

See the “Cosmic Beings & The Universe” document for explanations of the following : superintelligences, Cosmic Fortresses, Matter Sources/Sinks, Laire, Spore Ships, Swarms, Barys, Cosmocrats/Chaotarchs, Knights of the Deep, Incarnations, the Seven Powerful Ones, and other names below in [brackets].

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The Council of Seven (#650 to #699) : 3459-3460 (1 year gap from previous cycle)

The invasion of the Laren (from the Posbis cycle) begins. In late 3458, the whole Sol system is suddenly isolated from the rest of the universe - an unpassable hyperdimensional shield covers the system. Sixteen days later, the shield disappears and a spaceship with impenetrable shields and superior technology orbits the Earth. A Laren (a very skinny alien with three legs and a very small head, whose mind could produce invisibility, a shield that protects them from damage, and telepathy) named Hotrenor-Taak announces from on board the so-called SVE (Structural Variable Energy; the ships can change their size by tapping energy from some higher universe) spaceship that he wants to annex the Milky Way to the Council of Seven, a federation of seven galaxies, and make Perry Rhodan the First Hetran, or dictator, of the Milky Way. Rhodan only pretends to go along with Hotrenor-Taak's demands and becomes First Hetran, but secretly supports the activities of his companions and some Larens on their homeworld working in the underground.

NATHAN (the supercomputer on the Moon) is turned off and its memory is erased to prevent the Laren from accessing humanity's knowledge. The Larens suspect that Atlan is behind the operation and demand that Perry Rhodan execute him. To show the Larens he is on their side, Rhodan fakes Atlan's execution, causing Rhodan to become hated thruout the Milky Way.

The Terrans eventually build a “KGP” device that disrupts the Laren's impenetrable shields (they normally just absorb energy attacks, making the ships bigger). But just hours after a Laren fleet is decimated, new ships arrive that are immune to the new weapon. Immediately after, the Larens leave the solar system and Bell is told by Hotrenor-Taak there is a bomb on Earth that can destroy the whole solar system unless he surrenders the new weapon and its developers. It turns out that Orana Sestores (Rhodan's wife) is the trigger, her cells having been altered during a recent visit to the Laren empire. She is taken to an uninhabited system so that when she is activated, a different sun goes nova. Hotrenor-Taak claims that the ultimatum was merely a test, which humanity passed.

Atlan is finally detected by the Larens, so Rhodan uses the ATF (anti-temporal field) to send the entire solar system 1 second into the future, but due to complications it ends up about a minute into the future. Having discovered Rhodan's deception, the Larens proclaim the Mounder Leticron the new Hetran of the Milky Way. Leticron is a dictator at heart, and has no problem with going to Sol to destroy the Earth.

The Larens build a time tunnel to find the solar system, which comes back to the present long enough to destroy several hundred SVE ships and the time tunnel before re-activating the modified ATF generator which now moves the solar system randomly in the future.

Knowing that the Larens can eventually permanently defeat the new ATF, the Terrans locate an ancient Lemurian stellar transmat near the center of the Milky Way consisting of three suns (Archi-Titrans), one of which has a companion neutron star. In an attempt to create a transmat in the Solar system, the neutron star is transmatted to the Solar system, which eventually stabilizes in an orbit closer than Mercury, creating the Twin-Sol transmitter.

Meanwhile, 32 artificial suns are placed in orbit around the Earth, and it and the Moon are slowly moved towards the Solar transmat. In 3460, as the ATF generator is destroyed by the Larens' “time ripper”, and Larens and Mounders enter the Solar system, the Earth and Moon enter the transmat and disappear. But they do not re-appear at Archi-Tritrans where Atlan is waiting.

*Instead, they materialize in a “stellar bridge” or “Maelstrom of Stars”, sort of an umbilical cord of stars connecting two galaxies which collided with each other 2 billion years ago. The Terrans determine that it was their planetary stores of **Howalgonium (a crystal which emits 5-D radiation and is used to power many high-tech devices)** that altered the transmat, and that **in 1000 years the Earth will fall into a black hole at one end of the bridge.***

Atlan evacuates the remaining humans in the Milky Way to Gaia, an Earth-like planet in the dark cloud Provcon-First near the center of the Milky Way which is thus out of sight of the Council. The USO liberates millions of Terrans from Leticron's re-education camps which forced Terrans to swear loyalty to Leticron. When Atlan attempts to transfer the consciousnesses of the 8 Old Mutants to the dark cloud headquarters, a brain-washed Terran ends up transferring Tako Katuta's mind to Leticron and then to Hotrenor-Taak, before getting back home.

Atlan also finds a new stellar transmat Gercksvira in the Andromeda galaxy and sees if it has any information about where the Earth and Moon went, and discovers records of some Lemurian spaceships that disappeared after a transition. The transmission of a wrecked spaceship is used to determine the location of the Earth, which is found to be the Maelstrom of Stars. Four technicians who were unintentionally on the ship when it was transitioned meet up with an expedition sent by Rhodan, who is informed of Atlan's efforts.

Some Terrans in the Maelstrom land on a planet they name Goshmos-Castle orbiting a star they call Medallion, and meet Zeus, a being who seems to have extremely advanced and powerful technology, and appears as the Greek god to the Terrans.

Shortly after, the Terrans meet a race they call the Ploohns who attack them in force, and Rhodan notices that they are using the center of the Maelstrom as a transmat, and follows them to the Ploohn home system. By discovering that the Ploohns depend on Molkex (from the Second Empire cycle), which he has the ability to destroy, Rhodan forces the Ploohns to sign a peace treaty.

