



Herbert L. Anderson

But Herbert Anderson came to join forces with Leona. Herbert, the boy who had been a graduate student at Columbia University when we arrived in the United States, had taken his Ph.D. work with Enrico and was still working with him. He had come to Chicago a few months before I did.

"Do you think anything is impossible for Enrico?" he asked me with an earnest, almost chiding, face.

No matter how firmly the logical part of my mind did disbelieve, there still was another, way back, almost in the subconscious, that was fighting for acceptance of Leona's and Herbert's words. Herbert was Enrico's mentor. Leona, who was young enough to have submitted to intelligence tests in her recent school days, was said to have a spectacular I.Q. They should know. To sink a ship in the Pacific from Chicago . . . perhaps power rays were discovered. . . .

When a struggle between two parts of one's mind is not promptly resolved with clear outcome, doubt results. My doubt was to last a long time.

That evening no more was said about admirals. The party proceeded as most parties do, with a great deal of small talk around the punch bowl in the dining room; with comments on the war in the living room; with games of pingpong and shuffleboard on the third floor, because Enrico has always enjoyed playing games, and most of our guests were young.

In the days that followed I made vain efforts to clear my doubts.

"Enrico, did you really sink a Japanese admiral?"

"Did I?" Enrico would answer with a candid expression.

"So you did not sink a Japanese admiral!"

"Didn't I?" His expression would not change.

Two years and a half elapsed. One evening, shortly after the end of the war in Japan, Enrico brought home a mimeographed, paperbound volume.

"It may interest you to see the Smyth Report,¹³ he said. "It contains all declassified information on atomic energy. It was just released for publication, and this is an advance copy."

¹³This classic document, *A General Account of the Development of Methods of Using Atomic Energy for Military Purposes*, written by Henry D. Smyth, who directed research at the Metallurgical Laboratory, was released by the War Department on August 12, 1945. (It later was published, with a shorter title, by Princeton University Press. See Suggested References.)