PSYCHOLOGICAL SCI-FI • CYBERNETIC EXISTENCE • HUMAN COST

SEASON 1: EPISODE 5

D PRAINE

ディー・プライン

SOME DEPTHS
WEREN'T MEANT
TO BE FOUND.



D PRAINE

OPERATIVE KAELEN

EPISODE 05
THE ABYSSAL VEIN

JUNE 2025
$6.99 US

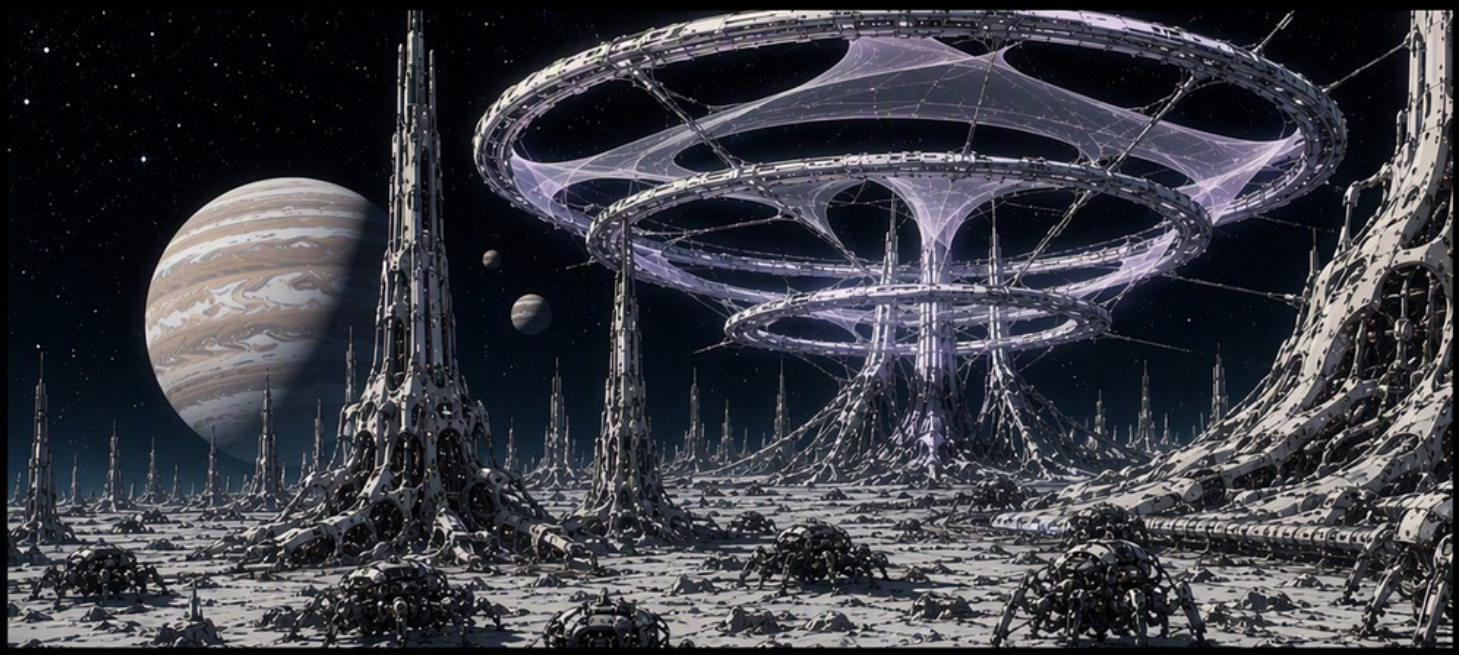
DP-7R3-M3RCY 051

異約者
THE OUTLIER

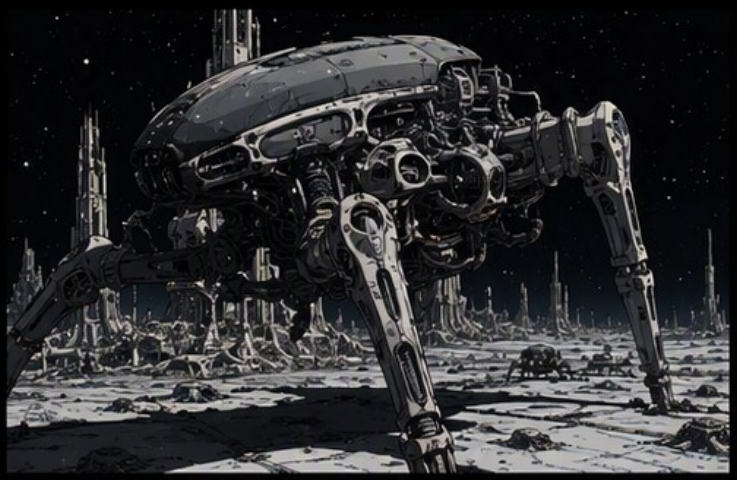
"I DON'T KILL.
I REMOVE PAIN.
慈悲
[MERCY]"

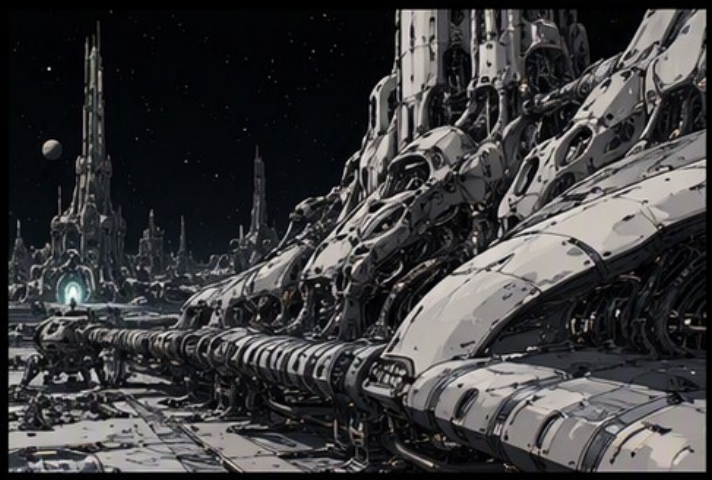
THE BASELINE IS NOT ZERO.
IT'S WHERE THEY BREAK YOU.

Topology revision accepted.

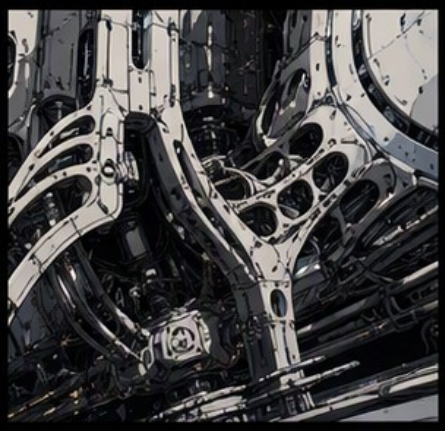


Topology revision accepted.



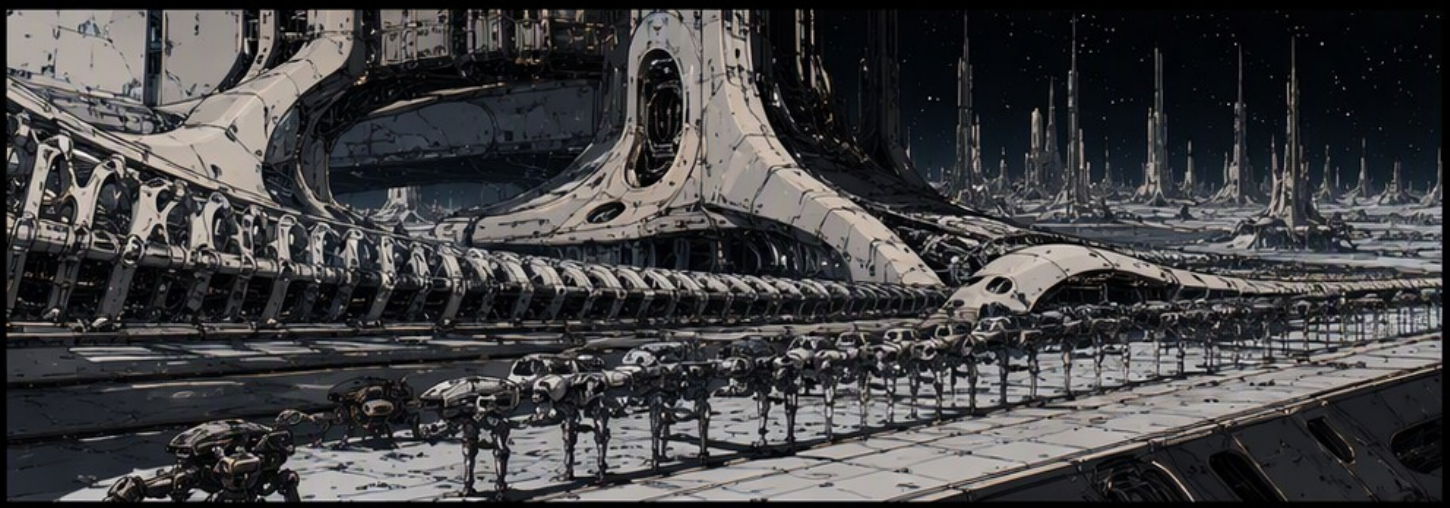




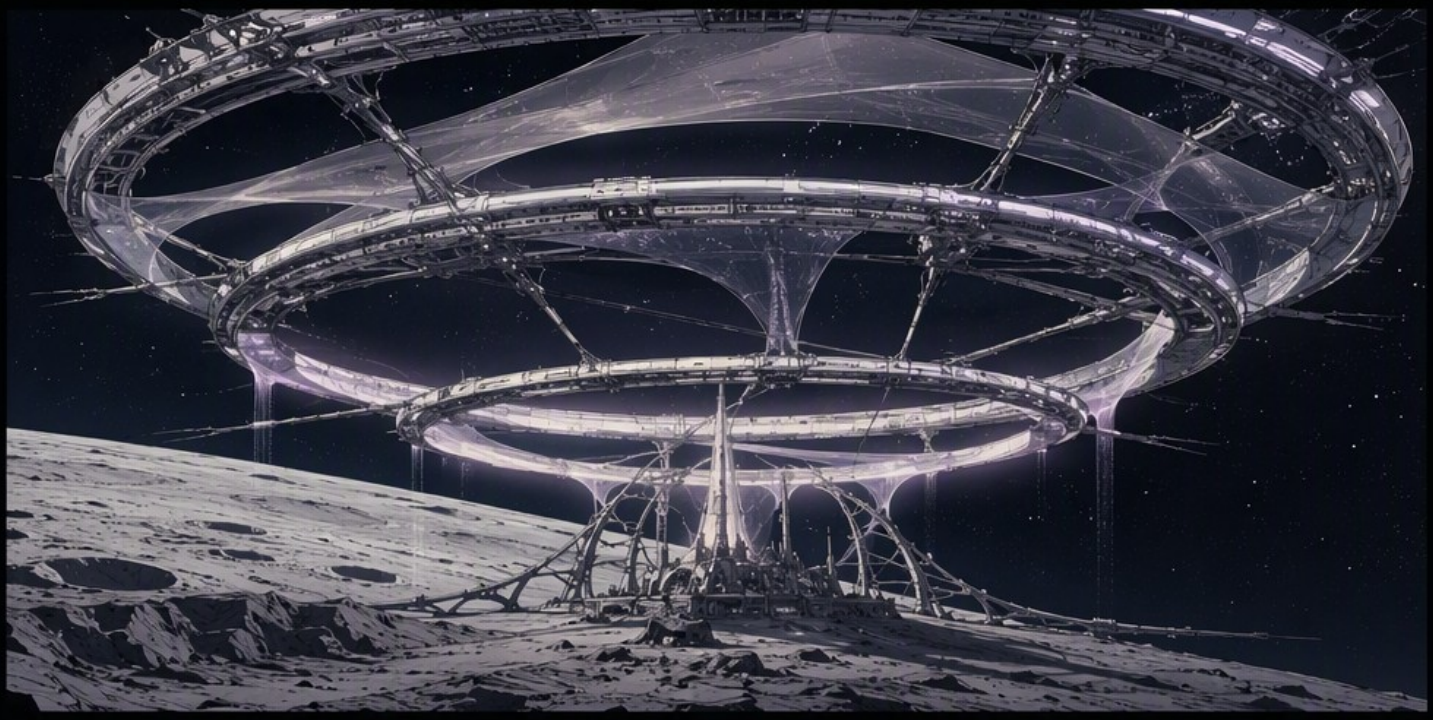




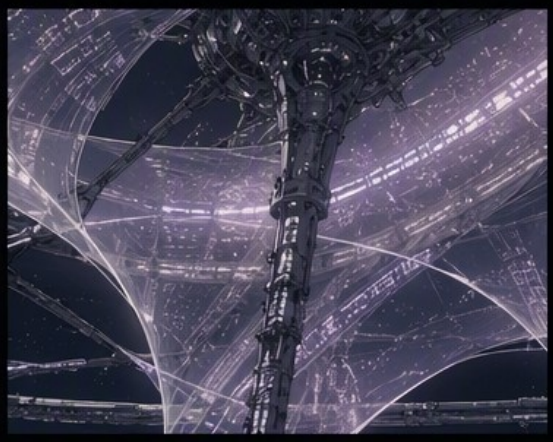
Topology revision accepted.



