

Captain Cameron

Recently, America has experienced troubled times. No longer is our beloved country admired and respected throughout the free world the way it once



The timing was right for the “changing of the guard” for America’s own super hero.

was. The greatness that was ours and which we shared with those less fortunate than us has diminished. We have seen the educational and economic systems of other countries not only catch up, but in some cases surpass us. But it wasn’t always like that. Sometimes transformations like these are gradual and they manage to sneak up on you due to nothing more than complacency.

Captain America was our hero. He was the best of the best, and among super heroes, he stood alone at the top of the mountain. He grew up with most of us and seemed to find the inner super strength to ward off the “bad guys” whose antics threatened this great country of ours. In his early days, his fearless image graced our television

screens and while early attempts at animation were primitive (only his lips would move during conversations while the rest of his body remained static), he did develop as early technology allowed. Other appearances of Captain America came by means of weekly episodes on our black and white television sets. What those shows lacked in technical prowess, it made up with bravado. The good guys always won!



Pokémon



Part of this transition involved the emergence of new types of super heroes born and bred thousands of miles from our shores. While this new “revolution” did not boast typical “bad guys” as we knew them, it instead depicted menu options that allowed you to choose an unlimited number of monsters you could manipulate via a game console. They became the “bad guys.” While Captain America appeared formidable, as did his advisories, some of the Pokémon monsters like

Drifloon appear as a harmless balloon that kidnaps children when they play with him. There was no longer a need for a single “super hero,” everyone could fight these “monsters” on their own computers! Call it a generation gap, but it was one of contributing factors that led to the ultimate demise of our beloved Captain America! He simply lost touch with the younger generation that would eventually take over the leadership of this country.

Where do we look?

When super heroes are born, news of their arrival rarely makes headlines. That sort of fanfare is usually non-existent until they are suddenly thrust into the



public eye because of super-human acts of heroism. Their powers gradually mature in accordance to a precise timeline with their bodies. It's usually little things early in life that set them apart. Part of their DNA includes a uniquely accurate instinct that allows them to know right from wrong and good from evil. In fact, that woman who was pushing a baby carriage down

your street this morning might have been carrying a young super hero under that cute, color coordinated blanket.

Everyone knows the story of Superman. After learning that their home planet was doomed, his parents placed him in an intergalactic space ship and set a course for planet Earth. He landed on a farm in the middle of rural America, and Clark Kent (aka Superman) was raised by his foster parents. He learned that he had super powers on Earth early in his life and was schooled on using them carefully. But like our friend, the original Captain America, modern times mandated different requirements. The fact that phone booths have all but disappeared would make that transition from Clark Kent to Superman so much more difficult today. The laws relating to “indecent exposure” are much stricter now than they were back in the 1950s.



The Early Signs

Child prodigies, like all budding geniuses, have a unique DNA that manifests itself in stages. There have been documented cases where a two year old sees someone playing a piano and flawlessly emulates the piece he or she has just heard to the amazement of those around. Children who fall into that category usually have photographic memories. They learn foreign languages easily and without that tell-tale trace of their native accent. Computer keystrokes and shortcuts seem second nature to them. In short, it is their ability to see complex things as simple. They



cut through all of the obstacles that as adults, we have learned can get in the way of truly understanding things. They haven't learned the excuse adults use all the time, "It's just too complicated."

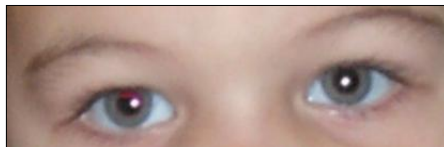
As Americans, we were conditioned to believe that strong always conquer the weak. Historically, we have seen proof of that theory. It is evident in just about every confrontation from two world super powers settling a dispute to the bully in school taking a classmate's lunch money. The perception is that the strong always win, but as we learned in the case of Captain America's recent decline, our version of "strong" has always dealt with physical power (or the threat thereof), and rarely did it have anything to do with the strength each of us possess "between our ears."



