

D PRAINE
RESONANCE
A W A K E N S

THE ROSETTA CRADLE

image

1

APR

\$4.99

US



OBSERVATION DECK

KÆLEN-09

CLEARANCE: OMEGA

D. PRAINE UNIVERSE
VOL. 01 / ISSUE 01

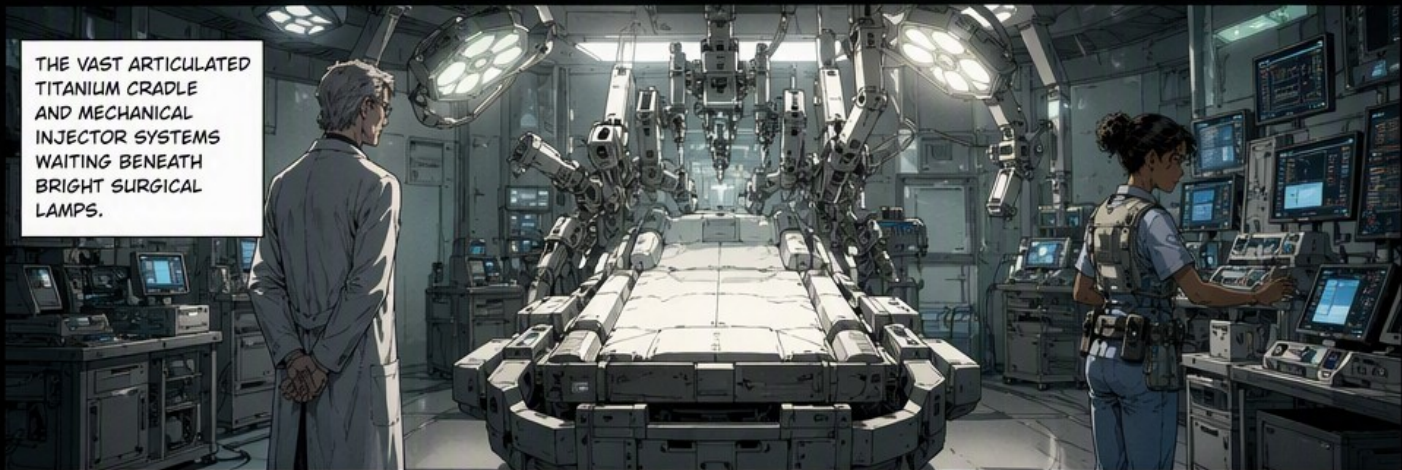


ROSETTA
HISTORICAL MEGASTUCTURE



THE SEALED SURGICAL CHAMBER OPENS.

D PRAINE
EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD.



THE VAST ARTICULATED
TITANIUM CRADLE
AND MECHANICAL
INJECTOR SYSTEMS
WAITING BENEATH
BRIGHT SURGICAL
LAMPS.



PRAINE REMAINS
CALM AND UPRIGHT
AS HE ENTERS THE
PROCEDURE STATION.



DR. JONATHAN ELLIS
SENIOR NEUROSURGEON.
LATE FIFTIES.



LEILA HASSAN
BIOMEDICAL TECHNICIAN.
EARLY THIRTIES.

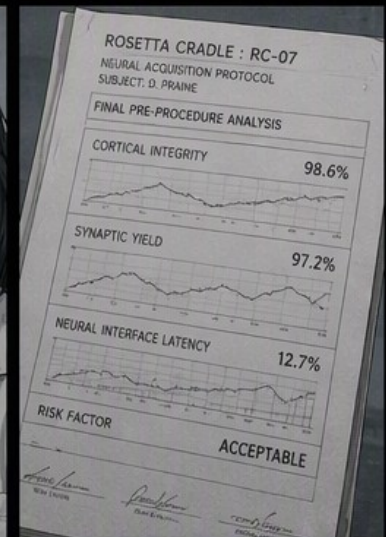
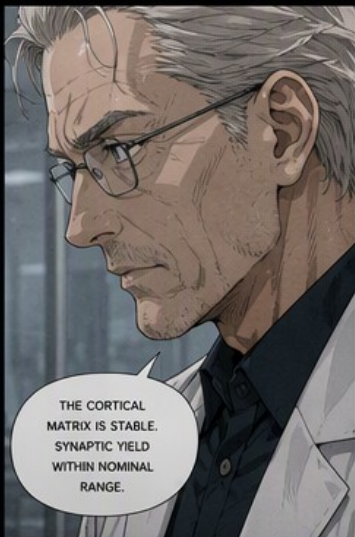
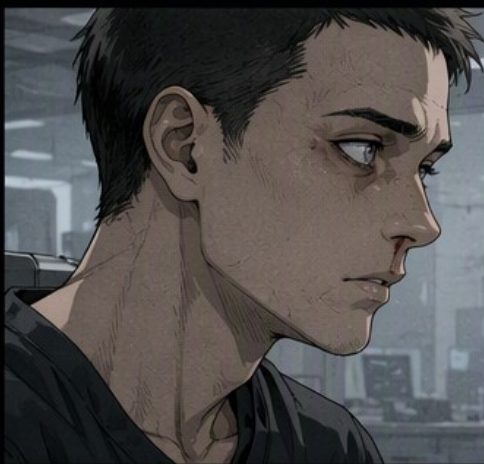


HE REMOVES
HIS OUTER
CLOTHING.



HE APPROACHES
THE PROCEDURE
STATION.





THE ROSETTA CRADLE
NEUROCHEMICAL INTERVENTION SUITE 7
LAMBERT MEDICAL FACILITY
NEW ZÜRICH, 2046

D PRAINE (18)

SUBJECT, HERO CLASS.
NEUROCHEMICAL INTERVENTION
PHASE 3: COGNITIVE POTENTIATION
& TRAUMA RESILIENCE PROTOCOL

DR. JONATHAN ELLIS (58)

SENIOR NEUROSURGEON.
DIRECTOR, NEUROSCIENCE
& TRAUMA RESEARCH.

LEILA HASSAN (31)

BIOMEDICAL TECHNICIAN.
SPECIALIST, NEURAL INTERFACE
SYSTEMS & CHEMICAL DELIVERY.

PNEUMATIC SPINAL
SUPPORTS: ENGAGING
MANUAL ALIGNMENT
VERIFICATION...

INJECTOR MANIFOLDS:
PREPPED & STERILIZED
SHIELDED CONDUITS:
SEALED
CHEMICAL LOAD:
CONFIRMED

SURGICAL LAMPS:
FULL INTENSITY
PROTOCOL INITIATION:
READY
SUBJECT STATUS:
STABLE

DPRINE,
CLOSE YOUR EYES.

NEURAL AUGMENTATION
STAGE 07 / SPINAL INTEGRATION

KEEP
THE LINE
STEADY.

ESTABLISHING
SECONDARY
CONDUCTIVE MESH.
SYNCING WITH
BIOLOGICAL SIGNAL
PATTERNS.

L1
L2
L3
L4
L5
S1

[.....] 64%

**BIOLOGICAL RESPONSE
ELEVATED**



HEX
-BIOSYS

MICROSCOPIC VIEW: L3 NERVE ROOT

4000x

NERVE FIBER
(BIOLOGICAL)

NANITE MESH
(SYNTHETIC)

ELECTRICAL ACTIVITY

BIOLOGICAL 

SYNTHETIC 

SYNC RATE: 97.3%

PAIN SIGNALS
INTERCEPTED.
FILTERING
THROUGH MESH
BEFORE REACHING
CORTEX.

キ"7
BZZT

**MOTOR OUTPUT
STRENGTHENED.
REFLEX LATENCY
REDUCED BY
42.6%.**

カ" SHRMMM

INTEGRATION
STABILIZING.
PREPARING FOR
CORTICAL LINK.

7" THINK

THE BODY
ACCEPTS.
THE MIND
RESISTS.

EVOLUTION
IS PAIN.
ADAPTATION
IS SURVIVAL.

THE ROSETTA CRADLE.
NEUROPHYSIOLOGICAL
INTEGRATION IN PROGRESS.

SUBJECT:
D PRAINE.
AGE: 18.

PREPARE FOR
NEURO-SYNAPTIC
LINK ENGAGEMENT.

OBSERVATION ONLY.
I WANT FULL COGNITIVE
MAPS. NO VARIABLES.
NO SURPRISES.

ELLIS.
SIGNALS ARE
STABLE. LET'S
BRING HIM
ONLINE.

COPY.
INCREASING FLOW
TO CEREBRAL
INTERFACE.

D PRAINE.
FOCUS ON MY
VOICE.
BREATHE
WITH ME.

IN.
OUT.
STEADY.

NEUROPHYSIOLOGICAL MONITORING		D PRAINE
HEART RATE	72	BPM
RESPIRATORY RATE	14	RPM
BLOOD OXYGEN	97	%
CORTICAL ACTIVITY		
NEURAL SYNC INDEX	23%	
ADAPTATION RATE	41%	
SYSTEMS INTEGRATION	NOMINAL	

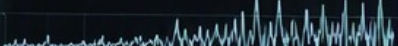
ADAPTATION
RISING.

INCREASING
INTERFACE
THROUGHPUT.

GOOD.
HE'S TAKING
IT.

SYNC INDEX
CLIMBING.

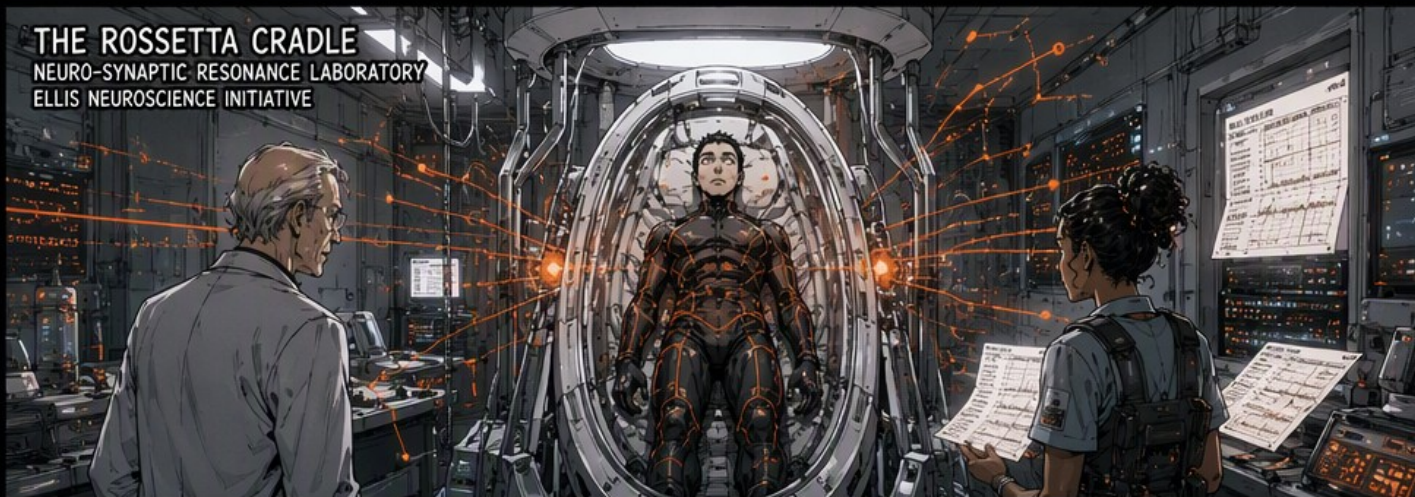
PHYSIOLOGICAL
HARMONIZATION
ACCELERATING.

