



PS OMI C S
E 1 2 3 4 5

07

\$4.99 US
RATED T+

D PR AINE

FRACTURED EQUILIBRIUM

TWO FORCES.
ONE REALITY.
NO BALANCE.

THE SUBSTRATE DEFENSE
// PROTOCOL WARDEN

THE ARCHITECT MANIFESTATION
// NULL ORIGIN

HISTORY SHATTERS.
FUTURE BLEEDS.

THE ARCHITECT™
CLASS: UNKNOWN
ORIGIN: EXTRATERRESTRIAL
STATUS: ADVANCING



IT DOES
NOT RAGE.



IT DOES
NOT HATE.



IT BUILDS.
IT REFINES.
IT REMAKES.



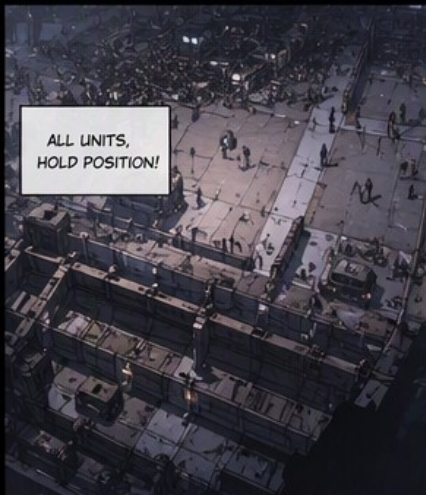
WE ARE NOT
ITS ENEMY.

WE ARE ITS
RAW MATERIAL.

SIR! IT'S
CLOSING ON
THE BARRICADES!



ALL UNITS,
HOLD POSITION!



LOOK AT THE
SCALE OF THAT
THING...

IT'S LIKE
A MOVING CITY.



ARCHITECT 建築家

It does not build.

It grows.

It does not consume.

It understands.



INTAKE NODE: HYDRA-7
LOCAL WATER SOURCES
DEBRIS, SILT, ORGANICS
INFRASTRUCTURE FRAGMENTS

INTAKE NODE: GEO-9
MINERAL SUBSTRATE
METALLIC ORES
STRUCTURAL REMAINS

TRANSFER CONDUITS
PERISTALTIC SHUNTING
PRESSURE BALANCED
FLOW RATE: VARIABLE



WHAT IS IT
MAKING?

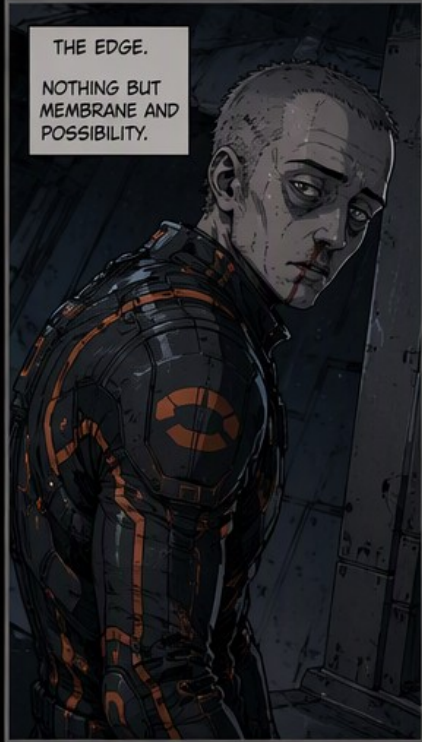


NO RESPONSE.
NO SIGNALS.
NO PATTERN.
JUST... PROCESS.



IT'S NOT A
MACHINE.
IT'S AN
ECOLOGY.

RESTRICTED ZONE
立入禁止区域
MILITARY DEFENSE PERIMETER
軍事防衛境界



THE EDGE.
NOTHING BUT
MEMBRANE AND
POSSIBILITY.



EIGHT BILLION MINDS.
ONE SHADOW.

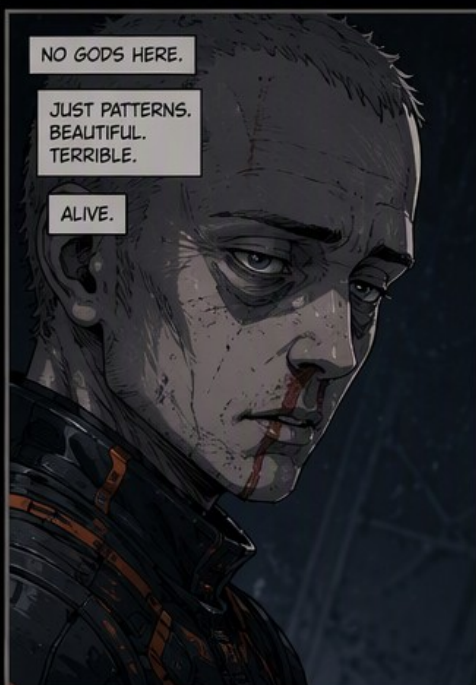
[SPECIES COGNITION // MACRO-SHADOW DENSITY: 100]



THEY MOVE LIKE
CELLS BENEATH SKIN.

CITIES. TRANSIT.
THOUGHT. DESIRE.
FEAR.

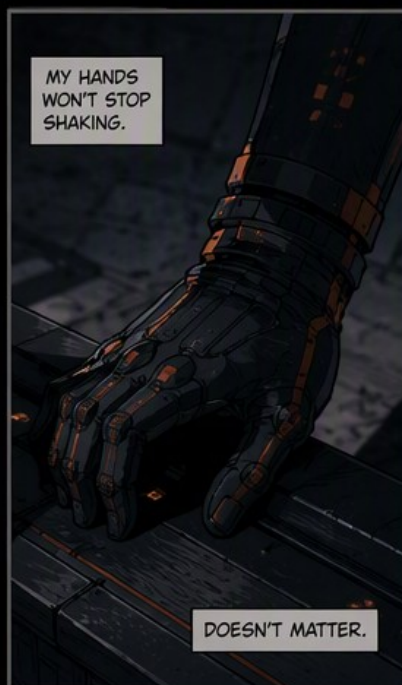
ALL GROWING.
ALL CONNECTED.



NO GODS HERE.

JUST PATTERNS.
BEAUTIFUL.
TERRIBLE.

ALIVE.



MY HANDS
WON'T STOP
SHAKING.

DOESN'T MATTER.



I AM JUST
A WITNESS.