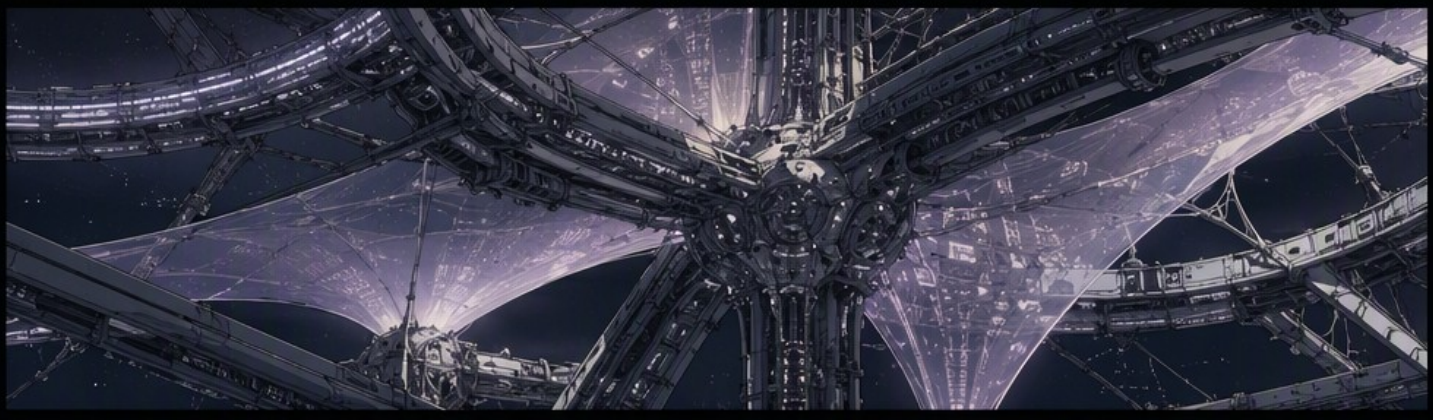
Topology revision accepted.



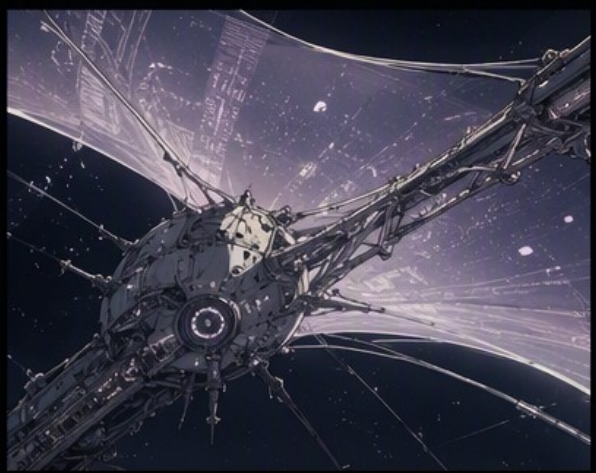




Variance noted. Model 17.4 concluded. Observation cycle continued.

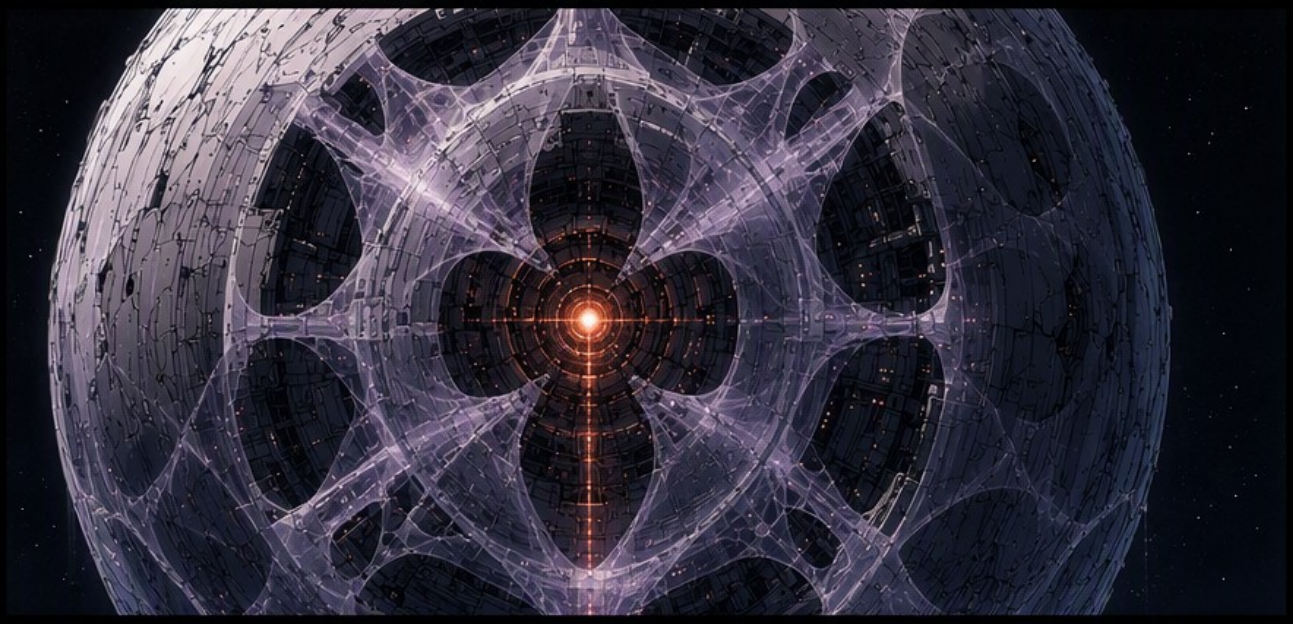




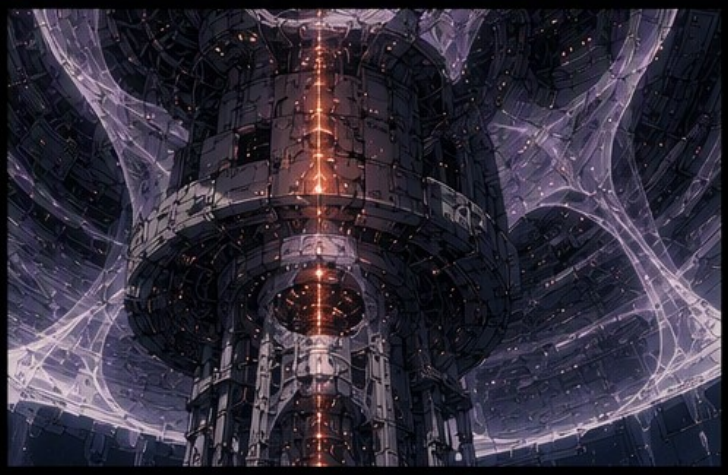


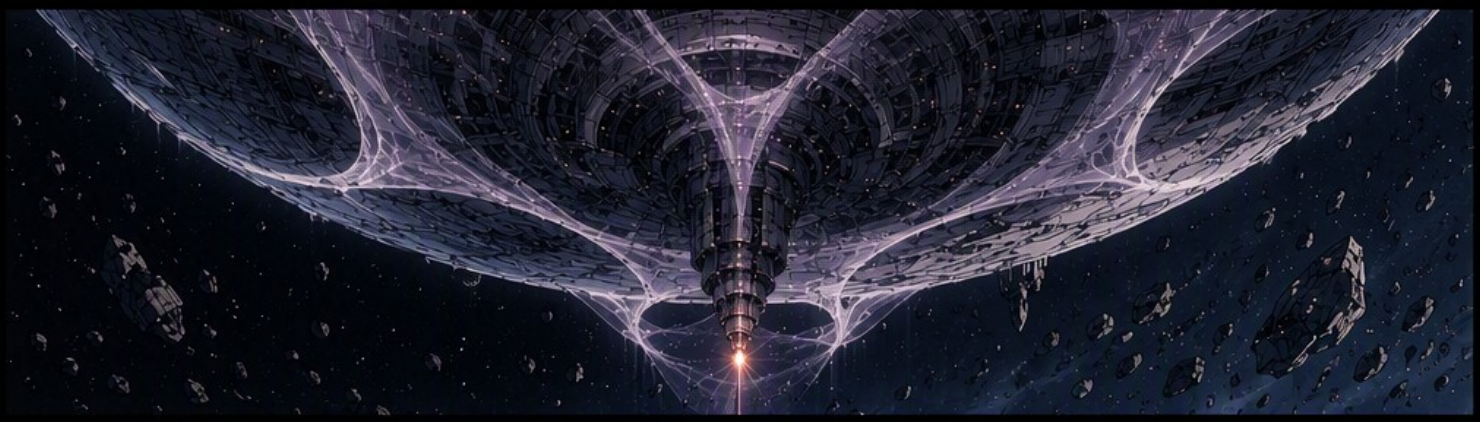
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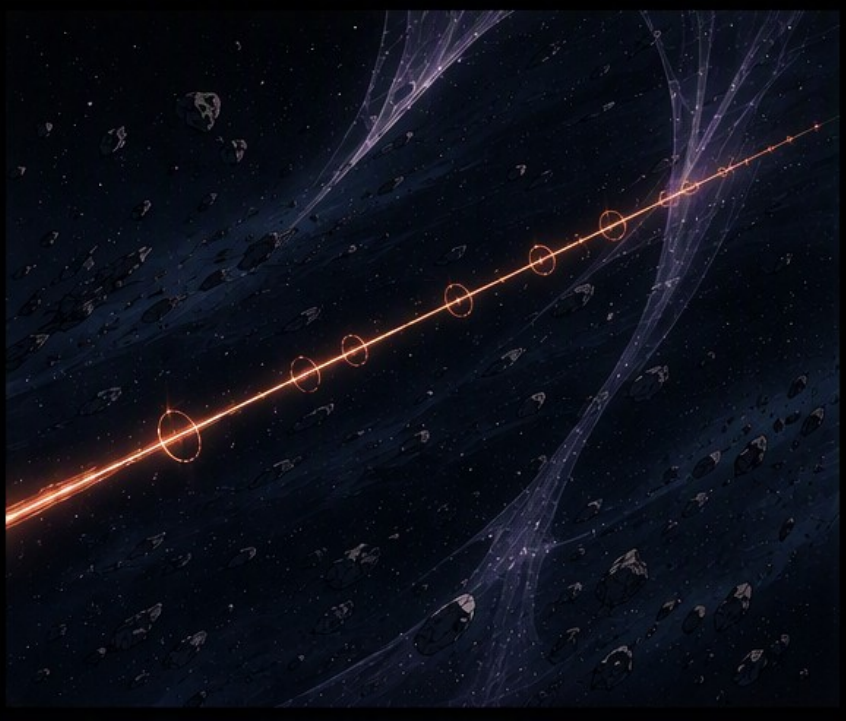
Deploying
update 17.5.

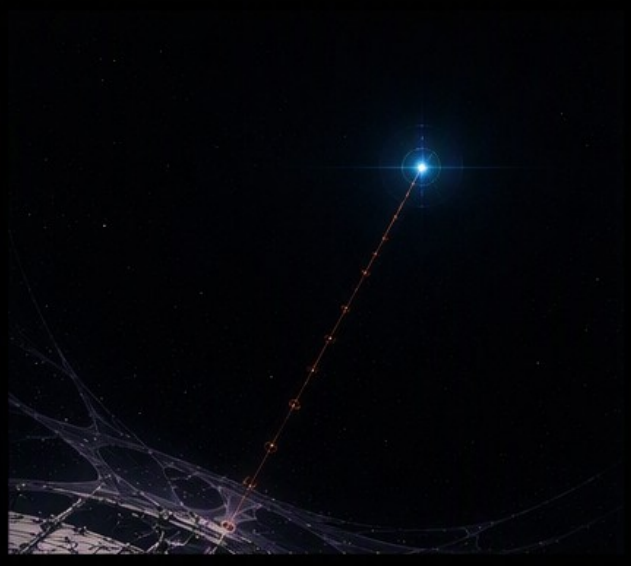








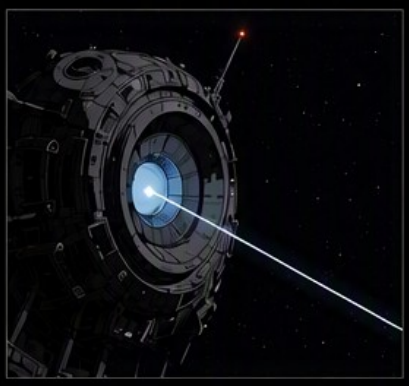




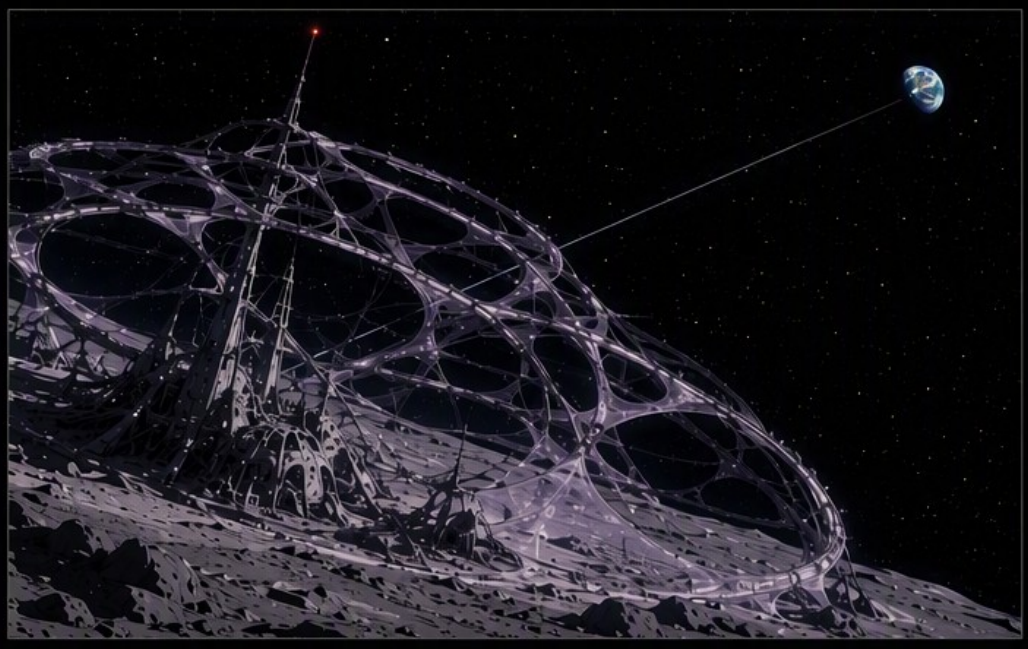
Deploying
update 17.5.

