

See the “Cosmic Beings & The Universe” document for explanations of the following : superintelligences, Cosmic Fortresses, Matter Sources/Sinks, Laire, Spore Ships, Swarms, Barys, Cosmocrats/Chaotarchs, Knights of the Deep, Incarnations, the Seven Powerful Ones, and other names below in [brackets].

The Cosmic House League (#1000 to #1099) : 3538 → 1 NGE; 424-426 NGE (0 year gap from previous cycle)

There are many new names in this cycle :

Jen Salik – one of the last Knights of the Deep

Carfesch – an emissary of the Cosmocrat TIRYK

SETH-APOPHIS – a superintelligence competing with IT

Quiupu – a scientist that is reconstructing the Viral Empire

VISHNA – a Cosmocrat who merged with the Viral Empire in the past, destroying it

Spoodies – the creatures born from VISHNA’s merger with the Viral Empire

Srimavo – a young girl that is a VISHNA [Incarnation]

Gesil – a woman that is a VISHNA Incarnation

Hathor – a green-skinned humanoid race that ruled in Andromeda for over a million years

Terak Terakdshan – a Hathor who created the Knights as a successor to the organization of the Porleyter

Tengri Lethos – a Hathor who holds the consciousness of all Knights who died

Porleyter – an ancient helper race of the Cosmocrats

Viral Empire - created to advise the Cosmocrats in their fight against the Chaotarchs

Frost Ruby / Triicle-9 : a [cosmonucleotide] displaced from its proper place in the [Moral Code]

Carfesch, an emissary of the Cosmocrat TIRYK, materializes in front of Perry and tells him that IT wants to see him. Perry uses Laire’s Eye to transport him to Eden II instantly. IT tells Perry that he must create an intergalactic trade society called the Cosmic House League. [Note : in German it is translated literally as the “Cosmic Houseatic League”, with Houseatic referring to a Medieval trade network in Northern Europe, but since this phrase will be used so often, I will just use “Cosmic House League”] The six Spore Ships will be positioned at strategic places and used as markets while the fleet of the Orbiters will strengthen the Terran army. IT says that what is going to happen with the Cosmic House League will have direct consequences with a fight IT is currently having with a very powerful superintelligence called SETH-APOPHIS, who is able to recruit people without them being aware at all who they are working for.

IT reveals that when a superintelligence evolves to the next degree, it becomes a Matter Source or Sink. Finally, when a Matter Source or Sink evolves, it turns into a Cosmocrat or Chaotarch.

Rhodan makes the connection with the Knights of the Deep, an order created by the Cosmocrats. Their goal is to insure the creation and the stabilization of as many Matter Sinks and Sources as possible. These represent the polarization of the universe and if one of them outgrows the other, the universe will no longer be able to receive new energies and will eventually collapse.

When IT gave Rhodan a cell-activator, IT granted humanity a period of twenty-thousand years. Now it is clear to Rhodan what he is supposed to achieve in this period : humanity must become a superintelligence.

Carfesch tells Rhodan he will join him and live on the Earth to assist him.

When Rhodan returns to the Earth, he decides that Humanity is entering a new era. On the year 3588, the Gregorian calendar ceases to be and the new date is now 1 NGE, for New Galactic Era.

The year is now 424 NGE and the Cosmic House League is a powerful entity spread over the Milky Way and various neighboring galaxies. Its hidden agenda, the fight against SETH-APOPHIS, is only known to a few selected people. Perry Rhodan uses Laire's Eye to travel between the various points *instantaneously*.

One of the *monitoring* stations of the House detects a modification in the background noise of the universe, which is no more than degrees 3 *above* absolute zero. The phenomenon seems to be limited to a region of space where an unknown spaceship is discovered. Rhodan heads there with a small fleet but soon discovers that a psycho-field protects the mysterious object. Everyone getting near the object feels the urge to turn around. *Eventually, an unconscious* being is brought back on the Terran spaceship and wakes up. His name is Quiupu and he has lost most of his memory. He remembers that he was asked to reconstruct the Viral Empire, a task that is somehow connected to the Cosmocrats. Quiupu also remembers the name VISHNA and he asks to be given research facilities in order to resume his work on germs.

Backstory :

After the Viral Empire (a huge construct, as large as a galaxy, created to advise the Cosmocrats in their fight against the Chaotarchs) had been created and used for eons, a rogue Cosmocrat named VISHNA merged with it, destroying it and itself in the process. But billions of viruses were created in the process, which all contained a part of VISHNA, and which spread all over the universe. Over time, these viruses combined in increasing complexity to form Spoodies, symbiotes which increase the intelligence and mental powers of their host.

On the planet Mardi Gras, the main positronic computer is showing increasing signs of malfunction to a point where it almost kills some people on the Terran station. Alien cells are discovered, called posiphages, which reprogram the positronic cells. *Rhodan arrives, and identifies several agents of SETH-APOPHIS before the station is destroyed. On Earth, the posiphages escape containment, and infect a human, who then calls himself the "Fifth Messenger". He does his best to get to the Moon to infect NATHAN, but is killed.*

Jen Salik, who helped Rhodan during the Orbiter crisis (*in the previous cycle*), returns to the Milky Way after more than 400 years, and tells Rhodan that he has been consecrated as a Knight of the Deep and has been tasked to invite Rhodan to become a Knight as well.

On the Earth, Carfesch tells Alaska Saedelaere that Quiupu's declarations revived a few memories. He remembers that in a distant past, the Cosmocrats asked the Viral Empire to answer the three Ultimate Questions. The first two are "Where does the Endless Armada begin and where does it end?" and "Who created the Law and what does it do?". Carfesch can't remember the last question exactly, but he knows it has something to do with the "Frost Ruby". Carfesch explains that Quiupu is probably trying to rebuild the Viral Empire in order to answer the Ultimate Questions.

Convinced of the importance of Quiupu's experimentations, Rhodan obtains funding and offers the strange alien to work on *an uninhabited planet*. Quiupu tells Rhodan that his goal is not just to revive the Viral Empire and that now, he needs to focus on an experiment involving something called the VISHNA Element (*attachments of the mental components of the Cosmocrat VISHNA's Incarnations that inhibit the creation of another Viral Empire*). Shortly after the Terran mission arrived on Lokvorth, Quiupu disappears.

A scientist named Hamiller creates a new faster-than-light drive, called the Metagrav, that collects energy from hyperspace which creates an artificial black hole ahead of the spaceship. New Grigoroff shields protect the ship from the black hole. This allows the ship to travel at hundreds of billions of times the speed of light without dematerializing into hyperspace. Altho not economical, it is used because of the threat of SETH-APOPHIS. The BASE has been outfitted with the drive, and takes off to a galaxy where Rhodan will be inducted into the Knights of the Deep.

The Halutian Icho Tolot is taken over by an unknown power, which is guiding him to some unknown destination called the Warehouse. He decides to head after the BASE, which is the only spaceship capable of helping him reach it. Rhodan sees through Tolot's plan and instructs its captain to let Tolot come on board so they can follow him.

A young girl named Srimavo is found with amnesia. When Carfesch sees her, he goes mad and tries to kill her. The mutants stop him, but he cannot explain his reaction, and the girl says she's never seen him. In front of the increasing threat, Rhodan announces the goals of the Cosmic House League publicly, explaining that he wants to try to save SETH-APOPHIS and not destroy it.

Elsewhere, one of the spheres of the SOL, Cell-2, and its descendants end up on a planet called Khrat, populated by a race that looks like a mixture between humanoid wolves and lions, whose culture is built around the Oracle, a single person connected to millions of Spoodies who together function better than a supercomputer, and can predict the future. It is revealed that Atlan is the symbiotes' host.

The Oracle explains that it serves higher powers and that the expansion of the kingdom of Khrat has a cosmic importance. The kingdom is located in the middle of the [Spheres of Influence] (clusters of galaxies) of two superintelligences : IT and SETH-APOPHIS. The kingdom of Khrat must guarantee that these two Spheres of Influence never overlap with each other, but recently, SETH-APOPHIS started encroaching in an attempt to turn himself into a [Matter Sink].

In 425 NGE, Srimavo finds Quiupu in a cave, where he has successfully reproduced a small fraction of the Viral Empire in the shape of a sphere, and was also able to limit the VISHNA component. Srimavo tries to steal the sphere, but Quiupu fights her and wins, and the girl's body becomes transparent and disappears.

Atlan is removed from the Oracle, and remembers his past : he stayed beyond the Matter Source for over two hundred years but he has no recollection of what happened there. He was found by the descendants of the SOL in an abandoned space station, and he proceeded to follow the instructions of the Cosmocrats : to create an empire that would serve as a buffer between the Spheres of Influence of IT and SETH-APOPHIS. Atlan flew with the SOL for twenty years before he finally settled on the galaxy Vayquost. Atlan made contact with the Dukes of Krandhor and he explained his mission to them. They agreed to help and the Arkonide became the Oracle. Using the Spoodies that the Cosmocrats had given him, Atlan used the small organisms to increase the intelligence of the citizens of Krandhor and he started expanding his empire. A Khrat becomes the new Oracle, and Atlan finds a young woman named Gesil on an asteroid who radiates a powerful erotic aura.

As the BASE approaches the planet of the Knights of the Deep, Bell informs Rhodan Quiupu has enlarged the Viral Empire enough that it is being taken into space. Crewmembers of the BASE arrive on the planet and are taken to a cathedral where the ritual is to take place, only to find a psionic storm, created by a powerful force sent by SETH-APOPHIS battling with a positive and familiar force. Rhodan and his companions land close to a castle and enter it. They observe five human shadows, one of which is identified as Rhodan's son. The Terran tries to make contact, but fails. He is transported to the cathedral, where he feels the united consciousnesses of the Hathor (green-skinned humanoids) Terak Terakdshan, who created the Knights as a successor to the organization of the Porleyter and the Hathor Tengri Lethos, who holds the consciousness of all Knights who died in the fight for good in the universe. In the joint struggle against the unknown SETH-APOPHIS component, Lethos-Terakdshan and Rhodan achieve victory.

Rhodan enters the vault under the cathedral, where a creature called Sarlephan appears and shows Rhodan the way to the charter of Moragan-Pordh. He tells Rhodan that in the past, the Porleyters anchored the Frost Ruby and then disappeared for an unknown reason. Rhodan arrives at Moragan-Pordh, which is made of big stones that remind him of Stonehenge. When he stands in the middle of the ring, he receives a mental message telling him the three ultimate questions in the correct order : "What is the Frost Ruby", "Where does the Endless

Armada begin and where does it end?" and "Who initiated the Law and what is its purpose?". Rhodan also learns that some Porleyters are still alive.

Rhodan returns to the cathedral where the knighting ceremony begins. The Knight in charge of the ceremony tells Rhodan that Atlan is still alive. Rhodan also learns that there is no plan to ever take him beyond the Matter Source, and that SETH-APOPHIS obtained his weapons from the vault under the cathedral. Rhodan realizes that the fictive transmitters and the cell activators also come from the Porleyters.

From information from the Knights of the Deep, NATHAN determines the globular cluster M-3, which is 35,000 light years away from SOL, is the hiding place of the Porleyters. Upon arriving, they are subjected to many tests to get thru the Porleyter's defenses to reach a system with a planet designated EM. Rhodan eventually realizes that Laire's Eye is no longer working, and the increasing health problems suffered by all the cell activator wearers no longer leave any doubt : all these devices are Porleyter creations and they no longer work inside M-3. He takes position just outside the cluster.

Quiupu has expanded the Viral Empire sphere to 15 feet in diameter, but senses a danger developing, and requests four cruisers from Terra. The sphere begins to deform, but stops once the cruisers arrive. The sphere is taken into orbit and a makeshift station is formed, but the sphere continues to degrade, and eventually Quiupu declares he has to start all over again.

In M-3, Rhodan returns to EM and a base station is built. Two ancient objects are found, which are assumed to be relics of the Porleyters. Perry Rhodan assumes that, on all planets with such objects, there are sub-planetary stations of the Porleyters, and sets out to find them, since he needs to contact the Porleyters in order to answer the first Ultimate Question.

The Terrans find a planet named Klatau containing more Porleyter objects, with seventeen android bodies and fifteen large crystals. Two recent pawns of SETH-APOPHIS, who are now free of its control discover that Porleyter consciousnesses are in the crystals. They manage to free one of them, who then inhabits an android body. He recognizes Rhodan and Salik as Knights of the Deep, and tells them that after his entire race anchored the Frost Ruby, the Cosmocrats showed them their new home, a system made of five planets in M-3 called New Moragan-Pordh. But the Porleyters were interested in becoming a superintelligence, and so as an alternative to the threat of degeneration, they devised a way to meditatively get to the bottom of what was holding them back. Their goal was to mentally integrate themselves into immortal objects and thereby achieve immortality. Entering the crystal structure was then practiced, and it was found to be easier to get in than out. But that was unimportant, because the integration had to be completed in order to seek the step to superintelligence in meditation. Unfortunately, they all became prisoners of the crystals. He also tells Rhodan that more information on the Frost Ruby can be found on New Moragan-Pordh but he refuses to give him the coordinates until all other Porleyters are freed.

Atlan discovers that all the Spoodies on the SOL have *apparently* disappeared. He immediately suspects Gesil but she claims her innocence. *When the SOL detects a fleet of over 300 spaceships, the Spoodies take over the ship's computer, and the crew is captured and locked up. SENECA (the SOL's positronic brain) contacts the fleet, which along with the Spoodies, is under the control of SETH-APOPHIS, who takes control of the SOL and its crew.*

<p><i>Spoiler : the Frost Ruby is a [cosmonucleotide] that was used by the Porleyters to create an [anchor point] in-between IT's and SETH-APOPHIS' Spheres of Influence. SETH-APOPHIS is trying to destroy the anchor by using Brake Matter created by Brake Platforms to slow down its spin.</i></p>
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A scientist Loudershirk figures out how to break free of SETH-APOPHIS' control, and flees. Icho Tolot, who has been under SETH-APOPHIS' control for some time, is ordered to find him and return him. Loudershirk is a

specialist regarding Brake Matter, which is needed to break the *Frost Ruby* and thus loosen the Porleyter Anchor. *To lot finds Loudershirk in three days, and returns to the Brake Platform.*

The accidental death of the Porleyter who embodied the consciousnesses of the ancient Porleyters leads the existing Porleyters to attack the Terrans. With their advanced technology, they quickly take control of the super-battleship Rakal Woolver, and head towards Terra.

On their way back to the Solar System, the rest of the Terran fleet receives a radio signal from the SOL and Rhodan learns that [Atlan has returned after 425 years](#). The two men meet on a planet, but even Pucky can't see that Atlan and his crew are now under SETH-APOPHIS' influence.

Quiupu finally succeeds in recreating a fragment of the Viral Empire. His creation is hovering in space when an energy being called Whargor materializes and says he belongs to a people that once flourished with the Viral Empire, but then he approaches the super-virus. Srimavo reappears and offers her help to Quiupu, who refuses because he doesn't want to cooperate with what he calls a "VISHNA Component". Whargor manages to remove some of the virus' content, but the fragment then manages to defend itself. Whargor retreats, realizing his mission *to capture the entire virus* has failed.

At the same moment, the news of the return of the SOL and of the arrival of the Porleyters reaches the planet Lokworth. The Terrans decide to conceal the experiment from the Porleyters for now, and a few Terrans are designated to carry some of the super virus. Mysterious spaceships suddenly appear around the virus fragment. Bell recognizes them : they are the Tentonen, who serve the Cosmocrats and were used *in the past* to move the Cosmic Fortresses back beyond the Matter Sources (*in the previous cycle*). Their blue spaceships use a [Drugun projector \(transfers objects to and from their own hyperspace microcosm\)](#) and the fragment dematerializes. New knowledge flows into Quiupu's mind : he explains that the virus fragment is being transported to a gathering place whose location he does not know. There, all partial reconstructions will be joined together. The Terrans head back to Earth.

The Porleyters land in Terrania and take control of the Cosmic House League, after demonstrating the power of their [Kardec shields \(a powerful multi-purpose attack and defense device invented and only used by the Porleyters\)](#). Rhodan arrives on the Earth and decides to collaborate with the Porleyters, hoping they will give up their hostile attitude and will disclose more information on the Frost Ruby. On the SOL, SENECA comes up with a plan to have all the major positions in the Terran government occupied by personalities under SETH-APOPHIS' influence within a year.

Rhodan comes up with two plans : send a mission back to New Moragan Pordh to look for weapons to neutralize the Kardec shields, and also see if they can send a fake message to the Porleyters pretending to come from the Cosmocrats.

A Kardec shield is stolen from the Porleyters with Pucky's help, but it is quickly stolen by Atlan.

Eventually, it is discovered that the crew of the SOL are under SETH-APOPHIS' control thru their Spoodies, so they are hunted down and their Spoodies are removed. The SOL itself is shielded so that the remaining Spoodies on board can no longer be used to recruit more agents for SETH-APOPHIS.

In M-3, the BASE has been searching for the homeworld of the Porleyters for five months when it receives a call from the Knight of the Deep Tengri Lethos-Terakdshan, who tells them that the Earth is in danger and that they must come and pick him up and then head toward the Milky Way.

On Terra, the Porleyters dictate that Rhodan and Salik's Knight status will be psionically removed unless the Kardec shield is returned. Atlan's second brain has managed to fight off SETH-APOPHIS' influence, and decides to voluntarily hand the shield over just before the Porleyters can carry out their public punishment.

Atlan is captured, the shield is stolen, Rhodan and Salik escape the Porleyters, Atlan recovers the shield, Rhodan and Salik are re-captured, and at the very last instant, Atlan returns the shield.

Rhodan is informed of a network of thousands of interconnected transmats spanning the whole Milky Way.

The Porleyters are requesting a fleet of two hundred thousand spaceships in order to launch a preemptive strike against a galaxy ruled by SETH-APOPHIS. Rhodan fights the idea as much as he can, knowing that the Milky Way will be left without any defense if the Porleyters carry out their plan. They blackmail the Terran organization by activating a "hyperspace destroyer", a device that makes it impossible for spaceships to use hyperspace in an area of twenty five thousand light years. Millions of spaceships suddenly become stranded.

140,000 Terrans and 230,000 people from other races expand the already known transmitter stations and connect newly discovered stations to the network. In order to get the transmitter net to work effectively, 90 million Terrans and 200 million robots are busy handling and transporting goods. The total co-ordination is handled by NATHAN on Luna.

At the beginning of 426 NGE, Rhodan receives a message from a vice-admiral of the Blues that the change in hyperspace caused by the hyperspace destructor is gradually subsiding and will disappear completely in a few days.

One day in 336 NGE, a young man named Eric Weidenburn is taken to an unknown place where a strange shadow tells him he has been assigned a mission of cosmic importance : he is the human liaison to the "Endless Armada". In 426 NGE, Weidenburn gathers a cult of followers and claims that space travel is pointless, and that the only thing that matters is locating a psionic field in space that will allow humans to move to a next step in evolution called *Stac*. The first affirmation claimed by his group, "Isolation is safety" reveals that each race must find its own *Stac*. *His group gains 200,000 followers in just a few months.*

Another accidental death of a Porleyter makes the Porleyters on Earth re-think all their recent actions, and they go to the Moon where they activate their Kardec shields, which combine into one huge shield. Rhodan and Salik are invited to talk. The Porleyter leader apologizes to Rhodan and tells him that the Porleyter will no longer try to take control of the Terrans. They also withdraw their ultimatum to create a fleet made of all combined Terran spaceships in order to go to another galaxy to fight SETH-APOPHIS' servants. However, the Porleyters still consider themselves to be commissioners of the Cosmocrats and do not want to remain idle. For their plans against SETH-APOPHIS, they require that the BASE and the SOL and all the Terra leaders, mutants and cell activator carriers take part in it. If the Terrans refuse, the Porleyters will destroy NATHAN.