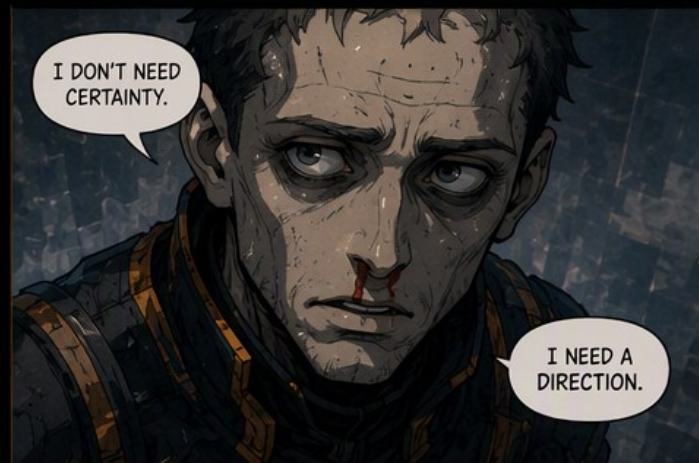
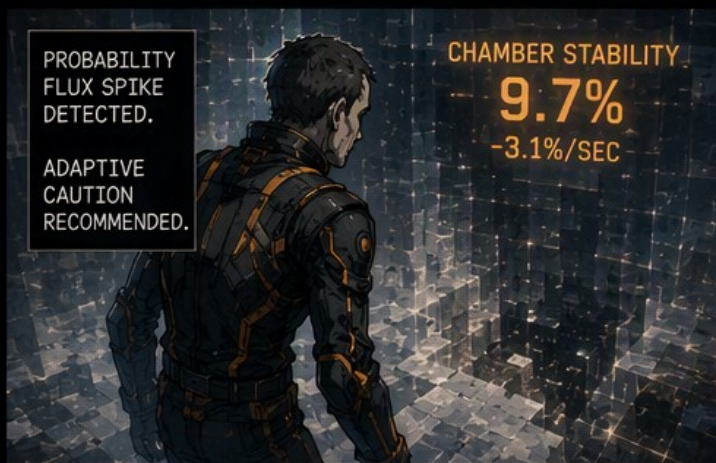
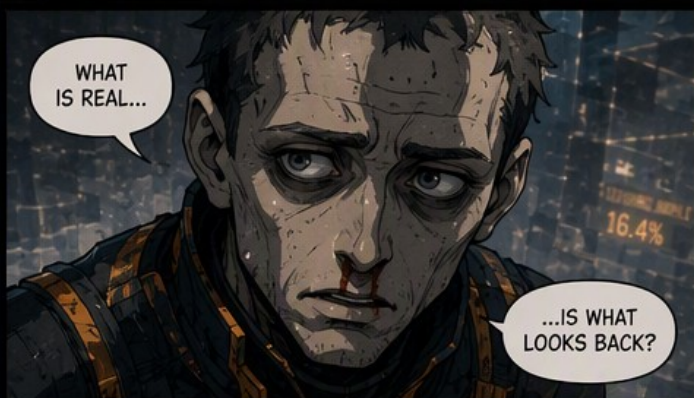
AND THIS—
THIS IS THE ONLY
MIRACLE LEFT.

CHAMBER 7B

STRUCTURAL PROBABILITY FIELD

All matter within this chamber exists in superposition relative to localized observer expectation.

Proceed with ontological caution.



THE SPIRE:
COORD: 88.991.23
ALT: ∞

CONTINENTAL GRID: ACTIVE /
TRANSIT FLOW: 98.4

THERE IS NO GROUND.
ONLY DATA.

THEY CALL
IT A CIVILIZATION.

I CALL IT
A PULSE.

IT BEATS.
I LISTEN.

NINETY-EIGHT
POINT FOUR
PERCENT.

STABLE.
PREDICTABLE.
BORING.

CONTINENTAL GRID: ACTIVE /
TRANSIT FLOW: 98.4

BUT STABILITY
IS A LIE.

ALL GRIDS
CRACK.
ALL SYSTEMS
BLEED.

SOMEWHERE DOWN THERE,
SOMETHING IS DIFFERENT.

A FRACTURE.
A WHISPER.
A CHANCE.

I JUST NEED
TO FIND IT.

BEFORE IT
FINDS ME.

D PRANE

PROBABILITY STORM, SECTOR NULL
00:17:42.993



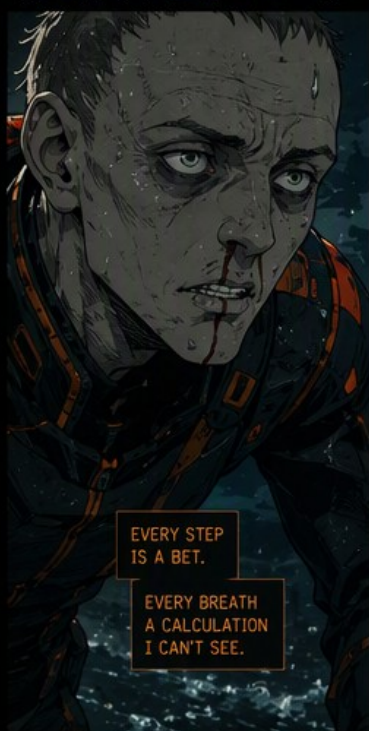
THE HORIZON
IS A LIE.

IT JUST
DECIDES
WHEN TO
TURN.

NINETY DEGREES.
NO WARNING.

JUST
COMMIT.

SURGE!



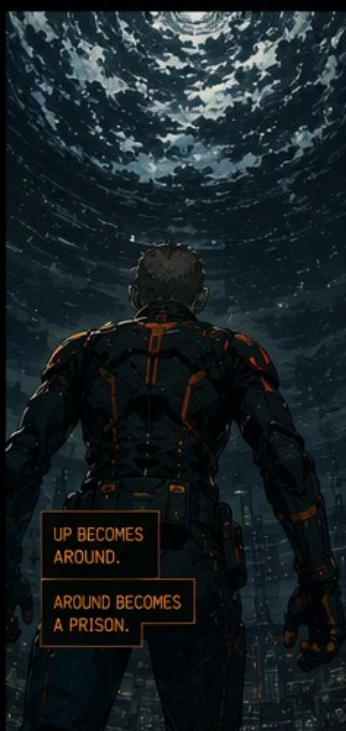
EVERY STEP
IS A BET.

EVERY BREATH
A CALCULATION
I CAN'T SEE.



CITIES RISE
TO CARRY ME.

CITIES DIE
INSTANTLY.



UP BECOMES
AROUND.

AROUND BECOMES
A PRISON.

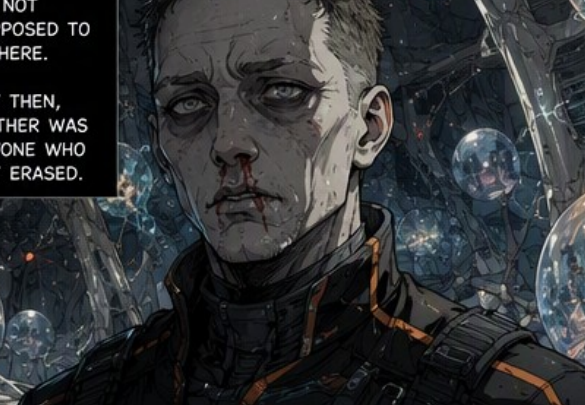


BUT I DON'T STOP.
BECAUSE THE ONLY
DIRECTION LEFT...

...IS THROUGH.

I'M NOT
SUPPOSED TO
BE HERE.

BUT THEN,
NEITHER WAS
ANYONE WHO
GOT ERASED.



TOUCH A ROOT.
ASK A QUESTION.

THE FOREST
REARRANGES
ITSELF.

シュウウウ...

シュウウウ...



THOUSANDS OF PODS. MILLIONS OF GHOSTS.

EACH ONE FLICKERS LIKE A HALF-FORGOTTEN DREAM.

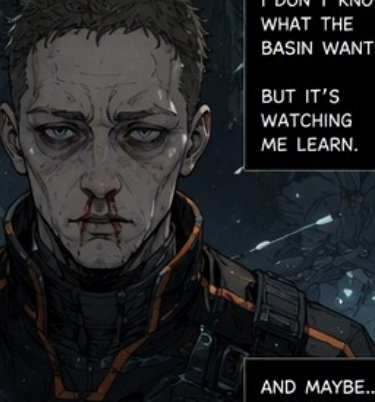
STREET SOUNDS.

LAUGHTER.

A DOOR
SLAMMING.

A CHILD
CRYING.

DATA ISN'T COLD HERE.
IT'S WARM. IT'S WET.



I DON'T KNOW
WHAT THE
BASIN WANTS.

BUT IT'S
WATCHING
ME LEARN.

AND MAYBE...
REMEMBER.



