

Endymion Study Guide

Endymion by Dan Simmons

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Plot Summary

Endymion by Dan Simmons is a science fiction story of destiny and heroes. Aenea, the daughter of a cybrid and famous Hyperion pilgrim, travels 250 years into the future, to the year 3099 A.D., beginning her journey to become The One Who Teaches. She travels with a Raul Endymion and an android Bettik to find Old Earth, which is a planet everyone else believes has been destroyed.

At the age of twelve, Aenea enters the Sphinx in the Valley of the Time Tombs on the planet Hyperion. Pax soldiers, the Vatican's army, are waiting for her to emerge. Captain Federico de Soya has been given the Vatican's highest authority, a papal diskey, and is charged with the task of bringing Aenea to the Vatican headquarters in Pacem. At the request of Aenea's uncle, Martin Silenus, Raul Endymion, rescues the child. Raul takes Aenea to an old personal spaceship that no one knows exists, and with the android A. Bettik, they travel to the Parvati System.

In the Parvati System, Aenea threatens to kill herself and her crew. Captain de Soya lets her go. She escapes on a course to Renaissance Vector. The Pax ship Captain de Soya commands can travel faster than any other ship in existence, but the flights are fatal. These deadly trips are no problem for de Soya and his crew.

The Church has discovered and refined the use of a cruciform symbiote to resurrect the dead. Those who have accepted the cruciform are called born-again Christians and are offered near immortality. The cruciform offers nearly unlimited resurrections, but it has limits. DNA from the dead body and at least a portion of the cruciform must be recovered to perform the resurrection. The mechanics of the resurrections are one of the churches most closely guarded secrets.

De Soya arrives at Renaissance Vector long before Aenea's ship can make the journey. This time she convinces the Pax captain to allow her to land her ship on the planet's surface. He agrees, and she takes her ship through the farcaster portal on the River Tethys. This portal has not worked for centuries, and will not work for anyone else. The ship is damaged after the first transition, and must be abandoned. Aenea, Raul, and Bettik continue their journey down the river in a makeshift raft.

De Soya is faced with another failure. The River Tethys is a collection of rivers on over 200 worlds connected by farcaster portals. De Soya must travel randomly to these worlds looking for clues to the girl's destination. Even Aenea does not know her destination. The portals are activated by an unknown entity.

The trio travels to the water planet Mare Infinitus, the abandoned Jewish planet Hebron, the frozen world of Sol Draconi System, the Muslim planet Qom Riyadh, and finally reaches the climax on God's Grove. Rhadamanth Nemes, a product of the evil Core, is waiting on God's Grove to murder Aenea. Captain de Soya was never on a murder mission and destroys Nemes before she can carry out her plan.

When Aenea, Raul and Bettik transition through the final portal, they find themselves on Old Earth.



Chapters 1-3

Chapters 1-3 Summary

Endymion by Dan Simmons is a fantasy novel set in the year 3099 A.D. Earth has fallen into a black hole and the humans who were able to escape have colonized hundreds of planets in distant solar systems. The Catholic Church has created an army known as the Pax, and has converted or destroyed these colonies. The Pax has great power and is the ruling government connecting the worlds. Great power becomes an insatiable desire for more power, and the willingness to do anything necessary to preserve that power. Aenea is a threat to the church, the Pax, and the key to discovering the Core.

In Chapter 1, an unnamed narrator speculates about why the reader has selected this book, assumes all the reasons are wrong and offers his reason for writing. He has made love to the messiah, and heard the message of the One Who Teaches, but he writes simply to make sense of the chaos. He is writing from a Schrodinger cat box in orbit around the quarantined world of Armaghast. The cat box is a prison death chamber that at any moment will release cyanide gas through the air-filtration unit and kill him. The gas is triggered by a random timer, so he does not know when his death will occur.

Chapter 2 introduces the narrator as Raul Endymion. He was born on Hyperion 3099 A.D, the year 693 A.D.C. on the Hyperion calendar, or era of the Pax time 247 years after the Fall. He is a peasant on Hyperion, said by historians of the One Who Teaches to have been a shepherd because it "has a nice biblical ring to it" (pg. 6.) He has also worked for the Home Guard and as a blackjack dealer. During his 27th year, when the story begins, he is working as a hunting guide.