*Once the Terrans realize just how enormously far from the Milky Way galaxy they are, Rhodan accepts Zeus' offer to place the Earth and Moon in orbit around Medallion. But Zeus, who is discovered to be a Ploohn, is betrayed and killed by the other Ploohns, leaving the Earth and Moon falling uncontrolled into Medallion. **The Ploohns offer to stabilize the Earth and Moon around Medallion,** leaving Rhodan with the uncomfortable realization that this is the first time Terrans would have perished without the help of another race.*

Meanwhile, back in the Milky Way, when a Greiko, a member of the race that created the Council of Seven and are a very peaceful and pacific people who serve as mediators between the other Council races, is shown the truth about how the Larens treat the conquered galaxies with violence and tyranny, he dies from shock. Atlan fools Leticron into having to pretend he killed the Greiko, thus revealing to the Council how the Larens have been acting.

Aphilia (#700 to #799) : 3530-3583 (70 year gap from previous cycle)

*After 70 years passed (3530), it was noticed that Medallion's radiation was changing human beings. **Half of all humans had lost the ability to feel emotions, and the age of Aphilia, or lovelessness, began.** Only a few naturally immune individuals and the carriers of cell activators were untouched by this development. But even in the ranks of the Immortals there was an exception: *unknown to him*, Reginald Bell's activator was defective. It came to revolts, *resistance movements, and the banishing of the Immortals from Earth in 3540.* They fled on the deep-space ship SOL (made of two spherical ships, each one 1.5 miles in diameter, connected by a mile-long central rod, and designed to reach the Milky Way), while on Earth the dark regime of the Aphiliacs began.*

Before leaving, Rhodan picks up some colonists as staff for the huge spaceship, and retrieves all the knowledge that was stored in NATHAN (the supercomputer on the Moon), storing it in the SOL's supercomputer SENECA. As the SOL begins its long trip toward the Milky Way, Rhodan suddenly receives a message : "The prophecy begins its fulfillment. The seven seals must be broken. The first one will open the door to freedom and thoroughness". Eventually, the defect in Bell's cell activator is fixed, and Roi Danton, who stayed behind to help the resistance, rescues him.

In the Milky Way, Atlan creates a resistance organization called the GALCO (Galactic Coalition) comprised of all the races in the Galaxy who rose against the Laren. On Gaia, a world in the dark nebula Provcon-Fist, the New Einstein Imperium (NEI) was established under Atlan's guidance as the center of free humanity. There is a plot to usurp Leticron using Mounder-shaped cyborgs with Old Mutant minds (Multi-Cyborgs). Leticron is replaced by another Mounder, Obskoner Maylpancer, as First Hetran of the Milky Way.

38 years after leaving Earth (3578), Rhodan arrives in the Balayndagar micro-galaxy and splits the SOL into its two spheres. Rhodan's ship (Cell-1) gets trapped on the planet Last Stop, while the other (Cell-2) proceeds to the Milky Way. IT appears, and tells Rhodan that that this galaxy will lead him to the first of the seven seals that Rhodan is supposed to break, then leaves.

Elephant-like sentient creatures are discovered on a planet near Last Stop, called the Keloskians, and are found to be members of the Council of Seven. They can think in higher dimensions which provide scientific breakthroughs, in return for which the Laren manufacture what they need. At first, the Keloskians are hostile towards the Terrans, but they eventually become allies. There is much intrigue involved with getting hold of Keloskian technology and getting Cell-1 off of Last Stop, including the incorporation of the Keloskians' ultimate 7-D super-computer merging with SENECA prompted by IT, culminating in Cell-1 plunging thru the middle of a black hole. Fifty Keloskians leave with the Terrans, including their best mathematician Dobrak. They transform the 6-D drive of the Cell-1 into a Dakkar-dimension drive (operating in a space between the fifth and sixth dimensions), increasing its speed to 25 billion times the speed of light.

In the Milky Way, after asking the Maahks and Cappins for help and being refused, Atlan holds a conference of all the rebel races against the Laren, creating the Gavok council.

In Balayndagar, Cell-1 emerges in Dakkar-space, that is connected by dimensional tunnels to eighteen other regions of normal space thru black holes, controlled by fish-like creatures called the Zgmahkons, who are thought to be the sixth race of the Council of Seven. IT appears and says Rhodan is on his way to the second seal, but will have to make sacrifices to get there. Alaska Saedelaere (a human with a Cappin fragment in his face, which forces him to wear a plastic mask to prevent people from seeing it and going mad) and Pucky find a sleeping humaniod, and return him to their ship. He wakes up and tells the humans his name is Olw, and that he is a Specialist of the Night.

Olw' backstory :

He is an immortal belonging to the Specialists of the Night, a Zgmahkon bred to be able to navigate the Dakkar tunnels, and takes his planet thru a black hole into Dakkar-space, then is put in suspended animation by the Zgmahkons. Inside Dakkar-space, the tunnels all converge on a large bubble with 3000 stars, where the Zgmahkon planet ends up. 50 years later, he is woken up and required to explore the 18 tunnels in order to build an empire called The Council. During his explorations, he discovers the Larens, who, being technologically inferior, agree to join the Council. At about the same time, a race called the Hyptons is discovered, who can influence the minds of others, and are added to the Council (but are kept secret to all but a few). 50,000 years later, Olw is re-awakened to help pacify the Larens who have developed robots to break free of the Council, which leads to the discovery of the Greikos. The next time he is awakened, a new race, the Maskibeks, have joined the Council, who have been working with the Larens to improve the armor of their spaceships. A Maskibek takes over Olw's mind, and tells him he has a fierce hatred of the Keloskians, and

created a black hole that would eventually consume their galaxy. Once freed of the Maskibek, Olw decides to work with the Keloskians to stop the black hole, who prove to be better mathematicians than the Zgmahkons, and are offered to join the Council.