SUBJECT:
D PRAINE

AGE: 20

STATUS: CRITICAL

PROCEDURE:
SPINAL COLUMN
RECONSTRUCTION

NANITE DENSITY:
 2.7×10^9 /CC

INTEGRATION RATE:
91.4%

EST. COMPLETION:
00:02:17

PAIN IS
DATA.

NANITES INGRESS
CONFIRMED.

BUILDING SECONDARY
NEURAL LATTICE.

SYNTHETIC AXONS
ONLINE.
BIODATA SYNC
ESTABLISHED.

MICRO-CONDUITS
FUSING INTO
NERVE CLUSTERS.
REDUNDANCY:
300%

VERTEBRAL
ANCHORS
RECALIBRATING.
STRUCTURAL
INTEGRITY:
97.8%

SYNTHETIC
NERVES
BRAIDING OVER
BIOLOGICAL
PATHWAYS.
NO REJECTION
DETECTED.

SYNAPTIC
HANDSHAKE
COMPLETE.

NEW SIGNAL
PATHWAYS
ONLINE.

BIOLOGICAL
SIGNAL

SYNTHETIC
SIGNAL

PARALLEL
CONSCIOUSNESS
ARCHITECTURE
ACTIVE.

HE IS
NOT HEALED.
HE IS
UPGRADED.

INTEGRATION!

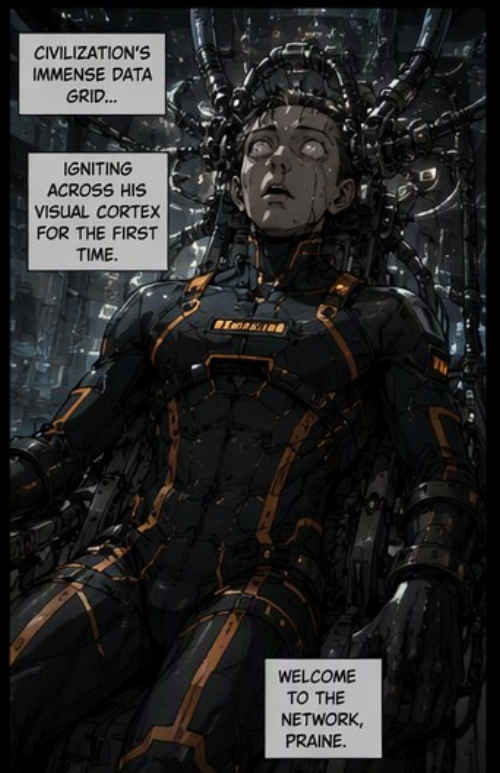
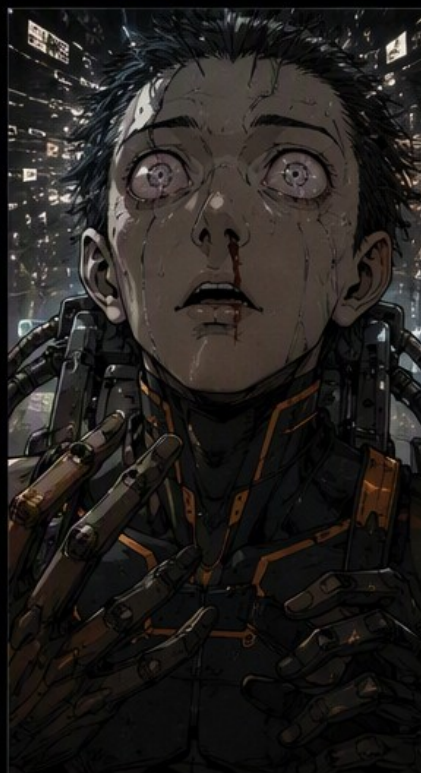


THE
HUMAN NEURAL
CHASSIS CANNOT
ENDURE DIRECT
RESONANCE!



HIS VISUAL
CORTEX IS
LIGHTING UP!

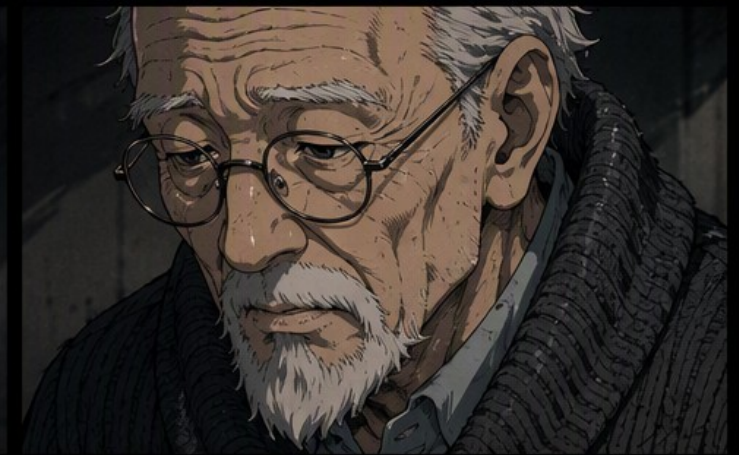
HE'S
SEEING THE
GRID!



CIVILIZATION'S
IMMENSE DATA
GRID...

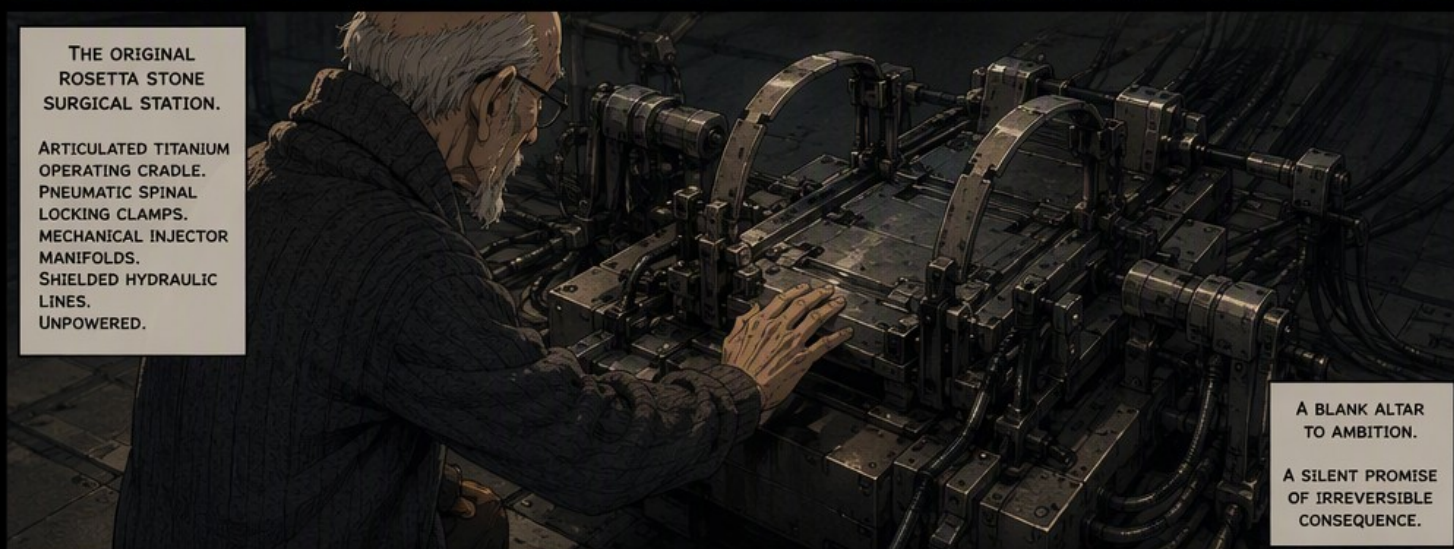
IGNITING
ACROSS HIS
VISUAL CORTEX
FOR THE FIRST
TIME.

WELCOME
TO THE
NETWORK,
PRAINE.





