



“The pen is mightier than the sword.”

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THE MOUSE

By: Ben Emata

Many, many years ago, the mouse is a dreadful word in every home. It is a tiny brown creature that lurks every dark corner of a house but considered a monster, an intelligent enemy that devours food or particles on the table and shock housewives for its ugly sounds if cornered. It runs and jumps fast and maneuvers like a lighting or a jet fighter. Its ears are very sensitive to sounds that it can detect the presence of human being, pets and other predators. To catch it is second to impossible unless one uses a trap that really works faster and effectively than the house four-legged tiny animal. It frightens everybody in the house more especially the women residents, and young kids. It is a cursed little creature in the house, so hated that the inhabitants run after them for a kill. Nothing is good about the mouse as it is considered pest, germ carrier or just plain bad luck. Everybody wants it terminated in its entirety by whatever means. Some housewives lure it with poison-treated bread or meat to annihilate it forever, as it does nothing but infest your food without mercy and leftovers with germs.

They'd say the mouse spreads bubonic plagues and like dogs, they also inflict man with hydrophobia or they bite tetanus to people. Many families maintain cats in their home for no apparent purpose except to battle the mouse hiding in dark areas, small holes, inside cabinets and other shady places in the attic or storage rooms. There even was a song *“when the cat is away, the mouse will play.”* The mouse makes your blood boil and gives you the feeling of extreme anger, anxiety and desperation. They are plain pests! Yes pests they are but that was a long time ago. They cat and mouse hide-and-check is gone for good. Seldom are houses with mouse as boarders because of very effective wooden traps and modern poisons or paste materials you can buy from hardware stores that put them away from human communities.



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The new mouse

In the age of cyberspace and race in the modern technology and era of new civilization, the mouse has assumed its new appearance, culture and role. It is still a tiny thing that moves swiftly to all directions like a jet fighter but this time man-made of plastic materials and designed not to give anger in the homes but joy, help and necessity. It still has, what look like a long tail as in the bad creature of yesteryears. The thing is that, the long tail-like cable in today's mouse is actually a wire that bridges the computer base towards the monitor and down to the printer and keyboard.

As we know, the computer had changed the lifestyle of people and the world itself. “Whenever there is life, movements, or activity in the machine, there is the mouse that directs it. It is safe to say that the mouse is the center of base of operation in every computer. It receives order from the mind of the operator and relays it to the heart of the computer machine. Almost everything now is equipped with whatever little computer there is. The aircraft, the ships, cars even office machines and business equipment depend largely in the technology of computer which has become the epicenter of operation specifically in planning and programming.

Nowadays, it seems everything is impossible without a computer. In offices, home and business establishments, manufacturing plants, airports and even in battlegrounds where cannons and heavy guns are fired, there are always computers to do all kinds of undertakings or works. This makes things move or operate faster with accuracy and efficiency. Just one computer operator accomplishes what it takes for 15 people to do many years ago. Time was dramatically shortened by the advent of computer science while efficiency of job done was remarkably improved. Things go on with precise movements. Life is much easier as everything is in the finger two on top of the mouse.

Needless to say, the mouse, which took a new shape and role in modern civilization, has become a good friend of man. It has become a lovely matter. It is a welcome thing in the modern age. It is an idol for all as it receives or



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direct from the mind. The little thing that really looks like the crazy mouse of long ago represents the brain of man. One holds the mouse while his eyes are focused on the arrow and cursor on the monitor. It obeys what his mind dictates. It has become a tool to open the windows of the world for us to see the latest in style whether in news, entertainment, war, people, business or anything. Without it everything stands still, and everybody gets a headache. Before anything is done, man has to touch the mouse first for him to know where he is going -- the modern mouse, not the old, dreadful one.