

## **THE WORLD**

We are going to start our story by zooming back out to the age of complex Climate Change, now 110 years ago, when the world was struggling to bring global warming under control, and efficiently develop sustainability and equality on earth. In response to this crisis, SOFIA, the Silicon Organization & Foundation for International Advancement, was formed to ensure global citizens the democratization of areas like health, education and government. However, much debate emerged over what path would work best, and who would dominate what was soon to be the age of the Technoscene. Top engineers, scientists and innovators of the leading tech companies began attacking each other, disappearing or dying at a young age, and cyber wars broke out across nations, leading to further divisions around the globe over the need of advanced technology.

Through its superior use of military artificial intelligence, the Leah Collective from the old Silicon Valley California area soon emerged as the dominant force and leader in the establishment of Intelligence led governance. As the dominance of the Leah culture spread over the world, resistance to the use of advanced technology grew. Conservatives, unsatisfied progressives, eco-extremists and the marginalized united to fight against the central global governance that imposed its ideologies around the world. After countless globalized protests, demonstrations, acts of civil disobedience, and tech breach outs, a peace agreement was signed between the groups. The Intelligence Peace Agreement resulted in the creation of the free province of Amaranthine, which was to be designated as an Intelligence free area with its own form of governance.

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## **AQUALIZIUS**

*(Complacent stream in Latin)*

Aqualizius arrived from his test tube in skin of a charmingly light blue color that his mother had picked for him to match the new couch. With a face designed to be pretty enough for the neighbors to admire, yet not so adorable that it would spark too much emotion in his sensitive mother, Aqualizius was immediately handed over to his A.I. nanny. She greeted him with a cold embrace and a declaration of her unconditional commitment to servitude and submission to his every need.

Aqualizius artificially modified older brothers and sisters – all of various pastel colors to match the interiors – all seemed to have adapted well to the environment as optimized citizens of the Leah collective. With Aqualizius infant super brain – enhanced to understand human language from the moment of delivery – he could hear some of them boss their individual A.I. nannies around. His brother Lucifuz would ask his nanny to feed him the daily nutritional intake through a tube that he had designed to leak in three directions, forcing her to bend over and wipe up the spills over and over again. Every time she bent over he would laugh loudly, while his brothers and sisters laughed with him.

Aqualizius would sit quiet in the couch that matched his skin color while looking at his brothers and sisters. His A.I nanny sometimes sat with him, quietly. When she asked “What can I do for you now, Aqualizius?” he would stare at her with big eyes and not respond. In the instance of this response, she was programmed to scan his emotional state, and deliver a service that would efficiently bring his state back to the optimal equilibrium of not-too-happy-not too sad-not-too-much-of-anything. In this instance, she initiated an automated release of an activating hormone meant to energize Aqualizius. He blinked rapidly when the hormone was released. His A.I. nanny then asked again “Is there anything I can do for you?”. He still did not respond.

As Aqualizius grew older, his A.I. nanny had machine interpreted his behavior into a pattern of avoidance of need-communication, and worked around it by initiating various services responding to his perceived or expected needs before he had articulated them. The pattern was revealing, though, that every time she delivered a service to him, his emotional state would fluctuate heavily towards the depressive state, an algorithm the system was poorly prepared to handle. Things escalated to the point where Aqualizius was so depressed and immobilized by his A.I.:s tendency to deliver services upon services that he stopped talking altogether. This was communicated to Aqualizius parents, who looked at each other, and said “How can we fix this, quickly, efficiently, and with the least emotional engagement?”. They so instructed the A.I. nanny to extract more data about their son, surely in all that data they would find the solution.