Rolman, Herrig, Rushomin, and Poneascu have hired Raul as a guide. Raul takes them to Toshahi Bay to hunt ducks. Raul embarrasses Herrig by taking a cigar from his mouth, and the already ill-tempered Herrig is infuriated. Raul notices a gold Pax double cross around Herrig's neck, and a red welt of a cruciform on his chest that signals the fact that Herrig is a born-again Christian.

During the hunt, Herrig kills Raul's hunting dog Izzy because of their previous scuffle. Raul, covered in Izzy's blood, hits Herrig repeatedly and holds him under the water. Raul releases Herrig before he drowns, and the men return to the cabin. Back at the cabin, Herrig gets drunk and fires a gun at Raul. Raul tackles the man. In the struggle, Herrig shoots himself in the face. At the trial, six days later, all four hunters testify that Raul had assaulted Herrig. Herrig is the last to testify, fresh from his resurrection. Raul is sentenced to death, to be carried out the next day.

A priest visits Raul the day of his trial in Chapter 3. The priest urges Raul to accept Our Lord, and receive the cruciform. The cruciform will allow Raul to be resurrected three days after his execution. Raul refuses. The next day Raul is lead to his execution. He is



executed by death wand when the random number generator displays a prime number less than seventeen.

Chapters 1-3 Analysis

Chapter 1 introduces the main character, Raul Endymion. It is through Raul's eyes that the story is told and chapter 1 is an opportunity for Raul to introduce the journey. These first pages are filled with foreshadowing, drawing the reader into the story with questions that beg to be answered. Raul is in the future, looking back on the adventure, and offers small glimpses of the story to come. He has made love to the messiah, has received more than one death sentence, spread the message of the One Who Teaches, and now finds himself in an inescapable death chamber.

Chapter 2 introduces two of the main themes of the novel, good versus evil and the question of the validity or irrelevance of religion. The fight with the sleazy Herrig demonstrates that religion alone does not make a person good. These men, born-again Christians, lie and mercilessly put an innocent man to death. The prosecutor, defense attorney and judge, all Pax officials, refuse to give Raul a change to tell his version of events. The testimony of the hunters is accepted because they are Christians and Raul is not. The trial was over before it began showing the ultimate power and control of the Pax and this false religion. This chapter also introduces the cruciform as a red welt on Herrig's chest. At the conclusion of the chapter, Herrig's resurrection is a surprise. The cruciform mirrors traditional Christian teaching and symbolism as it becomes a cross shaped welt on the chest and the resurrections occur after three days.

Chapter 3 explains in a little more detail that the cruciform is what allows humans be resurrected from physical death, and it is revealed to be a symbiote. This symbiote is implanted in the chest, near the heart, where Jesus lives in the body of a Christian. Raul's objection to the church is made clear in this chapter when he refuses immortality even when faced with impending death. He claims that the church enslaves people, and he is not going into slavery willingly. Raul's death sentence is the death of the peasant Raul, and the rebirth of the hero Raul.



Chapters 4-8

Chapters 4-8 Summary

Raul wakes in Chapter 4, surprised to discover that he did not die. He finds himself in Endymion, the city from which his family had taken their name. An old poet, author of the famous Cantos poem, Martin Silenus, with the help of presumably the last android in existence, A. Bettik, have helped Raul escape execution.

Poulen treatments have kept Silenus alive over 300 years. He has used bribes and schemed to fake the execution to get Raul out of the hands of the Pax government because he has a job for Raul to do. Silenus is the uncle of the messiah, Aenea. Aenea disappeared in the Valley of the Time Tombs, in the Sphinx, 250 years ago, just days after her mother died. She will step out of the Sphinx in 42 hours, and Silenus needs Raul to retrieve her. She must be protected from the 30,000 Pax troops waiting outside the Sphinx and taken offplanet to safety. Raul has only a few hours to decide if he will save the girl, or leave Endymion to live in isolation as a fugitive.