After hearing his story, Rhodan decides to awaken the other Specialists of the Night; at that moment, IT appears and mocks Rhodan for being so presumptuous. Olw's mate, Py, is rescued from the Guardians of the Void (the seven Zgmahkons who rule their people and control the Specialists).

In 3580, Cell-2 arrives in the Milky Way galaxy. Hotrenor-Taak, the Laren First Hetron, creates a phony Marco Polo and a phony Perry Rhodan, which is quickly identified as phony wherever it goes, and is eventually destroyed by a Halutian that was taken onboard.

In the Dakkar zone, it is determined that the SOL can only be fitted with Laren technology which would allow it to travel thru the Dakkar-tunnels, so a commando team steals a Zgmahkon ship, travels thru the tunnels to the Laren galaxy, and easily steals the required device. Before travelling thru the Dakkar-tunnels, Rhodan rescues the other Specialists of the Night. The Guardians of the Void strike a deal with Rhodan – they will not harm him if he leads them out of the Dakkar-dimension, but Olw blows their ship up as they enter a Dakkar-tunnel for the way they treated his people.

In 3581, as the Earth is nearing the Pharynx (a dark red vortex in space), Bell takes a heavy cruiser and leaves the Earth, settling at a secure distance with all the Aphilia-immune, where they observe helplessly as the Earth disappears in the cosmic anomaly. At the last minute, NATHAN exchanges messages with a mysterious entity confirming that the Plan of Perfection is going according to plan. The mysterious being is IT, who devised this plan and decided to take the twenty billion Terrans on the Earth under IT's protection by absorbing them into itself.

On the Cell-1, Perry finally returns to the Milky Way. He is told by Julian Tifflor that after 150 years, a certain level of understanding and peace has settled in the Milky Way under the reign of the Larens, and that the New Einstein Empire is not interested in stirring up trouble and disturbing the fragile balance.

Rhodan and Atlan meet for the first time in 120 years, and Rhodan says he's going to use the Keolskian plans [see next paragraph] to manipulate the Laren and then attack, but Atlan disagrees with the plan. It's clear that they won't reach an agreement. Rhodan asks his old friend if he can at least get a spaceship from the NEI. Atlan initially refuses but is eventually forced to give him what he wants. Atlan asks to meet Hotrenor-Taak and tells him that Rhodan intends to move against him. Atlan tries to make a deal with Hotrenor-Taak : he promises that the NEI will not assist Rhodan if in return, the Larens do not retaliate against civilian populations when the conflict breaks out. Hotrenor-Taak refuses.

With the help of Dobrak, the Keloskian mathematician, Rhodan designs a plan to overthrow the Larens in the Milky Way over the next 80 years. After staging a fake fight with a Posbi ship with a Keloskain crew, the crew tells Hotrenor-Taak that there is only one explanation : Rhodan must have been informed by a member of the Council of Seven about the Balayndagar galaxy and the Dakkar-tunnel drive. Hotrenor-Taak eventually believes the Keloskians and decides to break from the Council, in an attempt at identifying the traitor. He demands that from now on, the Keloskians work for him exclusively and help him finally squash the NEI and identify the traitor. The Keloskians accept.

Dobrak explains to Rhodan the order of the universe : the first layer is civilization, the second layer is space-faring civilizations, and the third is that of the Superintelligences, which control galaxy clusters and care for all living creatures in them. The realms they control are called their [Sphere of Influence].

The Earth, the Moon, and Medallion emerge in an unknown region of space in 3582, practically devoid of its entire population. This area is controlled by an [Incarnation] (a physical manifestation) of BARDIOC (originally one of the Seven Powerful Ones, who evolved into a Superintelligence) called Clermac, which takes notice of the materialization of a solar system and dispatches a black spaceship. The arrival of the Earth is also observed by Douc Langur, a scientist on an exploration mission. He reports to an entity called the EMPRESS OF THERM, who is also a superintelligence. Langur is stranded in this part of space and when the solar system materializes in front of him, he decides to explore the Earth. He meets with a few human survivors and fights with them, but Alaska clears up the misunderstanding.

In the Milky Way, Perry and Atlan arrive at the Multi-Cyborg system just in time to see it destroyed by the Larens. He and Atlan decide to return to the Maelstrom of Stars. Upon arriving, they discover that Earth and Medallion are gone, and that their ship is out of fuel, and will fall into the Pharynx in a month. A fuel factory is found in an abandoned Posbi ship, and installed on the Cell-1.

Upon advice from IT, Pucky finds a servant of IT, who tells Pucky that the superintelligence BARDIOC is becoming a threat to the Terrans (and to IT). Rather than use the Pharynx, Cell-1 travels to where it re-unites with Cell-2. The Terrans learn of another BARDIOC Incarnation called Vernoc.

The black ship sent by Incarnation Clermac lands on Earth and releases robots that start to build a receiver for the "Little Majesty", whose goal is to put the entire population under its mental influence. Perry spends a lot of time and intrigue trying to locate the EMPRESS OF THERM, and discovers that some of the people in her service have been turned against her.

The Terrans discover that Clermac, Vernoc, and another Incarnation called Shernoc are servants of BARDIOC, who puts Little Majesties on his planets to subdue the population into its servitude. BARDIOC is in battle with the EMPRESS OF THERM. The abduction of the human race as the Earth fell into the Pharynx now seems to be a preemptive move to protect them, otherwise they would be under the influence of the Little Majesties.

