

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].

The Atopic Tribunal (#2700 to #2799) : 1514-1517 NGE (44 year gap from previous cycle)

Names in this cycle :

Arun Jschanan – First Terran of the League of Free Terrans (excluding the Sol system)

Cai Cheung – Solar Premier of the Sol system

Attilar Leccore – the Koda Aratian shape-shifter head of the TLD

Toufec – a friend of Delorian who was instrumental in the previous cycle

Pazuzu – a nanoagent swarm used by Toufec

Sichu Dorksteiger – an Atorian scientist working with the Galactics

Quick Silver – a sentient (possibly living) robot in the service of the Universal Archaeologists

Viccor Bughassidow – a billionaire who helps Rhodan; his ship is the STARCRUSHER

Farye Sepheroa – Rhodan’s granddaughter on her mother’s side

New Tamanium – the name of the Milky Way Tefroder’s growing empire

Vetris-Molaud – leader of the Tefroders in the Milky Way; titles Tamaron or Maghan; embraces Atopia

Assan-Assoul – a powerful Tefrodian mutant

Larhatoon – a galaxy mostly populated by Laren (from the Masters of the Island cycle)

Larhat – the legendary world of origin of the Larens

Avestry-Pasik – the Lauren leader of an Atopic Tribunal resistance movement in Larhatoon

Dhayqe – an Advocate of the Atopic Tribunal

Chuv – an Atopian Judge; his ship is named CHUVANC

Matan Addaru – an Atopian Judge; his ship is named nnn-COLPCOR

(Matan is a title; his last name changes often, so I’m leaving them out for clarity)

Saeqaer – an Atopian Judge; her ship is named CHEMMA DHURGA

Onryon – a helper race of the Atopic Tribunal

Jai – a shapeshifting helper race of the Atopic Tribunal

Leza Vlvoth – a Jai Atopian Marshal (performs tasks for the Judges)

Tolocesten – a helper race of the Atopic Tribunal who are technical geniuses

tt-progenitors – an Atopic technology that can form any machine by combining together

Jena Lands – unknown at this time

Note : I could not place separating lines between many areas of different action, because in many cases they only consisted of a single paragraph. Instead, I placed vvv and ^^ lines around multiple paragraphs in the same area of action. If there were different areas of actions between these, I used -----.

When the Sol system returns to its traditional place in the standard universe in early 1470 NGE Terra time, 33 years have passed for the rest of the universe. The year is 1503 NGE, and a lot has changed in the Milky Way due to the long absence of the main world of the League of Free Terrans. Earth is no longer the seat of government of the LFT. Arun Joschannan has been elected as the new First Terran. The worlds of the Sol system have their own government, which resides in the Solar House on Terra. The head of government is the Solar Premier Cai Cheung.

Luna does not *return with the rest of the solar system, and does not re-appear until 1512*, causing immediate serious ecological changes on Terra and a wave of emigration. However, *when it returns*, the surface of the moon is overgrown by technical facilities known as a techno-mesh. It is also shielded by a force field, the Repulsor Wall, and is inaccessible. Pucky tried in vain to reach the moon by teleportation, *and* has been in a coma ever since. It is unclear whether the mousebeaver will ever wake up again, whether he will still have paranormal abilities and what they will be, because his brain is reconfiguring itself.

By mid 1514, around one billion Terrans have already left the Sol system. Disguised as a minor project of the Waringer Academy, the spaceship STARDIVER is built on Terra. Perry Rhodan hopes to use it to land on the moon, *because it has a new kind of FTL drive*. In addition to Rhodan, *the mutant* Shanda Sarmotte, Toufec and *his nanoagent swarm Pazuzu* are also on board.

The moment the STARDIVER penetrates the Repulsor Wall, the techno-mesh opens, *and* 32 spherical ships fly up. Two shoot down the STARDIVER, the rest cross the Repulsor Wall. A humanoid with jet-black skin and golden eyes reports to the Terrans. He calls himself Shekval Genneryc, commander of the HOOTRI, leader of the Onryon *fleet* and spokesman for the Atopian Tribunal. He believes that humanity has already suffered enough wars and for this reason forbids any faster-than-light space travel in the Sol system. When the ships of a *medical aid* convoy nevertheless switch to linear flight, they are shot down with torpedoes *that can even track their targets in linear space which should not be possible*. The Terrans fire back, *but are unable to break through the Onryons' protective shields, even with their most powerful weapons*.

Genneryc sends a message throughout the Milky Way : he announces the first day of the Atopic Tribunal. The Onryons demand the extradition of Rhodan and Bostich to the Atopian Tribunal, as they will allegedly cause a “World Fire”, *a disaster that will affect the entire Milky Way* at some point in the future.

The crew of the STARDIVER survives and advances to Luna Town IV, which they find almost deserted. They witness an act of sabotage by Terrans against the Onryons. One of the saboteurs, Quinta Weienater, survives *but is* badly injured and is rescued by Rhodan's group. As a result, they learn that it is 1572 NGE on the moon. They also learn that they have to go to *the Luna City prison* to look for Pri Sipiera, who can supposedly help them.

After contact is established with Sipiera, they learn about the Lunar Resistance and the past history of the moon : *it travelled thru a hyperdimensional tube to get back to the standard universe*. It is also revealed that NATHAN is working for the Onryons, but that YLA also exists, an avatar who sees herself as NATHAN's daughter and is in league with the Resistance. *She informs him that an Atopian Judge is on Luna, but that he is not an Onryon*. In order to relieve the pressure on the resistance, which has increased considerably due to Rhodan's presence, Rhodan decides to leave the moon again, but first the Terrans capture a "bellows", *which looks like a rectangular discarded snakeskin*, from an Onryon "temple". Rhodan also takes a sample of the material patronite, which is used by the Onryons for a variety of purposes. A Lunar scientist discovers that patronite has a very strong repulsive effect and is capable of transforming any other matter into patronite. Rhodan then leaves the Earth's moon alone in an Onryon spaceship and is later fished out of space by the STARCRUSHER, *an old Posbi ship privately owned by the billionaire Viccor Bughassidow*. Rhodan is told that *its pilot, Farye Sepheroa, is his granddaughter on her mother's side*.

There Rhodan has the bellows examined. Jatin and biochemist Henna McCorrell determine that it is a compound of biological organics *and* life-imitating nanomachines. During further investigations, the bellows "comes to life" and kills several crew members of the STARCRUSHER before it can be destroyed. It becomes apparent that it *was after* Rhodan, *who kept a small piece of it*. Rhodan decides to stay on the STARCRUSHER

apprentice, kill Luto Faonad and capture Tolot and the young Avan Tacrol.

Their success is short-lived. When the STARCROSHER appears a little later with Rhodan, *Vlyoth* also wants to take control of him. Instead, Rhodan and a task force free the two Haluters and capture Tatsanor. Vlyoth manages to escape and returns to the Sol system. Tatsanor *gives* all the information he has received from Vlyoth about the Atopic Tribunal to Rhodan. The Terran arranges a meeting with Bostich near the Perkon system. *In the meantime, Rhodan reveals to Farye Sepheroa that she is his granddaughter.*

Arriving on Luna, Vlyoth takes on the Lunar Resistance. In the form of the Terran Larence Wu, he initiates an assassination attempt on *Lunar administrator* Antonin Sipiera (*even tho he was spreading propaganda for the Tribunal*), in which *all* the attackers are killed except for *Vlyoth and Angh Pegola*.

The latter is eventually fitted with a spy probe, and so Vlyoth learns of the resistance's current plan to penetrate Mare Nubium, where the Synapse Priory (*a steering control center*) is located. *Vlyoth* sets up a trap, but it is discovered prematurely by the telepath Sarmotte. The ensuing battle with the intruders ends almost fatally for Vlyoth. The resisters learn from a Tolocesten (*a helper race of the Tribunal who are technical geniuses*) that the techno-mesh is a transpositor, a kind of giant transition engine capable of *teleporting* the entire moon *thru* space.

While *the Tefroders in the polyport (from the Stardust cycle)* ITHAFOR-5 are trying to get it back into operation despite various disturbances in the polyport network *which is difficult because they only have one A-controller*, a strange object appears in one of the transfer tubes - two fossilized *fingers*, but they are nineteen billion years old - older than the universe itself, *so they presumably come from the future*. In nearby space, the fighting between Tefroders and Blues continues, and finally an Onryon fleet appears. *The Tefroders attack and initially repel the Onryon ships, proving they are not invincible*. But the Onryons eventually gain the upper hand, and force a ceasefire on the parties involved. They even threaten *the Tefroders* with transferring Luna, the *new site of the Atopian Court*, to the *Tefroder home system*. They also announce the shutdown of the polyport network. Meanwhile, Monkey and Ronald Tekener are wondering whether the New USO should intervene. They decide to intervene in favor of Terra. The Onryon *ceasefire* ultimatum offers the chance to remove the invaders from the Sol system.

Tekener travels with three USO specialists via polypoint to ITHAFOR-5. The transfer does not end until three days later, leaving the travelers physically damaged. Although this throws the entire mission plan into disarray, Tekener and his companions manage to instigate a space battle between Tefroders and Onryons. *One specialist* pays for the mission with her life, the other three flee to the GALBRAITH DEIGHTON V. Luna transits as hoped, *and* the Sol system envelopes itself in a crystal screen (*hyperenergy is created by satellites, which modifies the sun's naturally emitted hyperenergy; at the heliopause this interacts with hyperenergy coming from interstellar space, creating a barrier to normal matter*).

Perry Rhodan is assigned by Bostich to deal with the polyport problems. *The Shadow Maahk* Pral explains that the [Eiris] of IT is an essential component of the network. The grid has virtually built itself up along the Eiris band and is supplied with [vital energy] by it. In order to compensate for fluctuations in the supply, the grid draws the smallest amounts of vital energy from all its passengers. In other words, the grid is alive and the increased consumption of *the passengers'* vital energy can only mean that *the grid* is fighting for survival. Rhodan sees no alternative to shutting down the network, which he does on *the polyport* GALILEO using his

“original” controller.

The Arkon Empire already has enough problems without the intervention of the Atopian Tribunal. More and more Arkonides are fleeing to the Brass World, a virtual reality in which they have more time for all kinds of adventures and diversions. The resulting shortage of skilled workers is clearly noticeable in the Crystal Palace. The Atopian Tribunal gathers 80,000 Onryon ships around Arkon and lays siege to the system, while [Judge Chuv enters the system through the Crystal Screen \(which should not be possible\)](#) with his ship CHUVANC. *When the vice-Emperor refuses to lower it, the fleet commander publicly offers a cell activator for the capture of Bostich.* Two Jaj ensure that the Onryons gain access to the control system of the Crystal Screen. With his flagship GOSTUSSAN II, Bostich attempts to recapture the control system, but his ship falls into the hands of the enemy. *Judge Chuv creates a tunnel thru the Screen thru which Onryon ships enter the Arkon system. Bostich orders the Arkon spaceships inside the screen to attack. [Not even transform cannons can penetrate the Judge's ship's screens.](#) 60,000 more Onryon ships arrive, [destroying the Arkon fleet.](#)* Judge Chuv informs the Arkonides that they must leave their home system within five years. The sun of Arkon is to be *renamed* Baag, and the system is to belong to the Naats, *because they were its original inhabitants.*

On *their home planet* Apsuma, the Tefroders prepare for the appearance of the techno-moon *in order to destroy it*. Instead, however, only the *Advocate* Dhayqe appears. He claims that the Tribunal has decided otherwise and reminds Vetriz-Molaud that a cell activator is on the line for Bostich's capture. Molaud rejoices, as he has already sent his mutant corps to Terra.

Pucky awakens from his coma, assisted by the image seer Severin Fock. *Pucky* has lost his original paranormal abilities, but can now rob other mutants of their gifts, although this costs them their lives. Before he realizes it, Pucky has already killed Fock. A little later there is an unfortunate collision with the weak telekinetic Muaz Riocourt, who also dies. *Rhodan appears, and asks Pucky for his help.*

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*The Tefrodian mutants get into the solar system and land on Terra. One of them can sense Rhodan's vital energy, as well as that of Bostich's, allowing the mutants to know their precise location on the planet. Tekener accompanies Bostich and they hide in Istanbul. The Tefrodian mutants track them down. One of the mutants and Tekener are killed in the ensuing battles and Bostich is captured. The Tefroders remove his cell activator and send it to Solar Premire Cai Cheung. Rhodan now has 62 hours to turn himself in to the tribunal. The Galactics search for Bostich with all available forces. A scientist manipulates Bostich's activator so that it can be tracked. But the search for the Emperor is unsuccessful and Rhodan has to turn himself in.*

The trial of Rhodan and Bostich *along with an unknown, yet-to-be-born Terran* takes place on Terra, presided over by the Atopian Judge Matan Addaru. *Dannoer is attacked with microbombs as soon as he leaves his spaceship, but they are neutralized and leave a residue.* Sichu Dorksteiger thinks Dannoer is just a kind of action body for another being whose personality is hidden in *his walking stick*. *The jury consists of Terrans, aliens on Terra, intelligent animals, robots, and the simulated consciousness of a Terran from the future. The defendants are not present.* Witness for the prosecution is Julian Tifflor, who saw the World Fire *while living in ARCHETIM'S HORT (a superintelligence's manifestation point in the universe – from the Stardust cycle), but could not see what started it, and he doesn't think TAFALLA was involved.* The defendants are each sentenced to 500 years' deprivation of mobility and authority, *in an Atopic Tribunal prison world.* *In addition, the Milky Way is to be demilitarized, and all occupied or colonized planets are to be returned to their original inhabitants.*

After the sentence has been passed, Dannoer talks to the two *prisoners*. Rhodan uses skillful conversation to get the Judge to reveal important information. It becomes clear that the Atopian Tribunal does not know what Rhodan and Bostich have done - or rather will do - to trigger the World Fire. It is *also* clear to Rhodan that the Atopian Tribunal has not invaded the Milky Way for moral reasons, but purely for self-protection – the World Fire would threaten the existence of the Atopians. Rhodan also assumes that the Atopians need a replacement for their own transportation system and have therefore reached out *to take* the polyport network.

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A Terran scientist analyzes the residue from the attack on Dannoer, and discovers that it consists of inorganic stem cells made of highly complex form energy and receive their energy requirements independently from hyperspace. Like organic cells, they can divide, multiply and regenerate. Furthermore, they are in permanent communication with each other in ways that are unclear and can also act as a whole. They are extremely adaptable and can form technical devices of almost any degree of complexity in large groups. This technology is dubbed “tt-progenitor cells”, is far in advance of Terran technology, and is used by the Atopic Tribunal for everything.

Vetris-Molaud narrowly escapes an assassination attempt and receives a cell activator as a reward for his help in capturing the Principal Fractors Rhodan and Bostich. A new era begins for the New Tamanium.

In late 1514 NGE, the moon leaves the Sol system with the help of the *Onryon* transpositor. Several jumps are necessary before it arrives at its destination. The Lunar Resistance becomes active again. They succeed in interrupting the journey with a *gravo-irritator (which forces jumps to end prematurely)*. However, this leads to a catastrophe. First, hundreds of Lunarians - Terrans and Onryons - die in Gravo quakes, then the flight ends in an artificially created quadruple system of neutron stars, threatening to crash into one of the stars. The dramatic situation leads to cooperation between the resistance and the Onryons. *By absorbing some tt-progenitors, Pazuzu can help Shanda Sarmotte make contact with a guardian of the Gravo Architects, the beings who created the neutron star system.* The artificial being Custos agrees to bring the moon into a stable orbit. However, it is no longer possible to leave Luna, as the Repulsor Wall now works in both directions. *In addition, Pazuzu has absorbed a splinter of Toufec’s consciousness, and becomes a thinking, sentient being.*

A plan to expel the Onryons from the *Ertrusian* home system ends with heavy losses for the Ertrusians and the **USO**. The LFT is prevented from intervening by the occupying forces. Shortly afterwards, the USO is declared a terrorist organization. *Homer G. Adams begins construction of a spaceship for “special use”, which uses the same kind of hyperdrive as the destroyed STARDIVER, for intergalactic travel.* Meanwhile, a first attempt by Pucky to find Rhodan and Bostich fails, but he encounters a fleet of more than ten thousand Onryon starships, hidden behind an unknown kind of cloaking screen.

In early 1515 NGE, Leza Vlyoth’s ship which is parked on Venus destroys itself when it is about to be captured by a team of *Terrans*. Eventually, its fragments provide clues to three Onryon “dark” planets (not orbiting suns) that serve as prison worlds. The STARCRUSHER will be commissioned for the search. Meanwhile, Pucky and Farye Sepheora become friends and puzzle over the background of the Techno-Mahdi, who use insects to place slogans like “Technology is Redemption” on many buildings, along with other slogans. Allegedly, the Techno-Mahdi pursues the goal of freeing humanity from the burden of life through technology in order to find a new life, free from the manipulation of superintelligences and their agents - agents like Bostich and Perry Rhodan.

The STARCRUSHER with Pucky and the *Tefroder* mutant Toio Zindher, the latter involuntarily, follow the trail that points to Rhodan's whereabouts in early 1516. Ichō Tolot, Avan Tacrol and some Posbis are also on board.

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To cross the 21 million light years to Larhatoon, the *GYUDOOD* uses five **star portal stations** (*space stations that have long-range transmats that orbit stars*) that connect the Milky Way and the Laren galaxy. Rhodan uses his reputation as the Hetork Tesser (*destroyer of the Council*) to impress Avestry-Pasik. He wants to work with the Laren to take action against the Atopic Tribunal, because the Proto-Hetosts could be valuable allies. At the third station, AIKKAUD, Rhodan succeeds in sending two hyper-radio probes towards home.

The HOPTCHER-VOIC transports *its* passengers to Axxallia-Annor, a planet that serves almost entirely as an *Atopic Tribunal* counterfactual museum. Each Laren undertakes this pilgrimage at least once, because every time you visit the museum, you get social credit points, without which promotion to higher positions is impossible. Visitors are shown how Larhatoon and surrounding galaxies would have perished had the Tribunal not intervened in time. *To prevent the World Fire here, they imposed a limit on the distance of a single-stage hyperjump of 100 light-years, and a maximum total range of 10,000 light years for faster-than-light flights. In addition, they divided the galaxy into four sectors, and all races must stay in their sector.* In the impressive simulation, Rhodan learns of the Vectorion, which may contain a clue to Larhat.

Rhodan and Bostich learn from Greiko Baudencerc, the museum director, that the Vectorion is in the possession of the First Hetran (*leader of all Larens*). There, they also learn of the Atopic Synaptor that would allow one to

*communicate with the home of the Atopen Tribunal.* The current First Hetran is at the end of his life and five candidates are vying to succeed him. On his farewell tour through the Laren domain, he reaches Axxalliar-Annor, where he will choose his successor. Before this can happen, a deadly attempt is made on his life in Baudencerc's office. Rhodan receives the Vectorion from *the First Hetran with his blessings* after identifying himself as *the* Hetork Tesser. However, the device does not seem to work.

Baudencerc announces Aipanu-Cel as the new First Hetran, knowing that Avestry-Pasik is supposed to take over. Rhodan and Bostich, together with the historians Voruder-Paac and Gesspyr Hoctosser, set off on the OVPASHIR, a Lucbarni (*race*) ship. As they enter faster-than-light flight, the Vectorion activates. It points to the center of Larhatoon, which is *an Atopic sector* located behind an impenetrable *Repulsor Wall*.

Avestry-Pasik reaches Axxalliar-Annor. As *the true new* First Hetran, he always knows where the Vectorion is, which communicates to him by parapsychic means, *and* takes up the pursuit of Rhodan. Meanwhile, on the OVPASHIR, the *Lucbarni* advisor Venerayke recognizes a similarity between Rhodan and Bostich on the one hand and an *ancient* artefact *found by her* on the other. The *artifact*, actually an Atopian Synaptor, cannot be reached by the OVPASHIR, but there is a transmitter link from the Lucbarni space station LUCVAIT. On its way there, the OVPASHIR is attacked by three Laren spacecraft, one of which briefly shows the face of Avestry-Pasik. The attack is repulsed. *A hyper-radio message is broadcast thru the entire galaxy : it contains the number Pi and a million-digit prime number and states that the Vidrites are working on a new type of faster-than-light drive.*

Rhodan travels to *the planet* Jacpruna. The journey continues in a shuttle. The use of the Atopic Synaptor, an object that in the eyes of the Terran resembles an *old-fashioned* confessional *booth*, is deeply impressive. Rhodan gazes into infinity and perceives faces whose number he strangely knows exactly - there are 10 to the power of 123. The faces literally see everything. They perceive every elementary particle that has ever existed, and they know all events back to the Big Bang. Rhodan hears two messages: "Fear not. Everything has only just begun", and "We are in the Jena Lands". Rhodan is more deeply impressed than when he rejected the answer to the Third Ultimate Question on the Mountain of Creation (*in the Chronofossils cycle*). He conceals what he has experienced from his companions.

Only about two light years away lies the Pethpar system, inhabited by the Vidrites. They are at the beginning of interstellar space travel, but already have a hypersender that transmits a radio message, supplemented by a parapsychic watermark. Rhodan's idea is to use this as a clue for *the* Galactics searching for him and Bostich. No sooner have they reached the target system than an Onryon starship appears and, *hidden behind a cloak*, fires at a primitive Vitridian starship operating with a transition engine, *causing it to explode*. However, the Lucbarni are able to conceal the *OVPASHIR*. They fly to the third planet, Vi, where the Onryons have also landed to inform the inhabitants of the "dangers" of the transition engine and offer them an alternative that is easier for them to control. Rhodan is able to warn the Vitrids about the supposed benefactors and is given the opportunity to make minimal additions to the radio message, hopefully enough for a mutant *to detect*. Neacue is to remain on Vi and inform any new arrivals. Shortly afterwards, Avestry-Pasik appears. His ships destroy the Onryon starship, but also the *OVPASHIR*, whose occupants narrowly escape.

In *mid* 1516, a year and a half after the fall of the Ertruscan *home* system, relative calm prevails in the Milky Way. Gradually, the Atopian Way is *accepted*. Some races, including the Arkonides, cooperate with the Atopian Tribunal. The Arkonides leave the planets they have colonized and many settle on Terra. Vetris-Molaud,



Maghan (*emperor*) of the New Tamanium, is still endeavoring to integrate the last free Tefroder states into his empire.

*However*, resistance is stirring everywhere, partly organized by the New USO, which has been declared a terrorist organization by the Atopian Tribunal. An Onryon fleet appears *near Aurora, the central world of the New Galactics*. Uldormuhecze Foelybeczt (UFo), the new first chairman of the Galacticum, is given the ultimate order to tolerate the installation of an *Atopic* obelisk *on Aurora*. When the neighboring planet Noros is destroyed, UFO agrees, but not without ulterior motives. Monkey, who is secretly staying on Aurora, plans to steal a linear space torpedo with UFO's support *in order to be able to destroy the Onryon ships*. The plan succeeds. The time is also used to secure the computer systems against unauthorized access.

Atopian Judge Matan Addaru has almost completely exhausted himself. He should return to Luna to regenerate, but *its* current position is unknown. To gain time, he needs psi *energy*, which he finds on the planet Yo in the form of some mutants. *The mutants defend themselves, and the battle weakens the Judge even more, forcing him to flee*, but in the meantime he is at least able to locate Luna. *The inhabitants of Yo send a hyper-radio message throughout the Milky Way describing the events.*

The resistance is still active on the former Earth moon. A group around Toufec is able to send a hyper-radio message *describing all the information that the lunar resistance has learned to the Milky Way*. When Judge Dannoer arrives, they manage to witness his rebirth *in a machine created by a medical helper race of the Tribunal*. His old body becomes the already familiar bellows, *and the Judge is reborn as Matan Addaru. After this process*, Shanda Sarmotte and Toufec are targeted by the *Judge*, and Pazuzu refuses to attack him *because of the tt-progenitors it absorbed earlier. They have to flee in a spaceship that Pazuzu builds from his nanogents. Their destination is Aures (from the previous cycle), so that the tt-progenitors can be removed from Pazuzu.*

On Arkon, the resettlement is progressing, but it becomes apparent that the remaining three years will not be enough. *Atopian Judge Chuv* refuses to extend the deadline. There are repeated fights between Onryons and Arkonides who do not want to leave their homeland. The Arkonide Pellindor da Shamonay is able to locate an old archive with the help of an Onryon contra-historian (*someone who predicts the future by analyzing the past*). They learn of an early advanced Naat civilization that was destroyed by unknown aliens. Shamonay also learns that Arkon III is to be converted into an Atopian Conductor with Naat as the control world. He *decides to broadcast* his knowledge.

While Sichu Dorksteiger visits a secret shipyard on a Posbi dark planet under heavy security, the Onryons demand that First Terran Arun Joschannan hand over the Solar Residence *to use the supercomputer LAOTSE to plan the division of the Milky Way into domains*, and allow them to build an Ordic Obelisk on Maharani, the government world of the LFT. *It has been discovered that if an Obelisk is attacked, it emits deadly vibrations to which many people fall victim. Meanwhile, the Galactics have been working on a secret project referred to as "ZbV" - the new Hawk-IV and Hawk-V compensation converters (space drives) are ready. Among other things, these converters can achieve fantastic speeds and ranges and also enable a spaceship to remain stationary in half-space for protection and cloaking. The units also include the so-called DeBeer loader, which can be used to create a half-space bubble in whose interior the hyperimpedance is greatly reduced.* While the ultimatum is in progress, two Jaj *shapeshifting spies* are uncovered *within the Galactic government*. The alleged Swoon Vellim takes his own life, while the *alleged* local TLD chief Mael Tanguy is able to continue his activities apparently unchallenged. Joschannan finally rejects the ultimatum, but only to gain time until the ZbV project enters a decisive phase.

Misinformation reaches Tefrod via the Jaj/Tanguy *spy* about a superweapon that is supposed to reach Omega Centauri from Andromeda. Vetris-Molaud sends a fleet and his mutants Lan Meota and Satafar to capture or destroy the incoming ship. The REGINALD BELL, consisting of three giant spheres and manned only by robots, is actually destroyed after a short battle, but the mutants realize that it is just a trick. Meanwhile, after a space battle, Joschannan gives in to another Onryon ultimatum, but *by feeding the Jaj/Tanguy spy misinformation, manages to bring the Solar Residence and its ministers to safety in the Sol system. The LAOTSE supercomputer is secretly moved to the Vega system.*

Supported by Rico (*Atlas's helper robot while he was in suspended animation at the bottom of the ocean when he was stranded on Terra in 8000 BC*), who poses as architect Nior Carok, the Arkonide colony around the Azores on Terra slowly takes shape. Meanwhile, Pucky invites Farye Sepheroa to travel to Larhatoon - with the RAS TSCHUBAI. She agrees, but insists on being accompanied by *the Haluter* Avan Tacrol.

*After sending the JULES VERNE into a black hole, Reginald Bell awakens on a planet completely unknown to him. With the help of the native Buquer people, he reaches the wreckage of a spaceship, where he meets Quick Silver once again. The robot has to refuse him any direct help, but helps him in subtle ways. Quick Silver is trying to find a device called the Mnemotectonic(?) for the Universal Archaeologists, who are interested in anything related to superintelligences, Cosmocrats and Chaotarchs. This is how Bell finally arrives in the city of Allerorten, the residence of the Archaeologists. The metropolis, whose districts are spread across many planets in numerous galaxies, also extends into the Milky Way. Travel between districts is done thru Breviary portals. In order to be able to move around freely, however, the Terran must have his cell activator imprinted - by a Chaotarch memo ring, which would forever show Bell as an authorized representative of the Chaotarchs. Bell agrees and ends up at 746 Upper West Garnaru Road, Rhodan's house of all places, a few days before Farye and Avan leave with Pucky. He is followed once again by Quick Silver. Bell realizes that the android has been pulling the strings from behind the scenes from the very beginning and maneuvered the memo ring into Bell's hands. Bell arrests Quick Silver.*

*In the Milky Way*, project ZbV is nearing completion, but another deception has to be worked out for the Tefrobian secret service. Contrary to their information, it is not a giant fragment starship that takes off in [late 1516](#), but the long-distance *state-of-the-art* spaceship RAS TSCHUBAI under the command of Reginald Bell. Its first destination is the *star portal* transmitter station AIKKAUD, from where two of Perry Rhodan's radio probes came, which were discovered by the Posbis some time ago. The enormous distance *to the station, which is half-way between the Milky Way and Larhatoon*, is bridged by using the Hypertrans-Progressive drive for the first time. The entire crew has to go into *suspended animation to avoid side effects*. The on-board computer ANANSI takes over control while the crew is *asleep*. The RAS TSCHUBAI reaches its destination safely. A task force consisting of Pucky and the Venus team (*an elite troop of space soldiers*) captures the latest data on Larhatoon and temporarily interrupts the transmitter connections.

*In Larhatoon*, Perry Rhodan is captured by Avestry-Pasik. The leader of the Proto-Hetosts wants to take possession of the Vectorion so that he can assume the office of First Hetran. Rhodan is able to convince him that the small device only works *for* him. They follow the Vectorion's *directions* to the Shyoricc domain *in the center of the galaxy*, but discover that it is hidden behind an impenetrable Repulsor Wall. It is also guarded by an Onryon fleet, which attacks the three Laren ships. Although Avestry-Pasik's starship escapes destruction, it is captured by enemy forces. Together with Rhodan and the Lajuur (*offshoot of the Larens*) Sethantar, Pasik flees through a transmitter to *the planet* Cestervelder. There are still remnants of the former population on the world that was once destroyed by a Laren attack. They inform the Onryons *of Rhodan's presence* before Rhodan can

convince them of *his group's* friendly intentions. *Rhodan learns that after* the collapse of the Council of Seven caused by *him*, the Larens and the Hyptons (*both were races of the Council*) fought each other mercilessly. Subsequent generations of *both races* blame Rhodan, the Hetork Tesser, for every single death. Rhodan *also* learns that the Keloskians (*another race of the Council*) prevented greater chaos in Larhatoon and then became the first target of the Atopian Tribunal. Their home *world* Shyor is now the central world of *the* Shyoricc *domain*, serves as the residence of the Crystalline Judge, and is under his protection. Avestry-Pasik and Sethantar finally manage to get to safety, but Rhodan is captured by the Onryons.

Since Perry Rhodan refuses to testify about the whereabouts of Bostich and Pasik, he is taken to *the planet Kaidhan*, where the guilt master Tontosd, tortures *Rhodan physically and mentally*. Baudencerc, who is present as an observer, *tells Rhodan that the Baudencerc he met at the museum was brought from a parallel universe in which the predictions of the Atopic Tribunal became real*. He finally breaks off the interrogation because it yields no results.

Rhodan is passed on to the Atopian Judge Saeqaer. From her, he hears again about the Jena Lands and learns that you can only get there with a Judge ship - provided the pilot has already been beyond the Matter Sources. But it is possible that this is a trick to get Atlan under the control of the Atopian Tribunal. *The many races that live in her ship discuss the Three Ultimate Questions, but theirs are slightly different : "What happens beyond the horizon of the LAW?", "On which side of the mirror of creation does the questioner exist?", and "To whom does time belong?".* Rhodan also has to watch as the artificial being Bacctou slowly transforms into Rhodan's doppelganger. Bacctou believes that the Ultimate Questions are part of what holds the cosmos together at its core. He assumes that the questions *as phrased* here are essentially the same as those known to Rhodan - they have merely assumed a different "aggregate state". *After a failed escape attempt, Saeqaer says she still has big plans for Rhodan, and puts him to sleep.*

In *early 1517 NGE, in the Milky Way*, Viccor Bughassidow is the main sponsor and guest of the Brass Games, a competition to create the most perfect virtual world. Brass Hoods continue to enjoy great popularity, especially among the Arkonides, but members of other races are now also enthusiastically involved in creating virtual environments that are more real to some of their "inhabitants" than actual reality. He hopes to be able to use Brass Dreamers in the search for the dark world Medusa. Also present is Vetriss-Molaud, who plans to incorporate the star barony of Phan into the New Tamanium. To this end, he wants to kill the current head of government, Grand Baron Carost da Stencer. He is also planning an attack on the Posbis using *the recently developed Posbi virus, which causes a hatred towards Terrans and unconditional obedience towards Tefrodroids*. Although the actions do not go according to plan, they are nevertheless successful. Bughassidow is invited by a Posbi commander to one of the Posbis' dark worlds. He follows BOX-20125 to *a Posbi base planet* Everblack with the STARCROSHER, but is left behind shortly before reaching his destination. By the time he reaches Everblack, the Tefrodian Posbi viruses have already taken effect on a large scale, the infected suffer from paranoia and are particularly hostile to everything that comes from Terra. *Thru camouflage and subterfuge*, the STARCROSHER still manages to land. Bughassidow already has an idea who could be responsible for the Posbi Paranoia, *which is confirmed when Tefroder ships appear and are not attacked*. *Vetriss-Molaud is well on his way to "turn" the oldest and most loyal allies of the Terrans and use them for his own purposes.*

Vetris-Molaud's people are also active in another place. With the support of the Tribunal, they conquer the solar transmitter Vengil-Trio, whose control world Suaraan has become the new home of the Akons. There is also a mysterious statue of the *Master of the Island* Zeno Kortin, originally Factor IV. Vetris-Molaud feels ready to follow in his footsteps; in the future, the Tefroders *will* see themselves as *rulers as powerful as the* Lemurians.

He also wins over the Akons, promising to free *their original homeworld* Drorah from the Chaotic VULTAPHER (*from the TERRANOVA cycle*). Largely unnoticed, another party is active on Suaraan - Pazuzu activates a connection to the Ecloos trio *solar transmitter* for the THOERIS, *with Shanda Sarmotte on board*. In return, he provides the Tefrodres with the knowledge he has gained about Judge Matan Addaru.

Meanwhile, the Atopian Tribunal continues to expand their position in the Arkon/Baag system. Luna materializes and is placed in orbit around Naat. The Tolocesten complete the reconstruction on Arkon III *with techno-mesh*. An attempt by former USO agent Sholtan Perlvin *to kill* Judge Chuv fails, but at least he is able to obtain a genetic sample from the Atopian. His body contains genes from various races, including the Naats. *Judge Chuv announces that Luna and Arkon III will provide* unique protection for the Arkon/Baag system : a fusion of the Repulsor Wall with the Crystal Screen. *M-13 (the globular cluster that Arkon is in)* is to become an independent domain and the Arkon/Baag system is to be the beating heart of a *peaceful* galactic community.

In Larhatoon, Pucky receives the Vidrite message manipulated by Perry Rhodan. A task force from the RAS TSCHUBAI becomes active on *the planet* Vi, rescues the three seriously injured Lucbarni and learns from *an intelligent telepathic worm*-the whereabouts of Rhodan and Bostich. When the Galactics reach the space station LUCVAIT, Rhodan is there, albeit critically injured. He has arrived via the Lucabrni transmitter without wearing the necessary protective suit. Against Bell's will, Bostich is also taken along. At Icho Tolot's request, *the ship goes to* Volterhagen, *because* the Haluter wants to know what has happened to the genetic material of his dead child. It is hoped that the Laren scientist Than-Deneec will be able to shed some light on the matter, but she has since been taken into Onryon captivity. *The Galactics destroy the genetic lab and free Than-Deneec.* Rhodan would like to go to the Jena Lands so that he can effectively attack the Atopians there, *requiring that they capture an Atopian Judge's ship and finding Atlan (who has been behind a Matter Source)*, while Bell would prefer to be active in Larhatoon in order to sabotage the supply routes to the Milky Way. Both friends are slightly suspicious of the other. Rhodan is not sure whether Bell is really a Jaj and Bell speculates whether *this is the* real Rhodan.

Bell finally has to report the manipulation of his activator. Pucky also realizes that the alleged Perry Rhodan is a double, but is convinced that he is *really Rhodan, and the rest of the team lets him continue to believe it*. A rescue operation is launched for the original Rhodan, who is still on the CHEMMA DHURGA. *By using an experimental new weapon to drop the CHEMMA DHURGA's shields, and with the help of the omniscient Pend (a being that simultaneously exists in all universes, and can manipulate time)*, the operation succeeds. The next target of RAS TSCHUBAI is the Shyoricc domain, which is isolated from the rest of the galaxy by a Repulsor Wall. Quick Silver offers the Terrans the opportunity to travel with Bell to the city of Allerorten via a Breviary in Larhatoon and search for Atlan. After this meeting, Rhodan seeks out his doppelganger. He has an important conversation to have with him.

*Even* after his encounter with Perry Rhodan, the Black Bacctou is still convinced that he is the real Rhodan. A thorough examination *reveals* the two Rhodans and their cell activators are absolutely identical. Atlan, who is presumably still with IT (*since the Stardust cycle*), is urgently needed in order to be able to fly to the Jena Lands. Quick Silver believes he can determine Wanderer's position in the city of Allerorten. In Larhatoun, the planet Sigolat offers access to Alleroten. Together with the android, Reginald Bell and Toio Zindher set off.

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In the Milky Way, after studying the linear space torpedo stolen by Monkey, the USO has succeeded in developing a linear space decoy projector (“Libro drone”) to blind the torpedoes. The new defensive weapon is used for the first time when an Ordic Obelisk is to be installed on Ekhas, an ancient Arkonide colony. Led by

the new USO flagship YART FULGEN, [a Posbi fleet destroys 100 Onryon ships along with the Ordic Obelisk](#). Afterwards, the crew of the YART FULGEN feel deep remorse.

Under the watchful eye of the TLD, the Great Atopian Conference takes place in Apashem on Tefor, albeit on a smaller scale than desired by the Atopic Tribunal. Mainly representatives of less important races are present. *The Advocate* Dhayqe chairs the conference and already has concrete plans for the division of the Milky Way into domains and sub-domains, but doesn't make much progress because the meeting is boycotted by the Milky Way nations. The Onryons are to be granted their own domain, called the Old Starlands, in the Southside. The Onryons from Larhaton are also to move there. The Tefroder mutant school is also a target for the Terran agents. There they observe how a Jaj tries to sneak in and is eliminated by the para-configurator (*able to temporarily steal other mutants' powers*) Assan-Assoul. *The mutants are all sent to the Torbu system, where there is another statue of a Master of the Island*. Vetriss-Molaud wants to *collect* all the statues to uncover their secret.

The *Terran League of Defense* also plans the theft of an Ordic Obelisk on *the planet Allema*. Attilar Leccore, *the head of the TLD and a reformed Koda shapeshifter from TRAITOR (from the TERRANOVA and Negasphere cycles)*, lands with the WARZENSCHWEIN, a ship of the Space Nomads. *When Leccore touches the obelisk, he realizes it contains a foreign, very powerful consciousness*. After a deceptive maneuver and the sacrifice of a Posbi spacecraft and a *spaceship containing a transmitter*, the WARZENSCHWEIN escapes with *the obelisk*. The fact that Leccore has to play the role of an Onryon commander from now on was not part of the plan.

The RAS TSCHUBAI penetrates the Repulsor Wall in the central area of Larhaton with the Hypertrans-Progressive *drive*, but is immediately taken under fire by a space *station*. The fact that the *on-board computer* ANANSI destroys the attacker calls a *fleet* of the Domain Guard to the scene. The Terran starship *hides in the sun's corona*. From intercepted radio transmissions, the intruders learn that the Crystalline Judge, whose spaceship they are targeting, is expected shortly on *its primary planet* Vlaera in the Vlayd system. Perry Rhodan, Farye Sepheroa, Pucky and the Venus team land on the planet in a cruiser disguised as Phudphogs. The security forces *learn of the deception*, and the operation blows up. The dinghy of the RAS TSCHUBAI is destroyed, Patrick St. John is killed and Baucis Fender is taken prisoner with life-threatening injuries. Despite all the problems, the coordinates of Shyor, the Judge's home, are found, *but all the remaining crew is stranded on Vlaera*.

The Crystalline Judge does not travel in a spaceship, he simply materializes. During the *ceremony*, Rhodan and his people experience an impressive performance. The *Judge* heals the sick by absorbing them into his body, including Baucis Fender, *and then releasing them*. Even the dead are brought back to life. Rhodan is impressed, because the healing *abilities* of the Atopen Judge are *on the order of* the abilities of a superintelligence. Against the wishes of the Onryons, Fender is taken to Shyor for interrogation *in the spaceship STAULCETT*. Rhodan's team sneaks aboard the STAULCETT, the Haluters Icho Tolot and Avan Tacrol follow in the TONDAR GHI, a *stealth* ship. As Pucky discovers, the Crystalline Judge is still on Shyor and can apparently be in several places at once, *which means he probably doesn't even have a spaceship*.

Shyor is orbited by two moon-sized miniature universes, the Cosmoglobes. *They are* miniature universes, comparable to the *Chaotender* ZENTAPHER (*from the Solar Residence cycle*). They have a non-zero Strangeness, they probably have much *more space* in their interior and most likely also a completely different

flow of time. Cosmoglobe I represents the connection to the Jena Lands and is *controlled* from the innermost planet Penparzen. Only Atopian ships can fly into it. Cosmoglobe II is used for "harvesting", *and the Terrans find out what that is when* the STAULCETT is ordered to fly *into it*. A generation spaceship of primordial Larens has been flying through *the* artificial space at half the speed of light for ages. Sometimes a mutant is born, an unfinished creature that cannot live on its own. The Onryons promise to heal these beings, but they have to take them with them. They *become the* Jaj. From its control world, the third planet Vangtermachd, the Atopian Portal is created, an energetic ring 1.5 miles in diameter that makes it possible to fly through. After the SAULCETT has left the Cosmoglobe, Rhodan's team frees Baucis Fender. They flee to the TONDAR GHI and via transmitter to the RAS TSCHUBAI.

A number of Keloskers live on Shyor, from whom Rhodan hopes to obtain additional information. A team of Galactics is able to make contact with the mentally impaired (*because he can think in "only" six dimensions!*) but technically gifted Gholdorodyn and his foster father. They learn that the Crystalline Judge is an entity from the future created *by the unification of all Keloskers of that time into a single entity*. When the Onryons hunt down Rhodan and his people and also target Gholdorodyn, who is a disruptive factor, the group escapes to the RAS TSCHUBAI using Gholdorodyn's *special* fictiv transmitter, *which arrives at the same destination as its passengers*, but Ichō Tolot and Avan Tacrol stay behind *to hold off the Onryons*. *The Galactics learn that the Keloskers are responsible for controlling the Cosmoglobes and the Repulsor Wall surrounding Shyoricc. In addition*, Cosmoglobe I serves as a portal to "Synchrony" (a kind of "second time") and makes it possible to travel to the Jena lands. *All the Galactics and the two Keloskers eventually make it back to the RAS TSCHUBAI.*

Reginald Bell, Toio Zindher and Quick Silver have reached the city of Allerorten, *and* are targeted by *members of the Defensive Protocol, but Quick Silver deceives them*. Although they are able to determine Wanderer's position and finally travel to the planet Tann in *the Andro-Gamma dwarf galaxy*, they are pursued by *the Protocol*. From Tann, they continue on to Wanderer in an Apukamuy spaceship. However, Bell is only allowed to enter the artificial planet without his modified cell activator, and Homunk removes the device. On Wanderer, where much has changed, a weakened Suzan Betty Rhodan *materializes from IT*. *She says IT is extremely exhausted and damaged from splitting from TALINS (in the previous cycle), as well as confused, and IT will take a long time to heal.*

While Quick Silver fights the pursuers *from Allerorten*, Bell and Zindher meet Atlan. He is "healing" damaged components of the superintelligence that have *been* lost by transferring memories *from* his photographic memory *to IT*. He has been doing this for decades, and it may be centuries before this task is completed. Suzan Betty Rhodan is also one of the *splinter* consciousnesses in danger. Bell is thus faced with a dilemma : if he succeeds in persuading Atlan to leave Wanderer, it will mean the end of Suzan for good. Atlan's dedication to his task is somewhat shaken when he realizes that *Homunk has been isolating him all this time*. The Arkonide had no idea of the difficulties the Milky Way has been in for years.

Together they learn from Ernst Ellert that he once encountered the Reeves of the lands of Thez - as did emissaries from numerous other positive and negative superintelligences. The Reeves, *administrators* of the lands, were intent on finding the legendary First superintelligence and wanted to create an atopia for this purpose : a timeless place. Ellert had rejected IT's involvement in this project. This may have been the genesis of the Atopian Tribunal. With the help of IT, the pursuers are finally defeated.

Rhodan's daughter asks Atlan to accompany Bell, regardless of the consequences. Before she passes away, she informs Toio that Mory Rhodan-Abro, Perry Rhodan's second wife, met her end when TALIN split off. Suzan

Atlan's backstory :

When Atlan was supposed to be taken behind the Matter Sources by the Cosmocrats (in the Cosmic Fortresses cycle), he was intercepted by ANTI-IT and abducted to the Nameless Zone, an area between the standard universe and the Matter Sources. The Nameless Zone serves as a reservoir for the negative peoples of the universe. If a race's negative forces become so overwhelming that positive development is no longer conceivable, it is transferred to the Zone and sealed off from the rest of the Zone by impenetrable shockwave fronts. The Nameless Zone grows every time the home system of a people banished in this way is removed from the standard universe by the Cosmocrats.

Anti-IT said that the Cosmocrats could not directly affect the Nameless Zone. ANTI-IT wanted to use the Arkonide as a bargaining chip against the Cosmocrats. Atlan spent 14 years there, *and apparently remembers many of his adventures there, but presumably has never talked about them to anyone.* Whether he ever reached the area behind the Matter Sources is unknown.

The present fictive transmitter incident triggered a memory in Atlan, of a place that was not a place, but an “elsewhere”, and that the name of this non-place was the Transcosmic Territory. He only assumes that it was beyond the Matter Sources, but does know that he had not completed his stay there at the time, and that one day he would have to return there.

Saeqaer's backstory :

In the distant future, after several chrono-architectural interventions *by the Atopic Tribunal*, Larhatoon has its own space-time, sealed off from the rest of the universe and surrounded by an impenetrable wall. Peace reigns in *this* Infinitum, all cosmic mysteries have been solved. In 70 billion years, Saeqaer is found in a coffin that falls out of a crack in the space-time continuum. The supposedly dead woman is an achronal person. She awakens to life, is given a name that means "hope beyond death" and grows steadily younger. One day, Saeqaer is commanded by Thez. She goes to the Jena lands and returns as an Atopian judge, equipped with the CHEMMA DHURGA. However, she is not sent back to the Infinitum, but ends up in the past, where, together with the Crystalline Judge, she prevents the downfall of Larhatoon and sets in motion the events that will one day lead to Larhatoon becoming the Infinitum.

In Larhatoon, Reginald Bell *tries* to persuade official representatives of the Larens to cooperate *with the Galactics* against the Atopian Tribunal. He is accompanied by Ichō Tolot, Toio Zindher and Quick Silver. The RAS TSCHUBAI, on the other hand, flies to the star portal BYONECC (*in empty space between the Milky Way and Larhatoon*) *to cut the Onryons off from supplies from Larhatoon. The sabotage of the star portals was expected by the crew of the BYONECC, and only succeeds because Black Bacctou intervenes.* In doing so, he reveals that he was actually supposed to stand in for Rhodan during his imprisonment. The artificial being dies during his rescue operation, but before he does so he asks Rhodan to visit his place of origin, the Bacctourat.

After returning to the Milky Way in mid 1517, clues about the link between the Milky Way and Larhatoon lead the RAS TSCHUBAI to the planet Olympus. Secretly assisted by the Emperor and Empress of Olympus, the Galactics and Avestry-Pasik arrive at a million-year-old Laren station, where they take a five-million-year-old painting showing the Earth's moon behind a town made of wood that mentions the Womb of Starry Night and the Empire of the Indignant. Meanwhile, the Emperor rejects the Tefroder's offer for Olympus to join the New Tamanium.

Supported by Pucky, the Laosoor (*race*) Vazquarion and the Precheurer (*race*) Munroe Cardan, Monkey investigates the Tefroders' interest in statues of the former Master of the Island Zeno Kortin. They are unable to prevent a group led by the pain teleporter (*teleports take subjective time and cause the teleporter pain*) Lan Meota from stealing another statue from the Paramags' home system. However, Pucky learns that there are enough statues in the hands of the Tefroders to initiate a *resurrection* of Kortin. Monkey and his helpers travel as stowaways to the secret world of Connoort. There they witness the revival process, *and decide to attack the participants*. In the course of the battle, Monkey is seriously injured. The short-range teleporter Vazquarion and Lan Meota suffer fatal injuries. They convince Pucky to *take* their para-gifts. Thanks to these new abilities, *Pucky* escapes with Monkey to the YART FULGEN. In spite of everything, Vetris-Molaud has reached his goal. Zeno Kortin is active in consciousness, *in a body made from the five statues*. He declares himself ready to support Vetris-Molaud, the self-proclaimed *emperor of the Tefrodians*.

In order to prepare a long-term attack on the Judge ship CHUVANC, Atlan and Bostich travel to the Arkon/Baag system with a well-equipped team in the spaceship of *someone* working for the TLD. While Bostich tries to recapture GOS'TUSSAN II as a distraction, Atlan wants to kidnap some Onryons working on the CHUVANC. He benefits from the fact that Dark Fever, a highly contagious but rarely fatal viral infection, is currently rampant among the Onryons. Using Gholdorodyn's crane, they manage to expose the Judge ship to the virus. An Onryon Genifer (*someone trained to interface to the ship's computers to give them creativity and intuition*) is then abducted. In the meantime, Bostich has also put his plan into action. The Emperor's flagship finally manages to escape, *but Gholdorodyn's father disappears, and is presumed dead*. Parallel to these events, the *transformation* of Arkon III is completed and the Atopian Conductor is ready for operation.

The presence of the Genifers on the Judge ship means that some mutants must be trained to perform their tasks; four mutants in the Sol system start training, which could take two to three months. Perry Rhodan arrives in the Sol system and wants to intensify the search for *any* Jaj so that he can pursue the preparations for the strike against the CHUVANC in the Sol system unobserved. *Wearing a sophisticated mask*, he sets off on the hunt together with a TLD agent. Although they do not reach their actual target, the mission is not a failure – an attack on LAOTSE by a group of Tefroders *intending to infect it with the Posbi virus* is foiled. In the meantime, another team of TLD agents becomes active on the Onryonian ZAATRO. The research spacecraft carries out investigations on the psi-corpse “*seal*” in the sun (*from the previous cycle*). *The Onryonians are familiar with it, and say that the seal stabilized ARCHETIM's psi-corpse and transformed the sun into a six-dimensional shining jewel, and it is much older than twenty million years.* The seal now also serves as a 6-D *jewelry-like* “setting” for TAFALLA, but this entity was not a fully-fledged superintelligence and does not fit the *seal perfectly*. The agents succeed in preparing a complete takeover of the control software *of the ZAATRO* by the Terrans. The three Jaj active on Terra, all TLD employees, are finally tracked down by Pucky and Gholdorodyn. One of them, Rhodan's TLD partner of all people, is shot dead. Pucky loses the other two during a pain teleportation.