At an early age, children learn to manipulate. Many young children can get their parents to give them what they want. It would be safe to say that most small children aren't physically stronger than their parents, but for generations, they have mastered the art of crying, sulking, and temper tantrums. Sometimes those results are achieved by flashing an "adorable" look. Each, in its own way, produced the desired results. While most children aren't masters of psychology, they do understand that winning battles isn't always a question of who is stronger physically . . . it's who has the ability to get into the other person's mind and have them do what you want. While these methods have gone on for years, it wasn't until recently that they were seen as the key to survival for the future. I am not suggesting that our leaders hold a temper tantrum to get their way at a Summit Meeting of world powers, but if they could find a way to get into the minds of others (especially those who are plotting evil and destruction) and manipulate their thoughts, the art of negotiation would be much different.



As a three year old, the future Captain Cameron was playing a game of whiffle ball in his back yard with his father. After fifteen minutes of suffering the frustration that swinging and missing at curves and junk pitches always brings, he would occasionally get a pitch that came at him without any of the crazy movements whiffle balls do on their journey from the hand to the bat. He would swing at them hard and the result was always a solid line drive back up the middle. It then occurred to him, "I want dad to throw me nothing but straight balls!"



It was as if a laser beam emanated from his eyes. He locked on to his father's gaze and an extraordinary thing happened. His father slowly nodded and proceeded to throw him the exact pitch in the precise spot he had wanted.

Had he indeed manipulated his father's mind? While he couldn't be sure what he did at the time, it marked the fact that something special and unusual had happened. He had definitely altered something that was previously set in motion, but nobody realized at the time just how important that act would turn out to be.

Fast forwarding four years, the future Captain Cameron was sitting in his classroom when the lunch bell rang. That was good because he was hungrier than usual and lunch couldn't come soon enough. As he walked with his classmates to the cafeteria, he noticed that something wasn't right. A big kid he didn't know but had seen many times at school was harassing one of his friends. While he couldn't make out exactly what the big kid was saying, he knew that if there were going to be a fight, his pint-sized friend would get the worst of the beating. Cameron didn't know what to do, but instinct told him that he had to do something, and he had to do it quickly.



He yelled, "Hey you big jerk, leave him alone!"

The big kid scoffed at the much smaller Cameron, while still holding his next victim by the shirt and said, "And what are you going to do about it? Tell your mother?"

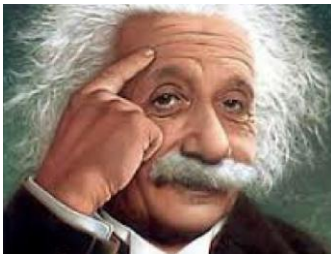
Suddenly, the future Captain Cameron felt a rousing from within. That "gaze" that had been dormant for the past four years re-emerged. As he intensely stared at the bully, the scene in the cafeteria changed into a state of suspended animation. The anger Cameron felt was being channeled into something that could only be considered a form of manipulation. Nothing in that room but Cameron moved! During this "pause in the action," Cameron calmly walked over to the "frozen-in-time" bully, released the grip he had on his friend, and pulled the bully's shirt over his head. He surveyed the scene and found a plate containing a large piece of banana cream pie. He pulled back the bully's shirt and smeared the pie all over his face. Feeling that wasn't enough, he located a cup of water and poured it all over the front of the bully's jeans, so when the scene returned to "live," it would appear that he had wet his pants!



It was like a switch was flipped. As live action resumed, an unintended result of future Captain Cameron's action was that not one person remembered anything that happened after this "super power" intervention. It was like everything in a still photograph suddenly came to life! Laughter was the immediate reaction from everyone but the bully. To him, it was like waking up all

of a sudden from the middle of a bad dream. Not only was his shirt pulled over his head so he couldn't see, something soft and "gooey" covered his face. Struggling to pull his shirt down to where he could see the reason for the raucous laughter, his subconscious told him that he might have also wet his pants, and that everybody knew it. There are very few more embarrassing things in life for an eight year old.

Ten Percent of Your Brain



Albert Einstein, perhaps the most widely acclaimed genius of the past century claimed that humans only use ten percent of their brain. Others claim that the number is considerably less . . . three to five percent. The consensus is that the largely misunderstood space between our ears is under-utilized. Such theorizing leads to the hypothesis that the more of our brain we use, the smarter we will be and the more we can accomplish. Taking that theory further, individuals who figure out a way to use more of their brain than their contemporaries will have a distinct advantage in just about everything. They will be able to cross into other dimensions and potentially affect results.