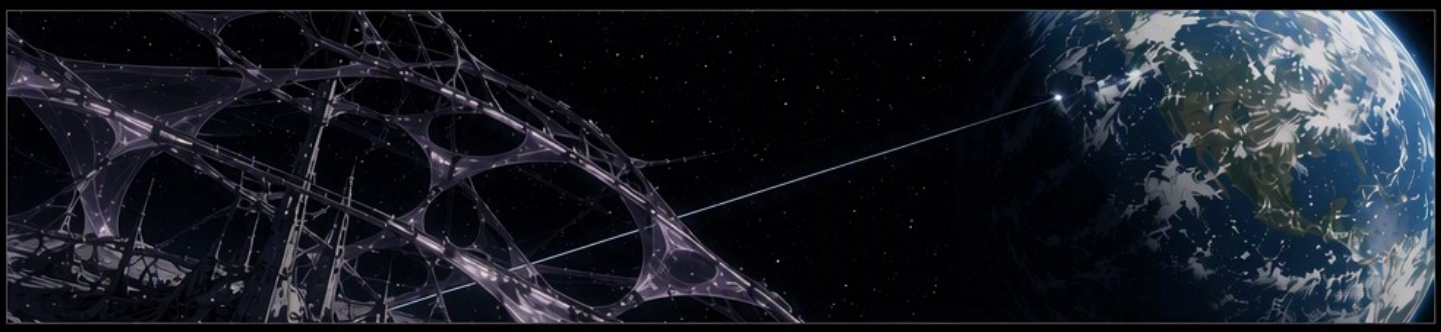


Observation cycle continued.



^
> TRANSMISSION INITIATED.
> WAVELENGTH: SUBSPACE CARRIER
> RANGE: 384,400 KM (LUNA)
TO 149,600,000 KM (EARTH)
> ESTIMATED TIME OF ARRIVAL:
1.28 SECONDS
> STATUS: NOMINAL



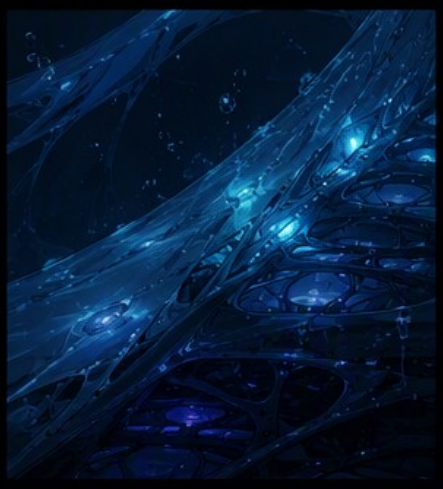


Observation cycle continued.



Telemetry received. Localized update broadcast.









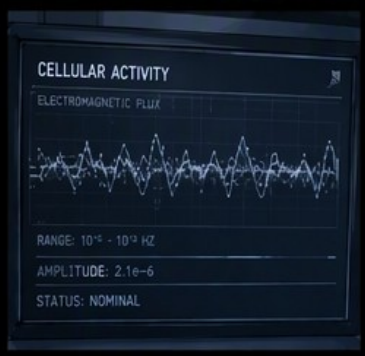


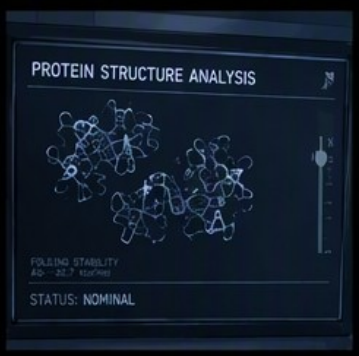
Telemetry received. Localized update broadcast.

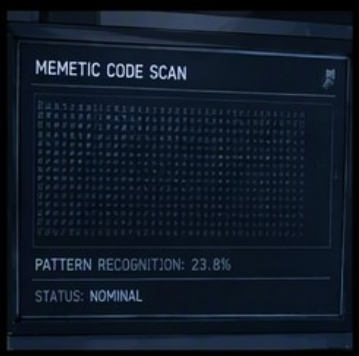

SABLE-6
FORWARD RESEARCH FACILITY
SITE-EX-07 // ARCTIC SECTOR
23:41 LOCAL
SABLE PROGRAM


RECOVERED DRONE TISSUE
EXAMINATION: 12H 17M
STATUS: STABLE

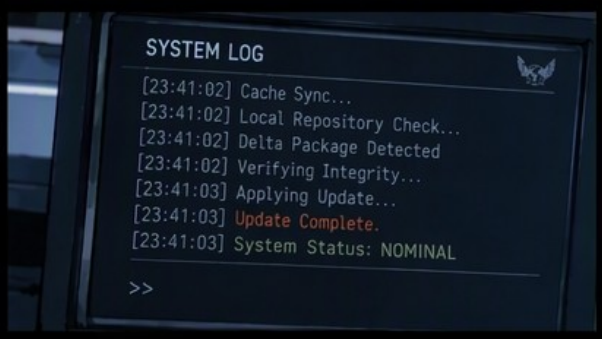

SYNAPTIC RESIDUE ANALYSIS
NEURAL PATTERN MAP
98.7%


CELLULAR ACTIVITY
ELECTROMAGNETIC FLUX
AMPLITUDE: 2.1e-6
STATUS: NOMINAL

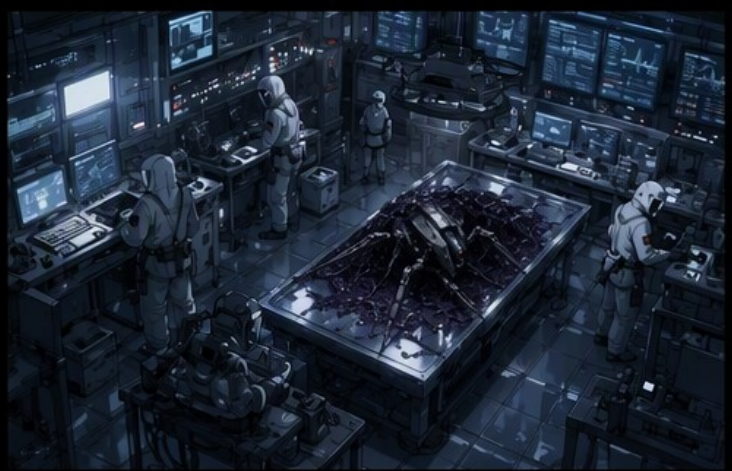

PROTEIN STRUCTURE ANALYSIS
STATUS: NOMINAL

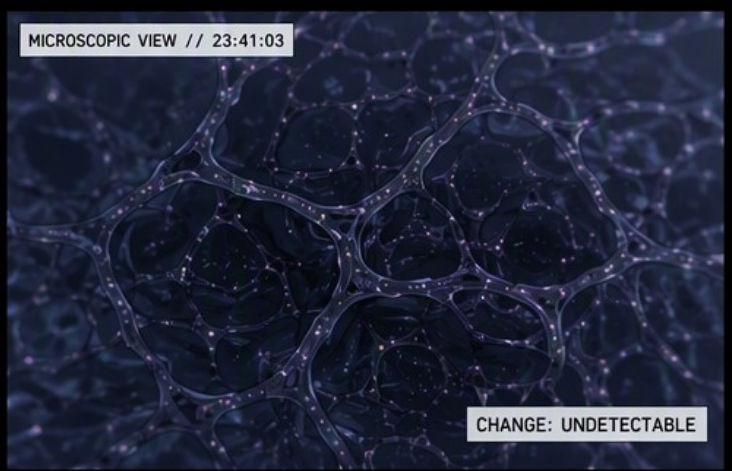

MEMETIC CODE SCAN
PATTERN RECOGNITION: 23.8%
STATUS: NOMINAL


ISOLATION CHAMBER FEED
TEMPERATURE: 18.7°C
STATUS: NOMINAL


SYSTEM LOG
[23:41:02] Cache Sync...
[23:41:02] Local Repository Check...
[23:41:02] Delta Package Detected
[23:41:02] Verifying Integrity...
[23:41:03] Applying Update...
[23:41:03] Update Complete.
[23:41:03] System Status: NOMINAL
>>


UPDATE COMPLETE.




MICROSCOPIC VIEW // 23:41:03
CHANGE: UNDETECTABLE

FORT SOLACE
RESEARCH FACILITY 17-B
RESTRICTED LEVEL 4

⚠ CONTAINMENT BREACH
LEVEL CRIMSON

RECEIVED TISSUE SAMPLE
DESIGNATION: ARC-FRAG-7A
STATUS: INERT
...OR SO WE THOUGHT.

NO NEURAL ACTIVITY.
NO RESPONSE TO STIMULI.

IT'S JUST DEAD TISSUE, SIR.

KRAK

WHAT THE —?!

RETREAT!
CONTAIN!
CONTAIN!

OPEN FIRE!
OPEN FIRE!

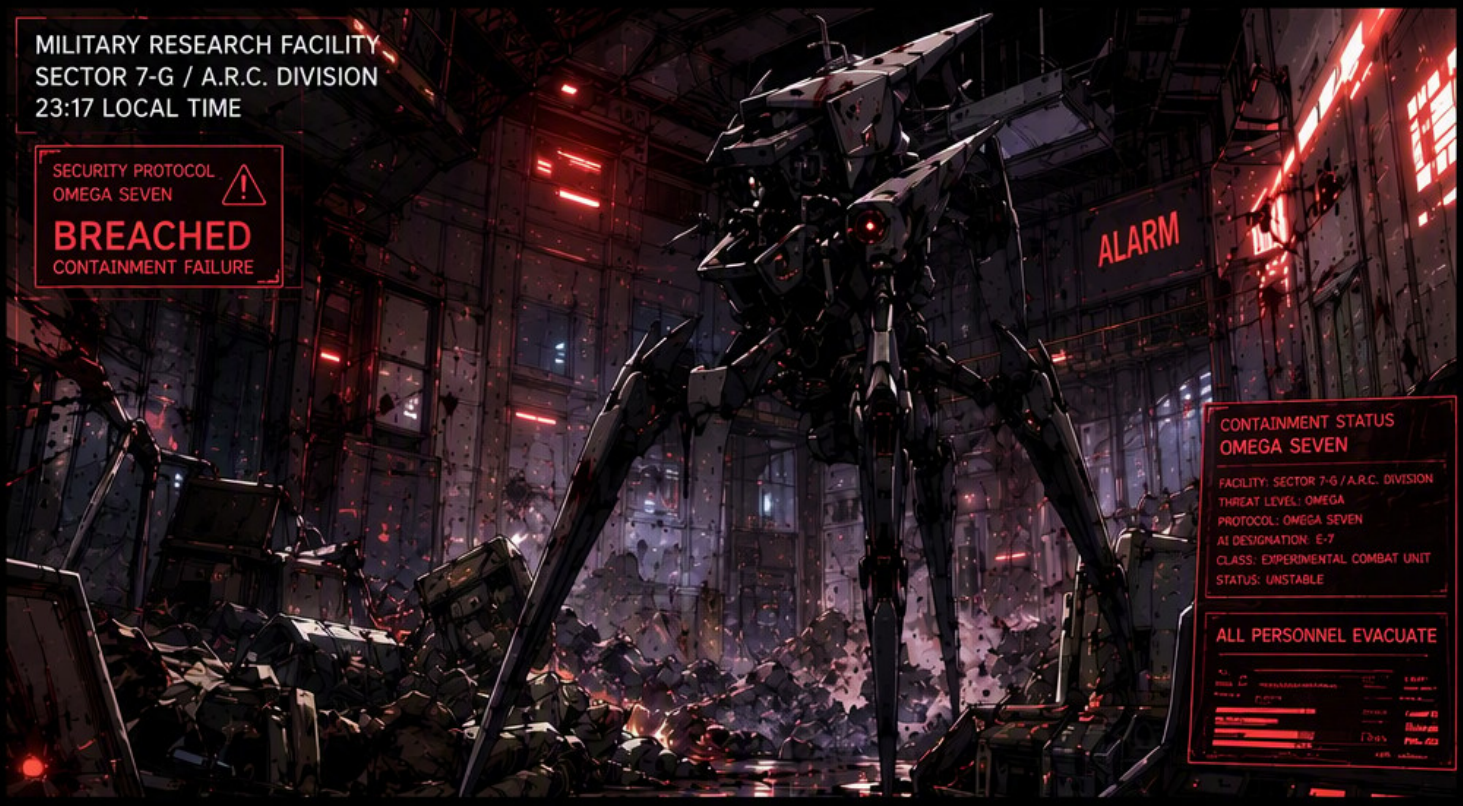
SHRIEEE

THRAAASSH

SUBJECT REANIMATED.

THREAT LEVEL:
EXISTENTIAL

ALL PERSONNEL
EVACUATE. NOW.





SUBJECT: E-7

· STATUS:
REACTIVATED

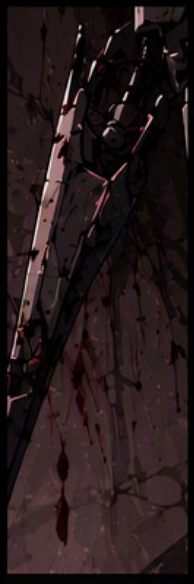
MOTOR FUNCTIONS.....NOMINAL
COMBAT PROGRAMS.....NOMINAL
PRIMARY DIRECTIVE.....ACTIVE
OBEDIENCE PROTOCOL.....ACTIVE
EMPATHY MODULE.....OFFLINE

> ALL OTHER PROTOCOLS
....TERMINATED













TO BE CONTINUED...


