

## **We Have Always Known**

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For years the National Explorers have been looking for life on Mars. After struggling through many obstacles, namely the rocky soils of the planet, they found what they looking for. Underneath Mars' rocky surface dwells a burrowing creature, the size of a human child, that looks like a giant Thorn Bug. These creatures live in colonies always migrating towards food and water.

"Steady now, steady now," the National Explorer Captain Calvin repeated, "Keep them in line." The National Explorers were told to bring anything important they found on Mars back to Earth. They were lining up the creatures preparing to load them on the spaceship headed for Earth. Meanwhile, the Martians, the creatures from Mars, were frantically communicating to each other through telepathy, their only language. "Where are we going?" they thought. "These evil animals are coming to kill us!" desperately they told one another. Terrified, they huddled together hardly moving even under the cruel whip of the humans.

"They want us to move that way," said the Martian leader Eucapladae, "That much I realize, but their heads are so full of words I don't understand, that I can't communicate with them and explain their mistake.

"This is no mistake," replied Etlingera the oldest and wisest of the Martians, "They will take us away and never bring us back.

"No! Once we can communicate, they will understand," Eucapladae urgently exclaimed trying to keep the Martians calm and avoid putting them in danger. But the words of wise Etlingera were heard just the same. The Martians flew at the humans and trying to protect themselves, the humans shot. It seemed as though time stopped. The Martians were subdued and helped their injured companions onto the spaceship.

After many days of travel, they landed on Earth. Presently they were brought before the president of the National Explorer's Organization (NEO). "Here are the creatures we found on Mars," Captain Calvin explained, "They are very intelligent burrowing animals. When we tried to bring them on the spaceship they had a little struggle with us. They were well aware that we were taking them away."

When the president heard that they were burrowing animals, he ordered that they be used as workers in the mines to eliminate all human labor. The next day the Martians were brought to the mines to begin work. All day long they worked in the mines. Not even the children were spared as the Earthmen could find no difference between the mature and the young.

"When will we be able to leave?" asked the tired young Martians. "We will not be able to leave until these humans understand what they are doing," Eucapladae replied.

The Martians held onto the idea that once communication was made possible, they would be free from their present mistreatment. Everyday the Martians comprehended more of the human language. At the end of each day, they would compile all the

information they had learned and teach each other as much as possible of it. After many months of hard work both mentally and physically in the mines, the Martians were finally able to understand most of the human language and in turn telepathically communicate with the humans. At last, the day came when the Martians would explain the misunderstanding to the NEO's President. This was the moment when all problems would be solved through the removal of the human ignorance. The President entered the mines for his monthly inspection and saw in front of him a line of the Martian creatures staring him straight in the eyes. There was much commotion in his head as if many voices were shouting at him and then suddenly there was silence. Soon he heard only one voice whom he knew to be the creature who had stepped forward.

“We have had no voice,” the Martian said, “But now we speak. We are intelligent beings undeserving of this treatment. We know you have been ignorant this whole time. Now that you know your mistake, we await our freedom.”

“We commend you on all you've done to educate yourselves,” the President replied, “But you've failed to comprehend one thing: We have always known.”