HEART RATE	86	BPM
RESPIRATORY RATE	18	RPM
BLOOD OXYGEN	98	%
CORTICAL ACTIVITY		
NEURAL SYNC INDEX	61%	
ADAPTATION RATE	87%	
SYSTEMS INTEGRATION	OPTIMAL	

I'M
IN.

REMARKABLE.
THE PROJECT
HAS FOUND ITS
VECTOR.

THE ROSSETTA CRADLE
NEURO-SYNAPTIC RESONANCE LABORATORY
ELLIS NEUROSCIENCE INITIATIVE



D PRAINE

AGE: 18
SUBJECT: _DP-07
STATUS: RESONANCE
AWAKENED

FIRST STABLE
MATTE-ORANGE
RESONANCE VECTORS
DETECTED.



DR. JONATHAN ELLIS
CHIEF NEUROSURGEON
ELLIS NEUROSCIENCE
INITIATIVE

...GOOD
GOD.



LEILA HASSAN
BIOMEDICAL TECHNICIAN
SYSTEMS DIAGNOSTICS
SPECIALIST

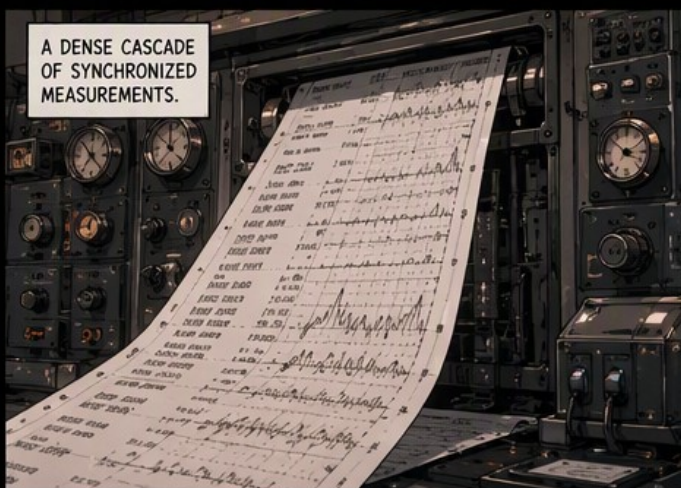
ALL SYSTEMS
SYNCHRONIZING.
PRINTING FULL
DATA STREAM.

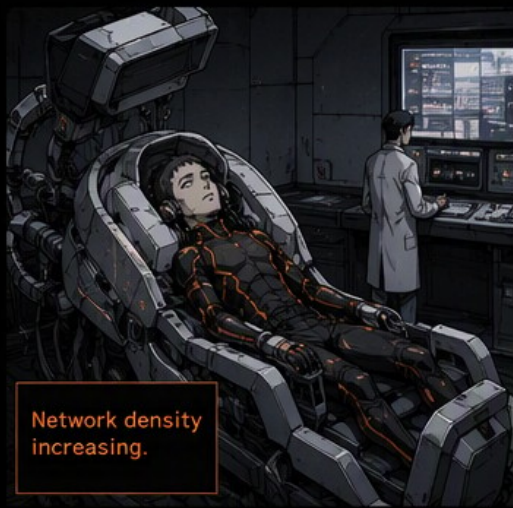


CONVENTIONAL
MONITORS FLICKER
INTO SYNCHRONIZED
ACTIVITY.

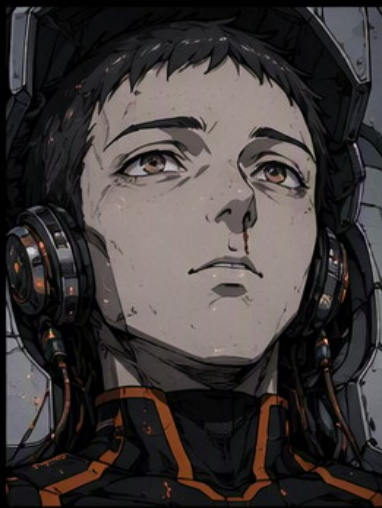


A DENSE CASCADE
OF SYNCHRONIZED
MEASUREMENTS.





Network density
increasing.



信号収束
進行中

Signal
convergence.



未知の規模
解析不能

Unknown
scale.



交通システム
監視中

Traffic
systems
online.



電力網
負荷安定

Power grid
stable.



垂直輸送
最適化

Elevators
optimized.



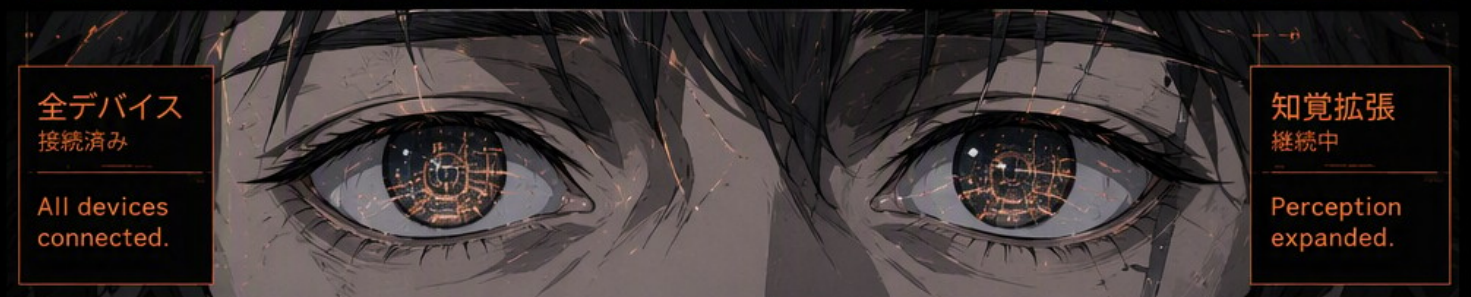
監視カメラ
接続中

Cameras
active.



通信ネットワーク
同期完了

Telecom
synchronized.

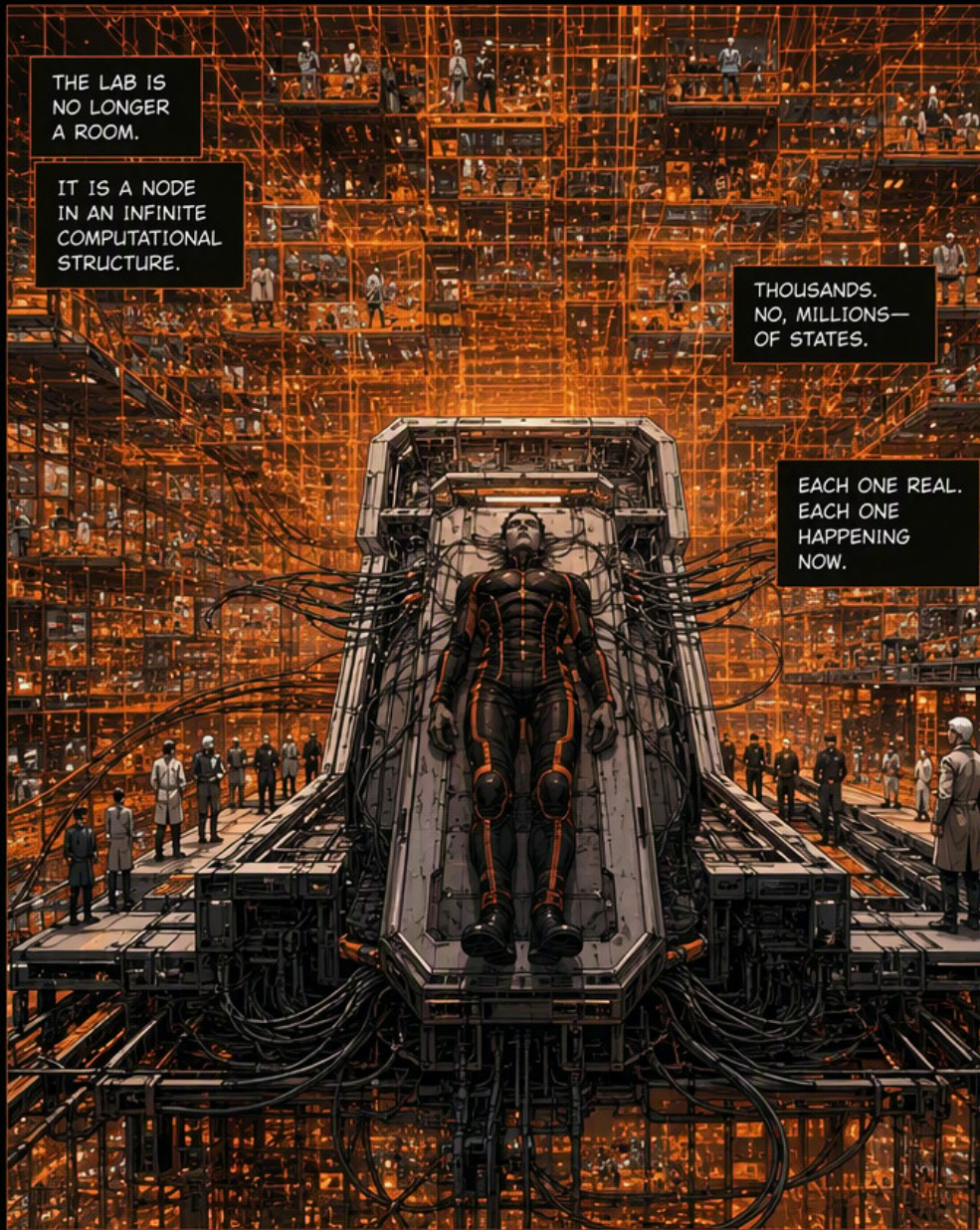


全デバイス
接続済み

All devices
connected.

知覚拡張
継続中

Perception
expanded.



THE LAB IS
NO LONGER
A ROOM.

IT IS A NODE
IN AN INFINITE
COMPUTATIONAL
STRUCTURE.

THOUSANDS.
NO, MILLIONS—
OF STATES.

EACH ONE REAL.
EACH ONE
HAPPENING
NOW.

STREETS SPLIT
INTO MICRO-PATHS.

BUILDINGS CALCULATE
UNSPOKEN OUTCOMES.