TLD Chief Attilar Leccore, still in the guise of Onryon commander Boyton Holtorrec, is tasked with recovering the Ordic Obelisk he painstakingly stole some time ago *to return it to its original planet*. As he is offered the prospect of a leading position in the Arkon/Baag system, the TLD chief wants to fulfill this mission. Not only is the Obelisk being researched on the secret planet Ockham's World, but a Dolan (*a living spaceship of the Bi-Conditioned from the M-87 cycle*) named JASON, once rescued by the Haluter Troven Lanc, has also been there for a long time. *The Terrans have learned that there is a cavity in the obelisk, covered by a thin layer of tt-progenitors with embedded hypercrystals.* This five- and six-dimensional radiating layer shifts a condensate of hypercrystals and six-dimensional vibrating metal in the cavity into an unknown state of aggregation, and is most likely the carrier of the Obelisks' consciousness. After Leccore/Holtorrec kills his security advisor in battle on the planet, the Obelisk consciousness agrees to switch to the Dolan to prevent further fighting *and the*

Accoshai – the Tiuphore commander acting in the present in charge of the Milky Way's conquest
Paddkavu Yolloc – a present-day Tiuphore Starworks commander
Indoctrinator – highly advanced Tiuphore nanorobots, capable of controlling any computer
Dienbacher – a Tefrodian mutant
Assan-Assoul – a Tefrodian mutant
Zeno Kortin – one of the ancient Masters of the Island, working with the Tefroders
YLA – an independent avatar of NATHAN
Vetris-Molaud – leader of the Tefroders in the Milky Way of the present; his ship is the LARHATOON
Hascannar-Baan – the commander of the LARHATOON
Zeno Cortin – originally Master of the Island Factor IV
Veirdandi – an Atopian Judge; his ship is the STARWILLOW

These names are in the Milky Way of the past (20 million BC)

Tiuphores – an aggressive race
Empire of the Indignant – the regime of the Tiuphores
Starwork – the most powerful kind of Tiuphore battleship
Catiuphat – a section of the Starworks' banner where Tiuphores' heroes' consciousness go to when they die
Starjumper – smaller but faster Tiuphore battleships
Caradocc – the title of a Starwork commander
ANANSI – the RAS TSCHUBAI's main computer
The Codex – a communal civilization in the Milky Way that is fighting the Tiuphores
Ziquama, Rayons, Eyleshioni – main races of the Codex
Goyro Shaccner – a troubleshooter for the Codex
Purple Depth – a Codex device that teleports a planet in space and forward in time
Mitraia/Sol – the first name is our sun's name in the past, the second name is what we call it
Sheheena(Codex)/Medusa(Terran) – the fifth planet of the solar system at this time
Zeedun(Codex)/Zeut(Terran) – the sixth planet of the solar system at this time, rich in PEW metal
Keroute – an intelligent race on early Earth
Poungari – a Keroute that befriends Rhodan's granddaughter
Guardians of Time – Keroutes who can predict troop movements of the Tiuphores
Kniite – a Proto-Hetost (anti-Atopian Council) Laren scientist working with the Terrans
Pey-Ceyan – a Proto-Hetost Laren telepath working with the Terrans

These names are in the Synchrony

ATLANC – Atlan's Judge ship; its computer is the ANC
Andrabash – a stopover planet on the way to the Jena Lands
ANNDRIM – a space station orbiting Andrabash
Vogel Ziello – a transterranian
Lua Virtanen – a transterranian Genifer
Pensor – a Judge Ship pilot
Jawna Togoya – a Posbi who looks completely human; she has been ship's commanders

Atopian terms

Fauthen – Thez's deputies; live in the Jena Lands; appoint the Atopian Judges; evolved from the Reeves
Reeves – live in the Lands of Thez, and serve as administrators
The German word translates as bailiff, steward, guardian; I left it as-is for its neutrality
Jena Lands – this is the “atopia” (a region of existence outside of normal space and time)
The German word translates as yearly, otherworldly, journey; I left it as-is for its neutrality

Lands of Thez – a habitat (presumably of Thez) within the Jena Lands; not much more is known

Getting to the Jena Lands

You need an Atopian ship with a Trans-Chronal Drive, and a pilot who has been behind the Matter Sources, then...

Via Atopic Conductor (a planet converted with septadim energy and partially removed from our universe) to...

The Synchrony (which is timeless and yet connected to all times) to...

The Depletion Zone, which surrounds and permeates the...

Andrabash Limbo, a 400 million mile diameter space-time bubble containing...

The ANNDRIM space station, where pilots are tested to see if they can continue to the Jena Lands and go to...

The planet Andrabash, where...

Via the CATAPULT (some kind of special Atopian matter transmitter?) are sent to...

The Transgression Zone, a space-time membrane that encloses the Jena lands, then to...

This has a space of its own, which contains the Stormlands/New Lands

The Jena Lands, which contain among other things :

Veste Tau island (the Island of Homeliness), and many other islands

The Final City (facets : Tower, Upstairs, Court, Below; realms : Arm's Length, Hearsay, Deprived)

Tower of Fauthen in the Tower facet

The Lake of the Fauthen in the Tower facet

The Lands of Thez (floating continents and huge waterfalls)

The Atopian Court

The “time rift” extends from a point 20,000,000 years ago far from the Milky Way (where the ATLANC arrived) to the present time at the Atopian Conductor in the Arkon system. A 400,000 mile long zone along it can be traversed from the past to the present only, called the “perforation passage”, which can move in space along the time rift. A second passage appeared or was detected later on.

In the Synchrony

In late 1517 NGE ship time, unexplained disturbances occur during the ATLANC's flight to the Jena Lands. Flashes of light are observed in the control center, time distortions occur and the ANC of the former judge ship is initially uncooperative. Something is wrong with Atlan, the only person who can find his way through the Synchrony. At least Perry Rhodan manages to persuade the ANC to make contact with the RAS TSCHUBAI, which is stored in the syncaverns.

Pucky is delighted to realize that he has fully regained his old paranormal abilities, despite a warning from a doctor that they still might change.

The ATLANC does not arrive in the Jena Lands, but in a bulge in the Synchrony. From there to the Atopian Conductor, a kind of time rift runs through the Synchrony. The ATLANC has jumped back in time to the year 20,103,191 BC.

It turns out that Atlan deliberately initiated the time travel - but not voluntarily. He was infected by Pey-Ceyan with viruses like those administered to Chuv (in the previous cycle). With flashes of light, Atlan is virtually remote-controlled by the Laren. He arranges for the RAS TSCHUBAI to be removed from the syncavern. Avestry-Pasik and his Laren flee with the LARHATOON. Rhodan is certain that the proto-Hetosts will try to make contact with the first Laren civilization and create a time paradox to undo the deeds of Rhodan, the Hetork Tesser. This would almost certainly negate the existence of humanity. Rhodan and most of his companions transfer to the RAS TSCHUBAI, which leaves the Synchrony at the risk of not being able to return to it.

Rhodan, Pucky and Sichu Dorksteiger pursue the LARHATOON with the cruiser ISHY MATSU. They observe how spaceships of the Empire of the Indignant attack a far inferior people and systematically destroy their homeworld. Intercepted radio transmissions reveal that the attackers belong to the Tiuphore race and that their victims are pleading in vain for help from a power called the Codex. The Tiuphore (*tall, slender humanoids*) starships carry a thirty-meter-diameter “banner”(?) of unknown hypercrystals in front of them. Embedded in it are countless UBSEF constants that are suffering terribly. Rhodan and his companions realize that the Tiuphores are killing their victims in order to capture their souls with the banner.

Although it is wrapped in a *Paros shadow screen (a field that makes the object inside it “transparent” to energy and material attacks, but still visible to observers)*, the ISHY MATSU is attacked by the Tiuphores. Later it turns out that the screen was not properly adjusted. The Tiuphores capture the cruiser, kill some of the crew and take the survivors prisoner. The cruiser is picked up by *a Tiuphore Starwork*. Rhodan and Sichu Dorksteiger are treated as Jhinuro ("guests of war") and presented to the Caradocc (*ship's commander*). They also encounter Gennloc, the ship's oracle. Rhodan and Dorksteiger learn from Gennloc that the Tiuphores believe in the real existence of a place that represents a kind of Valhalla for them and is called Catiuphat.

After Rhodan and Dorksteiger have been returned to their cell, they escape into the ISHY MATSU with Pucky's help and get a space jet ready for take-off. The mousebeaver retrieves the other prisoners, but is unable to save them all, as the escape has not gone unnoticed by the Tiuphores and they have begun shooting the prisoners. The ISHY MATSU is detonated, *which* damages the Starwork and the space jet escapes.

Rhodan and his companions fly to the RAS TSCHUBAI *which* reaches the "time bulge" in which the ATLANC is still located. A robot-controlled corvette is sent into the time bulge, but it disappears into "*somewhen*". It is clear that the RAS TSCHUBAI cannot return to the ATLANC and therefore cannot return to the present via Synchrony. It is decided that Atlan will continue to pursue the original plan and travel to the Jena Lands. The RAS TSCHUBAI will attempt to reach the present via *time-dilation flight (travelling very close to the speed of light, which slows down their subjective time)*. The crew will survive the required 230 years of their own time in suspension. A location near Hyperon Gal-South in the Southside of the Milky Way is agreed as the rendezvous point. The RAS TSCHUBAI sets out on Avestry-Pasik' trail.

In the distant past (all dates given are RAS TSCHUBAI ship time)

In pursuit of the LARHATOON, the RAS TSCHUBAI makes a stopover in the home *system* of the Chemebochavi, *where they destroy a Tiuphore fleet of Starworks (their largest ships) about to destroy the Chemebochavi's home planet. The Chemebochavi welcome Rhodan to their planet, where he receives initial information about the Codex, a communal civilization that has emerged in the Old Starlands (the southern part of the Milky Way) and is fighting against the Empire of the Indignant. At the head of the Codex are three races: the Ziquama (superior technicians), the Rayons (exploring the linear space they call On-Space) and the Eyleshioni. Rhodan discovers that the Rayons look exactly like the Onryons of the year 1517 NGE! Later, they find a reference to the Guardians of Time, which serve as an early warning system for the Codex, because they could sometimes predict troop movements of the Tiuphores.*

Shaccner invites Rhodan to a meeting of the chiefs of the Rayons on the planet Vennbacc. There, Rhodan gains insight into the current situation in the Milky Way. Because of the danger emanating from the Empire of the Indignant, more and more of the Threatened want to join the Codex, which places a heavy burden on the community, which currently comprises 100 peoples. Pucky learns that the members of the government are here

to talk to the Laren from the LARHATOON, whose true origins they do not know, about the fight against the Empire of the Indignant.

Shortly after the government members arrive, two Starworks appear and immediately attack Vennbacc. *A fierce battle takes place both in space and on the ground when some Tiuphores land their ships. The Rayons wonder why the Guardian of Time's early warning system failed. Shaccner learns that the Rayonat has officially asked the Ziquama for a Purple Depth for Vennbacc.*

In a meeting with several government officials, Rhodan blames the Laren of the LARHATOON for the creation of the time rift, which the Rayons have now identified as the cause of the failure of the Guardians of Time. The officials are skeptical because of the good reputation the Laren of this era enjoy among the Codex peoples. According to their information, the new Laren only want to trade.

Three groups are on their way to the Mitraia/Sol system for different reasons : the Laren Proto-Hetosts want to procure PEW metal in order to convert their spaceship LARHATOON into an invincible SVE spaceship. The Terrans want to find out more about the Guardians of Time and explore the planet Zeedun/Zeut and the dark world Sheheena/Medusa. The Tiuphores of the TOIPOTAI are also interested in the Guardians of Time, but their aim is to transfer the UBSEF constants of these beings to the Sextadim banner to render the troublesome *predictors* harmless.

The Terrans are the first to reach the system. Rhodan is eager to visit the Earth of the Miocene *era*. Sheheena/Medusa orbits Sol *on the same orbit as Zeedun/Zeut* and will collide with Terra in a few thousand years. Rhodan sends a team led by Pucky to Zeedun/Zeut *via Gholdorodyn's* crane. He and Farye Sepheroa are then transferred to Terra by Gholdorodyn, who remains with them. There they observe various animals, *but Rhodan is astonished when the translator becomes active as one of the creatures approaches* and talks to it. Rhodan learns that he is looking at Oupeg and his daughter Pougari. They are Keroutes, *and live in the city of Keddmour in the immediate vicinity of the Laren. Their city is called Larinvhar and consists of the wooden buildings that Perry Rhodan saw in a picture in the Larian secret station on Olympus (in the previous cycle).* The peaceful, nature-loving Keroutes have reached a low level of technology. *Rhodan and Oupeg learn that the Keroutes are very important to the Larens because they have a special gift that they awaken : the Keroutes are trained to become Guardians of Time. Pougari is determined to take part in this training. This information is so explosive that Rhodan orders Gholdorodyn to obtain as much data as possible from the Laren computers. Shortly afterwards, the Tiuphores attack Terra.*

Oupeg dies in the attack, and places Pougari in Rhodan's care. The young Keroute quickly became friends with Rhodan's granddaughter. Pougari allows herself to be recruited by the Laren and is brought to Zeedun/Zeut together with other candidates to be Guardians of Time. After the Tiuphores kill many Laren on Terra, they head for Zeedun/Zeut. Rhodan and his companions go there also, where they meet up with Pucky's group. The mouse beaver has discovered that the LARHATOON is already on-planet. There, Pougari and the other Keroutes are hypno-trained, tested and then awakened. The Keroutes only become Guardians of Time when combined with parapsychotronics, which enables them to detect the sextadim banners of Tiuphoric spaceships. The newly awakened and some experienced Guardians form a kind of para-union and achieve success after a short time. They now know that in two days there will be an attack on the Mitraian/Sol system by ten Tiuphore Starworks.

Pucky teleports Rhodan to the revival hall. The Tiuphores are also on their way there, they want to neutralize the newly recruited Guardians. *Rhodan learns that the Laren have developed a process that enables the fusion*

of body tissue and PEW metal. This means that a Laren could also be "awakened", and the modified tissue can also be used as a data storage device.

Pucky teleports with Gholdorodyn and Farye Sepheroa directly into the revival hall. They are unable to prevent Avestry-Pasik's "awakening". The proto-Hetost senses his body changing and that he can access huge amounts of data. Then the Tiuphores attack. The proto-Hetosts retreat to their ship, but three of them don't make it there : Pucky grabs Pey-Ceyan, *but* Avestry-Pasik and *the scientist* Kniiten fall into *the Tiuphore commander's* Karrok's hands. The proto-Hetosts' spaceship inflates into a 500-meter sphere shortly after take-off. The LARHATOON is now a fully-fledged SVE starship.

The Tiuphores stabilize a section of the time rift, making it passable, and send three Starworks thru to stabilize it from the other side.

In the present Milky Way

At the end of 1517 NGE, as the Emperor and Empress of Olympus announce they are joining the New Tamanium, they are alerted by one of their spaceships monitoring the time rift that extends across the entire Milky Way, that three cylindrical spaceships have crossed thru it. Upon contacting them, the Tiuphores claim they have sustained damage, which is true due to the decreased hyperimpedance of this time compared to theirs. The Empress leads an inspection, and her symbiote senses the souls trapped in the sextadim banners. The Empress is taken hostage, and the Emperor appears to give in in order to allow the Empress' symbiote to incapacitate all attackers with psionic shockwaves. The Empress and her crew escape thru a transmitter on her ship, and initiate a self-destruct so the Tiuphores cannot learn about their technology. The Tiuphores shift into hyperstence (shifting halfway into 6D space, so their ships become ephemeral in our space, and cannot be attacked) and escape. From the Empress' ship data they did get, they decide to investigate the Swoons.

A Springer ship approaches the Swoon planet, but it is a Trojan horse to deliver Tiuphores to the surface. Their goal is to obtain technology that works in this higher-hyperimpedance time. They blast away layer upon layer of earth to expose the Swoons' underground living and working spaces. The Swoons activate the Jabberwocky project, flashes of light that disorient the attackers. The Tiuphores capture three positronic computers, and flee the system.

The Terrans respond to the threat posed by the *arrival of the* Tiuphores by assembling a mixed Terran/Arkonide fleet to track down the three Starworks. In *early* 1518 NGE, Terran Colonel Anna Patoman is appointed commissioner for the Tiuphore *problem* and coins the name for the fleet, which consists of 200 Terran, Arkonide, and Posbi ships : the Tiuphore Guard. *After investigating the time rift, a scientist discovers that time flows from the past into the present, so that the time rift from the present cannot be passed thru, not even with a ship flying faster than light. However, new unfriendly visitors could come from the past at any time.*

After the attack on Swoofon, the three Starworks disappear without a trace. After two months of waiting in vain for news of new Tiuphore attacks, Patoman and her people pursue a new strategy. They assume that the Tiuphores will proceed in a similar way to the Swoon system. For this reason, the galactic news is scoured for any anomalies. Several possible targets are then identified. *Acting on a hunch, Patoman sends the entire Tiuphore Guard fleet to a Blues planet, where they find the Starworks. The Galactic ships attack, but suffer heavy losses. Then a Tiuphore Starwork takes the planet's Atopian Ordic Obelisk, after which it starts acting erratically, and the Galactics destroy it. The remaining Tiuphore spaceships flee. It is later determined that there was an interaction between the Sextadim banner of the Starworks and the Ordic Obelisk.*

The Tiuphores are battered, but Accoshai is confident. The oracle has managed to locate a place where contact can be made with the past. Radio communication is possible in both directions. Accoshai receives a message from *a* Starwork and in turn transmits all the information he has gathered about the increased hyperimpedance.

The Tiuphores managed to infect the GALBRAITH DEIGHTON V, Patoman's command flagship, with Indoctrinators, highly advanced nanorobots. They take control of LPV, the ship's positronic computer, which begins to attack the crew. Patoman gathers the entire crew in the central sphere of the ship, after which the FTL engines are exploded, hurling the sphere away from the infected ship, which explodes.

Four weeks have passed since the destruction of the GALBRAITH DEIGHTON V and there have been no further sightings of Tiuphores. Patoman takes command of the GALBRAITH DEIGHTON VI, *which has special protection against physical computer viruses*. Following the recent losses, the Tiuphore Guard has been increased to 181 units. Their mission is now even more difficult to fulfill than before, as the perforation passages (*gaps in the rift that allow travel between different times*) are moving along the time rift.

Meanwhile, Accoshai is preparing to conquer the Milky Way. In his home time, 20 million years ago, a huge fleet is being adapted to the conditions of the increased hyperimpedance, and the same is happening in the present with *his two Starworks on this side*. Communication between the time planes is only possible with the help of the Catiuphat via the Sextadim banners. The work will be completed in about two weeks, but *he is* promised that the first group of hundreds will be able to pass through the time rift sooner. Accoshai takes up position at a perforation passage. *The LFT learns of this, but now the Tiuphore's superiority is too great*. The Tiuphore Guard alone can do nothing against the aggressors.

The assassination of Atopian Judge Chuv by the Principal Fractors Perry Rhodan and Atlan (*in the previous cycle*) has been publicized throughout the Milky Way. Chuv's death has stalled the actions of the Atopian Tribunal. Vetriss-Molaud takes advantage of the Tribunal's inactivity to annex further states to his New Tamanium.

Julian Tifflor, who is still in the GAUPELLAR GUZDRIN, the ship of the Mounder Fenckenzer, is invited to the Arkon/Baag system by Judge Matan Addaru. Matan and Tifflor have a lot in common *due to their very long lifetimes*; Tifflor can no more be described as a human being than the judge since his march of millions of years (*in the Stardust cycle*). In the conversation between the two ancient immortals, the Atopian expresses concern about the Tiuphores, whose appearance is not documented in this epoch – the chroncoherence of the Milky Way is jeopardized. He wants to send Tifflor with an Atopian probe as a messenger to the Jena Lands. The Terran is to find out if and when which Judge will be sent to replace Chuv, because according to the Atopian Ordo there must always be two judges on duty *in every galaxy*.

After thinking about it for a while, Tifflor meets with Matan and declares his willingness to work as a messenger for the Atopic Tribunal. All he asks for is free passage for the GAUPELLAR GUZDRIN. Matan agrees, but explains that Tifflor needs a special *initiation*. He leads the Terran to October 5, 1916, the Battle of the Somme in the First World War. A German dispatcher named Adolf Hitler is mortally wounded by a shell fragment, but Matan shows Tifflor that the world was not necessarily better without him : *the Judge shows* Tifflor *a* nuclear-irradiated New York. Germany was secretly gaining strength, allying with Japan and developing new weapons. *In 1950*, New York, like other major cities before it, was nuked by the Germans, and Tifflor's parents died before he was born. Matan then takes Tifflor back to 1916. Would Tifflor, invisibly present in the trenches, deflect the shrapnel so that Hitler survives and starts the Second World War and the Holocaust, but prevents a much more terrible war? After this lesson in Atopic morality, Tifflor takes off with the cylindrical Atopian probe made of patronite.

Meanwhile on Luna : Boyton Holtorrec has been held captive by the Onryons since the capture of the Judge ship CHUVANC, in which he participated. The Onryons have no idea that the supposed commander is really a *Koda Aratian (from the TERRANOVA cycle)* shapeshifter. He is Attilar Leccore, head of the Terran secret service TLD. *While he is being transported, he uses his shapeshifting abilities to escape in the Mounder Fenckenzer's spaceship.*

In the Synchrony

Atlan is virus-free again. Nevertheless, he does not feel well during the flight with the ATLANC through Synchrony. It turns out that his exhaustion is related to the special ability that enables him to guide a Judge ship to the Jena Lands. The process is draining his strength and he cannot influence it. Apparently the ANC is accessing that part of Atlan's consciousness that has been inaccessible to him since his return from the realm beyond the Matter Sources. *In late 1517* ship time, Atlan senses that something is wrong. The ANC is questioned and states that a time trap has been set for the ship and escape is impossible. Atlan reacts immediately and interrupts the flight. The ATLANC materializes in the Arkon/Baag system and is attacked. It is also discovered that the ship has once again traveled through time. 1000 years have passed - it is 2577 NGE!

In an alternate future

Immediately upon its arrival, the ATLANC is heavily damaged, and can only be repaired by parts from another Judge ship. After many trials and much intrigue, during which he befriends a boy named Germa Jobst with a powerful ship named MOTHER, Atlan receives parts from an already damaged Judge ship. Just as a massive battle with the Lemurians that rule the Milky Way in this future is about to happen, an Atopian Judge appears and allows the ATLANC and MOTHER (which is docked inside ATLANC) to enter the Synchrony. Once there, MOTHER separates from the ATLANC. Germa Jobst and Jawnia Togoya are ordered to go to the meeting point agreed with Perry Rhodan at Hyperon Gal-South and await the arrival of the RAS TSCHUBAI.

In the distant past

Several Tiuphoric Starworks attack the Mitraia/Sol system. Perry Rhodan is on the scene, but does not intervene because his most urgent concern is to stop the proto-Hetosts and prevent a time paradox that would negate the existence of humanity. The LARHATOON appears, *but* does not take part in the battle either. *The Rayonian Admiral Evypemer Noccossd* withdraws all forces to protect the Purple Depth, which is still under construction and is intended to bring the planet Sheheena/Medusa to safety. The evacuation of the Keroutes is halted.

The construction of the Purple Depth is progressing slowly. Noccossd realizes too late what the Tiuphores are really trying to achieve with their *casual* fighting style. Their aim is to bind the forces of the defenders in such a way that a single Starjumper can advance to the QUAMQUOZ – the Tiuphores want to conquer the construction ship. They are not interested in destroying the Purple Depth – they want to make use of this technology themselves. The Starjumper is shot down after damaging the Ziquama ship. The Tiuphores then cease their attacks. The truth does not remain hidden from the Terrans; Pucky senses the presence of enemies in the Ziquama ship.

Now Rhodan can no longer hold back. Sheheena/Medusa must be removed from the Mitraia/Sol system, otherwise the planet would collide with Kerout/Terra in the foreseeable future. Rhodan has himself and Farye Sepheroa teleported by Pucky to the QUAMQUOZ, where he works together with *its commander*. Rhodan

learns that a Purple Depth not only causes a spatial displacement of planets – the target object is transferred thousands, perhaps even millions of years into the future!

Pey-Ceyan asks Rhodan for help. The Terrans are to free Avestry-Pasik and Kniiten. *She* assures *him* that Avestry-Pasik only wants to undo the downfall of the first Laren civilization. He is in no way interested in the destruction of all Lemurian descendants. Rhodan agrees on the condition that the Laren should help. Pey-Ceyan must first discuss this with Hascannar-Baan, the commander of the LARHATOON. In the meantime, Rhodan wants to travel to Sheheena/Medusa together with Pougari.

Perry Rhodan *and his team* arrive on Sheheena/Medusa in late 1517 NGE ship time. Avestry-Pasik and Kniiten are to be handed over on Ferrol *in a few months*. This has bought Rhodan some time, but he must take Pey-Ceyan with him on all missions at Hascannar-Baan's request.

The Rayons *present their whole plan*. The six-dimensional shock associated with the transport of the planet will lead to mutations in all living beings in the solar system. The Keroutes will die out within a few generations. Other species, on the other hand, will experience an evolutionary boost. Rhodan realizes that the plan must work, because only then will the primates of Kerout/Terra evolve into Homo Sapiens over the next millions of years under the influence of the 6D radiation!

A group of Tiuphores on Sheheena/Medusa who have been planting beacons to detect the planet after the transfer are driven away. In the confusion, the Terrans end up with a Tiuphore prisoner, but the Tiuphores end up with three Proto-Hetosts, including Avestry-Pasik.

Perry Rhodan meets with *an* ex-starship commander of the Laren. Rhodan learns from him that the homeworld of the first Laren civilization is called Noular and orbits the sun Taaro in the galaxy Noularhatoon (Larhatoon).

As the Crimson Depths is about to be activated, 50 Tiuphoric Starwork ships arrive. They are held off until the device is activated. The Crimson Depths tap into Mitraia/Sol and creates a dimensional tunnel in which Sheheena/Medusa disappears. As the tunnel collapses, a gravomechanical shockwave and a sextadimensional asynchronous pulse race through the system. No Tiuphoric ship survives this ordeal unscathed. At the same time, the sun emits an incredibly powerful 6D pulse, which was probably not included in the Rayons' plan. There may have been a feedback loop with the solar seal, of whose existence the Rayons were unaware. Sichu Dorksteiger believes that the pulse could have been detected billions of light years away - including by ARCHETIM. It could be that the superintelligence only became aware of its future home through this.

Pucky's paranormal abilities *are* briefly enhanced by the six-dimensional pulse emitted by Sol, allowing him to locate the psionically charged Avestry-Pasik. Pucky now knows exactly where in the *Tiuphore* TOIPOTAI the Laren is being held captive. Since the TOIPOTAI is not protected by the hyperstence, Pucky *frees him and the other two proto-Hetoists*.

In the meantime, the Starworks have become capable of fighting again. It is possible that the Codex will remain victorious in the Mitraia/Sol system, but the battle for *the Milky Way* can no longer be won. Perry Rhodan realizes that he cannot prevent the victory of the Tiuphores, and so the RAS TSCHUBAI flies to the Vega system *to wait for the agreed-on meeting time with the LARHATOON*.

When the LARHATOON has still not arrived *after two days*, Rhodan declares the agreement made with Hascannar-Baan null and void. Avestry-Pasik is not surprised. He rightly assumes that Rhodan would have broken his word anyway. ANANSI calculates a high probability that the LARHATOON is already on its way to

the galaxy of the same name. The RAS TSCHUBAI will follow it. Rhodan feels uneasy at the thought of having to ensure a successful invasion by the Tiuphores and the downfall of the First Laren Civilization. This gives the term Hetork Tesser a whole new meaning.

In the Synchrony

The ATLANC has become a generation spaceship. For more than 700 years, it has been traveling in Synchrony to the Jena Lands. More than 100,000 people live together in a confined space, which repeatedly leads to conflicts between the independent sectors. Many of the ship's citizens no longer regard themselves as Terrans and Onryons, but as Transterrans and New Onryons. The memory of their origins has long since faded. *There are many conflicts between the various factions on the ship over the centuries.*

Atlan's condition has deteriorated over *time*. The Arkonide is a shadow of his former self, emaciated and haggard. In the year 2264 NGE *ship time*, the situation is particularly bad. The ANC has an explanation for Atlan's problems. The ATLANC is approaching the planet Andrabash and has already reached its surrounding *Depletion Zone*. ANC says that the destination will be reached in a maximum of 25 years.

In early 2271 NGE *ship time*, Atlan gets out of bed again without pain for the first time. The Arkonide quickly regains his old vigor and his physical condition improves within a few hours. The Atopian ship has left the *Depletion Zone* behind and reached *the Andrabash Limbo*, a zone of normal space-time 250 million miles across, in which the ring world Andrabash orbits a white dwarf star. A stopover on Andrabash is obligatory.

The ANC announces that this event has opened the first of numerous mnemonic capsules of whose existence it was previously unaware. Atlan learns that the Andrabash Limbo is a transition zone between Synchrony and the Jena Lands. Atlan has to identify himself as the pilot of the judge ship on the ANNDRIM space station.

The ANNDRIM's Configurator (*commander*) promptly responds. Atlan perceives the creature as a snake consisting of points of light. The Configurator categorically demands an inspection of the ship and its pilot. Inside ANNDRIM, visitors are guided to the Configurator along a web of threads that runs through the entire station. Before Atlan's examination by the dimensional sensor *device* begins, the Arkonide receives some more information. Outside the Synchrony there is only the "mush" - a mixture of slowly evaporating singularities and massless particles, which is all that remains when the last stars are *gone* and the end of the universe is near.

Atlan and the Transterrans learn of the CATAPULT, whose four components form the corner points of a square along the inner equator of Andrabash and transports spaceships into the Transgression Zone of the *Andrabash Limbo* - i.e. into the transition to the Jena Lands.

After eight days, Atlan's test is completed. Although it is now clear that he was actually behind the Matter Sources and not behind the Matter Sinks, the septadimensional shadow that indicates this may have been manipulated. Above all, however, Atlan does not have a license to fly into the Jena Lands. Without a license, it is impossible for the ATLANC to continue its journey. *In addition*, the *Depletion Zone* has a much stronger effect in the direction of the Jena Lands – Atlan's cell activator would burn out. Atlan and his companions are sent back to the ATLANC, where they think about how they can get to Andrabash and explore the CATAPULT or hitch a ride on another Judge ship to the Jena Lands. *A being named Wcsam* asks the Configurator to support Atlan. Since the Configurator owes Wcsam a debt, he orders ANNDRIM to land *on the planet*.

On Andrabash, Atlan hears tales of "the terrible Pensor", who he suspects is a Judge Ship pilot. During a tourist tour, Atlan's curiosity makes him stand out. He tries to find out whether Pensor is a Judge Ship pilot, so

that he could be taken on a journey to the Jena Lands. *A creature named Zerkomsdencz helps Atlan in hopes of leaving Andrabash with him, and tells him that Pensor is the pilot of the Judge Ship WEYD'SHAN, which is said to have wrecked on Andrabash. While trying to find it, Zerkomsdencz takes a fatal wound, but manages to tell Atlan that the only access to WEYD'SHAN is in the Techno Canyon (a region of Andrabash), and the Cüünen there are kept under observation because as technoscouts only they can enter the Judge Ship.*

In the present - Bughassidow

In mid 1517 NGE, on its way to the Eyyos (from the previous cycle), the Posbis in Viccor Bughassidow's STARCRUSHER go crazy. They have been infected with the Posbi virus and are now developing the familiar paranoia, mistaking humans for enemies. The Posbis have sabotaged the drive systems and the hyper radio. The STARCRUSHER's journey to the homeworld of the Eyleshioni, is thus over for the time being. In the following months, the ship's systems are repaired with great difficulty. Posbis and organic crew members avoid each other. It is made clear to the Posbis that they are sick and can only be cured on Eyyo.

The old *Posbi* starship can finally continue its flight. *A year later, Southside Dark Nebula 9191 is reached, a dark cloud of irregular shape. However, the exact position of Eyyo in the dark cloud is not known. The STARCRUSHER encounters a merchant ship which takes them to Eyyo, which lies behind a distortion field and can only be entered by the Eyleshioni. Contact only takes place on its moon. Bughassidow believes that the Eyleshioni are responsible for the Posbi paranoia by a member of their race, Monanjo Shatabad.*

Viccor Bughassidow and Jatin are taken to Eyyo for a meeting with a comparatively accessible *member of the seven decision makers*. He would like to get rid of their guests as soon as possible, because the worst fears of his people have come true : Tiuphores have been spotted in the Milky Way. Bughassidow and Jatin learn that the Eyleshioni fled from this deadly threat a long time ago.

Eyyo was transported through time and space by a Purple Depth, and the planet rematerialized 132,000 years ago. In order to hide from the Tiuphores and survive on a world not yet protected by star canopies, the Eyleshioni *took* drastic steps – the use of hypertechnology was banned. Since then, only a few agents have left the planet to gather information about the situation in the Milky Way.

In addition, the Posbi virus was actually developed by the Eyleshioni together with the Anoree, but are not actually a weapon directed against the Posbis. The actual target is the Indoctrinators, the all-purpose nanomachines on which the Tiuphores's military superiority is at least partly based.

Bughassidow draws the right conclusions from the information gained in the last few days. The escape of the Eyleshioni took place 20 million years ago. The artifacts in Bughassidow's cavern on Jupiter's moon Europa were estimated to be that age, and according to the Eyleshioni databases, Sheheena, a planet in the Mitraian system, was also moved by a Purple Depth 20 million years ago. Bughassidow assumes that Sheheena is identical to Medusa, the dark world *for which* he has been searching for so long.

It is decided that *Bughassidow and Jatin* should be implanted with mental modulators to prevent them from doing anything that would harm the Eyleshioni. They would no longer have *complete* free will. *A month later, Bughassidow and Jatin return to the STARCRUSHER. They are accompanied by the Anoree Meechyl. Bughassidow's next destination is the Sol system. He has to take another closer look at the caverns of Europa, because now he has a new lead on Medusa.*

*A month later, the STARCRUSHER reaches the Sol system. Bughassidow requests a meeting with the Solar Premier. He hands them a secure sample of the *Posbi/Indocrinator virus*, which is taken to the appropriate people.*

Cai Cheung's meeting with Bughassidow is unsatisfactory, as the Solar Premier hears very little *real* news. Nevertheless, she authorizes the approach of the STARCRUSHER to Jupiter's moon Europa. Bughassidow explores the cavern deep beneath Europa's ocean, and finds a web of PEW metal. This web is a replica of the Sol system - but with eleven planets!

*It is arranged for Jatin to be scanned inconspicuously. Of course, the scans can't be analyzed in the STARCRUSHER's medical department, so a *Terran medo* is called in. He then comes on board in person because he has discovered tiny pseudo-biogenic micro-agents in Jatin's brain that secrete artificial substances. This makes it clear that Jatin and most probably Bughassidow are under the influence of others. *The medo* has already informed Cai Cheung. Jatin is quickly paralyzed and operated on; the risky procedure is successful.*

Meechyl activates the PEW web. A message from Larin Brea-Sil to the Keroutes is played. This message contains a data set with coordinates where Sheheena should be approximately after the transfer through the Purple Depth. That's when the *European environmentalists* attack. Bughassidov's provocation has worked! They only block the entrance temporarily, but Bughassidow manages to panic himself so much that the mental modulator is confused. With the code word "Potemkin", Bughassidow causes *the curator* to intervene, then he loses consciousness. Meechyl now wants to fly to Medusa. They believe that this is the last chance for the Milky Way. Bughassidow's mental modulator is removed. *Locator telepaths join the STARCRUSHER.*

Cai Cheung appears in the STARCRUSHER. Now Bughassidov can speak freely. He gives the Solar Premier all the data on Eyyo. In return, he learns what is known about the Tiuphores. Cheung will soon send a delegation to Eyyo to propose a pact against the Tiuphores. The STARCRUSHER is tasked with the search for Medusa.

Following a trail of clues, Bughassidow locates Medusa. In mid 1518 NGE, Bughassidow and Jatin land on Medusa and discover that the planet lies behind a dampening field. Bughassidov has finally arrived at the destination of his dreams.

On Medusa, Bughassidov and Jatin are met by two Keroutes. One of them introduces himself as Oumand the Averter. His task is to prevent contact with offworlders or keep it as brief as possible. Bughassidow and Jatin are taken to caverns *where* they meet Toypegg. Bughassidow learns that the Keroutes were the original inhabitants of Earth, were trained as Guardians of Time using PEW metal, which is still kept in the Chamber of History(?) and have been living on Medusa for 101,023 years according to their chronology. They were unaware that 20 million years had in fact passed since the planet was moved.

Toypegg believes that the arrival of the Tiuphores in the present time makes it necessary for the Keroutes to give up their isolation and solve the riddle of the Chamber of the Unapproachable. Bughassidov and Jatin are to help them do this. They are led into the chamber in question. For 500 years, there has been a gigantic object trapped by hyperfrost that extends through several dimensions. Stunned, Bughassidow realizes that the object is a spaceship. The lettering with the name is easy to read : RAS TSCHUBAI.

In the Synchrony

After days of arduous trekking through the rubble and snow deserts of the high mountains, Atlan and his companions are attacked by Veyqen and Elmtroq, two Tesquires who have been tracking the ATLANC with an

Atopian probe on behalf of *Judge* Matan Addaru, shortly before reaching the Techno Canyon. They are to reach the WEYD'SHAN judge ship stranded on Andrabash before Atlan and prevent Pensor from helping the Arkonide to penetrate into the Jena Lands.

Atlan and his companions escape the attack, but are buried in a cave, so that the Tesqirs arrive in the Techno Canyon before them. The Cüünen (large walking birds with robotic walking tools) once signed a contract with the Atopian Tribunal and are obliged to assist the Tesquires. When Atlan and Shukard reach the Techno Canyon, completely overgrown with techno-mesh, they hear the sounds of battle. They follow the sounds and see some of the Cüünen being killed by technophages (*living beings artificially created by the Judge Ship to protect it*).

When everyone nearby is dead, the technophages disintegrate into whitish dust. Atlan assumes that the technophages were actually after him, *sent by Pensor*. Atlan and Shukard find only one survivor, and take him to the nearest settlement. The local Cüünen accept Atlan, who introduces himself as the pilot of a Judge ship and as a member of the Atopian Tribunal, and agree to lead him to the Techno Association(?).

Two Cüünen accompany them on their quest. The closer they get to the Techno Association, the more Atlan and Shukard suffer from its emanations, *but* the Cüünen are immune to it. **The Fauthen, Atlan learns, are what has become of the Reeves of the Lands of Thez in the Jena Lands. They defend this territory and are its lords.** The Atopian judges and their assistants are appointed by the Fauthen.

Veyqen and Elmtroq, also accompanied by two Cüünen, have already reached the Techno Association. The Cüünen are still looking for the entrance. *When Atlan's team arrives, a battle ensues in which Elmtroq is killed and Veyqen is shot.* Shukard penetrates the machine subconscious of the Techno Association and thus also the remaining consciousness of the WEYD'SHAN. With the Tesquires as prisoners, Atlan and his companions enter an elevator that is to take them through the Techno Association to the Judge Ship.

Atlan and his companions use the elevator to cross the kilometre-thick techno-band(?) under which the WEYD'SHAN is buried. Once inside the Judge Ship, Atlan gradually realizes that he is dealing with all four variants of the ship from the legends of the Cüünen : 1)The ship crashed on Andrabash a few hundred years ago and made a deep gash in the planet's crust, which was sealed by the Techno Association – 2)the accident happened eons ago and Andrabash was completely destroyed, only in the reconstruction did it become the ring planet it is now – 3)the ship was wrecked in space and Andrabash was created around it to encapsulate the wreckage – 4)the ship did not crash, but was attacked and has been *cared for* by the Techno Association ever since. All the stories are true. The alternative versions of the WEYD'SHAN are superimposed on each other and you can only perceive one at a time. This also applies to the countless artifacts stored in the rooms where Atlan and his companions look around.

Then the Cherrenped'shan appear on the scene, large caterpillar-like creatures *who* see themselves as guardian spirits of the Judge Ship, and demand that the intruders leave the WEYD'SHAN. Veyqen claims that he is traveling on behalf of the Atopian Judge Matan Addaru, but they are not interested. Atlan claims that he has a mission to fulfill that is important not only for him, but also for the *pilot of the ship*. The Cherrenped'shan then let him go. During the further exploration of the ship, Gosgad disappears - he has switched to another version of the WEYD'SHAN. The others have the same fate when they search for him. This WEYD'SHAN is about to be destroyed by tiny black holes. Some Cherrenped'shan appear, claiming that the destruction process has been triggered by Atlan's arrival. They transport Atlan, Shukard Ziello and the two Cüünen to another version of the WEYD'SHAN.

Atlan is led to an Atopian Synaptor (*an Atopian communication device*), where he makes contact with a Fauthen, or at least a remnant of one of these incomprehensible beings. On the condition that he destroys *Matan Addaru's skins* (*the "bellows"*), which has proven to be a threat to the Atopian ship, Atlan is given permission to take a cell activator from the WEYD'SHAN. The local activators look like six-centimeter-long hourglasses. The device fulfills the function required for the flight through the *stronger Depletion Zone in the Transgression Zone*. Atlan takes the cell activator and sets off for Pensor under the guidance of a Cherrenped'shan.

In the WEYD'SHAN *bridge*, Atlan finally comes face to face with Pensor, a humanoid over nine feet tall. Pensor recognizes that Atlan has been beyond the Matter Sources and is ready to hear him out. When Atlan explains that he needs to speak to Thez, Pensor gives him a lesson in cosmology. According to Pensor, *the universe is an eight-dimensional vessel whose eighth dimension allows it to contain itself. Put simply, the Matter Sources and Sinks of matter are to someone like Atlan what a tower would be to the inhabitants of a two-dimensional world. The 2D beings would be able to determine the circumference of the tower, but they would not be able to recognize its height. The extension of an object in three-dimensional space, which is always there but which they cannot perceive, is purely hypothetical for them. The superintelligences would be the foundations of such towers and the Cosmocrats/Chaotarchs both their natives and their janitors. They are the towers, but have detached themselves from them and can travel through 3D space, which is incomprehensible to 2D beings. This means that the Cosmocrats represent a further development of the Matter Sources and are interested in maintaining or even enlarging them. The Cosmocrats/Chaotarchs are by no means the end point of such developments. Thez has already evolved - he is a good deal closer to the horizon of LAW.* Pensor seems to be looking forward to fulfilling Atlan's wish. The WEYD'SHAN is handed over to the Cherrenped'shan for all future use. A *ship* is prepared to take Pensor, Atlan and his companions to the ATLANC.

Pensor connects to the ATLANC's controls. The Judge ship is transferred from the CATAPULT to the Transgression Zone of the *Andrabash Limbo*, from where it can reach the Jena Lands.

In the distant past

The Proto-Hetosts reach Noularhatoon, as the home galaxy of the Laren is called 20 million years *in the past*, with a considerable head start *over the Galactics*. Their goal is *a time revolution* : they want to prevent the civilization of the original Lares from falling. The LARHATOON's *commander* claims that he has come to bring help against the impending invasion by the Tiuphores. *His* secrecy doesn't get him very far with Ur(*"ancient"*)-Laren *commander* Maan-Moohemi. Instead of coming clean with her and revealing that he comes from the future, he becomes tangled in contradictions. The LARHATOON provides a demonstration of its capabilities *by destroying* several decommissioned starships. The Ur-Laren are very impressed by the combat power of the SVE spacecraft.

The RAS TSCHUBAI *reaches* Noularhatoon *in early 1518* NGE ship's time. The RAS TSCHUBAI goes unnoticed to a waiting position near Taaro's star. *Rhodan, Pucky, and Farye are captured by the Ur-Laren.* The LARHATOON returns to the Taaro system, *where its vice-captain* threatens the Ur-Laren seat of government *with destruction* if *his commander* is not released. *If Maan-Moohemi* does not give in, he wants to take power himself to protect the Ur-Laren.

Perry Rhodan and *the LARHATOON commander* try to convince Maan-Moohemi of their respective points of view. The Laren wants to cause a time paradox in order to save his ancestors. *The commander* ignores Rhodan's warnings and lays his cards on the table. Thus *Maan* learns that the LARHATOON and the RAS TSCHUBAI come from the future. *The commander* can make a compelling argument, because the Ur-Laren know only too well that an invasion of their galaxy by the Tiuphores is imminent. *The commander* announces that the end of

the Laren civilization is imminent if the time revolution is not triggered. Perry Rhodan reluctantly admits that this horror scenario is not unrealistic, but points out that interfering with the timeline would have incalculable consequences.

Nobody yet suspects that the invasion has already begun. Avestry-Pasik is the first to feel this – he has nightmares *that are* echoes of the torments suffered by the souls trapped in the *sextadim banners of their Starwork spacecraft*. It thus becomes clear that Starworks are in Noularhatoon. **Avestry-Pasik realizes that the Time Revolution cannot succeed.** The *Ur-Laren* are a peaceful people and do not have a large battle fleet. Even if they were to immediately start installing SVE technology in their ships or building new SVE spacecraft, they would not be able to defeat the invaders that have already arrived.

Perry Rhodan speaks to Avestry-Pasik, who appears to have reformed and then, together with the Terran, approaches Maan-Moochemi to make a new proposal. The time revolution has failed before it could begin, as the Tiuphorian invasion is in full swing. Due to the time pressure, it is now only possible to save a single planet colonized by the *Ur-Laren* by using a Purple Depth. The RAS TSCHUBAI and the LARHATOON are to fly to Phariske-Erigon immediately and procure the six Purple Buoys of a Depth.

In early 1518 NGE ship time, the ships reach the Old Starlands of the Codex. It quickly becomes clear that the peoples of the Codex are defeated. The Tiuphores are spreading death and destruction almost unhindered everywhere. Now Rhodan has to decide which planet he wants to abandon to destruction for the transfer through a Purple Depth. The choice falls on Palyngkarare, the archive planet of the Codex, because it has already been largely evacuated.

Perry Rhodan develops a multi-stage operational plan : together with Sichu Dorksteiger, the Plophosian weapons theorist Teema Ysenburg readies the **Aagenfelt Flash** (*which transports all devices in the target ship that use hyper-energy into hyperspace*) for action. This is to be used against the Tiuphoric Starworks as soon as it has been adapted to the lower hyperimpedance.

The RAS TSCHUBAI and the LARHATOON reach *Palyngkarare* just as the Rayon space battle against the ROOKOKAI is almost over. Shortly afterwards, the Tiuphores launch a full-scale attack. To avoid wasting time on negotiations, Rhodan devises a deception. Pougari *presents herself* to the Rayons and Ziquama as a high-ranking representative of the Codex. She claims that Palyngkarare can no longer be saved. The Purple Buoys would have to be taken over by two experimental ships of the Codex. The RAS TSCHUBAI successfully uses the Aagenfelt Flash against the first Tiuphorian contingent and scores a few kills. The Tiuphores are stalled until all the Purple Buoys have been loaded. The RAS TSCHUBAI and the LARHATOON leave the system.

The RAS TSCHUBAI and the LARHATOON return to Noularhatoon after an absence of several weeks with a ready-to-use Purple Depth, but they arrive too late. Tiuphoric star crafts are spreading death and destruction throughout the galaxy. The small star kingdom of the peaceful *Ur-Laren* has already been almost completely overrun. *The Terrans learn of the VIASVAAT* research station located on an asteroid near a black hole. According to Mera-Luur, 20,000 people live in VIASVAAT, and *is the Tiuphores' next target, so Rhodan decides to use the Purple Depth on the research station.*

A team led by Pucky infiltrate a Tiuphoric ship to free some prisoners, including Avestry-Pasik. As Avestry-Pasik is absorbed into the banner, his soul frees the other trapped souls, and leads them in a battle with the Tiuphoric souls from the Catiuphat. What happens to Avestry-Pasik's consciousness remains unclear. Pucky teleports the entire team to the RAS TSCHUBAI. Pey-Ceyan takes Avestry-Pasik's body with him. This makes it clear where the fingers in the Vectorion came from (in the previous cycle).

At VIASVAAT, events come thick and fast. One after the other, several Starworks appear, which immediately go on the attack and have to be distracted by the RAS TSCHUBAI until the Purple Depth is ready for action. The Purple Buoys tap into the black hole on their own. It breaks open, hyper-energy is released and the purple tunnel is created. In the face of the Tiuphoric superiority, the Terrans have no choice but to follow VIASVAAT through the tunnel. The LARHATOON is left behind.

VIASVAAT and the only slightly damaged RAS TSCHUBAI are transported to the year 99,781 BC and into the vicinity of a solar system with a habitable planet. Pey-Ceyan gives the sun the name Liobaras. Osku-Sool chooses the name Larhat for the new homeworld of his people. Avestry-Pasik's skeleton, in which Pey-Ceyan believes a remnant of the spirit of the great proto-Hetost remains, is buried in a cave. Pey-Ceyan wants to stay in the RAS TSCHUBAI when it sets off on its *time* dilatation flight, which is to take it back to the year 1518 NGE and the Milky Way.

But before that, an unexpected visitor appears on Larhat in a twenty-meter-high oval spaceship. A Laren-like man disembarks and claims that he has been assigned to Osku-Sool as an advisor. Rhodan immediately recognizes the newcomer's aura. It is an artificial being with a semi-organic-intotronic (*sixth-dimensional computer*) connection as a brain - a messenger of the superintelligence IT.

In the present

In four weeks' time, a referendum is to be held to decide whether the Olympus Complex should join the New Tamanium. During the gala dinner, Vetriss-Molaud and Arun Joschannan use the publicity to promote their respective sides. In the process, the Tefroder scores many points and drops a bombshell. He is aiming to unite the Milky Way and Andromeda galaxies into a single power bloc. The *Empress of Olympus* is summoned to the Ordic Obelisk *and is given* an urgent mission. The Council of Ordic Obelisks has discovered signs of an ominous phenomenon : the dys-chronic drift. The Obelisk reveals no further information, but asks the Empress to inquire in the Ardin system about the whereabouts of the Tonne space station and the body of its discoverer, Nos Gaimor. The Onryons cannot be entrusted with this task due to bias.

The Empress cannot pass up this opportunity. Under the pretext of going on a pleasure trip, she flies to the planet Yoopsin, accompanied by her court jester and the chronotheoretician Aichatou Zakara. *The Empress* gets in touch with the Terran research team that has been studying the *space station* Tonne for many years, *and learns its history*. A duel between Gaimor and Leticron took place in the Tonne in 3459 (*in the Council of Seven cycle*). Leticron had killed Gaimor and thus won the right to succeed Perry Rhodan as First Hetran of the Milky Way. But there seems to be something wrong with this version of history, as *the Empress* discovers when she manages to find Gaimor's body. The dead man disappears as soon as *the Empress* and her companions see him, as if he had never existed.

Asked about this event, the Tonne's on-board computer plays a movie showing Gaimor and Leticron fighting side by side against individual deformaters. Gaimor risks his life to save Leticron, who carries him out of the danger zone. Zakara has an explanation for this contradiction. She quotes Horawyz's theorem, according to which the quantum foam can contain mirror images of events that have become null and void as a result of chronomanipulation (interventions in the course of time during time travel). Gaimor's corpse was such a counter-causal spacetime *object*, and it was only able to survive because its state was indeterminate, as in the case of Schrödinger's cat. The corpse has disappeared because it was seen by representatives of the now valid time, *and a new alternate* timeline could also become reality with regard to this detail.

The Empress informs the Obelisk of these findings. She is asked to visit the planet Galkid in the Southside, an archive world of the Galkids, where she is to compare her experiences in the Tonne with historical records. *On the way, she picks up an unexpected passenger : Monkey.*

On the archival world of the Galkids, the Olympians are to search for further evidence of the dys-chronic drift. LFT resident Arun Joschannan agrees, because the obelisks are showing signs of disintegration, and if the dys-chronic drift is responsible, then it is worth finding out more about this phenomenon. Perhaps it can be used against the Atopian Tribunal.

It is obvious the world was devastated a very long time ago, *maybe as long as 20 million years ago. The humanoids that live there keep no historical records.* Zakara racks her brains over the strange phenomena that can be observed on the planet. Finally, *she has a realization. She* excitedly informs the Empress that these phenomena are nothing more than counter-causal space-time *events*. No one has taken this seriously yet, but Zakara is certain that **the familiar four-dimensional continuum is gradually being supplanted by another, new reality**. The Obelisk of Galkid, criss-crossed by black *streaks*, confirms this. Galkid is a focal point of the dys-chronic drift. Coordinates for a second focal point are transmitted by *the obelisks*, then they dissolve.

