

My Short Story

They didn't listen – *by Zaal Vasania*

This creation ruined my entire life forever. The creation of time travel was a vast opening into the future that was too far away. We humans could not handle it then and never again because we are too careless. I first created time travel to change the world but after seeing what it had done to our future...I never thought the same about it again. It was a danger that we could never be able to avoid. This creation would always be hard to lose in the past since the day it was made and first used. What I had thought to be the creation to a new and more unique future ended up as something much, **much** worse...

The day of the presentation was the best day of my life! I had finally reached my dream and goal by creating this and thought it really would revolutionize the world! I had finally finished my project on time travelling and had finally created the first time machine ever.(in theory as I had never actually tested it yet) I had absolutely no clue about what was in store for me in the near future as I had thought this would take mankind to new limits. It would finally make me famous! I was thinking all this as all the generals, officers and scientists entered the theatre where my time machine I would test was waiting there. All the people who had come to witness had thought of it as kind of reality but after coming in and waiting for so long outside, as I made my finishing touches and final tests to my creation, they seemed interested in their own type of thing as there was a buzz of excitement which I most definitely knew wasn't about my project. I heard a few mumblings and grumbings about a waste of time coming here but I did not care in any way as I knew that they would soon think of this as a trip perfectly worthwhile. I was really confident about my time machine and was very confident it would work. I was literally jumping with excitement as I neared my approach to the stage and then the test in my machine. I always new this would happen as I had once heard my father saying to me that one day soon I would come to create something wonderful for the world to be awed by and that was the thought that always helped me to keep going as I always thought it to be true. I was even more excitement and nervous as my father along with the head of my unit entered. I waved to him and he gave me a reassuring smile. The head of my unit looked at me in a kind of reassuring but scared way as well. I think this was because all my projects for the government hadn't ended up too well like the one about saving the world from being cluttered by garbage by creating a shrink ray which would make all the garbage smaller and also which exploded when I presented it to the audience. This was my last chance this time otherwise I was kicked out for good, which was what the head of my unit had said. My father, who had a high position in this work, was the one who always helped me stay in my job but if **this** experiment didn't work this time, my career as an inventor and a scientist would come to an end. I didn't know that I would actually have done anything to prevent this if I had known what was in store, as the world was about to change in a very bad way.

Today, for my audience, I had decided to travel to the future of 2523, which I had already set on my machine last night, to get ready. I was to demonstrate to them myself and come back after a little look around the future for my own pleasure. I didn't know I was going to regret everything I had ever done on the way back. The moment had arrived. Everyone was seated at their seats readily looking at me, eager for me to begin to step out. I was finally going to become well known and famous to the world after this presentation as I was sure it would work. I couldn't contain myself of my excitement at all as I walked onto the stage with a big smile on my face. I quickly bowed and began.

I introduced myself and told them about my machine right after I pulled the curtain off my machine. I heard uncertain clapping and saw ready fire extinguishers at the back armed by

actual fire-fighters. They thought my machine would explode. I would prove them wrong. I then told them how it was going to change the world and how that would happen to change the financial world along with many others and how it would benefit the future of America. I then briefed them that I was going to demonstrate a trip to the future of 2523, from this year 2033, and would come back with the news of how it was like. I then carefully stepped into my caged machine and closed the door. I felt a rising tension building up inside me as I closed the door to my contraption and typed in my control pad. I could see all the people all around in their seats more curious to see whether I would live to tell the tale of the future or die without going anywhere. I finished starting all the engines and put the master switch on. My machine then gave a whir, a boom and then it started powering up. The noise became louder and louder. I could feel the hot cage glimmering with heat inside it. The sides had become red hot with the heat but I still felt fine. I could feel the cage sound louder and louder and get hotter and hotter but I was still fine. I then heard my dad shout out to me from outside. He was screaming to me to stop it as he didn't want me to die. I reassuringly told him that I wouldn't die as I had tested it to see if it was safe. Even after that he didn't look certain.

After saying this I then put in the final command onto the pad. The four numbers: 2523. The last thing I saw was my dad's scared eyes before I disappeared into the future. I felt myself spinning around and around at an uncontrollable speed make me more and more dizzy. I closed my eyes. I could no longer hear the shouts or any sign of life outside my cage. I thought it would never end. Then all of a sudden I stopped. I opened my eyes and looked around me. I was no longer in my machine cage. There was complete whiteness all around me. I could only see that as far as I could see. I stretched my hands and legs out as I had been stuck in the machine in a cramped position for so long. I then took in my surroundings.

