

Reign: The Beginning

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Foreword

“We say that when the King returns it will be wonderful. But why don’t we dream of it? If it will be real, it should be the subject of our fondest dreams. Even if we can not be sure now what it will be like, dreams can sometimes glimpse the truth.”

The author does not pretend to actually describe in this book what the millennial reign will be like or to predict the time for the beginning of those 1,000 years.

This is all fictional speculation, a sort of “What if . . .” story based on one historic position that there will be a literal reign for a thousand years from Jerusalem which still lies in our future.

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Anna

103 – 159 C.R.

04.14.103 C.R. My name is Anna. I am the third of four daughters of John Semple of Buckhead. I have two older sisters, a younger sister and two younger brothers. John Jr. is directly below me, then Gracie, then the baby Seth. Vanessa is just older than I and Joan is the oldest. My father is the assistant administrator of Buckhead. My mother, Grace, is ten years younger than my father. He always says that he was fortunate to get her and they had to have children quickly to make up for the time he had wasted.

The year is 103 of the Glorious Reign under the great and righteous rule of His Imperial Majesty who rules from Jerusalem. My family is mortal and we do not despise our mortality although I am definitely the most curious one in my family regarding the Immortals. Our Immortals are

especially kind. They never act haughty and are very considerate of us all. As a matter of fact, you might say that I am somewhat of a friend of our local Governor, the Immortal Elaine, who rules Buckhead.

I came to meet her Excellency, Elaine, in an unusual way. I was carrying my little niece, Alice, Joan's little girl, home from school one day as she had turned her ankle playing at school. The teacher said that it would mend if she stayed off of it for a while. She sent for me in the upper school (I have only one more year) so that I could carry her home. I was crossing a road near a turn when I heard the great beast approaching and I could not get myself and little Alice out of the way in time, so I threw us both on the ground and covered her with my body. The horse almost cleared me but I felt one hoof smash down on my left hip and heard it crack. The rider, a mortal like myself, did not stop. Some friends came along and carried me and little Alice home. I was hurting a lot. The physician was sent for.

Before the physician could arrive, Governor Elaine herself appeared at our home. My parents were shocked. What had we done? The Governor explained that she was there to look after me and they showed her to the room that I share with Vanessa and Gracie. I tried to rise but she motioned with her hand that I should stay still. “Well, young Anna, your hip is broken,” she said.

“Yes, Excellency.”

“Let’s make it well. What do you say?”

“Yes, ah . . . I would be . . . most grateful.” My voice trailed off at the end.

The broken hip was on the top side as I laid on my bed. My mother had already expressed a fear that I would always limp and would probably not be able to get a husband. She did not know that I had overheard. The Governor touched my hip lightly with her scepter. At first it felt warm, then it seemed to swell a little for a short time, then it cooled and the pain was gone. She bid me rise. I got up and was as whole as I had been before the accident. I had

always known that they had this power but this was my first experience of it.

“There now. You feel fine now,” she said.

“Yes, Excellency. Fine, thank you. Thank you so very much.” I started to kneel before her but she pulled me up.

“That’s fine, girl,” she said.

“You threw yourself on the child?” she asked.

“Yes, Excellency.”

“A selfless act.”

“I, I did not think,” I responded.

“Yes,” she smiled, “instinctive, and that girl, . . . speaks even better of you.”

“Yes, er, I mean, thank you, Excellency.” The Immortal Elaine, Governor of Buckhead and Vice-Metropolitan of Atlanta smiled upon me that day and in the days to come.

“The man who injured you did not stop?”

“No, Excellency.”

“Come with me,” she motioned.

“Mother Semple,” she addressed my mother as we walked towards the door, “your daughter is in no trouble but we have business with the one that injured her. Hold her evening meal for her. I will return her before nightfall.” My parents nodded. They were still in some shock after the healing of my hip.

As soon as we were out of my father’s house, the Governor raised her scepter. A portal opened and we found ourselves in front of an impressive house of a mortal. Elaine’s daily angelic escort preceded her; the smaller one, not the one used at ceremonial events. This escort was still a daunting sight. I could see a stable at the rear of the house. This man chose to transport himself by horse instead of machine; it was considered more elegant by some.

“Simon Wooster, come out here,” Elaine said in a loud firm voice. A large well dressed man emerged almost immediately from the house along with what must have been most of his family. Some still had napkins tucked in their shirts. They had been interrupted while eating. I knew that this was not the man who had been riding the horse that had broken my hip. He was too old and too heavy.

“Your son, Adrian,” the Governor demanded. She did not raise her voice.

“Excellency, I am so sorry, he is not at home,” the man replied.

“I know, send for him,” she responded.

There was a busy exchange of conversation among the family Wooster. There seemed to be some confusion as to where the son and heir was. Finally, two boys were dispatched in two different directions to find him.

“You would do well, Simon Wooster, to know where your son is and what he is doing,” the Governor said.

“Yes, Excellency,” Mr. Wooster responded, bowing. He was quite frightened. I was frightened for him. Somehow inside I was frightened just because everyone else seemed to be. Elaine looked into my eyes and I was suddenly totally at peace.

The young man Adrian came riding up with one of the boys on behind him. I recognized the animal. He ran over and knelt before the Governor.

“You injured this girl and did not stop.” she said.

“I did not know,” he started to lie, “I, ... I am sorry, Excellency,” his voice quivered. He knew better than to lie to an Immortal. They always knew. I had always thought that my mother was like them in this way.

“You will take the animal away from him,” Elaine said, “and you will restrict

his activities to the homestead for three months.”