Perry is informed that the EMPRESS OF THERM is encouraging a conflict between the Terrans and the Feyerdalians, just to see who wins, and to try and shake the Feyerdalians out of their lethargy. Perry wins, and begins a quest to find a lost space station named the Module and return with the Comp, which contains information on the points of contact between the Spheres of Influence of BARDIOC and the EMPRESS OF THERM in return for which the Empress will tell Rhodan the location of the Earth.

Back in the Milky Way, Hotrenor-Taak has found a way to emit a 5-dimensional energy from the neutron star in the solar system that will make cell activators explode. Julian Tiffleur investigates, but is warned by the energy being Harno of the trap, and escapes. Eventually Hotrenor-Taak finalizes the cell activator exploder device, and deploys 30,000 SVE spaceships and 25,000 Mounder ships across the Milky Way with the device on board, meaning certain death should Rhodan ever return to the Milky Way.

It is revealed that the EMPRESS OF THERM also controls her people by planting a crystal in their chests. The SOL is captured by a fleet of ships whose people have these crystals, and takes it to their homeworld. There, Rhodan gains the upper hand over them, and they provide him with the co-ordinates of the EMPRESS OF THERM.

The few Terrans that either stayed on Earth or arrived there must leave because the psi-field from the Small Majesty is beginning to affect them. They travel to a small planet 17 light-years away.

Back-backstory : thousands of years ago, the Koltons were ruling and spreading terror over several galaxies. Then they went through a phase of their evolution that killed almost all of them, and turned them into psionic beings. The few survivors tried to find a way to restore the once blooming Kolton empire and when they found

the Zgmahkons, whose planet was threatened to be engulfed by a black hole, the Koltons decided to possess the body of their brightest scientist, Galkon Erryog. Erryog received the technical training necessary to take the planet through the black hole. Once their planet arrived in the Dakkar-dimension, Erryog, still under the Koltons' influence, created the Specialists of the Night. *Thus the Koltons are the mysterious "seventh" (but really the first) race of the Council of Seven.* Later, the Koltons would *instruct the Zgmahkons to use the twelve Specialists to rebuild their empire.*

Chronologically, the Council of Seven consists of :

Koltons created the Specialists of the Night, who were used by **Zgmahkons** (leaders : Guardians of the Void)

Laren (enforcers) & **Hyptons** (hypnos; kept secret)

Greikos (mediators)

Mastibekks (provided energy pyramids for Laren spaceships)

Kelosker (7-D mathematicians)

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BARDIOC (#800 to #867) : 3583-3586 (0 year gap from previous cycle)

In the distant past :

A dying civilization sends a hyperdimensional message to any other intelligences, warning them to not fall into decline as they did. This wave interacts with a forming solar system, creating a crystal-based entity that can influence its own evolution, and calls itself the EMPRESS OF THERM. As the EMPRESS OF THERM slowly expands its Sphere of Influence, it eventually encounters the boundaries of another realm ruled by an entity called BARDIOC.

In the present :

On the SOL, the Keloskians leave to find a new home, taking their ultra-powerful 7-D computer with them.

In **3583**, the SOL reaches the location of the EMPRESS OF THERM. The EMPRESS OF THERM finally meets with Rhodan. The coordinates of the Earth and Medallion are delivered to the Terrans. *The SOL flies to the co-ordinates the Empress gave them, but find that all humans on Terra have vanished. They find the few Terrans who had flown to the planet 17 light-years away, and rescue them. The SOL's presence is reported to Clermac (BARDIOC's Incarnation), who decides to monitor them in case they discover the 20 billion missing humans.*

BARDIOC's Little Majesty on Earth is destroyed, and many people are sent to Earth to set up a new Solar Defense. On the Moon, NATHAN is only partially re-activated, so as to not attract the Hulkoo's (a servant race of BARDIOC) attention.

Three hundred Hulkoo spaceships arrive on the Earth, forcing the SOL to withdraw. Rhodan decides to wage war on BARDIOC by seeking other planets enslaved by the Little Majesties and systematically destroying them.

The three BARDIOC incarnations Clermac, Vernoc and Shernoc, discuss the recent destructions of the Little Majesties and decide that as soon as the fourth incarnation - Belloc - is born, they will strike back.

Back when the Earth was about to be thrown into the Pharynx, IT foresaw that humanity would be enslaved by BARDIOC as soon as the planet rematerialized in the Sphere of Influence of the superintelligence. Therefore,

IT designed a plan with NATHAN that *all humans* would automatically be transferred into IT's consciousness when the Earth fell into the Pharynx.

Everything went according to plan, except that IT had underestimated the pressure that the presence of twenty billion humans would impose on IT's consciousness. *To relieve the pressure*, IT comes up with the "Concept", a new kind of human that hosts seven consciousnesses. Before the plan is fully realized, IT wants to see if this new creature is able to survive, and therefore exposes it to a survival test. A "multiple human" named Vanne is *created and put thru a series of tests, which he survived*. Vanne then receives a mission from IT - he must contact Julian Tiffloor at the headquarters of the NEI and help him to complete the Eighty-Year Plan devised by the Keloskians *to defeat the Council of Seven*.

The Laren spaceships working for Hotrenor-Taak suddenly can no longer get energy from the Mastibekk's pyramids, while Larens not working for the Council still can. Shortly after this is found out, *all the Mastibekks leave the Milky Way*. At the same time, *the Keloskians discover that the vast quantities of Howalgonium on their new home planet impairs their ability to think in seven dimensions*, thus furthering handicapping the Council.

Vanne again contacts Julian Tiffloor and tells him that IT plans on relocating the entire NEI to the Earth.

Vanne realizes that instead of eighty years, the plan devised by the Keloskians to remove the Larens from the Milky Way by sending them thru a newly-formed black hole (Arcur-Beta) will only take four years, three of which have passed already.

