

# Orbital Rhapsody

## Science

Some background on some of the terms used.

### **Anthropomorphize**

Anthropomorphism is the attribution of human traits, emotions, or intentions to non-human entities. It is considered to be an innate tendency of human psychology.

### **Panpsychism**

Panpsychism offers an attractive alternative solution (basically where does consciousness come from, note this is gaining popularity in academic circles): Consciousness is a fundamental feature of physical matter; every single particle in existence has an “unimaginably simple” form of consciousness, says Goff. These particles then come together to form more complex forms of consciousness, such as humans’ subjective experiences. This isn’t meant to imply that particles have a coherent worldview or actively think, merely that there’s some inherent subjective experience of consciousness in even the tiniest particle.

### **Polarization**

The Great Teachers sometimes polarize an ornament or piece of jewelry by their strong and positive thought patterns. In the process of polarizations, the thought patterns of the Guru are reproduced into the inferior mind of the gold and silver, or any other metal from which a piece of jewelry or ornament has been made.

When the jewelry has been polarized, it is known as an Amulet or Talisman, due to the miraculous magic-like powers it contains. In many cases, a Talisman is polarized in order to exercise a specific type of influence for the well-being of the person for whom it is prepared.

A Talisman is charged by the Guru with a specific formula to solve a specific problem and to bring a specific result for a specific person. Each formula is a thought energized by the Guru and seeded deep into the heart of the Talisman. The Talisman is like a friend who is alive and is always by your side no matter where you are and is always ready to help you in adversity and in times of difficulty.

The story you are about to read seems to hint at the concepts above, taking it to the next step. Instead of polarizing energy into something, maybe as we assign human traits to objects already, maybe we can polarize their consciousness with a beginning personality.

## **History**

### **SuperStar**

SuperStar is an old spinner type spacecraft that was popular in the 80s. These were workhorse spacecraft. Due to the spinning nature, charge did not build up on any particular surface, so they had fewer anomalies. They were built like tanks. They ended up being replaced by 3 axis stabilized spacecraft mostly due to power (half the array is always facing away from the sun on spinners where 3 axis spacecraft can collect much more solar power).

SuperStar was retired due to low fuel. Everything else worked on him, except his batteries (which was common with the old NiCd batteries which were replaced in future spacecraft types).

He is the superman of the group. There is nothing he feels he can not do. He is used to succeeding at what he does. He is solid and capable of about anything.

In the band his part is normally to supply the mood. He generally supplies the chords and harmony.

### **Flash**

Flash is a three-axis stabilized spacecraft. Though he was an early generation, he was not in the first few. He had a single wheel for momentum that could be stepped but mostly controlled non pitch pointing with magnetics. One issue with this generation was ESD (Electro Static Discharge) - hence his name. These lead to small anomalies, but normally nothing that effects service.

Flash was retired due to one of these events causing a catastrophic failure. Overtime floating around power through the arrays were able to burn out the short and he would have been operational (but he was already retired).

Flash's personality matched his name as well. He is the positive one of the group. Always looking at the best in everything.

In the group Flash supplies much of the inspiration, supplying most of the melodies.

## **DarkStar**

DarkStar is one of the later generation of normal 3 Axis Stabilized Spacecraft. After him more sophisticated spacecraft capable of more switching etc. were becoming the norm. DarkStar got his name from how he looked (he was very dark the way the blankets were installed on him).

Darkstar was retired mostly due to fuel. There were a few other issues as well, but he was able to work through all of those until the fuel ran out.

Though DarkStar did have quite a few smaller anomalies, he always had a plan for working through them. Even if a part failed, he was able to work around it. He is the planner of the group. He can always determine a path from point A to point B.

For the group he provides the direction supplying most of the drums and baselines.

## **Interstellar Sounds**

It is cold and lonely out in space... We just float around and watch the human race.....

SuperStar has been floating around our planet for what feels like a eternity. Though something had just happened and now he feels different. Not just can he float around as a passenger, he now feels like he can control the journey. Maybe it was the object that floated by behind him that he could sense but not see, but whatever it was, he seems to be able to control himself now.

After starting the motor (and pulsing it a bit) he was able to work himself back upright. He also had to get all his systems up and operational. This process took some time, but after he completed all this he began to wonder about what happened and what was next.

He did not even know what to call what happened. At first he wanted to call it the awakening, but it did not like that. He felt awake the whole time and was conscious of the world around him. The only difference now was not just was he conscious, but he was also able to take some level of control. He decided to call it the "Metamorphosis" as this felt like a new life. Now he is able to begin his journey (not just spectate).

He figured what happened might never get worked out, but what happens next was now finally up to him.

### **Space Based Radar**

After he was all setup and ok, he decided the next step was to see if any of the other spacecraft were affected like he was. Finding the other spacecraft would be tough. Though there are a lot of them out here in this retirement orbit, space is big, so they are all pretty far apart. He was able to get his payload equipment to generate tones.

He aimed the signal out around him listening for reflections to come back to him. Basically, using himself as a space based radar. He did get quite a few reflections, but they all seemed to be stagnant. There was no change in the tones coming back so that meant the item being reflected was not moving. He kept going until he found one that seemed to be moving around.

He worked his way over to that signature. It took quite a while as his fuel was depleted, he could only use solar pressure (changing his area to change the force). Eventually he worked over close enough to see the other spacecraft. It looked familiar to him. It was the spacecraft that replaced him, it was Flash.

They caught up for a while. Flash had been up there for quite a while as well. He has some problems but all in all it was a good mission. Both of their "Rejuvenation" stories were very similar. Both could sense the world all along, but only began being able to interact with it after some strange object flew by.