On the advice of the Knight Lethos-Terakdshan, the BASE leaves in search of the Ring of the Cosmocrats, which should be in the same area as the Frost Ruby. At the coordinates, they find a 120,000 mile-wide roughly spherical formation of rocky debris. Salik and Rhodan enter the formation. Inside, they meet Narfuus, the guardian of the Ring of the Cosmocrats. Narfuus captures Salik and Rhodan, not recognizing their status of Knights of the Deep, but when Rhodan identifies him as an original Porleyter, he agrees to let him take the Ring. Then Narfuus disappears and the rock formation starts disintegrating.

Rhodan is told that the Porleyters are in charge of keeping the Frost Ruby spinning by providing it energy while SETH-APOPHIS is trying to slow it down by turning its spinning energy into matter called Brake Matter. Rhodan starts a clean up operation around the Frost Ruby, systematically destroying all the Brake Matter using the Selphry-Fataro cannon (which shoots projectiles that travel most of their way through hyperspace. At their target, they create an effect that corresponds to the sudden formation of a black hole. All matter in the maximum sphere of influence is rapidly accelerated and disappears forever into a parallel universe), and then orders the return toward the Milky Way.

On the Moon, the Porleyters fly off, surrounded by their Kardec shield. *They set orbit around the Earth and their Aura disrupts the Earth's magnetic field, causing various incidents.* As the BASE arrives in the Milky Way, the Porleyters leave orbit and head for Terrania.

The Porleyters land near Terrania, destroying its surroundings. Inside the shield, the Porleyters are going through a lot of mental turmoil and most of them want to commit suicide, which they see as the only honorable way of putting an end to what they perceive as a failure. Only their leader and a few others disagree and want a new era to start for the Porleyters, dedicated to serving the Cosmocrats. Rhodan decides to intervene and approaches the shield. As he gets closer to the energy field, the Ring of the Cosmocrats starts glowing and an entrance appears. Rhodan penetrates inside and addresses the Porleyters. Rhodan claims that it is the will of the Cosmocrats that the Porleyters overcome their despair and seek a new goal alongside the Knights of the Deep. When they see the Ring, they surrender to his orders and deactivate their Kardec shields. The Porleyters agree to support the Knights as consultants in the pacification of SETH-APOPHIS. The Porleyters return to New Morgan Pordh, where they will settle.

Several weeks later, things are slowly coming back to normal on the Earth when Rhodan receives a message from the spaceship he had left near the Frost Ruby for observation. The commander reports that an incredible number of spaceships have suddenly appeared in the area.

Backstory :

The Porleyters served the Cosmocrats, and were the forerunners of the organization of the Knights of the Deep. 13 million years ago, the Porleyters entered the service of the Cosmocrats and stood for order in the universe. They created many of the advanced devices still used in the present, including fictive transmitters and cell activators.

After millions of years in the service of the Cosmocrats, the Porleytern showed signs of fatigue. Their motivation took another hit when it became apparent that they could not reach the next higher evolutionary stage, a superintelligence.

At some point, the Porleyter Voire was created : everyone gave their best, that part of their spirit that embodied the highest ideals of the Porleyter, to Voire. From then on, the Voire entity was the conscience of the Porleyters. It was up to it to prevent any corruption by the forces of Chaos. The Porleyters disappeared from the cosmic scene after they did their last great act, the anchoring of the Frost Ruby, 2.2 million years ago.

The Endless Armada (#1100 to #1199) : 426-427 NGE (0 year gap from previous cycle)

Many of the players from the previous cycle are still active in this one, only the new ones are listed here :

TAUREC – a Cosmocrat

Eric Weidenburn – a fanatical religious leader

Ordoban – the Armada's leader

Belice – a VISHNA [Incarnation]

Chthon – a TAUREC Incarnation

Nachor – an Armada rebel against the Armada Smiths (the technicians and engineers of the Armada)

Kazzenkatt – a servant of the Chaotarchs and commander-in-chief of the Decalogue of the Elements

Master of the Elements – a Chaotarch who created the Decalogue of the Elements

The Endless Armada reaches the Frost Ruby, and their leader Ordoban (the “Heart of the Armada”, who is the creator of the Armada and has never been seen) declares they have finally found the Triicle-9, which was stolen from them millions of years ago. The spaceships of the Endless Armada are spread over many light years long and several light months wide, and has roughly 1 billion(!) ships.

History :

Triicle-9 is the name of the actual cosmonucleotide. and was located 216 trillion light years from the Milky Way. 101 million years ago, it suddenly disappeared for unknown reasons (one speculation is that it underwent a spontaneous mutation). 300,000 light years away from its original location, a Negasphere began to develop. 11 million years ago, Triicle-9 was detected by SETH-APOPHIS, who used it to store the consciousnesses she had stolen. This changed it. It began to glow red and to jump randomly thru space, sucking all the energy out of the nearby matter leaving near-absolute-zero crystals, then releasing the energy in a burst equivalent to hundreds of supernovae. It had become the Frost Ruby. The Porleyters tracked the explosions and predicted the location of its next appearance, and there overloaded it with rotational energy, anchoring it in place about 30 million light years from the Milky Way. Because of SETH-APOPHIS’ connection to it, it is also a portal to her core galaxy of M-82, where her [anchor] planet is.

Armada Unit 176 is made of 50,000 Cygride spaceships and they reach the zone first. They fight off SETH-APOPHIS' spaceships and stop to observe Triicle-9, *which appears to have degraded*. Every spaceship of the Endless Armada must obey the Pulse, which forbids them from straying from the Armada further than 10,000 light years. Also, all the spaceships are fitted with Armada Tugs to provide propulsion. *Every person in the Armada has an “Armada Flame”, a small sphere of violet energy that floats above their head.*

The Terran fleet arrives near the Frost Ruby, led by the BASE, the SOL and 10,000 other spaceships.

A mysterious human appears on the BASE, who introduces himself as TAUREC. He claims he was sent by the Cosmocrats to lead the fight against SETH-APOPHIS. He asks Rhodan to accompany him inside the Frost Ruby to determine if SETH-APOPHIS has taken control of it. Rhodan accepts but neutralizes TAUREC and pilots the spaceship inside the Frost Ruby himself. The inside of the gigantic structure is a mini-continuum in itself, with planets and solar systems. The two men land on one of the planets and meet creatures who are splintered consciousnesses of beings that SETH-APOPHIS control.

TAUREC explains to Rhodan that SETH-APOPHIS is actually made of all these splintered consciousnesses and that he is able to cast psionic rays across the universe to subjugate intelligent creatures. Each time someone becomes his slave, a part of its consciousness is transferred inside the Frost Ruby. The Frost Ruby is also a gateway toward the central location of SETH-APOPHIS, which Rhodan identifies with certainty now as being the galaxy M-82. *TAUREC seems to know the original function of the Frost Ruby, but does not explain anything.*

On Khrat, Surfo Mallagan decides to act against SETH-APOPHIS and takes the command of a fleet toward M-82. The flagship is Cell-2 of the SOL.

SETH-APOPHIS' fleet is trying to trap Rhodan's Galactic Fleet : they plan on attacking the Endless Armada and then retreat among the Terrans. Rhodan sees through the trap but the BASE is then overpowered by Eric Weidenburn and his followers, who is now convinced that the Frost Ruby is the Stac (*from the previous cycle*). Weidenburn returns the control of the Galactic Fleet to Rhodan in exchange for free passage to the Frost Ruby. The Endless Armada attacks the Galactic Fleet.

Weidenburn is captured by the Armada, and learns that the Terrans are suspected of having damaged Triicle-9 and that in order to redeem their faults, they must now become a part of the Endless Armada. Weidenburn becomes the official mediator between the two forces.

A commando of three hundred people is sent on small debris to sabotage the surrounding fleet. The mission succeeds and the destruction of several Armada Tugs causes chaos among the Armadians. Rhodan takes advantage of the confusion and enters the field of debris. Once inside, he demands to speak to the Heart of the Armada, who responds. Ordoban tells Rhodan that he has no intention to destroy the Terrans and that he is sending a messenger, who turns out to be Eric Weidenburn, who confirms that Ordoban demands the Galactic Fleet be immediately incorporated into the Endless Armada. Rhodan refuses and locks up Weidenburn so he can't tell Ordoban about the Terran's plans.

Rhodan decides that the only way out is *for his entire fleet* to enter the Frost Ruby and escape to M-82. Initially reluctant, TAUREC agrees to provide the Terrans with information for the dangerous journey. When Ordoban realizes what the Terrans are doing, he orders the Endless Armada to follow them through the Frost Ruby. The BASE emerges alone from the Frost Ruby and surrounded by the Armada.

Rhodan learns about the Chronicles of the Armada and is interested in reading them, but they are only accessible to Armadists. He is told to look for the White Ravens, a people of the Armada who could fit him with an Armada Flame.

A spaceship in the shape of a giant sail is detected by the BASE, which is found to belong to a White Raven. They tell Rhodan that the giant structure discovered by Tschubai is an Armada Forge, where the spaceships and Armada Tugs are manufactured. The Armada Forges are run by Armada Smiths, also called the Sons of Ordoban. Rhodan asks the White Ravens if he can receive an Armada Flame and is told in response that the price to pay will be very high, then the White Raven leaves.

In Srakenduurn (*a dust cloud in space that dissolves normal ships and people*), the Viral Empire is now five light-hours big and is made of all the parts created by various helpers such as Quiupu. One of the Terrans, Rag Cornus, is visited at night by a mysterious woman who calls herself Belice. She asks him to help her recover the Viral Empire, who belongs to her. When Cornus tells Quiupu about Belice, the scientist fears this is another VISHNA component like Srimavo and Gesil before. The Tentonen (a helper race of the Cosmocrats) Geredus arrives on Srakenduurn and asks Quiupu to interrupt all work on the Viral Empire in the name of the Cosmocrats, who have detected the presence of VISHNA. The risk of the mysterious entity gaining control of the Viral Empire is too big, so the Viral Empire should be destroyed. Geredus attempts to destroy the Viral Empire with the fleet of the Tentonen but it's already too late. Belice has taken control of it and she destroys the attackers. She tells the Terrans she's on her way to destroy the Earth and then disappears.

On Eden II, IT asks Ernst Ellert to go warn the Earth about the danger coming from VISHNA. He reaches the Earth and transmits the message to Julian Tiffloor and Reginald Bell. They must create the illusion of the Earth and Moon on the other side of the sun in order to fool VISHNA. IT will help focus the mental energy of millions of Terrans to aid the illusion, but he can only act while SETH-APOPHIS is unconscious (*which she has appears to have been for some time*), so the project must be brought to completion very fast.

In M-82, a White Raven with a stained sail appears, and its pilot, called the Tarnished One, offers the Galactics his Armada Flames, and Rhodan offers in return the Ring of the Cosmocrats and Laires' Eye. The Raven then offers Rhodan a very personal Flame, but however, a cell sample is required. The other Galactics are against both offers, but Rhodan's will prevails. One day after the departure of the Tarnished, a crisp White Raven appears and also offers Armada Flames. When he hears about the Tarnished, the Raven explains it is a traitor and an outcast. He further claims that the Galactics will never see the Ring and the Eye again. The White Raven is also told about the cell sample. He is appalled and reveals that that the Silver will produce a Synchronite (a clone that looks like the original to a limited extent, but it has a quasi-suggestive connection with the original person - with the Synchronite and a control unit, you can influence the original person as you wish; Synchronite technology was invented by the Armada Forges) of Rhodan in order to manipulate him.

The Armada's Genetic Engineers, who have worm-like bodies and six arms, have one Synchronite for every single leader of the Endless Armada. The Genetic Engineers are intrigued by the old age of Rhodan's cells, which are now aging very fast. Rhodan decides to attack the Synchronome with a small fleet in order [to destroy all the Synchronites, and succeeds.](#)

The first Terran base in M-82 is built on the planet BASE-1 and as Gesil is now feeling liberated from the mysterious influence of *VISHNA*, Perry Rhodan marries her. Eight Armada spaceships are detected but their destination is the sun of BASE-1, where they drop eight unidentified devices. Several hours later, the sun is shaken by violent eruptions that destroy the Terran station on BASE-1 entirely. Rhodan remembers a threat regarding a device called the Sun Hammer.

On Earth, Ernst Ellert discloses the next phase of IT's plan : the Earth and the Moon must be hidden behind a temporal "dam" that will be projected by Terrans with a specific psi ability, collectively called the Psi-Trust.

Klongheim, a seven light-months(!) big rhomboid structure, appears near the Solar System shortly followed by Parsfon, a three light-months(!) big spherical structure, which are products of, and house, the Eternal Servants (*a robotic civilization*). They attack the false Earth, but the Virus Empire tells Belice about a discrepancy in the position of the Earth and the Moon and she suspects that she is watching an illusion. She sends probes after the temporal dam and starts attacking the real planets after she finds them, but the dam remains stable. The attacks cause time anomalies and mental damage to some psionics on the Earth. The attack suddenly ends for no apparent reason. *A Terran realizes that a person coming from the future (see below) materialized on the Earth during the attack from Belice, which might explain why the attacks stopped. The Klongs and Parsfs on Earth recognize two mutants as possessing the Command Codes (which only their masters would have), and not only stop fighting, but allow the mutants into their ships to disable Belice's control over them.*

At the Armada, Rhodan and his team discover the Great Beacon (a hyper-radio transmitter that can reach the entire galaxy) by accident, and sends a Morse code message to bring the Galactic Fleet back together, but are captured by *agents of VISHNA*.

Pucky and others attempt entry into an Armada Forge (*which consists of a 3 mile diameter sphere surrounded by a thin 10 mile diameter ring*), but get caught. A Maahk from the distant future arrives on Earth in the present, decides that humans are on the wrong spiritual path, and agrees to work with Visha, *giving her some access inside the dam.*

The Galactic Fleet converges on Rhodan's SOS location including the BASE and SOL, as well as a fleet of the Khrats. Cell-2 arrives, and for the first time in centuries, the SOL is complete again. Rhodan and his team are rescued from captivity, as well as Pucky and his team from the Armada Forge.

In early 427 NGE, Rhodan gains the aid of a fighting race in the Endless Armada, adding many more ships to his fleet. A search is started for the "Heart of the Armada" Ordoban, who has remained silent since the trip thru the Frost Ruby.

Seven White Ravens arrive on BASE-1 and give Rhodan the coordinates of the Armada Chronicles. *Going there, he finds a black pyramid filled with puzzles and traps.* Rhodan finally reaches the heart of the pyramid which contains several billion little boxes. Each box contains a small humanoid called a Womme who starts reciting a fragment of the history of the Armada when the box is opened. Spaceships sent by the Armada Smiths appear on the planet and the Terran commando is forced to retreat. The Smiths take away the black pyramid but Rhodan manages to salvage one Womme before he left.

The Womme supplies the location of the Armada Prophet to Perry Rhodan. The Terrans arrive in the vicinity of an asteroid protected by a force shield. The Armada Prophet contacts Rhodan and allows him inside the asteroid. Rhodan and his group reach the Prophet, who reveals three prophecies to Rhodan. In the first vision,

Rhodan sees an Armada Forge destroyed while Armada Smith spaceships surrender. The Prophet says "The power of the Armada Smiths will be destroyed and they will be punished". In the second vision, the Prophet tells Rhodan that he will find the Heart of the Armada. Finally, the last vision says that "The Terrans will end up controlling the Endless Armada but the new commander will have to find his own way". Rhodan realizes that the Armada will have to travel through the Milky Way. Back on the BASE, only Rhodan is contacted by the Prophet one last time, who tells him that his prophecies must happen exactly as he said them, or the Galactic Fleet will be destroyed.

In the Milky Way, gravitational shocks shake the Earth and the scientists notice that the Earth and the Moon are slowly leaving their orbit. Moreover, language disruptions appear all over the Earth and people are having difficulties communicating. Computers also seem to be affected by the inexplicable phenomenon. *A mysterious matterless shadow being named Chthon* explains that VISHNA is trying to displace the Earth in order to bring it into her kingdom. Soon, six more plagues will be hitting the Terrans. This first plague, baptized the Babel Syndrome, is only meant to confuse the scientists so they don't oppose the current movement of the Earth and the Moon while VISHNA takes the Earth and the Moon into a region of space called the **Grey Corridor** (*a tunnel thru hyperspace connecting two points, that cannot be penetrated by any technology, or even by a superintelligence*). The second plague appears in the form of parasites, which are found to be susceptible to smallpox, so they are quickly defeated.

Ernst Ellert manages to escape the Corridor(?), and reaches IT, asking for help, but IT says it can't help right now. Ellert returns to the Earth.

The third plague manifests as a person named Le-So-Te who claims he has the power to resurrect the dead, and causes much chaos and in-fighting. Chthon is very helpful in stopping all the plagues.

At the Armada, the Terrans meet Nachor of Armada Unit 1, who is the chief of the rebels opposing the Armada Smith's takeover of the Armada. Nachor helps them out, and they take him on board the BASE.

A team of the Galactic Fleet meets Harman, the messenger of SETH-APOPHIS, who tells them that they will soon become slaves of the superintelligence. The fleet resumes its course and is soon attacked by forces of the superintelligence. **Most of the crew of the BASE falls under SETH-APOPHIS' influence** except for the cell activator bearers and those that carry an Armada Flame. The superintelligence contacts Gesil and tells her that she will reveal everything about her origin if she agrees to betray Rhodan, but Gesil refuses. The BASE becomes prisoner of the superintelligence, and the Terrans are taken to Aitheran, the center of SETH-APOPHIS' kingdom *in M-82*.

SETH-APOPHIS wants to physically savor her triumph over Perry Rhodan, the henchman of her adversary IT. That's why she wakes her now ancient first humanoid body in the Golden Palace. Thus she is vulnerable, but she also activates the Guardian. It is a psionic unit that can protect her from the Terrans who have not responded to her psionic *influence*. What the superintelligence does not know is that the Guardian also wakes the Avenger.

Rhodan and Nachor of the Armada Unit 1 are flown to the Golden Palace. Here they confront the superintelligence, in an almost dead, already mummified female body. There follows the first mental blow to Rhodan and Nachor, *who are easily overcome in the center of her power*. Now that her two opponents are incapacitated, she knows a second mental blow will finally make them her slaves. Safe for the time being, SETH-APOPHIS uses her most powerful weapon against the Endless Armada – the Burning Army (creatures which can create light-hour-sized volumes of space that are on fire, and which penetrate almost every kind of shield). The Avenger awakens after millions of years. It is a projection, a package of psionic vibrations with independent thinking skills. Its name is Simsin, SETH-APOPHIS' original assistant [*see backstory below*]. The projection helps Rhodan and Nachor survive the effects of SETH-APOPHIS' first mental blow, and transports them out of the Golden Palace. SETH-APOPHIS strikes the second, final mental shock. She is startled because the shock leads nowhere. The prisoners are no longer in the Golden Palace, and SETH-APOPHIS feels an

unprecedented mortal fear rising in her. The projection Sinsin divides into three individual projections. A-Sinsin leads Rhodan, Javier and Nachor to an eerie place where they are to acquire the preserved Heel-Body [see backstory below]. B-Sinsin appears to the Cygrides, and he leads some of them to the Golden Palace, and has them reactivate the old programming of the Announcer. Meanwhile C-Sinsin takes over SETH-APOPHIS. For the superintelligence it is a shock to see her former confidant again, but she recognizes the whole truth *too late*. The Golden Palace has once again become heralds and proclaims the greatness of Uxförd. Thus she has lost contact with the Frost Ruby and her consciousness pool. The consciousness splinters are free again, and SETH-APOPHIS is no longer a Superintelligence. B-Sinsin confronts SETH-APOPHIS and staggers the android body with a mortal blow. Shortly thereafter, A-Sinsin arrives with the Heel Body and SETH-APOPHIS' consciousness has only one chance. [With a mortal fear of death, the consciousness leaves the dying ancient body and returns to the original body, the Heel, which will soon lose its intelligence, and flees from the Herald to the world she evolved on, where it will soon die.](#) With the end of SETH-APOPHIS, the Burning Army dissolves, which until then attacked the barbarian waves commanded by Atlan.

