

T R A N S L A T E D

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A R o m a n c e

By ROBINSON ENOCK,

A C C O C K S G R E E N .

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THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD

AND THE FIRMAMENT SHEWETH THY HANDYWORK

DAY AFTER DAY UTTERETH SPEECH

AND NIGHT AFTER NIGHT SHEWETH KNOWLEDGE

THERE IS NO SPEECH NOR LANGUAGE WHERE THY VOICE

IS NOT HEARD.

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WITH THE AUTHORS COMPLIMENTS.

1909

" T R A N S L A T E D "

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Dazzled by a Meteor &c.

"For By Faith Enoch Was Translated."

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By Robinson Enoch.

Written July 1879.

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This description was supposed to have been felt for or communicated after memory in a kind of trance or deep sleep which fell upon me after a long, exhausting spin on one of the old "five footers" in which the resting fashion was, to fold your arms over the high saddle and lay your head on the cushion so formed.

I was much interested in astronomy at that time, and whilst gazing intently at one spot in the heavens, idly thought "fancy a man going up there in the flesh, what would be his sensations"-- and then it struck me, he might be dragged up by a comet, and then the sleepy, dreamy feeling came on, just after I had seen so distinctly and enjoyed the splendid meteor, and then the thorough dream sensation of the rushing comet and all the sensations following, till the dream was finished and imagination was employed in the writing for the magazine. Critics note.

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I had ridden a long distance one lovely moonlight evening, on my never failing and trusty iron steed, far into the country, and had succeeded in leaving my ordinary thoughts at home, when I paused, and resting my arms on the saddle, inhaled the balmy air, and with each deep inspiration, drank in something of the spirit of the scene.

The moon as a crescent and low down, was not too bright to allow the glorious stars to shine with their due effulgence, but it added to the weirdness of the scene.

Steadying the machine by a stonework of the bridge of a most picturesque river, I let my thoughts wander untrammelled by the realities of the orbs I was gazing on. Suddenly a most brilliant meteor

appeared in full view; I saw it in the very spot I was so intently regarding, and therefore saw it distinctly from its first contact with the atmosphere to where it passed thro' or expended itself, apparently the latter, as it passed from a brilliant green to a redish yellow, not exactly exploding, but falling to pieces as if the calcining process had lightened the material, and caused it to lose its impetus -- a streak of luminous vapour remained for a short time over the course of the meteor, and then all was still and undisturbed as before. This was the spark which fired the train of my imagination, already well laid by the surroundings, and thus the magazine described in my verse was exploded. I felt as if I had an insight into the working of some of these meteorological phenomena -- at any rate I was pleased to imagine something of what follows.

Before leaving facts for fiction, I should like to describe, if I can, the rapturous feeling attendant upon losing one's consciousness (almost) of any connection with this earth.

I passed at once into the realms of material imagination, if I may so term this insight. It was with a literal yearning and extending of my hands towards the heavens, that I seemed to feel a power derived of them -- a sort of magnetic current coursing down the arms, and a sense of being lifted up -- in short, a state of ethereal coma, well suited for a flight of the imagination.

Time, space, ordinary sense of feeling, all obliterated, in a moment, with a crash and roar, I was hurled over and over, blinded with light, and yet had a perception of what was going on. I discovered that I was travelling along at a speed which defies description; for a few moments (perhaps while in the earth's atmosphere) noise and confusion were the chief sensations, and a fearful rushing of the air,

but this ceased almost immediately, and gave place to a perfectly calm and delightful feeling, of consciousness of motion and perception of immense distances, without the fear which might be expected to attend upon it. I saw our earth receding and rapidly growing smaller and smaller, at the same time I got a better view of the star system as a whole -- there was no doubt about it -- the sun in the centre, the earth very much the largest (apparently) at present, and a dull red orb coming rapidly into view. This was Mars and our course was close to its orbit evidently. The sublimity of catching a grouped view of the solar system passes my power to describe, and then I saw distinctly other groups round their suns. The colours of some of these suns were exquisite, globes of emerald, carmine, purple, and amber. No radiating light was visible, and no dazzling was felt. At the same time myriads of stars, as seen by us on the earth, were visible; and through our course we never seemed to get any nearer to some of them, though having an immense orbit, and lighting up darkened worlds, which probably were not yet in a condition to receive and retain light from any one centre. As I got used to the sensation, I found that the head of the comet consisted of a gorgeous ever revolving globe of fire, the centre apparently still, but a curious action as if the shell or crust moved independently of the kernel, semi-transparent and emitting continual flashes of exquisite light. The tail was apparently nothing but a stream of light. But I was in it, and yet could not see myself or even feel any portion of my body, yet I felt sure that all my members were there, and that I could move them at will. I began to perceive certain changes and motions in the head and tail of the comet, and felt at the same time a most extraordinary sensation. At first I did not perceive what was the cause of this, being too much engrossed with the sight of the vast

