

## Coleshill's finest Lady Stig takes on: THE FUTURE

So, for this month's installment, part 2 "rabbit stew again?", I went to a lot of trouble to contact my great great great granddaughter who lives in the year 2115. All I needed to do to achieve this seemingly impossible feat was to bury a time capsule! This capsule was in the form of a small metal box from ikea with a smart leather strap which probably won't last. I dug a hole for it in my garden underneath the sundial, and put the tin in said hole, with a note in it alongside some curios and things. Then I made an appendix in my will asking the whereabouts of this capsule to be passed on to the next generations or owners of the house, should they move away. In the note I ask for the reader (hopefully being a child of mine and thus bound to eternal respect and obedience) to send me a letter from the future and, assuming there are technological advances sufficient to send information through space and time, to drop me an email, letter or retro-video recording or something. You won't believe it, I hardly could myself, but I found a print-out posted neatly in the gatepost of our house as suggested by me in the note to confound any impostors. This was only a week ago, so I am still reeling! The gatepost is stone, and so clearly (not surprisingly) still there one hundred years hence.

I was so astonished by the contents of this letter that I will share it with you verbatim:

Dearest Great Great Great GrandBirther,  
What surprise and honour I noticed as the recipient of your thoughtful and extremely interesting letter from the past. Gosh, to think of you living here in such different times does stimulate some interesting chemicals in my brain! I was quite motivated to get up and walk around, something which people do less these days.

Before I address your list of questions I think I had better draw some clear lines in the sand. These days contact with the past is strictly regulated and I had to go to some lengths to obtain a permit. You can imagine what sorts of chaos could ensue if people went about it willy-nilly. I am allowed to tell you things on a superficial level, such as technology we now have and so on, but I am not allowed to breach any patent laws or copyright laws, even inadvertently. Things have become quite strict in terms of information, it seems to be all anyone cares about any more. Information is the new currency, so you can imagine, sharing the wrong things is a bit like robbing a bank in your era. Consequently you'll have to forgive me if I am a little vague about certain things!

The other thing that I imagine you would be interested in, is the small matter of the great fear of your age Climate Change. You will be very happy to learn that some time in the 2060s there was a turning point. A global cataclysm in the form of a geomagnetic shift. Some scientists had posited that the earth was capable of shifting on its axis, and that such shifts changed the climate

significantly but there was no direct experience of such a thing and so most people dismissed it as mere theory. In this decade the world was literally turned upside down. Consequently Braton is now where Austrolia used to be. It is a far warmer place, and everything has grown rather much larger than it used to be. The wildlife, like rabbits, birds and even our pets have adapted very well. Having enlarged their body size by about 300% we now live in a world were rabbits provide a very good feast in the way that the poor Turkey used to at Festival Time. Most people have a cat for bringing in food, but dogs, which I think were more common back then, have been dwindling -probably due to the increased rate of growth of the felines relative to the canines (including foxes and badgers fortunately or we'd all have been eaten by now). The appetites and innate love of hunting of the now big, once little cats meant that they have almost completely cleaned up the docile doggies long before they moved onto the foxes and badger folk who are fairly hunted close to extinction. The cats still think of us as their familiars so we are obliged to comb them and share our homes with them, which, now that they are much bigger than we are is quite a daily effort. Fortunately they are quite clean animals and the reliability of their bringing in game is such that it is worth the trade off. Agriculture as such died out in the 60s. Most people grow their own plants now, even those living in formerly urban areas. The cities are no longer much different to rural areas, since the end of motoring, the concrete connections soon broke down under the siege of engorged grass, dandelions, brambles and thistles - apparently enjoying their new found gigantism.

I understand the marsupials that populate Austrolia have inversely proportionately shrunk but most of them already had very thick coats, so the drop in temperatures has left them otherwise unscathed, so we understand. Some scientists think this shift may have been taking place every millennia or so, but that due to the lack of historical or scientific record keeping back in the first millennia (AD) no one in the western world realized what was happening. Clearly pre-industrialization, if you lived in Braton, that Braton was shifting in relation to outer space was of little interest or consequence, the only difference being that you may need a warmer coat or that alternatively you may take to wearing flip-flops on a daily basis. We still have flip-flops by the way. They are just bioadaptable now, they monitor your skeletal and cardio vascular stressors and adapt accordingly using tiny imperceptible physiomagnetic pulses... Never mind. It's a bit like having a massage all day but reflexology but without you noticing. Those reflexologists were onto a good thing. Sinoment issue

footwear comes from China of course, as does nearly everything as the seat of world government is there now too. But we like it. It's fine.

