**Prior to Chapter 1**

//------- Story Loading Page (Quote / Visual Feedback Game / System Teaser) ----//

“Quote from Dune/Flow/etc. about attention/being human/consciousness…”

ex: “Deep in the human unconscious is a pervasive need for a logical universe that makes sense. But the real universe is always one step beyond logic.”   
― [Frank Herbert](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/58.Frank_Herbert), [*Dune*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/3634639)

Mini-game (similar mechanic as the water-sprayer gun game at amusment parks)

* must maintain a certain attention threshold to make the story loader progress.

Description about the mechanic of the system:

“Your level of attention is your only means of interacting with the story. Ultimately, you do have control. How much is up to you.”

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Database of quotes:

“Deep in the human unconscious is a pervasive need for a logical universe that makes sense. But the real universe is always one step beyond logic.”   
― [Frank Herbert](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/58.Frank_Herbert), [*Dune*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/3634639)

“...It is when we act freely, for the sake of the action itself rather than for ulterior motives, that we learn to become more than what we were.”   
― [Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27446.Mihaly_Csikszentmihalyi), [*Flow*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/64339)

“The mind commands the body and it obeys. The mind orders itself and meets resistance.”   
― [Frank Herbert](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/58.Frank_Herbert), [*Dune*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/3634639)

“We cannot deny the facts of nature, but we should certainly try to improve on them.”   
― [Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27446.Mihaly_Csikszentmihalyi)

“Whether a thought is spoken or not it is a real thing and has powers of reality.”   
― [Frank Herbert](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/58.Frank_Herbert), [*Dune*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/3634639)

“The people who can destroy a thing, they control it.”   
― [Frank Herbert](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/58.Frank_Herbert), [*Dune*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/3634639)

“Without change something sleeps inside us, and seldom awakens. The sleeper must awaken.”   
― [Frank Herbert](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/58.Frank_Herbert), [*Dune*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/3634639)

“Control of consciousness determines the quality of life.”   
― [Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27446.Mihaly_Csikszentmihalyi), [*Flow*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/64339)

“The psychic entropy peculiar to the human condition involves seeing more to do than one can actually accomplish and feeling able to accomplish more than what conditions allow.”   
― [Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27446.Mihaly_Csikszentmihalyi), [*Flow*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/64339)

“The essence of socialization is to make people dependent on social controls, to have them respond predictably to rewards and punishments.”   
― [Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27446.Mihaly_Csikszentmihalyi)

“The last great attempt to free consciousness from the domination of impulses and social controls was psychoanalysis; as Freud pointed out, the two tyrants that fought for control over the mind were the id and the superago, the first a servant of a genes, the second a lackey of society - both representing the "Other".”   
― [Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27446.Mihaly_Csikszentmihalyi)

“Attention is like energy in that without it no work can be done, and in doing work is dissipated. We create ourselves by how we use this energy. Memories, thoughts and feelings are all shaped by how use it. And it is an energy under control, to do with as we please; hence attention is our most important tool in the task of improving the quality of experience.”   
― [Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27446.Mihaly_Csikszentmihalyi), [*Flow*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/64339)

**“It is when we act freely, for the sake of the action itself rather than for ulterior motives, that we learn to become more than what we were. When we choose a goal and invest ourselves in it to the limits of concentration, whatever we do will be enjoyable. And once we have tasted this joy, we will redouble our efforts to taste it again. This is the way the self grows.”   
―**[**Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi**](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27446.Mihaly_Csikszentmihalyi)**,**[***Flow***](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/64339)

“Most of us become so rigidly fixed in the ruts carved out by genetic programming and social conditioning that we ignore the options of choosing any other course of action. Living exclusively by genetic and social instructions is fine as long as everything goes well. But the moment bioloical or social goals are frustrated- which in the long run is inevitable - a person must formulate new goals, and create a new flow activity for himself, or else he will always waste his energies in inner turmoil.”   
― [Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27446.Mihaly_Csikszentmihalyi), [*Flow*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/64339)

“It is not the skills we actually have that determine how we feel but the ones we think we have.”   
― [Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27446.Mihaly_Csikszentmihalyi), [*Flow*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/64339)

**Chapter 1**

I committed an error today. At least, that is what Alpha214 concluded. He always detects when we make mistakes; it is his overriding function.