In Chapter 5, Father Captain Federico de Soya is interrupted during his mission to destroy the orbital forests that the Ousters use for refueling. The Ousters are a constant threat and enemy of the Pax. A Vatican courier ship, Archangel Class, has come with a message. An Archangel ship can travel anywhere in known space within days, but the voyages are fatal. The ship carries a message that the occupants are to be resurrected immediately, instead of waiting the customary three days. Immediate resurrection is dangerous, and not always successful.

Back in Endymion in Chapter 6, Raul finds an unusual and abandoned tower. Inside the tower he finds a private spaceship that looks like the oldest Old Earth rockets. The spaceship has artificial intelligence, which was outlawed by the Pax and the Church two centuries ago. The ship says he once belonged to the Consul, a famous pilgrim from the Cantos poem, but his memories are cloudy because of some unknown trauma that occurred around the same time that the Consul died.

Back with Father Captain de Soya in deep space, only one of the two passengers of the Archangel ship is successfully resurrected in Chapter 7, Father Vandrisse. Father Vandrisse, still shaky and in pain from his resurrection, tells De Soya that he is to get into the Archangel ship immediately on order of Pope Julius XIV. The ship is programmed with the destination.

In Endymion, A. Bettik has lived the life of a service android, but says that he is now free and independent. In Chapter 8, Bettik requests that Raul take him along when he leaves to save Aenea. During dinner, Raul tells Silenus that he views the cruciform as a parasite. The cruciform is described as a symbiote creature. A population known as the Bikura used the cruciform, but experienced side effects of brain damage and the disappearance of sexual organs and impulses after repeated resurrections. Only the



church knows the secret of successful resurrection. In exchange for the cruciform, and near eternal life, the church demands a tithing of every tenth year of service.

Silenus reveals that Old Earth was not swallowed by the black hole, as centuries of people have believed. It was moved by the artificial intelligence of the TechnoCore, and Silenus wants Raul to take Aenea, find Earth, and bring it back. He also requests that Raul find out what the TechnoCore is up to, destroy the Pax, and topple the Church.

Chapters 4-8 Analysis

Chapter 4 introduces the Time Tombs and propels the story. Raul is symbolically awakened in a new life, and the Time Tombs will take him to his new destiny. This chapter also introduces the character A. Bettik. The A. is an honorarium reserved for androids, in contrast to the honorarium M. given to humans. The android was biomanufactured with blue skin to further separate him from the humans he was created to serve. The android race is used as purchased property as service creatures and thought to have no soul.

Martin Silenus is the poet who crafted the famous Cantos. This Cantos poem, in part, reflects the poetry of John Keats, and carries the story of the pilgrims who came to Hyperion hundreds of years earlier. The cybrid of the same name is the father of Aenea. The Cantos is a recurring element in the novel, offering hints and glimpses of the mystery being uncovered. This chapter also introduces the River Tethys, foreshadowing its importance in helping Raul and Aenea to escape the oppression of the power of the church.

Chapters 5 and 6 demonstrate the difference between the genderless, non-intelligent ship required by the Pax, and the artificial intelligence of the private ship used by Aenea. The church fears artificial intelligence, symbolizing its fear of knowledge in general, so it has banned the development and use of artificial intelligent in every way. The computers of the church are robotic tools, but Aenea's ship offers friendly advice and support.

Chapter 7 shows the indifference the church feels for human life, pain, and suffering. Rushed resurrections are often unsuccessful. An unsuccessful resurrection attempt leads to months of painful treatment to correct. Still the church orders carriers to be resurrected immediately so de Soya can be summoned, all in an effort to preserve their power.

Chapter 8 foreshadows the importance of Old Earth. The old man Silenus wants to see Earth before he dies.



Chapters 9-12

Chapters 9-12 Summary

Chapter 9 begins with the first resurrection of Father Captain de Soya in Pacem, home of the Vatican. He is overcome by emotion that he is told is an after-effect of resurrection. De Soya has been summoned by the Pope to meet with Cardinal Lourdasamy and Fleet Admiral William Lee Marusyn.

