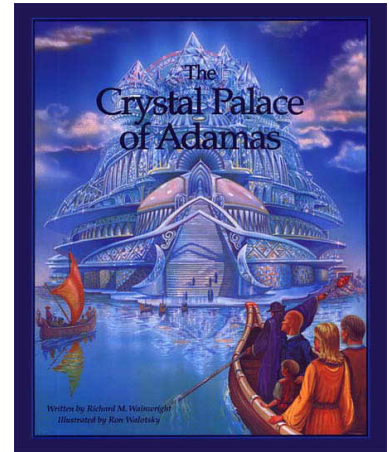


The Crystal Palace of Adamas

By
Richard M. Wainwright



Synopsis

A story of a galactic pilot from the technologically-advanced, yet resource-depleted planet of Sagateum. Sagateum's desperate rulers wait for a message from one of their space pilots (Janus) searching the universe for habitable and exploitable planets. Janus' flight leads him to Adamas where he finds a simple, peaceful society. To his surprise, the people of Adamas (Adamians) warmly welcome him to share the wonders of their planet. With his new friends Sulia, Turak, Loria and their families, Janus begins to discover his own human emotions. Janus faces a huge dilemma and has to reflect on societal values, ethical considerations, the use of technology and the preservation of the natural resources of a planet in order to solve his problem. Our planet Earth plays a surprising part in the outcome of this story.

Discussion Questions

1. What was missing in Janus' upbringing on the planet of Sagateum?
2. What does it mean when the author describes Sagateum as "a place with too many people to help each other"?
3. Why and how do you think Janus began to change after only three hours on the planet, Adamas?
4. What were the societal values intrinsic to the inhabitants of Adamas?
5. Do you think Adamas was a "primitive" system? Define primitive and how it relates to any society.
6. Why did Janus struggle with the concepts of simplicity and caring — ideals that were such a big part of Adamas?
7. Discuss Janus' willingness to give what many consider the ultimate gift of love. Have you experienced a time you have felt it necessary to sacrifice something for the higher good?
8. How were Earth's lessons about technology so important to the Adamians' definition of "progress" on their planet?
9. Is our technology on Earth so advanced at this point that it is incompatible with our ability to lead a "simple" life?
10. How did the astronauts of Earth guide Adamas in its progress?
11. Do you think Adamas would have had the same society if the astronauts had not lived to share their knowledge and technology?
12. Do you think that expanding our use of technology can allow for the preservation of natural resources and lead to the kind of societal values found on Adamas?

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