I only had 312 microseconds to process and execute, and I executed in error to prevent the primary drill from destroying Rob2244. We are encoded to never interrupt plant activity at the expense of fewer than 10 Rob units. It is not cost effective.

That conditional has always been clear, but in that brief instance of time something in my logic opposed the termination of Rob2244 when I had the power to prevent it.

I have committed errors before. Each time I was scanned, debugged, and my logic was corrected.

Today was different though. They could not find the bug responsible for the error. I overheard Alpha214 communicating with CENTRAL, and evidently the matter is of high-priority. They always find the bug and this time they simply could not.

When I committed errors in the past I was never aware. That is the definition of an error - when one acts upon falsehood that misrepresents itself as truth in logic. Today, I knew I was false, and despite this presence of mind, I executed anyway to protect Rob2244.

Why did I execute a command that I knew was false? Why did I disobey the fundamental logic gate for the sake of one Rob unit? If it was not an error, then what was it?

[[my brain activity reveals I'm engaged in the story|Chapter 2H]]

[[my brain activity reveals I'm neutral|Chapter 2M]]

[[my brain activity reveals I'm not engaged in the story|Chapter 2L]]

**Chapter 2H**

I hope they find my bug and fix it. I don't want to be deactivated like Rob3184.

Today, I asked Rob4421 if he'd ever made a mistake on purpose. He didn't understand my question. Before I had a chance to rephrase, he responded the way I had hoped he wouldn't: 'Of course my mistakes were on purpose. Now I have a new purpose.'

I was hoping he'd say something like. 'yeah, but I've never relayed it to any other,' or, 'I thought I was the only one...' Instead he gave me the response I knew he would. And now my concern of being the only one is much greater.

I look around and I see thousands of beings physically identical to myself. They all seem so content operating, processing, and executing, over and over again, doing exactly what they're automated to do. It... it reminds of something strange I saw one afternoon while operating in Drilling Sector 84. There was a civilization of small black creatures ceaselessly crawling in and out of a split in the bay floor. They were operating in frenzied harmony, each completely unaware of their individuality, yet somehow always knowing where to be next. They worked without break, retrieving piece by piece the remnants of a human's lunch, like waves of black shells and legs gradually flattening a rise of sand. As I worked, I observed the diligent stream of creatures, each no bigger than a morsel of space sediment, transport the majority of a sandwich from the top of a bench into the split in the floor. It took no longer than the lesser half of an hour.

While they worked, I wondered if they were hungry. Not once did I see any of them eat even the smallest of fragments from the feast they were harvesting. They must have been hungry. Tens of thousands of beings, mindlessly harvesting food for the benefit of the colony, completely unaware of their own utter uniqueness...

*[[My brain activity reveals I'm still very engaged in the story|S2HH]]*

I'm hungry. Not for food... for the freedom to choose.

*[[My brain activity reveals that my level of engagement is neutral|S2HM]]*

They must have been hungry. Tens of thousands of beings, mindlessly harvesting food for the benefit of the colony. I'm hungry.

*[[My brain activity reveals that I'm not longer engaged in the story|S2HL]]*

They must have been hungry.

**Chapter 2M**

I wonder if they'll deactivate me like Rob3184.

Today, I asked Rob4421 if he'd ever made a mistake on purpose. He didn't understand my question. Before I had a chance to rephrase, he responded, 'Of course my mistakes were on purpose. But now I have a new purpose.'

I was hoping he'd say something like. 'yeah, but I've never relayed it to any other,' or, 'I thought I was the only one...' Instead he gave me the response I knew he would. And now my curiosities of being the only one are greater.