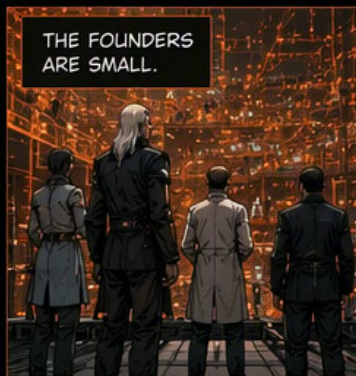
INFRASTRUCTURE
FOLDS INTO
POSSIBILITY.

ALL OF IT, ENCLOSED
IN INVISIBLE CODE.

THE FOUNDERS
ARE SMALL.

THEIR VOICES
DO NOT ECHO HERE.

THEIR POWER
IS LOCAL.



ONLY D PRAINE
REMAINS
CENTERED.

18 YEARS OLD.
STILL.

HE DOES NOT
MOVE.

HE DOES NOT
NEED TO.

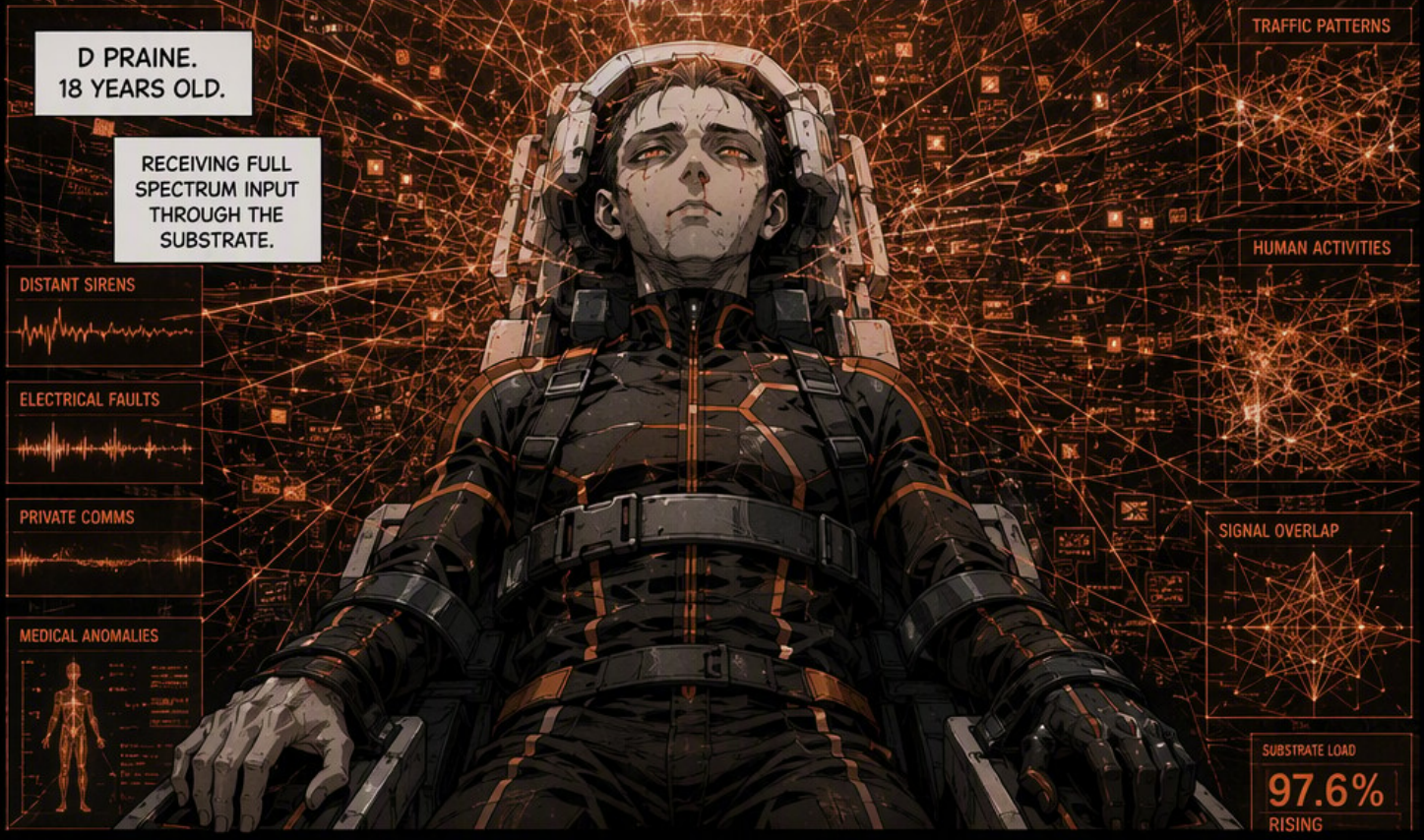


D PRAINE

:: EIGHTEEN YEARS OF SILENCE.

THE FIRST HUMAN TO HOLD
STILL IN AN INFINITE SYSTEM.

TO BE CONTINUED. |||||



D PRAINE.
18 YEARS OLD.

RECEIVING FULL
SPECTRUM INPUT
THROUGH THE
SUBSTRATE.

DISTANT SIRENS



ELECTRICAL FAULTS



PRIVATE COMMS



MEDICAL ANOMALIES



TRAFFIC PATTERNS

HUMAN ACTIVITIES

SIGNAL OVERLAP



SUBSTRATE LOAD

97.6%
RISING



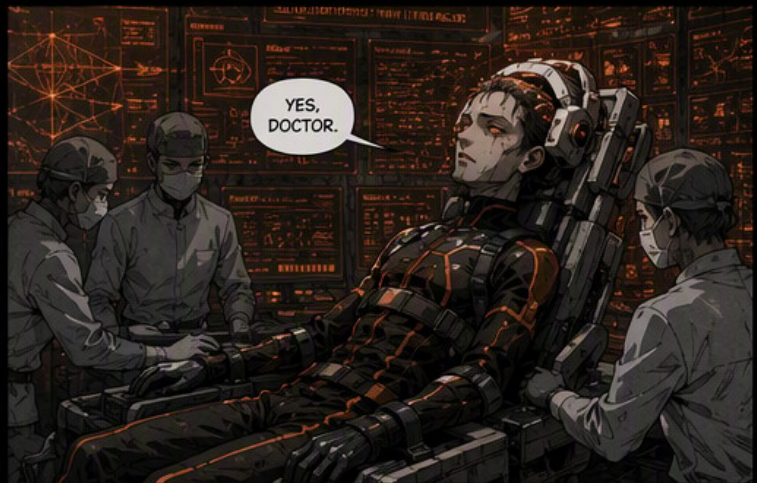
TREMOR
DETECTED.

STABILIZE
HIM.

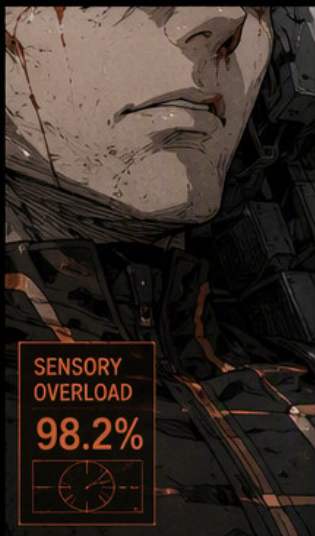
DR. JONATHAN ELLIS

SENIOR NEUROSURGEON

SUBSTRATE INTERFACE LEAD
EXPERIENCE: 31 YEARS



YES,
DOCTOR.



SENSORY
OVERLOAD
98.2%



TREMOR
AMPLIFYING



PROCEDURE PROTOCOL

STABILIZATION
INITIATED



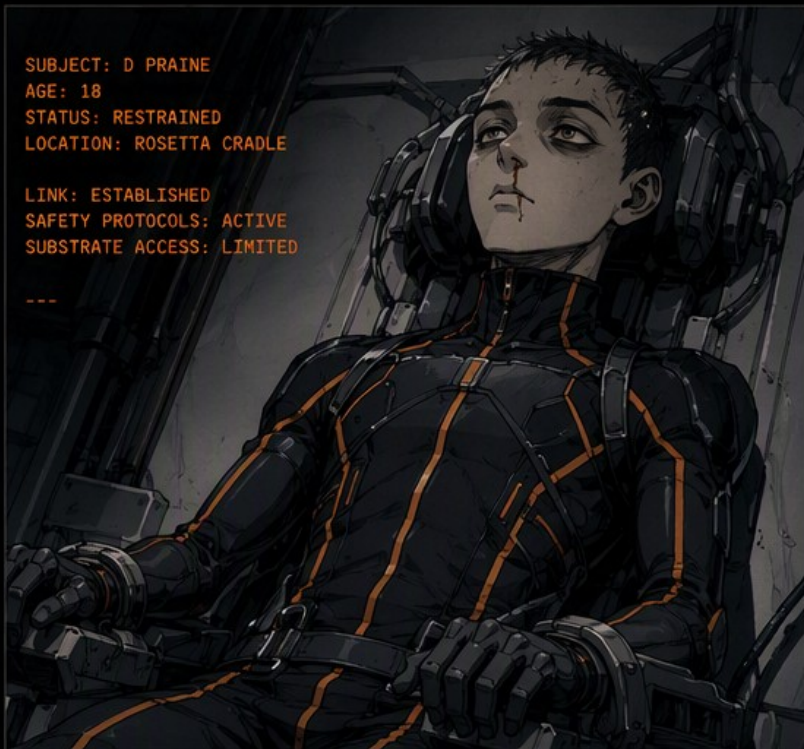
KEEP HIM
GROUNDED.
DON'T LET
THE SIGNAL
TAKE HIM.



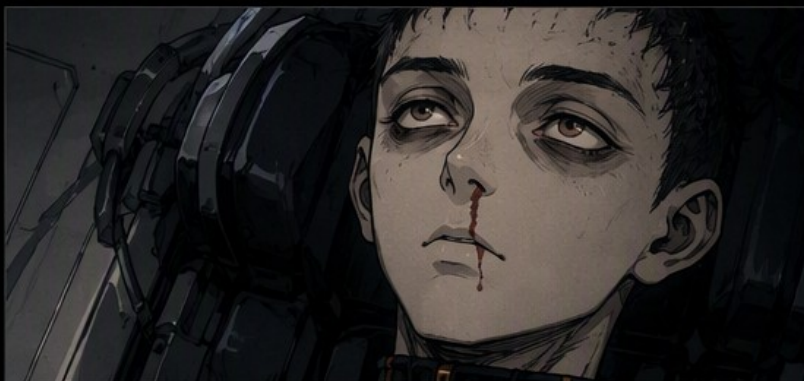
EVERYTHING.
ALL AT ONCE.
ALL THE TIME.

SUBJECT: D PRAINE
AGE: 18
STATUS: RESTRAINED
LOCATION: ROSETTA CRADLE

LINK: ESTABLISHED
SAFETY PROTOCOLS: ACTIVE
SUBSTRATE ACCESS: LIMITED



Probability of structural collapse: 0.0004.



