



Peter Visits Cornelius

Acts 10:9-15, 28-35, 43-48

"Intruder Alert! Intruder Alert! Uninvited intruder boarding Skylab Omega!" The computer's voice roared throughout the ship. Red lights flashed and a shrill siren sounded. A dark figure with short black hair shimmered into view. "At last, I am aboard the enemy ship! I shall disable the main computer!" he growled, raising his sword and leaping to a nearby ladder.

Two decks away, Cosmos nearly fell out of bed with the sound of the first alarm. "What is that racket? Computer! It is three o'clock in the morning! Explain yourself!"

"A hostile intruder has entered Skylab Omega through the Teleport!" said the computer.

Cosmos raced down the hall, still wearing his Mickey Mouse pajamas. He jumped into an open elevator and rose two decks to the teleport room. "I think you've got your wires crossed, Computer. There are no intruders aboard this—" Just then, he noticed an open hatch. Moving quickly, he went up the ladder and into the bridge. The intruder was bent over the main computer console.

"Freeze!" Cosmos yelled, brandishing his light saber. The intruder spun around and unsheathed a long sword from its place by his side. "State your name and business!" Cosmos demanded.

The intruder stood tall, his sword pointed at the Commander, and his black eyes darting about. "I am Yago, Captain of the Pharisees! Are you the one they call Rubbish Tarlite?"

"Rubbish Tarlite?" Cosmos questioned. "Oh, you mean, Lieutenant Ruby Starlite. I am her commander, Commander Cosmos, Space Ranger! What do you want with Lieutenant Ruby?"

Yago pulled a scroll from inside of his black uniform. "We have received this threat from your ship!"

Cosmos shook his head. "Threat? We never sent any threats."

"I shall read it," Yago opened the scroll. "Attention friends and Pharisees!" He glared at Cosmos. "Pharisees are not called friends!" Looking back at the scroll, he read, "Skylab Omega will be spreading God's Word throughout your galaxy." He shook the scroll. "You come to our galaxy forcing things upon us?" Cosmos waited patiently as Yago continued reading. "All are welcome to come aboard and hear about the power of our Lord. Your friend, Lieutenant Ruby." Yago looked up. "This friend, Lieutenant Ruby has threatened us with the power of your Lord!"

"No, no, no. That's not a threat!" Cosmos defended. He pointed to their raised weapons. "Truce, my friend. Let's put our weapons down."

Yago's glare deepened. "You go first!"

"Of course!" Cosmos slowly lowered his light saber. "Come, put your sword away."

Yago cautiously slid his sword back into the sheath. "Okay, now what of these threats?"

"You are mistaken, Captain Yago. We come in peace. This message is a greeting, not a threat. God's Word is our Bible, a book that tells of our Lord Jesus. He loves all people. We want to share it with everyone."

Yago looked around suspiciously. "Where is this Bible?"

"Right here in this box." Cosmos started reaching for the Bible Box when Yago jumped.

"Stop!" Yago cried. "I will get it." He opened the lid then slammed it shut when the beam of light suddenly made the box glow. "Aha! A trap! I knew it!" His sword was out in a flash.

"Wait! Wait! Stop, Captain Yago! It's just a Bible! See? This is God's Word." Cosmos smiled. Yago put his sword away, lifted the Bible out of the box, held it up to the light, and examined it. "Will you sit and let me read you a story from His Word?" Cosmos asked.

Yago narrowed his eyes and held out the book. "All right, but I'm watching you."

Cosmos sat down on a ledge and opened the Bible to Acts 10. "This is about Peter, a follower of Jesus. One day he had a dream. In this dream, Peter saw a sheet being lowered down from heaven."

"What was in this sheet?" Yago asked, cautiously sitting several feet away from Cosmos.

"All kinds of four-footed animals and birds and reptiles." Cosmos read, "Then a voice told him, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.'"

Yago jumped up yet again and grabbed his sword. "Aha! Kill! I knew this was a trap!"

Cosmos held out his hand in a peaceful gesture. "Calm down, Captain Yago, let me explain. Peter was Jewish and his people were not allowed to eat the foods the Gentiles ate."

"What is a Gentile?" Yago asked suspiciously.

"A Gentile is a person that does not follow God. The Jewish people called them unclean," Cosmos answered.

"Are you calling me unclean!" Yago snarled.

"No, not you, the animals and birds and reptiles," Cosmos defended.

"Are you calling me a reptile?!" Yago waved his sword towards Cosmos.

"No, please, relax! Listen." Cosmos said calmly. "God told Peter, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' God was telling Peter He loved the Gentiles just as much as he loved the Jews, and that He wanted them to be part of His kingdom. God told Peter to go downstairs because He had sent three men to find him."

Yago relaxed a bit, but one hand still gripped his sword. "Did they capture him and keep him as a prisoner?"

"No, they invited him back to the house of a godly Gentile named Cornelius," Cosmos continued.

"Did Cornelius capture him and keep him as a prisoner?" Yago asked with a snarl.

"No!" Cosmos insisted. "Cornelius told Peter an angel had appeared to him and told him to invite Peter to his home."

"Did he want to fight with Peter?"

"No! He wanted Peter to tell him and all his friends about Jesus," Cosmos answered patiently.

Yago loosened his grip on his sword slightly and asked, "Oh, well what did Peter say to this Cornelius and all his friends?"

"Let me show you the words I am reading on this Virtual Bible." Cosmos cautiously reached over as not to startle the intruder again and tapped a few keys on the keyboard. He read from the screen, "Then, Peter began to speak: 'I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear Him and do what is right.'"

Yago tilted his head, "Your God accepted these unclean Gentiles? Did he bathe them?"

Cosmos nodded, "Yes, but not with soap and water. He washed them with His forgiveness. You see, we have all done wrong in God's eyes, that's called sin. To clean away our sins, God must forgive us. When anyone believes in Jesus, his or her sins are washed away and forgiven forever."

"Anyone from any nation, even the Planet Pharis?" Yago asked excitedly.

"Yes," Cosmos assured. "He loves everyone. God has no favorites."

Yago slid a little closer to Cosmos. "I have never heard of such a thing; tell me more."

Cosmos smiled. "It would be my honor. Come down to the cafeteria with me. I'll treat you to breakfast and we can talk about His kingdom."

Yago watched Cosmos stand up and walk to the door. "Is there still room in His kingdom for my people?"

Cosmos turned around, his smile growing even bigger. "There's always room in His kingdom. After all, Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever!" With that, Yago put his sword back in its sheath and cautiously followed Cosmos through the door.