

AVMP

Written by

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FADE IN:

1 INT. POLAR COMPANY BUILDING - OTTO MORTON'S LAB - DAYTIME 1

OTTO MORTON, a scientist working for the Polar Space Products Company, is working in his laboratory on a new device.

OTTO

Ah yes, magnificent, splendid.

OTTO moves his device over to a testing bay, where he turns the device on. It makes a zooming noise for a few seconds (possibly accompanied by a floating hologram-like effect projected by the device) before stuttering and failing.

OTTO

(unfazed and still
optimistic)

Well, Then it's back to the drawing board.

OTTO picks up the machine and puts it back where it was before. He suddenly hears a knock on the door. He slowly puts the machine down before going to open the door. He opens the door and a surprised expression crosses his face.

OTTO

Come on in.

The other person enters the room. This man is JOHN MEYER. He's extremely well dressed in dark colors.

JOHN

Hello, Professor Morton. How has your day been?

OTTO

Unfortunately, there will be some time delays with the project. I've hit a temporary roadblock.

JOHN

I'm not here to check in on your progress. I'm John Meyer from the ethics department.

Surprised, OTTO turns around.

OTTO

Do you think I am doing something wrong here?

JOHN

I'm just here to introduce myself.
I am new to the company and I
thought it would be wise to get
acquainted with the staff.

OTTO

Hold on... I think I recognize you!
You are the... activist influencer
I keep seeing on the galactic
interwebs!

JOHN

(a little sheepish)

Yes, that would be me. But be
assured I'm anything but a
mouthpiece for the company.

OTTO looks slightly confused and intrigued.

JOHN

I have more than enough money to be
independent for the rest of my
life; this company has little sway
over what I say and do.

OTTO

Now if I can just get the resonator
in alignment, we'll be close to
realizing the dreams of the
Infinite Hyperdrive project.

JOHN

Quite a lofty ambition. A
hyperdrive that can go to any
galaxy in minutes. If the
philosophers of old learned of the
future, I'm not sure whether they'd
be happy for Humanity or terrified.

OTTO stops what he is doing and faces JOHN MEYER

OTTO

(Worriedly)

What do you mean?

JOHN

These days there seems to be a
technological breakthrough every
day, promising new opportunities
and new bags of worms.

OTTO

(very confused)

And what's the problem with that?

JOHN

Don't you think it's happening too fast?

OTTO

With every invention we are making progress and increasing wisdom!

JOHN

Is it really? First we created bombs that could destroy nations. Then we created the internet and AI. We developed the ability reshape the very code of life itself with genetic engineering, and now rumor has it we'll master the ability to go anywhere at the flick of a switch.

OTTO

Everything can be used for evil, which is why humanity in its great capacity for discipline and reason will temper its more unsavory proclivities.

JOHN

Oh dear, I hope your view of humanity isn't that naive. Humans are capable of amazing acts of good, but their capacity for evil is a bottomless pit.

OTTO

Don't you think that's a little overdramatic?

JOHN

Dr. Morton, I've worked with organizations that help heal war-torn cities and advocate for the humane treatment of animals in factory farms. The things you see in the places will dissolve anyone's naivete.

OTTO

Do you believe that we should just abandon scientific advancement and settle down in villages?

JOHN

(realizing he was
misinterpreted)

No, not at all! I just think that science is churning out potentially dangerous technology so quickly that it isn't giving us enough time to adapt and learn. Perhaps we need a bit of a break for humanity to work out what it has already created.

OTTO mulls over what JOHN MEYER said and begins to have doubts about his position.

JOHN

Take this hyperdrive technology, for example. It could let criminals work across millions of galaxies from their mom's basements.

A puzzled look crosses OTTO's face as he sits down. This look turns into horror and then concern. OTTO suddenly realizes JOHN was right.

OTTO

You are right. What have we done?

JOHN

A lot of my friends in ethics also have the exact same view.

OTTO

(extremely concerned)

What should we do about this?

JOHN

Through our ideas and action, I think we could help foster a temporary shift in values, in which the population puts a greater emphasis on human matters such as moral development, ideology, and philosophical exploration just until we have a better idea of how to handle the genies we've let out of their bottles.

OTTO

A bit of a romantic era after our latest Enlightenment.

JOHN

I could not have said it better. If there's nothing else to say I'll be on my way. Plenty of other workers for me to meet. I hope you have a good day.

JOHN is about to turn away and leave, but OTTO speaks again.

OTTO
Mr. Meyer?

JOHN
(turning around)
Yes?

OTTO
(hinting that he may start working slowly on purpose)
It seems that re-calibrating this component is going to take a lot more time than I thought it would!

JOHN smiles.

JOHN
I understand.

John leaves. As the camera cuts to the exterior of the building, OTTO is visible through his laboratory window getting a hammer. He grins manically before hitting the lensing device with a hammer to set it out of whack.

FADE OUT.