

FRIDAY
VENUS



“How many of you love the fact that it’s Friday?”

“Yahoo!” we all exclaimed. One student whistled, another got up and danced.

“How many of you would guess that the reason you love Friday is that it is named after Venus, the planet of love?”

“Vendredi, please repeat.” Mr. Abraham said.

“Vendredi,” we replied.

“So why do we love Fridays?”

“Because tomorrow is Saturday!” one student yelled.

“Because the school week is almost over!” another student cried out.

“Because tomorrow we get to sleep in!”

The comments kept coming.

Then Mr. Abraham said, “Okay, let’s re-devote ourselves to the discipline of today, instead of the daydream of tomorrow. So Friday, Vendredi, was named after Venus - a planet with an amazing history.”

Mr. Abraham shut the lights, pulled down the screen and turned on the projector.

“There she is - Venus in all her victory. She is known as the planet of love.” The class was in awe as this milky white planet came up on the screen. “Mankind has been studying her for a long time.”

He continued, “In South America, the Mayans built their calendar in relationship to her orbit. In Australia, the Aborigines believe that Venus was the creator of dreaming. In Africa, the Masai believe that Venus came to Earth in the form of a boy. When the boy’s origin was discovered, he returned to Venus in a shot of Light. I think so many cultures have been studying Venus because she catches our hearts.”

Mr. Abraham turned the lights back on. We were all still a little dreamy from the beautiful sight of Venus.

“Please take out a paper and pencil. Now make a list of all the things, people, and ideas that you love.”

I went straight to work. I started to write madly, with complete abandon. Because I was remembering Jupiter, I had my whole heart open. I let all my love pour out on the paper.

I paused for a moment and looked around at the room. I looked at the student sitting next to me. He had written one sentence on his page.

I would love to get out of here.

I thought, “Poor guy.”



I would love to get
out of here!!!!

I love my family
my dog
my garden
travelling through space
my friends
reading
watching movies
playing soccer

Clearly someone needed to help him find his heart. All of a sudden, I had an idea. I pushed my paper on the floor. He bent to pick it up. He glanced over my list. There was even a moment when he smiled.

He handed the list back to me, then picked up his pen, crossed out his sentence and began to write a new list of his own.

Mr. Abraham then said we had three assignments due by Monday – the first was to translate our love list to French; the second was to research Saturn for Saturday and the Sun for Sunday; and the last was to write down and present to the class what we had learned from our study of space. We all groaned.

“I know. I know!” Mr. Abraham said. “I doubt any of you have homework on your love list!”

As soon as I got home, I did my first assignment. With it being the weekend, I wanted to be available for as much space travel as possible. After dinner, my Dad asked if I wanted to watch a movie. “No thanks, Dad. I think I am going to do a little more homework and then call it a day.”

“But it’s Friday night. You never miss a chance to watch a great science fiction movie. This one is about some giant tomato going into space. You sure you don’t want to watch with me?”

“Yup.” I laughed. No movie could be as great as going there myself. “See you in the morning. Love you.” Tomato in space, I chuckled. There would be an onion in space tonight, for sure.

“Love you too. Sleep tight,” Dad said and settled back into the couch. As soon as I got into bed, I started on my countdown. 26, 25, 24...

3, 2, 1...

blast off!

I was traveling through the white billowy clouds of Venus. I expected my adventure to go like the others, but when I broke through the clouds, the view was totally different. It was busy. The people of Venus were all different colors and shapes but each of them had the same very profound detail - half their heart lived outside of their chest. You could see it beating and most of them were glowing light pink.

Where I landed looked like some sort of train station. A big loud voice came over the loud speaker to confirm my location.

“The train to Rosewell will be arriving on track 51.”

Train to Rosewell: 11.22

VENUS

RAIL



I figured I'd get on the train and see where it would take me. It arrived and I climbed on board with the rest of the travelers. No one seemed to notice how different I looked. I took a seat next to a nice looking Venutian. He was busy reading a book titled: *The Architecture of Love*.

"Good book?" I asked as I sat down.

"Yeah, thanks." The Venutian looked up and his heart started to turn different shades of blue.

"Are you all right?" I asked, pointing to his heart.

"Ummm, well. No. Uhhh, I'm not," he said looking around at the other passengers. "Uhhh, the fact that I cannot see your heart is scaring me a little. Who are you?" he asked me, clearly worried.

