

WE, the Piffle: A warationd fanation grimly prepared for a short-age of vitamenues with synthemeatless Thursdays & less loxygen for rocketrips. But its morale shud-derd & shrank at the rumor of losing its precious "MOM", aka "Madman of Mars". That woud be the Ultimate Horror of War! So Pfc (Praying for Corporal) FJA said It Shall Not Be, we can-- We Will-- WE MUST go on with the instalments. And when we put it to the Colonel, fan to man like that, well...what could he say???

Pt 3 (Synopsis of preceding chapt): "The Proxima Centauri Expedition, sponsored by the Jordan Foundation in 2119, was the first recorded attempt to reach the nearer stars of this galaxy. Whatever its unhappy fate, we can only conjecture--" This is not the story of that conjecture. Now, go on. Aw--gwan. I dare U!!!

OUT OF THE AIRSHIP leaped a huge spark, there was a loud explosion and Clair was plunged into oblivion. Several hours later he was awakened by someone tugging at him ((his First Sergeant, no dout. --Hm, watch the War influence creep into this, now)). When he got his eyes open he saw it was A-TAL who had awakened him. Clair turned to see what Jaims was doing but instead of seeing Jaims ell he saw was a few bones. Then A-TAL told Clair that only five hundred of the eight million people had escaped and the rest had been killed including Clairs' friend Jaims.

When Clair learned this he was furios and vowed he would kill the Madman if it was the last thing he did.

### THE END OF THE CITY OF LIGHT

Seven months later when the city had been rebuilt Clair started experimenting again and ten tans later he was thoroughly ready to rid Mars of the Madman forever.

Clair was high in the Air in his invisible airship when he saw the Madmans airship approaching the city. When the airship got within a thousand feet of Clair's airship he pressed a button and a yellow light fell upon the Madman's air-ship.

For five minutes nothing happened ((as might be expected: "Yellow (heat) rays always spout From minds of mad inventors"--unquote, "A Résumé of Rays", by young Ackerman in Unusual Stories #1, reprinted in Salute #2)) and Clair was about to give up in despair when suddenly the airship began to change color. First it was yellow, then orange, then red and finally white, and then an explosian occured which shattered every pane of glass in the city and severely damaged Clair's air-ship.

The Earthly like man spoke to Clair in several different languages and finally he spoke in English which Clair quickly answered and learned that the people were from Venus.

When the speaker whose name was Argus found that Clair was from Earth he was overjoyed the reason for which Clair found out later.

Argus led Clair into the space-flyer and requested that they be left alone. When they were alone he asked Clair to relate to him how he had arrived on Mars and to tell him all about Earth. When Clair was finished he asked Argus how he accounted for them both having the same form.

Argus there upon told Clair this: "Centuries ago we lived on the continent of Atlantis. We were farther ahead in civilization than you are now. Our scientists had predicted that our continent would sink.

We knew through the 7th dimension that Mars and Neptune were inhabited and that Venus was inhabited although it was not inhabited so we decided to move to Venus."

When everyone of our people had arrived on Venus we set to work at once to build cities. When our cities were all completed after ten earthly years of hard work they were attacked unexpectedly one day by the Martian who destroyed over three fourths of our cities and since that day we had been the enemies of the Martians and kill them every time we have a chance.

When Argus had finished speaking he introduced Clair to his daughter, Feena. ((Oho! A Venusian enters the story!))

Feena was very beautiful in the estimation of Clair. She had large blue eyes, pearly white teeth and large masses of golden hair fell on her shoulders. ((Carolanda!))

Clair asked Feena about her language and found that it was practically the same as English except there was one extra letter in the alphabet which was "ph" and was pronounced "fay". An illustration is the word phone would be pronounced "faone".

FOR FURTHER LESSONS IN VENUSIAN, to follow the undoubted development of a romance between Clair & Feena, & to find out about the "Hogdolans"--whoever or whatever they may be--don't fail to see the next section of "THE MADMAN OF MARS", published serially for (or in spite of) the FAPA, & to endure--if U can endure it--for the

Durationplussixmonths.

