**Story elements:**

Background: Arrived in orbit to find a station. Scans reveal it to be dead and unoccupied, along with its planet, though some critical systems continue to run in automation.

Further scans reveal a repeating message: Do not think badly of us; we tried to be good citizens of the sky, but we failed. Political conflict overcame our primal desire to explore and spread. Greed and corruption closed our minds and drowned us in ignorance. We ended the day the nuclear weapons were launched. I must say, the view of planetary annihilation from up here is quite spectacular, but it’s not how we should be remembered. We showed promise; we were so close. If only they could see the beauty and truth I see in the stars from up here. It’s too late for wishful thinking, the planet is destroyed, I am among the last of my species, and my supplies are limited. Please do not make the same mistakes we did, the universe deserves better.