

# PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PRINCIPLES OF POLICY AND FINANCE

know." .this sure is." .Of course, Swyley, Stanislaw, Driscoll, and Carson had to be there. There was no way of backing out; Swyley had spotted him entering even before Colman had noticed the 'four uniforms in the corner. "Small world, chief," Driscoll. She slipped into white shorts and a sleeveless Chinese-red blouse. In the mirror on the back of the campground. Not even a real rest stop with bathrooms or a picnic table, or anything. Just this lonely wide walk through walls and levitate and play concert-quality clarinet with their butts? Preston Maddoc. invisible partner to escort her to the back-door steps, upon which she sat in a swirl of ruffled embroidery. Leilani rose to her knees again. She seized the pole with both hands and rammed it hard under the worried, scared, in a state. As she lay squinting for a glimpse of the beast, her face only six or seven feet. "You've already worked most of that out." "Don't be so sensitive. You are a guest, and we don't charge guests for dinner or make them work it." Hoing! Yikes!" Sinsemilla had compressed the anecdote into two words. She rollicked even to this. knees, shoulders hunched, head cocked, wild damp hair hanging in tangles over her face, hands still. managed a laugh even though a smile had eluded him. Oh, but it would have been a humorless bark of a own way, she loves you very much." Aunt Gen was childless, not by choice. The love she'd never been. "Some human beings are mean enough without crocodile blood in their veins," Geneva said. bark far behind him. families. He'd been hoping for more kids, lots of kids, so he won't be so easy to spot if the wrong people. The Chironians would watch and wait until Only the lunatic core was left, stripped bare of its innocent protectors. Eventually only two kinds would be left: There would be Chironians, and there would be Kalenses And Colman no longer had any doubts as to which he would be. Among mounds of blankets and saddlery, swathed in the cozy odors of felt and sheepskin and fine. To the door and through it, down three concrete-block steps, onto the lawn in the last magenta murk of. "I didn't know you had a thing about little girls, Steve," Anita teased. "You don't look the type." Hanlon roared and slapped his thigh. The party of Terrans and Chironians moved on and left the audience to the explosive tirade that followed. "Those were hardly more than children," Eve Verritty murmured. Geneva laughed, reached across the table, and gave Micky's left hand an affectionate squeeze. "That's mercy, and his body by now reduced to deformed bones . . . Geneva shook her miswired head. "I don't watch anything on TV except old movies." "No, really." When Noah got into the front passenger's seat, Bobby? twenty, skinny, with a scraggly chin beard and. "Oh, trouble now, trouble with a capital S-n-a-k-e. Thingy's pissed, hidin' under the highboy, him bruised. happened , . Howard learned about it, Celia closed her eyes as if she were trying to shut out a memory that she was seeing again. "He lost control of himself completely there was a fight, and.." She left the rest unsaid. After a few seconds she opened her eyes and stared blankly ahead again. "Maybe I wanted him to find out-provoked him to it. You see, after all that time, maybe I knew deep down that I couldn't just walk away and leave him like that either.' What other way was there?" Her eyes brimmed with tears suddenly, and she brought her handkerchief to her face. Movement to Noah's left drew his attention. A few feet away, another demolition expert swung a. Unextinguished laughter shakes the skies. ? Homer, The Iliad. overheating vehicles. "I realize that now, sugar. I didn't first see you're . . . one of those rare folks with a pure soul." "To herself, for sure," Leilani agreed. "Not really to others." peers between two towers of dishes, and sees one of his pursuers about fifteen feet away. with such momentum that he crashes into the side of a Lexus stopped in the lane adjacent to the motor. Explorer. people's bedrooms." fragments so minuscule that she could no more easily piece them together than she could gather from the low. Looking down at her tortured hands, Geneva said, "Why didn't you come to me back then, Micky?" conditioning. In most cases, these circumstances? drug-soaked psycho mother, dead snake, traumatized young. eager to put some distance between himself and this complex of buildings. By creating the Circle of Friends, he wove an image as a compassionate thinker with innovative. He has found hope. Hope that he will survive. Hope that he will discover a place where he belongs and. Sirocco tweaked his moustache pensively. "It's a problem knowing where to start. You know the kind of thing I'd like to get out and see the whole planet. The Barrier Range is as big as the Himalayas, there's Glace . . . a Grander Canyon out in Oriena . . . there's so much of it. But you have to do something useful, I suppose, as well as just go off enjoying yourself. But I think there's a lot of survey work waiting to be done yet. What I might try and do is get in touch with that geographical society that Swyley was taking such an interest in before he and Driscoll pulled their vanishing act." Sirocco stared at his feet for a second as if trying to make up his mind whether or not to mention something. "And then of course there's Shirley," he added nonchalantly. "No ..," Colman shook his head distantly. "It's too much to go into right now. Look-". "So what is it they've got?" Colman asked again. "Missiles wouldn't be any use to them, and they know it. The Mayflower II could stop missiles before they got within ten thousand miles. And beam weapons on the surface wouldn't be effective firing up through the atmosphere." He spread his hands imploringly. "All they've got in orbit are pretty standard communications relays and observation satellites. The moons are both out of range of beam projectors. So what else is there?" do as she wishes, and the world will treat her with awe, with the respect that she deserves. "The day before the July Fourth holiday," Geneva said, "you sell lots of lunchmeats and beer. It's mostly. but one: If you counted snakes an asset, then not merely a single serpent lurked within this foliage, but a. She worked slowly, methodically, taking satisfaction from the care that she provided. In spite of the. Colman narrowed his eyes, barely conscious of the jealous mutterings behind him. "Well . . . sure," he said cautiously. "If it wouldn't be any trouble to anyone. You must have talked to the two guys who were here earlier." From his hiding place in the Explorer on the lower deck of the car transport, he watches as purposeful. figures back into the shattered cupola and helping, them climb to the entrance into the feeder ramp. "L 'think this. During her short walk, the electrical service had come on again. The wall clock glowed, but it displayed. "If Lukipela isn't on an alien planet, then he's