Cardinal Lourdasamy tells de Soya the story of the Hyperion pilgrim Brawne Lamia and the cybrid John Keats. The cybrid was killed, but his persona lived, and communicated with his unborn daughter, Aenea. De Soya receives a papal diskey giving him authority over all local Pax authorities, and told that his mission is to return Aenea to Pacem alive. His mission supersedes all other orders because the child is a danger to the church.

The Shrike is introduced during history of the cruciform. The Shrike, a creation of the evil Core, gives the cruciform to the antipope. When the antipope dies, the current Pope learns, through revelation from God, how to properly use the cruciform. The Pope then creates the Sacrament of Resurrection, and offers it to his followers. De Soya returns to his ship Raphael the same day on his way to Hyperion.

Back in the city of Endymion in Chapter 10, A. Bettik and a hologram image of Silenus give Raul a tour of the spaceship. The ship once belonged to the Consul, another pilgrim from the Cantos poem. The Consul joined the Ousters and was killed. The ship returned to Hyperion, but does not fully remember what happened to the Consul.

After the tour, the holo Silenus, the artificially intelligent ship, A. Bettik, and Raul discuss a plan to get Aenea away from the Pax soldiers. Raul will fly the hawking mat.

In Chapter 11, de Soya is also preparing for Aenea's arrival. The Pax plan to sedate her moments after she exists the Sphinx, implant a cruciform so she can be resurrected, and fly her in the Raphael to Pacem. The Pax are ready with hundreds of ships in orbit and thousands of ground troops.

Raul is to leave at 3:00 A.M. in Chapter 12. He cannot sleep. The hawking mat has been programmed to fly a labyrinth of tunnels to reach the Valley of the Time Tombs, programmed 200 years ago by Silenus. He leaves Endymion and enters the Labyrinth of Hyperion.

Chapters 9-12 Analysis

Chapter 9 offers a touching look into the heart of Father Captain de Soya. He is overcome by emotion and the splendid wonder of the world after his resurrection. He stands in stark contrast to the other Christians surrounding the Pope at the Vatican in Pacem. The officers he meets with seem genuine, but there is a sense of foreboding,



and the reader knows that they are not being truthful. The Pope himself stands in the shadows, out of sight, during the meeting, a symbol of his true nature and intent.

The mention of the Shrike introduces this creature and foreshadows his later involvement in Aenea's escape. The Shrike, a creature covered in razors and knives, is called "a representation of Satan if ever there was one" (pg. 74.)

Chapter 10 furthers the character of Silenus. This chapter is his last, and he is a foul-mouthed, grumpy old man, but he is also gentle and concerned for Aenea. He has kept himself alive for hundreds of years to help Aenea fulfill her destiny to become the One Who Teaches.

This chapter also shows the ship in more detail. This ship is artificially intelligent, evil in the eyes of the church. But the ship demonstrates a kind of love and is protective of its passengers. He remembers the Consul but regrets that his memory banks are fuzzy about the details of the Consul's death.

Chapter 11 shows de Soya deferring command. Obtaining the girl is his ultimate goal, so he does not care if the soldiers believe him to be a mere church liaison instead of the man in charge. He is not prideful, but secure in himself. He does not need everyone to know and marvel at his papal diskey authority.

Chapter 12 shows Raul's fear. He did not ask to be a hero. He was plucked from death and this mission forced on him. But he also does not want to leave. He is excited, and feels alive. This mission will lead him to his true destiny, which is a destiny that he does not understand.



Chapters 13-16

Chapters 13-16 Summary

Chapter 13 begins with 15 minutes until Aenea steps out of the Sphinx. De Soya has asked Sergeant Gregorius and his men to stay with him at the Sphinx. Captain de Soya's primary concern is for the child's safety, so he announces that any harm that comes to her will result in a court-martial and execution. De Soya is not the usual commander, and places himself at the mouth of the Sphinx to greet Aenea instead of high in a spaceship watching from a safe distance. The chapter ends with Aenea stepping from the Sphinx, de Soya says her name. Then a second large and dark figure emerges and starts screaming.

