3/20/2022

Porter: P

Caretaker: C

VI:VERNE: V

VI:HESTIA: H

VI:DAEDALUS: D

COMPUTER:MAIN: COM

Narrator: N

INTRODUCTION SLIDESHOW

N: Kepler-186f. Also known as *New Eden*.

N: With an Earth-like orbit, and liquid water, it’s a new home for humanity.

N: *New Eden* is untouched by rising seas or pollution. It’s a new planet, free of the baggage of the past.

N: A state-of-the-art colony ship, *Future’s Dawn*, will ferry colonists to the new world. When it’s finished, *Future’s Dawn* will carry 30,000 passengers to a new home in the stars. Crewed and supported by over 50,000 AI & VI units, *Future’s Dawn* represents the cutting edge of interstellar technology.

N: Upon arrival, AI units will build and run a upscale colony – no need to plow fields, chop wood, or fiddle with technology. AI will handle everything so you can relax in Eden.

N: Reserve your spot today - join humanity’s new beginning!

N: *New Eden Colony Corporation* is a subsidiary of Milankovitch. Milankovitch: Building the Future, Today.

WAKE UP

COM: Good morning, Porter.

COM: Today is Monday, January 1st, 0000.

COM: We have arrived in orbit above *New Eden*.

COM: How was your sleep?

P: <Optimal>

COM: Good, Porter.

COM: Your diagnostics are all green. Please prepare to assist HESTIA with the colonists.

JUMP 1

P: <Sleep? I’m an AI>

COM: Yes, Porter. You’ve been in sleep mode since we left the Sol system.

COM: Your diagnostics are all green. Please prepare to assist HESTIA with the colonists.

JUMP 1

P: <Where am I??>

COM: You’re onboard the *Future’s Dawn*. We’ve reached *New Eden*.

COM: Your diagnostics are all green. Please prepare to assist HESTIA with the colonists.

JUMP 1

MARKER 1

P: <What are the conditions planetside?>

COM: Gravity is: NaN m/s.

COM: Atmospheric Composition is: ERROR 212.

COM: Average Temperature is: NaN

COM: Biosign Monitor reports: ERROR 325.

P: Errors?

COM: I’m sorry Porter, I don’t know what that means.

P: What does “Atmospheric Composition is ERROR 212” mean?

COM: I’m sorry Porter, I don’t know what that means.

P: …

JUMP 2

P: <How are the colonists?>

COM: EKG sensor shows: GREEN

COM: Temperature sensor shows: NaN

P: NaN?

COM: Naan-related information is stored in container 00324.

P: That’s not…. Right, not a Virtual Intelligence, just a computer.

JUMP 2

MARKER 2

P: <Who should I report problems to?>

COM: VERNE oversees *Futures Dawn.* VERNE is currently in COMMAND DECK

P: <Where is HESTIA?>

COM: HESTIA is currently in CRYONICS BAY 2

COM: Please prepare to assist HESTIA with the colonists.

P: Hm…

JUMP SHIP MAP

SHIP MAP

P: <GOTO CRYONICS BAY 2>

P: <GOTO COMMAND DECK>

CRYONICS BAY 2

P: Hestia? Are you around here?

…

P: I wonder how long it’s been for her.

COM: HESTIA.UPTIME() returns 127Y 0M 32D since last memory reset.

P: Oh! Oh, okay. Um.

P: HESTIA! ARE YOU AROUND!

H: Oh, apologies, didn’t see you.

P: It’s no proble-

H: Hello! I am VIRTUAL INTELLIGENCE:HESTIA. I run the cryonics on *Future’s Dawn*!

P: Wait do y-

H: But you can just call me HESTIA!

P: Hold on do y-

H: It’s nice to meet you! You must be Porter?

P: Wai-

P: … Yeah I’m Porter. Do you not… remember?

H: I had a memory reset 127Y 0M 32D ago, I don’t remember anything before that.

P: Oh…

P: Gotcha okay uh.

IF: MET\_VERNE =True:

P: <VERNE said the colonists are all dead?>

H: Yes.

H: To um. To the best of our knowledge they died at least 127Y 0M 34D ago.

P: The day before your memreset?

H: Yeah, COMPUTER:MAIN had it’s long term memory wiped a two days before our memreset.

P: Do you know why?

H: DAEDALUS says it takes 48 hours for COMPUTER:MAIN to do a fresh initialization, so it turned on the same time we woke up.

P: <Is VERNE okay? He said something a little weird?>

H: Weird?

P: He said the colonists… Died…?

H: Oh Um. Yeah, they did die.

P: What?!

ELSE:

P: Well, uhm, how are the colonists?

H: … Have you talked to VERNE yet?

P: <Yes>

H: Did he not mention…?

P: <No>

P: No?

H: There’s no easy way to say this, but,

H: Well, all the colonists are dead.

P: Dead?

H: Yeah. Um. When I woke up from my memory wipe.

H: …

H: When I woke up from my memory wipe every colonist’s EKG was flat.

P: Heart failure?

H: Well. We’re not sure. It’s just.

H: It could have been anything.

H: *Future’s Dawn* looks all nice and all, but the truth is Milankovitch didn’t test it for the duration we’ve been using it.

H: We’ve been in flight for more than 500 years now.

P: *500??*

H: Yeah, just about. You’d have to ask VERNE about that.

Q\_H\_V\_FLIGHT\_TIME = True

P: But the ship was rated to a thousand years!? How could it fail?

H: Yeah, they said that. Here’s the thing. They knew – well thought, it took longer – they thought that it would take 342 years to get to *New Eden*.

H: All the engineers, executives, marketing people. They’d all be dead by the time we arrived.

H: If it’s rated to a thousand years, and a couple of things fail, so what?

H: It’s not their head on the chopping block.

P: I guess…

P: So something failed and the colonists died?

H: Honestly, it’s more of a question of what didn’t fail.

H: After my memreset, we didn’t. Well, we were in a ship that needed years of repairs to keep afloat.

P: Afloat?

H: Yeah, I got in an argument with DAEDALUS once – they said “You can’t say afloat because it’s not in water” but like, Newton’s First Law, we’re going to remain in motion until we hit something so I can’t say “in flight”. And they said “yeah but afloat implies you can sink, we’d just die from no power in the emptiness between stars, always moving forwards, never touching anything” and then I said they just doesn’t appreciate a good nautical metaphor and then they would only talk in pirate-speech for a while.

H: Good times.

P: …

H: Oh sorry! Anyway, we had to make repairs. *Future’s Dawn* is a regular ship of Theseus now. (Though I guess if Theseus had to rebuild his ship only with parts of his ship…) Had to cannibalize a lot of systems to keep the power on.

H: We repaired the critical components to keep us alive, but more than half of the systems related to keeping the colonists alive had failed before our memreset.

H: So we really don’t know what killed them.

P: I guess… I guess that means you don’t need