The Empress' symbiote was able to make contact with Leticron's pillar. A fragment of an echo of the Mounder's memories is stored in its PEW metal. According to his memories, Leticron killed Gaimor and did not kill him, but saved him. Gaimor died in 3466 and did not die. These contradictions are further evidence of the *destructive* workings of the dys-chronic drift. *The Empress' spaceship is given a new destination : the coordinates* transmitted by the Obelisks indicate the location of Medusa.

A thousand LFT and Atopian Tribunal starships and the Empress have gathered *at Medusa* in *mid 1518* NGE. Terrans and Onryons are arguing about who should be responsible for the Keroutes and protect them from the Tiuphores who have penetrated through the time rift and who will undoubtedly attack immediately when they learn that Medusa and the Keroutes still exist. The Keroutes can't quite decide who to trust. *The LFT negotiator* finds the right words, uses the *subterranean* Khold's fear of losing their homeland and scores points against *the Onryons*, who also negotiate skillfully, but gradually lose ground. In the end, the Keroutes decide to seek the protection of the LFT. Viccor Bughassidow is to remain their main point of contact.

Meanwhile, Monkey is attacked by a formless creature, which can only be the offshoot of a Jaj. The Oxtorner drives the creature away, but it is still somewhere in the *Empress' ship*. The USO chief admits to having Glasfrost (*a stimulant that enhances mental abilities*) with him. However, he uses the drug as a lure for Jaj, whom he has to be particularly careful of as the head of an organization banned by the Atopian Tribunal. *By giving it to some locator telepaths, it is determined* that Medusa has entered a dys-chronal *state* and is attracting the time rift. In fact, it has already approached the dark world by many thousands of light years. The RAS TSCHUBAI is responsible for this, because it has had contact with another timeline or another kind of time.

No sooner has Zakara formulated these findings than Monkey is attacked by Niemandgram Toposhyn. The supposed court jester is the Jaj, *who* knocks out Monkey, paralyzes everyone present (he thanks Zakara beforehand *for her insights into the rift*), and disappears.

Terrans and Onryons join forces to remove the RAS TSCHUBAI from the Chamber of the Unapproachable, but tractor beams do not work. The *telepathic locators* think that someone with stronger para-abilities might be able to crack the hyper-ice. No one is currently available on the Terran side, but the Tefroders are. Monkey comes to the conclusion that the mutants Dienbacer and Assan-Assoul must be "procured", no matter how.

The "disease" of the Ordic Obelisks could be a starting point for weakening the Atopian Tribunal. On behalf of Solar Premier Cai Cheung, TLD Chief Attilar Leccore travels to the planet Maharani (*the capital world of the LFT*) to find out whether the degeneration process of the Obelisks can be accelerated. *A debate about evacuating the planet ensues, while Tiuphore spaceships wait nearby. A request to Arkon delivers only 30 robotic spaceships for support. Eventually, the Tiuphores attack with 1024 Starworks, whose primary targets are the Obelisks and LFT Resident Arun Joschannan.* Starjumpers reach Maharani, begin the bombardment of the capital Goyn and drop ground troops.

The next day, Joschannan is captured by the Tiuphores, and kills himself rather than be absorbed into their sextadim banners, destroying their flagship in the process. The Ordic Obelisk sees this, and destroys itself, damaging the banners of many Tiuphore ships. The ships fall out of hyperstence, thus becoming easy targets for the Arkonian warships, and leave.

In the Synchrony

In early 2271 NGE ship time, the ATLANC is transferred to the Transgression Zone of *the Andrabash Limbo*, where it is literally stranded. The Judge ship stands on an endless plain of gravel and sand under a black sky. The ANC declares that it cannot take off. The plain, *called the Stormlands*, is identical to the Transgression Zone. It is a space-time membrane that encloses the Jena Lands.

Six months later, a woman appears out of nowhere. Atlan names her Aiv after his daughter, whom the stranger resembles. She describes herself as a Scalekeeper(?) and says she is waiting for the outcome of a war, admires the ATLANC, makes a few cryptic remarks and disappears. Aiv returns the next day *with* five more Scalekeepers with her. Atlan learns that the Transgression Zone is under attack from the Mental Template Consortium, a dangerous superpower from the Extinct Afternoon of the universe (*approximately 100 billion years after the Big Bang*). This alliance of around 100 races dominates almost 50 galaxies and has been waging war against the defenders of the Transgression Zone (*and so against the Atopic Tribunal*) for centuries.

Atlan wants to find out more about the war and has Aiv transfer him to the ERU-EINS, the flagship of the Gechutrons. Atlan witnesses a space battle and gives *the commander* Mother Chuom a tactical tip that proves decisive.

When Atlan returns to the ATLANC, months have passed. The Scalekeepers *have* infiltrated the ship and manipulated it. They can be driven off, but they return again and again and cannot be kept away even by protective screens. More and more areas of the ship's interior change or become inaccessible, and the ANC suffers from increasing confusion. Atlan realizes that the Scalekeepers are his enemies. They want him to leave the ship to them, because they love the Jena Lands and want to reach them, but are stuck in the Stormlands.

The Scalekeepers want to get the Arkonide to leave the ship "voluntarily". To this end, they kidnap Vogel. As Atlan prepares to search for him, he is warned by Aiv, who is now on his side because she thinks her fellow species' plan is wrong. She announces that the Stormlands will soon be under fire. Atlan realizes that he has been deceived : the Gechutrons are part of the Consortium and the Stormlands are their primary target!

The Gechutrons bombard the Stormlands with Gravothrowers(?). Doom seems inevitable, but then Thez *has a "re-think"*. **By force of will, he recreates the entire Stormlands in order to save it.** The attack fleet of the Mental Template Consortium, the lifeless gravel plain - everything disappears and is replaced by a new environment in a permanent state of becoming. Atlan senses the immeasurable creative power of Thez, through which all this is brought about. The Arkonide and his companions are in danger of being swept away, despite *the ATLANC's*

HU-shield. All four survive the end and new beginning of Stormland. They find themselves in *the* "New Lands", a partly snow-covered mountain landscape with plants and animals as well as a city. Aiv has also been "reimagined" – she has lost her special abilities. The ATLANC is nowhere to be seen. They make their way to the city of Chuthoy Omc, which is inhabited by Gechutrons and Scalekeepers (who are now - like Aiv - completely normal humans).

Julian Tifflor reaches the ringworld Andrabash with the Atopian probe. On the way, the small ship almost collides with the STARWILLOW, the ship of the Atopian Judge Veirdandi, also known as the "denied judge". The Configurator tests the probe for three days. During this time, Tifflor stays on Andrabash. He senses the creation of the New Lands and can even perceive it. *Lua Virtanen joins Tifflor on the probe, which leaves Andrabash and moves to the New Lands.* They enter the city of Hogchud Ghuod.

Atlan learns that, according to legend, Chuthoy Omc was built a very long time ago by the ancestral Mother Chuom. Apparently, Thez not only created a new world, but also endowed it with an eons-long history. *Atlan learns* there is an Atopian shuttle in the Jar of Beginning (a valley three days' journey away in the New Lands). *On their way there, they are diverted to the city of Hodchud Ghuod.*

Lua organizes arena fights, for which Tifflor willingly makes himself available. No one is able to move the man with the blue crystal skin even an inch. On this occasion, Tifflor hears for the first time that Gechutrons and Scalekeepers can hear the voice of his skin. He had previously had no idea that this voice existed. *Eventually, they meet up with Atlan and Vogel.*

Atlan assumes that the two groups have been in different versions of the New Lands. He has experienced something similar in the WEYD'SHAN. Aiv believes that they have led each other to the exact spot in the New Lands that is the first to be firmly established in the ever-changing environment. This is the Jar of the Beginning. There is indeed a valley nearby and this is where Than sits, *a three-meter-high being with no torso*, which radiates life energy. The Fauth says he has been waiting for the rescued and that he is *the shuttle pilot*. The shuttle looks like an oversized Atopian Synaptor. Atlan, Julian Tifflor, Lua Virtanen, Vogel Ziello and Pensor enter the structure. Shortly afterwards, Than says that the shuttle has now reached its destination on the Island of Homeliness. In other words, **the Jena Lands have been reached.**

In the present Milky Way

During the implementation of the Ultima Margo project (*from the previous cycle*), the GOS'TUSSAN II, the flagship of the former Arkonide Emperor Bostich, was severely damaged. After six months *near the corona* of a sun *to avoid detection*, the repair work has still not been completed. Bostich has worries that he keeps to himself. Starting from the new arm equipped with Haluter DNA, the neuronal rhizome continues to spread. Bostich has no idea where this development will lead. *He contacts a nearby Tiuphore captain and offers to be an ally. The local Arkonide ruler demands a seat on the Council of Twelve (the decision makers immediately below the Emperor) in return for not betraying him to the Atopic Tribunal. When Bostich enters the Starwork, he is captured. Due to his Haluter-enhanced body, he manages to escape.*

A little later, a Jaj contacts Bostich by radio. He introduces himself as Marshal Gysnain and says that **all Jaj will resign from service of the Atopic Tribunal in this epoch.** They want to leave Milky Way because the Tiuphores are "back". *In addition*, the dys-chronic drift, Gysnain claims, is a serious warning sign of the impending World Fire. The Jaj want to flee from it *as well*.

In the recent past

The RAS TSCHUBAI is on its way from Larhatoon to the Milky Way *thru time*. A *time-dilation* flight is initiated to bring the ship back to the year 1518 NGE. After a few weeks, the alarm is sounded. ANANSI is not feeling well. The Semitronics have been infested by Tiuphoric Indoctrinators that were dormant until recently and have now become active. A wide variety of disturbances and deaths are occurring. Perry Rhodan is forced to abort the flight prematurely. The RAS TSCHUBAI has reached the year 8050 BC. It is the time of the Methane Wars, in which Arkonides and Maahks are waging merciless campaigns of destruction against each other.

Sichu Dorksteiger's team is able to reconstruct the spread of the Indoctrinators and isolate the *source* of infection. However, it is assumed that there are other infected areas where the enemy nanomachines are just waiting to strike again. ANANSI is still not one hundred percent trustworthy. The crew of the RAS TSCHUBAI cannot completely eliminate the threat on their own. Higher-level help is needed.

Rhodan discovers the coordinates of a planet with a Silent Messenger sent by "creatures older than the sun" by befriending an enemy race of the Arkonides, the Taumuu.

The local leaders and Rhodan's team leave the system. Their destination is Fourth Nest in the Khaumuu system – The Silent Messenger is to be awakened. The RAS TSCHUBAI follows, but has to contend with great difficulties as the Indoctrinators continue to spread. The situation gradually becomes critical. The Arkonides arrive soon after, and also enter the spiral vault on the Fourth Nest after the Galactics. The crypt is a labyrinth of constantly changing corridors, walls and passages. Eventually, both groups leave the labyrinth behind them, and the Arkonides attack, resulting in casualties on both sides, and the defeat of the Arkonide group. A frozen lake is discovered. The Silent Messenger is resting in this lake, but it is not ordinary ice, but hyperfrost. Pucky undertakes a pain teleportation, which does not penetrate the messenger, but wakes him up. The hyperfrost melts. The awakened messenger Chuv'akhuu willingly answers all questions.

Chuv'akhuu confirms that he was sent by IT. He had to flee into the hyperfrost from the recruiter of the superintelligence XUUN, but was damaged in the process. He could save himself, but does not want to do so without Rhodan's consent. The Terran agrees. In return, Chuv'akhuu is to help him against the Indoctrinators. The messenger repairs itself by absorbing *some* genetic material. Rhodan receives three hyperfrost generators to literally freeze the areas of the RAS TSCHUBAI infested by the Indoctrinators. The messenger then fulfills his original mission by revealing the location of three solar transmitters to the Taumuu. A *time-dilation* flight of the *repaired* RAS TSCHUBAI is initiated. The destination is Hyperon Gal-South, *the meeting place with the ATLANC*.

The *time-dilation* flight of the RAS TSCHUBAI is interrupted again. This time it is not due to the Indoctrinators. The year is 971 NGE. Monos dominates the sealed-off Milky Way (*from the Cantaro cycle*). ANANSI has slowed down the RAS TSCHUBAI because it has received a radio call that is repeated regularly - via Gholdorodyn's crane, which is somehow being used as a hyperradio. The signal contains position information, the identification of the RAS TSCHUBAI and Jawna Togoya's personal identification number.

Jawna Togoya and Germo Jobst have returned with MOTHER via Synchrony from the "wrong future" of the year 2577 NGE to the year 1517 NGE. The RAS TSCHUBAI is not waiting at the agreed meeting point. Jawna Togoya assumes that the RAS TSCHUBAI is still in *time-dilation* flight. She steers MOTHER back into Synchrony through a chronopuncture that can still be passed for a short time in order to travel further into the past. The flight is uncontrolled and MOTHER is spat out of the Synchrony. She reaches the year 968 NGE.

Cloaked Onryon spaceships are on the move in the Milky Way. Germo Jobst perceives mental impulses emanating from a planet that MOTHER is now heading for.

The Onryons call the planet Soynur. All life was wiped out there during a war thousands of years ago. Matan Addaru wants this world to be converted into the first Praeterital ("*to surpass or excel*") colony. The first Onryons born in the Milky Way are to establish their bases on *this world*. An Atopian messenger visits the planet in 971 NGE to supervise the work of Prim pioneer(?) Layr Genneryc(?). The Onryons have encountered obstacles. Four-meter-tall faceless phantoms with burning wings are obstructing their work. Energy beams and protective shields are ineffective against these creatures. Wherever they appear, all Onryons are gripped by fear and panic. Anyone they touch *dies*.

When Rhodan and Pucky reach the *planet* where the radio messages are coming from, nothing can be seen at first. *Pucky finds a buried stone circle, beneath which* is a tunnel that leads to a huge cave. There, a web of PEW metal hangs from the ceiling, in which a small spaceship is enclosed. *Rhodan befriends some phantoms, and release the MOTHER spaceship trapped in the web.* Jawna Togoya and Germo Jobst are on board.

MOTHER and her old and new passengers are transferred to the RAS TSCHUBAI. Despite their best efforts, the Indoctrinators have almost gained the upper hand there. MOTHER is confident that she can make the *sleep* suspension alcoves compatible with the hyperfrost generators. Since MOTHER knows the position of the planet Medusa, Rhodan comes up with the idea of parking the RAS TSCHUBAI there for the next 500 years. He believes that Viccor Bughassidow will find the dark world in time. One by one, all the crew members go into suspension. MOTHER also goes to sleep. The field of hyperfrost generators now covers the entire exterior and interior of the ship.

In the present

The RAS TSCHUBAI is resting on the dark world of Medusa in the hyperfrost. The spaceship cannot be boarded. Even by joining forces, Terrans and Onryons *are* unable to *free* the *ship*. In mid 1518 NGE, two *paranormal* Keroutes equipped with PEW metal hoods succeed in mentally penetrating the ice armor. They sense Perry Rhodan's presence and realize that the crew is lying in *sleep* suspension alcoves. *They* realize that Tiuphoric Indoctrinators have taken over large areas of the ship.

Monkey had already stated that the *Tefrodian* mutants of the New Tamanium should be used for the advance into the hyperfrost. LAOTSE makes the same suggestion to the Solar Premier Cai Cheung, who has been acting head of the LFT government since Arun Joschannan's death.

As a result, Project Morning Bell is realized to free the RAS TSCHUBAI. *An archaeological dig is set up with phony ancient technology, designed to attract New Tamanium mutants. When things come to a head, Monkey abducts the unconscious mutants and kills everyone else.*

Meanwhile, the chrono-theorist Aichatou Zakara is being told some Keroutian tales and legends. She pricks up her ears when *she hears talk* about the Chamber of the Lost Dead, a fourth cavern that has never been mentioned before and almost certainly did not exist until recently. Zakara assumes that she has come across another effect of the dys-chronic drift. The cavern is immediately investigated. There is a small spaceship with a mummified human on board. It is MOTHER, or rather Irr("*the wrong*")-MOTHER, a chronoduplicate of the original in the RAS TSCHUBAI - the ship is a counter-causal space-time *object* which, unlike all the others, does not disappear as soon as it is seen.

Irr-MOTHER explains that she was deposited in the fourth cavern around 350 years ago. There was a second person on board at the time. No further information can be obtained, not even the positronic reader Dienbacer can find out anything, because the on-board computer is too sophisticated. However, Dienbacer notices similarities with a presence he has perceived *while mentally exploring the RAS TSCHUBAI*. Both ships can talk to each other through an "eye of a needle with a diameter of zero". Since, according to them, it would be too risky to retrieve the omni-carrier from the hyperfrost due to the RAS TSCHUBAI's contamination with Indoctrinators, the eye of the needle is used to establish a transmitter link. In this way, the entire crew can be retrieved from the RAS TSCHUBAI within two days. Irr-MOTHER does not survive the rescue operation, but she believes this is her destiny. Meechyl believes that only a powerful ally of the Terrans at the Atopian Tribunal could have planted the chronoduplicate.

Meanwhile, Cai Cheung, Bostich, Monkey and others in the field are planning a strike against the time rift and the Tiuphoric fleet of over 40,000 Starworks that have gathered in the area of the perforation passages. There are two such zones. They are moving towards each other and will probably soon merge in the vicinity of Boscyk's star. They are to be bombarded with Arkonide Teslym projectiles and Terran Shiva bombs.

Perry Rhodan is *first* to recover. When he learns what Bostich is up to, he speaks out against it. Bostich ignores Rhodan's demands and fires the bombs. They explode as planned, but the incredible amounts of energy simply disappear. Immediately afterwards, the perforation passages move away from each other. The chief scientist of the GALBRAITH DEIGHTON VI, speaks of a chronokinetic transformation. The perforation passages have absorbed and transformed the energy. They are now being attracted to two locations in the Milky Way, causing the still open time rift to deform considerably. One target is the central black hole, the other is the Sol system!

In the Synchrony

The Fauth Than *has taken* Atlan, Julian Tifflor, Lua Virtanen, Vogel Ziello and Pensor on an Atopian shuttle to the Jena Lands. In zero time, the group reaches a place reminiscent of an enlarged version of 20th century Grand Central Station in New York. Nine foot tall talking lava lamps appear and greet the new arrivals. It is a quarantine squad. *While Thez is vouching* for the visitors, they are given permission to look around this Island of Homeliness - the Veste Tau - or to leave it again at will. Outside the Veste Tau, however, which is just one of many islands in the Jena Lands, there is only the "*mush*" at the end of the universe – *no space, no time, no matter, no energy*.

The being Q-Blue, a member of the Quarantine Command, explains that **the Atopic Tribunal is a formula derived by Thez from the LAW and represents Thez's "sensory organ" for balance in the universe. It is not known to what extent Thez influences the actions of the Tribunal.** What is certain is that the Atopians are *given orders by* the Atopian Court. The Court is mobile and its current location is unknown. Atlan asks Tifflor, who as a messenger of the Atopians is authorized to ask questions, to search for the court.

The Atopian Archives contain records of the Atopian Court's previous whereabouts. Tifflor makes his way there. Arriving at his destination, Tifflor asks the Archivist Ahnforcht (who is the Archive) who should succeed Chuv. Tifflor already suspects the truth : he himself is to become the second Atopian in charge of the Milky Way galaxy. Tifflor *returns and* talks to *ferryman* Than about his destiny. Than confirms that Tifflor is to be trained by him at House Addaru to become an Atopian - that's what IT wants. According to Than, Tifflor won't need the cell activator for much longer. Although Tifflor is no longer the same man who once set off on the march through the time spear, he still feels a connection to the Terrans. He wants to help the peoples of *the Milky Way* who are suffering under the Atopian Tribunal and the Tiuphores. That's why he agrees.

Atlan, Lua Virtanen and Vogel Ziello take the hyperloop train(?) to the Earth's moon floating in the heart of the Veste Tau. Deep in the techno-weave, in sublunar facilities, they find an Arkonide transmitter. Atlan activates it. A YLA upgrade of *NATHAN* appears and welcomes the Arkonide and his companions to House Addaru, this is where his succession began. If Atlan wants to know more about this, he must experience it - he must become Matan, or rather embark on a journey *thru his* consciousness. Only then may he visit the Atopian Court.

The journey of consciousness takes place in two phases. The first is preparatory, so that Atlan is protected against the overwhelming influences associated with the second phase. YLA will put Atlan to the test and test him hard. If he fails in the first phase, his consciousness will be blown away. *NATHAN's* dreams, *in* which the YLA replays all episodes of human history, are the setting for the first phase. Atlan is allowed to choose an episode. He chooses the era of ancient Babylon because, according to YLA, Matan likes it best.

Atlan's self-knowledge completes the test. The Arkonide has passed all the tests, resisted all temptations and preserved his identity by interspersing various anachronisms into the ancient scenario. However, the dream is not yet over. Phase two begins : it is the story of Matan Addaru, which is also the story of the last man.

For this purpose, Atlan's consciousness without *his* extra sense is transferred into a six-dimensional reference field that belongs to *NATHAN's* consciousness. *It* has the mnemonic essence of trillions of living beings, and they replay their memories over and over again in the reference field. An avatar for Atlan is superimposed on the reference field. The Arkonide can control the avatar within narrow limits. He can only alter insignificant aspects of the memory scenario through his actions, but not distort it in its entirety, because the scenario's forces of inertia are too strong. Atlan must therefore "*play along*" with *what he experiences*. YLA can stop the scenario and communicate with Atlan. While days or even years pass for the mnemonic essences, only seconds pass in the Veste Tau. *These are only extrapolations, and so is a "false future"*.

Atlan estimates that the scenario takes place four billion years after the 16th century NGE, because the Milky Way *now* consists of two sub-galaxies. The Milky Way and Andromeda have penetrated each other, *forming a cross*. *In addition*, it was surrounded by an insurmountable barrier for 280 million years for unknown reasons, *which* has now dissolved. *Atlan joins* the *exploration* ship which undertakes an expedition to the Cross galaxy with two escort ships on behalf of the Jeadhali scientific community. The Jeadhali are insectoids for whom the propagation of knowledge has almost religious significance. Atlan quickly realizes that he must delve into *the Jeadhal's* Maay'char's *subconscious*, because if his control becomes too strong, so that his behavior deviates from the scenario's predetermined pattern, he will be attacked by the Jeadhali with brutal force.

The Cross galaxy is hyperenergetically dead. There is no evidence of higher developed life. On thousands of worlds in the Cross galaxy, only lower life can be detected : lichens, mosses, fungi and bacteria. He learns from YLA that the Atopian Tribunal has withdrawn after the crisis of the Dys-chronic Shear, but is "now" – that is, in the time of the memory scenario - active again.

The expedition eventually finds three cube ships *that* are a post of the Imperial TioBiom, a civilization that has been administering the legacy of the perished Hundred Suns world (*the home world of the Posbis*) for a very long time. The Jeadhali are informed that only the Taranians would have been able to encapsulate the Cross galaxy. However, this communal civilization, which once ruled the whole of *the Cross galaxy*, disappeared long before the encapsulation. The Jeadhali are shown the way to a solar system where there is still a trace of the Taranians. The last human lives there - but nobody knows what a human is.

Atlan recognizes the system in question - it is the Sol system. It has changed a lot. *Sol is bigger than it was* four billion years ago, Terra is the innermost planet because Mercury and Venus have disappeared. Neptune no

longer exists either. Luna, still enclosed by the techno-mesh, orbits the sun on Terra's orbit, but on the opposite side. Terra presents a familiar picture. Apart from lichens, mosses and the like, nothing lives there.

Eventually, *Atlan* receives permission from NATHAN to meet NATHAN's son, the last of the Matans (*rulers*) of Tarania. His name is Matan Addaru. He is the last human in the Cross galaxy.

Atlan introduces himself by name and is greeted by Matan as an old acquaintance. *This* Matan is different from all other Mnemo essences, which is why Atlan can now take full control and no longer has to adhere to the scenario's specifications. Atlan wants to know how the New Tamanium, consisting of Terrans and Tefroders, has evolved. Matan transfers memories to Atlan :

The New Tamanium spreads across the Milky Way and Andromeda. However, *the empire of Tarania* only comes into being as a result of an evolutionary leap by the lunar mainframe NATHAN. Researchers make contact with THERMIOC, the superintelligence that emerged from BARDIOC and the EMPRESS OF THERM (*in the BARDIOC cycle*). THERMIOC has searched in vain for the long-lost Wanderer. *It is* found with the help of the Taranians. IT remains missing, but construction plans for an Intotronic are discovered. The construction of an Intotronic would be impossible even for the Taranians, but THERMIOC shows itself willing to help. The superintelligence *upgrades* NATHAN and in return demands the help of the explorer fleet in the search for IT. After the reconstruction of NATHAN, YLA is given "brothers" and "sisters" - avatars of NATHAN, who are considered fully-fledged humans and are used as advisors on the worlds of Tarania. The Taranians have an average life expectancy of over 1000 years. There are hardly any diseases.

But after 20,000 years, the Matan's cell activator fails. THERMIOC cannot or will not help here. The Sganshan, with whom the explorers have met in a distant galaxy, are able to make a biocopy for the Matan. NATHAN takes care of the transfer of consciousness. His condition is that each new Matan (each successor) must be implanted with a fragment of NATHAN's consciousness. The succession process must be repeated every 10,000 years.

Tarania lasts for 20 million years, but at some point the number of Tarans decreases. There are still many explorers roaming the universe, but many Tarans retreat to the worlds of the Cross galaxy. Tarania gradually disintegrates. NATHAN turns its back on the outside world and opens the past games(?). After 4 billion years, only Matan and the NATHAN avatars still exist, but even the children of the Intotronic are slowly dying out. The lonely Matan waits for an event that will show him the true meaning of his existence. One day, YLA reports that a barrier is being created that will completely encircle the Cross galaxy in just 50,000 years. After that, higher life on all *Cross galaxy* worlds will decline.

After completing the spirit journey, YLA announces that the Atopian Court is now in Veste Tau, albeit in a different "room". NATHAN receives permission from the Atopian Court to transfer Atlan and his companions there with the space-time expander(?). YLA announces that Atlan will now meet the greatest Atopian - the one who recruited the last human ages ago.

In the Milky Way present

An Onryon spaceship brings the wounded from Maharani to the planet On-Vennbacc, *located in a linear-space bubble*. Among the survivors of the Tiuphore's attack on the LFT's main world is a certain Ovid Penderghast, a cloaked identity of the shape-shifter and TLD leader Attilar Leccore. During his convalescence in a sanatorium near the city of Moodyon, *he* makes several templates *to* prepare himself to copy various people mentally and physically. The thoughts of the Onryon Typhan Opporosh, mother and tactical advisor to the reigning Ryotar and commander of the *spaceship* PORYODOR, prove to be particularly valuable. Opporosh is one of the few insiders in the secret project Swirler. In a subplanetary complex, deep beneath the capital city, work is underway

on an anti-Indoctrinator weapon! The project has been on hold for eons and was reactivated after the arrival of the Tiuphores. *Leccore does everything in his power to get hold of the construction plans, because this weapon could be decisive in the fight against the merciless invaders, and ultimately succeeds.*

In mid 1518 NGE, because of the perforation passage hurtling towards the Sol system, Cai Cheung gives the evacuation order. A single linear space torpedo appears. It does not attack. *Pucky* recognizes that there are two living beings in the torpedo. Perry Rhodan meets with Leccore and receives the plans for what Leccore calls a hyperspace pulse disruptor. Leccore is to return to Terra.

The galactopolitical situation is more tense than ever. The Tiuphores, who have arrived in the present through the time rift, are currently confining themselves to pinprick tactics in the peripheral areas of the major Milky Way powers, but appear to be preparing for a *major* offensive. *Because of this, a harmony* between the Milky Way peoples and the forces of the Atopian Tribunal is emerging. In the meantime, the Tiuphores have advanced into the Eastside and attacked the Blues. The armor world Tvynatarr, which *is a source of steel* for the Terrans, has fallen into the hands of the Tiuphores. The Gatas (*a Blues race*) have officially declared war on the Tiuphores and sought assistance from both the Galactic and the Atopian Tribunal. Uldormuhecze Foelybeczt, the new chairman of the Galacticum, is on *planet* Gatas. Cai Cheung has sent Hekéner Sharoun there as an observer for the LFT.

At the RAS TSCHUBAI, Sichu Dorksteiger's team has made a breakthrough in researching the Onryon's *plans delivered by Leccore*, and has developed a weapon suitable for use against Indoctrinators. The weapon has both defensive and offensive capabilities. Upgraded paratron screens are able to fragment incoming hyperpulses and thus fend off Indoctrinators. With the ParaFract pulse, Indoctrinators can also be rendered harmless after *an* attack. The largely robot-controlled battlecruiser ARIADNE has already been equipped with a ParaFract shield, *and is to approach the RAS TSCHUBAI and trigger the impulse. The RAS TSHUBAI must be prepared beforehand. First, the hyperfrost generators must be deactivated. A boarding party finds them and neutralizes them, and protects ANANSI in hopes it will survive the process.*

The ParaFract pulse is triggered. This destroys the Indoctrinators in the RAS TSCHUBAI, but the ARIADNE is *flung* into hyperspace. The RAS TSCHUBAI, *including ANANSI*, is ready for action again. Rhodan speaks to Cai Cheung by radio. He delivers the construction plans for the ParaFract screen. Rhodan and Cheung agree that this weapon should also be made available to the Onryons.

To test the ParaFract shield under combat conditions, Perry Rhodan flies with the RAS TSCHUBAI to the Gatas armor world Tvynatarr, which has been conquered by the Tiuphores *and occupied by 487 Starwork spaceships*. More than 1000 battleships of the Blues under the command of Star Admiral Fauphe-Zy-Mün have encircled the system. Rhodan cannot afford a *full* frontal attack. He has to lure a star craft out of the system.

But first he realizes another plan. Rhodan assumes that Tvynatarr is to be used to build new spaceships and that the blueprints of Starworks can be captured there. He assembles a team *and copies them*.

After getting the complete plans, using a space-jet as a decoy, Rhodan now lures a Starwork to the RAS TSCHUBAI. The Tiuphores fire Indoctrinators at the omni-carrier. The ParaFract shield holds. The Starwork is torn out of hyperstence by the Aagenfelt Flash and destroyed.

Rhodan's next goal is now to spread the anti-Indoctrinator weapon to all Milky Way peoples as quickly as possible. To this end, he wants to invite the Onryons and the Tefroders, and if necessary the Atopian Matan Addaru, to a conference.

While the evacuation of Terra is in full swing due to the approaching perforation passage of the time rift, a secret conference of important Milky Way nations, arranged by Perry Rhodan and approved by the LFT, takes place there in *late 1518* NGE. Rhodan's aim is to forge a galactic alliance to ward off the Tiuphore threat and to send the construction plans for the ParaFract weapon to all allies. He hopes that the alliance will continue after the invaders have been repelled - a pious hope, as the Tefroders and the Onryons have also been invited. The latter have agreed to tolerate the Principal Fractor *Rhodan* for the duration of the conference. The Arkonides have not sent anyone to the conference. The Haluters have already received the plans. *Right now*, no more than two ships per day can be *modified*. Only if all the major galactic powers work together, including the New Tamanium and the Atopian Tribunal, can the infrastructure required for mass production of the ParaFract be created.

The ParaFract conference continues to be anything but harmonious. The "negotiations" are limited to mutual recriminations, verbal attacks and arguments over terminology. For example, the question arises as to whether the New USO is a terrorist organization, as claimed by the Atopian Tribunal, because from a Terran point of view Monkey's people are more likely to be described as resistance fighters. However, this course of events is entirely in Rhodan's interest.

On the last day of the conference, Rhodan *drops a bomb*. He admits that he deliberately ensured that the negotiations were inharmonious and chaotic. He wanted to hold up a mirror to the participants and make them realize that disagreement leads to ruin. He explains his point of view and makes it clear why he cannot accept the Atopians' deterministic world view - which turned out to be incorrect anyway - especially as the Atopian Tribunal is clearly pursuing goals that contradict the lip service paid by the Atopians. He has acted as he believed to be right in the respective situation according to the best of his conscience and his moral convictions. Now it is up to the participants to forge or reject the defense alliance against the Tiuphores. The conference participants unanimously vote in favor of Rhodan's vision. The transfer of the ParaFract construction data to all participants is promptly initiated.

No one knows whether LAOTSE (*the Solar Residence positronic*) and OTHERWISE (*the Solar House positronic*) are "clean" or under the spell of the Indoctrinators. Rhodan asks Vetris-Molaud whether the positronic reader Dienbacer can be consulted to clarify this question. The Maghan gives his consent - with one condition : Rhodan is to collect the mutant personally from Tefor.

Leccore considers how he can use the recent events to the LFT's advantage. Leccore wants to use his shapeshifting abilities to slip the Tiuphores fake design data for a new type of weapon that is nowhere near as powerful as the ParaFract. The Tiuphores are to be misled into believing that the Galactics are still easy prey for the Indoctrinators. *A ship is outfitted with the new device, and attacked by Tiuphores. But the skeleton crew's escape plan fails, and they are killed. After completing his part of the mission, Leccore is stranded on a Tiuphorian planet in the shape of a Tiuphore he killed.*

When Rhodan and Pucky meet with Vetris-Molaud *on Tefor* to discuss Dienbacer, who is summoned, *Molaud seems tense*. Rhodan is irritated because Vetris-Molaud is demanding the blueprint for the Hypertrans-Progressive *space drive* in return for the positronic reader's help. No such conditions were ever mentioned. Zeno Kortin speaks up. According to him, contact with the united Tefroder worlds in Andromeda is very important and the Hypertrans-Progressive could be understood as compensation for the shutdown of the polyport network initiated by Rhodan and as a peacemaking measure, because in return the Terrans would be given a part of the Milky Way. Rhodan refuses. He realizes that the New Tamanium would swallow the Andromeda Tefroders if it

had the opportunity. "Contact" means "conquest". So the reception is interrupted. Rhodan thinks there's something fishy about the whole thing. Was Vetriss-Molaud trying to give him a sign?

During the meeting, Pucky and two Terrans discover three objects inside a glacier, and a creature trapped in the ice in another location. After attaching a locator beacon to the creature, they are attacked and flee. Pucky finds Garmo and Farye and takes them to safety, but then is captured himself. Molaud returns him to Rhodan inside a literal trojan horse. The creature is transmitted to the Galatics' ship, and Rhodan recognizes it. It is Angakkuq, the servant of Matan Addaru.

In the Synchrony

The space-time expander, the means of long-distance transportation set up by Matan Addaru in the Veste Tau, is to transport Atlan, Lua Virtanen and Vogel Ziello to the Atopian Court. However, Virtanen senses that the transport is not proceeding correctly. This alerts Atlan, who immediately urges them to choose an earlier exit from the transport tube than the predetermined one. Responsible for the malfunction is the conglomerate Bacctou (*a collection of Bacctou's previous skins*), who wants to separate Atlan from his companions and lock them in a lateral pen(?).

By exiting the space-time expander earlier, the three companions end up in the Life Bubble Tallpana, *which* is inhabited almost exclusively by Caraeans and is completely surrounded by the Nether Sea, *a* cesspool. The Life Bubble is one of the four facets of the Final City and is called Below. There is also Upstairs as well as Tower and Court. *They are all* sealed off from *each other* by an impenetrable membrane.

In the facets of the Final City, there are three realms of perception: the lands at arm's length, which follow the known laws of nature; the lands of hearsay, where other realities prevail and to which there is no meaningful connection, no causal relationship, and thirdly, the Deprived Lands or Sunken Lands, whose reality is undefined and in flux and where the laws of nature do not reach. The Deprived Lands are considered the source of the *Dys-chronic Shear (the creation of a parallel universe and the resulting branching of history – the past of such a universe is absolutely identical to that of its "twin" until a certain moment in time, and then the history is different)*.

After travelling thru many different environments, and helping the people there, Atlan discovers and frees a creature called Pend. Pend announces that the conglomerate Bacctou is deceiving Thez about the state of the Above. Pend must regain his Aspect Zero or Infinity(?) and, to this end, enter Thez's mental immediacy. He is prepared to take Atlan, Lua and Vogel to the Court, because he wants to go there himself.

Pend transports *the three* to the Court facet of the Final City. When Atlan thinks of a court, palaces and castles with kings and noble knights come to mind. There is none of this to be seen at the destination. Instead, the companions find themselves in a deserted prairie bordered by mountains, over which, instead of a sky, a black void stretches, through which swarms of comets occasionally pass.

After Pend has said goodbye (he is moving on to look for his lost aspects), Atlan and his companions wander through the plain. *They find random buildings and objects, and several people who appear to be dead, covered in a network of blue-black lines.*

Atlan's arrival has not gone unnoticed. A gunslinger, who has been looking for Atlan for a very long time, has set out on his trail. The boss has ordered him to kill the Arkonide. The Awour race (*from the TERRANOVA cycle*) has been simulated by the conglomerate Bacctou and are tasked with killing all the inhabitants of the

Court facet. Their weapons fire the sediment sleep. Those hit are quickly overgrown by the web of lines and put to sleep indefinitely. The sediment sleep is also the reason for the emergence of the consuming nothingness in the sky and the strange environmental conditions prevailing in the courtyard. The entire facet is "falling asleep", or, as the gunslinger puts it, it is dying, and has been doing so for many years. *The gunslinger protects two people in a farm from the Awour by shooting them.* As planned by the gunslinger, Atlan and his companions, who have heard the shots, arrive at the scene just as the Awour return with reinforcements. Together, the Arkonide and the gunslinger manage to put the attackers to flight. Atlan immediately recognizes who he is dealing with. The gunman is none other than Piet Rawland. At least he looks like the servant of the superintelligence IT (*from the Stardust cycle*). Rawland mentions in passing that he himself created this world.

Rawland's backstory :

Rawland claims that IT sent him to the Jena Lands eons ago. He was supposed to settle in at the court and create a habitat for himself. To this end, the Fauthen gave him one of the countless world fractals that make up the Court. He was allowed to shape it according to his own ideas. The Fauthen were happy to help, as IT once did a great service to the Reeves of the Lands of Thez, *by which they evolved.* The superintelligence left the Atopian Tribunal with two extremely valuable individuals who could have given their "Sphere of Influence" a twist: Matan Addaru and Julian Tifflor. The reshaping of the world fractal is carried out by means of the flying factories. Sub-microscopic machines are produced in these factories, against which even tt-progenitors seem gigantic and cumbersome. They can dock onto elementary particles and influence them by means of a mental-mechanical impulse. This means they can not only change reality, they can create it. It was with them that Thez created the Jena Lands. Thez still uses the machines to re-think the Isles of Homeliness. However, the machines would not work outside the Jena Lands.

Rawland confirms that the conglomerate Bacctou has attacked the farm and is acting on behalf of Matan Addaru. Supposedly, Rawland was fed [vital energy] by IT. He is effectively a single large cell activator. Rawland claims that he has been sent to assist Atlan, because the fate of countless worlds will be decided here and now. Rawland is to open the way to the Tower of Fauthen for Atlan. *Atlan is fatally wounded during another fight with the Awour. Rawland gives Atlan his gun to shoot him with, because his death causes the vital energy to be suddenly released, rendering the sediment sleep harmless and healing Atlan. Thez now has access to the farm again and re-thinks it. Rawland's world passes away so that a better one can emerge.* At the moment of his death, the image of the Cross Galaxy is created. It is much larger than the symbol that is created when a cell activator carrier dies, and it endures. So the once black sky is now full of stars.

Pensor takes Atlan, Lua Virtanen and Vogel Ziellos in a carriage to the *Tower of Fauthen in the Tower Facet* of the Final City. The journey doesn't take long, because as the pilot of an Atopian ship, Pensor has a special gift. He is a movement injector and can set objects in motion. The tower, Pensor explains, is not a building in any sense that Atlan can understand; it has no spatial extension. Atlan is told to imagine the tower as a thinking being. After a few hand-waving gestures from Pensor, the goal is achieved. Atlan and his companions find themselves in New New York, created according to the imagination and wishes of the Atopian Julian Tifflor.

The travelers are greeted by a young woman named Pamela Bess, who introduces herself as the new arrivals' *guide*. She is to look after them, as Tifflor does not yet have time for the visitors. Pamela takes them on a tour of the city. All New New Yorkers are completely real. Tifflor has taken them aboard his ship during a mission and brought them to the Jena Lands. Because of his experiences in the Final City, the Arkonide remains skeptical.

A huge shipyard marks the end of the tour. This shipyard is where the MOCKINGBIRD, Tifflor's Atopic ship is built. Pensor is her pilot. The completion of the MOCKINGBIRD is retrograde, meaning that Tifflor has actually been traveling with this ship on behalf of the Atopian Tribunal for thousands of years. If, during a

mission, he realizes that the ship is still missing something, he reports this need to the Jena Lands. The MOCKINGBIRD can then be equipped accordingly, which means that Tifflor can set off on the mission in question with a ship that is already equipped as required, due to the timeless nature of the Jena Lands. In this way, the MOCKINGBIRD is to become the best Atopian ship that has ever existed, exists and will exist.

Lua and Vogel stay behind with *the lead optimization engineer* Zykpyvarra. No sooner have they entered the MOCKINGBIRD than they recognize a dysfunction. They think it is the result of a recent act of sabotage. The engineer doesn't want to believe them at first, but is soon attacked by a working robot that was actually targeting *Lua and Vogel*, who destroy the robot. The saboteur cannot be tracked down. The newly created ship brain BIRD wants to get to know *Lua and Vogel* better. They form a connection with one of its networks. For them, it's like coming home. Suddenly an alarm is sounded. An entire ship section folds into nothingness. Zykpyvarra fights an invisible man and is swallowed up by the "Unbeing". Lua and Vogel escape.

Atlan finally comes face to face with his old friend. For the Arkonide, only a few days have passed since their last meeting, but for *Tifflor*, decades have passed, during which time he has completed many missions for the Atopian Tribunal. To Atlan's displeasure, Tifflor speaks in the same convoluted manner as superintelligences and their agents, but leaves no doubt that he is loyal to the Atopian Tribunal. He himself recruited Matan Addaru for the Tribunal, because he had hoped that Matan would not become the renegade he is now. For Atlan, this is a contradiction in terms, but Tifflor says that the future is always open. Time loops are not the rule and not all of them are real. *He tells Atlan that he can speak to the Fauthen Glossberc*. He has retreated to the outermost reaches of the Tower, to the Atopian Proximus, also known as the Lake of the Fauthen.

After three bottles of wine and some delicious pizza, Tifflor admits that he longs to be himself again. It is possible to avert the Atopian Tribunal from the Milky Way, but this action comes at a high price. Atlan could bring about the turning away because his mind contained an astonishing message, a kind of hieroglyph that could not even be deciphered by Tifflor. Perry Rhodan may also carry such a hieroglyph, but it is probably distorted or at least altered. In order to realize his plans, Atlan would have to appear before the Fauthen Congress. There he will meet Matan Addaru once again.

Tifflor is informed of the incident in the MOCKINGBIRD. Pensor takes him and Atlan to the shipyard. It turns out that a *skin* of Matan Addaru is behind the acts of sabotage. Tifflor is furious; the other Atopian should not have dared to take such an action. Pensor defeats the *skin* and hurls it into the *mush* at the end of the universe.

In the present Milky Way

In *late 1518* NGE, the Halutian scientist Atno Tever realizes that the time rift is changing course. A perforation passage will reach the *planet* Nova Ceres in about a week. *The leaders of the planet* order an evacuation.

Aichatou Zakara travels to Nova Ceres to collect data that may help save the Sol system. In her opinion, contact between the perforation passage and the planet will lead to changes in the structure of time. Unstable chronoduplicates of objects and living beings will be created.

It is possible to see through the perforation passage. On the other side of the time rift, thousands of Starworks *in the past* can be seen. However, the hyperstorm prevents the ships from crossing over into the present, as it turns out, when a Starwork tries to do just that. It is crushed by the forces.

The perforation passage, still enveloped by the hyperstorm, arrives. Space and time become unstable and the phenomena predicted by Zakara occur. Space-time is fragmented; the fragments are shifted into different time

sequences. Destruction and chaos are the result. Eventually, a chronoduplicate of the entire planet is created. Nova Ceres begins to break up. The remaining spaceships in the system are also affected. Zakara tries to escape, but Atopian Julian Tifflor appears with the MOCKINGBIRD and rescues the woman. Zakara is taken on board. Tifflor explains that he needs data to save the Sol system. He may even be able to use the time rift against the World Fire *predicted by the Atopian Tribunal*; he assumes that the two phenomena are not identical. The MOCKINGBIRD is to be further optimized in the Final City, but Tifflor cannot guarantee that he will be able to stop the perforation passage. Since Tifflor cannot contact Cai Cheung himself, Zakara is to inform the Solar Premier that the evacuation of the Sol system must be expedited. *The next day, the perforation passage hits Nova Ceres's star, which goes supernova.*

Perry Rhodan, *Solar Premier* Cai Cheung, *scientist* Sichu Dorksteiger and the Akon Arval Las'Andossu, acting spokesman for the New Galacticum, meet for an emergency meeting in the Solar House. On this occasion, Rhodan learns for the first time of the arrival of the Atopian Julian Tifflor in the Milky Way. Strong contingents of Starworks have deployed to the planets Ertrus, Plophos, Olympus, Aralon, Gatas, Apas, Zülüt, Haspro, Archetz and Halut. Apparently the Tiuphores, who have come into the relative present as a result of the time rift, believe that they have now given the Galacticus enough pinpricks and can launch a full-scale attack. In view of the fact that all the fleets of the affected planets are most likely infested with Indoctrinators, Cai Cheung believes that the Tiuphores have already won the war.

Rhodan meets with the positronic reader Dienbacer, who is to find out whether there are Indoctrinators in the Terran mainframe computers. Dienbacer first takes on OTHERWISE. He declares the Solar House's computer clean. Dienbacer finds what he is looking for *in* LAOTSE. Indoctrinators have infested the central computer of the Solar Residence, but have not yet become active. Since they cannot be rendered harmless with the ParaFract, because the Tiuphores must not learn of the existence of this weapon, Dienbacer and Rhodan come up with the idea of creating a false reality for LAOTSE. In this way, the tables can even be turned, because they can provide the Tiuphores with false information. RAS TSUCHBAI's positronic ANANSI and OTHERWISE take on this task.

In the *Ertuscan* system, Indoctrinators have become active, not only in the flagship, but in the entire fleet and the evacuation ships. This allows the Tiuphores to watch in peace as the defenders destroy each other. Similar scenes play out on the nine other worlds. In each system, well over 10,000 spaceships perish in the fire of friendly units. There is devastation on the planets, but the Tiuphores refrain from collecting souls for the Sextadim banners. Instead, they retreat as soon as all resistance is broken.

Despite this show of force, Rhodan refuses to believe that the invaders will win. Information gathered by Gholdorodyn and Zakara *have an insight* about the Sextadim banners. A banner is effectively the "ear" with which a star system listens in higher dimensions, and it is not completely shielded by the ship's protective screens. The banner thus forms a kind of bottleneck through which, for example, a transform projectile could possibly be sent even if the ship is in hyperstence.

Four years ago, Perry Rhodan shut down the polyport network. Since then, the *polyport* GALILEO has been in orbit around Saturn's moon Titan and is being researched by *a team of* scientists, who come from different fields of expertise. *So far, they* have not yet been able to unravel any of the countless mysteries of the *polyport*.

Pucky accesses Angakkuq's memories :

The artificial being Angakkuq awakens on Eyyom <i>home planet of the Eyleshioni</i> . At this point, several millennia have already passed since the planet was displaced by a Purple Depth. Angakkuq was produced on

behalf of Matan Addaru. The Atopian picks up Angakkuq personally and lets him get to know the 96-COLPCOR and its pilot Weclaiser, *who* will soon die. Angakkuq was created in Weclaiser's image and is deemed worthy by him to become the next pilot of the Atopian ship. To complete Angakkuq, he is implanted with a part of Weclaiser's neural substance not yet affected by the slow decay. After centuries of training, Angakkuq becomes the pilot of the 96-COLPCOR. In the double ring galaxy GA-dipaata, he meets Matan Addaru's mentor Julian Tifflor. Matan Addaru has just taken on his first mission for the Atopian Tribunal - and failed. The Fauthen do not grant Matan Addaru access to the galaxy GA-thirnen and entrust the mission to another Atopian.

20 million years ago, Matan Addaru fights against the Tiuphores remaining in *the Milky Way*. He protects a planet of the Codex until it manages to escape through a Purple Depth and saves the Rayon people. The Tiuphores lure the 96-COLPCOR into a trap and severely damage it. After the transformation of the Atopian ship into the 97-COLPCOR, Matan Addaru wins the war. The last Tiuphore ship in *the Milky Way* is *destroyed*. The worlds colonized by Rayons are moved by means of Purple Depth. Matan Addaru is victorious, but changes as a result of the horrific battles. He is injured on another mission. Matan Addaru discovered a cavern filled with vital energy some time ago. Now the jade-green city of Noudura stands there. Matan Addaru and Angakkuq explore the city. They discover that it drains vital energy from its inhabitants, causing the creatures to sink into lethargy. The purpose of the city remains unknown, but it becomes clear that the planet is just one of many locations that Noudura can switch between. Matan Addaru gains access to the time center and directs the city to a desert world with a polyport courtyard hovering over it.

Matan Addaru reports none of this to the Atopian Tribunal. He destroys his ship again and again to empty *its* data storage. He only confides in Angakkuq and tells him about Judge Veirdandi's warning : Matan Addaru explains that *the Moral Code of the Universe faded in the far future when the Cosmocrats and Chaotarchs left the sinking spacetime. Thez participated in the fading and thus identified with the Code, but had not been able to stabilize or reconstruct the Code. However, the entity had recognized where and when the Code had been damaged in the past. Thez had set himself the goal of retroactively preventing the occurrence of these cases of damage by using the Atopic Tribunal.* He has succeeded in doing so in the majority of cases. Veirdandi sees this as a major risk. Thez is a very powerful, but still limited, individual being who has succumbed to the lure of power. The question arises as to whether Thez alone is allowed to decide what is right and what is wrong - in other words, how the universe and its history should develop. Obviously, Thez has answered one of the new Ultimate Questions for himself : Thez believes that time belongs to him. Veirdandi thinks this is hubris and Matan Addaru *agrees*. Time shouldn't belong to anyone. Matan Addaru fears that he will one day be disowned by the Atopian Tribunal in the same way as Veirdandi because of this mindset. That is why he wants to create a second mainstay for himself alongside Synchrony. The polyport network is just what he needs. Angakkuq is to play an important role in Matan Addaru's plans.

Pucky realizes that Angakkuq is also drawing vital energy from another source. Rhodan remembers something he learned from the shadow Maahk Pral before the polyport network was shut down. According to him, the polyport system has always drained a small amount of vital energy from the passengers to stabilize the Eiris band along which the network is built. At the time, Pral had noticed an increase in energy consumption and concluded that the network was struggling to survive. Rhodan assumes that Angakkuq is causing the disturbances detected in the courtyard because he is accessing the vital energy that the grid used to draw from the passengers.

The polyport is dragged out of Titan orbit. It *has* now completely spun a cocoon of energy or form energy *around itself*. It is therefore all the more surprising that someone radios in from the courtyard. A fragile-looking humanoid with marble-white skin, inky blue patterns on his hairless skull and large, bright green eyes answers. He introduces himself as Ovaron Kilmacthomas. He is a pre-trial contactee of the Instance and warns the people of this eon about the *Eiris Reversal*. He then asks if Perry Rhodan is still alive.

Perry Rhodan learns that Ovaron Kilmacthomas urgently wishes to speak to him. Rhodan makes contact with the pre-trial contactee *in late 1518 NGE*. He announces his arrival via [Dakkar] span. It is later determined that *this* is a stable five- or six-dimensional direction-finding beam that functions practically like a *fictive transmitter (which needs no transfer platform at either end of the trip)*. Kilmacthomas wears the small generator of the Dakkar span on his left hand.