The boy looked up shocked. His father pushed his head down again.

“Yes, Excellency, it will not happen again.” His fear seemed to be rising.

“This is a turning point, Simon,” the Governor said.

“If I have to deal with him or you again, the punishment will be severe. Do you understand?” This time she did raise her voice slightly.

“Yes, Excellency, yes, yes, quite.”

“Now, young man, you apologize to young Anna here. I have restored her hip which your mount shattered,” Elaine said.

Adrian Wooster apologized profusely to me and I, of course, forgave him.

Elaine raised her scepter again, a portal opened and we stepped through and in

an instant we were back at my father's house. I wondered what would happen if young Adrian did not improve. I knew that such sins as murder were punished with death right on the spot but I was not familiar with lesser infractions. It was later that I marveled at the way the Immortals traveled and were able to take us with them when they wanted to by opening a portal.

“Your daughter, Mother Semple,” Elaine said. My entire family had gathered on the porch to wait.

“Thank you, Excellency,” my mother said. She did not seem to be afraid.

“And you, young Anna, I will be back to take you some places,” the Governor said. She smiled, raised her scepter slightly and she was gone. She and her angels did not need a portal.

I wondered where she was going to take me. I was excited. My family wanted to hear every detail of what had happened. I asked my father what he thought would happen if Adrian Wooster committed

another infraction. Father said that he would probably be removed from his family and put under direct supervision if it was a minor offense, worse if it was not. I was afraid for him. He did not seem very sincere in his apology to me.

04.22.103 C.R. Every time I am caught writing in this dairy my family teases me. "What could you think or do that could be important enough to write down?" Mother would say. My brothers and sisters would always tell. "Anna is writing in her dairy," they would say. I keep on writing. Somehow I feel that it might be important some day. Father never seems to mind. I have written down Father's account of his grandmother's memory of the Glorious Return.

My great grandmother said that things had been very hard for all of mankind for a long time. Most people did not believe in the Glorious Return but my great grandmother at least hoped for it. All around there were wars. Some nations were

stronger than others. When the stronger nation won, they would treat the losers terribly. Then when they managed to retaliate, they would be even more horrible to the defeated ones. America was the strongest and tried to do the right thing and keep the peace but eventually even it lost the ability to do so. There did not seem to be much love in the world. It was not peaceful like it is now under The Reign. Even though my great grandmother hoped for the return, she did not truly know God. That is why my family are still mortals. When it happened, those who truly knew God were changed. The rest of us lived on for our lifetimes and left children behind. Great grandmother said that she never really gave her heart to God because her husband would not have liked it. After the Return she wished that she had followed her heart and not her husband. But then it was too late. Anyway, things were pretty bad on the earth in those days. There had been wars and large poisonous dust clouds would hang over large parts of the earth. Food was hard to grow and many people would steal or kill to eat. It looked

like mankind would soon wipe itself from the face of the earth.

Then early one morning, they say it was about 4 o'clock, it happened. Everywhere a trumpet sound was heard. Then an enormous releasing angelic shout. The graves of many of the dead opened and their bodies received life and jumped up into the sky. Then those who truly knew God were transformed. They got Immortal bodies and joined the rest in the sky over the earth. Thousands upon thousands of Angels were seen with the Emperor as he descended. The light from His face was so bright that no one could look upon it, brighter than the sun when the dust clouds did not cover the earth. Then and there He established his rule over the earth. He appointed sub-rulers everywhere, like Elaine over Buckhead and Prince Henry Sawyer over the entire Atlanta Metropolis. The angels quickly cleaned up all the mess that the wars and poisons had made and people were able to raise food again. Life for mortals became peaceful. We did not really know what it was like for the Immortals. They would come and go.

We knew that they could go anywhere they wanted on the earth, but they went other places also. Sometimes they were overheard talking about their travels among themselves.

05.07.103 C.R. About three weeks after the incident with my hip the Governor Elaine returned to take me on a trip. I had finished my schooling and was helping mother around the house. I was faintly aware that I should by now have had a suitor, but none was forthcoming. Father's kindness sustained me. The Governor's arrival was, as usual, instantaneous and there was no time to prepare to leave.

“Mother Semple, I have come to take your daughter Anna on a short tour,” Elaine said. “I will provide all her needs. We will be gone for several weeks. Please do not worry about anything regarding her.” My mother nodded and we were gone. This time I was determined to note how I felt and what happened while we were being transported. I did not feel or see a thing or even remember

anything during the transport. Suddenly, we were just there.

We arrived at the Dais of his Excellency Henry Sawyer, Metropolitan of Atlanta. The Dais was on top of a hill overlooking the Metroplex. It was a smooth grassy place with several white chairs and settees arranged in a semicircle overlooking the city. I had heard it said that the hill was actually the product of a terrible bomb used during one of the last wars before the Return of the Emperor, but now it was a most pleasant place. Metropolitan Sawyer is a large and happy Immortal. He sat in the center seat of the semicircle. On either side of him were three sub-rulers of which my Governor Elaine was one. One seat was empty, just to the left of the Metropolitan. This was reserved for the Emperor Himself. I wondered if he ever came here. I was awestruck and frightened at the same time. Elaine brought me forward to meet the Metropolitan.

“Henry, this is the young mortal I was telling you about,” she said. I knelt before him. He helped me up.

“Hello, young lady,” he said with a smile in his voice. “So you’re the one that Elaine has been so impressed with.” I did not know that she had been impressed with me.

“If you say so, my Lord.”

“Yes, indeed, I do say so; a ‘selfless, sweet girl,’ she says. A mortal that we might want to have around. How would you like to be attached to my court, young lady?”