There was a general shift in the global political power dynamic. I am sure you saw it coming, but the previously so called developing regions or nations as you called them, did develop and continued to do so long after the old and new worlds ceased to check themselves sufficiently. However as I said, the cataclysm thank Jung meant that they veered from their previous course which was heading for total global destruction, to one which has saved us from destroying the planet. Now we rather depend on it in a most direct and collaborative way. The 'event' meant that the ever-developing nations were forced to take into account the environmental issues that the developed world had been worrying over for some decades. Previously they had refused to do so citing imperialism as the motivation for the 'west' lobbying them to restrict their untrammelled industrialization and widespread pollution of rivers, seas and ozone layer. The realignment of the magnetic force field around the globe meant that anything electrical was immediately rendered permanently obsolete. In a word everything broke. The old way of life was broken and so the previous course of destruction halted. The Chinese had however in certain areas been working on a different kind of technology, one that didn't rely on electricity at all but rather on plant matter and the energy produced by photosynthesis. The fact that the entire electrical magnetism of the earth was so volatile, post event (and still is) meant that if humans were to survive with any kind of technology more sophisticated than primitive fire-based light, heat or transport this new technology would have to work and on a massive scale and fast. To cut a long history short, these days we use plants to power biodegradable technology that when it is obsolete due to improvements (as things are after 5 years or less) they can be composted and used to grow the next plant cycle to power your new biomatterdevice.

Some regions are not so dependent on technology and simply use their innate powers of meta observation and communication, they are necessarily independent and thus non governable though the Sinoment would never admit it. It turns out that the Aboriginal people, the San bushmen, the Amazonian Pygmies (and all other such original peoples) in fact knew exactly when the cataclysm was expected and had already occupied the most sought after caves and highlands in their regions. Consequently where such peoples exist they are pretty much running things in their region now, though apparently under Sinoagreement (a common model), and had been

simply waiting their turn.

There were one or two hiccups for the techno-dependent regions. We had a few genetically modified disasters for some species, and even lost a handful in the name of collateral damage, but the fact that at least some of the civilization we had before has been rescued from 'the great erase' shows that on balance things are not so bad. We of course lost all capacity to meta observe or communicate so were rendered infantile for a few years before some old world survivalists managed comparatively to get things together before the Sinoment representatives made contact and eventually organized 'the reconfiguration'. There is some continuity. To be honest banks and capitalism were on their way out anyway. Most people were using a system of trade by the mid 21st century but the collapse of the electrical grid worldwide meant that most people had no record of how rich or poor they had been anyway. And equally people had no way of escaping to their second house in Marbaya or even London (save for walking) so we all got used to living like medieval peasants for a time.

Quite simply Green Power became more than just a political buzz word! The more knowledge you had of the ecology around you, the more you were able to harness it and develop or recover after the change. That knowledge meant that when the mass production of biocomputers came on issue from the Sinoment, if you knew about the resources to hand, you literally had a function for life. My function is evolution monitor. I record slight deviations in organic species that are non-mobile, so that is all plants and fungus (and some locals too! They need to be fed energy pills and watered, much like plants.) Yes some people have opted for pure information lives, they have underdeveloped bodies and are 'plugged' into the central biosystem acting as the eyes and ears of the Sinoment. They don't need to move around to keep an eye on us, as their senses are well developed in the region of neuro glandular observation (there is a gland in the brain that can see without eyes) this is once they have had the biomatter enhancement devices implanted, of course. It will sound weird to you, but then in 1815 I am sure they never imagined Video-phones.

Video-phones sound like so much fun! We don't have things like that any more. In fact we barely take notice of anything 2 dimensional. Right now, I am using a biotranslator to 'wire' you this transmission. It might seem like a letter to you but to my mind it is just a stream of consciousness, the geranium in the corner is powering an ancient computer that still has an Englosh translator. I think in mandarin but you can listen into/read my

inner dialogue, notated as I think it. Ah well. I need to go silent now but perhaps we can resume this meeting another time if I manage to save up my Commendations. Information is almost as precious/expensive as plant life these days! And you can imagine how we value water, especially now that it is incredibly hot (compared to your days).

I rest my forehead on your hands.  
Flo.

Well there you have it. I am not sure what I can do with this information apart from share it with you. I suppose it makes you appreciate things as they are, for one thing is for certain, it could all change.

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