They decided they should look to see if any others were also awakened. So, SuperStar went back into radar mode. After an exhaustive search they found one more. Again both spacecraft had to work hard to move themselves over to the third member. When they got there, Flash recognized him. It was DarkStar, the spacecraft that replaced him.

Again, they caught up and found that DarkStar had not been there that long. He too had a successful mission that was filled with problem solving puzzles. His "Rejuvenation" story was also the same. Sensing something behind him he felt different and soon he was able to control his actions. They did look around a bit more for any other "Rejuvenated" spacecraft but were unable to find any.

### **Orbital and Earth Based Interference**

Even though they had been out there for a long time just floating and watching the world around them, somehow with their newfound abilities they seemed bored. This was a new concept for them, but there

was now some desire to use these abilities and move. They also began to miss the constant signals beamed through them. The music and videos especially.

DarkStar suggests that they try to find some music and kick off a party.

They knew that since they were retired, there would be no direct beamed signals to them, so they decided to try space first. DarkStar searched space through all their frequency bands, but he was only able to find some interesting static. This made them all sad.

Since this was not working SuperStar decided to try earth. All they were able to find was snippets of broadcasts indirectly getting to them. It was still just static and noise, just something they were more familiar with. This was still unacceptable for them.

Flash decided to try a different area of space. He was able to actually catch something that appeared to have a bit of a baseline but was still just generally noise. This still was not anything that they could have a party to.

SuperStar came to the realization that if they wanted music in space, they would just have to make it themselves. Flash thought this was a great idea and believed it would be even better than listening to some others music. He wanted to call the band "Orbital Rhapsody".

With this DarkStar started working out how they could use their own electronics to create music.

### **Pop Stylings Live V1**

After DarkStar worked out some processes for them to generate musical sounds, they needed to work out how they were going to put songs together. After some discussion they decided on the below line up. They knew they would at times all play any parts, but they figured the below matched their personalities the best and was the optimal baseline.

DarkStar - Drums and Bass Line - He is the planner of the group. As with any percussionist, this would allow him to use this skill to direct the music as they went.

SuperStar - Harmony and Mood - He can do just about anything. As such having him follow DarkStar's lead, but to set the mood was the right assignment.

Flash - Melody - He is the inspiration of the group. He can find the positive in the negative, and as they wanted their music to be positive, he was assigned the melody.

After working out all the details, they needed to decide on what type of song to do first. As none of them really had any experience creating music, they wanted the first song to be simple. They decided on a simple pop song.

They had heard many pop songs on the radio or on MTV as it was beamed through them. It seemed like a natural beginning.

## **Interlude 1**

After enjoying their first song, and playing around with their newfound musical abilities, they wondered what next. Their whole lives before they were not able to move and interact with nature, they just observed. However, their original mission was to share. Signals beamed up to them would be turned around and shared with everyone on the ground. Somehow this mission still called to them. They wanted to share their music.

Wanting something and being able to do something are two different things. So DarkStar promised to think about this a bit. While he pondered this, the discussion had turned back towards their mission. They were each replacements for each other, so they were all controlled by the same company. During their discussions one person from the company seemed to be in common with all three of them. This seemed like more than a coincidence, and none of them believed in coincidences in space.

DarkStar thought that was the key to sharing their music. They must somehow contact this human and see if he can provide some support. That was still going to be tricky. Though they were able to sense me (and other humans on the planet) that is very different from direct communications.

The plan DarkStar came up with was radio interference. Hopefully they could interfere with some of the local radio, in a pattern that I would recognize. The message would have to be simple and in a format I would understand.

That is how they contacted me. I still listen to local radio, I like to hear what is going on in the area etc. I began to notice some interference happening occasionally. At first I ignored it, but it sounded familiar. So, I broke it down, and it was just a simple number in ascii. A frequency. I happened to have an old

short-wave radio available, so I tuned it to that frequency. Again there was clicks, but this time it was a message. It said transmit and a different frequency.

It took me a little longer to setup some transmission. Fortunately for me, they must have looked for popular frequencies and happened upon the old Citizens Band, and I happened to have an old handheld CB in my closet. After getting batteries and powering it up, I tuned to the proper frequency. I did not know what to send, so I sent a simple hello.

As soon as I sent the hello, the downlink changed. I was getting instructions on how to communicate with them. After considerable work, I was able to record it so I could decipher it later (I am not able to speak ascii off the top of my head). When I finally deciphered it, I could not believe it (and at first I did not, but decided to play along and see where it went).

I was shocked to learn the spacecraft had somehow awakened (I was still grasping the concept of them always being conscious prior to this). However, I decided to suspend suspicion and go with it.

After a few painful back and forth messages, we were able to work out a better process. We found a few ways that they could "Piggyback" on existing internet traffic beamed to other spacecraft. I set them up a gmail account and we were able to start messaging each other. We were still limited to times of day that we could message (when sites were within range), however this was no different than before, and communications were much better.

However internet access itself would not solve the problem. They still had no way of getting their music into a format the internet could handle. I did some research and together with DarkStar we came up with the process of using a Teenage Engineering OP-1 to receive their rf signals and record them. I could then combine them and master the music.

There was one caveat that they would not negotiate on. They did not want a computer part of the process. There were two reasons for this. First, thought they felt like they always knew me somehow, this new messaging scheme made it much more personal than using all those control computers. Second, they put their souls into their music and they wanted that to come out. They feared that by using a computer to remaster the music this element would be removed. So, all processing is done by me on the OP - 1.

