

SYNAPSES: At forty thousand miles a second the SUNBEAM had the momentum of a major planet--concentrated. And at forty thousand miles a second she struck a planetoid. The magnetic atmosphere blasted the hundred-thousand-ton mass of metal to gas---but it still had a hundred-thousand-ton mass. The anti-gravitor repelled it, and called on the great aggie-coil storage bank for support; the momentum waves lashed at it, and called on the stored power of a sun for aid---

The fabric of space tore open under that terrible stress. The SUNBEAM ceased to exist in time and space---

THE HOGDOLANS

THE ATLANTEANS SPENT several weeks on Mars killing an unfortunate Martian which happend in their way and during this time Feena and Clair saw much of each other.

Feena told Clair of the cities on Venus and Clair told Feena of the cities on Earth ((how urbane)). Each day they spent much time walking together and relating some of the interesting parts of the History of other planets.

Clair on one occasion told Feena of how in the year 1980 a race of people had suddenly burst through the earths crust and came by the millions from the center of the earth nearly conquering the whole world with their strange weapons.

The entire world would have been under the rule of the Hogdolans if it had not been for the brilliancy of Elwud Jacsun a great inventor who had ivented the Stonofier and we slowly but surely turned every Hogdolan in to a human statue. Today on earth we have many of these petrofied Hogdolans in our museums. ((Historical note: "Elwud Jacsun" is the respelling of Elwood Jackson, a hi-school friend who died bfor his name became immortalized. Or maybe it's just as well El never lived & learnd of the depths of my moral turpitude.))

Feena always enjoyed hearing Clair recite the strange happenings on Earth and when he was through with one subject she begged him to tell more.

One day Argus announced that the next day they were leaving for Venus again and asked Clair to go, but he said he must remain on Mars until he had avenged Jaims and A-TAL but Feena after much pleading finally got him to consent to go, but he went under the promise that Argus would allow to return in two weeks.

The next day they left for Venus and arrived the morning after

Clair soon found that the Venerian or Atlantean buildings did not differ much from the Basacian buildings except that they were of duller color.

That night Clair and Feena strolled about beneath the orange light of Moga Venus' moon and their were perfectly happy.

When Clair's two weeks were up he left for Mars again in an airship Feena almost burst into tears but she became happier when Clair assured her that he would return in a month or so.

FAILURE AGAIN

Clair returned to Mars and spent several days on a new idea of his. His idea was to combine Osnon, Ferone and Electricity ((whoever heard of electricity?)) and make a ray which would turn buildings, houses or any structure into water and he worked upon it until he was satisfied that it was perfected and that he would not fail.

He left for Mernos in a new airship which he had built and had made invisible by the use of Claireen and when he arrived he went directly over the Madmans laboratory and got within seventy five feet of it so that his rays would be sure to work.

Clair turned on the Osfetrik ray expecting the Madmans house to momentarily become water and drown him but again nothing happened.

Could it be possible that he had failed again? ((That's what the chapt. head sez, bub.)) Clair could not believe it but it was the truth.

He was so utterly disgusted that he would have killed himself had it not been for a picture which formed in his mind of a blue eyed golden haired girl, Feena. ((Feena-mint more to him than life itself.))

Clair decided to return to Venus and secure some of the Atlantean weapons with which he hoped to destroy the Madman once and forever.

Clair arrived on Venus two days later after his last failure to kill the Madman and was greeted by Feena and her father. Feena was anxious to know if Clair had killed AKAL-VANI and was much disappointed when he told her he had not.

Clair, Amon Tal and Sitra Talu set to work to invent some weapon which would succeed in killing the Madman. All three of them racked their brains for some solution but they could think of nothing.

Several days later Clair received a message from the city of Karkax on Mars, begging him to return and save Mars from the Madman. Banal Cras ((from the mouths of babes--!)) who had sent the message told in it that AKAL-VANI had come to Basac from Mernos and had built a larger laboratory near the City of Light than he had

built on Mernos and that the Basacians feared he would destroy all of them in one mighty sweep.

