

“Wow, I didn't realize words were that powerful,” said Brogan, continuing to engage Dippy at face value in this incredible story, allowing him to use whatever cathartic means he needed.

“Of course you do,” said Dippy. “Words are very powerful. We all know the power of the words in our songs. They convey meaning, or they act as promises. Think of the first time you fell in love. It was the hardest thing you ever had to do to tell that person *I love you*. What if you said *I hate you* instead? That difference of that one word would bring about a totally different reality for you. It may change your entire life's path.”

“I can see that,” said Brogan.

“Think of weddings... the people have to say *I do*. Think of swearing an oath on a witness stand – *do you solemnly swear to tell the whole truth?* How about when you say *I give you my word* – what word is it that you give? Or... how about... a person is only as good as their word. What word?”

“Words were what God gave Moses, in the form of the Ten Commandments. This is the root of our laws, and laws are what our entire culture bases itself on. Yep, words are powerful, man.”

“I heard the word was a name - God's name,” said Dez, chiming in. “My grandma told me God told Moses his name, and that knowing His name, he could summon Him.”

Lani, who continued to look out the window, decided to finally try give him the benefit of the doubt.

Like Dad said, thought Lani, sometimes there's no turning back. You gotta ride the big waves out till the end.

“It's true,” she said. “Names are powerful. My father told me that some of our ancient ancestors wouldn't use people's real names, only nicknames. A person wouldn't even know their own name until they were 7 years old. Then the father and mother would whisper a child's name into their ear, and only the three of them would know that person's true name. That way,

bad spirits wouldn't get them, for all they had to do was say: *If you know me, whisper my name in my ear.* The spirit would leave them alone.”

“I don't believe what I'm hearing,” exclaimed Red, shaking his head in disbelief. “I don't know if I can buy into this whole story. This is getting weird, and it sounds to me like the rest of you are feeding this delusion. Oh, and by the way, Dip, you forgot about parrots. Parrots are the other animals that can speak. You should know this, being a pirate lover and all.”

It's true, thought Dippy. I probably am obsessed with pirates. I knew Red would be the hardest to convince.

However, Dippy knew he had one thing on his side.

They were in a rock band; and when one member makes a mistake, the rest don't stop, they keep on playing. He hoped if he kept talking, and told the entire story, they might all come around and help on the quest.

Dippy smiled and looked at his cousin. “I knew this wasn't going to be easy, but what I'm telling you may have actually happened to me. And there's more... lots more.”

“Then by all means, please continue,” mumbled Red, shaking his head.

“Before I move on,” said Dippy, “I want to say that maybe parrots *are* tuned in to the words. After all, it's the vibrations of the sound waves that they hear, and then repeat them back. The underlying wave patterns of sound may be the key to the lost word. You see, Hindus, when they meditate, focus on one key sound, the sound *om*. You may have heard yogis chanting it – ooooooommmmm.”

“*Om* is supposedly the basic sound of the universe that makes all people feel peaceful. It's the reason almost every language in the world uses the word *ma* for its mothers – the first word a baby usually says. The reason? It's pleasing to them. Ma-ma-ma-ma... If you say it over and over again, it starts sounding like *om*. Think about it.”



“Om,” he continued, “is one of the most sacred symbols in Hinduism. It is used in every prayer. It's so significant, that it even shows up in our English words like *omniscient* and *omnipotent*. The fact that it is a part of the final Greek letter *omega* further shows it's importance.”

“Coincidentally, some say that's why we have the word *amen* at the end of prayers. That same basic sound is in there – *ab* men... *om*-en. Supposedly it makes us feel a little better, even just uttering it once.”

“Maybe that's why doctors make us say it when they are checking our throat,” said Brogan.

“Could be,” said Dippy.

“If you look up *amen* in the dictionary, you'll see that it means: *affirming, approval* or *confirming the fulfillment* of something. But it will also tell you that it's the name of an Egyptian god, the god of life, air and breath. I think it's there just so you'll speak the universal sound.”