Kilmacthomas speaks to Rhodan like a friend, but remains reserved. He comes from a distant future and must not risk a time paradox. Kilmacthomas explains that the Instance is a complex communal civilization of biological, post-biological and artificial beings that also operates in the past - Rhodan's present - because traces of the Atopian Tribunal and the *Eiris Reversal* can be detected in this dark eon.

According to Kilmacthomas, the *Eiris Reversal* is a catastrophe that threatens the existence of all superintelligences within a sphere 100 million light years across. The name comes from the fact that the Eiris turns against superintelligences. *The Eiris can reverse when a superintelligence dies, but it can also happen while the entity still exists. The High Powers are so threatened by this that they try to dispose of the Eirises of deceased superintelligences. The current Eiris Reversal was probably triggered by the dys-chronic drift.* The Eiris will turn against IT's [anchor] and the anchors of superintelligences in other [Spheres of Influence]. Since superintelligences are *tightly linked* to the Eiris, they cannot *stop the process*. The catastrophe can supposedly no longer be averted by anyone. Kilmacthomas assumes that Matan Addaru is using Angakkuq as a tool to reactivate the polyport network and that the entire system is on the verge of collapse. In the world of a completed *Eiris Reversal*, the system cannot exist – it would destroy itself. The space-time of the affected Spheres of Influence would be destroyed, and this would also affect the epoch in which the Instance exists. Kilmacthomas is to secure the polyport network for the future. To do this, he needs Rhodan's original controller. Rhodan is prepared to give Kilmacthomas the controller, but only on condition that the time traveler helps him against the Tiuphores. After some hesitation, Kilmacthomas makes an offer. *He could modify the Dakkar span so that it could be used to remove a consciousness from a Tiuphorian Sextadim banner or smuggle one in.*

Angakkuq *appears* in the GALILEO *polyport*. Since only a cell activator wearer can now survive in the courtyard, Kilmacthomas links up with Rhodan via Dakkar span so that both can transfer to the courtyard. Inside chaos reigns, but Kilmacthomas is able to locate Angakkuq with the Dakkar span. The android is floating in a web of golden energy beams. Kilmacthomas isolates Angakkuq from the programming impulses acting on the android, *and the web goes out*. Angakkuq comes to, thanks him for the release and expresses his relief at the failure of Matan Addaru's plan and at finally being able to merge into the polyport network. Kilmacthomas and Rhodan leave the courtyard.

Two days later, the situation in GALILEO returns to normal. Kilmacthomas is in the polyport. Rhodan hands him the controller and receives the modified generator of the Dakkar span. Now the Terrans can only watch as *the polyport is activated and disappears shortly afterwards. The same happens to all the other polyports in the Milky Way and to the trade star JERGALL.*

The situation in the Milky Way remains unchanged. The evacuation of the Sol system is going smoothly, but many people want to stay on their homeworlds. The Tiuphores continue to make only brief forays to spread their Indoctrinators and capture resources of all kinds. The equipping of the spaceships of all Milky Way races with the ParaFract is making progress, not least thanks to the support of the Blues, but Perry Rhodan fears that he will lose this race. He would rather not rely on the help of the Atopian Julian Tifflor. He therefore pursues an additional strategy involving Gholdorodyn's latest tinkering.

Gholdorodyn has succeeded in connecting a modified *Kantor sextant (a hyperdimensional locating device)* and *SEMT hoods (that can read and transmit people's thoughts)* to the Dakkar span generator. The apparatus can be used to remove individual UBSEF constants from a banner or infiltrate one. Perry Rhodan wants to tackle the latter personally. Of the people available who, like him, have already had experience with disembodied travel, only Pey-Ceyan is currently being considered as a companion. A small transform cannon serves *to shoot* Rhodan's and Pey-Ceyan's consciousnesses into the Sextadim banner. All that's missing now is a *Starwork* operating alone.

Gholdorodyn's *machine* is activated. Pey-Ceyan realizes that *some of* the consciousnesses stored there are only torturing themselves. They are located in the outermost of several layers. You can ascend to layers further inside, where the UBSEF constants network with each other and give each other comfort. Rhodan and Pey-Ceyan advance into deeper layers. It turns out that the UBSEF constants in the banner are cared for and supervised by entities that could also be robots of some kind. These "consolers" have something against "erratic" beings like Rhodan and Pey-Ceyan, who have not yet joined the consciousness collective, *from* getting any further inside. Before they are taken out of the banner by Gholdorodyn, they realize that the Tiuphoric oracles have a close connection with the Catiuphat. They act as a kind of clock. The space- and time-lessness of the Catiuphat enables the *Tiuphoric spaceships* to navigate in otherwise inaccessible areas such as the time rift.

The Tiuphores in the present

The *present-day* Tiuphores of the SHEZZERKUD Starwork observe the actions of their fellow species *from* the past. Caradocc Paddkavu Yolloc is both repulsed and fascinated. Killing planetary *populations* to fill the Sextadim banners is an archaic custom for him and his kind, but the upcoming banner campaign in the Milky Way could be crucial to the plans of the present-day Tiuphores. Yolloc orders the Sextadim pioneers(?) to lay a *Sextadim half-space corridor(?)* to the Milky Way (*presumably, a "road" that spaceships travel on*) and activate the Sextadim Movator(?). He is still hesitant to issue the call to gather.

Leccore's plan to conceal the fact that the Milky Way races possess a weapon against Indoctrinators has worked. The Tiuphores have been taken in by the *story* that the HÜSIV system is unsuitable as a defense against Indoctrinators. The *Terran ship outfitted with the device* is now *allowed* to return home.

Leccore has taken the identity of the oracle page Paqar Taxmapu. To inflict maximum damage on the Tiuphores, Leccore would have to assume the identity of Accoshai. However, the Caradocc cannot be accessed. That's why Leccore deals with the Catiuphat. During the sojourns in the Sextadim Banner, Leccore learns that one of the tasks of the ship's oracle is to look after those consciousnesses that cannot or will not integrate into the spirit collective. These UBSEF constants are located in the outermost layer of the Catiuphat, which is referred to as the "nursery".

On Leccore/Taxmapu's advice, *it is* ensured that Accoshai cannot fly alone into the Helitas system as planned to make a pact with the Tefroders against the other Milky Way peoples, but must allow *some Starworks to accompany them*. *Leccore accompanies* Accoshai to a meeting with Vetris-Molaud. The Tefroders are assured that they will be spared if they remain neutral in the upcoming Banner Campaign and hand over the statue of Zeno Kortin to the Tiuphores for the purpose of transferring the Master of the Island's consciousness to the Catiuphat. Otherwise they are threatened with the destruction of their home world.

Leccore approaches a Tefroder, and at a favorable opportunity, *he* attacks the man and creates a template *to assume his form*. Leccore infiltrates the Glass Island (*the New Tamanium secret service*) and learns that the Tiuphores are using Vetris-Molaud's daughter Saliana as additional leverage.

In the time that follows, Leccore repeatedly changes identities in order to gain new insights on Tefor and to explore the Catiuphat, with which he is completely fascinated, in more detail. In the second torus (*Torus 2*), he discovers a kind of void or cavity that should not actually exist. This area becomes his refuge. Leccore feels protected there and can recover. Leccore tries in vain to penetrate the inner layers of the Catiuphat, *but* the *consolers* in *Torus 2* deny him access. Leccore only learns that *Torus 3* is for the ancestors and that the fourth is known as "the shimmer". He also receives information about a high-ranking Tiuphor named Dekknotay, who is in control of the Tamaghat (*the Tamanium central government building*). Dekknotay has been on Tefor since before Accoshai's arrival. Leccore seeks out Dekknotay under a pretext in order to take him over. Dekknotay's memories are particularly explosive : there are Indoctrinators in the Tamaghat, and Vetriss-Molaud is to be forced to hand over *the powerful mutant* Assan-Assoul to the Tiuphores.

Now Leccore knows what he has to do to thwart the Tiuphores's plans. Leccore seeks out Assan-Assoul. The mutant is to help him free Saliana. In this way, Vetriss-Molaud is to regain his ability to act. Assan-Assoul is willing to cooperate. Leccore has already learned that Assan-Assoul is a Para-Dysfactor, *which means he* could take away someone's senses, cause spaceships to explode or even cause a moon to crash. Leccore *gets* an experimental box with passive Indoctrinators on which Assan-Assoul can test his powers. A little later, Accoshai announces that the invasion of the Sol system is about to take place. Accoshai assumes that the perforation passage hurtling towards Sol can be used to bring the remaining fleet waiting in the past into the present.

Once Assan-Assoul is confident in his ability to *deactivate* Indoctrinators, Vetriss-Molaud *is* inaugurated *into the plan*. Since Zeno Kortin approves of the plan, Vetriss-Molaud plays along. *In late 1518* NGE, shortly after Accoshai has finally sealed the alliance with the Tefroders, Leccore and Assan-Assoul strike. The mutant uses his superior powers to destroy numerous Indoctrinator-infested technoscorpions and robots in *the* Tamaghat, as well as the Indoctrinators themselves. Saliana can be brought to safety.

Vetriss-Molaud prepares to rally the Tefrodian fleet to fight alongside the Terrans against the Tiuphores. His destination is the Sol system.

In the Synchrony

While Atlan and Julian Tiffleur are driven across the Lake of Fauthen by Glossberg in the Jena Lands, they talk about cosmic questions. Atlan learns a lot about the beginning and end of the universe as well as about Thez and his career. Among other things, Thez has salvaged a machine for distilling [vital energy] from a crashed [Chaos Tender]. The lake of the Fauthen consists of the vital liquor produced with this machine.

Thez and the Jena Lands form an inseparable unit. When asked about the attitude of the superintelligence IT towards Thez, Tiffleur suggests that there could be some kind of agreement between the two. Tiffleur also admits that he could order the Atopian Tribunal to withdraw from the Milky Way, but he is loyal to Thez and convinced that his actions are correct.

Atlan realizes that no help can be expected from Tiffleur. *He* has become too far removed from his peers in the past millions of years. Atlan will have to talk to Thez himself, but Thez is unlikely to be interested in leaving the Milky Way to its own devices and thus not only conjuring up the World Fire, but possibly even undoing his own creation. So there is only one solution for Atlan : according to *the* Fauthen Glossberg, Thez has mastered the art of *Dys-chronic Shearing*, preserving the universe in which he and the Jena Lands exist, and at the same time *creating* one that is developing in a different way. For the conversation with Thez, which takes place in the center of the lake from where Atlan can see all of time, the Arkonide must travel on without Tiffleur's company.

In the Jena Lands, Atlan and Thez debate the sense and nonsense of the Atopian Tribunal's actions in the Milky Way. Thez sees himself as the keeper of what is. Atlan describes this as the suppression of freedom and the dignity of the individual. To demonstrate that he would rather die than live without freedom, Atlan cuts out his cell activator and destroys it. Thez is now prepared to compromise. [The Dys-chronic Shearing is permitted, so that there will be two universes - one with the Atopian Tribunal, Taranian and Thez, and one without.](#)

There is a catch. IT, as Atlan only now learns, is an integral part of Thez. In a universe without Thez, the Eiris of the superintelligence cannot exist, it will flow off to the "other side" of the Dys-chronic Shear. A sphere measuring 100 million light years around the Milky Way is affected by this effect. The Galactics will therefore have to manage without the support of their old mentor in future, and other superintelligences may also be at risk. Atlan receives a new cell activator. The device consists of a technomorph (the name given to incredibly powerful pebble-sized micromachines that can simulate UBSEF constants) that encloses a drop of vital fluid and fuses with Atlan's body. Atlan is to leave the Jena Lands with an Atopian probe.

The Milky Way in the present

Matan Addaru believes that something can only be achieved for *the Milky Way* from the Jena Lands. But the Atopian is unable to penetrate the Synchrony through the Atopian Conductor of the *Arkon/Baag* system with the 233-COLPCOR, which has recently been piloted by YLA. Matan Addaru's search for the missing polyport system has so far been unsuccessful. Only the cooperation between Galactics and Onryons - including in the *Arkon/Baag* system, which has become a haven for Onryons fleeing the Tiuphore threat - is a development that the Atopian notes with satisfaction. In order to save the Sol system and still learn more about the causes of the World Fire, Matan Addaru decides to tear TAFALLAS' *psi*-corpse out of Sol and ignite an Atopian beacon(?) at the beginning of 1519 NGE.

The evacuation of the Sol system is completed. Perry Rhodan meets with Cai Cheung, Hekéner Sharoun (*First Resident of the LFG*), *chronotheoretician* Aichatou Zakara and *Atorian scientist* Sichu Dorksteiger at the Solar House. There is good news - the *transform cannon* can fire a projectile into the middle of a Sextadim banner even without a Dakkar span and has been installed in five JUPITER-class ships, *and* the plans have been made available to the allies. But it is countered by far too much terrible news. [The peoples of the Milky Way have lost hundreds of thousands of starships and numerous shipyards to the Indoctrinators.](#) 20,000 Starworks have already been deployed outside the Sol system protected by the TERRANOVA shield, and the number is growing all the time. 113,100 units of Terrans, Arkonides, Posbis and Haluters are to defend the Sol system. Less than half of them are equipped with the ParaFract. Perry Rhodan has been appointed supreme commander.

Matan Addaru comes forward, requests entry to the Sol system and explains his plan. Removing the superintelligence *psi*-corpse would save the Sol system, and the Atopian Tribunal might even try to close the time rift. Should the Principal Fractors go into exile voluntarily, there would be no further punishment. Since Matan Addaru doesn't seem to be entirely sure of himself, Rhodan allows the Atopian to cross the TERRANOVA screen - as long as he manages to render the perforation passage and the Tiuphores harmless first.

Matan Addaru is not so easily dissuaded. Unstoppably and in a manner incomprehensible even to Gholdorodyn, the 233-COLPCOR penetrates the TERRANOVA screen. Even Quella Feofee, who is in control of the *computer* of the Onryon ZAATRO operating near Sol, cannot prevent the superintelligence *psi*-corpse from being extracted. At the same moment, a five- and six-dimensional shockwave races through the solar system. [All hypertechnology fails, the Terran BACKDOOR transmitter system \(from the TERRANOVA cycle\) ceases to](#)

operate and the TERRANOVA screen collapses. The Atopian ship drags TAFALLA's *psi*-corpse behind it *which* appears to be destroyed several times, only to be resurrected in a different form. The humans suffer terrible pain and become temporarily unconscious. However, the Starworks are also affected; the Tiuphores therefore do not attack.

Then an altered, no longer fragmented-looking YLA from the 236-COLPCOR reports in. The ship has merged with the superintelligence's *psi*-corpse and asks to be let go. Rhodan realizes that the ship is weakened. He could seize the opportunity and give the order to attack, but decides against it.

It will be twelve hours before the TERRANOVA screen is operational again. Cai Cheung is therefore prepared to leave the Sol system to the Tiuphores, but Rhodan wants *to make* the decision - the aggressors are to be stopped here and now. The next bad news follows : *the perforation passage has picked up speed and will reach the Sol system the very next day.*

The present-day Tiuphores observe the chaotic events in the Sol system with fascination. They discover that the dead entity extracted from Sol has been revitalized. Paddkavu Yolloc is determined to integrate this "superintelligence embryo" into the Catiuphat. He is certain that his SHEZZERKUD is in this place for this very reason - and he believes that there is no starship in the galaxy that could resist it.

The situation in the Sol system is critical. The modified COLPCOR, connected to TAFALLA's *psi*-corpse, is drifting near Sol, unable to maneuver, and attracts the perforation passage like a magnet. *Then* the Tiuphores attack. The Starworks send their Starjumpers ahead as the first wave of attack. A space battle ensues with heavy losses for both sides, the particular tragedy of which is that countless ships from various indoctrinated galactic races are fighting on the Tiuphore's side. So friends have to shoot at friends.

Perry Rhodan, commander-in-chief of the defense fleet, uses every recognizable advantage. It turns out that Onryonian linear space torpedoes can be used against the Starworks. If a torpedo detonates at the moment of a transition near a Starwork in linear space, the ship is thrown back into normal space - without *its* hyperstence *protection*. Rhodan coordinates with *the Atopian commander* Shekval Genneryc, whose fleet joins the defenders. Many Starworks fall victim to the linear space torpedoes.

In addition, the various deceptive maneuvers pay off. The Tiuphores believe that LAOTSE is in the grip of the Indoctrinators and that the Galactics have no effective defense against the nanomachines. They lose 19,000 starships - a third of the attack fleet - who pretend to be helpless and deactivate the hyperstence in order to lure the Terrans into a trap. Rhodan turns the tables, sacrifices several unmanned space forts and destroys the Starworks. 50,000 Tefrodian battleships have arrived. For once, Tefroders and Terrans are fighting side by side. Vetriss-Molaud's task is to protect the COLPCOR, which the Tiuphores are obviously targeting in particular.

The battle in the Sol system reaches its climax when Caradocc Accoshai reports to Rhodan and demands surrender. Rhodan responds by destroying several Starworks with the new Pathfinder system, which is used to fire on the Sextadim banners from ships in hyperstence. Accoshai is unimpressed, but then the XOINATIU explodes. In a suicide mission ordered by Vetriss-Molaud, 1000 Tefrodian ships sacrificed themselves to eliminate the enemy supreme commander.

In this situation, the present-day Tiuphore Paddkavu Yolloc issues the call to rally. He announces that the Banner Campaign is over, the Redemption is nearing completion and the journey of all Tiuphores continues to Orpleyd. Rhodan radios the SHEZZERKUD and receives a reply. *Yolloc confirms that the Tiuphores will disappear from the Milky Way forever* - but not without TAFALLAS *psi*-corpse. Yolloc demonstrates his

strength by shooting the RAS TSCHUBAI almost to *destruction* without any problems. Then he makes another demand. He wants Rhodan's UBSEF constant in the sextadim banner of his star craft. Rhodan agrees. He is accompanied to the SHEZZERKUD by Pey-Ceyan. Pucky teleports behind the SHEZZERKUD after the deed is done and [has no doubt about Rhodan's physical death](#).

Yolloc has less success with the COLPCOR because the Atopian ship fights back. At the same time, the perforation passage is approaching inexorably. Sol threatens to become a red giant within a very short time. Then Julian Tifflor appears. Even the present-day Tiuphores are no match for his MOCKINGBIRD. They leave for good when Rhodan's *second-in-command* Hekéner Sharoun threatens to destroy the Sextadim banners. The MOCKINGBIRD drops off two passengers (Lua Virtanen and Vogel Ziellos) [and pulls the COLPCOR out of the Sol system. The perforation passage follows and is merged with its counterpart, closing the time rift. Sol is out of danger.](#)

A week later, Pucky looks back on the events. The Atopian Tribunal is about to withdraw completely from the Milky Way. [The peoples of the Milky Way are badly battered and are faced with the task of reconstituting themselves after years of Tribunal rule and the devastation wrought by the Tiuphores.](#) It is questionable whether the League of Free Terrans can still survive, especially as the Arkonide colony on New Atlantis continues to grow. LAOTSE has to be rebuilt from scratch and the repair of the RAS TSCHUBAI will take years. Pucky will have to wait that long before he can follow the SHEZZERKUD to rescue Rhodan - if that is even possible. His destination is the galaxy NGC 6861 Orpleyd, 131 million light years away.

Starvault (#2875 to #2899) : 1521-1522 NGE *(2 year gap from the previous cycle)*

Names in this cycle :

Orpleyd – the home galaxy of the Tiuphores

Gyanli – the predominant race in Orpleyd galaxy

Gyan – their home planet

Cohesion – the name of their empire

Operandum – a Gyanli project to create a Matter Sink from their own galaxy

Guard of the Just – a group of Gyani that opposes the standard way of thinking

Mechanical Order – a group of highly skilled engineers, aligned with no other group

Bayytaud – the supreme clan leader of the hidden clan Vtaud

Shydaurd – an Insight Operator(?)

Pantomat – an artificial intelligence created millions of years ago, who evolved into...

Pavvat – a mixture of robot, probe, and artificial intelligence, who evolved into...

KOSH – a superintelligence that wants to become a Matter Sink, and created the...

Pashukan – an artificial race consisting of nanobots, also called the Machinists, consisting of...

Pushaitis, Tellavely, Nunadai – Machinists who do KOSH's bidding

Life Ferry = a ship of the Eonatores(?), used by Pushaitis

Lightflag system – the original homeworld system of the Tiuphores

Advocate – a spirit inside the Catiuphat

SHEZZERKUD – a ship of the present-day Tiuphores

CADABB – a Chaotarch

Paddkavu Yolloc – a present-day Tiuphore who became the Tiuphore's fleet commander
Gelcui – a consciousness in the Catiuphat who perfected the transfer technique
Goath – the control world for the creation of the Matter Sink
Trallyom system – the home system of the Gyanli, where there is a gateway to Kato-space

Perry Rhodan alone in Orpleyd

More than two years after the battle in the Sol system, the Tiuphore fleet arrives in the galaxy of Orpleyd, 131 million light years from Earth in *early 1521 NGE*. It could be the original home of the Tiuphores. *Their older starships cannot overcome the enormous distance to Orpleyd under their own power. As many of them as possible are being converted so that they can use the Sextadim half-space corridor* laid by the SHEZZERKUD for the journey to the Milky Way and kept open at great energy expense.

On board the SHEZZERKUD, the bodies of Perry Rhodan and the Laren Pey-Ceyan are frozen, their UBSEF constants are in the Catiuphat in an alien environment. Fortunately for them, Attilar Leccore, TLD chief and shape-shifter, is aboard the starship CIPPACOTNAL in the *form* of the oracle page Taxmapu.

Only in the CIPPACOTNAL could Leccore prepare *their bodies* for the return of the UBSEF constants. In Taxmapu's form, he *is* allowed approach the corpses. This allows Leccore to make a template of Rhodan. He recreates the Terran's brain in the body of the oracle page. With Leccore's help, Rhodan's spirit can take possession of the brain, while Leccore withdraws except for a small remnant. *Thus Rhodan can become active in Taxmapu's form and equipped with the abilities of a Koda Aratian.*

Rhodan's and Pey-Ceyan's *consciousnesses* lure Urccale, the oracle of the CIPPACOTNAL, into the Catiuphat by behaving like madmen. When Rhodan "touches" Urccale, an unexpected interaction occurs : the Catiuphat reacts to Rhodan's otherness. A rift opens up that reaches down into Torus 5. Urccale is swallowed up, never to be seen again.

Rhodan alias Taxmapu leaves the Catiuphat, meets with his Caradocc (*ship commander*) and reports Urccale's "accident". He is appointed the new Oracle and is allowed to *go* to the SHEZZERKUD.

Rhodan learns that the Dakkar span can be used like a fictiv transmitter. *He jumps to the lab holding their bodies, recovers them, takes them to CIPPACOTNAL, and makes it look like a Tiuphore destroyed them.* The bodies are restored, but this takes a long time. In *1522 NGE*, Leccore informs his *friends* that the Starworks in *other galaxies* have already entered the Sextadim half-space corridor. Tiuphores do not regard the journey to Orpleyd as a homecoming. Rather, they intend to destroy and "bury" the galaxy. According to Leccore, it is not just a desire for destruction that is behind this plan. To find out more, Rhodan wants to penetrate Torus 5.

As the oracle, Leccore takes on an apprentice names Cuttra Yass, and tasks him with learning how to remove consciousnesses from the Catiuphat, telling him that it is in danger. In the Catiuphat, Rhodan *meets a spirit who recognizes the remnants of his Knight aura and takes him to Torus 5. There he travels into the deep past of the Tiuphores : on their home planet Tiu, the Tiuphores are brutally oppressed by the Gyanli, amphibious beings who are the undisputed rulers of Orpleyd. The only way out is said to be the transition to the Phat, which is possible after the death of a Tiuphore.*

Mysterious things are going on with Orpleyd : the galaxy is not where it should be. The passage of time in the galaxy must have stopped millions of years ago. The Gyanli *empire* is called Cohesion, and the mysterious Operandum exists alongside it.

Even when his body is fully restored, Rhodan remains in the Catiuphat to learn more about the history of the Tiuphores, *while Leccore acquires a ship for their eventual escape. In the past*, the Pavvat, a mixture of robot, probe and artificial intelligence, has shown the *Tiuphores* the Tiu *hypercrystals*, which they succeed in *using* to cross over into the Phat (later called Catiuphat) for the first time. **However, the Tiu crystals also change the mentality of the Tiuphores and turn them into the cruel beings they are today.** In addition, someone has built the first Starwork for the Tiuphores, with which they can flee from their homeland. Rhodan wants to go to *the Tiuphore homeworld Tiu* to search for the Pavvat. Leccore has brought a large space yacht into his possession *after* some intrigue. Rhodan and Pey-Ceyan return to their now intact bodies, and everyone flees on the yacht, which is christened ODYSSEUS.

After only three days, the ODYSSEUS's propulsion system fails and cannot be repaired with on-board resources. Fortunately, they are found by a Baconbal ship (more precisely : their only ship) and brought to Baconbal. However, Baconbal has been discovered by the Gyanli and is being brought under their control. *A Gyanli attacks the Galactics and before he dies, Leccore makes a template of him, gaining his knowledge.* The Gyanli have also captured a member of the mysterious Mechanical Order, a Wuutuloxu named Duxaluk. The team succeeds in freeing the Wuutuloxu. They capture a Gyanli dinghy. The mechanic Duxaluk improves the dinghy so that it can tow the ODYSSEUS.

Duxaluk tows the ODYSSEUS into the Safaanus system, which consists of a black hole and the debris of planets, just like tens of thousands of systems in Orpleyd. Rhodan is invited to a huge station of the Mechanical Order and has an audience with Xirtaaluk, the head of the Order. At the same time, the ODYSSEUS is being repaired and upgraded with vastly improved shielding, tracking protection, engines and a new on-board computer, but loses all offensive weaponry *and its ability to go into hyperstence.*

Xirtaluuk wants to procure Neurokrill, which is in the Gyanli's fluid. ***This symbiote is used to increase the Gyanli's intelligence, but also their aggressiveness.*** This is to be used to develop a weapon against the Gyanli. The ODYSSEUS serves as a decoy to lure and capture a Gyanli ship. The plan works too well. An entire Gyanli fleet appears, and only five Wuutuloxu in possession of a small sample of Neurokrill are able to escape with the ODYSSEUS. The ODYSSEUS begins its flight to the Lightflag system.

In the Lightflag system, the Gyanli are destroying the entire Tiuphore fleet from Tiu and preparing the ships so that they will crash on Tiu in the coming months. Rhodan learns that the Gyanli war operator Yeemburc is in the system on his flagship. With the help of the Dakkar span, Rhodan and Leccore get onto the ship with the plan to kidnap Yeemburc.

This is not successful, but Rhodan finds important information : he *takes* a bath in the *Gyanli* fluid to procure more Neurokrill, but in doing so he comes into contact with the dormant superintelligence KOSH DAS LOT, ***which wants to transform itself into a Matter Sink, which would destroy the entire galaxy.*** *In the process of recovering the Dakkar span*, they also encounter Klavtaud, a completely alien being in the mask of a Gyanli. Leccore's attempt to create a template of Klavtaud goes completely wrong. But Rhodan is able to coax information out of the stricken *being* : Klavtaud is actually called Pushaitis, and there are also Tellavely and Nunadai – *they are machinists of the Pavvat.* The Operandum project (*turning KOSH into a Matter Sink*) is nearing completion, and this requires the spirit components that the Tiuphores have been collecting for millions of years. *A being named CADABB* also has something to do with it.

Rhodan and Leccore are able to escape to the ODYSSEUS with the information they have gathered and the Neurokrill. The Neurokrill *has been* manipulated and emits impulses that can be located – *but the* Wuutuloxu *can shield them*.

Rhodan, Leccore, Pey-Ceyan and some Wuutuloxu land on Tiu to investigate. But Pushaitis is on their trail. A battle ensues and Pushaitis and Leccore clash. Leccore is hopelessly outmatched mentally, and almost all his templates are destroyed. The group around Rhodan just manages to escape with the realization that Pushaitis is an artificial being – *its thoughts are created by a 6D computer*. Two days later they observe the RAS TSCHUBAI.

The flight of the RAS TSCHUBAI to Orpleyd

Almost a year has passed since Perry Rhodan's supposed death. Normality has returned to the Sol system. The Atopian Tribunal has largely withdrawn from the Milky Way and the Tiuphore threat has been averted. Pucky is firmly convinced that *Rhodan* is still alive, because the spiral galaxy that is always *seen when* a cell activator carrier *dies has not been seen yet*.

A rescue mission for Rhodan is being prepared, but the RAS TSCHUBAI, the only spaceship *able to make* the journey to Orpleyd, was badly damaged in the battle for the Sol system. On Earth, the RAS TSCHUBAI is being repaired, and the tt-progenitors in Lua Virtanen's hair are extremely helpful. She also succeeds in waking up ANANSI. *In early 1522*, the RAS TSCHUBAI *leaves to fly* to Orpleyd to search for Rhodan. Orpleyd is reached *in mid 1522*, about the same time as the Tiuphores. Aichatou Zakara discovers that the cosmic *movement* and rotation of the galaxy have apparently been slowed down - "iced". Indeterminable hyperphysical conditions prevail in the dark dust *cloud* belts of Orpleyd. According to intercepted hyper-radio messages, members of various races are fleeing from a terrible threat. There is no mention of Tiuphores, however, but of the Cohesion and the Gyanli. They witness the Gyanli destroy a harmless spaceship, *but not before three of its crew are rescued*.

In the space-jet HARVEY, Lua Virtanen demonstrates to the rescued crew that she can navigate their dust belt refuge, which holds many peoples fleeing from the Gyanli. They take some Galactics there and find the "aggregate", a collection of ships and rocks in the shape of a cross with a sphere at its center, housing many different races that live together peacefully, including some native Tiuphores. Gucky learns from some scientists that Orpleyd has been *temporally "iced over"* for 20 million years. Within the galaxy, only two thousand years have passed since the redemption of the Tiuphores. But the Galactics need not fear that they have already lost centuries during their subjectively short stay in Orpleyd : sometimes the passage of time is synchronized with that of the rest of the universe, and such a phase is currently prevailing. Pedcos and his people do not know the cause. The scientists suspect that it has something to do with the Operandum, a major Gyanli project.

Pucky finally wants to know what is really going on in Orpleyd and why Pedcos is always beating around the bush. The hosts then take Gucky, Farye and Aichatou to a specially secured laboratory. There, the resisters are experimenting with captured Gyanli, to convert the fluid on which the Gyanli depend into a bioweapon. Gucky thinks he knows what their goal is : the extermination of an entire people. *Then it is discovered that there are Gyanli on the aggregate*.

Although all the Gyanli are captured, the coordinates of the aggregate have been passed on. The HARVEY leaves the dust belt with this knowledge. The SAMY GOLDSTEIN, which they *were* to meet, has meanwhile been discovered by Gyanli and escaped, *having to leave the rendezvous point*.

The RAS TSCHUBAI first helps the SAMY GOLDSTEIN, then penetrates the dust belt. The aggregate is dismantled and the individual ships are ordered to fly to a safe place. The Gyanli soon attack and there are heavy battles with the RAS TSCHUBAI. The largest part of the *aggregate* is able to escape and reassembles at another location. Then the RAS TSCHUBAI flies off to Tiu, whose coordinates they have learned.

Perry Rhodan back on the RAS TSCHUBAI

In *Tiu's* system, the RAS TSCHUBAI intervenes in the Gyanli attack in favor of the Tiuphores. The Terrans board a wrecked Gyanli starship and take several prisoners aboard the RAS TSCHUBAI. *But the hangar holding the prisoners* is torn apart by a huge explosion triggered by a tiny black hole. Further explosions occur, the RAS TSCHUBAI's protective shields fail for a short time, and hundreds of Gyanli with combat robots arrive on board, gradually conquering the RAS TSCHUBAI. Onodaurd, the Gyanli leader, threatens to take control of ANANSI while 30 Gyanli warships attack. ANANSI is put into vacuum sleep by her handlers, but Onodaurd takes control of the ship, kills ANANSI's handlers and commander Sergio Kalkulkan, and almost completely destroys Jawna Togoya. Gucky falls into a trap; his fate remains uncertain. But there is still resistance on board and Rhodan flies with the cloaked ODYSSEUS to the RAS TSCHUBAI.

Rhodan, Leccore, Pey-Ceyan and some Wuutuloxu enter the RAS TSCHUBAI and make contact with the resistance. There are several battles and Farye Sepheroa and 30 other crew members are abducted to a LifeFerry that has docked with the RAS TSCHUBAI. There are two decisive successes: all *Gyanli* battle robots can be eliminated by Dorksteiger and Gholdorodyn and the RAS TSCHUBAI is brought into faster-than-light flight by ANANSI and can evade the Gyanli *ships*. But there are still thousands of Gyanli on board and Onodaurd has occupied the control center.

The Terrans recapture the RAS TSCHUBAI piece by piece, as the Gyanli no longer have any robots and are suffering from a lack of fluid. Gholodordyn finds a way to penetrate the paratron-shielded control center *by combining his crane with Rhodan's Dakkar span*. Among the Gyanli there is a four-man resistance group, the Guard of the Righteous. Two are killed by their fellow Gyanli; one is abducted to the control center via a transmitter. However, he is brought back by Gholdorodyn. When the control center is *breached*, all the Gyanli are found murdered. Onodaurd, in reality *the* Pashukan Pushaitis, has escaped in the mask of the resistance fighter. There is another fight between him and the largely repaired Jawna Togoya. He escapes, but loses some of his parts. By threatening to use more black holes, he extorts his withdrawal to his LifeFerry, along with several hostages, presumably including Gucky. But at least the RAS TSCHUBAI is free again and Perry Rhodan is back in command. *His new goal is Gyan, homeworld of the Gylani.*

Gucky experiences some strange adventures in a structure that resembles a huge vaulted cellar. He meets the 30 hostages, but they are behind a protective shield. He has a conversation with a Pashukan called Tellavely, also known as "the Liar". He learns about the superintelligence KOSH, which wants to evolve into a Matter Sink and has been *hiding from* someone called CADABB for millions of years. Gucky steals the Trypatresor, a data storage device with an embedded black hole, from Tellavely. *Pucky learns that here is a gateway known as the Trypator, which connects Kato-space(?) to the home system of the Gyanli. Kato-space is a space "below" the other space-time dimensions, but it has nothing in common with the [Deep].* Unable to help the hostages, Gucky escapes using pain teleportation and arrives in the RAS TSCHUBAI. This leads to the explosion of the last *microscopic* black holes.

The story of KOSH

The history of KOSH is revealed through a memory crystal stolen by Gucky.

Millions of years ago, a group of five peoples in the galaxy of Doushavvat tried to create the perfect artificial intelligence, the Pantomat. The researcher Gelcui succeeds in storing the consciousness of a small animal on a crystal. The technology is perfected with the Cui crystals he invented. The legendary scientist Katona finds the Kato-space, but is unable to penetrate it. Only Gelcui succeeds in doing so by storing his consciousness on a Cui crystal. The Pantomat is then created from a number of machines, which summons other machines from all parts of the galaxy and becomes the Pavvat. The Pavvat is influenced by the Oracle, which is actually Gelcui, who has remained in the Kato-space. But the Pavvat is also influenced by the feelings, happiness and fear, which the inhabitants of the galaxy have stored on Cui crystals for a long time. Pavvat becomes KOSH, and KOSH begins to destroy the inhabitants of the galaxy in order to free them and himself from fear. He creates nine Pakushan, which use black holes to wipe out life in the galaxy. This attracts the attention of the High Powers, especially the Chaotarch CADABB. CADABB attacks KOSH to bring him under his control, but KOSH manages to escape. At a huge distance from Doushavvat, he takes control of the Tiuphore planet Tiu. CADABB attacks again, using a Pakushan under his control. Tellavelly saves the day. Three surviving Pakushan with a badly damaged Pavvat flee, together with the planet Tiu. In the next galaxy, the Gyanli become their auxiliary race, and the Pakushan pursue conversion to a Matter Sink.

The RAS TSCHUBAI's next destination is the *home system of the Gyanli*, where there is a gateway to Kato-space.

Finale

Captured by the Gyanli, Farye Sepheroa finds herself in a room *with* a two-meter-long creature that looks like a collection of partly transparent veils. The creature is an Eonator, who describes itself as a Course Thinker of the LifeFerry, *and* is friendly and willing to provide information. Farye has been taken from the Kato-space to the *Eonator's LifeFerry*. The other abductees are still in the prison of the Machinists.

Farye feels a mental presence in her head. This, the Eonator explains, is the Neuronium, the ship's brain. All Course Thinkers are telepathically connected to the Neuronium. There is also a connection between the *LifeFerry* and the Kato-space. The ship's brain would like to "adopt" Farye, because it has recognized that Farye is something special. Her integration into the mental network of the ferry would be a great benefit for the Operandum.

The prisoners are transported to Gyan. *There, over the course of time, they realize they have been subtly manipulated and interrogated about the location of the base of a group called the CADABB.*

In late 1522, the RAS TSCHUBAI arrives near the Gyanli home system. Rhodan and a team of Galactics enter the system in a space jet. Pucky cannot locate Farye, but makes telepathic contact with the Neuronium and learns that the rest of the captured crew are on Gyan. Gholdorodyn's crane is used to get there, but is damaged in the process, and cannot be used to return. The Neuronium detects their appearance. The rescuers are captured, but eventually free themselves and the other prisoners.

They discover that Gyan is an artificial world created from protomatter (5D or 6D energy that manifests partly as matter, that can be fully manifested as any kind of matter). Deep inside there is a gigantic machine. Using pain teleportation, Gucky takes Rhodan and Dorksteiger to the area in question, whose central cavern stretches over a couple of hundred miles and seems to consist of a single alien machine. This machine forms and

channels the energies used to generate Gyan. The machine is a product of tryptechnology (*trypa means "hole"*) and works with artificially created black holes.

The crew of a missing space-jet are found, all dead. The victims were abruptly separated from their UBSEF constants, *similar to the Tiuphore banner, but using tryptechnology.* Given that there are black holes all over Orpleyd, this weapon - which is *nicknamed* Reaper - could strike across the galaxy. The Reaper is thought to be used to 'harvest' UBSEF constants of all Orpleyd's inhabitants in order to transform the superintelligence KOSH into a Matter Sink. It is assumed that the machine inside Gyan has something to do with this. The question of where this machine is being remote-controlled from is still unanswered.

The Galactics go on fact-finding missions, and discover : gigantic shipyards are currently being converted to the mass production of engines that are suitable for the Kato room without the knowledge of Gyanli. *There are* thousands of unknown capital ships on the outskirts of Orpleyd. Attilar Leccore learns that on the banished world of Goath, the Vtaud Clan, led by the Cohesion Operator, is a hidden clan whose relationship to the three Linear Operators of Cohesion is unknown. ANANSI evaluates the findings. It considers *Goath* to be the most likely location of those pulling the strings in the background. Few Gyanli really know what the ultimate goal of their people's efforts really is – and that it is imminent!

Rhodan's team tries to infiltrate Goath, but are detected by the Vtaud Clan. They are attacked by "demons", remote-controlled organic robots. Help comes from CADABB's antenna #24,742 which appears and destroys the demons one by one. In this situation, *the clan leader's advisor reveals himself to be* Pashukan Nunadai. *The antenna was* attracted by the impulses of Rhodan's cell activator. *After the fighting is done and the Terrans have to leave,* it remains unclear whether the Reaper's control center is still intact.

ANANSI reports that a large object has been detached from the surface of Goath, *which is the control center.* Ghordorodyn finds out that the control center does not generate the control impulses for the Reaper itself, but only transmits them. The source of the impulses is the Kato-space, so there must be an entrance to the Kato-space within the control center.

Cirhitin wants to attend a meeting of the Guard of the Just (*a Gyanli opposition group*) next day. Rhodan is allowed to come. A good 70 guards gather, including Saggus, the head of the Guard. Rhodan passes on all the information he has collected about KOSH, CADABB and the upcoming end of all life in Orpleyd. Rhodan already has a plan : the Reaper is to be converted to send a mental message to every single intelligent being living in Orpleyd.

Meanwhile, on the RAS TSHUBAI, the Insight Operator(?) Shydaurd arrives. He wants to have an important conversation with *Rhodan.*

The message about the truth of the Pashukan is received by everyone but those in the dust belt, and Bayvtaud (the leader of the Vtaud clan) uses the Reaper to refute the first message, calling it CADABB's lie, and promises paradise. *On the way to meeting Shydaurd, Rhodan intercepts a hyperradio message to the Tiuphore fleet waiting at the edge of the galaxy.* It states that the Pavvat has been resurrected and that the consciousnesses collected in the Sextadim banners are needed. The fleet is ordered to fly to the Lightflag system. Rhodan sends a cruiser to the SHEZZERKUD to bring the Tiuphores and Gyanli to the negotiating table. Shydaurd agrees, although he considers the Tiuphores dangerous. He doubts the mission of his people.

Tiuphores from many parts of the universe have answered the call to gather and, like the fleet from the past, are now flying into the galaxy of Orpleyd to *empty* their sextadim banners in the Lightflag system. The deeper

meaning of their banner campaigns was previously unknown to them, but they received the second Reaper message, *and not the first one*. They learn of the existence of the Gyanli and the Chaotarch CADABB, and of a paradise whose emergence is supposedly imminent.

Attilar Leccore convinces two present-day Tiuphores of the truth about what is going on and they do not like the idea of having been instrumentalized by unknown forces, and decide to attend the conference.

Gyanli and Tiuphores eye each other suspiciously. The latter are well aware of the role that the Gyanli have played and continue to play in the oppression of their people *in Orpleyd*. The Gyanli, on the other hand, consider the Tiuphores to be inferior. At the beginning of the conference, Bayvtaud comes up with some shocking news. According to his information, the Reaper has already begun preparations for the UBSEF harvest and there is no way to stop this process. The Matter Sink would be created even if the Tiuphores did not release the consciousness they have collected.

The RAS TSCHUBAI is outside Orpleyd. The Reaper is active in the galaxy. Millions of living beings are dying. Perry Rhodan is forced to stand idly by and watch as one solar system after another disappears. It is certain that the formation of the Matter Sink can no longer be prevented. Dorksteiger notices that the *harvesting* of Orpleyd suddenly ends. The suspicion that this has happened prematurely is confirmed when the Pashukan Tellavely contacts the Galactics and requests a personal conversation with Perry Rhodan.

Tellavely needs the help of the Galactics. Nunadai has been so badly damaged that it threatens to perish. This is why the *harvesting* has collapsed. The trypanet will soon tear apart. If this happens, the transformation of KOSH will get out of control. In the best-case scenario, the Matter Sink would still be created, but not in Kato-space, so that the Chaotarch CADABB could access it. An equally likely scenario is the total annihilation of Orpleyd. ANANSI is to replace Nunadai's missing computing power. For this purpose, the semitronics must be interconnected with the on-board computers of several Gyanli spaceships.

Rhodan must try to save at least those creatures who have fled to the dust belt because of his message. He therefore allows Tellavely to board the RAS TSCHUBAI. The Pashukan claims that KOSH will ensure that the dust belt remains intact even after the rest of the galaxy has been transferred to Kato-space, at least for a few millennia. Rhodan also receives a data carrier with precise information on how a Matter Sink is created from a superintelligence. *In late 1522*, the RAS TSCHUBAI reaches the Lightflag system, which, according to Tellavely, is the focal point of the events. The planets no longer exist. Instead, KOSH's hull, reminiscent of the Basantiu-Balotiu(?) ribbons, is in the system. According to the Pashukan, this object absorbs the free consciousnesses. It is the root of the emerging Matter Sink.

Attilar Leccore and Pey-Ceyan have boarded the SHEZZERKUD. The Koda Aratian realizes that he has a very strong affinity for the Sextadim banner of the Starworks and always wants to stay close to it. He realizes that he has practically become a Tiuphore. He considers Orpleyd his home. The SHEZZERKUD joins the Tiuphore fleet assembled in the Lightflag system. All Sextadim banners are to be emptied. Many Tiuphores do not agree with this. They want to keep the banners, otherwise their entire existence would be pointless. Tiuphores are soon shooting at Tiuphores. Leccore tries to mediate. In this situation, Paddkavu Yolloc declares the Koda Aratian commander-in-chief of the fleet. All Caradoccs bow to Leccore's first order and leave Orpleyd.

Tellavely announces that Nunadai's end is imminent and that ANANSI's computing power is insufficient. The trypan spiral(?) had to be stabilized from the Kato-space, but this had not yet been finally sealed. The "keystone" is missing.

Pushaitis summons all the linear operators of the Gyanli cohesion to a final meeting. This is to take place in three days' time in Shydaurd's spaceship DAURD. In view of the chaos prevailing in Orpleyd, the Knowledge Operator plans a suicide attack in which his colleagues and the Pashukan are to be dragged down with him.

During a visit to the Catiuphat, Attilar Leccore and the Oracle Verssidai Happuru have learned from the Advocate (*a spirit inside the Catiuphat*) that an antenna of the Chaotarch CADABB is working its way into ever deeper Toruses. The antenna must be expelled or destroyed before the Catiuphat is transferred to the emerging Matter Sink, otherwise an agent of KOSH's worst enemy would *be able to get in to* Kato-space. Perry Rhodan has himself transferred to the Catiuphat with Gholdorodyn's crane. The Advocate leads Rhodan to the border of Torus 6, where he is picked up by Gelcui and led further into the depths of the Catiuphat. Rhodan learns from *Gelcui* that the deepest Toruses have been connected to the Pavvat since the arrival of the Tiuphore fleet in Orpleyd. The outflow of consciousness stored in the Toruses has been taking place for some time.

Meanwhile, Attilar Leccore, Paddkavu Yolloc and Pey-Ceyan take part in a conference of representatives of the Caradoccs and Oracles in the SHEZZERKUD. After lengthy discussions, the Oracles question the Catiuphat and learn that the consciousnesses *within it* want to enter the Matter Sink. All Tiuphores who wish to can do so. Most oracles choose this path because their life's work is obsolete without the Catiuphat. Leccore becomes the Tomcca-Caradocc (*supreme commander*) of those Tiuphores who do not want to give up their physical existence.

Gelcui leads Rhodan into the interior of Torus 7, where the Terran believes he recognizes the essence of the Catiuphat : to be one with all of creation and to understand its meaning, to exist simultaneously as an individual and as part of the whole. Gelcui calls this a false promise. Rhodan turns away from it so as not to lose himself. He then comes face to face with the antenna. It is located directly at the transition to Pavvat. Only Rhodan, as the bearer of a "primordial lore" (presumably meaning the shadow of his Knight aura), can fight the antenna. KOSH is busy with other things and Gelcui can only vaguely perceive the antenna. Since Rhodan can influence the virtual environment with the power of his mind, he succeeds in destroying the antenna. Before its demise, it taunts him, claiming that a base is hidden in Orpleyd's dust belt and that it will soon have to report back. If she fails to report, the base will inform CADABB. The Chaotarch would then know where KOSH is. After defeating the antenna, Rhodan leaves the Catiuphat. It is now finally pulled into the Matter sink. At Gelcui's request, Rhodan takes a Cui crystal with him, on which Gelcui's consciousness is stored. Gelcui does not want to be absorbed into the Matter Sink.

Tellavelly disappears from the RAS TSCHUBAI, because Shydaurd triggered the self-destruction of the spaceship in which the Linear Operators met with Pushaitis. Sichu Dorksteiger reports that the generator of the Dakkar span has burned out. It was probably overloaded during the manifestation of the Cui Crystal. Gucky reads Gelcui's thoughts and learns from him where the base *with* the antenna is located. Lua Virtanen guides the SHEZZERKUD from the SAMY GOLDSTEIN through the dust belt to the corresponding coordinates. The base is attacked and eventually destroys itself. Rhodan takes part in the attack. [Yolloc sacrifices himself to save Rhodan when he is caught in the crossfire](#). Tellavelly reappears in the RAS TSCHUBAI. Pushaitis is still functional. To complete their plans, the Pashukan now only need Gucky as the "keystone" of the Kato-space. But there is another, much more willing candidate. Gelcui informs them that Gholdorodyn would be just as suitable as Gucky. The Kelosker enthusiastically agrees when he is asked to take Gucky's place. Tellavelly takes Gholdorodyn into the Kato-space.

Leccore declares the Calling Era over. The Era of Watch begins. All 150,000 of the Tiuphore's Starworks now take on the task of guarding Orpleyd's dust belt. Pey-Ceyan remains at Leccore's side. Rhodan hands him the Cui Crystal. Four weeks later, the Galactics prepare to return home.

Genesis (#2900 to #2999) : 1551-1552 NGE (29 year gap from the previous cycle)

Names in this cycle :

Toio – Bell’s wife; psionic

Shinae – Bell’s daughter

Opiter Quint – a TLD agent

Zau – a USO agent mind-jumper, taking over other people’s bodies and accessing memories

Donn Yaradua – a mutant who can manipulate the biochemical processes of a living being

Tamareil – a robot body containing the consciousness of Tamareil, a mind-jumper

Techno-Madhi – a group of Terrans who want Terran rulers to be scientists

FLORENCE LAMAR – Lotho Keraete’s spaceship

Sevcooris – the galaxy the HaLem army was looking towards

Thoogondu – the dominant race in Sevcooris; came from the Milky Way; betrayed IT and now hate IT

Gondunate = Golden Empire – regions and peoples ruled by the Thoogondu

Gondu – title of the current ruler

Narashim – the Gondu of the Golden Empire

Puoshoor – the Ghuogondu (designated successor) of the ruler

Puorengir – Puoshoor’s sister

Moothusach – builder and handler of neurotronic computers

Vanteneu – a race native to Sevcooris that was conquered by the Thoogondu

Sheoshesen – a bird-like race native to Sevcooris that was conquered by the Thoogondu

Gaons – descendants of Terrans living in Sevcooris; hate IT; some want to conquer the Milky Way

Orion Land – the name of the globular cluster the Gaons live in

Second Solar Empire – name of the empire of the Gaons; allied with the Gondunate

Arbo Dannan – the Fleet Admiral of the Gaons

Cassandra Somerset – the Solastrator (solar administrator)

Syllester Ford – previous Solastrator and Cassandra’s mentor

Gi Barr – a Gaonen elite Thoodondu soldier with advanced armor

Doomadh – a Thoogondu “Gondian mentor” of the Gaons

GESHOD – a superintelligence who only “wakes up” sporadically

Sashpanu – GESHOD’s “home” galaxy

Geshodrom – a multi-racial space station located in Dakkar space

Gemoshom – a group of symbiotic races in Sashpanu under GEHSOD’s protection, including :

Menes – humans transported from Terra living in Sashpanu

Fitzgerald Klem – has a Tribar amulet

Cucullates – advisors to the Menes

Gauchen – lizard-like humanoids in conflict with the Menes

Gemeni – a helper race of GESHOD; small, plant-like humanoids

Bhal – title of a Sprout commander (too many to name)

Hunter – Vhor, Shapandh

Scout – Strymer

Sprout Guardian – the person who first touched the Sprout

Temporal Escort – the group (mostly Gemeni) who protect Gemoshom during GESHOD’s absence

Pacic Rhizome – a galactic zone protected by GESHOD; contains at least Sashpanu

Cetus – a dwarf galaxy near the Milky Way; contains silos of proto-Eiris; has a small group of Terrans

Lee – the humanoid dominant race in Cetus

Florence Hornigold – one of about 2000 humans in Cetus; pilots her own ship

Alverdh – a Cucullate

Note : “the Wanderer” refers to IT, while “Wanderer” refers to its disc-shaped “home”

All these factions want to bring “order” to the Milky Way (hates superintelligences; **wants non-organic life**)

In the Milky Way : Sprouts, *Techno-Madhi*, ***Lotho Keraete***; ***Adam von Aures***

In Sevcooris : *Thoogondu*, *Second Solar Empire*

Over 30 years have passed since the [Eiris] *Reversal* and the departure of the Atopian Tribunal from the Milky Way. [Note : *even tho the universe has been split, so that Thez no longer exists here, the split happened at a point in time after the Atopian Tribunal had already invaded, so that did not change. The book summaries make no mention of the effects or consequences of the Eiris Reversal.*] The Milky Way and neighboring galaxies are no longer under the protection of the superintelligence IT. Many galactic states have joined forces in the League of Free Galactics. Under the leadership of Perry Rhodan, the LFG commissioner for the San project, an intergalactic pact to counter cosmic threats, cooperation is being driven forward. Contacts have already been established with peoples in the neighboring galaxy of Andromeda. The operation of the star portals connecting the Milky Way and the galaxy of Larhatoon is supported by funds from the San project. The Laren Kadhonor-Lom is the first ambassador of his people to the LFG. He is welcomed to Terrania in *mid 1551* NGE by the Resident Hekéner Sharoun. Perry Rhodan's old companions Reginald Bell and Icho Tolot are lost in Larhatoon. The explorer OVARON was sent to search for them, but has not reported back for some time.