“Oh, yes, . . . my Lord, a, a great honor,” I managed to reply.

“Then you are. We will keep you with us. Your parents will be informed.” He nodded to an angel that was nearby. I was so rattled I could not remember if the angel had been there when I was introduced or not. But the angel was gone immediately, presumably to tell my folks. I thought that mother might be upset.

“Don’t worry, girl,” the Metropolitan said, “ your parents will be at peace with this.” I was shown to one of several small gatherings to the rear of the Dais by Elaine

and she told one of the mortal women to take care of me. I was given a room of my own in a building there and shown where we were to eat. I wondered what was the purpose of my being here. Was I to perform some particular function? The other mortals were quite nice and I knew that I would like it there. I was attached to the court of the Immortal Metropolitan of Atlanta.

[N.D.] After a few days when no particular duties were assigned to me and I had not seen Elaine – she had gone through a portal to one of those places that Immortals go to from time to time I asked an older girl, Sheila Jones, what we were to do.

“You will be told when you’re needed,” she said. “It will not be too hard and there is nothing to be afraid of, they just seem to want us, to want us . . . , to well, be around, that’s all. We do learn a lot about them.” That was enough for me for the time being. In a few more days Elaine returned and sent for me.

They were all seated on the Dais and Elaine motioned for me to sit on the grass beside her. The Immortal on the other side seemed nice although a bit older, if that has any meaning for them. They seemed to be waiting for someone. In a few minutes angels started arriving. I say arriving. They would just suddenly appear a few hundred yards in front of the Dais; then they would move closer and form ranks around the Dais. One particular angel seemed to be in charge. I had seen angels before and I was not afraid of them although these were quite impressive. They look a lot like people, mortals or Immortals, but they were very white and bright and there was something hazy behind their backs although they do not actually have wings with feathers like the birds have. They were always kindly in appearance and moved with a certainty about themselves. After a few minutes several hundred had arrived. The Immortals on the Dais stood, I started to get frightened. Who was it? What would happen? Then suddenly a small dark woman appeared. The Immortals nodded. I got down on my knees.

“Henry, how good to see you,” the new arrival said.

“Janice, and you, welcome, welcome to your city,” Henry Sawyer said. He gave her his seat and another one was brought for him. There was still the empty seat beside them.

The new Prince had a longer scepter than Metropolitan Sawyer. They both had small crowns of golden olive leaves around their heads. I soon learned that our visitor was the Prince Janice Holland, Governor of the East Coast of which Atlanta was only a part. She was the Over-Lord. I later learned that all governors had a Metropolitan over them and that all Metropolitans had an Over-Lord. That over the many Over-Lord’s there were two Viceroy’s, one in the East and one in the West, and then the Emperor Himself. Among themselves the Immortals all just seemed like old friends, very casual and always happy. Why not? There was nothing that could threaten them.

As they visited and talked about their former lives as mortals I sat spellbound.

What must it have been like? Some of them had been killed in the wars. Some of them were killed for their faith in those dark days before the Return of the Emperor.

In a little while an angel appeared at the Dais and spoke quietly to the Metropolitan. A mortal had committed some offence and another Immortal was bringing him for judgment. They appeared and the man was very frightened.

“He has killed his neighbor,” the Immortal said. The Metropolitan Sawyer looked at his Over-Lord. She nodded back for him to handle it. He picked up his scepter from the little table beside his chair.

“You have killed your neighbor out of greed and hatred,” he said. The man cringed. The Metropolitan pointed his scepter at the man. A look of terror crossed his face.

“That field should have been mine,” the man said.

“But it was not. Why did you kill him?”

“As I said, er, Excellency, it should have been mine.”

“How do you feel about killing him?” the Metropolitan asked.

“Well, I . . .”

“Never mind,” the Metropolitan said. “You are guilty.” All of the color left the man’s face.

“A life for a life,” the Metropolitan said. And the man fell over dead. Another wave of the scepter and two angels whisked the body away.

“Back to his family for burial,” Elaine whispered to me. I had never seen such a thing. I thought everyone was too afraid of judgment to disobey the Ten Laws. They returned to their conversations as if nothing had happened. Well, I thought, that was what they are here for. They judge and keep the peace. I was glad they were here; it gave life the secure feeling that we mortals had become accustomed to over the generations. The mortals at court talked a lot

about this judgment over the next several days.

11.12.103 C.R. Elaine had said that I might be interested in reading some of the records of the times when she herself was a mortal. I went to the Metropolitan's library and looked for something interesting. I had learned in school about the general time line back then. I knew that the main difference for them as mortals was the uncertainty; the terrible uncertainty in which they lived not knowing what new power would emerge and overrun the world or what disasters awaited them. Yet those who loved the Emperor had the Helper within their own bodies. But we lived in total peace during the Great Reign.

I looked very hard but could not find any record of Elaine's mortal life. When I asked her about this, she told me that I would do well to concentrate on some of the other Immortals. I wondered what the Metropolitan Henry Sawyer had done to win his reward. And the governor Janice of the East Coast. What had she done? I would be

gone for whole days studying these ancient records which were printed on leaves of paper bound into binders in the library near the Metropolitan's residence. I was a ward of Elaine and I had not been assigned any other duties and she seemed content for me to do this. If I had been at home with my own dear mother and father, they would have soon put a stop to it so that I could help around our small garden and with my younger brothers and sisters. I wondered who had written the pages that I was reading. Surely an Immortal would not have done this menial task. They already knew everything. And they could scarcely have written them while they were still mortal during those hard and cruel times. I finally concluded that they had been written by some mortals during the reign of the Emperor, people like myself. But these writings seemed disorganized and incomplete.

