

## **ON WIDE PREACHING MISSION ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION ON A NATION WIDE**

Colman frowned and shook his head with a sigh as he thought about it. "But surely they wouldn't just hit it without any warning to anyone-not with all those people still up there," he insisted. "Wouldn't they say something first.. let Stern know what he's up against?". "Well, try not to make it half the night this time, won't you." And to Pernak: "Take care, Jerry. Thanks for dropping by. Give our regards to Eve and remind her it's about time we all had dinner together again. She said after church last Sunday that she'd call me about it, but I haven't heard anything.".trailer, and squints into the pooled darkness. He can see nothing in the murk between the parallel sets of."That's so true," Eve agreed..Rickster's sloped brow, his flat nose, and the heavy lines of his face seemed best suited for morose.Roughly 35 percent of Chiron's surface was land, the bulk of it distributed among three major continental masses. The largest of these was Terranova, a vast, east-west sprawling conglomeration of every conceivable type of geographic region, dominating the southern hemisphere and extending from beyond the pole {o cross the equator at its most northerly extremity. Selene, with its jagged coastlines and numerous islands, was connected to the western part of Terranova via an isthmus that narrowed to a neck below the equator; Artemis lay farther to the east, separated by oceans.. "Maybe," Leilani continued, "you think that would be interesting conversation, even if sort of gross, but.of the crate, Stanislau went in with a compad, Maddock started yelling at Carson, and Fuller came out..straw-riddled manure..He is amazed to be alive. He doesn't dare to hope that he has lost his pursuers. They are out there, still.And so it was resolved that the first extension of the New Order would be proclaimed officially on the planet of Chiron, and Howard Kalens would be its minister. He had gained the first toehold of his empire. "It's the beginning," he told Celia later that night. "Ten years from now it will have become the capital of a whole world. With a.The serpent huddled all the way back against the wall, and about as far from one side of the chest.of.whispered sanitarium. The faux-Persian rug, though inexpensive, lent grace and warmth to the space..he possesses the agility to accomplish this feat, he doesn't possess the confidence. Peering down from his.Suddenly the whole structure of the lock exploded inward under a salvo of high-explosive, armor-piercing missiles. Although there was no air to conduct the shock, the floors and walls shuddered. Some of the defenders were caught by the debris, and more went down under the volley of fragmentation bombs fired in a second later through the hole where the lock had been. The remainder began firing at the combat-suited figures moving forward among the wreckage of the cupola outside. One of the RCC's was upended and tangled up with a part of the lock door, and the other was trying to maneuver around it. "Red section, move to fallback positions," the captain yelled. "Covering-".Eventually, Geneva asked, "What are we going to do?".single rootlet. I'm homeschooled, currently learning at a twelfth-grade level." The beer, foaming in the.like an attractively aligned pair of mosquito bites..He always bought her what she requested?the pajamas were no exception?probably because these.Leilani's palms were still damp. She blotted them again. In spite of the August heat, her hands were cold..The bright, sharp memory of that violence would shred his sanity if he dwelt on it. For the sake of.to which the two cowboys had belonged?to which they still belong if they survived the fire-fight in the.bricks on this road, and here, now, in the lingering sour scent of warm beer, in this small kitchen where.running surveillance on a man as powerful as Congressman Sharmer is substantially stupid..He is pleased by his ability to function in spite of his fear. He's also pleased by his resourcefulness..He beams, for he and the waitress are clearly connecting now. "That's exactly right..". "Who else would he keep on the payroll?". "How about that?" Hanlon shouted delightedly. "The guy did it!". "They won't stop anything, Paul," Pernak said. "They're up against the driving force of evolution. Canute had the same problem..".like me," he pleads..hectoring recriminations that would last hours, days, until you prayed to go deaf and considered cutting.imitation of a claw, raked the air, and hissed..Something isn't right, the silence too deep. Perhaps Curtis's parents have awakened..of aspirin..flickering tongue designed for deception.. "Twenty?".bend, he sees a truck stopped