



DO THE SO-CALLED **CANALS OF MARS** REALLY EXIST, OR ARE WE THE VICTIMS OF AN ASTRONOMICAL OPTICAL ILLUSION? NOT EVEN THE GIANT EYE OF THE 200-INCH TELESCOPE AT MT. PALOMAR IS ABLE TO PEER CLOSE ENOUGH TO MARS TO GIVE US THE ANSWER, THIS IS THE STRANGE STORY OF AN EARTHMAN WHO UNACCOUNTABLY FOUND HIMSELF LOST AMONG THE "**CANALS OF MARS**"-- WITHOUT EVER JOURNEYING TO THAT PLANET.

The MAZE of MARS

WHICH TUNNEL OF THIS MAZE SHALL I TAKE? IF I CHOOSE THE WRONG ONE, INTO SOME BLIND ALLEY, I'LL BE TRAPPED BY MY PURSUER.



DO YOU WONDER SOMETIMES AT THE MYSTERIES OF SPACE -- LIKE ME, GEORGE CRANE? HAVE YOU EVER PUZZLED OVER THE SO-CALLED "**CANALS**" OF MARS? ARE THEY **REALLY CANALS**--OR SOMETHING ELSE? I THOUGHT NO ONE ON EARTH WOULD KNOW TILL HE JOURNEYED TO MARS...





BUT I WAS TO LEARN THE TRUTH MUCH SOONER! LAST MONTH, WHILE HIKING ON MY VACATION...

STRANGE! MY MAP DOESN'T SHOW THIS ROAD GOING THROUGH A MOUNTAIN TUNNEL! HOW COULD A NEW ONE BE BUILT SO FAST? MAYBE IT'S A SHORT CUT! I'LL TAKE IT!



BUT DEEP WITHIN THE MOUNTAIN TUNNEL, ANOTHER SURPRISE AWAITED ME...

GOSH--IT SPLIT INTO THREE BRANCH TUNNELS! EACH HAS AN ODDLY SHAPED ENTRANCE, WHICH ONE SHALL I TAKE?



SUDDENLY, I HEARD FOOTSTEPS BEHIND ME...

A--A CREATURE FROM OUTER SPACE! WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?



A SPLIT-SECOND LATER I RECEIVED MY ANSWER, AS HIS TELEPATHIC WORDS REACHED MY MIND! I ONLY GOT SNATCHES, BUT THEY WERE ENOUGH!

I HAD TO MAKE UP MY MIND IN A HURRY WHICH ONE OF THE THREE ENTRANCES TO TAKE...

BUT SOON, TO MY UTTER DISMAY...

STOP!...GET LOST... MY TUNNEL MAZE... I WANT YOU...

HE WANTS TO MAKE ME HIS PRISONER! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!



I'LL GO THROUGH THE SQUARE ONE!



OMIGOSH! NOW FOUR MORE BRANCH TUNNELS! THIS IS BEGINNING TO SEEM LIKE A MAZE!



MAZE! WHY, THAT'S WHAT THE CREATURE CALLED IT, TOO! HE BUILT THESE BAFFLING TUNNELS-- BUT WHY? COULD IT BE LIKE A SCIENTIST'S RAT MAZE? AM I JUST AN "EXPERIMENT" TO THIS SUPER-SCIENTIST FROM SPACE?



IT ALL ADDED UP THAT SPINE-CHILLING WAY, AS I GLANCED BACK...

HE'S MARKING THE TRAIL, AS HE FOLLOWS ME! HE WANTS TO SEE IF I'M A "DUMB" SPECIMEN GETTING LOST! WELL, I'LL BE A "SMART" ONE AND FIND MY WAY OUT!



BUT THE MAZE KEPT GETTING MORE INTRICATE ...

BLANK WALL--A BLIND ALLEY! I HAVE TO RETRACE MY STEPS TO THE LAST BRANCH TUNNELS! INSTEAD OF THE **SQUARE** DOOR, I'LL TRY THE **CIRCLE** ONE!



TO MY PANIC, THIS TOO LED TO NO--WHERE ...

THIS TUNNEL NARROWS DOWN ALL THE TIME-- CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER! I'LL HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE BRANCHINGS AND FIND A "THROUGH" TUNNEL.



MADDENING MINUTES PASSED! WAS I GETTING HOPELESSLY LOST IN THE TWISTING DEPTHS, LIKE A RAT IN A MAZE?

ALL OF THESE DOORWAYS LEAD TO BLIND ALLEYS--EXCEPT ONE! WHICH IS THE RIGHT ONE? IS THERE ANY "KEY" TO HELP ME GET OUT OF THIS?



I TRIED ANOTHER OPENING--AND ANOTHER--BUT...

THIS PATH SPIRALS--TO NOWHERE! THIS CAN'T BE THE RIGHT WAY!



AT RANDOM, I CHOSE ANOTHER TUNNEL ...

I DON'T KNOW WHICH WAY IS FORWARD OR BACKWARD! THE MIRROR-LIKE ROCK HERE REFLECTS MY IMAGES ALL OVER!



BUT WHAT TORMENTED ME MOST WAS THAT MY GRIM PURSUER SHADOWED MY EVERY FOOTSTEP--YET WITHOUT TRYING TO CATCH ME...

HE'S PROBABLY GRADING ME AS AN EARTH SPECIMEN OF LOW INTELLIGENCE! IF I CAN'T SOLVE HIS MAZE, HE MAY EXTERMINATE ME AND TEST ANOTHER EARTH ANIMAL!



PERHAPS THOSE FEARFUL THOUGHTS SHARPENED MY MIND, FOR SUDDENLY, AS I THOUGHT BACK OVER THE ENDLESS TWISTS OF THE MAZE...