I looked long and hard for references to our Metropolitan. Then I found him. When I did, I sat in shocked silence for a long time. Henry Sawyer had been the

primary inquisitor for the people who had abused the believers in the Emperor. As a matter of fact, he had personally done much harm and inflicted great pain on many of them. After many had died under his hand, he seemed to have changed. He started seeking out their friends and they would try to hide because they knew who he was. Nevertheless, he found a few of them and they shared their beliefs in the Emperor with him. To their surprise Henry Sawyer did not torture them. He wanted to know more. One night after a long discussion with one of them Henry Sawyer converted. He tried to keep it a secret from his old companions and succeeded for a long time, about 2 years. Then he could hide no longer. He started releasing prisoners and helping them to escape to the Southwest which had become a haven for these people. The believers had fortified themselves in places like this. But eventually Henry was caught and treated terribly. He managed to escape with the help of some of his own hidden secret converts. He did this again and again. Each time he was caught, he was tortured terribly. He would manage to escape and return for more

people. Each time he was tortured he would affirm his belief in this wonderful absent Emperor. He was finally hung up with wires through his hands and died for his faith in this very area. For this he was made Metropolitan of Atlanta upon the Emperor's return and Elaine was one of his local governors. How could they now be such friends? I was a little confused by these Immortals.

03.19.104 C.R. I started looking for records about Governor Janice. Her full title was Over Lord of the East Coast Of The Americas. Over her was the Viceroy Of The Western Hemisphere. Over him was the Emperor. I wondered what he was like? They often went to Jerusalem to attend the Emperor's court. But mortals were never asked to accompany them.

03.21.104 C.R. It was very difficult to find references to the immortal Janice Holland. I finally found some references to

what I believed to be her in a list of the hopelessly insane. There was nothing more.

05.23.104 C.R. The more I read, the more I wanted to compile the most inspiring parts into well organized books. I decided that I wanted to make this my life's work. I told Elaine and she seemed very happy. She said that she would do everything she could to help me. I had found a calling. There had to be a testimony to those days for mortals of my generation and beyond to read. As time went on, I had a growing desire to ask to interview Janice Holland but I was afraid to ask. One day a conversation with Elaine made it possible. I was walking a favorite walking trail near the Metropolitan's residence when Elaine appeared just ahead. This time I was startled even though I was used to such things.

"I'm sorry child," Elaine said.

She hurried to me and hugged me. I always love being hugged by an Immortal. They are so much like us only different in a

way that I have vainly tried repeatedly to explain.

“How’s our girl?” she asked with her arm still around me.

“Fine.” I knew that I was smiling from ear to ear. She is so dear to me.

“Good! I am sorry that I have not seen you for so long. I have had to be away on matters of the Empire.”

“And how is the Emperor?” I asked foolishly.

Elaine smiled. “The Emperor, my dear, is always fine, much, much more than fine.”

I smiled back weakly, uncertainly.

“How is your research going?” she asked.

“Fine, fine but I need, er, I think I need some information that is not in those pages. Lots more information.” I looked up into her eyes. Elaine is a full 8 inches taller than I am.

“Anna, that is wonderful. I, we, were so hoping that you would really throw yourself into this.” I was glad that I was fulfilling their expectations.

“Elaine, I need more on the Over-Lord Janice.”

“Yes, I image that you do. That is very special.”

I waited. She seemed to read my thoughts.

“However, the only way to get that is from her own mouth,” Elaine said. I shall tell her about your request and have you temporarily attached to her court.” It was so easy and so sensible that I forgot to be nervous.

In a few days as I pouring over the old pages yet again, an angel about my size suddenly appeared. I jumped. They can be quite startling even though we know that they mean us no harm and that they were under the Immortals in rank.

“Mistress Anna,” it said.

I nodded trying to keep my composure.

“Her Excellency, Janice Holland, bids you join her court. I am to deliver you,” the angel said.

“Fine. And what is your name?” I asked. I was getting bolder being attached to a court.

“My name is Lucius.”

“That’s a good name for an angel,” I said. He nodded.

For some reason this time I closed my eyes. I knew that the trip would be instantaneous but I did not want to watch. This time Elaine was not here to hold my hand. I was traveling alone with an angel. “OOOHHHHH! Ahh!” I opened my eyes. I found myself on another Dais, much larger than Henry Sawyer’s, overlooking the ocean on one side and a very large city on the other.

“So, here is my little biographer.”

I turned to see the Over-Lord approaching me. I knelt. She put one hand under my chin and pulled my face gently upward. Some more upward pressure bid me to rise. So I did. I towered over her in height. I had not remembered that she was so tiny.

“So, you want to write my story, child?”

“Yes, Excellency.”

She glanced around at her court. They all smiled back.

“The story of an insane woman.”

They all laughed. I knew that this would be interesting.

07.10.104 C.R. Those who hated the absent Emperor in her area took a different approach than those who had lived farther to the South. After the bombings a group of people there had taken control and persecuted those loyal to the Emperor.

