

It happened what I feared in my worst nightmares and hoped in my wildest heroic dreams: someone had infected me.

Not what you might be thinking now, no, it was a mental virus.

Reporter Chris Thompson wanted to know all about the matter, so he did some research into the history of the Internet and some of the other things that had brought us the seventies and eighties.

After his visit to Yosemite - the taste of which reading RFC 2468 had got him - he was heading south-east on 95 to spend a few more days in Las Vegas.

In a small town, called Tonopah, he had to spend the night to give both his old cart and his old bones a well-deserved rest.

The night passed uneventfully.

For breakfast he drove to the next Mcie, which was unfortunately somewhat overcrowded.

He only found space at a table at which two strange figures were already sitting. They wore cloaks in the style of ancient monks and enjoyed an extensive breakfast.

After all three had worked on their breakfast for a while, the first monk started the conversation, he was a bit older: "What is it that drives you in this area, young man?"

Chris just wanted to have some peace and quiet, but he answered truthfully: "Research".

He affirmed: "Research for a book and about a book. Very interesting thing"

After a pause he asked in the direction of the first monk: "And you?"

However, the second monk - he was significantly younger than the first - interrupted him: "Always the Christian mission. Pastoral care, pastoral theology and so on."

The first monk had thought about it and was amazed: "What could be researched here in this area that has not already been said about everything?"

Chris did not answer directly, but went on to explain the matter from the ground up: "Difficult thing. There is a crazy Austrian who has been chasing a phantom for years and has written countless blog entries about it"

The second monk intervened again: "You rarely meet real enthusiasm, that's something positive."

"With him, enthusiasm and madness seem to go hand in hand," was Chris' summary.

And there it was again: "You are not telling us anything new," said the first monk.

Can there be anything worse for a journalist than telling "nothing new"? For these monks it may be an intellectual satisfaction to keep coming up with "nothing new under the sun", but Chris was hit with a club. He didn't show anything while the first monk continued speaking.

"It often happens that someone chases after a phantom and becomes insane. Actually, this has been done for thousands of years, because people still believe that where there is smoke, there must also be fire," argued the monk (one would not actually expect such words said by the mouth of a monk) and he posed an accurate counter-question: "But tell me what interests you about this Austrian"

Chris had to think before he started to speak: "It's a puzzle. It seems like he is receiving and passing on one piece of information after the other. You just have to somehow put the pieces together to get the whole picture."

"And this picture interests you?" Asked the second monk.

Chris felt attacked again in his professional ethos: "Is curiosity something reprehensible?", He asked, because curiosity was the mainspring of his profession.

The first monk explained: "Be on your guard. Such puzzles have often turned out to be mosaics. You have the stones, you think there is a finished picture hidden behind them, but in reality everyone makes their own picture"

Chris waved off: "Well, at least this person kept all the information more or less centrally, you can find everything on the blogs

<http://erstersein.wordpress.com>,

<http://zweitersein.wordpress.com> and

<http://letztersein.com>

"I know him well, very well," laughed the first monk, and after a pause: "He's not writing anything new." After another pause: "You are actually 100 percent correct in this area" and giggled.

Now we had become a little warm with each other, so it is not surprising that the second monk made an advance that had to lead to all three of them staying longer in this place: "I am still curious. What is he writing?" asked the second monk.

"I found out through his blog posts that he ended up following some technical concepts that have to do with Web3D graphics, but that he also sees in a military context," explained Chris, and - after a pause -: "He tries about it To write metaphorical stories that actually deal with general human contexts, in which some of the main characters are allegories for technical concepts. In this way, he tries to bring the topic closer to the non-technicians in his readership. "

Chris felt that they all wanted to stay longer and handed the second monk a printout of the work on loose sheets of paper with the words: "Here you are"

The second monk began to read