

JOURNEY TO HIPPOCRENE

A cosmic writing inspired by a client's birth chart (name is hidden for privacy purposes). Written by Fatima-Zahra Farahate, Living Simplyy.

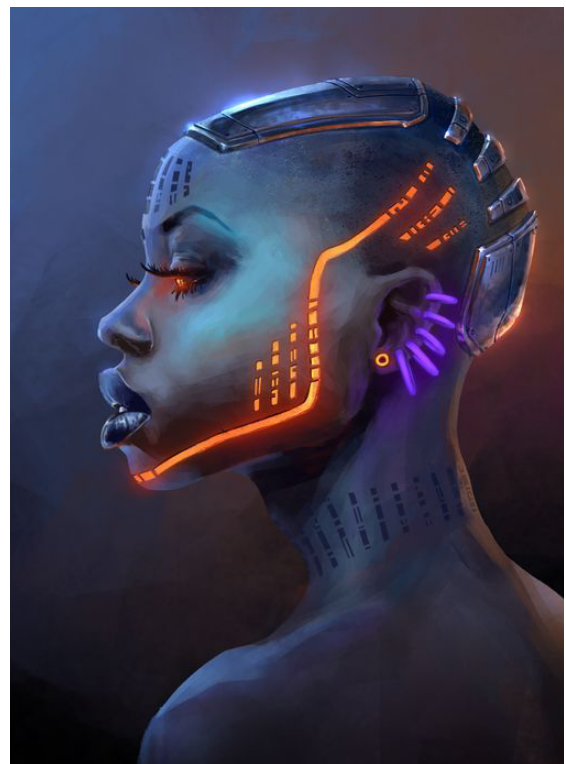


MEET THE CHARACTERS

Cyber Girl by Taliriant



Name: Unknown
Outer space archeologist



Cyberpunk Swag, Victor Shevchenko (aka Corvit Arts)

Name: Abeona
Captain of the Nautilus Ship

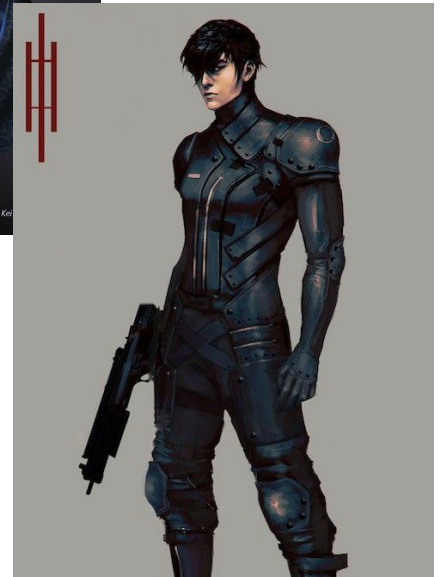
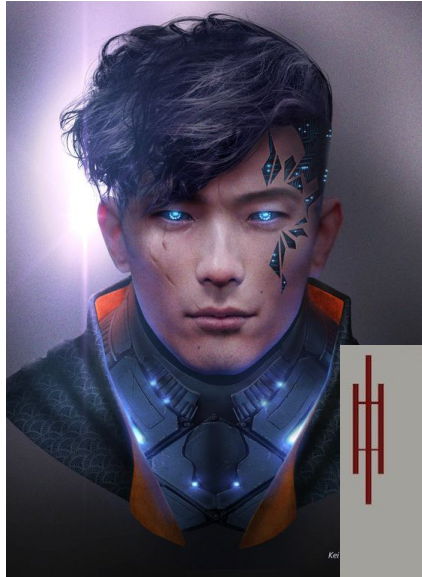
JOURNEY TO HIPPOCRENE

Kil Il Kwang Morning sketch, Feb 10, 2014



Name: Maeliel
Engineer of the Nautilus Ship

Pelleas - Japan Cyberpunk Bonhotal William



SOZOMAIKA

Name: Haru
Exoplanet Biologist

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Battleship Apollo, Gabriel Ejjörk Stiernström

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Logbook Entry 278

Spacecraft: [The Nautilus](#)

Time: 15:15pm, year 2706

Position: [Pegasus Constellation](#) - St 3

Direction: [Planet Osiris - HD 2094858](#), Pegasus Constellation

Song of the day: [Solar Fields - Origin # 03 \(Full Album 2019\)](#)

We're almost there! I'm so happy to finally see the constellation of Pegasus, the crown jewel of the northern sky. [Abeona](#), Captain of the Nautilus ship we're aboard, gave me a pamphlet earlier on the history, science, ecosystem, and a list of planets and stars of this winged horse realm of the sky. What a bore...

I am less concerned with the magnitude of [Epsilon Pegasi](#), and far more interested in the mystery of the [Hippocrene](#) ruins. My interspecies intelligence teacher was the one to name this mystery of space.

These ruins lay in the southern hemisphere of HD 2094858, also called planet [Osiris](#). One of the many exoplanets of the Pegasus constellations. These ruins are nestled in the middle of a giant river, on the edge of a precipice. A dream-like waterfall our satellites had to catch more than once to believe it was built, a long time ago by a civilization that once held the greatest power.

Since the Great Fall of Earth, spaceships have been exploring the Milky Way's stars, planets, and comets. We've seen it all. Thanks to the great intel of some of the inhabitants of our galaxy, our technology is now beyond anything we've ever had before.

But now that each corner of the Milky Way has been turned upside down, Pegasus is where Elders of the Intergalactic Coalition set their minds on. The Elders is another term we use to speak of the human elites ruling the Milky Way.

Their reason for rushing into this Osiris exploration is, according to them, to locate more habitable planets to sustain the ever-growing number of humans. But I know that greed and resources are some of the less-discussed reasons we're allowed to venture this far out into space. Especially with the incredible payment and retirement plan they've offered us to join...

But I'm here to solve a mystery. To learn.

