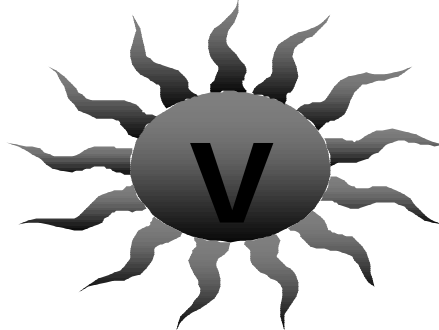


# Peace And Servitude.



## Rational e.

*Peace And Servitude* is a short story about a time somewhere in the distant future after an apocalyptic war. There is minimal technology, no electricity, running water (basically middle ages). All the technology we have today is lost and the people refer to our time as Before the Time of Darkness (i.e. before the war) which contained lots of mysteries and magic but which were all evil. The society is basically controlled by a crazy quasi-religious dictatorship. The priests tell the people what to do and everything works out fine and happy (utopia). However if you are bad and develop technology or find a relic of Before (and don't immediately report it) you are made an Example of, this is where they hang you up by your feet and beat you with a cat o' nine tails, then take you off into the temple and do mysterious things to you. In the temple the priests have a device that can psychically force someone to tell the truth (relic from Before). If you try to resist telling the truth or if you really don't know and they force it, you go insane or die (depending on the severity).

In this story I show how this seemingly peaceful utopia can turn into a pretty nasty place to be. Aiden, the main character of the story works on his families farm on the edge of the village in which the story is set. One day he is plowing a field and he finds in the dirt a silver pocket watch although he doesn't know what it is, to him it is an evil relic from Before covered with satanic inscriptions. He takes it home and hides it even though he should've reported it to a priest (he probably would've got the same treatment anyway if he had). He misses Service (like church but a High Priest preaches about the evils of technology and generally conditions the townsfolk) that week to inspect the device and he gets caught and made an Example of. When the supreme high priest uses the mind probing device on him however he resists so much that he causes the device to overload and malfunction, when this happens it imbues Aiden with bizarre psychic powers and then he proceeds to go off and "cleanse the evil" basically wipe out all of the priests and restore society to it's balance.

This shows that this society is a dystopia because everything at first seems to be alright, people are happy plowing fields and growing cows but then we see how easy it is for the coin to flip and have bad things happen. Aiden didn't really do anything wrong, he just found a watch, this shows how unstable the society truly is if an innocent can be accused and sentenced without a second look, rather like the witch hunts of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the end though, he becomes a product of the society and starts going of and doing some "cleansing". This control is quite like the control the priests have and so in the end it is rather ironic.