Chapter 14 begins with a quick peak at Raul flying through the labyrinth, but then switches back to de Soya on the battlefield. The medic waiting to sedate Aenea loses an arm. Blood and body parts are everywhere. De Soya steps toward Aenea and encounters a "huge, metallic statue made of barbs and razor wire" (114), the Shrike. De Soya is wearing impenetrable combat armor, but nearly loses a leg. Aenea whispers to de Soya that he will be alright, and de Soya gets a glimpse of how special she is. He is filled with joy, and weeps on the battlefield. Screams come from everywhere. The creature seems to disappear and reappear.

Raul leaves the labyrinth to find a dust storm and the carnage that was the Pax fleet. This is the distraction Silenus promised, but he does not know how he will find a child in the chaos.

De Soya is carried by Swiss Guard officer Gregorius to safety, and de Soya learns that even the captains and soldiers on the torchships and fighters in orbit have been killed. De Soya then loses consciousness and misses the rest of the battle.

In Chapter 15, Raul finds Aenea fighting the Shrike. She is urging him to stop, weeping. She recognizes the hawking mat and allows Raul to help her aboard. Raul had arranged to meet A. Bettik and the ship in a place called Chronos Keep. He keeps looking for the Swiss Guard who should be in pursuit, but when he looks around, all that he sees are dead bodies. He joins the ship as planned, and they ascend into space, Raul's first interstellar travel.

In Chapter 16, de Soya wakes on the ship St. Thomas Akira waiting for surgery to repair his wounded leg. De Soya refuses treatment and demands to speak with the captain of the ship. The captain tells de Soya that thousands of casualties have been reported, all being tagged for resurrection. Their destination is Renaissance Vector, a Pax controlled planet nearby. When de Soya inquires about the battle, the captain of St. Thomas Akira tells him that there were thousands of "things" all attacking at once and the battle "only lasted five minutes" (pg. 131.) Gregorius corrects him, saying there was only one, the



Shrike. De Soya refuses treatment and orders Gregarious and his men to meet him on the Raphael.

Chapters 13-16 Analysis

Chapter 13 shows de Soya once again as the powerful captain with a soft side. He is sincere in his concern for Aenea's safety, and his greatest fear when the Sphinx opens is that he will be harmed. When the doors open, his thoughts are of how he wishes he would have a chance to speak with her. He is a good man caught up in the conspiracy of the church. He is on the wrong side of the battle of good versus evil, but he is unaware.

Chapter 14 is the foreshadowed event. Silenus has hinted at a distraction that will allow Raul to acquire Aenea and escape, but has not been specific. The Shrike has been mentioned as a formidable opponent, and this is the first time the reader has a glimpse of the creature. The Shrike is not a disappointment, but his appearance is largely unexplained. He just appears, and provides the means for escape. Largely, the Shrike appears to be a *deus ex machina* device.

Chapter 15 shows Aenea's concern and love for humanity. She detests the Shrike and what it is doing to the soldiers who are waiting to take her. She weeps, and does not think of escaping. Her mission, her goal depends on her fleeing the Pax, but she is busy screaming for the Shrike to leave these soldiers alone.

Chapter 16 is about de Soya's determination and dedication to his church and his mission. He is in pain, but is not concerned about himself. He knows the casualties will be resurrected and cared for in Renaissance Vector, and that his own death and resurrection aboard the Raphael will cure his injured leg. His only concern, his focus as he slips unconscious again, is getting to his ship to pursue his mission of returning the girl to Pacem.



Chapters 17-20

Chapters 17-20 Summary

In Chapter 17, Aenea comments that Raul's name is Endymion like the poem her father wrote. He has never heard of the poem. She says, "How fitting for Uncle Martin to choose a hero with such a name" (pg. 135.) Her father is the cloned cybrid of the poet John Keats, so he wrote the 20th century poem "Endymion." Raul explains to Aenea that the Pax is the military agent of the church and the controlling governing body. She explains that her dreams had gotten that right too, but does not elaborate.

Raul was to take Aenea to the Ousters, but she says she has changed her mind. She wants to travel to a Web world because the nearest Web world would have farcasters. That world is Renaissance Vector, a heavily populated Pax world. She sets the destination for Renaissance Vector by way of the Parvati System because she does not want the Pax to know her true destination. The trip is six days shiptime. She does not know the Pax is capable of the speeds of the Raphael.