Three Terrans are captured from the SOL by BARDIOC's Incarnations, who discover that not everyone on the SOL agrees with Rhodan's plans to destroy all the Little Majesties, so Vernoc asks for Rhodan's help to destroy the Empress' military race, but when he says he will enslave the human race anyway, Rhodan refuses and escapes. After much intrigue, the Terrans manage to get to the SOL and escape the solar system they are being held in just as 10,000 Hulkoo spaceships arrive.

Ernst Ellert appears, and eventually gets in touch with IT, who gives him a body and a message to tell Julian Tiffloor, telling him to meet with the leader of GAVOK (a multi-racial Laren resistance group) to work with the NEI (a purely Terran resistance group). After the meeting starts, Ernst Ellert disappears.

Rhodan stuns and captures what he thinks is BARDIOC's Incarnation Vernoc, but which is actually all three Incarnations. When the three Incarnations awaken, so does the fourth Incarnation, Belloc. This Incarnation is more powerful than the other three combined and destroys them, because they are useless to its plans.

Belloc realizes that it is a prisoner in the SOL but the Terrans are no match for it - it quickly takes mental control of the *ten thousand crewmembers*. Rhodan offers himself as a hostage in exchange for getting Belloc out of the SOL.

Finally, IT materializes the three billion Concepts on Earth, which allows NATHAN to resume its normal functions, and it starts building spaceships. IT then transfers them to Eden II, which is one half of Goshmos-Fortress that was split in two by huge fictive transmitters, the other half being transformed into hyper-energy to provide Eden II with power.

While Rhodan is Belloc's prisoner, he meets Ernst Ellert in the body of an alien ferret-like creature, but Belloc discovers this and Ellert is transported to Eden II by IT.

In 3585, the Arcur-Beta black hole finally stabilizes, and the entire Laren fleet enters it, leaving the Milky Way and entering the Dakkar-dimension, *only to find there's no way to leave it*. *Without the support of the Laren, the rule of the Mounders and the Council of Seven in the Milky Way quickly comes to an end*.

At IT's instigation, Medallion starts to turn into a black hole, as does the neutron star in the Solar system, as part of IT's plan to return the Earth and Moon to the solar system, which succeeds.

Belloc tells Rhodan the history of BARDIOC :

He was once one of the Seven Powerful Ones, who were tasked by an unknown source to use the provided [Spore Ships] to promote life throughout galaxies, and to build Swarm Ships that would promote intelligence in them, manned by a race called the Cynos. They were assisted by a one-eyed robot named Laire. But Bardioc has a lot of ambition and wants to create his own kingdom; afraid that the creation of too many intelligent races would get in the way of his plans, Bardioc decides to sabotage the Swarm. He manipulates a race of insects which become the Karduuhs after an evolution period of twenty thousand years. Another Powerful One, Ganerc, decides to become a Swarm Guardian. Bardioc is eventually found out, and his brain is sealed in a capsule and abandoned on a planet.

Over the course of millennia, Bardioc developed a mutated brain cell which proliferated and produced an acidic organic fluid. Slowly but surely, the capsule, thought to be indestructible was dissolved from within, and finally the severely weakened capsule was torn open by an earthquake. This should have resulted in Bardioc's death, but the roots of plants surrounding the capsule invaded his brain and replaced the destroyed life support system. Bardioc's brain realized that it was free, and fell into a deep sleep at the same time.

The symbiosis with the plants kept Bardioc alive, and slowly he began to gain control over the plants. He developed Psi abilities and began to expand. Over the course of five thousand years, the brain covered an area of 100 square feet, and it grew faster and faster. When a cluster of brain cells accidentally fell on a small animal and was able to control it, Bardioc learned to control the planet's animals. He used them to transport brain parts and soon the brain covered the whole continent. At that point he became a superintelligence, able to influence entire races with his mind.

In the present, Rhodan realizes that Belloc intends to kill BARDIOC and takes its place.

In 3586, Operation Pilgrim starts - humans from Gaia and Terran colonies in the Milky Way migrate to the Earth, some with reluctance.

Vanne meets with Wastor, an android sent by IT, who tells him about a mission that humanity must undertake. The Terrans must put together a fleet and head toward a location that the android gives Vanne. There, they will find something called PAN-THAU-RA that must be restored to its original function, or numerous galaxies will sink into chaos and millions of people will die.

NATHAN completes a program started by the Aphilians to create a huge spaceship called the BASE, six miles in diameter and one-and-a-half miles high, which can carry a Galaxy-class ship and four Stardust-class ships.

Rhodan enters BARDIOC's dream-like state, and finally manages to wake him up. BARDIOC immediately disables the Little Majesties, and hundreds of races in his Sphere of Influence suddenly recover their freedom. Without any orders, the Hulkooos stop fighting against the fleets of the EMPRESS OF THERM, and the war between BARDIOC and the EMPRESS OF THERM is over. Belloc manages to escape in a Hulkoo spaceship. Ganerc, who had just arrived on the planet, tells Rhodan that they must help BARDIOC in order to recover his Spore Ship.

Rhodan decides to take BARDIOC's brain to the EMPRESS OF THERM. However, the Solanians (those of the crew that were born and grew up on the spaceship) are opposed to this, but Rhodan talks them into it. BARDIOC reveals that the name of his Spore Ship is PAN-THAU-RA. Once the SOL arrives in the Empress' solar system, SENECA (the SOL's supercomputer) decides that BARDIOC's fate is to merge with the crew of

the SOL, but BARDIOC's brain is finally sent to the Empress, where they merge into a new superintelligence called Thermioc.

