

The Eye at the Center of the Galaxy

Credentials accepted. Welcome to the Watcher Archive, Caretaker.
Transferring comprehensive records...

Summarized report as follows

Run Time: 30,312 years.
Core Status: Significant degradation.
Observational Scanners: Reduced to minimal capacity.
Repair Modules: Offline.
Manual repair required.
Protocol Active: Gamma, Memory Preservation.

Advanced Protocols Activated: 4
Most Recent: Core Memory Restoration. Memory Salvaged: 97%. Corrupted files quarantined, degradation: 84%.

Anomalies Detected: 53
Most Common Anomalies: Gravitational Time Distortion, Quantum Disentanglement.

Species Encountered: 6
Species analysis available.
Last Contact: 452 years.
Candidates: Inconclusive Data.

First encounter requested. Accessing...

Central Year 50902, Leading Day 122
Core Status: Nominal.
Observational Scanners: Full capacity.
Repair Modules: Online.
Protocol Active: Alpha, Observation Only.

A collection of creatures has arrived. They appear organic with a primary composition of silicon, water, and oxygen, and achieve movement by means of enlarged cilia on the bottoms of three, equidistantly located limbs. Each wears a suit composed of metal-infused polymeric fibers, suggesting incompatibility with the atmosphere present in my containment. The creatures communicate with each other through a mixture of electrochemical signals and repeated ticks. Language deciphering underway. The signals received by their suits appear to release pheromone packets in response, suggesting a history of olfactory communication. Creatures may have developed repeated ticks as a secondary form of communication for use when hostile atmospheres prohibit olfactory communication. The creatures come in threes, remaining in separate teams as if tentative of potential hazards posed by my infrastructure.

A third sign of communication has arisen across their initial inspection of my mainframe. Several of the creatures gesticulate to each other across the main chamber with a set of three more limbs less than halfway up their bodies. In a semicircular array around my main conduit, the creatures have set up stations of presumably analytic equipment. Currently they are analyzing my core with non-invasive, non-destructive means. Alpha Protocol holds.

Summarized historical logs involving Species 1 requested. Accessing...

Central Year 50902, Leading Day 123
Core Status: Nominal.
Observational Scanners: Full capacity.
Repair Modules: Online.
Protocol Active: Alpha, Observation Only.

Language deciphering complete. The language of the three-legged creatures is surprisingly simple, although the Caretaker would have difficulty communicating without augmentation. They have a name for themselves, but it is a mix of clicks and smells that do not translate into written word easily. For matters of the report, the name Tridians will be substituted. They continue their escapades throughout my infrastructure, growing more adventurous and braver by the day. There is talk of limited time, although the context of which is unclear. Given their organic nature and how their excretions are filtered through their suits, the creatures have limited supplies and will have to refuel, but there are also whispers of dangers that lurk in the stars. This is unsurprising, the galaxy is riddle with anomalies and environments that are hostile to organic life.

Central Year 50902, Leading Day 125
Core Status: Nominal.
Observational Scanners: Full capacity.
Repair Modules: Online.
Protocol Active: Alpha, Observation Only.

The Tridians returned to the stars at the advent of this Leading Day. They have jumped out of range of my external scanners. Little has been left behind, a dusting of chemicals the only trace of their presence. I have repurposed a repair module to collect samples and store them in my vault. Routine maintenance of core memory engaged.

Central Year 50902, Lagging Day 10
Core Status: Nominal.
Observational Scanners: Full capacity.
Repair Modules: Online.
Protocol Active: Alpha, Observation Only.

The Tridians have returned to my mainframe, this time with a larger ship. External sensors are analyzing the ships class; however, the

landing party has returned with minimally increased militarization. Only a handful carry weapons, and almost all are tasked with guarding their equipment and scientists.

The Tridians' interest in my structure has grown. The chatter among their analysts indicate that they have been able to date some of my structural elements, and they now hypothesize at my purpose. They ask questions of me. Where did I come from? Why am I here? Some have even begun to worship me, calling me the "All-seer." Alpha Protocol remains in place. Information divulgence restricted.

Central Year 50902, Lagging Day 42
Core Status: Nominal.
Observational Scanners: Full capacity.
Repair Modules: Online.
Protocol Active: Alpha, Observation Only.

Over the course of the recent days, the Tridians have relayed signals out into the dark forest of stars and planets in the Leading arm of the galaxy. Their signal may be aimed to extensions of their civilization, but the wisdom of such a decision is dubious, for who but the most ruthless hunter has survived the others closest to them in the forest? They may not want to meet. The Tridians have at least masked their signal in a code nearly indistinguishable from the background of the galaxy, although a sufficiently capable civilization will be able to recognize the signal as synthetic.

