



space and resources threaten to become scarce. The only way out: the search for a replacement planet. The choice is made for the planet "Earth". Unfortunately, intelligent life already exists there ...

ROTHILDA VON
ROTORTOD:

OVERTURNED

*HOW THE ALIENS TRIED TO
CONQUER THE EARTH WITH
WIND TURBINES*

PART I: IN THE SIGHTS OF THE ALIENS

CHAPTER 1: THE REJUVENATION PILL

Rothilda von Rotortod's novel Overturned captures the feeling of alienation from nature, which results from the progressive disappearance of landscape behind wind turbines, in the image of mankind being overwhelmed by extraterrestrials (cf. [interview with the author](#)).

In the first chapter we witness a meeting of the Future Commission on the planet Kadohan. It deals with the problems arising from the invention of a rejuvenating pill: In the near future,

1. THE REJUVENATION PILL

SEARCH FOR A REPLACEMENT PLANET

When the rejuvenation pill was launched on the planet Kadohan, it was foreseeable that resources would no longer be sufficient for everyone in the near future. Admittedly, a law regulating reproduction was passed immediately and procreation was completely switched over to artificial insemination. Nevertheless, it was clear that in the years to come – if

reproduction was not to be completely abolished – a replacement planet for the coming generations would have to be found.

As a result of extensive cosmic explorations, the choice finally fell on the planet Earth. Firstly, it was relatively easy to reach for the Kadahanian spaceships. And secondly, the planet had interesting raw material deposits and also offered ideal conditions for permanent settlement.

The only problem was: Planet Earth was already populated. If the Kadahanians wanted to use it for their own population, they either had to reach an agreement with the dominant species there or displace them.

As a result of a reconnaissance mission that was conducted undercover on Earth, the first alternative was classified as unrealistic. The Earthlings, the members of the exploration team unanimously reported, were an extremely aggressive species that would rather destroy their own planet than share it with others. In addition, the Earthlings themselves were said to be quickly-multiplying and to overstress the colonisation capacities of their planet, too.

So for the Kadahanians exactly that became a problem, which made the earth attractive for them. Just because the planet offered ideal living conditions for them, the dominant species there was very similar to them in constitution and temperament. Living together and sharing resources proved to be difficult or even impossible.

In the end, therefore, only the second, invasive approach remained. This, however, was associated with logistical problems that could not easily be solved either. As the fact-finding mission had shown, the Earthlings had an extremely effective arsenal of destructive weapons at their disposal. Even if the Kadahanians' own protective shield was supposed to neutralise this deadly potential, there was still the danger that the Earthlings would be driven to the extreme by the attack and make the planet permanently unusable with their weapons.

The only way to stop the Earthlings from this self-destructive act was to prepare the invasion long in advance and then implement it so quickly and effectively that the attacked would have no time to fight back. However, the Kadahanian fleet of spacecraft could hardly pass unnoticed through the radar screen that the exploratory mission had detected around Earth. The stealth mode, which worked tolerably for a single small space glider, reached its limits here. At the latest during the landing approach, the existence of the spaceships could no longer be concealed – and would then provoke the feared counterattack.

To make matters worse, the spaceships had to land in very specific, strategically favourable places to nip the Earthlings' resistance in the bud – namely in the vicinity of the more densely populated areas where the landing manoeuvre was particularly difficult to manage. Therefore the landing sites had to be marked accordingly. Thus towers with an altitude of at least 100 meters were needed, in order to indicate the landing sites by strong flashing signals.

In addition, at the upper end of the towers, huge propellers should ideally be turning. The reconnaissance mission had also led to the realisation that the engines of the large transport spaceships would heat up excessively on entering the Earth's atmosphere. In order to minimise the risk of explosion during the landing process, it was decided to cool the engines

beforehand. The winds generated by the propellers were to serve this purpose. Moreover, they were expected to have an antiiconographic function: they were supposed to change the image of the spaceships so that from Earth they would look like a swarm of meteorites.