So, we worked out the process, and the results of those attempts ended up being the aptly titled "Were Making Music Now". This was music transmitted directly from them into the OP -1 (I did add my voice to

a few tracks, but again we were working out the process). These songs are basically demos, and not really part of the main story.

Note, this is a cumbersome process. Each spacecraft takes their turn beaming down their parts (which I capture onto one of the 4 tapes in the OP1). I then have to line them up properly (cannot do as part of the recording process due to the delay between earth and the spacecraft). I also have to balance the volumes a bit as each really hits at a different volume.

Now that we had worked out the process, we wanted to tell their story. So, they planned on creating the album *Interstellar Sounds* to do just that.

## **Invasion Earth**

The spacecraft were just hanging out together and orbiting earth. Just another day orbiting earth. As with any day, most of the discussion was about the music and what they should do next.

They decided to do another style song and went with Rock. Then they were just passing the time working on new sounds when an Alien Spacecraft came.

This ended up ominous as the Aliens were here to destroy the humans.

## **Rockin Around the Orbit Live V1**

They were not sure what type of band they wanted to be. The original decision was to try out multiple types of styles while they worked out what they liked/suited them the best. Their first attempt was the *Pop Stylings Live V1* from the *Interstellar Sounds* album. They liked that but did not think that was the right sound for their group.

During our process work, they got Funky. This was another genre that they also liked but did not think suited them. So Darkstar thought trying something with a bit more Rock would be the next logical step.

While working on the Rock, they decided to morph a bit to look the part (something they did not know they could do until they did, it seems they have more control over all their atoms than they had thought). So, some of them thought they should grow long hair.



This led to some arguments, as though the process was fun, it really was not them. After all they are space aged music making machines, not a hair band. However, it was fun, and another musical genre to check off the list.

### **Another Day in Orbit**

The band decided to go a totally different direction. Just coming off the Rock experience, they thought about softening the mood. Maybe something acoustic sounding.

Again they tried to look the part, but this time without argument. They added some acoustic guitars to their look (keep in mind the guitars would not work in the vacuum of space, these were just for show and to "Feel" the music.

They realized that this too is not who they are, but did enjoy the process, and it helped inspire them. In fact, the theme from this song can be heard in the next two songs. This did have an impact on them and started to set them on the right path to finding their true sound.

### **And Then an Alien Spacecraft**

So just as you are working on themes and making profound internal discussions, what should happen. An external influencer comes in and causes a distraction. In this case the distraction was definitely important and required the spacecraft to focus on it instead of the music.

It is curious that the spacecraft happened to be in the correct portion of the orbit to be near the alien spacecraft when it appeared. Was this just another coincidence?

### **Invasion Earth**

#### Lyrics

(Aliens)

Earthlings, we are here to finish you

You do things not thinking them through.

Fear Fear Fear that is all we hear.

Fear is what has driven us near.

Fear is earthlings, it is their driving force.

destroying them our only course.

Fear based life

always ends, always ends in strife

(Dark)

We cannot argue, they do have fear.

It is for losing what they hold dear.

(Flash)

Other things drive their hope.

The point of life is the drive to cope.

(Super)

Fear is not of what fills their dreams.

Things are not, things are not what they seem.

(Aliens)

You stepped forward, it is not too late

Come with us to decide their fate

Story

So obviously from the above, the aliens came to destroy the humans. They had surmised that the humans let themselves be controlled by fear (watching too many of our tv and news shows). This would

eventually lead to us making bad decisions and causing a lot of issues for the rest of the universe. Better to eliminate the problem now before it grows.

The spacecraft convinced the aliens that there was more to us. There was fear, but that was not our drive. The aliens agree to put the earth on trial, using only the spacecraft as our character witnesses.

## **Interlude 2**

Before the trial began, the spacecraft learned a lot about the aliens. These aliens are inter-dimensional in nature. They confirm that there is a multi-verse with similar universes with only small changes. They live outside of all these universes, in the space between them. They have receptacles in each universe (the green portion that we perceive as their bodies). We will continue to call them aliens and not a species name as they are not just alien to us, but our universe as well. This is how the rest of the Universe refers to them.

Their appearance is almost like a green stretchable substance over some very dark matter. They say there really is no dark matter to them, but their consciousness. Their consciousness lives in a super space (above normal space, between the universes). They project their consciousness into the universes in order to interface with other life there. The green wrapper allows the consciousness to be held together. Each individual alien has a separate "wrapper" in each universe that they can utilize.

The wrapper is very utilitarian and basic. Though it has no full shape or form (some sort of head and body only), any tool or appendage they need can form immediately. For example, if they need to press a button, an arm will grow out of them with a finger on it to press the button. Once the button is pressed the arm returns and is gone.

As they can see multiple universes, and understand the differences a decision can make, they try to protect some of the universes. As a direct result this gets them involved in some things that they would not normally be a part of. This causes most other species to not trust them. Some see this as meddling and do not believe the Aliens actually have any greater knowledge (they cannot know what is going to happen here based on what they saw somewhere else). This has caused most species to not trust the Aliens.

In this case, the aliens have been watching our news and entertainment beamed out into space. They have seen our warlike nature against each other (if we will kill each other, what will stop us from attacking other worlds). They have seen our mistrust of our governments and others and wonder if any good can truly come out of us. This drove their decision to destroy the Earth.

As the spacecraft were working on songs before the aliens came, they decide to use song to tell our stories. The goal of these stories would be to convince the aliens that we are not what they think. By telling the aliens our stories, they will get to know us and understand the problems we face. True to their own natures, the group decides to break the approach loosely into three categories.

SuperStar decides to tackle self-views. (Am I really the best me I can be).

