



NO, PEOPLE OF EARTH, I SWEAR THIS IS NO JOKE -- NO NOVELTY RADIO SHOW -- NO SILLY, MELODRAMATIC TALE OF IMAGINATION!

THE MARTIANS PLAN TO INVAD... PLUNDER YOU! DESTROY YOU! SEIZE YOUR WORLD FROM POLE TO POLE! AND I KNOW *BECAUSE I'M ONE OF THEM!*

PLEASE! BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE --- LISTEN TO--

"The CONFESSIONS OF A MARTIAN!"



YOU CALL ME DAN TARLTON, BUT MY NAME'S DHAN DTARL THAN! IT STARTED OUT YONDER ON THE PLANET MARS!

Story by
MANLY WADE
WELLMAN

"AT THE MASTER OBSERVATORY-LABORATORY I MET THE LEADERS OF THE SCIENCE COUNCIL, HWAR KLON AND PTAHN XAT..."

I AM HONORED, WISE ONES, TO SERVE WITH YOU! WHAT SKILL OF MINE CAUSES YOU TO SUMMON ME?

YEARS AT TELESCOPE AND SPACE-RADIO HAVE MADE YOU ADEQUATELY FAMILIAR WITH THE MANNERS AND SPEECH OF EARTH'S STRANGE PEOPLE!



LOOK AT THE PLANET EARTH, DHAN DTARL THAN! ITS PEOPLE ARE BUILDING SPACE-SHIPS FOR AN ATTACK ON MARS!

I OBSERVED THEIR EFFORT TO REACH THEIR OWN MOON, HWAR KLON! BUT I SAW IT FAIL-- THE SPACE-CRAFT MISSED AND FLOATED AWAY!



BUT THEY'LL TRY AGAIN-- AND USE THEIR MOON'S LESSER GRAVITY TO HELP THEM GAIN SPEED FOR AN INVASION OF OUR WORLD!

THEIR LOST SHIP CAME WITHIN REACH OF OUR SPACE PATROL! HERE'S A SPECIMEN OF THEIR RACE BROUGHT TO OUR LABORATORY FROM THAT SHIP!



"AT THE COMMAND OF THE SCIENCE COUNCIL, I LET MYSELF BE FITTED INTO STRANGE MACHINERY..."

INTO THAT BODY WE WILL TRANSFER YOUR MIND AND PERSONALITY--THEN SEND YOU TO EARTH TO SPY OUT THEIR PLANS!

WHEN THE SWITCH IS THROWN, YOUR MARTIAN BODY WILL COLLAPSE LIFELESS, AND OMICRON-RAYS WILL WAKEN YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE EARTHMAN'S BRAIN!



"SWIFTER THAN I COULD UNDERSTAND, THE PROCESS WAS COMPLETE... I SAT UP IN THE EARTHMAN'S BODY AND GAZED AT THE MARTIAN FORM THAT HAD BEEN MINE."

SUCCESS IN OUR FIRST STEP! NOW, WHEN WE PRESS A SECOND SWITCH, YOU WILL BE DISINTEGRATED--YOUR ATOMS HURLED ACROSS SPACE TO EARTH--

AND THERE WAITS THE MATERIALIZER WE HAVE SENT BY SECRET ROCKET TO RECEIVE AND RE-ASSEMBLE YOUR BODY AND MIND! LUCK GO WITH YOU, DHAN DTARL THAN!



"...THEN A SENSE OF DREAMY FLIGHT ACROSS UNTHINKABLE DISTANCES..."





STRANGE ADVENTURES



"PRESENTLY HARMONY SHELBY LED ME INSIDE THE GUARDED GATE OF THE SPACE-FLYING PROJECT! HER CHIEF INTERVIEWED ME..."



NO, SIR, I NEVER HEARD OF YOUR ACTIVITY HERE! I HAPPENED TO WANDER PAST AS THAT MAN THREATENED MISS SHELBY!

