

Ray Ruppert

The Sovereign's Last Battle

A Novel

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Everett, WA

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To: Terri Ruppert, my wife, lover and best friend. Also my terrific editor.

In memory: Randal Gray

Prologue

The Sovereign Yehowshuwa has been reigning on Earth for almost a thousand years since he defeated The Chancellor Ben-Shaachar in what was called the Last Battle. He uses his uniquely empowered Enforcers to maintain his rule. His Administration is in such firm control that even the calendar measures dates from his return to power – ASR – After Sovereign’s Return. However, many people are questioning how he came to power and whether or not he altered historical documents and brainwashed, imprisoned, or executed dissidents to ensure control. These rebels are united in an underground movement that is spreading insurrection among university students. They believe that The Sovereign is losing control because of the mushrooming population and limited number of Enforcers. They feel that they may soon be free of his restrictive government.

Robert Maskil is involved with the underground and feels that he must write a book that will reveal the truth about the Last Battle. He is quite sure his research will show that The Sovereign isn’t who he claims to be.

Without even knowing Robert’s intent, his mother, Marilyn, strongly opposes his desire to write this book and convinces his father, Justin, to bring Robert’s student status before the local Administration Board of Elders to force him to quit school and get a job. Robert turns the tables and receives the Administration’s approval to write his book by leading his Board to believe he will use the book to reverse the disloyal trend in the younger generation. He reveals details about the uprising that could cause the underground to take steps to neutralize him if they discover what he has done.

To Marilyn’s chagrin, the Board not only grants Robert his request to write the book but also agrees that he must finish his last quarter at university, earning his third doctorate degree. He spends a refreshing week in the mountains with his best friend, Jim Arizna, where Robert signs Jim on as his assistant before returning to school. In Robert’s apartment near the University of Midrib, Jim plays a prank on Robert that makes him realize he is walking a tightrope using secret material from the underground to reach his goals and at the same time hiding from the underground how much the Administration is supporting him.

Twenty five years previously, The Sovereign authorized a deep space exploration with the star ship H.S.S. Ramah to look for planets that could be colonized. Even though assured by Yehowshuwa that they would not find any life, Captain Chuck Andrews and his first officer Zophia Assir

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were intercepted and fired upon by a small alien interstellar force that claimed to be acting on behalf of The Sovereign. These combatants' intent was to prevent the Ramah from reaching an inhabited planet, Eden. The Ramah was rescued by opposing forces in league with The Chancellor.

Upon arriving at Eden the crew of the Ramah learned from the inhabitants, Mime, Ana and others, that in the distant past Yehowshuwa's father, Yehhovaw, had rebelled against the Council of Enlightened Beings that govern ascended life forms. Yehhovaw enslaved mankind, preventing them from evolving into enlightened beings. The Council sent Ben-Shaachar to free humanity from the grip of The Sovereign and his father.

The crew members embraced what they learned and were trained in occult powers – a path to enlightenment and ascension – and are now returning to Earth to assist The Chancellor Ben-Shaachar in what may be his last chance to free mankind from The Sovereign. In defiance of The Sovereign, they have renamed their ship the C.B.R.S. Aman.

On their way back to Earth the Aman was intercepted by a kamikaze armada bent on preventing them from returning to Earth. Zophia used the powers she gained on Eden to save the ship at the cost of her own life. Zophia's consciousness was brought before the Council of Enlightened Beings where she was taught by them. She was returned to her body and miraculously resurrected. The Aman is now safely on its way back to Earth.

The Chancellor has been imprisoned in isolation for nearly a thousand years. During this time his psychic powers increased significantly to the point that he is able to contact some of his forces telepathically. In accordance with his backup plan, key subordinates and his intergalactic forces have already escaped from the dungeons. While Ben-Shaachar bides his time for his own escape, he directs his freed companions.

