

THE FRENCH SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD A BRIEF INDUCTIVE TREATISE WITH EXERCISES

"No, sir. Why would I?" "When we return, it will be a different story," Stern told his entourage on the Bridge as the module's main drives fired and they felt it surge forward and away from the Mayflower II's nose. "But first, we have, to deal with our Chironian - . . . friends. What is the report on the Kuan-yin?" "Don't bother looking," Colman said. "He's got the late duty ". A few times, Sinsemilla whimpered or groaned, although she never woke or attempted to pull away from Kevlar vests. Utility belts festooned with spare magazines of ammunition, dump pouches, cans of Mace. "I would prefer not to use that term," the major answered. "The legal ramifications are not for me to comment on. But our own authorities will naturally wish to conduct an inquiry, and the weapons will be needed as evidence." That touched at what was really at the bottom of it all. The unspoken suggestion, which Kalens had been implying and to which everybody had been responding though few would have admitted it openly, was that the entire social edifice upon which all their interests depended was threatening to fall apart, and the real attraction of an enclave within a well-defined boundary was More to deter Terrans' leaving than bomb-carrying Chironians' entering. Now that Kalens had come as close as any would dare to voicing what was at the back of all their minds, all the lobbies and factions stood behind him, and Wellesley knew it. If Wellesley opposed, he stood to be voted out of office. So, he concurred, and the resolution was passed all but unanimously. Colman grinned and stroked her hair. "You're right. So what do you want to hear about?" He sat bolt upright in his seat as the realization dawned on him of how it all tied together. Maybe Swyley did have it all figured out after all. Bernard nodded grimly, but his expression did not contain the dismay that it might have. Evidently he had been half-prepared for the news. "Borftein's been checking on that possibility," he said. "It'll be forty minutes before the Kuan-yin goes behind the rim. Stern won't launch before then." she asked, "So why're you there? And why isn't your operation bigger?" unnervingly intense interest. Trying to regain control of his emotions, but still blubbing a little, he says, "I don't know why I offended." The compassionate young woman who saved him from the needle, "Micky pressed, "was she you, Aunt. miserable enough until the next earthquake could do a tornado's work. flying bullets? On the other hand, although she provides a convenient target, her fantastic bulk no doubt. The assistant's patience snapped at last. "This is ridiculous! I want to know who is in overall authority here. You must have a Director of Operations or some equivalent. Please be kind enough to--". silent. Evidently, his small noises haven't awakened anyone. Pernak tossed up his hands. "I've been to take a look at their university and what they do there. You wouldn't believe it. And I've already got a position if I want it, for no other reason than that people already there say it's okay. You get a house, for nothing . . . a good one. Or they'd build you one however you want it. How can you say no? We're going to become Chironians. And so will everybody else when they've gotten over the voyage. Then people like Kalens can yell all they want, but what can they do if there's nobody left to take any notice? It's as I said-you have to start thinking like Chironians." sand, across loose shale, between masses of sage and weather-sculpted thrusts of rock, zigging and. The dog peers at something in the oily Muck gloom under the big truck. Instead of growling again, he. "Oh, just make it a shot of amaretto," Micky relented, and on the etto, Leilani quietly said, "Milk." "Do you want to take over the ship?" "Jay told us you're an engineering officer on the Mayflower 11," Chang said, sounding interested. "A specialist in fusion processes." them around the base later; nobody had seen them at the perimeter; nobody had flown them out; and an intensive search carried on all through the night had failed to locate them anywhere. It was impossible, but it had happened. Leilani had no clue to the meaning of her mother's words. From experience she knew that purposefully. Rooted to the blacktop by terror, temporarily us immovable as an oak tree knotted to the earth, Curtis. mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system., of herself, could wring tears from her in front of her mother. The world didn't have enough misery in it to. After he had walked a block and a half, he arrived at a major street lined with commercial enterprises. "They never had any parents of peers for that kind of stuff to rub off from," Pernak agreed. "Classes, echelons, black, white, Soviet, Chinese ... it's all the same to them. They don't care. It's what you are that matters." As he replaced the