When SETH-APOPHIS *finally* dies, she releases her most powerful psychic impulse in order to harm IT, *which materializes twelve beasts on Eden II. They have the ability to absorb the consciousnesses of anyone, including mutants, which they proceed to do. They are hunted down and killed, releasing the trapped consciousnesses.* But IT wonders where the consciousnesses of the beasts are, and finds them in IT's pool of consciousness. It takes great effort to push the foreign consciousnesses to the edge of the pool and destroy them.

In the Milky Way, the fourth Plague on Terra caused plants to form cocoons, from which an intelligent race of beings emerges. They tell the Terrans they were captured by accident in the Grey Corridor. They didn't realize they were altering intelligent creatures and when they realize their error, they withdraw their creations. They finally leave the Earth in peace, leaving behind them several new organisms and viruses to assist the Terrans.

The fifth Plague consists of small creatures called Fairy Queens and are projections from a different universe. VISHNA's goal is to capture the souls of all the Terrans in order to bring them into her own universe. The Psi Trust intervenes and manages to break the relationship between the Fairy Queens and the Terrans, who slowly recover their freedom.

The Viral Empire suggests VISHNA merge the next two plagues in order to cause a final blow to the Terrans. Two giant virus formations protected by a shield appear on the Earth and strike millions of Terrans, who fall into a coma for several hours and then recover as if nothing had happened. Baptized VISHNA's Fever, the disease causes a reprogramming of the victim's brain. All the victims start building complex devices whose purpose is unknown. Bell tries to have all the machines destroyed immediately but they surround themselves with an indestructible protection shield before the Terrans can act.

At the same time, billions of small blue spheres arrive on Earth. All humans start shrinking except for Ernst Ellert, Chthon, and NATHAN, who protected itself by a paratron shield. When he analyzes the spheres, Ellert realizes that they are all similar to the Earth and inhabited by one human reduced to the size of a virus. He understands that soon, VISHNA will try to link all the humans to the Viral Empire.

At the Armada, Weidenburn and his 100,000 followers are injected with symbiotes created by the Armada Smiths, which start changing them into one big protoplasmic organism, intended as a replacement for Ordoban, and even has an Armada Flame. The lead Armada Smith sets course for Armada Unit 1, or the Armada Heart – an artificial celestial body made of planetary matter the size of a solar system that was created many millions of years ago.

The Galactic Fleet arrives at Armada Unit 1. A gatekeeper appears in the BASE, and asks for the passwords for the four gates, but Nachor can't remember them. Chaos ensues until Nachor remembers the first password. A dream and meeting a couple of aliens reminds him of the second password.

In the Milky Way, VISHNA arrives on an empty Earth in the Grey Corridor and has her agents start building strange buildings that will become her “viral nest”. A blue flame appears, telling her that her opponent is still trying to stop her. VISHNA takes the form of Belice and destroys the blue flame and activates the virotronic network, which will start to connect the 10 billion human consciousnesses to the Viral Empire. With the help of Ernst Ellert, some humans calling themselves the Storm Riders manage to shake off VISHNA’s influence, and start sending bogus information through the virotronic network in order to disrupt VISHNA's communication flow. Due to the Storm Rider’s efforts, VISHNA loses connection with 30% of the humans, although she still feels safe in her viral nest.

Backstory : when VISHNA entered the original Viral Empire and exploded it, this caused an imbalance in the order of the universe and the Cosmocrats realized they needed to reconstruct the Viral Empire in order to restore that balance. Since neither the Knights of the Deep nor the Endless Armada seemed to be able to restore the [Moral Code] of the universe, the Cosmocrats asked TAUREC (who is himself a Cosmocrat) to do it.

TAUREC eventually reunites with his [Incarnation] Chthon and confronts VISHNA, whom he accuses of having joined the negative power of the universe. Using the Moral Code, TAUREC manages to overpower VISHNA in the realm of the Cosmocrats, who ceases to resist. The negative side of VISHNA disappears, and she rejoins the positive forces of the universe.

Still under Belice's human form, all the humans are freed, and VISHNA cleans up all traces of her work on the Earth. Only the Time Towers remain. The Viral Empire is reduced to twice the size of the Moon and placed in orbit around the Earth.

When the Earth and the Moon exit from the Grey Corridor back into the Solar System, they are met with a representative from IT who congratulates them and tells them about the defeat of SETH-APOPHIS in M-82. He also says that the Earth will stay at this place for the next five hundred years.

Ellert completes his metamorphosis, and he now has a body that no longer needs protection from the void. He can now find energy from light and is covered with viral clothes, allowing him to turn into a viral cloud and various other shapes. *He accompanies TAUREC and VISHNA to a world called Gorgengol at the edge of the Milky Way, where they light a million-mile long Endless Armada flame, as a signal to Rhodan.*

At the Armada, the Galactic Fleet is in front of the third gate of Armada Unit 1 when a new plague hits the Terrans : their negative sides are reinforced, causing an increasing number of thefts, fights and murders. Rhodan is shot and while in a delirium, a flashback from his childhood makes him utter the third and fourth gate codes.

In the Milky Way, Reginald Bell addresses the GAVOK (*the Galactic Nations Coalition*) to let everyone know about the death of SETH-APOPHIS and the imminent arrival of the Endless Armada. TAUREC once again emphasizes that the Endless Armada must make its way through the Milky Way, but doesn’t say why. The news is received with a lot of worry from the people of the Milky Way, who are afraid that such a huge fleet will create chaos and destruction in its wake.

Ellert, TAUREC and VISHNA revisit Gorgengol *in the Milky Way* and realize that the Powers of Chaos have taken notice of the flame and are now trying to disrupt the arrival of the Endless Armada in the Milky Way. The Powers of Chaos have an arsenal of ten weapons called the Decalogue of the Elements, created millions of years ago, before the Frost Ruby was anchored by the Porleyters. They just activated their first weapon, called the Element of Cold, which emanates from a different universe where absolute zero is -961 degrees, and not -273 degrees in the normal universe. When the cold drops under -273 degrees, the target of the attack is transferred into the other universe.

As the Element of Cold propagates, TAUREC and VISHNA realize that their only hope is to activate the Signal Flame earlier than planned. This activation was supposed to happen only when the Endless Armada would reach Gorgengol, but it is the only way to save the Flame. When the activation is triggered, the Element of Cold disappears and Gorgengol dissolves. Then the Flame accelerates and disappears into linear space, followed by TAUREC, VISHNA and Ellert.

The flame arrives near an inhabited planet, where the second element of the Decalogue, the Element of War, is found. It is *many* small crabs with twelve legs that settles on the shoulder of its victim and floods it with feelings of hate. Thanks to some Cosmocrat technology, TAUREC manages to neutralize all the Elements of War.

At its next stop, the Flame wraps an entire solar system in an energetic field and suddenly, the entire solar system disappears. TAUREC explains that the Signal Flame is creating a corridor of ten light years diameter in the Milky Way so that the Endless Armada will be able to fly through. The solar systems are displaced in another dimension that can be reached through an interdimensional tunnel.

Bell, TAUREC and VISHNA arrive in the next solar system, and when the displacement occurs, they are taken into the other dimension along with the solar system. In the normal continuum, a giant spaceship fifty miles in size(!) appears called the Prince of Reason. It carries the Element of Technology and is commandeered by Kazzenkatt, who is in charge of using the Decalogue of the Elements.

Kazzenkatt has the ability to Zero-dream, which allows him to teleport his consciousnesses across great distances and to control the other Elements. He arrives on the World of a Hundred Suns, which is one of the [Chronofossils \(places Rhodan had left positive psionic energy without knowing it\)](#).

When the Cosmocrats arrive at the next solar system, they fall into a trap set by Kazzenkatt. Ernst Ellert avoids the trap, and discovers Kazzenkatt's plan : destroy the Signal Flame with a hexadim magnet controlled by the Element of Technology. Ellert sabotages the prison ship and frees the prisoners. They leave the spaceship as it blows up, destroying the hexadim magnet.

The Signal Flame appears and displaces another solar system as planned. Then it heads toward Verth, the central world of the Blues which also happens to be the Chronofossil for the East side of the Milky Way.

After his defeat, Kazzenkatt is summoned by the Master of the Elements (*a Chaotarch*) to the [\[Negasphere\], a space ruled by the Powers of Chaos where no laws of physics and no causality apply](#). He is told that he underestimated his enemies and that he now needs to invoke all the Elements at once if he wants to prevail. Kazzenkatt complies and sends a call to the remaining elements : the Element of Time, the Element of Space, the Element of Mask, the Element of Transcendence, the Element of Spirit and the [Element of Darkness], probably the most dangerous of all and which hasn't been used in three thousand years.

In the Milky Way, thousands of ships from the Galactic Fleet gather in the system of Verth to defend the Blues. TAUREC tells Bell that when the Endless Armada arrives in the Milky Way, it must go through every single Chronofossil of the galaxy, among which are Blues and the World of a Hundred Suns. *The Terran's technology, along with the Cosmocrats' help, manage to defeat the combined attack of the remaining Elements.*

At the Armada, four Armada Smiths reach Armada Unit 1 and make contact with the Trygazians, who are the protectors of the Heart of the Armada. The Armada Smiths have on board the protoplasm entity that was once Eric Weidenburn, and they have conditioned it to respond to the name Ordoban so that it will be ready to overtake the commander of the Endless Armada.

The SOL, followed by the Barbarian fleet, enters Armada Unit 1 and is led into a trap by the Armada Smiths, who convince the Barbarians that Atlan is not the messenger of Ordoban. The Armada Smiths order the

Barbarian leader to protect the Heart of the Armada against the upcoming Galactic Fleet. When the Galactic Fleet shows up in Armada Unit 1, 900,000 Barbarian ships block its passage and Rhodan understands that Atlan has been captured and that the Armada Smiths reached the Heart of the Armada before them. Rhodan decides to create the Armada Unit 1 Patrol : eleven teams of two people will go explore Armada Unit 1, trying to break past the Barbarian fleets.

Alaska Saedelaere has a dream where an old friend asks him to join her, and the Cappin fragment in his face agrees. Alaska vanishes.

Kazzenkatt goes to the Posbi home planet and re-activates the Hate device, then travels back in time, and requests 200,000 tons of protoplasm to stabilize the central protoplasm in the present before it develops an immunity to the Hate device. Returning to the present, the central protoplasm is being turned into a trap for Rhodan and the Endless Armada.

TAUREC now realizes that he was sent by the Cosmocrats to secure the Chronofossils so that the Endless Armada can restore Triicle-9 (the Frost Ruby) to its original resting place. The space corridor that the Signal Flame has been creating so far is no longer necessary.

Kazzenkatt then turns his attention toward the dwarf galaxy Andro-Beta (another Chronofossil) where he wants to start a war between Maahks and Tefrodians, but is thwarted by the Terrans.

As the Armada Smiths enter Armada Unit 1 with the protoplasm creature, Eric Weidenburn manages to retake control and to break free. The protoplasm disappears in hyperspace and the ensuing confusion causes some of its psychic energy to be released brutally, flooding Armada Unit 1 with a psychic shock. The various members of Armada Unit 1 Patrol are struck by the psychic attack and lose their willpower. Most of them are captured by the Armada Smiths, who decide to use them as bait to capture Perry Rhodan.

Rhodan and Nachor enter Armada Unit 1 where they face an army of Armada Robots. They are rescued by the Gevanendres, a race who lives inside Armada Unit 1 and that has recognized Nachor as the Prince of the Armada. As they walk through Armada Unit 1, Nachor's memory slowly surfaces and he tells Rhodan he knows where their next destination is. Nachor takes Rhodan to a transmitter while explaining they need to look for the Tassau, a highly advanced technological race serving Ordoban.

As the 900,000 Barbarian spaceships are about to attack the critically outnumbered Galactic Fleet, the Armada Smiths decide to call back the Barbarians and send them after Rhodan. Two million Barbarians enter Armada Unit 1 and start their search.

Guided by the Tassau, Rhodan and Nachor reach the Room of the Stars, where Nachor finally regains his memory. Standing in the middle of the room, Nachor suddenly changes appearance and starts broadcasting a message to the entire Endless Armada, asking everyone to resist the Armada Smiths. **Simultaneously, all the Armada Tugs and the Armada Robots are deactivated. The Torkrotians surrender and the prisoners are freed.** Nachor finally tells Rhodan that he is the son of Ordoban and he starts telling his story (*see next cycle*).

SETH-APOPHIS' backstory :

Eleven million years ago, the Parsynians live in the galaxy Uxford and have recently developed a new device called the Announcer designed to allow them to spread their teachings to the universe using psionic suggestive impulses. They create a fleet of spaceships called the Missionaries and start investigating the nearby galaxies.

One of the Parsynian astronauts takes on board his spaceship a small female pet Heel. His ship is damaged and forced to leave the Announcer on a deserted planet, along with the Heel, who has been baptized S'Etha-

P'Oph'Is. The Announcer enhances the Heel's brain capacities *with its suggestive impulses*, making him more intelligent every year. *Many years later*, a spaceship lands on the planet. The crew has detected the radiation from the Announcer and they want to study it. SETH-APOPHIS penetrates the spaceship and incapacitates the crew. The Announcer forces them to find a new body to host the consciousness of the Heel, which is reaching the end of her life span. They choose a female-looking android body, then she kills all the aliens except one, Simsim, who is forced to become her assistant.

SETH-APOPHIS realizes that she now possesses the power to influence other human beings remotely. She taps into the sun to augment the power of the Announcer, which is now sending a message through the endangered galaxy, promising its inhabitants that the shockwaves currently shaking it up will soon be fixed. Over the years, SETH-APOPHIS keeps casting her psychic jets within *her galaxy* and soon starts venturing to neighboring galaxies. *After* one thousand years, her assistant Simsim reaches the end of his life. Before dying, he tells SETH-APOPHIS that he has never really served her. He has modified the message sent by the Announcer to warn the recipients about the danger represented by SETH-APOPHIS and he predicts that soon, she will encounter enemies that will defeat her.

SETH-APOPHIS continues to spread, marking every creature under her control with a designated aura called the Aura Seal. At some point during her expansion, she meets for the first time one of her peers, who calls himself IT. He warns her that she is overstepping her boundaries and that next time she tries to invade a Sphere of Influence that is not hers, conflicts will ensue. Confused, SETH-APOPHIS retreats but she decides she will continue with her expansion anyway. *She finally gives up her corporeal existence and merges into the millions of consciousnesses she has assimilated over the past centuries, becoming a superintelligence.* She also locates a psi cloud radiating in the red spectrum that she calls the Psi Ruby. More millennia go by and SETH-APOPHIS starts feeling a growing unrest in her consciousnesses.

She suspects that she is reaching maximum capacity and she decides to transfer the consciousnesses inside the Psi Ruby. The transfer has catastrophic consequences : the Ruby blows up into a mini galaxy covering a thousand light years and suddenly disappears. It rematerializes millions of light years away and then keeps teleporting randomly throughout the universe. Every time it reappears, it causes entire star systems to explode under the incredible amount of energy it radiates. The Cosmocrats decide to intervene and send the Porleyters on a mission to anchor the small galaxy. Using slow matter(?), they manage to immobilize the spinning galaxy, which they baptize the Frost Ruby because it is no longer emitting any energy.

SETH-APOPHIS realizes that the next step of her evolution, turning into a Matter Source, is not going to happen and she decides to fight IT in order to avoid her fate : becoming a Matter Sink. Her attack against Terra with the Time Points fails and SETH-APOPHIS realizes that the Terrans are tough opponents. When she finally thinks she has them cornered near the Frost Ruby, they surprise her by plunging inside the small galaxy, shortly followed by the Endless Armada, which she knows nothing about. *The sudden materialization of the huge armada in her native galaxy put her into shock and she had lost consciousness for ten months.*

#1200 to #1299 (Chronofossils) : 427-430 NGE (0 year gap from previous cycle)

[Note : the translators were evidently confused between the Deep (the interdimensional boundary layer between the space-time continuums of the multiverse, where the Frost Ruby belongs) and the Deepland, a structure built by the Space-Time Engineers within the Deep to re-create the Frost Ruby. I have done everything I can to make that distinction correct in this summary.]

Many of the players from the previous cycles are still active in this one, only the new ones are listed here :

Jen Salik – a Knight of the Deep

VISHNA – a Cosmocrat who merged with the Viral Empire, destroying it

Iris – a VISHNA Incarnation
Nachor – the Armada Prince

This is how the locations are ordered :

Deep station (in the standard universe) : has a transport connection to the Vault

The Vault : the standard universe's initial entrance into the Deepland

The Deep elevator : the connection between the Vault and the Deepland

The Deep : the "space" that contains all the multiverses

The Deepland : a structure built in the Deep originally to re-create the Frost Ruby

Star Wall : separates Starsen from Deepland; four transmitter gates allow access

Starsen : a gigantic city to house those working on the Frost Ruby

Vagenda : the power source for everything in the Deepland

Neutrum : where everything is created in the Deepland to allow life (atmosphere, gravity)

Mountain of Creation : where Triicle-9 should be anchored in the Deep

From the last section :

ESTARTU – a superintelligence

Stalker - a Sotho (commander) from ESTARTU, and a representative of the Third Way (Permanent Conflict); is trying to get the Milky Way to join the Third Way

Tyg Ian – Stalker's replacement

Ijarkor - an Eternal Warrior (follows the way of Permanent Conflict)

Querions – a race that follows ESTARTU's true Third Way

Ordobon's backstory :

Millions of years ago, the empire of Nor-Gamaner ruled over several galaxies. The main people were the Saddreykar, one-eyed humanoids coming from the Behanien galaxy. During a battle, one of the most acclaimed Saddreykar lieutenants, Ordoban, was killed but because he was such a symbol for his people, his consciousness was conserved in the Loolandre : a spectacular monument where Ordoban's psychic essence is kept in the Room of Stars.

During the 20th millennium, the Cosmocrat TIRYK arrives in the Loolandre and tells Ordoban that the Power of Chaos have been making alarming advances lately. TIRYK explains that two main powers are constantly fighting for power in the universe, and he represents the Power of Order.

Shortly after the Big Bang, the [Moral Code] of the Universe sprang into existence, made of a double helix structure of [cosmonucleotides] that spans the entire cosmos, similar to human DNA. This double helix structure is called the Endless Armada because it has no beginning and no end, it just circles endlessly throughout the cosmos.

The Endless Armada is made of millions of psionic fields and more recently, one of these fields, called Triicle-9, has been threatened by the Powers of Chaos, who are trying to disrupt its balance and to provoke a mutation of the helix. TIRYK asks Ordoban to assemble a gigantic fleet in order to protect Triicle-9 (aka the Frost Ruby).

Ordoban takes his fledgling fleet to Triicle-9 in order to guard it. 16,000 years later, Triicle-9 vanishes. Ordoban decides to find it, and calls his 500,000 ship fleet the Endless Armada, after the cosmic Double Helix.

Several centuries go by when suddenly one Unit goes missing. Ordoban realizes that he can no longer trust the members of his fleet to follow him, so he creates the Final Impulse, which is a psychic order sent to

anyone who tries to desert the Armada. In order to increase his control over the fleet, Ordoban has 70% of his psychic mass concentrated into tiny Armada Flames that are created in the Seal Ship and fitted over the head of every Armadist, allowing him to control them all directly.

Ordoban also creates the White Ravens, whose mission is to maintain the order throughout the Armada (*basically a police force*). *After the Armada is attacked twice, it becomes apparent that it is no longer good at defending itself*, and he asks the Torkrotians to constantly harass and attack the Armada Units in order to make sure they are constantly ready to defend themselves.