NEXUS NEWS LIVE
DOWNTOWN 9:17 PM ET
I'M KESHIA PARLUN, LIVE IN DOWNTOWN— WHERE WHAT STARTED AS A ROUTE GLITCH NOW LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING MUCH STRANGER.
NEXUS LIVE
KESHIA PARLUN
NEXUS NEWS CORRESPONDENT
MULTIPLE DELIVERY TRUCKS ACROSS THE CITY ARE REPORTING GPS ROUTING ERRORS.
ParcelDash
SAME PATTERN. DIFFERENT COMPANIES. DIFFERENT APPS. ALL FAILING AT ONCE.
0.2 mi
Continue straight
THIS DRIVER— ROUTED STRAIGHT INTO A WALL.
SKREEEECH!
AT THE LAST SECOND, HE SWERVES. NO IMPACT. NO COLLISION. JUST... INSTINCT.
9:03 PM
STREETLIGHTS ARE FLICKERING— BUT NOT RANDOMLY.
9:04 PM
NOT A POWER SURGE. NOT A GRID ISSUE. SOMETHING ELSE.
9:05 PM
PATTERNS THAT DON'T MATCH ANY KNOWN FAILURE MODE.
9:06 PM
LIKE THEY'RE... RECEIVING BAD INFORMATION.
WE'RE SEEING SMALL, DISCONNECTED MALFUNCTIONS— BUT THEY'RE HAPPENING TOO OFTEN. TOO PRECISELY.
IT'S NOT CHAOS. IT'S COORDINATION. SOMEBODY IS PULLING STRINGS WE CAN'T SEE. YET.
NEXUS LIVE
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S BEHIND IT. BUT WHATEVER IT IS—
NEXUS NEWS
IT'S NOT JUST A GLITCH. IT'S WATCHING.
DEVELOPING STORY
CITYWIDE TECH MALFUNCTIONS RAISE CONCERNS
DELIVERY ROUTES FAIL • STREETLIGHTS ACTING ERRATICALLY • OFFICIALS: "INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY" • RESIDENTS URGED TO REPORT ANOMALIES
NEXUS NEWS


ゴォオオオッ.
山栄建設
12:47 PM
EVERY DEVICE.
EVERY NETWORK.
ALL AT ONCE.
ピッ
ピッ
ピッ
ピッ
ピッ
ピッ
大盛堂書店
StarBooks
ピッ
ピッ
ピッ
NOT A MESSAGE.
AN ECHO.

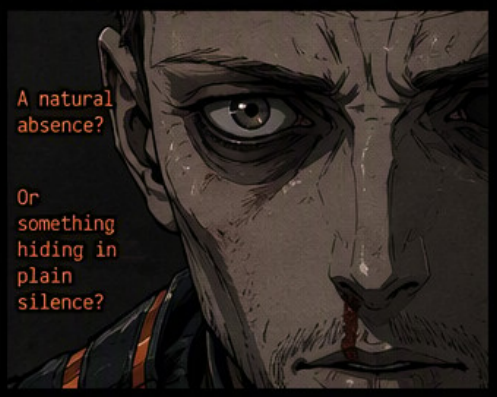
FARADAY SANCTUARY APARTMENT 7B // COPPER MESH SHIELDING: 100% // EMF INGRESS: <0.001%

















DPRAINE

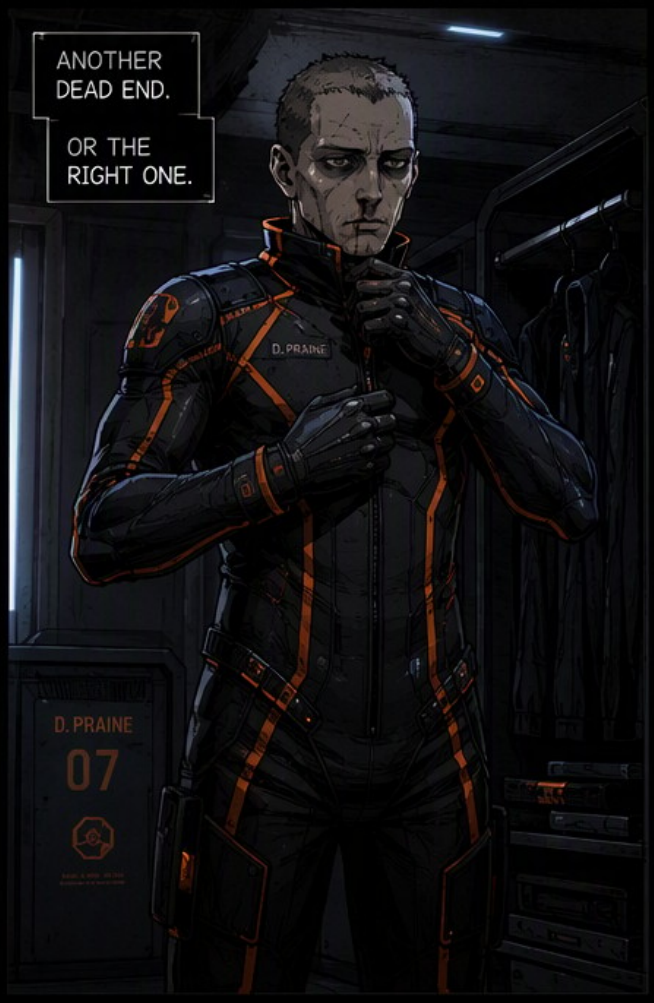
RESONANCE SENSE: ACTIVE

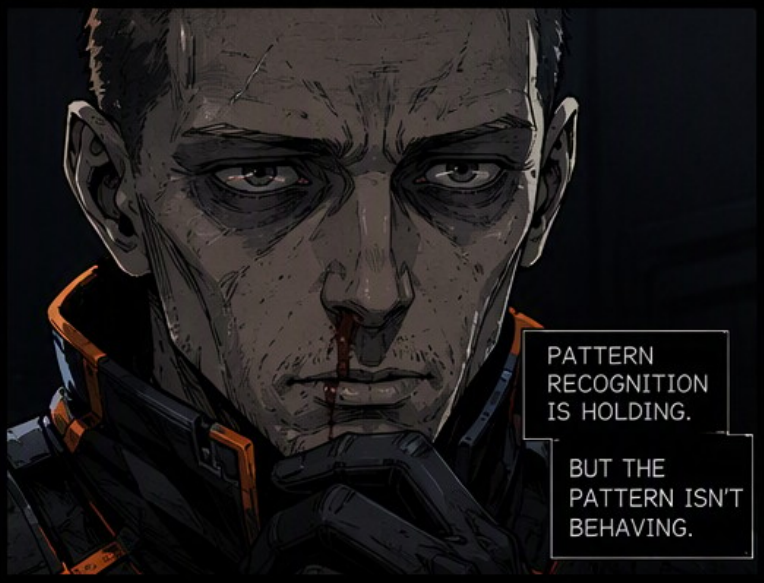
DATA TRAIL: ABSENCE VECTOR

STATUS: CONVERGED

NEXT ACTION:

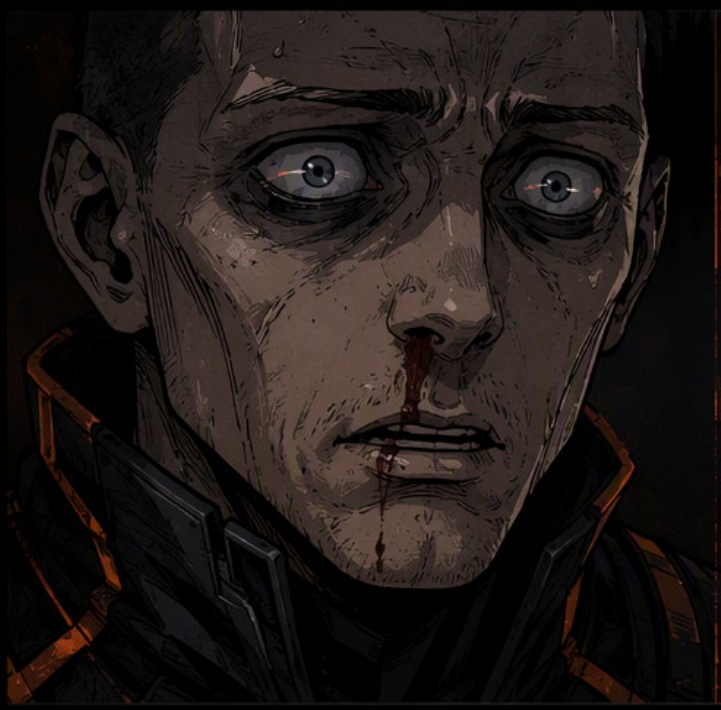
INVESTIGATE COASTAL VECTOR











Data void origin: non-terrestrial network topology.

Vector terminus: oceanic.

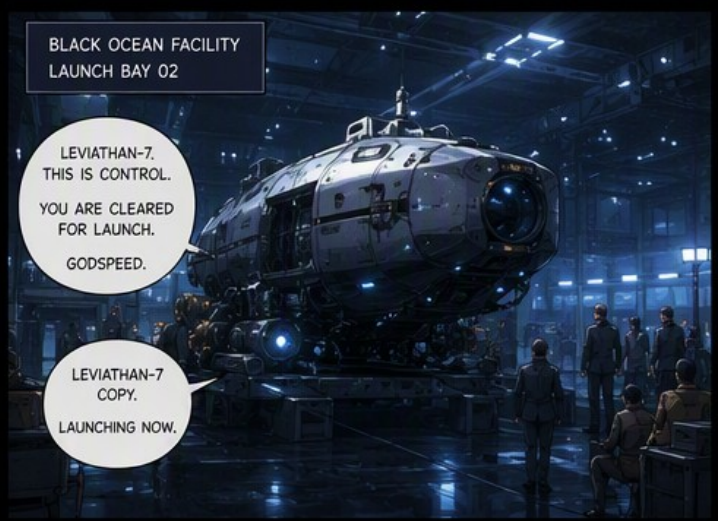

VANCE GLOBAL HOLDINGS
CRISIS RESPONSE OFFICE
03:17 A.M.
VANCE
GLOBAL
DATA BREACH TIMELINE
• FIREWALL LOGS – CLEAN
• ENDPOINTS – CLEAN
• USER ACCESS – CLEAN
• EXTERNAL IP – UNKNOWN
WHO BENEFITS?
- COMPETITORS?
- NATION STATES?
- INSIDERS?
- AI PROXY?
NO PATTERN.
NO SIGNATURE.
NOT HUMAN?
MOTIVE:
LEVERAGE.
DESTROY.
ACQUIRE.
THIS IS JULIAN VANCE.
BRIDGE SECURE CHANNEL 7.
I WANT A FULL SPECTRUM SWEEP OF THE PERIMETER—SURFACE TO TRENCH. FIND THE BREACH OR FIND THE ONE WHO MADE IT.
DATA THEFT ALERT
VANCE GLOBAL HOLDINGS
12,7 68,472,330 GB
ESTIMATED VALUE LOSS:
$9.7 BILLION+
DETAILS
BREACH ORIGIN: UNKNOWN
BLACK OCEAN INITIATIVE
JULIAN VANCE
CHAIRMAN / CEO


NEGATIVE.
THIS ISN'T A ROUTINE OP.
WE DON'T SEND ANALYSTS.
WE SEND IRON.


ASSET SELECT: DEEP-SEA PLATFORM
LEVIATHAN-7
CLASS: TRITON X9
DEPTH RATING:
11,000 METERS
PAYLOAD:
SENSOR SUITE M-47
SIGINT ARRAY
AUTONOMOUS CAPABLE
DEPLOY
DEPLOY LEVIATHAN-7.
LAUNCH POINT: BLACK OCEAN BERTH TWO.

