

It Matters So Much

"So, today's the day." Jake said seeing his adversary enter the lab. He put the clipboard back on its hook. He wouldn't admit so but he'd been waiting for Karl to show up.

Looking at his rabbit friend Karl smiled. "Yep, time to put up or shut up." The bear agreed as he shut the door to the lab.

"You want to go first?" he asked as he stepped aside to let the large bear lead the way.

"Sure, It'll give you a chance to save face and concede without an embarrassingly poor showing." Karl said changing direction slightly.

As they made their way deeper into the cluttered lab Jake assessed the tall ursine's body again. It was obvious the bear worked out on a regular basis the way his wide and thick lats smoothed the wrinkles out of the back of his shirt. Jake observed that Karl's thighs and calves did the same for the fabric of his slacks. He couldn't help but feel slightly envious at the bear's seeming effortless ability to gain muscle. He was a victim of nature and biology, trapped in a perpetually smaller and leaner body than those he admired for their size and power.

Karl led the rabbit to his section of the huge lab. They were both ostensibly working for the same professor. Their benefactor had brought them both on for the purpose of advancing his work and yet he hardly kept track of what either did with their time. Truth be told his advancing age had taken the edge off his once keen intellect.

No, Jake thought that was being kind, actually he was as senile as the fictitious Professor Farnsworth, but in fairness he still had more hair, and better eyesight.

The two stopped in front of a rather large assemblage of almost incomprehensible machinery. The rabbit stared and assessed the apparatus critically although he'd visited on numerous occasions. Today everything was in place and set up for a demonstration. Jake almost felt honored. After a contemplative hum he stated "An S-Neutrino collector, pulse-phase amplifier, grommet inverter, and all connected by an harmonic omnitron. Yes, that just might work."

"Glad you like it." Karl said as he took his position by standing on the X marked with black electrical tape on the floor. "I'll even let you do the honors by flipping that switch at your left."

The rabbit looked to his left and sidestepped the required distance. He paused looking at the bear smirking back at him a second.

"So, you focused on L Phase Transitions?"

Karl rolled his eyes at the obvious. "Yes, now throw the switch."

They were both post grad students of the professor. Both lead their own teams in his research, and had actually all but taken over for the diminished professor. Together they ran his department. Together

they'd come up with their own way of finally deciding who would take over once the professor was forced to retire. Jake grinned and flipped the switch, but not before checking the floor between his feet.

Nothing seemed to happen at first. Jake could hear the humming of the machinery. A slight stirring of air brought the faint hint of ozone. Then he noticed the edges of Karl's image shimmered just a fraction. Narrowing his eyes he watched as his image shimmered again, now he could see something happening. His adversary was getting taller.

A few seconds of observation and Jake noticed he was not only growing taller he was physically expanding. His form was enlarging, as if from a trick with mirrors. Karl had actually succeeded. He was a bit shocked at the sight but his mind continued to assess the situation. As his adversary continued to slowly enlarge he scanned the apparatus surrounding the bear. Nothing seemed to fit the requirement of focusing the energies involved in the spectacle.

His attention turned back to the floor. It was covered in what looked to be tightly woven copper. He'd initially mistaken it for simple industrial diamond plating. The bed of woven copper spanned an area twelve by twelve feet. Each strand of copper wire was of a gauge that could easily be used for power transmission lines. Looking up he saw that the area Karl was growing into had purposefully been kept clear of apparatus. His adversary was already nearing ten feet and looked to have an enormous area to grow into.

Jake had to admit the bear succeeded in meeting his half of the challenge. They were both searching for physical proof of their professor's original theorem. Actually they were trying to find experiments that would prove the existence of at least one of the many hypothesized extra dimensions boarding their own. According to the theory any interaction or exposure with another dimension would have an effect of matter in their own. Their research had always focused on finding dimensions with slightly different but observably detectable universal constants. Karl had clearly succeeded. There was no other way to explain the spectacle he was seeing. The bear was continuing to expand ever larger before his eyes.

"I have to say, I am impressed, although it looks as though you're limited by the size of the pad you're standing on." Jake stated as he continued to observe the bear expanding.

"Well, there is no way around that, true, but even you have to admit that I've discovered the breakthrough we've been searching for." He replied as he passed twelve feet tall and placed his paws on his hips. The stance was very reminiscent of the bear's typical stance when lecturing. His voice sounded the same despite the bear's expectations considering the bear's much larger size.

