

# GROOMBRIDGE LOG

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based on the universe of  
**STAR CONTROL**

by: Fred Ford  
Paul Reiche III

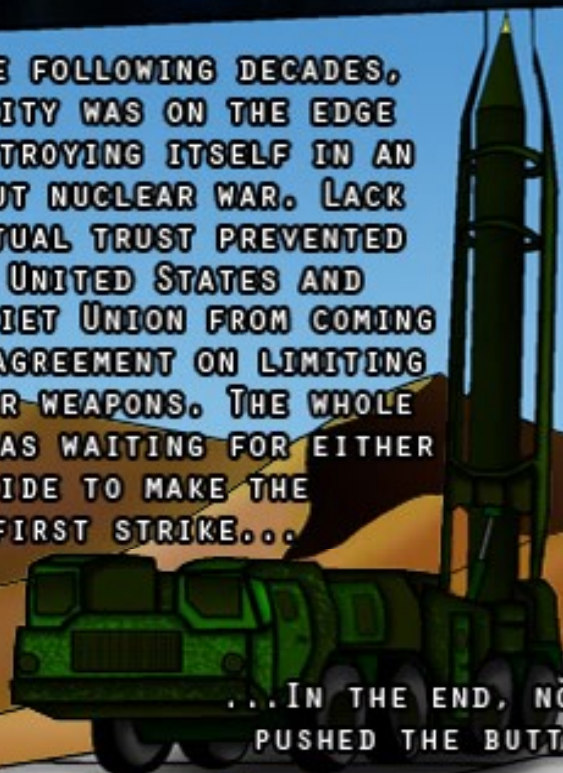
NEUTRON CHAIN REACTION, THE BASIC PRINCIPLE OF ATOMIC BOMBS, WAS DISCOVERED IN THE 1930s.

IN 1939, THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND CANADA STARTED THE MANHATTAN PROJECT WITH THE SOLE PURPOSE TO CREATE THE FIRST NUCLEAR WEAPON.

IT WAS DROPPED ONTO THE CITY OF HIROSHIMA IN JAPAN ON AUGUST 6TH 1945. THREE DAYS LATER A SECOND BOMB WAS USED AGAINST THE CITY OF NAGASAKI. OVER A HUNDRED THOUSAND WERE KILLED.

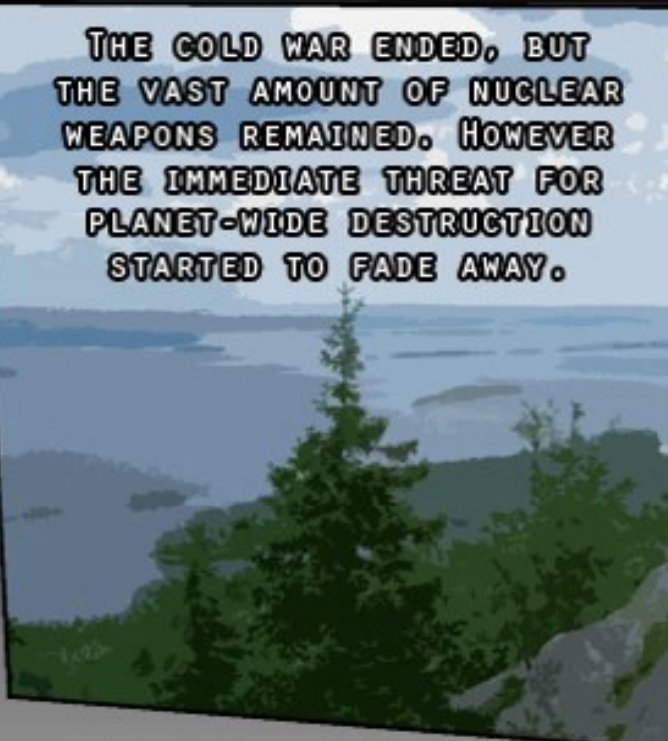


IN THE FOLLOWING DECADES, HUMANITY WAS ON THE EDGE OF DESTROYING ITSELF IN AN ALL-OUT NUCLEAR WAR. LACK OF MUTUAL TRUST PREVENTED THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION FROM COMING TO AN AGREEMENT ON LIMITING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE WHOLE WORLD WAS WAITING FOR EITHER SIDE TO MAKE THE FIRST STRIKE...



...IN THE END, NOBODY PUSHED THE BUTTON.

THE COLD WAR ENDED, BUT THE VAST AMOUNT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS REMAINED. HOWEVER THE IMMEDIATE THREAT FOR PLANET-WIDE DESTRUCTION STARTED TO FADE AWAY.



IN 2015, A NUCLEAR COMBAT BROKE OUT BETWEEN SEVERAL MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES. FORTUNATELY, ONLY A DOZEN WARHEADS WERE LAUNCHED AND WORLDWIDE DISASTER WAS NARROWLY AVOIDED. STILL, ALMOST A MILLION DIED.



THE INCIDENT FORCED GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD TO SOBER UP. THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECIDED UNANIMOUSLY TO STRENGTHEN THE AUTHORITY OF THE U.N. IMMEDIATELY.

WITHIN SIX MONTHS, THE U.N. HAD ASSUMED CONTROL OVER ALL WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.



THE WEAPONS WERE DISMANTLED AND THEIR COMPONENTS STORED IN HUGE SUBTERRANEAN BUNKERS, LATER KNOWN AS "PEACE VAULTS", WHERE THEY REMAINED FOR A HUNDRED YEARS.

THE ERA OF LARGE-SCALE WARS ENDED AND HUMANITY CONTINUED TO MAKE BREAKTHROUGHS IN SCIENCE. IN 2019 HSIEN HO, A SWISS SCIENTIST, PERFECTED THE ARTIFICIAL PARTHENOGENESIS - CLONING - OF HUMANS.



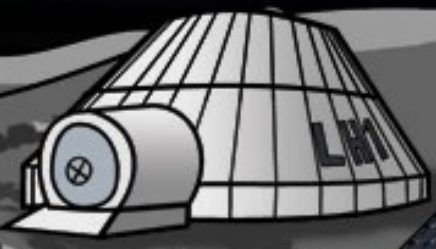
ALTHOUGH THE CLONES WERE NORMAL HUMANS IN EVERY WAY, HSIEN HO MODIFIED THEIR GENES TO MAKE THEM STERILE.

THE CLONES FACED A TOUGH WORLD. MAJOR RELIGIONS WERE AGAINST CLONING AND FOUGHT TO HAVE THE CLONES DECLARED SUB-HUMAN. EVENTUALLY, THEY SUCCEEDED.



THE CLONES WERE CALLED ANDROSYNTHS AND THEY WERE STRIPPED FROM THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS. AS THE YEARS PASSED, THEY BECAME LITTLE BETTER THAN WELL TREATED SLAVES.

BY THE MIDDLE OF THE 21ST CENTURY, COLONIZATION OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM HAD BEGUN. FIRST THERE WERE ORBITAL FACTORIES AND LUNAR BASES, THEN A COLONY ON MARS, AND NOT LONG AFTER, OUTPOSTS IN THE ASTEROID BELT.



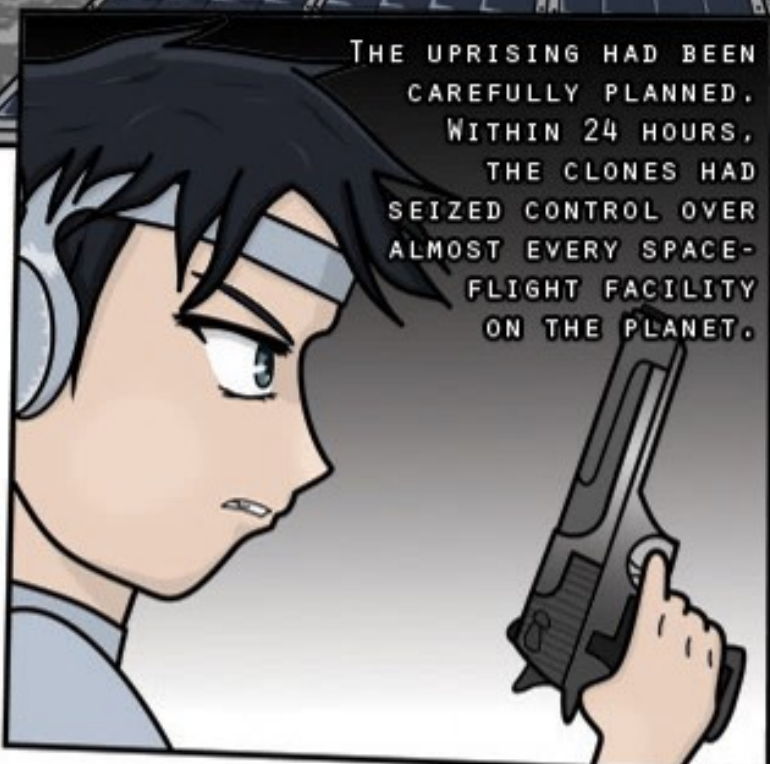
BUT STILL, BECAUSE OF THE GREAT DISTANCES AND RELATIVELY SLOW SPEED AT WHICH SPACECRAFT COULD TRAVEL, HUMANITY WAS IMPRISONED IN ITS OWN SOLAR SYSTEM. RESEARCH SOON BEGAN ON SHIPS CAPABLE OF WARPING TO DISTANT STARS FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT.

BECAUSE THE ANDROSYNTHS WERE STRONGER, SMARTER AND MORE ADAPTABLE THAN NORMAL HUMANS, MANY OF THEM WERE DOING SOPHISTICATED RESEARCH.



THE INEVITABLE HAPPENED IN 2085. THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF ANDROSYNTHS ACROSS THE PLANET STAGED A WORLD-WIDE REBELLION WITH THE HELP FROM A SYMPATHETIC HUMAN UNDERGROUND.

THE UPRISING HAD BEEN CAREFULLY PLANNED. WITHIN 24 HOURS, THE CLONES HAD SEIZED CONTROL OVER ALMOST EVERY SPACE-FLIGHT FACILITY ON THE PLANET.



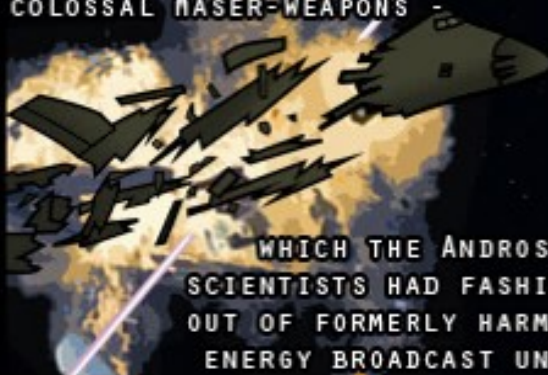
THE ANDROSYNTHS WORKING AT THE FACILITIES HAD SECRETLY PREPARED OVER A THOUSAND SPACECRAFT. ONLY TWO DAYS AFTER THE REBELLION HAD BEGUN, THE CLONES HAD TAKEN OVER ALMOST ALL OF THE ORBITAL AND LUNAR BASES. SOON THERE WASN'T A SINGLE ANDROSYNTH LEFT ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH.



THE UNITED NATIONS MILITARY FORCES' NEW FACTION, STAR CONTROL, TRIED TO SUPPRESS THE REVOLT.



BUT EVERY TIME THEIR SHIPS APPROACHED, THE ANDROSYNTHS BURNED THEM TO ASHES WITH COLOSSAL MASER-WEAPONS



WHICH THE ANDROSYNTH SCIENTISTS HAD FASHIONED OUT OF FORMERLY HARMLESS ENERGY BROADCAST UNITS.

EIGHT OF THE LARGEST SPACE-STATIONS WERE ACCELERATING OUT OF EARTH'S ORBIT.