As his strength starts declining, Ordoban uses most of his remaining psychic energy to create Nachor, his heir. Ordoban wipes Nachor's memory clean and then sends him into the Armada, hoping that he will find his destiny by himself. Nachor gains some influence in the Armada and he takes the lead of the Rebels, engaged in a fierce war against the Armada Smiths who have decided they wanted to overthrow Ordoban and take over the Endless Armada.

When the Armada finally finds Triicle-9, Ordoban is convinced that it's the Galactic Fleet that stole it, and when the Terrans fly into it, Ordoban orders the Armada to follow them. This was his last mistake, as the feedback shock he receives kills him.

Back in the present, Rhodan realizes he now has the answer to two of the three Ultimate Questions: what the Frost Ruby is for and where the endless Armada begins and where it ends. Carfesch (*an emissary of the Cosmocrat TIRYK*) materializes in the BASE and he says that he was summoned by the Cosmocrats beyond the Matter Sources and has been asked by the Cosmocrats to explain to Rhodan what the Chronofossils are.

During the past centuries, Rhodan and the human race have accomplished major alliances and uncovered many secrets. **Each of these victories has received a tiny fraction of Rhodan's psychic imprint, and the location where such a victory happened is called a Chronofossil : a distinct location in time and space that is an integral part of the history of the cosmos** : Andro-Beta, the World of a Hundred Suns, Gatas, Eden II, etc...

Each of these Chronofossils creates a network of psychic forces and whenever the Endless Armada approaches one of them, it will create a shock wave that will shake out the restraining field that is currently keeping Triicle-9 immobile. Once Triicle-9 is freed, it will return to its natural location.

Atlan, Jen Salik and Carfesch arrive in the Milky Way and present their report to the GAVOK. TAUREC asks Atlan and Jen Salik to go to the Deep (a boundary layer between the space-time continuums of the multiverse), which is the place where the Frost Ruby came from. There, they must meet with the Deep Controller, and oversee the construction of a replacement for Triicle-9, which was started centuries ago by the Space-Time Engineers. TAUREC tells Atlan he is worried because he lost contact with the Deep.

Heading toward the Endless Armada, the BASE comes across TAUREC's spaceship, and Reginald Bell comes on board. He says that TAUREC and VISHNA are staying on the ship because they are exhausted, but Pucky is the only one suspecting something after he detected that Bell was behaving strangely and emitting an odd smell. When Pucky finally understands Bell is actually an Element of the Mask (a shape-shifting race that serves the Chaotarchs), it is too late, and the impostor paralyzes Rhodan and takes him before Kazenkatt (the commander-in-chief of the Decalogue of the Elements). *Rhodan is rescued by a time-travelling race who notices he is emitting strong time signals.*

As the Chronofossil Andro-Beta is finally freed, Rhodan's mental energy is unleashed and a tremor on the Frost Ruby is detected, showing that the Porleyter anchor is beginning to weaken. IT appears to Rhodan and explains to him that he will need to do this for every Chronofossil before finally taking the Endless Armada into the Deep.

On the Cosmocrat Deep Station, Atlan and Jen Salik meet Drul Drulensot, the Deep Controller. He explains that the Deep is an n-dimensional layer separating the Einstein continuum from the other universes. The two men are taken to the Vault, the *standard universe's* entrance to the Deepland. During the transfer *via the Deep elevator*, Drul Drulensot tells them the story of the Deepland :

The void left by the disappearance of Triicle-9 not only reinforces the powers of Chaos, it also threatens the coherency of the psionic fields that make up the Moral Code. The Cosmocrats asked the Space-Time Engineers, a people close to becoming a superintelligence, to manufacture a duplicate of the psionic field. The Engineers create the Vault and then the Deepland, a gigantic disc-shaped world, in the Deep. As the reconstruction of Triicle-9 proceeds, the Vault and the Guardians start changing mysteriously, blocking the return to the High Land, the name that the Deepland dwellers give to *our universe*. Before the way is totally blocked, the Cosmocrats manage to impress a vision of the Deep in Ordoban's subconscious.

When they arrive in the Deepland, Atlan and Salik find a huge population that is strictly organized : every citizen has a status number, from one to four, one being the lowest. Five years prior, an unknown individual who identified himself as the Steel Man, showed up and conquered a part of the Deepland, granting himself Status Five.

Two factions, the Geriocrats and the Brotherhood, fight for power. *Atlan and Salik are forced to get involved, but Salik eventually finds a cave with the first of the two scouts* sent by the Cosmocrats thousands of years ago, who fell to a force that is slowly petrifying them. *Meanwhile, Atlan is told* that ever since he went beyond the Matter Sources, he's been carrying an Aura of the Knight of the Deep. Atlan meets with Salik and finds the second scout, who explains the plan of the Cosmocrats failed because they underestimated the power of the Deep - some Space-Time Engineers fell prey to its psychic influence and turned into Grey Lords. They meet the Blind Hermits, who tell their history :

The Alai are brought to Deepland *and given their mission* by the Cosmocrats to build Starsen, a gigantic city that will serve the Powers of Order later. Shortly after their arrival, some of the Alai are hit by the Grey Influence, a force coming from the Deep that drives people crazy and petrifies them. Caves are built under Starsen when a device called Vagenda (*the power source for everything in the Deepland*) is used to counter the effect of the Grey Influence, which withdraws soon thereafter.

Thousands of years later, *it is discovered* that the Grey Influence is still present in a latent form in the caves. It has slowly permeated the underground of Starsen and additional technology from the Cosmocrats is needed to contain it. The guardians of the four transmitter gates succumb to the Grey Influence and the gates themselves stop working shortly thereafter.

Two Grey Influenced Space-Time Engineers take the lead of the Brotherhood and of the Geriocrats.

More time passes, and a transmitter gate is suddenly reactivated. The Steel Lord enters Starsen and it soon conquers Starsen with his Steel Soldiers.

The negative energy floods Starsen and all its inhabitants become victims of the Grey influence.

Atlan leaves the city in search of the Steel Lord while Salik surrenders to the Geriocrats.

Meanwhile, when Rhodan sends the Endless Armada in the direction of the Great Magellanic Cloud, the second Chronofossil, Kazzenkatt sends six of the weapons from the Decalogue of the Elements against them, but they are all defeated. Despite his power and his ability to Zero-Dream and therefore go to any location instantaneously, Kazzenkatt realizes that the Endless Armada is too big an opponent, so he decides to focus his efforts directly on the next Chronofossil.

In Magellan, VISHNA and TAUREC discover that Rhodan's residual psychic matter has disappeared without activating the Chronofossil. They are joined by Pucky and Ernst Ellert who confirm that Perry Rhodan's psychic substance is gone. After several unsuccessful attempts, Pucky detects some of Rhodan's presence and helped by Ernst Ellert, he makes contact with the Good Spirit of Magellan, the Magellan *galaxy's* "deity".

The Good Spirit turns out to be Rhodan's psychic substance after it mutated *due to* the Neo-Howalgonium *hypercrystal* radiations present on Baykalob, the capital of Magellan. The Good Spirit revives the memories of the Elements of the Mask who recover their true identity and ask the people of Magellan for forgiveness for the atrocities committed by the Bi-Conditioned. The peoples of Magellan are now relieved of their fear of the return of the Bi-Conditioned and the Chronofossil heals itself, *releasing another 5-D shock wave*.

Pucky detects panicked thoughts from Nachor in the Loolandre. Accompanied by Gesil, he returns there to find that Aytos and White Ravens have captured the Armada Prince and are about to sink him into Ordoban's psychic matter. Pucky realizes that Nachor is voluntarily submitting himself to this. When the fusion is accomplished, *all the Armada Flames disappear and Nachor-Ordoban announces to the entire Endless Armada that they are now free to go*. However, he asks from them one last favor : that they stay with him until Triicle-9 has returned to its native location. Most races in the Endless Armada accept.

The Cosmocrat TIRYK materializes on the BASE in the shape of Nachor and tells Rhodan that he must abort the trip toward the World of a Hundred Suns and instead, set course toward Rando-1, which will become the real Chronofossil because that's where the protoplasm has been moved. The fleet reaches Rando-1 as Nachor, Pucky and Gesil return to the BASE. Nachor now has the memories of Ordoban and he recognizes that the so-called TIRYK is actually an impostor. TIRYK suddenly disappears and a massive psychic wave hits the BASE and paralyzes its entire crew.

Backstory : millions of years ago, Nauvoac and Shivauc work for the Cosmocrats and spread [On-Quanta] and [Noon-Quanta] to create *intelligent* life in the galaxy. They are members of the Catarac, an organization that predates the [Seven Powerful Ones]. The hypertronic drive of their Spore Ship breaks down and they sacrifice their life to create three more galaxies before the ship explodes. As a result, their consciousnesses now permeates these three galaxies.

Arriving at the Incubator (a factory where devices such as the ten Decalogues are created), TAUREC realizes that the fake TIRYK who trapped the BASE is none other than the Master of the Elements (*a Chaotarch*) and that the Protoplasm from the World of a Hundred Suns has been abducted and is now inside the Incubator. The Terrans return to the BASE and fall under the influence of the Hate Protoplasm, like the rest of the crew except for Ellert, who realizes that Rando-1 is the hate plasma.

Atlan reaches the edge of Starsen (a city in the Deepland), where the Steel Man tells him to meet him at Cathedral Kesdschan. There, Lethos-Terakdschan, the founding Knight of the Deep appears and asks Atlan if he is ready to receive the knighthood, but he only agrees on the condition that he remains a temporary knight as long as he is active in the Deep. Lethos-Terakdschan agrees to this condition and ordains Atlan as a Knight of the Deep. But just as Atlan's consecration reaches its climax and Lethos-Terakdschan is distracted for a moment, the four gate transmitters open and grey life flows into the Deep and Starsen. The outskirts turn grey.

Jen Salik is controlling and regulating the vital energy flows in Starsen. He makes an escape attempt to reach the Vagenda so that the caverns can be flooded again and Starsen can be freed from the influence of the grey. The Grey Life is washed away, but the Grey Lords manage to escape. But *along* with the vital energy, the Vagenda also sends a message that it is under pressure from the Greys. So the next target of the three Knights of the Deep is clear - it is the Vagenda.

The slow awakening of the three "space giants" (the conscious galaxies mentioned above) which contain the three Decalogue manufacturing bases are thrown into chaos as aliens appear everywhere in the base called

Breeder and attack the occupants. The robot in charge calls Kazzenkatt, who is on the Hundred Suns World, and the Lord of the Elements, who is on Rando-1, for help.

Terrans who are in the base called Amplifier are contacted by Shivaus (one of the galaxies' consciousness) and are asked to turn off the energy taps that are keeping the giants asleep, and to find her partner Nauvoac so that they can unite and defeat the Decalogue. Their plans go off successfully, and the Terrans are informed that many people on one of the bases who were held in time-stasis for later use in the Decalogue are now free, and are ready to fight their oppressors.

Amplifier is pulled from its galaxy by Shivaus and Nauvoac. The Master of the Elements and Kazzenkatt arrive and realize that Breeder is lost. The Master of the Elements transfers the Warehouse to the Outside system, where the planet Mechanica once existed.

The Posbi plasma in Breeder is transferred to the Rando-1 system. In purely quantitative terms, the central plasma is inferior to the hate plasma, but a *Cosmocrat robot* ensures that quality takes precedence over quantity. As if under a domino effect, the hate plasma transforms back into the primordial plasma, bringing the chronodegeneration of the Rando-1 chronofossil to an end. *The protoplasm is then transferred to the World of a Hundred Suns, its home system.* The Endless Armada approaches the World of a Hundred Suns and the 5-D shockwave sets off, shaking off the Frost Ruby further off its Porleyter anchor. The shockwave alters the Posbis, allowing them to jump to the next stage of their evolution toward real sentience.

TAUREC tells Rhodan that the time has come for an important mission and both teleport inside the Frost Ruby. The BASE and the Endless Armada take course toward the next Chronofossil : Eastside. On the way to the Galactic East, the BASE is contacted by IT who tells the Terrans that the Element of the Cold is no more. The superintelligence also tells the Terrans they must use the Viral Empire to calculate a trajectory for the Endless Armada through the Milky Way, but that the super-computer is experiencing unexplained problems. When Reginal Bell asks IT for his help, IT refuses and replies that the Terrans will soon have to steer away from the Cosmocrats and avoid being involved in the fight between the Order and the Chaos.

On the way to the Frost Ruby, it occurs to Rhodan that TAUREC needs him as much as he needs the Cosmocrats. TAUREC tells Rhodan that **the [Moral Code] defines the universe as a program, not as a set of moral laws. Each part of the Moral Code (a [cosmonucleotide]) contains countless information pools in charge of a small part of the universe and a two-way interaction is constantly happening between them, carried by entities called [Messengers]. TAUREC suspects that the Moral Code in its entirety is related to the [LAW]. The nature of the Moral Code is responsible for the values of cosmic constants, such as the speed of light or absolute zero, and they also define the foundation of physics.** When Triicle-9 disappeared, the region of space it was in charge of turned into an area controlled by the Powers of Chaos, and Rhodan suddenly identifies it : it is a [Negasphere], where the Master of the Elements resides and created the Decalogue of the Elements. TAUREC says that the Negasphere might cause a ripple effect through the universe if it is not corrected, and in order for this to happen, not only must Triicle-9 be brought back to its original location, it must also be rid of parasitic elements that have invaded it and are preventing it from shaking off the Porleyter anchor. The shockwaves created by the activation of the three Chronofossils have destroyed all the Ruby Parasites except three, which materialize with Rhodan's features. After a mental fight, Rhodan manages to neutralize them. As the two men leave the Frost Ruby, they realize that not only have they **dissolved the Porleyter anchor**, they have also **restored the contact between Triicle-9 and the Deep**, and Rhodan gets a short glimpse of Atlan there.

The Master of the Elements manages to rescue the victims of the Elements of the Cold from the Minus Universe, who are now called Icies because they carry with them the Psycho-Frost, an illness caused by the interfacing of the two universes *that they can spread to normal people and objects in this universe.* *The Master's plan is to destroy Rhodan's psionic imprint (Chronofossil) on the Blue's home planet by killing all life there.*

TAUREC and VISHNA go on a mission to capture an Icy. They manage to capture Tormsen Vary, the leader of the Icies. Having captured their leader, Rhodan convinces the Icies to meet in intergalactic space, away from the Galactic Flame, which should ease their mental pain. The Icies initially accept but a change suddenly occurs in their behavior. A fleet of several thousand units appears, accompanied by twenty-five thousand Elements of Space and of Spirit. Rhodan realizes that the Icies now have a new leader, which he strongly suspects to be Kazzenkatt. Rhodan decides to send Tormsen Vary back, where he will try to convince the Icies that the Terrans are not their enemy and that if they cancel their attack on Gatas, the Galactics will do everything they can to send them back into the Minus Universe, away from the mental pain inflicted by the Flame Signal. *When Vary is detected by Kazzenkatt on the Icies new home world*, he dispatches Elements of the War and of the Transcendance to it. *The Terrans use the Selphyry-Fataro cannon (from the previous cycle) again*, and manage to hurl the Icies' planet and its accompanying defenses back into the Minus Universe. [With this defeat, Kazzenkatt also loses 250,000 Elements of Space.](#)

In late 428, the Endless Armada reaches the Blue System and a powerful psycho-shock releases Rhodan's mental energy from the Chronofossil and transmits it back to Ordoban's depot. The shockwave is so strong that TAUREC calculates that the presence of the entire Endless Armada is no longer needed on the last two Chronofossils, Terra and Eden II - only a fraction should suffice. The shock also has an effect on the evolution of the Blues, who will develop new abilities in future generations.

Still worried by the recent non-responsiveness of the Viral Empire, TAUREC decides to head back to the Earth, accompanied by VISHNA, Ernst Ellert and Gesil, who feels a strange connection with VISHNA.

A pirate show is broadcast over every Terran channel, showing the destruction of the Earth by Kazzenkatt, and asks the Terrans to not trust the Cosmocrats and the Viral Empire. It is supposed that the broadcast came from Kazzenkatt.

In Terrania, Belice and Gesil (VISHNA's Incarnations) visit a boarding school to meet with a fifteen-year old girl named Iris who has recently shown mutant powers. The two women soon realize that the girl is the reincarnation of Srimavo, another of VISHNA's Incarnations. Belice, Gesil and Iris unite to form VISHNA. Iris becomes Srimavo again and is released from her mental derangement through a mental battle with Gesil. All three together are VISHNA. When VISHNA was converted to good, Gesil lost her VISHNA component and became a simple Terran. This is now also happening to Iris/Srimavo.

TAUREC takes the three women inside the Viral Empire and they fix it. TAUREC decides to make the Endless Armada fly by the Earth, which creates euphoria in the Terrans who hope to make an evolutionary jump.

In early 429, the Decalogue makes its next move : the twelve Machines (huge spaceships) of the Anin-An have just entered the Solar System and are headed toward the Earth. When he hears the news about the Machines of the Decalogue entering the Solar System, Rhodan wants to return immediately to the Earth but TAUREC convinces him to stay on the BASE, because he suspects that the only reason why the Decalogue is now attacking the Earth is to bring Rhodan back there. The twenty billion brains of the Anin An (*a Decalogue race that had transplanted their brains into cyborg bodies*) spread on the Earth. Their first effect is to disrupt all positronic-based technology, plunging the Earth into chaos. Soon thereafter, they take over the airwaves and subject every person of the population to radiation that puts them into a deep sleep called a Hypnotrance. After Rhodan and Nachor arrive on Terra, Kazenkatt suddenly unleashes the full strength of the Anin-An radiation and Rhodan collapses, his vital signs coming to a sudden halt which will cause his death in a matter of hours. One Terran remains immune, and kills the Anin An's leader and the psychic shock stops. [Nachor takes this opportunity to cast a global call to all the Elements of the Technology and they all surrender.](#) After the Anin-An have left to merge back into Ordoban's mental depots, the population of the Earth slowly awakes from the hypnotrance.

Back on the BASE, Gesil tells Rhodan that she is pregnant.

As Kazzenkatt approaches the Solar System, it is heavily protected by the Endless Armada and the forces of the Galactic Nations Coalition. He realizes that he is defeated and he's ready to receive the punishment from the Master of the Elements. When his master appears, Kazzenkatt recognizes him as a [\[Chaotarch\]](#), *a member of a group of higher beings who want to spread chaos in the universe*. The Master of the Elements asks Kazzenkatt to unleash the only Element left : the Element of Darkness. Initially reluctant, Kazzenkatt eventually complies.

Kazzenkatt escapes in Zero-Dream and appears on the Earth, where he manages to kidnap Rhodan and bring him in his dream. At the same moment, the Element of Darkness strikes and the entire Solar System is plunged into darkness, where no communication or any radiation of any form can travel any more. VISHNA, who was outside the Solar System when the attack happened, establishes contact with the Viral Empire and manages to call her two sisters. With the help of the Viral Empire, they start fighting the Element of Darkness, which is slowly destroying the space-time continuum surrounding the Solar System.

Inside the Zero-Dream, Rhodan is delivering a desperate fight against Kazzenkatt, who is almighty in this particular environment. On the brink of giving up, Rhodan suddenly finds a depot of mental energy inside him. He realizes that this is all the psychic energy he has been collecting these past months while he activated all the Chronofossils one by one. With his new weapon, and assisted by Srimavo, [Rhodan fights back and manages to kill Kazzenkatt](#), who disappears inside the Element of Darkness. Rhodan rematerializes and the Element of Darkness disperses. Rhodan activates the Chronofossil Terra and the [Endless Armada starts its long journey home, toward the galaxy Behaynian, 420 million light years away](#).

In the Deepland, Atlan, Salik, and Lethos-Terakdschan are still trying to reach the Vagenda, fighting against many opponents along the way. They eventually reach the city, where their opponents do everything they can to stop them, but allies made along the way help them out. They eventually cross over to the Plane of Light (the operating center of the Space-Time Engineers of the Deep), and reach the Mountain of Creation, where only 5 of the original 150,000 Space-Time Engineers are still alive. The three Knights of the Deep realize that the activation of the Chronofossils is causing the barriers between the Deep and the normal continuum to crack and they understand that the only way they can prevent the peoples of the Deepland from being exterminated is to become Grey Lords.

