



Part of the sci-fi short novel:

## A bitter day in the President's office

Monday 11 June 2074

*A meeting thirty years overdue*

*or*

*Palla's effect-mismatch symmetry-shifting solution*

*- when it turns out not to work*

- And there is no time travel.

- Hm. And does Einstein already know?

- Caspar, don't make me angry! Of course, it doesn't affect the Einstein twin paradox, that's a fact. If you and I are moving between two points in the same space-time interval, while you are sitting still and I am, say, running very fast in a big circle in space next to you, then my time will pass more slowly. When we meet again at the other end of the interval, I will be younger than you. It's a bit like me travelling forward in time. That's fine. Because we are inside real space, inside the Einsteinian "time-like" domain, just playing with my possible speed. But the time travel that man has really fantasized about for thousands of years, that one can slide up and down in imaginary time - well, that doesn't exist.

- Because time is not a real concept according to you.

- Because. And anyway, according to you as well. I still remember.

- Well, yes.

The two elderly scientists fall silent. They digest the situation, according to their temperament, which one is not common in either of their lives. After a very eventful week, they are sitting here together - not entirely voluntarily - in the office of their mutual friend, known to friends and the world at large simply as "the President", the President of the World Council.

It has been thirty years since they last met. And that was a stormy day, to say the least.

February 2044

*Two scientists, when they clash...*

- Where in the dark wrath of God is that traitor hiding!?! - Adam Palla, barely out of the drone, shouting loudly in the early spring of '44, on a dark day, just kicking up the misplaced bags of the Greenland staff lined up to receive him, and together with that the whole agenda. - Where is that bastard?

Director Caspar Lorem's scientific secretary at the European Space Research Centre in Greenland has already had to face many difficult moments, but this one is so much more than he has ever faced before that he is paralysed for a few moments. She never heard him yell before. In fact, she's not the only one. Probably no one else. Professor Palla is a rock-solid foundation of calm and sure knowledge in Greenland, and not just here, all over the world, where he teaches, lectures, argues, explains. He represents the soul and essence of the whole Speramus Project, the escape plan of mankind. The Secretary cannot name a single person who does not love the amazingly knowledgeable, often amusing, but always cheerful and kindly Professor. Not even one who would not go into a fire for him without a word if necessary.

It was extraordinary that instead of starting his university lectures, he unexpectedly announced that he would be travelling here, even though he was only expected back next week for the first ceremonial field trip after a year of hard work in Greenland.

- Professor... we're very happy for you... just tell us, what did you to offend, and especially who did it? Who do you want us to break into wheel?

- That rogue unfaithful dog! Caspar, who else?

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