

Introduction to Semantic Structures

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One of the few things that could still interest Felka was emergence. On Diadem, the first world they had visited after leaving Mars in the very first near-light ship, Clavain, Galiana and she had studied a vast crystalline organism which took years to express anything resembling a single 'thought'. Its synaptic messengers were mindless worms, burrowing through a shifting neural network of capillary ice channels threading an ageless glacier.

From "Redemption Ark", Chapter 7, Alastair Reynolds, 2002