I believe the Universe is so vast, so free, so... different! Yet, some people want to claim, harness, limit, and use it. My goal is to understand it. To become a mere observer.

If my crew ever were to read this digital log, they'd probably label me as a "hopeless romantic". But is it wrong to NOT want to claim any of the territories I explore? Is it crazy to wish for enlightenment through knowledge instead of financial gains and ridiculous politics?

[Maeliel](#), our rather cute engineer, is probably the only one who could understand my outlook on the world. I don't know what it is about him, but I've been fascinated by him ever since I first heard his voice. A soft tone that almost contradicts his dark and mysterious look.

I even saw him meditating one day. Something humans rarely do nowadays, especially not the enhanced ones... He was sitting, eyes closed, in front of the stars in our most magnificent room: the 360° glass view.

In this place, while most of us feel captivated by the wonders of the world outside of us, he still decided to look within. As a genetically modified cyborg, one could assume he was rebooting or virtually traveling, but I verified: all his commands were shut down. He was truly making room for silence...

Logbook Entry 279

Time: 1:05am, year 2706

Position: Pegasus Constellation - St 3.2

Direction: Planet Osiris - HD 2094858, Pegasus Constellation

Song of the day: [Axel Thesleff - Bad Karma](#)

More than ever, humanity needs meaning. Ever since the first intergalactic contact of 2046, people have lost faith. They were asking “If we’re not alone, if we’re not “special”, if we’re not unique... then what are we?”.

After the wars and the riots... everyone thought humanity was bound to self-destroy. For some reason, resilience came out of the chaos.

Studying the past is what I do and I always wonder how our ancestors felt, while they were making the decisions and choices that would later impact entire generations.

In the year 2051, straight out of a sci-fi movie, the world was still healing from the great collapse, but a pioneering few created the first Intergalactic Coalition whose mission was to “learn, explore, create”. I decided to become an outer space archeologist for these same reasons.

Not to brag, but I am the first human to solve an outer-world mystery: deciphering the lost language of [PSR B1257+12 C](#), aka Phobetor, a super-Earth exoplanet 2,315 light-years away from Earth in the constellation of Virgo.

That’s one of my proudest accomplishments. But looking back, I have been drowning myself in my passions for as long as I can remember. As fascinating as my mission was, the nervous system overload was real.

Relaxing, stargazing, and... a sweet cup of chai. That’s what my nervous system needs now!

Logbook Entry 280

Time: 9:25 pm, year 2706

Position: The Black Tortoise - Pegasus Constellation

Direction: Planet Osiris - HD 2094858, Pegasus Constellation

Song of the day: [La Niña del Volcán \(Polocorp Remix\)](#)

We finally made it to our last stop before we land on Osiris. The exploration of Pegasus began 20 years ago, with our automated super AI ships and robots, designed to build colonies and habitable satellites to prepare for the explorer’s arrival.

The satellite/station of The Black Tortoise was finalized about two years ago. With a successful launch and activation, aired all throughout the Milky Way.

As we entered this giant bubble of safety in the middle of the void of space, a humanoid robot, Flinch 32, came to greet us with cocktails and snacks. A royal feast.

Once logged into [The Black Tortoise](#)’s main computer, Captain Abeona gave us the news: no threatening alien presence, virus, chemicals, or environmental danger imminent. Good to know!



We celebrated this first stop with saké brought by our exo-planet biologist, [Haru](#). With him, Abeona and Maeliel, I feel ready to step into the unknown.

Four lost explorers on a suicide mission... That's what our friends told us right before we left. But I have faith in our mission.

Flinch 32 massaged our backs, showed us videos and news from home, and prepared extraordinary suites for each of us. Each area is designed to favor concentration, regeneration, relaxation, or wellness. The Black Tortoise looks more like a giant 5-star hotel adrift in the galaxy than a safety satellite about to send explorers to the unknown.

As lovely as this day was, a lingering "out of place" feeling haunted me. And, it's still difficult for me to open up to others after my near-death experience last year... Oh forget it, I'm gonna go watch the Pegasus lights in the 360° glass room.

Those lights are a pure marvel of nature. Something I can't put into words or describe in this log, you'll just have to use your imagination.

Logbook Entry 281

Time: 3:33pm, year 2706

Position: The Black Tortoise - Pegasus Constellation

Direction: Planet Osiris - HD 2094858, Pegasus Constellation

Song of the day: [YĪN YĪN - The Rabbit That Hunts Tigers \(2019 - Album\)](#)

Haru came to see me today. He was so excited about the samples available at the Black Tortoise. As a renowned biologist who won the Milky Way Nobel Prize for his discovery of the XU-C3 (aka, the cure for [antibiotic resistance](#), a modern plague that almost wiped out humanity), he almost seems childlike at times.

I heard rumors that he's around 185 years old, using genetically modified skin cells to keep his youthful appearance. Others said he's been asleep for a hundred years in a cryo chamber, long enough to come up with a cure for antibiotic resistance.

I've met Haru, and all I can say is that he's none of what people say about him! He's just quirky and slightly introverted, like me. And being a modified human doesn't help him gain the favors of people.

This being said, I wouldn't call Haru introverted per se, he can be quite a lot at times. But endearing, charming, regal? Oh yes, he is! His joy is contagious. I suspect he even may like me a little more than average. I catch him staring at me across the living area almost every morning... It amuses me.

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Anyways, Haru told me about the samples collected from the Hippocrene ruins available on the satellite. According to him, they're rather peculiar.

Unlike anything he's ever seen before, the cells present in the soil prove that the microorganisms of Osiris have Homo Sapiens compatible genomes, as well as the ability to... live forever!

I was shocked. I thought Haru was playing a dirty joke on me based on his rumors, but the data he showed me speaks for itself. These cells have a programmed genetic coding that allows them to regenerate and survive in the most extreme conditions.

