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Story #8

1. _____ walked into

2. _____ 3+ _____'s Market,

which was a gathering of the local farmers. It was

the year 4. _____ 5. _____, and diversification was

6. _____, so local generally meant most of the galaxy.

To make Earth more attention-grabbing to the Universe at large, its name had been changed to Planet 7+ _____-Wart. Galactic citizens from all over arrived on Earth to search for the fabled 7+ _____-Wart; Earth's rulers were quite proud of their propaganda's success. The tourist trade was thriving because of their well-executed fib.

All of this traffic and prosperity was in evidence in the 8. _____ market that stretched before 1. _____. Foods and wares of all types were everywhere. The 9. _____ trinkets and pushy merchants meant to sway the tourists were near the entrance. 1. _____ had to 10. _____ past them, because 1# _____ shopping needs were further into the market.

As 1^ _____ made 1# _____ way, a merchant with 11. _____

12. _____ growing out of his right 13. _____-body

14. _____ at 1. _____.

15. “ _____! Good 16. _____, I have here a fine model of the now-extinct 17. _____—it even 18. _____! I think it's just the right thing for a 19. _____ person like yourself, and it's a steal at only 20. _____ 21. _____ of 22. _____!”

1. _____ was responsible with 1# _____ money. 1^ _____ would never spend that many 21. _____ of 22. _____ on something like that. 1^ _____ continued 23. _____ past the merchant to the food sellers.

Unlike most Earthlings—or as they were called now, 7+ _____—Wartlings—1. _____ still retained a more conservative diet. 1^ _____ stopped at the stall of an alien with 24. _____-like appendages and 25. _____ for skin. 1. _____ selected the freshest 26. _____ eggs that 1^ _____ could 27. _____. The eggs were a deep-space delicacy, and 1. _____ prided 1\$ _____ on having perfected the method for market selection. Taking an egg and 28. _____ it on 1# _____ 29. _____ always gave 1* _____ good insight into quality; if the 26. _____ eggs felt 30. _____,

they were just right.

Finding several acceptable specimens, 1. _____ put them into 1# _____ travel 31. _____, paid the seller, and moved to the next stall. Here there was an assortment of goods. The edible 32. _____, a unique product from the planet 33. _____, was what caught 1# _____ eye first. However, 1. _____ 34. _____ them, as 1^ _____ thought they tasted like 35. _____ that had just been 36. _____, 37. _____, and dunked in 38. _____, so 1^ _____ always avoided buying them.

1^ _____ then saw one of 1# _____ favorite foods: 39. _____ – flavored fruit of the 40+ _____ 41+ _____ Trees of 42. _____. The fruit made 43. _____ gifts, as the fruit 44. _____ when punctured. The best fruits came off of the longest-established trees, and one could tell which trees those were by how sophisticated the 44b. _____ of the fruit were; those from ancient trees often had a rudimentary grasp of language.

1. _____ bit one of the fruits, and was met with a(n) 45. _____ 46. “ _____!” 1^ _____ was [were] pleased—these fruits must have come from an old grove indeed.

1. _____ bought 47. _____ of them, stuffing them in the many pockets of 1# _____ 48. _____.

The next thing 1. _____ set out to find was the main ingredient for a new 49. _____ recipe that 1^ _____ was [were] creating. 1^ _____ was [were] so absorbed in 1# _____ thoughts and in looking at the various foods that 1^ _____ 50. _____ into someone, spilling 1# _____ groceries all over them. 1. _____ looked up in horror to see that it was a 51+ _____, which were colloquially known as 52+ _____ 53+ _____ [s].

According to 51+ _____ culture, 1. _____ had just performed the ultimate indignity one could on such a being. The alien's 54. _____-patterned 55. _____ began to go 56. _____ with anger.

Before anything further could occur, four market security guards 57. _____ up. 1. _____ bolted, and ducked behind a curtain. Unfortunately, that curtain covered the hatch of a spaceship that had just been about to take off.

It took off.

It was an auto-piloted ship with no living beings on board. Its unwavering destination was the planet 58. _____, where there was a mining operation to extract the planet's edible 59. _____ 60. _____

substance. The ship was stocked with cargo to supply the mines.

In order to be granted access to sustenance, 1. _____ had to bargain with the ship's A.I.—in exchange for life-supporting necessities for the journey to

58. _____, 1. _____ would work in the mines on arrival.

1. _____ spent the rest of 1# _____ days in the mines, and never got to try making 1# _____ 49. _____ recipe.