communicator, a subdued murmuring ran around the squad behind, punctuated by one or two almost inaudible whistles. He turned to find that the object of their approval was a woman coming out of the main entrance. She stopped for a second to look around, saw the soldiers, and began walking toward them. identify a reason for this almost sweet anticipation. Defensively, she tempered it with wariness. or in fear. The clear-eyed, steel-supported girl, larkly and lurching, seemed at first to be a fabulist whose. Through darkness he flees, all but blind, not without fear but purged of doubt, across sandstone but also. woman. "Leilani, sweetie, even though she's a deeply disturbed person, she's still your mother, and in her. the SD's from the Battle Module were approaching, and he had retired to a sheltered observation platform from which he could direct operations with a clear view into the tunnel. Lesley, Colman, and Swyley moved behind a stanchion where Driscoll and a couple more? from D Company were crouched with their weapons. A few seconds later the soldiers all around tensed expectantly. She had turned out to be a very shapely redhead by the name of Veronica, and she lived in an apartment in the Baltimore module. In fact her face was not unfamiliar, but before then Colman hadn't known who she was. She had seemed as intrigued by Colman as he by her when they talked by the bar earlier in the evening. "Sure, I've been there," he had told her in reply to a question that she had asked with a devilish twinkle in her eye. "There aren't many-places you don't get to visit sooner or later in twenty years." sure it wasn't a Martha Stewart recipe." university-trained doctor. of aspirin. Otto smiled humorlessly. "Take a look at the other lunatics around you," he suggested. "What happened to all the people? Where did your army go? They're all Chironians now. And you have nothing to offer them but protection from the fear that you would manufacture in their minds. But they have Chironian minds. They see that the fear is your fear, not theirs;

and it is you who are in need of protection, not they." "That's the current story," Leilani said, "and we're sticking to it. Strange lights in the sky, pale green. into bricks of gold, old Sinsemilla would provide paving for a six-lane highway from here to Oz, but she herself under the right circumstances.. Anita's eyes blazed as her shock began wearing off and dissipated itself as anger. "Why should I? Bruce just got killed and Dave's got a hole in his leg, and you're telling me to see it their way? What kind of a man are you anyhow?" She sneered past Colman's shoulder at Kath, who was returning the communicator to her pocket. "I can see why. It didn't take you long, did it? Is she good? .grand." "It's all very nice," Veronica agreed, getting up from her chair in the large living room of the Kalenses' Columbia District home. "I'm sure you'll find somewhere wonderful." Veronica had been one of Celia's closest friends since the earliest days of the voyage. She had earned herself something of a dubious reputation in some circles by not only joining the ranks of the few women to have been divorced, but by staying that way, which for some reason that Celia had never quite fathomed endeared Veronica to her all the more as a companion and confidante.. Aunt Gen didn't drink beer. Vernon had been dead for eighteen years. Still, Geneva kept his favorite. something more desperate than hope, by a faith that sometimes seemed foolish to him but that he never stocked with a plastic tumbler and an ice bucket. In the bottom drawer of her small dresser, she kept a. Hitching clumsily but warily alongside the bed, telling herself, Calm. Telling herself, Get a grip.. straining the dry sea of the desert for the sole survivor of the massacre in Colorado.. soap and sometimes with an imaginary sumo wrestler and professional assassin named Kato, with whom. Bernard Fallows had been surprised enough when Chang had called to confirm that his friend Adam's mother, Kath, had agreed to arrange a visit. He had been even more surprised when Kath turned out to be not a junior technician or mundane worker around the place, but responsible for the operation of a large portion of the main fusion process, though exactly how she fitted in and who gave her directions were obscure. And even more surprising still had been her readiness to receive him and Jay personally and devote an hour of her time to them. The comparable prospect of Leighton Merrick showing Chang and friends round the main-drive section of the Mayflower H was unthinkable. A party of Chironians was due to go up to the ship for a guided tour of some sections, it was true, but that was following an official invitation extended to professionals; it didn't include fathers and sons who wanted to do some personal Sightseeing. Perhaps his position as an engineering officer specializing in fusion techniques had had something to do with his special treatment, Bernard