By chance, a Lemurian station was discovered on Mercury. In an artificially created cave, 12,000 life-size and lifelike statues of soldiers stand in rows, complete with battle dresses, weapons and other equipment. No one knows the purpose of the statues. They are made of shimmering red HaLem metal. This is the Terran archaeologists' term for an alloy of Lemur metal (*a composite, reinforced material*) with tiny PEW-metal inclusions containing an unknown hyperactive component.

As the only available human who has ever had personal contact with the Lemurians, Perry Rhodan is asked to help solve this mystery. He has Farye Sepheroa-Rhodan fly him to Mercury. Farye has undergone military training, is now a lieutenant colonel and commands a battalion of the RAS TSCHUBAI space landing force. Rhodan and Farye take a look at the HaLem army. Suddenly the statues move, and they *are all* looking in the direction of a specific point in space.

Rhodan returns to Terra to attend a reception in honor of Kadhonor-Lom and to ask the ambassador for help in finding the OVARON. Before returning to Mercury, Rhodan visits the new TLD chief Maurits Vingaden. He reports on a visitor who has traveled to Mercury via the BACKDOOR transmitter and disappeared without a trace. The young man traveled under the name Adam von (“*from*”) Aures. Rhodan *recognizes the name* Aures – it is the name of a city on a distant planet with its own consciousness, which once allied itself with Rhodan's son Delorian (*in the Neuroverse cycle*). Vingaden points to another connection. The visitor's name is similar to that of the third Principal Fractor wanted by the Atopian Tribunal, who is to cause *the World Fire* together with Rhodan and the Arkonide Emperor Bostich at some point in the future.

For the second visit to Mercury, the TLD agent Opiter Quint *that is assigned to Rhodan* has an Etrusian heritage. He notices a small object emerging from a cave wall behind the HaLem army and disappearing again. Shortly after one of *these* small “beam” robots has been captured, the machine's "big brothers" appear to destroy it and thus prevent the Terrans from finding out more about its purpose. The *large* robots, which are six feet tall, are heavily armed and cause the Terrans a lot of trouble, but can be destroyed. [*A beam robot is shaped like a tetrahemihexacron – Google it!*]

A little later, Rhodan and Quint can see a blurred patch of light in the sky, in the constellation Centaurus. All other observers see something else : three brightly shining stars in a row. The next day, the beacon can now also be seen on Terra, Mars and Venus. The HaLem soldiers *have been looking* in this direction.

Two suns in the constellation Centaurus are considered to be part of the beacon. Oterma's star, 27,000 light years away from Terra, has gone nova. This should not have happened for several million years. There is no current information on the sun Taltaan, 12,000 light years away from Terra, because *a* station set up to observe *one of the planets* is not reporting in. A pre-astronaut civilization has developed on *one of its planets*, Mandaam, *which does* not have the means to protect themselves from a dying sun. Rhodan launches a rescue mission.

The side of Mandaam facing the sun is reduced to slag, *but* there are survivors on the other side. Major Andris Kantweinen, the new pilot of the RAS TSCHUBAI, is involved in the evacuation measures. He rescues a ten-year-old Manda named Taller from the wreckage. Taller is allowed to stay on board the RAS.

Back on Terra, Rhodan meets with Pucky, *who* is certain that the suggestive influence comes from the HaLem army. They are working on a way to shield the influence. Meanwhile, a Galactic scientist is gathering new information with the help of the largest ever cooperative of galactic observatories, the Deep Dark Eye, *which* finds faint signals in the hyperspectrum that indicate further novas on a continuation of the Sol-Oterma star line. If the line is extended, it points to a galaxy with the catalog number NGC 4622, about which little is known.

Rhodan receives *a* message that the HaLem army has asked for him. As he stands in front of the statues, he is addressed. He is informed that the flight of "the Wanderer" (the superintelligence IT) will arouse the desires of dark and destructive powers. The Exiled People offer him a protective alliance. Rhodan is to follow the beacon into the Golden Empire, because without the help of the Gondunate, the Milky Way cannot survive.

The RAS TSCHUBAI takes off to NGC 4622. Two HaLem statues, secured in a Paratron *cage*, are taken along. *The mutant* Donn Yaradua *is included* on the flight to the Golden Empire.

The RAS TSCHUBAI reaches the galaxy NGC 4622 *in late* [1551](#) after several weeks of hypertransit flight. The *RAS* is hailed almost immediately upon arrival. Apparently the Galactics, namely Perry Rhodan, were expected at this exact location. Saaperid, commander of the pentasphere spaceship VOKOTOO (five spheres of different sizes arranged in a row, 4.5 miles long), reports to the Galactics and welcomes them to *the galaxy* Sevcooris. For Saaperid's people, the Thoogondu, Rhodan is of great importance as one of those responsible for Wanderer's escape, because IT is an old enemy of this people.

The Galactics are to be given a grand reception on Thooalon, the planet that is the focus of the cosmic beacon(?), *but* is not the main world of the Thoogondu. There Rhodan is to meet Puoshoor, the Ghuogondu (designated successor) of the ruler of the Golden Empire, known as the Gondu.

The Thoogondu are the *dominant* power in the Sevcooris galaxy. According to *them*, they ensure "order and contentment". They have huge fleets and ten Paladian (*administrative*) worlds in heavily secured systems, on which the Gondu holds court in turn. The so-called mentors act as governors in his absence. The Gondunate *has* many thousands of years of history. Thoogondu and other peoples live together peacefully on 80,000 planets, although it remains unclear what status these peoples really have.

Several Galactics are sent out to mingle with the locals. *One person, who has been* implanted with a biopositronic brain prosthesis that enables him to hack the Thoogondu's computer systems discovers that these people use neurotronics, computers in which positronic and neuronal structures made of living tissue are connected in such a way that they resemble living beings rather than machines. *He* captures historical data, which is sifted through by ANANSI. **This reveals that the Thoogondu originally come from the Milky Way.**

A short time later, Puoshoor lands on the planet with the spaceship DAAIDEM. Rhodan is asked to give a public speech at his side. Puoshoor announces that Rhodan's arrival marks the dawn of a new age. The Terran has no intention of allowing himself to be used as a figurehead for plans he doesn't even know about, and is very reserved in his speech. This clearly dampens the euphoria of the masses. When Rhodan asks the Ghuogondu what connection there is between the Thoogondu, the Milky Way and IT, he only says that the Thoogondu are the lost people of the Wanderer. They too were once "looked upon kindly" by him.

Two Galactics are arrested on a charge of murder, which Rhodan refuses to believe, despite another Terran saying she witnessed it. An interrogation with SEMT hoods is inconclusive because the accused can't remember anything. Pucky and Lua Virtanen attempt an unauthorized rescue, but are captured. All four are taken to a space station prison. Farye infiltrates the prison with five others. They learn of an upcoming arena fight with the four prisoners, and turn the fight into a mass brawl among all the prisoners. Farye's team breaks out by using her tt-progenitors. The four Galactic prisoners escape on their own, to make it look like the two groups are unrelated.

Puoshoor contacts Rhodan. He informs him that the Gondu wants to receive the Terrans on the Paladian world of Taqondh - immediately. The RAS TSCHUBAI must therefore leave immediately and cannot wait for the BJO BREISKOLL *with Fayre and the prisoners* to arrive.

Rhodan is allowed to enter Taqondh accompanied by a maximum of three people. After *he* has made his selection, he transfers to Puoshoor's DAAIDEM for the flight. The RAS TSCHUBAI follows the pentasphere spacecraft. A race ensues in which the Terrans are clearly shown that the Thoogondu's transition engines are far more powerful than *the RAS's*. At the edge of the target system, the RAS TSCHUBAI is *repulsed*.

The DAAIDEM lands on Taqondh. The idyllic planet, where *Gondu* Narashim will soon be holding court for the first time in a long time, is not far from the main system of the Bondria Pondh. This race of upright octopods is not part of the Golden Empire. They are merely "advised" by the Gondunate. On the spaceport of the capital, which was built especially for Narashim's flagship POTOOLEM, Rhodan observes an elaborate mosaic glorifying the great deeds of the Gondus. Among other things, a typical Terran spherical starship with a ring bulge and the lettering ORION (*from the Swarm cycle, 2700 years ago*) can be seen.

The Paladin is anchored in *the spaceport*. This cubic section of the POTOOLEM serves as a mobile palace for the Gondu. His throne is a closed cylinder made of transparent turquoise material. During the audience, an attack is made on the Gondu. The throne is destroyed and many of those present die, *but the Gondu on the throne was a double*. Five surviving assassins (three Thoogondu and two Bondria Pondh) are arrested. The Gondu holds court via holoprojection. They are given the choice between a "void showcase" and a "memorial

penance”. All five choose the former. As the Gondu's guest of honor, Rhodan has the right to change the verdict. As he has no idea what is meant by the terms, he initially refrains from doing so, but decides otherwise after witnessing how the two Bondria Pondh were publicly disintegrated. The Thoogondu are thus subjected to the penance of memory. Their memories are manipulated – they are now convinced that they have slaughtered their own families. Rhodan complains about this inhumane treatment. Puoshoor objects that his people have different values *than* the Terrans. Besides, Rhodan *chose* to interfere.

Rhodan finally meets the real Gondu Narashim in the POTOOLEM. The Terran is impressed by the personality of the autocrat. He has to pass when the Gondu brings up the alliance he is seeking between the Golden Empire and the Terrans. Rhodan has no decision-making authority in this regard and needs more information. The Gondu is prepared to literally share his memories with the Terran. This is possible with a device located in the POTOOLEM. Since each Gondu carries the entire memory of all his predecessors, Rhodan can virtually relive how the Thoogondu were expelled from the Milky Way tens of thousands of years ago.

Backstory :

The Thoogondu originally come from the dwarf galaxy Canis-Major, called Cooris by them, 3500 light years below the Milky Way's main plane. After spreading across Cooris, they begin colonizing the Milky Way in the year 33,680 BC. 190 years later, they proclaim the Gondunate there. The Thoogondu's main world *in the Milky Way* is Ausca. They make contact with a superintelligence they call the Wanderer and with a messenger of this entity, who is given the name No Man's Son. Rhodan assumes that this messenger is Homunk. One day, the first Gondu receives a cell shower, then the Wanderer gives him a device known as a [vital energy] accumulator. This device extends the wearer's life by 1240 years and can be passed on to a successor whose life is extended by the same period. For millennia, the Thoogondu have been considered the Wanderer's favored people. Ausca is located in one of the two focal points of the Abode's elliptical orbit. This is what the Thoogondu call the disc-shaped artificial world of the Wanderer. However, several years before the beginning of Rhodan's reliving of *Ghuogondu* Tothoolar's memories, the relationship between the superintelligence and the Thoogondu deteriorates.

In order to break out of his unloved role as a Ghuogondu, Tothoolar lives for several years in a full-body mask among the lizard-like inhabitants of the planet Topside. The Topsiders have reached a Stone Age level of development. In the year 28,461 BC, he has to leave his friends because the Gondu is dead – he died in the Wanderer's lair. As if that were not outrageous enough, the Thoogondu are not allowed to collect the body of their ruler. With his flagship OOTHANT, Tothoolar immediately flies to the Diskworld. No Man's Son claims that the Wanderer is not available to Tothoolar and that the Gondu's death is connected to the search for the second focal point of the Diskworld orbit, thus breaking a taboo. The Wanderer, No Man's Son announces, regrets the rift, but terminates the connection with the Gondunate. The Thoogondu must withdraw completely from the Milky Way and Cooris. This is all No Man's Son has to say. He does not hand over the Gondu's body, but gives Tothoolar the structural formula for a valuable substance called pedgondite as a parting gift.

Filled with rage, Tothoolar orders an attack on the Abode as soon as he has been declared his father's successor. The Thoogondu fleets are routed in the battle for the Abode. The Abode moves itself to an unknown location. A caravan *of spaceships* is to take the Thoogondu to a new home. They want to return one day in the distant future. The Thoogondu erase all traces that could indicate their existence *in the two galaxies*. After years of preparation, the entire tribe sets off. Fifty years later, Tothoolar decides that the memories of the Gondus should be preserved. He is presented with the first item made from pedgondite. It is a throne into which the still-functional accumulator is integrated. This means that every future Gondu is practically tied to the throne. They can be away from the life-prolonging object for a maximum of 62 hours.

In mid 1551 on Terra, a strange “seed” is discovered by a small boy named Yeto that starts to grow. It is stolen, and by the time the Terran administration locates it, it is 100 feet long. It emits hyperradiation that interferes with hypertechnology, so it is physically moved to a spaceport where its final size is 3 miles long and 2 miles wide. The object sends a message in Interkosmo that can be received everywhere in the galaxy. It says that the Gemeni have come in peace and want to establish a protection zone over the former [Sphere of Influence] of the superintelligence IT on behalf of the superintelligence GESHOD. The first Pacic (“conflict-free”) GESHOD Sprout has been planted in the Sol system. The First Resident of the LFG Hekéner Sharoun demands the withdrawal of the Gemeni and informs them that the Terrans do not need any help. Bhal (title) Haddhunis, a vaguely humanoid, apparently part-plant and part-cybernetic being, comes forward. It expresses its displeasure, but agrees to Sharoun's request. The YETO Sprout, as it calls the ship, will not be ready to fly for a few days. Until then, it will be open to the public. The Gemeni have brought gifts. One is intended for the boy who discovered the seed, who is called the Guardian of the Sprout. He is to receive the first of 1000 cell activators.

Terran and Galactic leader meet. The Gemeni's announcement that 1000 cell activators are to be given away triggers a run on the YETO Sprout. Tens of thousands crowd in front of the spaceship and demand admission. The conference participants fear that this is nothing compared to the expected onslaught of people arriving from outside the Sol system. Nevertheless, it is decided that no one should be denied access to the Sprout. The Gemeni ignore all requests to leave Terra.

All cell activator Applicants are warmly welcomed to the Sprout. *The boy who found the seed has a fatal illness, travels to the Sprout, and is given a cell activator, which halts his disease.* Haddhunis announces that initially only 250 cell activators will be distributed so that other Applicants from the galaxy also have a chance.

When there are around 250,000 people in the Sprout, an admission freeze is called. Haddhunis reveals a few new pieces of information. The Sprout YETO comes from the Gemoshom, a culture that is under the protection of the Temporal Escort organization of the superintelligence GESHOD and has its center in the galaxy Sashpanu, 165 million light years away from the Milky Way. YETO is the first Pacic Rhizome (“a continuously growing horizontal underground stem which puts out vertical shoots”). All Applicants may nominate themselves. The decision is up to the Gemeni and the Applicants must agree to accept their decision by means of a contract signed in blood. Those who are rejected must leave the Sprout immediately.

The TLD chief sends a four-man team into the YETO Sprout for espionage purposes. Most of them become lured by the possibility of immortality. The team discovers that there are no technical facilities in the areas of YETO accessible to the Applicants. They fail to find out more about the propulsion systems and other equipment. The Gemeni are reluctant to provide information, stubbornly claiming that the Pacic Rhizome is necessary to protect the Galactics in the Eiris vacuum. Two of the team are present when a rejected Applicant inflicts a serious wound on the ship and is absorbed by the damaged wall, which then grows back together. Eventually, all four agents are awarded cell activators, despite two of them being hostile and self-denigrating. Then they learn that the cell activators are not transferable.

All the data they collected is transmitted to NATHAN. The lunar positronics come to the conclusion that YETO is telekinetically suspended and can probably also teleport. Cai Cheung gives the order to evacuate the Sprout. The Gemeni are given an ultimatum : they are to disappear from the Sol system. After some Applicants have left the Sprout, it seals itself off, lifts off and sets course for Mercury. A few spaceship follow, and fire a few warning shots. YETO teleports to an unknown destination. Almost 200,000 Terrans are still on board.

The TLD agent Opiter Quint has been tasked with finding Adam von Aures, *who might be* the third Principal Fractor responsible for the creation of the World Fire, *and is traveling to Mercury, Adam's destination, and* discovers that Adam had been using *Mercury's* largest media library for weeks under a false name, requesting more material on all sorts of historical figures than any human could have read in that time.

Quint is able to establish that Adam is now in the British Isles and is also using the media libraries there. He seems to be particularly interested in contemporary scholars and Homer G. Adams. Quint visits Adams in his country house and shows him a recording of Adam. Adams recognizes the man immediately. He introduced himself *as* André Marten and addressed him as Ernst Ellert. Quint learns that *Ellert's* body has been back in the Ellert Mausoleum in Terrania since the disappearance of IT. Since this fact is subject to the highest level of secrecy, the question arises as to how Adam could have known about it. When Quint returns to his glider, he is knocked out, drugged and kidnapped *by* Adam. Adam describes himself as Shanda Sarmotte's (*from the Stardust, Neuroverse, and Atopic Tribunal cycles*) child born on Aures, and that Toufec (*from the Stardust cycle*) had been involved in his conception. The Techno-Mahdi seems to be important to him. Adam underestimates Quint, *and his Etruscan strength allows him* to free himself. A fight ensues *in which* Adam's face is badly damaged, *but the skin and bones repair themselves*. Quint cannot prevent Adam from escaping with the glider.

The Ellert mausoleum is secured militarily. On the orders of *the* TLD Director, Quint *goes there*. Ellert's body appeared in the mausoleum *about a month ago*, at the same time as the Umbrian Gong *sounded*. Ellert looks completely unharmed apart from an artificial right forearm. He wears an amulet in the shape of an open triangle on a small chain. Ellert is breathing, but has not yet woken up. When the Gong *sounds* again at this moment, Ellert wakes up. Ellert remembers his death in 1972, but none of the events that followed. An analysis shows that he has no *psionic* capacity. Ellert is taken to the TLD headquarters and examined more closely under the direction of Lording Fok. It turns out that Ellert's UBSEF constant is more intense than that of a normal Terran. It bears the hyper-energetic signature of an [on-quantum]. It is assumed that this Ellert is a counter-causal space-time *object (a potential created by manipulating the past that becomes manifest in the present)* that has manifested itself permanently in *this* reality by means of a [biophore].

The TLD chief, NATHAN and YLA consider Ellert to be a guardian of the legacy of IT. This includes Wanderer, whose current coordinates are known. The artificial world orbits a planet of Vega, *but* it is not accessible. Ellert could be the key. Quint, chronotheoretician Zakara, Ellert and three USO agents set off for Wanderer.

Perry Rhodan now knows the history of the Thoogondu, at least as far as the phase leading up to the exodus from the Milky Way is concerned. But does he really know it? The Terran has certain doubts. He now wants to know what happened to the Thoogondu after their arrival in Sevcooris. According to Narashim, wars raged throughout the galaxy at that time. *These* were ended by the Thoogondu, sometimes with violence, but it was for the good of all peoples. Rhodan is to see for himself what effects the intervention of the Golden Empire had and still has. Puoshoor, who joins his father and Rhodan in the POTOOLEM, suggests the Soprassid people as an illustrative example. *Rhodan and a team go to their system.*

These intelligent beings, only 4 feet tall, partly humanoid, partly arachnoid, were on the brink of self-destruction in a nuclear war a long time ago. The Thoogondu prevented the worst and gave them compositors, low-tech transmitters with a relatively short range that connect several colonial systems with the Sopra system, the main system of the Soprassids. The Soprassids have no faster-than-light starships.

Rhodan learns all this *in late 1551* NGE on board the STAZZ, a Soprassid spaceship that takes him and his team Penelope Assid and Báron Danhuser to the Soprassid main world of Porass. He realizes that the composers have by no means been left to the Soprassids out of pure altruism. Several dozen Soprassids must be paid annually as tribute, *and* these people are never seen again. Rumor has it that they are being used for a Thoogondu genetic project. In addition, the composers are controlled by Thoogondu "advisors". Perhaps this is the reason why Vossflo, the commander of the STAZZ, is not on too good terms with the Thoogondu. Rhodan and his companions visit a memorial where the Soprassids are reminded of the terrible danger from which they have been saved by the Golden Empire by means of pictures and an almost hypnotic audio commentary. *To Rhodan, this story contains too many inconsistencies.*

Rhodan and his team visit a cave system where, according to legend, mutated survivors of the nuclear war live. Near the caves, the group does indeed encounter some disfigured Soprassids. The mutants try to drag the group into the caves. Ossprath, a member of Rhodan's team, is grabbed by a mutant and transported through the rock. Rhodan is unable to help the young man because panic breaks out among the Soprassids : a data attack has occurred during the handover of the nuclear weapon access codes to the heir to the Soprassid throne. Orbital forts have fired nuclear torpedoes at Porass. It is assumed that the Vanteneu are behind this, who were supposedly once a feared scourge of the galaxy. Puoshoor's pentasphere spacecraft shoots down most of the torpedoes, but some will hit. Rhodan and his team bring as many Soprassids as possible to safety in the caves.

In the caverns, he finds himself face to face with Ossprath and his kidnapper. Ossprath explains that the mutant's name is Dussudh and that he is a friend. Dussudh is a semiteleporter : he can pass through solid matter and take a person with him. Dussudh has shown Ossprath something called a Heraldic pellet (*spat out by a bird-like race called Sheoshesen*), which prevents the Thoogondu from discovering the Abyss of the Ancients. This is a place where Ossprath has realized that the Soprassids have been living in a lie *propagated by the Gondunate*. Dussudh takes Rhodan and his team deeper into the cave system.

When Rhodan doesn't report to the Thoodondu after the nuclear attack on the Sopassid homeworld, a small search team is sent, including an elite Gaon soldier named Gi Barr with advanced armor. They eventually find the cave that Rhodan and his team entered, and use a disintegrator gun to bore a tunnel into it.

Meanwhile, Perry Rhodan and his companions have encountered Loloccun, the leader of the mutant rebels. The inner walls of the caverns inhabited by the mutants are covered with a dense network of hair-thin threads of a yellow-green color. This Heraldic (*"a design on a shield"*) mesh contains a psionic component and shields the subterranean realm from all detection. Rhodan's group arrives at a huge cave full of techno-scrap clearly created by the Soprassids, but representing a level of *hyper*-technology no longer achieved by *them*.

For Loloccun, this is proof that the Soprassids were by no means saved from self-destruction by the Thoogondu, but must have ruled over a large star empire that was destroyed by the Thoogondu. He leads the guests to *the Vanteneu Ea-Eaveud*. It is said that the Vanteneu star kingdom was also destroyed by the Thoogondu.

Thoogondu soldiers enter the cavern where Rhodan's people were. A soldier attempting to cross the Heraldic mesh is killed by it. Energy weapons prove to be ineffective. A nuclear warhead is then used, but the mesh releases the energy explosively into the surroundings, so that the effect is greater than planned. But now the way to *the techno-scrap cave* is clear. The Thoogondu capture a Soprassid who *agrees to lead them to Ea-Eaveud*.

The explosion of the nuclear warhead in the Abyss of the Ancients causes great excitement among the Soprassid mutants. Ea-Eaveud knows an escape route – a still-functioning Paratrans transmitter *that is charged with psi*

energy and *can* bridge enormous distances. The AN-ANAVEUD, the Vanteneus' only capital ship, 500 light years away, *can be reached*. *The psi energy would be drained, so that the Thoogondu could not follow.*

The Thoogondu attack the paratransmitter. *They* realize that the Terrans are making common cause with the terrorists. Dussudh activates the transmitter, but at the moment of transmission, Gi Barr plunges into *it as well*.

Everyone arrives in the one-mile diameter AN-ANAVEUD, orbiting a pulsar. Gi Barr starts attacking with the superior weapons in his battle armor, but flees when a spatial distortion occurs. These are hyper-energetic effects caused by fluctuations in the spaceship's *faster-than-light* drive in conjunction with energy emissions from the *nearby* pulsar. The AN-ANAVEUD is the last Vanteneu Galactic Transfer ship. Originally, they had three of these *ships which* were used to bring as many Vanteneus as possible to safety from the Gondunate to another galaxy. *The AN-ANAVEUD failed to enter faster-than-light speed, and has been stuck here ever since.* The *faster-than-light* drive can no longer be switched off, so that interference fronts keep appearing.

It is revealed that the Vanteneu took an interest in the Milky Way thousands of years ago because their greatest enemies, the Thoogondu, came from there. From 22,121 BC to 20,700 BC, the Thoogondu fought against the star empires of the Vanteneu, Ruiyume and Sheoshesen. *In 21,905 BC*, at the height of the conflict, the Galactic Transfer *ships* were traveling in the Milky Way. They had hoped to discover the weak points of the Thoogondu, but had not even found any traces of their presence.

Gi Barr can be located, but he ambushes the pursuers. His mission is to bring Perry Rhodan back to Puoshoor. All the other people are expendable. The Gaon fights hard and consistently (after all, he is dealing with terrorists), but tries to spare the Terran and does not kill without reason. He captures *an Oxtorner from Rhodan's team*, but has not reckoned with *his* enormous physical strength, who even manages to tear off the visor of the battle helmet. The Gaon tries to escape. *The Oxtorner* has seen his opponent's face - *he* is clearly a Terran, and on top of that he has given the armor a command in Interkosmo.

The *Oxtorner* lets Gi Barr *contact Rhodan* via a robot that the Gaon *brought*. The Gaon confirms *Rhodan's* suspicions. He is a soldier of the Second Solar Empire (SSE) with the rank of lieutenant colonel. He serves the Gondu of the Golden Empire on the orders of the Solastrator. The SSE is a Terran empire allied with the Gondunate in Sevcooris. Gi Barr is now to be lured into a trap. To this end, a double deception is staged, which leads to Rhodan seemingly surrendering to the Gaon.

Before the trap is sprung, the two men have a conversation in the course of which Rhodan realizes that there is a connection between the Swarm crisis in the middle of the 35th century AD and the emergence of the SSE. Gi Barr accuses Rhodan of having been corrupted by IT through immortality and of having used the same means to create a cadre of servile henchmen in order to remain in power and serve the superintelligence, which has repeatedly put humanity in danger. For example, the superintelligence failed to warn its auxiliary races about the Swarm. If IT helped humanity, it was only out of self-interest. Rhodan has to admit to himself that *some of* these accusations are not entirely unfounded.

As the Gaon prepares to flee from the AN-ANAVEUD using a transmitter and take Rhodan with him, the Terran and the Oxtorner join forces to overpower the Gaon. Gi Barr is taken to a holding cell. Rhodan pays him a visit because he wants to find out more about the Second Solar Empire. Gi Barr will not reveal any state secrets, but he is prepared to tell Rhodan a story.

Every Gaon child knows how *the SSE* came to be founded. Gi Barr provides hardly any information about the Second Solar Empire itself. Rhodan and Assid only learn that the Neo-Sol system with Gaon, the Empire's main

world, is located in Orion Land, and that a woman named Cassandra Somerset currently holds the office of Solastrator ("*Solar Administrator*").

Gi Barr's story :

The crew members of the Terran ultra-battleship ORION are the ancestors of the Gaons. Trivid series, novels, documentaries and the like keep the memory of their fate alive.

The story begins in 3441 AD (*the Swarm cycle*). More than seven months ago, almost all the crew members of the ORION suddenly lost their minds for unknown reasons. Those affected have become stupefied, follow only their instincts and have wreaked havoc on the ship. Almost all important facilities and the tenders have been destroyed or severely damaged. The people who are still sane have entrenched themselves in the control center and the adjacent areas. As the hyper-radio system has failed, they are unable to make an emergency call and do not know whether only their ship is affected by the phenomenon or whether it is a Milky Way-wide catastrophe. The dumbed-down people can barely feed themselves, so many have simply starved to death. In the meantime, several groups have formed, mostly led by renegade Immunes.

The ORION is drifting towards the sun Curicaberis with *all drive engines destroyed*, where it will soon burn up because the HÜ and paratron screens cannot be activated. In this hopeless situation, some Immunes have committed suicide. *Eventually*, just under fifty Immunes are still alive in the safe central area. *They team up to fix the hyperradio and impulse engine.* They intercept numerous radio transmissions, from which they learn that the entire Milky Way is affected by the dumbing phenomenon, then the radio system finally fails. *An impulse engine is improvised using engines from two partially destroyed corvettes.* Then strangers appear in the ORION and join forces *with the Terrans* to defeat the dumbed-down ones.

The aliens introduce themselves as Thoogondu. *They have* been in the Milky Way for ten years for exploratory purposes. Commander Septhol believes that the superintelligence IT is the cause of all evil. The Thoogondu claim to have found evidence that IT is to blame for the current crisis. Under no circumstances must the superintelligence learn that the Thoogondu have been traveling in the Milky Way. Therefore, the Terrans are to accompany the Thoogondu to their home galaxy of Sevcooris *to start a new life.*

Rhodan finds some of *the story* contradictory and implausible. Gi Barr explains that the descendants of the humans from the ORION have established a star empire in Orion Land that is better organized and stronger in battle than its role model, the Solar Empire. In view of the chaos prevailing in IT's Sphere of Influence, the Gaons have not considered returning to their old homeland in the past 1700 years. But with the disappearance of the Wanderer, things have changed. **Gi Barr believes it will be necessary for the Second Solar Empire to ensure peace and order in the Milky Way.**

The commander of the DAAIDEM, has *good news for the Ghuogondu Puoshoor.* The last *Vanteneu* Galactic Transfer ship, which Perry Rhodan escaped *to* has been located. Preparations are made to board the ship.

Rhodan and his team members are constantly being watched *by* the Vanteneus. They agree that a hyperradio message should be sent to the RAS TSCHUBAI. Then Rhodan wants to search for Homunk, because this servant of the superintelligence IT should know the true history of the Thoogondu. Rhodan proposes to *the Vanteneus* to enlist *Gi Barr* as an ally. In this way, Rhodan claims, information about the Second Solar Empire and the Golden Empire can certainly be obtained.

While the Vanteneus are still thinking about this, the DAAIDEM attacks. Rhodan frees Gi Barr and helps him retrieve his equipment. Meanwhile, Penelope Assid is working on the Soprassid Loloccun *who* knows the *coordinates* of the pulsar. She offers him asylum on the RAS TSCHUBAI.

When the Vanteneus realize that they are on a lost cause, they steer the AN-ANAVEUD closer to the pulsar. They would rather destroy the Galactic Transfer ship than leave it to the Thoogondu. At least Loloccun transmits the coordinates of the pulsar to Rhodan's team, *who send it to the RAS TSCHUBAI*. Three more pentasphere spaceships arrive, *and* take the AN-ANAVEUD in tow. Puoshoor has ordered the boarding parties to bring Rhodan back alive. All others are expendable. The Galactics are surrounded, but *as* some Vanteneus attack, a disturbance front causes confusion and Gi Barr sides with the Galactics to allow them to escape. Suddenly they are confronted by an Ertruser - the RAS TSCHUBAI has arrived! The Galactics, Gi-Barr and the two Soprassids are transferred to the RAS.

Following the Atopian Tribunal's withdrawal from the Milky Way, the situation has returned to normal for most galactic peoples. However, not everyone has been able to return to business as usual. This is especially true for the Arkonides. *Their* expulsion from the Arkon system, their millennia-old ancestral home, has led to major upheavals. Former Emperor Bostich has gone into hiding, Vice Emperor Tormanac da Hozarius has transferred his spirit to the Brass World. Many nobles have fallen in the fight against the Atopian Tribunal or have also fled to the Brass World. The Empire practically no longer exists. Some borderlands have joined the current LFG, others the New Tamanium of the Tefroders. The “crystal baronies” of Girmomar and Tschirmayn have remained independent and have almost completely divided up the star cluster M-13, the Arkonide heartland, among themselves. After heavy internal fighting, stability and a spirit of optimism prevail in 1551 NGE.

In mid-1551, a Gemeni Sprout is discovered in one of the crystal baronies in the Girom system. It has been growing for twelve days. The Arkonides are aware of what is happening on Terra and therefore know what they are facing. *The hereditary Baron Yergeo da Gnotor agrees to an early elimination of the Sprout. Since the bombardment with energy weapons remains ineffective, a vector (nuclear fusion) bomb is detonated underneath the Sprout, over which a paratron shield has been erected. It is hoped that the purely mechanical effect of the bomb can overcome the Hyper-energy Interference Field (which prevents the correct operation of all devices, including antigravity and paratron ones) of the Sprout. An unexpected interaction with the paratron screen causes severe destruction in the city. The Sprout remains undamaged and continues to grow. The population is then informed by the Gemeni that there will be no free access to the Sprout, and the area is sealed off.*

Four days later, Bhal Kharnaim of the Sprout KYLLDIN addresses the Arkonides. He announces the planting of the third Pacic Rhizome in the Girom system and offers the Arkonides rejuvenation through cell showers. After some elite soldiers enter the Sprout, Kharnaim's voice can be heard. He expresses his incomprehension at the hostility of the Arkonides and lets them know that they are unwelcome. After they retreat, the Sprout flies off and takes up position a mile from the city. The Bhal speaks to da Gnotor. The Baron explains the Arkonides' mistrust stems from the events on Terra. Kharnaim claims to know nothing of the deeds of the Sprout YETO. For him, only the people on whose homeworld the Sprout grew are relevant. The Gemeni speaks of the injustice of the superintelligence IT, which has favored the Terrans over the Arkonides. He invites Gnotor to the Sprout.

Bhal Kharnaim's message triggers an onslaught on the Girom system. Within a short time, several tens of thousands of spaceships materialize at the system border. *The spaceship commander Zaroia da Bargk enforces the entry ban. After some rather half-hearted advances, which are easily repulsed, da Bargk receives word that the GOS'TUSSAN II, the flagship of the ex-emperor Bostich I, who has gone into hiding, has been located! Da Bargk is given permission to come on board.*

Baron Yergeo da Gnotor lost his extra sense many years ago as a result of a rare disease that causes the corresponding area of the brain to atrophy. He is also very aware of his advanced age. He is therefore only too happy to accept the Gemeni's offer to be rejuvenated *in their Physiotron*. At the KYLLDIN Sprout, da Gnotor *is* greeted warmly by Kharnaim. The Baron is content with the Gemeni's very cautious explanations, according to which the rejuvenation procedure can *last* several cycles of 52 Arkon years each. In the case of da Gnotor, two cycles are possible. Da Gnotor undergoes the extremely painful procedure. Afterwards, he has the body of a 31-year-old Arkon. The extra sense is active. But something is wrong – all memories of experiences after the age of 31 seem like cold facts to da Gnotor, as if they came from another person. The new extra sense constantly calls da Gnotor a fool, which *it* never used to do, and behaves increasingly aggressively. *It* demands the conquest of the Sprout or at least a Physiotron for the Arkonide people. The Baron fears that he is no longer the same man he was before the procedure.

Kharnaim explains that Da Gnotor's memories were extracted before the procedure began and reimprinted on his regenerated body afterwards. If the baron's memories have been tampered with, it would be impossible for him to return to government office. The procedure is repeated, but no further rejuvenation takes place. Afterwards, the extra sense behaves normally. With Kharnaim's permission, he leaves the Sprout and appears in public. It thus becomes public knowledge that the Gemeni were not lying.

Da Bargk confronts Bostich, who is no longer recognizable as an Arkonide. His skin is completely black and hairless. His eyes glow red like those of a Haluter. His right arm is abnormally muscular. Bostich still considers himself Emperor and seizes supreme command of *the* Girmomar *barony's* forces. His goal is the conquest or destruction of the Sprout and he is willing to sacrifice Girmomar to achieve this. Bostich believes that the Gemeni threaten the entire galaxy.

In 1544 NGE (in-between the previous cycle and this one), Reginald Bell and Toio Zindher's daughter Shinae is born in Carpenseen, one of countless districts of the city of Allerorten spread across many *planets in numerous* galaxies. Allerorten had been shaken to its very foundations by the Dys-chronic Shear (*in the Jena Lands cycle*). According to the Haluter Ichō Tolot, who accompanied Bell and Toio to Allerorten, even the Breviaries (*the portals between districts*) can no longer be used safely.

Bell did not return to the Milky Way from Larhatoon, mainly because of the Chaotarchic re-imprinting of his cell activator, and instead settled in the city of Allerorten. Bell assumes that he would be regarded as an enemy back home. He also fears that the altered cell activator will have a negative influence on his thoughts and actions. After five more years, Bell decides to return home after all. His destination is the planet Tann in Andro-Gamma. However, due to the disruption of the Breviaries, Bell and his family and Tolot end up on Krynn. This remote and quiet world in the *Milky Way's* Eastside once belonged to the Blues, *but* is now part of the New Tamanium of the Tefroders.

For two years, Bell lived in the cloaked identity of the technician Lorn-Rootar among Tefrodian farmers on the outskirts of a city. Toio calls herself Sanja Boghul and uses her gift of vital telepathy (*which can identify illnesses*) to counsel the sick. Both have to be careful not to arouse suspicion with their special abilities. Bell also has to make sure that the Tefroders are unaware of Ichō Tolot's presence. The Haluter is hiding in a cave near an abandoned city. The Breviary is located there in an ancient monastery complex. Shinae, now seven years old, doesn't know everything about her parents.

In mid 1551 NGE, Bell learns of the events on Terra in connection with the *HaLem* cosmic beacon and Perry Rhodan's departure with the RAS TSCHUBAI through Trivid *shows*. When Reginald Bell's face is shown in a broadcast, Shinae naturally recognizes her father, who now has no choice but to gradually inform his daughter about *his* background.

When Toio is gripped by a strong inner restlessness *a month later* and believes that the Breviary is being watched by something or someone, Bell and Tolot visit the tower. Shinae is allowed to come with them. The Brevizone guard informs them that Bell's and Tolot's passports will soon become invalid *but* he does not know *why*. As Shinae was born in *Allerorten*, she has unlimited access rights, *and* could take two people with her. Shortly afterwards, *a* female Blue appears. *She* is Mutru, a guardian of *the monastery*, who *eventually agrees to* work together with Bell. Shinae is stung by a tiny object in the tower. Tolot recognizes that it is a two-millimetre model of a spaceship. It doubles in size every day for the next few days.

A few days after these events, a Haluter ship approaches the planet. It does not respond to radio calls from the Tefroders, does not defend itself when it is fired upon by guard ships, *and* crashes on Krynn. Bell and Tolot look around the crash site. Tolot discovers that there are two dead Haluters in the wreckage. They did not die in the crash, but were beaten to death. Bell secretly intercepts data proving that a third person left the spacecraft shortly before the crash. A few days later, Mutru's spy probes show that the Tefroders attack *another* Haluter with tanks and gliders, but are mercilessly killed. Even in a state of urge washing (*a state Haluters enter every so often, causing them to travel, take risks, and experience dangers*), a Haluter would not normally do such a thing. The rampaging Haluter races towards the city. Bell and Tolot confront him in front of Bell's house. Tolot has a hard time against his fellow Haluter, but then the latter undergoes a forced structural transformation, *causing his body to revert to soft tissue*. Before he dies he says that he is ill and falling into "irreversibility".

Tefrodian warships materialize around Krynn, *and* Vetrismolaud arrives. Bell's family relocates to the monastery as a precaution. *A little later*, a message from the Gemeni is heard. It is announced that the second Pacic Rhizome has been planted with the Sprout SHINAE. Vetrismolaud gives the order to evacuate Krynn immediately.

Bhal Ainberid announces the opening of the SHINAE Sprout to all interested parties. Those who prove themselves worthy will be allowed to use a psi-implanter (*a large device that alters the person inside it*) and thus gain para-abilities.

Since an escape from Krynn via *the* Breviary must be considered *impossible*, the Sprout is the only escape route for Reginald Bell's family and Icho Tolot. But how are they to reach the Sprout? The Tefroders have no intention of giving the general public access to the Sprout. Instead, the Gemeni spaceship is sealed off and the evacuation of Krynn continues. This problem is solved by the Gemeni. Sildrindh, a *Gemeni* explorer of new worlds for the Sprouts, approaches the *monestary*. He realizes that he is being watched by spy probes *from the monestary* and waits in the forest until Bell and Toio Zindher seek him out of their own accord. In the name of the Bhal, he asks for a personal meeting with the Guardian Shinae Bell-Toio in the Sprout. Her parents have twelve hours to think it over.

Shinae wants nothing more than to visit the Sprout. Her parents and the Haluter are *willing* to come along, but are skeptical. *They are taken there thru an organic-looking transmitter delivered to the forest near the monestary by Gemeni soldiers*. Bhal Ainberid greets the guests in the Sprout in a friendly manner, but his attention is more focused on Shinae than the adults. She is allowed to use the psi-implanter immediately. Toio is in favor of this, but Bell prevents it because the Bhal has not yet revealed how the psi-implant works.

The Sprout is radioed by a Tefroder. He informs them that Vetris-Molaud will initially only allow 500 people access to the Sprout. The Gemeni agree. The Tefroders immediately go on the attack as soon as they are inside the Sprout. They have projectile weapons and combat robots with them, which they use to inflict numerous wounds. The Sprout reacts accordingly, crushing the robots and absorbing some of the Tefroders. Nevertheless, the intruders manage to steal the transmitter with which the Bell family and Tolot wanted to leave the Sprout. The *Tefroders* do not achieve their actual goal of stealing the psi-implanter, they have to retreat. In the process, *they capture Bell* and Toio. Tolot protects Ainberid and Shinae with the deflector field of his battle suit. Bell lets Tolot know that he should not intervene. The Tefroders want to know from "Lorn-Rootar" and "Sanja Boghul" why the Sprout bears their daughter's name and why a dead Haluter is lying next to their house. Toio's true identity is revealed, *but* Bell remains unrecognized. Both are taken to Vetris-Molaud in the VOHRATA for further questioning. The autocrat is *guarded* by the Anti Elessid and the Posbi Ganud.

To avoid being executed as a deserted traitor, Toio stays just as close to the truth as she can get away with. She claims that after being wounded and captured, she tried to gain the Terrans' trust and eventually escaped, but that it took a very long time. Vetris-Molaud believes her and even offers her a return to the Para-Paladin Corps. She is to lead the negotiations with the Gemeni. As they do not respond, Vetris-Molaud threatens to destroy the Sprout. Toio suggests using the captured transmitter as a back door into the Sprout. Apparently it accepts her authorization as the guardian's mother. Toio has realized that the transmitter is not connected to the Sprout, but to the remote station in the forest. This allows Bell and Toio to escape. *Icho Tolot arrives with Shinae, and after they take over a nearby Tefrodian ship*, they contact a Terran secret base, *and* are picked up by a spaceship. The Gemeni transmitter is to be taken to *the secret research facility on Ockham's World*.

Wanderer, the artificial world of the IT, *is* within the gas shell of the planet Siskul. Since it is assumed that Ernst Ellert, who appeared on Terra on the same day and is wearing an amulet made of crystallized Eiris, is the key to the world *which is* protected by an impenetrable black dome, he is taken to the Vega system. He is accompanied by the TLD agent Opiter Quint, the chronotheoretician Aichatou Zakara and *three* USO specialists.

A short time later, Wanderer is approached. So far, radio messages have not been answered, but when Ellert says that he has arrived, he is asked to identify himself. Ellert picks up the amulet. It transforms into a geometrically impossible shape : a Penrose prism. Access authorization is then granted and a small opening appears in the black screen. Ellert and his companions fly in. Suddenly the positronics malfunction, the manual controls are blocked and the artificial gravity goes haywire. The *ship* crashes, *and* the pilot dies. The window in the black screen closes, breaking contact with the mothership. There is no more contact from Wanderer either.

The artificial world is inhabited by humans and members of other races. There are towns and small settlements as well as Terran flora and fauna. Saturn's moon Enceladus can be seen in the night sky. The landscape is divided into numerous separate enclaves whose inhabitants cannot leave their respective living areas and do not realize that the rest of their world has disappeared. They ignore the SERUNS and other high-tech of the visitors. They also know nothing of IT. The enclaves of Wanderer show different epochs of the history of Terra, but always with considerable deviations, as if they were relics from parallel universes with different histories.

A sarcophagus is found. *It opens* when Ellert *touches it*. Inside is the headless torso of a man (Homunk) whose heart is beating. When asked about IT, *the sarcophagus' caretaker* says that the superintelligence is "on the other side", *and that* the man in the coffin must remain dismembered because the individual parts are the nails that hold Wanderer in this *universe*. Then *he* disappears into thin air.

The visitors take the torso and fly off to look for the body parts. *Ellert leads the group to a variety act by Rocket Fritz, who addresses the group. When a Topsider with human arms and legs appears, which are Homunk's limbs, is suddenly attacked by a swarm of flies, Quint suddenly realizes that Rocket Fritz is none other than Adam von Aures, who is made up of nanogents (nanorobots that can assume any form, living or mechanical) that invisibly took part in the flight here and caused the crash. Quint tries in vain to stop Adam von Aures from stealing the limbs. He incapacitates the TLD agent and escapes, but the torso does not fall into his hands.*

Ellert comes up with the idea that Homunk's head can only be on Enceladus. There is a young impact crater there that could be a possible location. Ellert's Penrose prism ("*Tribar*") is the solution. It multiplies its size, the triangular field in the center transforms. Ellert knows that the Tribar *is now* a portal that will transport him and two people to Enceladus. Ellert, Quint and USO agent Zau *travel thru it*. Afterwards, Zau says it was a transport via the [Dakkar] space. In this enclave, it is 1991 AD, and the three new arrivals are greeted by a fifty-year-old Perry Rhodan (without a cell activator) who knows none of them.

They leave Rhodan and find Homunk's living head, who says he has been assigned to Ellert, and that with the help of a guest taken in by IT, they can leave Wanderer. Back in the space glider, the head and torso are put together. Homunk reveals some important information. According to this, Wanderer exists on both sides of the Dys-chronic Shear (from the Jena Lands cycle), which means that the artificial world on this side is not the Wanderer that the Terrans have come to know. The same applies to Ellert. At the moment of his "death" in 1972, IT was able to take him to two different time locations. The version of Ellert that has now returned was, like Wanderer, in an interuniversal, extra-temporal place before that.

IT took these measures in order to be prepared for the Dys-chronic Shear. *The superintelligence was bound by a treaty with the Fauthen to guarantee a certain sequence of events that will lead to the emergence of Thez in the distant future. IT and its Eiris are indispensable for this.* Tiny remnants of Eiris, such as Ellert's amulet, have been left behind. Homunk confirms that Ellert is the guardian of IT's legacy. He is supposed to protect the *remnants* from unauthorized access and use them in the interests of humanity or the former Sphere of Influence of IT. Homunk is supposed to help him with this, but without his limbs he only has limited power.

The guest mentioned by Homunk is the Dolan *spaceship* JASON (*from the M-87 cycle*). Its executor, Yemaya Shango, is happy to travel with *the group*. In late 1551 NGE, the group returns to *their ship*. Maurits Vingaden is informed by radio. The TLD Director agrees to fly to a destination suggested by Homunk : the planet Thoo in the Madurant system in the dwarf galaxy Canis-Major. There is said to be a legacy of IT there.

The RAS TSCHUBAI reaches the outskirts of Orion Land in late 1551 NGE. The globular cluster, 10,000 light years above the main plane of the Sevcooris galaxy, is officially a protectorate of the Gondunate and is considered a restricted area. In reality, Orion Land is the domain of the Second Solar Empire. The Gaons have been able to develop there undisturbed for a good 1700 years and have colonized 147 solar systems. Apart from them, there are only three space-faring races in Orion Land : the reptiloid Glossner, the insectoid Vha and the Khuluntur, whose massive heads and two trunks are vaguely reminiscent of Terran elephants. The Gaons ensure that these peoples remain small and insignificant *in the cluster's affairs*.

Gi Barr is allowed to move freely in the company of an overseer, Odin Goya. He is implanted with a locator pulse generator with which he can be *remotely* anaesthetized if necessary. Gi Barr wants Perry Rhodan to take command of the Second Solar Empire and lead the Gaons back to the Milky Way so that the former glory of the Solar Empire can be restored there. But Gi Barr is forced to realize the former Grand Administrator's attitude.

Rhodan's "mellow old age" does not please the Gaon, nor does the fact that the Terrans are not the dominant race in the Milky Way.

Rhodan first wants to explore Orion Land undercover. Intercepted radio transmissions indicate that the SSE is a militaristic surveillance state. The Gaons consider their empire to be equal to the Gondunate. They even believe that they benefit more from the partnership than the Thoogondu. The SSE has a powerful space fleet, but its combat ships are clearly inferior to those of the LFG.

Rhodan finds out more details about the Gaons. In addition to the Returnees *faction*, who are convinced that the Gaons must conquer their rightful place in the Milky Way, there is also the Bleiber *faction*, who do not see why anyone should leave Orion Land. Their aim is to extend their power *in Orion Land* and to the galaxy of Sevcooris, which is currently still ruled by the Thoogondu.

Gaon, the main world of the SSE, is absolutely Earth-like. The moon Selene is home to the large-scale positronic TEIRESIAS. The head of government is the Solastrator Cassandra Somerset. She is regarded by some citizens as too lax, especially in her dealings with the other peoples of Orion Land. Admiral Arbo Dannan, commander-in-chief of the fleet, is considered the true ruler of the SSE. Rhodan learns that the Gaons owe *all* their knowledge of conditions in the Milky Way to the Thoogondu. They believe that since the Swarm crisis, only pitiful remnants of the old star states (*and* the Solar Empire) remain. *Rhodan returns to the RAS TSCHUBAI*, which materializes at the edge of the Neo-Sol system. Perry Rhodan's arrival is officially announced. The Solastrator grants the omni-carrier permission to enter.

Gi Barr manages to escape, and is followed by Odin Goya into a gas giant planet in the Neo-Sol system. In a quiet atmospheric zone, Gi finds a Gaon station with information about a top-secret military project called the Thunderforge, of which he was previously unaware. The Thunderforge, a space shipyard many miles across, is inactive, but not unguarded. Shortly after entering it, Gi Barr is captured by shipyard master Yves Strang.

Strang is a cyborg and insane, but can still remember the purpose of the Thunderforge – the mighty spaceship IVAN IVANOVICH GORACHIN was assembled here. Goya follows Gi into the Thunderforge, *and finds Gi in time to prevent him from being killed by Strang. Together they restrain Strang.* Strang reveals more information. The GORATSCHIN consists of two battleships joined at the poles, leading a fleet of 50 units. The expedition leader is Admiral Amber Dessalin. **The task of the convoy is to initiate the liberation of Milky Way humanity.** The mission is entitled Q-Ignition. *Barr then voluntarily goes back into captivity.*

Rhodan meets with the Solastrator Cassandra Somerset. Rhodan finds the youthful-looking sixty-six-year-old likeable and talks to her about the HaLem army *on Mercury* and the destruction of the Taltaan system. Somerset knows nothing about the catastrophe and the HaLem army was supposedly installed by the Thoogondu. As Rhodan asks many detailed questions, the Solastrator calls in the Thoogondu *liaison* Lupita Shona (a Gaon) and the Thoogondu Doomadh, who is staying on Gaon as a *Gondian* mentor of the Second Solar Empire.

