

Interstellar Travelers

The background of the entire page is a dark, starry space. In the center, a bright, white star with a multi-pointed diffraction pattern shines through a large, arch-shaped nebula. The nebula is composed of glowing yellow and orange gas, with a darker, reddish-brown inner ring. The overall effect is that of a celestial gateway or a cosmic tunnel.

They came to save their planet
..... they saved Earth

John Parham

INTERSTELLAR TRAVELERS

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INTERSTELLAR TRAVELERS

Starman Ra turned to Bastet and asked: “Are we ready to exit the wormhole?”

Bastet gazed at the Star Map projected in front of him and replied: “Yep, the calculation is set and should begin in fifteen minutes.” “I estimate the exit point to be 30.0–31.2 degrees and altitude at 100 miles.”

“Are you sure?” Ra asked.

“Oh, I am confident in our location. I lowered the window, stuck my head out and located Earth’s sun. We are right on course,” Bastet said. “Sniff my ass Ra, I think we have arrived on the mark after 450 light-years of travel, so if you don’t mind I will roll up the window and lick my dry nose.”

Ra looked over at Bastet and replied: “I thought cats sniffed their own ass?”

Bastet thought it was good this trip was not too long or she would use Ra’s bed for a litter box. She looked at the 3D holographic projection of their journey in the wormhole to the Earth. She knew they were right on the money and asked Ra “Can you park this ship without hitting the curb?”

Ra looked over to Bastet and flipped him off with a finger. They had both studied Earth’s habits, mannerisms, language, and Ra had not seen this gesture before. He thought since Earthlings had so many digits this was a good way to make a point.

They came from the planet Centauri that orbited the star Betelgeuse in Orion's Belt constellation. Betelgeuse was geriatric in its life cycle and approached the point of going supernova and explode maybe within the next ten thousand years. When Betelgeuse becomes a supernova, the explosion will destroy the planet Centauri.

Ra and Bastet were tasked with the mission to travel to planet Earth by Centauri's ruling body, the Directorate of the Centaurians. Their mission was to build giant power generators orientated to Orion's Belt and Betelgeuse, disguised as pyramids. They hoped to re-energize Betelgeuse by focusing on the immense power that could be generated by the pyramids at the star and extend its life.

The challenge was great as the distance to Betelgeuse was 450 light-years. The star radiated 10,000 times brighter than Earth's Sun but was smaller, denser and heavier. The mission had two components:

1. Build Earth power generators called pyramids and focus their power towards Orion's Belt and Betelgeuse. The hope was the generators could capture Earth's magnetic, gravity and solar energy. The pyramid generators then would focus the immense power to Betelgeuse and extend the life of the star for at least another 100,000 years.

2. Protect life on the planet to assure Earth's continuity in case the pyramid plan failed and Centauri has to be evacuated to Earth. The Directorate hoped their people could co-exist with Earth's inhabitants and live in harmony. The Centaurians were a benevolent race, composed primarily of pure energy and could mold to any shape required. They did not want to conquer, only to survive.

Ra exited the worm ninety miles above earth. He asked Bastet "Did you sharpen your pencil, you are ten miles off?"

Bastet replied, “No, but I do have a hairball for you, I will give it to you when you’re asleep.”

Their starship was enveloped in a special anti-gravity shield to buffer them from the wormhole in their journey to Earth. The starship anti-gravity shield would protect the ship upon landing but the tremendous power inversion would create a large crater on landing. The landing blew a meteor sized hole in the Egyptian desert that became known as the Kamil Crater.

Ra scattered iron meteorite debris around the crater to disguise the landing as a massive meteor impact. The impact area had an appearance of some type of impact from space and they were satisfied the true reason for the crater would remain undetected.

They exited the ship and unloaded their supplies for the 1,000-mile trek toward the Plains of Giza. Ra wished they had arrived closer but happy with their landing after traveling 450 light-years and thought Bastet did well navigating. Besides, he thought, the remote area would generate less curiosity from any inhabitants that might be in the area.

Ra sent instructions for the ship to return to space to await further instructions. The organic starship was commanded to orbit and become hidden in the trillions of space objects for the millennia. Its anti-gravity drive generated power from the high-energy galactic cosmic rays in space and maintained the ship’s necessary systems. It could even protect itself from small asteroids and meteorite collisions thanks to its anti-gravity shield. Once the ship initiated the anti-gravity drive and lift off it would appear to any bystander as a shimmering ghost in the heat of the Egyptian desert.

Ra and Bastet made their way across the desert until they arrived at the Great Plains of Giza. They required little nourishment or rest, only enough to sustain the organic body they lived in. The long trek was relatively easy for them, especially when considering the distance traveled.

In the areas where sand dunes were prevalent, Ra would carry Bastet in a specially designed backpack.

Bastet asked Ra “Make sure and wake me up when we arrive.” She then curled up in his little compartment and went to sleep. If Bastet had looked up, she would have seen Ra raising his hand over his shoulder with the middle finger extended. “*I like this salute*”, he thought.

