

2 visions for 1 reality

APPENDIX 1: LETTER FROM TABARLIS TO HIS FRIEND VERLIAS

Hi Verlias, I hope you are well, that you are in good health, as well as all your family and all your friends. Remember that I told you about a group of young people coming from Planet Earth, from a little corner called France? We have just spent 24 cycles together and I have lots of things to tell you.

When they arrived, there was obviously a misunderstanding. Since we could not get inside the spaceport, we asked people who worked there to help them carry their luggage and meet with us outside, but they were turned down quite badly. They were really surprised at this reaction and didn't want to see the Earthlings ever again. I admit that I didn't dare to mention this episode with them.

They wanted to start building the school right away and I soon realized that there was tension with the village workers. Of course the workers were not in a hurry to finish the job as they were paid per day. The longer the project lasted, the more money they would have! And it was often their only source of income... Moreover, after a few sunstrokes, the Earthlings realized that it was not very effective to work when the 2 suns are at the highest in the sky. There were other times when we felt they were very impatient. When we needed to go to the city, they were always impatient while waiting for the Zamourion to be full. Apparently, on Earth, transportation leaves at fixed times, even if they are not full! I really wonder how drivers make a living...

Also, they did something weird one day: they started burying cans in the ground! I almost said it was a shame because the people who picked them up on the street to sell the aluminum would not find them, but I didn't dare. It may be a ritual practice of them... Oh yes, they said they found it disgusting. On my side, something they did has repelled me – the way they blow their nose. Instead of rejecting the waste from their body in nature, they keep it carefully in a paper. Yeks! Disgusting!

One day I felt so uncomfortable. One of the girls in the group went and talked directly to the head of the village, asking why women were eating away from men, why children had no right to speak at the table, and so on. Honestly, I feel like the Earthlings do not respect the elders. They told me that at home they put them all together in special houses!

Besides, they not only neglect their ancestors, but they do not respect the gods either! One day, one of them said to us most simply: "I am an atheist." We looked at each other without being able to say anything. We all knew what it meant, but we had never met anyone who questioned the existence of the Gods!

Another day, they became angry at Limbatan but we didn't really understand why. Limbatan had to bring Dimbzi for the farewell party but he had to stay at home because as he is the only one to have TV in his area, a neighbor had come to watch TV. It did not matter, there were plenty of other things to eat. Yet this detail has really annoyed the Earthlings. But you understand that Limbatan could not do otherwise! If he had gone, the whole neighborhood would have concluded that he had no respect for the people who came to visit him!

When I think about it, maybe the Earthlings were not happy because there were disputes within the group. I watched them carefully and I never saw the two boys holding hands or having any physical contact. I think they were not really good friends. See it was not easy every day and we were even close to fight sometimes. But don't worry, we realized that we also had a lot in common and everything ended well. I realize that I was a little negative but we really experienced some extraordinary moments that I will tell you in a new letter. I have to go back with my family, I've been alone, writing to you for an hour now, and as you know, they start to find it odd...