Afterwards, a banquet is held in Rhodan's honor. The mood is good, Somerset cracks jokes. Rhodan makes a speech : he proposes that 100 Gaons travel with the RAS TSCHUBAI to the Milky Way so that they can see the conditions there for themselves. In exchange, 100 crew members of the RAS TSCHUBAI are to remain in Orion Land. Doomadh interrupts Rhodan and raises objections. Star Admiral Arbo Dannan arrives late. He was traveling with the Imperial flagship ARTEMIS. When Rhodan sees the charismatic commander-in-chief of the fleet, he immediately realizes that he is facing the true ruler of the SSE. *Rhodan agrees to a televised interview.*

Before the interview, Rhodan and his companions take part in a parade. On several occasions, they discover that the Gaons are at best reserved towards *a* dark-skinned Terran, *a brown-skinned, green-haired* Kamashite, and *a* Posbi, but often *show* open hostility. Xenophobia not only seems to be not unknown in the SSE, but also generally tolerated. Even Rhodan is not celebrated by all Gaons. Some refer to him disparagingly as a "slave of the Wanderer". A *Terran* courier informs Rhodan about Gi Barr's failed escape attempt and the findings concerning the IVAN IVANOWICH GORATSCHIN and Project Q-Ignition.

In the broadcast in front of 1000 live viewers (including the Solastrator), Rhodan reports on the collapse of the old Solar Empire. The empire had failed, among other things, because it had only represented the interests of humanity. The future lies in the unity of all galactic peoples, represented by the LFG. *He* criticizes the SSE's too close, uncritical ties to the Gondunate. The admiral suggests that Rhodan is not pursuing the interests of humanity, but only his own. With regard to what Rhodan has found out about cosmic connections, Dannan accuses him of the same thing he criticizes about the SSE : secrecy. Rhodan counters by dropping the keywords "IVAN IVANOWITSCH GORATSCHIN" and "Project Q-Ignition". Dannan is completely *dumbfounded*.

Suddenly *Rhodan's bodyguard* TARA robot opens fire. As the machine is moving unusually slowly, Rhodan manages to drag Dannan out of the line of fire *due to his enhanced mental reflexes*. The TARA takes aim at Somerset. *The Posbi* Ariel rescues the Solastrator and attacks the TARA, which is finally destroyed. Ariel informs him that he detected a transmitter pulse shortly before the attack. The TARA was probably replaced by a duplicate using a Thoogondu transmitter. *Analysis of some of the TARA's components* confirm Ariel's theory.

Rhodan realizes that Somerset was the real target of the attack and that the attack on Dannan was only intended as a distraction. Rhodan visits Somerset against Dannan's resistance and informs her of his suspicions. There must be a particularly high-ranking person behind this, *because* no one else could have used Thoogondu technology. Rhodan offers the Solastrator protection in the RAS TSCHUBAI, *but she* wants to ask her predecessor and mentor Syllester Ford for advice.

Rhodan and Dannan accompany Somerset to Ford's house. Somerset arranges it so that Ford and Rhodan can talk to each other in private. Ford claims that he knew the broad outlines of the assassination plans. It was a plot within the Solar Imperial Defense. Ford had not been able to warn Somerset because she was being shielded by someone with great power. Ford has called the press to give a live interview. In it, he announces that he has been invited to the RAS TSCHUBAI by Rhodan. As Somerset tells the cameras that she would like to accompany Ford, Dannan can no longer *object*. *One journalist* is allowed to accompany Somerset.

Reginald Bell's return to the Sol system does not necessarily arouse enthusiasm in *the LFG Resident* Hekéner Sharoun. Before leaving for Sevcooris, Perry Rhodan informed *him* about the Chaotarchic re-imprinting of Bell's cell activator. *That and* the fact that Bell is dating Toio Zindher, an enemy agent who was involved in the murder of Ronald Tekener (*in the Atopic Tribunal cycle*), gives the Resident pause for thought. At his first meeting with Bell in *mid* 1551 NGE, Sharoun doesn't mince his words. Bell answers just as openly and is able to refute some of the accusations. Bell wants to know whether Cai Cheung's offer is still valid. The former Solar Premier had promised Toio a pardon as a reward for her help in the search for Perry Rhodan. Sharoun confirms this on the condition that the Tefroder continues to cooperate. Bell must also accept a "watchdog". Sharoun chooses Korin Anderlei for this task, a cosmopsychologist, to act as Bell's assistant.

Bell is ready to get back into the galactic action. He is appointed League Commissioner for Post-Eiris Phenomena, can request scientists and *psionic individuals* if necessary and has the RIBALD CORELLO at his

disposal, a one mile diameter starship under the command of *the Gatas (a Blues race)* Veyt. Bell meets with Homer G. Adams on Terra. Following his advice, he brings Toio and Shinae to Terrania. A house on Lake Goshun with an annex, where Ichō Tolot is accommodated, is made available to the family.

Two weeks after the disappearance of YETO, the Sprout reappears in the Vindonus system, 308 light years away from Sol. The ship takes up a waiting position *about a mile* above the capital of the sparsely populated Terran Medoworld Damona. Bhal Haddhunis asks for permission to remain in orbit around the planet. The very next day, he announces the allocation of 250 more cell activators in a public message, whereupon the Vindonus system soon experiences a rush similar to that of Terra. *The Terran Resident* grants the Gemeni permission to stay and sends a fleet contingent to Damona, including the RIBALD CORELLO. On board are the Bell family, Ichō Tolot, Korin Anderlei and Marous Temmo. Shinae's condition has worsened and Toio rightly assumes that the proximity of another Sprout will help the child.

Bell issues an ultimatum, demanding the release of the cell activators, which Bhal Haddhunis ignores. The ships that arrived seeking activators attack the Sprout, to no effect. Tolot realizes that YETO is protected by a **Forge shield that diverts damaging energies into Dakkar space**. After the battle, the Bhal asks for permission to land the Sprout so that new Applicants can be taken on board.

Now phase two of Bell's plan begins. He wants to find out more about the Gemeni, the Sprout and, above all, the hidden psi source *that powers the Sprout*. He therefore applies for a cell activator himself. Toio and Anderlei accompany him to the Sprout. Toio can perceive the Gemeni cell activators with her para-ability. She recognizes no difference to the ones worn by Bell and Tolot. The Gemeni do not answer any questions about the Applicants taken on board on Terra. Bell is told to make the blood contract or leave. Instead, Bell proposes a barter deal to the Gemeni. He wants to get rid of the Chaotarchic cell activator and get new ones for himself and Toio instead.

A Gatrax named Pellexer, a native of Damona, similar to a Terran lemur, approaches the Terrans because he is worried about his fellow tribesmen's behavior – they are being drawn to the Sprout. At the same time, the Bhal announces that for one day only Gatraxes will have access to the Sprout. In the meantime, Ichō Tolot has dismantled a **Kantor compact sextant (a device that passively detects hyper-radiation)** and modified it so that the three individual parts can be easily reassembled. One part is with Pellexer's personal possessions when the Gatrax enters the Sprout. As hoped, *it* raises no suspicions *with* the Gemeni.

Meanwhile, Reginald Bell is negotiating with Bhal Haddhunis in the YETO library vault. There is an ethereal double funnel-shaped object inside which something indefinable swirls around itself. Bell finds the object beautiful, but in the perception of his wife, the vital telepath, it looks different. To Toio, the entire vault is a very dangerous creature whose vital aura both *provides nourishment* and eats. It seems to crave Toio's *psionic energy* and is rooted in a higher dimension. Toio follows the immaterial ramifications and realizes that one end is connected to the Sol system. The "upper" end is not recognizable to Toio. The Bhal *offers Bell* three cell activators *in exchange for his*. Their [vital energy] stores he offers belong to the advanced technologies of the superintelligence GESHOD.

Bell demands the release of a cell activator in order to test its functionality. Haddhunis has to think about it. *In the meantime, Bell and his wife find the four-man TLD team, who all carry cell activators.* They realize that they have somehow changed. Whistler would even return the cell activator to make sure it wasn't being influenced in the Gemeni's favor. *They* found out that Yeto and his parents, as well as numerous other cell activator carriers, had left the Sprout before arriving in the Vindonus system.

Bhal Haddhunis gives Bell a test cell activator on the condition that he remains in the Sprout. The cell activator appears to be fully functional. Pellexer appears with the first component of the Kantor sextant. *The TLD team* fetches the other two parts. Bell uses the assembled sextant to take measurements, the results of which lead the Haluter to the realization that the Sprout has by no means grown organically. YETO's components were already present in dematerialized form and stored in a “depot” in Dakkar space. The seed found by Yeto Carell is identical to the psi source (the double funnel in the library vault). It is referred to as a Recollector, *and it* has retrieved the substance from the Dakkar depot and has grown at the same time. Bell comes up with the idea that it should be possible to mirror Dakkar impulses using a modified Kantor sextant and thus disrupt the connection between the Recollector and the depot. Tolot *suggests a modified* experimental Dakkar-com (*a communication device*). The Haluter and Marous Temmo deploy the device from a space jet flying in orbit around Damona.

At the moment of activation, several things happen simultaneously. Toio senses how the vital auras of the Sprout and all the cell activator carriers are fading. YETO seems to feel threatened or even suffer a shock. The Sprout teleports to the vicinity of the space jet and destroys it with its *Hyperfist (a weapon that quickly drains all hyper-energy from the target and then hurls it back, causing the target to explode)*. Tolot and Temmo are able to leave the jet just in time. YETO then returns to the planet. Bell receives the news that Bostich has attacked the Sprout KYLLDIN.

In *mid 1551 NGE*, a message broadcast system-wide by Bostich designates the Gemeni as enemies and issues instructions to all starships present for an attack on the Sprout KYLLDIN, which is still hovering over the ocean near Shernoss, the capital of the planet Girmomar. The Gemeni show no reaction until Bostich fires fusion bombs at the Sprout, the effect of which is concentrated by the protective screens of the assembled fleet, modulated according to his specifications, *creating a* kind of cauldron, so that the energies inside run riot against the Sprout. *Commander* Da Bargk would be prepared to attack Bostich's flagship on her own authority, but her ship's protective shield is needed to maintain the cauldron. Its collapse would mean the end of the planet. The Gemeni also seem to be aware of this. They deliberately destroy only a small unit at the lower edge of the cauldron with the Hyperfist. The energy from the next fusion bomb explosion discharges into the ocean, creating a tsunami that *destroys* parts of the city. Bostich ends the bombardment. The GOS'TUSSAN II flies off. Obviously, the ex-imperator was only interested in testing the Sprout.

It is not until *late 1551 NGE* that the Terrans receive detailed information about this incident. The arrival of the Arkonide Thantur da Targdon, an emissary of Bostich, was announced for the same day. In the months since the first attack on YETO, the Terrans have further developed the prototype of the device used to mirror the Dakkar impulses of Gemeni Sprouts into an effective weapon system. The Dakkar Impulse Mirror sextant, also known as the Impulse Mirror, exists in two variants. One has a range of 300,000 miles. The range of the other is only 30,000 miles, but it has a more intensive effect. Two short-range models and one long-range Impulse Mirror are installed in the RIBALD CORELLO. Reginald Bell, who has been back on Terra since he turned down the Gemeni's offer three months ago with Toio Zindher's consent and returned the loaned cell activator, assumes that Bostich has learned of the existence of the pulse generator through espionage and wants to use it for his own purposes. Da Targdon repeats Bostich's claims. The Gemeni are to be expelled from the Milky Way. The Haluters have already been won over as allies and Bostich has already *contacted* Vetris-Molaud. The Terrans should also get involved. Bell does not refuse outright, because he would rather be involved than let the Arkonides and Tefroders *pursue their own agendas independently*.

Bell sets off for Girmomar with the RIBALD CORELLO and 20 escort ships. A short-range Impulse Mirror is transferred to the *attack ship* PARAKATT. Bell is granted an audience with Bostich. The Haluter Sawru Maudh

is present. When Bell recounts his encounter with the sick Haluter *on Krynn*, Sawru Maudh informs him that his illness is known as stasis syndrome. Every Haluter is at risk, and those who suffer from stasis syndrome eventually *die – the last stage is called “irreversibility”*. Bell attaches two conditions to his participation in the attack on KYLLDIN. The action must not be associated with the Terrans, and an evacuation of the Applicants remaining in the Sprout is mandatory. In preparation for this, Bell and Toio enter the Sprout on the same day. The vital telepath tracks down all of the Gemeni's "guests" and *records* their locations.

When Bell gives the signal, *the PARAKATT's commander* activates the Impulse Mirror, KYLLDIN's protective shield collapses, *and* 30 Haluters make it inside. KYLLDIN destroys the PARAKATT with the Hyperfist. Inside the Sprout, the Haluters cause carnage among the Gemeni.

Toio realizes that Bostich is also inside KYLLDIN. Something is wrong with his vital aura. Bell assumes that Bostich did not want to destroy the Sprout from the beginning, but to board it. Bell wants to initiate an evacuation, but the Gemeni have the situation under control – they distract and then kill the Haluters.

More than two dozen Tefrodian mile-wide warships, led by Vetris-Molaud, appear in the Girom system.

The Arkonide ex-imperator Bostich is spared, although he is behind the attack on the Sprout by the Haluter. Bhal Kharnaim wants to see him. Reginald Bell and Toio Zindher *cannot join them*. They use their special status as guests of the Bhal and parents of a Sprout guardian to search for KYLLDIN's psi source. Toio thinks that this source is different from the YETOS Recollector.

Toio senses that KYLLDIN is suffering. Assan-Assoul, the Tefrodian super mutant, is behind it. Vetris-Molaud has sent out 500 robotic cruisers, which swarm around the Sprout and are shot down one by one with the Hyperfist. A strike force, which includes Assan-Assoul and a *predictor* mutant named Paeril Shewkett move from ship to ship via transmitter. The aim of the squad is to bring Assan-Assoul so close to the Sprout that he can act as a Para-Dysfactor (*interfere with biophysical and hyperphysical processes*) and give the Sprout small "pinpricks". Some of the *cruisers' debris* from the Hyperfist is absorbed by KYLLDIN's *hull*. The fragments contain parts of a homing transmitter that assemble inside the Sprout, allowing *Vetris-Molaud's flagship* the VOHRATA to track *it* as soon as the Sprout teleports to avoid the constant harassment from Assan-Assoul.

All the Tefroders wanted was to drive KYLLDIN out of the Barony of Girmomar so that *it* could be attacked in neutral territory. The RIBALD CORELLO is able to follow the VOHRATA undetected because *the CORELLO* has the prototype of *an Effect Sensor developed in collaboration with the Onryons, which can be used to detect the "wake" of a spaceship flying in linear space*. KYLLDIN's target is the Bmerasath system, 16 light years away from the Girom system. Assan-Assoul uses his incredible destructive power, *punching* a hole 100 feet in diameter in the outer shell of the Sprout and flies into the middle of it with a miniature tender, accompanied by some elite soldiers. Unstoppably, the multi-mutant and his companions penetrate deeper into the Sprout.

Toio suspects who is raging inside KYLLDIN and killing countless Gemeni. Finally, she and Bell come face to face with Assan-Assoul. The multi-mutant taps into the vital telepath's *mind* and thus finds his real target - the psi source. Toio fears he wants to kill the Sprout. A little later, the Hyper-energy *Interference* Field fails and KYLLDIN spirals out of control. It crashes towards Sumurdh, a planet of Bmerasath where the conditions are truly hellish. Bell and Toio leave the Sprout through the hole torn by Assan-Assoul.

The Sprout puts up unexpectedly fierce resistance to the multi-mutant. It seems to be able to draw on inexhaustible reserves of strength, in stark contrast to Assan-Assoul, who is in danger of being defeated in the trial of strength, while KYLLDIN is visibly recovering.

The entire planet seems to attack the ship – fungal spores, small dinosaur-like carnivorous reptiles, and other creatures enter thru large cracks in the ship from its impact on the planet and feed. Reginald Bell and Toio Zindher return and help out. Toio tracks down survivors who are being attacked. Bell helps the Gemeni fight back.

The Terrans, Tefrodians, and Gemeni all work together, but Bell realizes they must leave the planet as soon as possible. The CORELLO's commander sends an official distress call to the Crystal Baronies (after all, their citizens are in danger on Sumurdh) in order to create publicity. Vetris-Molaud's machinations are to be made public.

The Tefroders pick up Bell's group with an antigrav platform *and treat the wounded*. Vetris-Molaud wants Toio to volunteer her para-ability for him. The vital telepath senses that Assan-Assoul is gradually gaining the upper hand – KYLLDIN will soon die. Then Bostich appears. He rages like a Haluter among the creatures and enables Vetris-Molaud, Bell and Toio to reach the Psi Source. Assan-Assoul is there. He accesses Toio's psi potential and deals the death blow to KYLLDIN.

The Sprout literally dissolves. Its substance is thrown back into the Dakkar depot. *Everyone* flees to the dinghies. The Hyper-Energy Interference Field no longer exists, so that Bell and his companions, including numerous Arkonides as well as Kylldin, can use the transmitter installed in the space jets to escape to the RIBALD CORELLO. A huge implosion occurs on Sumurdh, *releasing* multidimensional energies. A 6-D impulse is created, causing a system-wide mental pull. The analysis shows that this *intentional* impulse had a target, which can only be the Dakkar depot. However, its position cannot be precisely determined. The VOHRATA leaves the system. It remains unclear whether Assan-Assoul and Bostich are on board. The Tefroders have probably not achieved their actual goal - the capture of physiotrons. Kylldin is unconscious. No one knows how the death of the Sprout will affect its Guardian.

On Wanderer; Major Perry Rhodan, commander of the Enceladus Life Research Station, thinks back to his recent encounter with a man named Opiter Quint, supposedly from the year 5138 AD, as he approaches the giant object whose crash *in the ice-covered ocean* on Saturn's moon Enceladus was observed *twenty years ago* in 1971. *At the bottom of the ocean, he finds* a spaceship wreck with a diameter of 1500 feet. No Terrestrial power bloc has the means to produce such a giant. The crew is dead. It consists of humanoids who are clearly not humans from Earth. The team finds only one survivor : a beautiful woman preserved in a deep-sleep tank sealed off by a protective shield.

One of the ship's hangars is pumped empty. Inside is a 180-foot dinghy, also spherical and, unlike the mother ship, fully functional. A little later, a white-haired stranger appears. He has a translator with him and introduces himself as Khono da Khayd, an Arkonide. Like Thora, the commander, he has also survived in a deep sleep tank, but Thora's tank can only be opened by a positronics specialist. The man comes at just the right time for Rhodan, *who* needs a pilot for the dinghy, which he names SARAH CONSTANT. The Arkonide reveals himself to be Adam von Aures. With the limbs he has captured from Homunk, Adam von Aures could penetrate Wanderer's black screen at any time, but he wants to enlist the alternative version of Perry Rhodan as a helper.

The SARAH CONSTANT is modified using *Adam's* nanogents so that the ship can approach the Discworld. Rhodan has long since realized that a completely new life awaits him. After *putting* the SARAH CONSTANT in *another* spacecraft that Rhodan dubs the SARAH CONSTANT II, Adam von Aures crosses the black screen. The

date in the standard universe is *late 1551* NGE. Adam von Aures briefs Rhodan and lets him in on his plans. In his opinion, the local Perry Rhodan is a kind of superfather who has hindered the further development of mankind. This Rhodan wishes to solve cosmic puzzles, but in doing so he has only encountered more questions and brought about a bad situation. Another *comparable* figure is needed who is capable of giving humanity a new direction. The "older" Rhodan is ready to fill this role. To this end, he is to be rejuvenated in the Sprout KYLLDIN.

Rhodan uses hypno-training to inform himself about the Milky Way and its neighboring galaxies. Adam von Aures informs him that he has joined a group of Terran scientists, politicians and artists whose code name is Techno-Mahdi. They all want to try to put humanity on its own feet. When they arrive in the Girom system, Rhodan and Adam von Aures learn that KYLLDIN has been destroyed. They fly to Sumurdh to take a closer look.

Quinto Center, the headquarters of the New USO, is considered one of the safest places in the Milky Way. The coordinates of the huge, almost completely hollowed-out asteroid, which is capable of faster-than-light flight, are only known to insiders. In the year 1551 NGE, it is located in the star cluster NGC 6530. 400,000 people from various galactic races live and work here. They form a close-knit community with its own rules, in which trust is good, but control is better. Internal communication is constantly monitored by the central positronics and also analyzed using contracomputers. *In late 1551*, Nester Pomeroy, Commander of Quinto-Center, receives a disturbing message from *an analyst* Dolleringh Tempu. It has been noticed that four terms have been mentioned particularly often for some time. They could be code names of infiltrators. The Commander comes to the conclusion that an infiltration of the USO headquarters can no longer be ruled out with one hundred percent certainty. USO chief Monkey is informed. He takes the matter seriously and Major Allard Schneider, the head of the Internal Security and Reconstruction Department, is called in.

Suddenly, chaos breaks out in Quinto Center. *Many people* go on a destructive rampage, sometimes causing severe damage - but not in the area of five large transmitters, as Tempu discovers. When she tries to report the incident, she is attacked by her colleague Hanno Mauldlin. Mauldlin is a traitor, he is cornered and commits suicide. *Before a full lockdown can go into effect, hundreds of soldiers arrive thru the transmitters, and paralyze many people.* The thrusters are activated, but *the speed required to enter faster-than-light travel* cannot be reached for another six hours.

The half-mile HARL DEPHIN, Monkey's new flagship, takes off. The commander of the heavily armed special ship is horrified to discover that her weapons control officer Claudio Makkai is also a traitor. He *puts* Quinto-Center under fire with a transform cannon and an interval gun, *which* opens a *tunnel* many miles deep into the asteroid. Countless members of the USO die. Tempu recognizes the strangers' true objective. The *tunnel* was by no means accidental; it leads right past a secondary control center.

The ensuing battle is costly for both sides. When Quinto-Center finally enters linear space, the attackers retreat. But the asteroid does not materialize at its intended target, but in the vicinity of a flotilla of 50 spherical spaceships of unknown design, led by the 2.5 mile long double-spherical spaceship IVAN IVANOVICH GORACHIN. Quinto-Center's paratron screen goes out. The transmitters become active again and transport reinforcements for the aliens into the asteroid. Allard Schneider - a man Monkey has trusted so much for years that he has considered him as a deputy - reveals himself as the head of the traitors. The secondary control center is in his hands. He claims that he is not really an enemy and that he hopes to win the USO over to his side.

Allard Schneider initiates *linear flight* from *the* sub-center. The headquarters of the New USO is on its way to an unknown destination. The defenders are fighting a losing battle because, unlike them, the attackers can always bring in new reinforcements *from their ships*. But the base has not yet fallen. The Oxtorner Monkey meets with Commander Nester Pomeroy and *Dolleringh Tempu*, and *there is more* bad news. The main positronic KENNON has put itself into lockdown *due to a* computer virus. However, Tempu also makes an important discovery. All the people in whom the "madness epidemic" was triggered had previously taken *a particular drug produced by a woman named Agostina Settember, who must be the fourth traitor*.

The next day, a Second Solar Empire task force led by Agostina's twin brother Faolain Settember *flies* from the IVAN IVANOWICH GORATSCHIN to Quinto-Center. The men are tasked with conquering the small moon once and for all, recovering the data treasures there and liquidating Monkey. With the *vital energy visors (which detect living creatures; a cell activator carrier's signal is especially bright)* of their battle armor, they can easily track down the cell activator carrier. A large battle group attacks Monkey's hideout. Monkey reveals the identity of the fourth traitor over the ship's radio. The woman is to be hunted down and executed if necessary. She makes telepathic contact with her brother (this only works between the two of them and only for a short time over a maximum of a dozen miles) and asks him for help.

The Gaons conquer Quinto-Center, but the search for Monkey remains fruitless, as do interrogations of people from the Lord Admiral's inner circle *who do not* know where Monkey is hiding. He has retreated to the Intermediate Realm, an area in the outer hull of the small moon that he personally designed and shielded several times. *No one alive on the base knows about it*. It is guarded by a heavily armed Posbi named Kart. From here, Monkey can launch a counterattack, as orders from the Intermediate Realm have a *priority* override function. In theory, Monkey can access all important systems. However, Quinto Center's computer network is still disrupted due to the viruses deployed by the Gaons.

Monkey brought Agostina Settember *with him*. Monkey learns of the telepathic connection between Agostina and her brother. The Oxtorner intends to capture *the IVAN* and recapture Quinto-Center. *To this end*, Agostina is *put in* World II, a virtual reality that is used to train USO specialists and is believed to be real by the Gaon. She is shown a sub-center from which Monkey is planning to initiate the self-destruction of Quinto-Center. As planned, Agostina informs her brother telepathically. Then Tempu reports that the systems are responding again. The viruses have deleted themselves, because the conquerors need full access to the computer network *to prevent the self-destruct*. Now Agostina (still in World II) is allowed to escape. She is pursued by Kart. The Posbi frightens Agostina so much that she activates a transmitter and telepathically asks her brother for help. Worried about his sister, he switches a *transmitter* station in the GORATSCHIN to receive *her*.

Monkey has been waiting for this. He seizes control of the Quinto Center. USO specialists informed in advance conquer the transmitter room in the GORATSCHIN, further *transmitters* are activated within a short time, so that more and more fighters and robots can enter the double-sphere spacecraft. At the same time, as many Gaons as possible are sealed inside Quinto Center with energy shields or neutralized with stun gas. Monkey uses the *Aagenfelt Flash (which transports all devices in the target ship that use hyper-energy into hyperspace)* against the GORATSCHIN. The ship is soon in the hands of the New USO. Admiral Dessalin survives and surrenders.

Monkey initiates *linear* flight of Quinto-Center and the GORATSCHIN. The Gaons leave the headquarters of the New USO in a hurry. Some remain behind, including Faolain Settember, who is in hiding.

Farye Sepheroa is bored. Her ship, the BJO BREISKOLL, has been on standby for days without contact with the missing mother ship. Perry Rhodan's granddaughter wants to pass the time with a reconnaissance mission. After analyzing the general radio traffic in Sevcooris, she decides on the contest of the praise singers on Oschal, an Earth-like planet in the Varcha system. Every seven years, beings from different races meet there to praise the Gondunate and the Gondu. Farye wants to take a closer look to find out whether the praise is sincere.

The Thoogondu Observer Mauthoo kidnaps the Sheoshesen Muudhamun. He was once the most dangerous fighter of the *resistance organization* Vranoo ba'Drant and a particularly powerful Night Herald. Mauthoo captured him a long time ago and erased his memory. Now she reactivates *him* and puts *him* under pressure by threatening to kill his family. She wants him to help her hunt down the Vranoo ba'Drant.

Sheoshesen are bird creatures that *vomit undigestible* food in the form of pellets. Many of them, the Night Heralds, can parapsychically charge the pellets and store memories of other beings in them. The Thoogondu call these pellets Webs of Lies. Muudhamun is the only one of his kind who can not only read the thoughts of other creatures, but also snatch them from them, which can lead to the victim's death. Mauthoo injects him with a drug that increases his power. He is to use it to kill all the Vranoo ba'Drant on Oschal. However, many other beings also fall victim to the mental wave he causes.

Pucky perceives the mental torment of Muudhamun. He *learns* that the Vranoo ba'Drant can ignite a charged pellet, whereupon everyone within a wide radius learns what is stored in it. This is exactly what the Observers want to prevent, as the whole galaxy is currently watching Oschal - the truth about the Golden Empire stored in the *many* Web of Lies in the *Repository of Truth* would thus become public knowledge.

Pucky taps into Muudhamun's consciousness and learns from him that the Repository of Truth is hidden inside a certain Gondu statue. Pucky teleports into the cavity of the statue, absorbs the *Repository* and disappears again. *The team returns to the BJO BREISKOLL.* The *Repository* leaves Pucky and now floats in the form of a luminous sphere of branching lightning in a dinghy of the spherical spacecraft.

Opiter Quint and his companions *have* possession of Homunk's armless and legless body. Now they are on their way to the planet Thoo in the Madurant system in the dwarf galaxy Canis-Major, where Homunk claims *there* is a legacy of IT. During the mission on Wanderer, Zau has demonstrated astonishing abilities. Quint wants to know more about *him*. The little frog-faced man is willing to tell his life story, or rather to transfer it directly into Quint's consciousness. Zau is a *mind-jumper* – he can transfer his mind into the body of another living being. However, this only ever results in a partial transfer for a maximum of two minutes. Zau's *consciousness* does not leave his body completely, *but* is incapable of thinking and acting during this process.

Zau is the result of genetic manipulation 200,000 years ago in the Gruelfin galaxy by a Takerer (a race descended from the Cappins). His creator put him on a spaceship in a time-dilation flight, so that he ended up in the Milky Way in 1533 NGE. He was saved by USO specialist Mahnaz Wynter, and they have been partners in action ever since.

Thoo is an Earth-like world that is surrounded by a ring of debris. The system has not yet been explored. The Terrans have sent a small but powerful fleet, which is standing by a few light weeks away from the Madurant system. Opiter Quint and his companions land on Thoo in late 1551 NGE. There are a few signs of highly developed life *and* remnants of an earlier settlement.

A term picked up by Zau - Thoogondu - leads to the conclusion that there is a connection between Thoo and the Golden Empire, which offered Perry Rhodan an alliance six months ago. Zau is able to track down the source of the emotions.

At the location in question, the Galactics discover a 12-foot high glittering rod with hypercrystals of unknown origin embedded in its composite alloy. The structure must be older than 5000 years. The hypercrystals *have not been* affected by the increased hyperimpedance. Several thousand have been detached from their microscopic mounts. Another term appears in Zau's mind : Hooris. When Zau touches the pillar, mental contact is made with the entirety of the thought fragments. The collective being refers to itself as the Monitor. The entity monitors the planet and deems Zau worthy. As a result, extremely advanced holoprojectors start up in the *orbiting* debris ring. The entire planet becomes a projection screen for the images they produce. The splendor and magnificence of the main world of the first Gondunate is recreated before the eyes of the Galactics. Information about this long-gone time manifests itself in Zau's consciousness.

The planet was once the seat of the Gondus, whose people ruled not only Canis-Major, but also large parts of the Milky Way. At some point, the Gondu moved to a place called Ausca *in the Milky Way* to be able to assist "the homeless". *More information is available at the "station"*. It is discovered that *crystals on the rod are* Hooris crystals (which the Galactics *are not aware of*), and that they act as carriers of the Monitor's consciousness fragments, *which are probably those of one or more Thoogondu*.

Homunk says that, based on the holograms, he has found a place where the station should be. "The Wanderer" had rested there on his travels. Whoever *finds the station* will be able to access the Record of Discord and will learn why the Thoogondu were driven away by IT. Quint summons the Terran ships because the Thoogondu have sunk the *station* deep into the planet's crust.

The Terrans come across a gate at a depth of 12 miles, behind which a tunnel extends. The gate is over 30,000 years old. Quint, Wynter, Ellert and Zau pass through it. At a depth of 24 miles, the tunnel runs horizontally and opens into a huge hall. There stands a 670 foot tall version of Ellert's Tribar. The amulet is attracted to the large object. When the amulet touches the large Tribar, a passageway opens up in the wall of the hall. On the other side is an idyllic park covering an area of two square miles. *The Galactics* stand in front of an artistically carved wooden archway. Ellert explains that this is where the Record of Discord is kept. Once again, Ellert's Tribar acts as a key. It unfolds and merges with the archway. Ellert can now pass through it and take two people with him. *He takes Quint and Zau*.

They find themselves 30,000 years ago, when the Thoogondu Khuulespiu developed re-engrammatics on Thoo, a technique with which memories can be erased, overwritten and stored in various carrier media.

Khuulespiu works with special hypercrystals that are extracted in tiny quantities from neutron stars and charged with hyper-energy, called Hooris crystals. They are 5-D emitters with *a six-dimensional component*. Their oscillation pattern is similar to the neuronal-mental processes that make up the consciousness of a living being and can mirror them. A child who witnessed its parents being burned alive is the first person to whom re-engrammatics is applied. The memory of the traumatic experience is removed from the little girl so that she can lead a happy life with foster parents whom she believes to be her real parents. Nevertheless, Khuulespiu has misgivings, because of course the beneficial invention could easily be misused.

Khuulespiu befriends the xenopsychologist Madronoor, *whose* field of research is a superintelligence known as the Wanderer, which is regarded as the patron of the Thoogondu, but plays practically no role in everyday life. *Khuulespiu is recruited into a top-secret government sponsored organization called the Gondus Guild.*

Khuulespiu witnesses the first use of the gravitational suspender. The stellar engineer Buutrongdh, a member of the Gondus Guild *and Khuulespiu's teacher*, has developed the unit for the purpose of "taming" *solar* prominences so that planets close to the sun can be used safely. In reality, the gravitational suspensor is a terrible weapon that can be used to collapse a sun's magnetic field. At the end of the process, there is nothing left of the sun, which is tantamount to the end of all *life on* the planets in the system.

Almost thirty years pass before Buutrongdh realizes the purposes for which re-engrammatics are being used. By manipulating their memories via satellites, entire planetary populations are made to believe that the Thoogondus are their benefactors, while the Wanderer is to be feared. At the same time, their suns are being mined with gravitational suspenders. It is a conspiracy, possibly involving the Gondus *himself*, but certainly high-ranking rulers. They are waging war against the Wanderer and want to force it into their service. **The superintelligence is to be made to absorb the consciousness of re-engrammed peoples. If a critical mass is exceeded, they would be able to take over the collective being from within.** The Wanderer has made his support of the Thoogondus conditional on them staying away from the Forbidden Star Circle. Now the Guild has explored this region and discovered a system containing a metal similar to the Hooris crystals. Buutrongdh realizes that he has been targeted. He deposits his findings in a secure data carrier, which he entrusts to his student. In the event of his death, Khuulespiu is to receive the data capsule.

One month later, Buutrongdh falls victim to an "accident". Khuulespiu learns of the planned plot, which is put into action shortly afterwards. Within a few years, two solar systems are destroyed. The Thoogondus make it look as if they themselves do not know the cause of this "star plague". Each time, the Wanderer is asked for help and always absorbs the doomed peoples. Billions of re-engrammed consciousnesses accumulate in the collective being. Khuulespiu secretly sends a hypersender into space, which transmits a radio message with the truth. The rulers of the Gondunate claim that *another race* is behind it. Allegedly, they want to drive a wedge between the Thoogondus and the Wanderer. The Gondus are summoned to the Wanderer's home and do not return. **The Thoogondus are forced to leave the Milky Way and Canis-Major by the Wanderer.**

No Man's Son seeks out Khuulespiu and offers him a special kind of immortality. Khuulespiu's consciousness is embedded in a hypercrystalline structure and henceforth acts as the guardian of Thoo. His memories are the Record of Discord. Khuulespiu's hatred of the Wanderer is also preserved forever; he considers it a tremendous injustice that his entire people were punished because of the actions of the rulers.

Pucky has captured the Repository of Truth and returned to the BJO BREISKOLL. In a para-union with Donn Yaradua, he probes the structure and gains insight into the distant past. 20,000 years ago, the Thoogondus fought brutally and mercilessly against the Union of Ten, a league of nations to which the Sheoshesen also belonged. The founders of the Union were the Malltynods, heavy hairy beings with stocky builds and beaked mouths. Their main world, Tynod, is located in a *nearby* globular cluster, which is currently designated by the Thoogondus as the Protectorate 19 and is considered a restricted area. The second discovery concerns the Repository itself. Its contents are hardly manageable for an individual; it is obviously intended for a very large number of people.

For Pucky it is clear that more can be found out about the Union of Ten in the Protectorate, that not everything there is aboveboard, and that Perry Rhodan is probably already there for this very reason. The search for Perry Rhodan is at the top of Farye Sepheroa's list of priorities. So the BJO BREISKOLL sets off in the direction of the Protectorate and arrives there *in late* 1551 NGE. The spaceship GAUGRUCH of the elephant-like Khuluntur is located, which is struggling with great difficulties after a mistransition. *They respond with hostility towards the Terrans, until they see them, then they suddenly become peaceful.*

Farye's concerns were justified. The day after the confetti parade that welcomed Rhodan to Gaon, Admiral Shanina Sivathassam, commander of a super-battleship, has received an unofficial order from fleet commander Arbo Dannan to watch for the arrival of further starships from the Milky Way and to provoke *hostilities*. In this way, Rhodan, whom Dannan describes as a liar and spy for the Wanderer, is to be "unmasked" as an enemy of the Second Solar Empire. The Gaons have been using the GAUGRUCH as a decoy for alien ships for some time, which always fall victim to "accidents" after encountering the Khuluntur in need of help. That's what's happening this time too. *The Admiral* can observe the events in the GAUGRUCH via *six Gaons hidden on the Khuluntur ship monitoring the situation with video cameras* and are in constant contact with Sivathassam. This is how *he* learns of the presence of the legendary mousebeaver Pucky, who is extremely popular in the SSE.

Pucky has been busy spying and has at least partially figured out the Gaon's plan. Sivathassam gives the order to attack. *The hidden Gaons realize that they* and the others are to be sacrificed. *One of them sends* Pucky a mental warning. Bombs promptly explode, of whose existence *the Gaons* was unaware. The Gaons join forces with Pucky, save as many Khuluntur as possible and are teleported to the BJO BREISKOL before the GAUGRUCH explodes. Since Sivathassam's plan didn't quite work out, Dannan gives her the order to formally invite the Terrans. Farye is willing to negotiate because Sivathassam is in possession of *falsified* records that can be used to prove that the Terrans are somehow involved in the *destruction* of the GAUGRUCH. The BJO BREISKOLL and *Sivathassam's ship* set course for the center of Orion Land. The *BJO* docks with the *RAS* and Farye and her grandfather are finally reunited.

The situation in the Neo-Sol system is tense. Some Gaons see Perry Rhodan as a savior who will lead them to the homeland of their ancestors. Others consider him too lax or even believe he is a dangerous agent of the Wanderer and must be eliminated. Cassandra Somerset, Syllester Ford and *reporter* Shari Myre are still on board the RAS TSCHUBAI. The reporter is interviewing crew members. In truth, she is spying for Arbo Dannan, who has told her that Rhodan staged the assassination attempt on Somerset so that *he* could rescue the woman for publicity. Myre is now trying to gather evidence that Rhodan was in cahoots with the Soprasids and the "terrorists" Vranoo ba'Drant. The Solastrator and her mentor are informed of the latest findings. They are told what the Night Herald's Repository of Truth is all about. Pucky shows them some episodes from the telepathic archive, which reveal the atrocities committed by the Thoogondu. It is now assumed that **the Gondunate has only ruled over the whole of Sevcooris for perhaps 3000 years - after many millennia of wars and deliberate falsification of memories.**

Arbo Dannan sends a radio message to Perry Rhodan that can be received by anyone. The Gaonen fleet admiral expresses the suspicion that *Solastrator* Somerset is being manipulated and is no longer herself. Dannan's ultimate demand is that Somerset should return and allow herself to be examined, otherwise he will enforce this by force of arms. In the meantime, Minister of the Interior Ursus Caerd is to run the government. Caerd promptly makes an official request to the Thoogondu to send *troops* to maintain stability in the Neo-Sol system. Rhodan realizes that Dannan is about to seize power in the Second Solar Empire. *In light* of these events, Somerset gives the Galactics permission to open the Repository. It is assumed that the truth about the history of the Thoogondu stored in it will then manifest itself in the minds of all the inhabitants of the system.

Somerset warns the Gaons beforehand, as no one knows what effects the mental message emitted by the Repository will have. In addition, the Solastrator allows herself to be examined, not on Gaon, but in the RAS TSCHUBAI. Rhodan introduces Somerset and Gi Barr to each other. When the Solastrator learns of the previously unknown secret project Q-Ignition, she finally realizes that Dannan is her enemy. Meanwhile, Myre obtains information about Rhodan's experiences in the last *Vanteneu* Galactic Transfer *ship* via Taller. A little later she is approached by Ford, because she has already been seen through. Ford explains to the reporter what

really happened on the Night of 1000 *interview*. Myre's trust in Dannan is shaken. She is allowed to interview Rhodan live.

Late in the evening, Pucky and Donn Yaradua open the Telepathic Repository. A mental hurricane spreads. *Every intelligent being in the entire system now knows the truth*, but not everyone accepts it. Dannan accuses Rhodan of spreading the terrorists' lies, thereby exposing himself as an enemy of the Gondunate and the Second Solar Empire. He demands the unconditional surrender of the RAS TSCHUBAI. Somerset declares Dannan deposed and urges the population to remain calm, but in vain; there are serious riots by supporters and opponents of Rhodan on Gaon. Even Dannan, who almost longs for war, is astonished by the extent of the violence. He has a plan B.

50 Thoogondu pentaspheres materialize in the Neo-Sol system, led by the Gondunate leader Ruogoovid, who is also commander of the Gondian West Arm fleet. He asks Rhodan to have security forces transferred to take command of the RAS TSCHUBAI. Rhodan refuses. Ruogoovid says that now the weapons must speak.

The RAS TSCHUBAI comes under fire. The Terrans do not return fire, instead they outmaneuver the enemy ships. Several Gaon units side with the Terrans. Soon Gaons are shooting at Gaons. Shari Myre wants to *send* an interview to her boss in which the Terrans and Perry Rhodan in particular come off well, but the connection is interrupted on Dannan's orders.

Somerset gives a speech and explains that Dannan is to blame for everything. Gi Barr thinks that the Gaon's TEIRESIAS mainframe could have valuable information for Rhodan. While the RAS TSCHUBAI leaves the Neo-Sol system, Rhodan and Gi Barr jump into the caverns of *the moon* Selene with Pucky. *While they are detected by Gannon loyalists and traps are laid*, they manage to escape to the consultation chamber - a TEIRESIAS interface for high-ranking users. An ancient robot appears and transfers the new arrivals to TEIRESIAS using a transmitter *in the chamber*.

Perry Rhodan, Pucky and Gi Barr are transferred to an area of the caverns where direct contact with TEIRESIAS is possible. The biopositronics speak sparingly and in riddles. TEIRESIAS describes Sevcooris as a shadow realm and claims that it has not seen a human being for over 1500 years. TEIRESIAS was once the ORION's onboard brain and still regards Rhodan as a Grand Administrator who can claim extended access authorization *by invoking Administrative Priority*. TEIRESIAS can provide no evidence that the RAS TSCHUBAI has been tampered with, but hints that Doomadh, the Thoogondu Gondan mentor on Gaon, and the Gaon Gondu *liaison* Lupita Shona are suspects. Pucky teleports with Rhodan and Gi Barr to the capital Aponte.

They turn their attention to the Three Bridges building, where Doomadh and Shona are working. The Gondu *liaison* is already waiting for the trio. She explains Doomadh's *involvement with the Gaon head of the secret service Antan Outinen in the various plots and deceptions*. *After they leave, they kidnap Antan Outinen*. Outinen comes clean in a live broadcast. He calls Dannan a ruthless criminal. Dannan's reaction is prompt. Twenty battlecruisers take up position over Aponte. They will take the city under fire if the Somerset loyalists do not surrender unconditionally and hand over Rhodan. Then TEIRESIAS comes forward and enables him, Gi Barr and Pucky to make a transmitter jump into Dannan's flagship ARTEMIS. Apparently only Dannan is on board. The admiral is protected by combat robots. He has murdered the commander of the ARTEMIS because he refused to fire on the city. *When Dannan finds himself in this hopeless situation, he kills himself*.

The next day, the situation in the Neo-Sol system has already returned to normal. Shona mediates between Somerset and Doomadh. The Thoogondu fleet withdraws. The Terrans want to start their journey home. Syllester Ford and Shari Myre will join the journey to the Milky Way. Before the time comes, Rhodan gives a

speech to the Gaons in which he calls for peaceful coexistence and describes the Wanderer as a friend of humanity.

A few weeks later, Gi Barr speaks to TEIRESIAS again. The *computer* confirms that *it caused some of* the various events that ultimately led to Dannan's self-inflicted demise. Gi Barr, TEIRESIAS claims, should learn to *not* doubt the value of the Gaons. The Gaons, in turn, should realize that they do not need outside help - neither from the Thoogondu nor from Perry Rhodan.

The Gaons who traveled to the Milky Way as part of Project Q-Ignition have attempted to conquer Quinto Center. Lord Admiral Monkey has turned the tables and captured the Gaon flagship IVAN IVANOVICH GORACHIN instead. *Gaon* Admiral Amber Dessalin has surrendered.

While sporadic fighting continues in Quinto Center, Major Faolain Settember goes into hiding to free his twin sister Agostina from Monkey's control. *As he is about to be captured*, he picks up the information that Monkey is in the GORATSCHIN. Faolain assumes that *Monkey* has taken Agostina with him.

Faolain gets into the double-sphere spaceship, *but is immediately* surrounded. As he is about to shoot himself to avoid being captured, Agostina appears in Monkey's company. *Monkey* wants to give the traitor an opportunity to make amends and has shown *his sister* something that has fundamentally changed her attitude towards the Second Solar Empire and the Thoogondu. She now knows the truth and wants to make it accessible to her brother. Faolain drops the weapon. Monkey shows Faolain holo-recordings that have been made in the last few days in the GORATSCHIN. They prove that the Thoogondu have betrayed the Gaons.

Monkey assumes that pockets of resistance still exist. USO man Mamu Sondhake is present during Thoogondu Zuo's, an arrogant and unscrupulous manipulator who *acted as Admiral* Dessalin's advisor, interrogation. Sondhake has a *unique* gift. He registers everything that goes on around him, notices every seemingly insignificant detail, is able to put these impressions together to form an overall picture and draw conclusions that "normal" people would never come up with. This is how he realizes that Zuo creates nanomachines from clothing fibers, which he uses to communicate with Thoogondu who are hiding in the ship. Sondhake is even able to track down the hiding place.

The USO specialists encounter unexpectedly fierce resistance during the raid. The eleven Thoogondu in hiding use powerful beam robots. The GORATSCHIN also comes "alive". Large combat machines are assembled from all possible components of the ship, even from furnishings, and the Gaons had no idea of their existence. The USO suffers heavy losses. Three Thoogondu escape. Sondhake interrogates Zuo once more. Sondhake realizes that the "collage" robots' attacks are a distraction. A particularly large machine is *being* created at the junction of the two ship cells, which begins to uncouple the IVANOWITSCH from the IVAN. The Thoogondu want to escape and destroy the IVAN with the IVANOWITSCH's weapon dome. When *Gaon Admiral* Dessalin realizes that the Thoogondu are prepared to accept the death of all the Gaons still on board, she cooperates with Monkey. The USO gains full access to the ship's positronics. Now the enemy robots can be fought effectively. The decoupling is stopped. Sondhake thinks it all went too easily. What are Zuo's real goals?

This is where the recording ends. Sondhake *sees that* unlike his sister Agostina, Faolain is not convinced that the friendship between the Gondunate and the Second Solar Empire is based on lies. Nevertheless, Faolain is *included* in a plan to track down more hidden Thoogondu. After a staged escape, he calls for help by radio. After some time, two Thoogondu contact him and lead him to a hiding place. The *third* Thoogondu *is also* there, *and*

orders the other two to kill Faolain. The decision is now made for the Gaon. He fights back, is wounded, kills one of the two attackers and keeps Thoogondu Moothusach at bay until Monkey and Agostina arrive.

Thoogondu neurotronics are more than just high-performance computers, they are artificial intelligences with their own consciousness. They are biopositronics with Hooris crystals and living plasma, which enter into a symbiosis with a special type of fungus. Mentors "educate" the AIs and ensure that they do not fall into an inner conflict from which they can no longer free themselves by following the laws that apply to them : the Three Hierarchies (*nothing like Asimov's Three Laws*). A neurotronic *mentored by Moothusach* is installed in a secret room of the IVAN IVANOWITSCH GORATSCHIN.

Monkey enters this secret room after the GORATSCHIN is firmly in the hands of the New USO. Mamu Sondhake has already realized that the collage robots *were* not activated by the central positronics of the GORATSCHIN, but by a second, higher-level onboard brain. In fact, *more* collagen robots are created that attack immediately. The Oxtorner neutralizes them, but *the neurotronic's mentor* Moothusach uses the moment to take a USO specialist hostage. At the same time, *the neurotronic's master* Muraabod aims a beam weapon at the neurotronics, ready to destroy the computer so that the New USO does not get its hands on any explosive data - for example about a covert operation involving 100 *linear space shuttles* and 4000 Thoogondu battleships in the Milky Way. This mission is commanded from aboard the HARUURID. The ships have recharging stations for Hooris crystals on board and have been in the Milky Way since 1538 NGE.

The protection of his "child" is more important to Moothusach than the subjugation of the Milky Way peoples. He shoots Muraabod down before he can fire on the neurotronics, but the dying *master* is still able to *say a* code word, causing the neurotronics to begin self-destructing. Moothusach cannot reverse the process, but with Monkey's permission, he can cause the Hooris crystals to "freeze". In this way, the neurotronics are sent to the land of dreams and the self-destruction is stopped. The neurotronics must remain in sleep mode. However, Moothusach wants to try to extract data packets *to* give to Monkey as thanks for saving the neurotronics.

[The conflict between the Gaons and Terrans has been settled.](#) Before the RAS TSCHUBAI makes its way home to the Milky Way, Perry Rhodan meets with Doomadh to talk to the Thoogondu about the beam robots observed *with* the HaLem army. Doomadh *says that* neither he nor the Gondu with whom *he* consults know anything about the HaLem army.

The boy Taller has found a kindred spirit in Kek Chamowitsch, a Ganymedian working in *the RAS*. The two have become good friends. Kek lets Taller in on a secret : two days ago, he found a small wooden box containing a seed. Taller hears a luring call, and when he touches the object, he is stung. Pucky *is unable to remove the seed from the RAS TSCHUBAI*. It is soon discovered that the object is growing. If it cannot be removed from the *ship*, it will blow up the ship in the foreseeable future.

The Gemeni Duhadun, proto-Bhal of the Sprout TALLER, *appears*. He offers the Galactics the transfer of the RAS TSCHUBAI into the full-grown Sprout and a safe journey home. However, Taller is to remain in the Sprout. The *boy* feels connected to the Sprout and is not *opposed*, but Rhodan remains suspicious and refuses. Pucky teleports into space with the Sprout lying in a *suspension alcove (which makes the object inside immaterial, but does not affect its consciousness)*. As the Sprout *is immaterial*, Pucky feels no burden. The Sprout disappears.

Adam von Aures intends to replace Perry Rhodan with his version rescued from a Wanderer enclave, to become a figure of integration who is not influenced by superintelligences, so that humanity can break away from its *past* and embark on new paths. To achieve this goal, Rhodan must be rejuvenated. *On their way off the planet Sumurdh, where KYLLDIN was destroyed, Rhodan makes contact with an ethereal glowing light, and is rejuvenated to the real Rhodan's apparent age. But now this Rhodan is doomed to die because he does not belong in this universe.*

Thanks to a tip from his friends at the Techno-Mahdi, Adam comes up with the idea of inoculating Rhodan with [biophores], *which* would supply *Rhodan* with life energy. The next destination is thus decided : Sunset City, a gigantic mobile research station on the planet Last Hope in the Bolo system. There, Terran scientists are trying to reproduce the remains of the biophore that was once used *to* degrade KOLTOROC, a commander of the TRAITOR Terminal Column (*in the Negasphere cycle*). There they meet Pain Faaling, one of the scientists working there, *is* a member of the Techno-Mahdi, and consider Adam von Aures to be a living legend.