Bastet blended in on their journey as a female black cat with a unique white star on her forehead. Ra appeared as a large man with flowing white hair and a drooping mustache. He had miscalculated the native Egyptian inhabitants' appearance, the body he presented himself as did not exactly blend into the background. He compensated his appearance by wearing a white linen cloak along with a turban and hopefully not arouse too much suspicion.

They decided it would be best if Bastet stayed in Egypt and assist the Pharaoh to build the Great Pyramid of Giza. Ra would travel around the globe to build pyramids in key geographical areas across the planet. These pyramids would be built on an axis that created a straight line around the center of Earth. The pyramid to be built on the Great Plains of Giza would be the lynchpin of their power generation plan. It would be perfectly oriented to Orion and as the largest and most powerful pyramid would funnel all the energy to Betelgeuse.

The objective was to teach the builders how to harness the harmonics of Earth to levitate the huge building blocks required to build the pyramids. Both Ra and Bastet could levitate objects, regardless of the size or weight. Once each pyramid was constructed, Bastet or Ra would then energize the pyramids with their powers and bring them online.

Bastet mingled around Cairo and used her telepathic abilities to learn the hierarchy of the Egyptian people. From her long-range observations from Centauri, she was comfortable with the language but required more specific information on their culture. She had to find the number one

person to establish a link with to build the Great Pyramid. That one person turned out to be King Khufu.

While Bastet formed her plan to bond with King Khufu, Ra was on his own mission. He needed to travel to North America so he worked to obtain passage on a large papyrus ocean-going vessel. The ship was being constructed in the Cairo docks where Ra used his telepathic power of persuasion to find employment.

He had secretly been tanning his thin skin covering to better blend in with the natives, he hoped. He still had a problem with his white hair but decided there was nothing to he could now so made it work best he could.

Ra's objective was to gain passage to North America and the Yucatan Peninsula. He needed to build the power generators around the planet and the New World was where he needed to start.

The Egyptians began work on building the huge papyrus ship required to cross the Pacific Ocean. The ship was based upon a new, radical design and Ra slowly exerted his advanced knowledge during the construction process. He needed to get to the New World and required a stout ship for the journey.

He gained the confidence of the shipbuilding Minister to assist in the ship design. It was based loosely upon the original design commissioned by King Khufu's father, Senefru. Although the Egyptians were competent shipbuilders due to commerce on the Nile River, they had never attempted a ship on this scale.

At 150 feet long and 20 feet wide it was the largest ever constructed using primarily inter-locking cedar planks along with papyrus. The massive mainsail of cotton and linen stood at 75 feet with lesser sails used as needed.

The ship Minister felt confident about the construction quality but had one gnawing worry. He was confident the ship would hold up on the journey across unknown waters, barring any calamitous storms. And he felt their provisions would last for the journey. But what he was not sure of if they could find the New World. They had never attempted such a journey and worried their navigation skills were lacking. Once again Ra proved to be most resourceful.

Ra's advanced knowledge of star navigation reassured the Minister they could find their destination. Ra plotted their route to arrive at 18.8067° N and 89.3985° W, which should bring them to the Yucatan Peninsula. The Minister was so impressed he named Ra as the Navigator of the ship, a highly respected position.

The date for their crossing the ocean to the New World was fast approaching, and all had some trepidation. The Egyptians had never attempted to sail such a great distance. Although they were experienced sailors that only encompassed the Nile and maybe the Red Sea. Comfortable waters and most known. This journey was too unfamiliar waters that had countless unknowns. Only the bravest of men were enlisted for the trip, and that included Starman Ra.

Ra thought it was time to reach out to Bastet with a telepathic link and determine her progress on the pyramid. Bastet updated Ra with her progress with both King Khufu and the giant pyramid construction. Bastet explained how she worked her way into Khufu's confidence after being found on the plains near his royal tent. She used her telepathic abilities to establish a strong bond with him and King Khufu brought her into his tent and provided shelter and food.

Bastet asked Ra "When will you begin the journey across the ocean to the New World?"

Ra replied "Soon, to map out our journey I had to develop a solar calendar for my star navigation. The calendar consists of 365 days that represent a solar year, so based upon my

calendar in about thirty solar days the journey should begin. The ship is practically ready now, we are now rigging it and loading our provisions.”

“Let’s keep our telepathic link connected on your journey, so I can send you updates on the pyramid construction. The Yoruba workers on the pyramid are developing their levitation skills quickly and making excellent progress. King Khufu has complete confidence in me and conveys my instructions explicitly on how to levitate the massive stones. It did not take long for he, then the Yoruba, to master controlling Earth’s harmonics and bend the sound waves for the levitation,” Bastet said.

She added, “I also then can save your ass when you get lost on the seas, you are not the navigator I am.” Ra told Bastet to sniff her own ass and sent her a middle finger salute then ended the connection.

The departure day rapidly approached and Ra reached out to Bastet one more time. “Bastet, I think we may need to meet one last time before I leave. Can you get away for a meeting tomorrow, I will come to you.” Ra was about fifty miles from Bastet and thought he could travel faster and arouse less suspicion than a black cat.

They decided the day after tomorrow to meet near the pyramid construction.

Bastet usually accompanied King Khufu and when at the site would do her cat thing and explore around. She was confident being gone for a while would not raise any concerns.

