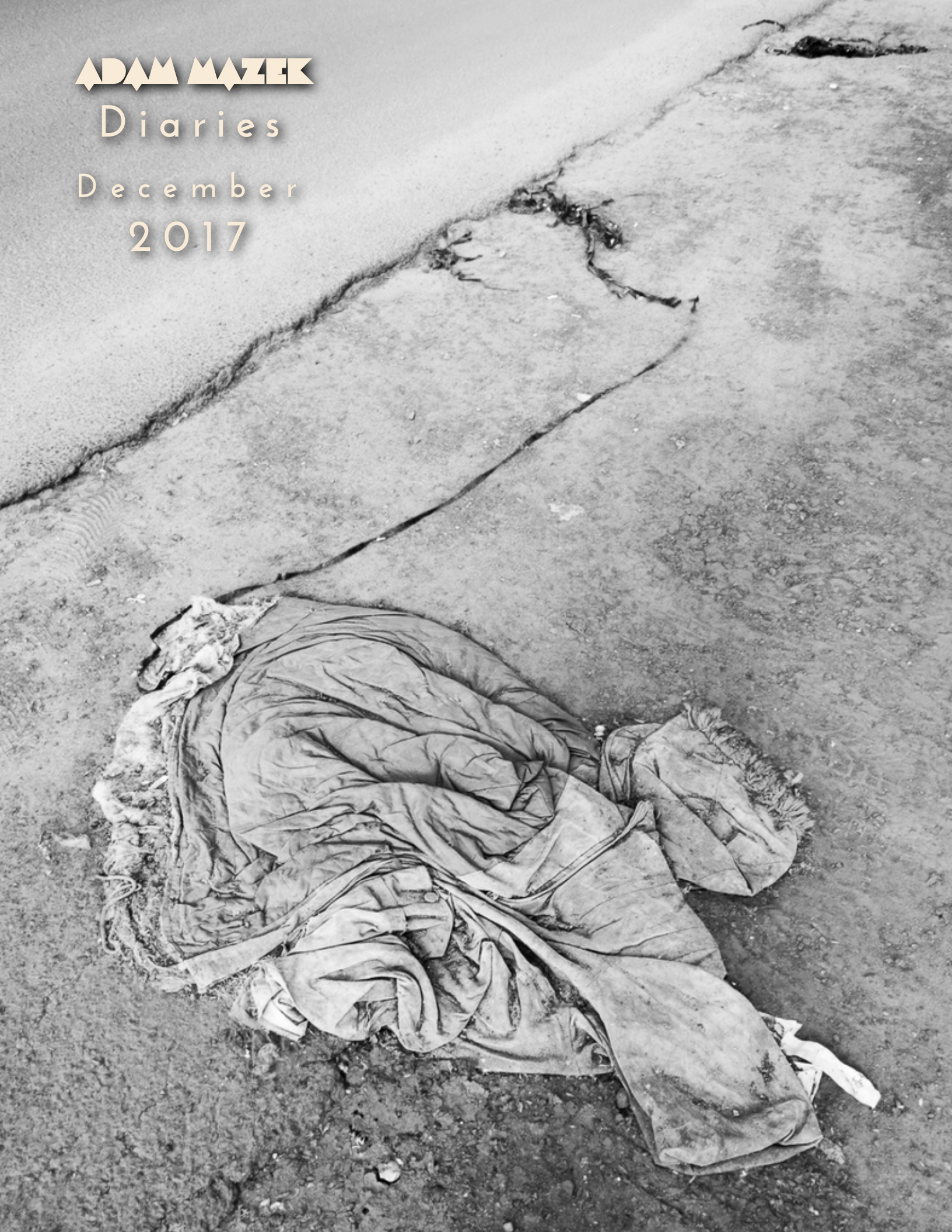


ADAM MAZEK

Diaries

December

2017



Is time money?