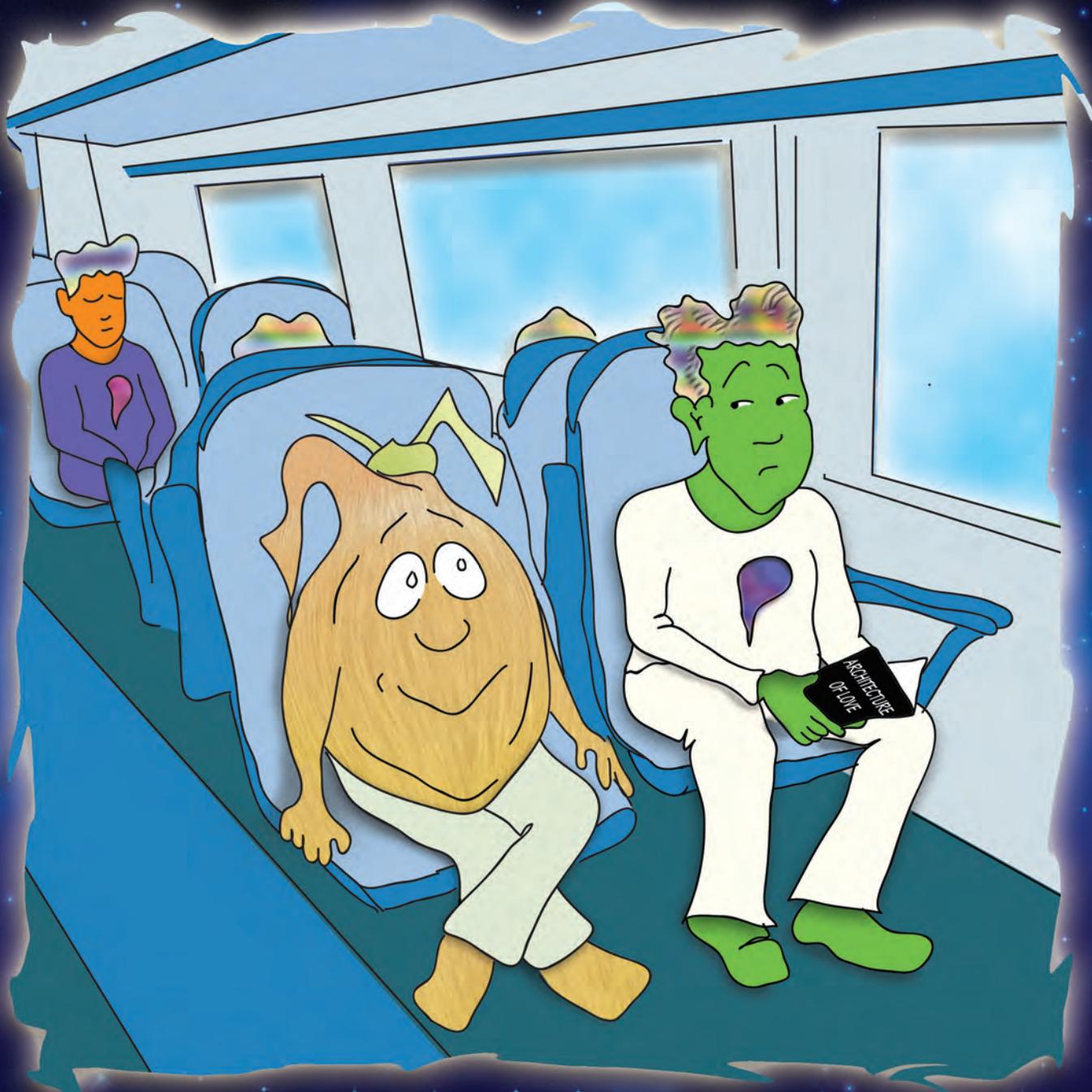
"I'm Onionhead and I'm from Earth. Sorry about the heart thing but Earthlings don't wear their hearts on the outside. We keep them hidden," I answered.

"Hidden? Why would you keep your heart hidden?" he asked.

"Why do you keep your heart out for everyone to see?" I replied.

"Well, mostly so that we can stay genuine and honest. It keeps us pure. The first Venutians planned it so that we'd always be devoted to truth and love." I smiled because I knew about that from Mercury.

His heart was beginning to change back to its original color. Obviously I was making him less nervous.



I wanted to know so much more about the meaning of love, but the announcer was calling the next stop, and he looked worried again. This time his heart was bleeping a deep shade of purple.

“This is my stop,” he said quickly.

“Oh, uh, okay.” I thought it was kind of strange that I would travel all the way to Venus and only learn such a small amount. But I got up to let him out of the seat.

“What’s your name?” I asked.

“Master Serap,” he replied.

