



光流 YOU ARE IN THE LIGHTSTREAM --- SERVICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ASIA --- 光流 YOU ARE IN THE LIGHTSTREAM --- SERVICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ASIA --- 光流 YOU ARE IN THE LIGHTSTREAM --- WELCOME --- A SERVICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ASIA ---

LOGIN

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VIEW AS TEXT

2159 **POLITICS**
6TH OF MARCH, 2038. CHINA ASSUMED CONTROL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION. THIS WAS A QUIET TRANSACTION WITH LENGTHY NEGOTIATIONS. NO SHOTS WERE FIRED, NO RIOTING IN THE STREETS, JUST A QUIET EXCHANGE OF PAPERWORK AND CHINA'S AGREEMENT TO BAIL OUT THE BANKRUPT UNION. THE WORLD'S LARGEST COUNTRY BECAME KNOWN AS NEW ASIA. EIGHT YEARS LATER, AFTER A MIDDLE EAST ADMISSION THAT IT WAS OUT OF CRUDE, IT WAS ADDED TO THE NEW ASIA FOLD, FOLLOWED BY LATIN AMERICA AND CANADA. IN 2048, THE FORMER UNITED STATES WAS ANNEXED. DESPITE U.S. DETERMINATION TO REMAIN SOVEREIGN, THE GREAT WEST COAST TSUNAMI, SO DEVASTATED THE ECONOMY, THERE WERE FEW REMAINING CHOICES. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SIX CENTRAL STATES, EVERYTHING WENT TO NEW ASIA. QUICKLY, JOBS RETURNED, THE ECONOMIES RECOVERED, AND TECHNOLOGY ONCE AGAIN FLOURISHED.

ANCIENT RIVALRIES ENDURED, AT LEAST FOR THE NEXT TWO DECADES. THERE WAS A BRIEF BUT BLOODY WAR EXECUTED BY DRONES THAT BECAME SWARMS AND ADOPTED A HIVE MENTALITY, WHICH NEITHER SIDE PREDICTED, NOR COULD CONTROL. THERE WERE TWO MILLION DEATHS, MOSTLY CIVILIANS. RELIGION AND POLITICS WERE BLAMED. POLITICS SURVIVED WITH A FEW DRAMATIC CHANGES. RELIGION DID NOT FARE SO WELL. ASSEMBLIES OF ALL FAITHS WERE CLOSED. INDIVIDUALS

ARE PERMITTED TO BELIEVE OR WORSHIP AS THEY WISH, BUT EVANGELIZING OR CONGREGATING IS NOT PERMITTED.

A GROUNDSWELL OF SUPPORT TRANSFERRED GOVERNMENT FROM THE POLITICIANS INTO THE HANDS OF INTELLECTUALS, SCIENTISTS, AND PHILOSOPHERS, KNOWN AS THE 'LIGHTS.' THE NEW SUPREME ETHIC IS THE INDIVIDUAL. 'BE ANYONE YOU WANT SO LONG AS IT DOESN'T IMPINGE ON THE RIGHTS OF SOMEONE ELSE.' THOUSANDS OF NEW LAWS, THE HONG KONG PROTOCOLS, WERE WRITTEN AND REWRITTEN TO HELP PROTECT THESE RIGHTS.

TECHNOLOGY
HYDROGEN POWER EVENTUALLY BECAME THE REIGNING FUEL ALTERNATIVE, BUT BY THEN, FOSSIL FUEL STORES HAD NEARLY VANISHED.

HUMANS HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY ENHANCED. BY 2045, VIRTUALLY ANY BODY PART COULD BE IMPROVED THROUGH NANOTECHNOLOGY, IMPLANTS, OR GENETIC THERAPIES. DESIGNER CHILDREN WERE ON THE COVER OF TIME MAGAZINE AS EARLY AS 2020, AN OPTION AFFORDED PRIMARILY TO THE WEALTHY. AS WITH ALL TECHNOLOGIES, EVERYTHING BECAME CHEAPER, AND SOON, DESPITE INCONSISTENT QUALITY, ENHANCEMENT WAS WIDESPREAD.

IMPLANTS, OR 'TAGS,' QUICKLY BECAME MORE SOPHISTICATED. TELEPATHIC COMM, VIA NANO-RECEPTORS, REPLACED ANY KIND OF WEARABLE OR PORTABLE COMM DEVICES. SOME PEOPLE STILL PREFER TO SPEAK, LIKE YOU, BUT MOST EXTRA-PERSONAL COMM OCCURS IN MIND. LIGHT REPLACED THE WIRE. WHAT WAS ONCE THE INTERNET OF THE LAST CENTURY, BECAME KNOWN AS THE LIGHTSTREAM. ACCESSIBLE TELEPATHICALLY, HIGHLY CONCENTRATED INFUSIONS OF LIGHTSTREAM DATA ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH LIGHTPORTS WITH TOUCH PANELS. LUMINOUS IMPLANTS IN THE FINGERTIPS CAN ABSORB MASSIVE QUANTITIES OF INFORMATION, BEAMED AS LIGHT THROUGH THE NERVOUS SYSTEM, AND INSTANTLY ABSORBED INTO THE CORTEX. SOME PEOPLE STILL CHOOSE TO READ, LIKE YOU, BUT BOOKS ARE THE THINGS OF COLLECTORS AND MUSEUMS. LUMINOUS IMPLANTS ALSO PROVIDE THE ABILITY TO FEEL

ANOTHER'S EMOTIONS AND THOUGHTS --WITH CONSENT. BRAINGATE ENCRYPTIONS PREVENT UNWANTED THOUGHTS OR PAST EXPERIENCES FROM BEING VIOLATED. 'TAPPING' IS THE UNIVERSAL METHOD OF ACCESS. A LEARNED SEQUENCE OF FINGERTIP SENSORS CAN CALL A DISTANT ASSOCIATE, MAKE A RESERVATION, ACCESS THE LIGHTSTREAM, OR INDUCE A VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE. THE V, AS IT IS CALLED, IS NOW THE NUMBER ONE ENTERTAINMENT SOURCE. EXPERIENCES HAVE BECOME A NEW FORM OF CURRENCY.