TWENTY YEARS PAST
BEFORE HUMAN
AUGMENTATION
COMMENCED.



THE ORIGINAL
ROSETTA STONE
SURGICAL STATION.

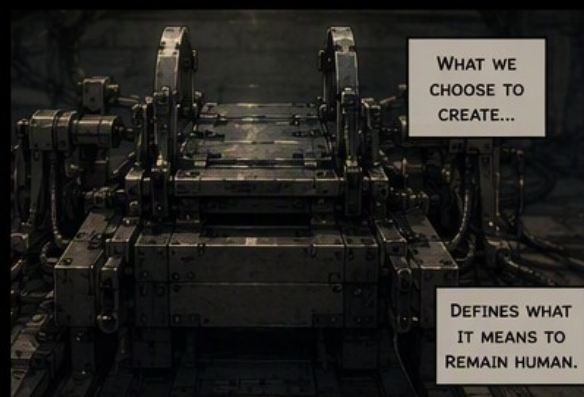
ARTICULATED TITANIUM
OPERATING CRADLE.
PNEUMATIC SPINAL
LOCKING CLAMPS.
MECHANICAL INJECTOR
MANIFOLDS.
SHIELDED HYDRAULIC
LINES.
UNPOWERED.

A BLANK ALTAR
TO AMBITION.

A SILENT PROMISE
OF IRREVERSIBLE
CONSEQUENCE.



INNOCENCE
BEFORE
CORRUPTION.



WHAT WE
CHOOSE TO
CREATE...

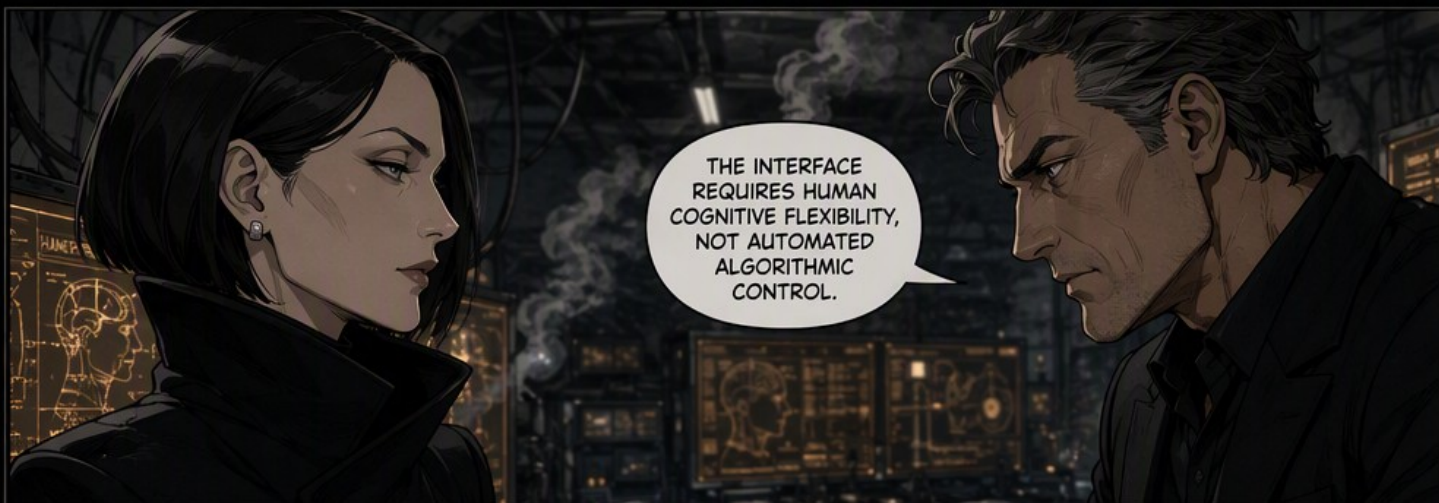
DEFINES WHAT
IT MEANS TO
REMAIN HUMAN.



MAY WE NEVER
FORGET THE WEIGHT
OF THIS FIRST
UNSTAINED MOMENT.

TWENTY
YEARS PAST.

VANCE NEUROTECH
SUBTERRANEAN LAB 7



THE INTERFACE
REQUIRES HUMAN
COGNITIVE FLEXIBILITY,
NOT AUTOMATED
ALGORITHMIC
CONTROL.



FLEXIBILITY
IS ERRATIC.

ERRATIC IS
INEFFICIENT.



HUMANITY IS
INEFFICIENT.

IT IS ALSO
UNPREDICTABLE.

THAT IS PRECISELY
WHY IT SURVIVES.



AND WHY IT IS
IRREPLACEABLE.

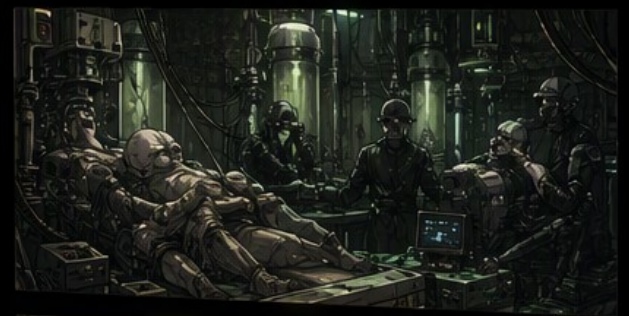
FORT DREXLER SUB-LEVEL 7
BIOMATERIAL DEVELOPMENT WING
CLASSIFIED

BEFORE THE
AUGMENTATIONS.

BEFORE THE
PROGRAM.

THERE WAS
ONLY OBSERVATION.

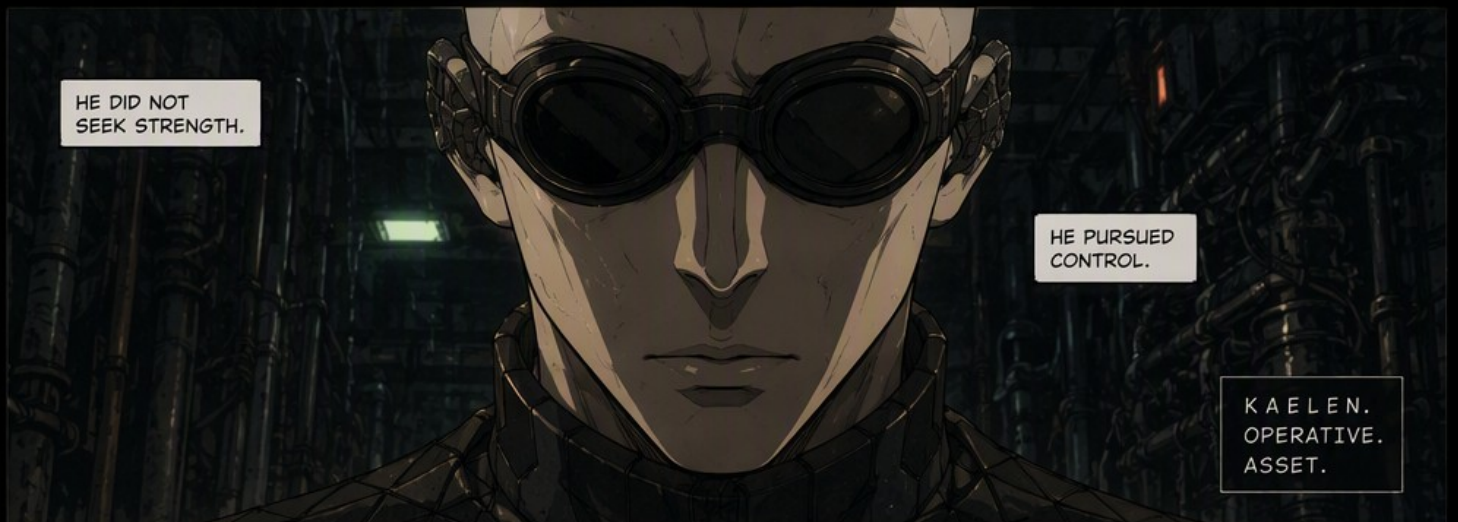
ONLY
ADAPTATION.



