

Prince Vespa

“I have handed these writings over to future independent historians of New Saturn
12. They are authentic and lean towards the interests of Prince Vespa, myself, a
robot,” obtained from Vespa’s memory strips.

Prince Vespa did not know or The Man that Po Wei as he left the badlands was
operating an orange colour imager camera inside his float, that extracted the heat
from under the disguise Prince Vespa wore and put together an image, complete
skeletal make up down to his blood type and DNA prints.

PO WEI HAD X-RAYED PRINCE VESPA PRETTY DAM GOOD *wouldn't you
say?*

“And what shall we do with you?” Po Wei asked of the image and his
contaminated retainers were happy now someone of high social standing was
suffering.

Contaminated as they had been out in the badlands exposed to disease.

And Po Wei would send his contaminated soldiers to arrest Vespa the first chance
he had and together their names would be sent to the Registrar of Births and Deaths.
Po knew to terminate them all in one go was economical as Po Wei didn't like the
idea of so many knowing what happened to Po Shen.

For example; Lance Corporal T. Mains died of nerve gas poisoning.

Private I. Banks died from Anthrax.

Private R. Lopez from Hepatitis.

And the recordings went on and on.....

IT WAS A LOAD OF CODSWALLOP.

Just too many for a bath so Po Wei arranged for bath contents to come out of the communal barrack showers, of course after locking the men in.

You see Aelfric wasn't the only one using dissolving agents?

"A murderer cannot afford any witnesses. The public need a body and the press want to hang someone," Po Wei, but I own the press but not he who

CONDEMNS THE GUILTY.

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"Why are you arresting me?" Vespa asked of Po Wei who sat in his yellow craft.

For reply a soldier was allowed to use his fingers on Vespa, fingers covered in coins made into rings so Vespa's teeth were victimised.

Po Wei nodded again, he wanted this messy business done quickly, he was in mourning for Po Shen.

Eagerly the men kneed Vespa several times so the prince was easily thrown into the back of a hover truck FULL OF RETAINERS who knew what to do.

So by the time Po Wei's little convoy pulled into Wei's two hundred blue marbled town house, Vespa wasn't recognisable.

The watching street beggars thought the prisoner one of them getting his chips for spitting at the passing illustrious Po Wei.

And Po Wei had already taken care of the entire prince's household who were just skeletons now.

Skeletons eaten by a virus made by The Master Priest who had lots of paying clients.

AND PO WEI WAS ONE OF THEM.

A virus that had been slipped into the air conditioning system so all would breathe it in.

The red rash came first, then the internal bleeding.

FOR A VIRUS WAS HAVING LUNCH.

Of course the imperial police would come and find a rip in the palace's dome allowing polluted air in. Did not the weather man say bad air was blowing in from the Bad Lands that night?

Clever Po Wei had already bribed the weather man to say such GIBBERISH and we know how Po Wei made sure things stayed secret?

And the corrupt weather man was found exposed to the elements, a thing you didn't want to do. Seems he had too much out doing the rounds of strip clubs and collapsed where he was found.

Then the mutated rats got him so what was found by the police was enough to put them off supper.

But it was their job, they were paid well and as corrupt as Po Wei and many were in his pay rolls so don't feel sorry for them.

And war pollution was blamed for the death of Vespa's palace staff.

And for authentic realism a thousand nesting house sparrows had been gobbled up by the virus too.

And near by tied houses, occupied by Vespa's agricultural workers were burnt down alone with their occupants.

BETTER FOR SOME TO DIE SO THE MAJORITY COULD LIVE.

That was how it was seen; the disease must be contained and eliminated; besides the whole area was desired by Po Wei for redevelopment. A thousand condoms would be erected beside an artificial lake with real ducks bred in an aviary; not the plastic yellow ones!

A few monkeys would be let loose in the trees on the island in the middle of the lake. It would be a touch of green in the middle of a polluted world and people would buy, just to sit by the lake and gaze at the real Japanese carp wanting bits of bread thrown at them.

Burning what was already here down on environmental orders was cheaper than bulldozing them and rehousing the occupants.

WAS NOT PO WEI WORTHY OF AN HONOURY DEGREE IN ECONOMICS?

Besides the agricultural workers were of the poor class 6.

"A discontented poor citizen is dangerous, better to eliminate than have such a thorn in one's side," an Augustus quote.

So Po Wei had done his emperor a favour hadn't he?