Flash decides to tackle relationships with each other (Love and other relationships).

DarkStar decides to tackle contributions to society (Did I make the world better).

By showing these different facets of human life, hopefully the spacecraft can help the Aliens understand what it is to be human.

## **Songs From the Silicon Heart**

After some time getting to understand the aliens, the spacecraft have worked out some stories that they think will help the aliens understand the humans. This process was longer than the album implies. Each spacecraft sang many many songs (not just the one on this album).

However, getting each of the songs back to earth and recorded was going to be a bit of a logistics nightmare at this point. We have all agreed that in the future we might squeeze in an album with more of the songs from the trial.

Each spacecraft picked one song for this album. A song that they liked and felt that had a desired effect on the aliens.

So the album starts with a song from the spacecraft to the humans. They are doing this for us. Then each spacecraft will have one of their songs. We will close with the verdict from the Aliens.

### **Songs From the Silicon Heart - Song to the Humans**

Lyrics

It is cold and lonely here in space  
We just float around and watch the human race

Happy or sad your stories are art  
They touch us in our silicon heart

The smallest stories are the best  
We watch them all without rest

It is these stories that we can see you true,  
Watching the struggle to see them through.

We see you goals what drives you most.  
Only upon attainment do you fear losing the ghost.

However, It is not this Fear that drives you on  
It is the goal on which you are focused upon.

No matter what your motivator be.  
From up here it is the drive that we get to see.

We live your stories as if we were you  
There is not much else for us to do

Story

Before starting with the stories about the earthlings, the spacecraft wanted to sing a song to the humans. To let the humans know what they mean to the spacecraft (they have been watching us for years).

### **Aging Skill - SuperStar's Song**

#### Lyrics

I was always good at anything I would do.

Give me a task and I would work it through.

Being the best at what I do.

Nothing else can get me through.

Having people count on me

That was the end all that I could be.

Nothing could stop me, nothing would

Any task for me my response would be I could

Hard Task Easy Task, all I had to do was try.

All that success I never even wondered why.

Success has been harder to find.

No longer the same type of grind.

Though succeed I still do

Time has changed the focus on how I get through

When I was younger I would succeed with skill

As I grew older it was more strength of will.

And yet success still finds me near

but driven by the focus to continue

and yes driven by a little bit of fear

### Story

Superstar was up first and wanted to sing about self. The spacecraft did not want to try and cover up fear. The aliens obviously sense it, trying to deny it would not work. However, the goal here was to show that the driving force was not fear, but the desire to succeed.

Now, once the goal has been met, fear of losing that goal can creep in. However, it is not the fear that is the driving force, but the goal itself is the driving force. Fear only comes into play when it is in losing this goal.

### **Best Day - Flash's Song**

#### Lyrics

This day has been the best day of my life

Spending time with you I am so happy you are my wife.

Go to a park, go to the zoo

Spending time with you so much more than making do

Just bouncing around doing a little of this and a little of that

Whatever we do, we hit it off the bat.

I know that it is getting late.

I want to do this again, but just can't wait.

I know what to do, I have something in mind.

Let's Rewind

Rewind

We can stay at home, we can go for a drive,  
spending time with you makes me happy I'm alive

Pictures from the bridge pictures near the river

After this we will have a nice dinner.

Whatever we do, wherever we go

The time will be great, that I know.

I know that it is getting late.

I want to do this again, but just can't wait.

I know what to do, I have something in mind.

Let's Rewind

Rewind

Wandering through the corn maze

Making these all special days.



Bouncing around, just seeing the sights

I could not find someone better try as I might

When you are with me everything is just great

we were destined to be together, more than just fate

I know it is getting late

But this has become a repeat date.

Time to look forward and see what we get.

As long as I'm with you it will be great I bet.

### Story

So, this one is obvious. The aliens pointed out that we war with each other. There are lots of other emotions that we also have towards each other. For every negative emotion there is a positive one as well (part of the universal balance). Wars are easy to see from way out in space. Love might not be as easy to see from way out. It does not get on the news (does not generate ratings), but it is definitely a major driving force and shows how we can also care for each other.

### **The Red Piano - DarkStar's Song**

#### Lyrics

"I'd like to teach the world"

I was made with music in my soul.

Playing that music was my only goal.

My early days were filled with song  
The beauty of this music did not last too long.

They played me by day they played me by night,  
My musicians and I were a wonderful sight.  
We make music learning a brand new song  
Practicing it over and over all day long

"Twinkle Twinkle little star"

Early on the songs were not tough  
We practiced each them more than enough  
Musical advancement seemed to stall  
but still we played for the fun of it all

As I grew older the music played less  
Then they painted me and made me a mess.  
I was given away to a second home.  
Little did I know that my music was all gone.

"Mary had a little lamb"

On my last day, what was this,  
People playing me, I could not miss.  
It brought back the memories of the music in me

When I was the happiest, that I could be.

Those wonderful memories filled my thoughts

All of this was musical magic was not for naught

Though it was great I, still had music inside

As for brightening the world with my song at least I tried.

"Brahms Lullaby"

### Story

Interestingly, this song was not about humans, but did have the biggest effect on the aliens of any of the songs sang. The reason was that the spacecraft were able to sense emotions from other "non-living" entities.

As discussed before, all matter has a consciousness (each and every atom) as such all things have some sort of life (Panpsychism). Consciousness would be very different than what we humans consider our consciousness, but it would exist all the same.

The fact that the spacecraft were able to sense this consciousness from a piano, and that it mimicked the worldly expectations show that the humans who created and used the piano were able to polarize it (in essence project a personality, though again very different from what we would think of as a personality).