Instead of beatings they had resorted to drug injections which some of them had learned from a group across the ocean. If you would not denounce the Emperor, you were declared insane and given these injections. At first you would merely feel disoriented. But if you did not denounce the Emperor, they would increase the dosage until you were in extreme mental and emotional distress and actually forgot most of what you knew. They called this “washing your brain.” Eventually they would get you to say the words and sign a paper denying the Emperor. But to their surprise Janice would never deny him no matter what they did to her. She said that the Helper lived in her at a much deeper level than her mind or her emotions. Her mind and emotions were just as damaged as any other prisoners. Her behavior was indeed insane. She would know nothing and she would drool constantly. But she would not deny. When the Emperor returned, she had been lying on her bed with nothing but water and gruel for weeks. She knew nothing. The Emperor immediately restored her. She had been a teacher in a religious school for over 30

years before they captured her. It was called being a “Nun.” She said that as soon as the Emperor drew her into the air, she was totally restored and the Emperor gave her a coronet for her head and her scepter and told her to deal with her tormentors and to rule for him. This she did.

11.22.111 C.R. For many years now I have kept my study near the Metropolitan’s court in a small building that they have provided for me there. I am absorbed in my work. It is known throughout this hemisphere what I am doing and perhaps even in the Eastern one as well. Lucius has never left me from that first time he came and took me to interview Janice. He watches over me day and night. At first I thought I would never get used to being watched continually, but I did. He rarely speaks and when he does it is very softly. He is a gentle creature unless I am threatened, then he grows larger and brighter. When I want to go anywhere, he will take me. If I ask him to take me somewhere and he does not comply, I know that it is forbidden. But,

for the most part, we are allowed to go anywhere. I never remember the trip, only the instant before the departure and after the arrival. I quit closing my eyes as it does not make any difference. After Lucius had been with me for some time, it occurred to me to ask Elaine what he had done before the return of the Emperor. She told me that he had attended her personally; he was her personal guardian. But she had never seen him until all the angels became visible upon the return of the Emperor. Their times as mortals had certainly been different from ours.

01.22.112 C.R. The very special day that I am going to tell you about, reader, began as any other day. It was sunny and a little cool. The earth was beautiful and I was awakened by Lucius who told me that once again Elaine wanted me to join her at the Dais. Lucius never sleeps. I wondered if there would be another visit from the Over-Lord Janice. I dressed quickly and joined my Mistress, Elaine, at the Dais. I sat by her feet on the grass. Several of the other

Immortals greeted me and I responded respectfully, aware of my special privileges as a mortal which Elaine has given me. Sure enough before long angels started appearing before the Dais. Elaine had told me that when Janice had come that there was one whole legion of angels that preceded her. Soon I was aware that at least twice as many had appeared. There were so many this time that they spread out after coming through the portal and formed a semi-circle in the air facing the Dais. They just kept coming and coming. I was getting more and more excited and a little frightened. After what must have been six legions had arrived, an enormous angel appeared. He nodded to the immortal princes and they nodded respectfully in return. I heard Elaine say softly, "Gabriel." He was larger in every way than the other angels and had an enormous head which sent forth a beautiful glow. I knew who he was but I had never seen him. He was magnificent. To my surprise the angels kept pouring through the portal. I asked myself, who could be greater than Gabriel? My breath left my chest. The Emperor!

I had been watching the Immortals out of the corner of my eye for some clues. Before I could catch my breath, I saw the Immortals on the Dais fall on their faces and throw their crowns and scepters on the ground in front of them. I was terror stricken. I fell on my face behind Elaine and grabbed her ankle with my left hand and held on for dear life. Suddenly the air was full of a sweet, sweet scent and I felt wonderfully light headed. I remember thinking briefly, good, maybe I will pass out and die right here on this spot of grass. I heard the immortals shout praises to the Emperor. Then I heard his voice. It sounded like a hundred gentle waterfalls. Instantly I was at peace. Elaine had pulled away from my grasp and I was left on my own. I don't know where I got the strength to look up but I lifted my head slightly to get a glimpse of him. I was surprised. Looking at his profile he seemed to be just a man. He was much smaller than the Metropolitan Henry Sawyer. He had medium long hair and a full beard that was not very long. He wore a simple white robe. He was not wearing a crown or coronet or carrying a scepter. He

looked my way and before I could divert my eyes, we made eye contact. I felt like a lightning bolt had just passed through my brain but I was not injured and I knew it. I put my face back on the ground.

Everything grew silent and before long I was sure that I could hear footsteps in the grass coming my way. I hoped that it was Elaine but I could tell that it was not. He put his hand on my shoulder and applied some upward pressure so I sat up. I was filled with peace. I sat there on my heels and looked into his eyes. I was lost in them. I swam in his eyes for what seemed forever. I was completely absorbed. Later when I met the man I was to marry, I loved to look into his eyes and I was aware of him and of myself and my own body very strongly. Lost in the emperor's eyes I was only aware of Him. I was drowning in love. It was wonderful. Words fail me to explain it. I can not to this day describe total joy. But I experienced it then; the absence of every other feeling or emotion or thought except absolute joy, joy abounding and eternal. When I was in the state of love with the

Emperor, everything else flew away. Somewhere I must have known that there was a world there. But it would wait, everything and everybody waited for Him.

After a while he smiled and took his hand off of my shoulder. I saw wounds in his hands. He smiled and walked back to the Dais. He sat in the chair to the Metropolitan's left which was always reserved for him. The crowns and scepters remained on the ground and no one seemed to care. These precious things which had been purchased by so much devotion in their mortal lives lay like trash. What an experience! I felt that I could live to a ripe old age on this experience alone, and indeed, I did.

[N.D.] Later I told Elaine how I felt when I looked into the Emperor's eyes. I must have looked very surprised because she said. "Yes, yes, dear Anna. We feel the same way." I could not respond; they were Immortals and these Immortals were princes

as well. There were some who weren't actually princes.

