

we test it . . .  
 But, why "on earth"?  
 Someone suggested to the President that a remote control step-rocket with a cosmic energy war head, exploded on the moon, would serve as a supreme test. As for of course, mockingly predicted dismal failure, though secretly the un-lucky Thirteen Tovaritchs of the Politbureau nervously chewed their collective fingernails in worry. Washington was a gigantic kettle boiling with speculation. As usual, politicians capitalized on the universal public interest and the Min-

rocket was hastily built and equipped. The launching date was announced with a tremendous publicity campaign, though the launching site remained "TOP SECRET." Rumors spread like wildfire. Pravda, of course, mockingly predicted dismal failure, though secretly the un-lucky Thirteen Tovaritchs of the Politbureau nervously chewed their collective fingernails in worry. Washington was a gigantic kettle boiling with speculation. As usual, politicians capitalized on the universal public interest and the Min-

ority Party announced itself ready to start a mishmash that would "cost the Majority Party their next election," on grounds that the entire project was but "a stupendous waste of the Taxpayers' money. What IS this country coming to . . ."  
 Drew Appleton predicted . . .  
 Gabriel Cooker had good news — or did he? The scientists chose a full moon spring night for launching, the thirteenth of Nisan.  
 The rocket was supposed to explode over the lunar Mare Fecundum twenty-four hours after blast-off, Seder Night. The morning after the launching, an N.B.C. correspondent in Jerusalem related to listening millions reports that were flashed from a makeshift observatory on Mount Scopus . . .  
 Suddenly, the reporter was interrupted by another voice, louder than his, "THIS IS ELIAHU GILEAD! PEOPLE OF THE WORLD, THIS IS IT! MOSHLACH IS COMING!" They attributed this to a fanatical young radio amateur, N'turey Karta, no doubt.  
 Some people wondered. Many ridiculed, and a handful rejoiced, but everyone was expectant.  
 Cultists stood on hilltops singing hymns awaiting the End of the World. Others had only the Matzah balls of the Pesach soup in mind. On Wall Street, the stock market lost both bottom and ceiling trying vainly to adjust itself to the

paradoxical feelings of the brokers. Hiddur Mitzvah of Moror, while a young Chossid just worried where he could get Romaine lettuce for Liberal rabbi called the congregational seder off. This situation was

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too much for him to handle. In this excitement, no one would be able to get the Spirit or the Essence of his perfume peddling. In a Sh'murah Matzah Bakery on the East Side, Reb David made every-one repeat "L'shem Mitzvoth Matzah" and the last batch of Erev Pesach matzoth was shoved into the oven. And the rocking chairs in the Kosher resort hotels rocked faster as the people sitting in them swayed faster from excitement.

"Ma Nishtana Halayiah Hazeh Mikol Haleylot." How different was this night from all other nights? Then it happened. On the tranquil silver face of the moon, an incandescent spark bloomed. The spark expanded rapidly into an intolerable, searing light. On a shocked earth, night gave way to an alien dawn, morning, high moon . . .  
 Wherever Jews gathered to celebrate the Seder, there was recited:

Higia Z'man K'riath Sh'ma shel Shacharith . . . The time for the morning Sh'ma has arrived.  
 The celestial display of cosmic fury lasted one hour. Then slowly, the flaming orb of magna dimmed until it was only as bright as the sun. Under the terrifying shock of incalculable energy from the heavens, the earth's axis was aligned vertically towards the Sun. This was followed almost at once with a marked rise in temperature in the north as if Springtime warmth enveloped our planet.  
 Within twenty-four hours, there were many quakes recorded. All over the world underground streams of water broke through the surface. The Negev, the Sahara, the Gobi, even Death Valley were inundated. The ice caps on Greenland and Antarctica were melted. Oil gush-

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