The Chancellor's forces include Gloria, who successfully launched the underground movement starting on university campuses. Berekiah penetrated the Administration's computer systems so that operatives have full access to material needs and global communications. In addition, they believe they have developed the means to keep their activities hidden from The Sovereign Yehowshuwa. Tia-le led The Chancellor's interplanetary forces to escort the crew of the Rama from Eden.

Yehowshuwa, however, is not unaware of the underground or The Chancellor's new abilities. He is carefully monitoring the situation and is waiting for the right time to take action. His closest followers among the human population begin to realize that the end of time is near.

One of Yehowshuwa's steadfastly loyal follower is Samantha, a very intelligent first year student at the University of Midrib. Her goal is to convert undecided students to follow The Sovereign. Kevin Trimble is an Enforcer who has been given an undercover assignment as a university student to assist and protect Samantha.

Chapter 1

September 3, 998 ASR

Robert arrived early at his classroom for his first Sub-Ancient Philosophy class. He sat down at a desk in the middle of the empty room and pressed the “Surface UP” button on the right armrest. The writing surface slid silently out of the armrest and extended in front of him. He unfolded his ECD and placed it on the desk top, then looked around wondering how much classrooms had changed in the last thousand years. The metallic alloy desk automatically adjusted its ergonomic design to fit his body when he sat down but the seat still felt hard to him. He heard the ECD beep which let him know that it had completed the connection into the classroom’s system. It was ready to make a video recording of everything the professor or students would say, including anything displayed on the view screen at the front of the class.

As the time for the class to start drew near Robert watched students drift into the small twenty-seat room. He turned sideways in his chair to see better. He said hello or nodded as they came in. He knew most of the students in his major as classmates, as their teaching assistant, or colleague on an archeological dig. After seven others arrived Robert mentally calculated who would be in the class and expected that every one was here.

A young man entered whom he didn’t recognize. He sat down several desks away. A very young woman was the last to enter and sat down right behind Robert.

Robert wondered about the last two. The man could be a newer student he hadn’t yet met. He appeared old enough to have advanced this far but the young lady looked like she had just graduated from high school. *How did she get into this class? Oh well, it doesn’t matter, she’ll soon find out she’s in the wrong place and will bug out. Too bad, she’s really cute. I wouldn’t mind getting to know her.*

Robert’s watch showed him that it was at least three minutes past starting time. He turned to his classmate on his left and quietly asked, “Mike, have you ever known Professor Robison to be late?”

Mike frowned and shook his head. “No, this isn’t like him. He’s always punctual and insisted on it in others. I’ve had other classes from him and he would rake a latecomer over the coals.”

“Yeah, me too,” agreed Robert. I wonder what Professor Robison would say about me choosing Jim as an assistant. I doubt he would have even considered Jim with his unpunctual track record.

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Mike and Robert continued to chat but after fifteen minutes Robert was getting edgy. He was wondering what would happen if the class was cancelled for some reason and how it would affect his ability to write his book.

Robert's thoughts were interrupted as a woman dressed in a dark business suit walked briskly into the room, marched to the front, and turned to face the class. "Good afternoon people. Welcome to Sub-Ancient Philosophy. I'm your instructor, Dr. Halverson. I'm sorry to inform you that Dr. Robison is not available to teach this quarter and I have been selected to replace him. Since I don't know any of you, I thought it would be a good idea to give you a test to see if you are up to the level this course will demand. Your tests are now available on your ECDs. You know the drill. Enter your course number and your ECD will be disabled except for the test until you finish. You have forty five minutes for this test. I will see you tomorrow." Dr. Halverson immediately marched out of the room, ignoring the raised hands.

Robert was stunned. Dr. Robison wasn't teaching. Dr. Halverson's abrupt manner on top of being ignored when he raised his hand offended him. Several things raced through his mind. *Will the Board accept a substitute for Dr. Robison as the professor? Who is this woman? I've never heard of her before and I know almost all the people in this field.* However, he quickly settled down and entered the course number on his ECD. *I'd better get this test out of the way, then I can get some questions answered. I've been around here long enough that they have to let me know what's going on.* The first question appeared on his ECD.