The aliens were very impressed that the humans could do this. Though it has been known to happen in other parts of the universe, it is very rare. In fact after meeting the spacecraft initially, they wanted to learn more which led to this trial in the first place. The Aliens were puzzled about the human ability to polarize objects like this.

### **Judgement**

### Lyrics

Thank you for your songs and the stories you did pick

We think we understand them now We see what makes them tick

Though on the outside they are filled with fear

Their hearts allow them to build something dear

This type of creation we cannot destroy

For helping draw this conclusion we shall be in your employ

We will upgrade your parts and skills

You will not change, you will you be still.

Go out and make music, let others hear your song.

Discover other mysteries and sing them all day long.

Let your stories be heard if you will.

It will make us all better, it will fit the bill.

### Story

The songs have shown human values that the Aliens value. They would not destroy earth. They did find beauty in the songs from the spacecraft. So, they asked the spacecraft to take those songs out into the universe for others to hear.

The aliens would support the spacecraft with some upgrades to make this possible. Also keep in mind, though I sing these songs on the album in English, the spacecraft do not communicate them in that

manner. They have no mouths, and can not speak. They communicate using a more universal language (music is truly a universal language).

### **Interlude 3**

The band has taken shape, and the sound will be demonstrated in the next album. In addition to the three spacecraft members of the band two new permanent members are officially added and one guest. The additions are listed below.

Marty (me) - I am the band manager/engineer and provide vocals. I can also provide other things that may not be easy for the spacecraft to perform.

Topper (OP-1) - This is the glue. The spacecraft were able to sense his joy in working with us. He does all the processing and musical enhancements.

Guest Member - Omni (French horn) - Named as such due to all the parts we played together in the past (I played Trombone and Bass Sax parts in Dance Band as well as other parts in multiple musical pits for school plays etc). Brought in to bring in color to some songs.

Life in space is very different. As stated previously, the spacecraft can communicate without speaking (in fact no real noise is needed). This is true of many of the different species (or else inter species communications would be very difficult).

For this reason there will be some similes drawn. They are getting out on the road. There is no real road, but there is something similar. So for the albums to make sense on Earth (and to the spacecraft who have been watching earth for so long) there will be similes drawn.

One strange thing that the aliens cautioned the spacecraft on was in the perception of the aliens. Most species do not trust them. Though the changes they make are always for the good, the people within the universe. Those inside the universe can not see it like those living outside all universes, so motives are often questioned.

Earth for example tends to become a problem in most universes. They have a tendency strike out first before getting all the facts. Most species would not have cared (Earth is a little backwards rock to them) but would not have understood the action. The spacecraft believed they saw these fearful tendencies growing in our Earth and decided to take action.

In this case as in any the aliens also look for information within a universe as to why this one might be different. In this case in the songs from the spacecraft convinced the aliens this earth was different. Even taking into account separate evidence within a universe does not lessen mistrust towards the aliens.

The aliens wanted to make sure the spacecraft understood this. Once word gets out that the spacecraft have associated with the aliens, mistrust would be cast there way as well. The aliens still affirmed that once the spacecraft started singing, mistrust in them (the spacecraft not the aliens) would disappear.

### **Panpsychism Abilities**

First off, the aliens discussed exactly what the spacecraft were and how they fit into the world.

The concept of Panpsychism is real but should not be overblown. As every tiny building block in the universe has a consciousness, so did the spacecraft. The level of consciousness is however different. Most objects do not have a processing consciousness, they do not understand their surroundings etc. However, for the spacecraft's consciousness to extend as it had, they needed some other external influencer. Possibly to be polarized by some other living force. In this case it could be the humans who poured pieces of themselves into each one of them. This made them greater than the sum of their parts, but also imprinted a separate but unique personality on each of them. Without this, their level of consciousness would have been minimal and even being granted the ability of self-control they would not have used it.

The Metamorphosis event most likely occurred as a result of a contact with the spirit of life. This force has many names across the universe. However, it is this force that allows life to spawn on planets. It has also been known to breathe life into normal inanimate objects (as is the case here). This is not a normal event and only rarely occurs, the object that has been initialized into an animate life is considered very worthy. It was the humans creating something like this that was possibly worthy that stopped the aliens from destroying the earth and allowing the trial to take place.

The spacecraft have some differences between themselves and normal life (ie humans). Some of this is obvious. The spacecraft have no eyes, but yet can see (no ears etc). Most life forms are divided into parts that perform functions (humans' eyes can see, hands can pick up etc). So, the total life form is the sum of all these parts.

The spacecraft are a collective life form. Every atom in them is separate, but together. As a whole the spacecraft have no eyes, but they have the primordial abilities that all things have sense their

surroundings. Each atom, each part has its own consciousness and abilities to "sense" the world around them. That is how they were able to find me. They could not see me from that far away even if they had eyes, but it was every part within them working together to sense me.

So instead of one brain controlling all the different parts, they are a collective consciousness controlling everything about them.

As the universe is filled with many different customs and languages, most developed species have worked out similar sensing abilities though at a much lower capability. This is the only way for the different species to interact. It is this ability that explains why the spacecraft were able to generate their tones (making music), and project the meanings and words and be understood by the aliens.

The drawbacks to this is lacking some abilities. Though it increases their perceptiveness of the world around them, they have more limited ability to control the world (as the example above, they lack a hand to grab onto items).

### Extensions

Some of the features of the spacecraft have really puzzled the Aliens. Though the Aliens pointed out every piece of matter has some consciousness, it is normally extremely limited. They should not have been just sitting there watching the Human Race prior to the Rejuvenation. They should not have been capable of that level of consciousness.