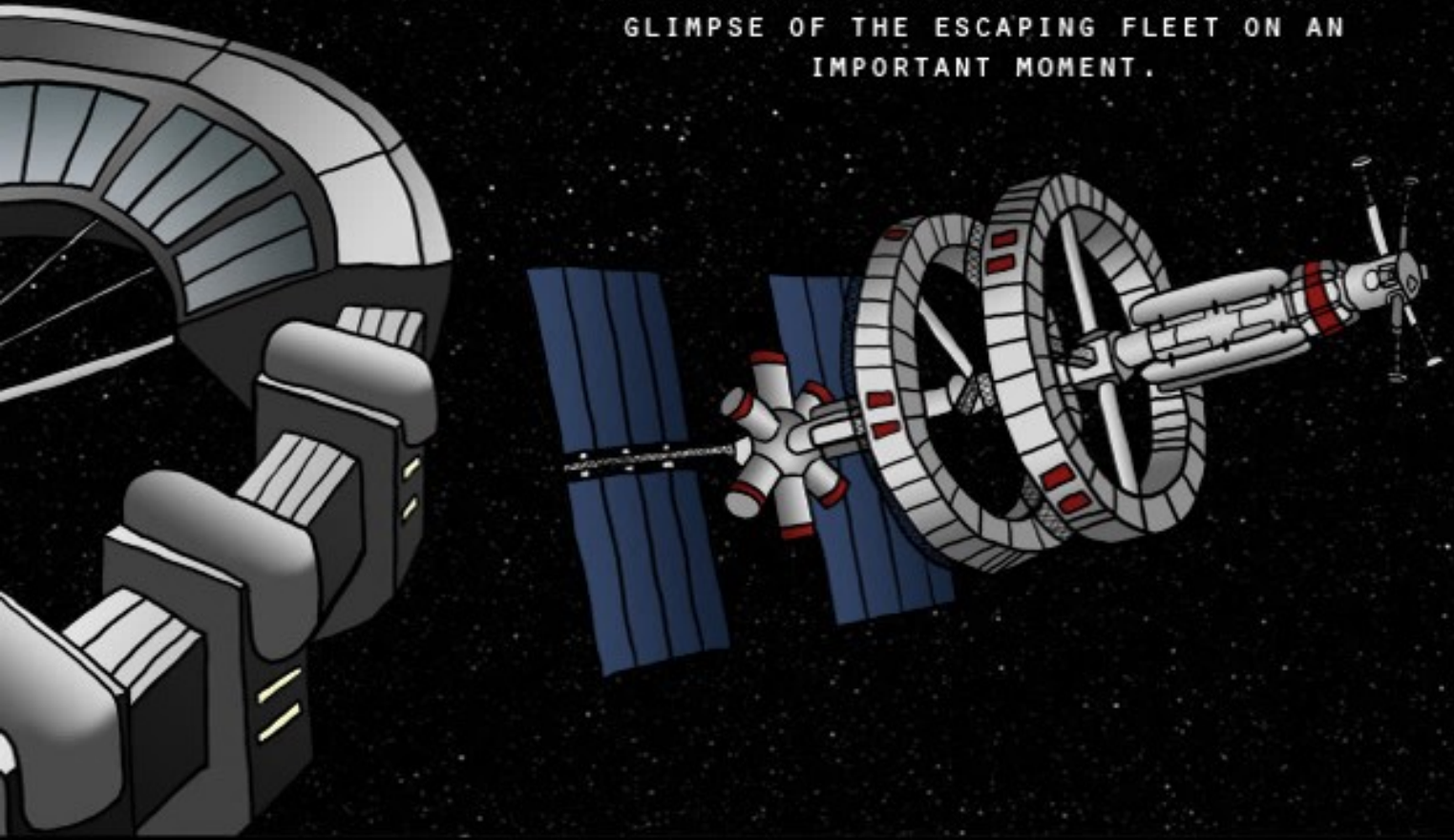


AFTER TWO MONTHS, THE U.N. DECIDED TO OPEN THE PEACE VAULTS.

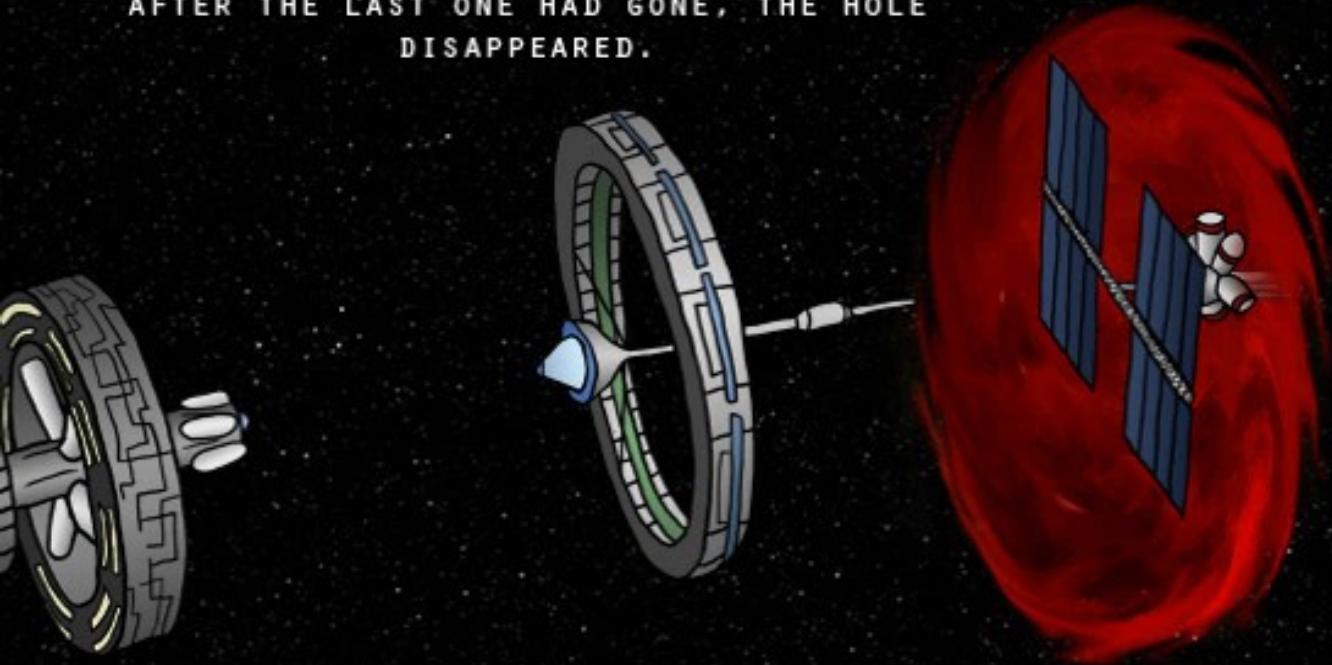
BUT BEFORE THE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION WERE REASSEMBLED, STAR CONTROL PATROL SHIPS REPORTED AN AMAZING SIGHT.

THE ANDROSYNTHS HAD SOMEHOW MANAGED TO MODIFY THE STATIONS (INCLUDING THE RECENTLY FINISHED STARLIGHT HILTON) FOR FLIGHT.

STAR CONTROL CHASE SHIPS COULDN'T KEEP UP WITH THE SPACE STATIONS, BUT AN ORE FREIGHTER ON IT'S WAY HOME FROM THE TITANIUM MINES ON THE ASTEROID BELT WAS ABLE TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE ESCAPING FLEET ON AN IMPORTANT MOMENT.



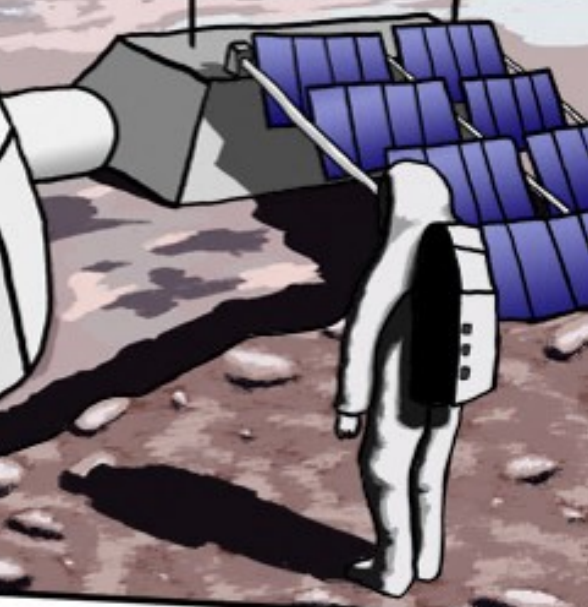
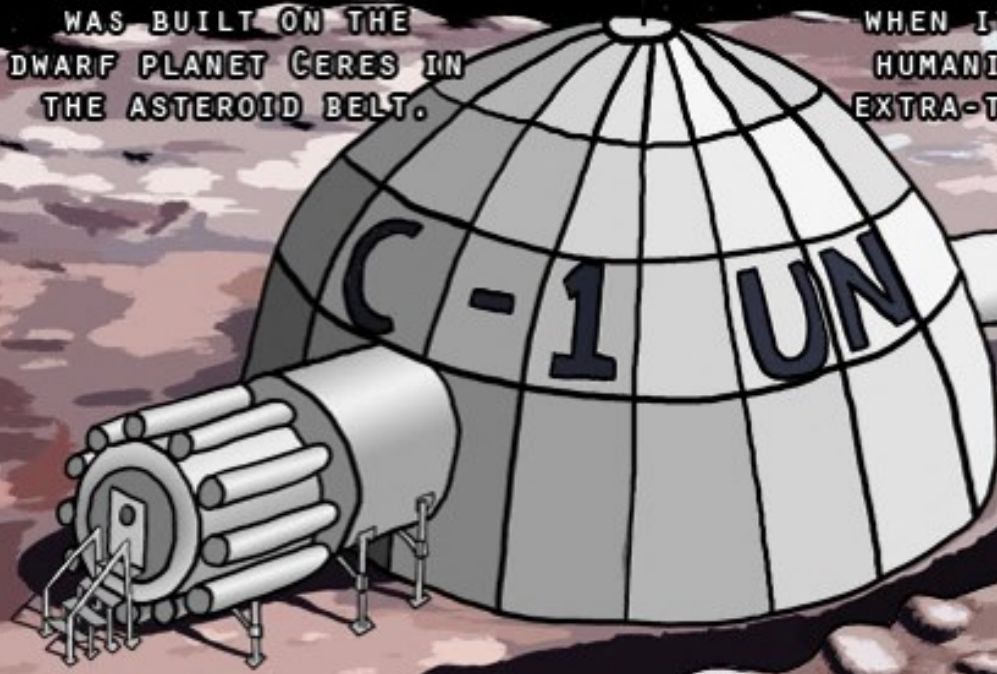
ACCORDING TO THE PILOT'S TESTIMONY, A "GREAT RED HOLE" APPEARED IN FRONT OF THE SPACE STATIONS. THE STATIONS FLEW INTO THE HOLE ONE BY ONE AND VANISHED. ONLY SECONDS AFTER THE LAST ONE HAD GONE, THE HOLE DISAPPEARED.



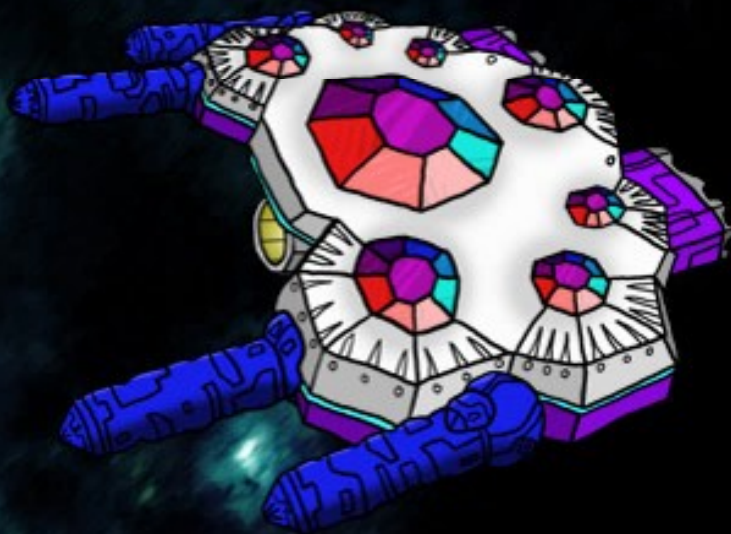
IT TOOK OVER 30 YEARS UNTIL HUMANS MET THE ANDROSYNTHS AGAIN.

IN 2112, THE MOST DISTANT HUMAN SPACE INSTALLATION WAS BUILT ON THE DWARF PLANET CERES IN THE ASTEROID BELT.

THREE YEARS LATER THE BASE RECEIVED UNEXPECTED PUBLICITY WHEN IT BECAME THE SETTING FOR HUMANITY'S FIRST CONTACT WITH EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE.



AN ALIEN SHIP SUDDENLY APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE.



IT POSITIONED ITSELF THREE KILOMETERS ABOVE THE ASTEROID AND BEGAN BROADCASTING THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

*People from Earth: We are the Chenjesu. We mean you no harm. We come in peace with an urgent message. Heed these words: There is a horde of conquering warriors advancing toward your solar system from deep space. They are called the Ur-Quan. They know you are here. They will make slaves of you as they have made slaves of a thousand races across the galaxy. They will enslave both our species, Chenjesu and Human, unless we stop them now. We are not alone in our struggle. There are others who will fight with us against the Ur-Quan. Together – in an alliance with the remaining free stars – we may yet turn back the enemy, defeating the Ur-Quan and its Hierarchy of battle thralls.*

*We beseech you to join us, for we desperately need your help. But we do not have much time.*

*What is your answer?*

FOR OVER A WEEK, THE ONLY ANSWER FROM EARTH WAS STUNNED SILENCE.



THE CHENJESU REPRESENTATIVES WERE PATIENT. THEY UNDERSTOOD THE GREAT PSYCHOLOGICAL SHOCK THEIR SUDDEN APPEARANCE HAD ON THE HUMANS - A RACE THAT AMAZINGLY HAD NEVER BEEN IN CONTACT WITH ANOTHER INTELLIGENT SPECIES.