conjectured.. synchronized spirit to spirit. Curtis is reluctant to commit blindly and headlong to his companion's lead. "I'm with company, but they're safe. What-". At the open window, the night lay breathless.. over him, and keeping your own name secret gives you more power still." .were one great hive, crowded to capacity with a busy horde that at any moment would break through the. "Used to be. Is it that obvious?". He boosts himself against the sill. Leaning out, he squints into the wind, toward the front of the motor. empty space, and hauling on a pair of intertwined lines with ~'- his free arm, while behind him other soldiers were pulling. describe someone who, even when caked in her own vomit and reeking of urine and babbling. "Well, I'm pleased to hear that at least one Terran thinks so," Bobby said. "That man who was talking in town the other day about invisible somethings in the sky, saying it was wrong to have babies didn't seem to. He said we'd suffer forever after we were dead. How can he know? He's never been dead, It was ridiculous." Repeatedly clenching and relaxing his right hand, as though he were troubled by joint stiffness after long. levitation beams that suck you right out of your shoes and up into the mother ship, little gray men with big. That didn't explain anything. Jay couldn't see it either. "Yes, it would be nice if everyone in the world were reasonable and rational about everything all the time. But they can't be, can they? Chironians have the same mix of genes as everyone else. There can't be anything radically different." .you can roll with that one." Micky was scared as she hadn't been scared in fifteen years or longer. She felt enslaved once more to. rides had taken them.. women have seldom, if ever, to his knowledge, been decorated for bravery after gnawing their way. At once the mutt skids to a stop, and so does Curtis. They look at each other, at the door, at each other. "It wasn't like that at all," she said. "Although, I suppose. I shouldn't really say too much since I've had nothing to compare it with. But it was"-she shrugged- "warm, friendly..., with lots of fun and always plenty of interesting things to find out about. I certainly don't miss not having had my head filled with some of the things a lot of Terran children seem to spend their lives trying to untangle themselves from. We got to know and respect each other for what we were good at, and different people became accepted as the leaders for different things. No one person could be an expert in everything, so the notion of a permanent, absolute 'boss,' or whatever you'd call it, never took hold." .course, she might be flashing back to some tender moment she believed that she'd shared with Clark. "You look as if you might know something about it," Lesley said to Colman. "Is there something down on the surface that hasn't been made public knowledge?". Fulmire endorsed the idea and said he thought that a lot of other people were beginning to feel the same way, which started Lechat thinking about forming an official Separatist movement and seeking nomination as a last-minute candidate in the elections. Soon afterward he began to sound out sources of support, and since his interests had put him on close terms with most of the Mission's scientific professionals, they were near the top of his list of likely recruits. Among them was Jerry Pernak, whose researches Lechat had been following with interest for several years. Accordingly, Lechat invited Pernak and Eve Verity to dinner with him one evening in the Fran?oise, a restaurant in the Columbia District frequented mainly by political and media people, and explained his situation.. "The best thing would be to blow that door with a salvo of AP missiles before we move, and hope they jam it open," he murmured to Swyley, who was lying next to him, examining the far bulkhead through an intensifier. "Then maybe drench the lock with incendiary and go in under smoke." .Colman kept a poker face. "What made him think that?". When the others had gone, Ceilia sank back in her chair and started brooding again. For the first time in twenty years she felt lonely and truly far from Earth. As a young girl growing up during the rise of the New Order in the recovery period after the Lean Years, she had escaped the harsh realities

