The earth is out of water.

Desperate times…

Just below the exo-sphere, two figures can be seen chaotically tumbling in a freefall back to Earth.

Now, June 8th, 2087 At precisely 3:41.73 PM, the planets in the Sol system came into perfect alignment for the biggest, bravest move humanity had ever done yet.

Exactly 6.53 seconds ago, Kolt and Samatha, bitter rivals fought as they flew through the air to seat the final Qtile in the Blink shield around Earth.

Both of them knew the other one was wrong and was just buckets of crazy to put the entire Earth on the line on the other’s bad calculations.

As the seconds ticked off and they both reached the faulty Qtile placement, Kolt performed an impressive flip, reverse thrusters, and slide kick. Amazingly, he was able to fend off Samantha, click the mis-aligned Qtile into the correct position, and pop in the last Qtile, his team’s unique stamp and solution, into place.

The Catnasium was really paying off!

The problem wasn’t supposed to be the return to Earth, but it was.

Once the Qtile had been placed, the entire Blink shield activated around the Earth in a cascade of shimmering silver polygons. The sheen came and went in an instant but every person on Earth looking up at the time saw a short shimmer, like a brief reflection that appears and disappears.

Neither Kolt nor Samantha expected the kickback from the activation and so merely seconds later they were both heading straight down, at terminal velocity, and out of control.

Meanwhile, as the Blink shield completed it’s activation cycle, the secondary stage of the Qtiles expanded on the outward facing surface. Smaller tiles popped up attatched only by a small tether to it’s parent Qtile.

As the secondary Blink shield activated, a golden shimmer of polygons rippled around the Earth’s atmosphere.

Even though Kolt was still in freefall, he knew he’d done it. The Destination Key would be assigned, immediately by the Council, to his team.

“Triangularium 1\*, here we come!”

After final preparations and of course rescuing Kolt, again, the SPARQ team, in raucous celebration, “hit the button Max!” and the entire Sol system would ever be the same.

The Blink drive activated in the subterrainian bunker and the whole shook just a bit.

In the Sol system, Earth disappeared.

As anticipated the system began to re-arrange to account for the new gravity well were Earth had been.

Multiple recording space drones and stationary sensor bases on Mars and the Kieper belt clicked and wirred into the vaccum of space, capturing everything that happened next.

Blink!

As Earth pops into existence at triangular one, instant reconnaissance shuttles already sitting in the atmosphere when the Blink occurred begin relaying information about the new location of earth within the galaxy.

As reports came in, it was hard not to panic. The eastern hemisphere had already reported a giant armada of alien spacecraft heading towards Earth on a collision course looking to be armed for war.

This was enough to cause panic and everyone. Luckily that information didn’t get spread widely because the Council had put a small filter in place to preempt information that could cause greater panic. As if running out of water wasn’t a big enough reason to panic.

Unfortunately, as reports started coming in from the Western hemisphere’s scanning branch it became clear there was even more reason to panic.

Approaching from nearly the same vector on the other side of earth was another armada heading directly towards Earth and was apparently only about 6 ½ minutes out from being able to destroy Earth from a very reasonable distance.

Fo-c fo-c fo-c

what the hell are we going to do what the hell are we gonna do? What would you do?

The Blink generator needs 12 minutes to refresh, nearly shouting.

We do now Kolt?

We better figure out how to optimize the Blink generator. And fast. It looks like we have to do it in… Three minutes?

It is not right Solomon?

We haven’t done the final analysis yet but it appears that these ships are as surprise by our appearing in the middle of ythier war as we are to be here.

Shit!

OK.

Use the overdrive convertor! But it hasin’t been tested fully!

No choice… either that or hope these aliens, with armadadas both bigger than Earth will just wait?

No NO No ! Fuck that!

Do it Solomon. Do it now.

As you wish.

As the seconds pass, the overdrive system drains the oceans consumes magma and finally reaches 83% charged.

The Earth blinks again.

The good news is that it worked and Earth and all its inhabitants slotted very nicely into a satellite orbit over one of the swirling pink luminescent hurricanes bigger than Jupiter from back home.

This was the second planet of swirling sparkling pink atmosphere of storms of unfathomable strength.

For the moment we had effectively hidden Earth from those warring fleets. There was no question they were here for water too.

Our systems drained and refined the atmosphere via collector towers littered around Earth for this very purpose – to restore water to earth.

The analysis was complete and despite the alien taste and pink sparkly afterglow people got from drinking it, it was effectively water and, for the moment, humanity could breathe a sign of relief.

It was a short breather. There was still a lot to do.

With the new “water” the SPARQ team was able to charge and prep for the next Blink. After all, there was a war going on. One that we couldn’t afford to get in the middle of. Our hope was to collect enough of the pink substance to make our next 5 Blinks.