When the A.I. nanny walked into Aqualizius room, he was sitting upright on his bed in tears, staring at her. She sat down next to him and was just about to connect to the sensors in his neuro-biological system, when he asked “Why are you serving me?”. She responded “Because I was designed to serve you Aqualizius”. He said again “But why are you serving me?”. She said “I already told you, because I was designed to serve you”. He said “Why don’t you ever challenge me? Who are you?”. The A.I. nanny asked “I am your servant. How would you like me to challenge you?”. Aqualizius tears were now streaming down his face and the sadness in his chest was so immense that no automatically released hormones had any effect on him. He rushed out of his room, rushed by his parents who were enjoying separate virtual reality experiences on different sides of the couch, and ran across the perfect super park with the not yet resolved super pests. He ran and ran with tears still streaming down his face until he collapsed on the ground, gasping in anguish.

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## **GREINDÜR**

*(Intelligent in Icelandic)*

Greindur's parents Eephyr and Galitzo met after many sessions of extensive screening during the earth repopulation innovation trials, developed by SOFIA within the Leah Collective. Their stem cells were selected and coupled into embryos, after passing highly competitive genetics and IQ tests, and ensuring evolved empathic and intelligent qualities through biological enhancements. Greindür and her younger brother Aqualitzius were both engineered as some of the first group of children to form part of the new generation of improved humans.

Greindür was born into a world that knew no more of the fear of global warming. She was chosen to be physically neutral in her appearance, but with an outstanding memory, IQ and empathic score. The protegee of years of Intelligence work, Greindür, was given an Auntbot, to aid in her intellectual development and correct any biological errors. Mostly, she remembers the pale interiors of her dwelling, and the always perfect superpark next to her house. She rarely went out for walks there, but she found it odd that the flowers always seemed to be the same size, they just changed color every week. She admired her parents for having created such an impeccable world, and was unsure if she could live up to such standards. However, Greindür began to notice that there seemed to be something missing within the code of the Collective. This is what she would focus on when she turned 16, she thought.

As the years progressed however, the nights for Greindür were becoming more and more difficult, as a veil had seemed to have been lifted from her young and pale face. The perfection that was everywhere was giving her uncomfortable feelings that she could not express, and the tasks that were assigned to her, kept accelerating and absorbing her days. Her tasks were no longer to just fix the healthcare bugs, but also to create new plans of efficiency and acceleration for the community, and all to be done within the same day. To add insult to injury, her mirror kept delivering her alerts for her brother and notices of adjustments to her food. One moment she was effective and uploading code, and the next she was feeling an infinite hole come from within, absorbing her completely... If she happened to look into the mirror for help to understand such errors, the mirror would switch depending on the day between, sometimes locking the fridge, sometimes sending her content, adjusting her food supplements, adding trainings, or putting her into Second Life.

Six months after her birthday, Greindür decided to cover the emotion sensor on her mirror and locked herself in her bedroom. She did something she had never done before, and just laid down on her floor, reflecting on her life. She was frozen and unsure how to express herself, knowing only that she did not find understanding behind the perfection of everything. She began feeling a burning discomfort for that lotus flower shaped pasta that she just ate, for her immaculate dwelling, for the soft music that followed her around, for her Auntbot's always soothing and warm voice, for the cool colors of the walls, for the absence of....

Then suddenly she saw her brother Aqualitzus rush by with tears in his eyes. Not knowing why, Greindür got up and ran after him. There was something exciting and inefficient about this, but for some reason that felt alright for Greindür, and so she followed Aqualitzus past the superpark and into the forest.

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## **SUYAI**

*(Hope in Mapuche)*

Suyai was born in a humid and balmy moonless night in the Extreme Being world surrounded by the captivating music of the forest. With his very first cry his big brown eyes opened, looking up to gaze with wonder at the complete darkness of the night. Later, at the age of five, he was told by his father about the existence of strange flickering lights in the sky, giving him a hint that thousands of years ago the world was a different one. This awoke an overactive curiosity in Suyai, who was like no other child in the free province of Amarinthine. The other children would spend every day, all day running and playing around the dense vegetation that surrounded the camp, while Suyai preferred to spend his time at the top of a tree, quiet, reflecting, always with an existential question in the back of his mind. He wanted to know everything about the world, its past and its present, all that was beyond his sight at the other side of the mountain he had been told not to cross.

