

Synopsis

Harry Pond Looks Homeward

The Spiritual Adventures of an Ohio Farm Boy

Novel
By
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Harry Pond Looks Homeward is the story of an Ohio farmboy who returns home from the war in Vietnam to his once pristine “all American” central Ohio hometown to find the town has changed. Where there was once happiness on the faces of his neighbors and “ump, pa, pa” Sunday band concerts in the white-painted gazebo at the town’s central square, the streets are now filled with gloom. In the three years of his absence, old haunts of Harry’s have disappeared or changed and the streets are now inhabited by members of a mean spirited motorcycle gang. And worse, Harry’s parents have been killed in a mysterious car accident, an accident his sister Becky believes was no accident at all and suspects the involvement of Harry and Becky’s beloved eighty-year old Uncle Julius.

The story revolves around the farmstead where Harry and his sister grew up and moves forward upon Harry’s arrival home at the Columbus airport. As Becky drives to the farm, Harry knows it will be difficult to return home to the farm after the war and with the death of his parents, and wonders whether that inner voice that kept him safe in the jungles of Vietnam will be there to help now that he is home in Ohio. Relieved, he discovers that the voice he calls his “guardian angel” is still there, and it will stay with him to aid him on his journey throughout the book.

The farm itself is one of five family farms surrounding the last 500 acre stand of virgin forest left in the central Ohio farm belt. As it turns out, the forest, once sacred to local native tribes, is an important center of Light and has been used for eons as a place of teaching and learning by a group of “Ascended Masters.” These Masters, able to appear and disappear their physical bodies at will, are members of the spiritual order called “The Brotherhood of Light.”

The farm families are bound together by a covenant to protect the forest, yet the forces of darkness, led by Felix Butezz, “a short, fat, greasy man” (working at the behest of his dark and mysterious father) and Henry

Thorpe the scar-faced leader of the motorcycle gang, have their sights set on possessing the forest, or destroying it in the trying. The story's action centers on the struggles of Harry and Becky and another farm family friend, Bill Bates, to save the forest. With the help of the Brotherhood and Angelic realms the struggle to save the forest continues as along the way each of the three expand their spiritual knowledge and learn valuable lessons of the soul working closely with the forces of Light.

Uncle Julius, an eighty-year old white-bearded carpenter still full of energy and the strength of a thirty-year old, plays a central role in the story as he makes a sudden inner turn (early on in the book) from "good" to "bad" after having re-built the ancient and magical chest, VARNESSE, embedded with radiantly brilliant gemstones and mystical powers of Light. The chest, it turns out, is an sacred treasure of the Brotherhood of Light imbued with energies of Light that had been used in ages past to help seekers of the Light find their path home. But the chest had been lost until recently, when an aging priest on his own quest to make contact with the Brotherhood rediscovers old drawings of the chest and a map showing its location while searching in the library of an ancient monastery in Spain. Following the map, the priest eventually finds the gemstones in the jungles of South America, but the chest itself has been destroyed. Led by his own inner promptings, he brings the drawing and stones to Harry's Uncle Julius, who agrees to rebuild it.

Once the chest is rebuilt, however, Julius becomes obsessed with owning it and even begins to work with the forces of darkness to help them acquire ownership of Harry and Becky's farmlands and the forest (and the other farm family homesteads) as a way to "get back what is mine."

In an epic confrontation, Harry and his friends in the Light call on all the forces of Light within them and beyond to help save the forest and save Uncle Julius at the same time.