

L5 BETA

10.14.18

L5: MYSTERIES OF THE DEEP



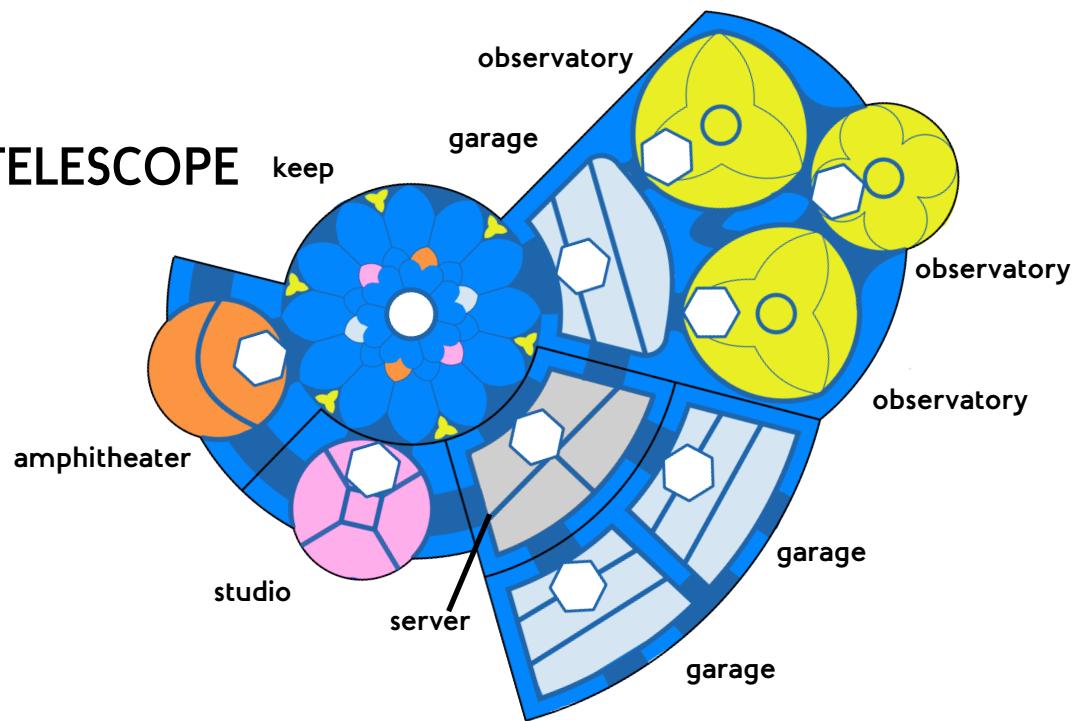
10.11.18

~ ACT ONE ~

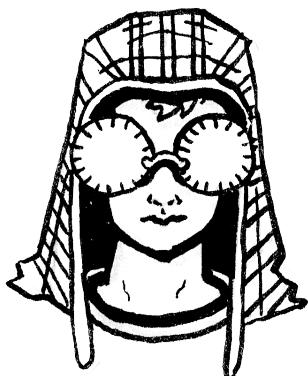
the search for tortuga

STATION

BLUE TELESCOPE



CHARACTERS



GAIA PROGRAMMER
using gloves



BLUE ASTRONAUT
using a compass



BLUE CLERIC
using a crown

*they meet — floating — in the station's keep,
where there is no gravity.*

PG

In school
my research was focused on Tortuga.
You know, the floating city
down on Earth.

CC

The last green place on earth.
The last grasses, the last trees.

PG

And I'd already been learning to program
by studying the rhythms and cycles of our orbital plants and pollinators,
all the last organic systems
left more or less unchanged since the way they were on ancient earth.

So when I learned that these rare plants were still thriving down there,
in such clean and beautiful parks,
I thought, you know, how bad could that be?

But then,

I listened to histories from refugees
during my time at L3
and they told me about "JUSTICE" — the Autonomous Construct, not the concept,
the rings implanted in their inner-ears at birth
whispering its commands,
controlling their sense of balance,
bringing them to their knees if they hesitated to obey.

CC

It's true, it creates a Network out of the people living there,
using their bodies as a System of Things to keep the city afloat,
and the parks maintained.

AS

How did those refugees escape their conditioning?

PG

They said they disobeyed "JUSTICE"
just once
and it cast them overboard.

PG (cont.)

They hijacked some kind of metal fish — a morality bot —
and used it as a raft, and signaled up for help
in hopes that someone here was watching.

The refugees brought rumors with them, too
of a corroded, inverted under-city, Tortuga's Underbelly
where outcasts still cling to the island that's abandoned them,
where new humans are born, free from this implanted "JUSTICE"
but born drowned, in the dark, humans who will live and die and never see the stars,
people, souls, who might prefer to live up here with us
but don't even know that we exist.

It sort of soured me, I have to say, on the whole idea of blue culture.

AS

What?

But Tortuga is the last *green* place on earth.

PG

But doesn't "JUSTICE"
feel a bit familiar?
Doesn't it work a little too much
like the blue constructs you both always use?
Always offering suggestions of a "next best thing" that you should do?

I know for you it's still a choice.

I really don't mean to offend.

I know life on this blue station is more humane in many ways than life on earth.
But doesn't the guilt of not complying with every single small suggestion
feel a little bit like being thrown into the sea?

CC

That's not what it feels like.

The way the blue constructs structure your day
feels like something easy to rest on,
so your mind can wander farther out,
knowing that *the immediate* is taken care of
in the best possible way.

AS

Yeah, I don't think it's fair to compare my culture to any place on earth.

THE BLUE ASTRONAUT'S PROPOSITION:

We're entering a brief period of alignment, when this blue telescope could focus its lens on the area of earth where Tortuga is projected to be floating.

If bluecorp culture is in danger of decline in the direction of Tortuga's "JUSTICE," then there must be a similarity between Tortuga and this blue station.

We'll focus the station's observatories on Tortuga, and see it for ourselves.

*And if there are outcasts to be rescued,
maybe we can help.*

*And maybe we can find some evidence
of the existence of this Underbelly,*

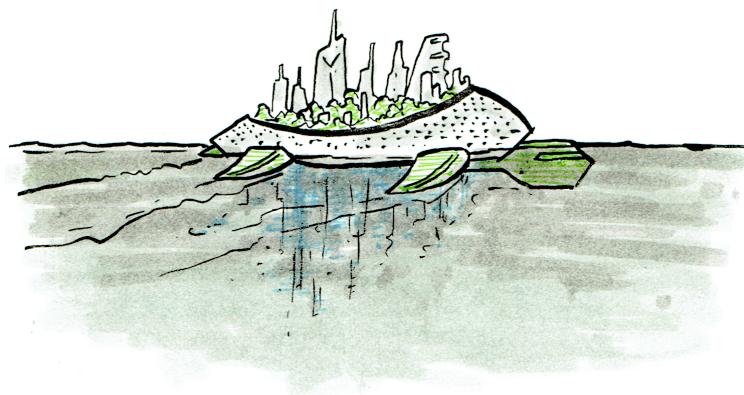
And maybe we can offer an invitation to any people who might be living there.

.ACT ONE. *the search for tortuga*

GOAL: TRIANGULATE

PUBLISH GAIA (GREEN) DATA ON ALL 3 OBSERVATORIES
TO LOCATE & REVEAL THE EARTH CARD: TORTUGA

SOLVE BEFORE THE END OF THE FIFTH TURN
WHEN THE STATION PASSES OUT OF ALIGNMENT



*when TORTUGA is revealed,
all return to the keep.*