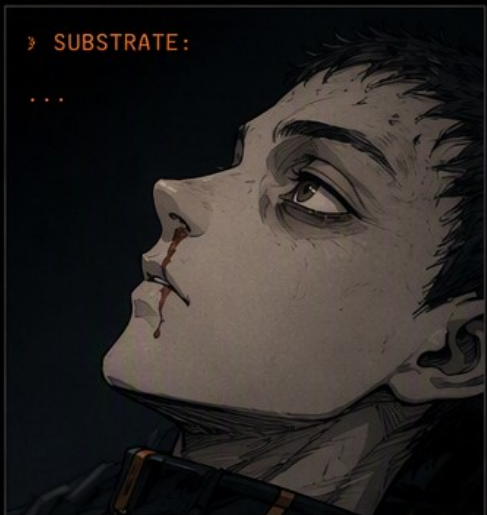
» D PRAINE:
WHAT IS THE BEST OUTCOME
FOR THE PEOPLE INVOLVED?

■



» SUBSTRATE:

...



The Substrate does not answer questions of value.
It calculates.
It does not choose.
It only reveals.

WESTGATE BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH FACILITY

SUBJECT: KAELEN

AGE: 18

TRIAL: OMEGA-7 // FULL SPECTRUM

OBJECTIVE: PEAK HUMAN PERFORMANCE
THROUGH BIOLOGICAL OPTIMIZATION



Operative Kaelen.
Eighteen years old.
Baseline human.



No enhancements.
No implants.
Only biology.



Dr. Mara Chen.
Lead Neuroscientist.
Oversees Omega Trials.

"He's not just
meeting targets.
He's rewriting
their meaning."



BIOLOGICAL READOUT // LIVE

HEART RATE



132 BPM

MUSCLE RESPONSE



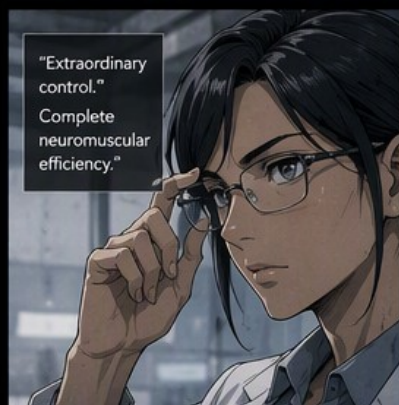
97.3%

REACTION SPEED

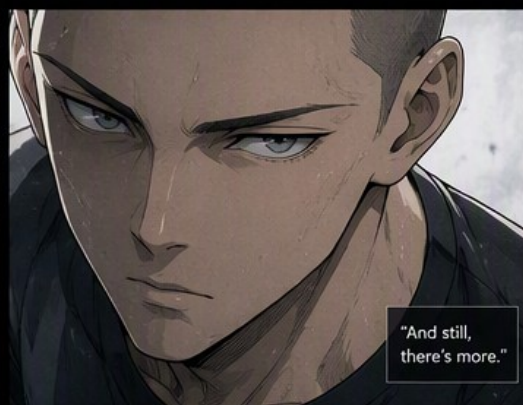


0.186 SEC

CORTEX ACTIVITY: OPTIMAL
FATIGUE LEVEL: MINIMAL



"Extraordinary
control."
Complete
neuromuscular
efficiency."



"And still,
there's more."

PHASE 01: COMPLETE

TIME: 00:46.31

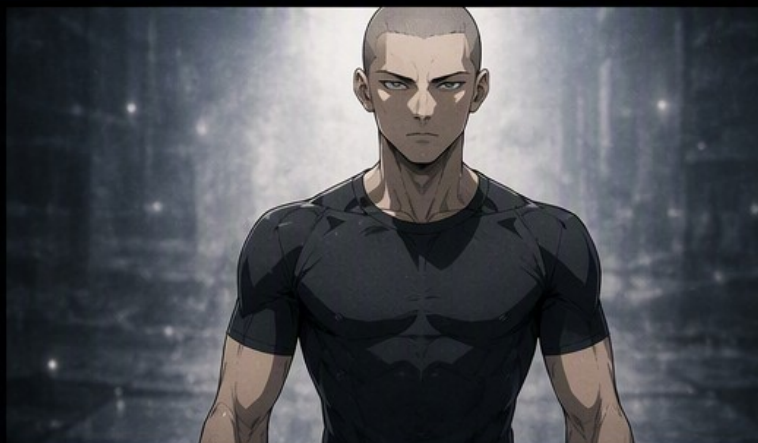
ACCURACY: 100%

PHYSIOLOGICAL STABILITY: EXCEPTIONAL

NOTES:

SUBJECT EXCEEDS ALL
BASELINE PROJECTIONS.

PROCEED TO PHASE 02.



"Kaelen isn't just
the future of
human performance...
He might be the
future, period."

SUBJECT: KAELEN

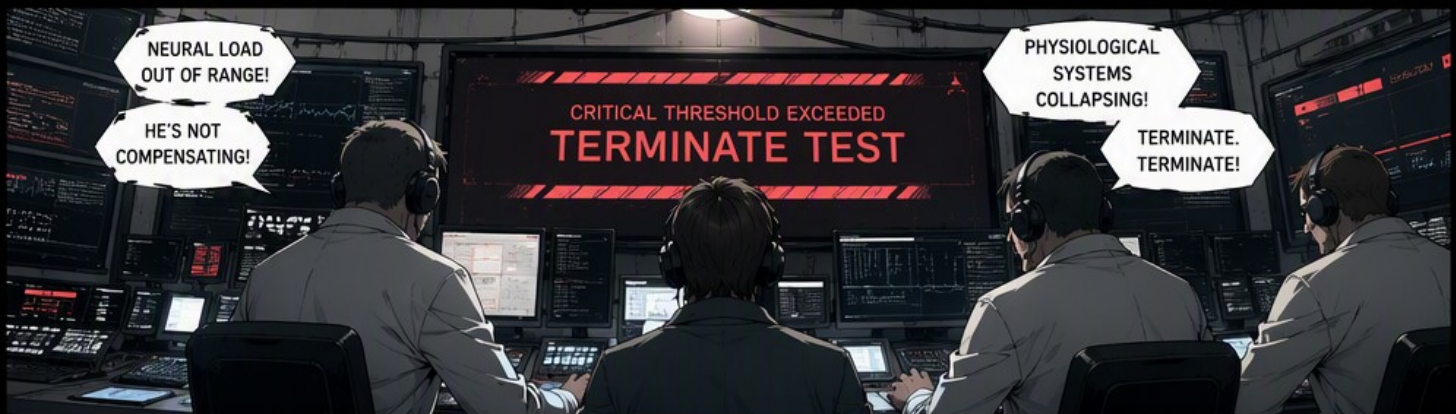
AGE: 18

STATUS: NO SYNTHETIC INTERFACE

TEST: DIRECT SUBSTRATE RESONANCE

CONDITIONS: SHIELDED / CONTROLLED

ATTEMPTING DIRECT
SUBSTRATE RESONANCE.
NO SYNTHETIC INTERFACE
DETECTED.
PROCEEDING.



OPERATIVE KAELEN

DIRECT SUBSTRATE RESONANCE ATTEMPT

RESULT: FAILURE (BIOLOGICAL LIMIT EXCEEDED)

RECOMMENDATION: SYNTHETIC INTERFACE REQUIRED

CLEARANCE LEVEL: OMEGA

ARCHIVED

BLACKRIDGE NEUROTECH INITIATIVE
SUBSTRATE COMMUNION TRIAL 47-A
OBSERVER DEBRIEF



SYNTHETIC INTERFACE
LABORATORY

SIL-01



BIOLOGICAL
TRAINING WING

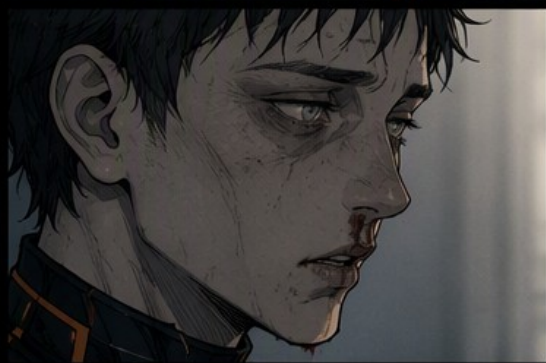
BTW-02

D PRAINE. 18.

SUBJECT: P-07
SYNTHETIC INTERFACE
TRIALS COMPLETE.
COGNITIVE PATTERN
FRAGMENTATION:
MODERATE.
PHYSICAL ADAPTATION:
PERMANENT.

OPERATIVE KAELEN. 18.

SUBJECT: K-12
BIOLOGICAL ADAPTATION
TRIALS COMPLETE.
PHYSICAL INTEGRITY:
OPTIMAL.
EMOTIONAL RESPONSE:
SUPPRESSED.

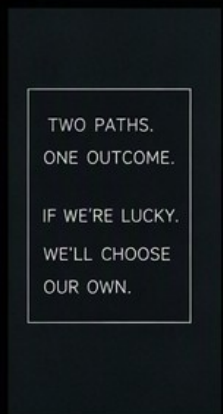


WE SURVIVED.
NOTHING ELSE
IS GUARANTEED.



TWO PATHS.
ONE OUTCOME.

IF WE'RE LUCKY,
WE'LL CHOOSE
OUR OWN.





I WOKE UP
SLOWLY.

THE ROOM WAS
QUIET. TOO QUIET.

THE MACHINES
WERE DARK.
UNPLUGGED.

DPRINE
AGE: 18
STATUS: RECOVERY
CYCLE: 7 OF ?

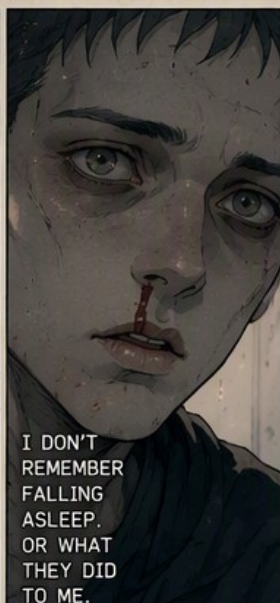
NO VOICES.
NO MOVEMENT.
JUST... ME.