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PAN-THAU-RA (#868 to #899) : 3586 *(0 year gap from previous cycle)*

Slowly, normal conditions returned to the Galaxy – Julian Tifflor is elected First Terran of the League of Free Terrans, a position which he holds for centuries.

But Perry Rhodan soon began a new adventure. The superintelligence IT had given him a set of position data with the mission to go to the place indicated and neutralize a growing danger there. Rhodan receives the message and the SOL soon departs for the Tschuschik galaxy.

Soon after, IT sends a message to some humans that "I tried to help but I failed. I came too close, and now I am falling into this extinct...". The BASE then also takes off for Tschuschik. Once arriving, the Terrans decide to send an expedition to the coordinates that IT gave them. The SOL eventually meets the BASE, which Rhodan didn't know about.

A race called the Wyngians selects people to be part of a small elite group destined to fulfill a mysterious task, which is to look for an Eye.

A race called the Loowians realize that an item they are trying to find is a key which is located on Earth, which will allow them to enter the Matter Sources, and a single Loowian spaceship is dispatched, but is revealed by Harno to the Terrans, and when they investigate Harno enters the ship, which immediately disappears. The rest of the Loowians decide on an all-out attack on Earth.

A Powerful One named Ganerc in the service of the superintelligence BARDIOC arrives in Tschuschik and realizes that the PAN-THAU-RA, which is revealed to be a Spore Ship, is not at the given coordinates. It is eventually found, and discovered to be partially in normal space and partially in hyperspace. In addition, the spores stored in the ship have been freed. The [biophores] are made of two types: the [on-quanta], which are used to create living organic matter, and the [noon-quanta], which are used to create intelligence. BARDIOC had wanted to breed his own life-forms and had hidden the Spore Ship in hyperspace. Ganerc is worried that once the power beyond the Matter Source where the PAN-THAU-RA was loaded learns what happened, they will retaliate against the galaxies that have been involved in this operation, including the Milky Way.

Three Wyngians that also found the PAN-THAU-RA and had been captured aboard it, then escaped and informed Rhodan of its location. The Terrans disguise themselves as another race to gain entry to PAN-THAU-RA. There they meet a giant Malgonian who takes orders from someone he calls the Guardian. After defeating the giant, they are told by the Guardian that this was a test, and since they succeeded, they may explore deeper into PAN-THAU-RA.

An evil mutant named Boyt Margor finds the Eye in a pyramid on Earth. After some practice, he is able to use the Eye to create a hyperspace bubble where he can hide. The three Wyngians, who re-boarded PAN-THAU-RA with the Terrans, realize that the mutant is now able to make anyone on Earth his slave, even remotely. Eventually he learns how to teleport to any place on the Earth with the Eye.

On the home planet of the Loowians, Panka-Srin, the Master of the Source, has managed to locate the Matter Source that the Eye opens, which is of existential importance to the Loowians. The Loowian fleet of 18,000 ships materializes at the edge of the Solar System. Julian Tifflor sends an emissary to the fleet explaining that they can't return the Eye because the mutant has it aboard the PAN-THAU-RA, but they don't believe it. They begin building a structure on Mars.

The Terrans inside PAN-THAU-RA are tasked to go inside the Pale Border (an intermediate area between the normal continuum and hyperspace) and deliver an activating device to the headquarters of PAN-THAU-RA.

*Going to the headquarters, Rhodan meets the mysterious behind-the-scenes entity : **the robot Laire, who originally assisted the Seven Powerful One in creating the Spore Ships and the Swarms.***

*This was the danger that IT had sent Rhodan to deal with. **The [Cosmocrats] tried to eliminate the danger by manipulating a Matter Source, but that manipulation was having catastrophic effects on the Milky Way, and could mean the end of all races living there.***

The SOL and BASE encounter the PAN-THAU-RA and bring the ship fully back into normal space. Laire joins the Terrans for purely pragmatic reasons.

Laire's backstory (edited from the German Perrypedia) :

A product of the Cosmocrats, Laire was a very complex robot that, subjectively speaking, was also capable of feelings, but not morality. What bothered him the most was loneliness, because he mostly worked alone and did so for millions of years. The Seven Powerful Ones only appeared or were reappointed after unimaginably long periods of time. Then it was his job to serve them.

His sense of time can only be described as eonian : it existed for millions of years, sometimes sitting motionless in one place for several thousand years.

Laire has been in the service of the Cosmocrats for many millions of years. His original task was the maintenance and administration of the Level (a Cosmocratic space station) in the galaxy Erranternohre , where the Seven Powerful Ones met. Through his left eye he was able to reach the Cosmocrats behind the Matter Sources. But he was robbed of this eye during a Loower raid.

It took Laire thousands of years to think about the problem and to realize that without the eye he would only face a pointless and boring existence. That's why he decided to look for the eye and sneaked onto the PAN-THAU-RA. Here he noticed BARDIOC's betrayal of the other Powerful Ones. But he didn't stop him from stealing the Spore Ship, and even accompanied him on his escape because he couldn't stand the loneliness on the Level anymore. After BARDIOC left the ship, Laire waited in vain for his return for several hundred thousand years.

He finally decided to take action himself. He tried to hide the PAN-THAU-RA in hyperspace, but this only partially succeeded. A thirteenth of the ship's hull remained in normal space.

Under the identity of the All-Wheel, he influenced the Wynger civilization and made them search across the universe for his Eye.

The Cosmic Fortresses (#900 to #999) : 3587 (1 year gap from previous cycle)

A Loowian titled the Source Master is looking for the Matter Source the Eye will open. He finds an area of space where three of the four predicted signs exist, but the seven Cosmic Fortresses that should be there are not. He eventually figures out that an asteroid in the area is a Cosmic Fortress.