1. What was the predominant philosophy of the students on the Berkeley California campus during the late 1960's?
 - a. Free Speech
 - b. Free Love
 - c. Question Authority
 - d. Fight Communism
 - e. Use drugs to cope

The first question wasn't one that Robert liked. He knew that there were at least three possible answers but he wasn't sure which one was predominate. He skipped to the next question trying to find something in the following questions that might give a clue to answer the first question. This wasn't going to be a snap but he knew how to take tests and knew it was best to continue and answer the easiest questions first, then go back to finish the harder ones when he had time to think.

As soon as Robert finished his test his ECD was unlocked and he quickly sent a note to Henry, the senior elder for his Board.

Henry,

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This is Robert. I have a question before starting on the book. You know taking the class 'Sub-Ancient Philosophy' by Dr. Robison as one of the requirements I set to finishing school. Today, I found out that Dr. Robison isn't teaching the class but they have a substitute. I'm wondering if there is a problem fulfilling the requirements if Dr. Robison isn't teaching. I just want to make sure that this development won't be a problem.

Robert.

Next, he started looking for data about Dr. Halverson. He entered a search argument that included her name and Midrib University. He received the standard public information that was available about all employees of the University. He scanned it to see if there was anything that would help him understand her ability and qualifications to teach the class. She was transferred to Midrib from Scottsdale just yesterday. *That might explain why she was so abrupt with the class and didn't want to stick around.* The bio listed several of her accomplishments at Scottsdale, including several books on philosophy and history. *Funny, I haven't heard of any of these books before. It looks like several are about the period which the class covers so that's good. Nothing in archeology so she isn't going to bring anything to the plate from that arena like Dr. Robison could have. Too bad.*

Robert folded his ECD and quickly got up to go, turned around and almost bumped into the young lady behind him as she stood up at the same time. He stared into her blue eyes and mumbled, "Excuse me, Miss. I should have looked before leaping," before averting his eyes from hers. *Young, good looking, blond. Ah, maybe too young. I'll bet Jim would like her.*

"No problem; my name's Sam." She extended her hand to Robert.

He turned his head slightly as if he hadn't quite heard her correctly and gave her a quizzical look.

She added, "That's short for Samantha."

Robert took her hand and shook it. "My name's Robert." As they left the room he remarked, "Samantha, it's good to meet you. I know most of the students that would normally be taking this class but I certainly don't remember seeing you before. Have you just transferred in?"

"Uh, not exactly; this is my first year. Please call me Sam. Samantha sounds so stuffy" she said as they stopped just outside of the door.

The young man Robert didn't know exited the classroom and paused for a second, then got a drink of water from the fountain beside the door a couple of feet from Robert and Samantha.

"Sam it is. You're a freshman?" asked Robert trying not to sound too surprised or superior.

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"Yup, that's me," answered Samantha confidently.

"I thought you looked a bit young. How did you get into a post graduate class as a freshman?"

"I've been fascinated by history for years and enrolled in Midrib while I was still in high school. Apparently I took too many classes because there wasn't much left and the remaining classes I need aren't available this quarter. My counselor suggested that I could take some graduate classes and recommended this one. It fit right in with my other studies so here I am," she answered with a hand on the hip and the other palm up in front of her. "I'll have to admit that test was quite a challenge for me. Some of the questions were about obscure events or policies that I've barely heard about."

The young man turned to Robert and Samantha and smiled warmly. "I didn't mean to eavesdrop but did I just hear that you're a freshman?" he asked Samantha. "That wasn't an easy test. I would imagine that it would have been extremely difficult even with lots of lower level classes. Oh, by the way, my name is Kevin. How do you think you did?" He extended his hand toward both of them.