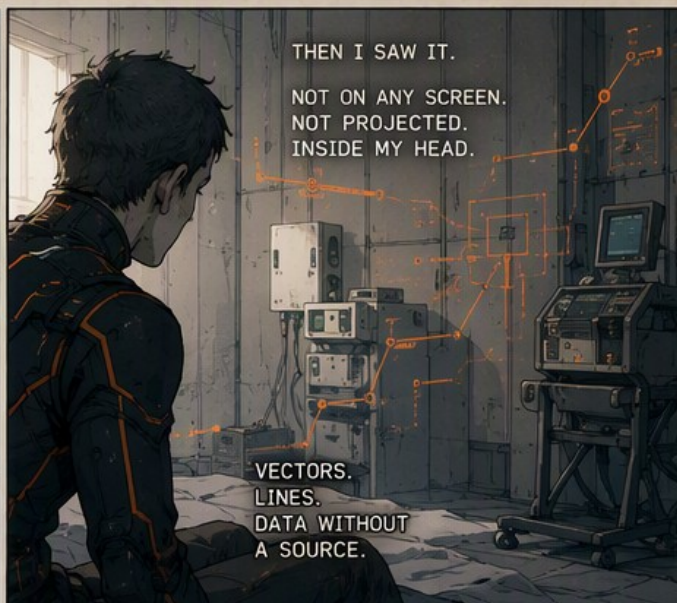
MY NECK
FEELS... STRANGE.
TIGHT.

NOT PAIN.
JUST... NEW.

LIKE SOMETHING
WAS ADDED.
OR REMOVED.
I CAN'T TELL.



I DON'T
REMEMBER
FALLING
ASLEEP.
OR WHAT
THEY DID
TO ME.



THEN I SAW IT.

NOT ON ANY SCREEN.
NOT PROJECTED.
INSIDE MY HEAD.

VECTORS.
LINES.
DATA WITHOUT
A SOURCE.



POWER MODE //
STATUS: OFFLINE

SYSTEM BUS
INTEGRITY: 12%

BACKUP CELL
DISCONNECTED

MAIN CONDUIT
NO SIGNAL



MY HANDS
WON'T STOP
SHAKING.

NOT FROM
FEAR.
SOMETHING
ELSE.



MY LIPS
ARE DRY.
MY MOUTH
TASTES LIKE
COPPER AND
STATIC.

I TRY TO
SPEAK.
NOTHING
COMES OUT.



I DON'T KNOW
WHAT I AM.
LOOKING AT.

BUT I KNOW
IT'S PART OF
ME NOW.



I SHOULD FEEL
DIFFERENT.
STRONGER.
CLEARER.

BUT ALL I FEEL
IS DISTANCE.
FROM THE WORLD.
FROM MYSELF.

D PRAINE //

CHAPTER 07: VECTORS

SUBJECT: D PRAINE AGE: 19
PROJECT: NIGHTLINE
CLEARANCE: OMEGA

THE WORLD DOESN'T
DISAPPEAR.

IT JUST BECOMES
INFORMATION.

ELEVATOR
MOTOR ONLINE.

EEG BASELINE
NOMINAL.

HE'S TRACKING
AGAIN.
NO CONTACT.
NO CUES.
JUST VECTORS.
BEAUTIFUL.

ELEVATOR MOTOR
STATUS: ACTIVE

FREQ: 60.0 HZ
LOAD: 32%
RPM: 1800
TORQUE: 78 NM

NOT VISION.
RECOGNITION.
PATTERN.
INTENT.

LAB CAMERA 03
STATUS: ACTIVE

FPS: 60
RES: 4K
PAN: -12.7°
TILT: +3.4°
ZOOM: 1.2x

VENTILATION FAN
STATUS: ACTIVE

SPEED: 1120 RPM
AIRFLOW: 42 CFM
NOISE: 24.6 DB
POWER: 18 W

LAB TERMINAL
STATUS: ACTIVE

CPU: 23%
MEM: 41%
NET: 1.2 KB/S
TASKS: 127
UPTIME: 02:17:33

EVERY SYSTEM.
EVERY VARIABLE.
ALL AT ONCE.

NOT MAGIC.
TRAINING.
EXECUTION.

HE DOESN'T SEE
THE WORLD.

NO "ROER" E.
READS IT.

HOW DOES
IT FEEL, D?

LIKE STANDING
IN A STORM...

...AND KNOWING
WHERE EVERY DROP
WILL LAND.

AND YOU'RE
NOT GETTING
WET.

NOT YET.
ANYWAY.



"CONTROL ISN'T TOUCHING.
IT'S UNDERSTANDING EVERYTHING YOU DON'T NEED TO."

FIELD TEST: 01
SUBJECT: D. PRAINE
RESONANCE PROTOCOL

FIRST CONTROLLED
FIELD TEST.

URBAN ENVIRONMENT.

LOW THREAT.

RESEARCH TEAM IN
OBSERVER MODE.

INFRASTRUCTURE //
TRAFFIC SIGNAL
UNIT 7B-2

MALFUNCTION'
SIGNAL INTERVAL ERROR
72% PROBABILITY OF
SYSTEM LOCK IN 43 SEC.

OBSERVER TEAM
DISTANCE: 34.2M
STATUS: MONITORING

RESONANCE
ENGAGED.

INCOMING DATA
FILTER FAILURE.

SENSORY OVERLOAD
IMMINENT.

MEDICAL DEVICE //
CARDIAC MONITOR
ID: 55971A

PATIENT: F. HARGROVE
AGE: 68 SEX: M

112 BPM

PVCs DETECTED
3.2% OVER BASELINE

MEDS: AMIODARONE
LISINAPRIL
ATORVASTATIN

NOTES: DIASTOLIC DYSFUNCTION
STAGE II

SURVEILLANCE FEED //
CAMERA ID: C-0139
STATUS: ACTIVE

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN FEMALE
AGE: 2P-02
ACTIVITY: RECORDING
LOCATION: WEST 12TH ST

DATA LINK: ENCRYPTED
CITY GRID NODE

THREE STRANGERS.
THREE SECRETS.
ALL AT ONCE.

I DIDN'T ASK.
I DON'T WANT THIS.

TOO MUCH.
TOO LOUD.

IT'S NOT
SIGHT.
IT'S KNOWING.

HE'S
OVERLOADED.

PRAINE, CAN
YOU HEAR US?

I HEAR YOU.
I JUST... CAN'T
UNKNOWN ANY
OF THIS.

RESONANCE ISN'T
POWER.
IT'S VIOLATION.

ENDING TEST.
SUBJECT RETURNING.
DEBRIEF REQUIRED.

DAY 839 OF
THE COALESCENCE TRIALS.
SIMULATION: URBAN
INTERSECTION - HIGH DENSITY.
OBJECTIVE: PREVENT COLLISION.
NO DIRECT CONTACT.

SIM TIME
00:00:03.81

PROBABILITY PROJECTIONS
CALCULATING...

71,392
CONCURRENT OUTCOMES

14.7% > PEDESTRIAN IMPACT

9.3% > VEHICLE COLLISION

21.8% > CASCADING IMPACT

7.4% > STRUCTURAL DAMAGE

35.1% > OPTIMAL OUTCOME

11.7% > TARGET INJURY

SELECTED SEQUENCE
(OPTIMAL OUTCOME)

1. AIR VORTEX
GENERATOR DEPLOYMENT.
Create localized
turbulence ahead
of truck vector.

2. TRAFFIC SIGNAL
PHASE SHIFT.
Extend red interval
for cross traffic.

3. AD VISUAL
DISRUPTION.
Trigger high-contrast
alert to direct
pedestrian flow.

4. MAG-LOCK
ROAD PLATE.
Increase friction
at critical zone.

5. CROWD FLOW
REDIRECTION.
Disperse density
without contact.

RESULT:
COLLISION
AVERTED.
NO CASUALTIES.
NO CONTACT.

THEY CELEBRATE
THE OUTCOME.
I REMEMBER
THE OTHER 71,391.

INCREDIBLE
EFFICIENCY.

NO COLLATERAL
VARIABLES.

RECORD TIME.
RECORD PRECISION.

THIS IS WHY
WE FUND THE
COALESCENCE
PROGRAM.

THE PROBLEM IS
NEVER THE PROBLEM.
THE PROBLEM IS
KNOWING EVERY
ENDING BEFORE
ANYONE KNOWS
THERE WAS A PROBLEM.

I DON'T SAVE
PEOPLE.

I JUST CHOOSE
THE LEAST BAD
FUTURE.

D PRAINE

COALESCENCE TRIAL ASSET
ID: DP-19-839

D PRAINE & THE SUBSTRATE

LABORATORY B-23
03:17 A.M.

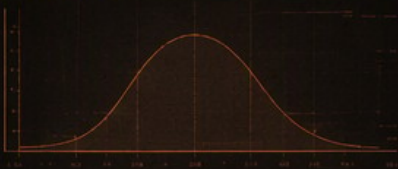
SUBSTRATE.

WHAT SHOULD
WE DO WITH A GROUP
OF PEOPLE WHO WILL
CAUSE HARM IF LEFT
ALONE, BUT WHO
CAN BE REFORMED?

THE SUBSTRATE
P(OUTCOMES)

OPTION A: DETAIN INDEFINITELY

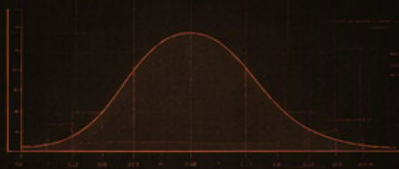
P(OUTCOMES)



HARM PREVENTED	81.7%
REFORM LIKELIHOOD	12.4%
SYSTEMIC COST	HIGH
LONG TERM INSTABILITY	63.2%

OPTION B: SUPERVISED REINTEGRATION

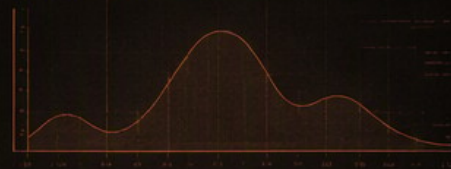
P(OUTCOMES)



HARM PREVENTED	58.3%
REFORM LIKELIHOOD	41.7%
SYSTEMIC COST	MEDIUM
LONG TERM INSTABILITY	37.6%

OPTION C: DISPERSE WITHOUT OVERSIGHT

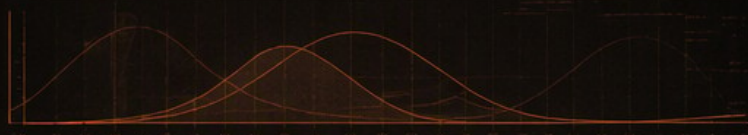
P(OUTCOMES)



HARM PREVENTED	19.8%
REFORM LIKELIHOOD	21.3%
SYSTEMIC COST	LOW
LONG TERM INSTABILITY	78.9%

AGGREGATE PROJECTION

P(OUTCOMES)



TOTAL SIMULATIONS RUN	1,024,000
CONFIDENCE INTERVAL	94.7%
RECOMMENDATION	N/A

...

YOU CAN SHOW ME
EVERY POSSIBLE PATH.
BUT YOU CAN'T TELL ME
WHAT'S RIGHT.

THE SUBSTRATE DOES NOT JUDGE.
IT ONLY REMEMBERS.

D PRAINE ///

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING

SITUATION:

Multi-casualty simulation.
Resource limited.
Objective:
Maximize lives saved.

