



The Changing Sun

BY WILL W. DOUGLASS
AUTHOR OF
"WHITE MARIE"
"ALMOST PERSUADED" ETC.

CHAPTER IX. Continued.
An hour dragged slowly by. What would happen next? The Englishman felt that his faithful friend was not over. To his surprise the darkness began to lighten till he could see dimly the outlines of the chamber. It was here save for the chair he occupied against the wall and a couch on the opposite side of the room. The couch held something which looked like a human body covered with a white cloth. He could see where the sheet rounded over the head and rose sharply at the feet.

Something told him that it was a corpse and a new terror possessed him. For several minutes he gazed at the couch in dreadful suspense; then his heart stopped pulsing as the figure on the couch began to move. Slowly the sheet fell from the head and the figure sat up stiffly. There was a faint blue and a flashing blue and green line running from the couch to the wall betrayed the presence of an electric wire.

Slowly the figure rose and with creaking, rattling joints stood erect. Pale lights shone in the orbits of the eyes and the sound of harsh automatic breathing came from the mouth and nostrils. Slowly and haltingly the figure advanced toward Thordyke. The poor fellow tried to wrench himself free from the chair, but he could not stir an inch. On came the figure, its long arms swinging mechanically, and its feet slurring over the stone pavement.

When within ten feet of the Englishman, it stopped, nodded its head three or four times and slowly opened its mouth. There was a sharp, whirring noise, such as comes from a phonograph, and a voice spoke:

"My voice shall sound on earth for a million years after my spirit has left my body, and I shall wander about my dark dungeon as a warning to men not to do as I have done."

The voice ceased, but the whirring sound in the throat continued to come. The figure vanished nearer to Thordyke, and the voice began again:

"I disobeyed the laws of great Alpha and her imperial king and am to die. Beware of the temptation to search into the royal motives or attempt to es-

cape. The fate of all the inhabitants of Alpha, the wonderful Land of the Changing Sun, is in the hands of its ruler. Beware! My death torture is to be lingering and horrible. I sink into deepest dejection. I was eager to return to my native land and tried to escape. Behold my punishment. Even my bones and flesh will not be allowed to rest or decay. Beware! The king is just and good, but he will be obeyed."

Slowly the figure retreated toward the couch and he walked in, so laced and weak that he hardly knew what to do. No one seemed to notice him, and the king was engaged in an animated conversation with several ladies who were sitting at his feet.

In a boy of women Thordyke nocked Bernardino. She gave him a quick, sympathetic glance of recognition and then looked down discreetly. Presently she left the others and moved on till she had disappeared behind a great carved work which stood on the backs of four crouching golden serpents in a retired part of the room. Something in her sudden movement made the Englishman think she wanted to speak to him, and he went to her. He was not mistaken, for she smiled as he approached.

"I am glad," she whispered, touching his arm impulsively and then quickly removing her hand, as if afraid of detection.

"Glad of what?" he asked.

"Glad that you do not—that torture so well. Several men have died in that chair, and some went mad."

"I remembered your advice. That saved me."

"I have a plan for us to try to rescue your friend."

"Ah, I had forgotten him! What is it?"

"Captain Tradnos likes you and has consented to aid us. We shall need an alibi, and he has one at his disposal which is used only for governmental purposes."

"What do you want with the alibi?"

"To go beyond and over the great wall."

"But can we get away from here without being seen?"

"Under ordinary circumstances, neither by day nor night, but tomorrow the king has planned to let his people witness a war of the elements."

"A war of the elements?"

"Yes, the grandest feat of Alpha. There will be a frightful storm in the sky, no light for hours. The thunder will be musical, and the lightning will seem to set the world on fire. That will be our chance. When it is darkest, we shall try to get away unseen. If we are detected, we shall suffer death as the penalty. The king could never pardon such a bold violation of law."

CHAPTER IX.
Johnston clung tenaciously to the

Presently the man extinguished the light and came out.

"They are removing their ladders from this side," said Branasko in a whisper. "Be ready. We must act quickly and without a particle of noise. Run straight for that door and climb up the steps immediately."

