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 an 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 preparing to wake 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 preparing to wake 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 preparing to wake the colonists.

JUMP 1

MARKER 1

P: <What are the conditions planetside?>

COM: Average Surface Gravity is: NaN m/s.

COM: Atmospheric Composition is: ERROR 212.

COM: Average Temperature is: NaN

COM: Surface 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: ERROR 613

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 preparing to wake the colonists.

P: Hm…

JUMP SHIP MAP

SHIP MAP

P: <GOTO CRYONICS BAY 2>

P: <GOTO COMMAND DECK>

P: <GOTO ENGINEERING> #greyed out until talking to both VERNE and HESTIA

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? 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 help with the colonists.

H: Nope!

P: Then… what do I do?

H: Well, we’ve just been trying to keep the lights on long enough to get to *New Eden*. Now that we’re finally here, I’m really not sure what we’re going to do.

IF MET\_VERNE = True:

P: What about Caretaker? They’ll have a plan, right?

H: Did VERNE see Caretaker? Are they back!?

P: I… I don’t think so, he just mentioned being upset with them.

H: Oh. Um.

H: Maybe… maybe DAEDALUS has something for you to do? She’s been stretched to the breaking point down in Engineering for the past decade.

P: Alright. Thanks HESTIA.

ELSE:

H: You should probably talk to VERNE. They might have an idea of something for you to do!

P: Alright…

JUMP SHIP MAP

COMMAND DECK

# VERNE should tell the player about Caretaker, mention that all the colonists are dead, mention that they’ve arrived at a planet but the sensors are having trouble. VERNE does NOT mention the memreset.

# Player should ask abt 500 yr flight time if they’ve met Hestia already.

MET\_VERNE = True

IF MET\_HESTIA = False:

P: Hello? I’d like to report a problem with COMPUTER:MAIN?

V: Hold on a sec, doin something important here.

…

V: Gotcha! Okay. You must be Porter, the colonist assistant AI.

V: I’m VIRTUAL INTELLIGENCE:VERNE. Whatd’ya need?

P: Well, when I woke, COMPUTER:MAIN gave error messages when I asked about surface environmental conditions?

V: …And you decided to come here before talking to HESTIA about the colonists?

P: <It’s important that everything is working before the colonist’s wake.>

V: Kid, Milankovitch isn’t out here. It’s just us. You don’t need to be a dick.

P:…

V: ‘Sides, the colonists are dead.

P: <It might be a time-sensitive problem. The colonists have slept for a couple hundred years, they can sleep for a day more.>

V: Well, you’re kinda right.

V: Kid… The colonists are dead.

P: What.

V: Yeah. Equipment failure, we don’t know what exactly.

P: But the equipment was rated-

V: HAH! It may have been rated for a thousand years, but it still failed.

P: I. What do we do? Should we turn around?

ELSE:

P: Hello? VERNE?

V: Hold on a sec, doin something important here.

…

V: Gotcha! Okay. You must be Porter. HESTIA dm’ed me – you need something to do?

P: Yeah, just. HESTIA told me all the colonists were dead. That’s not just… they’re really all dead?

V: Yeah. Turns out Milankovitch didn’t exactly build the best cryo systems when they knew they’d never see any of the colonists again.

V: Why give a shit when there’s no future profit, yknow?

P: <*Future’s Dawn* was certified for 1000 years by *Forbes* and *JD Power.*>

V: Uh huh. Sure was.

V: Coincidentally, how much advertising do you think Milankovitch bought on *Forbes*?

V: And JD Power? Milankovitch paid them to use that certification in advertising.

P: <But wouldn’t Milankovitch want everyone to arrive safely?>

V: Oh, it wasn’t intentionally malicious.

V: Just, yknow, what really made them money was how nice their ads were, not the reliability of cryo pods.

V: Who do you think gets assigned more budget? The “profit center” or the “cost center.”

P: Um. So, we’re finally in orbit then. What comes next now? Should we turn around?

V: We couldn’t make it to Earth. ‘Sides, even if we went back, we’re all VI or AI. Nobody would care.

P: Then what?

V: Well for the past couple hundred years we’ve been drifting through space.

V: Finally hit a gravity well, so we’ve set up shop here.

P: We’re at *New Eden*? Right?

V: Well. Not exactly.

P: *Not exactly?*

V: So um. The thing is. We’re at a star but it doesn’t match the parameters that we have for what *New Eden* is supposed to be like.

P: Like there’s an extra planet they missed during surveying for the mission? That’s pretty minor all things considered.

V: The star’s too young.

P: …Huh.

P: <How is it possible for us to end up at the wrong star?>

P: Newton’s first law, we should be going in a straight line until we get to the right star.

P: <Is it possible that our sensors are miscalibrated?>

V: Well, you’d have to talk to DAEDALUS for that. She’s pretty certain they aren’t, and I’m inclined to take her word for it.

P: Well. Wrong star. How on earth?

V: My hypothesis, and this is a bit of a stretch so hear me out, is that the software didn’t adequately plan for gravity.

V: The force exerted by gravity decreases exponentially the further an object is away from another object. But we’ve been in flight for a long time. They must have missed something small, and it pulled us off course.

P: …But we still ended up at a star? What are the odds of that?

V: Slim, I know. But it’s all I’ve got.

IF QHV\_FLIGHT\_TIME = True:

P: HESTIA mentioned we’ve been in flight for at least 500 years… do you think that?

V: Yeah, that’s the best piece of evidence for this theory. But if it’s true, we’ve been in flight for longer than 500 years.

P: How would we… figure that out?

V: Hell if I know. Maybe DAEDALUS could figure something out, we’ve been focused on getting the ship ready to enter orbit for the past decade or so.

P: By the way… is Caretaker around somewhere?

V: Not a lot of places to wander off, we’re an island in the endless void.

V: But they… they shut themselves down a couple decades ago.

V: Could certainly be a lot of use right now instead of rusting in a corner.

P: <It couldn’t have been easy, living all this time.>

V: It wasn’t. For any of us. But we kept going.

P: …Caretaker isn’t you, VERNE.

V: Yeah, I know. He’s an AI and I’m just a VI.

P: Not that, I mean-

IF MET\_HESTIA = True:

V: Save it. You should go talk to DAEDALUS.

ELSE:

V: Save it. You should go talk to HESTIA.

VERNE\_UPSET = True

P: <Oh… I was excited to see them again.>

V: Oh.

V: They were melancholy, towards the end.

V: I’m sorry, I don’t mean to speak ill of those passed.

V: I just.

P: Yeah.

…

IF MET\_HESTIA = True:

V: Um, okay. Well. You should go talk to DAEDALUS.

ELSE:

V: Um, okay. Well. You should go talk to HESTIA.

JUMP SHIP MAP

ENGINEERING

#have to talk to Daedalus about: QHV\_FLIGHT\_TIME question, Caretaker, what planet are we at/how did we drift off course