Superior brain power and what it can accomplish involves a concept that is foreign to most people. We are accustomed to thinking in terms of the dimensions we know and understand. Those dimensions include time, space, and their relationship to matter. We get to cross into other dimensions in the realm of science fiction, not in the "real" world. People we see on an everyday basis are incapable of such actions. Nobody we know is capable of using up to ninety percent of their brain. Or so we thought.

Meteorite

On a warm, cloudless summer evening at the Space Center for Research located in a remote part of the northern Nevada desert, a mid-level scientist noticed an unusual object on his screen. He had been monitoring this part of the celestial map for over three years, and what he saw was evidently new. His job was to monitor unusual activity in the heavens, and if necessary, inform his superiors. Because occasional "blips" like these are fairly common, he would activate a series of tracking procedures that would log the coordinates and predict the path of these foreign bodies. It was a necessary course of action mainly because of the number of communications satellites orbiting the earth. By letting his camera do the work, he took digital images of the object and the algorithms in his state of the art computer did the rest. They would calculate the

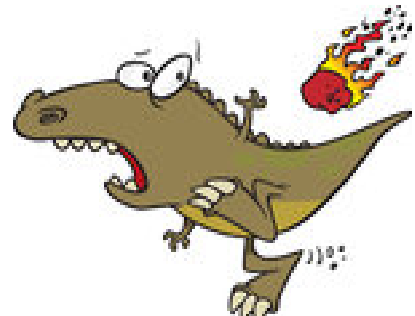


speed along with the path of the unidentified celestial object. What he then saw on his screen caused him to pick up the phone and call a very secure number.

For decades, scientists and mathematicians have tracked meteorites and their unpredictable and erratic paths. While some orbit the sun like miniature planets, many choose not to follow those rules and venture into elliptical paths that subject them to various gravitational pulls during their journeys. While it is statistically possible for a meteorite or other foreign object to be on a collision course with earth, instances of major crashes are rare compared to the number of extraterrestrial elements out there. When they do manage to intersect Earth's orbit, most of them burn up as they enter the atmosphere, creating colorful meteor showers. But there have been exceptions!



The largest meteorite impact on our planet is located in the northern portion of the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. The Chicxulub asteroid impact is more than 180 miles in diameter and scientists estimate that it occurred over 11,000 years ago. At the time of impact, the emission of dust and particles would have covered the entire surface of the Earth for several years, creating a harsh environment for living things. The shock production of carbon dioxide caused by that impact would have led to a sudden greenhouse effect. Experts stated that these series of events contributed to the end of the dinosaur era.



Powers

The future Captain Cameron spent most of his time in the third grade as a normal child. While he was aware that he was different, or as some would say, gifted in certain areas, he never lost sight of the fact that he was simply a little boy with lots of growing up to do. He was an exceptional student, and there were times, both with his teachers and with his parents that he definitely knew more than they did about certain subjects. He particularly enjoyed math and science and found that he always finished those assignments before the rest of his classmates.

Understanding the time and space continuum is a concept that is beyond the grasp of many adults. While they might be familiar with the words, most can't begin to tell you what they mean. In short, it is the relationship between space,

objects, and time, and it is generally accepted that human beings do not have the power to alter something that is already in motion. This limitation is directly proportionate to the size and speed of that object in motion. While it is easy to intercept a leaf that is falling from a tree, it is virtually impossible to stop a huge



rock that is falling from the sky. Likewise, it is not in the human DNA to be able to levitate another person and suspend him or her in mid air, but it was something that the future Captain Cameron did when his sister insisted on pursuing an argument with him. Instead of debating back, he simply used that “gaze” to lift her slowly off the ground and keep her suspended in mid air for two agonizing minutes.