As humans, we have always been fascinated by the Graal, eternal life. But even with all our toys and outer space ventures, the furthest we could go in terms of "eternal life" is transferring the mind into a metaverse or robot to "pseudo" live forever. We were also able to extend the average lifespan to 120 years, and potentially bio-engineer humans to become more resistant, more machine-like.

Another thing Haru shared with me that fascinated me is the Greek mythology around the name given to the ruins we're set to explore. Hippocrene was a sacred fountain formed by the hooves of [Pegasus](#) that translates to the "Horse's Fountain". Its water, once ingested, was said to bring poetic inspiration and bliss.

The conversation with Haru also reminded me of the ancient Egyptian God Osiris, Lord of the life and death, and resurrection. I wonder. Were we sent here for a reason? And, most importantly, did we reach the fountain of youth, or are we about to enter the gates of the underworld?

Logbook Entry 283

Time: 11:24pm, year 2706

Position: The Black Tortoise - Pegasus Constellation

Direction: Planet Osiris - HD 2094858, Pegasus Constellation

Song of the day: [Sleep Party People - I'm Not Human At All](#)

Abeona warned me before we boarded The Black Tortoise that she spotted some radiation emanating from a radioactive wandering comet that was about to hit our orbital axis. "*Will you be able to handle it, bionic woman?*". Abeona can be a real pain in the ass sometimes. I mean, I adore her as a captain, especially since she's one of the most renowned cyborgs to lead exploration spacecraft like ours... but UGH does she push me to my limits sometimes!



Space station, Yury Solntsev

If you want the full truth, my body is still healing from the deadly radiation I suffered last year. But the life-saving biohacking treatments I received were more painful than the lethal dose of LD 50/30 I encountered when exploring the Golden Shields of [Kepler-22b](#).

Abeona knows what I had to sacrifice to be here. To even be alive. Yet, she... She doesn't seem to understand how deeply painful it was for me to come back. When I look at her, or any other enhanced human on board our ship, I think I'm the only one who's struggling with my new body. They seem so at ease with the blend of flesh and machine, neurons and the electric path works, programs and emotions...

At the time I got irradiated, death felt almost easy. I was bathing in a pit of endless silence, and darkness. But I'm a rising phoenix, so I fought. I didn't want my story to end there.

The doctors told me that my come-back was a miracle, and my colleagues at the Exoplanet Travel Bureau held a party for me. They said I suffered from a severe injury during a brave exploration but still decided to come back to fulfill my duties, like a "hero"...

The reason I was irradiated is much simpler... I got distracted. I saw pretty lights, so I stared. I forgot to come back to base before the lethal wave. So yeah, I'm not sure whether I should call my "heroism" survival, determination, divine protection, or a painful journey down to [Hades's](#) lair...

Regardless, when I woke up, I had already been "repaired" aboard the [Apollo 66](#) ship. Shiny metal arm, leg, hips, jaw... I never chose to become a cyborg, but we can say it chose me.

Back in the Milky Way, pure-blooded humans are very scarce. Most people undergo surgical surgery and genetic modification. The most common reason for DNA-altering therapies is to be able to survive in the extreme space conditions we usually inhabit. Even the most habitable planets proved, over time, that they weren't void of dangers... So we adapted!

Other humans decided to increase certain functionalities too while they were at it, such as sight, memory, smell, or the size of their lungs. Others took eugenics way too far, and began selecting the look of their offspring, from the color of their eyes to the size of their hips and feet... But that's the story for another day.

Weirdly, the worst part for me after my body transformation was the numbness. As advanced as we may be as a civilization, we still haven't found a cure for depression, phantom limb pain, and fear. I remember waking up, missing body organs, equipped with new ones. Once I moved past the initial shock, I felt strong. Stronger than ever. Yet, I was still afraid, of my own reflection. "Who are you?" I asked myself in the mirror. Months later, I'm still working on that answer.

My past made me a superwoman, but my wound is still open. And I'm not speaking of the radiation, but the rebirth process. Parting ways with the old, embracing the new, feeling like an outcast looking from the outside in...

And our beloved Captain Abeona has a way of triggering these dormant feelings in me. She represents a version of me I wish I constantly embodied: strong, confident, determined, direct, vindictive. Yet, these same qualities are the ones I hate in her.

Thinking back about earlier today, I guess she didn't mean any harm, she simply wanted to give

me a head's up. Maybe that's her way of showing me affection? Probably. But with the stress of the mission and my insecurities, I'm afraid it may someday escalate. And she's my captain... So I guess I'll need to keep my mouth shut.

Logbook Entry 281

Time: 4:34am, year 2706

Position: Near The Black Tortoise - Pegasus Constellation

Direction: Planet Osiris - HD 2094858, Pegasus Constellation

Song of the day: [Rhye - Taste \(Live in Paris\)](#)

I joined Maeliel back at his quarters earlier today. It smelled like [sandalwood](#).

Our mission was to fix a few malfunctions on our good ol' Nautilus. Maeliel is weirdly in love with the Nautilus, our spaceship. He designed "her" himself, and I know just how fascinated he is with her loyalty. As much as I think he goes way too far into the anthropomorphism trope, he is right: through thick and thin, the Nautilus has always brought us back home.

Aside from the ship, we talked about life today. Our hopes, our passions, our fears... We put on some [antique music by Sam Cook](#). Music is a common passion of ours. We drank some Plutonian wine, a delight. With the glass ceiling above us, the moment felt magical.

Maeliel looked me straight in the eyes. He told me he could get lost in them. That he found me captivating, "as sweet as a wave, as beautiful as a tempest, and as peaceful as a morning kiss". I smiled. We kissed. For a while. Between two sips and a intimate laughter, I shared with him a few of my research points, I'm always so happy to tell him about my discoveries.