Jake looked at the bear's feet. They continued to spread wider across the copper fabric. "You didn't test this before now?"

"No." Was the reply. Karl still looked down at his adversary almost grinning his victory. A second later he asked "Why?" There was a tinge of worry in his voice.

Jake was watching the copper fabric, for at the bear's new and growing size it really was simply fabric. It had started to warp and deform before the bear's growing footprint. The strain on the floor's lining was growing faster than Karl's body.

He looked up at the sixteen foot tall bear. "Have you also thought about the acceptable load the floor can bear? No pun intended."

Karl's face emptied of emotion. "Uh, no." He answered as he looked down. "Shit, shut it down, quick."

Jake turned and hit the switch shutting Karl's apparatus down. He looked back up at his adversary. He was standing as still as he could with his arms out as if he were balancing on a tightrope. With the machinery winding down they both could hear the creaking and groaning of the overstressed floor.

"So, is there also a way to reverse this?" Jake asked, his voice hushed by the knowledge that the floor was on the brink of collapse.

For twenty minutes Jake followed the bears instructions to the letter. Neither one wanted the lab damaged in any way. Any damage beyond a simply explained malfunction would surely result in the loss of their position. Worse yet, the lab was filled equipment accumulated through their professor's lifetime obsession for the proof of extra dimensions they'd finally managed to solve. Some of it was no longer obtainable anywhere else.

They were both immensely relived once Karl was back to his normal size, sort of. Jake had left the machine on for a few extra seconds. It was his way of disciplining his adversary. The extra time resulted in the loss of perhaps three inches of height to the bear, although he seemed yet to notice. It really was an unnecessary and perhaps even slightly vain stunt to pull.

"So, ready to concede defeat?"

Jake laughed. "Oh, hells no. Are you?" He smirked back at the still much larger bear. Sure, Karl had always had the size in his favor thanks to nature and biology. Now though, thanks to the drive of beating his rival in the lab Jake also beaten his rivals nature and biology. His smirk only grew at the thought.

"Haven't seen anything from you yet." Karl said as he tilted his head a bit. "Wait." He looked at himself and around at the lab with a quizzical expression.

Jake interrupted his train of thought by saying. "I'll show you what I've got outside. Safer that way, don't you think?" and smiled at his diminished adversary. He smiled wider noticing he didn't have to tilt his head back as much as previously. As Karl continued staring at the apparatus around himself Jake turned and walked out of the lab. He was suddenly eager to show Karl his own solution.

Once the bear joined him at the small grassy area behind the building he was fairly upset. Knowing they both had the same love of things larger and stronger than normal Jake smirked at his adversary's inconvenience. The bear was now only six inches taller than his rabbit challenger. Jake only regretted that he couldn't sap any of the massive bear's thick and powerful looking musculature. That and his towering height had been a constant point of jealousy that he hadn't been able to compete against, until their challenge.

With a smile he let the bear grumble for a few more minutes. It was after all his opportunity to be magnanimous, even if it was going to be for the last time. Karl was about to find out just how badly he'd lost. Sure, he had done well and succeeded but that was the extent of his victory. Jake smiled. "Done?"

"Alright, fine. I can fix this later anyway." Karl said in reply. "So, what are we doing out here?" He asked looking around. They were standing where Jake had stopped about in the shadow of the lab building.

"This is where I've decided to hold my demonstration."

Karl looked around a few more seconds. "Here? Not in the lab? Out here, without any equipment?"

Jake smiled at the bear. "No, I had my solution months ago and have been refining the process since." He said as he started his demonstration. He started small, going slow to give Karl time to concede

gracefully. He could hear the tinnitus like tone in his ear signaling the beginning of the program. It was set low and soft for now to signal that the nanoids he'd reprogrammed were at work.

Karl asked. "What? Wait, you had what months ago? So what proof did you solve anyway?"

"Oh, well actually I solved Schrodinger."

"What?" Karl asked incredulously.

Jake laughed. "Okay, not really solved but found a few work arounds."

Karl stared at him skeptically. "A work around, for Schrodinger, dealing with..." He trailed off finally catching on. "How many?"

Jake grinned his triumph. "Seven." He could feel his shirt getting tighter. He was close to the point of changing the focus of the process. He only wanted Karl to notice his growing stature first.

"Seven? You solved seven proofs?" The bear asked incredulous.