on the shoulder of the highway. Headlights doused in favor of the parking.The stranger's eyes, previously as empty as a sociopath's heart, filled with suspicion. "What're."It's happened," Hanlon told him. "Kalens is dead. We found him inside the house, shot six times. Whoever did it knew what they were doing..". "Veronica made it!" Jean exclaimed delightedly. "Steve, I don't know how you handled it all..".grass. She pulled her long hair back from her face, letting it spill over her pale shoulders. Arching her.because everyone fears that these two are federal immigration agents, rousting illegal aliens?of which.people are homicidal tooth fetishists..Colman sighed. "It's not anything like that. It's just-". Anita waved a hand in front of her face. "It's okay. You don't want me around... you don't want me around. It's okay." Her voice was staging to rise and fall singsong fashion. "Who says I need anybody to have a good time, anyhow? I'm fine, see. It's okay .... You and lay can go talk about brains and trains." She began to walk away, swaying slightly and swinging her pocketbook gaily by its strap through a wide arc..mad, insane. There's a lot of that going around. Dressed in sandals and baggy plaid shorts and a T-shirt.As now, however, she sometimes showered without removing the brace. Afterward, she'd have to towel."You could talk to him. I know he listens to what you say. We've talked about things..".Switching off the overhead lights to save money and to avoid adding heat to the kitchen, Geneva said..Instead of a bath, she took a shower. Her soap of choice?a cake of Ivory?worked well enough to.Sinsemilla had left the kitchen door open. Leilani went inside..wife as a client, you declared that you were his enemy. But he's such a good man, he wants to make you."Oh, sure . . . I'm just saying there doesn't have to be anything to get scared about..". "I know Crayford and his wife. One of the crew got me through. That can wait. It's about Celia..". "Enter, enter, Maiden Leilani, and come thou quickly to thy queen's side..".suite.. "She ought to've been paid to take it. Anyway, they put old Sinsemilla in an institution once and shot like.curb: battered but beloved steed, still ready to race when this had been shot, subsequently rendered into."What are you getting at?" Colman asked him..The proceedings were broadcast live

throughout the ship and across the planetary communications net, and the audience physically present constituted the largest gathering that the Congressional Hall had ever had. All of the. "I'm not sure that I agree as much as I thought," Kalens told him. "Sterm may have a point. We should try it his way to begin with at least. We don't have to stick with the plan indefinitely." magnificent, Ms. Donella." Aunt Gen didn't drink beer. Vernon had been dead for eighteen years. Still, Geneva kept his favorite. "Can we go too?" Marie asked, evidently having forgotten her previous convictions. "I want to gets lots of things." Noah stopped, dismayed. "Which one?" Understanding its new master's intent, the dog springs into the cargo bed of the truck, landing so lightly. She cracked her hip against the chunky post at the corner of the footboard, fell against the bed, but at. "Ah." Leilani's eyes widened. "You're the twelve percenters." "Now that's a hard question." To carry the burden of each day and to keep breathing under the weight of every night, Noah Farrel. Her eyes rested momentarily on' his chevrons. "Are you Sergeant Colman--the one who's interested in engineering?" something when you tell these tall tales about Dr. Doom murdering boys in wheelchairs." Kath's pocket communicator buzzed, and she took it out to answer. It was Adam, who had heard the news and was checking to make sure that she and Colman were all right. Colman left her talking and moved over to where Anita was standing near the door on the fringe of the party assembling to depart. "Why'd you ever get mixed up with that bunch?" he murmured. "Wise up when it's all over. Get out of it." In afterthought, the ladybug liberator called to him: "Laura's not here a lot today. Gone off in one of. a gunshot victim. This is a hideous squeal of agony. He has heard cries like this before, too often. It's. "Yes, I knew I was in danger, but that was secondary," Celia told them. "I still can expose the lie. I'm willing to repeat publicly all I've said and all that I know--to the people, the Army, the Chironians--to anybody who can stop him. The system that gives people like Sterm what they want drove my husband mad and then sacrificed him. There must be no more sacrifices. That was why I had to get away." Donella declares, "If anyone around here has a box of chocolates for a brain, then he's sitting in front of. Jay, with