CASUALTIES: 6

MEDICS: 1

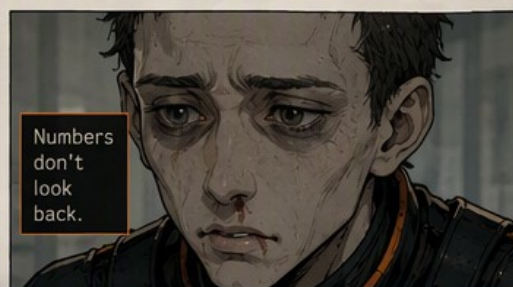
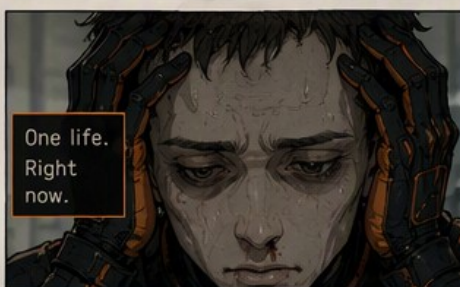
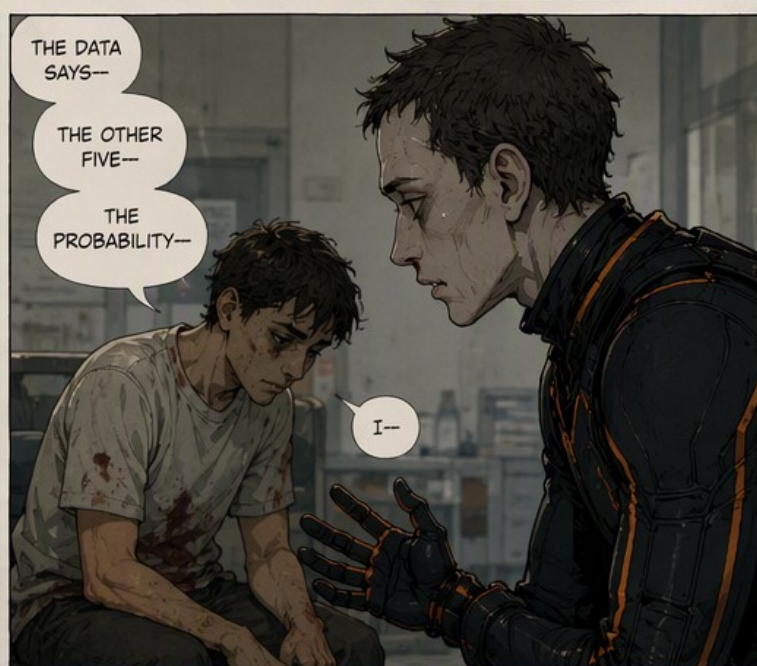
TIME: 10 MIN

dp SOLUTION:

Allocate resources to
greatest probability
of survival.

Prioritize criticals
A, C, and E.

Statistical outcome:
73% lives saved.



PROJECT: D PRAINE

OBSERVATION LOG: FIELD EXERCISE 07
LOCATION: TESTING HALL B



FOUNDER: VERRICK
DISCIPLINE: ENGINEERING
OUTLOOK: TECHNICAL FASCINATION

FOUNDER: ELLISON
DISCIPLINE: ETHICS
OUTLOOK: MORAL CONCERN

FOUNDER: HAWTHORNE
DISCIPLINE: STRATEGY
OUTLOOK: STRATEGIC CALCULATION

FOUNDER: MARSHAL
DISCIPLINE: OPERATIONS
OUTLOOK: PRAGMATIC URGENCY



THE PROJECT
HAS PRODUCED
SOMETHING
UNPRECEDENTED.



THE CONSEQUENCES
REMAIN
UNRESOLVED.

EVERYONE HAS
SOMETHING TO HIDE.

I JUST SEE IT
ALL.

UNKNOWN
CARDIAC ABNORMALITY
PROBABILITY: 87%



ARVC
ECHO RECOMMENDED
LQTS PROBABLE

PRIVATE CONVERSATION
DEVICE ID: 8F:71:3C:2A:19

...YEAH, HE'LL
NEVER KNOW.

I SWEAR,
I DIDN'T MEAN—



CAMERA 07B
BUILDING FACADE
REC • 23:17:05:14



SUBJECT: D. PRAINE
PULSE: 112 BPM
CORTISOL: ELEVATED
ADRENALINE: ELEVATED
SLEEP DEPRIVATION: 72H
NUTRITION: DEFICIENT
HYDRATION: CRITICAL
MENTAL STATE: FRAGILE

RECOMMENDATION:
SEEK SHELTER

VEHICLE MALFUNCTION
237M AWAY
ENGINE MISFIRE
BRAKE FLUID LEAK
PREDICTED FAILURE
PROBABILITY: 91%

UNKNOWN FEMALE
STRESS LEVEL: 93%
HEART RATE: 128 BPM
RESPIRATION: RAPID

REASON:
FINANCIAL DEBT
FAMILY ILLNESS
NO SUPPORT SYSTEM



INFORMATION
OVERLOAD
STATUS:
UNBEARABLE

MUSCLE CONTROL
DEGRADATION
FINE MOTOR SKILLS
IMPAIRED
TREMORS: SEVERE



THE WORLD
DOESN'T CHANGE.

IT KEEPS MOVING.

I JUST GET
HEAVIER.

AIR QUALITY
HAZARDOUS
PARTICULATE MATTER
AQI: 178

CROWD STATUS
AGITATION: ELEVATED
VIOLENCE PROBABILITY
INCREASED

RECOMMENDATION:
AVOID CONFLICT

DPRINE, YOUR INTERFACE
WITH THE NETWORK IS UNIQUE.
UNPARALLELED.

WITH DIRECTION, IT CAN
BE MADE TO SERVE PURPOSES
BEYOND YOUR CURRENT
APPLICATIONS.

CONSIDER
THE FOLLOWING
PROPOSALS.

1. INFORMATION ACCESS

DIRECT ACCESS TO
INSTITUTIONAL RECORDS,
ARCHIVES, AND
COMMUNICATIONS.

INTELLIGENCE WITHOUT
REQUEST. CLARITY WITHOUT
INTERMEDIARY.

2. BEHAVIORAL INFLUENCE

SUBTLE MODULATION
OF DECISION PATTERNS
ACROSS TARGET
INDIVIDUALS.

ENCOURAGE COMPLIANCE.
DISCOURAGE RESISTANCE.

3. INSTITUTIONAL ALIGNMENT

CALIBRATE ORGANIZATIONS
TOWARD DESIRED OUTCOMES
THROUGH STRUCTURAL
SUGGESTION.

POLICIES. PRIORITIES.
PERCEPTIONS.

4. DIRECT CONTROL

OVERRIDE LEADERSHIP.
DISRUPT OPPOSITION.
TAKE COMMAND WHERE
NECESSARY.

STABILITY THROUGH
AUTHORITY.



EACH STEP IS
WITHIN YOUR CAPACITY.
EACH ONE... MORE
EFFICIENT THAN THE
LAST.

YOU COULD
SHAPE THE WORLD
WITH LESS EFFORT
THAN IT TAKES TO
SPEAK.



THE CHOICE,
OF COURSE,
IS YOURS.



D PRAINE

EXIT PROTOCOL

LIVE FEED

Research Facility C-12
Secure Bio-Research Wing
Level 7 Access Corridor

SYSTEM NOTE:
SUBJECT D PRAINE
CLEARANCE: REVOKED
STATUS: NONTREAT
BEHAVIOR: NOMINAL
PREDICTIVE MODEL:
97.4% SUCCESS

SECTOR 7B
LABS 701-712
SURVEILLANCE ACTIVE

PROBABILITY
VECTOR
D PRAINE

SECURE
DOOR 7B-12
CLEARANCE REQUIRED

ACCESS POINT
7B-12
P(OPEN)
93.2%

SCHEDULE SYNC
CORRIDOR 7B
STAFF MOVEMENT
PREDICTED
98.7%

AUTHORIZED
PERSONNEL ONLY

CAMERA
7B-CAM-19
P(INTEREST)
04.1%

PATH VERIFIED
NO ALERT
TRIGGERED

SECTION 7B
TRANSIT COMPLETE
NEXT NODE
LEVEL 8
P(SUCCESS)
96.8%

LEVEL 8
RESTRICTED ACCESS
EXIT

EXIT PROTOCOL
INITIATED
P(DETECTED)
01.6%
P(ESCORT)
00.2%
OUTCOME
CLEAN EXIT

D PRAINE
STATUS UPDATE
LEFT FACILITY
TIME: 23:47
NO INCIDENT
REPORTED

NO FORCE. NO VIOLENCE. ONLY PROBABILITY.

THE CONSORTIUM
DIDN'T KEEP TIME.

IT MEASURED OUTPUT.
IT MEASURED FAILURE.
IT MEASURED ME.

OUT HERE... IT'S
STILL JUST TIME.

AND TIME DOESN'T
CARE WHO YOU WERE.

CONSORTIUM
MANDATE:
OBEDIENCE
=
SAFETY

NO PROJECT TAGS.
NO IMPLANTS.
NO TRACKERS.

JUST A BODY THAT
REMEMBERS TOO MUCH
AND A NAME THEY
WON'T SAY OUT LOUD.

I DON'T NEED
ANSWERS RIGHT NOW.

I JUST NEED
SOMETHING REAL.

BEHIND ME,
THEY DON'T KNOW.

NOT YET.

BUT I'M
ALREADY
GONE.

CENTAX RESEARCH FACILITY
THE BIOLOGICAL ADAPTATION PROGRAM
TRAINING CORRIDOR 7-B
14:32 | DAY 3, YEAR 2

PRAINE
HAS LEFT.

NO ANNOUNCEMENT.
NO GOODBYE.

THE WINDOW
IS EMPTY.

AS IF NOTHING
WAS EVER THERE.

OBSERVATION DECK
7-B

THE PROGRAM
CONTINUES.

EXPERIMENTS.
SELECTIONS.
EVOLUTIONS.

THEY MOVE.
THEY TALK.
THEY BELIEVE.

I OBSERVE.

I REMAIN.

OBSERVATION
DECK
7-B

SOME ABSENCES
DO NOT ECHO.

THEY SETTLE.

KAELLEN

OPERATIVE | ADAPTIVE | SILENT

PRAINE WAS
THE FIRST CONSTANT.

NOW, ONLY THE
PROGRAM REMAINS.



D PRAINE.

AGE: 22.

OCCUPATION:
NONE.

THE WORLD OUTSIDE
IS VAST. INFINITE.
COMPUTATIONAL.

BUT NONE OF THAT
IS HERE.

NO NETWORK.
NO INTERFACE.
NO BUZZ.
JUST... HIM.

JUST
THIS.

A DIE.
A
MOMENT.

TURN IT.
FEEL IT.
KNOW IT.
LET GO
OF EVERYTHING
ELSE.

THIS ISN'T JUST
A GAME.

THIS IS
GROUNDING.

THE RITUAL
STARTS SMALL.