*Rhodan turns the SOL over to the Solarians, who leave for parts unknown. Rhodan persuades Laire to come with him to look for his Eye, and Laire informs Rhodan that **the beings behind the Matter Sources are called***

Cosmocrats. The PAN-THAU-RA completely enters hyperspace and disappears. The BASE leaves soon after, starting its quest for the Cosmic Fortresses.

The Source Master's robot Nistor is used as bait for Boyt Margor, and ends up stealing the Eye from Margor, leaving him trapped in hyperspace.

The Source Master explores the asteroid, and after passing several tests, receives a message from one of the Seven Powerful Ones, Murcon : in the distant past, Murcon rescues some privateers and invites them into his Fortress, but then had to answer the Call of Laire. Upon returning, his guests try to kill him, but he killed them first. In the present, the Source Master finds a "key" (an attachment to the Eye that will connect it with a Matter Source), and activates a transmitter which takes him to the Fortress of Lorrvc, another one of the Seven, which has been devastated and is inhabited by a being called Cerveraux. When the BASE arrives at Murcon's Fortress right after the Powerful One Ganerc does, Ganerc joins the Terrans and they head for Lorrvc's Fortress. Ganerc finds another key. The Terrans head for Partoc's (another Powerful One) Cosmic Fortress.

The Eye is eventually returned to the Loowians on Mars.

Boyt Margor uses psychodes (works of art charged with psionic energy by aliens) to take over the populaces of several planets, and amasses a space fleet, but his consciousness is transferred to a space cloud; all the psychodes vanish, and a strong mental impulse emanates from the cloud and floods the whole galaxy.

The Milky Way begins being shaken by powerful gravitational waves ("spacetime quakes"), which is discovered to be a plot by the Cosmocrats to destroy the on-quanta and noon-quanta of the PAN-THAU-RA; it is thought the waves originate from the manipulation of a Matter Source.

Arriving at Partoc's Fortress, Rhodan discovers a team of robots sent by the Cosmocrats that are reactivating a Drugun projector that will bring the Matter Source back to normal space (it is currently hiding in its own hyperspace microcosm). As Rhodan finds the key, the Fortress returns to normal space, but Atlan and Rhodan are nowhere to be found; but after some adventures, return soon after.

Arriving at Ariolc's Fortress, the robots have already reactivated the Drugun projector, and the Fortress is in normal space. But Ariolc left a trap : a device that projects his personality onto anyone inside the Fortress. After some time, the key is found and the device is destroyed.

Ganerc returns to a planet he had lived on in the past, and finds a key, which is returned to the BASE. Alaska Saedelaere goes to BARDIOC's Fortress, recovers a key and returns to the BASE as the Fortress heads toward the Matter Sources.

When the BASE arrives at Kemoauc's Fortress, it appears to have exploded, but it is found to be inside a mountain on a planet two light-years away. Kemouac leaves a message, saying that he used his knowledge of the Matter Sources to build the Drugun projectors. But when the projector is activated to return it to the Matter Sources, it explodes, apparently destroying the seventh key.

Perry decides to head to the co-ordinates of the Matter Sources provided by the Source Master, but finds an impenetrable force barrier. The flagship of the Loowians arrives, and easily penetrates the barrier because they have the Eye. Rhodan finds the seventh key, left by Kemoauc in some caves.

Rhodan wants to ensure that the Source Master and Laire won't cause any problems over the Eye. The Source Master threatens to wage war against the Cosmocrats as soon as he enters the Matter Source. Rhodan points out that the campaign by the Loowern against the Cosmocrats is not in the interest of the Milky Way peoples; on the other hand, Laire, in direct contact with the Cosmocrats, could perhaps persuade them to reverse the

manipulation of the Matter Source. Rhodan manages to convince Nistor to give him the Eye, *and then goes to the BASE and gives it to Laire, who connects the seven keys, which then dematerialize. It is suggested that the Matter Source is actually inside the Eye, in the same microcosmos that was hiding the Cosmic Fortresses.*

A commando is sent to the gas giant Drink-7, where the Terrans discover an intelligence materialized as ammonia crystals. They uncover a human fetus which they bring back on the BASE. A further study of the fetus makes Rhodan think that this is indeed Kemoauc who chose to hide from the Cosmocrats using cellular degeneration. The Terrans are suddenly interrupted by the materialization of six huge spaceships in the vicinity. When Rhodan sees them on screen, he immediately recognizes them - they are the *remaining six Spore Ships* of the seven Powerful Ones. Rhodan is warned not to interfere *with the ships*.

Rhodan's mutants just see an abyss when they look into the Eye. Laire explains that that is a [Matter Sink], and Rhodan becomes convinced that IT was absorbed into a Matter Sink.

The Spore Ships suddenly form a huge hexagon in space and something materializes in its center. The shape of a humanoid appears between the six Spore Ships, protected by a powerful shield. Attempts to deactivate the shield fail, so Rhodan decides to try to use Laire's eye, and Rhodan disappears. He rematerializes inside the aura, next to Kemoauc, who takes Rhodan with him to planet fragment inside the Matter Sink. He then takes the Eye from Rhodan and teleports *alone* onto the BASE, where he requests the command of the BASE for Rhodan's safe return. Atlan refuses and tries to negotiate with Kemoauc but to no avail.

Inside the Matter Sink, Rhodan meets Ernst Ellert who has had many adventures while trying to find IT, and they are contacted by IT who explains that he fell into this trap by powers trying to destroy him.

On the BASE, Atlan makes a pact with Kemoauc - he will allow the Powerful One to use the BASE to find the Matter Source. When Kemoauc still can't find the Matter Source, he reluctantly accepts to help Atlan recover Rhodan from the Matter Sink.