"Hi, I'm Sam and this is Robert. I'm not sure about the test. I hope it was just to see how much we still need to learn rather than requirements for being in the class."

Robert reached out and shook Kevin's hand. "Glad to meet you, Kevin. I don't remember seeing you around before but you don't look like a freshman like Sam here," stated Robert.

"No, I'm not a freshman but I'm new here. I just transferred from Kaketuchan primarily to take this class from Dr. Robison. I'm really disappointed that he isn't teaching. Do either of you know Dr. Halverson or why he isn't teaching?" asked Kevin with a concerned look.

"Not a clue. I just looked up her bio and she was just transferred here yesterday," answered Robert.

Other students were leaving and made various comment to Robert as they passed, "See you later, old timer." "Bet you aced that one, huh, Robert?" "Still in school I see, Dr. Maskil."

Samantha raised her eyebrows at the last comment. "Well, Robert, or should I say Dr. Maskil, it sounds like you've been here forever," she said.

"Yeah, that's pretty close." Robert hung his head and shuffled his feet in mock humility. "Let's keep it at Robert. Say, since you guys are new here, why don't we go over to the student union building and get a snack. I was going to meet a friend and you can see a bit more of the social life there."

"Sounds good to me," answered Samantha.

"Me too," chimed in Kevin.

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While they walked to the student union building Robert got to know the others better. Kevin was a good listener, asking questions that made Robert feel comfortable and easy to talk about himself.

Samantha turned the tables on Kevin after a while, "Kevin, we've been talking a lot, but it seems to me that you have been studying more than history and philosophy in your years at Kaketuchan. Have you been studying psychology as well?"

Robert noted Kevin's hesitation before answering, "Well no, I haven't, but I've been, er, had, ah, quite a bit of experience with Enforcers. I've learned the hard way that there are more gentle ways of conversing than the way I used to. My retraining has made me a kinder and gentler person." He added a long pause before continuing, "On the outside anyway."

Robert was relieved when they arrived at the student union. It gave him an opportunity to change the subject. He wasn't ready to delve into Kevin's background too quickly but his comment whetted his curiosity. He might make a good recruit if he wasn't already involved in the underground.

Samantha didn't pursue the subject any farther either. Robert looked around the cafeteria where he agreed to meet Jim.

"So where is your friend?" asked Samantha.

"Late as usual would be my guess. Let's see what the chef has available for us while we're waiting," said Robert as he led the way to the cafeteria line.

Samantha picked up an apple and tossed it up and down in the air a few times while she waited for the others. Kevin took a while to decide and poured himself a blended fruit drink pureed with ice. Robert ordered a ham sandwich on rye with lettuce, Swiss cheese and mustard. When it was prepared he led them to a table near the area where Jim was supposed to show up.

As they sat down Jim arrived, carrying a small bag from a local donut shop. Robert made the introductions, explaining that Samantha and Kevin were new at Midrib.

"Good to meet you guys. Anyone want a donut? I brought a couple of extras but was only expecting Robert but you're welcome to have one. It looks like Robert has his hands full with that sandwich anyway. I can't believe how hectic my first day has been. I would have thought by now I'd be used to the beginning of a quarter but it seems like they never get easier. Like a dodo, I went and signed up for a 7:30 AM class. I just about missed it since I still can't get used to waking up to an alarm. At least I remembered how to set my ECD to wake me. You know, they should have some kind of shock thing on them so they could really jolt you awake. I must have hit snooze three or four times before I realized what was

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happening. Then I get to class and it turns out not to be what I expected and so I waded through about 55 screens trying to find the right class and change my schedule. I just barely got to my next class. That seems to be the way my whole day has been. Robert, have you told these guys about your book?" Jim stopped talking long enough to stuff half a donut in his mouth.

"No, I haven't. We don't talk as fast as you do, Jim. Since this is Sam's first year at university our conversations have taken more of a track about campus life and what we've been doing rather than future aspirations." Robert didn't want to introduce his book concept to people who were still strangers.

