

## DID CAESAR CHANGE THE FUTURE ?

*By Patrick Michael Tilton*

ON AN HISTORIC DAY...

One of the most debated topics POTA fans have argued over has to do with whether or not Caesar was successful in changing the Future. This debate has its roots in a scene in ESCAPE FROM THE PLANET OF THE APES [hereafterwards just ESCAPE], where Hasslein and two professional interrogators [E-1 and E-2] question Cornelius and Zira at Camp XI.

Cornelius says (to E-2), "As an archaeologist, I had access to history scrolls which were kept secret from the masses, and I suspect that the weapon which destroyed Earth was Man's own invention. I do know this: one of the reasons for Man's original downfall was your peculiar habit of murdering one another. Man destroys man! Apes do not destroy apes!"

Hasslein: "Cornelius, this is not an interracial hassle, but a search for facts. We do not deny the possibility of man's decline and fall; all we want to find out is how Apes rose."

Cornelius: "Well... it began, uh, in our prehistory with the plague that fell upon dogs."

Zira: "And cats."

Cornelius: "Hundreds and thousands of them died, and hundreds and thousands of them had to be destroyed, in order to prevent the, uh, spread of infection."

Zira: "There were dog bonfires."

Cornelius: "Yes. And by the time the plague was contained, man was without pets. Of course, for Man this was intolerable. I mean, he might kill his brother, but he could not kill his dog. So... humans took primitive apes as pets."

Zira: "Primitive and dumb, but still twenty times more intelligent than dogs or cats."

Cornelius: "Correct. They were quartered in cages, but they lived and moved freely in human homes. They became responsive to human speech and, in the course of less than two centuries, they progressed from performing mere tricks to performing services."

E-1: "Nothing more or less than a well-trained sheepdog could do."

Cornelius: "Could a sheepdog cook?... or clean the house? ... or do the marketing for the groceries with a list from its mistress? ... or wait on tables?"

Zira: "Or, after three more centuries, turn the tables on their owners?"

Hasslein: "How?"

Cornelius: "Th-they became alert to the, uh, concept of slavery. And, as their numbers grew, to, uh, slavery's antidote, which, of course, is unity. Well, at first, they began assembling in small groups. They learned the art of corporate and militant action. They learned to refuse. Oh, at first, uh, they just, uh, grunted their refusal... but then, on an historic day which is commemorated by my species, and fully documented in the Secret Scrolls, there came Aldo. He did not grunt. He articulated. He spoke a word which had been spoken to him, oh, time without number by humans. He said... 'No.'..."

Hasslein: "So that's how it all started."

Those who argue that Caesar did change the Future often cite Cornelius' reference to "two centuries" -- which is actually "... less than two centuries..." -- during which Apes progressed from performing tricks (as Pets) to performing services (as Slaves). Also cited is Zira's reference to a time period of "... after three more centuries..." when Apes turned the tables on their owners. It is only after this approximately five-century period that an ape named "Aldo" appeared and "spoke a word" -- the first such moment in the so-called "prehistory" Cornelius is relating.

I've argued before that these references to 2 and 3 centuries contradict what Cornelius had told the Commission regarding the English language. When asked, "Cornelius, do you and your lawfully-wedded spouse speak any language other than English?" he replies, "What is 'English'? I speak the language taught to me by my father and mother, who were taught by their fathers and mothers before them. It has been the language of our ancestors for nearly two thousand years. As to its origins, oh, who can be sure? The gorillas and orangutans of our community believe that God created the Ape in

His own image, and that our language---"

Zira expeditiously interrupts him, and proceeds to insult those two species of Apes, the Gorillas and Orangutans.

Since the EARTH-TIME clock indicated the date of Doomsday to be 11-23-3955 (the date "Thirty-Nine Fifty-Five" being confirmed by NASA experts, according to the President), and ESCAPE takes place sometime in late November of 1973, then the beginnings of the use of English as a spoken language of the Apes must be in that very generation, "nearly 2000 years" prior to A.D. 3955. There's almost exactly 1,982 years separating 1973 from 3955, and 1,982 years is "almost 2,000 years," as he says.

The first instance of an Ape speaking English has to be either one or the other, either approximately 1,500 years before PLANET and BENEATH (the Camp XI testimony), when "Aldo" first says "No" to a human, or "nearly 2,000 years" before... in the late 20th Century, in other words. Cornelius may be telling the whole truth regarding this timeframe in one of these scenes, but he must be telling either a partial "truth" or bona fide Lie in one of these two scenes.

It should be pointed out that this entire How-It-All-Started prehistory lesson hinges on those mysterious "history scrolls which were kept secret from the masses"... which are also known as the "SECRET SCROLLS" -- according to the script. When Roddy read the line on-screen, it came out sounding like "SACRED SCROLLS"... and that presents a problem.

For, as any student of PLANET should be able to discern, Ape history only went back to the time of the Lawgiver, who wrote the "SACRED SCROLLS" -- according to Zaius -- "twelve hundred years ago" (i.e. circa A.D. 2755). During the Tribunal scene, the very notion of there having been an advanced culture which existed long before the Sacred Scrolls were written is objected to by Honorius: "These remarks are profane and irrelevant!" It is profane (i.e. heresy) to promulgate a theory of cultural origins predating the Lawgiver.

The only way this could be is if it is believed by Orthodoxy that the first writings were those

which the Lawgiver himself wrote, 1,200 years earlier.