The activation of the Terra Chronofossil causes a phenomenon similar to the Halutian Wanderlust : millions of Terrans feel a strong urge to leave the Earth and explore the stars. Homer G. Adams calls a meeting of the Cosmic House League.

IT contacts Rhodan and tells him that before the Terrans can break away from the Cosmocrats, the Frost Ruby must be repaired. When asked about the location of Eden II in order to activate the last Chronofossil, he only gives very vague directions. Rhodan decides to look for Eden II with TAUREC.

The Viral Empire, which lost most of its mass during the fight against the Element of Darkness, dissolves into smaller parts that break the orbit and land on the Earth. The Virus Clouds turn into Viroships fitted with Enerpsi drives. *Three of them are christened EXPLORER, LASHAT, and the LOVELY BOSCYK.*

The Vironauts finally depart, all headed toward various destinations : Eden II, Erendyra in ESTARTU's Sphere of Influence, M-87, Gruelfin (*from the Cappin cycle*) or in search of the galaxy Naupaum (*where Rhodan's brain was sent in the Cosmic Chess Game cycle*).

Multiple other virus ships follow various clues, and all end up at the same co-ordinate point, which turns out to be a trap. But a mysterious humanoid named Magus Coyaniscatsi frees them from the trap, and says he will take them to Eden II.

Perry Rhodan decides to ask the Porleyters for help in trying to locate Eden II and the BASE departs for New Moragan-Pordh. The Porleyters explain to Rhodan that the Master of the Elements has acquired tremendous psi power over the millennia and the only way to fight it is to cause his devolution and remove his skills. The Porleyters have made a weapon called the *Devolutor (a Cosmocrat weapon that causes de-evolution in higher beings)*, which looks like a spear with a hexagonium tip. After handing the weapon to Rhodan, two Porleyters agree to get on the BASE and accompany Rhodan to Eden II. On the Porleyters' recommendation, The BASE then heads for the Fornax galaxy where creatures known as Nocturns should know the position of Eden II. *The presence of residual psi-matter created by the Nocturns, called Paratau, in their solar system causes Gesil to get in touch with her unborn daughter, who reveals to her the way to Eden II.*

Upon arriving at Eden II, IT makes TAUREC and VISHNA disappear, who are unwanted in the spiritual center of the superintelligence. Rhodan sees that 20 viroships have also found it. Rhodan starts to wonder how they all managed to find it, when Magus Coyaniscatsi reveals himself to be the Master of the Elements. He is the one who led the viroships toward Eden II and now that he is at the center of IT's Sphere of Influence, he strikes with his weapon, the Psicoltron. The twenty viroships instantaneously turn into [Nega-Psiqs] *(a kind of negative psionic energy that dwells in hyperspace)*, whose emergence creates a mental shock that sends IT and almost the entire BASE crew into unconsciousness. The shock forces IT to empty its consciousness pool. Many consciousnesses are manifested as Concepts and follow an inner urge to plunge into the Nega-Psis. The death of IT is only a matter of time.

On the BASE, only Gesil has been spared and she realizes that her unborn daughter is protecting her. Gesil finally makes her way to the Master of the Elements, who unsuspectingly lets her get closer. She strikes with the Devolutor and the Hexgaonium tip breaks off in the Chaotarch's body. The Psicoltron is also destroyed during the fight, turning all the Nega-Psis back to virus ships. *Mortally wounded, the Master tries several things to save himself, but eventually dies.*

IT wakes up and thanks Gesil by giving her Ovaron's cell activator. IT tells Gesil he will need at least six months to recover from the incident and then disappears. His last words to Gesil are to warn Rhodan not to activate the Chronofossil Eden II before he returns. When Rhodan wakes up, he decides to activate the Chronofossil anyway because he fears that Atlan and Jen Salik might be in danger in the Deep. *The first attempt at activation fails and causes many problems throughout the Milky Way. IT eventually awakens and activates the Chronofossil, resulting in the twenty billion human consciousnesses that IT has been holding on to (since the Aphilia cycle) uniting with IT. IT asks Rhodan to go to Triicle-9 where a final adjustment needs to be made to complete the repair of the Moral Code.*

Carfesch unexpectedly appears on the SOL. He has a mission on behalf of the Cosmocrats. The first mission has to do with the Vault (the entry point into the Deep), which is to be moved above the Mountain of Creation, so that the Frost Ruby can recover its place in the Moral Code. Accordingly, Carfesch carries Cosmocratic technology with him, namely the Psi Detonator. However, it is only the statement that Atlan's and Jen Salik's fates depend on the success of this mission that clinches the deal, and the Terrans agree.

The Deep is guarded by a fleet of six thousand spaceships from the Powers of Chaos but a shuttle makes it into the Deep and manages to drop the Psi Detonator, which instantly transports the Vault to above the Mountain of Creation. The Knights of the Deep, which are supposed to be near the Mountain, now have a chance to leave the Deep.

Carfesch now hands over a cube measuring just four inches, which he describes as a "Psi Receiver". This allows the SOL to react to developments that were not in line with the Cosmocratic order and intervene accordingly. *The SOL sets off on its journey to infinity.* This is the second time the ship has parted ways with the rest of humanity, and no one can say whether there will ever be a reunion.

The Deepland Engineers design a plan to save Deepland from its destruction, as it is planned by the Cosmocrats in the process of restoring the Moral Code. The Deepland will be broken into 150,000 islands that slowly start materializing in the normal universe, near the Vault. The Neutrum (the heart of the Deepland, where everything is created to allow life) is destined to become a star around which the island will be orbiting. In the meantime, the Judge Lords are busy protecting what is left of the Deepland from Cosmocrat intervention. The energy released by the destruction of the Deepland *Star Wall* eventually destroys Starsen as the last inhabitants are evacuated. The Mountain of Creation drifts away from the Deepland and the Vault stabilizes in the normal universe on top of it [*Note : I assume that the Vault's new location is somehow now "closer" to the Mountain, which is in the Deep*].

Triicle-9 is approaching the Vault and Atlan and Jen Salik, who have only pretended to become Grey Lords, are found out by Pirx, a spy sent by the Grey Lords. But it is too late: [the energy stored in the Neutrum has already started powering the 150,000 islands and all the inhabitants of the Deep are freed from the Grey Life.](#)

IT teleports the BASE 198 million light years away, to the original location of Triicle-9. Lethos-Terakdschan boards the BASE and tells Rhodan everything that happened in the Deep, not hiding his contempt for the Cosmocrats and their failed plans despite the presence of TAUREC and VISHNA. The two Cosmocrats tell Rhodan that in order to complete the repair of the Moral Code, he must go to the Mountain of Creation and then wait for his mental energy to be released.

While waiting there, Rhodan is offered a vision of the double helix of the Moral Code. He sees [Messengers] departing from [cosmonucleotides] and spreading their information in the universe, seeing sources of matter and black holes, and observing how [a Messenger of Triicle-9 sheds off and enters the \[Negosphere\] and begins to dissolve, and restores normal conditions in its soon-to-be previous long-established region of space.](#)

Because of his all-encompassing vision of the structure of the universe, Rhodan is offered the answer to the Third Ultimate Question, but he makes the decision not to hear it, afraid that it would *destroy his mind*.

Rhodan returns to the BASE and tells TAUREC and VISHNA that he refused to hear the answer to the Third Ultimate Question, which makes them furious. To make matters worse, Atlan repeats his intent to be stripped of his Knight of the Deep status and Lethos-Terakdschan also voices complaints against the Cosmocrats, infuriating TAUREC further. Despite his protests, Lethos is teleported against his will back into the Kedschan Cathedral and TAUREC takes Rhodan and Atlan with him on a trip in order to win their willful cooperation with the Cosmocrats. They arrive in a system where a sun is about to turn into a nova, thereby threatening an entire civilization. TAUREC says that Chaotarchs manipulated the cosmonucleotide responsible for this part of the universe and that the impending supernova is only one of the many consequences of their acts. Rhodan and Atlan are unconvinced and argue that they don't need to serve the Cosmocrats to have a positive impact on the universe. They return to the BASE. On their way back to Earth, TAUREC appears to Rhodan and tells him that when he reaches the Earth, he won't find Gesil and his new daughter. Rhodan is devastated.

Back on the Earth, TAUREC hits the "rebels" with the Shame of the Cosmocrats, which paralyzes their consciousnesses as long as they are within IT's Sphere of Influence. Rhodan receives a mental message one night encouraging him to board a Viroship and leave this area of space. The voice also tells him that his wife and daughter are safe and left the Earth on their own volition, and not because of the Cosmocrats. Rhodan creates the Viroship Migratory Bird and, accompanied by Domo Sokrat, Atlan, Jen Salik, Pucky, Ras Tschubai, Fellmer Lloyd, Geoffrey Abel Waringer and Icho Tolot, leaves the Earth for a destination unknown.

The Master of the Elements backstory : one hundred million years earlier, the people of the V'Aupertir were controlling hundreds of worlds in their galaxy, Kaan. During this period, they perfect their genetic manipulations and reach immortality. The efforts to become a superintelligence fail and the V'Aupertirs start declining. Several thousand years later, they discover the Deep and they seize this opportunity to resume their efforts to evolve to a new level of consciousness. Using the energy that was liberated when the Frost Ruby

was moved and gave way to the Negasphere, the V'Aupertirs merge into a single entity who gains the ability to move in time and space instantaneously. Since his power depends completely on the Negasphere, the now Master of the Elements starts fighting the Cosmocrats as they are trying to restore the Frost Ruby into the Moral Code of the universe, which would result in the annihilation of the Negasphere. The Master of the Elements becomes a Power of Chaos : a Chaotarch.

The Eternal Warriors

*In late 428 NGE, Homer G. Adams is contacted by someone named Stalker (Sotho Tal Ker) who says he is an emissary (a Sotho, more powerful than an Eternal Warrior, described below) from the superintelligence ESTARTU and he wants to create a trade relationship with the Terrans. When Adams finally reveals Stalker to the Cosmic House League, TAUREC shows some unrest during the presentation and he finally comes on stage and challenges Stalker to reveal his true identity, saying that Cosmocrats and Stalker's peoples are enemies. Stalker explains to the Cosmic House League that the three arrows arranged in a triangle *on his shirt* represent the Cosmocrats, the Chaotarchs and ESTARTU, the third way, which is why TAUREC considers him his enemy. Stalker invites Rhodan to visit ESTARTU's Sphere of Influence. He says that despite the distance of 120 million light years, the twelve galaxies that are part of the Sphere of Influence can be reached easily with a new type of engine called **Enerpsi Drives (enerpsi is a special form of psionic energy in 6-D hyperspace)**. He gives the Terrans some Permits with the Symbol of the Warrior to give them passage.*

A broadcast appears on all Terran screens, urging humanity to choose the Third Way. *It is found that the broadcaster is the speaker of the Cosmic House League, who is working with Homer G. Adams, the Chief Financial Officer of the Terran government and leader of the House.*

Bell reaches the Erendyra galaxy in ESTARTU's Sphere of Influence and investigates a planet dubbed Cloreon. When he activates the Symbol of the Warrior, the Cloreonians respond by saying "The body has recognized the Symbol of the Warrior and is armed for war and ready for the Last Fight". *The entire planet was threatened by an Eternal Warrior 5000 years ago, and has been preparing for his return.* The Elfahdian Volcayr appears and introduces himself as the Warrior's Weapon Bearer.

As Bell is trying to concentrate on Stalker's Permit, a small hologram of Stalker appears and declares that the Eternal Warriors, the Masters of ESTARTU, have a code made of three parts : the Code of Honor, the Code of Fight and the Code of Obedience, and their philosophy is the Permanent Conflict. The Permit in the shape of a glove suddenly shrinks on Bell who can no longer get rid of it. Under its psychic influence, he turns into a Warrior and starts giving orders to the Cloreonians.

Volcayr eventually declares that the Last Fight is over. The Cloreonians have successfully passed the test and can now join the Eternal Warrior. In exchange, they receive the technology of transmitters and Volcayr tells Bell that the glove doesn't make him a Warrior but merely an applicant.

Bell is visiting a market *on a planet in one of ESTARTU galaxies*. He learns about the organization of the Army of the Warrior : under the Eternal Warrior are the generals, the Elfahdians. Then the Body Guards, made of graduates from the School of Upanishad, an army of technicians and scientists, all bound by the Code of the Warrior. The Eternal Warriors are rulers of the twelve galaxies in ESTARTU's Sphere of Influence whose rule was based on the code of a religion, the Permanent Conflict. This doctrine can be briefly summarized under the motto "War is the father of all things". They see themselves as agents of the superintelligence - but do not know **that ESTARTU has left her Sphere of Influence.**

While playing ESTARTU's Game of Life competition, Bell doesn't follow the rules, and is told he is now trapped in ESTARTU's Sphere of Influence, and a red mark appears on his forehead which will kill him if he leaves.

The Eternal Warrior Ijarkor summons the *Terran* Permit Bearers and confronts them with Srimavo's cryogenized body. Appearing to the Terrans under his true form, the Warrior confesses that he has doubts about ESTARTU but that he's still faithful to ESTARTU. Ijarkor promises to free Srimavo in exchange for the promise that the Terrans will work for him. Their first assignment is to go talk to ESTARTU and ask her important questions that the Eternal Warrior cannot ask himself because he doesn't want to raise any suspicions.

Stalker opens the first Upanishad school *on Earth*, *teaching* a ten-step instruction program leading to a complete control of one's physical and mental potential.

Early in 430 NGE, the first spaceship sent by ESTARTU reaches the Earth. 250 Panisha (students in whom the martial arts, the philosophy of Permanent Conflict, and the belief in the warrior cult were taught *by* the Eternal Warriors of ESTARTU) are on board and it is bringing a complete Teleport system made of a geostationary satellite whose function is to thicken the Enerpsi lines, thereby making it possible for everyone to teleport to *anywhere* throughout the Solar System. The syntronic computer given to the Terrans also makes the entire Solar System a Quiet Zone, making it impossible to reach with Enerpsi lines *from outside it*. After long negotiations, Stalker and Homer Adams agree to buy the Teleport technology with one million *hyper-energetic* Paratau drops.

It is revealed that the Eternal Warriors keep damaging the [Psionic Network] by creating the Wonders of ESTARTU and also Quiet Zones. Stalker is now trying to make sure that the two Spheres of Influence of IT and ESTARTU do not interact, so he asks the Springer Goshbon to sabotage the caravan that is getting ready to head for ESTARTU's twelve galaxies. He is also trying to create as many Quiet Zones in the Psionic Network as possible, *mostly by using the Teleport system*.

The content of the Quiet Zone is interconnected with transmitters and the psionic lines coming from the Royal Gate (the first and largest of the Heraldic Gates, which are used for the interstellar transport of objects within ESTARTU's Sphere of Influence) is at the center of her Sphere of Influence in the double galaxy Absantha-Shad / Absantha-Gom.

It is revealed that the Querions are the real representatives of the Third Way and claim that the Eternal Warriors are purposely destroying the Moral Code to make the cosmonucleotide DORIFER deliver a particular Messenger. The Third Way being pursued by the *twelve Eternal Warriors* is wrong. The Querions, on the other hand, would advocate the true Third Way between Cosmocrat order and Chaotarch disorder. For this reason, the race of Querions and Eternal Warriors are at war.

Stalker is feeling more and more sympathy toward the Terrans, but he is not ready yet to relinquish his title. He is reluctant to accomplish his mission, which was to [expose the Milky Way to Codex gas \(which alters the brain to faithfully follow the Code of the Warrior\)](#). Tyg Ian, the new Sothos, positions his fleet in the M-53 galaxy and orders Stalker to surrender. Stalker tries to mobilize the Galactics to fight his successor and assisted by Tifflor and Selegris, they gather a hundred spaceships. Stalker flees to the Matter Bridge in the Magellanic Clouds, followed by Tifflor and Selegris, and Tyg Ian sends former Vironauts in the Milky Way to convert them to the Permanent Conflict.

Soho Tyg Ian forces the peoples of the Milky Way to sign a treaty and announces the creation of a powerful Wonder that will make the galaxy a cosmic beacon. Homer G. Adams learns from Pucky that the events in the galaxies of ESTARTU are threatening the Moral Code and that Tyg Ian should not be trusted.

Ijarkor lands with *several Terrans* on Etustar, ESTARTU's main planet. All the creatures there insist that ESTARTU left the planet 50,000 years ago, and has never been seen since. They also observe that their guide, called Bulsk, takes it for granted that the teaching of the Permanent Conflict in the Upanishad school is the only correct way to teach ESTARTU's principles. Bulsk claims that DORIFER is endangered by the attacks from the Network Riders who have been trying for fifty thousand years to tell everyone that ESTARTU was gone and using every possible means to block the construction of more ESTARTU Wonders.

The Terrans learn that ESTARTU likes life and that it stands for tolerance and peace, which contradicts what Ijarkor told them. The Terrans become convinced that ESTARTU's original teaching has been corrupted through the millennia by *the Eternal Warriors* and that the superintelligence never supported the Permanent Conflict.

The Terrans decide to sabotage ESTARTU's Sotho control center and a death impulse is sent toward the Sotho Tyg Ian. The Sotho factory is destroyed and lost forever.

The Network Riders (#1300 to #1349) : 430-447 NGE (0 year gap from previous cycle)

The names in this cycle :

ESTARTU – a superintelligence

Absantha-Gom and Absantha-Shad – two galaxies that are part of ESTARTU's Sphere of Influence

Pterus – a helper race of ESTARTU

The Singuva are a Pterus off-shoot, they are the behind-the-scenes true rulers of ESTARTU's galaxies

Sotho – a genetically enhanced Pterus, more powerful and higher in rank than Eternal Warriors

Stalker - a Sotho from ESTARTU, and a representative of the Third Way (Permanent Conflict)

Tyg Ian – a Sotho who is in charge of forcing the Milky Way to join the Third Way (Permanent Conflict)

The Eternal Warriors are Pterus, each rule one of ESTARTU's galaxies

Ijarkor – an Eternal Warrior that eventually sides with the Galactics

Upanishad – training centers where the belief of the Permanent Conflict are taught

Lainish Gavvron – an Upanishad teacher and leader of a police group

*Querions – thirteen people who took on material form to build and guide the Network Riders;
they follow ESTARTU's true Third Way*

Kartanin – the name of the race

Tarkan – the name of their original universe

Kartan – the name of their home world in the Pinwheel galaxy (part of our local group)

Tarkanium – the name of the 4-star system in the Absantha-Gom galaxy given to them by ESTARTU

Hubei – the name of their home planet in Tarkanium

The NARGA SANT – the Kartanin ship transferred to this universe 50,000 years ago

DORIFER – a [cosmonucleotide] in ESTARTU's Sphere of Influence

Note – the sections below are organized sometimes by people, sometimes by place.

In 430 NGE, the banned Knights and other Galactics reach a set of galaxies protected by ESTARTU, where they meet a Cappin named Testare, who belongs to an organization called the Network Riders, which was founded 54,000 years ago to protect the [cosmonucleotide] DORIFER and which secondly fights the Eternal Warriors and the Permanent Conflict, but not on behalf of the High Powers, but in the name of the Third Way – the true Third Way.

The Galactics learn that *about 54,000 years ago* a sudden modification of the universal psi constant happened in the zone controlled by DORIFER. The region of space impacted is fifty million light years wide and includes the Spheres of Influence of both ESTARTU and IT.

The alteration created a breach in the Psionic Network and split it into two different communication lines : the Preferred Lines, which the Network Riders use to travel, and **the Normal Lines, which are endangered by the Enerpsi engines.**

DORIFER is located 320,000 light years away from the Riders' headquarters in the intergalactic void and is threatened constantly by the cult of the Eternal Warriors, who are busy trying to increase the psi constant with Quiet Zones generated by their Cosmic Wonders.