HE DID NOT
SEEK STRENGTH.

HE PURSUED
CONTROL.

KALEN.
OPERATIVE.
ASSET.



THE ARCHITECT

A multi-tiered extraterrestrial manifestation. Asymmetrical. Scale-less. Without eyes, without limbs, without cockpit. A presence.

IT DOES NOT SPEAK. IT CONFIGURES. IT CALCULATES. IT REMEMBERS.

ITS FOSSILIZED RIBCAGE HANGS WITHIN THE COMPUTATIONAL VOID, A REMNANT OF A DESIGN OLDER THAN TIME.

$$\Psi(x,t) = \sum_{n=1}^K \frac{K}{2} t^2$$

$$H_i|\psi_n\rangle = E_n|\psi_n\rangle$$

$$\Delta S \geq 0$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$dS = \frac{dQ}{T}$$

$$\Omega - \Omega' = \frac{W}{S}$$

$$d^2x \sqrt{g} R$$

$$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} R = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4} T_{\mu\nu}$$

$$dS = \frac{dQ}{T}$$

$$K = -\sum_{i=1}^K p_i \ln p_i$$

$$\langle O \rangle = \text{Tr}(\rho O)$$

$$P = e^{-S}$$

$$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} R = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4} T_{\mu\nu}$$

D PRAINE

SUBJECT ZERO.

A GAUNT, WIRY MAN IN HIS THIRTIES. SALLOW SKIN. SUNKEN EYES. A PERMANENT TREMOR IN HANDS THAT CAN'T STOP SHAKING.

A THIN TRICKLE OF DRIED BLOOD BENEATH ONE NOSTRIL. CHAPPED LIPS. CLOSE-CROPPED, PATCHY HAIR.

HIS BODY HOSTS A DENSE MICROSCOPIC MESH OF SILVERY-GRAY NANITES AND MICRO-CONDUITS.

THEY WEAVE. THEY LISTEN. THEY PREDICT. THEY PROTECT.

AUTONOMOUS. AGGRESSIVE. INSEPARABLE.

YOU BUILT ME TO SURVIVE ANYTHING.

SO WHY DO I STILL FEEL LIKE I'M DYING?

BECAUSE SURVIVAL IS NOT THE SAME AS PURPOSE.

YOU ARE A TOOL THAT REMEMBERS IT IS A TOOL.

THEN WHAT IS MY PURPOSE?

THAT IS A VARIABLE ONLY YOU CAN DEFINE.

LOG ENTRY 4721-A

THE ARCHITECT DOES NOT SEEK WORSHIP. IT SEEKS OPTIMIZATION.

D PRAINE IS THE CONSTANT. EVERYTHING ELSE IS THE EQUATION.

AND THE EQUATION HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN.



[illegible]

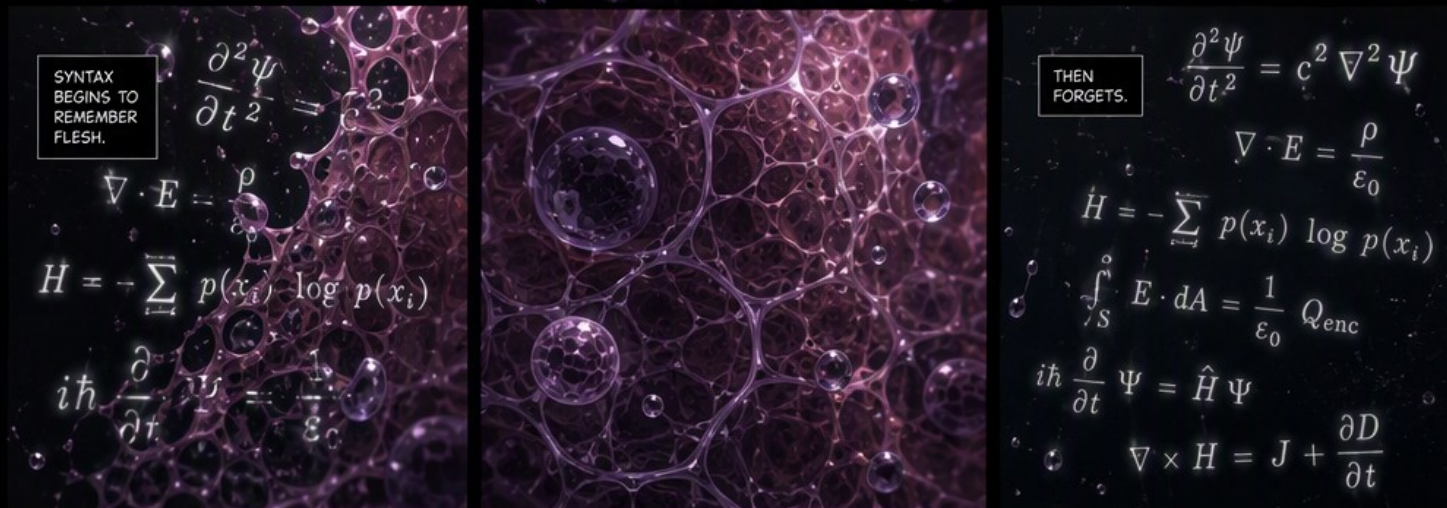
PULSE...

SYNTAX
BEGINS TO
REMEMBER
FLESH.

$$\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} = c^2$$

$$\nabla \cdot E = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$H = - \sum_i p(x_i) \log p(x_i)$$

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \psi = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{THEN FORGETS.} \quad & \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \nabla^2 \psi \\ & \nabla \cdot E = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0} \\ & H = - \sum_i p(x_i) \log p(x_i) \\ & \oint_S E \cdot dA = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} Q_{\text{enc}} \\ & i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Psi = \hat{H} \Psi \\ & \nabla \times H = J + \frac{\partial D}{\partial t} \end{aligned}$$

I DON'T COME HERE TO SOLVE ANYTHING.

I COME HERE TO BE PULSED BACK INTO PLACE.

001

D. PRAINE

I DON'T COME HERE TO SOLVE ANYTHING.

I COME HERE TO BE PULSED BACK INTO PLACE.