Chapter 18 de Soya wakes in a resurrection crèche aboard Raphael in the Parvati System. He and his crew have two months, three weeks, and two days before Aenea's ship will arrive. De Soya decides to use the time to prepare and plan for Aenea's capture.

In Chapter 19, Aenea, A. Bettik, and Raul settle in their new home, and try to enjoy the short trip. Raul discovers that the ship has been modified by the Ousters to be able to make small changes to its shape. The ship extends a balcony and the trio appears to walk out into space.

Aenea reveals that she believes the Pax will be waiting for them when they arrive in the Parvati System, but she does not know how. Raul explains the cruciform to her, and attempts to fill her in on the 250 years of history she missed. They discuss ideas to escape the Pax once again.

Chapter 20 introduces de Soya's crew of Sergeant Gregorius, Corporal Bassin Kee, and Lancer Ahranwhal Gaspa K.T Rettig, all members of the elite fighting force the Swiss Guard. They are the most advanced, best trained soldiers the Pax has available. They devise a plan to blast a hole in the girl's ship while in the air to capture her and continue to make plans discussing every possible scenario.

Chapters 17-20 Analysis

Chapter 17 discusses the use of the John Keats cybrid. Poetry is littered throughout the novel because of the influence of this character. The larger, abstract ideas of power, love, destiny, and God are discussed through poetry. Main details of the novel are revealed through the Cantos poem that is offered only in bits and pieces at a time. The



Cantos is a reoccurring poem, the details of which illuminate the history and mysteries of the novel.

Chapter 18 highlights the time shifts that exist in the novel. The element of time is difficult throughout *Endymion*. Shiptime is the time that the occupants of the ship feel, the real-time of the action taking place. However, each space voyage has a time-debt that is paid by the people off the ship. Each world has its own time of hours, days, and years based on the rotation of its sun. This rotation continues as space ships fly, but the time experienced by the individuals in each location is vastly different. The *Raphael* is capable of speeds faster than any other ship, so the ship time is hours or days when another ship takes weeks or months. When the *Raphael* reaches their destination, time for its crew slows to match the time experienced by the people of the world where they land or rest in orbit. The time on this world compared to the time of the moving ship still in route is called time-debt. This element of time is what allows de Soya and his crew three months to prepare for Aenea's arrival while Aenea and her crew experience only six days of travel.

Chapter 19 is a recap and information chapter. The bulk of the chapter is conversation between Aenea, Raul, A. Bettik, and the ship that offer details that are necessary for the reader. She speaks of her dreams of the future. She knows nothing of the *Raphael* ship and its capabilities, yet she knows they will be waiting for them.

Chapter 20 discusses that fact Parvati is a planet of "Reformed Hindus" (pg. 154.) The Parvati system is not part of the Pax, but those on the planet who have converted to Christianity desire to join the Pax. Religion is a constant discussion. Christian worlds are friends of the Pax and allies in the fight to obtain Aenea, but other religions are the enemy and cannot be counted on for support. The us versus them mentality is understated with regard to religion, but it is there under the surface every time the characters asks if the world is Christian.



Chapters 21-24

Chapters 21-24 Summary

In Chapter 21, Raul and the others are filling their week on the ship with exploration and conversation. They find a guide to the River Tethys on the bookshelves and page through it. They discuss the Cantos, and theories of what might have happened to Old Earth. History says that Old Earth was swallowed by a black hole, but Silenus suggested in the Cantos that it was moved by the Cove to the Hercules Cluster or the Magellanic Clouds. Aenea reveals that her mother is the one who discovered that the Earth was moved. She discusses her father in more detail for the first time, and speaks of conversations with him before she was born. "He showed me... well, it's complication, Raul," she says (pg. 162.) They settle into a comfortable routine and fill the time reading and playing games. At the end of the chapter, Raul finds Aenea sobbing in her bed. She misses her mother, she is homesick, and she is afraid.