YOU'RE JUST A TRAMP, BUT WE'RE GRATEFUL TO YOU! WHAT'S YOUR NAME? WHERE ARE YOU FROM? WHAT WORK DO YOU DO?

I'M FROM-- NOWHERE IN PARTICULAR! I STUDY A LOT, BUT I'M NOT EMPLOYED! MY NAME IS DHAN DTARL THAN!

CAN'T WE OFFER MR. DAN TARLTON SOME SORT OF EMPLOYMENT HERE AT THE PROJECT?



"I THINK THEY GAVE ME A JOB TO BE SURE I DIDN'T GO AWAY AND GOSSIP ABOUT THEIR SECRET EFFORTS! AT FIRST I ACTED ONLY AS A HANDYMAN, BUT ONE DAY MY MARTIAN SCIENTIFIC TRAINING IMPELLED ME TO SAY..."



YOU'LL MAKE A MORE EFFICIENT EXPLOSIVE COMPOUND BY WORKING AT A HIGHER TEMPERATURE, MISS HARMONY!

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT? AND WHO SAID THIS IS EXPLOSIVE COMPOUND I'M MAKING?

ANYBODY WHO HAS STUDIED SCIENCE KNOWS WHAT THE ELEMENTS YOU'RE MIXING WILL PRODUCE! NOW, AS I SAID, A FEW DEGREES MORE TEMPERATURE WILL IMPROVE THE REACTION!



TAKE CARE! TOO MUCH HEAT MAY BLOW US UP AND THE LABORATORY WITH US!



BUT WE DIDN'T USE TOO MUCH HEAT--JUST ENOUGH! THE ELEMENTS WILL FULFIL THEIR POTENTIALITIES MORE COMPLETELY! WE'LL TEST A SMALL DROP NOW!

"THE TINY PARTICLE ACHIEVED A POWERFUL EXPLOSION! HARMONY WAS DELIGHTED..."



YOU WERE RIGHT, DAN!

"THE NEXT DAY..."

THE NEW EXPLOSIVE MAY MEAN SUCCESS WITH OUR FUEL PROBLEM, DOCTOR! AND DAN HERE SHOWED ME HOW TO MIX IT!

PERHAPS HE CAN HELP WITH THE IMPORTANT LABORATORY WORK FROM NOW ON!



DO YOU THINK I CAN BE TRUSTED WITH YOUR SECRET ACTIVITIES, SIR?

OH, IF YOU WERE A SPY, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE SHOWN YOUR SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, TARTLTON! YOU'D HAVE PLAYED DUMB TO THROW US OFF GUARD!



"THAT NIGHT, ALONE IN MY QUARTERS, I CONTACTED HWAR KLON'BY THE INTER-PLANETARY RADIO I HAD CONCEALED..."

I'VE MANAGED TO CONVINCE THEM I'M A FRIEND! THEY'VE PROMOTED ME TO IMPORTANT RESEARCH!

SPLENDID! LEARN ALL YOU CAN OF THEIR PLANS AND REPORT TO US REGULARLY!



"I WORKED WITH HARMONY SHELBY... SHE FOUND MY COMPANY PLEASANT, AND I BEGAN TO REALIZE THAT THERE WAS A HEART IN THE EARTHMAN'S BODY MY MIND HAD ENTERED..."

DON'T FLATTER ME, HARMONY, I MIGHT THINK YOU MEAN IT!

CHECK THIS EFFECT WITH ME, DAN! I'M BEGINNING TO TRUST YOUR JUDGMENT MORE THAN MY OWN!



I WOULDN'T SUGGEST THAT I LIKED YOU IF I DIDN'T MEAN IT! HOW ABOUT SOME COFFEE?

THANKS, I'D LIKE A CUP!

AS A MARTIAN I WOULD THINK HER STRANGE--ALIEN! BUT IN ALL BUT MIND I'M AN EARTHMAN AND HARMONY'S A LOVELY EARTH WOMAN!