“You see, Anna,” Elaine continued. “The Emperor is God. We are Immortal by his power only. Someday, who knows, maybe you will be Immortal too. But the Emperor is God, God Himself.” I did not understand it, but I accepted it.

[N.D.] One day about three months after I saw the Emperor, Elaine signaled Lucius to bring me to her house.

“Anna, dear, come, come to me,” she motioned.

I went and sat next to her.

“I have something for you, dear.”

“Yes,” I answered.

She motioned and a mortal man entered the room.

“Daniel, this is our Anna,” Elaine said.

This man was gorgeous. He was tall and blond with light gray eyes. As soon as I looked into them, I was his. We stared at each other for a long time. I hoped desperately that he was half as attracted to me as I was to him.

My Governor silently left the room at some point, I was unaware.

Daniel and I exchanged our life stories. We talked for hours, night came and day broke again. Daniel lived nearby in Elaine's own principality. He came to see me often and we would walk in the garden behind the Dais. He told me that he had loved me from the first day. After about three months we asked Elaine for permission to marry. She gave it cheerfully.

07.18.114 C.R. Our wedding was a very public affair. It seems that there is something about weddings that interests the Immortals. Soon after we talked to Elaine, it set off a flurry of activity in the Metropolitan's court. We were honored to

have the attention, but we were very surprised. My original intention in talking to Elaine about it was to find out if it would be acceptable to her. After that, we intended to go to my parents for their blessing. I had taken Daniel to eat at my parent's house and they were obviously very happy about him. By now they had abandoned any hope of my marrying. After I received Elaine's blessing, we did go to my parents and they gave us their enthusiastic support. But Elaine quickly informed me that the Metropolitan himself wanted to perform the ceremony at the Dais. We were overcome. We set a date barely two months away and my mother began inviting everyone. Daniel's parents were also subjects of the Over-Lord Janice and they came down with several uncles and aunts and many cousins. It fell to my parents and uncles and aunts and cousins to put them up. Everyone was assigned to someone and the time flew by until suddenly it was our wedding day. We all went to the Dais and I waited in my small office with my bridesmaids to be called. When it was time, Elaine came for me.

“You may be somewhat surprised, little one,” Elaine said. She often called me by that name when she wanted to express her affection for me although by now we both appeared to be about the same age. I thought that perhaps as I was about to be a married woman, she would find another term for me. As we proceeded to the Dais, I found that there were literally thousands of mortals there and many more Immortals than I had ever seen in one place and quite a large contingent of angels on the outer area around the Dais. These Immortals love weddings. I did not know at the time that the Emperor had performed his first miracle at a wedding and that the relationship between the Emperor and the Immortals was likened in the ancient books to a marriage relationship. In their previous mortal state the entire company of those referred to as “believers” in the world had been known as the bride of the Emperor. I intended to look into this further in my studies after my wedding trip. The ceremony was beautiful. Mother had coordinated all of the details with Lucius. It had taken her a few days to get over her apprehension of dealing directly

with an angel on this matter, but once she was accustomed to it, she really liked it. No one knew of any other mortal, even mortal administrators who had been personally assigned an angel. The Metropolitan wished us every happiness and Lucius transported us to a beautiful tropical island for a 10 day wedding trip. My father and uncles had given us some gold to pay for the lodging and food but we were given far more by our hosts than we could have ever paid for.

[N.D.] After we returned from our trip, the Metropolitan gave us a residence not far from the Dais. The house is very nice but not too large. My husband registered to grow certain food crops on the land since there is considerable land that goes with the house. He feels that this is the way that he can contribute to the overall good of our society and he will receive compensation for his crops. I had never asked for more than my keep in my work so other compensations had never been discussed. I believe that Daniel is doing the right thing. I travel when necessary with Lucius and I have moved all

of the study materials from my little study near the Dais to a new study set up in our home. Daniel is a fine husband and in the third year of our marriage I gave birth to the next great love of my life, our son Mark.

[N.D.] After Mark was weaned, I set out to establish an overall plan for my writing. I decided on three primary categories. The first part which I am calling the First Testament is an organization and commentary on the first section of the ancient writings revered by the Immortals. It concerns the creation of the earth and the ancient Empire of the people of God. It covers in summary about 4,000 years. The Second Testament is all about the Emperor including when he came to earth as a humble man and when he died his heroic death and returned from the dead. This is the shortest work although the most important and covers only about 33 years. The Third Testament is about the lives of the Immortals when they were mortal after the Emperor went back to His Father. That is the most difficult part for me because it has

not been previously written in a clear form; so I have to do all of the research and organizing and writing myself. This part covers just over 2,000 years although the first and last 200 years seem to be the more important eras. Even Daniel does not attempt to enter into my writing. It seems that it is my task alone. Not too many mortals take much of an interest in what I am doing but the Metropolitan and his court seem to think it is important. I wonder sometimes if there are others like me in other courts of the Empire that are doing the same kind of work, but I have not found anyone so far in my travels.

01.22.115 C.R. Daniel is allowed to accompany me on my travels and if it is the right season, he will come with me. He never puts himself forward and I must admit that I do not pay him the attention that he deserves. When Mark was very young, I did not travel as much as I do now. We seldom take him with us as there is always a mortal child caregiver assigned to us. I generally take at least one trip a month to the library

attached to some court. At first Elaine would arrange these trips but now I just tell Lucius and he takes care of everything. We are always welcomed cordially by a mortal aide. This is, I suppose, because of Lucius. If I need an audience with the Immortal Prince of the area, Lucius arranges that as well. Elaine is always interested in my progress when I return. Once in a while I encounter her at some other court and we are always glad to see each other. Aside from Daniel I think that she is my best friend; a strange thing for a mortal to have.