The men had all gone round to the other side, and Branasko opened the door. "Quick! Follow me." And bending low to the earth the Alphan darted across the intervening space and into the doorway. Johnston was quite as successful. As he entered the door he saw Branasko crawling up the carpeted stairs ahead of him, and, on his all fours, he followed. The first landing was large, and there in the wall they found a closet. It would have been dark for a dim light that streamed down from above. Branasko opened the closet door. "We must hide here for the present," he whispered.

They had barely got seated on the floor and closed the door when a bright light broke round them, and they heard somebody ascending the stairs. The person passed by and went on farther up. The two adventurers dared not exchange a word. They could hear the footsteps above and the sound of the electrician outside as they polished the lights and moved their ladders from place to place.

"If he should see, what could we do?" asked Johnston, after a long pause, and when the footsteps sounded farther away.

"There are two of us and one of him," grimly replied the brawny Alphan.

Johnston shuddered. "Let's not commit murder in any emergency," he said.

"It would not be murder. Every man has a right to save his own life."

Nothing more was said just then, for the footsteps were growing nearer. The man was descending. He crossed the landing they were on and went down the last flight of stairs and out of the door.

Branasko rubbed his rough hands together. "We are going alone," he said, with satisfaction.

There was a sound of sliding ladders on the walls outside. The workmen had finished their task. A moment later a great bell overhead rang mellowly. The colossal sphere trembled and fell, then rose and swung easily forward like the car of a balloon.

"We are rising," said the Alphan in a tone of superstitious awe. Johnston said nothing. There was a cool, sinking sensation in his stomach, and his head was swimming. Branasko, however, was in possession of all his faculties.

"We shall soon be through the shaft we first discovered and throw our light over Alpha." As he spoke the space about them broke into blinding brightness, and for a few moments they could only open their eyes for an instant at a time. After awhile Branasko opened the closet door, and they went up the stairs.

The first apartment they entered was most luxuriously furnished. Sofas, cushions and reclining chairs were scattered here and there over the elegant carpet, and statues of gold and marble stood in alcoves and niches, and strange stereopticon lanterns, hanging from the ceiling, threw ever-changing and lifelike pictures on the walls. The light streamed in from without through small circular windows. After they had walked about the room for some minutes the Alphan pointed to a half open door and a staircase at one side of the room.

"I think it leads to some sort of observatory on top," he said. "I have heard that when the royal family makes this voyage they are fond of looking out from it. Suppose we see."

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Although the brain is the chief part of the animal man, yet there are many things about the brain which scientists have not yet fathomed.

But great strides have been made in that knowledge which has only within recent years been discovered and which reveals to us what the creation really contains. Shriveling what has gone before and what has been taught as medical law, the following interesting data on how the brain works are now what is accepted at the present time as the correct theory:

The cerebrum—front and top—is the chief part of the brain and the immediate source of all our mental action. The gray matter of the outer surface is made up of layers of nerve cells. These are the thinking centers. Experiments have clearly demonstrated that each cell has a special function, and if destroyed it cannot be replaced.

It has also been found that the left side of the brain is more active than the right.

How has that been found out? Well, if an epileptic commences a fit by twitching the right thumb or hand one would find its cause in its nerve center on the left side of the brain. It is only within the past few years that medical men are now able to make a map of the surface of the brain according to the various functions performed.

All impressions received from the outer world, whether through the medium of sight, smell, hearing, taste or touch, are carried direct to the surface of the brain and recorded in the brain cells of their respective areas, while all movements are the result of impulses from the cells in the different motor areas.

Now, there are five large sensory areas in the make up of the brain. First, sight, which is the largest, a sensation in the hand, the nose, taste and hearing have their positions at the side of the head in the temporal (temples) region and inner surface. Touch has its domicile at the top of the brain, while the large motor (giving motion) area takes up the bulk of the middle brain.

These are so splendidly arranged by nature that the motor cells of the lips are in front, then those of the hand, arm and so on to the foot. To give an example how the sensory nerve motor nerves work: If you touched anything hot or sharp, the impression would be conveyed to the sensory area along the nerves connected with it.

The sensory cell which received the message would immediately communicate with the motor cells to pull your hand away.

