

Starship Earthwatch

By Marilyn Reeves

This is Starship Earthwatch calling Planet Zirtron Headquarters with our centennial report. This is Captain Zoica speaking. Come in, Zirtron.

This is Zirtron. Good to hear from you, Captain Zoica! How are things going down on the little blue planet?

Well, to tell you the truth, sir, now that this one-hundred-thousand-year stint is up, I'm happy to be flying back home again.

Sorry to hear that, Zoica. More problems down on Earth, I take it?

Yes, sir. I mean, it's a really beautiful planet, but with all the pollution that's been generated over the past century, it's getting harder and harder to really see clearly. And it's a bit depressing observing so many of the four-footed creatures being depleted by the over-abundance of humans. The people are not only wiping out a lot of the animals, their man-made structures have taken over much of the landscape, so it's not as pretty as it used to be.

Tell me more about these humans. What are they up to now?

Well, you know, originally they were one of the weakest, most vulnerable creatures on earth and survival for them was a real challenge. But by using their brains, employing their hands, and learning to band together, they eventually emerged as the dominant species. I think banding together has been the real key to their survival, yet ironically, they also seem hell-bent on destroying one another. Go figure.

When I observe the individual beings up close, it seems that the majority of them display qualities of love and kindness and seem to prefer living in peace and harmony. But as soon as they encounter someone who looks just a bit different than they do, ascribes to a different philosophy, or has different goals, then out come the teeth and claws, so to speak. They feel threatened and the reptilian part of their brain takes over. They belittle and insult each other and refuse to listen to the other person's point of view. Often this sort of discord leads to violence and they end up killing one another. It's beyond sad to see this happening. It's downright tragic.

Sometimes I'd just like to turn on my thunder phone and holler down to them, "Okay, everybody, *enough* already! Enough of this fighting and pig-headed thinking! Go sit in your corners until you can make up your minds to set your differences aside and really *listen* to one another!"

When people close off their ears and close off their minds to others, bad things happen. But when they decide to embrace one another, accept their differences and work together, they can perform miracles and the world moves forward. I just don't see why they don't GET that!

So, yes sir, I'm glad to call it a day. I wish these poor Earthlings well and hope they'll eventually find a peaceable solution to all their problems. But for me, sir, well I've had enough. I'm

heading home. See you sometime in the next light year. This is Starship Earthwatch. Over and out.