systems which came into view. Although moving at a pace <sup>of</sup> which we have no conception, the various globes came into view rather like meeting ships on the ocean. The most imposing sight, I think, was to see our light gradually reveal a vast mass, imperfectly at first, then it would loom out of the distance and become enveloped in our light. Certain changes like heat and cold, but different, were continually taking place. I could for a long time perceive no signs of creatures of any sort, yet I seemed to feel their presence, and sometimes a most exquisite sound (like an AEolian harp, but formed of very many notes in combination, more than our eight notes, and changing in intensity) would break upon me at the same time that I felt an alteration of our temperature. Still continuing our course, I had opportunity for observing still more carefully, and I found that some of the worlds seemed to pass through our head, being illumined by us alone and having no previous light of their own. Other worlds or globes passed through the tail only, and were illumined for a time but lost it when we had passed. I now could trace the course we should take as I perceived a luminous mist which seemed to protrude itself from those worlds we were passing by, and it was evident we had a mission to fulfill, and that our course was not to be ascribed to mere chance. I should like to dwell upon the wonderful appearance of the heavens seen under such circumstances, but I am afraid I should never succeed in describing all I saw, or that such description would impart a fraction of the rapture I felt. I have said that my powers of vision were increased, and this must be borne in mind, and they also accomodated themselves to the speed at which we were travelling. Such worlds as were to come within our range were evidently in a state of preparation for our visit, for as we approached, the luminous haze would become more extended and brighter, until it came into contact

with our light (or tail) and with the same extraordinary sensation and glorious music I have before noticed. After many such contacts, I began to wonder what was the commission we were executing, when I was attracted by an unusual tremor, and a more intelligible song than usual. Suddenly we came upon a most lovely rainbow -- hued orb -- and for the first time, I had full power to see all that passed during our visit to this glorious world. The luminous mist I had before observed, I found was formed by myriads of beings. The most exquisite forms of men, women, and children, all perfect in their loveliness -- a glorious light seemed to shine from their foreheads, and through them, causing the eyes to appear transparent, with a lustre and expression, ever changing with a sort of phosphorescent glow, which rivetted my gaze upon them. I say rivetted, because I could not withdraw it, but at the same time, I was so fascinated as to be almost blinded at times; so that the vision was for some moments shut out from me.

These beings were fashioned in our own familiar image with the exception of a sort of background of flashing light, which I perceived acted as wings, but not in the cumbrous manner we are accustomed to see them drawn. The spines of light which seemed to flash and twinkle at will, extended from the back of the shoulder for a length of about two feet in every direction, like spokes of a wheel, but they seemed to wave and flash like the rays of light from a precious gem. The long hair of the women floated round their heads with a glorious lustre, and how shall I describe their faces. Though such an infinite variety, they were all one in a trusting, happy, unflinching and sustained look of perfect peace and contentment. Not the shadow of an ill look was there. Not the faintest trace of a passion! Not a disturbing influence of any kind, but the same transcendent look of love and trust pervaded all alike. Though having the appearance of flesh and blood (as far as I could perceive) they seemed to have the faculty of passing through one another

