

Today is Earth Day

By Phillip Hall

“Commander, we are ready for launch,” the technician said.

Commander Timms took a deep breath and looked up at the room full of military, political and civilian leaders. He stared into the face of each and every one of them and they nodded in return. He then turned to the main screen. It displayed the Earth, gray and lifeless. Gone were the blue oceans, white clouds and green land. All that was left were poisoned waters, dead rocks and smoke filled air.

“We aboard this cruiser are all that’s left of the human race. We are here because we were naive, trusting and foolish. For decades we tried to befriend the beings of Mars. From the moment we learned of their existence we reached out in peace but all we got in return was hostility and threats. Soon it turned to a cold war. It was about who could build the biggest and most powerful planet busting weapons, each side afraid to fire first for fear that return fire would destroy us all,” Commander Timms said.

“So we waited. We hoped. We were fools. The Martians sent an ambassador of good will and all the nations of Earth stood united to greet them. Little did we know that the one thing that would destroy us was not the great planet busting bombs but the smallest of microorganisms the Martians spread as they flew through our atmosphere. They circled the Earth three times before landing and each time their ship spewed forth biological terrors. One pass to kill the land, one for the air, and one for the water. When the Martians finally landed, the people of Earth held their collective breath only to be greeted by an empty ship. It took almost twenty years before our planet started to rot right out from underneath us. It took so long to figure out that the organisms came from Mars that we didn’t have time to retaliate. We barely had time to build this space barge and fill it with as much of mankind as we could. We launched and left our planet below. That was eighty years ago.”

The Commander paused. Many of the leaders were wiping tears from their eyes and others were full of anger. Timms stood from the commander's chair and walked to the large screen. He pointed to the Earth then resumed speaking.

“Today we will repay Mars for what they did to our home world. Today we will give back to them the product of their hatred for humanity. Today we will launch the Earth itself on a trajectory course with Mars. For the last seventy years we have sent teams to Earth on suicide missions to build the giant boosters necessary. The entire continent of Asia is now covered with boosters that draw their power directly from the Earth's core. Our great grandfathers, our grandfathers, our fathers and now us, have given everything to avenge the twenty-billion Earthlings that perished along with the Earth.”

He paused and took a deep breath.

“What is countdown to optimal launch positioning?” Timms asked.

A technician at one of the computer terminals turned toward the commander and shouted a reply.

“Thirty seven seconds until optimal launch positioning, Sir.”

“Leaders of humanity, in thirty seven seconds we launch the Earth to its final resting place and take those Martian bastards to hell with it!” Commander Timms shouted.

Cheers went up from everyone on the bridge of the space barge. Everyone was laughing and shouting. As the countdown came to zero, Commander Timms shouted again.

“Fire away!!!!”

The technician punched a single red button on the console and the view screen lit up so bright everyone had to turn away from it. It wasn't long before the Earth had broken free of the Sun's gravity and was now moving on a crash course with Mars. Commander Timms turned to all those on the bridge and spoke.

“Today is the day we honor all those who have given their lives. Today is the day we avenge those who never had a chance. Today is Earth Day!”