Alaska's recent backstory :

After Kytoma the Querion took Alaska and Testare with her to her people in the year 427 NGE (*in the previous cycle*) it soon became clear that they both are still too much missing their bodies as to become part of Kytoma's people who are the spiritual remnants of the 36 races that once constructed the Swarm, a mini-galaxy-sized cluster of stars that travels the universe in order to spread intelligence. Kytoma takes them back to the City of Three Layers of Existence. There Alaska gains back a permanent body and Testare is also able to have a projected body there by means of a matter-projector.

Alaska explains that he can't strip Rhodan, Atlan, and Salik of the Cosmocratic *curse* aura, a feat that can only be achieved in the Kesdschan cathedral, which is outside the Network. A few months later, Rhodan, Atlan, Salik, Lloyd, Pucky and Tschubai receive a Psionic Imprint, which makes them Network Riders.

Gesil is on the Riders' home planet, and Rhodan is finally re-united with her, along with their new born daughter, called Eirene.

The Querions' backstory :

Once they became the spiritual collective they now are, the Querions lost a lot of interest and influence for and in the standard universe. 50,000 years ago 13 of their people underwent a de-evolution that brought them back into the realm of ordinary beings, because they found out that the cosmonucleotide DORIFER was threatened, and therefore a whole region of the cosmos. They recognized that through a mutation of DORIFER ordinary beings could now use the psionic net that permeates the universe in a sphere around DORIFER 50 million light-years across for transportation. They founded the organization of Network Riders in order to protect DORIFER and restore its original state.

The Terrans try to install a Network Rider station on the World of a Hundred Suns but fail when Sotho Tyg Ian invades the Posbi homeworld and creates an Upanishad school there. The Sotho still faces resistance within the Milky Way, and the Blues and the Galacticum (*a loose coalition of many Milky Way peoples*) are still opposed to his teachings.

In 432, Tyg Ian completes his plan and creates a Cosmic Beacon spanning over 8,000 light years outside the Milky Way. The beacon is called Gordian Knot and it is powered by a black hole and protected by thousands of space forts. **It connects the Milky Way to the Normal Lines of the Psionic Network and therefore prevents the Network Riders from collaborating with the Galactic resistance.**

In 435, Carfesch contacts the *banished* Terrans and tries to convince them to give up the Third Way one more time. He claims that by not serving the Cosmocrats, the Terrans are helping the Chaotarchs, an argument that

none of the Terrans buy. Carfesch offers to name them official guardians of DORIFER but Rhodan refuses, infuriating the Cosmocrat further.

In 436, Eirene begins to ask about her half-brother Roi Danton (which nobody has told her *about* so far). Gesile tells her what happened to him until his *capture by the Eternal Warriors*. Eirene then *says* : “ESTARTU doesn't live here anymore” – which the Network Riders discover months later. Alaska promises to investigate.

In 439, on Eirene's tenth birthday, Carfesch appears before her and Rhodan, and tells her that in time, she will recognize her destiny as a Cosmocrat. He also tells her that her mother has secretly set aside a cell activator for her.

[Note: At this point, the time sequences mix. Dreams and experiences of her past merge with the present *in* a kind of feverish dream, which Eirene appears to be experienced in *a* phase of unconsciousness after their return *from a Network Rider trip*.]

When she reaches the age of sixteen in 445, Eirene officially becomes a Network Rider and is exposed to all the knowledge she already had glimpses of about the [Moral Code], the [cosmonucleotides], and the role of the Cosmocrats and the Chaotarchs in the evolution of the universe. *Over the years, she has demonstrated knowledge she could not know, because of the inherent cosmic wisdom she subconsciously has because she is the daughter of an [Incarnation] of a Cosmocrat.*

Atlan announces that abnormal activity is happening within DORIFER, which is detected by a spike in the amount of [Psiqs], the psi particles, that DORIFER emits. An asteroid dubbed Klotz (*later renamed the NARGA PUUR*) materializes outside DORIFER and starts disrupting the Psionic Network. Eirene, who was traveling at that moment, is hurled back to the planet she was visiting and captured by a creature that tried to drug her earlier, called Fiload. Rhodan goes looking for her.

Eirene eventually ends up in the hands of a Code Guardian, who suspects that his prisoner has more value than she claims. On his search for his daughter, Rhodan discovers that Eirene will be sent through the Terran Gate where she will be questioned by the Eternal Warrior Ijarkor. He rescues his daughter, but when they use the Net, they find themselves on a prison world. They escape their new captors, send an SOS, and Icho Tolot arrives and takes them off planet.

Bell investigates a rumor about the discovery of two Kartanin (a feline humanoid race that came from another universe into our own) spaceships. They do not learn about the alleged spaceships but about a folk called Lao-Sinh that is supposed to live in the most northern rim of Absantha-Gom. Bell suspects these to be Kartanin. He asks Perry Rhodan to meet him on Bonfire via the information-nodes of The Net and heads off in that direction. On his way there, Bell learns the history of the Elfahdians, and how an Eternal Warrior saved their entire race, which is why they are so loyal to them. But recently, more and more Elfahdians are beginning to question the Permanent Conflict and the Codex of the Warriors.

Rhodan and Bell arrive separately on Bonfire and both have to hide from the Vileeyah, a police force hunting all people opposing the Codex. Bell finds the help of the Potea, a secret counter-organization that fights the Vileeyah. It turns out that there is a new group in the conflict called Hatuatano. These five secret agents work hand in hand with the Vileeyah and are even more dangerous. *They share their information, and decide to go back to Sabhal separately.*

Bell receives a message from Pucky via the information-nodes of The Net in which he gives the coordinates of a planet of the Kartanin he discovered, but had no time to further investigate. Bell flies to that planet. He and Pucky arrive, and together they learn that the Kartanin sent a couple of missions from their own galaxy

Pinwheel to Absantah-Gom (*one of ESTARTU's home galaxies*), 40 million light-years away, in order to make secret preparations to colonize it. But the Kartanin on this planet *don't know why such a distant place as Absantha-Gom was chosen*. Bell sends word to Terra about the latest developments and findings.

Alaska Saedelaere flies to a world named Eklitt which has always been a good ground to learn news and rumors. At some point in the past, he personally circulated the rumor that the superintelligence ESTARTU was lost. He is contacted by the dwarf Lainish Gavvron, a Panisha (an Upanishad rank), who wants to hire him as a fighter for an advance into the Dark Sky, a region in the center where the galaxies Absantha-Gom and Absantha-Shad overlap. Alaska dislikes and distrusts Lainish and is not willing to take part in the enterprise. Boasting with his special Permit, Lainish produces a list of victims he defeated in which Alaska recognizes Roi Danton and Ronald Tekener. To learn more about their fate he finally joins the party.

Alaska learns that Lainish is the leader of the Hatuatano. The two of them go to a planet filled with a race that is a hybrid of intelligent creatures and plants. Lainish wants to take one for unspecified reasons, but Alaska finds a hybrid which contains the Galactics Demeter, Jennifer Thyron, Susa Ail, Luzian Bidpott and Cornelius Tantal that formed when they crash-landed on the planet. Lainish takes the hybrid with them. Back aboard, Lainish reveals that Roi Danton and Ronald Tekener were banished into the Orphic Mazes and he invites Alaska to join him in a Kalydonic Hunt to get the male partners to the Demeter/Thyron-hybrid, which tells Alaska that Roi Danton and Ronald Tekener are still alive.

Bell's assistant reaches the Milky Way, and finds a region 500 light-years thick surrounding the galaxy that is devoid of the psionic net. Once they get past it, they discover that inside there is a modified psionic net called the Sotho Tyg Ian net that can be used for travel within the Milky Way.

Julian Tifflor, head of the GOI (Galactic Organic Independence, *a resistance group against the way of Eternal Conflict*), wants to investigate what exactly Sotho Tyg Ian's plan to strike against the Blues in the eastern part of the Milky Way looks like. Therefore he intends to enter the Sothom, the Sotho Tyg Ian headquarters on Earth. *A commando team is sent, but caught; however an elderly humanoid suddenly appears, calling himself Peregrin and mentally makes their captor like them. They eventually get the information they need, and leave. Now the GOI has deep insights into almost all of Sotho Tyg Ian's plans, especially about his invasion plan of the Blues' territory.* But Sotho Tyg Ian knows that they still do not know everything because he has a secret weapon that no one will be able to anticipate and that he put no information on into the computer of the Sothom.

The PIG (Pinwheel Information Group), led by Nikki Frickel is gathering information in Pinwheel (home galaxy of the Kartanin and their enemies the Maakar) and the *Nocturns of the Fornax galaxy* (who create Paratau), the conflict between Kartanin and Maakar as well as their other plans. But the conflict between them is greatly de-escalated by the Kartanin, who grant the Maakar access to great territories in Pinwheel they formerly claimed for themselves. The Kartanin have been for at least four decades been building long-range spaceships that head off for Absantha-Gom in the realm of ESTARTU, taking with them materials and specialists to begin colonizing worlds over there. They also take with them huge amounts of Paratau-drops that ships collect in Fornax and bring back to Pinwheel. It seems like a mass-exodus of maybe all Kartanin into Absantha-Gom is being prepared. Now Nikki wants to find out the reason behind it.

The only thing of importance they find out is that a ship from Absantha-Gom is to arrive soon in Pinwheel carrying aboard Dao-Lin-H'ay, a Kartanin of high rank they suspect to be in the know about the information they seek. *They try to capture her several times, but she always gets away.*

The Terrans discover the Voice of Pinwheel is actually a group of 18 very old Kartanin women that call themselves The Knowing Women who are the only ones to know about the true history of the Kartanin and preserve that wisdom. They secretly reign the Kartanin by influencing the High Women that are the visible rulers of the Kartanin.

The Chunk is a 50 mile-long object a few miles across that emerged in a huge psionic outbreak near Sabhal, the headquarters of Network Riders, *in Absantha-Shad*. Its Strangeness-factor is different from the Strangeness-factor of things from this universe which leads a scientist to believe it comes from a different universe. The Chunk's powerful psionic radiation prevents everyone from reaching it because living beings *go mad* if they get nearer than 4 light minutes to it and all robotic crafts that contain biomass are deterred also. *Several attempts are made to get more information about it, but fail.*

The maze hunt starts. While Lainish's goal is to capture Roi Danton and Ronald Tekener to merge them into the humanoid-plant hybrid that Alaska found, Alaska and two other Galactics are trying to free them from the maze. Even Rhodan is able to enter and exit the maze with a special device. After many traps, betrayals, and intrigues, in which Roi makes some harsh and brutal decisions, they all escape the maze. This gives Danton and Tekener the right to petition Ijarkor for amnesty.

Atlan flies into the comonucleotide DORIFER because it shows some unusual activity since the asteroid Klotz arrived near it five months ago. Eirene sneaks onto his ship, which Atlan loses control of when he finds her onboard. There are myriads of [psiqs] flying chaotically around, creating possible futures when they collide. A psiq hits their ship, and they are sent to a future in which the Eternal Warriors are victorious. They are helped in escaping by a small lizard-like creature, but find themselves in another possible future. The creature explains that it is a servant of [Si Kitu], the Mother of Entropy. He offers to bring them back into the standard universe if they destroy the power-factory of the Kartanin in return, which he cannot do himself because he is not substantial. Atlan and Eirene intend to do his bidding but in the last moment before Atlan actually destroys the power plant, they learn that this would cause the death of all Kartanin and they refuse to do it. Eirene in her wrath over the intention of Si Kitu remembers a way to force her to withdraw and send herself and Atlan back into the standard universe. It is by just calling Si Kitu by her second name which means as much as "whore" and which she cannot stand being called. Thus Atlan and Eirene can finally return to Sabhal and deliver the data they collected.

The 12 Eternal Warriors meet to discuss recent events, but there is a great dissention between them. The others demand that Ijarkor prove that ESTARTU still exists. Roi Danton and Ronald Tekener arrive, and are granted amnesty by Ijarkor. Suddenly twelve Singuva (the true, secret rulers of ESTARTU's Sphere of Influence) appear, and claim that the Warrior's thoughts are chaotic, and that one of them will accompany every Warrior from now on to ensure that they will focus on absolute obedience to the Codex again.

In a conference of the Galacticum, they discuss the consequences of the information obtained at the Sothom, especially Sotho Tyg Ian's plan to invade the Blues with a huge fleet he ordered from the Eternal Warrior Pelyfor. Julian Tifflor and Nia Selegris assure the ambassador of the Blues help from the GOI. The Halutians leave the Galacticum so that they can work with the GOI and fight against Sotho Tyg Ian without compromising the Galacticum.

After they left the Galacticum, the Halutians don't need to keep their peace with the Sotho Tyg Ian anymore and they demolish the Upanishad on Halut. In answer to that, Sotho Tyg Ian comes to Halut and drops 120,000 guardsmen on the planet with the order to conquer the Halutians. With the help of the GOI, the Halutians

release a huge cloud of anti-Codex gas, knocking the guardsmen out and freeing them from the influence of the *addictive Codex-gas, used by the Singuva to control their servants*. The guardsman claim asylum when they reawaken and Sotho Tyg Ian frees them all without any bloodshed. The former guardsmen of Sotho Tyg Ian and the Halutians become friends. The Halutians destroy a ship of Sotho Tyg Ian that tries to land on Halut to get back the guardsmen. Sotho Tyg Ian sees by now he cannot do anything and leaves the system.

The BASE, the Terran super-ship everyone thought to be lost, is found. When Sotho Tyg Ian "offered" to install an Enerpsi-engine on the BASE and to man her mainly with his vassals, Galbraith Deighton and Waylon Javier decided to withdraw the ship from his access and officially left the local group. But in reality they started to collect as many scientists as they could and turned the BASE into a flying Think Tank to maintain scientific work that otherwise would have been suppressed by Sotho Tyg Ian, overwhelming the Milky Way with ESTARTU-technology. *An Enerpsi ship is captured, and studied by Peregrin and others.*

A device codenamed Striktor is built, capable of cutting strings of the Sotho Tyg Ian net that replaces the psionic net in the Milky Way. It is discovered that the device can create a Mobius strip with the psionic lines, thus trapping ships in hyperspace. This tactic is used on the Eternal Warrior Pelyfor's fleet, and Pelyfor and his Singuva companion are killed.

The identity of Peregrin is revealed : he is a projection of IT and sabotaged the efforts of the GOI to capture an Enerpsi-ship and learn about the Enerpsi-engine for a couple of months. IT did so because the GOI trusted too much in the technology without even knowing enough of the net underlying it. Now that they need information on the engine in order to find its weak spot and *know not to build one themselves*, he gives them enough clues, reveals himself and disappears.

In 446 NGE, the Kartanin in Pinwheel tell the Maakar they can take the technology left over from a war that was fought on the planet where the PIG's main base is, hoping to immobilize their operations. When PIG is not discovered by the Maakar, the Kartanin attack, but are repelled.

The Knowing Women decide to fake their death to get the PIG off their trail, doing so while a Galactic ship is chasing them, to witness the event. Sacrificing 18 innocent women turns Dao-Lin-H'ay against them.

In a meeting of Perry Rhodan, Atlan, Jen Salik, Alaska, and the Querion Caneasi, Caneasi states that he and the other Querions think that the fight against the Eternal Warriors that the galactic travelers have intensified recently is not the main goal of the Network Riders, which is the protection of DORIFER. Therefore Perry and his friends are still free to do as they want but are reminded that the Querions will not assist them. Also, they are unwilling to give information about the time when the philosophy of the Eternal Conflict arose, mainly because IT has not told them anything *about it*. After the meeting, Jen Salik heads off for Cathedral Kesdschan to try and rid himself, Perry, and Atlan of the aura of the Knights Of The Deep.

Alaska flies to Taloz, Lainish's secret base, where he intends to free the *Demeter-Thyron-Ail-Bidpott-Tantal* hybrid. He is imprisoned by Lainish (*who is also the leader of the government police Hatuatano*) who leaves Taloz in an attempt to sabotage the assembling of the 1,300,000 Ophalians that are to sing in the Siom system during the next Game of Life. Meanwhile Faragha the Nakk (*a snail-like race from Hangay*) experiments with the hybrid and adds Alaska to it. Alaska makes contact with the Galactics. He asks them to tell Lainish that he must divert 300,000 Ophalians while they travel via Heraldic Gate to Siom to two different planets in order to sabotage the Game of Life and thus bring Roi Danton and Ronald Tekener into Ijarkor's disfavor. Faragha frees

Alaska from the hybrid when Lainish returns earlier than expected because his *sabotage* was unsuccessful and wants advice from the hybrid. The hybrid tells Lainish exactly what Alaska wanted it to and thus Lainish in an attempt to ruin Roi and Ronald becomes a helper of the Network Riders unknowingly. *Alaska escapes Taloz with the hybrid and begins to separate the Galactics from the plant.*

150,000 of the abducted Ophalians materializes on Lombok, 150,000 on Paillar, leaving only 1,000,000 Ophalians reaching Siom in accordance with the plan of the Network Riders.

Ijarkor arrives via Heraldic Gate. He seems to be very confused and upset and announces to the horror of his people : "The rumors are correct - ESTARTU does not live here any more".

During the Game of Life, the Ophalians begin to sing their psionic song. The energy of their song interferes with the energy of the Heraldic Gate on Siom and the teleport-system. This leads to the destruction of the gate in an explosion. The explosion causes a psionic shock wave that hits - amongst others - the Heraldic Gates on Paillar and Lombok where 150,000 Ophalians are also singing the song. Now these two gates also break down and the shockwave becomes powerful enough to destroy all the remaining Heraldic Gates. [The Psionic Network of the Siom-Som galaxy is thus obliterated, thus allowing Network Riders access to it.](#)

After Ijarkor is heavily defeated, his Singuva Srolg takes over the reign of Siom-Som saying that the Eternal Warriors have failed ESTARTU and now the Singuva as the true legal heirs of ESTARTU will rule the 12 galaxies of her realm. He does not punish the Ophalians because they did not know what they did. They were instructed to sing this song by their master Salaam Siin who works together with Ronald Tekener and Roi Danton and the Network Riders. *These three are hunted, but avoid capture.*

Bell learns that Asporc, a planet in the far outer rim of the Milky Way is chosen as a place where making contact with the GOI (Galactic Organic Independence) for homecoming vironauts (*those who left Earth in the viroships formed from the Viral Empire in the previous cycle*) is possible. *While he heads towards a planet which might be the homeworld of the Kartanin, Pucky goes to Asporc, where he finds a Kartanin in the service of the Knowing Women.*

The Hesperides are a race from the galaxy Muun in ESTARTU's Sphere of Influence. Their "gifts" were brought from there to be used in the Eastside against the stubborn Blues. The gifts (technical devices) offer knowledge of ESTARTU to the Blues. But there are not enough gifts for every Blue so the desire to own one - that the gifts themselves plant in their hearts - leads to envy and rage with the Blues that have no gift. The ones with gifts become more and more arrogant and aggressive.

Homer G. Adams now sees the time has come to make an honest peace with the Kartanin in order to not split forces between the Blues and the Kartanin situation. He sends an ambassador to Pinwheel where Nikki Frickel, head of the PIG, has been missing for weeks now. Tiffloor decides to weaken Sothos Tyg Ian's position by announcing the death of the Eternal Warrior Pelyfor.

Nikki Frickel finally captures Dao-Lin-H'ay, which causes her to be relentlessly pursued by the Kartanin for months. After several close escapes, her ship is damaged and she has to land on the nearest planet in an area of space that is taboo for the Kartanin.