05.22.115 C.R. We live in a wonderful peace under the Emperor. My research has shown that there are many things that are not the same for us mortals compared to the pre-reign systems, the ones that our Immortals had when they were mortal. They had many nations with many different kinds of rulers and systems.

We use gold as our exchange all over the Empire. It is struck in coins with the symbol of the Emperor on it. It is not

permitted to use his image or even his profile. These coins are struck by the Imperial Bank which is staffed by mortals under the oversight of the Imperial Controller who is an Immortal. Many of our needs are supplied by the Imperial Commissary which does not require gold. Like the bank it is staffed by mortals under the Immortal Imperial Commissioner. Only private exchanges are negotiated with gold. This is permitted so long as it does not compete with the Commissary. The Commissary is funded by the Imperial Bank and the items that they dispense are without charge. Private transactions are not permitted to compete with the Commissary so that people will not be deprived or treated unfairly. All necessary food, clothing, housing and transportation are supplied by the Commissary on the basis of need; there is a continuous supply. Things like jewelry and fancy clothing and specialty foods and drink are sold on the gold basis. We get gold from our work with private mortal organizations or our work for Immortals who maintain homes in this world. Our system is not as complicated as the pre-reign

system was. They had many different banks and systems which, near the end, were tied together by an extensive electronic system. There are no electronic communications like there were before the Reign. This has been dictated by the Viceroy as, in the end, it seemed to do more harm than good.

We have published newspapers and books. Those under Imperial license are free. There are also private ones. Writings of rebellion against the Emperor are not permitted. Land travel is by train. There are boats for the sea. They are powered by steam and burn natural fuels to propel them. For lighting we burn oil lamps. Most people live and work locally. There are no airplanes just as there are no electronic communications. As a result, the two hemispheres are somewhat isolated. Mortals can be transported by angels. This does not happen very often. I am the only mortal with a personal angel to assist me. That is because Elaine has provided Lucius to me. Elaine has more authority than any other sub-ruler that I have ever met. This seems strange but I do not question it.

Abuse of chemical substances is not permitted. War is unknown. The killing of unborn children is not permitted. People can marry by obtaining a license from the local civil administrator. If they conceive outside of marriage, they must then marry. Divorce is permitted on the authority of the civil administrators. Multiple spouses are not permitted. Any couple that conceives a child is responsible for their care; however, if one or both parents die, the children are placed with foster parents. There are many who love to do this.

There are no prisons. Wrong doers are either executed at judgment or put under probation with attending angels until the local ruler deems it appropriate to free them. There is always an abundance of angels. They seem to know when offenses are committed and sometimes an Immortal investigator will be contacted who will take offenders to a ruler judge. Otherwise, the angels take them directly. Because of the knowledge of the Immortals and the angels the facts of a crime are never in doubt.

Many Immortals who are not princes enjoy the natural areas of the earth. Some maintain residences there, but mortals who voluntarily work as servants must be paid in Imperial gold coin and are always treated with respect and fairness. There are no weather related or other natural disasters because the Emperor controls these things and does not allow them. Any Immortal can travel to be with the Emperor in places that we can not go. They do this often. They always return even happier than they were when they departed.

There are no medical care facilities. There is very little sickness among us. Any Immortal can dispense healing to us and we live healthily. We die peacefully in simple old age. We usually live about 70 to 90 years.

Education is simple and provided by the Imperial Education Trust. It is administered by mortal administrators under the Immortal Imperial Principal. The administrators and the teachers are provided with all the necessities of living. For private tutoring they are paid with Imperial coin.

Everyone is taught to read and write and to make necessary calculations. Those who want to serve the Emperor in more advanced ways, like teaching or administration, can pursue further study.

Daniel gives the food he raises to the local food administrator. All of our needs are provided by the Emperor through Elaine. Our lives are good and we are thankful.

03.16.116 C.R. The Viceroy of the Eastern half of the World is John the Beloved. His court is located on Patmos Island which is fairly close to the capital. This is because John spent some years on that island just before his death and because the Viceroy never wants to be far from the Emperor even if he can travel instantaneously to His side. No mortal, including myself, can approach the Imperial Court in Jerusalem without an invitation. However, I can visit a Viceroy's court if I have a suitable reason. I have been considering for years what a suitable reason might be for visiting the Viceroy's court and

his substantial library. I now believe that I have collected sufficient reasons. Of course, there is always the Western Viceroy's court which is closer to where I live but it is far from the capital and I suspect, rightly or wrongly, that there are fewer important answers to be found there. Additionally, John the Beloved knew the Emperor when he came as a man and Luis Cepata did not. Before I asked Lucius to arrange the trip, I talked to Daniel to make sure that he could accompany me. Mark is twelve now, but I believe that we shall leave him at the residence with the servants. Lucius disappeared to get permission and returned in about an hour to say that the answer would be forthcoming in a few days. I asked him if I had overstepped my privilege. He said that I had not.

As we were promised, permission came in a few days but we were instructed not to come for another week. I busied myself with more relevant research in case Elaine or any Immortal, even the Viceroy, should question my reason for the visit.

[N.D.] This morning Elaine came to tell me that she would accompany us to Patmos Island. I was a little taken back but perhaps I had begun to think too highly of myself and my position. I was polite and accepting while she was here but after she departed, I was concerned about my attitude. I asked to see her again at her convenience. She came back to me and I told her that I was sorry. She said that I had done nothing to be sorry about. I hugged her before she left. We arrived at Patmos Island just behind Elaine's full ceremonial escort which now seemed large to me for an under Prince. I have seen quite a lot in the past few years. We would have some time at the Dais before I could begin my research.