Thus, if there were "history scrolls... kept secret from the masses" from which Cornelius and Zira got their story about the downfall of Man and the rise of Apes, it would make sense for the Powers-That-Be to hide them. Any writings that predate the supposed invention of writing (by the Lawgiver) could not exist, in order for Orthodoxy to retain its cherished position as the dominant paradigm.

Note the distinction between a written language and the spoken language. Cornelius infers that - - as the Gorillas and Orangutans believe -- "God created the Ape in His own image, and that our language..." ... was given to them by God, if I may be so bold as to finish the sentence Cornelius was saying before Zira cut him off.

Thus, the Gorillas and Orangutans believe that God created the Ape... gave him a soul and a mind... set him apart from the beasts of the jungle... and made him the lord of the planet. And gave his creation a Language to speak. And, around 800 years later, the greatest Ape of all, the Lawgiver, wrote their scripture, which introduced culture to a barbaric population ("primitive barbarism"), which is when Ape History begins.

Yet Cornelius refers to "our prehistory"... a time when a plague killed off all the dogs and cats, leaving Man without pets. Note the word: PREHISTORY. A short while later, Cornelius goes on to talk about the coming of "Aldo"... a moment which, he says, was "on an HISTORIC day which is commemorated by MY SPECIES, and fully documented in the Secret Scrolls..."

Earlier, Zira had expressed her disdainful views regarding the Gorillas and Orangutans. At the Commission meeting, she denigrates the former as "militaristic nincompoops" and the latter as "blinker pseudoscientific geese"... and, at the start of the Camp XI interrogation, she says that "only the Gorillas and Orangutans" had anything to do with the destruction of the Earth. Not the Chimpanzees. Not her species. What Cornelius must be referring to when he says "MY species."

It is ludicrous to countenance the notion that all the Apes -- including Orangutans and Gorillas -- would commemorate an act of vocal defiance

against Human slavemasters. According to official "history" -- the orthodox dogma enforced by the Ministry of Science -- the human race is and always has been an Animal incapable of speech. It was the Ape that God made the "lord of the planet"... humans being among the "beasts of the jungle" from which the Apes had been set apart.

Any POTA fan who thinks that Cornelius is -- or can be -- telling the whole truth here is just not taking into consideration what had already been thoroughly established in PLANET.

Not that Cornelius is being wholly untruthful, mind you. He may be telling a partial truth. There may be a day -- a holy day, or "holiday" -- that is commemorated by Chimpanzees [i.e. by "my species" as he says] yet is not commemorated by the Orangutans and Gorillas. This commemorated day may be the day when one particular Ape first said the word "No" in the presence of humans who didn't think such a thing was possible.

I'm referring, of course, to "the Night of the Fires" (as Lisa refers to it, in BATTLE). The final scenes from the theatrical release of CONQUEST depict Lisa rejecting Caesar's horrific intentions towards the human race. On that night, when the Apes -- led by Caesar -- overthrew their human slavemasters, Caesar was at a zenith. He had managed to conduct several battles -- having learned the art of corporate and militant action -- which had resulted in the freeing of enslaved Apes, and the capturing of the city's Governor, not to mention the massacre of a sizeable Security force.

We know, from BATTLE, that Caesar lived to an approximate age of 97 years, since in the year 2670 it is said to be some 600 years since his death. And during those 600 years since the death of Caesar a community of Chimpanzees, Orangutans, and Humans is still living in peace, hoping that the Future will be different than the harsh world Caesar's parents came from. Some 679 years after the Night of the Fires, a peaceful group of Apes and Humans is being taught by a tolerant Lawgiver... taught a scriptural-version of their history. The memory of that first Night of the Fires had not been eradicated.

If Caesar did not change the Future... if the

scroll from which the tolerant Lawgiver reads, in 2670, to his audience of young Apes and Humans is one of the very scrolls Cornelius referred to as the "Secret Scrolls"... the "hidden scrolls kept secret from the masses"... then it is possible that in some fashion the memory of the Night of the Fires had been kept alive -- but only by Chimpanzees. "... by my species..."

In 3955, the Chimpanzees are a minority amongst the Apes, intellectual yet lacking in political power. The notion that there is a day which only Chimpanzees commemorate on a yearly basis, having its roots in prehistory yet being misunderstood by the average contemporary chimp, is not implausible. Every May 5th there is a celebration called "Cinco de Majo"... yet how many people who have heard of it knows what is being celebrated?

I can imagine a coterie of Chimpanzees who -- when the intolerant Lawgiver who wrote the Sacred Scrolls effectively erased the Past by substituting his own scripture for the scrolls that had been written by Caesar himself [Caesar's statue depicts him holding a scroll] -- secretly and secretively kept alive Caesar's memory, albeit imperfectly. A secret society of sorts, maintaining the dangerous knowledge that a chimpanzee King once ruled over both Apes and Humans, prior to the overthrow of that tolerant society. Only those "in-the-know" would be aware of the full meaning of the commemorated holiday, its true significance. Maybe most of the chimpanzees of 3955 celebrated the "Night of the Fires" without knowing the meaning of that holiday. Maybe they don't even call it the "Night of the Fires" anymore.

But... if Cornelius is partially telling the truth, they at least are commemorating an historic event dating back to 1991, when the chimpanzee King Caesar led the Apes to freedom. When all the other Apes began to speak his language. And... when Queen Lisa reigned in Caesar's hitlerian harangue with a simple word: "No!" Such a pro-chimp holiday wouldn't and couldn't be "fully documented in the SACRED Scrolls" (as Roddy seems to say in the dialogue he recites)... but it could be fully documented in those history scrolls kept secret from the masses, the Secret Scrolls.

Patrick Michael Tilton  
EARTH-TIME 6-13-2009