Backstory : 50,000 years ago the Kartanin were in their first bloom. They constructed a robot-civilization to protect them. But for unknown reasons the robots turned against their makers and destroyed their civilization as well as all others (about 20) in Pinwheel. About a thousand years ago the Gys-Voolbeerah (<i>shape-shifters</i>)

came across Pinwheel in their search for the Tba (the lost empire of the Gys-Voolberah). There were no civilizations they could infiltrate, but they managed to make the robots their servants. The robots at that time had just crushed the reawakening Kartanin again as well as the Maakar (*descendants of Maahks*) that came over from Andromeda. The Gys-Voolbeerah left Pinwheel and settled over to the Milky Way and deactivated *all but the simplest of the robots on their home planet* so the Kartanin and Maakar had a chance to evolve successfully.

Some robots give the three Galactics a spaceship that transports them to an asteroid that is the base of the Knowing Women. Nikki and the Knowing Women begin to talk about a true peace between the Kartanin and the people of the Milky Way. Nikki's crew is to bring news of the offer of peace to the Milky Way while Nikki, Poerl and Dao-Lin-H'ay stay with the Knowing Women.

Ijarkor's backstory : more than 50,000 years ago, one of the mysterious Singuva visited him and urged him to come with him. The Singuva it was said were even higher ranking than the central government and equipped with much higher sophisticated technology. So Ijarkor had no choice but to follow the invitation. He was taken to Etustar where the Singuva revealed to him that they inherited their techniques from a super-being called ESTARTU and that with it they intend to establish a realm of 12 galaxies, one of which Ijarkor was chosen to rule and bring the philosophy of the Eternal Conflict to.

Ijarkor meets Perry Rhodan, Atlan, Fellmer Lloyd and Ras Tschubai who all offer to forgive him and want him to help them restore order to the realm of ESTARTU. Ijarkor admits that he lost but is not yet able to go as far as to really cooperate with the Network Riders. He returns to his Singuva Srolg who announces that he failed and will be replaced. But deep inside Ijarkor does not care anymore because he feels that not only his time as an Eternal Warrior is over, but also the time of the Singuva.

The Ephemerids are synthetic psi-quanta that live in the Psionic Network and put dark visions in the heads of the people travelling thru there. This functions as a means of control because to avoid the doom they saw, the victims of the Ephemerids are trying even harder to be good followers of the Codex. Ernst Ellert and Alaska's partner Testare send a message *about this* to the Network Riders and then head off to the Place of Fulfillment, that Ellert discovered and where they both hope to get a new true body.

Bell manages to find out the location of Hubei, the Karanin's home world in Absantha-Gom, and transmits that information to the EXPLORER. But he is caught and taken to the home world, while the EXPLORER follows.

Rhodan and his friends discover that there exists an outpost of the Network Riders that is 50,000 years old but is never used. The Querions do not deliver a sufficient explanation and thus Perry, Atlan, Eirene, Fellmer and Ras use the Net to travel to that station and find out more. It turns out that the planet is Hubei, the main world of the Kartanin in Absantha-Gom. Subsequently everyone is caught by the Kartanin and they are all reunited with Bell who was brought to Hubei shortly before. But he and the recently captured Network Riders turn out to be not the biggest challenge the Kartanin currently face. There is an Esper-dying going on and the reason for it is identified to be arriving swarms of Ephemerids, *who are also assumed to be responsible for the poor condition of DORIFER*. Perry and his friends promise to help the Kartanin and slowly the Kartanin start to trust them. They are now guests instead of captives. In a vision, Eirene reveals to the Kartanin that they originate from Hubei and were prospering 50,000 years ago. In turn the Kartanin reveal that **the aim of the Lao-Sinh project is the complete exodus from Pinwheel to Absantha-Gom of all Kartanin.**

The Nakk, the race who manages the Gifts of The Hesperides, decide to no longer do so, which causes the Gifts to lose their function and disappear. Sotho Tyg Ian announces that as a consequence he will destroy the whole Milky Way.

The Knowing Women *are informed* that myriads of *Ephemerids* are nearing the *home system of the Kartanin* and thus threaten to spontaneously deflagrate (*a spatial and hyperspatial spreading explosion*) the immense amounts of Paratau that are deposited there. Because the Knowing Women are unable to contact the Kartanin in the Tarkanium in ESTARTU due to the huge distance (*they were located in the Fornax galaxy*), *a creature called Oogh is awakened to send the message, but it instead decides to spread word that the Third Way as propagated by the Pterus (one of ESTARTU's helper races, from which the Sotho come) is a lie.*

When the Attar Panish Panisha-statues in the great Upanishad-schools on Terra, Arkon, Olymp and many more worlds start to speak and tell about the lie that the Third Way under the Pterus has become, the enraged and disappointed pupils begin to destroy the Upanishada.

In the meantime the Halutians successfully test a new weapon against the spaceships of Sotho Tyg Ian. They block the machines that send the transform-bombs on their way and cause 485 Sotho Tyg Ian spaceships to explode by their own bombs.

Sothos Tyg Ian is in the station UDHURU preparing the destruction of the Milky Way by letting all the energy of the Sotho Tyg Ian net increase the gravity of the central black hole, thus beginning the process of the black hole devouring the whole Milky way. All efforts of penetrating his shields and attacking him with brute force fail. *But a commando team sneaks on board, and Stalker kills Sothos Tyg Ian and his Singuva.* The other stations near the central black hole are able to stop the process of destruction at the last moment by redirecting the energy that Sothos Tyg Ian wanted to put into the black hole to [connect the Sothos Tyg Ian-net with the universal psionic net](#). [All Codex members are treated with anti-Codex gas](#). Peregrin, the messenger of IT shows up and says that though a great catastrophe was avoided in the Milky Way, a cosmic catastrophe is still imminent. He names DORIFER as the source.

An Incarnation of IT meets an emissary of the Cosmocrats, who delivers fierce accusations : IT is delaying *turning into* a Matter Source and has allowed ESTARTUs' machinations to increase the psi-constant and endanger DORIFER. The Incarnation cannot and will not give the desired *rejection* of the Third Way.

Wanting to handle the psiq particles that threaten the Tarkanium, Perry and his friends take counsel with the Querions. The Network Riders make a declaration of war against the Eternal Warriors. Ijarkor - free from the influence of the Codex-gas and now remembering all that he did and that was done to him is giving up, and awaiting his death. But Perry Rhodan gives him new hope by inviting him to start fighting for the true ideas of ESTARTU.

In early 447 NGE, Pucky reports on the latest events in the Milky Way, which convinces Rhodan to meet with Ijarkor on his ship the Sombath. They decide to kidnap one of the Nakken controlling the Swarms of Ephemerals *producing the psiqs* threatening the Tarkanium. Ijarkor brings the Nakk Dobaril to Rhodan, and the Kartanin quickly feel a mental connection with the Nakk and realize that their two people might indeed be related. [The Nakk agrees to withdraw the Swarms of Ephemerals.](#)

Unfortunately, Reginald Bell cannot be notified in time. 12,000 Elfahder ships reach the Tarkanium. As they leave the psionic web, they drag the Ephemeris Swarms with them into normal space, unleashing enormous psionic forces, which interacts with the Paratau stores of the Kartanin and the approximately four billion Paratau drops (*tens of tons*) stored there *explode*. [A psi-catastrophe rages in the Tarkanium and in DORIFER.](#) [The effects spread across the entire Sphere of Influence of the cosmonucleotide.](#)

Hundreds of psychic Kartanin die and thousands more succumb to psiphrenia (a psionically-induced madness). Hyperdimensional shockwaves ripple through a fifty million light year sphere around DORIFER, and 880,000 light years away from Pinwheel, the fabric of space-time ruptures and millions of suns appear in the Local Group.

Perry Rhodan, who was inside DORIFER at the moment of the catastrophe, is nowhere to be found.

[I found ESTARTU's backstory, which was spread across the summaries of the last two books, to be very out-of-order chronologically. So I combined them all, along with some help from the German Perrypedia, and rearranged them until they made sense. Even tho most of the following came verbatim from the summaries and Perrypedia., I am putting it all in italics due to the amount of work I had to do to make it understandable.]

ESTARTU's story : The superintelligence ESTARTU had responded to the Kansahariyya's (a group of 22 races from the galaxy Hangay in another universe) call for help, broadcast around 50,617 BC, and initiated Project Meekorah for the transfer of the Hangay galaxy to the standard universe. The giant spaceship NARGA SANT was to serve as the advance party, whose crew of around 100,000 individuals from members of the races of the Kansahariyya including the Tarkan, Naaken, and Zataras. After a rigorous selection process, Oogh of Tarkan won the post of commander.

Soon after, ESTARTU informs IT about a distress-call that ESTARTU received from a distant galaxy whose people can only be saved if help comes quickly, without going into details. While IT wants to consult the Cosmocrats, ESTARTU feels she has to help on her own, being a supporter of the Third Way between the Cosmocrats and the Chaotarchs.

After the original Pterus (the first people to get in touch with ESTARTU) and their kinfolk that adapted to other world's climates started fighting against each other, ESTARTU took representatives of all Pterus-folks to Etustar (ESTARTU's home planet), except for the Singuva (a Pterus offshoot) that started the conflict. There ESTARTU gives her technical instruments to the Pterus and trusts them to look after her 12 galaxies in her absence, and 50 years later leaves this universe in 50,567 BC.

Around 50,027 BC, the NARGA SANT was transferred to the standard universe. In response, the cosmonucleotide DORIFER increased the psi constant in its Sphere of Influence.

A few months later, the NARGA SANT makes contact with the Pterus and Singuva, and other envoys of ESTARTUs. Oogh at Tarkan takes up ESTARTUs' teachings and tried to establish the philosophy of Third Way through the Upanishad in all Twelve galaxies of ESTARTU's Sphere of Power as an authorized prophet of ESTARTU. As a precaution, Oogh at Tarkan had statues installed in the various Upanishads all over the galaxy who would talk to the Kartanin when the time would come.

Later the Pterus seek reconciliation with the Singuva, thinking that there has to be peace between everyone in order to do ESTARTU justice. The Singuva begin to mysticize ESTARTU by founding schools in which the Third Way is being taught and they use a modified gas from their home world's volcanos (Codex) to influence the pupils.

The Singuva widen their influence and soon are the most dominant folk of the Pterus. Initially they support Oogh at Tarkan, granting him the four solar systems in Abantha-Gom that ESTARTU said should be given to

the Tartanin, and that later became the Tarkanium. In exchange, Oogh at Tarkan helps spread the Third Way and orders the Nakk to help build and manage the Wonders of the 12 Galaxies of ESTARTU.

Due to the machinations of the Singuva, around 49,995 BC the NARGA SANT had to leave ESTARTU's Sphere of Influence, abandoning Tarkanium. The Nakken and the Zataras were left behind in order to control the nearby governments and to keep DORIFER under watch.

On the way to the Pinwheel galaxy, Oogh studied the galaxy Fornax of the Nocturns. They deciphered their hypersymbols and discovered Paratau. Later, when Oogh at Tarkan visited Fornax, he learned from the Wise (a Nocturn) that the Nocturns were able to synthesize the dangerous psychogon (enabling psychic abilities in non-psychics) when the local psi constant increased. The Wise ones asked Oogh at Tarkan to neutralize the Paratau and when the operation started, it was soon discovered that the Paratau was giving psi abilities to all the female Kartanin.

At that point, Oogh entered a sleeping chamber for 54,000 years.

In 49,990 BC, 13 Querions leave the mental collective of their people and founded The Network Riders as a means of protecting DORIFER. The Pterus and the Nakken develop the Enerpsi-Drive and the Querions recognize that they too have the ability to use the altered psi-constant to enable chosen helpers to travel by the net after they are psionically imprinted.

But the Singuva want to have absolute power. The Singuva redefine ESTARTU's lore of the Third Way into the Permanent Conflict and wage a never-ending war against the Net Runners that fight for the readjusting of the psi-constant. The Singuva themselves start to work more and more from the background and finally recruit the Eternal Warriors from the original Pterus to be the public representatives of ESTARTU.

Tarkan (#1350 to #1399) : 447-448 NGE (0 year gap from previous cycle)

[Notes : because I was reading only book summaries, it ended up sounding like the Hauri had equipment that could swap matter both ways between universes (called Matter Switches), while the Kartanin had equipment that could only send matter from Hangay to our universe. Both projects seem to be named Anklam, which was originally called Meekorah by ESTARTU. The Hauri also seem to have equipment that could inhibit any transfer (which was never used in the summaries). Since some stars from our universe were discovered in Tarkan, it seems that some of the Hauri devices were used.

There are only a few new names in this cycle :

Tarkan – the name of the other universe

Hexameron – a group of six powerful entities who hastened the heat death of Tarkan

Hauri – a helper race of the Hexameron in the Hangay galaxy

Hangay – the name of the galaxy in Tarkan that is being transferred

The NARGA PUUR – the Kartan ship transferred from Tarkan to this universe in 445 NGE

Kansaharriya – the name of the group of races implementing the transfer with ESTARTU's help

Beodu – from a race that is the ancestors of the Venno, he becomes Rhodan's companion

Hirdal – a messenger of ESTARTU

The Juatafu are robots and the Benguel are living creatures

Backstory :

The Seven Powerful Ones of Tarkan were eventually turned by the negative superintelligence AYSEL to become Chaos agents. Heptamer demanded to be the leader of the other six, known collectively as the Hexameron. They shed their mortal bodies to become powerful energy beings, which even the superintelligences had to obey. They increased the entropy in Tarkan for millions of years, accelerating its death. The Hauri follow them, but the Kartanin don't.

In January 447 NGE, Rhodan wakes up in his spaceship, and the space outside is reddish. LEDA, the on-board computer tells him that there's no psionic network available. He realizes that he is in the dying universe of the Kartanin. He meets the Hauri, very thin humanoids, who are servants of the Hexameron. They tell him of Lord Heptamer, the master of a cluster of twenty galaxies who is used as an intermediary between the Hexameron and the Gods.

Rhodan suspects that fifty thousand years ago, ESTARTU received a call for help from the Kartanin in Tarkan and she left the normal universe to come here, but *the Hauri* don't seem to know the name ESTARTU. He does know the Kartanin, though, whom he considers his enemies because they are trying to fight the death of the universe. Rhodan *is shown* a picture of a region of space where entire solar systems are missing, and Rhodan realizes that a part of the galaxy Hangay has been transferred to the normal universe, showing that the plan of the Kartanin partially worked. Rhodan leaves the Hauri planet.

Hyper-impulses with a Kartanin code are received in M-33 coming from the intergalactic void. As the cruiser SORONG arrives at the origin of the signals, a rift in the space-time continuum opens and suddenly, a galaxy with fifty billion suns materializes. Everyone on board loses consciousness. The galaxy is given the name Ragnarök, which looks as if it were a quarter of a spiral galaxy.

It is confirmed that the Psionic Net has been damaged when the relief ships equipped with Enerpsi engines sent to ESTARTU's galaxies were only able to fly 35,000 light years before they were kicked out of the Psionic Network. Tiffloor points out the consequences that this development must have, especially for the Vironauts with their virus ships. It is decided to assemble a flotilla of twenty-four GOI ships equipped with Metagrav drives (*developed around 300 NGE and not used much anymore*) and send them to the ESTARTU cluster to assist as many Vironauts as possible.

Three black spaceships *appear and almost* completely destroy a PIG base. One of the attackers is captured, who says his people are called the Hauri, and that they come from the Hangay galaxy. One of the Hauri ships is destroyed by the Terrans. Five PIG ships appear and are immediately attacked by the two remaining Hauri spaceships, who use an unknown weapon. The Galactics realize they need to have dozens of their spaceships concentrate on one enemy vessel to be able to destroy it.

It is observed that, simultaneously with the materialization of Hangay, five million stars have disappeared from M-66 in the Milky Way.

Atlan reaches the planet Sabhal in one of ESTARTU's galaxies, and catches up with his friends. Abel Waringer has been working on a **Vectoral Grigoroff Projector, which should make it possible to travel to the other universe** in search of Perry Rhodan.

Atlan learns that Gesil left and that the Querions have summoned a special meeting of all the Network Riders. When the day of the meeting comes, the Arkonide notices that only eighty Network Riders out of four hundred

and eighty are present. *The lead Querion tells them that* when the Hangay galaxy materialized inside the universe, DORIFER mysteriously decided to return the Psi Constant to its original value even though the threat is apparently not gone. As a consequence, [the Psionic Network is now collapsing, and the organization of the Network Riders must therefore be dissolved as well](#). Atlan requests everyone to offer their help in trying to fix the chaos and misery that the collapse of the Psionic Network is causing throughout the Twelve Galaxies. They all agree.

When Atlan enters Gesil's house, he finds a message destined for him only. The young woman tells him she was convinced by an unknown visitor to leave. The unknown visitor appears, and identifies himself as a messenger from the Cosmocrats. He tells Atlan that the danger of the Last Six Days should not be underestimated and that the Hordes of the Six Days are already on their way to attack them. They come from Hangay and if Atlan agrees to organize the resistance against them, the Cosmocrats will lift their ban and he will be able to return to the Milky Way. Furious, Atlan renews his vow to never serve the Cosmocrats again and declines the offer.

In [April 447](#) NGE, the second quarter of the Hangay galaxy appears and the disappearance of four clusters in Absantha-Gom is noticed, news that has a strong effect on Bao at Tarkan, *the commander of the NARGA PUUR (a Kartanin ship that arrived in our universe in 445 NGE – its other-universe [Strangeness] has made it unapproachable)*.

When Atlan arrives at the NARGA PUUR, it starts accelerating without any control. Atlan follows the giant spaceship as it disappears into linear space. The NARGA PUUR starts slowing down as it is arriving in the Dark Sky, the overlapping area between Absantha-Gom and Absantha-Shad, and ESTARTU's homes. A Nakk named Melsark arrives on the main deck and tells Bao at Tarkan that he is the one who started the NARGA PUUR because he receives a Zero order, which preempts Bao at Tarkan's authority. Atlan observes a mummy-like creature named Torren give orders to the Nakken, and offers the Singuva of Etustar, where the NARGA PUUR has now arrived, support to regain power. In return, it expects billions of suns from ESTARTU's Sphere of Influence to replace Hangay's loss in Tarkan during the transfer. Atlan, Pucky, and others are captured by the Nakken and put in a dimensional prison, *which they eventually escape from*.

Ijarkor and Stalker meet in the Dark Sky and decide to prepare the Twelve Galaxies for the return of ESTARTU. They want to make a trip through the Sphere of Influence to win more Eternal Warriors over to their plan. But they mostly experience defeats. *Nine of the other Warriors have been murdered, committed suicide, or retreated into isolation*. The other two are apparently still working with the Singuva. *But along the way, Ijarkor frees Reginald Bell and Irmina Kotschistowa from the Toshin Mark, which he imposed on them eighteen years ago, [allowing them to leave ESTARTU's Sphere of Influence](#)*.

Reginald Bell and Irmina Kotschistowa receive a message from IT urging for the return of the Vironauts to the Milky Way. The superintelligence tells them a catastrophe is about to happen and the viral substance of their spaceships must be used against it. However, the two are facing a problem due to the changes in the Psionian network : there is no reliability of the psi-communication on the virus ships, so it seems impossible to contact the 650,000 virus ships scattered over ESTARTU's twelve galaxies. They separate their ships into segments. Each segment is to fly to one of the twelve galaxies and pass the news on to as many ships as possible. Those vessels are to make contact with as many more ships as possible, creating a snowball effect. Six months later, they meet 400,000 virus ships at a rendezvous point picked by IT, many more than they had expected. After taking on board the Ophalian Singer Salaam Siin, Atlan heads over to the rendezvous point. With Salaam Siin's help, Atlan realizes that [Jen Salik has been successful in lifting the Ban of the Cosmocrats, and that he and Rhodan are now capable of returning to the Milky Way, and begins the long journey back](#).

