

Afterword

✿ There are forceful stories which make such an impression on the reader that it lingers for years. "With Folded Hands" is a classic. It is also a story which makes the reader uneasy and with a not too far hidden spark of that old fearsome feeling—what it?

It is undoubtedly taking a very great liberty on my part to turn to that fine example in the Hall of Fame with an answer. I expect wholehearted disagreement with this answer. However, it is also a deep-held belief of mine that there *are* phases of human consciousness and abilities which we have not learned to use to the utmost. And the values of one race are not always those of another. So because I have been haunted for years by "With Folded Hands," I am now daring to provide an answer—which I hope Mr. Williamson will be kind enough not to blast into the farthest reaches of space.

—Andre Norton