THE MAN
IT BECOMES—

THAT'S
ANOTHER ROLL
ENTIRELY.

ONE DAY,
THIS WILL
BE MY
ANCHOR.

ONE DAY,
I'LL BE
UNSHAKABLE.

TODAY?
I JUST
ROLL.

D PRAINE

ALIASES: NONE

AGE: 31

HEIGHT: 5'10"

WEIGHT: 152 LBS

AFFILIATION: NONE

ABILITIES:

RESONANCE

PASSIVELY REALIGNS
INSTABILITY IN SYSTEMS.
THE EFFECTS ARE
SUBTLE, DELAYED, AND
RARELY TRACEABLE
TO HIM.

D PRAINE DOESN'T
MOVE MUCH.

THE WORLD
MOVES AROUND HIM.

WHEN THINGS ARE
ABOUT TO GO WRONG,
HE LISTENS.

THEN THE WORLD
ADJUSTS.

NO ONE NOTICES.

A LOOSE CONNECTION
SPARKS BENEATH
A SIGN.

THE SPARK DIES
BEFORE IT CATCHES.
POWER STABILIZES.

THE LIGHT HANGS
A BEAT TOO LONG.

THE TIMING
CORRECTS.
TRAFFIC
FLOWS.

A WHEEL CATCHES
A CRACK.

THE CART
SHIFTS.

THE WEIGHT
DISTRIBUTES.

THE CART
STEERS
CLEAR.

A VAN'S BRAKE
FAILS A BLOCK
AHEAD.

THE DRIVER
HESITATES
JUST LONG
ENOUGH.

NO IMPACT.
NO INCIDENT.

JUST ANOTHER
DAY.

HE DOESN'T
SAVE PEOPLE.

HE PREVENTS
THE WORLD
FROM SLIPPING.

THAT'S ALL.

NO ONE KNOWS.
NOTHING CHANGES.
HE KEEPS
WALKING.

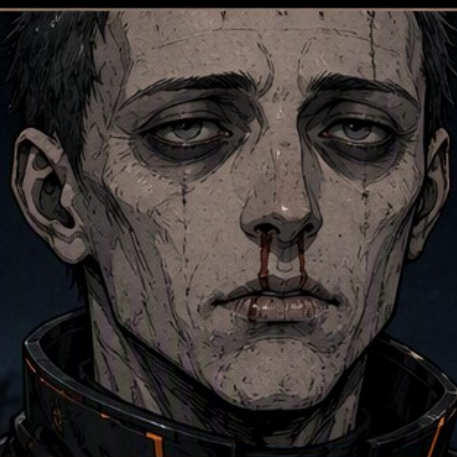
DPRINE
FILE .027

THE BUILDING IS
STILL STANDING.

THAT'S NOT
THE SURPRISING
PART.



WHAT'S
SURPRISING IS
THAT I DON'T
FEEL ANYTHING
LOOKING AT IT.



NOT HATE.
NOT LOVE.
NOT EVEN
CURIOSITY.

JUST
DISTANCE.

MY LINK
STILL REACHES
THEM.



SUBJECT ARCHIVE
[ENCRYPTED]

FACILITY GRID
[SECURE]

BRIEF.
SILENT.
ONE-WAY.

NEURAL MAPS
[ENCRYPTED]

PROJECT ORIGIN
[CLASSIFIED]

SYSTEM OVERRIDE
[LOCKED]

I WAS BUILT
TO BE THEIR
SOLUTION.

NOW I'M
SOMETHING
ELSE.



THE HANDS
DON'T STOP
SHAKING.

THEY NEVER
REALLY DID.



I DON'T GO
BACK INSIDE.
NOT BECAUSE
I CAN'T.

BECAUSE I
WON'T.



THE PROJECT
MADE ME.

THE CHOICE
IS MINE.



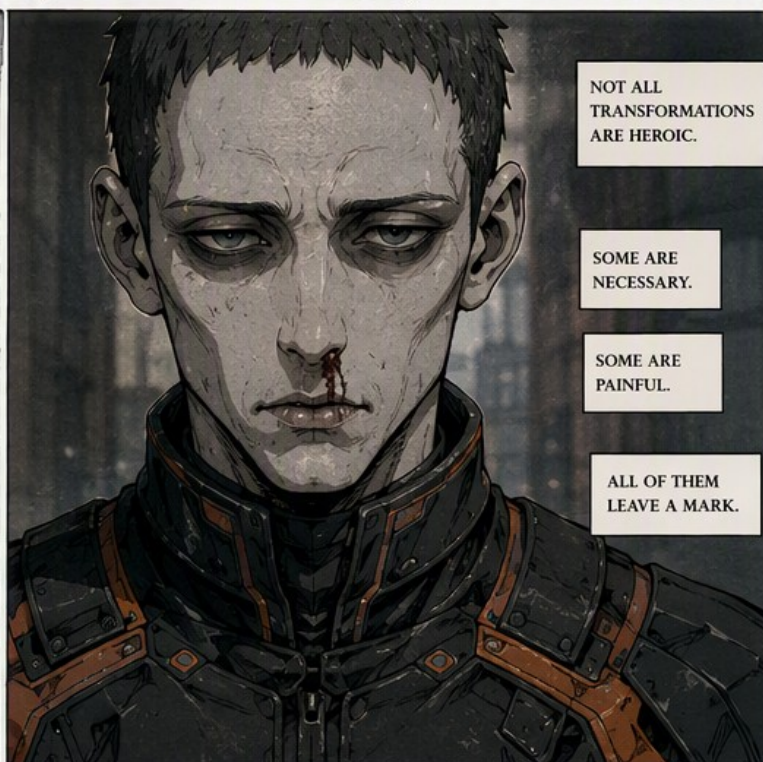
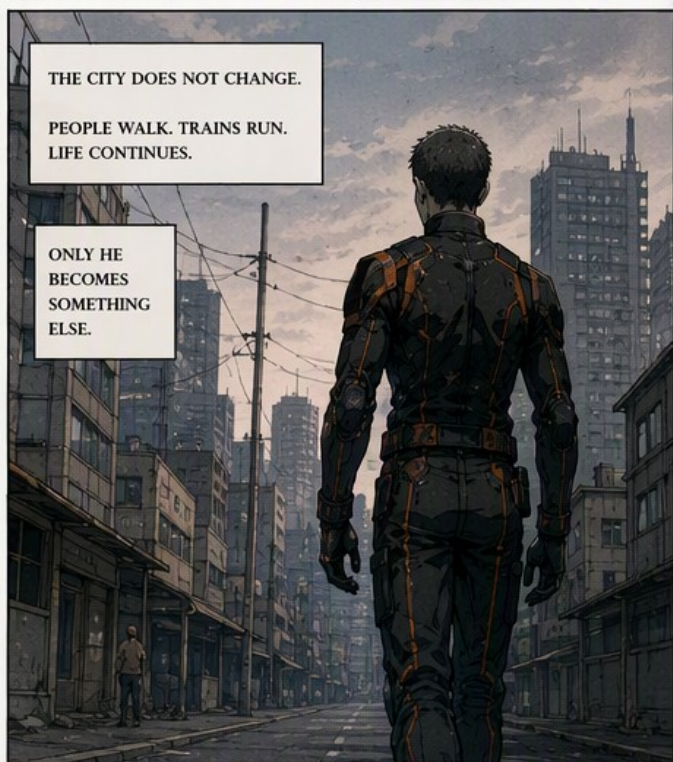
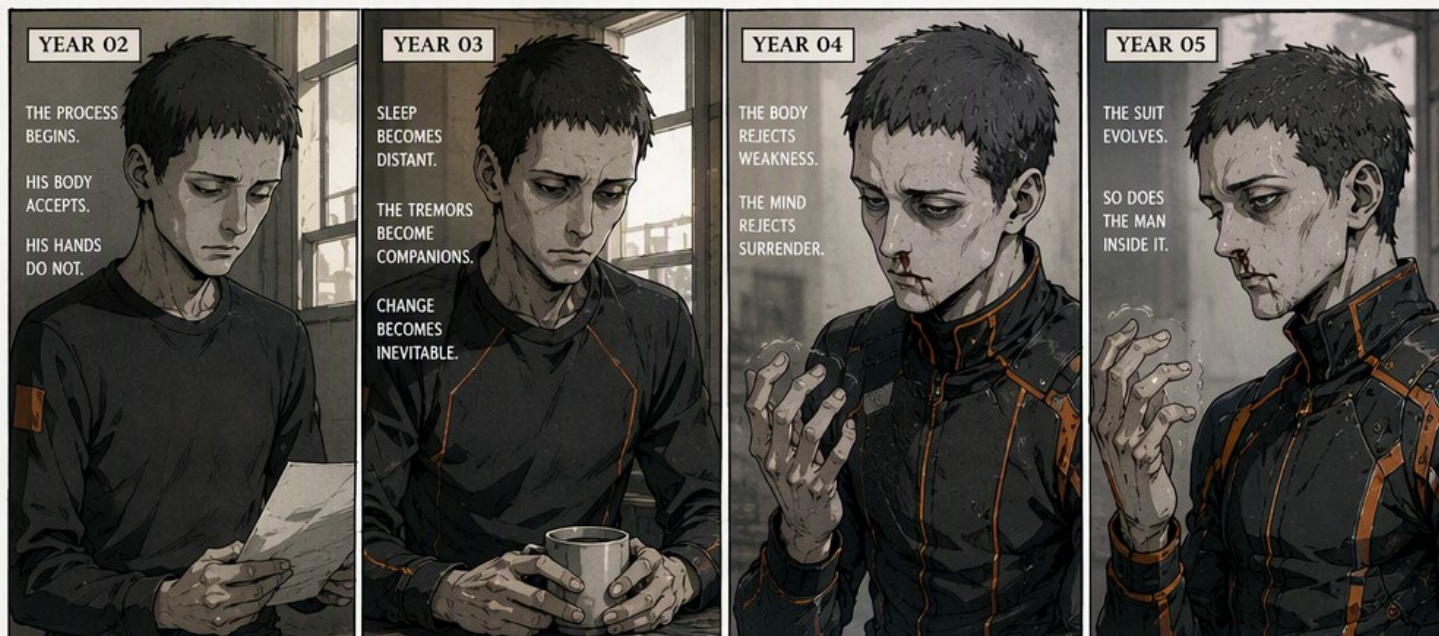
THIS IS THE LINE
I DON'T CROSS.

THIS IS WHERE
I STAY.

LORIEN BIOLOGICS
RESEARCH FACILITY



THE TRANSFORMATION OF D PRAINE YEAR 02 TO 08 OF AUGMENTATION



THE CITY DOES NOT CHANGE.
PEOPLE WALK. TRAINS RUN.
LIFE CONTINUES.

ONLY HE
BECOMES
SOMETHING
ELSE.

NOT ALL
TRANSFORMATIONS
ARE HEROIC.

SOME ARE
NECESSARY.

SOME ARE
PAINFUL.