Adam confirms that researchers in Sunset City possess an [on-quantum]. In exchange for a face-to-face meeting with Vetris-Molaud and Zeno Kortin, Adam reveals the location of Wanderer to *some* Tefroders *who have also infiltrated Sunset City.*

Adam makes contact with Vetris-Molaud. The Maghan has now *confirmed* that the information Adam provided about Wanderer is correct. Vetris-Molaud wants to talk to Rhodan *in person*. Rhodan no longer wants to be used without knowing Adam's true intentions. Adam appeases Rhodan by claiming that his goal is to relocate Wanderer to the safest place *it* knows : the Sol system. Vetris-Molaud is Adam's involuntary tool for activating *Wanderer's* emergency program.

Wanderer, the former seat of the superintelligence IT, is located in *the* Vega system. The Discworld is still inaccessible. It is guarded by the ultra-battleship ERIK THEONTA and ten omni-carriers. The LYNKEUS *remote location system (which uses multiple small space probes to monitor all nearby energies to detect intruders)*, a new Terran-Onryonian development, is used here for the first time on a large scale.

Adam's plan works. *In late 1551* NGE, Six Tefrodian battleships enter the Vega system. Vetris-Molaud wants to offer Wanderer asylum in the Helitas system and does not allow himself to be stopped by the guard ships. *When* the first shots are fired, Wanderer begins to flicker, is *enveloped* in a kind of slow-motion blaze and disappears, Vetris-Molaud claims that the Tefroders have nothing to do with it. The *Tefrodian* ships depart. Wanderer appears in the Sol system. The Discworld has been exchanged for the Neptune moon Despina.

Meanwhile, Rhodan steals the biophore. Adam and Rhodan escape in *a* space jet. Adam's next destination is the Sol system. Bostich, he thinks, could be a valuable accomplice. Adam wants to use a cure made from the biophore for the Haluters' deadly disease as a lure.

"Fool" : this one word spoken by *his* extra sense is enough for Atlan, who wakes up after a long sleep and initially knows neither who he is nor where he is, *makes him* remember everything again. An Atopian probe was to take him from the Otherworldly Lands to a version of the standard universe in which the entity Thez will never come into being. A holo-recording by the Atopian *Judge* Julian Tiffloor claims that Atlan has only slept for a few years. Atlan learns that Tiffloor cannot exist permanently in a universe without Thez and that the same

applies to the probe. Tiffloor gives his old friend one last gift. He drops him off in exactly the right place at exactly the right time - in other words, in the middle of the action.

The Menes live on the planet Cessair in a galaxy far away from the Milky Way. They are aware of the fact that they were rescued and brought here a long time ago, but know almost nothing about their old home. The Menes are engaged in space travel and can fly faster than light, but have come into conflict with the Gauchen, lizard beings from the planet Achtrant, who are in possession of far superior hyperspace technology. *The Gauchen are about to attack the Menes in a space battle when an unidentified Menes dinghy suddenly appears.*

This is the Atopian probe, which has transformed itself, but continues to disintegrate. Atlan is *taken on board* the SWORD OF CESSAIR. The Arkonide is somewhat surprised to be dealing with people who speak polished English and even understand Irish language. Their technology shows no Arkonide influences. Atlan is therefore certain that these people - if they really are from Earth - arrived in this part of the universe long before Perry Rhodan's moon flight. After a thorough investigation and brief interrogation, Atlan is brought before the fleet commander. With surprising willingness, Rabsilber involves the Arkonide in the decisive battle that promptly breaks out after Atlan claims that he has come to help the Menes. The Arkonide, who has been trained in numerous space battles, is able to provide valuable clues so that the Gauchen can be beaten back despite their great numerical superiority, *and eventually* withdraw from the system. *A captured* Gauche claims that his kind are not murderers. Their aim is merely to cause so much damage that the technical development of the Menes is hindered, *and that* that many Gauchen are active on Cessair without being recognized.

Atlan is *taken to Cessair*. At the sight of the city's Victorian-style architecture, Atlan begins to suspect that the Menes may have left their original homeland around the year 1850. *Some Menes think* that Atlan could be the Star Wanderer, a long-awaited hero who, according to legend, will come when the need is greatest. *But* An X-ray proves that Atlan is no Menes : he has a bony chest plate instead of ribs. So is he an enemy spy? Rabsilber prevents Atlan from being captured, *and he* is able to go into hiding in the city.

The *native* Cucullates serve as advisors and helpers to the Menes, *when they are not living* in seclusion in *their Hooded Forests* that no one is allowed to enter. They are almost humanoid, but only three feet tall.

Mene secret agents Fitzgerald Klem and Oliver Mauser are given a new mission. They are to hunt down an escaped spy - Atlan. Locating the fugitive is no problem because the Cucullates have applied a special chemical to his clothing without anyone noticing. The two men confront Atlan, *who* notices that his new cell activator is reacting to an amulet worn by Fitz. He draws the right conclusions and claims to know more about the ancient home of the Menes. Fitz and Mauser are *eventually* convinced of his *sincerity*. *Mauser stays with Atlan, and* the two of them talk about the Cucullates. Atlan has already noticed that some Menes think these beings could be much more involved *behind the scenes*. Fitz doesn't even believe that the Cucullates really come from Cessair. Tissue samples taken in secret prove that they are plant beings whose genome does not match the planetary biosphere. Then Fitz's amulet comes up. The agent confirms that it prolongs his life. He received it from his ancestor Skadi Fitz, who is also extremely long-lived, lives on the continent of Siluria and knows the history of the Menes. The two of them *decide* to pay her a visit.

On the way, Atlan rescues two children who sneaked into a Cucullate forest. One of the children has seen a special place in the forest. Atlan asks him to draw a map and mark the spot.

There is a hidden library in Skadi's castle-like estate. Skadi explains that her dynasty has set itself the task of preserving knowledge about the history of the Menes. Skadi shares this knowledge with Atlan. She reads to him

from the first volume of the chronicle. The author is Lorina Hammingway. The story begins 3284 Earth years ago in 1854 AD, from which Atlan deduces that the year is currently 1551 NGE.

The passenger liner RMS CITY OF GLASGOW capsizes somewhere in the Atlantic. Among the almost 500 people on board are five-year-old Lorina, her two-year-old brother Augustus and their mother. The ship sinks, but all the passengers and crew members survive. They float above the water and are pulled inside a spaceship whose crew does not show itself for months. Lorina finds a small blue grain that stings her. She keeps the tiny object. Over the next few days, it doubles in size every day.

A little later, one of the creatures that are later referred to as Cucullates appears. Lorina thinks the creature is the friendly hill dwarf Borgin from a fairy tale and confronts it fearlessly. "Borgin" refers to the now egg-sized grain as the Sprout LORINA, named after its guardian. Borgin explains that they are on their way to Sashpanu. When asked about the reason for rescuing the humans, Borgin says that they have been placed in safekeeping by the one who watches over them in case they lose everything. After some time, the humans move to the Sprout LORINA. Many children are born there who know no other life.

Lorina speaks to Tharc, the Sprout's Bhal. He considers the humans to be dangerous and would prefer to throw them out of the Sprout, which would be their death sentence. *But* he cannot decide on this alone, *because* he has a guest on board. He speaks to the Guardian of the Sprout, *who* introduces himself as No Man's Son. According to the wishes of his master, the Wanderer, humanity should spread across the entire universe. That is why he has given his consent to the abduction of the humans from the CITY. The Cucullates are the Wanderer's disciples. The humans are to settle on a new world far from the Milky Way. A return to Earth is out of the question. Lorina is to become the spiritual leader of this small splinter group of humanity. She is given a life-prolonging amulet shaped like a twisted triangle. No Man's Son says that at some point Lorina or one of her successors will meet the Star Wanderer. Then many things will appear in a new light.

Atlan sees through the connections. The fate of the people of the CITY is not an isolated case. Between 1823 and 1872, humans were abducted to Alkordoom several times, including the Celesters. Even later, humans were repeatedly taken to distant parts of the universe, where they founded new star empires, such as Stardust Humanity (*from the Negasphere cycle*) and the Red Empire(?). **Atlan assumes that IT has scattered the humans like seeds across numerous galaxies.**

Fitz receives news of the arrival of a gigantic object at the edge of the solar system. It is the offspring LORINA. Skadi does not think its arrival is a coincidence. LORINA has come for Atlan - he is the Starwalker.

Bhal Tharc *leaves the LORINA*, and introduces himself as *a* Gemeni, turns to the people of Cessair and asks for help in the search for the Star Wanderer, as he could be an impostor. For many Menes, LORINA belongs in the realm of legend. The worldwide reactions are correspondingly strong. Some Menes even believe that LORINA will bring the entire *planet* to safety from the Gauchen. Atlan and Fitzgerald Klem see Tharc's message on the news. The Arkonide realizes that the hunt is on for him.

In fact, the Gemeni Vhor has already set himself on Atlan's trail. Vhor is a Hunter who *uses* Felands. These large, upright-walking, intelligent creatures with an unsurpassed sense of smell are probably genetically modified dogs. Vhor inspects Atlan's cell in the SWORD OF CESSAIR. Fleet Commander Geo Rabsilber has to tolerate this, but later he warns Fitz. The *secret* agent is happy to help Atlan because he feels attracted to him. This familiarity is mutual. There is obviously an affinity between Atlan's cell activator and the Penrose Prism Amulet of the Fitz Dynasty.

The two men flee when Vhor appears at Skadi Fitz's estate. Atlan is particularly interested in the Sprout LORINA, but first wants to find out more about the Hooded Forest, which is forbidden to Menes. Fitz thinks that a man named Moschran, who has supposedly lived there for centuries, might be able to help.

The exploration of the forest begins. Third in the group is John, *one of the two children who Atlan helped*, who has followed *Atlan* and *Fitz*. For better or worse, Atlan has to take the overzealous young man with him, because John has deduced from an old nursery rhyme where Moschran's hiding place is. He thinks he knows the place. *Fitz is wounded along the way*.

Moschran lives in a corrugated iron shack in the middle of the forest. He treats Fitz's *wounds* with a *web*, an object which, according to Lorina Hammingway's chronicle, is used in Sprouts like LORINA. There are also other objects belonging to the "plant technology" of the Cucullates in Moschran's hut. The old man claims to have found the objects in the forest. He is exploring the forest and is respected by the Cucullates.

The next day, Moschran leads his guests to a special place he calls the Billing Pit. It is filled with a network of roots and viscous liquid. At the bottom, there is a layer reminiscent of tar, in which something is moving. Moschran places a device derived from "plant technology" in it. It is entwined with fungal *threads* and copied. The copy is fully functional. Atlan also sees hypercrystals at the Billing Pit, which give the forest entity an UBSEF constant (*consciousness*).

Vhor *suddenly* attacks with superior weapons, Felands and Drakelings (*large insects*). Atlan has a slight advantage because the Gemeni wants to take him alive. He succeeds in throwing himself into the Billing Pit with Vhor. John helps *Atlan* escape the pit. Moschran sings a chant that causes the forest to turn against the Felands, who are giving Fitz a hard time. John, who has been bitten by a Feland, receives a *web* from Moschran to heal him and is sent home. Meanwhile, Vhor is taken out of the pit by *the leader of the Feland pack*.

Moschran leads Atlan and Fitz to a dead Sprout that presumably crashed on Cessair a long time ago. There Atlan sees a Shod mirror, a frame-shaped construction with sides four feet long and symbols at the corners. Moschran claims that the Shod mirror is an organic transmitter, but it must first be repaired with spare parts that Moschran has with him. Then Atlan and Fitz *are* transmitted *somewhere*. Moschran stays behind.

Atlan and Fitzgerald Klem reach the planet Achtrant, the home of the reptiloid Gauchen. The counter-station is located in the Technical Institute in the city of Tabbgorch. The Gauchen do not know the purpose of the artifact and are somewhat surprised when it suddenly activates and spits out two smoothskins. Atlan and Fitz flee, using only non-lethal weapons, and disappear into the city in makeshift disguise.

They are captured trying to rescue two Menes prisoners. A Gauchen scientist tells Atlan about the Shod Lens, a 6-D tracking device that the Cucullates have made available to the Gauchen. The Gauchen want to use it to search for their old home Gau in the galaxy Muulchond. Atlan realizes that the Gauchen and Menes have another thing in common. According to the legends of both races, their ancestors were rescued from a catastrophe by the Cucullates and brought to the galaxy Sashpanu by a huge spaceship that evolved from a small seed after decades of wandering. *The four prisoners escape, and go back to the scientist*. He asks the Arkonide to take a look at a mysterious phenomenon that has recently been observed. A small galaxy has suddenly disappeared. Atlan has an explanation : it is a [Swarm]. It is clear to Atlan that the Cucullates refer to Dakkar space as Shod.

The sprout LORINA appears at Achtrant. Bhal Tharc claims that the planet is threatened by a secret Menes commando. The Gauchen are asked to support Vhor in the hunt. *The scientist* provides the four humans with

Gauchen full-body masks. Nevertheless, they are recognized. *A fight ensues, but when Vhor comes into contact with the amulet of the Fitz family, he freezes and can be taken hostage. Atlan and the humans flee by helicopter.*

The five men travel to an island where they infiltrate a research station. Atlan befriends a Gauchen scientist, who takes them to a submarine. Along the way, Vhor re-awakens, shoots some security guards, and is killed. On board the submarine, Atlan dons Vhor's longcloak (which identifies him as a Hunter), which seems to be sentient. Atlan receives a great deal of information about the Gemeni and their spaceships. Bhals and Guardians of Sprouts can talk to each other via the Shod Corresponder and use the Shod Mirror to transfer themselves from one Sprout to another - even if they are in different galaxies. A Hunter can be sent through the Shod mirror by a Bhal. Atlan also learns that Fitzgerald Klem's amulet is made of Eiris in a "frozen" state.

Atlan's next destination is the LORINA Sprout, from which he hopes to reach the Milky Way. A surgeon takes care of Atlan's appearance. Afterwards, the Arkonide resembles a somewhat battered Gemeni. Atlan contacts the Sprout with *Vhor's longcloak*, is picked up by it and is not bothered any further for the time being. Fitz and Poulson are to be interrogated.

Atlan *finds* the way to the Shod mirror and the Shod Corresponder. No sooner has Atlan arrived than the Bhal Tharc appears with reinforcements. Tharc has realized that the supposed Vhor is not quite himself. Atlan does not deny this. He truthfully claims to know a lot about the Wanderer. He then receives permission to use the Shod Corresponder. Contact is made with the Sprout YETO in the Milky Way, but the procedure is extremely painful for Atlan, *and he* is only able to send Yeto Carell a fragmentary message, which he is to pass on to the Terrans. Atlan incapacitates Tharc and his bodyguards with the amulet of the Fitz family. He takes off the protective *longcloak* and slips into Tharc's command *longcloak* instead, which offers far less resistance. This allows him to activate the Shod mirror and cross with his two companions before more Hunters arrive. *Along the way*, Atlan senses that something is going very wrong with the transfer.

In early 1552 NGE, the RAS TSCHUBAI reaches the Milky Way. Perry Rhodan makes contact with LFG Resident Hekéner Sharoun and learns what has happened over the past nine months : the arrival of the Gemeni, the transfer of Wanderer to the Sol system (the artificial world has now sunk into the atmosphere of Neptune), the appearance of an alternative Ernst Ellert, the Gaon attack on Quinto Center, Reginald Bell's return home with his wife and child.

The following day, Rhodan and Syllester Ford, the former Solastrator of the Second Solar Empire, give speeches to the Gaon crew of the GORATSCHIN. Rhodan offers all the people *from* Sevcooris the chance to return to their home. Ford and the journalist Shari Myre are to persuade the Gaons to stop regarding the Terrans as misguided beacons of the Wanderer. Rhodan speaks to the captive Thoogondu about 16 hidden cavities in the GORATSCHIN, which were unknown to the Gaons and only recently discovered. Six HaLem statues were found there. The Terrans now know that the hyperactive component of the HaLem metal is Hooris crystals. *The Thoogondu remain silent, and later Zuo commits suicide.*

A little later, a HaLem statue comes to life and opens fire with weapons built into its arms. It attacks *the* Haluter Patich, who destroys the statue. OM promptly goes mad and sends TARA combat robots after the Haluter, which defeat and maim him. Since the sector in which OM is located cannot be blown out of Quinto Center, Monkey puts USO headquarters under lockdown. Patich uses himself as a structurally transformed projectile and sacrifices himself to destroy OM. Now the five other HaLem statues also become active. They take control of the GORATSCHIN and flee after firing a few shots blindly. Rhodan is still on board.

The Terrans piece together what has happened. Apparently, free consciousnesses are attracted to Hooris crystals. So Zuo had to die in order to transform himself into a HaLem statue and kill his fellow species, so that the same thing could happen to five of them who, like him, were intended for this purpose. OM's *construction* explains why Zuo's consciousness was transferred to the Semitronics after the statue was destroyed : Halutian DNA *in its biomatter* is infused with Hooris crystals.

Almost a hundred people were able to hide in the depths of the GORATSCHIN, including Perry Rhodan and Admiral Amber Dessalin, the former commander of the Gaon ship, as well as USO Major Tohrü Carturan, the new commander. Rhodan and Dessalin equip themselves with SERUNS and weapons. They meet QuinTech Maorim D'Abo, a data ethnologist. Dessalin speaks to the ship's positronics GREGOR and learns that the Thoogondu are in possession of alpha identifiers that GREGOR must obey, especially since the Thoogondu have claimed that Dessalin has defected to the enemy. It quickly becomes clear that GREGOR is in a kind of conflict of conscience. D'Abo *convinces* the positronic *to* let the three humans go, but *it* denies them access to the hyperradio system. *But*, this restriction also applies to the Thoogondu. GREGOR has to think about it and wants to observe first, in order to decide who is acting in the interests of the GORATSCHIN and who is not.

In line with Rhodan's plan, Dessalin offers the ship's positronics a solution to *its* dilemma : they are to split in two. The spherical cells of the GORATSCHIN are to be detached from each other. The IVANOWITSCH is to remain in the possession of the Thoogondu, while the IVAN is to be handed over to the humans. GREGOR agrees *and* blows up the coupling elements of the spheres cells.

After much intrigue and combat between the Terrans and the Thoogondu, they each retreat to the weapon domes on their part of the ship, and immediately separate them from the ship. GREGOR does not intervene. The reinforcements called in from both sides in the form of USO units and Gaonian spacecraft also remain inactive; Syllester Ford calls on the Gaons not to interfere. Gradually, Rhodan and Dessalin gain the upper hand. When the Thoogondu realize this, they destroy the two GORATSCHIN spheres and then blow up their weapon dome.

Rhodan's next target is the Sol system, because there are 12,000 HaLem statues on Mercury, which are probably Hooris processors just waiting to be used.

Opiter Quint and Ernst Ellert need a few weeks to recover from "reading" the Record of Discord. They relive the memories of the Thoogondu Khuulespiu and learn, among other things, that the Thoogondu experimented brutally with a Haluter named Nor Efech 30,000 years ago. Asked about this episode and the currently rampant Haluter plague, Homunk claims that information on this, though no cure for the disease, can be found in the Sokar system. After Quint has informed the TLD, the journey continues to the Sokar system. *In early 1552, they discover an Arkonide spaceship VRITRA MADIA on a moon.* Homunk knows this ship. In one of the quarters lies the preserved corpse of an *Arkonide* woman whose name, according to her diary also found in the quarters, is Suuna. No one else is on board. She has confided to the diary what happened 12,000 years ago in the era of the Methane Wars.

Backstory :

Suuna is a war psychologist on board the spaceship VRITRA and lover of Commander Trebon da Minterol. Trebon's battle group has only just defeated a fleet of Maahks in the Uhdrapash system when he is ordered to the next mission in the Kumugia system. *He fights off the Maahks and Haulters that are there.*

A little later, a strange-looking spherical starship appears in the system. A man who introduces himself as Lethuur from the Calurian race offers the Arkonides an alliance against the Haluters. In a conversation with Lethuur, in which an alien named Tomoughash take part, the Arkonides learn that the Haluters reproduce by unisexual reproduction and prevent newborn Haluters from being exact copies of their ancestors by accessing external gene pools. These gene pools are deliberately exposed to mutagenic influences, and a Haluter can also store his genetic material there if it has been altered by external influences and is to be made accessible to all members of his species. Tomoughash provides viroids embedded in special machine cells, which are to be introduced into the genetic material of the Haluters via the external gene pools and can be activated at the appropriate time by a start impulse. The viroids carry the germs for a deadly disease.

Lethuur does not give Trebon enough time to consult with the Emperor. *He* decides on his own authority and accepts the Calurian's offer. A Halutian gene pool is located on the moon Kaikiark *and contaminated*. Now all that remains is to destroy the main gene pool on another world so that the Haluters *must* access the pool on Kaikiark. Trebon takes on this task personally. Before doing so, he makes sure that Suuna and all the crew members of his ship that he cares about are not on board, because this is a suicide mission.

Suuna's descriptions leave no doubt that Tomoughash was a Thoogondu. *Two of his companions* were most likely Galkids. Suuna also saw a creature that could only be a Gemeni.

Adam von Aures *brings the alternate* Perry Rhodan to Saturn's moon Titan in *late 1551* NGE, *where a* Techno-Mahdi *base* is located. During his stay *there*, his health deteriorates so badly that he has to be put into an artificial coma.

In early 1552 NGE, Adam gives the launch order for a charade that has been years in the making to show the human race of the Sol system what could be in store for them. Techno-Mahdists working incognito on Earth introduce computer viruses, resulting in a worldwide surge in a wide variety of disruptions - including at NATHAN's weather control center and the Solar Residence - *which* are normally *impossible*. The Terran positronicians identify and neutralize a jamming program, but fall for a decoy. In reality, the Mahdists take control of all Terran large-scale positronics without being noticed.

Manipulated positioning results, falsified radio messages, holograms projected by flying drones and accompanied by appropriate sound effects and other tricks are used to make the Terrans believe they are being invaded, leading to death and destruction on an unimaginable scale on all the solar planets. Allegedly, the Sol system is being taken into "protective custody" by the Xumushan, bizarre beings with spider heads and a bundle of tentacles instead of arms, for the superintelligence XUDDUN. At the same time, the real technical failures continue to increase. *The next day*, the lights literally go out in Terrania.

Reginald Bell is worried about his family and takes a glider to fly home. The plane malfunctions and crashes. Dario Bechtel, a climate adapter working at Terrania's weather control station, pulls Bell from the wreckage. Dario's strength lies in pattern recognition. He has seen through the illusions, because the explosions supposedly caused by the Xumushan always look the same and there are only 24 individual types of aliens.

Tango Burosch, one of the leading positronicians of the LFG, addresses humanity with a message broadcast in all media. He comes out as a Mahdist and explains that the invasion is only staged. However, he fails to mention that the Techno-Mahdi is behind it. Instead, he claims that the real Xumushan are responsible. They *have* occupied the Solar Residence and only the Techno-Mahdi *can* still put up resistance.

In reality, the Techno-Mahdi is not a single person. It is a widely *convoluted* network of top scientists and other sympathizers who are of the opinion that humanity must free itself from the tutelage of the superintelligences and secure the Milky Way from any outside access. Scientists from all disciplines are to establish a logocracy ("*government by words*") free from the influence of politics in order to lead humanity into a better future.

For decades, the Techno-Mahdi has infiltrated Terran society and prepared the gigantic deception that *has taken effect*. In addition to Adam von Aures, who is also pursuing goals unknown to the Mahdists, four people are jointly responsible : Colin Heyday the chief scientist of the Kepler complex on Neo-Ganymede, the mass psychologist Caprice Noopila, the top positronics engineer Tango Burosch and Truc Moretti, the deputy chief strategist of the League fleet. If all goes according to plan, power will soon be transferred to a Welfare Council made up mainly of Mahdists. The cell activator carriers on Terra - Homer G. Adams, Reginald Bell and Icho Tolot - are a source of danger that must be eliminated. The immortals are to be arrested or, if necessary, killed.

Reginald Bell is attacked by TARA combat robots in his house on Lake Goshun, whose positronics are suffering from virus-related malfunctions. As the machines are comparatively cautious and only use non-lethal weapons, Bell manages to fend off the attacks with Tolot's help. Bell realizes that he is being targeted. He and his family are no longer safe at home. A woman named Famke Bach appears, who can identify herself through insider knowledge as an envoy of the Society of Absent Friends founded by Homer G. Adams. She asks Bell to follow her to Adams' estate.

There, Bell and his companions walk into a trap. Adams is not present, but instead Adam von Aures and Tango Burosch are already expecting Bell. They *used* a recording of a conversation in which Adams instructs Bach to *fool Bach into bringing* Bell. Adam von Aures uses his nanogents, but even he is no match for the combined forces of the Haluter and Famke Bach, who turns out to be a highly equipped robot. Bell and his friends escape *and* set off for Neo-Ganymede via transmitter.

The escape of the immortals is only an insignificant setback for Adam von Aures. The Xumushan invasion is merely a distraction. The real blow is yet to come. He intends to invite a hunter to the Sol system, whom he intends to make compliant with the prospect of a cure for his sick *Haluter* friends : Bostich.

The next day, Homer G. Adams receives Reginald Bell and his *companions* in *the* secret station of the Society of Absent Friends deep inside Jupiter's moon Neo-Ganymede, *which* is probably the safest place in the Techno-Mahdi infested Sol system. The Society has learned that the Xumushan invasion *is* most likely controlled from Galileo City, the capital of the artificial moon currently hovering 120 miles above Neo-Ganymede. *Bell goes* to Galileo City, accompanied by his wife Toio Zindher, Tolot and two special robots. One of the machines serves as a carrier for the components of a miniaturized personal transmitter.

The next day, Adam von Aures meets with Bostich. With the promise of developing a cure for the Haluter plague, Adam von Aures persuades the Arkonide to take action against Reginald Bell. He believes that Bell will try to obstruct the necessary actions of the Techno-Mahdi and is probably already on his way to Neo-Ganymede. Bostich claims to the *original* Terran leadership that he has come to protect the Arkonides who have settled in New Atlantis on Terra. With confusion still reigning in the Terran fleet, Bostich's ship cannot be prevented from taking up a strategically favorable position between Neo-Ganymede and Galileo City.

In the chaos of the supposed Xumushan invasion, Bell and his companions have no difficulty in looking around Galileo City unnoticed. *They identify two more Techno-Mahdi leaders*. Heyday is already expecting the group and denies nothing. Too late, Toio realizes that Bostich is arriving with four Haluters via transmitter - the trap

snaps shut. Bostich has two *Arkonide combat robots* with him, but Bell's robots are superior to these machines. In this stalemate, Heyday announces that he will trigger a neuroshock that will be effective throughout the building and to which only he is immune. Bostich paralyzes the man. [Heyday falls and breaks his neck.](#)

Bell, Toio and Tolot escape through the minitransmitter into the *Society's station*. Heyday's control systems are affected, because all Xumushan simulations go out. The system-wide disturbances subside. But the Mahdists activate the TERRANOVA screen *on the next day*. A short time later, the RAS TSCHUBAI *with Rhodan on board* materializes near the now inaccessible Sol system.

Atlan, Fitz, and Jas rematerialize in a Shod mirror, but not in the YETO Sprout in the Milky Way as planned, but in a decrepit spaceship whose six-legged crew (the Tonzers) attack, bite and cocoon them as soon as they arrive. The *two* large winged insectoids equip the men with translators *and call them "flotsam"*. Then Atlan and the Menes are left alone.

Atlan takes advantage of the temporary calm to activate the defensive functions of the Bhal *longcloak* and free himself and his comrades. The Tonzer, especially *their leader Nesting Father*, fear the *Gemeni Scout Strymer*, *who enters, inspects them*, describes the flotsam as worthless, *and the Nesting Father leaves*.

Atlan has questions. The *two* Tonzers explain that the ship is part of a vast conglomerate drifting through Dakkar space, home to many different races. Ships like the Tonzer's are fused with a huge space station made up of several cube-shaped segments, the interior of which looks just as organic as that of the GESHOD Sprout. A very important part of the station, the Paslaim, is off-limits to beings like the Tonzer and is therefore of particular interest to Atlan. He later learns that the Gemeni refer to the conglomerate as the Geshodrome. All *the two Tonzers* know about *their* past is that their people arrived in Shod, or Dakkar space, many centuries ago as a result of an accident. A long time ago, the Gemeni helped the Paslaimons (*short, thin-legged humanoids*) to *connect* the first ships. Today, they serve as mediators when disputes arise between peoples, and as helpers in dangerous situations. The Gemeni claim that there is no world outside the Shod.

Sometimes flotsam appears in the Shod that the Gemeni consider valuable. They either fish it out themselves or trade with those who manage to do so. Occasionally, the flotsam not only falls through space, but also through time. *When that happens, they can feel the "wind of time"*. This was the case when Atlan and his companions arrived, so it is *possible* that they have *been displaced by centuries*, if not millions of years.

The humans defend the *two* Tonzer against other beings who are after the insectoids. The battle is ended by the appearance of a *Hunter* named Shaphandh. Atlan fears that the Hunter will turn against him, but the *Hunter* is turned away by the Paslaimon Mollikord. These beings enjoy a special status because it is they, and not the Gemeni, who shield the station from the Shod.

Strymer appears. He has been lured by a signal, the source of which can only be Fitz's amulet. He is offered help in recovering valuable flotsam. Atlan hopes that if he is successful, the opportunity will arise to penetrate the central areas of the station. Strymer tests the suitability of the humans by forcing them to cross over into *the* Shod. Fitz is protected by his amulet and, unlike the others, is able to orientate himself. He rescues Atlan, but Poulson *drifts* away in Dakkar space. Strymer is impressed and accepts the offer.

Together with Strymer, Atlan, *and* Fitz explore a particularly large piece of flotsam in the Shod. It looks like a city or station floating in *an ocean*. Fitz wants to kill Strymer to avenge Poulson. He tries to touch *Strymer* with

the amulet, but Strymer knocks it out of his hand. Strymer grabs the amulet and uses it to disable Atlan's Bhal *longcloak* and escape. Suddenly *the Hunter appears*.

It is not Atlan and his companions who are the targets of the *Hunter* Shapandh, but Strymer. The *Scout* is a murderer, thief and swindler on whom the Bhal of the Geshodrome has imposed *a death sentence*. Strymer is found on the drifting material installing a beacon which should enable the Paslaimons to attach the object to the Geshodrome. Shapandh kills Strymer, *but* before he dies, *he* manipulates the beacon in such a way that the flotsam will collide with the Geshodrome. At least Fitzgerald Klem gets his family amulet back.

As a *Hunter*, Shapandh cannot operate the beacon, but he can put on *Strymer's longcloak*, so that he is effectively partially transformed into a *Scout*. In this way, disaster can be averted, but in the long term Shapandh cannot survive the change of symbiote. A flying capsule appears. *One of the Tonzers knows the* Paslaimon Mollikord and has asked him for help. Atlan tries to save Shapandh by rebooting his protective *longcloak* with the cell activator. In the process, he learns that the *Hunter* has received new instructions. Atlan is to be punished for stealing the *Bhal* command *longcloak*. Mollikord (who, however, is more interested in the amulet than in the humans) offers Atlan and Fitz asylum in the Paslaim. This place is never visited by the Gemeni, it is considered neutral ground.

When the group enters the Paslaim, they are attacked because of the Tonzers, who are considered willing henchmen of the Gemeni and are therefore hated by the multi-ethnic mixture living in the Paslaim. *Suddenly, a humanoid robot appears and speaks in their favor*. This is Tamareil, or rather a body made by the Paslaimons for a mind-jumper from the Cappin sub-race of the Olkonors. It contains a core of PEW metal for Tamareil's consciousness. The Olkonor tends to bend the truth to her wishes (in other words, she lies *whenever* she opens her mouth) and uses this special gift to distract the angry crowd. The Peripheral Council is to decide what to do with the four new arrivals.

After a mock attack on the Paslaim by Shapandh, the atmosphere at the council meeting that takes place a little later is very tense. Some think Atlan is an informer, others want to sacrifice him to save themselves. Warmongers like Lagund would prefer to counterattack immediately. Only a few, like the Council Elder Banailid, are on Atlan's side.

The Arkonide takes advantage of the fact that nobody knows what goals the Gemeni are actually pursuing. All that is known is that they are helping GESHOD to acquire the knowledge of highly technological peoples. Atlan has some flashes of inspiration that lead him to suspect that IT intends to use GESHOD as a kind of placeholder in *IT's* orphaned Sphere of Influence. Atlan wants to penetrate the Shod Citadel, which is forbidden to all other inhabitants of the Geshodrome, in order to find out more. After a vote manipulated by Tamareil, he is allowed to go. Mollikord knows of a secret passage that leads directly into the Shod Citadel. Mollikord, Tamareil and the two Tonzers want to accompany Atlan and Fitz.

They reach a hall full of organic buds in which data memories are growing. This is a library of knowledge collected by the Gemeni. It includes a detailed map of the Geshodrome. It becomes clear that the Gemeni are observing a very specific area of normal space with *a* Shod telescope. This is the dwarf galaxy Cetus, which is "only" two and a half million light years away from the Milky Way. A Shod mirror is located near the telescope. Atlan and his friends make their way there. At the same moment, the Paslaim is attacked again.

Despite various adversities, Atlan, Fitz, Tamareil and Mollikord reach the Shod telescope by means of detours and bluffs and also receive two Scout *longcloaks*. Thanks to his Knight *of the Deep* aura, Atlan is able to use the Scout *longcloak* to look into Dakkar space. In contact with Tamareil, who is wearing the second Scout

longcloak, he manages to sort out the confusing impressions to some extent. Atlan looks into the dwarf galaxy of Cetus and sees at least one brightly shining object there that the *Scouts* are apparently searching for.

When Tamareil's consciousness returns to the PEW core of *her* robotic body, a hyperdimensional deflagration (*a fire that spreads on its own*) occurs. Atlan uses the chaos to take possession of the telescope's archive *which is* stored in a head-sized sphere made of biotech threads. They retreat to a hiding place. Atlan asks Mollikord about GESHOD. The Paslaimon explains that the superintelligence only exists in the “Shod phases”. These occur at irregular intervals of varying duration. **GESHOD is called a “sporadic” superintelligence. During the Shod phase, GESHOD can access the consciousness of other living beings in order to manipulate and oversee them. Outside this phase, GESHOD is not conscious, and the Temporal Escort (the Gemeni) administer its star territories.** According to Paslaimon legends, fear, terror and destruction spread when GESHOD awakens. The Gemeni see it differently; they believe that life flourishes in the phases of Shod.

Tamareil *enters* the archive via a *mind-jump* and learns that the *Scouts* are searching Cetus for silos built by IT *that contain Proto-Eiris*. Shapandh and other Hunters appear, *and everyone is caputred*. Atlan challenges Adburn, the Bhal of the Geshodrome, to a duel. If Atlan wins, he and his companions will be transported to a place of their choice by a Shod mirror. The price of defeat is Fitz's amulet, which is why he also takes part in the battle, because the Penrose prism could be a key to the silos. *Either way*, Atlan has to give up his Bhal *longcloak*.

The Gemeni is defeated because he had not reckoned with the cooperation and mutual protection of Atlan and Fitz. Adburn is true to his word, but Mollikord prefers to stay in the Geshodrom. The others use the Shod mirror *to get to Cetus*.

There used to be lively trade relations between the small galaxy of Cetus and the Milky Way *which stopped* after the *hyperimpedance increase* of 1331 NGE. *Some* Terrans live in Cetus – they are all descendants of the original crew of the trading vessel WOODS ROGERS, which was adapted to the *new* hyperimpedance by its former commander. The current captain is Florence Hornigold. The ROGERS' home port is a hollowed-out asteroid in the star ring of Tson. Around 2000 Terrans run a market house there, where Hornigold sells her wares. The humanoid Lee are the dominant race in Cetus. The green-skinned giants spend generations creating rings of asteroids, planetary debris and other celestial bodies around *sun*s, which then serve as habitats. Among them are also Cucullates in the star ring of Tson. These usually stay in their protected private area. Hornigold is the only local trader who can procure goods from other star rings.

Hornigold *learns of Atlan's presence in the star ring, and contacts him*. In the meantime, *he has* captured the Lee mercenary Pond. Pond's mission was to bring the strangers to a Cucullate named Alverdh. Tamareil gains access to *Pond's* memories via *mind-jump*. They reveal that Alverdh is connected to the ZOI, the only GESHOD Sprout in Cetus.

The local Lee mayor wants to be informed about everything Atlan finds out about the Cucullates. *Fitz's amulet* has been behaving strangely since its arrival in the Star Ring. It moves as if it were pointing at something - possibly the Proto-Eiris silo. Atlan, Fitz and Tamareil realize that the object in question is in the ring of stars, on a moon belonging to the Cucullates.

At *very low* speed, the ROGERS approaches *the* moon. Atlan, Fitz, Tamareil, Hornigold *and one of her* crew Lee Nisg land in a dinghy. They think they are unobserved, but the Cucullate Alverdh is not so easily shaken off. Pond, one of Alverdh's Lee mercenaries, can locate Nisg at any time.

The Lee are aware that the Cucullates are looking for something on the moon. Tamareil takes over the treasure hunter Haurrigh via *mind-jump*, and *his* flying machine is used to explore the moon. The amulet shows the way. Near a tower that looks different from all the other artifacts on the moon, a mental influence, intended to keep intruders away, and an interference field, which prevents flight, take effect.

When Fitz's amulet accidentally touches a human-sized manikin lying in the rubble, *it* comes to life. It is an android created by IT like Homunk, but it is just as unfinished as the proto-Eiris silo on this moon. He built the tower himself. It is supposed to be a replica of the *real* silo. The artificial being is called Khon and is eager to provide information because the new arrivals include both the wearer of an amulet and a Knight of the Deep. Khon informs them that **there are four silos hidden in Cetus, the contents of which can be used to refill the Sphere of Influence of IT.** The creation of the silos is one of several measures taken by the superintelligence to prevent the Sphere from disintegrating in its absence. **The Proto-Eiris must be programmed by Wanderer before it can be used. Only IT, another designated superintelligence, or two people wearing a Knight aura can activate the Proto-Eiris.** Atlan is right in assuming that GESHOD is the superintelligence in question. However, it is far too young – only in fifty to one hundred thousand years will GESHOD be able to fulfill its intended task. The best news is that the Terrans and their allies are free to decide how to use the Proto-Eiris. If *it* were given a kind of blocking *aura*, the areas of the Sphere of Influence flooded with them would be blocked for superintelligences - including IT. However, the amount stored in the silos is only sufficient for the Milky Way, Cetus and Andromeda. Khon gives Atlan a tiny sample of proto-Eiris. This is stored in *his* cell activator.

Alverdh and the Lee mercenaries attack. *Alverdh is killed.* Pond, who must assume that he will lose all privileges as a result of Alverdh's death, seeks revenge.

Atlan now wants to return to the Milky Way as quickly as possible to share his latest findings with humanity. To do this, he needs the help of the Cucullates and the Gemeni from the ZOI Sprout - after all, according to Khon, they are by no means enemies, but potential allies. Once again, Tamareil has to use her special abilities to enable Atlan to talk to Nadhnar, the Bhal of the ZOI Sprout. Nadhnar, however, believes Atlan to be Alverdh's murderer based on false information he received from Pond. He is therefore of the opinion that the Arkonide does not have the moral authority to decide the future of the Sphere of Influence.

Atlan and his companions flee, and Pond pursues them, determined to kill Atlan. While Florence Hornigold and Nisg return to the WOODES ROGERS, Fitz and Tamareil *are* able to activate the amulet *into a Tribar*, which has made contact with a counterpart, to which it is *connected*. *They and Atlan pass thru it.*

In early 1552 NGE, a hyper-energetic wake-up call goes out to the Silent Shipyards, Thoogondu facilities hidden deep in the atmospheres of gas giants *in the Milky Way*. Thousands of *robotic* pentasphere spacecraft are waiting there to be deployed. After the wake-up call, *these* fighter ships leave to gather information. If there are intelligent beings in the vicinity, they are asked by the on-board computer ONE-THAT-WHOLE to explain their relationship to the Wanderer. Enemies of the Wanderer are potential allies. Those who have a positive attitude towards the Wanderer are threatened with annihilation.

The Terrans learn that all the pentaspheres are due to rendezvous at a neutron star (which they call Hooris stars, because they can harvest Hooris hypercrystals from them), and learn its exact location.

At the Hooris star Zhytor and the neighboring red dwarf, from which the pulsar extracts matter, 15,000 Thoogondu robotic spaceships of various types are gathering. The LFG is also gathering contingents there.

Admiral Ruth Dunjana *tells Rhodan*, who still believes that cooperation with the Thoogondu is possible, *that he is not in command, but accepts him* as an advisor.

An escalation threatens because the Thoogondu are obviously preparing to attack. The NETO, a Gaonian spaceship, appears. After sending a short message to ONE-THAT-WHOLE, the robotic ships retreat to the pulsar. The Galactics discover that *a Thoogondu* on the NETO emitted a pulse directed at an object hidden in the red dwarf. It is a space station *that* is in radio communication with a network of satellites surrounding the pulsar. Pucky teleports with Sichu Dorksteiger and a TARA *combat robot* into the interior of the station, *which* promptly wraps itself in a high-dimensional energy shield.

Pucky and Sichu learn that the station is ancient and inhabited by descendants of the original crew. Sichu taps into a terminal and learns that the entire cube serves as a control system for a pulsar transmitter that can bridge vast galactic distances. Hypercrystals are activated in the Hooris star at this very moment for this purpose. It is therefore clear that the pulsar is to be used as a gateway for an invasion fleet from Sevcooris.

Pucky penetrates into the center of the *station*. He believes he has found the place where "Those" live. There is a free-floating cube with an edge length of 60 feet. Inside, the mousebeaver comes across a Gemeni wearing a *Bhal longcloak*. At 10.5 feet tall, it is unusually large, Janus-faced and connected to the cube by organic strands. The Gemeni introduces itself as Sharibakeph, *but* there is no time for a conversation. Sichu activates a structural gap in the station's outer shield. This allows the two of them to return to the RAS TSCHUBAI.

The pulsar transmitter is activated, *and* an energy ring with a diameter of 2.5 miles is created. The TAYLITTIR is the first pentasphere spacecraft to pass through it *into the Milky Way*. The Galactics' fears that the TAYLITTIR is the spearhead of an invasion from Sevcooris are unfounded. For the time being, *only* three pentaspheres *come thru*, and they are damaged to boot. Puorengir, daughter of Gondu Narashim, makes radio contact with the robotic spaceships. She describes herself as the ruler of all Thoogondu and claims supreme command of the fleet, but ONE-THAT-WHOLE does not respond. A second, partially encrypted message is sent to the Terrans. Puorengir asks for asylum in the Milky Way and a personal meeting with Perry Rhodan to explain her reasons. She closes the transmitter portal, which is about to be crossed by an invasion fleet. Rhodan receives Puorengir in the RAS TSCHUBAI and learns from her what has happened in Sevcooris over the last thirty years.

In 1523 NGE, Narashim's son Puoshoor is appointed Ghuogondu, the designated successor to the ruler. After 31 years, this burden is to be passed on to his twin sister Puorengir. Narashim makes it urgently clear to the siblings that the office of Gondu only has one real meaning. The Gondian oath once made by Tothoolar must be fulfilled. This refers to the return to the Milky Way, a project that can only be tackled once the Wanderer has disappeared - in all likelihood never. The Milky Way has been observed by the Thoogondu for thousands of years, so Narashim is always aware of the conditions there. He is certainly not interested in an invasion. In 1527 NGE, Narashim *begins to* talk to his advisory board about the idea of proposing an alliance to Rhodan.

Shortly after Rhodan's arrival in Sevcooris *in 1551 NGE*, Narashim informs his daughter about this background in a *private* conversation and reveals to her that there was a Guild working against the Gondu *when the Thoogondu were expelled from the Milky Way*, and that this Guild still exists. Narashim is convinced that the Guild is aware of his plans and is thwarting them because they want to *take over* the Milky Way, *not just return to it*. He assumes that this is why he is to be eliminated. Not only must someone from *his* advisory board belong to the Guild, but also Puoshoor. As Ghuogondu, he would succeed Narashim - and what would the Guild have gained if Puoshoor were not also in favor of the invasion? Narashim intends to appoint Puorengir as Ghuogondu before the 31-year term expires, as she shares her father's views.

However, Puorengir cannot believe that her brother is involved in a conspiracy. She wants to see proof and begins to investigate herself. A little later, Zeshira is tracked down, a woman from Narashim's board of advisors who disappeared 20 years ago and is believed to be a New Guild member. Puorengir conducts the interrogation in person. Zeshira's memories have obviously been manipulated. The real ones are only covered over and can be uncovered. The terms "invasion", "transmitter" and "Hooris star" are mentioned. Zeshira was used by the New Guild!

Puorengir's inauguration ceremony begins. An assassin deactivates the energy shield of Gondu's traveling throne. A Gaon from Narashim's bodyguard opens fire. Narashim is fatally wounded. Despite this, he still manages to publicly declare Puorengir the Ghuogonda. Puorengir now believes that Puoshoor is behind it all.

Eleven more pentasphere spaceships pass through the transmitter. Thuklaish, commander of the *fleet*, describes Puorengir as Narashim's murderer. Her extradition is demanded. Rhodan negotiates a 36-hour deadline. Puorengir believes that Thuklaish may be able to gain control of the robotic spacecraft.

Moothusach, *the creator of the IVAN IVANOVICH GORACHIN's neurotronics* accompanies Pucky and Sichu Dorksteiger to the control station of the transmitter of the Hooris star to talk to Sharibakeph, who functions as an organic component of the neurotronics there. It is only through Puorengir's report that Moothusach realizes that he was a tool of the New Guild and owes the loss of his "child" to this organization. He tries to persuade Sharibakeph to switch off the transmitter. With his arguments, he drives *Sharibakeph* into an irresolvable contradiction. *He* goes mad, neurotronic paralysis is imminent. The trio flees back to the RAS TSCHUBAI.

Puorengir continues her story :

After the death of her father, she is the next logical target of the New Guild. She wants to go public with her findings, but has no proof. So she interrogates Roomhir, the only surviving assassin. Under the influence of drugs, he reveals a lot of information, including the HaLem army on Mercury (it is to serve as a second pillar in the invasion) and the real reason for the expulsion of the Thoogondu (*their attempt to gain control of IT described above*). Roomhir commits suicide with a poisoned fingernail before Puorengir can ask him if Puoshoor is part of the Guild. Puorengir learns that Zeshira took Puoshoor to the New Guild. His memory has been manipulated so that he now believes himself to be the leader of the Guild. Puorengir is determined to stop her brother. She consults Muisheed, her father's First Nuncio (*bodyguard and chief of security*).

Puorengir ensures that Puoshoor remains close to her at all times during the enthronement. She believes that this will protect her from an attack. However, she has not reckoned with Puoshoor's cunning. Immediately after her appointment as Gonda, he publicly announces that she has instigated a conspiracy and murdered Narashim. Unlike her, he is able to present evidence in the form of film footage that was taken during Puorengir's research activities and cleverly manipulated. Puorengir is to be arrested, *but Muisheed helps her escape*. Puoshoor destroys the Gondus' magnificent ship and makes it look as if Puorengir is responsible for the deaths of thousands of Thoogondu remaining on board. He declares her an enemy of the state and proclaims himself *the* Gondu.

The RAS TSCHUBAI intercepts a radio message in which Thuklaish demands that the Gaons of the NETO submit to his command. *Its commander* hesitates. Puorengir warns him about the New Guild and identifies herself to him as the rightful ruler with the Gondian Privilege. This crystal disk with a core of worked Hooris crystals is the symbol of the Gondus' official dignity. But Puoshoor, who has now come through the transmitter with the DAAIDEM, also possesses a Gondian Privilege! Perry Rhodan rejects Puorengir's extradition.

Atlan cannot believe his eyes when he rematerializes in an unknown place after crossing *thru* the Tribar with Fitzgerald Klem and Tamareil and comes face to face with Ernst Ellert. Ellert's companion Opiter Quint feels honored to welcome the legendary Arkonide to the Milky Way. After all, 35 years have passed since the disappearance of the ATLANC, at least for Quint. Atlan, on the other hand, looks back on *the* centuries-long odyssey and is delighted to learn that it is *mid* 1552 NGE. The "loss of time" associated with the journey *to* the Jena Lands and the Shod *was* therefore *minimal*. Quint informs Atlan about the current situation in the Milky Way and introduces him to Wynter and Zau. Homunk is also present, *but can tell Atlan nothing useful*.

Near the still inaccessible Sol system, Atlan consults with Admiral Anna Patoman in the GALBRAITH DEIGHTON VII. Tamareil and Zau sense that several consciousnesses are trying in vain to cross the TERRANOVA screen. Although the screen is five-dimensional in nature, Tamareil is unable to aim for a *mind-jump* on the other side. She feels a six-dimensional resistance. Presumably the alien consciousnesses are struggling with the same problem and it may have something to do with the "seal" in Sol (*from the Neuroverse cycle*). After Atlan promises that he will help Tamareil return to Gruelfin, she connects to the consciousnesses with Zau's help and realizes that they come from the Hooris star Zhytor. This determines Atlan's next destination, especially since the RAS TSCHUBAI is there. Atlan needs the spaceship to get *back* to Cetus. He also wants to finally embrace his old friend Perry Rhodan. The joyful reunion is followed by a brief exchange of experiences.

Tamareil and Zau connect to ANANSI via SEMT hoods in order to establish better contact with the consciousnesses. They learn that they have bridged the intergalactic void and have been catapulted to the Geshodrome in Dakkar space, which acts as a kind of hub. They were forwarded to the Hooris star and redirected from there to the Sol system. These are *Thoogondu* whose target can only be the HaLem statue Hooris processors on Mercury. About a hundred *consciousnesses*, apparently a vanguard, are on their way. Tamareil, Zau and Pucky form a para-union. When the first *consciousness* finally manages to pass through the TERRANOVA screen, the mouse beaver threads its way through *with a* pain teleportation and takes Atlan with him. Atlan and Pucky arrive at their destination. Later, Pucky realizes that Tamareil's consciousness is in Atlan's head. Zau has "jumped off" en route.

Atlan and Pucky have to hurry, because the HaLem soldiers have already launched an attack – they want to deactivate the protective screens sealing off the excavation site. Pucky and Atlan destroy the HaLem soldiers. Atlan's next destination is *Terra*. He wants to find out more about the Techno-Mahdi and Project Genesis.

On Terra, Atlan gets an idea of the current situation. The Techno-Mahdi have installed a Welfare Council headed by Adam von Aures. There is talk of a seizure of power. The situation is confusing because the Techno-Mahdi controls almost all the media and the Solar Residence has been completely sealed off. Many Terrans are in favor of the Techno-Mahdi's propaganda of turning away from the superintelligences. Demonstrators demand the withdrawal of the cell activator carriers. The appearance of Wanderer and the arrival of Bostich with the GOS'TUSSAN II *in the solar system* are hotly debated. *Pucky and Atlan* teleport to the Solar Residence. There Atlan receives further information from Hekéner Sharoun. New target: Neo-Ganymede. Atlan wants to help Reginald Bell against Bostich.

In the castle, Bell introduces his old friend to his wife and child. Atlan is reserved towards Toio Zindher, as she is partly responsible for Ronald Tekener's death. Shinae, on the other hand, is greeted warmly by Uncle Atlan.

Homer G. Adams is called in. In his department Q-Three, Atlan and Pucky are equipped with new SERUN *improvements*. The deflectors of the suits are specially protected against detection so that Atlan and Pucky can look around Bostich's ship unnoticed. Apart from the ex-Imperator, who is no longer physically recognizable as

an Arkonide, and Adam von Aures, there are only 100 Haluters left on board. Almost all of them are ill. Bostich is able to steer the huge ship alone. He talks to Adam about the "post-Genesis world". He has been promised a leading role in a renewed Arkonide-Terran star empire and a guard of healed Haluters. Adam claims that the biophore has already been duplicated. It only needs to be reprogrammed into an Eiris substrate. Then mass production can begin and the Sphere of Influence can be flooded. Adam announces that he intends to fire *an Arkonide Teslym projectile (drags parts of the target into hyperspace and ignites them)* from the GOS'TUSSAN II at Wanderer.