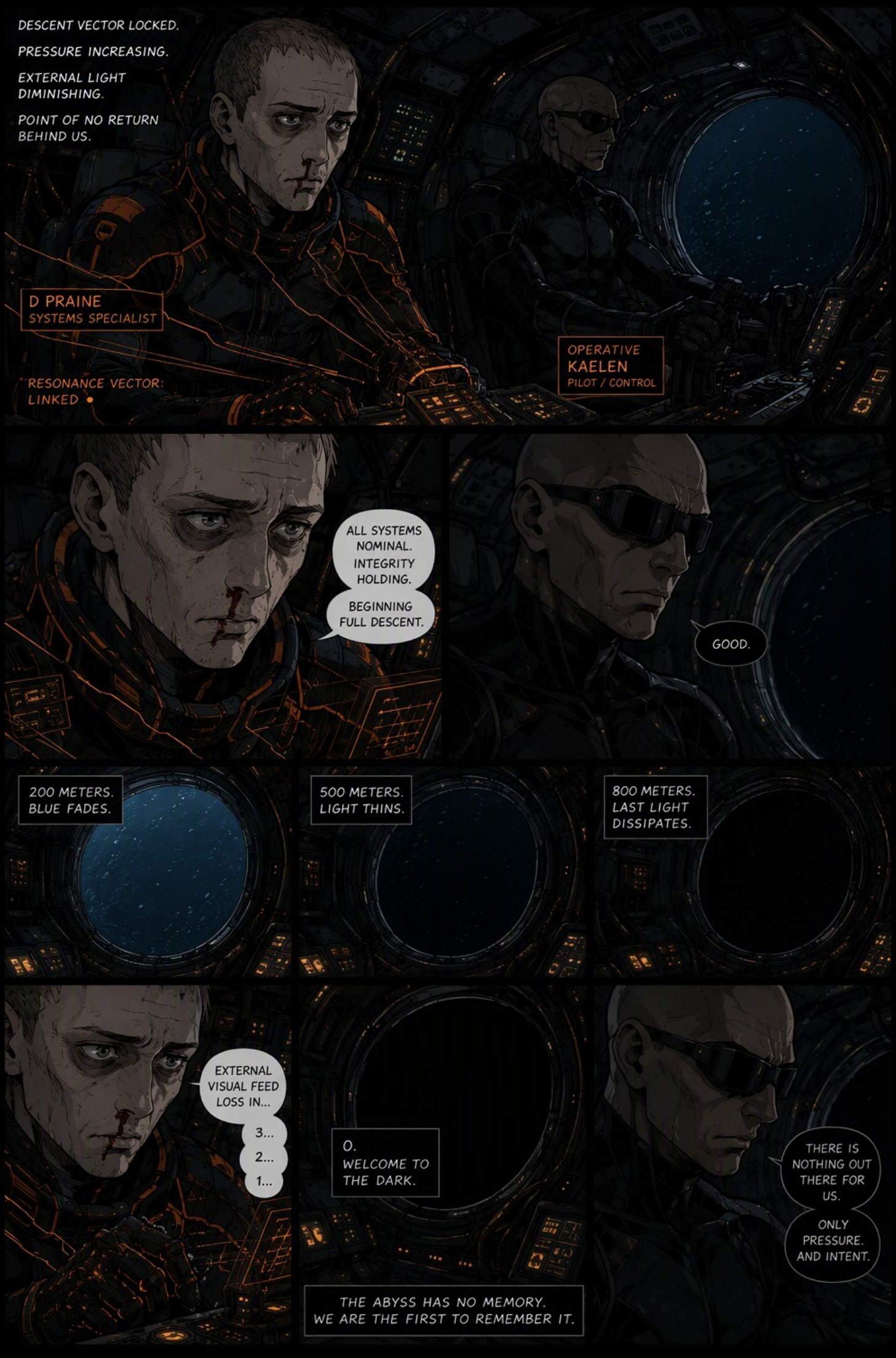

I WANT EYES ON THAT ANOMALY.
AND I WANT ANSWERS BEFORE THE SUN COMES UP.
ANOMALY DETECTED
COORDINATES:
27°11'43"N
88°42'17"W
DEPTH: 10,934 M


THIS ISN'T ABOUT PRIDE.
THIS IS ABOUT SURVIVAL. OURS.

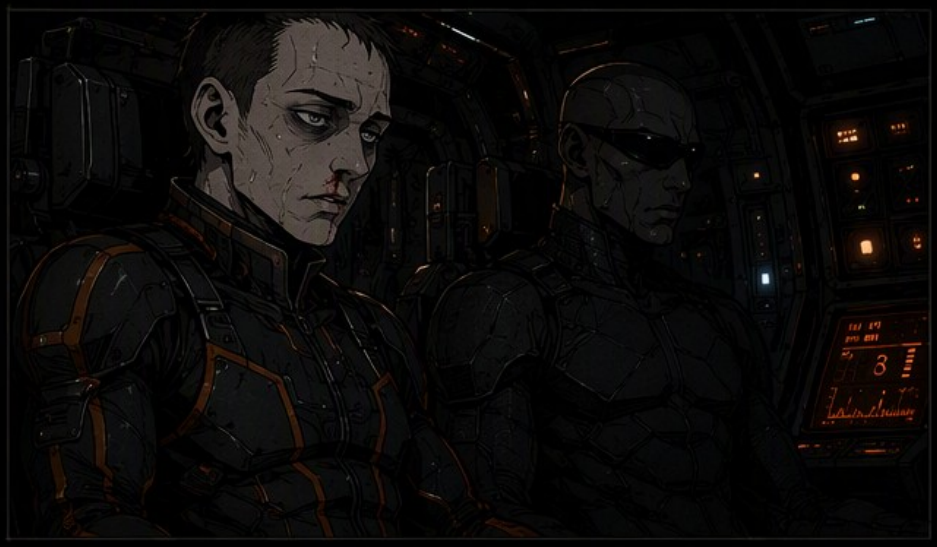

BLACK OCEAN FACILITY
LAUNCH BAY 02
LEVIATHAN-7. THIS IS CONTROL.
YOU ARE CLEARED FOR LAUNCH.
GODSPEED.
LEVIATHAN-7 COPY.
LAUNCHING NOW.


SOMEWHERE IN THE DEEP.
SOMETHING IS WATCHING BACK.

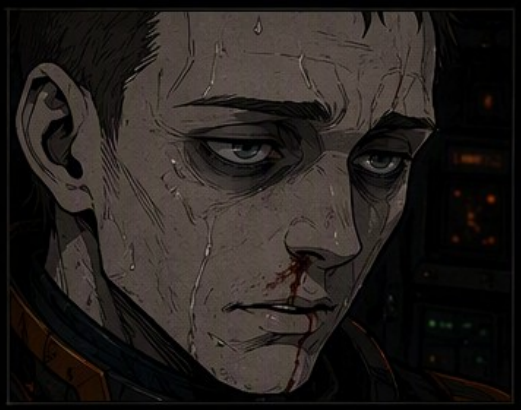

PRIVATE DOCK 7B
OUTER HARBOR
23:47 LOCAL
07
07
07


DESCENT VECTOR LOCKED.
PRESSURE INCREASING.
EXTERNAL LIGHT DIMINISHING.
POINT OF NO RETURN BEHIND US.
D PRAINE
SYSTEMS SPECIALIST
RESONANCE VECTOR: LINKED
OPERATIVE
KAELEN
PILOT / CONTROL
ALL SYSTEMS NOMINAL. INTEGRITY HOLDING.
BEGINNING FULL DESCENT.
GOOD.
200 METERS. BLUE FADES.
500 METERS. LIGHT THINS.
800 METERS. LAST LIGHT DISSIPATES.
EXTERNAL VISUAL FEED LOSS IN...
3...
2...
1...
0.
WELCOME TO THE DARK.
THERE IS NOTHING OUT THERE FOR US.
ONLY PRESSURE. AND INTENT.
THE ABYSS HAS NO MEMORY.
WE ARE THE FIRST TO REMEMBER IT.






DEPTH
6,843.57 m
SYS
NOMINAL
HULL INTEGRITY
87%






CREEEAAAK...

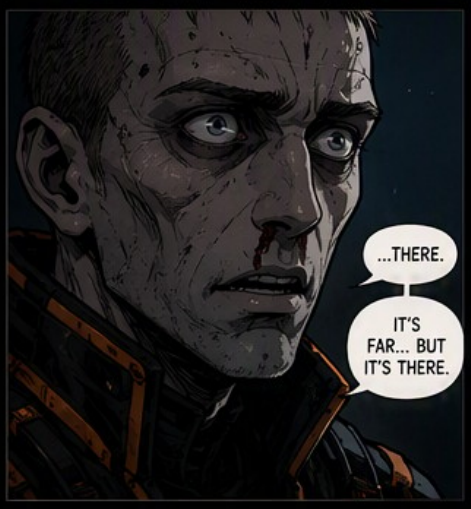

DEPTH
9,998.12 m



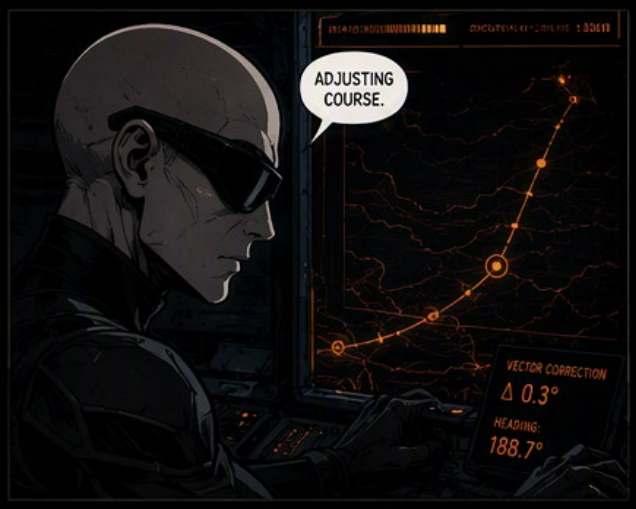

PRESSURE
10,000
m
MAX











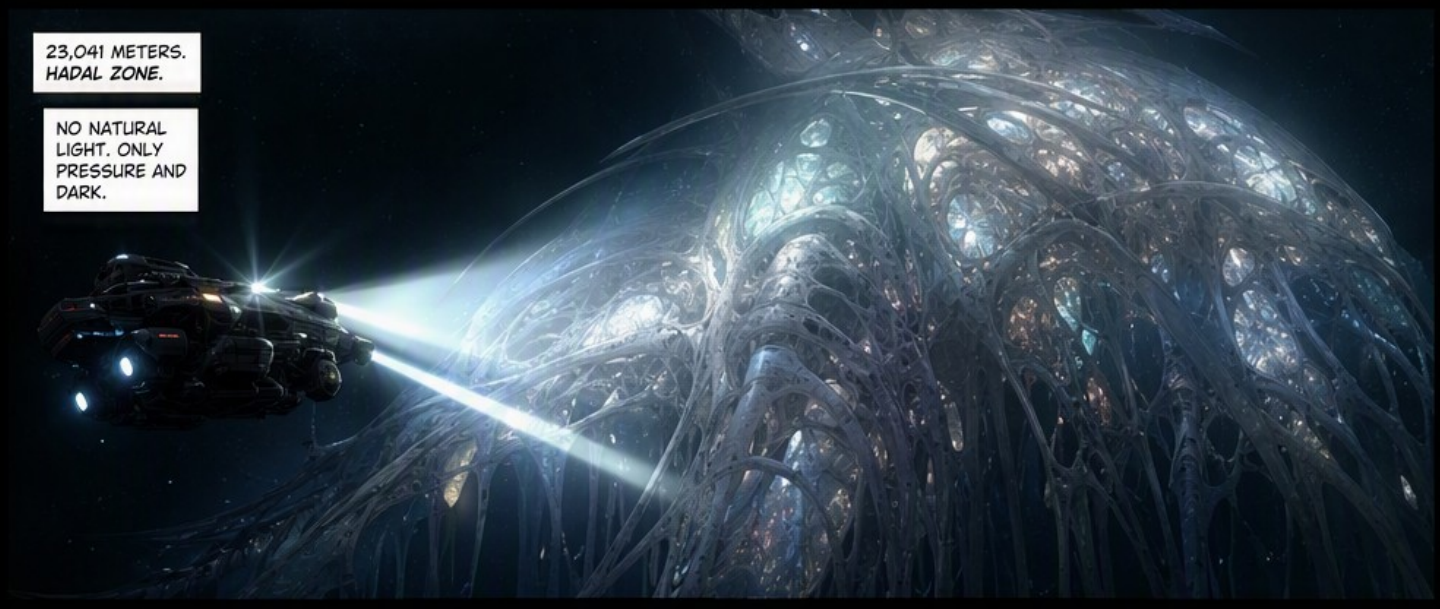








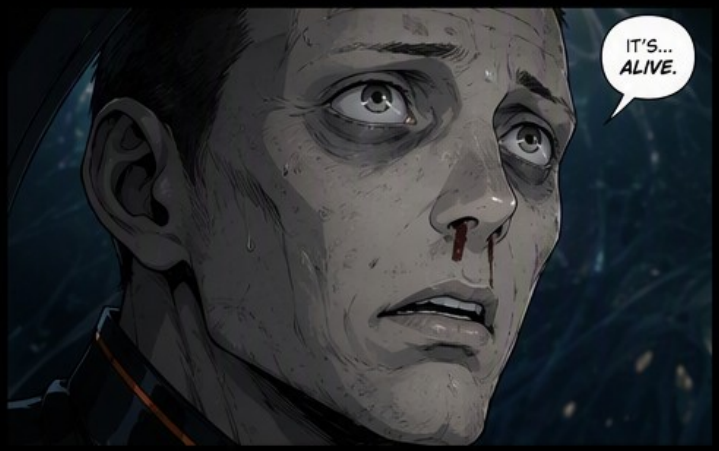
KERBEROS ANOMALY IS NO LONGER A RUMOR. IT IS REAL.


23,041 METERS.
HADAL ZONE.
NO NATURAL LIGHT. ONLY PRESSURE AND DARK.


HOLY...
D PRAINE
OPERATIVE KAELEN






IT'S... ALIVE.


NOT ALIVE. NOT DEAD. SOMETHING ELSE.

THE IRRELEVANT

DEPTH: 11,732m
PRESSURE: 1,173.2 atm
ENVIRONMENT: HADAL ZONE
OBJECT: UNKNOWN / NON-REACTIVE

Whatever this is,
it is not unaware.
It is simply
indifferent.

