Explain how the escape pods worked and how humans survived the ash winter after the Mothership impact.

**Escape Pod Colonies**

At the time of Jun Menov’s rampage, the Mothership’s escape pods were being retrofitted to work as prefab colonies. Around one hundred were finished and prepped for launch to the surface when orbit began to decline and alarms sounded. Each pod was around the size of a cruise ship, and could hold 500 to 1000 people. During the scramble, some pods were above their max and some were at less than half capacity upon launch.

The pods landed all across the planet, some staying in orbit as long as they could, others diving directly down. Those that landed in the ocean sank immediately, and all occupants died soon after. After landing and cooling, some pods opened and the occupants were able to leave. The air on the planet was perfectly breathable, but there was nothing to eat. This period of confusion was interrupted by the Mothership crashing into the planet, just a few days after all the pods launched.

What followed was an intense earthquake and an extended winter lasting for nearly 100 years. Pods that had opened quickly closed back up as the air filled with ash and volcanic particulates. Luckily, the colonies had large reserves of food and dedicated areas for water purification and aquaculture. A few generations of humans lived in these pods comfortably. As the skies lightened and the air cleared, pods began to open once again.

Again, the colonists were not greeted warmly. Elementals had been awoken by the impact, and raged blindly with little connection to their God. They would kill humans and devour their Elemental energies, vague connections to Nn, gotten from consuming food grown in the soil of the planet. Some colonies closed the pods back up. This proved short-sighted, as within a few more years they began to break down--Both from endless Elemental attacks and from lack of maintenance. Other colonies abandoned their escape pods and became migratory.

In the end, only a few dozen colonies produced human populations that survived pod breakdown. These human populations spread far and wide across their continents. Migratory behavior proved useful in minimizing Elemental attacks. The Elementals could be fought off at some times, but when they could not, a few would be sacrificed while the many escaped.