

DR. ZAIUS:

Good evening, Mr. Thomas.
Some of us are returning to the city,
Mr. Thomas. This gives me an opportunity
to say goodbye.

THOMAS:

(surprised, but not
showing it)
You won't be coming back here?

DR. ZAIUS:

You won't be returning to the city.

THOMAS:

These caskets -

DR. ZAIUS:

(overlapping him)
I've seen the caskets. And the headstones.
(a pause)
Of some long range interest perhaps.

THOMAS:

Nothing more than that?

DR. ZAIUS:

It points up very little not already
surmised. There has been somewhat of
an affectionate bond on occasion
between the master and the animal. The
ape has been civilized, Mr. Thomas, for
a thousand years.

THOMAS:

And the man?

DR. ZAIUS:

The man?

He laughs softly and turns away.

DR. ZAIUS:

Archaeology your line, Mr. Thomas?

THOMAS:

(meeting his look
head on and matching
the tone of his voice)
A hobby, Dr. Zaius.

"PLANET OF THE APES"

DR. ZAIUS:

Indeed? You're quite remarkable,
Mr. Thomas. You go from the floor
of a cage - to the holder of
scientific opinions in the space
of a month and a half.

(he looks down at
his coffee mug)

Given more time - I wonder how far
you would go.

THOMAS:

I think the question is, Doctor -
how far would you let me go? Or
any of my kind for that matter.

CLOSE SHOT DR. ZAIUS

who looks up at him.

DR. ZAIUS:

Your kind? I don't think that questions
will very likely be put to a test, Mr.
Thomas.

Man, here, is an animal. Man, here
was an animal. He had no civilization.
He wore no clothing. He thought no thoughts.
He spoke no language.

CLOSE SHOT THOMAS

THOMAS:

Just a few feet away from here is
a cemetery, constructed and filled
by a civilized race. A race which
according to the consensus of your
science never got past a crawl and
a couple of grunts.

(his voice is more
intense now)

THOMAS: (Cont.)

But you've just uncovered more than
a cemetery, Doctor. You laid bare a
question. Which came first - the
chicken or the egg?

(a pause, then very
meaningfully)

The ape...or the man?

CLOSER ANGLE DR. ZAIUS

who is about to retort when we

CUT TO:

"PLANET OF THE APES"

CORNELIUS:

Dr. Zaius - you better take a
look at this right away!

EXTREMELY TIGHT CLOSE SHOT A DOLL

A human form preserved almost intact with vestiges of hair and eyes and still revealing a few chips of color. It is attired in a little dress; and there can be no question as to its origin or what it represents. A SLOW PAN UP to Dr. Zaius' face and beyond to the faces of Cornelius and Thomas.

DR. ZAIUS:

(his voice terse)

And what is it you think we've
found, Mr. Cornelius?

CORNELIUS:

(softly)

Not found, Doctor. Lost. And I'm
afraid that would be a birthright.

THE DOLL

"Mama, Mama, Mama, Mama."

CORNELIUS:

(softly)

They had a language. While we swung
from trees, they had a language.

A SLOW PAN OVER to Dr. Zaius.

DR. ZAIUS:

Something has been changed, Mr. Thomas.
A whole history.

(a pause)

Indeed...a whole truth. You're quite
right. We've uncovered a question.
Now we have to unearth an answer.

(another pause)

If Man had a civilization here...
what happened to it?

CLOSE SHOT THOMAS

THOMAS:

I'm a menace now - that's the point?

"PLANET OF THE APES"

DR. ZAIUS

(very softly)

Way down deep, Mr. Thomas...deeper
than my own consciousness...my own
awareness...as deep perhaps as a
basic instinct...

(he turns toward
Thomas)

...I've known you've been a menace.
I've known that Man has been a
menace.

(a pause)

You see, Mr. Thomas, I know all
about Man. I think his wisdom must
walk hand in hand with his idiocy.
His emotions must conquer his logic.
I believe he must be a belligerent
animal who gives battle to everything
around him. And in the process, he
will always destroy himself.

(a pause)

This is what we dug up out of a hole,
Mr. Thomas. A truth. It's the same
truth you've told us about in des-
cribing your own planet.

(another pause)

We apes have no death wish, Mr. Thomas.

THOMAS

Does it occur to you, Dr. Zaius, that on
Earth Man has finally become civilized?
I'm proof of that. I'm proof that he
has reached out for the stars...and has
gathered them in. And that for the first
time in the history of my race...perhaps
the history of the universe...he has
ceased to be a destroyer.

DR. ZAIUS

If that is indeed truth - we have come
close to a millenium.

(he shakes his head)

But this planet cannot afford to put
it to a test. We can't take the risk.

(a pause)

We will expect you to leave, Mr. Thomas.

CLOSE SHOT - THOMAS

THOMAS

Assuming I can get my ship back into
the sky.

CLOSE SHOT - DR. ZAIUS

DR. ZAIUS

Pray that you can. The alternative
must be obvious. So long as you live
amongst us, Mr. Thomas, you compete.
Dwell on that.