As for Po Wei, Vespa was of royal blood so things must be done secretly and quickly not to mention quietly?



Illustration 13: "Ook ook" for effect of course.

And in the flames the clone of Vespa was destroyed for Po Wei wanted Vespa dead and his thoughts and political leanings forgotten.

But a robot copy of Vespa had escaped.

To the Emperor Augustus the robot was still his cousin, living tissue not a cyborg.

“What the hell is this?” Po Wei seeing the me robot in court.

“What is wrong First Minister?” I asked.

He didn’t answer, he was in deep shock, was obviously trying to calculate how many of us existed.

It was only later alone that he set his retainers upon me and took me back to his town house.

“Some situations need risky solutions,” Po Wei from his dairy.

And when I did not die after been garrotted Po realised I was a robot.

At this meeting Aelfric was present, business with the shady Po Wei.

“A robot?” Aelfric asked astonished, he was not alone; think he would have guessed that after the Major Domo affair?

And wanted to buy me from Po Wei who would have none of it, for I was a very loose end.

“He must die,” a shower is arranged for him.

I knew what he meant?

And Aelfric protested ‘FOR ONLY ROBOTS CAN KILL ROBOTS.’

And as soon as he was alone with me as Po Wei was a very busy minister of state with a demanding emperor. He told me.....”I am a robot,” and his dreams of robot empire and summoned one of Po Wei’s retainers to bring in substance, fresh fish and pickled vegetables.

She was a young girl from the kitchens.

“Have her,” he told the armed retainers who threw the girl across a table.

“She is human trash,” Aelfric the robot said to me quietly.

Then when the men were done he ordered me to follow suit.

How could I? I was made after the real Prince Vespa and he was above such bestial going ons.

And how Aelfric looked at me I knew he was offering me life or death, who would I fight for, robots or that human trash?

“Human trash,” he whispered again.

And before I knew it he had me by the neck and turned it violently sideways jamming my circuits so that I was paralysed:

MOUTH GAPING,

DEFENCELESS.

So he calmly dropped two well aimed pink capsules straight down my gagging open throat.

“A little pet of mine, a parasitic tapeworm with a neutron bomb attached to it. Thus it will attach itself to the lining of your gut and blow a hole in it if you misbehave.”

PAUSE.

What he had said began to sink in, I was his slave; I had failed the test and chosen death rather than join his mad scheme of robot domination.

Then he he did my neck and head again and the pain was horrid but I was no longer paralysed.

“Now take the human,” and he waved a small remote control at me.

“Wrong, two capsules you swallowed, a controller,” and he smiled as he turned up the waves and I felt my gut go into knots so that I doubled with colic.

“Besides, the Master Priest assures me that I can control the neutron explosion and it will go BANG and melt everything within a six inch diameter IF I WANT IT TOO. Just enough to leave you prostrate on my little friends Posidonus’s brown plastic operating table, he likes to play at doctors you know?”

SILENCE.

A fresh silver fish made the mistake of wiggling on the tray, he ate it.

HE WAS MORE THAN A ROBOT, A ROBOT WITH UNUSUAL NON
HUMAN TASTES.

“Didn’t you know about Posidonus? Highly skilled with a scalpel. Always wanted to look inside a robot, then he can give you a bath, you could do with one,” and he made exaggerated sniffing sounds about me.

I had no illusions as to what the evil robot meant?

So looked at the human girl who had been listening to all. By the spirit of creation how I hated Aelfric and my own robot kind.

And was determined to destroy him and help the dictatorship so human, robot, alien, machine and unknown could live together in peace without FRAR under The Man’s law and knew why my deceased master Prince Vespa had favoured The Man.

LAUGHTER.

Aelfric thought I was funny or the situation.

Now he dimmed the lights and turned on yellow spot lights.

That’s when I attacked him and he easily threw me off because he had switched up the remote control waves. Then he forced me to have the human girl as if she was a soulless unfeeling lump of vegetable.

Then he sent me into a corner holding my belly as colic racked me.

The human forgave me as I saw it in her eyes just before he stabbed her.

“Humans don’t deserve any respect do they?” Aelfric was insane.

His retainers carried her away no doubt to Posidonus waiting in the wings to play doctor.

Remember me always, Aelfric Europe is my name.

Remember me for when you have forgiven me I shall return for humans are forgiving.

Remember me Aelfric, I am Prince Vespa.

Remembered as Prince Vespa The Man's friend but now I call myself

VENGEANCE.