



"Today's writers, tomorrow's leaders"



On June 27, 1978, General Miroslaw Hermaszewski flew into space. He was the first and only Pole who did this, so he certainly had incredible courage. He was then 37 years old. In fact, the history of his travel described in educational textbooks differs significantly from the real course of events. I got to know the general's adventures in a different way than everyone else. When I was at my aunt's in the village of Lipniki, I decided to help her cleaning up the attic and found Miroslaw's diary there. The Hermaszewski family were probably the previous owners of the house, therefore I was able to find these records there.

The beginning of the general's story does not diverge from historical facts: preparation, stocking food up, training and the very start. On the second day of the trip, for unknown reasons, the Polish ship collided with an unidentified object. Although no one was injured, the spacecraft was seriously damaged. The stranger gave a radio signal to Mirek that he could tow him to his planet and repair the machine. They went towards Mars together. When they were there, an alien came out of the unidentified object. His voice was similar to a human, but instead of his ears he had tentacles, moving cheerfully in all directions. After a moment, he said:

- Hello, the newcomer from the third planet from the Sun!
- Good morning - replied the shocked general - I see that you have some beautiful places here.
- Yes, thank you - replied the alien – But our wonderful landscape is spoiled by these Carrefours, Lidles and Subways. You probably have them too, because they are everywhere.
- I have not heard about Lidles or Carrefours, but I know there is a subway in London and it makes getting about the city quicker.

The surprised alien did not add anything and got down to repairing the ship of a new friend. The work was being done quickly. The alien was very talkative. In fact, his mouth did not close at all. You could understand him, our cosmonaut did not have much of a problem with it. It turned out that the newly-met friend spoke Polish almost like Mirek's schoolmates who had never been really into learning.

- Are there any intelligent beings on your Earth? I'm asking because it's hard with that here. Other than me, only my family is reasonable. They took after me, of course. What have I just asked you about?
- Are there any ...
- Oh. Are there any ... I forgot again. I'd better go on with the work.

After several hours of intense work, the machine was fixed. Over the following days, Miroslaw learned about the customs, traditions, advantages and disadvantages of life on



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Mars. On the last day of the general's stay on that planet, the alien organized a farewell party for him. A DJ took care of the music. He played Justin Bieber's songs. They made a barbecue, and they bought all the things they needed in Carrefour or Lidl and some sandwiches from Subway. As a souvenir, the alien handed over 50 kg of sausages to Hermaszewski (in Poland there was a communist party governing at the time, it was hard to find meat in the store). The alien became very attached to Mirosław, so it was difficult for him to part.

The general's adventure was amazing and surprising. Maybe I will also be able to fly into space in the future and meet a nice alien there.

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Pictures: students of 3 A, 4 B and 4 C