



Ascending into Heaven

Luke 24:50-53

"Chauncey, Chauncey! Over." Algie's voice echoed around the hangar amidst the crackling of the two-way radio. Chauncey searched frantically for the radio, digging through toolboxes and under stacks of papers on top of messy work tables, but he could not find it. "Chauncey, are you there? Over." Algie's voice repeated again, and again.

"Tally ho good brother, I'm here. Over," Chauncey said breathlessly as he finally pulled the radio from a stack of papers piled near the door.

"Any news from Mumsy, Popsy or 800 Pound Gorilla? Over," Algie's voice asked.

"Not yet. I've been waiting to greet them as soon as they return from their vacation on Easter Island." Chauncey paused to listen as he thought he heard the sound of a plane engine. "Oh wait, I think I hear them now. Over," he said, as the sound grew louder.

"Great! I will meet you at the beach hut after they arrive. Over and out."
Chauncey put down the radio and ran out the door to watch the incoming plane land. Popsy's plane was lining up with the end of the runway as the landing gear popped out and locked into place. The plane bounced hard on the airstrip. Chauncey realized Mumsy, who was waving from the window, was piloting the plane. In true Bonzai family fashion, the plane weaved and swerved down the runway and stopped hard in the bushes on the opposite end. Chauncey ran over to the plane and pulled back the palm fronds covering the door so that Mumsy could get out of the plane.

"Mumsy, are you alright?" He yelled as he opened her door. His mother hopped down onto the pavement, a big grin spreading across her face.

"Jolly good! I made it! A perfect landing! Hello my boy! Give Mumsy a hug!" She squeezed Algie tightly. "Oh, I missed you boys so very much. We had such a wonderful time on Easter Island. Popsy and 800 Pound Gorilla frolicked about like two little children. They never found any giant Easter eggs, but we did find an old friend of yours."

Chauncey walked around to the other side of the plane where 800 Pound Gorilla was seated. Chauncey continued chatting as he cleared the palms from the passenger door. "Who might that be, Mumsy?"

"Some chief something or other. He gave us a letter for you." She answered as she brushed the leaves from her bright pink flight jacket. Then she called out, "Oh, 800 Pound Gorilla!"

800 Pound Gorilla pushed the plane door open with a bang and squeezed his big gorilla body through the small doorframe and onto the ground. Chauncey looked past Gorilla to help Popsy out of the plane and realized he was not there. "Wait a tick, where's Popsy?"

"Oh, he decided to swim back," Mumsy laughed.

"What? Swim?! Mumsy, that's over 2,000 miles!!" Chauncey gasped in surprise and concern.

Mumsy shrugged her shoulders. "Oh, you know your father, he won't get bored."

"I'm not worried about him getting bored!" Chauncey explained, "I'm worried about him getting eaten by sharks!"

"I'd be more worried about the sharks! You know how Popsy loves to wrestle with ocean beasts." She reached up into the plane and pulled out her shoulder bag from behind the seat. "Now be a good boy and unload my luggage."

Mumsy noticed the pout on the gorilla's face. "Oh, I'm terribly sorry 800 Pound Gorilla." She turned to Chauncey and said, "He wants you to take your letter so he can go tell Pepper about our trip."

Chauncey took the letter and said, "Thank you, 800 Pound Gorilla." Gorilla beat his hand on his chest in response and lumbered off down the path towards the beach.

Chauncey flipped the letter over to look at the address. "Oh my, it's from our old friend Chief Howzyermomanem!"

"Who?" Mumsy asked. "Chief Howzyermomanem, he's the ruler of Easter Island. I haven't seen him in years."

"I wonder what he wants," Chauncey replied as he broke the seal on the envelope and pulled out the letter. "Oh look, he wrote it in their native language of Easteronian. I speak the language fluently, so I will translate."

"Well? What does it say?" Mumsy asked impatiently.

"It says he's welcoming his son home from a long battle. The chief invites all of us to see his son's welcome home ceremony."

"Oh, that's a lovely ceremony," Mumsy recalled. "All eyes watch the chief's son as he receives his headdress and goes up the steps to take His rightful seat by his father. And when he sits down, everyone applauds!"

Chauncey put the letter in his pocket and began pulling his mother's 15 bags of luggage from the back compartment of the plane. "I say, Mumsy, that reminds me of the story that you used to tell Algernon and I when we were small boys. Do you remember?"

Mumsy smiled. "How could I forget? The story of the day Jesus was taken up into heaven."

"Oh, Mumsy, would you tell it again, for old time sake?"

"Of course, I will, dear. Let's get the Bible out right now! Put those bags down and have a seat on the log right over here." She searched through the big bag that she always carried and pulled out her Bible. She and Chauncey settled on the log and Mumsy flipped through the pages to find the story.

"Ah yes, here it is in the book of Luke," she said as she located the correct page. "Now remember dear, this took place after Jesus had risen from the dead and had appeared to His followers many times. Then He led His disciples out to the village of Bethany.

She paused briefly and then went on, reading: "Then Jesus 'lifted up His hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.'"

"It was a miracle!" Chauncey said excitedly. "And that was always my favorite part, Mumsy! That was when I knew that Jesus was Lord!"

"And that's when Jesus took his rightful place in heaven!" Mumsy reminded him with a little pat on his knee.

"And as a young boy," Chauncey continued, "He took His rightful place as the Lord of my heart! And right now, I want to do what His disciples did when they saw Jesus being taken up into heaven."

"Oh, that's my favorite part! They joyfully went to the temple to praise Him as their incredible Lord." Mumsy stood up and raised her hands in praise.

Chauncey stood and joined his mother in praising Jesus. "It's incredible but true, what the God of Wonders can do!" He said joyfully. Mother and son stood and sang praise songs for some time before finally walking down to the beach hut to tell Algie, 800 Pound Gorilla, and Pepper Pelican the story of Jesus being taken up into heaven.