

# No Longer Human

Game Concept by GravelNABlender

## **EXO1872 'Ouest'**

EXO1872, known more commonly as Ouest, is an exo-planet nearly a whole lightyear away from Earth, approximately 20 years of cryogenic stasis in space travel. While the planet is about sixty percent the size of Earth, the dense core causes an equivalent gravitational pull. The most bizarre feature of the planet was its eccentric magnetic field. It resembled the Earth's sun, causing electro-magnetic poles and hotspots all over the planet's surface, drastically manipulating climate and plant growth in those regions.

## **EPAC - 'Exo-Planet Annexation Collective'**

The Exo-Planet Annexation Collective is a super-corporation from Earth that spearheaded the exploration of other worlds beyond Earth's native solar system. EPAC is most notable for being on the forefront of R&D in cybernetic cerebral enhancement technology, and for developing groundbreaking technologies in the field of space travel, cryogenic stasis, and magnetic acceleration. When it came to seeking inhabitable planets, EPAC began the Terrestrial Landmark Collection (TLC) project, choosing Ouest to be their first subject. EPAC holds to the ideal of a 'Universal Mandate', a principle that it is our duty and purpose to expand outward and seeking not only to fill our space, but push on into new frontiers, at all costs.

## **Primary Colony - 'EPAC Manifest'**

About 260 years after the initial discovery of Ouest, EPAC sent a primary mission to the small exo-planet in order to establish a small colony, with a purpose of analyzing the planet, later bearing the goal of larger-scale inhabitation. This mission was the Manifest. The crew observed a habitable environment, sustaining prolific carbon-based plant growth. For about three months, the crew of the Manifest continued to transmit

geological and biological data, until EPAC suddenly lost contact. The crew of the Manifest were then considered dead, a colony lost to an alien world.

### **Tertiary Colony - 'EPAC Destiny'**

Nearly 300 years after the last contact with the Manifest, EPAC initiated the maiden voyage of the Destiny, a much larger and more advanced colonization vessel with a course set for EXO1872, Ouest. The Destiny came equipped with a militia for recon and defence when going planet-side. In a crew of 2000, nearly 800 received military training and formed the onboard militia. Aboard the Destiny was also a wide array of specialists and civilian demographics. The Manifest was sent to study the planet, but the Destiny was sent to settle it.

### **Zarlen 'Numbers'**

The Fehlen phrase 'They came in numbers' gave name to the hostile forces raining down onto the planet. The Fehlen word 'Zarlan' became the word of worry amongst the inhabitants of Ouest. The Numbers, as the militia of the Destiny named itself, were highly skilled militants enlisted by EPAC to defend the Destiny. While many filled secondary roles amongst the colonists, as engineers, doctors, scientists, the conflict caused them to deploy en masse once Ouest was reached. All occupants aboard the Destiny were set apart from the crew of the Manifest by one distinct factor: cybernetic cerebral enhancement. In 300 years of technological advancement, the Numbers mastered the process of merging the functionality of artificial intelligence and the human mind. The troops wielded advanced weaponry functioning on the principle of magnetic acceleration rather than combustion-propelled rounds. Even with relatively small numbers, they posed a formidable defense.

### **Fehlen 'Feelers'**

The crew of the Manifest, in their exploration and documentation of the planet, found one thing that nobody expected: intelligent life. What was most surprising about what

they found was that it did not come in any humanoid form, but rather a complex biological component appearing as segmented arthropods. The creatures were discovered in an underground cave system, and in studying them, the humans began to feel that they were also being studied. Miraculously, a rudimentary but rapidly advancing system of communication emerged between the colonists and the creatures. One trouble emerged. The eccentric magnetic field of the planet triggered a rare meteorological event that badly crippled the Manifest's communication array. Many attempts to restore it led to further damages and loss of important resources. In the presence of rising tensions, the creatures offered the only aide they could. When solutions hit a wall, it was discovered that the creatures could integrate with the humans. Although the process was permanent, they learned that a cerebral fusing could take place between the creature and the human's minds, via a physical embedding in the skull of the human. The phenomenon enlightened the humans, as a symbiotic shared consciousness opened up the doors of the universe. They ceased attempts at reconnection with their old world and began their own, having now evolved to surpass the ones they left behind. In the three hundred years of separation from earth, the Fehlen had constructed a magnificent civilization that covered much of the planet's surface. Accelerated development of both technology and society led to a quasi-religious union with the nature of their new world, Ouest. The technology developed became so far removed that it would seem to be magic to the outside observer. Although the occupants of their society were communal and peaceful, a strong defensive military was still formed to ensure safety from hostile presences in the surrounding cosmos. The soldiers wielded advanced weapons that employed plasmatic projectiles and were also deadly in hand-to-hand combat. Due to the culture's intrinsically natural principles, ornament ran parallel to utility.

## **The Conflict**

Nobody could have anticipated the calamity that revisiting Ouest would cause. When the Destiny entered the system to which Ouest is native, the wake-up protocol was

initiated and thousands of civilians began to exit cryogenic stasis. When guidance systems came online, alarms sounded in the bridge. The eccentric magnetic field of the planet had rendered the navigation systems useless. They were flying blind. Orders were given to deploy drop pods planet-side to get the most important personnel, as well as the Destiny's militia, onto the planet's surface while navigation crew attempted to manually bring the Destiny into an orbit. Upon seeing large projectiles raining from the sky onto the planet's surface, the Fehlen deployed recon forces to investigate the objects, and decided that the large ship that had entered the atmosphere was a threat, a threat they had to repel at all costs. The Numbers rounded up the specialists that had landed on the alien planet's surface, and attempted to gain some bearings. Shouts and screams were heard as eyes turned skyward, to see a white bolt of light split the sky, and cleave the Destiny in twain. The bottom half of the vessel and most of the propulsion structure had been obliterated, and the upper half, mostly intact, began to fall towards the planet. Transmissions were received from the flight crew hastily saying that things had taken a turn for the worse, but they would attempt to bring the rest of the craft as well as they can to a possible landing zone, a location with a faint radio signal emitting from the surface. The Numbers lead the group through a length of dense jungle, and peering over a cliff they saw in the distance the resting place of the Destiny, a dark obelisk against a deep amber sky. It had landed on the Fehlen's cultural and religious center, an expansive and now razed city. The radio signal that they targeted in their descent: the carcass of the Manifest. Both the Numbers and the Fehlen believed that they had suffered a brutal attack from an unknown opposition. Both were shocked, but both were ready for a fight.