December 2017, on my website www.adammazek.com I started by asking the question, "Is time is money?" (Post "Is time money?"). For me, time is much more than money. Time, next to the love of our parents, is the most valuable thing we receive with the beginning of life. Money is nothing compared to time. If we manage our time wisely, there is a very high probability that money (sooner or later) will appear in our lives. Let's control time, thinking not only about ourselves. Let's remember our loved ones and society. Let's not forget that our lives will not last forever. We should be aware that the organization of time is the key to broadly understood success. Knowing that we have limited time, we should remember that we all have a chance to permanently enroll in the annals of history.



■ Post "Is time money?" (also cover and p. 3)

The ancient Roman philosopher Seneca wrote that in theatrical art, the actor who played his role remarkably will be better remembered, even if his role was only an episode role, in comparison with the average actor who plays the main character. But what do I mean by "proper time management"? On the one hand, we can try to give our children the best of everything to make them good people. We can also create. What? For example, broadly understood art. The more artistically prolific we are, the more healthy values we give to society. Also, by creating art, we can inspire our loved ones, friends, and all other people. This is a win-win situation for all parties. Those who create will probably be more remembered than those who produce nothing. Remember, my Dear Friend, that it's worth devoting your precious time to creation.



ADAM MAZEK

Is time money?

Is there life on Mars?

"Is there life on Mars?" Is the title of the next post. The main hero of the writings is David Bowie. I wrote that in the second half of 2016, YouTube suggested to me, the title song. At first, I just listened to the song. I didn't watch the music video. I was really amazed at how David Bowie's music influenced me. It moved me to the undiscovered nooks of my imagination. I had similar feelings when reading Dostoevsky or Lem. I experienced equally strong emotions when analyzing the images of Bosch, Dali, or Bekinski. When I heard the song "Life on Mars?" I discovered Bowie's genius again for myself. Only masterpieces of great artists can evoke such amazing feeling. Listening to the title song, I felt that I want to delve into the artistic heritage of David Bowie.



■ Post "Is there life on Mars?" (also below)



Before I did that, I watched the music video of the abovementioned song. After seeing it, I was thunderstruck once again. I heard the genius for the second time in a few minutes. I was amazed that listening to the same song in a short period can evoke completely different feelings. It happened thanks to watching music video. This song, with and without a vision, is an intriguing piece of art for me. One of my dreams is to evoke (even with the help of "Diaries") similar impressions and emotions. I want to amaze, strengthen, and inspire other people like David did. I believe that I will perform this difficult task. However, the chances that I will achieve my goal in my lifetime are equal to the likelihood of life on Mars.



When to start taking pictures?

■ *Post "When to start taking pictures?"*

In the next post, I asked the question, when is the right time to take pictures (post "When to start taking pictures?"). The answer is, "here and now." The sooner you start doing it, the better. We all have limited time. Each of us will die. Therefore, we cannot wait for the right moment to start taking photos or pursue a hobby. There will be no "better tomorrow" to develop your passion. Never. I encourage you, my Dear Friend, not to duplicate my mistake when I thought (for a long time) that I can take good pictures only when I am traveling or abroad. Look around, go out, and see the beauty of the world in your close proximity. Share your vision with other people. Describe it in your internal language. Is it snowy and cold outside? Excellently! Snow makes photos clean and minimalistic. Dress warmly and go outside! Or maybe it's too hot outside? A t-shirt, a baseball cap, and a bottle of cold water will solve your problem. Are you too tired after work? Take a nap and leave the house! Don't set yourself any restrictions. Your fate, to a large extent, is in your hands. Don't waste your precious time and start creating. Give people something from yourself. Create a valuable message and inspire others with your creativity. Your confidence and self-esteem will strengthen significantly. Remember: there won't be a better day to take pictures than today.

"Return to the past" is my next story inspired by the work of Stanislaw Lem. At the end of December 2017 Diaries, you'll find the entire short story of science fiction.

