

## EXCERPT FOR ODDS AND ENDS

### PARIDISE LOST

Once upon a time there lived beside a sea shore, very intelligent creatures called Linques. They were hardy mammals and practiced evolution wholeheartedly. In time, the science of Philosophy was developed and all Linques became practical philosophers. One of the more brilliant Linques discovered, in his spare time, Truth and was so distraught by its consequences that he died without leaving a single disciple.

This brilliant Linque's untimely death was a mystery to all of his acquaintances. All of these Linques pondered though none could conceive an answer. Finally, these Linques delegated one of the more plodding of their numbers (who wasn't good for much else anyway) to solve the mystery.

The poor Linque spent two generations to discover Truth again. When he attempted to reveal Truth to others, no one would believe him. The plodding Linque was forced to show them naked Truth.

Once most Linques felt the nail holes of Truth, they believed. However, there were a few pig-headed Linques who even felt the spear-wound of Truth and could still call it hogwash.

Most of the Linques recoiled at the thought of Truth and refused to accept it. They just would not believe that Truth was the non-existence of any kind of god and of all sorts of purposes, and that the

brilliant Linque had died of a broken heart.

As is evidenced by all following history, the result of this occurrence was dissension and anguish. Leaders arose for each side, proclaiming truth and Truth. Naturally, Truth lost the campaign for followers.

The greater proportion of the Linques who confronted Truth accepted it, but most Linques were happier in ignorance (they claimed) and refused to confront Truth as they practiced evolution wholeheartedly. Commonly enough, the Linques following Truth were persecuted and discriminated against by the majority of ignorants.

Then the time came that Missing, the greatest Linque thinker, became the leader of the minority. Missing developed for his followers a new philosophy: Since Life held no actual purpose and there was no god, why evolve and build civilizations; why not stop fooling oneself with delusionary tactics; why fret about tomorrow, just enjoy what moments of life one has.

The end result of Missing's new Philosophy was that he and his followers remained behind on the sea shore when the disillusioned majority marched into the interior to evolve and build civilizations. Missing's group of Linques (now immortalized as the Missing Linques) frolicked in the water as their ignorant and pig-headed counterparts evolved and built civilizations.

The Missing Linques became more expert in the art of swimming, more at home in the water. Since the Missing Linques were highly intelligent, they had no need of much time for feeding. They would spend

most of their time frolicking in the water or sunning themselves as they floated or swam lazily at the water's surface. The Missing Linques met all dangers as they occurred, and lived exemplary existential existences.

The Missing Linques did not evolve to build frivolities of no purpose, such as civilizations. They evolved with the intention of attaining the form best suited for frolicking. They did this by choice, on porpoise, and thanks to Lewis Carroll.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> I wrote this in high school in 1960.