Chapter 22 takes the reader back to Captain de Soya aboard the Raphael. The crew is descending on a ship that has just entered their space. The crew, in spacesuits, leaves the Raphael to attach themselves to the other ship while the Raphael holds the ship in a containment-field. They blow a hole in the hull of the ship and slip inside. They use an inflatable polymer bag attached to the outside of the ship to hold the atmosphere of the ship inside. Gregorius kills a silhouetted man carrying a book, and then kills, or stuns unconscious the Shrike. Rettig finds Aenea hiding. The mission has taken two minutes and fifteen seconds. When they have secured her, Gregorius taps the controls on his suit, and the three crew members are connected by a cable in a tactical simulation. They congratulate themselves on a successful simulation, but Gregorius is upset with himself for killing the man with the book. He knows he made a mistake. They discuss other completed tactical simulations, and plan their next one.

Chapter 23 returns to Raul and Aenea as they are also making plans for the encounter. They have less than an hour before they reach Parvati System. Aenea tells Raul that she wants to be an architect. She has dreamed of a beautiful house and a great architect who will become her teacher. They discuss plans for the Pax troops that Aenea insists will be waiting for them. A. Bettik and Raul do not understand how the Pax could bet them there, but they do not doubt Aenea's dreams. Aenea asks the ship if it is capable of opening the air lock on one deck at a time. The ship says yes, but says that would be fatal to the crew. It would not allow that to happen. Aenea tells her plan to Raul and A. Bettik, but that plan is not offered to the reader.

In Chapter 24, Aenea finally reaches the Parvati System. Gregorius and his men attach themselves to Aenea's ship as planned, but Aenea's opens a communication line to de Soya. She tells him that if he continues, she will open her airlock. This action will kill her and her crew. Gregorius believes that he and his men can get to her before the atmosphere of the ship escapes, and get her into the Raphael alive. De Soya's orders are to return the girl alive. He has one minute to make a decision, and orders his men



back to the Raphael. The trajectory of her ship leaving tells de Soya that she is headed for Renaissance Vector. De Soya sets a course and the men prepare for another fatal voyage.

Chapters 21-24 Analysis

In Chapter 21, Aenea speaks of the fact that she spoke with her father while in the womb, which has been alluded to as a possibility in previous chapters. The further discussion of the possibility that Old Earth still exists is further foreshadowing that Old Earth will be an important element of this journey. This chapter also reinforces the fact that Aenea is a child. They play hide-and-seek, tag, and experiment with different internal field g-levels. The scene where Raul finds Aenea weeping again emphasizes the fact that she is just a child. Her mother's death was just two weeks ago for her, and she is grieving just like any other child. But she is not any other child. She must survive a treacherous journey and become the One Who Teaches, she must become the messiah.

The remorse Gregorius feels after killing an innocent man in the simulation in Chapter 22 demonstrates his goodness. He is a mirror character of de Soya, a soldier on a mission, an agent of the evil Pax and church, but not an evil individual. He is on the wrong side, but believes he is on the side of good. He is a faithful warrior, and does not question his superiors. When essentially good characters are on unknowingly on the wrong side, they usually have an epiphany at some point in the novel when they realize that they have been serving evil. De Soya and Gregorius are essentially good characters as revealed by their actions and emotions when faced with difficult circumstances. This chapter is a taste of the action to come, and a device to fool the reader into believing the story will take a different turn.

Aenea's revelation of the beautiful house in Chapter 23 and her desire to be an architect is foreshadowing of the destination for these characters. Until this chapter, they had no destination. Raul was told by Silenus that Aenea needed to get to the Ousters, but she rerouted the ship to Renaissance Vector, to get to a farcaster portal, with no explanation. Aenea does not want to be a messiah; she wants to be an architect. This desire to have great responsibility and power taken away is a desire felt by true heroes. A truly good hero does not want this weight; no one would want to shoulder the burden for the entire human race. Becoming an architect is a human and personal desire to shed her destiny but it also allows the reader a glimpse into her dreams and hints at the end of this journey.

Chapter 24 reinforces the fact that de Soya's main goal is to keep Aenea alive. He is willing to let her go to chase her again rather than let her die.