"No, I only solved one, but it proved the existence of seven bordering planes." He corrected. Jake couldn't stop himself from grinning his triumph. His shirt was pressing against the fur of his chest. The buttons were starting to stretch and strain against the growing pressure from within. He wasn't even getting any taller yet and his once comfortable shirt was already feeling several sizes too small.

"Seven." Karl repeated as his voice trailed off in shock. His eyes had dropped to the rabbit's chest and slowly slid lower.

Jake silently ordered the shift to another function. The resulting change of tone in his ear acknowledged the shift. As Karl's eyes slid up from his body to meet his own they were for the moment on the same level. Jake looked down at himself confirming his clothes were now growing with him. It was also clear his body now showed far more muscular development than the bear's. Smiling his satisfaction he looked at his beaten rival. "Yes, but I only need to demonstrate one or two of them for now. I figure that should be enough to make you concede."

Karl looked up at the suddenly much more muscular and larger rabbit and asked "How?"

"As I said, I solved it months ago and have already moved on to proof of concept."

Jake stood more than a foot taller than the bear as he stared up and again repeated as a question. "Proof of concept?"

Jake grinned down at the now small seeming bear. "Yes. Taking over the department is only a small part of my plan. I also have a pending patent on my discovery, and several resulting processes. This little demonstration today is proof of concept that will seal several deals with a few corporations that were very interested in what I have to offer."

Jake was passing fifteen feet tall as he finished his speech. He had crouched down and he still loomed over the bear. "So, do you concede yet?"

Karl simply stared up at the massive rabbit. He seemed speechless but Jake thought differently. He was likely stalling, waiting against all mounting evidence for Jake's demonstration to fail. The rabbit was fine with the bear's hesitation, he was enjoying the growth immensely. Now more than twenty feet tall and massively muscled he freely grinned his pleasure at the diminished bear.

He stood to his full yet still growing height and looked about himself. There were a number of students that had stopped to stare at the giant and also growing rabbit. He looked down at them from thirty feet while still visibly growing higher. At thirty five feet he could be seen for several hundred yards away. It was truly a dream come true.

At forty feet tall he shifted the program slightly to reactivate his muscle growth. In seconds the buttons of his shirt gave way and popped off. Jake followed their progress away from him and as soon as they were out of the field effecting him they shrank to normal size.

He grinned down at his one time adversary from fifty feet high, still gaining strength size and power. His victory over the bear felt sweet. Reaching down he pinched the back of Karl's shirt and lifted him up. Jake held him in front of his face and grinned at the much smaller ursine. Jake was somewhere in the neighborhood of sixty feet tall and still growing. He could barely feel the now slight weight of his adversary. He could keep growing for as long as he needed. He was in no hurry to stop.

Keeping Karl positioned in front of his face he asked "Ready to concede yet?"

Karl held his arms up and pleaded. "Yes, yes, I give up. You win, now please put me back down."

With a satisfied smile he replied. "Good." He brought his other paw up and set the tiny bear in his palm. He looked at Karl sitting in his palm with his legs dangling over the sides of his wrist. Both of their eyes traveled to Jake's upper arm at the sound of his shirt tearing. Karl sat at eye level to his massive biceps muscle as it grew too wide for the shirt sleeve to contain. Jake looked back at the bear observing his former rival stare mesmerized at the growth of his hugely muscled arm. The bear would now have trouble reaching even halfway around his expanding arm muscle with both arms.

He frowned down at Karl as he continued to diminish in size due to his growth. Jake had set him in his palm with the intent of sharing his growth with the bear. Instead he seemed to still be outside the field of effect even though he now sat in his paw. As intriguing as it seemed it added even more to his victory.

Karl was also enjoying the show. Jake could see his modesty had responded in a rather immodest way. He knew it was not due to any attraction but rather the sight of Jake's massive overwhelming size and strength. He was well aware of his friend's preference for females. With a bit of a smirk he teased him with a slight flex that caused even more damage to his shirt and exposed more of his thick and still growing muscle.

With a sigh he sent the mental command to stop the process. Karl's legs barely reached the edge of his palm now. The tiny bear stared at his sizable arm for a moment more before slowly looking up to his eyes. He would wait to reverse his growth. This felt just too good to pass up. Jake's own modesty was still contained within his slacks, barely. It was perhaps better that way, he'd not want to give the university cause for terminating him at the pinnacle of his victory.

Looking around he had to guess at his height. Somewhere above a hundred twenty feet he dominated the entire campus.

He grinned his enthusiasm. Soon enough he'd dominate the business world with his invention as well.