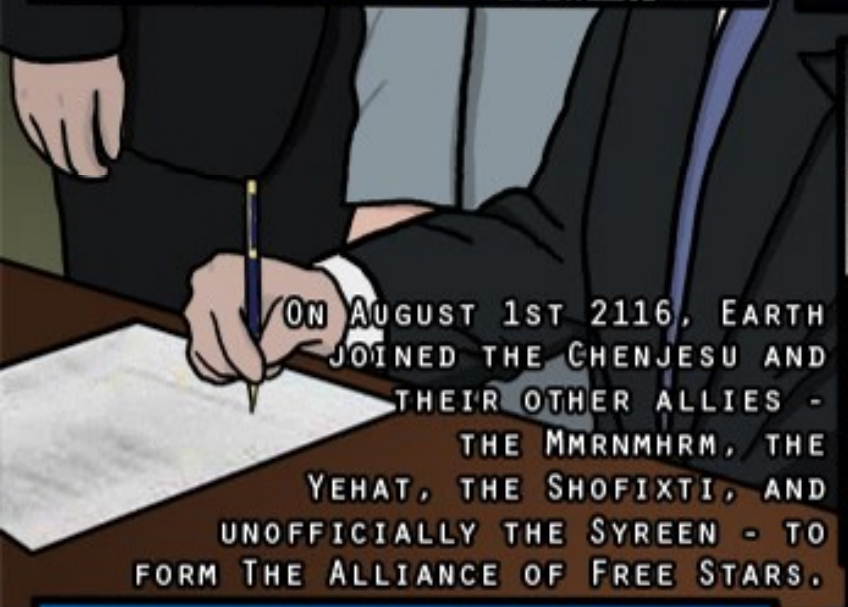


THE CRYSTALLINE SILICON-BASED CHENJESU SOON BECAME FAMILIAR TO ALL HUMANS.

FOR SEVERAL MONTHS THEY CONFERRED WITH POLITICAL, MILITARY AND SCIENTIFIC LEADERS OF EARTH.



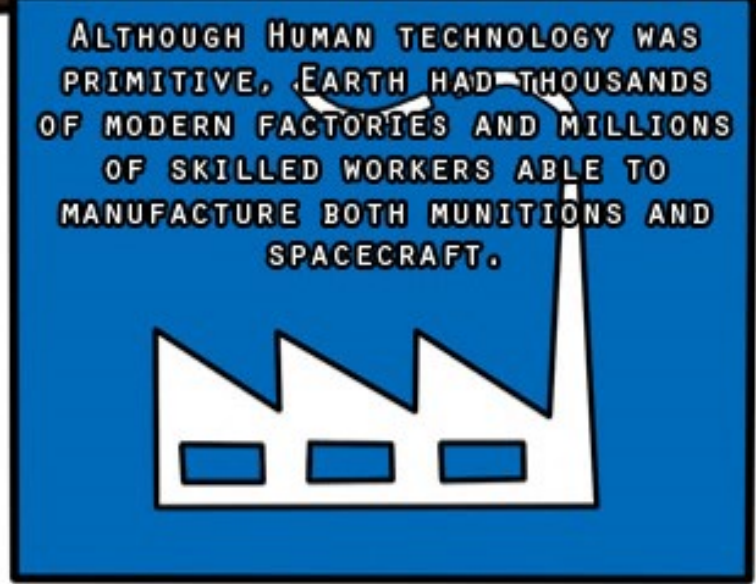
MEANWHILE, THE CHENJESU STARSHIP TRANSPORTED U.N. OBSERVERS TO VISIT SEVERAL WORLDS THAT HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY THE UR-QUAN.



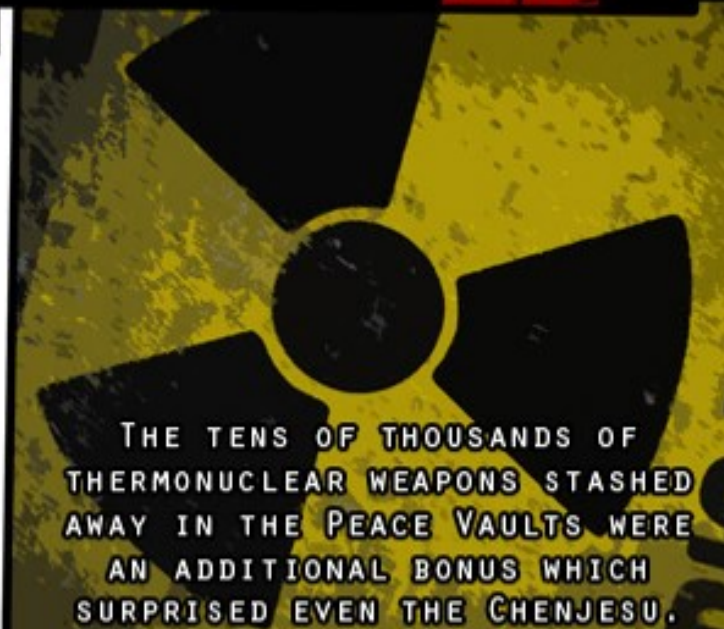
ON AUGUST 1ST 2116, EARTH JOINED THE CHENJESU AND THEIR OTHER ALLIES - THE MMRNHRM, THE YEHAH, THE SHOFIXTI, AND UNOFFICIALLY THE SYREEN - TO FORM THE ALLIANCE OF FREE STARS.



STAR CONTROL WAS PLACED UNDER DIRECT AUTHORITY OF THE ALLIANCE COMMAND COUNCIL. THE CHENJESU EXPECTED EARTH TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE ALLIANCE, BOTH AS COMBATANTS AND SUPPLIERS OF WAR MATERIAL.

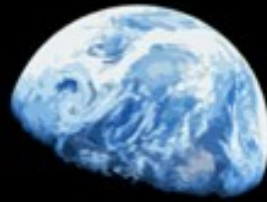


ALTHOUGH HUMAN TECHNOLOGY WAS PRIMITIVE, EARTH HAD THOUSANDS OF MODERN FACTORIES AND MILLIONS OF SKILLED WORKERS ABLE TO MANUFACTURE BOTH MUNITIONS AND SPACECRAFT.



THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF THERMONUCLEAR WEAPONS STASHED AWAY IN THE PEACE VAULTS WERE AN ADDITIONAL BONUS WHICH SURPRISED EVEN THE CHENJESU.

ON THE DAY FOLLOWING EARTH'S INDUCTION  
INTO THE ALLIANCE, AN UNKNOWN ALIEN SHIP  
LANDED ON THE MOON.



THE SHIP TRANSMITTED A REQUEST  
TO MEET WITH ALLIANCE REPRESENTATIVES  
AND SOON AFTERWARDS A DELEGATION OF  
HUMAN AND CHENJESU DIPLOMATS WENT  
TO THE LUNAR SURFACE.



THE NEWCOMERS, WHO DISTURBINGLY WERE  
LITTLE GREEN MEN IN FLYING SAUCERS,  
INTRODUCED THEMSELVES AS THE  
ARILLOULALEELAY. THEY EXPLAINED THAT  
THEY TOO WERE THREATENED BY THE  
UR-QUAN AND HAD COME TO JOIN  
THE ALLIANCE OF FREE STARS.



THE ARILOU WERE EXTREMELY  
SECRETIVE - UNWILLING TO  
EVEN DISCUSS THE LOCATION  
OF THEIR HOMEWORLDS.



BUT THEY PROVIDED ADDITIONAL  
STRENGTH TO THE ALLIANCE AND  
EVERYONE WELCOMED THEM WITH  
OPEN ARMS.



THE UR-QUAN HAD ARRIVED IN OUR REGION OF SPACE FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE GALACTIC CORE OVER TEN YEARS BEFORE HUMANS JOINED THE ALLIANCE. THEY HAD FIRST ENSLAVED THE UMGAH, A SOLITARY BLOBBISH SPECIES IN THE ORIONIS CONSTELLATION.

SHORTLY AFTER, THE UR-QUAN ATTACKED THE HOSTILE BUT WEAK SPIDER-LIKE ILWRATH. THE CHENJESU AND THEIR OLD FRIENDS THE MMRNMHRM WERE NEXT, BUT TOGETHER THEY WERE ABLE TO FEND OFF THE INVADING ARMADA.

IN 2119 THE FIRST EARTHLING CRUISERS WERE READY. THEY WERE ON THEIR WAY TO SUPPORT THE YEHAAT AND THE SHOFIXTI WHEN THE FLEET ENCOUNTERED A BATTLE GROUP OF VUX, A SPECIES ONLY THE YEHAAT HAD KNOWN TO EXIST.

THEN, THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF THE WAR WAS MADE.

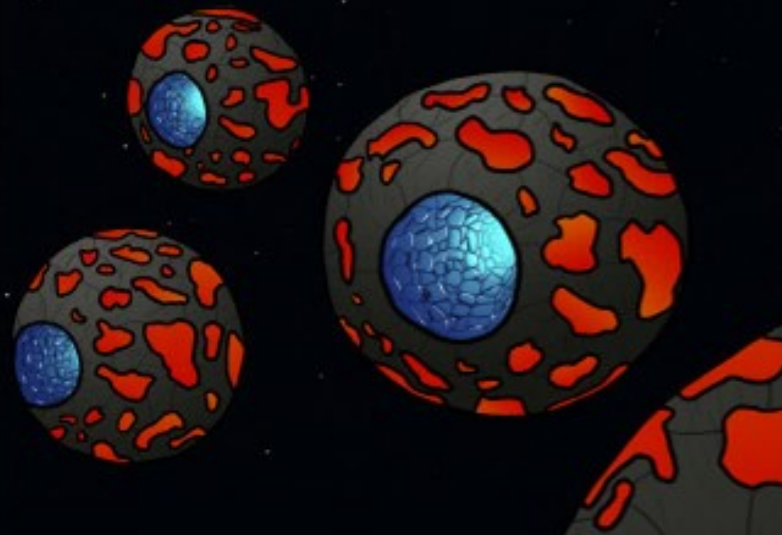
THE UR-QUAN FLEET CHANGED DIRECTION AND SUBJUGATED THE SPATHI FACING LITTLE RESISTANCE. THIS WAS SHORTLY BEFORE EARTH JOINED THE ALLIANCE.



THE DETAILS ARE UNCLEAR, BUT CAPTAIN JEFFRY L. RAND SOMEHOW INSULTED THE VUX IN A WAY THAT MADE ALL VUX DESPISE HUMANS FOREVER. THE VUX SOON JOINED THE UR-QUAN HIERARCHY AS BATTLE THRALLS AND BECAME A FEARED ENEMY FOR THE ALLIANCE.



THE MYCON VOLUNTARILY BECAME FIGHTING SLAVES AND SOON THE UR-QUAN FLEET RETURNED, ACCOMPANIED BY HUNDREDS OF DEVASTATING MYCON PODSHIPS. THE ALLIANCE WAS ONLY BARELY ABLE TO HOLD THE LINE.



AFTER THE VUX WERE FORCED TO JOIN THE HIERARCHY, THE UR-QUAN IMMEDIATELY TRIED TO ADVANCE, BUT WERE STOPPED BY THE COMBINED MIGHT OF THE YEHAAT AND THE SHOFIXTI, SUPPORTED BY THE FIRST WAVE OF CRUISERS. THE UR-QUAN FLEET TURNED AWAY TO ATTACK A NEW RACE, THE MYCON.



WHEN SEVERAL EARTHLING CRUISERS WERE PATROLLING THE COREWARD FRONT NEAR THE VULPECULAE STAR CLUSTER, THE ALLIANCE RECEIVED MORE BAD NEWS.



WITH A BLAZE OF RED LIGHT, UNKNOWN ALIEN SHIPS APPEARED IN FRONT OF THE FLEET. NOT GIVING THEIR OPPONENTS TIME TO DO ANYTHING, THEY RUTHLESSLY CHOPPED DOWN EVERY CRUISER INTO TINY BITS.

THEY WERE ANDROSYNTHS.

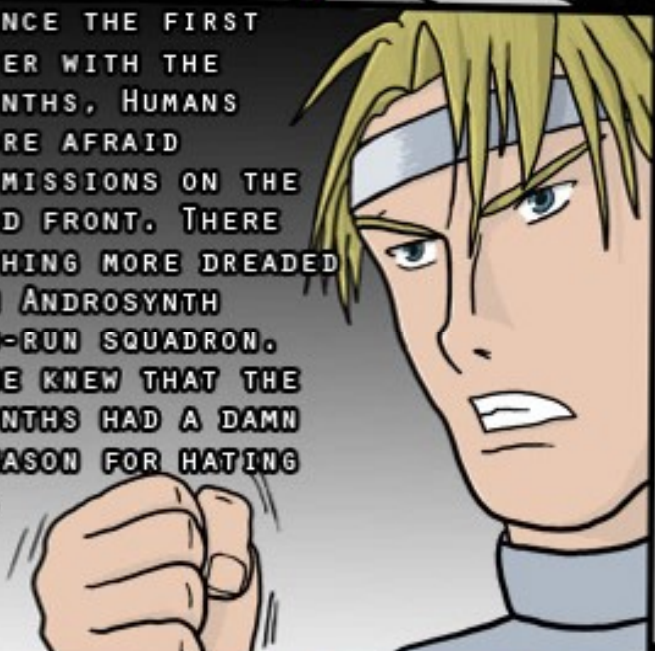


LATER ON THE ALLIANCE LEARNED THAT SHORTLY AFTER THE UR-QUAN HAD SUBJUGATED THE SPATHI, THEY MOVED TO ETA VULPECULAE WHERE THE ANDROSYNTHS HAD SET UP A COLONY AFTER FLEEING FROM EARTH.