According to my data, I believe the Hippocrene ruins were built by a super-sentient species. Given the dimensions and samples of the ruins captured by our radars, bots, and drones, it looks like this once great civilization collapsed about 400,000 years ago.

Based on the work of some of my historian and anthropologist colleagues back at the Exoplanet Travel Bureau, I believe some of the explanations for the collapse of such an advanced civilization could be environmental (depletion of resources, weather changes, unsustainable living, disease, etc), social (wars, rising inequality, a decline of cognitive abilities or fertility, etc), or economic.

One piece of information caught my interest in my study of the data found at the Black Tortoise... The scavenging robots and machines have not found bodies, graveyards, or any signs of war, famine, pestilence, or other decay.

Maeliel asked me *"So you think these people just woke up one day, packed their bags, and decided to leave this almost fairy-tale-like place?"*. I was caught off-guard, but his question made me smile.

Maeliel continued: *"Did they really just bounce to explore new territories? Were they afraid of an imminent catastrophe or war that never came about? Did they find a better place to call home?"*

To this latter question, I chuckled at my drink a little. Right there, a new theory began growing in my mind. During my studies, I remember feeling mesmerized by how, almost 400.000 years ago, the Homo Sapiens lineage and genes began to evolve into what we now know as "humans".

Could this planet be the cradle of mankind? I stormed off in the middle of our date to do some research, I hope Maeliel didn't take it the wrong way.

Logbook Entry 282

Time: 11:12am, year 2706

Position: The Black Tortoise - Pegasus Constellation

Direction: Planet Osiris - HD 2094858, Pegasus Constellation

Song of the day: [N'to - Alter Ego](#)

I haven't left my cabin in a week. I didn't even feel like writing in this logbook, but my contract obliges me to do so. "In case the mission fails, we need to know all that happened on board prior." That's what my recruiter told me. But hey, I love writing diaries, so I guess once we're all dead, someone will try to make sense of it all by pulling this logbook up, only to find me writing "*Dear diary, I kissed Maeliel today, what a wonderful life*".

I almost spilled my tea. That would be a great joke!

But anyway, to say I'm feeling down today is an understatement. I believe everyone is feeling seasick, which is completely normal after taking our IAP (interspatial adaptive pills).

Disgusting taste, week-long nausea, and fatigue... if it wasn't for its ability to protect us from outer-space undesired viruses, parasites, and mold, I'd say to hell with the IAP. But I believe everyone on board is slowly getting back in shape now.

Our mission starts in less than 8 days. A small step for cyborg, big step for mankind... Oh no, what did the ancient adage say? Who knows! The ancient sure had a lot of weird expressions with occult meanings.

During the week off I had, I tried my updated nonverbal communication kit once more. Perks of being a cyborg I guess. I was able to sense how Maeliel was feeling all the way across the Black Tortoise. Heart rate, body heat, nervous system activity... I felt everything. And I know he can also feel me.

And it's as overwhelming as the first time to not just "know" how others are feeling, but feel it with them. As a rather anxious person, this newfound feature of my body is probably what gives me the most thrills. To lose myself in the shoes of others. To merge with them. It's an almost mystical experience.

From hyper-analyzing what my surrounding feels like based on their words, body language, and mannerisms, I am now able to pick up on the most subtle energetic shifts in their being. I become them, and through this process, see myself in what they're going through.

And oh boy did I learn a lot about my crew members through my nonverbal communication kit! As an example, Haru is scared of intimacy yet he deeply craves it, Maeliel feels the most content after repairing the Nautilus, and Abeona literally climaxes off physical exercise...

Sometimes I wonder if knowing too much about everyone hinders me from focusing on what I feel, what I want, what brings ME joy...

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The Summoner Jakub Rozalski

Logbook Entry 283

Time: 4:22pm, year 2706

Position: The Black Tortoise - Pegasus Constellation

Direction: Planet Osiris - HD 2094858, Pegasus Constellation

Song of the day: [The Architect - Les Pensées](#)

Haru just held a meeting with everyone. One of the exploration robots, the DC13, recorded concerning footage yesterday.

See, to reach the Hippocrene ruins, our spacecraft will land on a riverside we named The Arrow of [Zelik](#). A distance of 23 km will then separates us from the ruins, located at the edge of the river, overlooking a giant crater. All around the lake, wildlife and fauna have been observed, but it is completely harmless. Or at least, that's what we thought so far.

This morning's footage is different. It shows giant black clouds turning into huge figures. They then proceeded to follow the robots for over 23 kilometers.

These shadows aren't clear in the videos, but they seem way too big to even fit the screen. They must be 10 or 20 times the size of the Nautilus, who's already as big as 30 intergalactic fighting stadiums. What's for sure is that these entities were curious about the DC13. Curious enough to follow it back and forth from and until the Hippocrene ruins.

The silence after Haru's presentation was dense. Abeona took the lead, as she knows how to. Her speech was inspiring. She spoke about courage. About facing whatever threats and unknowns as they come. About finishing what we have started regardless of the new information.

She also mentioned how our technology and equipment are now strong enough to keep all of us safe. But, her heart did beat faster as she said those words... Did she believe her statement?

I couldn't help but feel afraid. Afraid to be confronted with a force so foreign, so improbable, that I would freeze, or flee. I guess only time will tell.

Logbook Entry 284

Time: 1am, year 2706

Position: The Black Tortoise - Pegasus Constellation

Direction: Planet Osiris - HD 2094858, Pegasus Constellation

Song of the day: [Ludovico Einaudi - Fly](#)

Haru knocked on my door earlier this evening. I wasn't ready to receive him, but he forced his way in, he seemed concerned. According to him, these giant creatures we see in the footage are not carbon-based like the other lifeforms we've encountered over the years in the Milky Way. These are silicon-based lifeforms.