[N.D.] The angelic canopy over Patmos Island is magnificent. It is gigantic and beautiful. It is second only to the one over Jerusalem and equal to the one over the Western Viceroy's court in Montevideo. There are always angels visible over the city; the numbers vary but there are always plenty in view. They are very bright and

they will produce magnificent choral chords for about a half an hour, and then they will be silent and change their formations in a beautiful coordinated manner. Their formations center on the Dais which is very large. The Viceroy's seat is in the middle of the top tier with three settee's on each side which seat two under governor's each. There are seven settee's on the middle tier and nine on the lower tier. I understand that of all the Dais' in the world only the two Viceroys have a multi-tiered Dais. There is no Dais in Jerusalem as the Emperor holds court in the reconstructed Palace next to the Temple. The construction of the Dais and the surrounding buildings including the Viceroy's massive residence took more space than the small island had to give. So, more Island was constructed to accommodate all of the structures and the surrounding parks. My research tells me that many mortals volunteered to help in the construction throughout the hemisphere but that the angels were responsible for much of the heavier work.

Elaine was warmly welcomed by the Viceroy himself. She introduced me to the Viceroy. Physically he is much like the Emperor in size and shape and the way he grooms his hair and beard. I am told that they do not actually have to groom themselves; their hair and beards are as they will them to be. The Viceroy is somewhat darker than the Emperor and he wears a coronet on his head and carries a scepter just as the rulers under him do. Only the Emperor does without these accessories. John's coronet is much like the others but his scepter, although no larger than my Metropolitan's or Janice's, is different. It is plainer and has only a small cross on the tip.

John is certainly worthy of the title, "Beloved." Love seems to flow from his person. Having had the honor of meeting the Emperor I can honestly say that John the Beloved stands only under the Emperor in the love and power that radiates from him. Everyone at his court seems to pick up on this radiating love and projects it to everyone around. We were positively drunk in their presence. My dear husband was even

more overwhelmed than I. He had never met the Emperor and he has a very dear and sensitive nature. I commented to Elaine about this afterward in our private rooms. Our rooms were next to Elaine's.

"You do sense the love which flows from the Viceroy just as we do?" I asked.

"Yes, it is very strong. He is the apostle of love."

"Daniel is quite overwhelmed," I said. Daniel had retired early.

"Good. He needed this," Elaine replied. "You know Anna, the reason that the Viceroy gives so much love is because he is constantly going to the Emperor."

"Explain, please."

"He goes to the capital and visits and embraces the Emperor every chance he gets. He has many duties here so he can not stay for long with the Emperor, but he makes many, many short trips. He says that he must do this."

“So all this love does not originate with the Viceroy?” I asked.

“Darling, all love originates with the Emperor. John just practices constant exposure to the source,” Elaine said.

It took me a while to absorb this but I could understand it because I had been lost in the Emperor’s eyes for a few moments myself once years ago. I talked about it with Daniel.

[N.D.] The Viceroy’s library is extensive and I have spent many weeks sifting through much of it. I have five mortal aides for the work and even Lucius has helped. Two questions have begun to plague me. The first question is, why did the Emperor and the Immortals set up his rule over us mortals on the earth in the first place? They seem to enjoy being together “away” from the world. I have become convinced that it is not because they simply love to be Lords over us. Many times they seem almost burdened with the task. Perhaps

it is because they know what we would do to each other without them and it is an act of love towards us. This may be partially true, but I am convinced that it is not the entire answer. The second question is, will it all end and, if so, when and how? For some reason I believe that the Imperial Reign will come to an end, not because any mortal can defeat the Emperor but because someday he would simply go “away” and the Immortals will go with Him. But the why or when I do not know. I will continue searching. I do not know at this time if these answers, for they must exist, will be appropriate to publish at least in my lifetime. I do keep a private journal and I will leave these answers or all that I can find about them to Mark. Sooner or later, they must be answered.

02.12.157 C.R. Today I was officially recognized as mortal Compiler Of Histories. Elaine nominated me to Viceroy Cepata and our Metropolitan Henry and Over-Lord Janice endorsed it. I am so honored and Daniel is so happy for me. The Viceroy even indicated that the Emperor is

pleased with my work. The award, in the form of a medal on a red ribbon was placed around my neck by Elaine at the Over-Lord's Dais. Lucius took us to the Dais and returned us to our residence afterwards.

03.22.158 C.R. I lost Daniel last week. He was seventy-three years of age. He passed quietly and Elaine was by my side. I have not made any entries in my journals since then until now. It hit me very hard. We were very close and he was always such a dear husband. I am almost as old as Daniel so I have decided to begin training Mark to do my work.

The entire Annatic Line:

1. *Anna was the mother of Mark.
2. *Mark was the father of Carl.
3. **Carl was the father of Alice.
4. Alice was the mother of May.
5. *May was the aunt of Orin and Eric.
6. **Orin was the father of James.
7. James was the father of Patricia.
8. **Patricia was the mother of Andrew.
9. **Andrew was the father of Joan and Marie.
10. *Joan was the sister of Marie. Marie was the mother of Mandie.
11. **Mandie was the mother of Ken.
12. **Ken was the father of Merle.
13. *Merle was the mother of Kathryn.
14. **Kathryn was the mother of Sarah and Elizabeth.
15. *Tim is the son of Elizabeth who died in childbirth. Tim was raised by Sarah.
*As found in the 1st Volume.
** As Found in the 2nd Volume.

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