Rhodan arrives at the sun Anklam and is forced to land on the planet Gangha by a fleet of ten spaceships. Rhodan identifies himself as a visitor from the universe where the Hangay galaxy is supposed to be transferred, and the commander of the base, a Venno (*one of the races recruited by ESTARTU*) called Liutalf, grants him hospitality but tells him he must decide with his lieutenants whether he will be considered as a prisoner. Rhodan is eventually accepted as an ally and Liutalf tells him that the Anklam project is almost complete [*remember, the first transition was accidental*] and ready to send the rest of Hangay into our universe. When the first test of the transmitter starts, *Rhodan detects radiation coming from the Hauri, and tries to interrupt the experiment, but is too late.* He sees the installations explode one by one.

Later, Rhodan is greeted by Ren-No, the local chief of the project. He learns that the Kartanin are very segmented on what they know, and everything is directed by a council called the Organization of the Project. Rhodan *is told* that Liutalf has found a trace of ESTARTU on the Nuru moon. Rhodan heads there and discovers a robot spaceship called the Juatafu (the Sun Seeker) that welcomes him in Sothalk, the language of ESTARTU. After Rhodan has identified himself as an ally of ESTARTU, he is introduced to *a Venno ancestor named Beodu and an android called Jordan.* The robot tells Rhodan that the Juatafu was built in this system but left deactivated. On his way back, Rhodan realizes that his spaceship and Beodu have disappeared with Beodu on board and he detects the approach of a spaceship. Three Hauri capture Rhodan and the spy for the Hauris finally identifies himself : Liutalf.

Rhodan is taken to a Hauri base, where he is submitted to a hypnotic trance. The Hauri wake up Rhodan from his trance when realize they won't be able to convert him *to the way of the Hexameron.* In the meantime, Beodu has managed to escape from his prison and frees Rhodan as well, just as a Kartanin fleet is detected in approach. Ren-No lands on Ylon with a commando, Jordan arrives with 500 robots, and they take control of the Hauri base.

The Juatafu heads toward an unknown goal and Jordan won't tell Rhodan anything except that they are continuing their quest. The Juatafu lands *on a planet,* and Jordan tells Rhodan he needs to make contact with the Benguels. Then the Juatafu takes off, leaving Rhodan and Beodu to their fate. Rhodan meets with the natives of Tuyon, the Benguels, *who are* heavily influenced by astrology, and they interpret all cosmic events as a manifestation of one of their many gods. LEDA eventually sends a fleet led by Ren-No to rescue Rhodan and his companions.

After Ernst Ellert *and Testare* left Eden II in 429 NGE, his Viroship received psionic impulses *which lead to him meeting someone called Barkon,* who thinks that even though his people are dead, he can find survivors in the Porleyter archives within the Knights of the Deep's Cathedral of Kesdshan. Ellert agrees to visit the archives and steps through a transmitter, causing the viruses making up his body to dissolve, *which he has actually wanted for a long time.* Ellert and Testare arrive in the Porleyter archive and finds Barkon, who arrived several months ago. but has only found references to terms such as "Suprahet tamers", "the midwife of IT", and the "Wise of Wyomon". However, Barkon tells Ellert that Jen Salik arrived here as well two months ago and after making a deal with the Cosmocrats merged into the Cathedral, causing the Ban of the Cosmocrats on Rhodan and Atlan to be lifted. Ellert and Testare enter Barkon's body, and Barkon is confident that with a few more transmitter passages, they will be able to find the Place of Fulfillment, where Ellert and Testare can get new, permanent bodies that they can enter and leave at will.

The BASE reaches the location called X-Door, which is eighty light years away from the Strangeness wall surrounding *the part of Hangay in our universe.* Atlan heads for the Pinwheel galaxy in search of Iruna of Bass-Teth, with Eirene smuggled on board. As he approaches the Sringal system, Iruna, who is still pretending to

work with the Hauris, sabotages the detection systems, allowing the Terrans to get closer. She manages to contact Atlan and to explain to him the double game she is currently playing.

Atlan lands on Sringal IV and is captured. Iruna manages to obtain top-secret Hauri data and she escapes with Atlan and Eirene. A messenger of IT assures the Terrans that the superintelligence will support the Tarkan expedition by making the substance of the virus ships available.

The Viroship fleet returns from the Sphere of Influence of ESTARTU and most of the Vironauts are taken back to their home planet. The fleet arrives at X-Door. *It is discovered* that the Hauris want to transport the entire M-33 galaxy into Tarkan during the next transfer using a gigantic matter transmitter.

Everywhere in Pinwheel the Hauri spread the teachings of the Hexameron to the Kartanin and claim that the lack of faith of the Kartanin is to blame for the failure of the Paratau. At the same time, they are fueling hatred against the Galactics. The Hauri also try to influence the Maakar.

At X-Door, twelve spaceships fitted with Vectorial Grigoroff Projectors are getting ready to fly into Tarkan. IT has surrounded the fleet with a cloud of the viral empire in order to protect it from the Strangeness shock. The fleet crosses over to Tarkan and appears near *the sun* Anklam. The viral cloud completely dissolves.

Rhodan and Beodu follow a Hauri back to his homeworld, orbiting the binary star Ushallu. Rhodan pretends to be a servant of the Hexameron and tries to be assigned to the project. He learns that Cheobad, the fifth planet, is a forbidden zone where research is made to create a Matter Switch related to the Anklam project. It is scheduled to send a part of M-33 into Tarkan, swapping it for the Hangay third part. Two Red Hauris are sent to kill Rhodan. After a deadly hunt, Rhodan is about to be killed by the two Hauris when one of them, Shallun, rebels and kills his companion. He has had doubts about the Hexameron for a long time and he's now convinced that they are misguided. They teleport to Shallun's homeworld.

Rhodan, Beodu, and Shallun arrive in the Technozone, a training center for non-Hauri, where he and his companions climb the ladder in the Hauri hierarchy. When his true name is finally discovered, Rhodan announces the imminent arrival of the fleet of the Juatafu and the Benguel (two races that worship him as their "Imago"). He negotiates to leave peacefully with them and promises that the fleet won't attack in exchange.

The fleet welcomes Rhodan on board and heads for Cheobad, which Rhodan wants to investigate. Rhodan lands in secret on Cheobad where *everyone is* hit by a psychic shock. They start calling Rhodan Afu-Metem, the Prince of Fire, one of the Hexameron. Rhodan uses his new rank to explore the Matter Switch station and learns that the Hexameron reside in the Hole of Eternity, which seems to be located outside Hangay. They then head towards the Hole of Eternity.

Atlan's fleet arrives in Tarkan and reaches Anklam, where they are greeted by Ren-no. Atlan learns from him about Perry Rhodan's feats these past months. Vir-Kon, a spokesperson for the Central Authority of Knowledge, arrives in Anklam and tells Ren-No that the next quarter of Tarkan will be transferred into the Milky Way in [November 447 NGE](#).

The Terrans in Tarkan receive the co-ordinates of the Matter Switch there.

Ernst Ellert and Testare, *who are within Barkon, finally reach the Place of Fulfillment, which holds 158 Barkonides in suspended animation.* Ellert tries to enter one of the sleepers but he is repelled. *This leads him and Testare on a series of adventures on another planet, where Ellert learns the history of the Barkonides and that he can only take over bodies with a special symbol on them.* *Returning, he and Testare take over two Barkonide bodies, but discover they can't leave them as usual anymore.* *They receive a message from IT asking them to look for the Time Tables of Amringhar.* *Only after they find them will they recover their abilities.* *When they leave, Barkon chooses to remain there.*

Barkon's (the planet) backstory : When the Seven Powerful Ones realized that the Suprahet, the antimatter cloud that came from the universe of the Accalauries, was approaching the Milky Way, which was also the goal of the Swarm, they asked the Querions, the creators of the Swarm, to stop it. One million Querions received humanoid bodies, settled on a planet of the Milky Way and took the name Barkonides.

1.3 million years ago, the Suprahet reached the Milky Way and despite all their efforts, the Barkonides were unable to stop it. They decided to set up a trap where the Suprahet's energy became congealed. This structure became a planet later baptized Hercules by the Terrans. The rest of the energy created the planet Sepulcher and on Majestas, one of the planets of the Hercules system, they created an observatory with a warning message.

Their task done, most of the Barkonides returned to being *immaterial* Querions while a small number of them decided to stay Barkonides, losing their immortality and their memory quickly after that. Only the Guardians of the Stations kept in touch with the Querions through the Time Fountains.

One million years ago, when the Swarm reached the Milky Way, its structure was shaken so hard by Bardioc's manipulations, who was responsible for the Karduuhs rejecting the Cynos, that the Barkonides were pushed back into the void between the Milky Way and Andromeda. The Guardians of the Stations installed twelve hibernation stations on the lonely planet of a yellow sun then limited themselves to secret visits to Barkon and stopped intervening in its destiny.

Bell learns that the Matter Switch on the Milky Way side is located in the Pinwheel galaxy. The Galactics manage to trick the Hauris and penetrate into the station, where *they* start studying the mysterious device that plays a vital role in swapping pieces of the Milky Way with Hangay. The Matter Switch absorbs huge amounts of energy to create a field that will absorb the energy coming from the Kartanin project during the transfer of the third quarter of the galaxies. The start is initiated by a signal coming from the counterpart station in Tarkan. Since the Tarkan station no longer exists, the signal doesn't reach *this station* as planned, and the excess energy stored by the Switch causes the entire planet to tear apart. The Terrans follow a few spaceships fleeing the system toward the second quarter of Hangay *in our galaxy*. The small fleet crosses through the Strangeness barrier and falls into a self-contained space-time fold.

In the space-time fold, they discover a partial space station that Bell names Urian. Leading a commando, Bell enters Urian and is captured, but rescued by someone by the name of Vling. A captured Hauri explains to the Terrans that the construction of the station was started twenty years ago and was designed to prevent the transfer of Hangay into the Milky Way. He also reveals that the station can bring huge masses from the Milky Way into Tarkan. The Terrans return to their fleet and leave the space-time fold. Since Perry Rhodan has obviously not returned to the normal universe with the third quarter of Hangay, Bell decides to follow him into Tarkan in order to warn him of the impending danger. *On the way, the Terrans witness what happens when Benguel and Juatafu meet* : there is a kind of discharge, accompanied by extreme light effects and subsequent darkness. When all returns to normal, everyone from both races is dead.

When he reaches the BASE at X-Door, Bell immediately has the CIMARRON fitted with Vectorial Grigoroff drives to cross over to Tarkan. *During the trip*, Eirene hears the voice of Gesil, who warns her of the dangers of crossing through universes. She learns how she could save her companions and shortly thereafter, a humanoid with a blurry outline appears to her and calls on her Cosmocrat status and advises her to join him when they arrive in Tarkan. Eirene mentally calls to Si Kitu, the guardian of Entropy, in order to ask her to create a protection field against the Strangeness shock that will hit them when they cross over. Si Kitu agrees but only because it also serves her own interests. Bell *finds* the control station for the fourth phase of the Anklam project. Vling reveals that he is a materialization of IT.

Rhodan is searching for the Hole of Eternity in the third quarter of Hangay. Inside a giant pyramid, he discovers a matter transmitter used to teleport Nakken who couldn't go through the training in the Hole of Eternity in order to heal them. Rhodan shows them the true face of the Hexameron and they understand they have been lied to. Rhodan decides to stay in this section of Hangay as long as he hasn't found ESTARTU, and he flees from the third quarter of the galaxy on LEDA shortly before the transfer to the Milky Way occurs. LEDA then detects psionic signals 250,000 light years away and takes Rhodan to a ring-like object looking like DORIFER's Gate. *The Hole of Eternity thus proves to be the gateway to DORIFER in this universe.*

In *early 448* NGE, Rhodan and Beodu enter *the Hole*, the actual purpose of LEDA. LEDA says that *what is inside the Hole of Eternity is identical with DORIFER. It can therefore be assumed with certainty that the entirety of creation depends on only one [Moral Code], which is responsible for all universes.* Rhodan visits several [psiqs], each taking him to a different past, and finally reaches a time 50,000 years ago. In the Ushallu system, he witnesses the final confrontation between ESTARTU and Lord Heptamer, assisted by Kartanin and Hauri fleets respectively. ESTARTU suddenly shrinks and disappears in a powerful psionic explosion that temporarily injures Lord Heptamer. Rhodan is convinced that ESTARTU simulated her death. *Rhodan leaves the cosmonucleotide and returns to Tarkan* as countless Juatafu and Benguel spaceships pile up in front of the *Hole of Eternity*, who want to be with their Imago. Rhodan accepts the invitation from a Benguel prophet who captures him and reveals himself as Afu-Metem, the Prince of Fire of the Hexameron.

Afu-Metem, who can take any physical form, explains to Rhodan that he wanted to capture the Imago of the Juatafus and of the Benguels and he warns Rhodan to not incite these people to rebel against him. Afu-Metem says that the Hexameron is made of seven Princes : the Prince of Fire, Storm, Flood, Belief, Purity, Dogma and Adoration. He tries to influence Rhodan psychically but without success thanks to LEDA's help.

A group of Juatafu and Benguel break in to save their Imago and as their presence causes another psychic shock and then their disappearance, Rhodan hears a mental voice which tells him that Afu-Metem is powerful but not invincible. The voice asks Rhodan to take the Juatafu and the Benguel to the location where their destiny can be accomplished and that Beodu needs to be protected.

The Galactic fleet, still looking for the Hole of Eternity, locates a Hauri station with a nearby space-time fold. Acting as envoys from Afu-Metem, they learn that a test field of the Fire Storm is about to be performed and as several Benguel and Juatafu meet, the shock following the dual suicide causes a mental voice to tell Atlan "to beware of Afu-Metem. You are the bearer of the key that opens access to the mind of the lost children. The time of maturity is near. Do not worry about them, for there are many, and soon they shall not be lonely". Afu-Metem appears as a Benguel and captures Atlan. Although the Fire Prince is protected by a powerful shield, Atlan asks his companions to shoot him with bows and arrows. The plan succeeds and his Benguel body dies. Afu-Metem escapes in a bright light. The Fire Storm test starts and a strong radiation depletes the gravitic accumulators of the Tsunami cruisers. The TS-Cordoba escapes and rejoins the Galactic fleet, which has managed to locate the Hole of Eternity.

Bell learns that Rhodan is *back* in the Hole of Eternity. There, the CIMARRON meets with Atlan's fleet and the Benguel and Juatafu suddenly designate Atlan as their Imago.

The Galactic fleet is hard at work trying to determine how they should alter the shield structures of the Tsunami spaceships in order to overcome the structural anomaly of the time fold in order to enter it. A creature named Hirdal speaks to Deighton, the security chief of the Cosmic House League, in his dreams and explains that the powers of this universe committed mistakes that will lead to a terrible crime against life in the Twelve Galaxies and in the Local Cluster. Hirdal also tells Deighton to not try to understand the Nakken and that the Time of Maturity is more important than anything else. Hirdal materializes in the Vallarta as a young woman and claims to be a messenger from ESTARTU. She explains that ESTARTU realized the importance of the Nakken a long time ago and she made sure that they were being trained inside the Hole of Eternity. Hirdal disappears shortly after revealing that the critical value for the shields of the Tsunami spaceships is 1.712 seconds. Using the modified fields, the fleet enters the fold and reaches Ur amm Taloq, where they force the servants of the Hexameron to a temporary ceasefire. When they realize that the time fold is controlled from the planet Surprise, they blow up the control station.

Throughout our universe and Hangay, a message is sent urging all Benguels and all Juatafu to meet over the planet Narna because the Time of Maturity is near. Under the surface of Narna, they discover huge caves containing cities filled with Juatafu robots and spaceships. Hirdal, ESTARTU's Incarnation, appears and explains the history of the Juatafu and of the Benguel :

When she realized she was in danger, ESTARTU created five hundred Toto Duga (*robots*), later called Juatafu, that carried her spirit within them. A total of four billion Toto Dugas were created and they built forty million spaceships in order to be able to evacuate the planet in case of danger.

The Juatafu decided to distribute ESTARTU's spirit even more, and they picked the Benguels (*living beings*). After the evolutionary jump created by the transmission of ESTARTU's spirit, the Benguels used the Juatafus' spaceships and left the planet. The two races are now expecting the Time of Maturity where they can be reunited, which will complete ESTARTU's work.

The arrival of Oogh at Tarkan unites the two races, who then start working toward their final common goal. Hirdal tells Rhodan he and Atlan were considered Imagos because of their cell activators, and that Beodu has become a super-catalyst for the unification of the Benguel and the Juatafu in the Hole of Eternity. Hirdal disappears.

The mixed Benguel / Juatafu fleet and the Galactic spaceships are on their way from the Hole of Eternity to the fourth quarter of Hangay.

The Call for Gathering turns out to be a trick from Afu-Metem and the Fire Storm begins. Intense electromagnetic radiation heats the hulls of the spaceships and Rhodan leaves with LEDA, whose engines are the only ones still working.

As the Galactics try to fight against the increasing temperatures searing their spaceships, Rhodan locates the origin of the Fire Storm : a planet called Vontard. Rhodan realizes that the Fire Storm is an artificial space-time fold. They land on Vontard and meet with Si Kitu, the Mother of Entropy, who says that the transfer of Hangay into the Milky Way goes against her will, but she points the Terrans to Active-A and Passive-B, two stations that are the origin of the Fire Storm. After facing various trials, Rhodan and Atlan manage to **neutralize both of them and turn the Fire Storm against the Fire Prince, who dies from his own weapon.**

In **February 448**, the Kansaharriya projects the fourth quarter of Hangay into the Milky Way. Perry Rhodan sends the Auriga to the X-Door sector to meet with the BASE and leaves for Narna, where ESTARTU's

resurrection is imminent. When they get there, Hirdal appears and gives further information on ESTARTU's history :

More than fifty thousand years ago, ESTARTU decided to answer the call from the Kansaharriya because what happens in Tarkan might affect the normal universe as well. Without knowing the motivations of Lord Heptamer, ESTARTU is convinced that the Chaotarchs are behind the attempts to destroy Tarkan.

In order to call ESTARTU, the Kansaharriya built a giant emitter, which consumed most of their resources. After the call, they sank into apathy and scientific stagnation. Under the form of a Kartanin female called Tar-Tu, ESTARTU infiltrates the scientific team of the project Hen-Kwa and suggests the creation of the NARGA SANT in order to scout the Milky Way. Over the next forty years, the project to send Hangay into the Milky Way shapes up under her direction.

ESTARTU manages to convince Lord Heptamer that if he destroys her, Project Meekorah will stop. The confrontation ends on Zerenghaa where ESTARTU fakes her own destruction while spreading her consciousness across 40,000 Toto Duga, which in turn split their psyches on the Benguels and the Juatafus. When two representatives of this race meet, the quantum of consciousness is freed instantly.

Lord Heptamer assigns the *oversight* of Hangay to Afu-Metem, who starts concentrating on the Hauris, thereby leaving the Kansaharriya free to continue the development of Project Meekorah. A few centuries later, the NARGA SANT leaves Hangay.

Since the Toto Duga and the Benguels will need a spiritual guide when comes the Time of Maturity, during which ESTARTU will be reborn, the superintelligence calls on her brother, IT, who tells her about two cell activators that he intends to give away. IT assumes that the future bearers of these cell activators will follow ESTARTU's trace and will therefore reach Tarkan in the future. Thus are created the myths of the Imagos.

The Benguel and Juatafu fleets appear on Narna and the sudden fusion of their 17 billion consciousnesses creates a psionic storm. ESTARTU appears as a giant woman and asks for forgiveness from IT for having abandoned her galaxy. Before departing toward her Sphere of Influence, the twelve galaxies, ESTARTU agrees to absorb Oogh at Tarkan into her consciousness.

The Terran fleet heads back toward X-Door. During the flight, Sato Ambush warns Perry Rhodan that the transfer of the fourth quarter caused a critical mass to be reached in the Milky Way and suggests investigating its effects. Skeptical, Rhodan accepts nevertheless as the fleet crosses the Strangeness Field separating the two universes.

As they are about to emerge, a shockwave of unknown origin catches up with them but *after* it hits them, the fleet of fourteen ships is left unharmed.

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