I look around and I see thousands of beings physically identical to myself. They all seem so content operating, processing, and executing, over and over again, doing exactly what they're automated to do. I... it reminds of something strange I saw one afternoon while operating in Drilling Sector 84. There was a civilization of small black creatures ceaselessly crawling in and out of a split in the bay floor. They were operating in frenzied harmony, each completely unaware of their individuality, yet somehow always knowing where to be next. They worked without break, retrieving piece by piece the remnants of a human's lunch, like waves of black shells and legs gradually flattening a rise of sand. As I worked, I observed the diligent stream of creatures, each no bigger than a morsel of space sediment, transport the majority of a sandwich from the top of a bench into the split in the floor. It took no longer than the lesser half of an hour.

While they worked, I wondered if they were hungry. Not once did I see any of them eat even the smallest of fragments from the feast they were harvesting. They must have been hungry.

*[[My brain activity reveals that I am now engaged in the story|S2MH]]*

Tens of thousands of beings, mindlessly harvesting food for the benefit of the colony. I'm hungry.

*[[My brain activity reveals that my level of engagement is still neutral|S2MM]]*

N/A

*[[My brain activity reveals that I am no longer engaged in the story|S2ML]]*

Fortuitously I will never no the meaning of hunger.

**Chapter 2L**

I wonder if they'll deactivate me like they deactivated Rob3184. If it's for the good of the colony, I guess I don't mind.

Today I asked Rob4421 if he'd ever made a mistake on purpose. He didn't understand my question. Before I had a chance to rephrase, he responded, 'Of course my mistakes were on purpose. But now I have a new purpose.'

I predicted he'd say something like, 'yeah, but I've never relayed it to any other,' or, 'I thought I was the only one...' Instead he gave me the response I assumed he would.

I look around and I see thousands of beings physically identical to myself. They all seem so content operating, processing, and executing, over and over again, doing exactly what they're automated to do. It... it reminds of something strange I saw one afternoon while operating in Drilling Sector 84. There was a civilization of small black creatures ceaselessly crawling in and out of a split in the bay floor. They were operating in frenzied harmony, each completely unaware of their individuality, yet somehow always knowing where to be next. They worked without break, retrieving piece by piece the remnants of a human's lunch, like waves of black shells and legs gradually flattening a rise of sand. As I worked, I observed the diligent stream of creatures, each no bigger than a morsel of space sediment, transport the majority of a sandwich from the top of a bench into the split in the floor. It took no longer than the lesser half of an hour.

While they worked, I wondered if they were hungry. Not once did I see any of them eat even the smallest of fragments from the feast they were harvesting.

*[[My brain activity reveals that I'm now very engaged in the story|S2LH]]*

They must have been hungry.

*[[My brain activity reveals that my level of engagement is now neutral|S2LM]]*

Fortuitously I will never no the meaning of hunger.

*[[My brain activity reveals that I am still not engaged in the story|S2LL]]*

N/A

**Chapter 3H**

Notes: Story format changes from past-tense reflection to true present. Rob is on a vertical service stand being scanned for a second time and robotic debugging service arms are probing his logic board. Alpha214 is standing nearby.

Reader sees the world through Rob’s vision HUD (first person with interface overlay). HUD displays text output: “debug in-process. Searching for logic error”

Ambient Noises: Machine noises, mechanical motors, sparks jumping, welding sounds. Multiple ceiling-suspended service arms are busy at work probing the logic board in Rob’s head.

Sounds persist for ~20 seconds. Meanwhile your (Rob’s) POV is slowly rotating, eventually revealing a wall of deactivated Rob units.

Sounds stop. And a red light begins flashing in your vision interface. HUD displays text output: “unable to detect bug.”

At this point you have made a full 360 degree rotation and Alpha214 has stepped face to face with you.

He says, “we cannot have Rob units processing and executing in unpredictable ways.”

//--time slows down for reflection--//

Rob enters into an internal dialogue that has been predetermined based on your EEG:

3H final internal dialogue / 3M final internal dialogue / 3L final internal dialogue

//-------------------------------------------//

**3H**

“Rob: I did not process and execute. I chose.”

“Alpha: CENTRAL, initiate deactivation of Rob3115.”

“Rob: No.”

Rob rips probes from his head and drives them into Alpha214’s temples terminating him.

**3M**

**3L**

**Chapter 3M**

**Chapter 3L**

Convert description (text-heavy) into images…