SYNTHETIC HUMANS HAVE BECOME THE LEADING INDUSTRY. NEARLY 30 MILLION SYNTHETIC HUMANS ARE CURRENTLY IN OPERATION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. 'SYNTHS' HAVE BECOME MORE LIFELIKE AND EMOTIVE. THESE OFFER SERVICES AND COMPANIONSHIP TO MILLIONS OF PEOPLE. NEW LAWS HAVE BEEN WRITTEN TO ENSURE PROTECTION FOR BOTH SYNTHETICS AND HUMANS. CLONING, NOW THOUGHT TO BE BARBARIC, HAS BEEN REPLACED BY REPLICATION. A FULLY SENSING, SENTIENT, ALBEIT SOULLESS, VERSION OF YOURSELF IS ABOUT N¥120000; TWICE THAT IF YOU WANT YOUR CORTEX UPLOADED. THIS HAS GIVEN WAY TO THE IDENTICAL COMPANIONS INDUSTRY. 'LOVE YOURSELF' IS THE CURRENT SLOGAN.

MEDICINE
GENE THERAPIES HAVE DISABLED MOST DISEASES. ORGAN FARMS REPLACE INTERNAL PARTS THAT HAVE BEEN BROKEN OR ABUSED, AND THE ABILITY TO SWITCH OFF THE AGING GENE HAS BEEN AROUND FOR ALMOST A CENTURY. ALL THIS HAS ENABLED HUMANS TO LIVE OSTENSIBLY FOREVER. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE FOR HUMANS TO CROSS SPECIES.

SOCIETY
WITH THE INCREASED LONGEVITY OF HUMANS, WORLD POPULATION HAS RISEN DRAMATICALLY. SINGLE CHILD RESTRICTIONS WERE IMPOSED IN THE EARLY PART OF THIS CENTURY TO HELP SLOW THE EFFECT ON RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE. CITIES HAVE BLENDED INTO CITIES. ADVANCED CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGIES HAVE ENABLED METROS WITH INTENSE CONCENTRATIONS TO GROW UPWARD. HONG KONG 2 BOASTS THE LARGEST

NUMBER OF STRUCTURES EXCEEDING 200 FLOORS. TOPCITY AND DOWNTOWN: MOST OF TOPCITY'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND HUMAN SERVICE SUPPORT RESIDES BELOW THE FIFTIETH FLOOR. THE WEALTHY RESIDE AT THE TOP. THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT DISPARITY IN LIFESTYLE BETWEEN TOPCITY AND DOWNTOWN.

ABOUT HALF THE WORKFORCE WORKS FROM THEIR RESIDENCE. GOVERNMENT-OWNED BUSINESS ACCOUNTS FOR NEARLY 85% OF THE GDP. EMPLOYEES ARE HOUSED WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE TO MOST GOVERNMENT FACILITIES, OFTEN IN THE SAME BUILDING. THESE ARE CALLED ENCLAVES. SYNTHETICS ARE THE LARGEST SECTOR OF INDUSTRY WITH MASSIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND ALMOST HUMAN CORPORATION IS NEW ASIA'S TOP CORPORATION.

LIVING AND WORKING WITHIN THE SAME ENCLAVE HAS STREAMLINED PUBLIC TRANSIT. LONG-DISTANCE AND RECREATIONAL TRAVEL HAVE BEEN GREATLY REDUCED THROUGH USE OF THE V. TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN COLONIES AND PREFECTURES CONTINUES PRIMARILY THROUGH AIR SHUTTLES. THERE ARE SOME PRIVATE AIRCRAFT AND AIR TAXIS. STILL, MOST CITIZENS USE AIR TUNNELS HIGH ABOVE THE CITY AND MAG SHUTTLES TO VERTICAL DESTINATIONS.

CRIME
THRIVES. POSITIVE TECH HAS FOUND ILLICIT USE: SYNTHS HAVE BEEN REPROGRAMMED, KNOWN AS 'TWISTING,' FOR RAPE GANGS AND CONTRACT MURDERS. THERE ARE BLACK MARKET GENETICS, SPLICING, LIGHTSTREAM HACKING, AND A SUICIDE EPIDEMIC. CRIMINAL EXPERIENCES ARE RECORDED, PACKAGED, AND SOLD. THE MESH, A VIRTUAL ELECTRONIC FABRIC THAT INCLUDES THE INDIVIDUAL BODY NETWORK CAN PROVIDE A PICTURE OF ANY LOCATION OR PERSON. NEW ASIA POLICE (HK2) MONITORS ALL ACTIVITY, AND ALMOST NOTHING PASSES UNNOTICED. I ADDED 'ALMOST' FOR YOU.

EVEN THOUGH ANY DEVIANT OR CRIMINAL URGE CAN BE SATISFIED THROUGH THE V, REAL-LIFE CRIME STILL SEEMS TO HOLD A CERTAIN ATTRACTION.

DOES THIS REPORT MEET YOUR NEEDS?

YEAH, THAT'S GOOD.