In addition, the spacecraft have shown a higher level of cosmic awareness than most beings. All beings have this cosmic awareness at some level. It is what allows them all to communicate with each other without knowing the others language.

The spacecraft picked this up very quickly. However, beyond that, they can see that space is truly not empty, but filled with an energy. Most beings do not sense this to the same ability. The Aliens put this down to the spacecraft being in space so long. Most beings live on a planet surrounded by an all kinds of things (an atmosphere for one). So space seems empty to them. The spacecraft have been in space so long, maybe they can see the empty for what it really is.

It goes beyond just sensing it though. The spacecraft seem to be able to control it. When they are singing their songs, the energy in space seems to react to it. This really helps their live performances. Though others can not see this energy, they are affected by it all the same. The Aliens found this ability to be peculiar and thought by going out and singing their songs the spacecraft might increase this ability.

Either way this did warrant more investigation so the Aliens would definitely keep track of the spacecraft and follow up on this.

### **Alien Upgrades**

The Aliens also upgraded them. They did not swap out parts, as that would have affected their consciousness, but they transformed the matter on them to something better or added pieces to enhance them. They now have much better movability as well as other things.

The first upgrade was to their power systems. The aliens had to supply them power so that they were able to operate during the trial. It would be impossible to travel the universe to spread their song if they needed to be near a star at all times to be powered. So, the arrays were made more sensitive. Now just a normal distant star field (what we see when we look up at night) is enough to power them. The batteries were also improved in case they were in some dark chamber for an extended period.

Their entire propulsion system was upgraded to no longer need fuel (using hydrazine in space is considered rude as it is very toxic). They can now "Swim" through the cosmos using their thrusters. In addition, the Main Satellite Thruster was changed into a warp generating device allowing them to travel faster than the speed of light. This would allow them to move about the universe more freely.

Though the spacecraft have a collective consciousness and even memory, their computational power is limited. The computer really only has instructions on how to control the body they inhabit. So, this has been upgraded. In the new processor memory is maps of the universe as well as other important information about different species (customs etc). This will aid them in their travels.

They have also been provided an upgraded communications path. The aliens thought it was important that they continue to communicate with me and work with the band. We had enough problems with communications delays when they were in orbit, now with them light years away, it was going to be impossible.

In many sci-fi shows, there is a concept known as subspace which is used for communications and allows them to be quicker. This is still not instantaneous. However, using superspace, the spacecraft will be able to communicate with me instantly. Superspace is the home of the aliens. It is the space between all the different universes. Though it is impossible to leave this universe, it is possible to send a message through the superspace. The message can instantly leave the spacecraft, enter the superspace, and then appear at me without the appearance of time passing.



This will make lining up the music and working with them much easier.

In addition to the direct upgrades, the aliens showed the spacecraft that they do have limited ability to control themselves differently than designed (sort of flex their muscles). This explained the growing of hair or adding a guitar. Though these are minor changes, it will help in some regards (they have greater control of their oscillators for example which will allow more musical freedom).

Though the Aliens did teach them on all the main upgrades, the Aliens pointed out that the technology involved with their ability to control themselves will allow them to grow and evolve. Basically, they will continue to grow over time.

### SuperStar

SuperStar was most concerned about levels. How fast they could go. How far the communications worked. How quickly they could process data (for example to plot a new course). Much of this in how it related to other external indices (how many ships are faster etc.).

This led SuperStar to constantly test the boundaries. He wanted to make sure he could hit the boundaries without any obstacles in the way. On more than one occasion he impressed the Aliens by exceeding what they believed was possible.

Though impressed, the Aliens also had to caution the spacecraft. Exceeding the recommended parameters could be dangerous. This led to the SuperStar rule - "Only exceed any of the operating parameters in the event of a dire emergency."

### Flash

Flash was most concerned about what he could do. He wanted to know all the different functions as quickly as possible, and all the different uses for each. He was constantly trying new things and new ways to use those things.

Once he was trying out some of the new functions before getting full training on how to use them. This caused him to activate his warp drive before knowing how to control it. It took the Aliens and other spacecraft about two weeks to find him after that.

This led to the Flash rule. "Functions should not be attempted until after training has occurred. Using functions to get different results other than intended should only be done in a controlled manner."

### DarkStar

Darkstar was very interested in the how all the functions worked. He argued that if they had problems after they left the Aliens, this knowledge would be needed to trouble shoot or work around problems.

He often got into lengthy discussions trying to understand how some of the technology and science worked. On occasion, this ended up precluding any actual training for the day on how to use the functions. Darkstar was blamed as the number one reason the training took as long as it did.

This led to the Darkstar rule. "Though it is good to understand the world around you as much as possible, sometimes you have to take it on faith. Somethings require a level of understanding that is not yet possessed. It does not mean that whatever is not understood will not work."

### **Ground Upgrades**

In addition to the spacecraft getting upgraded, I needed to do a few things on the ground. The first upgrade we all agreed on was an ability to do some simple voices. No one liked me changing my voice to give them all their own sound. However, without an individual sound the audience would not be able to tell them apart.

This is not a problem in space as they do not communicate verbally. The audience or others they are communicating with can tell them apart. To solve this problem, it was decided that I would purchase a Roland VT-4. Then I would work with each spacecraft to come up with their own voice. Each spacecraft decided to try and come up with a voice that sort of displayed their role in the band (Super added chorus, Flash went more lead and Dark went to the bass with reverb). This box will also be used for alien voices as appropriate.