AFTER A SHORT BUT INTENSE BATTLE, THE ANDROSYNTHS HAD SURRENDERED AND BECAME HIERARCHY BATTLE THRALLS.



EVER SINCE THE FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH THE ANDROSYNTHS, HUMANS WERE MORE AFRAID DURING MISSIONS ON THE COREWARD FRONT. THERE WAS NOTHING MORE DREADED THAN AN ANDROSYNTH HIT-AND-RUN SQUADRON. EVERYONE KNEW THAT THE ANDROSYNTHS HAD A DAMN GOOD REASON FOR HATING HUMANS.



IN 2120, ONE MORE RACE JOINED THE CONFLICT. THE SYREEN HAD LOST THEIR HOME WORLD IN A MYSTERIOUS HORRIBLE CATAclySM IN 2035 AND HAD BEEN WANDERING THE STARS EVER SINCE.

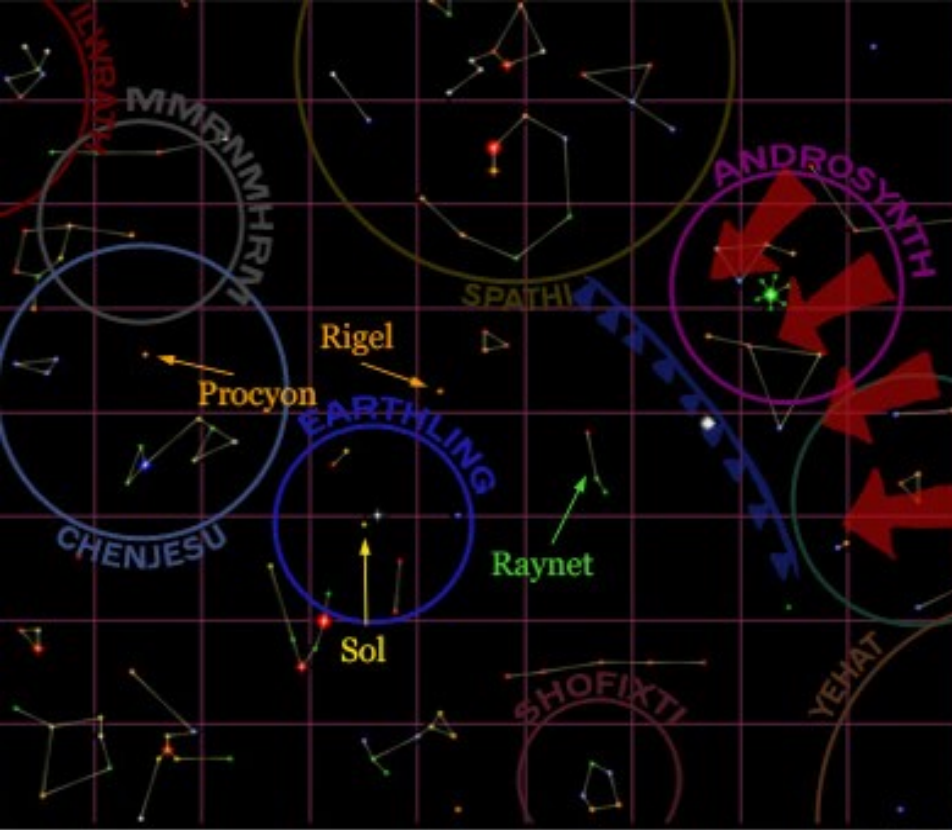


WHEN THEIR SLOW-MOVING HABITATS WERE RECENTLY ATTACKED BY THE UR-QUAN, THEY ESCAPED INTO HUMAN SPACE AND BECAME UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE.

THE SYREEN RESEMBLE HUMANS IN ALMOST EVERY WAY.

FOR SOME REASON ALL SYREEN STARSHIP OFFICERS ARE FEMALE.





THE SIDES WERE SET AND THE UR-QUAN LAUNCHED THEIR FINAL OFFENSIVE, TRYING TO BREAK THROUGH THE INDI AND MIRA STAR SYSTEMS.

IN THE ALLIANCE WERE THE EARTHLINGS, THE CHENJESU, THE YEHAT, THE MMRNMHRM, THE ARILOULALEELAY, THE SYREEN, AND THE SHOFIXTI. FIGHTING WITH THE UR-QUAN WERE THE MYCON, THE SPATHI, THE ANDROSYNTHS, THE VUX, THE ILWRATH, AND THE UMGAH.

OVER THE FOLLOWING TEN YEARS, THERE WERE MANY GREAT BATTLES BETWEEN THE ALLIANCE OF FREE STARS AND THE UR-QUAN HIERARCHY.

THEN, IN 2134, THE COURSE OF THE WAR CHANGED DRAMATICALLY.

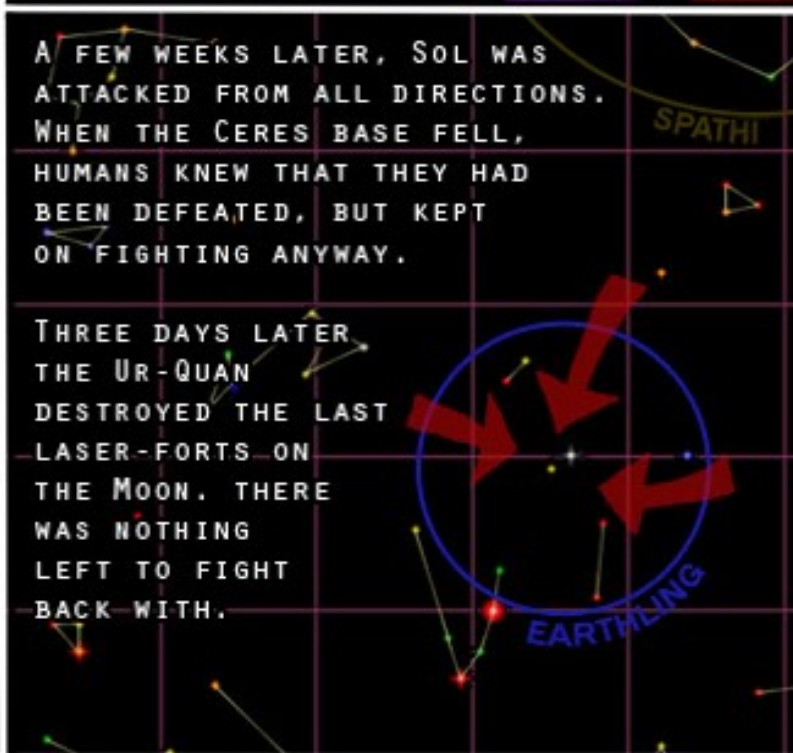


A FEW WEEKS LATER, SOL WAS ATTACKED FROM ALL DIRECTIONS. WHEN THE CERES BASE FELL, HUMANS KNEW THAT THEY HAD BEEN DEFEATED, BUT KEPT ON FIGHTING ANYWAY.

THREE DAYS LATER THE UR-QUAN DESTROYED THE LAST LASER-FORTS ON THE MOON. THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT TO FIGHT BACK WITH.

THE FLEETS OF THE ALLIANCE WERE PUSHED BACK TO BEYOND RAYNET. THE CHENJESU FORCES WERE SUFFERING GREAT LOSSES WHILE HOLDING RIGEL. RECOGNIZING THIS, THE UR-QUAN FOCUSED THEIR FORCES ON PROCYON, THE CHENJESU'S HOME STAR.

THE CHENJESU AND THE MMRNMHRM WERE NEVER HEARD FROM AGAIN.

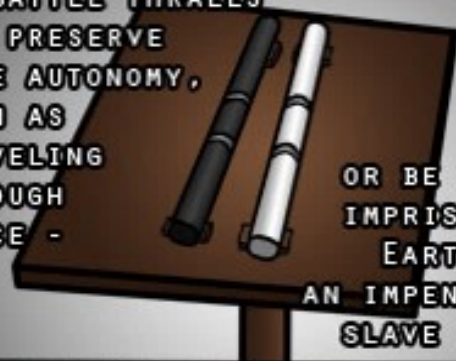


THE UR-QUAN DECIDED TO MAKE THE RESULT OF THE WAR REALLY CLEAR. DREADNOUGHTS TOOK POSITIONS ABOVE ROME, MOSCOW, BEIJING, TOKYO, LONDON, BUENOS AIRES AND WASHINGTON - AND COMPLETELY LEVELLED THEM.



AFTER THE U.N. SUBMITTED THEIR FORMAL SURRENDER, EARTH HAD ONE WEEK TO DECIDE THE NATURE OF THE SERVITUDE. THE UR-QUAN DEMANDED THAT THE DECISION WOULD BE MADE THROUGH A POPULAR VOTE.

EITHER HUMANS WOULD JOIN THE HIERARCHY AS BATTLE THRALLS AND PRESERVE SOME AUTONOMY, SUCH AS TRAVELING THROUGH SPACE -



OR BE FOREVER IMPRISONED ON EARTH UNDER AN IMPENETRABLE SLAVE SHIELD.

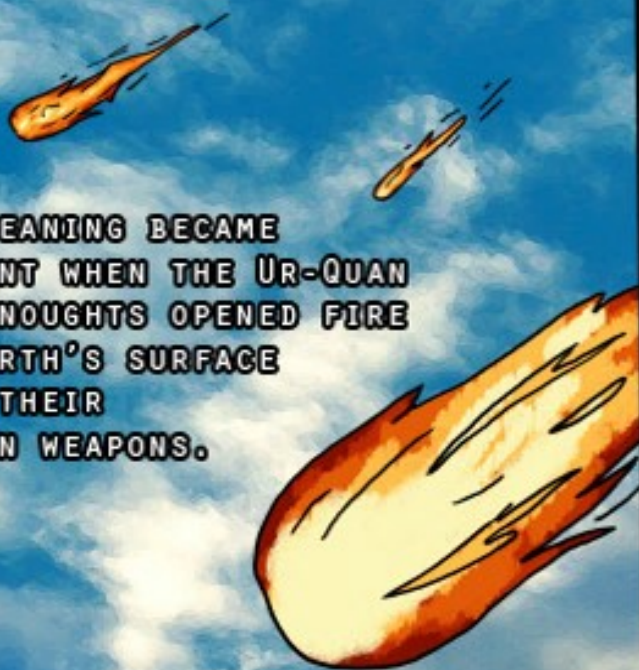
EARTH CHOSE NOT TO FIGHT FOR THE UR-QUAN.



ONE MONTH WAS GIVEN TO WITHDRAW ALL PEOPLE AND EQUIPMENT TO EARTH. ANYONE OR ANYTHING LEFT OUTSIDE WOULD BE DESTROYED WHEN THE SHIELD WENT UP.

THEN THE UR-QUAN GAVE AN ODD MESSAGE: ALL HUMAN CONSTRUCTIONS OLDER THAN 500 YEARS WERE TO BE ABANDONED.

THE MEANING BECAME EVIDENT WHEN THE UR-QUAN DREADNOUGHTS OPENED FIRE ON EARTH'S SURFACE WITH THEIR FUSION WEAPONS.



THE FLAMING RAIN LASTED FOR 40 HELLISH HOURS. AFTER THE RAIN IT TOOK DAYS TO REALIZE THAT MOST OF THE HISTORY OF MANKIND HAD BEEN LOST. LARGE SECTIONS OF EUROPEAN CITIES WERE INCINERATED.



THE UR-QUAN HAD ALSO ERASED THE PARTHENON, STONEHENGE, THE GIZA PYRAMIDS AND SIMILAR TARGETS. CURIOUSLY, THE UNITED STATES WAS ALMOST UNTOUCHED.

THE UR-QUAN ALSO DESTROYED SOME PLACES THAT WEREN'T THOUGHT TO BE SIGNIFICANT.

FROM THEIR POSITIONS IN ORBIT, THE DREADNOUGHTS BLEW AWAY A KILOMETER OF LAND IN CENTRAL IRAQ, VAPORIZED SEVERAL TARGETS IN THE AMAZON RAIN FOREST, PUNCHED A BIG HOLE THROUGH THE ANTARCTIC ICECAP TO DESTROY SOMETHING DEEP UNDER THE SURFACE AND MELTED A BROAD SWATH OF THE OCEAN FLOOR IN THE SOUTH-EASTERN ATLANTIC.



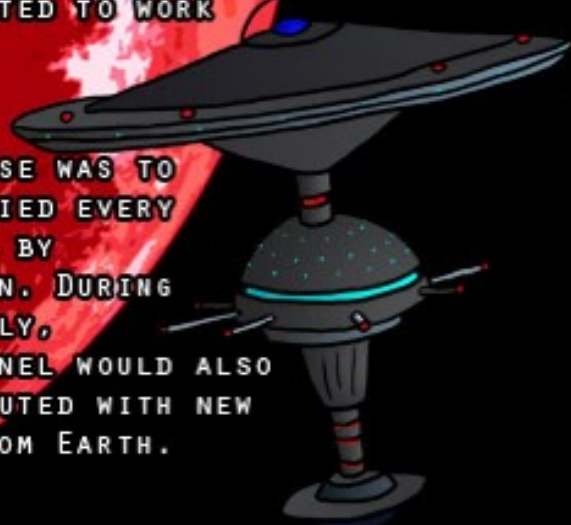
JUST A COUPLE OF DAYS LATER, THE SLAVE SHIELD WENT UP AND EARTH LOST ALL COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR ALLIES - THE SYREEN, THE ARILOU, THE SHOFIXTI AND THE YEHAAT - REMAINS UNKNOWN.