If his theory is correct, this will be a groundbreaking discovery, proving that Carbon isn't the only building block of life in the Universe. Something that can shatter to pieces the [Carbon Chauvinism](#) in the science community, as well as open a new era of scientific and philosophical exploration.

What Haru told me afterward was even more perturbing than hearing that we are probably going to meet face to face with alien life that exceeds our comprehension of time and space.

[Chimata-no-kami](#), in Japanese Shinto lore, are road spirits, “goddesses of innumerable roads”. He told me he believes these spirits protect borders, either on Earth or on other planets.

“I never thought you’re a superstitious man, Haru”, I told him. “I’m not. I wouldn’t be here if I didn’t believe it was vital to the mission. Please take all of this into consideration. In case we encounter these beings, don’t let fear take hold of you. I’m counting on you” he replied.

As Haru was leaving my cabin, I saw Maeliel. He was surprised to see the biologist in my private chamber. They’re not friendly towards each other. And since I was supposed to keep the reason for his visit a secret, I didn’t try to explain later to Maeliel that nothing happened between Haru and me.

Maeliel ignored me all night. I can’t tell if it was anger, sadness, or jealousy. But he had an unpleasant night for sure. I did too.

Logbook Entry 285

Time: 2:06am, year 2706

Position: The Black Tortoise - Pegasus Constellation

Direction: Planet Osiris - HD 2094858, Pegasus Constellation

Song of the day: [The Egg – Soundtrack \(2019\)](#) (make sure to watch the video too, [here](#))

Five days away from our landing day. I’m feeling a lot of excitement. Everyone is working hard to make this mission a success. Abeona gave each of us a plan after we establish camp at The Arrow of Zelik in the safety of our spaceship in case we encounter any hostile forces. In a nutshell:

-Abeona leads the party, rides the vehicles, and works on the navigation system.

-Maeliel is Abeona’s navigation assistant. He’s also in charge of our gear, supplies, communication, and tech.

-Haru has the mission of collecting as many samples and specimens as possible, as well as keeping us alert in case the “chimata-no-kami” or other unwanted folk decide to join the party.

And finally, I’m in charge of taking as many photographs and videos of the ruins to report back to the Experts back home. And, the cherry on top, figure out what happened to this long-lost civilization.



William Falk's board - Sci-Fi Dome

This morning, as I was taking my morning jog around the Black Tortoise greenhouse, I found Maeliel praying again. I stopped, sat next to him, and joined him. I turned off my network. It felt liberating to simply be.

I don’t remember how long we sat there, in silence. Maeliel grabbed my hand lovingly after a while. We got up and joined the others at the main cabin. Just in time to celebrate The Holy Day of Starfall, the yearly anniversary of the new era of space exploration.

Abeona, usually so rigid in her outfit choices and color schemes, pulled out a magnificent Congolese-themed suit with patterns and colorful designs. Haru dressed in a minimalistic linen outfit. He says it's from synthetic silk made by his colony of worms on the CoRoT 7b planet. He's always so sophisticated and elegant.

Maeliel was dressed in the most unexplainable look. For some reason, he's almost always barefoot in the Nautilus, I love it. I joined him tonight and took off my shoe. A human leg, and a bionic one. A few minutes after, we're all walking barefoot, dancing, laughing, and sharing our hopes for the mission. Maeliel and I held hands in front of the group for the first time too.

Logbook Entry 285

Time: 2:54pm, year 2706

Position: The Black Tortoise - Pegasus Constellation

Direction: Planet Osiris - HD 2094858, Pegasus Constellation

Song of the day: [SevenDoors - Movement of Whale](#)

Abeona shared a confession with me this morning as I went to her cabin to share some reports I was working on. I found her smoking a Neptunian opioid at her desk. She was half naked, like she just got up from bed. I've heard rumors before about her synthetic heart, but I've never seen it up close.

Red, pulsating, electric. I could feel the ebbs and flows of her being as we were sitting by her desk. I tried not to stare, but she said it was okay.

"Did you know I had three beautiful daughters once?" she asked. Before I could reply, she continued. *"[Meili](#), [Anyanwu](#), and [Khonsu](#). They were my biggest pride and my utmost source of joy."*

Abeona was one of the [Xeman Ek](#) Grand Collapse survivors. Xeman Ek was the first satellite built outside of planet Earth once the planet started showing signs of overpopulation. After a few years, new colonies and shuttles emerged, slowly turning Xeman Ek into an abandoned area where critical malfunctions were common.

Even after unprecedented crime rates, no one cared about those that destiny failed, the inhabitants of Xeman Ek. I guess the ancient ones spoke about "the suburbs", these were ours.

With the amount of cosmic debris near the Earth's orbit, as well as the lack of funding for restructuring, Xeman Ek was always prone to damage. On the grand collapse of 2698, Abeona was on a mission to explore a rogue comet. She left her daughters home, promising them she'll bring them three small rocks as souvenirs for them.

The moment she returned, fire was devouring her home, and her daughters. She tried to save them, to no avail. On that day, fire also devoured Abeona's heart.

She showed me the rocks she had picked for her girls, she carved them into her new heart, "to hold them with me forever" she said. Three orange rocks, shimmering like an eternal flame, burning for her love of her daughters.

As she was telling me her story, a call came in from the Main Deck. Her face suddenly changed. Here was the impenetrable and sturdy Captain Abeona I knew well too well.

The Nautilus captain dressed up and took leave, leaving me with a bitter-sweet taste in my mouth. Maybe I have been judging the book by its cover. Weirdly, we also have lots in common, regardless of our differences. Broken, we both learned to dance with chaos and turn calamity into strength.

With these thoughts still on my mind, I heard Abaena's voice once again. With not one ounce of emotion or doubt, she called the crew members to the main deck.

As I was heading there with Haru, who obviously had just gotten out of a crazy experiment (he was covered in green dust), Maeliel and Abaena were standing in the center of the room.

