

# ***Frozen in Time: Murder at the Bottom of the World***

## **A Unique Perspective**

**Consider:**

**John Milton's *Paradise Lost***  
<http://www.paradiselost.co.uk/>



### ***Satan rallies his subjects (283-621)***

**Satan (Lucifer)**, “the superior fiend”, goes to the edge of the burning lake and calls to his legions who are lying inert on its surface. Note his sarcastic humour: he asks, in effect, “Are you having a rest? Have you chosen to lie in the lake as a way of adoring God (by readily bowing to His will)?”

### **The devils, waking, stir themselves, fly up into air, and assemble around Satan. The chief devils are named and described:**

- Moloch (crude, warlike, blustering);
- Chemos (associated with sensual, orgiastic demon worship, idolatry);
- Astarte (a female equivalent of Chemos);
- Thammuz (a fertility god, believed to die and rise to life every year; associated with rebirth of vegetation);
- Dagon (god of the Philistines, referred to in the Biblical books of Judges and 1 Samuel);
- Rimmon (referred to in the Biblical book of 2 Kings);
- **Osiris**, Isis, Orus (gods of Egyptian mythology), and
- **Belial (a deceitful, lustful and lewd god).**

The devil host assembles in military fashion. The devils move forward, and come to a halt ready for inspection by Satan. Milton describes the martial prowess and glory they retain despite their fall, and notes how moved Satan is by this display of loyalty.

<http://www.teachit.co.uk/armoore/poetry/paradiselost.htm#9>

**Now, consider *Frozen in Time*:**

In the story, we have **Raul Lucero (Lucifer)** and his “lieutenant”, **Eduardo Bellolio (Belial)**. Note that the connection to the Fallen Angels in Bellolio’s case is through his **last name**. Bellolio is a real Chilean name, as is Lucero.

As for Lucero:

“Among the *Lientur*’s complement of five Officers and forty enlisted men were two non-commissioned officers, Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Raul Lucero and Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Eduardo Bellolio. They had signed on for three-year tours of duty in late 1959 and were scheduled to participate with their vessel in the 16<sup>th</sup> Expedition to the Antarctic. Though both were slightly over five feet tall, **Lucero** was by far the heavier—stout, actually—weighing some twenty pounds more than Bellolio. Lucero had a full head of black hair and massive, muscular arms developed over years of working in naval construction. Aside from one drooping eyelid, the result of a childhood accident, he was a fine physical condition for a man in his late thirties.

“Lucero had risen rapidly within the enlisted ranks. Though a Chief Warrant Officer, his record was *not* without blemishes. In mid-1954, the Navy’s Office of Internal Affairs found evidence of him apparently having facilitated the transfer of naval supplies to the Chilean black market. Lucero bragged, “The Navy couldn’t hang a thing on me.”

“He was correct. The trail left behind by whomever was responsible was so complex and convoluted that investigators never were able to determine exactly *what* was taken from at least two Fleet Warehouses, much less *the final destinations* of the items stolen. There were indications that a naval officer, as well as people outside the Navy, may have been involved. However, the evidence was so ‘thing that naval investigators came away empty-handed.

“In the end, no action was taken against Lucero or anyone else. After four years of monitoring the suspects’ activities, Internal Affairs dropped the matter.”

And Bellolio:

**Bellolio** was slightly built and a year younger than Lucero. He tended to be hot-tempered and impulsive, thinking little about the consequences of his actions. Though physically agile, he bore a two-inch scar across his left cheek, a constant reminder that others were just as quick as he was with *una navaja de muelle*.”

...

“Both men were covered with tattoos, products of the many parlors found in every port they visited. To them, the artful mementos that adorned their bodies were signs of *machismo*, something to be shared proudly with their brothers-in-arms. The works of art on their bodies depicted their loves, hates, triumphs, and love of country. **Lucero was particularly proud of one faded black tattoo glorifying Death** that could be found high on his upper **left** arm.”

(In Western literature and art, fallen angels became a popular theme primarily after Milton’s *Paradise Lost* (1667). **Milton depicts a memorable Satan, Prince of the Air, who commits incest with his daughter, Sin, and they have a child, Death**, who then rapes his Mother!)

