

"Incredible!" bellowed Alalcomeneus in his normal fashion. "There was no such activity when I was last there. Still, if they invest so much time into this mo-vie, they must be achieving some honorable goal, or accomplishing something quite worthwhile?"

"Well, that's the problem.... why I'm here. Most of what is being done there is quite Dishonorable."

Alalcomeneus looked at Sagie incredulously, speechless as he tried to absorb this news. As different as they were from each other, they had known each other a very long time, having shared countless experiences. Sagie had considerable experience and normally did his work with a diplomatic flair. This news, however, was beginning to sound ominously like several of the worse events that they had witnessed together. If this latest assignment had shaken him, this was news indeed.

"This report that I'm carrying has information that is quite shocking. But what is even more disturbing is the lack of opposition to this, as you call it, dishonorable work" continued Sagie.

"They have information gatherers that study such things and place this information in something called databases. One database that I've looked at contains what is known as the 'Top Ten List'. There was one particular honorable movie that made this particular Top Ten list, but just barely and has since fallen off. The remainder of the movies on that success list caused my heart to be heavy as I continued to research them." reported Sagie sadly. "One unbelievable problem is the way they take the Lord's name in vain." "Dishonorable indeed," grimly agreed Alalcomeneus. "Please go on".

"That one good movie," continued Sagie as he glanced through his report, "Was written mostly for the children of the inhabitants, but was quite worthwhile for the older people as well. The creators of this movie no doubt had high hopes that the believers who love the Lord would be supportive of this video art form. However, it may suffer the same result as its predecessor."

"Another one? What were these mo-vies called?" inquired Alalcomeneus.

"The first one was called 'Jonah', the second one was called 'The Pirates who don't do anything'. They were created by a tribe..., I mean a group called Big Idea."

"Well, if this is a good idea, then they should immediately create another one. They should work towards waking people up from such spiritual lethargy" countered Alalcomeneus with growing unease.

Third Planet Reports

"That's the next problem, you recall those movies that did well? They attracted much of what these residents call "money". Unfortunately for the shows created by the believers, they did not fare so well when it came to the money part."

"Money,..... I'm not sure I recall..... " mused Alalcomeneus puzzledly. "Oh....., is this the pieces of metal that they give to each other? I remember seeing such metal items. They were called shekels, half-crowns, piaster's and so on? I thought perhaps these residents had gotten past such a stage by now."

"Not at this point" said Sagie, "They are still in the money stage, Apparently this is vital to them and vital to getting things of temporary interest down there. It is certainly needed in order to survive as well. If such artistic groups do not get any money for this work, then they must go and perform some other trade or work."

"Well, then at least these theatres would have less people for the mo-vies, perhaps the dishonorable ones will fade away?" said Alalcomeneus hopefully.

"No, they would have more of these bad movies since they get the support. The producers of these movies operate by that idea of money. The believers or non-believers do not seem to support the honorable movies as much as those that are of the misguiding type. The support of these bad movies contributes to leading people and their thoughts away from the Lord. The inhabitants are falling into the old spiritual traps and snares as they continue on the road of rebellion. They do not see the transgressions of the Word of the Lord nor consider how this looks from the Lord's point of view. That is why I am returned here at the Gates to report in," replied Sagie as the urgency of his errand came to mind.

"So what do you foresee as the end of this?" replied Alalcomeneus with some gloom as he looked down at his old comrade. "Will the believers on earth wake up to this dire situation?"

"Only the Lord can foresee such things of course, but based on the past history of what both you and I have seen, judgment does happen in such situations. Weren't you assigned to that area when the Flood judgment occurred down there?"

"Yes, an unusual and sad time that was." remembered Alalcomeneus. "Yet hope remained alive, the project still continued as that ark floated to its resting place and a new beginning was allowed. Did I ever tell you about what I'd seen before the rain began.....? Well, another time..., that story takes a while to tell".

"I would indeed, When we have time to talk, that would be good to hear again," replied Sagie. "I could share what I saw when those two cities were visited by the Wrath of the Lord, there is much to tell there as well. Thankfully, not all the stories are tragedies. Perhaps we can get Noam to reminisce about the original Garden stories, or what happened before the Garden..... Those are always a treat to hear."

"And of course there is always the future story that has yet to unfold," interjected Alalcomeneus with his normal bluff and enthusiastic manner. I've heard of a stirring in the Heavenly Armies, perhaps we are closer to that Tribulation that was foretold..... Honor and Glory will yet be restored, but not by an easy path. The residents have been given the directions in that Last Book. It has been discussed and foretold in the earlier Books as well. Indeed....., it is tragic to hear that the human Armies of the Lamb on that third planet are so unready, so lethargic, considering all this."

"Sadly, yes," echoed Sagie. "May those who have ears to hear, actually hear. And not only hear, but act."

"Amen and amen," agreed Alalcomeneus as he opened the Gates for his fellow angel. After he closed the Gates, he briefly watched his old comrade Sagie as he approached the Courts of the Lord. Suddenly filled with curiosity, he called out "Sagie, what is the name of that report, will I be able to see this as well?"

"I have been calling it 'Culture Does Matter', as part of my 3rd planet reports. It should be published soon," called back Sagie over his shoulder as he continued to the Courts.

Being on duty, Alalcomeneus turned to give his full attention to watchfully guard the Gates. You never knew quite who would approach them for entry and he began to wonder how long it would be before a very large group would be exiting and going in the other direction.

Author's Note: We generally know that many forms of media are so much a part of peoples lives. What we need to realize is how bad that much of this influence really is. In many folks' minds, those methods may be the only "Bible related teaching" that they ever get & it is often very blasphemous. This is often what we are dealing with, the type of training & indoctrination of our colleagues & neighbors that we are interact with. The various media are not to be regarded as just Entertainment, but as methods that have far reaching impact, for good or for bad. May these essays be Inspiring & Encouraging you to be truly God Honoring with the life that you have been given. We didn't earn our lives, or purchase them.... they were a gift