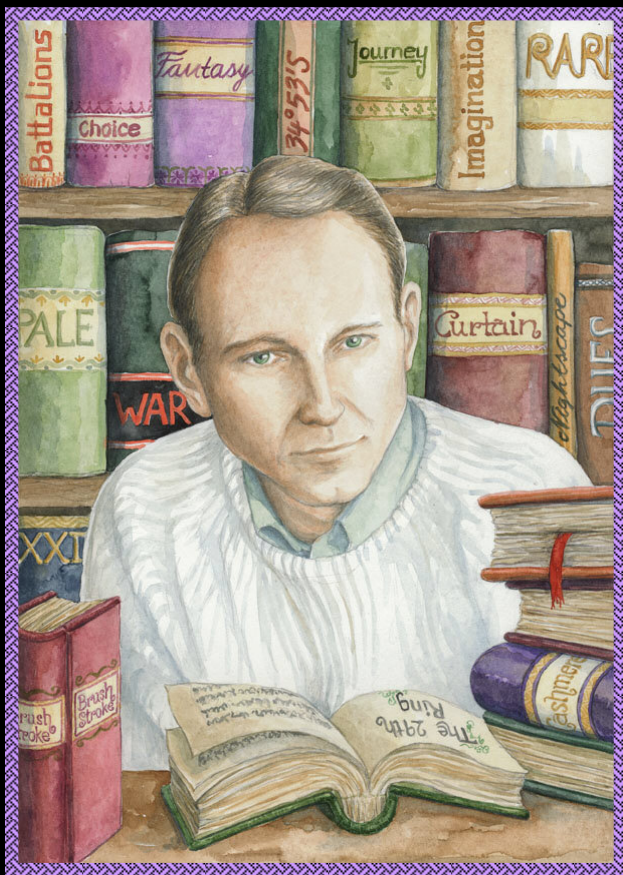


GLOBAL XXI—A DANGEROUSLY RISKY CONTRADICTION by D.H. DALE—
A MINIATURE STORY— from STORIES WE ARE TELLING— for the MINIATURE LIBRARY— of the SHORT STORY AFICIONADO—

The SHORT STORY AFICIONADO™ PRESENTS



THE MINIATURE LIBRARY THE SHORT STORY AFICIONADO™

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Out of the Imagination and Mind's Eye of the Short Story Aficionado™

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Welcome to A STORY I'M TELLING™ from Far Beyond the Threshold of Imagination!

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Reader...

Spurred by the crisp coolness of any chosen Autumn afternoon...and before the violet blush of twilight fades to starlit night—hasten to find a comfortable easy chair...one where you may be warmed by the welcoming embers of a glowing hearth. From there, your imagination shall lift you up and whisk you down the narrow drive ahead—through the gateposts and beyond.



Once round the bend, you shall find yourself in a hitherto unseen quarter—as Far Beyond the Threshold of Imagination™ as you can ever hope to be!

It is there and then that you shall have the opportunity to reach out for one brief moment in time—to grasp the offer of an outstretched hand that is aBitof Mystery™

y, Romance and Adventure.

Major D.H. Dale™
Global XXI™

A Miniature Story™ from Stories We Are Telling™
for the Miniature Library™ of the Short Story Aficionado™

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Global XXI™

Having Evolved into the Quintessential
MINIATURE STORY™
aBitof COMMON SENSE™
is Dedicated to

My FAMILY
Then, Now and Always

My DARLING and DEVOTED WIFE
You of Starlit Nights Come and Gone

My LOVING and FAITHFUL DAUGHTER
You're the Best!

My BELOVED WIFE and ALLY
You in the Autumn Blush of All the Afternoons Yet to Come
having been the First to Cross Over the Threshold into the
MINIATURE LIBRARY™

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Global XXI™

Join me now for *A Story I'm Telling*—
while you reflect on *aBit of Common Sense*.

DHD GTTG SSA™

WHERE IS THE COMMON SENSE and the long-range advantage of engaging in the essentially self-destructive and extraordinarily perilous brand of hypocrisy that is being practiced in certain worldwide regional hot spots this morning—or on any given morning for that matter?