I extended my hand to shake his. He reached his hand out and when our hands clasped, he froze. His pupils got very big and my skin got really warm. He sat back down immediately and said he had changed his mind.

“Are you alright?” I asked. This time his heart was turning a reddish pink.

“I felt your heart when I touched your hand. That’s never happened before. You are not who I thought you were,” he said.

“What do you mean?” I questioned.

“Well, I think I can trust you. Can I trust you?” he asked.

“Of course. I haven’t traveled this far to do you any harm. I promise,” I answered as genuinely as I could. I felt terrible that our meeting had made his heart change to all those colors.

Then Master Serap got closer and lowered his voice to a whisper.

“People come from other planets to stop the loving. Foolish people, they don’t know that they cannot win that war. Love will always create the victory. I thought you were one of them when I could not see your heart. You may not wear it on the outside but you sure feel like you do.”

“Actually my Mom always says I wear my heart on my sleeve so I guess that’s kind of the same.”

We sat together in silence for a while as the train made its way across the countryside. I peered out the window over Master Serap’s shoulder. It was amazing. There was no heaviness or pollution here. Everything felt so magnificent and clean. It made me feel like I was dreaming.

“It’s so beautiful here. I understand your need to protect it, but I have a question if you don’t mind?”

“Sure, ask away,” he said.

“Do all of you live this way?” I asked.

“We do.”

“Do you think I can get the people of my planet to understand this?”

Just then the announcer called for the next stop.

“Next stop Luxor. I repeat, next stop Luxor.”



The train was pulling to a stop and once again Master Serap grabbed my hand. “Come with me. Because I feel a love for you and I believe you really care about others, I am going to show you something I never show anyone.”

We jumped off the train before it even stopped moving. Master Serap was moving quickly through the crowd.

“We need to hurry before others find out where I am taking you. Yet, I really feel you are such a loving ... what did you say ... onion? So Onionhead, can you run?”

“Run, well yeah, I can run. But I can also roll, which usually goes faster.” I answered.

He laughed. “I have a better idea. Take both of my hands and hold on tight,” he said.

I took Master Serap’s hands and in just an instant, there was a blinding flash, like lightning.

“WhaaaaaatTTTT are weeeeeeeeeee doinggsgggggggggggg?” I asked as the wind blew my cheeks so hard against my face.

“Travelinggsgggggggggggg Venussssssssssss style!” he said with a giggle.

When we finally stopped we were far from the train station. I was a little dizzy but as soon as I got my balance back, I realized we were standing on the edge of a mountain, staring down at something that resembled a beautiful pyramid. It looked like there was some kind of fire that burned in the shape of a heart.

“Wow! That’s so cool,” I said in amazement.

“Wait, you haven’t seen anything yet,” he replied.

He grabbed my hand again and we made it down the mountainside to the entrance. We stopped at the doorway.

“Where are we going?” I asked.

“To a place where love is in its most beautiful form.”

“Does such a place exist?” I asked.

“You’ll feel it for yourself. You said you wanted to help your planet so I thought I would take you to the Pyramid of Everlasting Love.”

“Wow!” I said, but really, I could not imagine such a thing.

Master Serap continued to say, “When you view someone through the eyes of love, you **feel** their beauty. For things to change on your planet and become like ours, you need to get 51% of the people to believe in this.”

“How do you get 51% of the votes? Do you have to run for some kind of office?” I asked.

“No, it all begins with you. It takes a lot of work. When difficult things happen, as they sometimes do, you have to commit to staying in your heart. This is the only path to victory.”

I knew that from Jupiter but I said, “Wow, that’s heavy. I mean light. I mean ... that’s huge,” I said trying to grasp the idea of life with only love in it.