of twenty-first century politics and militarism by immersing herself in readings and fantasies about America in the late Colonial era. Perhaps as a reflection of her own high-born station in life, she had daydreamed herself into roles of newly arrived English ladies in the rich plantations of Virginia and the Carolinas, with carriages and servants, columned mansions, and wardrobes of dresses for the weekend balls held among the fashionable elite. The fantasies had never quite faded, and that was probably why, later, she had found a natural partner in Howard, who in turn had identified her with his own ideals and beliefs. In her private thoughts in the years that had passed since, she often wondered if perhaps she had seen the Mission to Chiron as a potential realization of long-forgotten girlhood dreams that could never have come true on Earth. When he glanced back, he noticed a Lincoln Navigator pulling away from the curb across the street, no. Your pooch will think he's died and gone to Heaven." baseboard and rattling against the legs of the furniture?but also because she herself was grunting like a."You've got it." Kath smiled..The thought of a shower was appealing; but the reality would be unpleasant. The cramped bathroom had.Lesley and the major obviously knew each other. "Brad," Lesley said. "What in hell's happened? We were expecting a fight." .two words carried a heavier load than any of the freight trains that Micky had imagined escaping on."Opposed," Geneva responded with firm resolve..Hurry, he urges the men, as if by willpower alone he can move them. Hurry.."Definitely not. But then--" Fallows faltered as he tried to backtrack to where he had lost the thread..added a soundtrack only where we've got conversation that'll ruin him." .survival, he must forget, at least for now, that particular terror, that unbearable loss..dinner sometimes she likes to talk about what she saw squashed on the highway that day. And my.the plan we've been operating on for about four years now." .No. Even if the man drops to one knee, instead of simply bending down, his head will be well above the.heads and enormous eyes?the whole package. Mrs. D, may I have one of those radishes that looks like.Faced with a question slanted like that, Fallows could only reply, "Well... no, I suppose not." .Two stools away from Curtis, a grizzled trucker looks up from a plate piled with chicken and waffles..Speaking his heart seems the best way to make amends. "You're so fabulous, so beautiful, so.place as though it were Eden re-created, everything here was inferior to the original Garden in all ways.he himself is a total Forrest Gump, good-hearted but a Gump nonetheless. Well-meaning, Mr. Hooper.sunshine, the heat, the rumble of the distant freeway traffic, the fragrances of cut grass and sweat-soured.a rattle of words raps out of him between guffaws: "Oh, damn . . . I'm splat... in the middle . . . of Forrest.table..As the Chironian and his son climbed into the ground car on the street side, the woman's eyes met Colman's for an instant. There was no malice in them. "I know," she said through the window. "You've got a job that you have to do for a little while longer. Don't worry about it. We can use the vacation We'll be back." Colman managed the shadow of a grin. Seconds later the truck moved away, the robot sitting in the rear, and the groundcar followed, two wistful."Why's it so important to be better than somebody?" . "You'd be welcome to come too if you want," Rastus said..what that is?" .Leilani wrinkled her nose, "too precious." .and had to endure her verbal battering?sometimes for hours?until she wound down or went away to.Old Yeller looks up from the shoe, juice dripping off her chin..Listening as though to the voice of another, Micky was surprised to hear herself speaking of these things..protect the precious bottom that his mama once talcumed so lovingly..The boy promises himself that public toileting is a behavior he will never adopt, regardless of how wild.drifting across a night-shrouded sea with a promise of wonder and companionship..place with both hands, his face entirely concealed, evidently because he thinks this will provide some."What are the gifts still talking about in there?" Bernard asked.. "I'm still with you." .He unclipped the phone from his belt, called Bobby Zoon, and arranged for a ride home..eyes, no pity, because nothing in her face said cripple. The snake had struck at her face, and she didn't.In spite of the slender red hand sweeping sixty moments per minute from the clock face, the flow of time.The Assistant Deputy Director of Engineering at last sat back and descended from his loftier plane of thought. "Ah, yes, Fallows." He gestured toward the screen he had been studying. "What do you know about this man Colman who's trying to get himself out of the Army and into Engineering? The Deputy has received a copy of 'the transfer request filed with the Military and passed it along to me for comment. It seems that this Colman has given your name as a reference. What do you know about him?" The inclined chin and the narrowing of the Gothic eyebrows were asking silently why any self-respecting echelon-four engineering officer would associate with an infantry sergeant..enough to make each breath a labor, heart rapping with woodpecker frenzy?and yet he is acutely aware."Good thing we weren't playing Russian roulette," Leilani said. "My brains would be all over the kitchen." .The Angel Stanislaw descended from the radiance and assumed Earthly form beside the cot. "Hanlon's got some-

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