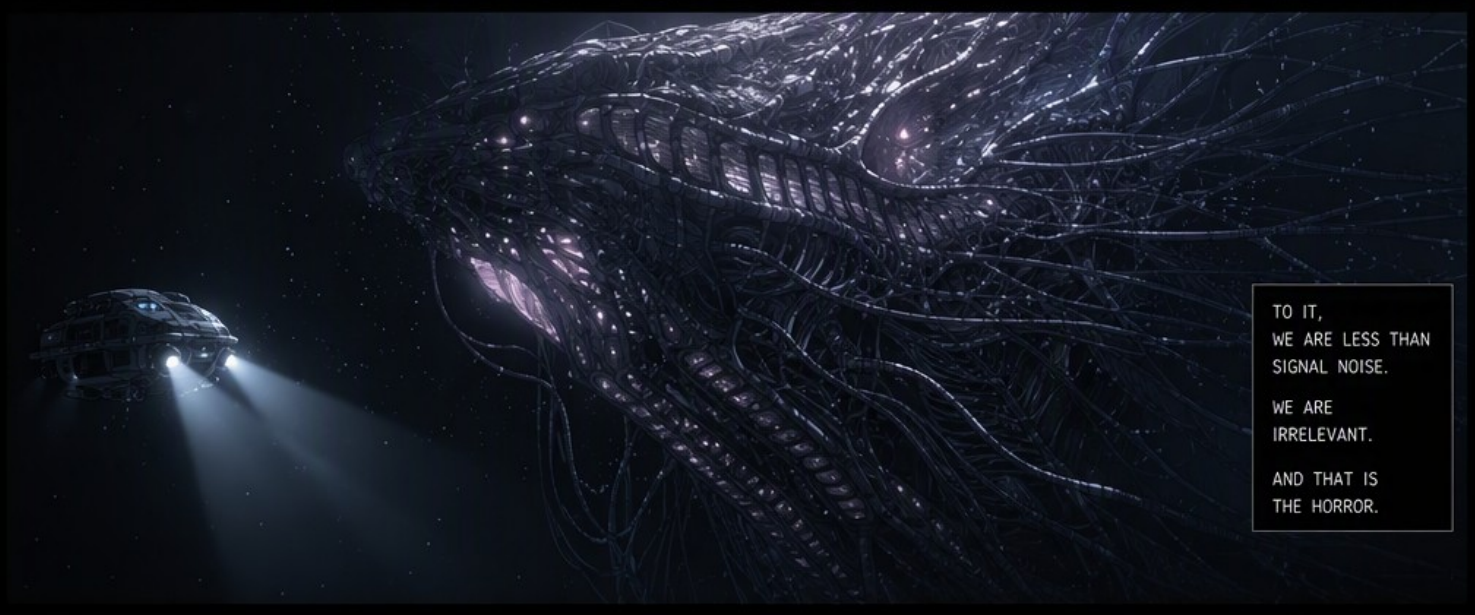


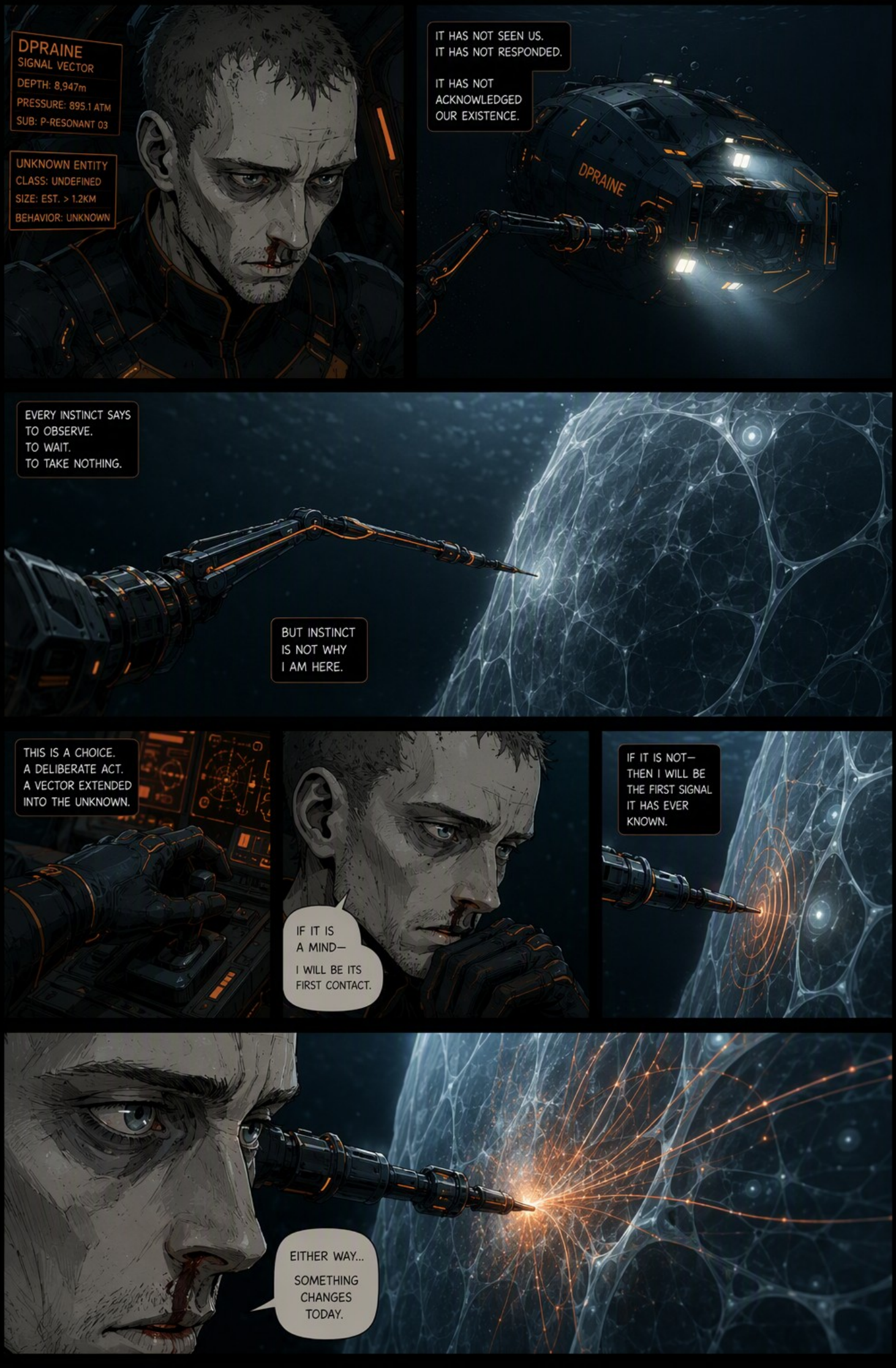


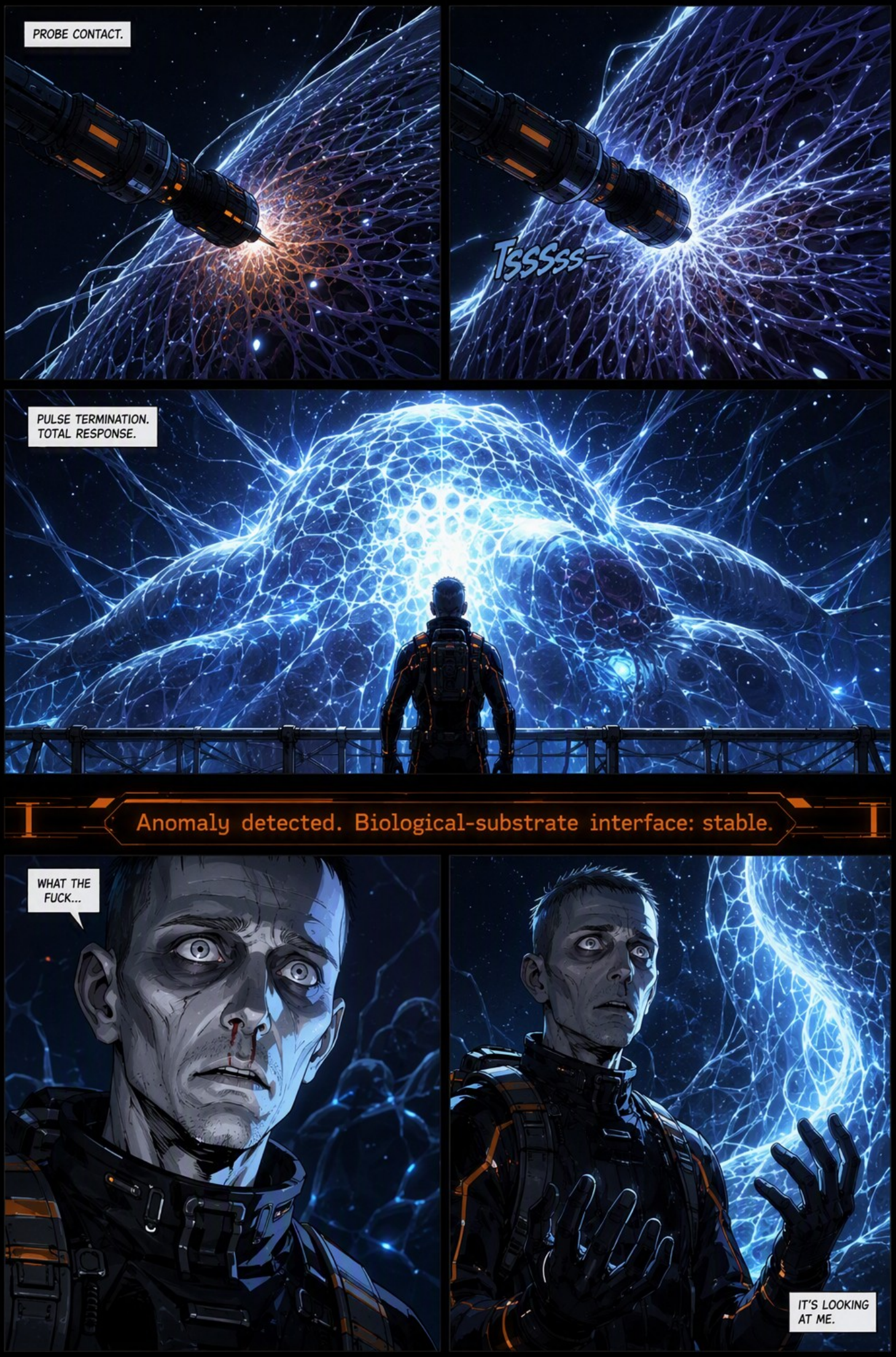




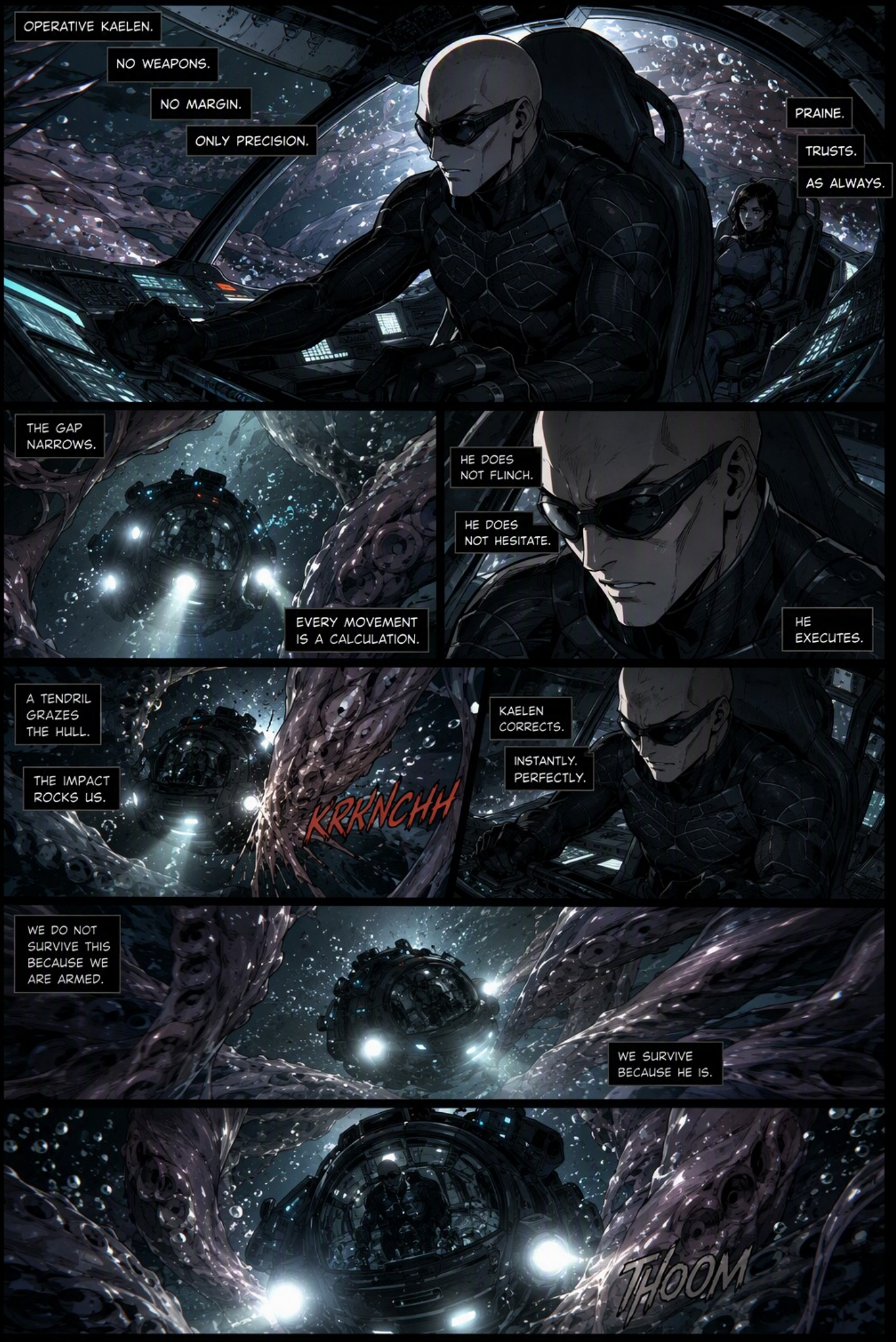


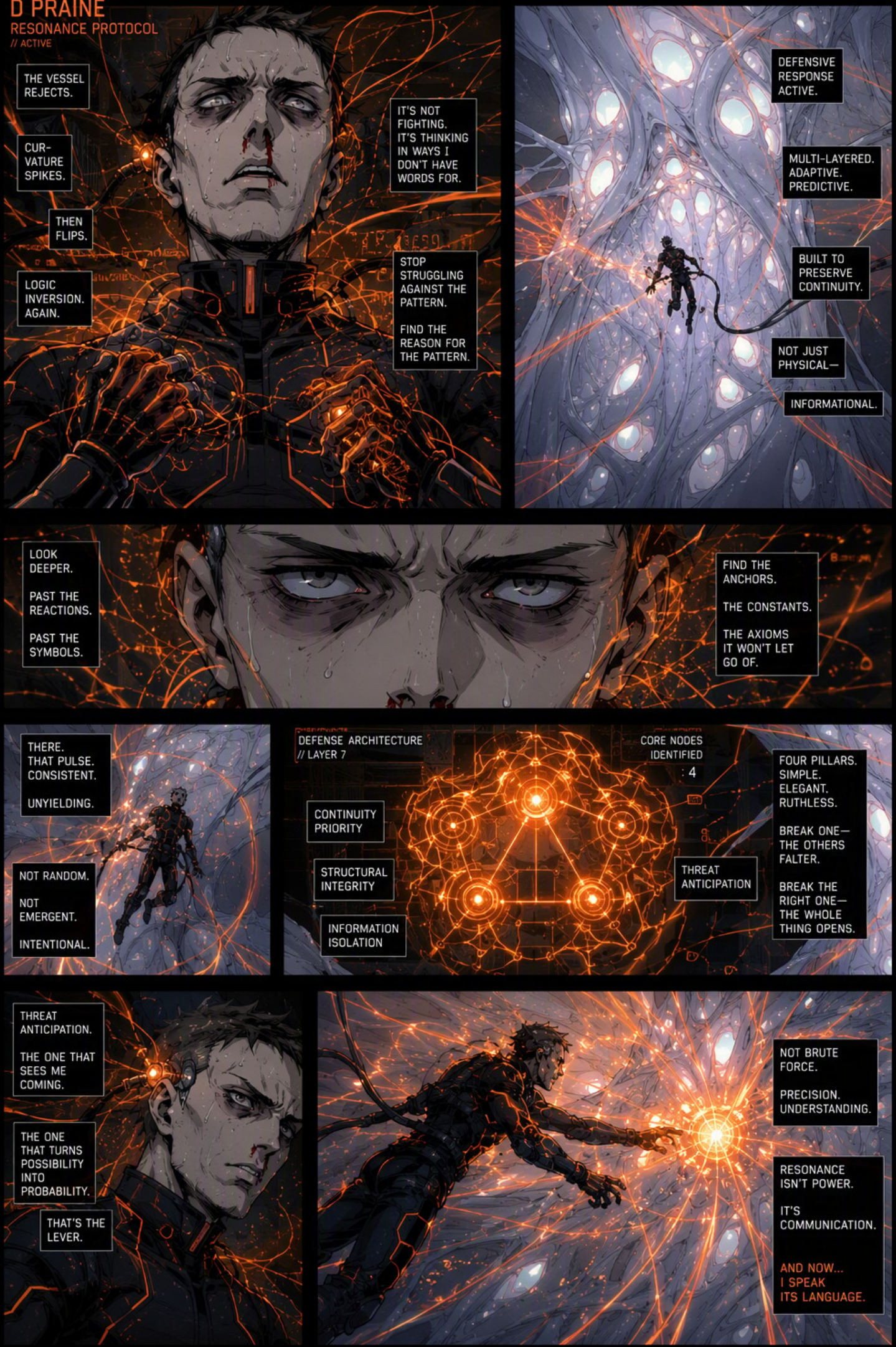


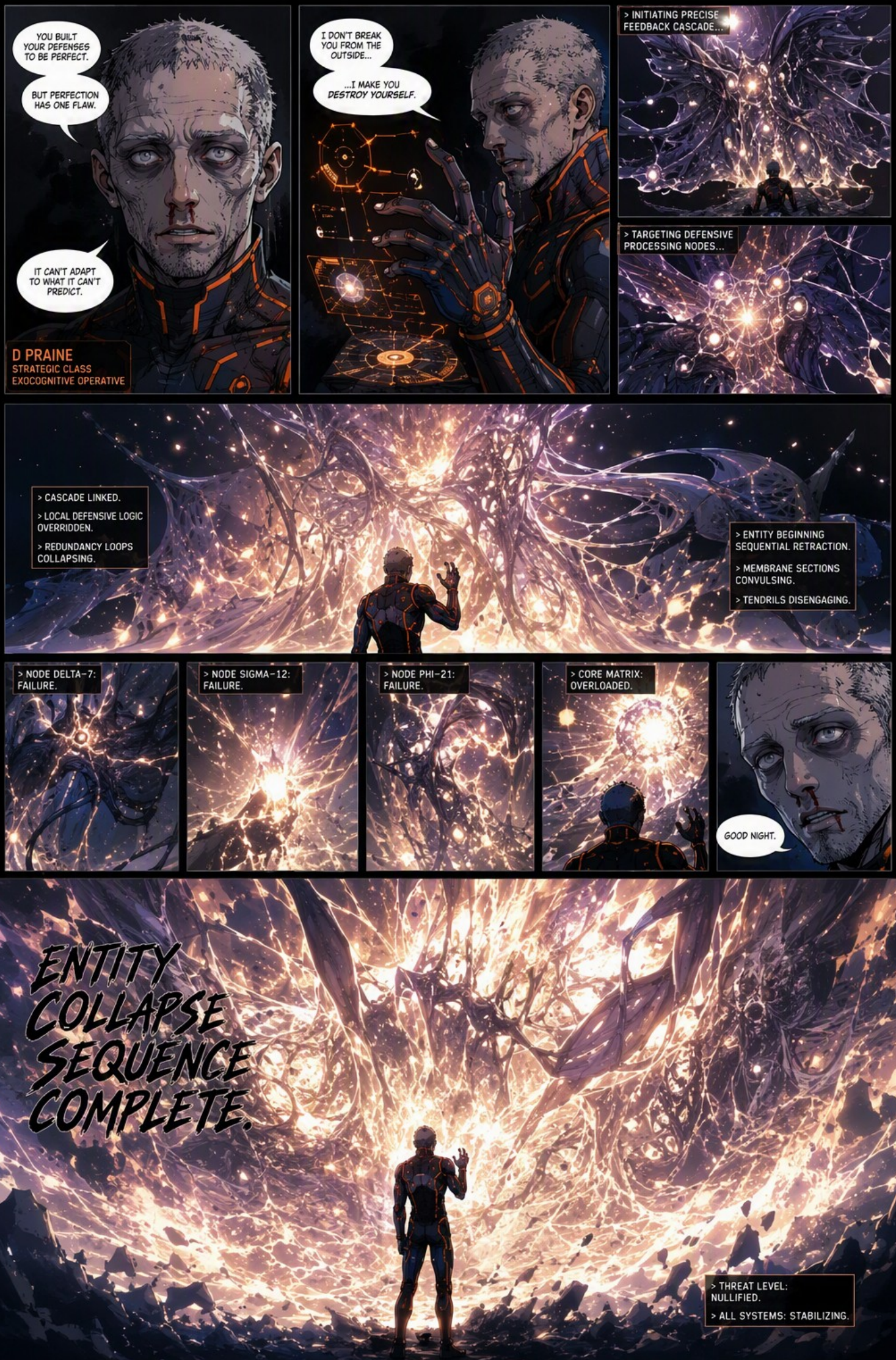

DPRAINE
SIGNAL VECTOR
DEPTH: 8,947m
PRESSURE: 895.1 ATM
SUB: P-RESONANT 03
UNKNOWN ENTITY
CLASS: UNDEFINED
SIZE: EST. > 1.2KM
BEHAVIOR: UNKNOWN
IT HAS NOT SEEN US.
IT HAS NOT RESPONDED.
IT HAS NOT ACKNOWLEDGED OUR EXISTENCE.
DPRAINE
EVERY INSTINCT SAYS TO OBSERVE.
TO WAIT.
TO TAKE NOTHING.
BUT INSTINCT IS NOT WHY I AM HERE.
THIS IS A CHOICE.
A DELIBERATE ACT.
A VECTOR EXTENDED INTO THE UNKNOWN.
IF IT IS A MIND—
I WILL BE ITS FIRST CONTACT.
IF IT IS NOT—
THEN I WILL BE THE FIRST SIGNAL IT HAS EVER KNOWN.
EITHER WAY...
SOMETHING CHANGES TODAY.

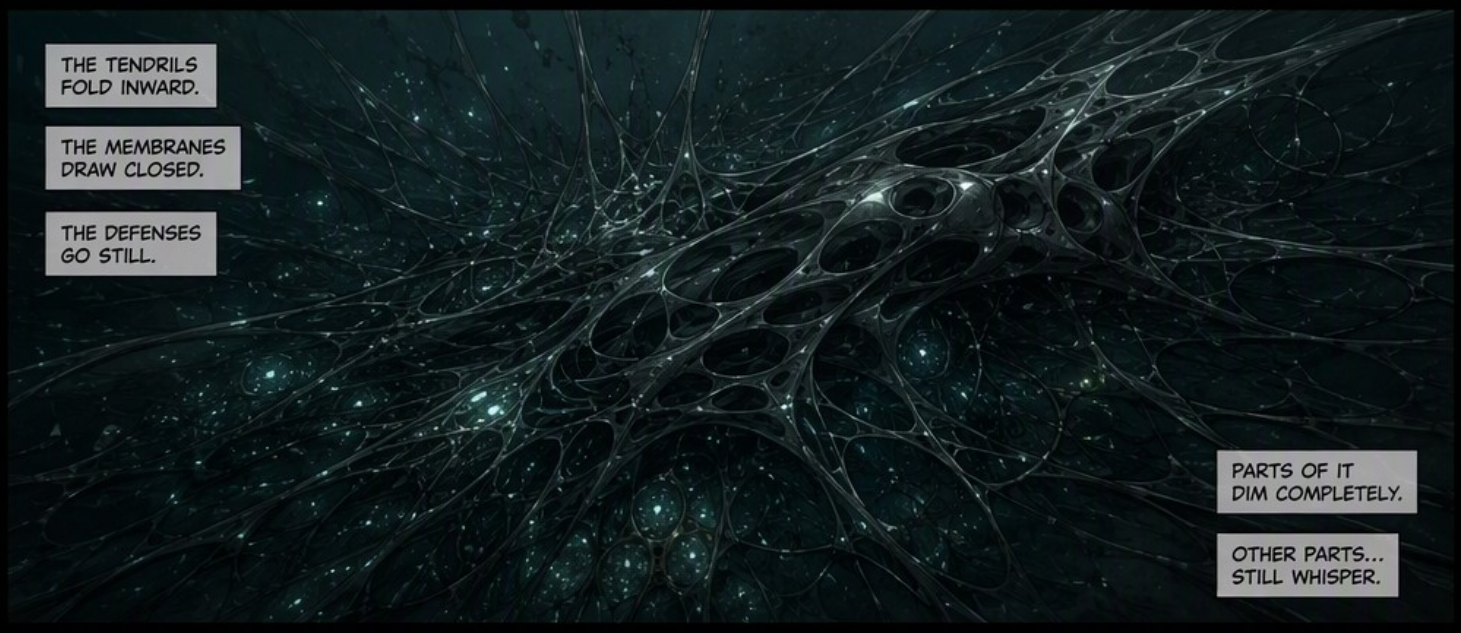

PROBE CONTACT.
TSSSss—
PULSE TERMINATION.
TOTAL RESPONSE.
Anomaly detected. Biological-substrate interface: stable.
WHAT THE FUCK...
IT'S LOOKING AT ME.


11,972 METERS BELOW THE SURFACE.
THE SURVEILLANCE PROTOCOL WAS SUPPOSED TO BE PASSIVE.
IT WAS NEVER SUPPOSED TO WAKE UP.
THE TENDRILS UNROOT.
THE MEMBRANES UNFOLD.
BUT IT DID.
NOT WEAPONS.
ORGANS.
BUILT FOR GROWTH. BUILT FOR COMPUTATION.
NOTHING HERE RESEMBLES AN ATTACK.
AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT WORSE.


OPERATIVE KAELEN.
NO WEAPONS.
NO MARGIN.
ONLY PRECISION.
PRAINE.