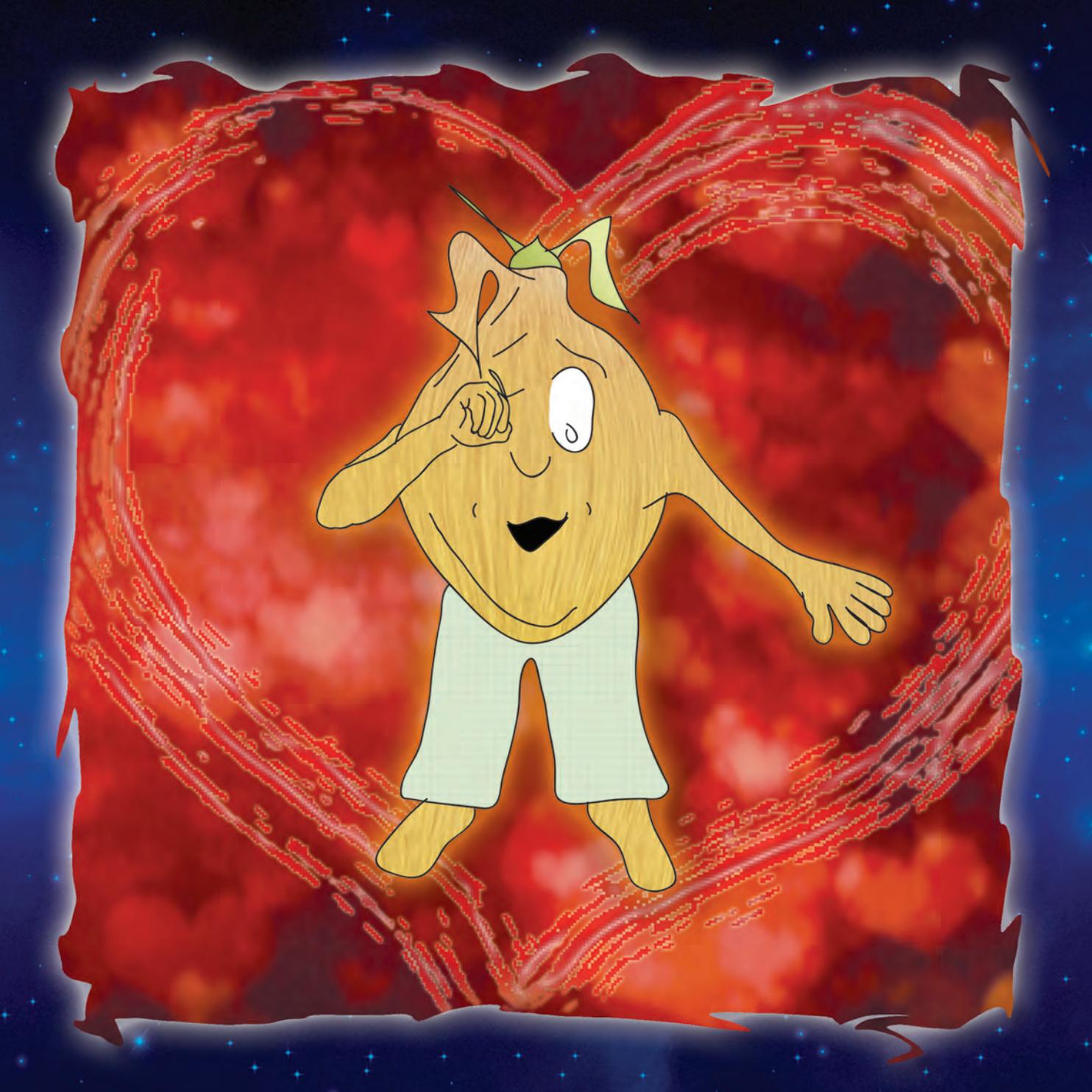
I felt like the whole world was suddenly on my peels. I wished I could really understand what he was saying. When Master Serap felt I was ready, he again took my hand and we entered the pyramid.

The moment my feet touched the floor of the room, everything changed. I looked up at the ceiling where I had seen the fire from outside, expecting to find the cause of it. But instead, it was then that I suddenly realized ... I WAS INSIDE A HEART!

There was this feeling that I was loved, like never before and everything lovely, lovable and loving was possible. I mean, my Mom and Dad really love me ... but this was different. It felt as if the whole Universe, the whole sky, the stars, the clouds, the wind and all the planets were in love. It was so perfect and so light.

I let go of Master Serap's hand to rub my eyes in case what I was seeing wasn't real. But when I did, we each became weightless. All of a sudden, I was soaring and though I could still feel him, I couldn't see Master Serap anymore. I was so upset because I knew where I was going and I was not ready to leave. I wanted to stay longer, to feel this kind of love more.

I closed my eyes for the ride home. When I opened them again, I was in my bed and Picaboo was on top of me. I hugged him and I was very aware of how heavy we both were. I said, "I love you too." His eyes twinkled and I could swear I saw him smile.



I went to grab my pencil and a white feather fell to the floor ... it was a dove feather. On it was written ...Venus, The Bringer of Love. Don't forget me ... Love, Master Serap. I was crying as I wrote ...

Lesson from Venus

Remember – beauty comes from viewing everything from a feeling of love. We must see another's beauty not only with our eyes, we must feel it with our hearts. Now I feel great about wearing my heart on my sleeve!

