

# notes from the disturbed edge - chapter 13

He spun the globe, and watched the colors meld into one. Caspian and Indian blue melded with Madagascar yellow, Australian ochre and the mauve of Paraguay. Mountain ranges diffused across vast planes, as radical topography averaged into a monochromatic smoothness. Geopolitical lines, tracing natural features or drawn arrow-straight across cultures, that had seemed imposing in the torpor of static inertia, faded and became indiscernable under the influence of centripetal force. Continents, once separated by vast seas, were bridged by narrow bands of hybridized shades.

His binocular fusion dissolved as he focused on the resultant blur, and he saw faces of every shape and color looking

back at him, from every clime and corner of the world.

He saw mankind, confronted by the same demons and dilemmas across the face of the earth. Islands, once isolated, were now joined by jet contrails and diesel flavored wakes, and once-distinct cultures interacted in the forums of economics, education and intimacy.

He knew the monochrome effect extended to the plant kingdom, with exotic plant invasions marching on across insidious transoceanic tendrils. As mankind was connected, and the floral kingdom blended, Mother Earth's palette was defiled, and a grey curtain was pulled across the intricate tapestry of biodiversity.

He saw white and black and red and yellow and maybe even chartreuse faces,

united by an issue that rendered their collective eyesight kaleidoscopic, and urged them to peer through a great equalizing prism that permeated the barriers of color, creed and language, just as seeds now defeated geography.

He spun the globe again, and allowed his thoughts to pirouette until friction took its toll, the rate of revolution slowed, and the truth devolved. The colors once again segregated into a cartographer's view of our planet, but the connections remained. He strode outside, to mingle with his brethren and continue his work as a citizen of earth.

- J.A.

An excerpt from "The Adventures of Hack Garlon & His Buxom Sidekick Squirt"

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