--Pfc 4e

stone with his Stonofier ((stone him to death)) but nothing happened ((what a mortifier!)).

Quite unexpectedly an explosion occurred in the side of the laboratory and at the same instant Clair felt something light strike the airship, it gave a sickening lurch, and he found himself falling into space ((left in the lurch, as it were)).

Clair fainted and when he came too he found he was in one of the caves in the mountain which was directly behind the City of Light and that Vanis-TOR was standing beside him. VANIS-TOR related to Clair how he had followed him to see that no harm befell him and that he had seen him fall out of his invisible Space-flyer. Vanis Tor said he had manipulated his airship so that Clair would fall on it without being hurt.

Clair was intensely angry for failing again but if he had known of the brilliancy of the Madman even though he was insane he would not have been so angry with himself for failing.

#### FEENA

((Hm, this chapter intrigues me: I honestly can't recall who or what "Feena" is gonna be. Well, copy on, & we shall see.))

Several days later when Clair was strolling along a narrow road he noticed many pinpoint like objects in the sky. He told his friends of this and when they viewed the objects through the Rubiota they discovered that they were a peculiar form of airships which were headed for Basac.

Inside were men and women which looked like Clare although they were slightly smaller ((or Clarinets)).

Clair's friends immediately asked him if these men and women were coming from Clair's planet Earth but Clair answered that they were not because he did not understand the language which they spoke.

Each day they grew slightly larger until ninety days after Clair had spotted them they landed within a few feet of the caves in which Clair lived.

Clair and the six other men crowded around one of the space flyers to see it open. In a few minutes it opened and out stepped seven men and two women.

One of the men looked steadily at the six Basacians, spoke one word (Safanatosis) and then crumpled up into nothingness and as the man was about to do the same to Clair he noticed that Clair was practically the same as he in form and that he was not like the huge ugly Basacians.

The next day all Basac rejoiced for at last they thought they were rid of the Madman but they where yet to learn.

The Madman had not been in the Airship which had exploded but he had been in his labratory on Mernos watching the proceedings through his Reflectophone.

On the last attack that he had made, he had noticed that the people did not flee and so he reasoned that they had been prepared to meet his attacks but that something had gone wrong. So he stayed in his labratory and sent the empty airship to Basac and when he saw it explode he knew that the people would think that they had destroyed him and would not be prepared for another attack so he made ready to visit them again with a still deadlier weapon than the electric rays. ((Period! Pause for breath...))

Clair was confident that AKAL-VANI had been killed yet something told him that the Madman still lived. ((Coud it've been the author, whispering secrets in his ear?))

That night five hundred people went to sleep in the City of Light. The next morning seven awoke. The Madman had four hundred and ninety-three more deaths for which he could account.

Out of the nine million two hundred thousand people which had once inhabited the City of Light only seven remained thanks to the Madman.

When Clair awoke the next morning ((being one of the Lucky 7)) all about him where living human beings had been the night before now lay ((red)) skeletons. Clair yelled madly for A-TAL but A-TAL was gone forever ((he coud be found nowhere a-t'all, A-TAL)).

Clair decided to ivestigate and see if anyone else lived and he found his men living. They decided to go to the mountains and live in the caves where they would be free from AKAL-VANI'S attacks.

Clair was determined to kill the Madman or die in the attempt so he set to work on a new idea not knowing that Madman was also busy inventing.

#### DISSAPOINTMENT

Clair spent the larger part of a Martian year on his invention until he was satisfied that it was perfect and then he left for Mernos in his invisible airship to exterminate AKAL-VANI from the face of Mernos.

When Clair was within five hundred feet of AKAL-VANI'S labratory he dropped a small Janatol pellet upon the labratory expecting it to make the labratory become so intolerably hot that it would drive the Madman out into the open where Clair would slowly turn him into