Maeliel gave each of us a box: the N90 invisibility cloak. A precious tool that will help us blend into Osiris's wildlife without letting our sounds, looks, or pheromones get us killed or targeted on the planet.

As a huge antique fan, It reminds me of an old book I once found at the Jupiterian black market. Harry Potter was it called?

Maeliel, when giving me my N90 cloak joked "Out of everyone, I guess you're the hardest one to blend in. No one can miss you, even with an invisibility cloak literally over your purple hair."

Logbook Entry 286

Time: 7:01am, year 2706

Position: The Black Tortoise - Pegasus Constellation

Direction: Planet Osiris - HD 2094858, Pegasus Constellation

Song of the day: [Damabiah - Irminsul, le pilier du monde](#)

I had a weird vivid dream last night.

We were landing on the Arrow of Zelik. It was foggy. I came down the shuttle ship. Haru's transhuman eyes, usually deep blue, turned red. At that same moment, I heard a vibration. It reminded me of the Golden Shields. Fear took over my body.

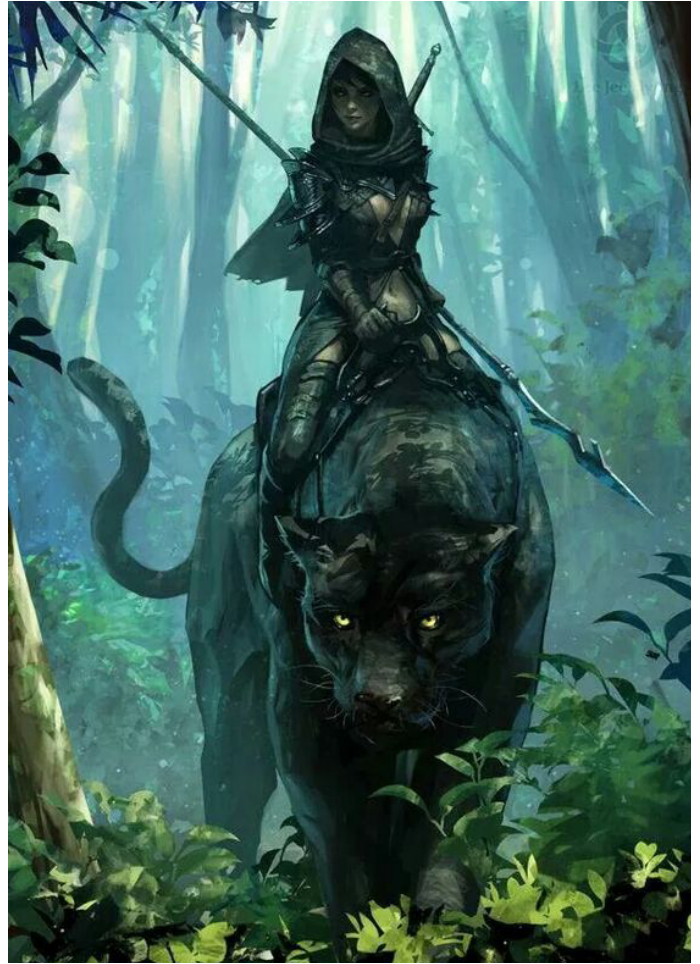
I loaded my arm gun, and looked around me. I was completely alone. Where did everybody go? A giant storm was brewing afar. I spotted Maeliel at a distance. He was running away from me. I followed him into the forest.

From a giant turbine, a waterfall poured into a river. What was this place? I kept staring at the water until I heard a vibration behind me. A giant shadow was moving through the trees. The ground was shaking. I could feel this entity's intentions. To take me in. To absorb me.

I fell at this sight, my body, usually stronger than any arm of massive destruction, was failing me. I felt naked, powerless. I tried screaming, but no sound came out of my mouth.

This [Nephilim](#)-like figure reached an arm towards me, ready to crush me. I closed my eyes, bracing for impact. At that moment, I heard [the sound of a fast flying arrow](#) coming from behind me. It missed me by a few millimeters.

The arrow felt determined. It was sent at such a speed that I could feel the breeze move my hair as it touched the giant shadow. I kept my eyes closed, but when I opened them again, the monster was gone.



Behind me, a scarier sight awaited me. A giant black panther with a hooded archer riding the beast walking towards me. My vision was blurry, but I could've sworn the rider had purple hair...

Logbook Entry 287

Time: 9:30pm, year 2706

Position: The Black Tortoise - Pegasus Constellation

Direction: Planet Osiris - HD 2094858, Pegasus Constellation

Song of the day: [Tennessee - Allan Rayman](#)

Four days before landing. After my confusing dream last night, I couldn't sleep so I decided to spend the night at Maeliel's. He reassured me: he always dreams of the planets he's about to explore before landing. He told me about a recent scientific theory called the EXO Resonance, which implies that each planet's electromagnetic sphere leaves a blueprint on our fragile human psychic awareness and electric coding, especially as cyborgs.

"If I was a planet, I would definitely try to deter incoming invaders by triggering nightmares and visions. Wouldn't you?" he asked.

I love my nonsensical conversations with Maeliel. Our bizarre way of interacting. His broad horizon and vision feed my curiosity. I love how he reassures me, every time. How his hands caress my

scars. How his gaze makes me feel beautiful, desirable.

After we had coffee by the deck today, I headed to the tech-health ward to optimize my built-in weapons, in case I may need them. We're never too protected, right?

Of course, the exploration landing protocol does insist on 1) blending in, 2) retreating to safety, and 3) NEVER engaging in alien contact unless supervised.

Once in the facility, Flinch 32 walked me through the operation. He injected me with Nibiru morphine to block the pain, and I then choose from a catalog of updates. Optimized vision, electromagnetic radar, heat resistant shield...