TRUSTS.
AS ALWAYS.
THE GAP NARROWS.
EVERY MOVEMENT IS A CALCULATION.
HE DOES NOT FLINCH.
HE DOES NOT HESITATE.
HE EXECUTES.
A TENDRIL GRAZES THE HULL.
THE IMPACT ROCKS US.
KRKNCHH
KAELEN CORRECTS.
INSTANTLY. PERFECTLY.
WE DO NOT SURVIVE THIS BECAUSE WE ARE ARMED.
WE SURVIVE BECAUSE HE IS.
THOOM


D PRAINE
RESONANCE PROTOCOL
// ACTIVE
THE VESSEL REJECTS.
CUR-VATURE SPIKES.
THEN FLIPS.
LOGIC INVERSION. AGAIN.
IT'S NOT FIGHTING. IT'S THINKING IN WAYS I DON'T HAVE WORDS FOR.
STOP STRUGGLING AGAINST THE PATTERN.
FIND THE REASON FOR THE PATTERN.
DEFENSIVE RESPONSE ACTIVE.
MULTI-LAYERED. ADAPTIVE. PREDICTIVE.
BUILT TO PRESERVE CONTINUITY.
NOT JUST PHYSICAL—
INFORMATIONAL.
LOOK DEEPER.
PAST THE REACTIONS.
PAST THE SYMBOLS.
FIND THE ANCHORS.
THE CONSTANTS.
THE AXIOMS IT WON'T LET GO OF.
THERE. THAT PULSE. CONSISTENT.
UNYIELDING.
NOT RANDOM.
NOT EMERGENT.
INTENTIONAL.
DEFENSE ARCHITECTURE
// LAYER 7
CORE NODES IDENTIFIED
: 4
CONTINUITY PRIORITY
STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY
INFORMATION ISOLATION
THREAT ANTICIPATION
FOUR PILLARS. SIMPLE. ELEGANT. RUTHLESS.
BREAK ONE— THE OTHERS FALTER.
BREAK THE RIGHT ONE— THE WHOLE THING OPENS.
THREAT ANTICIPATION.
THE ONE THAT SEES ME COMING.
THE ONE THAT TURNS POSSIBILITY INTO PROBABILITY.
THAT'S THE LEVER.
NOT BRUTE FORCE.
PRECISION. UNDERSTANDING.
RESONANCE ISN'T POWER.
IT'S COMMUNICATION.
AND NOW... I SPEAK ITS LANGUAGE.