Said another way, *where is the common sense* in first fueling and then fanning the flames of worldwide regional aggression by the strong and dubiously enfranchised, against the weak and historically disenfranchised—and then disingenuously claiming the mantle of the rainmaking peacemaker? This, while duplicitously *looking heavenward* for *spiritual guidance* as it relates to a doubtful about-face stance on behalf of the foregoing disenfranchised civilian casualties—many of whom are mothers and their children.

Digressing for a moment here—be aware that if *The Big Lie* is disingenuous enough, told frequently enough and *prayed over* frequently enough, then the vast majority of *the flock* on the receiving end of *The Big Lie* actually begin to repeat it as *the gospel truth*. As a matter of fact, therein lies much that is problematic in our world today.

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Historically, more human beings are killed and more territory invaded, occupied and annexed either indirectly or directly *in the name of God* than for any other reason. Of course, the real underlying reasons are actually quite secular in nature—and often simply decadent.

Within the context of those who are *faithful to God*, some 5.5 or so of 7 billion adherents can be found within: 1) *Christianity* 2± billion 2) *Islam* 1.5± billion 3) *Hinduism* 1± billion and 4) *Confucianism-Buddhism-Taoism* 1± billion—as well as less populous followings of believers, e.g., 5) *Eastern Orthodoxy (Ukraine)* .04± billion 6) *Russian Orthodoxy* .02± billion and 7) *Judaism* .002± billion.

Naturally, there also exist the 1± billion that one could very well label as *the faithless*, i.e., those who are still trying to make up their minds as to organized faith.

Interestingly, if one were to poll a truly random sample of those committing regional hot-spot aggression on any given morning—perhaps as few as a mere 5% would likely identify themselves as *the faithless*. On the other hand, some 95% would more than likely make it abundantly clear that they are entitled to commit aggression against their weaker neighbors after *praying over* it.

Once again, *where is the common sense* in first fueling and then fanning the flames of regional territorial invasions, occupations and annexations that inevitably lead up to global war—and then engaging in the otherwise preposterous denial of responsibility for the resulting global conflagration?

Finally, *where is the common sense* in global principals financing their regional proxy-clients' aggressive invasions, occupations & annexations of neighboring territo-



ries through intimidation & force of arms—and then doubling down on behalf of those selfsame proxy-clients? This, when the desperate neighbors simply can't take it anymore and retaliate—even while laboring under the grotesque weight of a casualty ratio that is at least 5:1 and as bizarrely disproportionate as even 20:1 because of indiscriminate maiming and killing of civilian casualties, many of whom are mothers and their children.

And if the foregoing isn't clear enough, *where is the common sense* in the U.S., Russia and European Union (e.g., U.K., France, Germany et al) using their vast economic power, might and global reach to finance the striking of *matches (and worse)* that ignite flash points of worldwide ethnic & religious tinderboxes—when the historical end result is bound to be a blazing inferno that engulfs the very economies upon which the survival of those selfsame global financiers and their regional proxy-clients depend?

Remember this too!

A principal's vast political & military power, might and global reach simply cannot exist without that selfsame principal's just as vast economic power, might and global reach. In other words, it is the indispensable economic side of the coin that finances any principal's political & military flip side.

What we've got here is *not* a failure to communicate (to paraphrase a once popular line of motion picture dialogue).

Rather, what we've got here is history once again repeating itself—this time in the form of *Global XXI™*.

Global XIX™ more or less kicked off at the conclusion of France's Napoleonic period, culminating in *World*

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War I after a seemingly isolated invasion, occupation & annexation of Ottoman Turkish territory in the Balkans by Austria-Hungary—interestingly, the latter’s longtime empire ceasing to exist at the conclusion of the world war, right along with the even older Ottoman Turkish empire.

Global XX™ then commenced with the punitive World War I Treaty of Versailles, culminating in the *World War II* invasions that both preceded and came on the heels of *living space* territorial occupations & annexations by Nazi Germany, Imperialist Japan and Fascist Italy. Paradoxically, the foregoing aggressor economies were then crippled by war—and they themselves occupied by the United States, Soviet Union (Russia) and other *World War II* allies. For good measure, postwar Germany and its capital city were more or less split right down the middle—this, in order to deter it from repeating its by then thirty years of aggressive tendencies.

