

NO ROOM TO TALK

D.Q. Pham

davidquangpham@outlook.com

NO ROOM TO TALK

Each side of the climate between a techie and their product linearly or constantly tenses up, respectively.

Characters

MUC: The vessel's founding and last techie, who once had a lot of influence. MUC now takes advantage of more and more *syllables* as they could muster. MUC unknowingly increasingly exhausts all of *them* out into the atmosphere over time.

ONEST (O'Nest): A product of MUC's once-Earthly industry. ONEST knows their framework so they never initiate tasks more than they could handle.

*MUC & ONEST can be played by anyone who enjoys a livable planet

Setting

An era in the future where algae overpopulate water.

A vessel out in open waters, perhaps above where techies once called this valley: "home." The water is wide and blooming *green*. The vessel takes up a lot of space so air within is taken for granted.

[Vessel]

[A body floats outside a greenly lit vessel.]

(MUC and ONEST stay situated in/on the vessel. MUC and ONEST, inaudibly counting, watches as the body floats.)

(After 120 seconds have passed, MUC finally acts.)

MUC

Bye.

ONEST

God. That's the calculating time.

MUC

Recount.

ONEST

God. Add occupation: bot-nist?

MUC

Ours jumped.

ONEST

God. Bot-nist planted half your orders.

MUC

O'Nest to God.

ONEST

God. Study's precise: algae blooms.

MUC

Remind me again.

ONEST

God. Symptom: instant paral-sis.

MUC

That is why all them jumped!

ONEST

God. All points, invalid inputs.

MUC

Well, it seems I am the last.

ONEST

God. Data seems undone for now.

MUC

At least stand firm that money's food.

ONEST

God. Free fall economy tracked.

MUC

All finances went real swell under...

(MUC contemplates on how to finish the sentence.)

ONEST

God. "This climate" will finish this.

MUC

Guess their minds were changed. Didn't need saving(s).

ONEST

God. Download neuro-statistics.

MUC

It'd indicate that drinking oil is bad.

ONEST

God. Factor is an outlier.

MUC

(MUC addresses the vessel.)

I burnt revenues to make this renewable.

ONEST

God. Time is always prime figure.

MUC

Better late than never following regulations.

ONEST

God. Please specify nation-states'?

MUC

Look. Other governments do far worse to their people than...

(MUC contemplates on how to finish the sentence.)

ONEST

God. "The Swedish" will finish this.

MUC

I followed in their footsteps. I have made sacrifices. Look.

(MUC directs out.)

ONEST

(ONEST scans the area.)

God. Tracking sacrifices.

MUC

This vast sea, she is not burdened by 'nother single plastic straw.

ONEST

(ONEST picks up a plastic straw that is directly underneath the vessel.)

God. Denied, this is the last straw.

MUC

(MUC swats the plastic straw out of ONEST's grip and into the open water.)

I built you. And all your kind that is picking up after continents.

ONEST

God. Fun fact: formed post-world war three.

MUC

On the bright side, like the space agency after world war two, you are here.

ONEST

God. Bright fact: Nuclear ended both.

MUC

My resources went to ensure that our home made them before they're bound to.

ONEST

God. O'Nest model, not made here.

MUC

I outsourced your parts, which did incentivize developing nations to remain...

(MUC contemplates on how to finish the sentence.)

ONEST

God. "Industries" will finish this.

MUC

I'll have you know, industries started taking people...

(MUC points to the floating body.)

...in the streets, onto this vessel.

ONEST

God. Listing related topics.

MUC

Before that, when their farmlands droughted, water poisoned, children diseased, who provided beds?

ONEST

God. Caching lucky domains left.

MUC

Territories with... No air... conditioners. No clothes on their backs. I wrapped them 'round in sil-con.

ONEST

God. One result gathered: slave-ry.

MUC

I DID NOT MAKE THEM PICK PLANTS, except the bot-nists... I let them pick out products: mobile or desktop.

ONEST

God. Analyzing job reports.

MUC

Reports. Reports were paper. Papers. *Trees*. Rules. All work must only be submitted through electronics.