- a sort of mode of greeting -- and at such times they became radiant with a light which caused my eyes to lose their power. They were draped in a silvery, gauze-like material, with jewelled necklets, wristlets, and anklets, which shone with a living lustre. They had also a broader belt of jewels following the lines of the figure round the waist. On some few faces of our own planet, I have caught something of the expression I saw here, more especially in children, and it was while looking intently at a sylph-like little girl, I became aware that for the first time my own form was changed; but only at the instant that I caught the eye of the child. The look of ineffable sweetness that she cast upon me, will haunt me as long as I live! Apparently she was the only being who had the power to see me, as none of the others betrayed the slightest consciousness of my presence, but I was powerless to move, or would have joined that throng, never to walk this earth again. The wonderful music that filled the air, I found was the voices of these heavenly beings. For some time this great host formed part of our train or tail; when we came near a small globe, which was also drawn into the tail and spun round rapidly, being at first dull and redish, but seeming to expand and grow brilliant with a waving mass of vegetation, like mosses and corals of immense height and beautiful to look on. With a burst of sound, which made everything vibrate with joy, the whole throng of beings were transferred to this sphere, which at the same time was launched with space and took its course towards a long stretching band of stars, which I took to be what we call the "milky way". As I watched this glorious orb receding until it was lost in a maze of almost undistinguishable stars, and knew of its living freight, I was filled with wonder and amazement, at the tardy recognition by our species, that the stars we see are inhabited! To think that our poor insignificant earth was perhaps the only one which was populated. A little faith, a little common sense, and the whole of the starry vault teems with life!

it was driven by attraction, as it were, by the enchantment of this child's gaze, that I began to perceive much that was at first hidden from me. I found there was a long stretching beam of light, of a colour I cannot describe, and which was never seen by me on this earth, which trended towards a star or group of stars, of the same splendid hue, and whenever we launched our happy freights, (which was a frequent occurrence) this beam of light shot out into space towards the glorious group of stars or suns, with a lambent lustre, which caused me to thrill with a sensation impossible to describe. I concluded that these suns were the great source of all these vast systems.

There was a sad side to this picture which I must also chronicle. Such worlds as were only partially illuminated by our contact, revealed to me what I had not before suspected, that they also were inhabited. But Oh! the contrast! The faces bore a look of unutterable woe. Smiles or radiance on these countenances were as far removed as light from darkness. They appeared not conscious of our proximity, though it was evident we had a certain effect upon them, for as we brushed past them I observed that some of the faces changed expression, but it was that expression which comes into the face of an invalid, when a chronic pain is slightly alleviated -- the look of utter hopelessness which all wore was at such times, and in some faces, changed for the better -- as if they were conscious of some influence which they could not perceive, but that while it lasted, a semi-ray of hope seemed to struggle with them. The fearful pang which this sight caused me, was terrible indeed. I noticed too that many of these beings wore a look of determined unshakable vice -- a look which seemed to say, "once let us get out of this, and our badness shall be ten times worse." My thought was that these unhappy beings were those who had trampled upon every semblance of good, in the time of their probation, but I also felt sure from the appearance I had noticed that there was hope even for these, and an earnest



aspiration passed my lips that they might taste of the happiness I had been permitted to be assured of, that darkness might not for ever be their portion; and that perhaps after many contacts with messengers of joy as we seemed to be, some of these hopeful ones might be drawn away, and vivified by our light. It was a momentary human sympathy which was excited, and as soon as the prayer had passed my lips, I felt an overpowering sense of awe, such as I had never experienced before, and lest I had in some way presumed or transgressed, I bowed myself down with unfeigned and involuntary humility, but instantaneously with the action, the glorious light of the centre suns seemed to envelop me, and with a feeling of lightness and freedom such as I could not impart I arose trembling with joy.

The longer I continued in the comet, the stronger my perception became of what was transpiring, but I have not the power to depict all I saw.

Human beings were the exception rather than the rule; some of the "creatures" I saw were like one immense eye, some four footed, and some with wings.

But I must close my description. It was clear to me, that I had a glimpse of the uses of those eccentric aerial bodies, and that by them, should held in suspension, as it were, were conveyed to their destined spheres. I felt that this glimpse of what I deemed a practical solution of some indefinite beliefs, very soothing to my mind, and while conscious of these human reflections and nothing our own familiar system rapidly coming into view again, I again experienced the whirling and rushing of the air, and with a sense of confusion and indefinite lapse of time, opened my eyes upon the lovely Warwickshire river and our crescent moon reflected in its waters. A cold shiver impelled me to

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mount my bicycle, and riding with a speed which somewhat imperilled my  
sublunary existence, I was glad to find the warm blood coursing through  
my veins, but the feeling of longing for a participation in some of  
the scenes I had witnessed, cast a gloom over my spirits, and a sad  
feeling haunted me, a sad sorrow for some of the littlenesses of our  
nature, which was, however, alleviated by the now ever present features  
of the child who had been permitted to open the eyes of my understanding.

"BENIGHTED"

ROBINSON ENOCK.