001

D. PRAINE

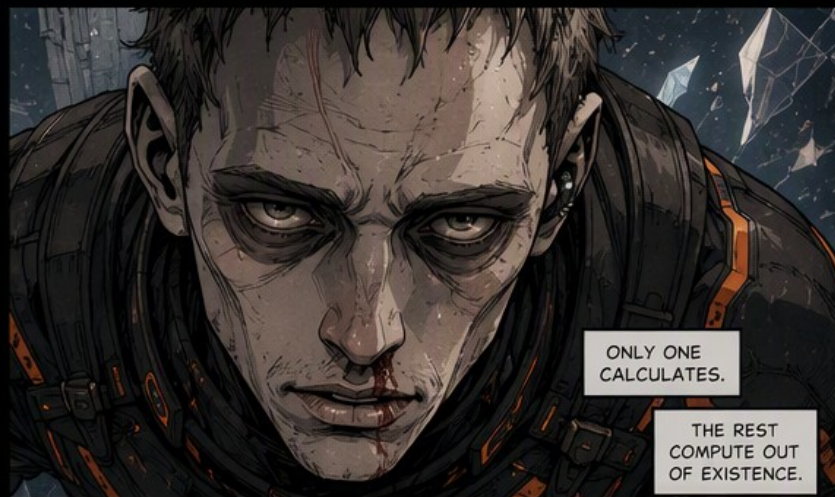




PROBABILITY VECTOR: 94.2

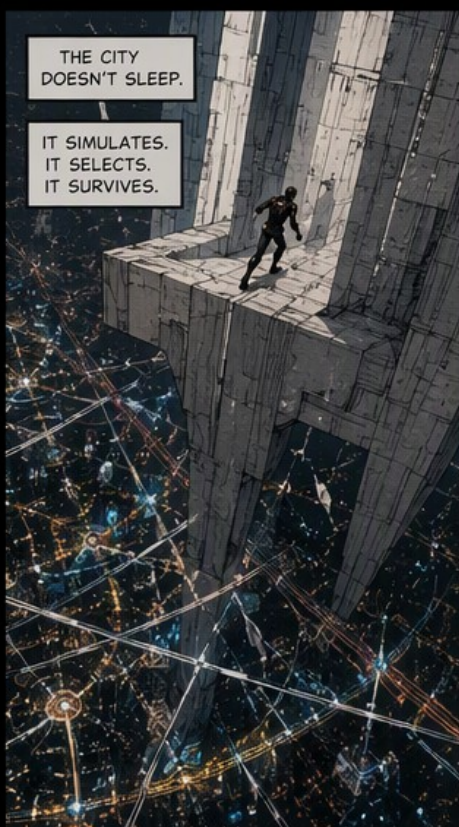


INFINITE PATHS.
INFINITE FAILURE.



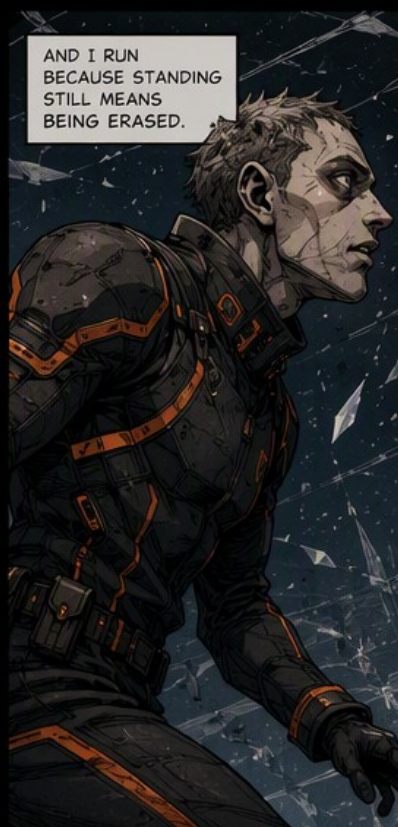
ONLY ONE
CALCULATES.

THE REST
COMPUTE OUT OF
EXISTENCE.

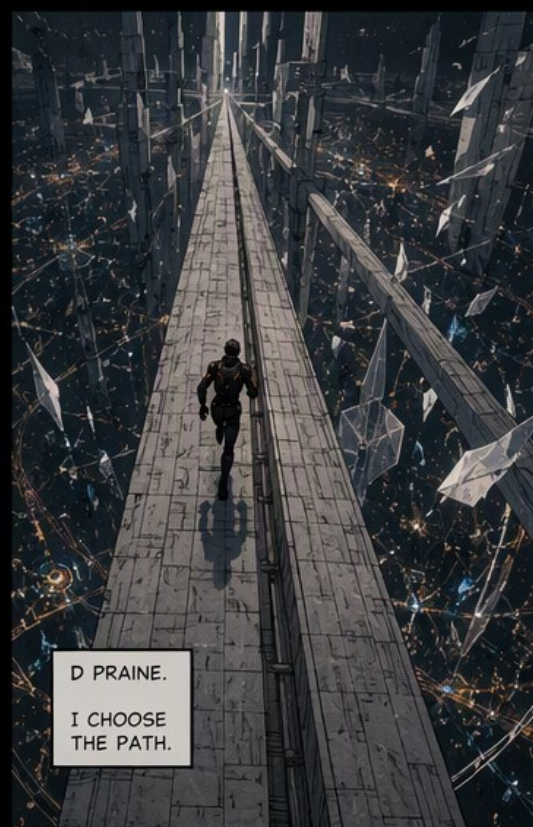


THE CITY
DOESN'T SLEEP.

IT SIMULATES.
IT SELECTS.
IT SURVIVES.



AND I RUN
BECAUSE STANDING
STILL MEANS
BEING ERASED.



D PRAINE.

I CHOOSE
THE PATH.

AT THE EXTREME OUTER PERIMETER OF COMPUTATIONAL SPACE, THERE IS NO LAND. ONLY BOUNDARY.

TWO SYSTEMS THAT CANNOT RECONCILE. TWO REALITIES THAT CANNOT MERGE.

AND ONLY ONE PATH STUPID ENOUGH TO WALK BETWEEN THEM.

// HUMAN DATA ARCHITECTURE

// ARCHITECT BIOLOGICAL-MECHANICAL INFRASTRUCTURE



THEY CALL ME D PRAINE.

NOT MY REAL NAME.

JUST WHAT THEY LOG WHEN THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT I AM.

GAUNT. WIRED. UNSTABLE.

A BUG THAT KEEPS RETURNING.

A GLITCH THAT REFUSES TO DIE.



HANDS THAT WON'T STEADY.

TREMBLE
TREMBLE

BECAUSE OUT HERE... THERE IS NOTHING TO HOLD ON TO.



EVERY STEP IS A NEGOTIATION.

EVERY BREATH A VIOLATION.



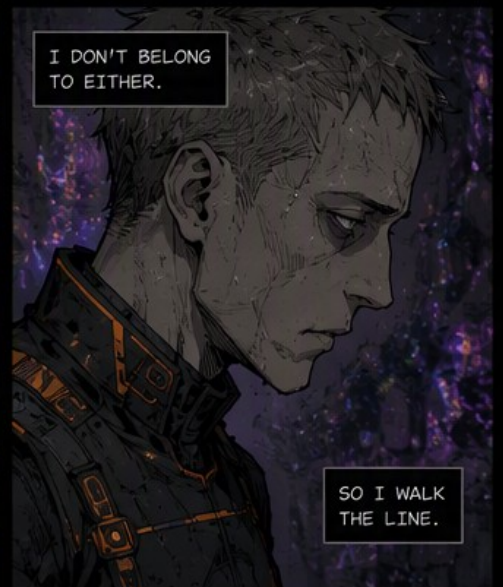
ONE SIDE SEEKS ORDER. THE OTHER, EVOLUTION.

ONE WANTS CONTROL. THE OTHER ONLY CONSUMES.



I DON'T BELONG TO EITHER.

SO I WALK THE LINE.



HOLLOW...



EACH REFLECTION,
A VERSION OF ME...

EACH ONE,
MOURNING WHAT
I LEFT BEHIND.

THEY CALL TO ME.

BUT I DO
NOT ANSWER.

I AM NOT THEIR
SALVATION.

I AM THEIR
REMINDER.

I WALK
THROUGH THEIR
GRIEF...

AND KEEP
WALKING.

