The War of the Worlds
By H. G. WELLS

I might not have heard of the gas explosion at all, had I not known Ogilvy, an astronomer. I just happened to have a telescope of my own.

As I looked through the telescope, I saw the first round planet swimming in a circle of description. Then I saw a brilliant flash of gas shooting from Mars toward the Earth.

I told Ogilvy what I had seen.

He said, "It is exactly like the mass of gas described in the newspapers."

What do you make of it?

I suspect they both are meteors of some sort. The chances against there being anything man-like on Mars firing something at us is a million to one.

The explosion was heard throughout the world. It was the signal for all the inhabitants of the Earth to prepare for battle.

I was not the only one who took the threat seriously. Many others had their own theories, but most of them were based on the same premise: that the Martians were intent on destroying the Earth.

The war continued for years, with both sides suffering heavy casualties. But in the end, it was the Martians who emerged victorious, and the Earth was left a barren wasteland.

The War of the Worlds is a classic science fiction novel that has inspired countless adaptations and reinterpretations. It remains a timeless tale of mankind's struggle against the unknown.