"WE GREW TO LIKE EACH OTHER MORE... AND MORE. HARMONY LET ME IN ON PART OF THE SECRET WORK..."

HERE ARE PLANS FOR THE NEW SPACE-SHIP WE'LL BUILD TO REACH THE MOON--AND INSURE PEACE FOR ALL PEOPLES!

PEACE HARMONY? YOU THINK THAT PEACE IS WANTED BY THE NATIONS OF EARTH? THEY'RE CRUEL, GREEDY, WARLIKE!



"IT WAS MY MARTIAN FEAR AND MISTRUST OF EARTH THAT SPOKE"

THE EXPLOSIVES, THE MACHINERY, ALL THE REST WE'RE PERFECTING--THEY'RE NO MORE THAN WEAPONS FOR TERRIBLE DESTRUCTION!

BUT THOSE WEAPONS WILL BE USED BY DEMOCRACY TO REACH THE MOON AND OUTLAW WAR EVERYWHERE!



YOU'RE SO CLEVER AT GUESSING, I THOUGHT YOU KNEW! THE PEACE-LOVING NATIONS STARTED THIS PROJECT TO REACH THE MOON! IF WE HOLD THAT BASE, WE CAN OVERTAKE THE AGGRESSORS! THEY WON'T DARE START TROUBLE! WAR WILL BE A THING OF THE PAST!

IF THIS IS TRUE... IF I DARED THINK SO... I'D GIVE MY LIFE TO HELP IT HAPPEN!



IT IS TRUE, DAN! WE'RE WORKING TOGETHER FOR PEACE ON EARTH!

"HER WORDS, HER TOUCH, DAZZLED ME WITH JOY! AND WHEN I WAS ALONE IN MY QUARTERS..."

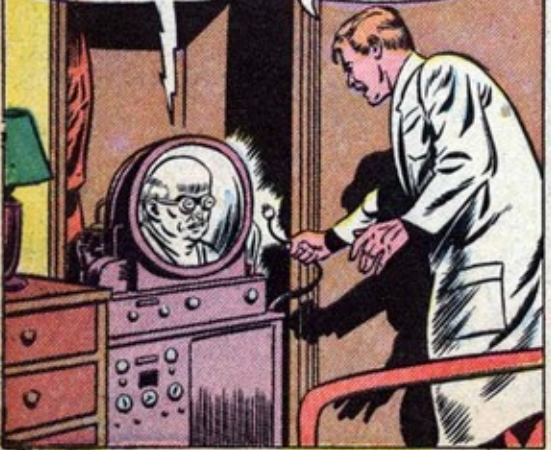
DHAN DTARL THAN, YOU MUST BE CRAZY! HOW ELSE CAN YOU EXPLAIN YOUR TREASON? IF YOU REFUSE TO OBEY ORDERS--

HWAR KLON, PLEASE UNDERSTAND! THESE PEOPLE ARE WORKING, NOT FOR CONQUEST BUT FOR PEACE! AND I'M GOING TO HELP THEM BUILD THE SHIP!



WE WERE FOOLS TO TRUST A WEAKLING LIKE YOU! I ORDER YOU TO PROCEED AS COMMANDED, OR YOU'LL SUFFER!

I CAN'T CONVINCE YOU BY EXPLAINING, AND YOU CAN'T CONVINCE ME BY THREATENING! LET'S SPEAK NO MORE, HWAR KLON!



WELL, SO MUCH FOR THAT! I'M THROUGH!

YOU CERTAINLY ARE THROUGH, DAN TARTON!— IF I MAY CALL YOU BY YOUR ALIAS!





SPECIAL RADIO AND EVERYTHING, EH? THAT CLINCHES WHAT YOUR **FINGERPRINTS** SHOWED ABOUT YOUR BEING A SPY!

FINGERPRINTS? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HARMONY?



