

THIS IS TOMORROW

'It was, what it is, what it will always be, yes?'

'So the man says.'

'But, he also said, tomorrow belongs to those who can hear it coming.'

'Different chap completely, my friend. You are confusing the genres; indeed, you are confusing your psyche.'

'I believe my soul is pure but has no bearing on the future. It is a steady state for today, but who knows how things will be tomorrow?'

'It's an interesting debate. None of us can accurately predict what tomorrow will bring. I can only say try and visualise today as being tomorrow. Not a repeat, but an advance.'

'How do you mean?'

'Well, I once heard someone say that to advance something by way of an enquiry or question is so much more than the sum total of our knowledge, because the question should reveal a new direction, a new angle and so, advance our knowledge even further. As we get older, we make way for new ideas. The taking of what we have learned and furthered from the generation before us, must therefore be taken by the next generation and moved on. After all, hasn't that been the way of technology?'

'Yes indeed.'

'We started with the wireless. We progressed to transmitting even more radio waves. We listened in and found our broadcasts were embracing our planet. Then we played with photography by creating a flicking that became moving pictures. We then joined image with sound and television was born. Pretty soon, we had satellites in orbit. Nowadays, we can look at live images from any point on our planet.'

'At the turn of our millennium, the internet had not even got into the starting blocks. Email had not replaced the everyday letter post. Twenty years on and what do we have?'

'Every part of our life is governed by a computer!'

'Precisely! We wake up every morning. We check our phones for messages. We switch on our laptops. Our very laptops hold more engineering than what was on-board Apollo taking men to the Moon! We answer to a voice from a speaker that can play us our favourite radio station as well as reminding us to pick up some food or put the rubbish out for the bin men! The same voice can even turn on our house lights, set an alarm for cooking and even swear at us! But, what is that speaker really doing?'

'It's listening to our every conversation.'

'Exactly. It hears what we like and dislike. It can program advertisements to appear on our click and collect webpages and coerce us into purchasing more of what we don't need. It can set trends and push us toward temptations that we would never have thought of five years ago, let alone back in 2000.'

'So, this is tomorrow?'

'This is a mistake. For we are no longer learning. We are being taught what the powers-that-be want us to be taught. We no longer open encyclopaedias or dictionaries. Spelling and arithmetic is automatically corrected. And so are we!