COVER STORIES

The crucial question now was how this preliminary work could be carried out without arousing the mistrust of the Earthlings. In the Future Commission, where all issues essential to the planet were debated, it was quickly agreed that this would only be possible with the help of infiltrated pseudo-Earthlings who would conceal the true purpose of the construction sites. But with what story should the actual function of the concrete towers be disguised?

The first to speak was the commissioner for the inner dynamics of cosmic events. His skull, which was bald as with all Kadahanians, was decorated with blue shimmering concentric circles. "What would it be like," he asked, "if we were to openly take up the mysterious, incomprehensible aspects of the buildings? What if we declare the concrete pillars to be sacred buildings?"

"I hardly think that would be a good idea," replied a Kadahanian woman who herself had taken part in the exploratory mission on Earth. Her dainty body almost seemed to sink into the puffy robe that was common on Kadahan. "Firstly, we need far more landing pillars than there are sacred buildings on Earth. And secondly, our reconnaissance mission has just shown that the importance of such buildings among Earthlings tends to decline. Additional sacred buildings would be very difficult to communicate to them."

"What if we label the landing towers as residential buildings?" pondered one who had been appointed to the Future Commission as a member of the construction team. His browless eyes gleamed full of energy.

"This is not a very realistic scenario either," replied the Kadahanian woman with the delicate figure. "The Earthlings live either all by themselves or in apartment blocks very close to one another. Single standing residential towers in the landscape would contradict their everyday habits. And besides, how would we then explain the rotor blades we want to mount on the towers?"

"Exactly!" another commissioner agreed with her. "Landing towers as residential buildings – that wouldn't work. We would then be inviting the Earthlings to the landing sites ourselves, so to speak. In this case we wouldn't have to go through all the trouble of disguising ourselves!"

"We could explain the whole thing to the Earthlings as a power generation project," one of them finally suggested. "Energy seems to be a scarce resource for Earthlings, too."

"Let's just work it out with the simulator," suggested another. "Then we'll see whether the label has enough persuasive power."

So the simulator in the corner of the meeting room was fed with the data that would support the fiction "power generation by rotor blades at high altitude". The result was extremely sobering: high energy expenditure in the manufacturing of the turbines, uncertain, fluctuating energy generation, high costs for the later cumbersome disposal of the material, plus follow-up costs due to infrasound-induced health damage as well as soil

compaction and the loss of green spaces. The story therefore hardly seemed to be suitable as a justification scheme for covering entire tracts of land with gigantic concrete towers.

"Too bad – that was probably the wrong idea," even the person who had introduced the idea had to admit.

At this point the head of the fact-finding mission, who had previously stayed out of the discussion, joined in the conversation. "Now, wait a minute. I don't think the proposal is completely far-fetched," he contradicted the general assessment. On his skull there was a window-like rectangle – perhaps a symbol for the view into distant worlds.

Everyone looked at him in astonishment. The expedition leader seemed to enjoy their amazement. He had a youthful appearance, but this was mainly due to the fact that he had only recently taken a rejuvenation pill. In truth, he was one of the most experienced experts in the group. After all, he had been head of the extrastellar exploration department for over 100 years.

"But even small children don't fall for this fairy tale," disagreed a Kadolian woman with a particularly wide robe. It was waving like a stormy sea when she gesticulated mockingly.

"Maybe not on our planet," admitted the expedition leader. "We must not forget, however, that although we resemble Earthlings on the outside, we differ greatly from them in our brain structure. While in our case the processing of emotions and analytical operations take place in two independent brains, the Earthlings have only one organ for both. Therefore, the thought processes can directly be influenced by strong emotions."

"Very interesting," interfered another commissioner. "But how can we benefit from that?"

The expedition leader smiled mischievously – with the left side of his face, the one where his emotional brain was located. "Well," he explained, "all we have to do is stage a catastrophe that demonstrates to Earthlings the lack of reliability of another source of energy that is important to them. The resulting feelings of fear will automatically increase the willingness to believe in our wind power story."

THE EARTHLING'S BRAIN

The others still looked at him sceptically. "And what kind of catastrophe could this be?" a colleague sitting across from him asked.

"Well, I was thinking of an accident in a nuclear power station," replied the expedition leader.

"But nuclear power is completely harmless," someone objected.

