

132

GISELLE

1. The Jaws of Time

Paris, France. February 17, 2001. Faustef and Evila, who is now in her late pregnancy, walk hand-in-hand along the Siene River, not far from the Cathedral of Notre Dame.

Evila's eyes are filled with contentment. She gently squeezes his hand and says,

'Vick, I'm the happiest woman in the whole world.'

Faustef looks at her sweet face thinking,

'She's beautiful. With that big stomach she looks so innocent.'

She holds his hand tighter and leans against him.

'Do you think he will be a physicist like you?'

'Of course,' he smiles.

He is an immortal man and can see deep into the future as well as into the past.

In his vision, he sees Victor, Jr.—his mortal son—as a businessman in New York, working in his office on Time's Square. His wife Laura is helping him with his business. They have four children: Mark, Victor, Maria, and Martha.

Faustef now continues further into the future. Junior has been long gone. His grandchildren, now grown, are doing the same things as their father and grandfather did a long, long time ago. Faustef is pleased to see that.

'It's a beautiful thing to have a time-horizon widened,' he tells Evila.

'True! With children, you see further into the future,' she says, 'as if your own life has been prolonged. Junior is my immortality.'

Intuitively, Evila always understands the point of Faustef's statements, though sometimes, she doesn't quite understand their core-meanings.

As they walk, Faustef gazes at Notre Dame standing majestically in the distance as a tall and magnificent tribute to the Virgin Mary. But, there is no trace of that little inn that once stood nearby—the Rose of Paris. It perished long ago in the jaws of time.

Years ago, the winds of time had also cleared the air from the burning ashes of Jacques de Molay that Son of the Devil, as King Philip IV, the Handsome, liked to say.

Suddenly, Faustef feels nostalgia for the familiar ambiance of the Rose. He takes an instant time-thru trip there.

2. Notre Dame's Bell Ringing

Paris, France. May 5, 1314.

As usual, the *Rose* is heavily packed on Friday evenings. Giselle is at the bar, serving guests. As she spots Faustef at the door, she exclaims,

'Mon Monsieur! Mon Monsieur!'¹

There is a sunrise-shine in her face.

'I've just stopped by to tell you that I love you,' says Faustef.

'I love you too, Mon Monsieur.'

Innocent and pure, she asks,

'Mon Monsieur, will you marry me?'

'I will,' says Faustef firmly, 'in two days—on Sunday. I have spoken to a priest. He will arrange a small ceremony at the Notre Dame. Your brother will be my best man and Veronica Franco—you'll meet her soon—your maid of honor.'

¹ Mon Monsieur – My Master (Mister) in French.

Just after the wedding ceremony has been finished, Veronica Franco² approaches Faustef and Giselle.

'Guys,' she says, 'I've made this couplet for you. Listen up!

The ringing of Notre Dame's bell,

Heralds the marriage of Doctor Faustef and his beautiful Giselle.'

3. The Time Roaming

'Vick! So strange, I felt, for a second, as if you had gone somewhere,' says Evila. 'Vick, you are not fooling around through time, are you? —Now that you can travel through time.'

Faustef smiles an innocent smile, like a child caught doing a mischief.

'What are you talking about? I'm here.'

'I hate when you treat me like one of your bimbos,' she says.

Of course Evila cannot see in Faustef a-just-married-man to Giselle, a beauty from the fourteenth-century-Paris.

In Faustef's ears there is still an echo of Notre Dame's bell, as he was giving a wedding kiss to his young bride.

He is happy that his immortal existence is nostalgia-free. He can always go back or come forward to any time-domain. Time roaming is such an empowering activity.

Evila does not know yet that the time-thru-trip from, say the time-domain-one, hers, to the time-domain-two, Giselle's, appears as an instant in her time-domain, regardless of the trip duration, as seen in Giselle's time-domain.