SEEMS TO ME THAT EACH TIME I CHOSE THE *TRIANGULAR* PATH, I CAME OUT ALL RIGHT! COULD THAT BE THE "KEY" TO THE MAZE?



IT WAS! THE TRIANGLE DOORWAYS LED ON AND ON--WITHOUT HALT!

NO BLIND ALLEY!

IT KEEPS GOING!

IF I KEEP FOLLOWING THE TRIANGULAR DOORS, I SHOULD FIND MY WAY OUT OF THE MAZE!



FINALLY, TO MY GREAT JOY...

DAYLIGHT AHEAD! THE END OF THE MAZE! BUT THE ALIEN'S FOOTSTEPS ARE POUNDING BEHIND ME NOW--TRYING TO CATCH ME BEFORE I REACH OPEN AIR AND FREEDOM!...



WEAK FROM MY LONG ORDEAL, I WAS UNABLE TO ESCAPE MY PURSUER...



{ PANT. } ... I'M YOUR PRIZE "GUINEA PIG", EH? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME?




BUT OF ALL THE SURPRISES, THIS LAST ONE WAS THE BIGGEST AS I HEARD HIS TELEPATHIC WORDS...

NO HARM WILL BEFALL YOU, EARTHMAN; YOU HAVE SOLVED THE MAZE FOR ME! THANK YOU!

THANKS? I DON'T UNDERSTAND!



THANKS FOR SAVING MY FRIEND FROM THE --MAZE OF MARS!



"I AM GARR, FROM THE DISTANT PLANET CANOPUS! MY FRIEND, TORR, AND I WERE MAKING A GALACTIC SURVEY OF CIVILIZED WORLDS, AND WHEN WE ARRIVED IN YOUR SOLAR SYSTEM..."



THAT PLANET HAS MAN-MADE CANALS--INDICATING INTELLIGENT LIFE! WE WILL LAND!

"BUT THE CANALS WERE NOT WHAT THEY SEEMED TO BE..."

HUGE METAL TUNNELS OF SOME ANCIENT, DEAD CIVILIZATION, ALL AROUND THIS ENTIRE PLANET, WHERE DO THEY LEAD TO?

I'LL FOLLOW THEM AND SEE, GARR, WHILE YOU EXPLORE THE REST OF THIS PLANET!



"HOURS PASSED WITHOUT TORR RETURNING, AND THEN I RECEIVED HIS TELEPATHIC DISTRESS SIGNALS..."

GARR--HELP! I AM LOST WITHIN THE MANY BRANCHING TUNNELS! I TRANSLATED ANCIENT WRITINGS, EXPLAINING THIS WAS BUILT AS A CUNNING MAZE--TO CONFUSE ANY INVADING ENEMY! EVEN ARMIES WOULD GET HOPELESSLY LOST IN HERE!



UNFORTUNATELY, I COULDN'T LOCATE TORR IN THE VAST TUNNEL NETWORK BY HIS CALLS--FOR TELEPATHY DOES NOT COME IN DIRECTIONAL BEAMS..."

WHERE ARE YOU, TORR? YOUR CALL COMES FROM EVERYWHERE--AND NOWHERE!

HAVE LOST ALL SENSE OF DIRECTION. AIR IMPURE IN TUNNELS... GASP!... CANNOT LAST MORE THAN ANOTHER DAY!





"HOW COULD I FIND MY FRIEND AND RESCUE HIM? THEN, INSPIRATION STRUCK ME..."

"I'LL TAKE **BETA-RAY** PHOTOS OF THE **TUNNEL NETWORK'S** FROM SPACE--AND THEN DUPLICATE THE ENTIRE MAZE OF MARS IN **MINIATURE** FORM. UNFORTUNATELY, THE PHOTOS CANNOT SHOW LIVING CREATURES."

"HAVING HEARD RADIO SIGNALS FROM EARTH, I KNEW THERE WAS INTELLIGENT LIFE ON YOUR PLANET--SO I BUILT MY **MODEL MAZE** HERE..."

"THE **FACSIMILE RAY** WILL SWIFTLY DIG AN EXACT REPLICA OF THE MARTIAN MAZE IN THAT MOUNTAIN."



"HIS AMAZING STORY WAS OVER, AND IT WAS ALL CLEAR TO ME THEN..."

"YOU FEARED THAT IF YOU TRIED TO SOLVE THE **MODEL MAZE** YOURSELF, YOU MIGHT GET LOST AND BE UNABLE TO RESCUE YOUR FRIEND! SO YOU NEEDED YES, YOU HAPPENED A "GUINEA TO BE THE FIRST PIG"--ME! EARTHMAN TO COME ALONG AND STUMBLE INTO MY MOUNTAIN MAZE!"

"WHY DID YOU RUN AWAY WHEN I FIRST CONTACTED YOUR MIND? ALL I SAID WAS--"STOP, EARTH FRIEND! YOU MAY GET LOST IN MY TUNNEL MAZE." I WANT YOU TO HELP ME SOLVE IT."

"GOSH, ONLY PART OF YOUR THOUGHTS GOT THROUGH... AND I MIS-UNDERSTOOD YOU."

AFTER A FINAL THANKS, GARR'S SHIP SPED AWAY..."

"NOW THAT I KNOW THE "TRIANGLE KEY TO THE MAZE, I CAN GIVE THAT INFORMATION TO MY FRIEND ON MARS!"

"PERHAPS YOU DON'T BELIEVE MY STRANGE STORY? NOBODY HAS YET--AND I HAVE NO PROOF! BUT TAKE IT FROM ME-- THE NEXT TIME YOU LOOK AT A TELESCOPIC PHOTOGRAPH OF MARS, THE CURIOUS MARKINGS YOU'EL SEE ARE NOT CANALS, BUT THE **MAZE OF MARS!**"



THE END