"For us it is," the expedition leader admitted. "We are immune to the radiation it produces. But for the Earthlings, it poses a deadly threat. And because this threat is invisible and, moreover, persists for centuries after the use of the required material, there is something very sinister about it. So all we have to do is activate and intensify an already existing sense of threat in order to achieve our goals."

The colleague opposite him shook her head. "Wait, I don't understand. Why should the earthlings approve of an ineffective form of energy production just because they have recognised another form as harmful to them? After all, we rejected the model by taking a quick look at our simulator."

"The Earthlings don't have real simulators at their disposal," the expedition leader taught them. "Instead, they make complicated model calculations, which often lead to contradictory results and are easy to manipulate. In addition, the Earthlings find thinking tiring – their brains are simply not as far developed as ours. Therefore, they prefer to adopt the opinions of others rather than drawing their own conclusions from the facts. This suits us insofar as we only have to get the most important opinion leaders on our side to steer the Earthlings in the direction we want them to take."

"Do you already have a clear idea of who these opinion leaders are?" one asked.

The expedition leader nodded: "I think we should mainly get the representatives of the environmental movement on our side."

As he saw the uncomprehending looks of the others, he added: "The Earthlings do not see themselves as part of a whole, but as something that is opposed to the rest of what exists on their planet. Therefore they call everything they do not feel as an immediate part of their own world – the Earthling world in the narrower sense – 'environment', which means 'surrounding world'. This part of their world has primarily a serving function for the Earthlings and is exploited by them to satisfy their needs. Those who see themselves as 'environmentalists' advocate a more careful treatment of the environment – either because they consider it to have an intrinsic value, or because they fear health risks for their own species. If we succeed in finding supporters for our fictional project in this group, we will give it a clean, 'green' appearance and thus generally increase its credibility potential."

"And how is this to be done?" asked a commissioner who had been frowning all along. "I thought our simulator predicted negative effects on what Earthlings call the 'environment', especially on creatures that move through the air."

"As already mentioned – the thinking of the Earthlings is not independent of their feelings," the expedition leader reminded. "If the catastrophe I spoke of is strong enough to release the desired emotions, it will remove all doubts about our wind power story."

MAGIC NUMBERS

"But that won't last forever," another critic said. "Eventually, the negative effects of the power generation fiction will become obvious."

The expedition leader showed his half smile again. "That may well be – which is why we must use the initial fears to set in motion a self-reinforcing process. The original, primary interests in the new form of power generation will thus be supplemented by other, secondary interests".

"And which ones are these?" the critic wanted to know.

"Well, I primarily thought of financial interests," explained the expedition leader. "As the Earthlings say: 'Money makes the world go round'."

The others looked at him irritated. "Money?" someone finally asked. "What's that?"

The expedition leader smiled, which means: The right corner of his mouth, the side where his thinking brain was located, twitched slightly. "Well, how can I explain this? In the end it is a kind of magic numbers. They exist in both material form – as tiny metal plates or paper notes – and immaterial form. In the latter case, they are no more than columns of numbers

on a monitor. Everyone needs a minimum of them to satisfy their basic needs. Anything beyond that can be used to fulfill your dreams."

"What nonsense!" exclaimed the commissioner who had just expressed his scepticism.

"Everyone knows that it is the very nature of dreams that they can't be fulfilled!"

"That's right," admitted the expedition leader. "But for the Earthlings it doesn't matter at all whether they really try to fulfill their dreams with the money or only dream of the fulfilment of their dreams – the numbers have an electrifying effect on them either way. They are really crazy about them. Therefore, if we link the emotions associated with them to our wind power story, we will be able to stop critical enquiries for a long time. Even those who see themselves as 'environmentalists' might, under these circumstances, see what is harmful to the environment as beneficial to it. Maybe this could even be a way to make the Earthlings see our landing pillars as sacred buildings in the end. This would make our narrative practically unassailable."

Even now, scepticism still prevailed in the commission. The customs of the Earthlings simply seemed too strange to most of the members. However, for lack of alternatives, it was decided to implement the project. Perhaps things would turn out to be easier than they seemed at the moment.

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