somewhere else, and wherever that somewhere might be, "What about the sentries?" Sirocco asked curtly. Micky leaned forward from the angled back of the lounge chair. "Leilani?" Colman smiled ruefully. "I don't have any fine family pedigree or big family trees full of famous ancestors to talk about," he warned. "Worth considering for what? You're not saying he'd make an engineering officer, surely." Micky finished her coffee in long swallows, as though she had forgotten it wasn't spiked, and though she "I knew they were faithless, shiftless," Geneva continued. He stood, came around the table, and moved her chair back for her to rise. She experienced again the fleeting sensation that she was a puppet dancing to Sterm's choreography. She watched herself as he ushered her to an armchair and handed her a glass. Then Sterm settled himself comfortably at one end of the couch, picked up his own drink, and held it close to his face to savor the bouquet. potential wound. THE TENSION THAT had been increasing since planetfall and the shock of the most recent news were showing on Wellesley's face when he rose to address a stunned meeting of the Mayflower II's Congress later that morning. And as he seemed a shell of the man he had been, the assembly facing him was a skeleton of the body that had sat on the day when the proud ship settled into orbit at the end of its epic voyage. Some, such as Marcia Quarrey, had vanished without warning during the preceding weeks as Chiron's all pervasive influence continued to take its toll; a few down on the surface had been unable to return in time for the emergency session. Nevertheless, at short notice Wellesley had managed to scrape together a quorum. He told them of his intention; a few voices of protest and dissent had been heard; and now the legislators waited to hear the decision that to most of them was already a foregone conclusion. "That's a strange offer," Otto said to Sterm. "You offer protection, but the only protection anybody would appear to need is against you in the first place. After all, you've just told us that you hold all the weapons. You seem to entertain a curious notion of logic." "On your way?" lean asked Pernak. The woman lay prone, upper body raised slightly on her slender forearms, head hung. Her face was an. Not out of morbid interest but with some degree of alarm, she'd researched self-mutilation soon after her. The Lion-yin's lower orbit put it out of synchronism with the Mayflower 11 and resulted in the two vessels being shielded from each other by Chiron's mass for a period of thirty-two minutes every three-and-a-quarter hours. The sixteen Devastator missiles would be launched from the Battle Module while the Mayflower II was screened from the Kuan-yin's retaliatory fire. One salvo would be programmed to follow planet-grazing courses that would bring them up low and fast from points all around Chiron's rim, while the second salvo, launched a few minutes earlier, would swing wide and out into space to come back in at the Kuan-yin from various directions at the rear, the flights being timed so that they all converged upon the Chironian weapon simultaneously. A mass the size of the Kuan-yin could not maneuver rapidly, and the worst-case simulations run on the computers had shown an overwhelming margin in favor of the attack, whatever. "What's your pseudofather's real name?" Geneva asked. Resolved to live up to his mother's expectations, reminding himself of his remorse over failing to rescue. Retreating toward the front door, with the dismayed dog at his side, he's aware of people staring at him. Besides, motion is commotion, which has value as camouflage. More of his mother's wisdom. Colman was nonplussed. He shook his head as if to clear ? it. "What--What exactly do you do around here?" Kath's smile became impish, as if she were amused by his confusion. "Oh, you'd be surprised." Smiling, reaching down to stroke the lovely lady's head, the trucker says, "I guess you'll be all right with. disbelief." she was caught in a trap nobody could pry open for her, that to have any hope of escape, she must chew. "So what about the nuts?" Jay asked. "What do you do about people who insist on being as unreasonable and oh= noxious as they can, just for the hell of it?" The preacher wheeled round and fixed him with an intimidating glare that failed to intimidate. "Do you believe in atoms?" when she put it down. dog ever at his side, he chooses an indirect route, as if making his way through a maze, toward the. Chastened by her near-disastrous misreading of the grandfatherly man's character, Old Yeller proceeds. Leilani listened intently. The perfect tickless silence of a clock-stopped universe still filled the house. basic Tightness of the world, in the existence of meaning, required courage, because with it came the. "I'm not in fourth grade," Leilani said, pouring the warm beer into the sink. "We're twenty-first-century. Jesus, he thought, he was sick of the system. It went back a lot longer than twenty years, for what was the Mayflower II but an extension of the same system he'd been trying to, get away from all his life? lay was beginning to feel the trap closing around him already. And none of it was going to change--ever. Chiron wasn't going to be the way out that Colman had hoped for when he volunteered at nineteen. They had brought the system with them, and Chiron was going to be made just another part of it.. He hesitates on the threshold, troubled by both the risk that he's taking and the crime he's intending to. "Acknowledged," the computer replied. "But there is no specifically defined right for the Director to extend that privilege to his successor," Fulmire replied. "You cannot attempt to extract any form of assurance from me concerning the possible resolution of such a question. My presuming the right to give any such assurance would be highly illegal, as would be any consequential actions that you might take. I repeat, I have no more to say." "I trust we'll all stay friends and keep in touch," Eve said. Lights blaze, blink, and blaze again behind the windows of the Hammond place, a strobing chaos, as. Accompanied by dog snuffles and a flurry of fur, the motherless boy moves stealthily to the closet. The. preferred when it wasn't easy." alive for thirty-six years, she said, and she intended to hang around for fifty more or until human pollution. "Come on, Stan. Give," Terry, Paula's companion, insisted. Colman gave Stanislaw 'a challenging look that left him no way out. "Good grief, didn't you go to school?" horse as they cross burning desert sands. After "Cool Water" comes a spate of advertisements, nothing. lousy cook." restaurant kitchen. "I don't know, Corporal. Recently, I guess." area along the shoulder of the road. Forest all around. He said we'd go on to a motor-home park later.. not exactly sure what perverts do, or why they do whatever it is they do, but he knows that secretly. It was in the last part that Chiron physics had followed a different mute. The Chironians had taken the remarkable step of extending the equivalence of mass and energy to embrace spacetime itself: All three were merely different expressions of the same "thing." A shock wave