Jim abruptly changed the subject and started to ramble on, telling Kevin and Samantha about his broad experience of three years at Midrib. Robert mentally rolled his eyes.

Samantha sat back with a bit of a scowl on her face as Jim talked on and on, hardly taking a breath and still managing to down his donuts. Robert imagined that she was wondering why he valued Jim so much as a friend. Jim certainly didn't come across as shy around strangers but his rambling made him sound a bit like an air head. *I hope she sticks around long enough to get to know Jim once he gets past his rambling stage.*

Jim was quite the opposite of Kevin who was quiet and said very little. On the other hand none of them had much of an opportunity to talk since Jim arrived. Jim suddenly stopped talking and Robert knew they would now be able to have a normal conversation.

After a while Robert felt that they were developing a friendship. He had a bond with Samantha and Kevin because of the shared class. Jim seemed to fit in quickly as he was able to key in on the history and philosophy topics that came up and contribute insight from a non-historian viewpoint. Robert was glad to see that Samantha's scowl was replaced with smiles. She leaned forward instead of away. It was apparent that her first impression of Jim was quickly changing.

Samantha looked at the time and interrupted, "If you would excuse me, I need to get back to the dorm pretty quick. There's going to be some organizational meetings tonight and I've got some homework to do." Samantha got up quickly.

"What dorm are you staying at?" asked Kevin.

"I'm at Wycliffe," she answered.

"I'm next door at Huntington and we're scheduled for the same stuff tonight too. Why don't I walk you back that way?" suggested Kevin as he stood up.

"Sounds good to me. We'll see you tomorrow in class, Robert. Nice meeting you, Jim. I'm sure we'll be seeing you around," she said as she and Kevin started to leave.

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“Hey, Robert and I usually meet here after classes. Why don't you join us?” Jim said very cheerfully with his eyes on Samantha.

“I may just do that,” said Samantha tilting her head slightly with her eyes fixed on Jim.

Kevin just nodded. They both left while Jim and Robert stayed and talked.

Jim leaned over and elbowed Robert, speaking quietly, “Hey, Robert, that Sam is quite a cutie. I'm sure glad you're too old for her. What do you think? Could she be interested in a guy like me? I mean you know, like as a boyfriend? Did you see the way she looked at me when I invited them back? I wonder if I will have to compete with Kevin for her attention. He seems like a nice guy and is good looking. Nah! Watching his interaction with her I don't think that he is interested in Sam as a girlfriend. Of course that offer to walk with her might give him a chance to ace me out. Did you see those deep blue eyes?”

Robert started going over some class notes. He answered rather absentmindedly, “You fall in love with the first freshman you meet each year. What happened to Joan, Felicia, Eleanor and what's her name? Take a while before you jump in too quickly and scare her off. Oh, yeah, I did notice that she is cute but I decided she's too young for me so don't worry, I won't try to take her from you.” He suddenly stopped and looked Jim in the eye. “Wait a minute. Sam is cute. She's really smart and mature too. She's way too smart and mature for you. Maybe I should turn on the old Maskil charm to make sure she doesn't break your heart.”

There was a long silence while Robert waited for Jim to digest what he said. First Jim had a puzzled look on his face then his eyes twitched a little and squinted as he concentrated more. Slowly his eyebrows came down along with the corners of his mouth. Then his lips started to purse and his bottom lip protruded. In the mean time Robert returned to his studies and tried his best to not make eye contact or smirk as he watched out of the corner of his eye. Jim then stuck out his tongue and gave Robert a good old fashioned raspberry and they both erupted into laughter.

“Oh come on, Jim. I had you going there for a minute, didn't I?”

“No, only for 49 seconds, but it was long 49 seconds.”

Robert and Jim stayed at the student union building another hour studying and talking until they departed. Jim headed for his dorm and Robert returned to his apartment.