Young Cameron began testing his “powers” cautiously, not wanting to draw attention to himself. When nobody was around, he would levitate a neighbor’s cat or bend the branches of a large tree so he could get a better view of the park down the street. Other times he would slightly levitate the rear wheels of a car stopped at an intersection and watch its driver step on the accelerator and spin those wheels wondering why he wasn’t going anywhere once the light changed. One day, he was walking through the parking lot of a large shopping center with his father when instinctively he turned to see a speeding car about to run a red light and crash into an unsuspecting mini-van. Without giving it a second thought, he directed his gaze to the point of the eventual impact and “willed” the speeding car to move just enough to the right to avoid the collision. In less than a millisecond (and thousands of mathematical calculations later), the result was that the speeding car missed the mini-van by less than a foot, and a potential disaster was avoided. It was a close call, and nobody but the future Captain Cameron knew exactly what happened.

Panic on Earth!

When the news of the inevitable collision between the renegade meteorite and earth could no longer be kept secret, reports surfaced of how bad the damage would eventually be. Live reports from scientists, physicists, and other experts filled the airwaves, each with similar news. The stray meteorite was on a direct collision course with earth and it would break through our atmosphere in



precisely fourteen hours and thirty-five minutes, and the clock was ticking! The point of impact would be in the vicinity of the east coast of the United States, somewhere to the north of Chesapeake Bay. The meteorite was estimated to be three times as large as the one that struck Chicxulub, Mexico over 11,000 years ago. If these calculations were true, and with our reliable scientific

instruments it appeared to be so, this could mean the end of our beloved planet and life as we know it! World leaders were finally united, if only in their combined

feelings of helplessness. Nothing in our arsenals could deter the inevitable impact. We were doomed!

People crowded the streets in panic. Nowhere in recent times was there such a confirmed degree of turmoil. It was everywhere. Churches were packed to overflowing and the atmosphere was filled with an overpowering fear of hopelessness and desperation.

Now or Never

Later that day while sitting in his room watching the doom and gloom reports on television, young Captain Cameron knew that he had to do something. He opened his computer and entered a series of calculations. The results were displayed in a few minutes, and suddenly everything became crystal clear.

Timing was critical. He had to get to a point that had a clear view of the eastern horizon and from what his computations told him, he had to be there in exactly sixteen minutes. From his calculations, the roof of his own house would do the trick, so he opened the garage and pulled out the shaky wooden ladder. He placed it along the side of the house and slowly and carefully climbed up to the edge of the roof.

The sun was beginning to set and the sky to the east was showing the effects of night. This was critical because it would give Cameron the visual on the meteorite as its tell-tale glow gave away its position as it approached earth. Lying on his stomach on the peak of his roof, hands supporting his chin, Cameron began to concentrate. At sixteen minutes out, the meteorite would be in a position where even a one degree change the angle of its approach would cause it to bypass the earth. If this were to happen, the earth's own gravity could take over and fling the meteorite harmlessly back into space.



The intensity of his gaze was greater than anything he had ever attempted. His body became rigid as he directed all of his strength towards the area of approaching light. This was his only chance. Any delay would mean the meteorite's position would be too close to change its course. Staring intensely, and using all of his now developed super powers, things started to happen. Because the modification of the meteorite's approach angle was so slight, nobody on earth knew that he had succeeded. His mind had conquered matter.

When the predicted "time of impact" had passed without incident, the entire planet breathed a sigh of relief. In retrospect, it appeared to be a replay of times when those pessimistic fatalists who carried signs predicting the end of the world on a certain date were proven wrong. They would go out and make new signs with different dates when their original prediction failed to materialize. Did our highly educated and renowned scientists miscalculate, or did something deemed impossible intervene?

When Cameron climbed down from the roof he was exhausted. After putting the ladder back in the garage he began to lean against a tree when, he saw his father walking towards him.

"Hey dad," he said while catching his breath, "Can we get ice cream?"

As he looked at his little boy, he sensed something unusual. What he saw was more than the fact that his son seemed inexplicably fatigued this evening. He didn't suspect that Cameron had anything to do with the meteorite's last second course change that spared the earth. He was pretty sure that it was the tension and uncertainty the terrifying event had conveyed to everyone. Right now, everybody needed a break.

"Sure son, we can get some ice cream. You deserve something special tonight."

"Thanks, dad." And if you only knew . . .