To reiterate, we’re presently in the thick of *Global XXI™*, it leading up to what is sure to be an earth-shattering *World War III*—much in the same way that *Global XIX™* led up to a disastrous *World War I*, and the subsequent *Global XX™* led up to a cataclysmic *World War II* and its calamitous atomic conclusion (as well as to the beginning of *Global XXI™* in 1945).

All of this simply means that relative world peace remains the historically predictable precursor to world war—the latter’s grounds invariably rooted in the ill-advised and thoughtless greed of a mere handful of politicians who perpetually seek to gain or maintain political, economic, military and personal *Wealth, Power, Privilege & Control™* of the corridors and various instruments of national government.

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It is the foregoing quadrumvirate that so closely parallels the reckless few and their gluttonous preference for short-term gain—as opposed to long-term growth & stability for the vast majority of the earth’s 7 billion human beings, only 1 billion of which likely identify themselves as *the faithless*.

And one should never forget that it is this very same handful of elected, appointed and often even self-appointed politicians whose overriding preference is to think no further ahead than the next short-range domestic political cycle.

Thus, their prevailing focus is invariably on gaining or maintaining political, economic, military and personal *Wealth, Power, Privilege & Control*™ of the corridors and various instruments of national government—and through the latter, the global supply of *matches (and worse)*.¹

¹The freewheeling imagination and evocative storytelling of D.H. Dale™ crown otherwise commonplace themes with *aBit of Mystery, Romance and Adventure*™—a bejeweled and magical coronet not shackled by convention. Herein lies the work of a self-styled painter of the written word—the full kaleidoscope of hues, blushes, shades, tones and tints flowing from the storyteller’s inkwell to parchment. It is upon these leaves of paper so unselfishly bestowed by some mighty tree—that the teller has penned this *Miniature Story*™ entitled *Global XXI™—A Dangerously Risky Contradiction*. The storyteller’s thread of events, like all praiseworthy accounts, is a manifestation of the routine yet exceptional practice of observing, analyzing and drawing heartfelt as well as compelling conclusions. Inevitably, the finalities reflected in such reasoned judgments can be said to draw themselves up out of a shallow inkstone. After all, that vessel is the lone crucible in which the dry ink of deliberation is measured and mixed with just the right amount of imagination from the well of reflection—thereby maintaining the fragile flow of creativity that the pen can never completely manage on its own.



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Major D.H. Dale

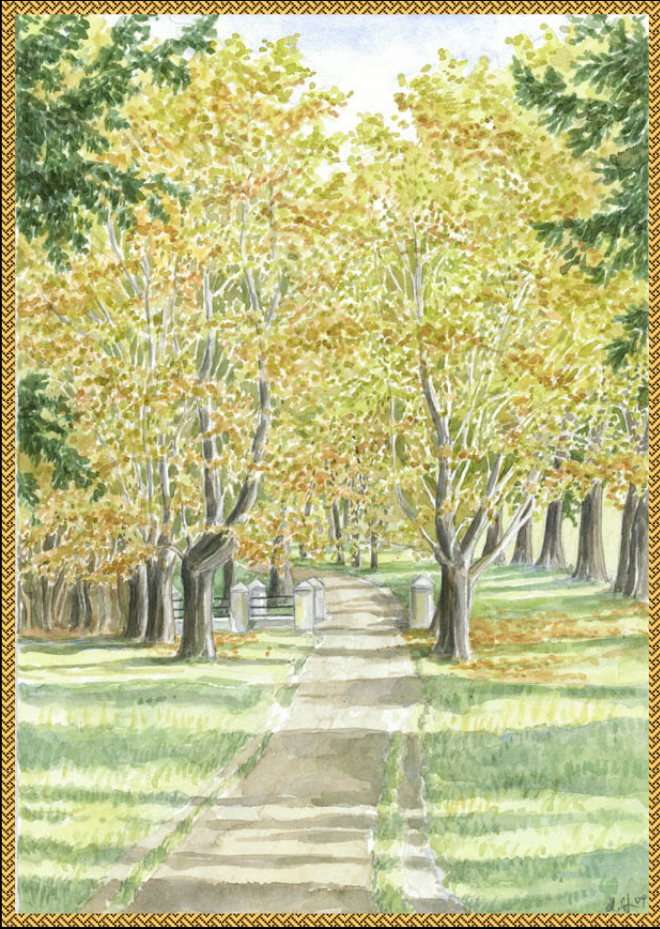
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