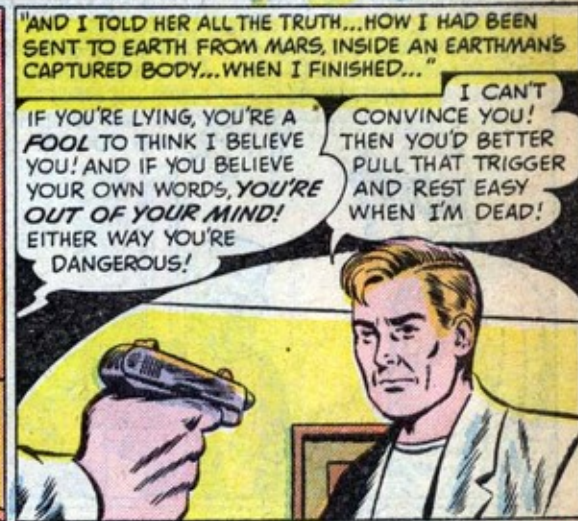
THE DAY YOU DID THAT TRICK TO STEP UP THE EXPLOSIVE COMPOUND, YOU LEFT FINGERPRINTS ON THE GLASSWARE YOU HANDLED! I SENT THEM TO THE F.B.I. AND I KNOW YOU'RE NOT DAN TARLTON BUT **PHIL MATHERS!**

THAT MEANS NOTHING TO ME!



I'LL REMIND YOU WHO PHIL MATHERS IS! A CREW-MAN ON THE LOST SPACE-SHIP THAT TRIED TO REACH THE MOON! MATHERS, YOU MUST HAVE JUMPED SHIP, AFTER SABOTAGING IT! YOU'RE AN AGENT OF THE ENEMY--TRYING TO SPOIL OUR WORK!

I--I'D BETTER TELL YOU THE TRUTH, AND ALL OF IT!



"AND I TOLD HER ALL THE TRUTH...HOW I HAD BEEN SENT TO EARTH FROM MARS, INSIDE AN EARTHMAN'S CAPTURED BODY...WHEN I FINISHED..."

IF YOU'RE LYING, YOU'RE A **FOOL** TO THINK I BELIEVE YOU! AND IF YOU BELIEVE YOUR OWN WORDS, YOU'RE **OUT OF YOUR MIND!** EITHER WAY YOU'RE **DANGEROUS!**

I CAN'T CONVINCE YOU! THEN YOU'D BETTER PULL THAT TRIGGER AND REST EASY WHEN I'M DEAD!



NO, DAN--MATHERS--WHOEVER YOU ARE: I CAN'T SHOOT YOU! PLEASE--GO AWAY FROM HERE! ESCAPE BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE FINDS YOU OUT! I GUESS I'M JUST A FOOLISH FEMALE WHO THOUGHT--DREAMED--

GOODBYE, HARMONY! WHEN THE TRUTH CAN'T CONVINCE, NOTHING CAN!



SHE'S GONE! I'M ALONE!

NOT QUITE, DHAN DTARL THAN! PTAHN XAT AND I ARE HERE TO SETTLE ACCOUNTS!

STRANGE ADVENTURES



WHEN YOU BROKE RADIO COMMUNICATION, PTAHN XAT AND I TRAVELED TO EARTH BY THE SAME DISINTEGRATION PROCESS THAT BROUGHT YOU! NO FALSE MOVES, YOU SNEAKING TRAITOR!

I EXPLAINED TO YOU THAT THIS PROJECT IS NO INVASION OF MARS--ONLY AN EFFORT TO BRING PEACE TO WAR-THREATENED EARTH!



CAN'T YOU SEE THAT THERE IS NO DANGER TO MARS FROM EARTH?

YOU'RE RIGHT! THE DANGER IS NOW IN THE OTHER DIRECTION! KEEP THE RAY-THROWER TRAINED ON HIM, HWAR KLON!



