

Rick Versus the Ants (Addendum)

This was inspired by a real dream I had. Billions of ants had invaded my home. I tried to block the portals, but to no avail. I temporarily escaped over a high wall, but knew it was inevitable that I had no where to hide forever. I knew I shouldn't have had that last glass of wine!

The Spring Harvest

Except from my short story “Rick Versus the Ants”:

Deep down below the ground all around the world a crisis was brewing. Scientists who have studied ants, say that ants have two ways to communicate. One is pheromones, the other is noise. Not just any noise, the ants have some kind of spike that when rubbed it produces a noise, (I guess like crickets). They use this noise to produce an alert. If they are in trouble, this signals their comrades to come to their aid. The pheromones are kind of like finger prints. Each colony has their own and within a colony it also differentiates their status. When you see a long line of ants, they are just following the scent of those in front. Ants can also smell food 100 of miles away. So it shouldn't surprise you when you spill that sugar and they show up the next morning. They have 5 times more odor receptors than other insects.

A colony of fire ants are 10 times larger than their regular cousins. They can consume anything in their path, including crops and livestock. They hibernate in the winter, but each spring they re-surface emerging from the ground to devour every living animal in their immediate area. They drag the food back to their nests to feed the queen.

Scientific fact:

Ants rate as a massive global force in carbon-based life, with an estimated 20 quadrillion individuals making up about 12 megatons of dry carbon, a biomass exceeding all wild birds and mammals combined, roughly 20% of human biomass.

The earth is about to become a lifeless rock as it once was eons ago. It didn't happen over night. It first began during Vaisakhi. This is the annual Indian celebration occurring in April, the beginning of harvest.

India was the most populous country in the world, having surpassed China in 2023, with over 1.4 billion people, making up nearly 18% of the global population.

Five decades later, it was void of all human and plant life. The end of life had begun. Descendants of Rick, due to superstitions passed on generation to generation, had ended up in Ushuaia, Argentina. This was one of the few places on earth where there were no ants. This is due to the cold climate.

Ushuaia is located on the southern coast of Isla Grande de Teirra del Fuego. This island is surrounded by the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, and separated from the continent by the Strait of Magellan and bordered to the south by the Beagle Channel. It is called the end of the world and soon to be called the end of all civilization. Everywhere else on Earth, the fire ants had consumed all live carbon based animals and plants.



Global warming had finally become the culprit it was touted to be. Centuries later, Ushuaia had become warm enough for the ants to survive. And more than survive they did, they thrived. It was the last place on earth for them to get food. Soon, Ushuaia was as barren as the rest of the globe. Would the ants be the only living things left on earth? Without plants or animals to eat, they turned on themselves until there was only one colony left. It soon died

out too. The earth returned to the lifeless rock it once was. Millions of years later, a meteorite hit the earth carrying ingredients of life waiting for the primordial conditions that spawned the first cycle of life. This will repeat itself throughout all eternity, until the Sun expands, turns into a red dwarf, and makes earth uninhabitable.

Author's note:

It is true that there are no ants in Ushuaia, parts of Greenland, Antarctica, high Arctic, and some remote islands.

The End