Why is it easier to remember an object than, say, a mathematical formula or a poem? The reason of this is that whereas the former has impressions associated with it, the latter has not. As a result, the latter are stamped on centers which are not nearly so retentive as the former.

In repeating poetry, for instance, it is the sound of the last line which suggests the next line, but an object presents itself to the brain centers concerned immediately. You know an apple or an orange when you see it because you are aided in distinguishing it by a set of centers which are not only more numerous, but quicker in perception. Though poetry is revived in the sight and sound centers, it is not so well fixed there as in the other case, because it calls up fewer centers.

An apple, for instance, is stamped twice in the optic center, once as a green fruit and once as the printed word. There is an optic word center and a photographic center. The poem is only stamped in the former, as of course it is not an object which can be pictorially represented.

The brain is nothing less than a big album of photographs and other sensory impressions. The prefrontal region may be compared to a registry office where certain records are kept. In the brain that particular part is the starting place for the memory. It will recall a subject, the stimulus must pass through the prefrontal or registry office of the brain, whence the stimulus is sent to the brain cells containing the sensations to be recalled. It is like a signal box on a railway.

Now, unless your blood be in good order the active life of the brain will be affected. Blood is the nourishing agent, and if it be of a poor kind the work it does in the way of nourishment will be of a worthless character practically. Poor blood is an enemy of the brain, but happily it is not so disastrous as you are so weary. In that you have the real enemy of the brain. Worry disorganizes the machinery of the brain and mind and is little inferior to shock, which usually paralyzes both.

Worry causes irregular nerve action, and if it be continuous it produces a confusion of ideas. This depresses the cells of the brain, and the usual result is if there is no abatement in the worry complete failure of the brain's action and consequent mental disturbance.

Self control is the key to preserving the equilibrium of the brain and of maintaining its natural healthy state.—Pearson's Weekly.

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In the Superior Court of the State of Washington, for Thurston county.

Edward Philip Salisbury, Plaintiff, vs. Verona Ellen Salisbury, Defendant.

State of Washington to Verona Ellen Salisbury, You are hereby summoned to appear within sixty days after the date of the first publication of this notice in the newspaper published in this county, to defend the above entitled action in the Superior Court of the State of Washington, at the office of the plaintiff herein, and serve a copy of your answer or other pleading upon the undersigned, attorneys for plaintiff, at the office below stated; and in case of your failure so to do, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the complaint, which has been filed in said court.

The above action is an action by plaintiff for divorce on the grounds of desertion of plaintiff by defendant and on the grounds of adultery on the part of defendant.

THOMAS F. FALKNER, Attorney for Plaintiff, Office address: Suite 101, at the corner of Fourth and Main streets, Olympia, Wash. First publication, July 10, 1903.

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You are hereby notified that W. I. Downing is the true and lawful owner of certain certificates of delinquency numbered 211, issued by the Treasurer of Thurston county, Washington, on the 24th day of June, 1901, for the sum of \$100.00, and the same being the amount then due and delinquent for the taxes for the years 1902, 1903, 1904 and 1905, together with penalty, interest and costs thereon, upon real property situated in M. E. Reed and wife, Jan. Doe Agnew, wife of E. C. Agnew, deceased; Jan. Doe Agnew, wife of Thomas Agnew, deceased. Defendants.

You are hereby notified and summoned to appear within sixty days after the service of this summons upon you; and if service is made by publication then within sixty days from the date of the first publication of this summons upon you, and defend this action in the Superior Court of the State of Washington, for Thurston county, for a judgment for the amount of said delinquent certificate, taxes, interest, penalty and costs, and foreclosing his lien against said property heretofore described.

You are hereby notified and summoned to appear within sixty days after the service of this summons upon you; and if service is made by publication then within sixty days from the date of the first publication of this summons upon you, and defend this action in the court aforesaid, or pay the amount due; and in case of your failure so to do, judgment will be rendered for the amount of said certificate of delinquency, taxes, interest, penalty and costs, and foreclosing his lien against said property heretofore described and the same will be ordered sold to satisfy said judgment.

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W. I. DOWNING, Plaintiff. W. L. TALKERSON, Attorney for Plaintiff, Olympia, Wash.

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