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*No, neither he, nor his compeers by night*

A negative used to express dissent, denial or refusal not the one or the other. The male person or animal being discussed in negative phrases to introduce the second member in a series belonging to him equal in rank with something at stake on the period between sunset and sunrise a condition of obscurity considered as unit of time.

*As victors, of my silence cannot boast;*

proceeding in the manner thought  
or considered to be a winner  
in any struggle or contest  
used to indicate the objective relation  
the nominative singular  
pronoun possessive absence  
or omission of mention  
comment or expressed concern  
the absence of any sound  
concealment or secrecy, to still  
(as in enemy guns) by more effective fire  
the negative form of possible clause  
to be proud in the possession of  
exaggerated or objectionable speech.

## Chapter One from *The Story*

A character will wake up somewhere new. Over the course of the story, that character makes three life-changing decisions, each somehow ultimately wrong. The story ends on a sinking ship full of missing lifeboats. The story takes place in the spring but there are no cherry blossoms to be found in feudal Japan. The story revolves around a sudden change in weather and/or wardrobe. Later in the story, there is an assassination of character. The story must involve a gauntlet thrown, run or worn. Somewhere in the story, a character takes a test, either metaphorical or standardized. The story must have at least one salamander to balance out all the buffalo. The story must have a broom appear in the middle, facing sideways toward the reader. A character will take a bath, and they aren't happy with it. Not one bit. Later in the story, that character breaks something important to them setting of a chain of events that culminates in the dissolution of an international treaty or border. The story begins in the midst of an important election/political decision-making process. The story takes place almost completely behind closed doors. The story is set during the fall of capitalism, Western Budapest. A relative shows up unannounced for a holiday dinner. At this point in the story, there is another sudden change in the weather or wardrobe. A character will read a book, and they are surprisingly over-enthused about it. No one bothers to ask why and the plot moves on without them. The story starts during a thunderstorm five years in the future, awakened in a hilltop laboratory by a well-timed bolt of lightning. Somewhere in the story, there is a dramatic discovery involving insurance adjustments. Over the course of the story, a character becomes pregnant with truth or more directly malevolent forces. This character is consequentially thirsty throughout most of the story. Another character gets a promotion, but it won't last long. The aforementioned character drinks something that disagrees with them. The story is set on a glacier. Remember that, it's important later. The story must have a policeman near the end, seemingly unarmed. The story starts in an attic and involves a mystical talking dartboard. The story takes place in mid-spring somewhere without music or flowers. During the story,

there is an argument over wages owed and/or services performed. A character will eat a meal. It too will disagree with them to terrible effect and public disgust. Another character becomes depressed during the story. These two facts are seemingly unrelated. The story must involve a boat, preferably a dinghy. The story is set in/on a volcano so the dinghy must be made of lead. Disaster naturally ensues. A character gives someone a good talking-to, but the action goes terribly wrong as everyone realizes the accusers themselves are ultimately at fault. As a result, said character becomes lustful for an inanimate object of unknown origin. Over the course of the story, an entire way of life comes to an end.

entity should be placed on eliminating that threat. Wolfowitz contended that the odds were "far more" than 1 in 10, citing Saddam's praise for the attack, his long record of involvement in terrorism, and theories that Ramzi Yousef was an Iraqi agent and Iraq was behind the 1993 attack on the World Trade Center.<sup>73</sup> The next day, Wolfowitz renewed the argument, writing to Rumsfeld about the interest of Yousef's co-conspirator in the 1995 Manila air plot in crashing an explosives-laden plane into CIA headquarters, and about information from a foreign government regarding Iraq's involvement in the attempted hijacking of a Gulf Air flight. Given this background, he wondered why so little thought had been devoted to the danger of suicide pilots, seeing a "failure of imagination" and a mind-set that dismissed possibilities.<sup>74</sup>

On September 19, Rumsfeld offered several thoughts for his commanders as they worked on their contingency plans. Though he emphasized the worldwide nature of the conflict, the references to specific enemies or regions named only the Taliban, al Qaeda, and Afghanistan.<sup>75</sup> Shelton told us the administration reviewed all the Pentagon's war plans and challenged certain assumptions underlying them, as any prudent organization or leader should do.<sup>76</sup>

General Tommy Franks, the commanding general of Central Command, recalled receiving Rumsfeld's guidance that each regional commander should assess what these plans meant for his area of responsibility. He knew he would soon be striking the Taliban and al Qaeda in Afghanistan. But, he told us, he now wondered how that action was connected to what might need to be done in Somalia, Yemen, or Iraq.<sup>77</sup>

On September 20, President Bush met with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and the two leaders discussed the global conflict ahead. When Blair asked about Iraq, the President replied that Iraq was not the immediate problem. Some members of his administration, he commented, had expressed a different view, but he was the one responsible for making the decisions.<sup>78</sup>