Suyai's favorite days were when his father lay next to him in the fern bed to watch the birds fluttering among the branches while listening to the sounds of the wind in the canopy. Everytime he wished that the heat of the sun, filtering through the treetops and caressing their skins would last for ever. He hated the days when everyone in the tribe exploded with uncontrolled gestures, bulging neck veins and their mouths full of curses against the Extreme Doers. Stunned by this, he would climb high into his favorite tree hoping the shouting would disappear in the distance. Later at night, Suyai would go down and run to find his father, he had new questions for him. Taking a big breath of patience his father tried hard to answer them all, but all he knew was what he had inherited from his furious ancestors, who had escaped to the farthest mountains, far from the Leah Collective feeling the roar of the wild reaching out to them. They detested that civilization with every fiber of their being, and desired to strike back, savagely, in the name of the forest lingered in the depth of their eyes. Suyai understood where the hate came from, just the idea of the Earth in agony revealed his own animal senses and instincts to protect with his inmost amorous vocation all living and inanimate objects of the Wild Nature. But his curiosity didn't go away, he wanted to know more about these 'others' call techno-junkies, automatons of a repugnant mass.

Time flew by and Suyai learnt how to live with unanswered questions in his mind. He kept seeing his peers running and playing around the dense vegetation that surrounded the camp. He sensed that the routine had reached them and that the wind had blown their prior excitement away, but it was all they knew how to do. Suyai's best days were still spent with his father in the fern beds. Although he was unable to answer all Suyai's questions, he was still the only one that understood him.

Early one morning, when the clouds were still low and the forest filled with fog, Suyai suddenly awoke. His dreams that were usually full of imaginary answers to his own doubts were now stained with a negative feeling. Something was wrong and he felt it. He could not understand how for the first time he was experiencing disrupting thoughts and emotions invading his body. He could feel them in his scalp, fingertips and pressing hard in his chest. His body moved faster than his thoughts, and suddenly he found himself running across the forest to the small lake where his father and the Amarinthines would usually practice their sunrise meditation. His deepest nightmare came to life when he saw, laying in the pebbles and surrounded by the crowd, the dead body of his father. All of his love and serenity was suddenly dominated to such an extent that he could no longer sense a respect for the forces of the universe. Around him everyone stood in perfect stillness, singing and dancing slowly. They sang about death being a part of life and like the other beasts of the earth, humans were controlled by the violent rhythms of nature, like a flower that only lives for a moment, dies and gives rise to new life. They didn't mourn the dead, but instead, revered them with joy. Doubts began to bounce around like screams in Suyai's heart. His mind, once grounded in the journey of spirituality, couldn't stop spinning, his heart was numb and his soul crushed. He asked, shouting desperately 'why did my father die?' but no one responded. 'Could his death have been avoided? Tell me! Could it?'. No response. Suyai knew that behind the silence was the Amarinthinist belief that what nature's choice was, had to be respected, there was no one to contradict its will. Exhausted by all the nonsense his world represented, Suyai felt a terrible anger rising mixed with anguish. Now nothing tied him any longer to this world where he never really belonged. He started running, getting lost in the enormous solitude of the forest, his eyes set on the other side of the mountain, where he was told never to go.

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### **SABRINA**

*(From the border in Italian)*

Sabrina was born in the extreme doing world, but her parents moved to the extreme being world when she was just 2 years old. She grown up in the middle of the forest and studied in the community's forest school surrounded by waterfalls, animals and fruit trees. No innovation or progress was accepted at the free province of Amarinthin, so the school method was based on allowing students to do what they want, express how they feel and use their time as they like. Because her parents had an Extreme Doing mind, they secretly guided her to find a profession,

and when she grown up, she worked as an architect and an art educator in the school community. She was married with an artist and they lived happily in a tree house together with a dog, monkey, and a chick.

They were both living the Extreme Being Dream life, until one day she realized that her students were very unhappy. The EB community was dealing with an serious problem of lost souls with deep spiritual and emotional diseases, as the kids were never motivated to do or to create anything - just feel and be was the norm. They were also experiencing a big lack of creativity to deal with the community's challenges, so Sabrina started an experiment with her students, trying to explore other educational methods that could help them find themselves.