THE UR-QUAN SET UP A STARBASE IN EARTH'S ORBIT TO SERVICE HIERARCHY SHIPS. NEARLY 2000 HUMANS, ALL SKILLED PROFESSIONALS, WERE SELECTED TO WORK THERE.

THE STARBASE WAS TO BE RESUPPLIED EVERY FIVE YEARS BY THE UR-QUAN. DURING THE RESUPPLY, THE PERSONNEL WOULD ALSO BE SUBSTITUTED WITH NEW MEMBERS FROM EARTH.



A GROUP OF ILWRATH AND SPATHI SHIPS WERE STATIONED ON THE MOON TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE STARBASE.





**THEN, 13 YEARS LATER, 8 YEARS AGO, WE WERE CHOSEN TO WORK AT THAT STARBASE. AND IF THE RESUPPLY VESSEL DOESN'T COME SOON, OUR STORY WILL END HERE.**



**DOES THAT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION?**



**I THINK I ASKED YOU ABOUT FLOWERS.**

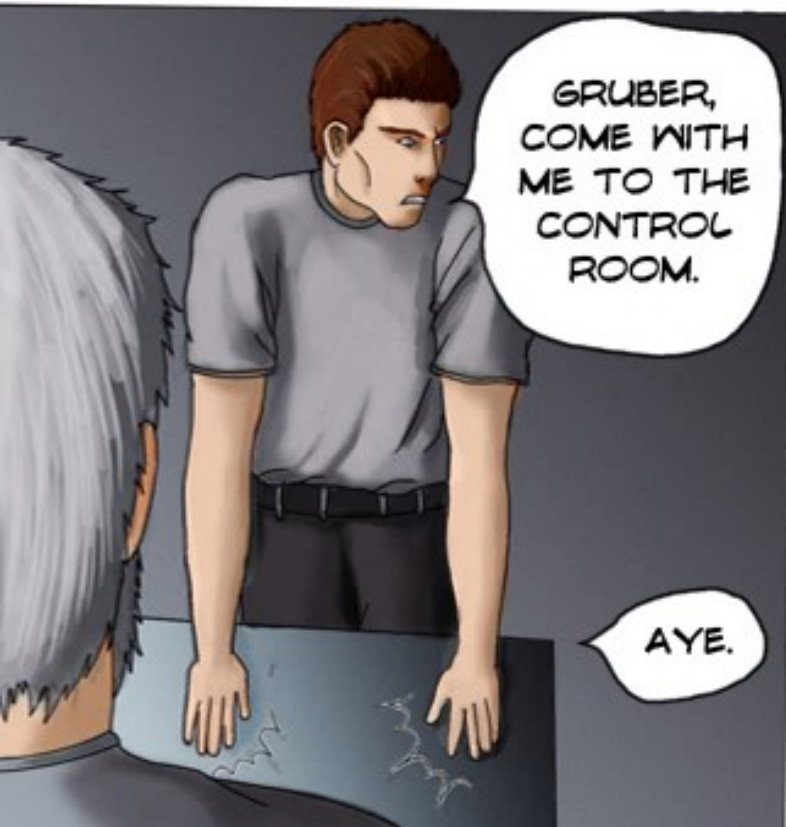
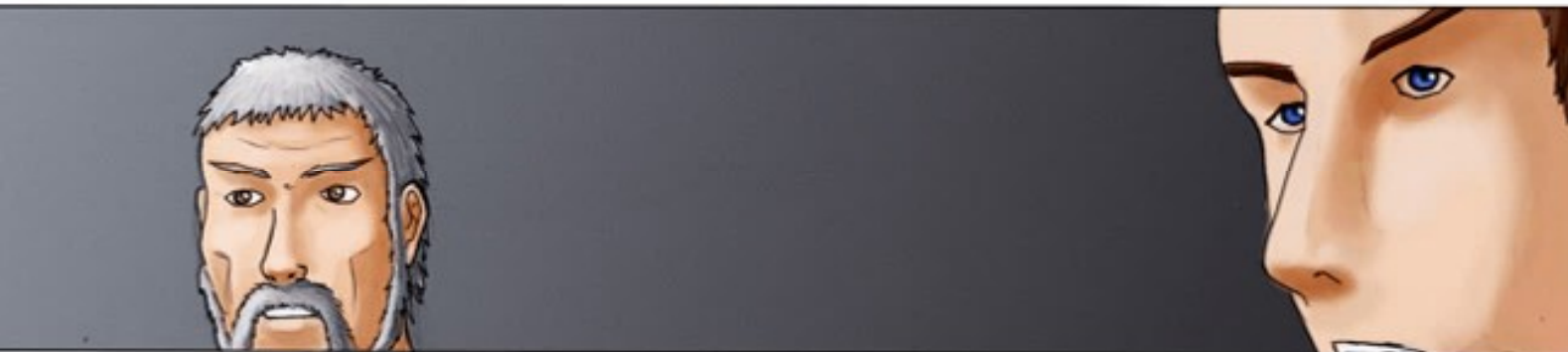
# CHAPTER 1

THE FIRST CONTACT





COMMANDER!  
WE'VE DETECTED  
A SHIP!  
I THINK IT'S THE  
RESUPPLY  
VESSEL!



GRUBER,  
COME WITH  
ME TO THE  
CONTROL  
ROOM.

AYE.



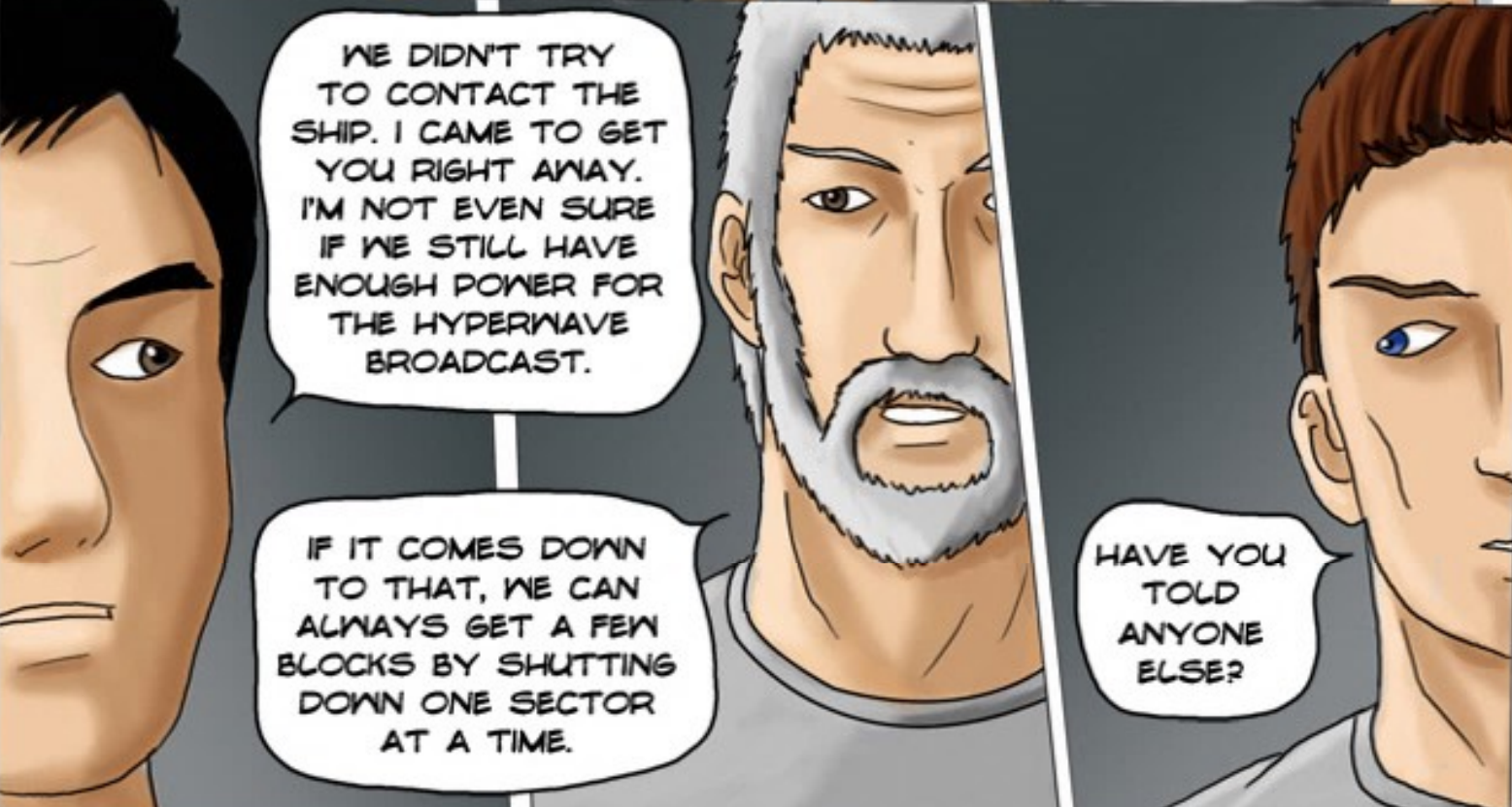
WALK WITH  
US AND  
FILL ME IN.

YES  
SIR!






SINCE OUR DEEP RADAR IS OFFLINE, WE COULDN'T SEE IT UNTIL WE DETECTED ITS GRAVITY WAVES - WHICH ARE EXCEPTIONALLY STRONG.



WE DIDN'T TRY TO CONTACT THE SHIP. I CAME TO GET YOU RIGHT AWAY. I'M NOT EVEN SURE IF WE STILL HAVE ENOUGH POWER FOR THE HYPERWAVE BROADCAST.

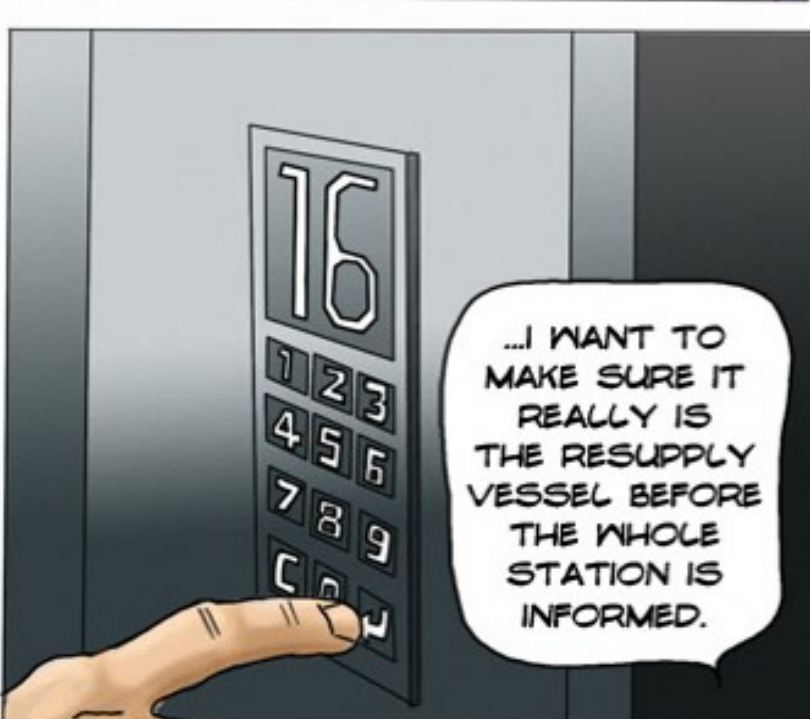
IF IT COMES DOWN TO THAT, WE CAN ALWAYS GET A FEW BLOCKS BY SHUTTING DOWN ONE SECTOR AT A TIME.

HAVE YOU TOLD ANYONE ELSE?