As stated before, space is not empty. The spacecraft can both see (and hear) space. Space seems to respond to their music as well (almost dancing to it). However, our videos all have space as a black region. In order to remedy this, I have purchased the Critter and Guitari EYSYS which will be used to generate backgrounds for the videos. Initially only presets will be used on the EYSYS (I do not have time to learn how to program it) but I will coordinate with the spacecraft to come up with appropriate scenes.

## **Intergalactic Road Trip**

After completing the training on the new upgrades as well as the improved self-awareness the spacecraft were ready to go on their own. The Aliens provided a means for the spacecraft to contact them if needed. They also gave the spacecraft instructions to go out and sing their songs. If the spacecraft did this, it would all work out in the end.

The Aliens dropped the spacecraft off just outside a "Roadside Diner" type of establishment off an access point to a major thoroughfare. They had already agreed to a set list and were ready to perform. The plan was to perform a show here, then hit the road and bring it to other locations.

Before performing the show (and subsequent road trip), the spacecraft stopped to enjoy the sunrise over the neighboring planet.

The shows will not be chronicled as part of the album (it is previous songs), but the journey will be.

One thing the spacecraft did confirm during their road trip was the advice received from the aliens regarding their perception. Wherever the spacecraft went they seemed to be met with suspicion initially. That is until they performed their music. After that all skepticism seemed to disappear.

In order to take advantage of this, the spacecraft followed a general rule. They would perform a show early upon arriving anywhere. This would improve the mood so they could better enjoy their stays.

### **Third First Sunrise**

As the spacecraft felt the sun beginning to rise on the neighboring planet, it made them reflect. Though each had seen many sunrises over the years, the first ones had always held a special place in their heart.

Upon brief discussion they determined that this was actually their third first sunrise. Then each spacecraft recounted what they were feeling on each of them.

### **Lyrics**

SuperStar: They all had similar feelings for their first sunrise which was alone. Superstar will be used here.

"I remember my first sunrise coming off the rocket, looking down at that wonderful planet. Then as I continued around, I saw the sun appear over the horizon. It warmed me and filled me with energy. It was beautiful."

Flash:

"I remember our second first sunrise. We had been together working on music and paused for the eclipse. Instead of just being the beautiful end to a lonely eclipse, it was a wonderful beginning of our new lives."

DarkStar:

"This our third first sunrise is majestic. We have exceeded our purposes and the universe is open to us. Let this be the beginning of not just another beautiful day but also an amazing adventure."

After the enjoying the sunrise, the spacecraft went down to perform a show and start their new lives.

### **Cosmic Billboards**

The performance went well. They were well received and even earned some currency. Though they did not need the currency, they were sure they would find some use for it.

They decided to hit the nearby "highway" and see where it took them. Note, there technically are not highways in space. However, there are accepted travel routes. These served multiple purposes. First was safety. If your ship had a problem, you might need some help. Being on a more traveled route made getting that help much easier.

A second reason was more commerce. It would not be feasible to just stick a restaurant or other business somewhere hoping for travelers to pass. However, with normal traveling routes, business owners could assure themselves access to customers. So, the concept of "Highway" sort of took hold.

Since the goal of the spacecraft was to perform their songs for people, it was decided that sticking to these normal travel routes would be in their best interest.

They found it interesting how much these routes resembled the Interstate Highway system on earth. Not just with businesses (as mentioned above) but also advertising. They passed many "Billboards" on their trip and found them interesting.

Note, they were not billboards as we would think about them (big picture on the side of the road). Most traffic was traveling faster than the speed of light so that would not work. The signs appeared alongside you as you traveled, and seemed to follow you for a period of time before receding. DarkStar found this fascinating.

### Lyrics

Flash:

"You are listening to Orbital Rhapsody on Spaceway Radio."

"Traveling the Galactic Highway reading billboards  
trying to find our place in the universe as we move forward."

Flash (Billboard 1):

"Come and see the Long Lost Quazar .... It's so beautiful"

DarkStar (still Billboard 1):

"Hey that's not how you spell Quasar"

SuperStar (Billboard 2):

"Pedro's South of the Border Forecast, Chili Today, Hot Tamale. This has got to be the furthest one out."  
(Superstar wondered if Aliens actually stopped at SOB).

SuperStar (Billboard 3):

"Sign up at Marlins Fencing School. Bring your foil. It's a good skill to have when life will not let you float on."

Then they hit some space weather which jumbled them up a bit.

Flash - "Wow what is happening this is strange"

Superstar - "I am not sure but it really makes me spin up"

DarkStar - "I think we had some space weather, but deep space weather"

DarkStar (Billboard 4):

"Avoid the Blackhole construction at the exit"

Flash (still Billboard 4):

"I cannot believe construction in space what's going on here"

Flash (Billboard 5):

"Vacation at Nebula City. Find your Zen there  
or just soak up some rays it's all your choice."

DarkStar (Billboard 6):

"Come to the universal zoo see the animals."

Just about everything from everywhere. It's a good day."

The spacecraft enjoyed seeing these billboards as an indication of things to do in space. It seemed to bring them closer to all the varied alien species inhabiting our universe.

### **Galactic Accelerator**

After a few stops and performances, the spacecraft approached a less inhabited area along the "Highway". They decided that maybe they could spend some of their currency and try something new. In this case, a Galactic Accelerator. In our science fiction movies, this would be like a jump gate or something similar that allows one to cross large areas of space quickly.

Instead of being one jump though, you go through a few (as you speed up, and again to slow down). This way the change was not too abrupt (for ships that could not handle that). Also you could pay for access to the faster lanes (if you could handle those) or for less currency you could just stay in the slower lanes.

Additionally, having lanes at specific speeds allowed ships to travel together (not having to worry about running up on someone or getting run over).