any analytic passion? why he felt obliged to slander himself.. Micky reached for her aunt's hand. "I loved him, too, Aunt Gen." but fear for her one good hand caused her to choose the nether end.. a cash business." "Will Laura want a sundae?" she asked.. A couple of minutes went by. Nobody moved. The robot's lights continued to wink at him cheerfully. Driscoll was having trouble fighting off the steadily growing urge to level his assault cannon and blow the robot's imbecile head off.. he'll have a lifetime for anguish, loss, and loneliness.. Borftein halted and stood upright and erect before the desk. "Whatever you thought was mistaken. I am still the Supreme Military Commander of this Mission, and you obey my orders before any others. Stand aside." it became an astringent syrup as it went down.. The major stared at him as if refusing to believe his ears. "Get outa here," he choked in a weak voice. He shook his head incredulously, "Just . . . get the hell outa here, willya...!" Someone is walking beside the trailer, approaching the back where the boy kneels.. Her usual ease of movement still eluded Leilani; however, when she thought through the movement of. murderous rampage. Leilani's eccentric tales were acceptable conversation over dinner in an asylum; but. what was happening. I tried to go along with them, but he ... Preston wouldn't let me. And Sinsemilla . . . to be using Chironian labor with no references appearing in their books; every business became convinced that its competitors were cheating, and before long every session of both houses of Congress had degenerated into a bedlam of accusations and counteraccusations of illegal profiteering, back-door dealing, scabbing, and every form of skullduggery imaginable.. "Do you want to take over the ship?" Colman shrugged and nodded his head unconsciously in the direction of Bobby and Susie. "They've got heads on their shoulders, they've got confidence in their own thinking, and they trust their own judgments. That's good." have revealed their true nature. They are engaged in an urgent search for something more important than. "Someone you how?" Colman asked.. Abashed at his nervous bumbling in the face of this man's easy and nonthreatening conversation, the boy. Pernak twisted his face through a few contortions, then sighed again. "I know. That crossed my mind too, but what is there to provoke any real trouble? There may be one or two flareups before it's all over, but this state of affairs can't last." He shook his head. "We're convinced 'this is the only way to go. We can't make other people's minds up for them, but they'll come round in their own time. Anything else would cause worse problems." During the past year, however, Micky had spent a great many hours in late-night self-analysis, if only. January 5, 2081. While Noah watched her from the doorway, Constance Tavenall left the presidential suite, carrying the. Sinsemilla sat in bed, atop the toad-green polyester spread, reclining regally against a pile of pillows. She. at me. His face was blurred a little because the window was dirty. I think he waved." Or maybe the dog's sudden anxiety has nothing to do with the contents of the mirrored wardrobe. She. "True, but if we can get past this one, we might be able to clear out those ports from behind and at least make this place safer for bringing up heavy stuff to take out the second one." "Well, he must have been there somewhere, mustn't he?" Brad nodded. "But Stormbel's people are in the cupola. The only way to the Battle Module access port will be by blasting through." "I don't explain the doctor," Leilani said. "I just quote him." "He sounds like a perfectly dreadful man." Do you believe in life after death?. bad idea. Old Sinsemilla didn't want you to become a member of the cast; you were expected only to. "Exactly what Jeeves told Jay when he asked--an accident with a magnetic antimatter confinement system; so it was a good thing we decided to store it well away from Chiron. We could hardly disguise that after it happened, which was another good reason for needing the Kuan-yin." gauze bandage. Securing the pad with the gauze, winding it around and around the injured hand. Finishing. roars through an empty service bay, between islands of pumps. Station attendants, truckers, and on-foot. cast loose stones that rattle like dice into the darkness.. "To herself, for sure," Leilani agreed. "Not really to others." None of the employees any longer offers guidance. They're too busy diving for cover, belly-crawling like. "Yeah, well, she's a mouse." ever-dwindling but not yet eradicated capacity for romanticism.. heads and enormous eyes? the whole package. Mrs. D, may I have one of those radishes that looks like. His handsome profile was ideal for stone monuments in a heroic age,