ONEST

God. Primary roles, bull-tin one.

MUC

Speaking numbers, the digital milestone in our office said I alone saved a BILLion trees.

ONEST

God. Post about company's pol-cy.

MUC

Our public policy was the best out of all the tech giants. No plastics and papers on the campus.

ONEST

God. Addressing similar-ties.

MUC

What about the second? Schedule an annual volunteer event to clean up our valley community.

ONEST

God. Printing daily 'lectric bills.

(ONEST extends their mouth.)

MUC

(MUC swiftly closes ONEST's mouth.)

You are such a spool... We saved the trees. That is all we need—
—ed. The lights from monitors, not enough to set one alight.

ONEST

God. Siblings evenly spread out.

MUC

Precisely. Precisely why all supercomputers are stored
throughout below deck. LIGHTS us up without setting us *alight*.

ONEST

God. Unbearable envi-ment.

MUC

You're a computer. You don't know how to feel anything. After
all this, I'm here. Everyone that was, it was all in their
HEADS.

ONEST

God. State Muc's neuro-statistics.

MUC

Don't touch mine. I may have *mined* everyone else's data, but you
are not delving into my mind. It is where STEM grew, and roots
died...

ONEST

God. Inputted consistent roots.

MUC

I did? Well consistency just held humanity back. We... *I* am made to advance. You're made to hold leftovers. You recycled-silver-spoons.

ONEST

God. No match with nickel alloy.

MUC

I had only a nickel when I came to this once dry valley. I ended up changing the world. They said I was no match for the big guns.

ONEST

God. Hist-ry dictates, shot the world.

MUC

Yes... NO. I did good with the tools I acquired, by pointing at the smaller guns to be eco-friendly. Like supercomputers, they add up.

ONEST

God. Pol-cy decrees, the system.

MUC

What I was aiming for. I ran a corporation bigger than our elected leaders. I shot it like a doctor shooting a patient. NO.

ONEST

God. Advocacy in science.

MUC

So much so that all hospitals are named after Muc. The rest of the research money, on this vessel. She saved countless lives from what was bound to happen.

ONEST

(ONEST glares at the floating body.)

God. Would you like to keep no count?

MUC

Them? They'd have counted another travel class to their homes if they've had little privilege of health out in that smog. But instead, they chose no class with this bog.

ONEST

God. Bogs sink dead, algae hold life.

MUC

Well, those ungrateful lives thought the same! Why, they even chose to leave these wireless communicators behind. If they stayed with me, they would find a life that works!

ONEST

God. Autofill search states: slave-ry.

MUC

Wrong-y. If you filled your type-ers with my name, it's full of diversity, charities. It is a reality that my technology would bring power to com—...

ONEST

(ONEST extends their mouth.)

God.

(ONEST mimics MUC's voice.)

Watch our campaign vid-o.

MUC

(MUC expresses humiliation.)

You had to end this banter.

(MUC looks all around.)

No one's here, so I can spell it out for you. How else was I gonna get the message out there that no techies like me should be TAXED?! Right off.

(MUC goes to shut ONEST down.)

ONEST

God. Motto. Muc out the syste-

(ONEST shuts off.)

(MUC takes it all in for the following 12 seconds. MUC quickly acts on it. MUC picks up the floating plastic straw. MUC's hand that was used to pick up the plastic straw stiffens. MUC drops the plastic straw. MUC's stiffened hand curls up into a fist.)

MUC

The world is dying. So, why not use the extra funds to make it my own? These once-friends helped me get to where I am. In return, they can keep going. I fit in life. I am...

ONEST

(ONEST switches on.)

Man. To O'Nest, you are OUTlier.

(ONEST tosses MUC overboard.)

MUC

(MUC impacts algae. MUC progressively paralyzes.)

*Bulletin. Finish this. Fact, you did, by making room for life.
And we no longer fit in or on...*

(MUC gasps for air. MUC remembers clean air.)

ONEST

World. Reinitialize. Recount.

[Fade into a nightly blue.]

[End of Play.]