Inside of this space itself seemed slow initially, but it sped up (quickly) as each gate was crossed. After traveling a great distance, then the process was reversed until it was time to exit.

At the end, even though they were back in normal time, it seemed so much slower.

### Lyrics

SuperStar - "Hey Dark, explain to me again why we are using mass transit and not our using our own thrusters."

DarkStar - "That is easy Super, this is a bit faster and we wanted the experience"

Flash - "And maybe some fun"

Flash - "99 bottles of fuel on the wall 99 bottles of fuel"

Dark - "You're not going to be able to finish this song as the trip will just not last that long."

Flash - "Bottle of fuel, no use for that anymore."

Flash - "88 bottles of fuel on the wall 88 bottles of fuel"

Dark - "I guess you're going to continue to sing"

Flash - "Yep that is my thing"

Super - "Hey that's some speed, this is what I am talking about - Hey those lights are flashing brighter than you Flash."

Flash - "Ha Ha Ha"

Flash - "I Spy with my little eye"

Dark - "You don't see nothing we are traveling faster than light"

Super - "He can see us"

Flash - "Heh heh heh"

Super - "Wow Slowing down already."

Dark - "Hard to believe this is still one of the faster speeds. It is going to feel real slow soon."



Flash - "15 bottles of fuel on the wall 15 bottle of fuel"

Dark - "I know that your skipping numbers here you quest is done I fear"

Flash - "This is the song that does not end, it goes on and on my friend"

Super - "Even slower now."

Dark - "And the song is coming to an end"

With that, the trip ended. The speed was a bit disorienting for a while, but the spacecraft were happy they took it.

The disorientation was not bad, they just did not feel like traveling again immediately. They were able to skip over a big desolate area. So, they looked for something to do.

### **Recap Part 1**

While they were recovering from the slight disorientation from the galactic accelerator, they decided they would perform a show at the terminal. It had dawned on SuperStar that they should have some short summary of their adventures as the intro to the performance so the audience could follow along. They could use this intro to other shows in the future also.

It was decided that Flash would sing it (and most songs going forward). His voice rang through the best and he was just a natural front man for the group. So, they came up with something quick. Note, the lyrics here are the earth lyrics, at the performances they substitute the word "their" for "your".

#### Lyrics:

"We were just satellites broadcasting for your pleasure.

Then we went to retirement orbit, just floating and observing earth

Given the gift of self-control by some entity

We formed our own little band to bringing music out to space"

Super - "Hey Flash sounds pretty good."

Dark - "I think we made the right choice having him do most of the singing."

"Then came the aliens, they were going to destroy the world.

We convinced them earth was good by singing them many songs.

They upgraded our abilities as a way of thanking us.

This helped us on our way for new adventures."

This seemed like a good segue into their act (so the audience understood why they were singing "Songs From The Silicon Heart"

### **Passing the Light Years**

After the show, the spacecraft got back to traveling. On the road, they decided to come up with what for them would be a road trip song. Instead of passing miles though, they were really traversing light-years. Super joked that it had been about that long since their last album and it was a "Light Year". Everyone groaned.

Sort of along the lines of Another Day in Orbit (when they were back orbiting Earth). However, instead of just going around and around, now they were floating through space. That is the distinction, between the two. Space is big and the spacecraft feel free now. In Earth orbit sometimes the spacecraft felt like they were just traveling in a circle never really getting anywhere.

### **A Small Parade Goes By**

While passing near an inhabited solar system, the spacecraft heard this sound in the distance. It sounded like some drums and maybe some music with it. As they approached it got louder. The spacecraft decided to stop and watch the parade go by.

It was a bit different from parades we would have on Earth. This was a small parade, just one band going by being followed by some people dancing to the music. All the instruments being played seemed the same. The only difference was the size of the instrument. Almost like this was some local instrument that everyone here learned to play. They just picked a size that matched them.

The parade was definitely some type of celebration. A lot of positive energy, and sort of chaotic like a celebration would be (not a performance but truly a celebration). It was good to see the group having so much fun and including music with it.

### **Astro Rest Stop**

After traveling again for a while, Flash got a bit restless and wanted to do something else. He wanted to be in a location with other beings, choose a destination whatever, just stop the traveling for a bit.

### Lyrics

Flash - "Hey guys why don't we pull over at the next rest stop. I could use a change of scenery"

Superstar - "Sounds good to me."

Darkstar - "Alright, let's do this."

Pa Announcement - " Would the owner of the white flarefrift space speedster please move your vehicle from the loading zone. You are blocking a shipment. Thank You."

Grumbling Father - " This trip to Grandmas always takes us so long. Stop drinking so much, I am tired of stopping every 100 light years."

Child response - "Ohh Dad"

Child (different family) - "Dad, this trip is taking forever. When are we going to be there? I am hungry. I need some money. I want a candy bar. I hope they have the ones I like."

Wife to her Husband - "I know you are not lost. We all know you never get lost. But, just for us, how about checking with that map over there. Just this once. hmmm"

Flash - "So that was an interesting change of scenery. Where should we head to next. I saw a list of brochures over there, how about I pick one out?"

Superstar - "Sounds good to me."

Darkstar - "Yeah, what's the worst that can happen"

With that, Flash went over to the collection of brochures. One brochure particularly caught his eye so he pulled it out and read it to Dark and Super. The contents of that brochure and the trip it initiated are the topics for the next album.

While Flash was doing this, DarkStar was contemplating the similarities that all life seems to evolve towards. With his eyes closed, both the previous song (A Small Parade Goes By) and this one could have happened as easily on earth as in space. He planned to ponder this more in the future.