

Fern to be alive

Some called it a disaster, others called it a blessing. Whatever it was, it started in 2075, in Brussels. The experiment was called “A.F 1.0” (Alive Fern 1.0). It was thanks to two scientists named Gala Kepler and Devereau Bohr. Their dream: Create intelligent ferns. Plants able to control themselves, able to think and to take decisions based on free will. Those ferns should function in a way that would protect the environment.

For most scientists around the globe, the issue of this project was that its realization required a tremendous amount of money. No such problem for the duo of Belgian scientists. Both of them had made more than a lot of money, creating a vaccine both against AIDS and COVID.

One fine morning in March 2075 in their Brussels lab, Gala and Devereau started the experiment. Everything went well. Happy with their first results, the scientists wanted even “better” ferns. So they did another experiment on some other ferns, and they continued like this for quite a while.

Months passed. Then Years. Ferns were colonizing Earth in an eco-friendly way. Every megapole in the world turned a vivid and healthy green. For 25 years, everywhere on the planet, the air was getting cleaner and - globally - every lifeform on Earth was very happy with the arrival of these new intelligent ferns.

Then, something very unexpected happened : one fern had developed brains, brains of a human size. In the Belgian lab, just around the corner of the Belgian landmark “Atomium”, at around 10 PM suddenly the floor started to lurch. There had been a tiny explosion: the human-like-intelligent fern had

managed to escape without any problem from the highly secured lab and quietly went outside, like a worker having a cigarette break. It was using Gala's skate-board to move around: a quiet and very effective way of locomotion.

The "brainy fern" rolled away on its skate-board in the night. It was feeling a lot of things. Mainly curiosity. But also loneliness and anger : it wanted to get rid of the two pink creatures that had been managing her since she was born. The fern decided that her name was "Atomia" and that she was born for a very good reason: free the other plants of human domination.

The Revolution took a few months to happen. Atomia had spent hours and hours talking to every plant she saw. Then, as if Atomia's ideas were a virus, all those plants of every forest also developed a brain of their own. On their turn, those newly intelligent plants also "contaminated" other trees and plants, with their anti-human ideas. Eventually, every plant on Earth was "contaminated".

The lab that had created Atomia tried to catch her. But even though the Scientists had the help of the military, tanks and machine guns they couldn't kill.... ideas.

All the Earth's plants wanted to change the way the humans treated them. Unfortunately, they became **even** more cruel than humans, even meaner, even more wicked than them. They were full of anger, revenge and hate.

Humans tried to kill the plants by burning them or by poisoning them, but the plants had become too strong and powerful: no one and nothing could possibly defeat them. Earth's human population drastically dropped, whilst all the endangered flora and fauna species prospered again.

In some ways, one might have said that the massive human killings looked a lot like the horrid times of the French Revolution. It was a dark and painful time : plants killed people without discern, without judges, without trials. It was a butchery.

All the cities were colonized by the anti-human plants, who were quickly joined by a strong army of animals : cows, sheep, horses, pigs and even rabbits and (lab)mice were standing strong together : Humankind had made everyone suffer and had to disappear.

Everywhere on Earth, birds were singing. The air was clean. Salmon danced in clear rivers. Walls and concrete buildings disappeared under green layers of a new life. Nowhere was there an airplane to be heard, a car to be seen or a factory to be smelled.

Some humans had escaped the massive plant killings. They were hiding in former subway stations, mines and parkings: they were living everywhere where there was absolutely no light and where no other animal and certainly no plant could be able to live.

A decade passed.

Plants had forgotten that humans used to rule the world.

One day, a couple of ferns were taking a smooth love walk in the evening breeze. Their skate-boards rolled in silence until they hit a pale pink bundle. “Wouiiiiiiiiin” screamed the pink bundle. The ferns looked closer. An unknown animal was crying. It was a baby. A human baby. The ferns looked at it and felt something they immediately recognized : love. As the Green Army officers rolled towards them, on their kaki skate-boards, the couple and the human baby fled away.

They didn't know what their future would be like. They only knew everything would be very different and - most probably - very... dangerous. That was the cost of love.

The end