Be like water

Bruce Lee was the hero of the fifth writing of December 2017. The post's name was: "Be like water." Bruce Lee's philosophy inspired me to write this post. He believed that man should be like water. This applies primarily to the imagination. Then the mind will be refreshed, rejuvenated, and clear. Each of us should be, in our deepest thoughts, like water. One should not be afraid of anything. Just as the shape of water adjusts to the shape of the vessel in which it is located, so can we adapt to new circumstances in our lives. We should try to see new opportunities in every threat and challenge. Water can't hit and hurt, but water can destroy other things. Both in a violent way, like a tsunami wave, but also in a gradual, effective way (e.g., water drops drilling a rock). When shooting photos, I always try to put my mind in "water mode." What do I mean by that? That I try to keep my mind in a state of continuous creative flow. As Bruce said, when we pour water into a bottle, it will become a bottle.

■ Post "Be like water"

I am sure that this means that we should not close ourselves to new opportunities, perspectives, opportunities, and changes, and should try to adapt to what fate brings us. Also, I know that we should be flexible not only in physical terms but above all in our mentality and imagination. When I take pictures, I always try to clear my thoughts. Water does the same with our bodies. When taking photos on the streets, I don't have any plans or goals. I follow my intuition. I try to blend in with the urban background. When taking photos on the street, I would like to be shapeless and transparent as water. I have no expectations for my photographic passion. I know that I accept everything that fate will bring me during not only my next walk but throughout my life.





■ Post „Be like water“

Be like water

I realize that only geniuses like Bruce Lee or David Bowie (analyze his artistic incarnations), Stanisław Lem (world-famous science fiction writer, philosopher), or Fyodor Dostoyevsky (one of the greatest novelists of all time) were able, in their minds, to be like water. In future posts, I will develop this thought. Let's try to learn from them some kind of adaptation skills. They will be useful to us not only in our passion but also throughout our lives. Despite all the adversities that may arise in our lives, we should adapt to the circumstances that fate brings us. Let's try not to treat the hit we get during our life as a blow. Undoubtedly, the best way to do this is to behave like water and adapt to the imaginary fist of our aggressor. The principle is simple but challenging. Let's try not to feel pain when someone or something hurts us.

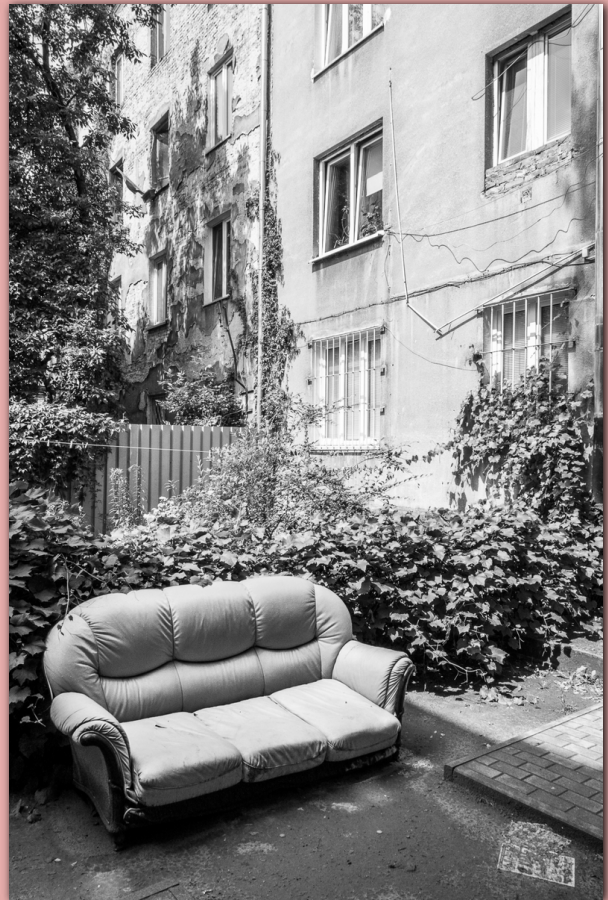
Is Street Photography Dangerous?