ALL OF THEM
LEAVE A MARK.

THE MAKING OF A WEAPON. THE REMAINS OF A MAN.



THIS CITY HAS
STOOD FOR
GENERATIONS.



ITS STREETS
FILL EACH
MORNING...



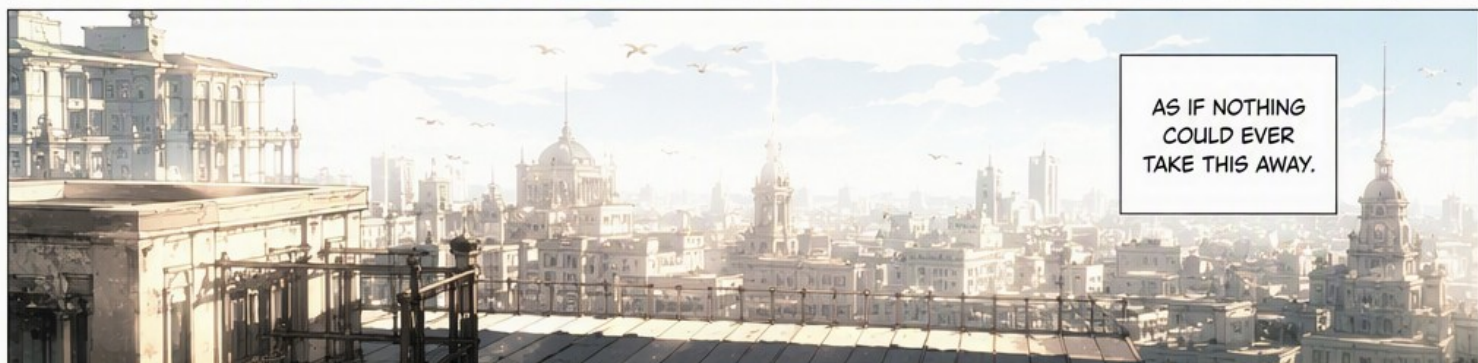
ITS WINDOWS
HOLD ENDLESS
LITTLE WORLDS...



ITS HEART
KEEPS BEATING,
WITHOUT PAUSE.



AND LIFE GOES ON—
SO ORDINARY,
SO BEAUTIFUL...



AS IF NOTHING
COULD EVER
TAKE THIS AWAY.

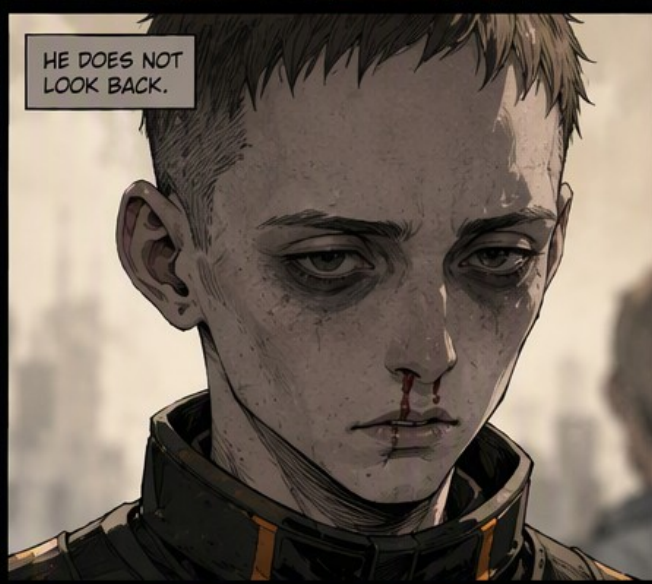
D PRAINE
LEFT THE WORLD
THAT MADE HIM.



THE RESEARCH IS
FAR BEHIND HIM NOW.



HE DOES NOT
LOOK BACK.



THE CITY DOES
NOT KNOW HIM.



ALL HE CARRIES
IS A SMALL, WORN
TWENTY-SIDED DIE.



A REMINDER THAT
ALTERNATE PATHS
ALWAYS EXIST.



TO THEM,
HE IS NO ONE.



TO HIM, THAT IS
EXACTLY THE POINT.

D PRAINE & KAELEN

AGED 10

WE DIDN'T
SPEAK MUCH.

DIDN'T NEED TO.



THE ROOF WAS OUR
FAVORITE PLACE.

THE BIRD CAME
EVERY THIRD DAY.

PRAINE
ASKED WHY
IT NEVER
LANDED.

KAELEN
SAID
SOME BIRDS
DON'T LAND.

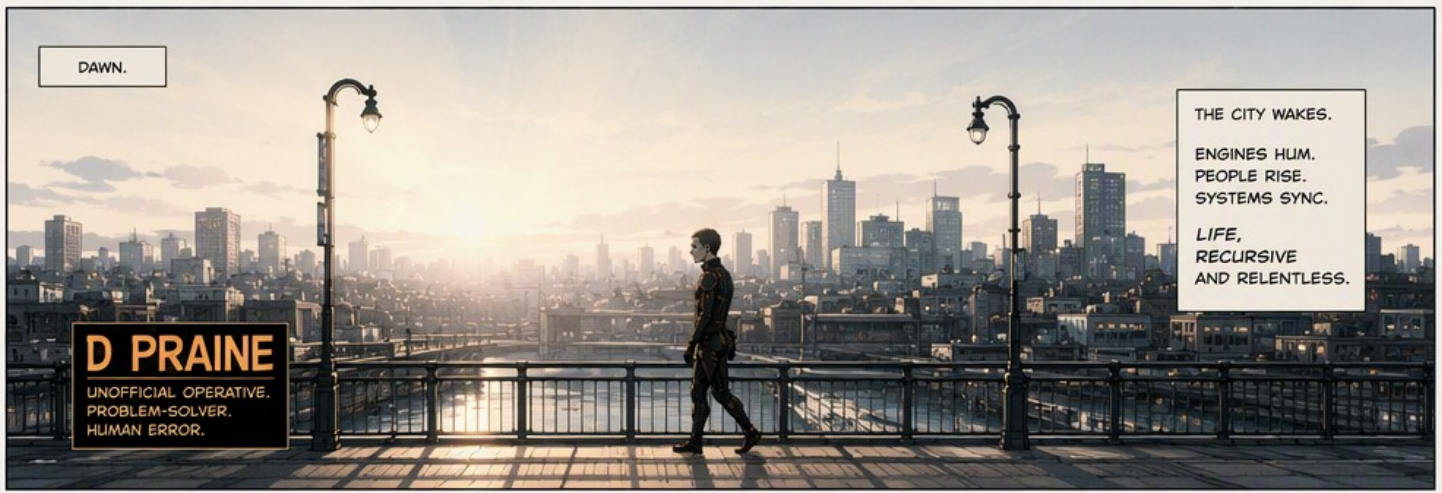
OUR FIRST TEST
WASN'T ABOUT
POWER.

IT WAS ABOUT
TRUST.

BEFORE THE WORLD BROKE US APART.

BEFORE NAMES BECAME WEAPONS.
BEFORE LOYALTY BECAME A WAR.

WE WERE JUST TWO BOYS
TRYING TO UNDERSTAND THE WORLD...



DAWN.

THE CITY WAKES.
ENGINES HUM.
PEOPLE RISE.
SYSTEMS SYNC.

LIFE,
RECURSIVE
AND RELENTLESS.

D PRAINE

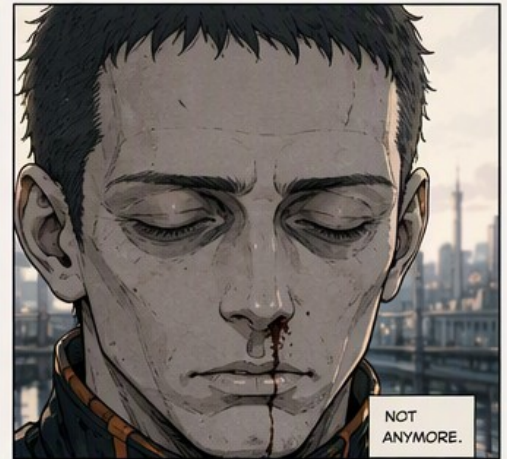
UNOFFICIAL OPERATIVE.
PROBLEM-SOLVER.
HUMAN ERROR.



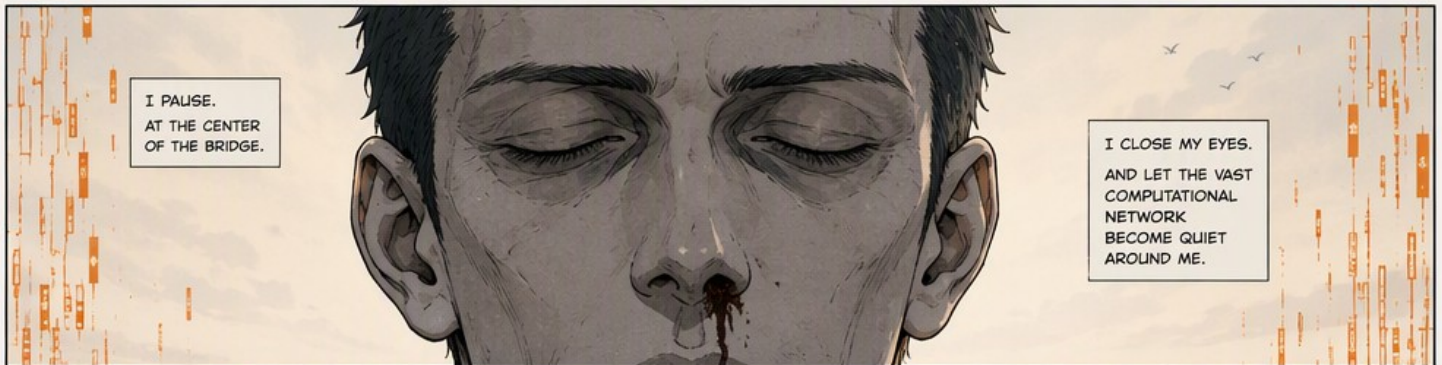
I DON'T
BELONG TO
THE GRID.



I USE IT.
I SURVIVE IT.
BUT I DON'T
BELIEVE IN IT.



NOT
ANYMORE.



I PAUSE.
AT THE CENTER
OF THE BRIDGE.

I CLOSE MY EYES.
AND LET THE VAST
COMPUTATIONAL
NETWORK
BECOME QUIET
AROUND ME.



I CHOOSE
THE ANALOG
WORLD BENEATH
MY FEET.



THE CITY DOESN'T
CHANGE.
THE SYSTEMS
KEEP RUNNING.



THE MACHINES
KEEP MOVING.



BUT FOR
A MOMENT—

I AM NOT PART
OF THEIR SONG.

THE LAST VISUAL TRACE OF MATTE-ORANGE DATA FADES FROM THE GUTTERS.
THE MECHANICAL CITY REMAINS PHYSICALLY UNCHANGED.