Ra traveled to the Great Pyramid construction site and received few questioning stares since he wore the attire and jewelry of a Royal Ship Navigator. The level of clothing and jewelry were worn by Egyptians to establish their stature and would not be challenged except by the select few of higher rank.

They met at an abandoned limestone quarry picked by Bastet. Ra arrived first and sat on a large broken chunk of granite. Bastet strode up and easily leaped upon the rock and sat by Ra, then immediately licked her paws. They both stared at each other before saying anything.

Bastet connected first. "Well, do you think you know your route to the New World?"

Ra looked at Bastet and replied, "Do you think that big pile of rock you are working on will not collapse?"

With their pleasantries out of the way, they both took a serious tone. Ra spoke first. "I believe our mission is going well, we shall know soon enough."

Time and age was not a consideration for either of them. As far as they knew they would not age. Their alien core fueled the bodies and maintained cellular activity far beyond that of a normal human. The constantly regenerated their body organs and outward appearance.

Ra absently rubbed Bastet's ears and thought he would miss her. With all their banter aside, he knew they were fellow interstellar travelers. And only really had each other, they knew any relationships they might have with human inhabitants would be eroded with time.

Bastet replied "I think King Khufu's pyramid construction time table has been cut from thirty years to ten years. We should be placing the capstone with the next seven years or so. Hopefully, that will give you time to begin construction on your temple pyramid in the New World." "What is the name of the place you chose for the construction site again?" she asked.

"The Yucatan Peninsula, the native people are the Mayans. They are an advanced race and I don't think I will have too much of a problem on selling the idea for the construction" Ra answered.

"I have leveraged all my star navigation skills for this journey and estimate it will take about 150 solar days. I am confident for myself to survive the trip, not so much for the other

thirty men. But I will do my best to get us there. Of course, I would be more confident if I had my navigator with me,” Ra said as he looked down at Bastet.

In their Centaurian form, they did not have real emotions, but with these bodies, they now experienced a new emotional sensation. They both tried to understand their feelings for one another. They understood the human relationship of brother and sister yet struggled to understand how they now felt. *Are these human emotions Ra wondered?*

Bastet replied “I know you Ra, you will get them there and all alive. But the most important thing is to succeed, we have to get the power generators up and running on this planet to save Betelgeuse and Centauri. This planet is the only one we have ever found with the potential of saving our race. Earth's location to its star's energy, its strong gravity, human inhabitants and even its environment is conducive for our survival. This planet is our best and maybe only hope for our race to survive.”

Ra and Bastet both sat in silence for a few moments. Ra reached down and tweaked Bastet's ears one more time. She looked up and laid her paw on his leg. They both looked deeply at each other, then Ra stood up.

“Farewell my friend, hope to see you the next hundred years,” Ra said.

“Well, keep in touch and don't get lost and become a stranger,” Bastet replied.

Ra gave Bastet the middle finger salute.

Bastet replied, “Sniff my ass” then jumped from the rock and headed back to the construction site.

Ra watched her slowly melt into the horizon, then turned and headed the opposite direction back to the Cairo shipyards.

Neither Ra nor Bastet could know they would become Gods in Egyptian lore. Ra would become known as the Sun God, a traveler from the skies. A Sky Navigator that lead the Egyptians on the longest journey of their existence across the seas to the New World. He would prove to be one that never tired, possessed immense strength, stamina and keen intelligence. Yet he was respected and loved by all the men he traveled with. As the navigator, his knowledge of the stars awed all his fellow crewmen, including the Captain. Before leaving Egypt he created the Egyptian Solar Calendar, taught navigation by stars to the sailors, the hand salute and countless other skills.

Bastet would be revered as the Protector of Pharaohs and Goddess of Cats. King Khufu depended on Bastet so much that he made a black onyx ring with her likeness engraved. The ring was set with a huge diamond in her forehead. He proclaimed he would forever pay homage to Bastet and gave the ring the highest honor and wore on his fourth finger of his left hand. King Khufu wore the ring to his dying day, forever thankful to Bastet for her tremendous abilities and guidance building the pyramids.

Ra and Bastet did not know that their mission on earth would be interrupted for several thousand years due to a mishap when initializing The Great Pyramid with their power. They would be engaged in a fight 5,000 years later in New Orleans to save not only Centauri but Earth.

The End

Interstellar Travelers is the prelude to the full-length novel The Binding Volume

<https://www.amazon.com/Binding-1-John-Parham-ebook/dp/B07TLRM8Z1>

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John Parham was born in California in 1949, lived in Arkansas most of his life and now retired to the sunny beaches of Florida. He has been a cherry picker, welder and CEO of a technology company and now an author.

He graduated with a BA in Journalism and has written his first novel, The Binding Volume 1. He also wrote the Cat Chronicles by Bastet Short Story Collection. One of the short stories, The Town That Dreaded Halloween, won the 2018 Halloween Special Edition AIARWIP podcast.

Married to Mindy for twenty-five years, they travel full time across the US in a motor home with two independent cats, Loco and Juno. Juno was the inspiration for Bastet and no, Mindy is not an actual Voodoo Queen!

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