The last post of December 2017 was called "Is street photography dangerous?" How does it look from my perspective? I think it all depends on two factors:

- 1) style of taking photos in public places;
- 2) places where we take pictures.

Regarding point 1), the fact is that I never try to hide my camera. I always try to be as confident as possible. The crucial information is that I usually don't try to take pictures of pedestrians. I try to treat them as if they were the background of my photographs. This information is crucial in a security context.

During photographic walks, I don't have much interaction with other people. Sometimes I talk to strangers. The subjects of these conversations are photography, local problems, or the weather. I have never encountered aggression from passers-by. It is vital to avoid and minimize the possibility of finding yourself in a dangerous situation. When I see alcohol drinking groups, I try to avoid interacting with them. Sometimes it seems to me that I will be hit faster by a car on the streets of Warsaw than by becoming a victim of a robbery. The fact is that something dangerous can happen to us in all places in this world. That's why I try not to think about it and continue walking with certainty on the streets of Warsaw.



■ Post "Is Street Photography Dangerous?" (also below)



Is Street Photography Dangerous?



■ Post "Is street photography dangerous?"

In the worst case, I'll just die on the street. However, is there any point in dwelling on an event that is unlikely to occur? The second point is equally important. All cities and towns have their dangerous settlements and districts. I try to avoid taking photos in the most dangerous places. As I said before, I always try to minimize the possibility of a hazardous situation. Traveling to dangerous places can be risky for you and your camera. Of course, some photographers love to be in the middle of unsafe moments. One of the great examples can be photos taken for AFP by Tomek Grzyb (my former teacher) during the riots on the streets of Athens in 2010. Personally, I prefer a calmer mode of taking photos. All in all, street photography can be a dangerous hobby. However, a lot depends on you, my Dear Friend, how you handle this perilous situation. I'm sure we can all minimize the likelihood of being in a dangerous situation and control 95% of the things we encounter on our way.



ADAM MAZEK

Back to the past



ADAM MAZEK

Back to the past

■ Post "Back to the past" (also p. 10, 12 and 14)

Back to the past

Below is the entire text of the "Back to the past" post.

Back to the past

- Fu*k you! Professor Wilkins shouted at the computer, which followed and analyzed the history of the actions of machines, cyborgs, and people sent back to the past. They were sent back to improve the world.

It is 2800. Professor Wilkins addressed his assistant Chris Doyle with fury and anger:

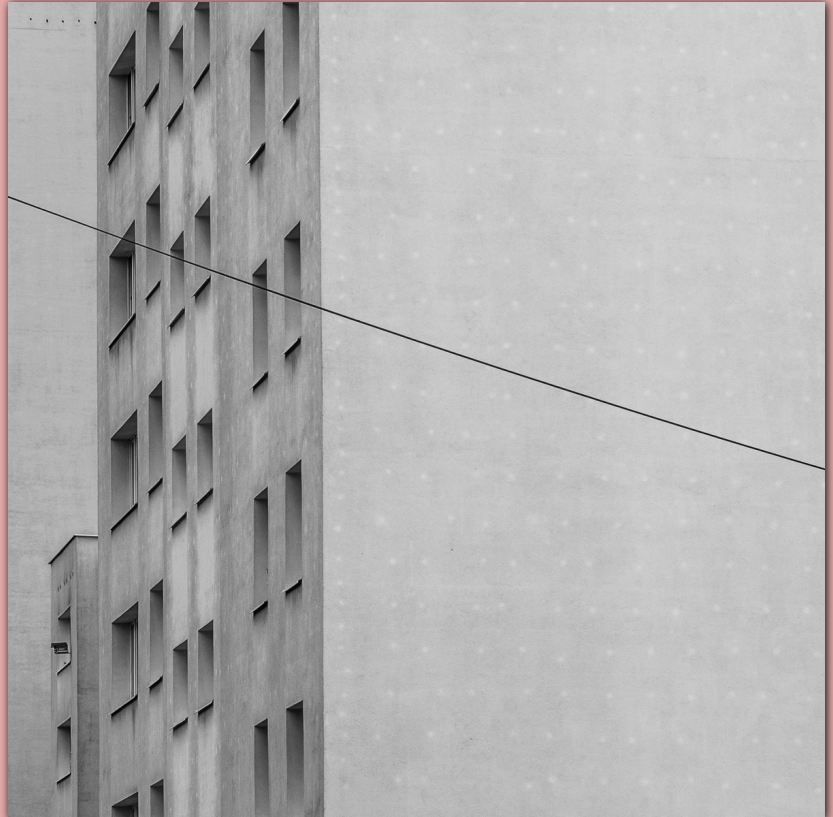
- Where is he? It's impossible that we sent a man instead of a cyborg. Besides, we moved it to the beginning of the 20th century. We were to send the robot to the early days of the Mars colonization era to speed it up, but we sent a human being! And where? To Poland! This country, in the 20th century, rebuilt its statehood three times.

