

Akeldama

Background

Set in a future where Humans have advanced technology to the point that everything is networked and the majority of people have computers implanted in their bodies that allow them to bring up whatever information they want at the drop of a thought.

As with some of the other futures I've imagined, people don't have to work but some do as it gives them a purpose. A job might be for life, a calling if you will, much like Doctor Meeks, or it could be something that a person does for a few decades before becoming interested in something else.

Space travel exists, as does terra forming and all those other wonderful things that make life so much more fun.

Yes, crime still exists – some people just want to destroy things. No, there isn't any alien life. Humans are alone, but they are happy to be alone in future full of so many possibilities.

The Story

In to this world I wanted to put a dead body with no background and no way for anyone to trace it. Initially I had no idea who the body was or what was going to happen. My notes said that there didn't even need to be a conclusion, just the policeman walking away with feeling of confusion. This is still more or less what happens, with the slight addition of the implication for the reader as to who the dead person was.

The story was originally going to be called Potter's Field, but it's a title that's been well used over the years and so I ended up with Aramaic word Akeldama which is, kind of, where Potter's Field comes from. I think this is where the idea for the dead man being Jesus (or any saviour, if you want) returning start to occur to me.

I liked the idea of a saviour of mankind returning only to find that man had created a world that was perfect, had found peace and didn't need any sort of help.

This isn't to say that there isn't any religion in that future. There are still unanswered questions, but spiritual wellbeing is easy to find. I imagined the majority of people would be following Taoism or something similar.

Other Notes

Now for those who want to hear about strange things, I started writing this with nothing set about the ending, only that the man would be entirely untraceable. I often struggle with names for characters and normally pick a few standard ones and then replace them later – the original name for the storyteller was Robert for example. The names I picked for the policeman and the doctor were done before I came up with the ending. It was only when I had settled on the messiah allegory that I realised I had chosen Joseph as the name of the policeman and Meeks as the name of the doctor. Strange but true.

CD simply stands for Communications and Data. RQA for Request for Assistance.