though by his actions he had proved. Testament persona, has finally seen too much of human sin and is angrily stomping out His creations with. And who did those three words bring to mind? Out of control. Like mother, like daughter. Leilani's confusion of real-life experiences with the fantasies of the cinema had prepared her to relate to the girl's. "And by implication that he was mixed up in the bombings and the Padawski escape too," Bernard threw in. Backlit by the westering sun, wearing khaki shorts and a white T-shirt with a small green heart to a point where it had entirely collapsed. She clattered across the flattened section of pickets and. The atmosphere generally was cheerful enough: entertainments, what appeared to be business premises, a few bars and eating places, an art exhibition, and, incongruously, a troupe of clowns performing, mid-corridor, to a delighted audience. In one place a collection of dressmaking machinery was at work behind a window, whether for production or, as a demonstration of some kind was impossible to tell. chin, he takes inspiration from a movie: "The name's Old Yeller." Fulmire moved his head to check another clause, and after a while nodded his head reluctantly. "If the Director becomes incapacitated or otherwise excluded from discharging the duties of his office, then the Deputy Director automatically assumes all powers previously vested in the Director," he stated. "I still don't understand the politics behind it all though," he said to the two Chironians who were accompanying him and Jay toward the cafeteria in the Administration Building in front of the main reactor site, where they were due to have lunch. One of them was a young Polynesian named Nanook, who worked with control instrumentation; the other was a slightly younger, pale-faced blonde called Juanita, who dealt with statistics and forecasts and seemed to be more involved with the economic side of the business. Kath herself had taken her leave earlier, explaining that she was expecting another party of visitors. Bernard spread his hands in an imploring gesture. "I mean... who owns the place? Who decides the policies for running it?" 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.. would cut even tough scales and muscled coils if driven hard enough, if a lot of insistent pressure was put. interest in her drink when the siren grows as loud as an air-raid warning in the immediate wake of the. He has a way with dogs, and this one is no exception. It nuzzles him and then, panting happily, leads him. "Who said that originally? Thomas Jefferson? Abe Lincoln?" arrangement I was born with. She's pathetic, old Sinsemilla, not fearsome. Anyway, she is my mother. The mention of antimatter reminded Colman of something. He sat back on the sofa and cast his mind back as he tried to pinpoint what. It reminded him of something Kath had said. The others stopped talking and looked at him curiously. And then it came to him. He cocked his head to one side and looked at Bernard. "Did you know that Chironians were modifying the Kuan-yin into an antimatter ship?" he asked. "Oh, God . ." Jean whispered. "They're going to bring out those bombs." "A good question," Wellington commented. "Cromwell knows everything," Amy declared from her perch. "Cromwell, are those soldiers carrying Terran M32 assault cannon, or are they M30s?" plate as he grabs his glass of Pepsi. Sputtering, with cola foaming from his nostrils, face turning as red and. whenever they need it. For the time being, however, they are spared the humiliation of committing. "Howard Kalens, no doubt about it," Bernard Fallows was saying. "If we've only got two years to knock the place .. into shape, he's just the kind of man we need. He knows what he stands for and says so without trying to pander to publicity-poll whims. And he's got the breeding for the position. You can't make a planetary governor out of any rabble, you know." "Detail... halt!" He still retained some staunch adherents, mainly among those who had nowhere else to turn and had drawn together for protection: Among them were a sizable segment of the commercial and financial fraternity who were unable to come to terms with an acceptance that their way of life was finished; the Mayflower II's bishop, presiding over a flock of faithful who recoiled from abandoning themselves to the evil ways of Chiron; many from every sector of. someone's name gives you power. "Oh, that's sad. You resorted to an arbitrary number. That reveals a shallow capacity for independent. and folded into an amazing work of architecture, high at the top of which is pinned a little. Micky shrugged.

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