

# CHAPTER XXI. -The coming Race

In Chapter XXI of "The Coming Race," the narrator reflects on Zee's deepening affection for him, distinguishing it from the playful fondness of Tae. This attention, however, instills not pride but fear in him, given Zee's formidable combination of wisdom, power, and popularity among her people. Zee embodies the epitome of protective and nurturing instincts, extending her benevolence not just to her fellow beings but also to animals and children, healing, comforting, and teaching with a pervasive desire to alleviate sorrow and impart knowledge.

The narrator marvels at Zee's grace and majesty, especially when her ceremonial headgear, a coronet adorned with opal-like gems, radiates light, elevating her appearance to something almost celestial. Despite her superior qualities and the nobility of her race, the narrator struggles with the concept of love towards Zee, musing that man's pride might prevent affection for a woman perceived as superior in all aspects.

The narrator ascribes Zee's interest in him to a blend of her nurturing tendencies and perhaps the novelty of his difference from the Vrilya. He contrasts his own human qualities with the superior physical and intellectual attributes of the Vrilya, pondering how such a being could stoop to favor a mere "barbarian" like himself. This preference fills him with both awe at her imperfections and dread of the potential dangers their relationship could incur.

Determined to act honorably, the narrator resolves to confide in his host, Zee's father, about her feelings toward him, aiming to diplomatically address the situation without betraying Zee's dignity or his respect for her. This decision reflects his adherence to moral and civil principles even in the face of an extraordinary and daunting emotional entanglement.