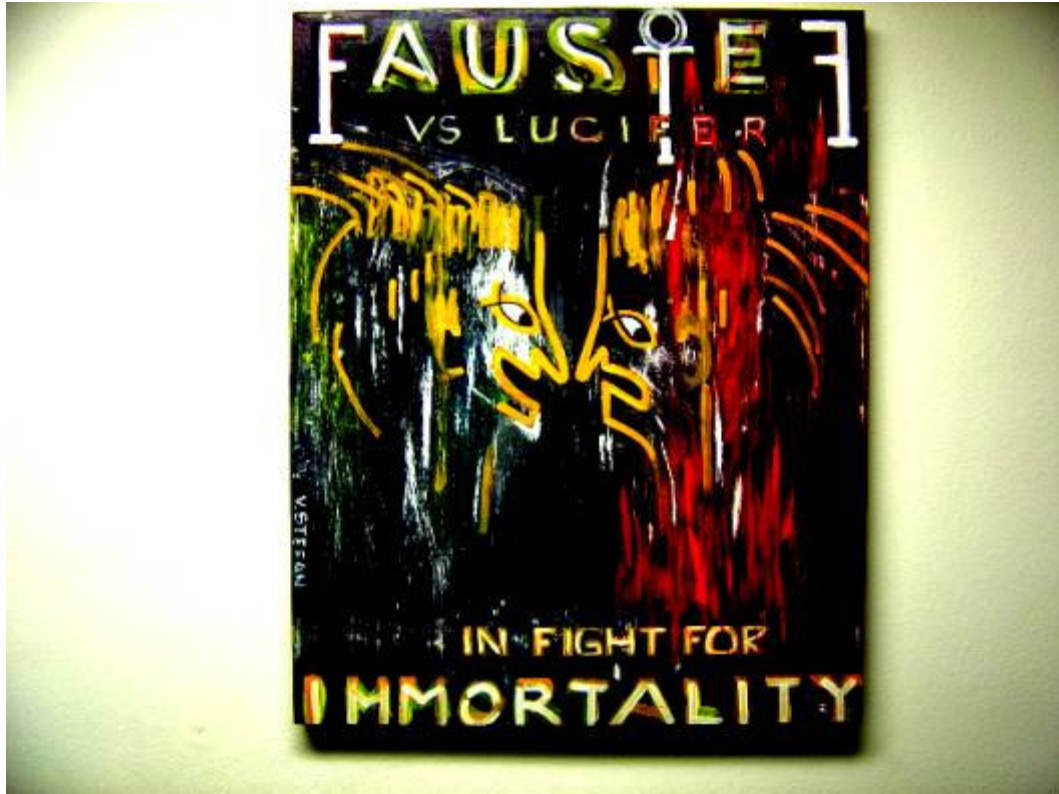
Each person's time-domain equals to the total of that person's living years. A personal time-domain is a singular possession of a person; no two persons have the same personal time-domains, similar to their fingerprints. Two

² Veronica Franco (1546 – 1591), a Venetian poet-courtesan is an immortal human being in the story.

persons can be born and die at the same points in time, respectively, at least in principle; that is how it looks to a mortal brain. The truth is that we do not share points in time as we do not share, quite obviously, points in space.

Everyone is placed in one's very own points in time and points in space. It is a unique signature for every person: living, had been living, and will have lived. This is how, as Appro Goody would say, One True God cherishes, in a very singular way, each of us, his children, by giving each of us separate pieces of time and space. Appro has said that though in this World of Time and Space, it looks like you move and change, in the World of One True God, you stay, unmovable and unchangeable, in but one 'point' of His World allocated only to you. What he has once, as a mortal, considered to be unreliable mystical statements by his dear friend Appro, Faustef now, as an immortal, knows they are true.

Faustef stayed with Giselle, after the marriage, almost a month as counted in Giselle's time-domain. In Evila's time-domain, however, that has appeared as a moment. This time-scale transformation is accessible and fully understandable only to immortals.



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Faustef Versus Lucifer in Fight for Immortality

© V. Alexander Stefan
Year: 1996
Medium: OIL/ACRYLIC
Size: H30"-W24"
Code: S-17/1996

To the Reader:

I bring to you some chapters (of 137 total) from my fiction story, an epic-novel, entitled *Doctor Faustef*, with the intent, not to provide an essence of the epic, but rather to take you on a short trip along some avenues Faustef had walked upon in his search for the human immortality

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