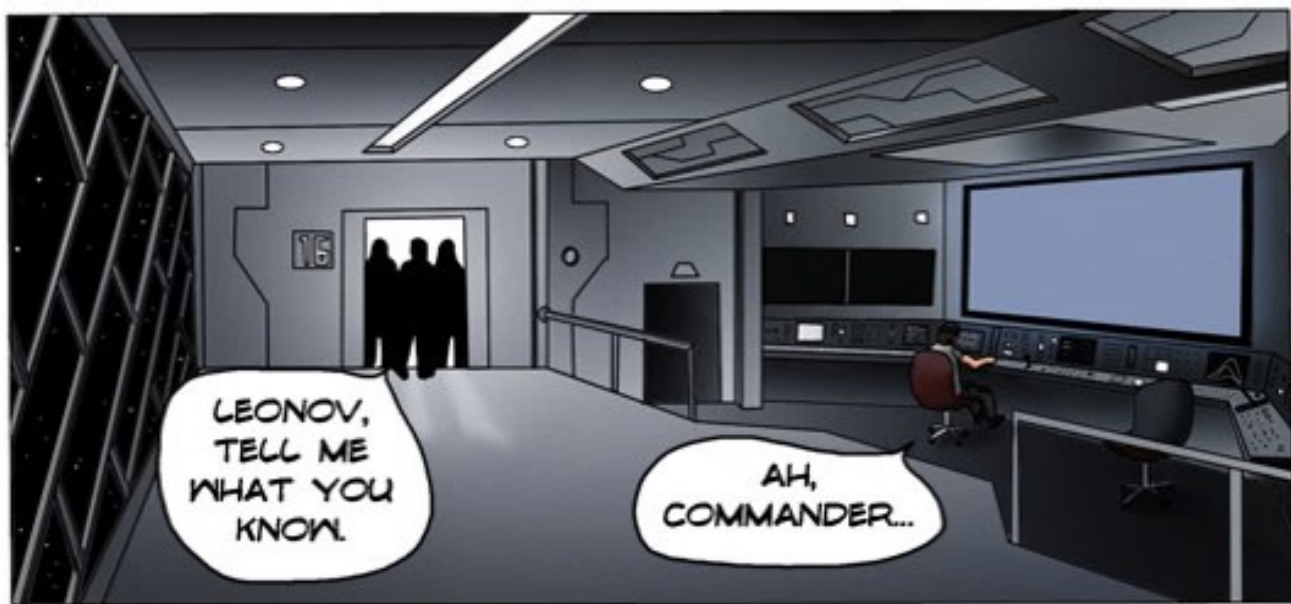


LEONOV DETECTED THE SHIP SO HE KNOWS, BUT THAT'S ALL. HE SHOULD BE IN THE CONTROL ROOM RIGHT NOW.

GOOD...



...I WANT TO MAKE SURE IT REALLY IS THE RESUPPLY VESSEL BEFORE THE WHOLE STATION IS INFORMED.



LEONOV,  
TELL ME  
WHAT YOU  
KNOW.

AH,  
COMMANDER...

I'VE BEEN ANALYZING THE GRAVITY  
WAVES AND I'M PRETTY SURE  
THIS SHIP TYPE IS NOT IN OUR  
DATA BANKS. WHATEVER IT IS,  
IT'S BIGGER THAN A DREADNOUGHT.



I'LL TRY TO  
CONTACT IT.  
PUT THEM ON  
THE MAIN SCREEN.



ATTENTION UNIDENTIFIED SPACE  
VESSEL! I AM STARBASE COMMANDER  
HAYES OF THE SLAVE PLANET EARTH.  
OUR HYPERWAVE BROADCAST IS  
EXTREMELY WEAK. OUR SITUATION IS  
CRITICAL -- ENERGY CORES ARE  
EXHAUSTED. SCANNERS AND DEEP  
RADAR ARE NON-FUNCTIONAL. WE  
CANNOT IDENTIFY YOUR VESSEL.  
ARE YOU THE HIERARCHY RESUPPLY  
SHIP? REPEAT, ARE YOU  
THE RESUPPLY VESSEL?



LOOKS LIKE WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH POWER FOR A NORMAL BROADCAST. WE CAN SEND AND RECEIVE TEXT ONLY.

...THEY ARE RESPONDING NOW.

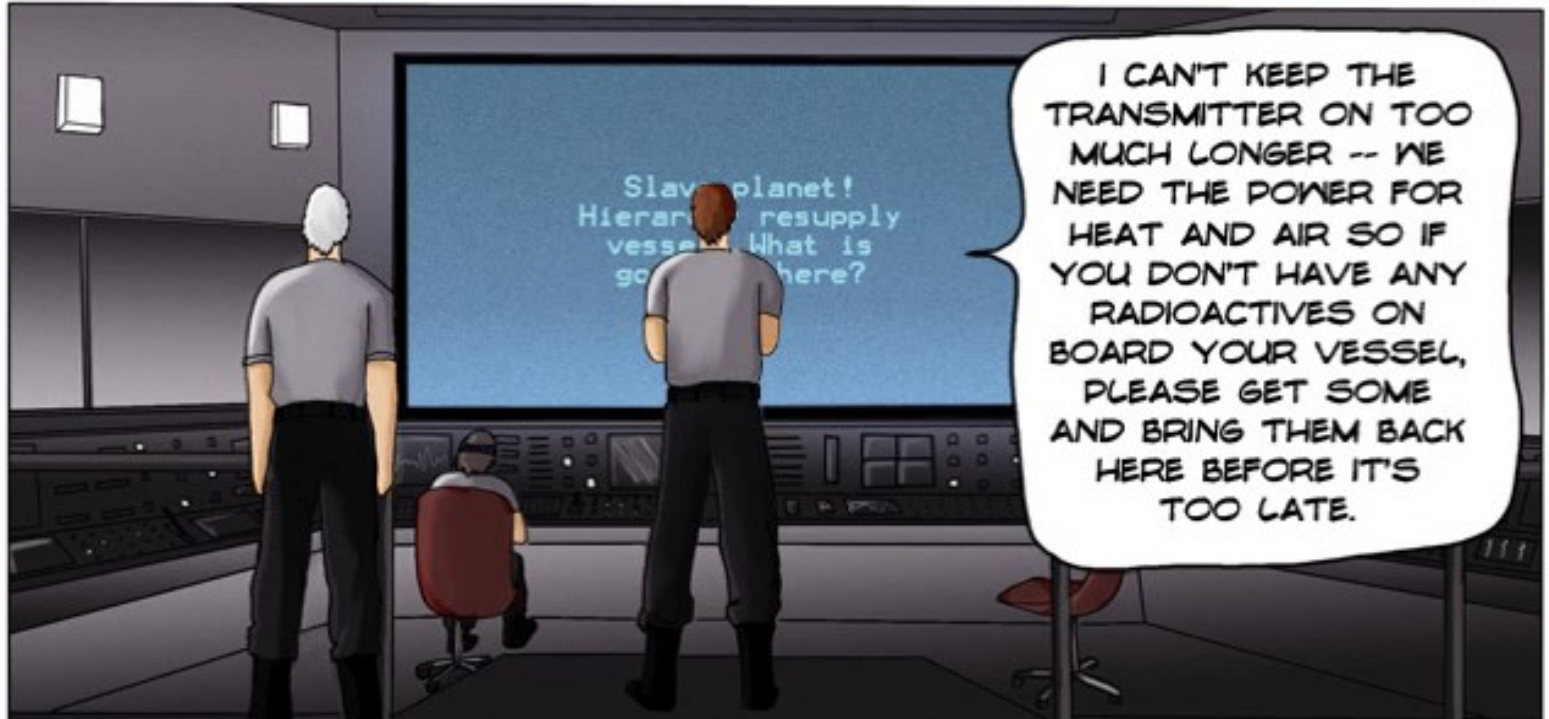
Slave planet!  
Hierarchy resupply vessel!  
What is going on here?



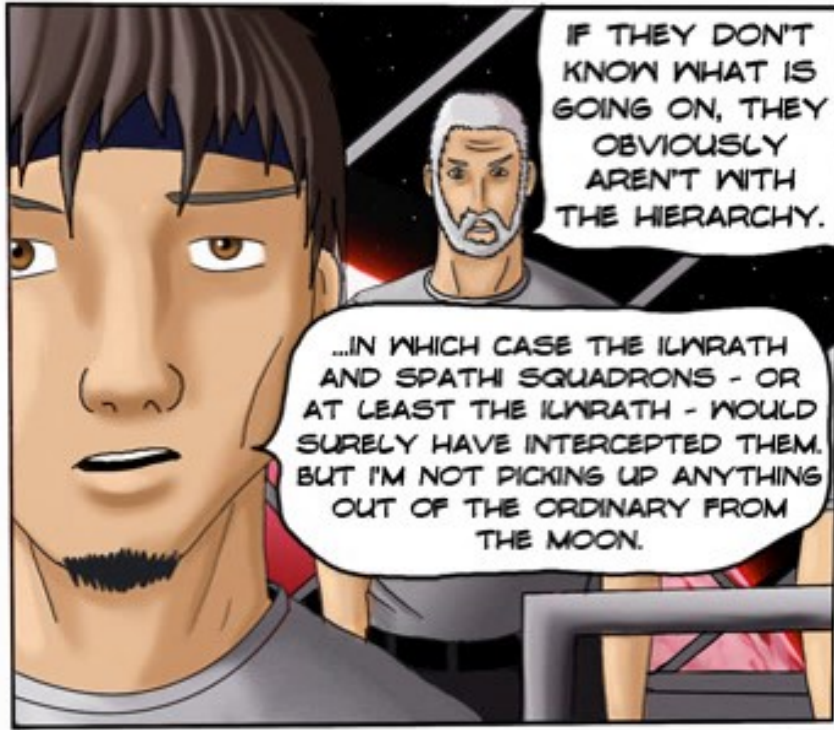
SO MUCH FOR THEM BEING THE RESUPPLY SHIP.



LOOK, I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE OR WHY YOU'RE HERE, BUT RIGHT NOW THE ONLY THING I'M WORRIED ABOUT IS SAVING THE LIVES OF THE 1900 MEN AND WOMEN ABOARD THIS STARBASE AND RIGHT NOW YOU'RE OUR ONLY HOPE...



I CAN'T KEEP THE TRANSMITTER ON TOO MUCH LONGER -- WE NEED THE POWER FOR HEAT AND AIR SO IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY RADIOACTIVES ON BOARD YOUR VESSEL, PLEASE GET SOME AND BRING THEM BACK HERE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.



IF THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON, THEY OBVIOUSLY AREN'T WITH THE HIERARCHY.

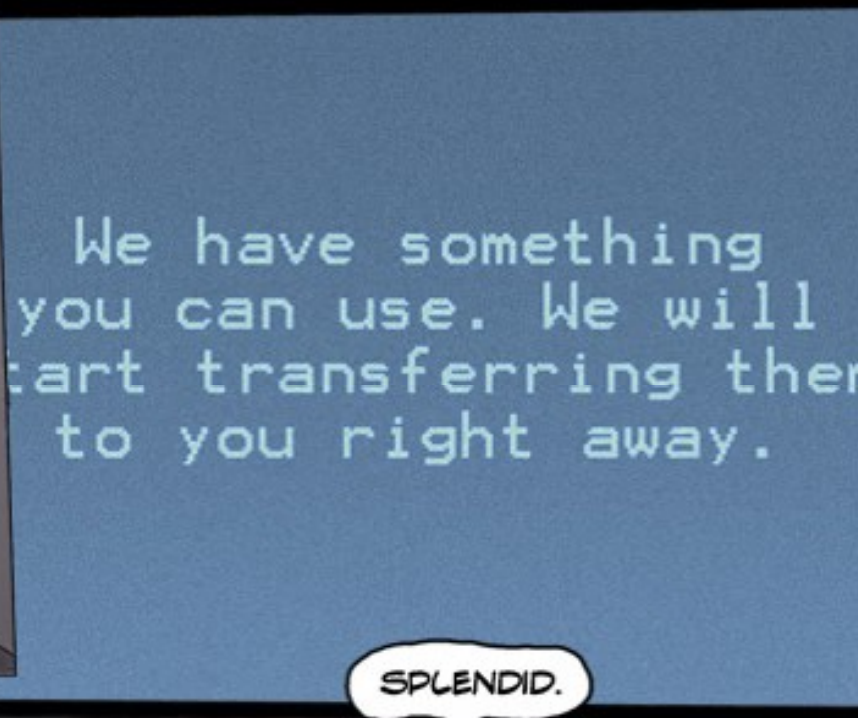
...IN WHICH CASE THE ILWRATH AND SPATHI SQUADRONS - OR AT LEAST THE ILWRATH - WOULD SURELY HAVE INTERCEPTED THEM. BUT I'M NOT PICKING UP ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY FROM THE MOON.



WE CAN LEAVE SPECULATIONS FOR LATER. LET'S JUST WAIT FOR THEIR RESPONSE AND HOPE THEY HAVE AT LEAST SOME RADIOACTIVE ELEMENTS WITH THEM.