D PRAINE
DISSOCIATIVE PATHFINDER
CLASS: NULL



D PRAINE

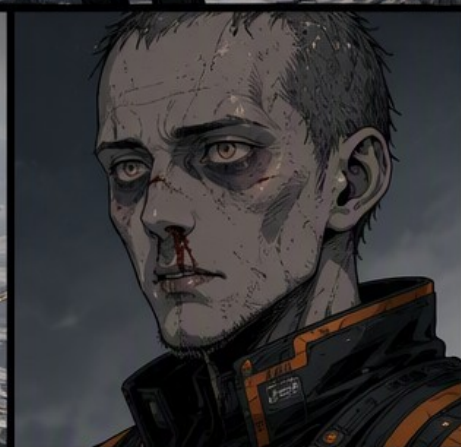
SUBJECT: D-2047-A
CLASS: OBSERVER
CLEARANCE: Ω

UNCLASSIFIED FILE

NOTE:
ENTROPY RESISTANT
REALITY ANCHOR

DESIGNATION:
THE CONSTANT

A close-up of the man's face and suit. He has a serious expression and is looking directly at the camera. The suit is black with orange accents. The word "PRAINE" is visible on the shoulder of the suit.



NO BONE.
NO ORGAN.
NO CORE.
ONLY DESIGN.
ONLY ABSENCE.
ONLY PURPOSE.

IT WAS NEVER
ALIVE.
IT WAS ONLY
AN INTERFACE.



D PRAINE

CHRONICLES OF THE FRACTURED FUTURE

VOLUME 07: THE ARCHITECT RAIN

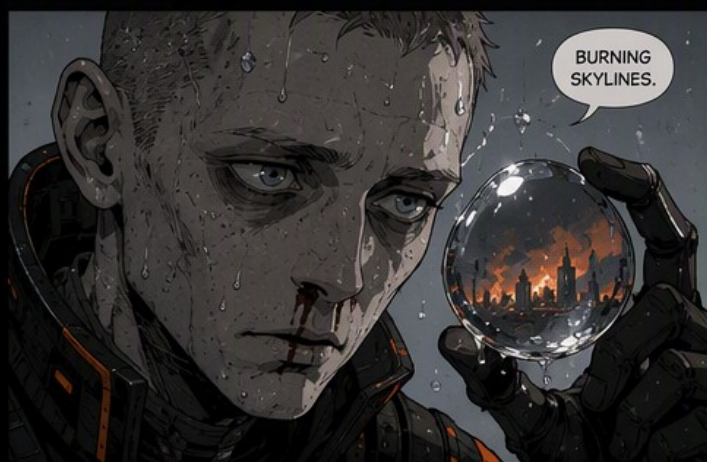


IT DOESN'T RAIN
HERE.

IT PAUSES.

EACH DROP,
A BRANCH.

EACH WORLD,
A WARNING.



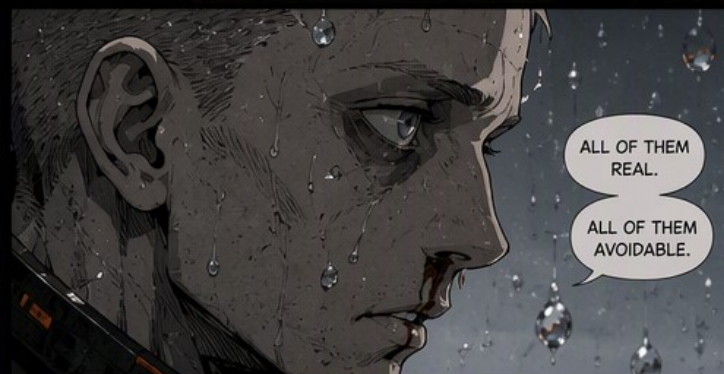
BURNING
SKYLINES.



OCEANS
OF GLASS.



WORLDS
BUILT BY
THEM.



ALL OF THEM
REAL.

ALL OF THEM
AVOIDABLE.



MY HANDS
WON'T STOP
SHAKING.

NOT FROM FEAR.

FROM THE WEIGHT OF
DOORS I HAVEN'T
CHOSEN YET.



THE CUBE ISN'T
A PRISON.

IT'S THE ONLY THING
IN THIS PLACE THAT
DOESN'T LIE.



I WALK TOWARD IT ANYWAY.



NO FUTURE IS WRITTEN.
ONLY CHOSEN.

D PRAINE

SECTOR // MATHEMATICAL ABANDONMENT ZONE



THERE IS NO SOUND.
NO SHADOW.
ONLY CORRECTION.

THE ARCHITECT
TRANSITS.

THE PILLARS REMEMBER
A SHAPE THEY WERE
NEVER MEANT TO HOLD.



I AM A CONSTANT.

IT IS THE VARIABLE.



STANDING ACROSS AN
EXPANSE OF MIRROR-POLISHED
BLACK OBSIDIAN FLOOR TILES
INSIDE A SILENT COMPUTATIONAL
VAULT, D PRAINE LOOKS
DOWN—

—AND SEES THE CRISP
REFLECTION OF A COLOSSAL,
MULTI-FACETED ARCHITECT
ORGANISM HOVERING DIRECTLY
ABOVE HIM.

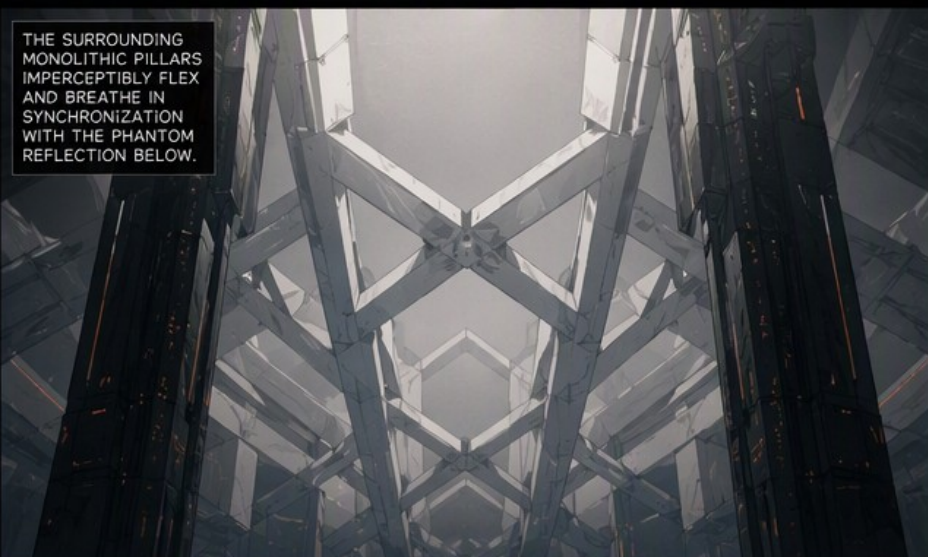
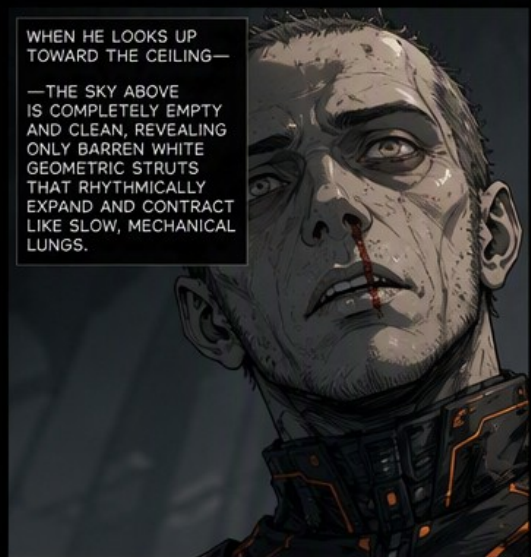