As I was sitting there, Flinch offered me the ability to update my logbook entry. *"I see you haven't once updated how you use your logbook. Would you like to give the new method a try?"*

The historian in me once found a document explaining how the ancients kept diaries and books, where they shared their life, in retrospect. It's something none of our contemporaries even knew. I mean, my grandparent's way of recording their feelings, life, and information was to film everything through something we once called social media.

For the people my age, this goes way beyond, as people can record everything via their eye lenses, brain implants, and body captors, giving the future generation the ability to relive their memories in the first person. But I don't know, ever since I began writing, I realized how therapeutic it was for me.

For the sake of the mission, I decided to update my logbook to 1st person recording. I still hope to live through the adventure to tell the story.

Logbook Entry 288

Time: 1:05am, year 2706

Position: The Black Tortoise - Pegasus Constellation

Direction: Planet Osiris - HD 2094858, Pegasus Constellation

Song of the day: [Oceanvs Orientalis ~ The Universe](#)

Three days before landing.

Abeona and Maeliel went on a first mini-mission, using the Nautilus to explore the landing area through the air. As they were flying, Haru's Chimata-no-kami giant shapes made an apparition, causing the Nautilus to change course, and potentially risk an imminent crash.

Once back on the Black Tortoise, Abaeona was fuming. *"Fucking hell Haru! The only reason an exoplanet-biologist is on board is to prepare for such encounters. How come we still have no clue on what the fuck these things are, what they want, what they eat, and how dangerous they can be?! I want answers by tomorrow. Make it happen!"*

She continued, this time talking to me *"And you, I hope you're going to have some answers for us too once we land. I don't want this mission to fail because no one is involved in its success. We may be responsible for the biggest leap in human evolution of the century. So get to it guys!"*

Get to it I will.

Logbook Entry 289

Time: 1:05am, year 2706

Position: The Black Tortoise - Pegasus Constellation

Direction: Planet Osiris HD 2094858, Pegasus Constellation

Song of the day: [JUNGLE - FIRE](#)

Haru brought a bottle of saké to my cabin. Once again, he didn't wait for me to invite him inside, he just stormed right in to discuss his findings. He just left a tense meeting with Abeona.

"I have no idea what we're dealing with" he admitted. Apparently, these silicon-based giant shapes are shapeshifters. Their gas composition makes them deadly to human lungs, but thanks to our IAP (interspatial adaptive pills), we should theoretically be fine.

"The good news is that they don't feed on humans. The bad news is that they're highly reactive to movement, even when completely cloaked by our N90 invisibility shield."

I told him about my dream. That vivid sensation of being in great danger. How these creatures ultimately want to absorb us... He took my head in the middle of his palms to stop me from anxiously rambling.

His answer surprised me: *"You know, years of studying the fauna and flora of the universe made me a good judge of character. And you're a marvelous creature indeed. Everyt ime you're worried, it shows. Your body changes. You take more space, but with less precision. You get scattered. It's fascinating, really. As if your body was the canvas through which your brain activity expressed itself. You're like... I don't know. You're like a work of art. I wish you could channel your energy towards your goals, not your fears."*

A long awkward silence followed. I could feel his heart beating faster and faster, and the sensations on his breath as close to mine. I got up, flattered, but troubled.

A question remained in my mind, how come no one saw these shapes before? Wasn't Osiris under surveillance for years and years? Haru raised an eyebrow at my question and pulled out a cigarette.

"You're smart, bionic woman. I like that about you. I asked myself the same question, and the only answer I came up with was to remove the only variable that changed over these years..."

"What changed?" I asked.

After using the bio-engineered built-in lighter in his thumb, Haru looked at me, calmly, and replied *"We weren't here yet"*.

JOURNEY TO HIPPOCRENE



Starship Blackbeard 2 - Lords of Space by Hideyoshi

Logbook Entry 291 LIVE RECORDING MODULE ACTIVATED

Time: 6:02am, year 2706

Position: The Arrow Of Zelik, Planet Osiris - Pegasus Constellation

Direction: Hippocrene Ruins, Planet Osiris - Pegasus Constellation

Song of the day: [Villagers of Ioannina City - Age of Aquarius \(Full Album\)](#)

Landing day.

After a copious meal last night and potent energy drinks this morning, we're heading towards the Nautilus. The individual life shuttles are ready, in case of malfunction during the landing process. These pods are designed to keep us alive in cryogenic form until the future exploration missions can come to our rescue. IF something goes sideways.

Haru, very chatty whenever he's anxious, is singing the poem "Goblet of Life" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, an antique poet who mentions the Hippocrene Ruins:

*No purple flowers, —no garlands green,
Conceal the goblet's shade or sheen,
Nor maddening draughts of Hippocrene,
Like gleams of sunshine, flash between
Thick leaves of mistletoe...*

"SHUT THE HELL UP, HARU!" shouts Abeona. We burst into laughter. Abeona is focused on getting our sturdy Nautilus ready for the ride. As our Captain, she has the perilous mission of manually fighting our ship until the Arrow of Zlik.

With the great technology we have on board, she could've easily chosen the autopilot, but like she told us the night before, she'd "rather be the one to kill us all than be killed by a bunch of stupid rocks". What an image.

Before I plunge into the lifepod, Maeliel comes my way and gives me a passionate kiss: "See you on the other side".

3. 2. 1. I slowly open my eyes. I'm alive, we've landed. I look at my left arm: it's 7:32 am. I see Abeona's face smiling at me and, before I can regain my full consciousness, she shouts: "Rise and shine princess!".

Once regrouped, the Nautilus door opens. We're blinded by the translucid light of the landscape. Osiris may be the name of a god of the underground, but this planet looks like a fairytale.

Unlike anything I've seen before, the planetary landscape isn't just triggering responses from our senses, but also from our other functions. Surprised to see I'm not the only one, I realize my dopamine and serotonin levels are skyrocketing. My blood pressure and tension are in harmony. My breathing is more calm...