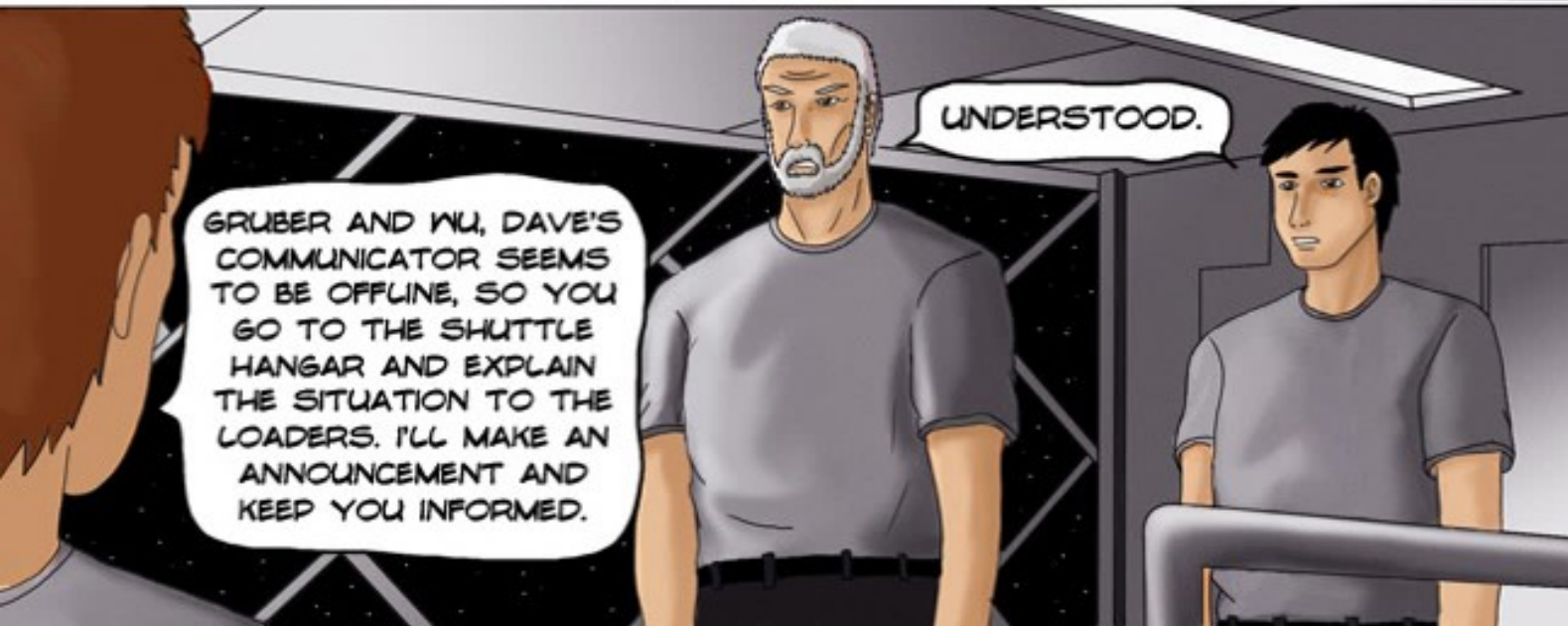


HERE IT COMES...



We have something you can use. We will start transferring them to you right away.

SPLENDID.



GRUBER AND WU, DAVE'S COMMUNICATOR SEEMS TO BE OFFLINE, SO YOU GO TO THE SHUTTLE HANGAR AND EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO THE LOADERS. I'LL MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT AND KEEP YOU INFORMED.

UNDERSTOOD.

WHO DO YOU THINK THEY ARE?

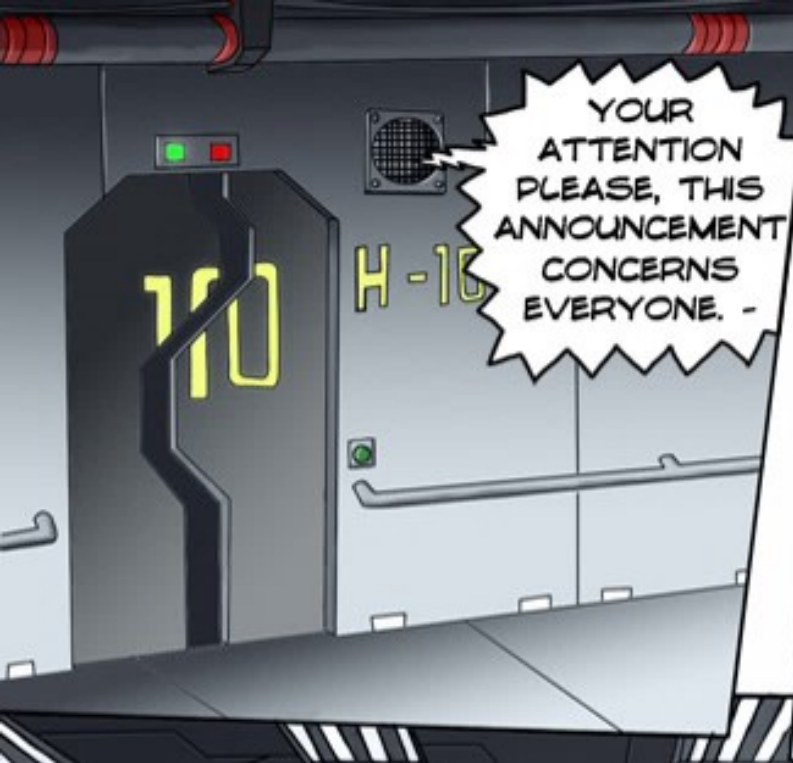
UMGAH -

THIS COULD BE ONE OF THEIR PRANKS AGAIN.

WOULD THEY GO THIS FAR?

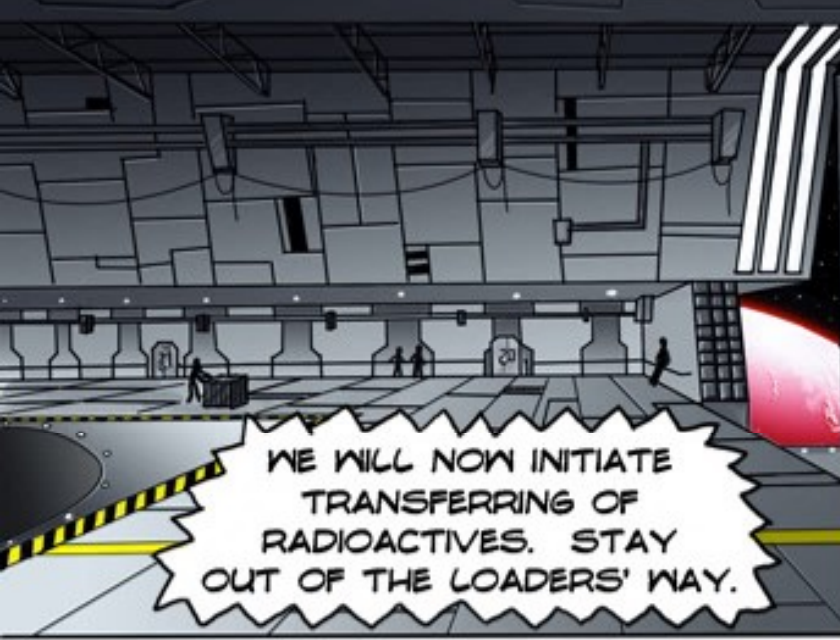
YOU'VE NEVER ENGAGED THEM SO YOU WOULDN'T KNOW. THE THINGS THEY SAY BEFORE, AFTER AND DURING BATTLE... IT'S LIKE THE WHOLE UNIVERSE IS JUST A BIG JOKE TO THEM.

BUT THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO NOW IS TO ASSUME THAT THIS IS A REAL SITUATION.



YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE, THIS ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNS EVERYONE. -

THIS IS COMMANDER HAYES. WE HAVE BEEN APPROACHED BY AN UNIDENTIFIED SHIP. IT IS NOT THE HIERARCHY RESUPPLY VESSEL, BUT THEY SAID THEY WOULD GIVE US RADIOACTIVE ELEMENTS FOR OUR POWER CORES.



WE WILL NOW INITIATE TRANSFERRING OF RADIOACTIVES. STAY OUT OF THE LOADERS' WAY.



IT'S HAYES.



THEY SAID THEY WOULD SEND ONE COMPLETE UNIT OF ASTATINE. ARE YOU AT THE HANGAR CONTROL ALREADY?

JUST ARRIVED.

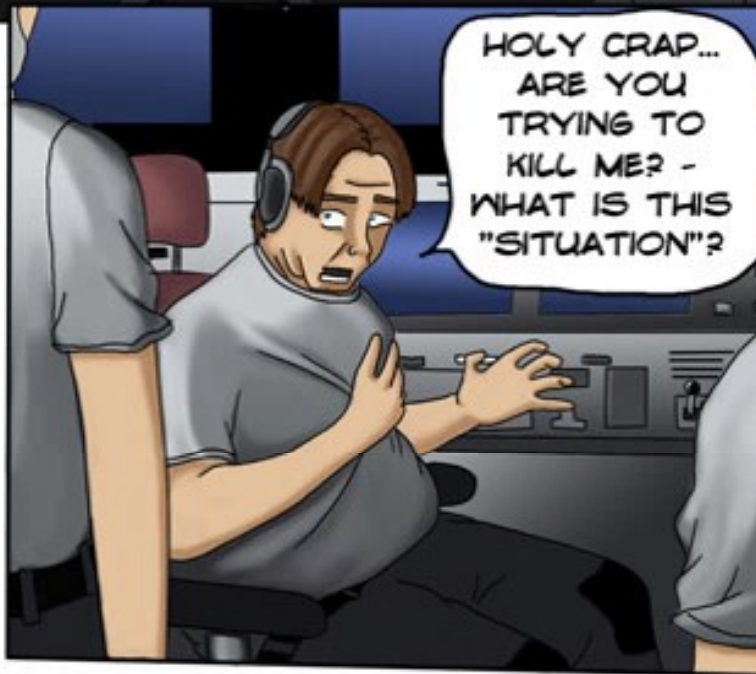


DAVE...?

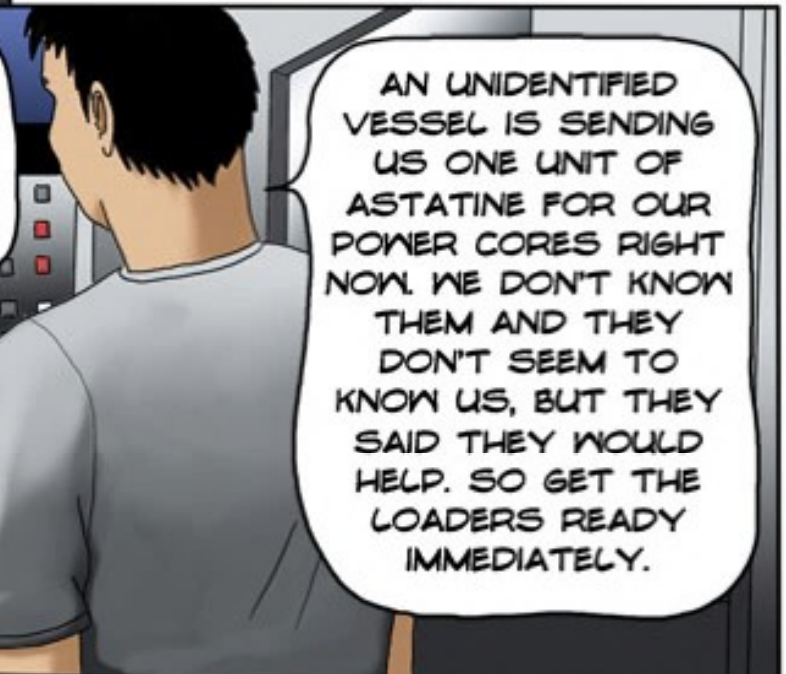


WAKE UP! WE HAVE A SITUATION HERE!

AAAA  
AAAAAAA  
AAAHHH!



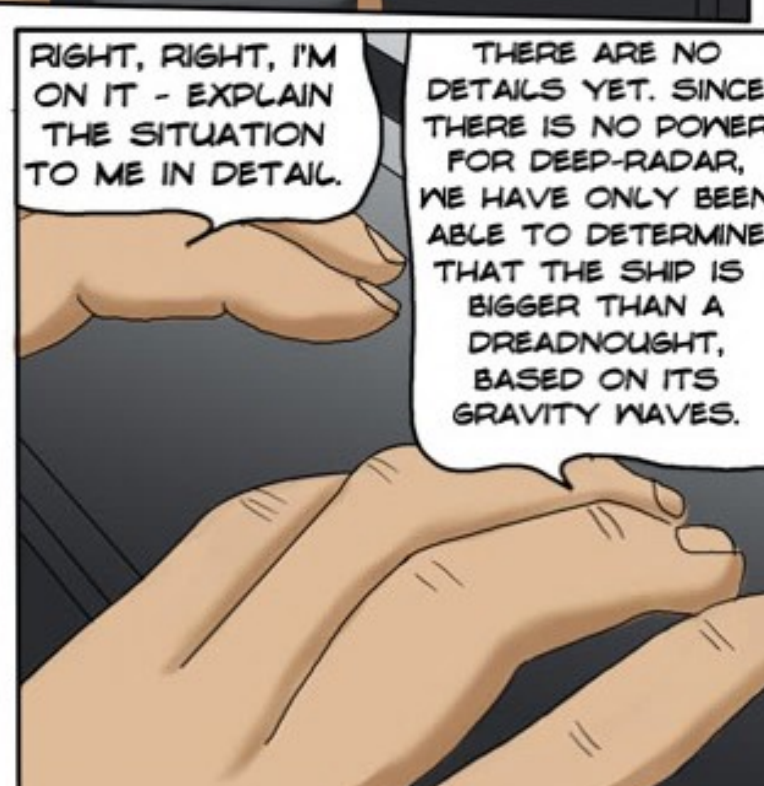
HOLY CRAP...  
ARE YOU TRYING TO  
KILL ME? -  
WHAT IS THIS  
"SITUATION"?