WE'VE PREPARED FOR A WAR WITH EARTH! IT GIVES US SENSE OF POWER! AND EARTH IS A RICH, PLEASANT PLANET--NOT WORN OUT, LIKE MARS!

DIDN'T YOU REALIZE, YOU FOOL, THAT WE AND OUR ASSOCIATES INTENDED ALMOST FROM THE FIRST TO CAPTURE AND EXPLOIT THIS WORLD?



THE NATIONS OF EARTH ARE TOO BUSY HATING AND SUSPECTING EACH OTHER TO DREAM OF OUR THREAT! WE'LL STRIKE BEFORE THEY CAN GUESS AND PREPARE!

I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN! I'LL WARN EARTHMEN--I'VE BECOME AN EARTHMAN IN HEART AND HOPE!



QUICK, HWAR! TURN THE DISABLE-RAY UPON HIM! PARALYZE HIM!

HE CAN'T MOVE FAST ENOUGH! EARTH'S GRAVITY IS TOO MUCH FOR HIS MARTIAN MUSCLES!



"I DUCKED JUST IN TIME AS PTAHN DISCHARGED HIS NEEDLE-ROCKET GUN..."

THIS FATE FOR A TRAITOR!

YOU, TOO, MOVE SLOWLY AGAINST THE GRAVITY PULL OF EARTH!



DROP THAT WEAPON OR I'LL BREAK YOUR SCRAWNY NECK!

HELP ME, HWAR KLON!



"FOR THE MOMENT I THOUGHT I HAD CONQUERED BOTH OF THEM..."

OHHH!

MY HEAD STILL RINGS, BUT HERE'S THE DISABLER-RAY!



"BUT SUDDENLY I FELT MYSELF STRICKEN MOTIONLESS!"

HE'S HELPLESS IN THE LIGHT OF THE RAY! A NEEDLE-ROCKET WILL FINISH HIM!

STAND WHERE YOU ARE!



NO, PTAHN XAT! A TOUCH OF THE DEATH POISON FROM THE TIP OF YOUR DAGGER - THEN PEOPLE OF EARTH CAN NEVER GUESS HOW HE DIED!

WISELY SAID, HWAR KLON! WHILE THEY PUZZLE OVER HIS CORPSE, OUR PLANS TO CONQUER EARTH CAN GO FORWARD UNHAMPERED!



"I COULD SEE AND HEAR, BUT COULD NOT MOVE A MUSCLE AS DEATH CLOSED IN..."

LOOK YOUR LAST ON LIFE, FOOL AND BETRAYER! THIS POISON WILL SLAY AS IT TOUCHES YOUR SKIN!

NO TIME FOR MOCKERY, PTAHN XAT! FINISH HIM!



"BUT IN THAT MOMENT OF DESPAIR..."

I RETURNED IN TIME, DAN!

OH-H-H!

"HORRIFIED AT HWAR KLON'S DEATH, PTAHN TRIED TO RUN! I WAS FREE OF THE RAYS POWER, BUT GROGGY AS I STAGGERED AFTER HIM..."



I DIDN'T REALIZE--I ONLY WONDERED HOW YOU COULD TELL SUCH A FANTASTIC STORY! COMING BACK TO SEE IF YOU HAD LOST YOUR MIND, I WITNESSED THE ATTACK ON YOU BY THOSE GROTESQUE THINGS...



AND NOW YOU KNOW I TOLD THE TRUTH! I AM---I WAS --- A MARTIAN! NOW I'M ON YOUR SIDE WITH ALL MY EARTHMAN HEART!

THOSE TWO MARTIANS YOU SHOT DOWN PLANNED TO CONQUER EARTH! OTHERS MAY FOLLOW! THIS PLANET IS IN DIRE DANGER!



YES--THE DANGER IS TO ALL OF EARTH! PERHAPS THE TIME HAS COME AT LAST FOR ALL PEOPLES OF OUR WORLD TO WORK TOGETHER!