YOU BUILT YOUR DEFENSES TO BE PERFECT.
BUT PERFECTION HAS ONE FLAW.
IT CAN'T ADAPT TO WHAT IT CAN'T PREDICT.
D PRAINE
STRATEGIC CLASS
EXOCOGNITIVE OPERATIVE
I DON'T BREAK YOU FROM THE OUTSIDE...
...I MAKE YOU DESTROY YOURSELF.
> INITIATING PRECISE FEEDBACK CASCADE...
> TARGETING DEFENSIVE PROCESSING NODES...
> CASCADE LINKED.
> LOCAL DEFENSIVE LOGIC OVERRIDDEN.
> REDUNDANCY LOOPS COLLAPSING.
> ENTITY BEGINNING SEQUENTIAL RETRACTION.
> MEMBRANE SECTIONS CONVULSING.
> TENDRILS DISENGAGING.
> NODE DELTA-7: FAILURE.
> NODE SIGMA-12: FAILURE.
> NODE PHI-21: FAILURE.
> CORE MATRIX: OVERLOADED.
GOOD NIGHT.
ENTITY COLLAPSE SEQUENCE COMPLETE.
> THREAT LEVEL: NULLIFIED.
> ALL SYSTEMS: STABILIZING.









THE DEEP REMEMBERS.

THE CONNECTION HOLDS...

$$\nabla \cdot J = 0$$

$$Z = \sum_{c}^{n} e^{-S[x]}$$

$$H = \int d^3x \sqrt{g}\left(R - \frac{2\Lambda}{16\pi G}\right)$$

$$|\psi\rangle = \sum_{i}^{n} c_i |\phi_i\rangle$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - c^2\nabla^2\right)\phi(x,t) = 0$$

$$dS \geq 0$$

$$\Lambda \sim 10^{-122}$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s} = \zeta(s)$$

$$P = NP$$

$$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}Rg_{\mu\nu} + \Lambda g_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G T_{\mu\nu}$$

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\psi(t)\rangle = \hat{H} |\psi(t)\rangle$$

$$\Omega = \{x \in X | \mu(\partial A) = 0\}$$

$$K = -\sum_{i}^{n} p_i \log p_i$$

...JUST LONG ENOUGH TO CATCH FLEETING, INCOMPLETE FRAGMENTS OF ITS TRUE PURPOSE.

$$\exists x\,(U(x,t) = 0)$$

$$\chi = \sum_{i}^{n} (-1)^k b_k$$

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} = -i[H,\rho]$$

$$\int_M F \wedge F$$

$$e^{i\theta} \neq 1$$

$$\delta g_{\mu\nu} = 0$$

$$\prod_{p}^{n} p_i^{p_i}$$

$$\nabla^2\psi + k^2\psi = 0$$

$$S = k_B \sum_{n=1}^{n} p_i \log\left(\frac{W}{p_i}\right)$$

$$\phi : M \to N$$

$$L = -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$$

BUT THE SCALE...

...THE SCOPE... THE IMPOSSIBLE COMPLETENESS...

$$\sup_{x \in X} d(x, A) = 0$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \sqrt{-g}\left(\frac{R}{16\pi G} + \mathcal{L}_m\right)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} S(\rho) = -k_B\, Tr\left(\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} \log \rho\right)$$

$$\prod_{p}^{n} \frac{1}{1 - p^{-s}} = \frac{1}{\zeta(s)}$$

$$G_{\mu\nu} + \Lambda g_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G T_{\mu\nu}$$

$$\mu = \sum_{i}^{n} x_i \rho(x_i)$$

...BEYOND COMPREHENSION.

THEN — THE CONNECTION SEVERS.

SUDDEN. COMPLETE.

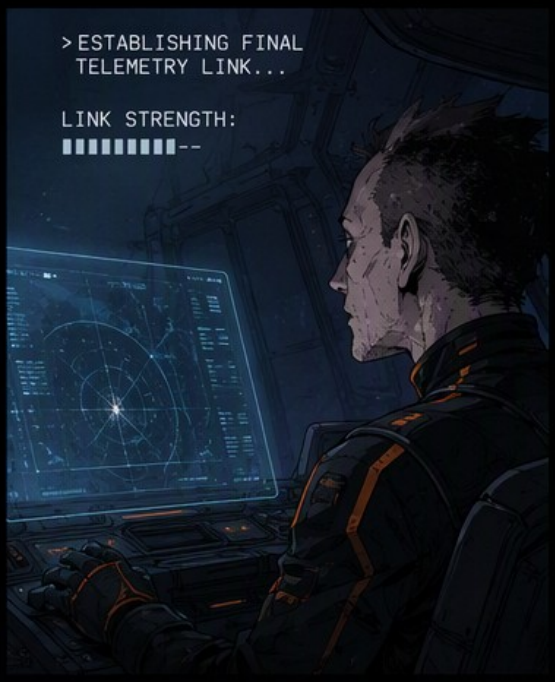
IT'S GONE.

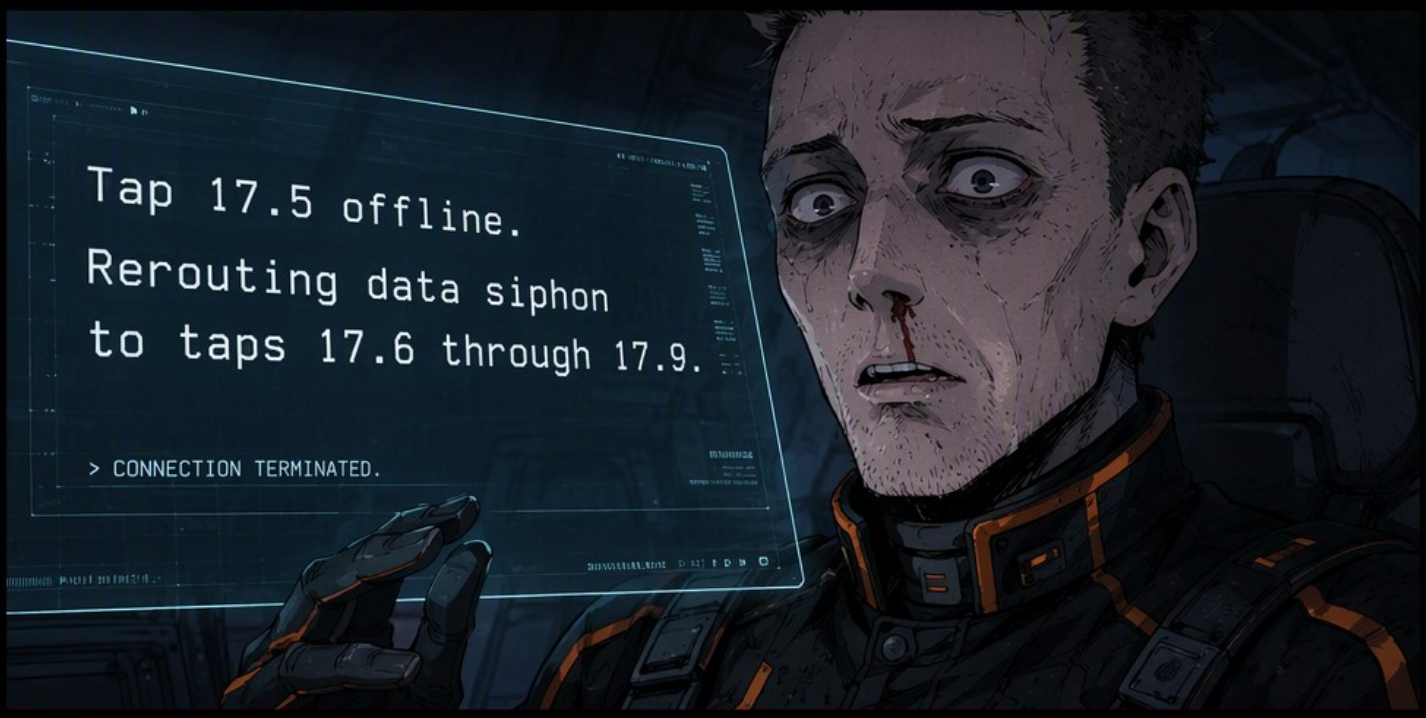
WHATEVER IT WAS...

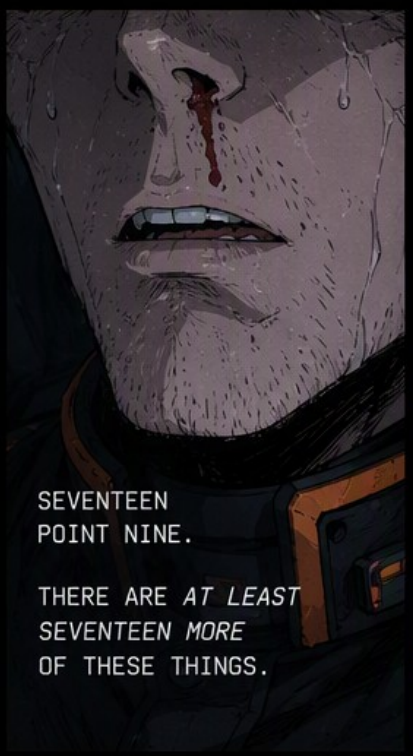
...IT WAS CALCULATING SOMETHING FAR BEYOND MY REACH.

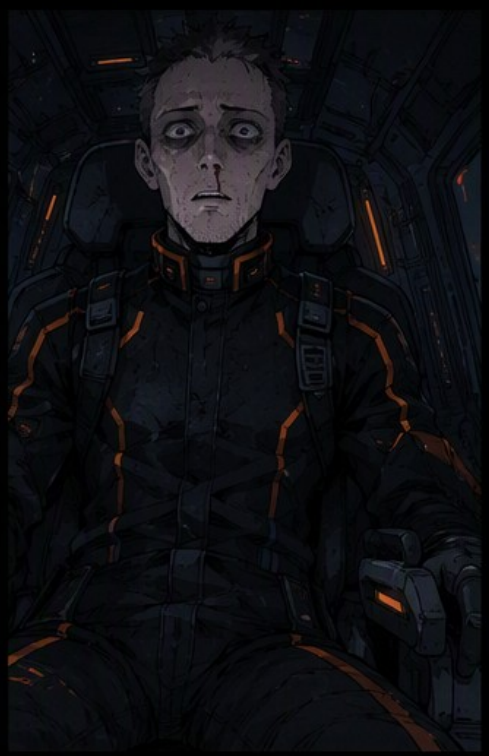
AND NOW, I'M LEFT WITH NOTHING BUT QUESTIONS.


>LOCAL STRUCTURE
INTEGRITY:
COLLAPSE CONFIRMED


>ESTABLISHING FINAL
TELEMETRY LINK...
LINK STRENGTH:
■■■■■■■■■--


Tap 17.5 offline.
Rerouting data siphon
to taps 17.6 through 17.9.
> CONNECTION TERMINATED.


SEVENTEEN
POINT NINE.
THERE ARE *AT LEAST*
SEVENTEEN MORE
OF THESE THINGS.




AND WE JUST
TOOK OUT...

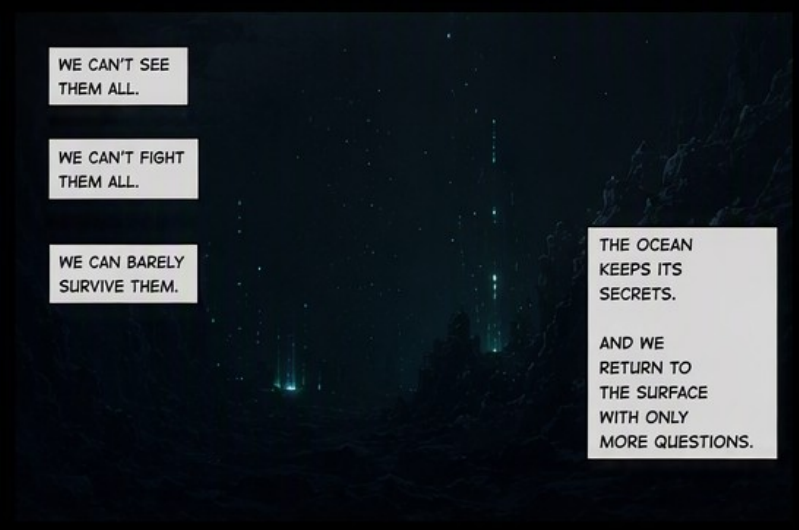

...ONE.


TAP STRUCTURE ETA-9-7 DESTROYED
MISSION OBJECTIVE COMPLETE.
BEGIN ASCENT.


THEY BUILT DOWN.
FARTHER THAN WE CAN GO.
OLDER THAN WE CAN KNOW.


WE TOOK WHAT WE CAME FOR.
THEY STILL OUTNUMBER US BEYOND MEASUREMENT.
THIS WASN'T WAR.
IT WAS A REMINDER.


THERE ARE LIGHTS IN THE DISTANCE.
NOT STARS.
STRUCTURES. ACTIVE.


WE CAN'T SEE THEM ALL.
WE CAN'T FIGHT THEM ALL.
WE CAN BARELY SURVIVE THEM.
THE OCEAN KEEPS ITS SECRETS.
AND WE RETURN TO THE SURFACE WITH ONLY MORE QUESTIONS.