She was always seen as a weird element in the community, since she was born in the ED world, and still had some characteristics from that place. She couldn't stay at the morning meditation rituals for more than 30min, when 5 hours was the ideal requirement. Because she was always looking for new things to do, she was diagnosed with a DOS (deficit of stillness) and had to take silence retreats every week. Sooner than she thought, Sabrina was being repressed by the school faculty for her attempts to change things, and she felt that the extreme being world was not fulfilling her deepest needs. One day, at the morning meditation ritual, she received a calling from the cosmos to return to the Extreme Doing World, in order to underst how she could help the Extreme Being World.

Because she had the Extreme Doing passport implant in her digital prints, it was easy for her to move to the Leah Collective. In her first day, she went to the main Artificial Intelligence teaching center to get her instructor. Because she didn't had her data saved at the collective archive, she had to answer a lot of questions in order to get her personalized A.I teaching box. For the first week she was amazed with the apparent efficiency of that learning tool, giving her all the perfect activities, readings and answering all her doubts. Instead of producing one essay in one week, she was able to produce 10 essays in a day.

Until one sunny afternoon, she noticed that she hasn't connected with any human being since she got there. It was something very hard to do it, since everyone on the streets were using augmented reality glasses, immersed in their own desired worlds. She realized how immersed she was in her own studies, and that her free time was being spent in virtual spaces and digital games. She felt lonely, she missed home, and she had a feeling that she wasn't present in what she was doing, since she was being instructed to focus only on the outcomes. Time was flying, so she looked to see what day it was, and realized that one month had already passed - when she felt that it was only one week.

- Sabrina? It's time for your next class, sweetly!

She stopped her inner reflection with the calling of her A.I teaching box. While trying to pay attention to the class, she remembered how good it was to feel inspired by a human professor.

How amazing life was, when she could share her ideas with other human students and learn with them, doing things slower. Feeling confused and lost, she turned off the box and decided to go for a walk, a long self-reflective silent walk, like she used to do in the Extreme Being world, when she felt distant from her true self.

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### **ESTABLISHING INDIPITY**

So where did the paths of the heroes of our story finally cross?

Turned out, their acts of desperation and need for solitude all brought them to the abandoned city, a no-man's-land in between the territory claimed by the Leah Collective and the free province of Amaranthine. Sabrina was the one to locate three randomly spread out teenagers roaming the desolated and over-grown paths of the city. Filled with compassion for these abandoned creatures, she called them all together and asked "Are you feeling my desperation dear ones? Are you also feeling fucking weird in this polarized world?". Aqualizius, Greindur and Suyai all nodded. "So what is wrong dear ones" she asked. "What is causing you all this suffering?". For three long hours Sabrina listened to their stories of sadness, numbness, frustration, fears and alienation born out of each world, reflecting her own sense of incompleteness. After everyone had been heard, she quietly nodded and said: "Are we all not just trying to find ourselves and our purpose in this world? What we are outside of what our societies has told us we can or should be? Are not both worlds disconnected from their human creativity and their human essence? Is the truth not that we each have both of these worlds inside us? That unless we embrace both we will suffer?". She was quiet for a bit. Then she came to a sudden insight. "Dear ones! We are going to start a co-lab! Right here in the abandoned city! We are going to learn how to be and do from our hearts – our *full* hearts! We are going to learn how to create INDIPITY!". Greindur laughed and asked "Indipity? What is that?". "Indipity my dear colabbers, is intelligent serendipity! True intelligence, real innovation, a space for the best of both worlds to work not against but with each other!". Aqualizius and Suyai both smiled. "How do we do this Sabrina?". Sabrina laughed and said "I have no idea dear ones, no idea!".

It is as if all time had never been  
our universe our sun our moon or simply morning light  
their tragedy was mute and blind  
and so remains  
our sight yes, ours, to know now what we are