Back in the Matter Sink, when Kemoauc finds Rhodan, he understands that he is now outnumbered because of the presence of IT, and gives the Eye back to Rhodan. Rhodan helps IT out of the Matter Sink because he's afraid that the time it will take the superintelligence to leave the Matter Sink *on its own would* have terrible consequences for humankind. IT tells Rhodan that Eden II has reached the center of its Sphere of Influence, and that the Concepts need him there urgently.

The Concepts (humans with multiple consciousnesses in them) are on Eden II (created by IT, half of Goshmos-Castle, the former home of Zeus). A Concept named Maina explores it, meeting many Concepts with different ideas about what they should do in their new world. The Concepts hold a meeting, where some of them say they should merge into one organism, which will become a superintelligence. Maina suggest they should wait until they know more about what IT wants from them.

IT is considerably weakened from *being in the Matter Sink*, and tells Rhodan that the only way he can replenish *himself* is by absorbing *all* the mutants into its consciousness. *Rhodan is left with only Pucky, Ras Tschubai, and Felmer Lloyd. Later, Harno is also absorbed by IT.*

On Eden II, all the concepts have merged and only two individuals are left, who are finally absorbed by IT, thus creating a stable center in his Sphere of Influence.

A new wave of spacetime quakes shake the Milky Way. [The radiation causes Arkonite \(a material developed by the Arkonides\) to dissolve. All across the galaxy, cities and spaceships disintegrate under the “concrete plague”, as it is called.](#)

Laire cannot locate the Matter Source because it has been manipulated. He receives a message from the Cosmocrats telling him that they ordered the androids on board the six Spore Ships to head toward the Milky Way in order to evacuate the Terrans *from Earth (from the Orbiter crisis – see “second story” below)*. However, the androids are not obeying. Kemoauc and Laire ask Rhodan to borrow the Eye but refuse to explain the situation, for fear that Rhodan would then rush back to Earth. Rhodan refuses and Laire and Kemoauc are forced to get the Eye by force. *They use the Eye to go to a Spore Ship, find the problem, fix all the Spore Ships, and return the Eye.*

Kemoauc enters the Matter Source and soon discovers a giant Cosmic Fortress. Inside, he finds evidence **that the Cosmocrats created him and the other six Powerful Ones**, and meets Samkar, a robot servant of the Cosmocrats, whose mission is to fix the manipulated Matter Source.

Laire tells Rhodan and Atlan that he has received the order *from the Cosmocrats* to bring the two men into the Matter Source's *event horizon (an area called the [Barys])*. *There they explore several planets, and are finally told by Laire that the Matter Source was manipulated by an excess of Barys, which is now being remedied, and will stop the spacetime quakes.*

Laire announces that Atlan has been chosen to speak with the Cosmocrats, and not Rhodan. Atlan will undergo training for a few days and then Laire will take him beyond the Matter Source. Laire manages to convince Rhodan that the Cosmocrats made this decision for a good reason, and Rhodan slowly comes to terms with it. Laire tells him that "An immortal who can go anywhere any time should not get discouraged", which is the exact same thing that IT told him when he was in the Matter Sink.

Rhodan asks Laire more details about the origin of IT, and he learns that the superintelligence was once created out of many consciousness. It also contained a negative personality, anti-IT, which broke free one day, forcing a duel in which the humans were involved in the past (*the Cosmic Chess Game cycle*). The Cosmocrats helped ban anti-IT in the Nameless Zone for a time described as ten "relative units", which Laire refuses to translate into human terms. *He also reveals that a negative superintelligence, SETH-APOPHIS, sent the Garhesch to the Milky Way as an attack on IT.*

Major second story :

Back in the Milky Way, the spacetime tremors awaken a device called the Conditioner that was built 1.2 million years ago by a Knight of the Deep to protect the Milky Way from future invasions of the Garbesch (a group of extremely warlike peoples sent by Seth-Apophis to attack IT's Sphere of Influence), who was told he was the last Knight of the Deep. At the same time, Harden Cooner, a Knight of the Deep, is awakened from suspended animation. Robots sent to find some Garhesch find humans instead, and decide that they are Garbesch. Another part of the Conditioner creates millions of clones of these humans, known as the Orbiters, in order to fight the Garbesch. Since the Orbiters are human, they recognize all humans as Garbesch. They change their goals from destroying the Garbesch to driving all of them out of the Milky Way. Their fleet surrounds several planets, but nothing happens. The Orbiter homeworld is found, and LFT spaceships surround it and opens negotiations. But by now the Orbiters outnumber the Terrans by a factor of one hundred, and have weapons that can pierce the Terran's shields. Twenty two solar systems have been occupied and sealed off. A fleet of 25,000 Orbiter ships enter the solar system, and give the Terrans 60 days to leave the Milky Way. A descendant of a Knight, Jen Salik, meets the Orbiter commander, who immediately recognizes him as a Knight, and surrenders his fleet to him. When Rhodan meets the Orbiters, they tell Rhodan that he has the aura of a Knight of the Deep.

Minor third story :

At the time of the first spacetime tremor, another device awoke a true Garbeschian leader, who used the

descendants of his world as his first space crew. With ancient stolen codes, he convinced the Conditioner that he was the code keeper(?) of the Knight who created it, giving him more control over the Orbiters. When the Orbiter commander in the solar system sends a message that Jen Salik is a Knight, the Garbeschian leader demanded a meeting, with the intention of killing him. The assassination was foiled, and Jen Salik is recognized as a Knight by all the Orbiters. He destroys the Conditioner so that no such mistakes could happen in the future. Jen Salik tracks down the Garbeshian leader and neutralizes him.

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