<http://www.sexualfables.com/Fallen-angels-and-Miltons-Paradise-Lost.php>

“Each man entered the Navy at the same time, immediately after finishing their secondary school education. However, Bellolio’s rank was two levels beneath that of Lucero’s. This was the result of a Navy Board of Inquiry that found Bellolio complicit in the knifing death of an enlisted man some two years earlier during a fight at a brothel in Valparaiso. Bellolio never would talk about it—“I was set up,” he maintained—but according to Lucero, **the issue involved him making gross, lewd comments** to a Yugoslavian prostitute who was dancing with another sailor. “

**Again, the Fall Angel Belial was known as the most gross and lewd of the Fallen Angels.**

In the novel, too, Lucero is tipped off to the fact that **Lt. Commander Cristian Barbudo** (first name; allusion to Christ) has picked up his trail by another Chilean Navy non-commissioned officer in Santiago, **Chief Warrant Officer Gabriel Osorio** (“Gabriel”, of course, is known as G\_d’s “messenger”. In *Frozen in Time*, Osorio is named for Osiris, another of the Fallen Angels. Osorio is a real Chilean name.) **It’s Osorio who sends a message to Lucero**, tipping him off to the fact that Lt. Cmdr. Barbudo has picked up the trail from the theft of the Central Bank of Chile and tied it to him and Bellolio both to the theft as well as to the death of Rodríguez.

“Lucero looked around to make sure no one was in the compartment. Then he whispered, “I received a ‘condolence’ message from **Gabriel Osorio—Chief Warrant Officer Osorio**—this afternoon. You remember me talking about him. We was on that rescue effort with the Norwegian relief ship *MS Tottan* that evacuated personnel from several sites occupied by French Antarctic researchers back in 1952. We both was assigned to the *Lautaro* back then. **It was Hell!** We lost two overboard in that storm off Kerguelen Island . . . never even had a chance to look for ‘em, not that it would have done any good. They probably was drowned within seconds of hitting the water. Terrible thing it was.”

“The ship’s officers and visiting scientists had their dinners in the Captain’s Mess, and frequently Ted was seated next to Lieutenant-Commander Cristian Barbudo, or ‘Cristian,’ as he asked Ted to call him. **Cristian, a deeply religious man**, was just under six feet tall and physically trim, something he attributed to working out in the ship’s gym every morning before breakfast. “It gives me a chance to clear my mind after going through my radio messages,” he joked, when Ted asked how he found the time to stay in shape.

“Cristian was four years older than Ted, married, and had two beautiful daughters, Daniela and Teresa. His wife, Maria, taught in a private school located near Viña del Mar, a major seaside resort town where they had made their home for the past four years.”

**So . . . one has to ask: Did the Devil take over the 16<sup>th</sup> Chilean Expedition to the Antarctic, and was Nature’s furious response an attempt to eject him and his lieutenants from her pristine white land at the Bottom of the World.**

“On his way to the Officer’s Mess, Ted encountered the captain of the *Piloto Pardo* in a passageway. The man, still smartly dressed in his neatly pressed uniform but looking exhausted, took off his wire rim glasses and gently rubbed his eyes with his thumb and forefinger. Shaking his head from side to side, he lamented, “I have participated in seven expeditions to the Antarctic. I have talked with my predecessors by radio. This one was by far *the worst crossing in the history of Chilean Antarctic Expeditions!*”

**Was Cristian sacrificed in the process, his body to be delivered to the sea at some time well into the future?**

“But when he looked to his left, Cristian was gone!

“Ted looked down, but Cristian was nowhere to be seen. Had he slipped over the edge in his sleep? Had he tried to make himself more comfortable, and in the

process, fallen off the ledge, causing the piton to be torn from the wall simply because of the weight placed on it?

***“He must have dropped hundreds of feet below the surface, thought Ted. He could be entombed for decades, if not centuries, frozen in time until the glacier, moving slowly to the sea, gives up his body to the ocean in one final act of Deliverance.”***

Finally, when Lucero and Bellolio killed one another (if that’s really what happened . . . we don’t know what part Muñoz played), one is tempted to ask: was Muñoz corrupted by Lucifer (Lucero) before he died (or Muñoz killed him), forcing Muñoz to assume the identity of Lucifer?

Only one person who reviewed the book, my developmental editor, Virginia Smith, EdD, comprehended the novel at this level. She laughed . . . “No one will get it, Ted. Put it out there . . . you’ll see! Not one reader will understand what you are saying at this level!!!

I’m only mentioning it because the people who will be making the video asked for a hook . . . well, here’s a hellava hook: did the Devil take over the expedition? Was Nature’s fury directed not at Man, but at the Devil? Who paid the price? Truth be told, the answer is: the innocent as well as the sinners. As I say in my synopsis:

It is a tale of greed, betrayal, and murder—one in which the reader is given a window into the frozen world at the bottom of the Earth that few people ever will read about, much less experience. Among other things, **it explores why, though seemingly unfair, bad things happen to good people; how the battle between good and evil can change forever even the most innocent person; and most of all, the role deception plays in Nature, Man, and Life.**

What do you think?

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