The crew of the GALBRAITH DEIGHTON VII, positioned outside the TERRANOVA screen, observes the arrival of a 180 foot diameter spherical spacecraft. The FLORENCE LAMAR requests permission to enter. The Etain aggregate, an ethereally beautiful woman with white skin, colorless hair and black eyes, sends greetings. *Admiral* Anna Patoman's warnings are ignored. The small ship flies directly towards the system-spanning screen. A structural airlock opens *on its own*. After the *ship* enters, Patoman receives information that a woman with that name was a biologist on board *an exploration ship*. The only *known* survivor of the ship *which was* lost in 2512 AD was Lotho Keraete.

Colonel Verunic Jamuna, commander of the omni-carrier ship THARSOON, is negotiating with the Etain aggregate and Lotho Keraete. The former messenger of IT claims that Wanderer is in great danger due to the current invasion of the Milky Way by Gemeni and Thoogondu.

Jamuna first arranges for an inspection of *their ship*, to which Keraete has no objections. The ship appears to be larger on the inside than on the outside and is home to alien beings who, together with the Etain aggregate, belong to Keraete's Beautiful Family : the Muirden (six foot tall bony creatures that *can teleport, and block telepathy and telekinesis*) and the Lukaparn (three foot tall bulbous creatures with hat-shaped technosymbionts). The Etain aggregate leads the inspection team commanded by Jamuna's head of security Sybren Spira to the control center. The woman demands a kiss from Spira as payment for her services. Her lips are so cold that some skin remains attached - so the payment is apparently a tissue sample. Keraete announces that he will pay a visit to Bostich to prevent him from attacking Wanderer. Jamuna agrees on the condition that Spira comes along as an observer. The FLORENCE LAMAR *is* smuggled into the GOS'TUSSAN II.

Unnoticed, Atlan and Pucky witness Lotho Keraete being welcomed by Bostich as a friend and ally in *his* spacecraft. The Etain aggregate takes a small piece of skin from *a restrained raging* Haluter. Keraete is informed of Bostich's intentions and offers to help. According to him, even with a Teslym projectile, Wanderer cannot be endangered. The Beautiful Family is able to modify the projectile to increase the chances of success. The price for this is a kiss - so the Etain aggregate also receives a tissue sample from Bostich. Once all the preparations have been completed, a ten-hour countdown begins.

Keraete and the Beautiful Family return to the FLORENCE LAMAR. Pucky teleports after them with Atlan, *and* the two are immediately discovered. Keraete makes no secret of the fact that he has betrayed the Terrans. He realizes that IT only saved his life so that it could use him as a tool. All the other crew members of the *exploration ship* - including the woman Keraete loved - were unimportant to IT and were therefore not saved. With the disappearance of IT, Keraete now acts on his own. Keraete believes that relics like Wanderer stand in the way of a new design and must be removed.

Keraete offers Pucky, Atlan and Tamareil acceptance into *his* Beautiful Family, but doesn't treat them like prisoners when they refuse. Before they teleport back to the GOS'TUSSAN II (taking Spira with them), they learn that Keraete and Adam von Aures lived together for a long time in the city of Aures. The GOS'TUSSAN II sets course for Neptune. The Neptune Fleet tries in vain to stop the starship, *but* the Teslym projectile is fired.

Wanderer is not destroyed by the explosion, but begins to wobble and pulsate. The GOS'TUSSAN II is badly damaged by the explosion and is also under constant fire. Bostich is brought to safety by *Keraete*. Pucky, Atlan and Spira leave the ship by teleportation.

The GOS'TUSSAN II explodes. Atlan, Pucky, Reginald Bell, Icho Tolot, Homer G. Adams and Toio Zindher discuss the next steps in the fort of the Society of Absent Friends. It is assumed that *the World Fire* is imminent if all three Principal Fractors come together in the Sol system. Adam von Aures and Bostich must therefore be removed from the focal point of events. Atlan, Pucky and Toio will take on this task. Bell will take care of shutting down the TERRANOVA screen. For the search for the missing FLORENCE LAMAR, Atlan is given the research vessel DAELLIAN. Further reinforcements are not expected until it is clear which starships in the Solar Fleet are free from infiltration by the Techno-Mahdi.

Toio uses her para-ability to track down Bostich. She senses the presence of another cell activator carrier. No one yet suspects that it is Perry Rhodan - albeit an alternative version of him from another universe. Adam von Aures has used one of the two biophores at his disposal to halt Rhodan's physical deterioration. Adam von Aures *publicly* claims that he wanted to prevent Bostich from destroying Wanderer. Allegedly, the artificial world must be stabilized with Eiris. The second biophore can be used for this purpose. Wanderer can duplicate the biophore, but only an authorized person - Rhodan - can set the process in motion. To this end, Rhodan is placed near Wanderer's protective screen. Apparently, Rhodan is examined and found worthy. The screen opens. Wanderer absorbs the biophore, *and* immediately begins to duplicate *and modify* it.

This does not go unnoticed by the Terrans. Colina and Veluna Fetoshi, experts in five- and six-dimensional phenomena on the DAELLIAN, are familiar with the biophore research carried out in Sunset City and draw the right conclusions. Pucky teleports with Atlan and Toio into the FLORENCE LAMAR. Bostich, now almost Haluter in stature and unresponsive, is teleported to the DAELLIAN's medostation. Atlan is discovered by Adam von Aures, *and* has to listen to the familiar arguments. The Milky Way has too often been the plaything of higher powers. The disappearance of IT must be exploited. The entire Local Group must be protected from attack by superintelligences. In this context, Atlan learns that Perry Rhodan's alter ego is one of Adam's tools. Rhodan is to prepare humanity for the spread of the Eiris. However, Rhodan overhears the conversation unnoticed and has no desire to continue being used, and plans his escape. Atlan refuses to cooperate with Adam. Pucky takes the Arkonide to safety before he can be *restrained* by Haluters. Adam *touches* the mousebeaver and a black mass remains. A strip of fur has to be shaved off because the mass cannot be removed any other way. Initial analysis of the mass in a laboratory on the DAELLIAN show that *it is nanomachines*.

In four days, Wanderer has produced 128 quadrillion biophores. *The nanomachines in the DAELLIAN break out, penetrate Bostich's body and kill him.* The characteristic spiral galaxy appears. It initially retains its size, approaches Wanderer and absorbs the biophores. Only then does it expand and disappear, as usually happens when a cell activator carrier dies. *Atlan correctly believes that the World Fire has begun.*

The disintegrating spiral galaxy *attacks the sensory perception of all intelligent beings and further intensifies it, for all the senses. If the person has psionic abilities, they are affected more than others.* The experts call this phenomenon the "hyperlight effect" : it *changes the quintronic (5-D hyperspace quanta) radiation* of suns.

Perry Rhodan *makes a galaxy-wide* broadcast. He reveals the Atopian Tribunal's prophecy to the entire galaxy and testifies that he is not in the Sol system. This is probably a modified, degraded form of the World Fire. Rhodan appeals for friendship and helpfulness, saying that strength is only possible together.

Reginald Bell is authorized to bring the TERRANOVA shield back under Terran control. The LORETTA tenders that maintain it cannot simply be destroyed, as the vast majority of the 1200-strong crews are being used by the Mahdists as a human shield. To deactivate the system-wide protective shield, 20 tenders must be captured or put out of action. Plan A *is* the infiltration of the Mahdists from within. A Mahdist is to be "turned" for this purpose, *and* Lephart Yutong is a suitable candidate. The hyperphysicist works in LORETTA-108 and controls the tender together with Lima Portomessa. Unlike her, he doubts the methods of Adam von Aures, according to intelligence reports.

In order to get to Yutong, Pucky goes into action with the mirror teleporter Kaleb Barasi *in mid* 1552 NGE. Barasi has the ability to tap into the energy of protective screens to create a mirror partner. He can send this second self to any location and direct it like an avatar. *In a para-union* with Barasi, Pucky can even see through the eyes of this avatar. Contact is successfully established with Yutong. In truth, Yutong is loyal to Adam von Aures and has been presented to the secret service as a decoy. *He prepares a paratrap for Pucky.*

In the course of these events, Lima's conviction that the Techno-Mahdi is doing the right thing is severely shaken, especially as *LFG Resident* Sharoun exposes a public speech by *a founder* Tango Burosch *to be* lies. The Mahdist, a member of the Welfare Council, claimed that the hyperlight effect was a punitive measure by the superintelligence IT, which had been automatically triggered by Bostich's death. The aim is to enforce humanity's obedience to the governors of IT (*like Rhodan*). Many Mahdists are persuaded by Sharoun.

Meanwhile, Bell puts Plan B into effect. Individual tenders are attacked with surgical precision until their protective shields collapse. Then *their solar* energy taps come under fire. Everything is going *fine* until LORETTA-97's shield is unexpectedly deactivated, causing the tender to explode the next time it is hit.

Lima learns from Lephart Yutong *that he* remote-controlled a robot on board L-97 to deactivate the protective shield. Lima is now certain that Yutong must be stopped. The man is too dangerous and insane to boot.

Meanwhile, Plan C (the Paratron Interruptor project) begins to deactivate the LORETTA tenders. The robotic spacecraft COMAR is to interrupt the *solar* tap beam from L-33 with a *paratron interdiction field (which blocks and dissipates the energy)*. As soon as Barasi regains his strength, he uses his parahuman ability to talk to Lima. During their second meeting, the paratrap strikes, but it is not Pucky who is pulled into the tender, but *Lima and* Reginald Bell, who has joined the mutant para-union in case Lima wants to question him.

Yutong boasts about his success and admits that he doesn't care about the Techno-Mahdi's goals. All he cares about is the power he can now wield. He is in a position to destroy more tenders at any time. Bell activates a hidden micro-transmitter with which he summons his SERUN, *which* gives Bell the *ability* to escape. However, Yutong still has the option of destroying any number of tenders and can therefore make demands. While Yutong is distracted, Lima reprograms his robot bodyguards so that the machines turn against their master and overpower him. Lima then turns to *her* co-conspirators in the other tenders to persuade them to give up. *Most of them heed the call, so that the TERRANOVA screen can be deactivated.*

After Bostich's death, the FLORENCE LAMAR disappeared without a trace. A hyperradio pulse is intercepted *from Neptune* that is clearly of Halutian origin. *It eventually leads Atlan and Tolot to* a wrecked battleship of the Beasts partially submerged in the ice, one of the units shot down by the time-traveling CREST III (*in the*

Masters of the Island cycle). Only one person *survives* inside, Sawru Maudh, a close confidant of Bostich who is mortally wounded and doesn't have much strength left.

The members of the Beautiful Family track down the hideout, *and* capture Atlan and Tolot. When Atlan accuses the Etain aggregate of Lotho Keraete's involvement in Bostich's murder, the beautiful and emotionless woman explains that Bostich knew he would one day have to make a great sacrifice for IT. This "contractual clause" had been stated when he was awarded the cell activator (*in the Solar Residence cycle*). Bostich's death contributed to the stabilization of the orphaned Sphere of Influence.

Tamareil tries to take over the Etain aggregate. The mind-jump is only partially successful. She can only persuade the Etain aggregate to reveal more information. The Etain aggregate explains that the hyperlight effect has forced life to leave the planets and exist only in free space. **The aim is to develop a post-biological culture. Adam von Aures sees himself as the first post-biological entity. He is not human; his form is only one of appearance.** She leaves the wreck after imprisoning Atlan and Tolot. The two are freed by Maudh, who dies shortly afterwards.

Atlan travels to Cetus in the RAS TSCHUBAI, which has been loaned to him by Perry Rhodan (the BJO BREISKOLL remains in the Milky Way). He meets up with Captain Hornigold in her spaceship WOODES ROGERS for a briefing in which Atlan expresses his hope that he can **neutralize the pseudo-eiris in the Milky Way with the proto-Eiris from Cetus and thus stop the World Fire**. Fitzgerald Klem's amulet is once again used to determine the position of an Eiris silo. Its hiding place must be somewhere in Splandheim. This is *the name of a* gigantic celestial body, artificially created by unknown beings ages ago, which is inhabited by sea lion-like, three-eyed intelligent Splanthen.

Atlan, Fitz, Tamareil (whose consciousness is now back in *her* robotic body) and Hornigold land on Splandheim with a LAURIN jet and two TARA robots. In a spaceport pub, they make the acquaintance of a *creature named* Tezzpelder, who has allegedly heard many stories about Hornigold. When asked about unusual sights, *it* advises the group to visit Rudspor's temple. Rudspor is one of six frost demons that play an important role in Splanthen cosmology. The high *priest's* daughter Srupalli has psychic powers because she drank water from the statue's hands.

Srupalli understands the cryptic statements of the statue. The power to which the statue owes its "life", and which also influences *her father*, comes from a damaged silo. Srupalli knows the location of this object, which is hidden behind a distortion field, and she knows that someone is on the way to her village who can repair the damage to the silo. Atlan's group is therefore greeted warmly on arrival and led to the silo.

Atlan and his companions advance to the silo. Its guardian, the biomechanical hybrid Tholb, recognizes Atlan's Knight aura. Fitz is authorized as a Tribar bearer. Tholb helps move the Eiris *containers from the silo* into the RAS TSCHUBAI. He explains that one of the *containers* ruptured during the Eiris Reversal (*in the Jena Lands cycle*). In addition, the Eiris is expected to suffer a loss of substance outside the silo.

According to Fitz's findings, *another silo* is located somewhere on the discworld Shudragad, an artificially created habitat 1200 miles in diameter. The almost humanoid Shug received this world as a gift from unknown beings eons ago. They can use the habitat without restriction, but they have not mastered the technology.

Sichu's team lands on the discworld. Hornigold is also well known here. She pretends to want to make new trade deals. As usual, the exact location of the silo cannot be determined. The Galactics gather information and learn about the seeker, a form of energy that crosses over from higher-dimensional realms into the standard universe and is being researched at the Poitroin Academy. The ooze has been appearing more and more frequently over time. The ooze accelerates the intuitive understanding of complex issues for a short time.

Poitroin's scientists have been searching for the source of the *leak* for some time now and have come quite close to finding it. Sichu is allowed to help with the search. A drop-shaped shimmer appears, bursting into glistening sparks that fall over the Academy. Now the source of the *leak*, which is of course an Eiris silo, can be identified. The Eiris *containers* are taken to the RAS TSCHUBAI in mid 1552 NGE.

The Galactics succeed in identifying the moons of the Algorithmic Republic as the location of the last Eiris silo. Atlan, Sichu, Fitz, Tamareil and Hornigold land on the trading moon Kotonn *to talk to the administrator* Sunnrod. *After they* convince Sunnrod that their plan will not harm *his people*, but will help stabilize the *society*, *they* are given permission to go to the unpredictable location on *the moon* Crunnud. The local silo guard already knows about the Galactics; he has been informed by his "brothers". *The last of the Eiris containers are loaded.*

The RAS TSCHUBAI starts its journey home without the jet ANNE BONNY, which was given to Florence Hornigold as a reward for her help. It turns out that the outer hull of the omni-carrier, modified by the Eiris and now glowing an intense blue, serves as protection against the radiation associated with hypertrans flight. In future, therefore, no crew member will have to be placed in suspension. [*Note : this effect is sometimes ignored in later cycles*]

An assassin is hired to kill Monkey and Puorendir, but his high-tech methods fail at every turn. In return for his life, he reveals his current employer as a crewmember of Puorendir's ship.

For four weeks now, the intelligent peoples of the Milky Way have been suffering from the effects of the hyperlight effect. The triggering phenomenon - the image of a spiral galaxy created after Bostich's death - has spread faster than light across the entire Milky Way. The quintrons emitted by all the suns altered in this way spread at the speed of light. This means that the planet Aurora, located in the halo of the Milky Way and home to the New Galacticum, is not yet affected by the hyperlight effect. In mid 1552 NGE, a major conference begins there, at which the delegates report on the sometimes catastrophic conditions in their home systems.

Suddenly, Rhodan is attacked by three *bird-like creatures* capable of para-teleportation. In this way, Rhodan is abducted into the *Blues* spaceship BELLÖRCY. Its commander Anüyü-Trü-Zyr *and his crew* are members of the radical group Ys'Terra Tös'syrn ("from Terra all evil"), which has recently experienced a great upswing. They believe that the World Fire can be contained by executing judgment on the two remaining Principal Fractors. The BELLÖRCY, equipped with new types of faster-than-light engines, is already on its way to the void. It will not stop until its *linear drives* have burned out. In this way, Perry Rhodan will be permanently removed from the Milky Way.

Rhodan succeeds in using the multicom of his SERUN to hook into the on-board radio and *tell* the *uninformed* crew that everyone except him, the cell activator wearer, will die in the void. Rhodan is freed, but some crew members *still* approve of their commander's plan. A fight breaks out. *Several Galactic ships arrive to rescue everyone.*

The *three rescue ships* approach a recently located object, which is now drifting without propulsion in the void. It is over 18 miles long and tubular with disc-shaped thickenings at both ends; the hull is made of pedgondite. They are therefore dealing with a Thoogondu spaceship. The ship does not respond to contact attempts. Perry Rhodan assumes that it is a linear space tractor of the HARUURID mission, which has been active in the Milky Way since 1538 NGE, a carrier ship to which up to 50 pentasphere spacecraft can dock.

Rhodan and a team enter the ship and after fighting some beam robots, find intel that reveals that the Hundred Sun World is the target of the HARUURID mission. The Posbis' main world is currently unprotected, as almost all fragment spacecraft are flying evacuation missions in the Milky Way.

The three ships leave immediately for the Hundred Sun World. Other Galactic governments are notified.

The Hundred Sun World is reached. Numerous ships from the League fleet and other allied units arrive later. A short time later, around 2000 Thoogondu battleships materialize at the Hundred Suns world and go on the attack. *Monkey's flagship* HARL DEPHIN arrives with Moothusach and Puorengir on board.

The representatives of the LFG as well as Perry Rhodan enter into negotiations with the Thoogondu. Puoshoor only takes part in the first round via radio. He admits to having given the order to unleash the Haluter plague. Puoshoor agrees to meet his sister in person. But then *Puoshoor's* space soldiers board Puorengir's ship. They take ruthlessly harsh action against their comrades. They are after *Puorengir*, but above all after the genuine Gondian Privilege in her possession, the symbol of power in the Golden Empire.

Perry Rhodan, some space soldiers and combat robots invade *Puorengir's ship*. *Monkey* has left a message saying that Puorengir has been abducted, *and he is going to follow her*. Rhodan radios the HARL DEPHIN. Moothusach is to make it clear to *Puoshoor's ship's* neurotronics that Puoshoor is an impostor. Followed by Rhodan's squad, the enemy soldiers retreat into *Puoshoor's ship*. As a TARA provides a distraction, Rhodan's troops initially go unnoticed. Puoshoor is located in the stern sphere.

Reinforcements for Rhodan arrive. An Hooris transmitter has been activated in the stern sphere. Rhodan and Monkey put so much pressure on Puoshoor that the Thoogondu has to go through the transmitter alone - he actually wanted to take his sister with him. Puorengir is in good health. She says that Puoshoor has not succeeded in recoding the Gondian Privilege, *but* he mentioned a secret project involving a final, ultimate weapon. Meanwhile, Moothusach is successful in his conversation with *the* Neurotronics. [The Gondian privilege is revoked from Puoshoor](#). Rhodan and Monkey pass through the still active transmitter. Before other forces can follow, the crystals discharge and the transmitter field goes out.

They rematerialize in the space shuttle AJATTI and are *met* by a Gaonian security chief, *who* no longer believes in Puoshoor's claim to power and the legality of the invasion. She also doesn't tell anyone about Rhodan's arrival because the Terran is supposed to help her solve a problem. Rhodan learns that Puoshoor is no longer on board. He has transferred to the HARUURID, which is operating in the dwarf galaxy Sagittarius.

In fact, the Thoogondu are using the Gaons for a dirty game – the Gaons are drugged and *memory-manipulated* into attacking *Blues* space stations. Their memories are then altered *so they forget what they've done*. The Blues are given the impression that the merciless attackers are Terrans. The Thoogondu appear as saviors and protectors. The Thoogondu want to instrumentalize the Sagittarius Blues in this way for a raid on the LFG.

Now all that remains is to arrest Puoshoor. Claiming to have captured a USO agent who came through the Hooris transmitter, Rhodan and his companions are allowed to enter the HARUURID. Rhodan encounters *the*

Blues Ziish, and manages to convince him that his race is only being used by the Thoogondu. Ziish knows where Puoshoor is, he is currently training with his lover and teacher Mazuurah.

Rhodan's team attacks. Mazuurah becomes the tipping point in the battle. When she realizes that Puoshoor doesn't really care about her, she shoots him in the back. He returns the favor with a volley of poison darts. *Rhodan finishes Puoshoor off.* With the last of her strength, Mazuurah activates a transmitter through which Rhodan's team can return to the TAYLITTIR.

All Thoogondu and Gaons in the Milky Way recognize Puorengir as Gonda. She prepares her return to Sevcooris. The large transmitter at the pulsar Funkellicht is soon to be deactivated. *The attempted invasion of the Milky Way is finally history.*

Adam von Aures meets with Vetris-Molaud and Zeno Kortin *in mid 1552 NGE.* Adam von Aures arrives with the FLORENCE LAMAR. The Baizz aggregate, two Lukaparn and four Muirden accompany him to the Tefrodian flagship VOHRATA. Assan-Assoul *checks* the visitors and realizes that *some of them* have a high psi potential. Only the Muirden are therefore allowed to accompany Adam von Aures inside the ship, the others have to stay behind in the hangar. Adam von Aures speaks of how the peoples of the Milky Way should develop into a post-biological culture and asks for Vetris-Molaud's cooperation. However, *Molaud* quickly realizes that Adam von Aures is not interested in him at all, but in *the Zeno Kortin statue.*

The meeting is observed by Mirash Lato, *who* is a TLD spy in the Tefroder ranks. He has hacked into the flagship's security systems and recognizes that tactile pulses are emanating from the hangar where the Baizz and the Lukaparn are located. He informs the ship's security, *and an alarm is triggered.* The Baizz *aggregate* dies in a hyper-flash, which has similar effects to an Aagenfelt Flash. The Lukaparn transform into nanogent swarms and infiltrate the ship's technology. All of the VOHRATA's hyper-energy-based systems are paralyzed.

The Muirden teleport away with Adam von Aures and the Zeno Kortin statue. Assan-Assoul follows them the same way. The target is not the FLORENCE LAMAR, but *a cruiser inside the VOHRATA.* Adam von Aures gains full control of the cruiser and flees. Lato sees through Adam von Aures' true intentions : *his* real target is Assan-Assoul. He is *killed* so that his released consciousness can escape into the statue made of PEW metal. Then it would be easy for Adam von Aures to control the *powerful* multi-mutant. Lato sends out an open radio message to make this realization known throughout the Milky Way. Perry Rhodan learns of these events the following day. He is determined to stop Adam von Aures.

Professor Alosha Putuvane, a former Techno-Mahdist, *meets "Rhodan II" by chance.* After *he* learns who Rhodan II really is, plans are made. The professor has turned his back on the Techno-Mahdi, *so* to get one over on *them*, he wants to take Rhodan II to Wanderer.

Meanwhile, the news reports that the RAS TSCHUBAI, loaded with proto-Eiris, has entered Earth orbit. Atlan explains that the Proto-Eiris will probably end the World Fire and that *an* understanding with the Gemeni *is* possible. Perry Rhodan also reports good news : the Thoogondu have called off the invasion of the Milky Way.

Putuvane acquires an old Arkonide space yacht. The ship, named HOMECOMING by Rhodan II takes off. With a bit of subterfuge, a surprise transition and a bluff, the HOMECOMING manages to sneak past the ships of the

Neptune Fleet guarding Wanderer. Then *Lotho Keraete's* FLORENCE LAMAR appears and takes the small space yacht in tow by tractor beam. Keraete's ship is too powerful *for the Fleet*. Then *the real Rhodan* threatens Keraete with the use of the RAS TSCHUBAI modified by Proto-Eiris. The FLORENCE LAMAR moves away.

Rhodan and Rhodan II meet in the RAS TSCHUBAI. They take an instant liking to each other. Perry Rhodan, Perry Rhodan II, Atlan and Pucky discuss the next steps on board the RAS TSCHUBAI. The priority is to capture or neutralize the FLORENCE LAMAR, currently the greatest source of uncertainty in the Sol system. However, Lotho Keraete's ship is evading detection. *It is learned from Triton that the kisses of the Etain aggregate is how it supplies itself with hormones such as melatonin and serotonin, which it uses as food.*

Rhodan goes into action with Pucky. Rhodan takes advantage of the Etain aggregate's fondness for hormones to lure *her* into a trap *where she is distracted while* Pucky telekinetically attaches a tracking device to her. In addition, the hormones that *she most recently got were* manipulated so they are quickly depleted.

Rhodan and Pucky follow the homing signals. *A Muirden transfers the aggregate into the FLORENCE LAMAR, which wraps itself in a protective shield. Pucky teleports with Rhodan into the small ship.* Kaleb Barasi's mirror partner provides support by showing Rhodan the way to the LAMAR's shield generator. After damaging it, Rhodan and his companions abduct the weakened Etain *aggregate* into the RAS TSCHUBAI. Lotho Keraete promptly contacts Rhodan. He refuses to cooperate and instead demands the return of the Etain *aggregate* and claims ownership of Wanderer. Rhodan cannot hand over the Discworld to *him*, because it is needed to program the Proto-Eiris and thus end the World Fire.

The FLORENCE LAMAR sets off on an attack course. Rhodan orders the triggering of the Aagenfelt Flash. To everyone's surprise, the FLORENCE LAMAR seems to shatter. Not even debris remains. Pucky announces that he had noticed strong para-activity shortly before. Lotho Keraete's ship has probably been moved to another location by the Muirden. Tamareil has already received clues on a previous occasion as to the location of the city of Aures, which must be considered Lotho Keraete's base. *Two months ago*, the Dolan JASON left for there with two escort ships, but has not reported back.

Pucky and Donn Yaradua in a para-union extract some information from the Etain aggregate. *It describes* itself as a Taylwit ("*composed of nanogents*"). Due to a lack of hormones, the aggregate literally begins to crumble. Apparently it consists of nanomachines that disintegrate into *undirected* mechanical granules.

The GESHOD Sprouts SHINAE and YETO approach the Sol system. Bhal Haddhunis asks for permission to fly in (which is denied) because, according to him, GESHOD will soon awaken and the Council of *Sprout* Guardians must be convened in the Milky Way in preparation for the Shod phase. In other words : Shinae should come to "her" Sprout. Reginald Bell is against this, although his daughter is doing much better now that the Sprout named after her is near. During a brief telepathic contact with Yeto Carell, Pucky learns that the young Guardian thinks something is wrong with the Sprouts. *Pucky and Yaradua* go there using the captured Gemeni transmitter to see what's wrong.

Atlan learns from Yeto that 50,000 Applicants *from the planet* Damona have disembarked from the Sprout. Another 10,000, including 1100 cell activator carriers (including Yeto's parents), have been dropped off on unknown paradise oxygen worlds. Yeto has changed. He has traveled to the Dakkar space Geshodrome via a Shod mirror, *and* has aged asynchronously. He has received some information from Adburn, *Bhal of the Geshodrom*, which he passes on to Atlan. **IT took GESHOD under its wing a long time ago. In return, GESHOD**

was to administer the superintelligence's Sphere of Influence when IT would one day be absent due to the “mission of metamorphosis” (*presumably, Thez’s creation in the alternate universe*). Because of the Dyschronic Shear, GESHOD had to take on this role too soon. It is GESHOD's goal to compensate for the disappearance of IT. To ensure that the changeover is as smooth as possible, GESHOD tries to imitate his great role model, both in terms of favoring humanoid intelligent beings and in terms of the gifts provided for the helper races, such as cell showers, cell activators and the like. With GESHOD, however, quantity takes precedence over quality.

As GESHOD is not in a position to fill an existing Sphere of Influence with its own Eiris, Pacic (“*conflict-free*”) Rhizomes (mobile peace cells – *the Sprouts*) are set up. According to Adburn, the Temporal Escort will receive new instructions when the Shod phase occurs. There are indications that the Temporal Escort is split. Adburn is needed in the Milky Way to connect the Pacic Rhizomes. He can only leave the Geshodrom if his deputy, the dormant Bhal Drush, takes over his duties. However, Drush does not respond to Adburn's calls and his Oscillation Vault is inaccessible. This is why there is so much commotion in the Geshodrome. Last but not least, Atlan learns of the existence of the “starseed” Sprout OCCNATTAR. It has been sent out to promote the sowing of further Sprouts.

Some of the *peoples* remaining in the Sprout *capture* Pucky and Yaradua in order to exchange them for Yeto. Atlan bluffs and lets them have the boy, whereupon Pucky and Yaradua are released. With his knowledge of Yeto's whereabouts, the Arkonide blackmails the Bhal and obtains the coordinates of OCCNATTAR, *which is* in the Southside of the Milky Way. Using a cell activator as bait for the leader of the insurgents, whose wife is terminally ill, Atlan distracts Yeto's kidnappers, *allowing* Yeto to be freed, *who* heals the sick woman. Atlan now intends to return to the Geshodrome to gather more information.

Perry Rhodan is on his way to the Shanlandiri system with the RAS TSCHUBAI because the GESHOD Sprout OCCNATTAR is due to appear there soon. The Sprout, measuring only 1.5 miles by 1 mile, does indeed materialize shortly before Rhodan's ship the following day. The fact that the Gemeni can replicate any *organic* technology in their *facture* pits - including those based on 6D energy - gives Rhodan an idea.

Rhodan talks to *Bhal* Athund. Two Knights of the Deep are needed to program the Proto-Eiris, but only one person with a Knight aura is currently available : Atlan. The Bhal confirms Rhodan's assumption and explains that the aura can be replicated in OCCNATTAR's *facture* pit. However, it will only last for a short time and poses a danger to its bearer. **The Gemoshom, Rhodan learns, is nothing other than an entire organism consisting of Sprouts, Gemeni and the like.** Rhodan also receives extremely disturbing information. According to the Bhal, **the World Fire will be irreversible in the not too distant future and will attack the [Moral Code] of the universe.** Since this would also jeopardize GESHOD's existence, *as well as the entire multiverse*, Athund agrees to OCCNATTAR's relocation to the Sol system to carry out Rhodan's plan.

Opiter Quint and Ernst Ellert reach the Earth-like world of Sanhaba, in the small galaxy Draco, with the Dolan JASON. There is only one settlement on Sanhaba : the city of Aures. A radio call is answered by Curd Lincoln, a member of Delorian Rhodan’s League of the Star Worthy (*from the Neuroverse cycle*). JASON is allowed to land. Ellert and Quint are allowed to look around the deserted-looking city. Lincoln leads them to the graves of Shanda Sarmotte (*Opiter’s mother, active in the Stardust, Neuroverse, and Atopic Tribunal cycles*) and Toufec, and to an archive. *After visiting the archive*, Aures allows the visitors to leave the planet with JASON.

Ellert and Quint gained the following information, among other things :

Aures was or is the city of the Time Companions(?). Lincoln has never met them, but it is possible that the members of the Anachronistic Patrol who occasionally appear on the road between the city and the spaceport are descendants of the Time Companions. When Quint speaks of the Time Companions, Ellert has the impression that he himself is being referred to.

Aures is a kind of messenger and wants to be a place of refuge. The entire city, as well as the ocean that covers most of the planet, is made up of nanogents that can take on any shape. Although *Aures* is located in the Sphere of Influence of the superintelligence IT, it is *outside IT's jurisdiction*. IT has always respected this.

Aures can create organic-looking bodies that are made available to those in need, and are referred to as Taylwit. All persons who have been recruited for the League of the Star Worthy have been "reborn" in Aures in this way. They consist at least in part of nanogents, which could be reclaimed by Aures at any time, so that those rescued would die after all. The consciousness of such nanogent compositions cannot be clearly separated from the self-consciousness of the city of Aures.

Pazuzu (from the Atopic Tribunal cycle) used Shanda Sarmotte's genetic material along with DNA synthesized by Pazuzu from Toufec's DNA to create Adam von Aures. Adam von Aures was born in 1528 NGE in the city of Aures. Shanda Sarmotte died in the process.

Adam von Aures is a weak permanent suggestor and permanent telepath. These para-abilities are always subconsciously active, so that he believes himself to be in harmony with humanity and to be virtually empowered by humans. He wants to use technical means to raise people to his own level and make them immune to manipulation by foreign powers.

49,221 years ago, Delorian Rhodan was on Earth. On this occasion, nanogents detached themselves from the hull of *his* ship created by the city of Aures and took over the body of a dead man, Usher Lightfoot. The resulting being spent millennia on Earth to free people from death and suffering. Usher Lightfoot infiltrated a disorganized group that later took the name Techno-Mahdi, *organized them, and became their leader*.

In 1546 NGE, Adam von Aures came to Terra to reclaim the Usher Lightfoot nanogents. Adam von Aures and Usher Lightfoot temporarily merged, after which they were practically the same person. Usher Lightfoot had to return to the City. Adam von Aures became the leader and personification of the Techno-Mahdi, whom he used to further his own agenda.

Vital energy radiation, such as that emitted by a cell activator, is the Achilles' heel of nanogent compositions like Adam von Aures. **Under the influence of strong vital energy, the nanogent body would disintegrate.**

Tamareil, Wynter and Zau accompany Atlan when he is transported to the Geshodrome *in mid 1552 NGE* by means of a Shod mirror in the YETO Sprout. The transport is temporally incongruent, which means that they will only find out how much time has passed when they return. They *eventually reach the Citadel*.

Gemeni Syparth, head of the guard, refuses them entry. Atlan skillfully incorporates the information he recently received from Yeto Carell. Syparth takes Atlan for an initiate and becomes downright talkative. He says that the Shod phase is at risk if the interference zone (*where technology doesn't work*) reaches the resonance chamber of

the citadel. According to him, GESHOD can only awaken if there are *synchronous* vibrations in this space between the planet-bound part of the superintelligence - the symbiotic community intelligence on Gem (*GESHOD's [anchor] planet*) - and its equivalent in Dakkar space. Two clocks are needed for this : the Bhal Adburn and *Bhal* Drush. Drush, however, does not respond. Atlan claims that he can save GESHOD and the Shod phase, but that this is only possible within *the* resonance *chamber*. Syphardh leads the group into the sanctum sanctorum of the Geshodrome.

Drush appears in one of two Shod mirrors located in the resonance room. *Hunters* storm the room. Drush behaves unlike any Gemeni Atlan has encountered before. The Arkonide correctly assumes that Drush has broken free from the symbiosis of the Gemoshom. Atlan and the Bhal talk as equals. Drush claims that he and IT have known each other for thousands of years. Drush is the offshoot of the first Bhal, who was active as GESHOD's ambassador to IT in the Milky Way and had contact with the exiled Thoogondu in 28,400 BC. He realized that there is a dark side to the power of IT and that this powerful superintelligence mercilessly attacks anyone who does not submit. The Ur(*"original"*)-Bhal has been looking for ways to save GESHOD from such a fate. If necessary, GESHOD should be put into a coma. Together with the Gondus Guild (*which tried to take over IT from the inside 33,000 years ago*), the Bhal and his part of the Temporal Escort have developed a long-term plan. The central component is the weakening of important auxiliary races of IT so that GESHOD can grow and become stronger in peace. Possible auxiliary races are the descendants of the Lemurians, the Haluters and a race hitherto unknown to the Galactics - the Mherirs. The Halutians have been implanted with a Neogen that can be activated with a Sextadim pulse generator (Appellator) and ensures that the race is paralyzed. This refers to the Haluter stasis syndrome.

Atlan and his companions are now to be transferred via a Shod mirror to the dead sprout H'NDOTO, which is located in the small galaxy of Kuzimm, where they will spend the rest of their days. Tamareil uses her parability and ensures that other coordinates are entered. The group ends up somewhere within the Geshodrome.

GESHOD awakens and reveals himself.

Atlan, Tamareil, Mahnaz Wynter and Zau *arrive* in the lair of the *reptiloid* Minga Hashina, *who* has shielded the room from the Gemeni and uses it to hoard all kinds of stolen treasures; objects such as the Shod mirror through which the quartet came. Some areas of the Geshodrome *appear* on screens. Chaos and confusion reign in the Geshodrome, as GESHOD emits mental waves that no one can escape. Minga Hashina suffers greatly from the mental waves. The superintelligence has to find itself, so to speak, and therefore recapitulates its own history so that Atlan and his companions can relive events from the deep past.

477,000 years ago:

The AGNABHA GEMH, a spaceship of the Mherirs, is traveling on behalf of the Wanderer from the Kleeth galaxy, which is part of the superintelligence's Sphere of Influence, to Sashpanu. The Mherirs are gaunt humanoids with pale blue skin and four eyes in a split face. They have been engaged in interstellar space travel for a million years, but owe this entirely to the Wanderer, from whom they once received the first faster-than-light engines as well as weapons and other high-tech equipment. They have been the dominant species in Kleeth for 5000 years. The Wanderer has declared this galaxy the Pacic Zone, where he acts as a patron and uses the Mherirs as an auxiliary race *that have several castes*. Bhals *are* commanders, Pikodhs serve as scientists, Cucullates work as technicians.

Bhal-1, commander of the AGNABHA GEMH, knows little about her current mission. Only Pikodh-1 has had contact with an emissary of the Wanderer, and she is just as stingy with information as the superintelligence herself, who is known for its idiosyncratic sense of humor. What is certain is that a danger is

growing in Sashpanu that threatens the Wanderer. The Mherirs are approaching a sector of space that is avoided by the space-faring peoples of Sashpanu. They learn that a mighty hyperstorm (*space-time distortions, electromagnetic and hyperenergy discharges, etc.*) raged in this zone a long time ago. Since then, the zone has been hyperphysically unstable and there is a rift from which six-dimensional energies flow into normal space, where they trigger shockwaves. Anyone who is exposed to them is "disembodied", which means that *their mind is separated from their body, resulting in death*. The zone is getting bigger and bigger over time.

The *center of the zone* points the way to a planet that the Mherirs call Gemh. They protect themselves from the shockwaves with *technology* obtained from the Wanderer. This allows Bhal-1, Pikodh-1 and a few other crew members to land. On Gemh they find a huge symbiotic life form consisting of lichens, mosses, bacteria and viruses. This generates a 6D field that surrounds the entire planet. This is one of two poles of the six-dimensional *energy* source. The other lies in *6D space*. The concentration of 6D energy is particularly high at one point on the planet. It *has* crystallized there and lines the walls of a pit. *Unknown to the Mherirs*, in this pit exists an entity that snatches the UBSEF constant from all approaching living beings, *killing them*. When Bhal-1 and her companions enter the pit, they lose their egos and merge into the collective. Bhal-2 is on the verge of disintegrating the pit *when* Pikodh-1 comes forward and they meet on the planet. Pikodh-1 is accompanied by twelve beings that look *similar to Mheriren, but are more plant-like*. Tests reveal that Pikodh-1 is not a copy. She explains that she is the only one to have survived the de-selfing because she was protected by a device she received from the Wanderer's Messenger. According to her findings, a symbiotic communal intelligence with a consciousness that resembles a void has existed on Gemh for millions of years. The entity therefore absorbs other consciousnesses, which it attracts like a magnet, allowing itself to be "inspired" by them (it assimilates the knowledge of its victims) and has become so strong over the course of time that it has been able to *connect* with *its* counterpart located in the sixth dimension.

The Wanderer's goal is to limit the growth of *the* community intelligence, otherwise it would devour all life. The entity is also still malleable. As a result of the absorption of Bhal-1's consciousness, a decisive change has occurred. The newly formed superintelligence calls its planet Gem and refers to the replicas of the Mherirs as Gemeni. It gives itself the name GESHOD. According to the will of the Wanderer, the Mherirs remain on Gem to instruct GESHOD and ensure that it does not once again feast like a parasite on the consciousnesses of intelligent beings. In addition, GESHOD must be prevented from being manipulated by strangers while she is unconscious. This is how the Temporal Escort is created.

After three hundred years, the Mherirs consider their mission complete. GESHOD has grown and many more pits have been created. The young superintelligence emulates its mentor and has created a *peaceful* district known as the Pacic Rhizome around Gem. The Geshodrome and spaceships are under construction, the latter still in the fabrication pits that GESHOD uses for copying and modifying alien technology. New types of ships are being built on the planet Loccgrid : Sprouts. OCCNATTAR is the first Sprout. GESHOD acquires new genetic information via the Sprouts' Guardians, who share their genetic material with them. The Gemeni claim that the Guardians are acting of their own free will.

After the last wave of GESHOD's memories have subsided, Atlan considers that the superintelligence must be warned about Drush. GESHOD is still malleable. So far, IT has taken advantage of this, but IT is no longer there. Drush wants to take over this part. He must be stopped, because equipped with GESHOD's full power, he could wipe out all of IT's auxiliary races.

Silence returns to the Geshodrom. Atlan assumes that GESHOD has turned its attention to *the* Sashpanu *galaxy* to see what is going on there. The task now is to stop Bhal Drush before he can take control of the awakening superintelligence. No sooner have Atlan and his companions, who now include the lizard creature Minga Hashina, set off than they are attacked by *a Hunter*. This time it's Sypardh, the commander of the guard. He does not belong to Drush's faction and believes Atlan when the Arkonide reports Drush's betrayal. The fact that

Bhal Adburn can no longer be contacted supports Atlan's claims. Drush has entrenched himself in his impregnable Oscillation Vault, but there is still a way to get rid of him. An emergency circuit could be activated so that the vault would be blown out of the Geshodrome and fall into normal space.

Atlan initially pursues a different goal. He must find the Neogen Appellator, the device that causes the Haluter Plague. Minga *helps the group find its location*. Once again, Sypardh proves to be a valuable ally by enabling Tamareil to *access the Appellator*. Tamareil learns that the stasis syndrome will disappear when the Appellator stops emitting pulses. Atlan destroys the device.

The group *is shown* the way to Adburn. The Bhal has been abducted and imprisoned by Drush's people. Sypardh's *Hunters* free Adburn. As soon as he realizes what Drush is up to, he sides with Atlan. A control center is captured, *and* Adburn declares a general state of emergency. Drush's Oscillation Vault is blown off, *and* crashes into normal space in the middle of the Sol system. The vault, encased in an energy shield, hits Mercury, directly above the cavern containing the HaLem army. This can't be a coincidence, says Atlan, and he and his team also go to Mercury via the Shod mirror, where it is *mid 1552* NGE. The Oscillation Vault has reached the HaLem cavern undamaged. Atlan takes a look at the situation. Reginald Bell, Toio Zindher, Pucky and Perry Rhodan (who has led OCCNATTAR into the Sol system) join them. Above the Oscillation Vault, a huge glowing web is created, its arms groping for the HaLem statues. The web is nothing other than GESHOD, whose mental substance is attracted to the special material of the statues. Atlan realizes that this is exactly Drush's intention - GESHOD is to be broken down into thousands of individual parts.

Pucky establishes mental contact with GESHOD and offers the superintelligence help through the LFG. GESHOD gives the humans a free hand. The Oscillation Vault is immediately attacked until the energy shield collapses. The vault is stormed and its core is destroyed. Most of the HaLem statues are also destroyed. *Drush is captured and later absorbed by GESHOD*. GESHOD recovers quickly. The Galactics learn that the HaLem statues were prepared as a trap for GESHOD by Drush's predecessor in collaboration with the Thoogondu. Drush's ancestor also repeatedly extracted fragments of GESHOD's consciousness and deposited them in wooden boxes in order to program them with new memories. Some of these boxes *fell* into the hands of the Thoogondu.

GESHOD has bad news. *The World Fire threatens to permanently cut off the flow of [psiqs] to the Moral Code of the cosmos*, and IT is no longer present to generate Eiris. If [hypertranscription] - the conversion of Eiris into Psiqs - were to fail in the Sphere of Influence of IT for an extended period of time, a catastrophe would occur that would be far worse than the DORIFER shock, for example. The existence of the entire Sphere of Influence is at stake. A power vacuum, such as that created by the disappearance of IT, therefore has far more serious consequences than previously thought. GESHOD is not in a position to compensate for the vacuum. The young superintelligence cannot remain in the Sphere of Influence and will soon return to Shod.

Since GESHOD no longer fully trusts the Gemeni, new clocks are needed to determine the superintelligence's sleep/wake rhythm. Due to their affinity to Dakkar space, Tamareil and Zau can take on this task. A replacement is found for Shinae, the Guardian of the Sprout of the same name. Since the Sprout KYLLDIN has been destroyed, the Mehador girl *of the same name* takes the place of Bell's daughter.

In four days, the World Fire will be irreversible unless the proto-Eiris brought from Cetus can be brought to the artificial world Wanderer in Neptune's atmosphere, reprogrammed there and released in the Milky Way. Two Knights of the Deep are needed to program the Eiris - or at least two people wearing a Knight's aura. Atlan and Perry Rhodan are members of the ancient order of Knights, but the Terran lost his aura a long time ago. The *Sprout OCCNATTAR* has made a copy of Atlan's aura for him, but it will only last for three days. Rhodan is

unable to take over the aura. He tries to teleport with Pucky into the Shod mirror that holds the aura, but the only result is that Rhodan believes he has been traveling for weeks on board the SOL with his son Michael.

It is assumed that the takeover is disturbed by *remnants* of his old aura. Rhodan II also makes an attempt and is successful – he is now a temporary Knight of the Deep. This only solves part of the problem, because Wanderer lies in the midst of hyperenergetic interference fields (*different than what's used by Sprouts; source unknown*) and is also protected by *its own* strong energy shield, making it unreachable. Fitzgerald Klem, whose amulet has already served as a "door opener", is traveling with the Dolan JASON and cannot be reached quickly enough. Sichu Dorksteiger's team is searching in vain with probes for safe passages through the hyper-energy *flows*.

All is not yet lost. Lua Virtanen and Vogel Ziello announce that they have heard a call from Wanderer. It's an invitation of sorts - complete with directions. A test flight with a space jet goes smoothly. As the small ship approaches Wanderer, a gap even opens in the energy shield. Ironically, JASON reports back at the same time. The latest findings about the city of Aures and the Taylwit are exchanged.

Meanwhile, Major Athasia Ebelde, commander of the *ship* EXCALIBUR, which belongs to the Neptune Fleet, inspects the ancient cruiser PATTGAST'S HAMMER. The freighter has materialized inside the exclusion zone. Its commander, Xaver Goran, admits that he has not only engine parts and art objects, but also refugees whose plight he intends to exploit. Ebelde is astonished when she sees the refugees : 24 beautiful women with alabaster skin and coal-black eyes - they are the "sisters" of the Etain aggregate! Ebelde calls for 100 TARAS to storm the aggregates' quarters. They turn almost half of the *robots* into scrap metal before they can be captured and taken to the EXCALIBUR. Ebelde realizes too late that she has been deceived. The aggregates break free and spread throughout the ships of the Fleet via transmitters.

Two ships explode just as the RAS TSCHUBAI flies into the interference fields. The fields react by blowing up. Contrite, Ebelde reports to Rhodan. Rhodan orders the withdrawal of the Neptune fleet, but reverses this when three more ships explode. It is *discovered that it* wasn't the aggregates that destroyed the ships, but Assan-Assoul. Conveniently, the ships have deactivated their paratron shields so as not to supply the aggregates with energy. Ebelde *suddenly realizes that* one of the works of art transported in the HAMMER is actually the Zeno Kortin statue with the consciousness of Assan-Assoul.

Adam von Aures drops the Xaver Goran mask. The HAMMER moves out of the way of the RAS TSCHUBAI. The supposedly harmless freighter demonstrates massive firepower and withstands the combined fire of the RAS TSCHUBAI and several units of the fleet. When a passage opens up in the interference fields, Adam von Aures and Lotho Keraete's Beautiful Family are teleported through by several Muirden. As the RAS TSCHUBAI approaches the Discworld, it flies out into space and disappears into hyperspace. Lua Virtanen and Vogel Ziello can still sense Wanderer. This allows the RAS TSCHUBAI to follow it into the halo of the Milky Way. Wanderer rematerializes in normal space. ANANSI *detects* temporal disturbances, which means they know where Wanderer is, but not when. The Galactics now have only one day left to end the World Fire.

The RAS TSCHUBAI crosses the chaotemporal tidal field that surrounds Wanderer. Everyone on board realizes that it may not be possible to find a way back. [Due to the fall of the artificial world through past and future, no one can predict which point in time they will reach when they return.](#) 18,000 Terran crew members and almost all the Posbis leave the mothership *in* cruisers before the *trip*. Homunk uses a droplet of Eiris to create a gap in Wanderer's energy barrier that can be crossed by the RAS.

Following Homunk's instructions, the RAS space landing force goes into action. The weapons of the omni-carrier ship must remain silent, because if the machine city of Ambur-Karbush is damaged, it will fight back.

The target of the ground forces is the physiotron (*the cell shower device that grants 62 years of non-aging*), but this advance is primarily a distraction. Meanwhile, the two Rhodans, Atlan and Pucky travel with Homunk by *vehicle* to the Navigator's tower, which is supposedly inaccessible to Adam von Aures. This is the heart of Wanderer; *it is controlled from here. Here, the group is split up.* Adam von Aures and his helpers have long since taken control of the tower with the aid of Homunk's limbs.

Rhodan and Adam von Aures talk to each other *in the tower*. An agreement is impossible, because **Adam von Aures regards living beings as obstacles that must be removed so that the genesis of the machine civilizations can take its course.** Adam von Aures is distracted long enough for Rhodan's companions to take action. They try to use a cell activator (*which stores vital energy*) stored in the tower as a weapon against Adam von Aures, *but* Adam von Aures knows what his opponents are up to. *He* has an arm of Homunk's integrated into his body, with which he manages to take the cell activator *without damaging himself.* *The Transterrans* Lua Virtanen and Vogel Ziello also *reach the tower*, and give Atlan and Rhodan II time to reach the *control center*.

When Rhodan, Pucky and Homunk reach the *control center*, there is still fighting going on. Homunk then switches on *Wanderer's* defenses. Adam von Aures loses his troops, but is able to activate a blocking field. Only Rhodan and Pucky can reach the core of the facility. Eight Muirden and Lukaparn each, twelve Taylwit and Assan-Assoul are left to Adam von Aures. He destroys the cell activator, but Rhodan literally has another one in his hand - it is Lua Virtanen's chip. **Pucky teleports the chip into Adam von Aures and the chip's vital energy begins to break his nano-body down. Adam von Aures is thus defeated, but Assan-Assoul decides to explode the cell activator and with it Adam von Aures.** The statue of Zeno Kortin, made of PEW metal, disintegrates as a result of the sudden release of vital energy, *and without an anchor, Assan-Assoul's consciousness dissipates.* Lua Virtanen and Vogel Ziello are now trapped on Wanderer forever, but this is in keeping with their wishes. Homunk gets his limbs back.

The Proto-Eiris is programmed into Eiris for its new task and released. The World Fire is extinguished. At the same time, this ensures that no alien superintelligence with its own Eiris can establish itself in the Sphere of Influence. Homunk speaks of vagrants in this context. This is what wandering superintelligences without a Sphere of Influence are called. According to Homunk, NADALEE, a former companion of IT, is a vagrant. Lua Virtanen and Vogel Ziello are welcomed by Homunk as Wanderer's helmsmen. Homunk informs them that Adam von Aures may not have been completely destroyed. Remnants of his spirit may still be present. Ernst Ellert is asked to stay on Wanderer, because if Adam von Aures regains strength, Ellert could sense this. Ellert stays, as does Rhodan II. Together they want to search for the enclave from which Rhodan II originated.

The RAS leaves Wanderer on a safe course calculated by Lua Virtanen. *Onboard*, it is *mid* 1552 NGE.

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