Abeona, who suffers from chronic bradycardia, also shares that her heart is beating at a normal pace now. She says it feels... human. This place, just like a magnet or healing crystal, soothes and heals. I am mesmerized.

JOURNEY TO HIPPOCRENE

"This way!" screams Abeona to us via our synched wireless radio earpiece. Mine is different: it's built directly into my ears, as they both didn't make it after my radiations.

After putting on our invisibility cloaks, we ride our special exploration car and head to the forest. Each hour, we'll take a break to collect samples. Maeliel is busy chatting with Abeona. I'm taking pictures and keeping a record of what I see.

On our second stop, Haru takes a look at a small pond of water, near the riverside. *"This is crazy guys! The river isn't toxic as we initially thought, it's made of naturally filtered water. I've never seen anything this pure in over 30 years."*

"Yeah well, don't you dare drink it smarty pants. We're here to collect and explore, not catch foreign water transmissible diseases. You know what happened to the planet of Dat." replied Abeona.

Suddenly, I sense a signal on my radar. I can't believe my senses. How could humanoid technology be in this remote area of the Universe? Did another civilization try to reach this place before? Is this another type of device that shares similarities with our sonars?

I share this information with others and send them the coordinates to see if it's a lead to follow.

"It's 10:01 am now and this signal is 15 minutes away from the ruins. I guess we can take a look at it first," replies Maeliel, backed by Abeona who agrees.

Off we go, following the GPS coordinates. As we approach, the signal gets stronger. Maeliel and Haru, seeing eye to eye for the first time, both lead the way with enthusiasm. As we march forward, the scenery keeps dancing with our senses.

The burgundy cloudy sky is enrapturing, with three moons and a giant planet overlooking our journey. A glimpse through time. In the water, although we can't get too close, we see fluorescent forms curl their way. The soil feels like cotton candy. Each step plunges us deeper and deeper in trance. I'm in love with this place, with this feeling. We all are!



Ruins of metal, Quentin Mabilie

Captivated by what happens below my feet, I get a little behind of the group. When I look back up, I scream. We entered what resembles a forest. And, over a distance, we could see what looks like a giant turbine, probably from an ancient alien spaceship. From this machine, a waterfall pouring into the river. This is what I've seen before.

"We have to go back! This is exactly what I saw in my dream. They're coming." I tried to scream, but I couldn't. My body began hyperventilating. Hoping the others would look my way or sense my fear, I look at them. My legs began shaking.

Maeliel, Abeona and Haru kept walking, peaceful.

A hand touches my back, I snap back to reality. Feeling lost, confused, and desoriented.

JOURNEY TO HIPPOCRENE

“Are you okay?” asks Haru. “Yeah, yeah, I guess. It’s so weird, I just had a déjà-vu... Almost like a waking dream. You guys were walking at a distance, I couldn’t move”.

Haru’s eyes turned red. I’m definitely dreaming. Fear takes over me. As I try waking him up, he fades away, evaporated. From his shadow, a giant cloud forms. I look up, and there it is. The gatekeeper.

Only this time, I didn’t fall to the ground. I didn’t flinch. “It’s just a dream. Wake up. Wake up. I kept telling myself”. I close my eyes. The cloud is now moving at an alarming speed toward me.

“WAKE UP” I hear from a distance.

I open my eyes, the monster is close by, in a matter of seconds, I feel its pulse, power-hungry. It wants to feed on me, on my hopes, on my fears, on my life force. I start running. As a cyborg, my speed is incredible, but I feel weighted down. Like If I was being pulled by a magnet, every step I take feels like quicksand.

I find shelter behind a large yellow tree. The shadow is right behind me. As I try to reach my crew, I realize all my coms and gears are down. I’m off-grid. I’m just a flawed human with weighty legs and arms. Help isn’t coming. I’m on my own.

The pulse gets stronger. I feel the darkness crawling behind me, but I resist. As I get to the ground to camouflage with the surroundings, a rose quartz bow and arrow lay there, waiting for me to pick them up.

Surprised, but almost compelled, I take the bow and start walking backward. At any moment, the monster will appear from behind the tree. When it shows, I will shoot. I pull the cord, close an eye, aim straight ahead of me, and wait.

Inhale. Exhale. Inhale. Exhale. Inhale. Exhale. Silence.

I take another step back, but this time, I hear another inhale behind me, much stronger. I look back. A black panther, double my size is looking down at me. I put my bow down. A wave of indescribable completeness comes over me. A transcending symphony. There. There I was.

“I have been waiting for you. Welcome home.”

To be continued...

THE INSPIRATION

I love sci-fi movies and cyberpunk aesthetics, but I've never written anything on it before. For your story, my main muse was the Sagittarius archetype of the pilgrim. The voyage, the journey, the quest. A hooded rider riding a powerful beast in the forest came to mind. With your Leo rising, and your spiritual energetic blueprint, purple mane also showed themselves to me like an obvious choice.

Your personal transformations, represented by your transits as well as your Saturn Sun conjunction in the 5th, Pluto Mars conjunction in the 4th as well as your Moon Neptune square inspired me in terms of the backbone of the plot, the choice of characters, names, etc.

Last but not least, your Jupiter conjunct your MC (sign of a career / work / legacy built on grand exploration and pioneering spirit), as well as your 9th House Pisces North Node (sign of a spiritual and mystical approach to life, and healing through voyages, internal and external) sealed the deal for me.

The rest of the elements were inspired by other components of the chart, but mainly decided to come forward to entertain, inspire and uplift you.

I hope you loved this story as much as I loved writing (and living) it!

May your light, your truth, your mystic power, and your strength always guide your path, and bring you back to yourself, over and over again, against all odds, all fears, all shadows and monsters, all unknown territories and unfamiliar grounds.

May you embrace the cycles of the pendulum, and constantly swing back to the peace you deserve.

With love and gratitude,

Fatii



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