Clair would have gone if it had not been for Feena for she would not let him out of her sight for one moment.

THE END OF AKAL-VANI

((Don't be mislead: I peekt, & there're still 25 more pgs.)) AKAL-VANI sat in his Basacian labratory thinking. In his mind he had contrived the fiendish idea of building an immense vacum and pulling all of the air upon Basac into it so that the Basacians would die for lack of air. ((!))

The Madman set to work upon his idea and four hundred earthly days later he had the vacum completed.

The vacum was colossal. It was eighty thousand feet high and the opening in it was fifty thousand feet round.

The Madman turned a dial pressed a button and the vacum began to suck the Basacian air into it at the rate of ten thousand cubic feet of air per second.

The Madman began running to his airship in which he planned to return to Mernos and watch the Basacians die through the Reflectophone but he triped ((tripe is ryt!)) and his head hit a stone knocking him unconscious.

When AKAL-VANI awoke it was with much difficulty that he breathed and it seemed that it was getting harder to breath ever second.

The Madman realized that he must hurry and escape to Mernos or he would die for lack of air.

He stumbled to his airship and clamored ((Cunninghamese)) inside. The Madman pressed a button, the motor started but the airship did not rise. There was not enough air left on Basac to let the airship arise. AKAL-VANI knew that it meant certain death if he did not turn the vacum off inside of the next minute so he hurriedly unfastened the door and jumped out. The Madman started towards the vacum one hundred feet away. It was almost impossible to breath now and AKAL-VANI hastened onwards but the lack of air was too much for him and when he was within two feet of the button which would have save the Basacians and his life he staggered, swayed, fell over, gasped once, moaned and forever lay still. The Madman had died the way he had planned for the Basacians, killed through his effort to destroy Basac the Madman was gone forever and with him Basac died also.

Clair and Feena and her father had watched the tragic death of a planet through the Atlanteans invention which was practically the same as the Reflectophone and the Telautphone and also the Rubiota, but which was called a Videophone.

During the years that followed Clair grew homesick for Earth and his mother and in the year 7785 he decided to take Feena his wife Loid and Nesta their children (they had been married) to Earth with him so he had a rocket made under his direction.

Two days before it was finished the Atlantean scientists announced that Venus was losing all of its air and that in two days the air would be completely gone. They advised everyone to prepare a rocket and fly to Jupiter where they could stay until they had found some place else more suitable.

Clair had the men rush to have the rocket finished in time to escape before the air was gone and by the next morning it was finished.

Clair told Feena and her father to go into the Rocket while he got sufficient food supplies to last them until they got to Earth and rushed off in a few minutes he came dashing back with condensed food and jumped into the Rocket.

Clare's rocket was the first to leave and Clare was in such a hurry to get beyond the gravity of Venus before the air became so thin that he did not notice whether Feena, Loid, Nesta and Argus were in the rocket.

Clare pressed the button which started the motor there was an explosion and the rocket started. Clare kept his eyes glued to the speedometer for six hours. Loid kept tugging at him but he did not heed him. At the speed the rocket was going Clair knew that his rocket would be the only one that would get through the gravity of Venus before the air became too thin.

One hour later the rocket had passed out of the bounds of gravity and Clare with a sigh of relief turned to talk to Feena, Loid, Nesta and Argus but to his horror he found only Loid was aboard the rocket. Loid told him they had gone back to get Nesta's doll.

Clair knew that this was the only rocket which had escaped from Venus and he knew that by now Feena, Argus and Nesta must be dead yet he resolved that as soon as he reached Earth he would build a still larger rocket and return to Venus to find his wife dead or alive.

Clair arrived back on dear old mother Earth nine days later and there was much rejoicing on Earth for every one had long thought him dead.

Clair began several days later to build a colossal airship in which he planned to return to Venus.

Did Feena, Argus and Nesta still live? Did any of the Atlanteans escape? Only time would tell.

END BK I. BK II: "REVENGE"