“Let's try it,” said Brogan. “If it will make us feel better... then we should do it.”

He started humming.

“Oooooommm.”

Dippy, Dez and Lani, slowly relinquishing the stress of the long day's events, joined in and made a chorus.

Finally Red, with a wry smile on his face, started humming also. He had thought of coming in with something funny – like humming the riff to “Smoke on the Water” – om-om-om, om-om-OM-om, om-om-om, om-a-om – but decided against it.

It would be too antagonistic, he thought.

As Red pulled the van up to the house, the sound of loud humming filled the air.

As the band unloaded, it seemed to Dippy that they were all feeling better. He had gotten what he hoped for – a chance.

Since they were feeling the vibe, they decided it would be a good time to have band practice, and they wrote a new song, right there on the spot.

CHAPTER 23

“The Illuminati deals in symbols,” said Dippy, as the band was packing up their instruments.

“These symbols are easy to recognize, like when you see the golden arches.”

“But, just as this symbol, to a child, may represent Happy Meals and french fries, another person, at a different time in their life, may see it as a cultural menace, littering a city with obnoxious billboards, low-paying jobs and trash.”

“In other words, every symbol has multiple meanings, depending on the observer. The outward meaning – the one observable by everyone – is called the *exoteric*. The Order, however, deals with the meaning that is only available to its members. This is called the *esoteric*.”

“The most prominent Illuminati... err... *Order* symbols are pyramids, pillars, eagles and five-pointed stars. These ancient symbols can be found on every continent.”

“Pillars are found everywhere in architecture. They are in almost every building in ancient Greece and Rome. They were also found in Egypt, India, Japan and the US.”

“For the Illuminati, they indicate power. Their pillars almost always come in pairs, representing strength and wisdom. The Japanese torii and the

twin pillars that stood in front of Solomon's Temple, important in Freemasonry, are also examples of this pairing. Furthermore, some say the two columns on the dollar sign allude to this.”

“Where did the dollar sign come from?” asked Lani.

“The word *dollar* is a Spanish word... based on the German word *taler*,” said Dippy.

He pulled a pen out of his bag and drew a dollar sign on a past set list – the list of songs they played at live shows.



“Charles the Fifth was the ruler of both countries – Germany and Spain,” he said, “and they both used coins with this symbol... although it didn't quite look like that. The two bars represent pillars that were engraved on the back side of the dollar. These Spanish coins were minted in South America, and were sometimes easier to find in the US colonies than British money.”

“Yeah, ok,” she said. “And the S?”

“Well,” he said, “it was a scroll that wrapped around the pillars.”



“How do you know so much about coins?” asked Lani, interested in this newly-discovered history.

“Our grandpa was a coin collector,” said Red, nosing in. “He told me the *S* symbolized a serpent... cause it's evil.”

“Yeah, yeah,” said Dippy, smiling at Red, “he told me that, too.”

“I wonder why there's no dollar sign on the actual dollar,” said Brogan, wanting to understand more.

“That's a good question,” said Dippy. “One that I do not know the answer to. What I am sure of, though, is that those bars represent pillars.”

He continued: “I also know that Christopher Columbus' last name means *column* or *pillar*. That's why lots of places in America are named *Columbia*, to signify pillars. In fact, the District of Columbia, D.C., literally means *district of pillars*. It shows that there is a hidden hand shaping our destiny. I mean, come on, everyone knows that Columbus didn't discover America – the Vikings did it five hundred years before that guy. They just wanted to work in the *pillar* idea.”

“That's a lot of *pillar-talk*,” said Red, slyly. “Why don't you tell us about some of those other symbols.”

“All righty,” said Dippy, glad to know that Red seemed a little more interested.

“The real symbol of their society,” he said, “is the pyramid. The manifest, exoteric meaning of pyramid is that it represents the sacred mountain, with the eye on top... supposedly representing God. But the esoteric meaning is that it is the main symbol of the fire people. The word *pyramid*, in Greek, literally means *amidst the fire*.”