**Redemption**

The sky is a black, fiery haze. Lingering ash casts a permanent shadow across the land. Green pastures and lush forests have withered and died in darkness. Cities, once glorious in a different time, are indistinguishable - piles of burning rubble, endless fields of debris and wreckage. The poison in the air, though unseen, is felt, weakening our bodies, dulling our minds.

Even as I write, I wonder, for whom and why? Perhaps it is my final act of contrition, to record man’s sins and demise and admit, finally, that we were wrong.

As I stare into the eyes of others, I see the same guilt and desolation that surely must reflect in mine. For we are gathered here, dozens of the most brilliant men and women of our time. We were sheltered, protected underground, allowed to experiment beyond ethics in the name of duty. We were the minds behind the weapons that ravaged the earth.

In the past, we may have warred and battled, senseless soldiers in a world divided. But the civilizations we held dear have crumbled; the nationalities we swore our lives to are dead.

So we stand here, gathered under the towering roof of one of the few remaining FSP-1 complexes in the world. Four shining white walls enclose a massive room lined with intricate equipment. In the centre lies a cubicle, a diminutive box in the presence of such grandeur, yet strangely centric to the entire design.

The building itself is surrounded by eight-inch-thick lead plates. Each entrance holds a vacuumed chamber flooded with sterilizing chemicals, the system allowing entry only upon a successful contamination scan. The air within is completely purified – cycled from the outside every two minutes through a complex labyrinth of filters and disinfectants. Nothing is left to chance. Even in the face of our demise, it is hard not to admire the diligent handiwork of man.

This is a fortress, perhaps the safest above surface, but it will prolong our lives no longer than two weeks. Water can be recycled, but food is unsustainable. The shielding may hold, but the atmosphere is filled with too much poison, too many particles seeking to tear apart our bodily functions for it to last.

But this does not trouble us. We have assembled from every corner of the globe not to prolong our existence, but to partake in our final act of redemption, a penance for our sins.

It is science that has doomed us, science that shall redeem us.