

Acknowledgements

I have used many of the characters in this book in other places, including a series of three plays called *The Catastrophe Cycle*. Two of those plays have been staged by me (one of them twice), in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and in Chicago, and the actors who portrayed these characters contributed a great deal to my understanding of the characters as they appear in this work. Therefore, I would like to thank the following actors for their commitment and work:

For the play *Hamlet, Santa Claus, Nietzsche, and Job*, thanks to Amy Augustine (Melody/Job); Heath Rezabek (Satan); and Bill Dawson (Waiter), who was the inspiration for the character of Dawson the butler. For the play *Catastrophic Love Puzzles In Outer Space*, thanks to Andrea Stoner and Eve Moennig (Melody); Joye Cook and Kristie Hassinger (Laurel); Angela Toomsen and Sarah Weaver (Mrs. Wormwood); and David Levin (Cohen). In addition, some of these characters appeared in a pair of movies I wrote and directed, *The Chaos Affair* and *The Cosmic Soup Catastrophe*. Thanks to David Levin (The Amazing Dr. X); Robert Reeves (Alexander); Jason Palmquist (Tanner Mildew); John Kaufmann (Janszen); and Peter Adamson (Derald). Also, thanks to Paul Fly for creating the character of PowerSpike! and graciously allowing me to use him in this particular framework; to Heath Rezabek for visions of Ityl-Atys and for prototyping the "goo tank"; to Lamont Granquist for being the real boy genius behind the Proton Disintegration Drive; to John Eichenseer and Will Penna for shamanic advice; and to Luke Hammer for rescuing the electronic version of this work from the void and delivering it safely.

Finally, thanks to Erica Cunningham for her exceptional editing and insights, and thanks to those of you who took the time to read and comment on drafts of this work: Willow Biwer, Paul Fly, Daniel Foss, Luke Hammer, Ryan Hastings, Dave Hurst, Larkin Pence, Kate Pierro, Heath Rezabek, Cris Rowles, Deborah Siegel, Cheryl Vohner, and Heidi Zimmerman -- fellow members of the Electric Commune.

"There is a tendency in dreams and psychotic fantasy that Jung noted and to which he gave the name enantiodromia -- that is to say, that qualities or personas, carried to their extremes, tend to become their opposite. The Messiah, crazy in his desire to eliminate the enemy, easily becomes the Beast... The Messiah and the Beast, though of ancient origin, have awakened with a fury in response to the deepest psychic urgencies of a violent and confusing century...."

-- Michael Ortiz Hill, "Dreaming The End Of The World"

"Miracles will happen as we trip...."
Seal, "Crazy"