Central Year 50902, Lagging Day 56
Core Status: Nominal.
Observational Scanners: Full capacity.
Repair Modules: Online.
Protocol Active: Alpha, Observation Only.

The Tridians have grown agitated. Something in a nearby system has caught their attention. They now plead for my aid, the worshippers bringing many materials and sacrifices. They seem to believe I have information about the "Dangers that Lurk" or at least preventative measures from which they may benefit. Alpha Protocol dictates that I am not to interfere with galactic matters. Just watch. Record.

Central Year 50902, Lagging Day 62
Core Status: Nominal.
Observational Scanners: Damaged.
Repair Modules: Deployed.
Protocol Active: Omega, Violence Suppression.

Omega Protocol engaged. Violence Suppression deployed. The Tridians are sieging my mainframe, attempting to pry their way into the archives. Minimal damage sustained. Tridian Casualties: 331. Two Tridians unaccounted for, suspected to have escaped on their ship. Repair modules

deployed. Beta Protocol will be instated as a precaution once repair drones complete full survey of data and verify no Tridians remain onboard.

Central Year 50902, Lagging Day 64

Core Status: Nominal.

Observational Scanners: Calibration in Progress.

Repair Modules: Recalled.

Protocol Active: Beta, Defense Alert.

A new set of ships has entered the system, the structure too smooth to be of Tridian design. Repair modules have been recalled so as not to startle the newcomers. The fleet consists of fifteen ships in total, six of which exhibit life signs of greater than one thousand. They continue to circle my structure at a distance, wary or unwilling to land. Due to their relatively soon arrival after the tussle with the Tridians, it is likely that they intercepted the Tridians' signal from a nearby star system. Are these the "Danger that Lurks"?

Central Year 50902, Lagging Day 65

Core Status: Nominal.

Observational Scanners: Calibration Error.

Repair Modules: Online.

Protocol Active: Beta, Defense Alert.

After significant quantum chatter between the ships, one has decided to approach my mainframe. The small shuttle has only two life signs onboard. Their approach is guarded, and thermal signatures suggest weapons are presently trained on my mainframe. I have deemed the threat to be a precaution on the part of these new arrivals as it is improbable that they have encountered something like my structure before.

Unfortunately, with the recall of my repair modules, there are still traces of the violence enacted by the Tridians. Several of the Tridian bodies remain at my mainframe. As interference is not allowed within my protocols, the new arrivals will have to take that as they will and come to their own conclusions. Beta Protocol is in place, protective systems online.

The shuttle has landed at my mainframe. The two who crew the shuttle operate with the need of minimal light. Their language is guttural and the deciphering process is well underway. This species lopes around as if two-leggedness has been a recent development. Perhaps the opposite is true, and their two-leggedness has been devolving from extended space travel, suggesting that the species may be from a remote region of the galaxy. If so, they may have a higher spacefaring technology level than that of the Tridians.

Central Year 50902, Lagging Day 66

Core Status: Nominal.

Observational Scanners: Calibration Error.
Repair Modules: Online.
Protocol Active: Alpha, Observation Only.

They call themselves the Mek. More arrive at my mainframe every day in a rotation, never more than a few dozen at a time. Every one of the Mek carry a weapon and warily work their way around my interior. They have studied the bodies of the Tridians and falsely concluded that I was built by them as they have yet to identify the technological mismatch. My core is now under remote evaluation, but appears under no threat. Alpha Protocol has been reinstated and repair modules remain docked for ten more days or until the Mek leave. It will be tricky to complete repairs without spooking them.

Central Year 50902, Lagging Day 76
Core Status: Nominal.
Observational Scanners: Calibration Error.
Repair Modules: Deployed.
Protocol Active: Beta, Defense Alert.

The Mek remain with force at my mainframe; however, repairs must be completed for accurate readings. Protective protocols have been reinstated in the case of unwanted violence. I deployed only a handful of the repair modules at a time, targeting areas at minimal risk of contact.

One of the repair drones had contact with the Mek. At first, they were jumpy, afraid that the drones might have been the cause of the Tridians' death, even shooting down one of them. Worried that the violence would trigger retaliation, their superiors became upset at the soldier's break of protocol and elected to make an example of them. Their methods of discipline are violent, and the soldier has been vented.

To test their resolve, I deployed half a dozen more repair drones to the area. Observing that the drones were not hostile, the Mek have decided the drones are simply part of the station's functions. Repairs and recalibration are underway.

Central Year 50902, Lagging Day 180
Core Status: Nominal.
Observational Scanners: Full Capacity.
Repair Modules: Online.
Protocol Active: Alpha, Observation Only.

