We thought we are the most advanced civilization in the galaxy. We thought there wasn’t any other intelligent race around us. How wrong we were.

When we depleted all the resources on the Earth, we decided to search for another home somewhere in space. We lunched huge spaceships that served as our mobile home and we left our home planet. In recent years thanks to our scientific breakthroughs, we created a technology with which we were able to colonize any planet with solid ground. But one planet wasn’t enough for the ones in charge. They decided to colonize as many planets as possible. They wanted to create a huge galactic empire. If only we would be satisfied with just one planet we could settle on. As we were colonizing everything around us, we received a message in strange language. It took a bit of decoding but once it was done it said: “Stop colonizing planets in this sector. All of them belongs to the mighty race of Elythians.” Some of the researchers were shaken up by this. After all it was the first contact from an alien race. However prominent people in charge dismissed this message. Nobody could be better than us. We even developed some weapon systems so there is no need to worry about it, they said. Because of that colonization’s continued. We sent some researchers to few of those planets to create living conditions on them and we were successful.

Unfortunately, not long after receiving the message we got company. Strange looking alien ship appeared near ours and wanted to discuss and solve the issue. They told us to keep the planets we already colonized but warned us not to continue with other planets. It was a reasonable offer. But when they approached us, our leaders saw only their technology that they could use to create more weapons. They agreed to their conditions, but when alien ship was leaving, they ordered our solders to shoot it down. Because the aliens didn’t expect the attack, we were able to severely damage their ship. After that our solders escorted few scientists to board alien ships. I was one of those scientists. As we entered the ship, solders quickly killed remaining aliens that were still alive, meanwhile our task was to take as much alien technology as possible so we could study it.

It didn’t take long to see aliens respond to this brutal attack. Few weeks after the incident, hundreds of alien ships came and started to attack the planets we colonized by that point. During that time, I was sent on one of them to help with the colonization process. Suddenly, while me and my colleague were checking our equipment, there was a bright flash and when it disappeared, we saw three humanoid looking aliens with dark blue skin looking at us. All of them were carrying some kind of weapons. Soldier standing near us quickly took out his gun, that was enhanced by alien technology we took from their ship and killed one of them. However remaining aliens were quick to react and managed blew his head off. My colleague started running from them trying to get to our base camp, but he didn’t get too far before one of the aliens caught up to him, grabbed him by his uniform and threw him on the ground. The throw was so powerful that even from the distance I could hear his bones breaking. I stood there incredibly nervous and frightened. One of the aliens went in direction of our camp, while the other took my hand and grabbed some device from his pocket. I wanted to warn my colleagues in the camp, but I was too afraid to do anything.

The alien holding my hand pressed a button on the device and suddenly we were standing in some sort of hallway. It took me a while to realize I had to be somewhere on their ship. My abductor released my arm and went into one of the rooms nearby. I thought about running, but honestly where would I go? I had no idea where I was or how to get out of there. I was standing there for a few minutes, when two aliens came to me. Interestingly all of them looked completely the same. They lead me to the end of the hallway. I was wandering, if I would end up in a prison somewhere in the basement of the ship. If they wanted to kill me, they would surely do it by now. We entered a room with glowing yellow circle on the ground. One of the aliens looked at me and said something, but I didn’t understand anything. It sounded like someone speaking under water. When I failed to understand him, the other one pushed me towards the circle with such a force I fell on the ground. I looked at them, but they didn’t seem to care about their rough approach. While they were discussing something in their strange language, I touched the yellow circle underneath me. It was surprisingly warm. Then one of them went to the wall and pressed a button I didn’t notice before. Suddenly everything around me was filled with bright yellow light, so bright that I had to close my eyes.

When I opened them, I was really confused. I was standing in a small room light by some sort of red lights. The ground was filled with junk. There were pieces of different devices, that where severely damaged or their creator stopped building them halfway through. It looked like that room served as a garbage room. The walls were made from solid yellow stone with some symbols on them. As I was looking at them, I realized where I was.

Couple months ago, during colonization of one of the planets, we discovered a few temple looking buildings. All of them were made from the same yellow material with symbols carved into them. We went inside to search it more thoroughly, but when we did, we saw that it had only one empty room. Disappointed we left curious why would it be there and who built it.

I looked out from the doorway near me. I could see hallway leading into some bigger room. This wasn’t the room we saw before. It must have been built by the same aliens that brought me here. Why else would they send us a message telling us to stop colonizing the planet? They probably built it to worship some god and we were intruding on one of their sacred planets. All of these rooms and hallways must be underground, which is why we never found them, maybe in the room we were in before was some sort of switch that opened a door to inner chambers. As I was looking around me, the excitement from discovery slowly faded away and I started to fully realize my situation. I understood why they didn’t put me in some sort of a cage as a prisoner. This was their prison. Maybe I was meant as a sacrifice for their god. Or maybe they just wanted me to starve to death in here. I remembered the pyramids and other ancient temples back on Earth. They had many different traps waiting for intruders. Who knows what kind of traps and obstacles were here. I would either starve here or if I would try to escape, I could fall victim to one of those traps. I didn’t know what to do. I felt helpless. How was I supposed to get away from here? I wanted to just lay down on the ground and die in peace. As I was standing there ready to give up, I thought about my friends back on the ship. During last few years we went through quite a lot and I knew they would be devastated, if I wouldn’t come back. But how to get out of here? I looked down at pile of garbage at my feet. What if I would build something that would help me? I took something that looked like a half-finished gun and started to work on it. After a while which felt like hours I was finally done. Even though I was a little bit familiar with the alien technology, thanks to being one of the scientists researching devices that were taken from the wreckage of the alien ship, I wasn’t sure if I managed to create exactly what I wanted. I grabbed the gun, pointed it on the ground near me and fired. Then I turned around and fired it on the ground in the hallway. On both places the gun created square shaped holes. I took one of the devices from the junk pile and threw it into the hole. It disappeared and I saw it flying out from the second hole. I couldn’t believe my luck. I was able to create a gun able to create a portal’s. This wasn’t a technology humans had. Not yet at least. Who knows what else it can do.

Now I was ready to try and escape from here. As I was exiting the garbage room, I remembered something. To help humans with their depression from being far from Earth and their loneliness in the vast emptiness of space, scientists came up with portable AI’s so they could always talk to someone. They made small devices containing the AI. Those machines also had a lot of detailed sensors so it could basically see and hear whatever humans could. It could be annoying sometimes, but right now I could use some company. I took out small device out of my pocket, pressed a button on it and locked it on my shoulder. After a few seconds I heard a familiar male voice.

“Hi John, where are we?”

“In some sort of a temple I think” I went closer the symbols written on the wall in the hallway “can you translate it? I need to find a way out of here.”

“Sure, let me see, it looks like the temple is connected to living quarters.”

“Maybe they have a garage there as well. That’s where I need to go, thanks buddy.”

Filled with hope and confidence I entered next room.