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CLARION REVIEW ★★★☆☆ SCIENCE FICTION

The Earth Gate

Chris Comish
CreateSpace (Oct 14, 2012)
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"Your past lives were for refinement. With one life you got close but did not master the incarnated Earth experiment, with the next you got closer, each life was a refinement to get you to where you are today." Qan Rahn, a spirit of light, speaks these words to Steven, a human who has just died in a horrific highway accident. Qan Rahn knows that soon Steven will be transformed into an entity freed from earthly bonds, whose spiritual name is Yin Dek; his task will be to save Earth from evil aggressors called Slavers.

Author and Reiki therapist Chris Comish has studiously drawn from a wide spectrum of occult and arcane sources to create *The Earth Gate*. Yin Dek's new life as a master and protector of Earth begins in the mystical city of Shamballa (in Buddhist tradition, a hidden seat of pure effulgent energies). Once he has been schooled in higher realities and learns to communicate with thoughts and manipulate energy, he will be able to assist earthlings as they travail under the heavy-handed domination of the Slavers.

Yin Dek and his supernal companions will be assisted by other corporeal beings and their technologies—space travel and weaponry—to obliterate the suffering caused by Lord Argon, a former Lyrian ruler corrupted by evil, who now reigns in the gross world. Yin Dek will also need the aid of a human named John, a conflicted and tormented soul, whose spiritual destiny is entwined with Yin Dek's journey to save the world.

A major strength of the book is a complex and consistent plot that gradually builds to an exciting conclusion. It works on three levels. First, those who understand or seek to learn more about the multilayered secret truths of the inner path will be fascinated by the special knowledge the author demonstrates. Second, lest the reader feel too perplexed by the happenings in the etheric realm of Shamballa, Comish has carefully interwoven his story lines to include the corresponding viewpoints and actions of those still living ordinary lives on Earth. Third, he makes use of sci-fi tech devices for fans of that genre. Most importantly, he keeps the action rolling from the first page to the last, with sufficient romantic threads, good guys and bad vying for worldly conquest, and an outcome that is never quite assured until the final chapter.

The book is weakened somewhat by a notable dearth of necessary commas, as in "Oops I'm sorry," and "Tell me more Yin Dek." Comish also includes italicized "author's notes" throughout the text, interrupting the flow of the narrative; these comments should be smoothly incorporated into the story to eliminate the sense of being "told" instead of "shown." And there are a large number of characters with unmemorable names (Ra-So-El, Elohim Ha-ar El).

Overall, *The Earth Gate* is a strong offering from a writer who has immersed himself in his subject matter. Comish, who maintains a "City of Shamballa" social network, genuinely believes in the supervening etheric realities that he depicts, and his conviction illuminates this engaging work of spiritualized science fiction.
BARBARA BAMBERGER SCOTT (January 9, 2013)

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