

With a click the window flew open. I fell clumsily onto my hands and gasped – a planet in a downward sky. I found myself in a state of disbelief, after traveling for so long I had finally found it.

The land below us was showered in sunlight, glistening in the empty darkness of space. Even though there was no sign of life on this distant planet, I could imagine our new home – full of lively animals and lush vegetation. This was a new hope.

Snow white clouds stretched across the sky, navy blue water washed upon the beaches and mountains rose high up into the air and dropped back down again. This was like the old Earth, clean, safe and full of life.

Then with a click the window closed again. I could feel a huge weight lifted of my shoulders. This is where my journey ends, at my new home.

How can I describe the thing I saw? It was a plant. Its stripy stems weaved together like a knot. The plant was very vibrant and seemed harmless. I reached out my hand and jolted back as it throbbed in pain. I noticed the stem and leaves of the plant was covered in a number of small needles. Then I noticed something else. A round little body hidden within a tangle of leaves. "It's a seed," said Cavor. And then I heard him whisper, very softly: "Life!"

Life! And it suddenly struck me that our seemingly endless journey had not been made in vain. This was no dry, arid wasteland but a world that lived and moved! I watched, lost for words, into the middle of the clearing.

The field was filled with these miraculous little brown bodies. Then, as if by magic, these seed coats burst open with a jerk, hungrily gulping all the heat and light pouring down in a cascade from the newly risen sun as they fought their way out of the ground. Every moment, more of these seed pods erupted and soon, the whole slope was engulfed in these minute plantlets.

They did not stand for long though. Queer bundle-like buds grew out of the seed coats, lengthening rapidly and growing faster and faster into a stem.

How can I describe it to you – the way that the growth went on? Leaves thrust their way out of the stem, twisting and twirling in a race for sunlight. Red sharp tips fired themselves out of the plant.