July 29, 998 ASR

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Zophia couldn't sleep. It was 2:13 AM. She tossed and turned on her bed in her stateroom aboard the C.B.R.S Aman. She kept rehashing her death experience. She laughed that Alex, the medical officer, had insisted on giving her a complete physical exam after her miraculous healing. Of course, it revealed that she was in perfect health.

The excitement of the battle and her voyage into the eternal realm after her death hadn't diminished. She kept going over and over what she learned from the founders of the Council of Enlightened Beings. Something was missing or didn't seem to fit. She felt both exhilarated and empty. Finally, she decided to contact Ana. *Perhaps some of the emptiness is my longing for her.*

Zophia shed her night clothes and sat cross-legged on the floor as she did in private with Ana while they were on Eden. Even though they were now several thousand light years from Eden, Zophia was able to contact Ana immediately by mental telepathy. She felt as if Ana were in the same room with her. *Ana, my beloved, how good it is to share my mind with you. My joy would be complete only if we were together physically as well.*

Ana responded, *Indeed, I too desire to be together. However, I sense you are troubled. This seems strange to me. You have journeyed into the eternal. You have learned more in a few hours than I did in two thousand years. Why are you disturbed?*

I may have gained much knowledge but you have wisdom. I feel unfulfilled as if there were a void in me. When we were together, I didn't feel that. When we departed, I missed you greatly but what I feel now is much stronger. It is like a black hole from which I can't escape. Zophia was able to share her emotions with Ana so that they could both feel the same thing.

There was a long pause before Ana answered. Zophia could see thoughts flashing across Ana's mind as she sorted through two thousand years of experience. She felt a deep sadness as Ana began to answer. *My dear Zophia, I have bonded with you closer than I have with any of my husbands. This makes it very difficult for me to say, but it is time I let you go.*

Zophia's heart sank as she heard Ana's conclusion. I don't know how I can continue without you. I was sure we would be linked together forever.

We will always be able to contact each other but this longing you feel can be only filled by an enlightened being, one who has already ascended and overcome all the limitations of a physical body.

Zophia received Ana's pain and her emotions and replied, I see your loss is as great as mine. I also see that you are looking beyond yourself and forward to the joy that you expect me to receive. What must I do?

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You have advanced well beyond me in knowledge. Surely, Zophia, the Council of Enlightened Beings conveyed to you how to take the next step, answered Ana.

Zophia sighed deeply. So much information was provided that it is hard to sort through it all.

It seems that for now I must leave you so that you will not be distracted. I know you will find what you need. May the peace of Adon be with you.

Zophia was all alone. She slowly called upon her training on Eden to concentrate and remember her experience with Harum, Opparum, Mararum, Rorarum, and Amorum, the founders of the Council of Enlightened Beings. She recalled standing on top of the great white pyramid as she opened her mind to them. It became clear in her mind and the precise visions and instructions she needed were immediately available.

Zophia jumped to her feet and ran out the door. She ran down dimly lit corridors and burst into the chapel. There at the base of the wall-sized portrait of The Sovereign were a dozen candles in an ornate golden candelabrum. No one had used the chapel since Dave's premature death at the hands of Rol-el. She took five candles and a lighter.

She rushed to the mess hall. She was thankful that the tables and chairs were still pushed to the sides exposing the pentagram in the middle of the floor. Her burned body had been lying there just a few hours ago. She hesitated only a moment as she remembered the pain, then the healing. Quickly, she lit a candle, dripped some wax on one corner of the pentagram, and set the candle in the wax fixing it firmly to the floor.

Once she had a candle burning at each corner, she sat cross-legged in the middle of the pentagram, one wrist resting upside down on each knee, chin up and back straight. She started to chant the names of Harum, Opparum, Mararum, Rorarum, and Amorum. In a matter of seconds she was oblivious to her surroundings.