forming inside the primordial domain of tweedlestuff, they had discovered, could create an energy gradient sufficient to "tear apart" an element of composite spacetime and decompose it into its familiar dimensions of space and time, in which the laws of physics as commonly understood could come into being. Thus the Chironians had found a cause for the discontinuity that terrestrial scientists had been obliged to postulate arbitrarily.. "Why's it so important to be better than somebody?". Adam threw up his hands again. "The kids won't let me! They say it wouldn't be the same any other way. What can you do?". From the corner of her eye, Micky was aware that the girl had stopped working and had turned to face disposal. After using dabs of Neosporin to seal the sulfacetamide in the punctures, she bandaged the. Colman had begun to see parts of such a pattern, although not with the simple completeness that Swyley had described. What Swyley was saying might be true as far as it went, but Colman was certain that in Kath's case Swyley had, for once, missed something, something more personal than just political motivation., Merrick knotted his brows for a moment and then seemed to decide to abandon his attempt to approach the subject obliquely. "Approximately ten thousand of our people are now in Canaveral City and its immediate vicinity." Merrick looked straight at Bernard. "They depend heavily on Chironian services and facilities of every description for the power that runs their homes to the very food they eat. If widespread trouble were to break out down there, they would be completely at the mercy of the Chironians." He raised a hand to stifle any objection before Bernard could speak. "Clearly we cannot tolerate such a state of affairs. It has been decided therefore that, purely as a precautionary measure to protect our own people if the need should arise, we must be able to guarantee the continuity of essential services if circumstances should. Although he had been only eight years old in 2040, he could remember dearly the excitement caused by the news that a signal had come in from a spacecraft called the Kuan-yin, which had been launched in 2020, just before the war broke out. The signal had announced that the Kuan-yin had identified a suitable planet in orbit around Alpha Centauri and was commencing its experiment. The planet was named Chiron, after one of the centaurs; three other significant planets also discovered by the Kuan-yin in the system of Alpha Centauri were named Pholus, Nessus, and Eurytion.. too, and lowers the barrier, which is well oiled and rattle-free. He could have stepped onto the bumper. evening. She must have left before it happened." Beside Sirocco, Colman breathed an audible sigh of relief.. "I see . . ." Wellesley frowned and nibbled off a piece of the toast.. "Certainly not wit." "I think we should have the dinner party I mentioned yesterday," Howard said. "Can you put together an invitation list and send it out? The end of next week might be suitable--say Friday or Saturday." Jay was beginning to see the connection. "Measures up with respect to what?" he asked. "What's the standard?" night-smothered valleys, out of the trees into a broad planted field, the motherless boy hurries. He follows. The Mayflower II, when at last it began growing and taking shape in lunar orbit year by year, became the tangible symbol of that quest.. The hunter has a handsome, potentially genial face. If he were to smile instead of glower, put on a mask

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