Franks told us that he was pushing independently to do more robust planning on military responses in Iraq during the summer before 9/11—a request President Bush denied, arguing that the time was not right. (CENTCOM also began dusting off plans for a full invasion of Iraq during this period, Franks said.) The CENTCOM commander told us he renewed his appeal for further military planning to respond to Iraqi moves shortly after 9/11, both because he personally felt that Iraq and al Qaeda might be engaged in some form of collusion and because he worried that Saddam might take advantage of the attacks to move against his internal enemies in the northern or southern parts of Iraq, where the United States was flying regular missions to enforce Iraqi no-fly zones. Franks said that President Bush again turned down the request.<sup>79</sup>

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HAVING ISSUED DIRECTIVES to guide his administration's preparations for war, on Thursday, September 20, President Bush addressed the nation before a joint session of Congress. "Tonight," he said, "we are a country awakened to

danger.<sup>360</sup> The President blamed al Qaeda for 9/11 and the 1998 embassy bombings and, for the first time, declared that al Qaeda was “responsible for bombing the USS *Cole*.”<sup>361</sup> He reiterated the ultimatum that had already been conveyed privately: “The Taliban must act, and act immediately,” he said. “They will hand over the terrorists, or they will share in their fate.”<sup>362</sup> The President added that America’s quarrel was not with Islam: “The enemy of America is not our many Muslim friends; it is not our many Arab friends. Our enemy is a radical network of terrorists, and every government that supports them.” Other regimes faced hard choices, he pointed out: “Every nation, in every region, now has a decision to make: Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists.”<sup>363</sup>

President Bush argued that the new war went beyond Bin Ladin: “Our war on terror begins with al Qaeda, but it does not end there,” he said. “It will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped, and defeated.” The President had a message for the Pentagon: “The hour is coming when America will act, and you will make us proud.” He also had a message for those outside the United States: “This is civilization’s fight,” he said. “We ask every nation to join us.”<sup>364</sup>

President Bush approved military plans to attack Afghanistan in meetings with Central Command’s General Franks and other advisors on September 21 and October 2. Originally titled “Infinite Justice,” the operation’s code word was changed—to avoid the sensibilities of Muslims who associate the power of infinite justice with God alone—to the operational name still used for operations in Afghanistan: “Enduring Freedom.”<sup>365</sup>

The plan had four phases.

- In *Phase One*, the United States and its allies would move forces into the region and arrange to operate from or over neighboring countries such as Uzbekistan and Pakistan. This occurred in the weeks following 9/11, aided by overwhelming international sympathy for the United States.
- In *Phase Two*, air strikes and Special Operations attacks would hit key al Qaeda and Taliban targets. In an innovative joint effort, CIA and Special Operations forces would be deployed to work together with each major Afghan faction opposed to the Taliban. The Phase Two strikes and raids began on October 7. The basing arrangements contemplated for Phase One were substantially secured—after arduous effort—by the end of that month.
- In *Phase Three*, the United States would carry out “decisive operations” using all elements of national power, including ground troops, to topple the Taliban regime and eliminate al Qaeda’s sanctuary in Afghanistan. Mazar-e-Sharif, in northern Afghanistan, fell to a coalition assault by Afghan and U.S. forces on November 9. Four days later the Taliban had fled from Kabul. By early December, all major cities

had fallen to the coalition. On December 22, Hamid Karzai, a Pashtun leader from Kandahar, was installed as the chairman of Afghanistan's interim administration. Afghanistan had been liberated from the rule of the Taliban.

In December 2001, Afghan forces, with limited U.S. support, engaged al Qaeda elements in a cave complex called Tora Bora. In March 2002, the largest engagement of the war was fought, in the mountainous Shah-i-Kot area south of Gardez, against a large force of al Qaeda jihadists. The three-week battle was substantially successful, and almost all remaining al Qaeda forces took refuge in Pakistan's equally mountainous and lightly governed frontier provinces. As of July 2004, Bin Laden and Zawahiri are still believed to be at large.

- \* In *Phase Four*, civilian and military operations turned to the indefinite task of what the armed forces call "security and stability operations."

Within about two months of the start of combat operations, several hundred CIA operatives and Special Forces soldiers, backed by the striking power of U.S. aircraft and a much larger infrastructure of intelligence and support efforts, had combined with Afghan militias and a small number of other coalition soldiers to destroy the Taliban regime and disrupt al Qaeda. They had killed or captured about a quarter of the enemy's known leaders. Mohammed Atef, al Qaeda's military commander and a principal figure in the 9/11 plot, had been killed by a U.S. air strike. According to a senior CIA officer who helped devise the overall strategy the CIA provided intelligence, experience, cash, covert action capabilities, and access to tribal allies. In turn, the U.S. military offered combat expertise, firepower, logistics, and communications.<sup>36</sup> With these initial victories won by the middle of 2002, the global conflict against Islamist terrorism became a different kind of struggle.