It was very strange to be in this type of environment of no life around and no busy streets like I was used to, back in New York. I felt unsafe there as if there was a falling feeling in my stomach. I wanted to get away as fast as I could. Then I felt a feeling in my stomach and I knew that my body would take me away at will. I left immediately and started regaining consciousness in my cage again. I realised that place was the place where I travelled through time from. I realised at the same time that, that was actually time itself. I shuddered at the thought of it as I continued to spin in my cage.

I soon found myself in my cage again. Everything around me was quiet. Everything had stopped. I opened the door of my cage and calibrated it to let me return to 2033 if I needed to get a quick escape. I then stepped outside the room which I had realized was the room I had started in. I found myself in an opening to a restaurant. It was full with strange kind of creatures I had never seen of before. They were in many different shapes and sizes. They were sitting around tables eating and drinking many different types of food and drinks. I saw one that looked poor eating a piece of plastic. I also saw another type of family of the same kind eating slugs and wormy type things. I then realized that these creatures were aliens. Aliens on Earth. In the year 2523 I then realized that Earth had been taken over by aliens. I took a lean out of the window. It was the same scene. Full of aliens. I was beginning to turn back when the waiter (who was half octopus and half fish type of alien) turned around. He saw me and made a strangled type of shriek. I saw he was holding a knife. He headed towards me, holding a knife. I stepped backwards. I glanced towards the crowd in the restaurant and saw that they were all standing. As the waiter approached me with his knife, out of the corner of my eye, I saw a definite human standing right outside in very heavenly clothes. He had a dark stare. He has very posh clothes on surrounded by bodyguard aliens and seemed like the only other human here. I then looked back at the alien and saw that he was about to end my life. He slashed at me with certain death in his knife and eyes. He was about to kill me when everything around me froze like someone had hit a pause button. Then everything around me dissolved and everything in that paused type of picture shifted.

I was in a world full of trees and caves all around me. Nothing was over my head. Everything was open. There was no buildings, no shops, no houses, no nothing except for mountains, trees, caves and of course my time machine which was a few meters away. I then saw the dinosaurs. They were huge, the size of a 30 story buildings. I could see a huge herd of them a distance away from me.

I really was thinking that this was really what I had not expected. I could see the dinosaurs still over there even after I rubbed my eyes. I was finding this really strange. Were there dinosaurs there again in the future in a new age called "The after age". But I could see no humans around. Wait over there, in the distance; yes I could see a human, very tiny in the midst of the dinosaurs. It was like he was talking to them. He also seemed like the only human there along with me like in the other world. As soon as I saw him he saw me. He shouted a command to the dinosaurs in a gibberish language. They all turned around to face me and started charging. Now if you have been in a normal stampede it may seem big for you. Multiply that by more than 100 and you might get quite close to the impact of these dinosaurs running at me at full speed. The ground shook more than the worst earthquake. I was taken of my heels as soon as it started. My survival instincts kicked in and I got up quick, grabbed my machine and ran for my life, unlike last time. I ran with all my might but the dinosaurs were much quicker and mightier. The first dinosaur that caught up with me was a velociraptor and it looked like the last dinosaur I was going to meet. It caught up with me and bent its head to gobble me up when everything stopped again like it was a movie and it had been paused. Then everything dissolved again.

It changed until I was in a world of nothingness. There was nothing for as far as wide as I could see. There was a huge noise somewhere in the distance. After I heard that I put my time machine down and started to climb into it. I wanted to not be a part of this anymore. I had just started to calibrate the machine when scene changed again. I was in a war zone. There were huge amounts of planes and ships all around. They all had the Nazi symbol on it. I knew I wouldn't last long, like the other two worlds, so I sat correctly and started the system. It calibrated saying it would take another minute. I ducked in cover as I saw the first plane nearing. Thousands of troops with machine guns and rifle marched towards where I was. The bomber planes were closing in even more as well. With thirty seconds to spare, I said my prayers and hoped for the best. The first gunshot rang the air at 10 seconds. I heard the first bomb falling with 5 seconds, 4, 3, 2... I closed my eyes and saw the bomb right above me when I was whiffed away on the 1. I then passed out for a few seconds. After I woke up I realised I was spinning. I had made it! I then realised I needed to do some thinking on what had happened so when I reached the white world of time I stayed there even after the pull in the gut happened to think. After a little while I came up with the theory which has completely changed my mind about time travel. I realized that all of this had happened because people had gone back in time using my own invention and had somehow changed the course of the world into those alternative worlds because they would have gone into the past and changed it meaning that they were the only person there like in the first two worlds. And the world kept on changing because as more and more people changed their past to make the future to their own liking, and because everyone might be changing the past at almost the same time the future keeps on changing too every few minutes. It all added up. This world in the future had been dissolved in time. I decided that it was never safe to do time travel again and I carried the news to the people of the world in my time thinking that it would change it. But many people still didn't listen to my warning and this was what happened to the world.....It had turned into hell.