- But, Stanley... - assistant Chris tried to answer with fear in his voice.

- Stanley was hibernated 80 years ago! In the optimistic version we will meet him in 20 years. If the family decides to extend the hibernation process, we will not see it until 2850. Stanley is not here! I repeat the question: Where is L.E.M. cyborg? Where did you send him How could this ever happen?

- We were both interns. During the practice of sending cyborgs to the past, a fatal error occurred. Stanley ...

- It doesn't matter who! SPEAK!



■ Post "Back to the past" (also below)



- Our Master, Jefferson, had not sufficiently secured his software. We gained access to his passwords and logins. It was much more exciting than testing the new version of the software. In the evening, we arrived at the laboratory. The watchman knew us well, so he let us inside. We had vodka. We drank too much of it. A stupid joke came to our minds. We wanted to send a cyborg to ancient Japan to see and analyze the robot's impact on Japanese art. Unfortunately, alcohol gave us a hard time. We did not choose ancient Japan, but Poland in the 20th century. We sent not a cyborg L.E.M. but a man named Stanisław Lem. Worst of all, we didn't send a duplicate that could be killed in the bud. Because of Stanley's error, we used the memory of cyborg L.E.M. We added it to the body of a living person.

- But the documentation!

- Our Master Jefferson was afraid of losing his job. He had credit and therefore wanted to hide the accident. Master Jefferson naively believed that this catastrophic mistake could bring some real and tangible results. Besides, he thought that the modified program L.E.M. will also indirectly improve the rate of Mars colonization. He believed it, even though Stanisław Lem was just an ordinary man, with flesh and blood. Our Master was wrong. Time and place for Stanisław Lem were not favorable. He was a genius but not a superman. Fantastic, phenomenal, and timeless visions intertwined in his mind with those less accurate and successful. Our Master hoped that Stanisław Lem would become such a valued scientist as Copernicus or Isaac Newton. Ultimately, Lem became "only" a known, world-famous science fiction writer and philosopher.

- I know who Stanisław Lem was! - Shouted Professor Wilkins.

- He wrote many books. - assistant Chris continued. - Unfortunately, during the unlucky experiment, we removed some of the critical memory of the cyborg. It was about the ability to solve the most difficult dilemmas and problems of humanity. He did not help in such a significant way that our Master Jefferson expected from him. Also, even if we sent him as a cyborg, he would not be able to develop his skills as much as necessary, because of the time and place where he appeared. Twentieth-century Poland was not a very convenient place to plan and implement Mars colonization. Even worse, when Lem was 19 years old, World War II broke out. He could only use his incredible wisdom and imagination to write science fiction novels and essays. The mission of the cyborg L.E.M., which was to be sent back to 2300 to accelerate the colonization process of Mars, never took place. All mission documentation has been forged. I'd like to apologize. This vodka ...

- I can't believe it, Chris! Both you and Stanley were not to have any disadvantages in your functionality and performance. You were supposed to be a super scientist! I think our genetic science has also made a mistake, creating such superhumans like you. Flawed humanity cannot create perfect things ...

THE END



ADAM MAZEK

Back to the past