Year 4485, P.A. Day 232

This is Jun Menov, sole remaining researcher of creatures found on the new planet. So far there has only been one, which I have in front of me. It’s very hard to discern what it truly looks like, because it has been charred by some unknown event. It is certainly dead now, but the recon team that found it on the planet said it moved and made sounds as they brought it back. I have taken a sample of its tissue, and will attempt to clone it over the next few days.

Year 4485, Day 235

The cloning procedure went mostly to plan, with a few obstacles. For one, these beings don’t seem to reproduce any way that we are aware of. We ended up creating one cell, complete with the creature’s genetic code. This cell should undergo mitosis under normal circumstances, but no matter what we could not stimulate it to do so. Eventually we added a strain of human DNA to the cell, and immediately the cell underwent absolutely rapid mitosis. I’ve never seen anything reproduce so fast in my life. Where it’s getting that energy from is a mystery to me.

Year 4485, Day 237

The cells’ mitosis has slowed down to an average pace now. The creature has reached a slightly larger-than-human embryo size, around that of a child right before birth. Some major dissimilarities from humans include red skin, very flat nose with thin nostrils, no ears, small teeth already prevalent, equally small black claws tipping the fingers, and an increased muscle tone. It’s a very strange being indeed.

Year 485, Day 242

The creature has grown to the size of a human toddler in just a few days! It is truly incredible how this being’s growth fluctuates. Its eyes have opened as well, and from what I can see, they are nearly all pupil, giving it a far larger field of view. The being floats in the tank of water, uncurled from its fetus position. It hasn’t moved much, but it looks around once and a while. I’m starting to wonder what to feed it. It seems to breathe air that humans can easily, and drink purified water.

Year 485, Day 245

I have decided to name the creature Alholm. It is an endearing name to me, my mother’s middle name. I have also begun to play audio language-learning tapes aimed at young children. It shouldn’t be able to hear through any known means, but it reacts to noises around the room. As for sex, the being has no visible reproduction capabilities. What I don’t understand is why the other researchers on the ship are not at all interested in this creature. It is the first form of life we have found on the planet, and for all we know there could be more down there like it.

Year 485, Day 248

The creature began thrashing and making guttural sounds today, and chipped the two-inch thick glass enclosure. I immediately assumed it was hungry, but I was afraid to feed it anything that could be poisonous to its kind. To keep it safe, I injected it with a mixture of nutrients and vitamins humans usually need, and while Alholm shifts around a lot more now, he is more docile. I hope he can get a grasp on the human language soon, so he could tell me what he likes and doesn’t like.

Year 485, Day 250

Alholm’s growth has stabilized now, but he keeps making popping and cracking noises by stretching. It gets very annoying after a while. Also, I’m not sure if I should be referring to Alholm as a ‘he’, or if this species even has genders. I always hated calling creatures ‘it’ however.

Year 485, Day 255

Something incredible has happened! As I was doing some paperwork I was counting out loud on a whim, when suddenly Alholm was tapping on the glass. I went over to him, and he tapped once, waited, tapped twice, waited again, and tapped three times. I held up one finger and he tapped once. Same for two and three fingers! He must be learning from the audio readings after all! And even if he doesn’t master language, we can still communicate through numbers!