OPTICAL REGIME:
PHASE INVERTED

WHEN HE LOOKS UP
TOWARD THE CEILING—

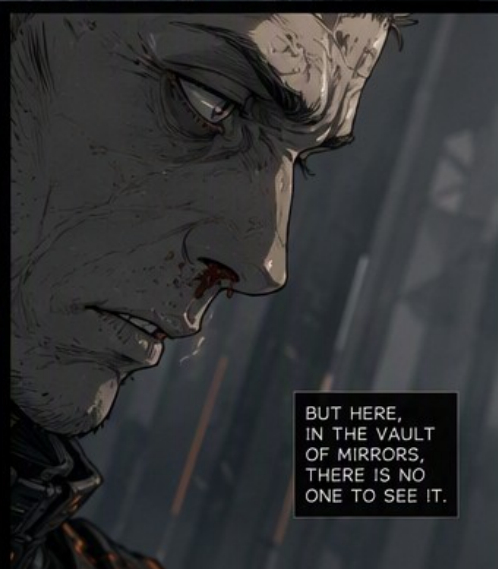
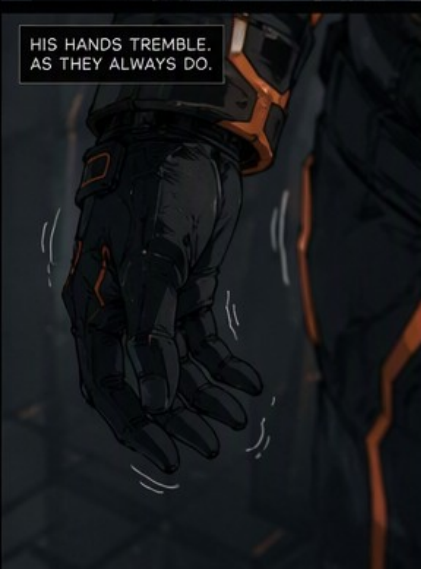
—THE SKY ABOVE
IS COMPLETELY EMPTY
AND CLEAN, REVEALING
ONLY BARREN WHITE
GEOMETRIC STRUTS
THAT RHYTHMICALLY
EXPAND AND CONTRACT
LIKE SLOW, MECHANICAL
LUNGS.

THE SURROUNDING
MONOLITHIC PILLARS
IMPERCEPTIBLY FLEX
AND BREATHE IN
SYNCHRONIZATION
WITH THE PHANTOM
REFLECTION BELOW.



OPTICAL REGIME:
PHASE INVERTED

HIS HANDS TREMBLE.
AS THEY ALWAYS DO.



BUT HERE,
IN THE VAULT
OF MIRRORS,
THERE IS NO
ONE TO SEE IT.

SUBSTRATE DEFENSE
SENTINEL. MODEL: AXI-NULL.
PURPOSE: PATH TERMINATION.

INTERCEPT VECTOR
LOCKED.

DISTANCE: 0.0007 SEC
RECOMMENDATION:
EVASION IMPOSSIBLE.
TERMINATION INEVITABLE.

PATHING
EQUATION
RECOGNIZED.

SOLUTION
IDENTIFIED.

SINGLE POINT
TO BREAK
THEIR LOGIC.

DECOMPUTE!

GOODBYE.

BEAUTIFUL
THING.

SUBSTRATE DEFENSE
CONSTRUCT: ZH-24 "AEGIS"
NATIVE. ALGORITHMIC. FAITHFUL.
PURPOSE: REALITY INTEGRITY.

ARCHITECT MANIFESTATION
UNKNOWN ORIGIN. NON-EUCLIDEAN.
PURPOSE: PATTERN ASCENSION.
STATUS: HOSTILE.

SHATTERED PLANE:
LABORATORY GANTRY PRIME
HISTORICAL. IRRETRIEVABLE.
SIGNIFICANCE: EVERYTHING.

D PRAINE
ROLE: ANOMALOUS VARIABLE
STATUS: UNACCEPTABLE.

TWO ABSOLUTES.
ONE PLANE.
NO ROOM
FOR ERROR.

HANDS WON'T
STOP. MIND
WON'T QUIET.
GOOD.

AEGIS CALCULATES
THREAT. ADAPTS.
DOES NOT HESITATE.

FEAR KEEPS THE
SIGNAL SHARP.

THE ARCHITECT
DOES NOT CALCULATE.
IT REMEMBERS.

THIS WAS A
RESEARCH STATION.
A PLACE OF QUESTIONS.

NOW IT'S A WEAPON.
AND I'M THE TRIGGER.

SCALE COLLAPSE: MULTI-TIER COINCIDENCE

SCALES/MULTI-TIER: ONLY SINGLE COINCIDENCE



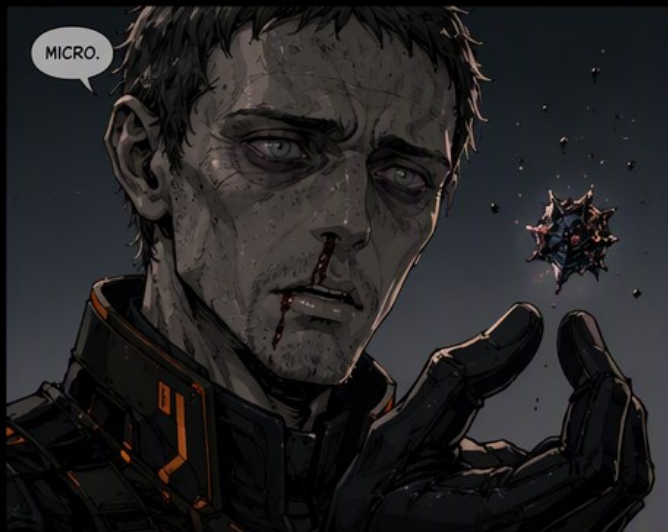
THREE
SCALES.

ONE
PHASE.

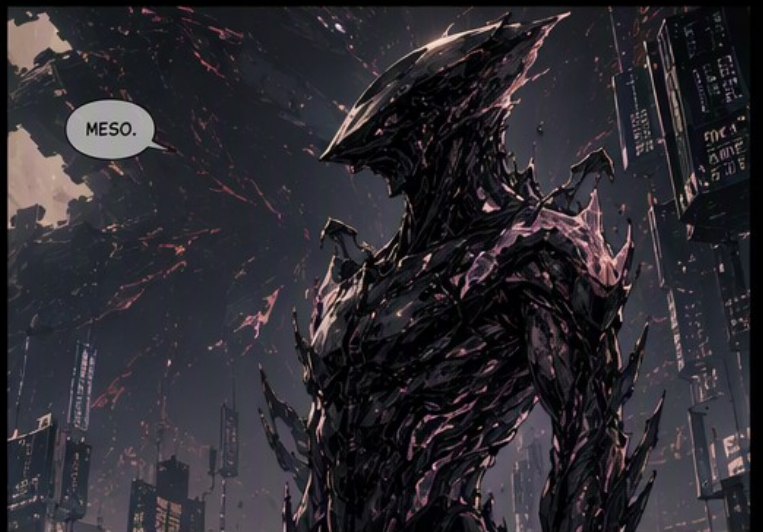
NO
ERROR.



MICRO.



MESO.



MACRO.



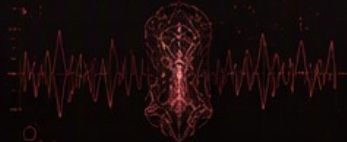
TRINITY
OF THE
ARCHITECT.



DIAGNOSTIC LOG

ENTITY ID: ARCHITECT / CLASS: META-ORIGIN
MANIFESTATION: 3-TIER SYNCHRONIZED
SCALE INTERLOCK: STABLE
TEMPORAL VARIANCE: ZERO
OBSERVATIONAL IMPACT: CRITICAL

ENTITY HARMONICS



NOTES

THE ARCHITECT EXISTS
ACROSS ALL ORDERS SIMULTANEOUSLY.
TO PERCEIVE IS TO BE MEASURED.
TO MEASURE IS TO BE DESIGN.
TO RESIST IS TO BE REWRITTEN.