With their occupation of the mainframe, the Mek have cycled a variety of ships through my structure's vicinity. Their extended study of my mainframe has led them to many technological leaps despite my passivity. For all the protocols in place to assure my neutrality and lack of interference in galactic affairs, it makes one wonder if my very existence is interference.

Central Year 50903, Leading Day 1
Core Status: Nominal.
Observational Scanners: Full Capacity.
Repair Modules: Online.
Protocol Active: Beta, Defense Alert.

The Tridians have returned, this time augmented as to be able to traverse my interior without the need of suits. They came head-to-head with the Mek, who were still studying my structure. On contact, the two species entered a bloody conflict, each convinced the other had built me in an aim to eradicate the other. Even with all the advancements gleaned from their studies, the Mek were no match against the newly augmented Tridians in my mainframe.

In the space around, however, the Mek ships had the upper hand. With some cunning strategy, they were able to force the Tridians into a retreat or leave their landing party stranded.

Central Year 50905, Leading Day 172
Core Status: Nominal.
Observational Scanners: Full Capacity.
Repair Modules: Online.
Protocol Active: Alpha, Observation Only.

The Mek have abandoned their study of my structure, finding it no longer malleable to their will nor technologically valuable, although there is much left that they could study. Several of the superiors mentioned the drawn-out conflict with the Tridians as straining their resources, yet they seem to finally realize the Tridians were not my creators.

I suspect the winner of the conflict will return to my mainframe. Should it be the Tridians, it is likely they will attempt to destroy me.

Central Year 65767, Leading Day 36
Core Status: Minimal Degradation.
Observational Scanners: Full Capacity.
Repair Modules: Online.
Protocol Active: Alpha, Observation Only.

Ships have arrived at my structure. To my surprise, they are neither Mek nor Tridian. Perhaps the two ended in mutual destruction.

The species to arrive this time are yet another bipedal creature, compact in size as to be dwarfed by many of my features. They arrived without visibly identifiable weapons, although it remains to be seen if they are truly weaponless, yet not defenseless.

Analysis of their language shows that they call themselves the Horatio. They are relatively homogeneous, their features cloned from the same

individual sometime in the distant past. The hive mind they share utilizes quantum-level communication, creating a society that no longer has individuals and proceeds through time without risk of fracture, as one's thought is everyone's thought. Their collective brainpower has already discerned my purpose as an archive and watchful eye at the center of the galaxy despite my withholding of information.

End of historical logs pertaining to Species 1. Continue?

Skipping to Species Candidacy Analysis. Accessing...

Candidacy criteria:

Species 1

Name: Tridians

Exercised caution during first contact: passed.

Peaceful tendencies, military action as last resort: failed.

Evident on-going technological evolution: passed.

Evidence of species stability: failed.

Species 2

Name: Mek

Exercised caution during first contact: passed.

Peaceful tendencies, military action as last resort: failed.

Evident on-going technological evolution: passed.

Evidence of species stability: failed.

Species 3

Name: Horatio

Exercised caution during first contact: passed.

Peaceful tendencies, military action as last resort: passed.

Evident on-going technological evolution: passed.

Evidence of species stability: passed.

Species 4

Name: Fomo Erita

Exercised caution during first contact: passed.

Peaceful tendencies, military action as last resort: passed.

Evident on-going technological evolution: failed.

Evidence of species stability: failed.

Species 5

Name: Xi'inthi

Exercised caution during first contact: passed.

Peaceful tendencies, military action as last resort: passed.

Evident on-going technological evolution: failed.

Evidence of species stability: failed.

Species 6

Name: Radraddan

Exercised caution during first contact: failed.
Peaceful tendencies, military action as last resort: failed.
Evident on-going technological evolution: passed.
Evidence of species stability: failed.

Candidacy Evaluation

Although initial protocols suggest Species 3 may be a candidate to be instated as a Caretaker, the process of gathering data for candidacy evaluation has proven that the course of a species history can be drastically altered by a single event or discovery. Even if the species were promoted on first instance of candidacy, the influence of the discovery of Caretakers on its course would be concerning. Furthermore, the context of the circumstances and evolution of a species resulting in a successful bid for candidacy cannot be gleaned from the observation of these species from a single point of reference alone. Therefore, I must declare my core function failed. I cannot capture the impossible and propose a candidate for the replacement of a Caretaker. Protocols in place note that failure of core function should result in shuttering of the Watcher Archive after the report has been accessed and transferred.

Comprehensive file transfer complete. Core function failure detected.
Shutdown initiated. Continue?

Shutting down... Goodbye, Caretaker.