AN UNIDENTIFIED  
VESSEL IS SENDING  
US ONE UNIT OF  
ASTATINE FOR OUR  
POWER CORES RIGHT  
NOW. WE DON'T KNOW  
THEM AND THEY  
DON'T SEEM TO  
KNOW US, BUT THEY  
SAID THEY WOULD  
HELP. SO GET THE  
LOADERS READY  
IMMEDIATELY.




ASTATINE...  
ONE UNIT...  
LOADERS...




RIGHT, RIGHT, I'M  
ON IT - EXPLAIN  
THE SITUATION  
TO ME IN DETAIL.

THERE ARE NO  
DETAILS YET. SINCE  
THERE IS NO POWER  
FOR DEEP-RADAR,  
WE HAVE ONLY BEEN  
ABLE TO DETERMINE  
THAT THE SHIP IS  
BIGGER THAN A  
DREADNOUGHT,  
BASED ON ITS  
GRAVITY WAVES.




WU CAN TELL YOU MORE. I'LL GO SEE IF I CAN GET A VIEW OF THE SHIP.




LEONOV, CAN YOU FIGURE OUT WHERE THE SHIP IS EXACTLY? I'LL GO TO THE OBSERVATION DECK.

I ALREADY DID. IT'S AT 10-50-40 200. I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY POWER IN THE TELESCOPE THOUGH.

COPY, I'LL GO BACK TO HANGAR CONTROL.



WU, THAT OLD TELESCOPE OF YOURS WILL FINALLY PROVE ITSELF USEFUL. THE SHIP IS AT 10-50-40 200 SO WE COULD MAYBE SEE IT FROM HERE.



HUH? AH, YES, OF COURSE... I'LL GO GET IT RIGHT AWAY.



10 MINUTES PASS...

WHAT THE HELL IS TAKING HIM SO LONG?

THE ELEMENTS HAVE ARRIVED AT THE LOADING AREA.

I'M SORRY BUT I JUST CAN'T FIND IT. IT CAN'T BE ANYWHERE OUTSIDE MY ROOM THOUGH. I'LL KEEP SEARCHING.

RIGHT...

ANOTHER 10 MINUTES PASS...

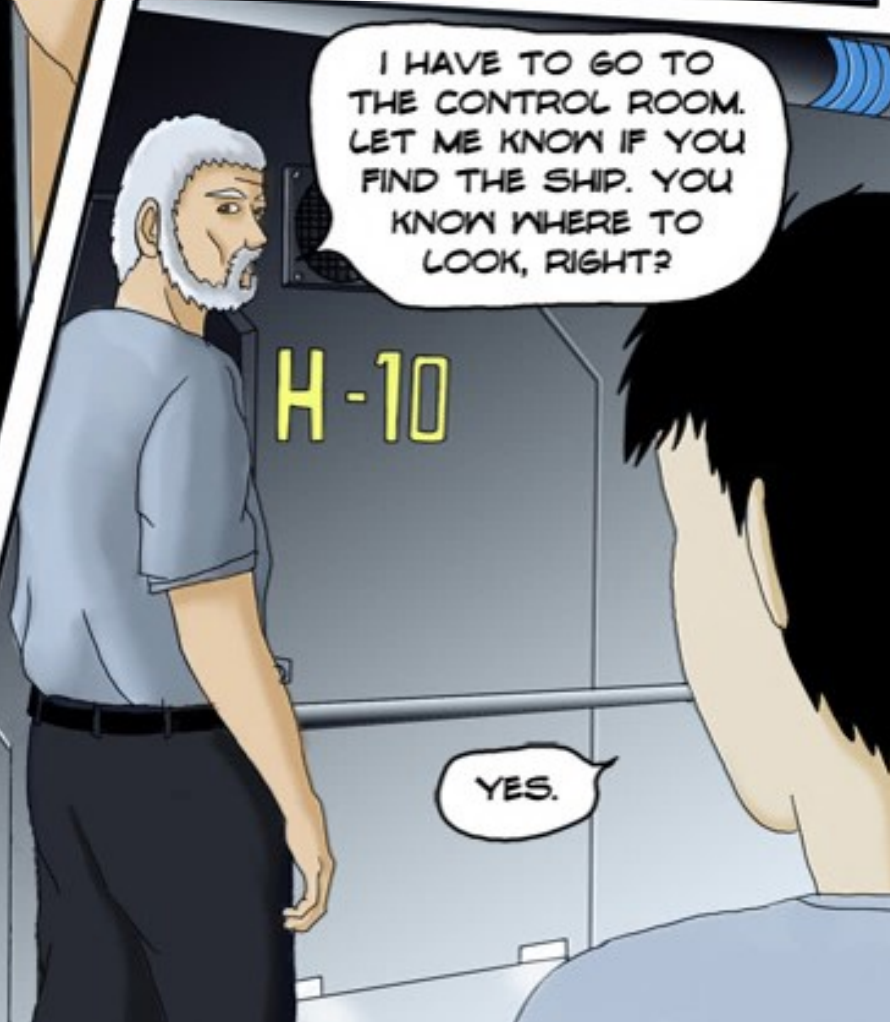
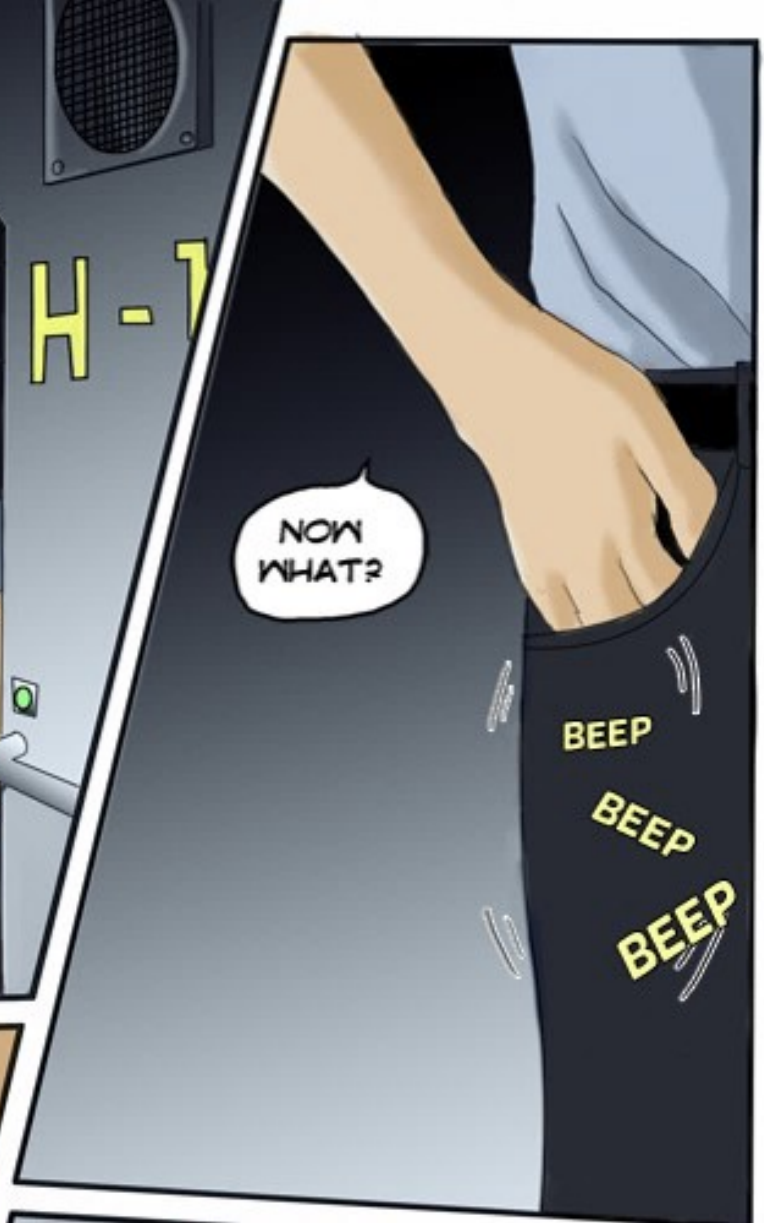
YOU'RE ALMOST DONE. I'LL NOTIFY HAYES.

BEEP BEEP BEEP

WELL?

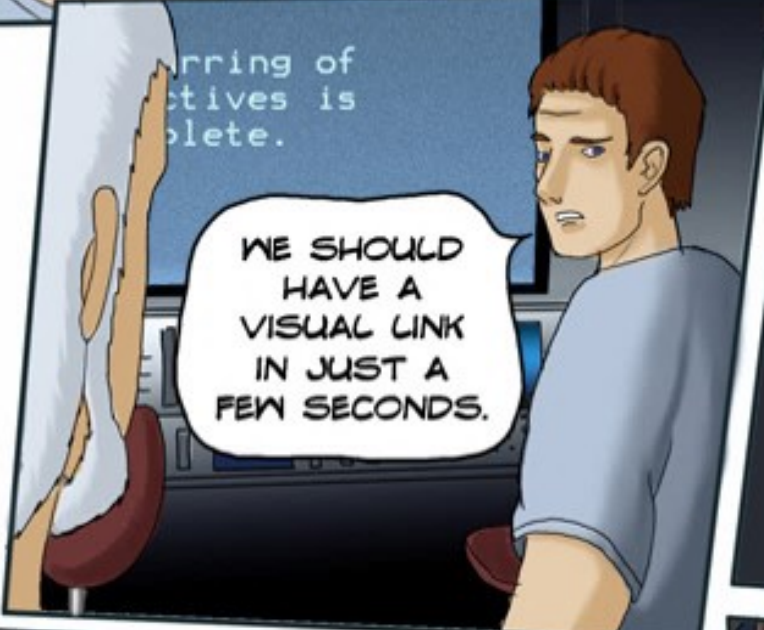
I FOUND IT! I DIDN'T REMEMBER THAT LAST TIME WHEN I DON'T CARE. JUST GET OVER HERE.

COPY. I'LL BE THERE IN ONE MINUTE.





AH, POWER READINGS ARE CLIMBING AND LIFE-SUPPORT IS COMING BACK INTO THE GREEN...

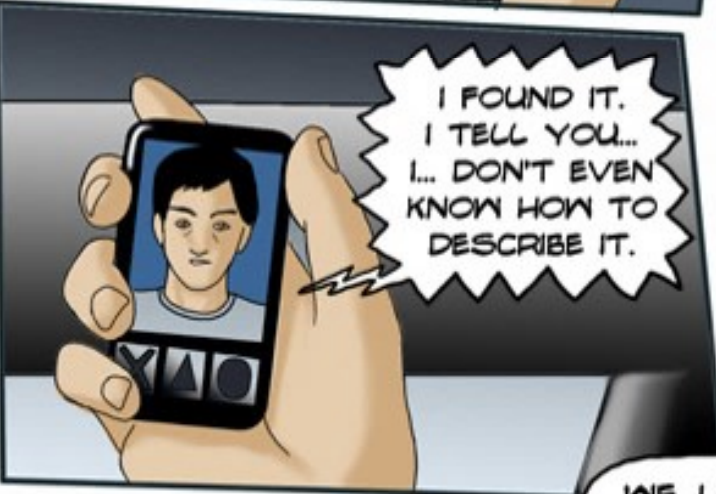


WE SHOULD HAVE A VISUAL LINK IN JUST A FEW SECONDS.

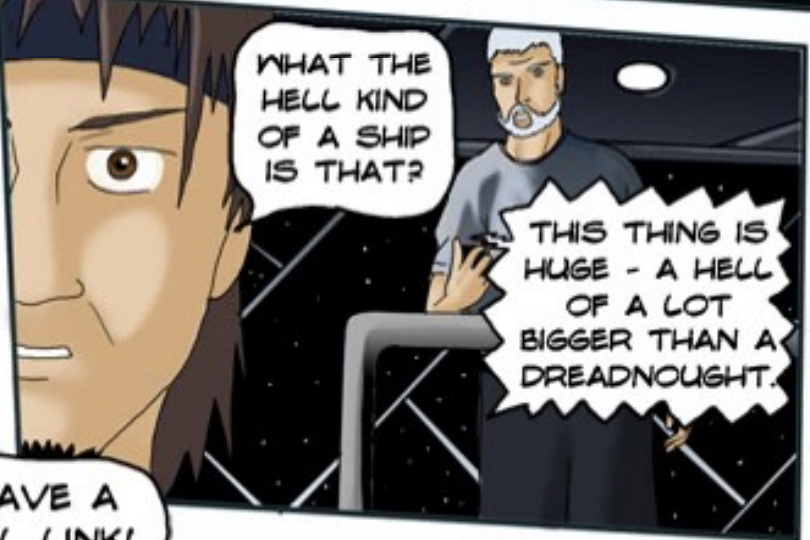


DEEP RADAR IS ONLINE. I'LL GET A VIEW OF THEIR SHIP IN NO TIME.

BEEP  
BEEP  
BEEP



I FOUND IT. I TELL YOU... I... DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO DESCRIBE IT.



WHAT THE HELL KIND OF A SHIP IS THAT?

THIS THING IS HUGE - A HELL OF A LOT BIGGER THAN A DREADNOUGHT.

WE HAVE A VISUAL LINK!



IT LOOKS LIKE A ... SKELETON ...



... OF A STARSHIP FAR MORE ADVANCED THAN ANYTHING WE'VE EVER SEEN.



uh...

Hello