Chapters 25-28

Chapters 25-28 Summary

In Chapter 25, Raul laments his lack of action. He is the hero, the protector, and he let the child take charge in the Parvati System. Aenea remember de Soya being at the Sphinx when she emerged, so they now knew that the Pax had a ship capable of unimaginable speed. After the first few days, they settled back into the relaxed routine. Raul busied himself inventorying the ships weapons lockers for gear they might need. There is no plan this time. Aenea simply says that she will tell the Pax the truth. She wants to land the ship.

De Soya has been waiting 142 days in Renaissance Vector in Chapter 26. He recounts the time when he accepted the cross. His family had been Catholic, but refused the cruciform until his sister became sick. She was brought to Renaissance Vector for treatment, and offered the cruciform. The family delayed too long, and she died one hour before she was to receive the cruciform. Renaissance Vector is a difficult place for him, but he is reunited and updated on the status of the troops from Hyperion. De Soya and his crew begin practicing new scenarios and have decided that a suicide threat will not work again.

In Chapter 27, Aenea and de Soya meet again. De Soya plans to board the ship, stunning the passengers unto unconsciousness if necessary. Aenea opens communication again and tells de Soya that she simply wants to land the ship. If he stuns them, she warns, he will also stun the ship. Her ship is organic and if unconscious, the internal fields will fail and the ship will fall to the surface in a fiery mess. De Soya agrees to let her land, but watches carefully. When she does not land as expected, he frantically searches for the reason she has come here. Then he suddenly remembers the farcaster portal, even though he has no reason to believe they will work. The ship is shot down and plunges into the river. Then he orders lasers to melt the portal. He believes he may have just killed the child.

In Chapter 28, they dredge the river bottom for any sign of Aenea's ship. Nothing is found. De Soya is summoned to Pacem to face a Board Review of his actions. After the review, de Soya learns that the child is believed to have escaped through the farcaster, and that he is to continue his mission to apprehend her. He must search hundreds of worlds and endure hundreds of deaths and resurrections, a task he willingly accepts.

Chapters 25-28 Analysis

Chapter 25 illuminates Raul's view of himself as protector. His actions are not demonstrating that view he has of himself and it becomes an ongoing internal conflict for him.



The story of de Soya's sister in chapter 26 further humanizes him. He accepted the cross as a child, and still believes in the salvation and the goodness of the church. A great injustice or vision of evil will be necessary to make him turn from this core belief.

Chapter 27 is another meeting of the foil characters of Aenea and de Soya. De Soya has demonstrated his unwillingness to allow Aenea to die, but in this chapter he breaks from that character. He wants to apprehend her at costs, and has risked her life in that pursuit.

Chapter 28, de Soya learns that the church believes the farcaster portal has worked for Aenea. They offer no evidence or reason why they hold this belief. De Soya does not question their authority or their assumption, but is relieved from his guilt that he might have killed her. This was his first clue that he is on the wrong side. The church has knowledge that they are unwilling to share, knowledge they should not have, and he blindly follows their lead.



Chapters 29-32

Chapters 29-32 Summary

In Chapter 29, Aenea and her band of heroes find themselves in another world, an unknown world. They have been transported by the farcaster portal, but the ship has been damaged by the crash. Aenea is unable to explain why the farcaster allowed them to be transported, but she knows that this is the way she must go. They leave the ship to explore and try to find the next portal. The ship programs a comlog bracelet with his persona and information and Raul puts the bracelet on. While Raul and Aenea are using the hawking mat to explore, A. Bettik calls them on the comlog to tell them that the Shrike is there.

In Chapter 30, Raul flies Aenea around until the Shrike is gone and it is safe to return to the ship. Aenea admits that while she has dreams of the future, all the pieces and visions to not make since to her yet. She does not know why the Shrike is here, or if it is following her. The ship needs a few months to repair, so they decide to leave it there, in hiding. They will make a raft to continue down the river. They load the raft with gear from the ship and travel to the next portal. They enter the portal, leaving a jungle world in daytime to arrive in a world of water with three moons in the night sky.

In Chapter 31, they use the comlog bracelet with the ship persona to determine that they are on the ocean world Mare Infinitus. They have brought the River Tethys guidebook along and read about the planet. This world was home to the Lamp Mouth Leviathan, capable of swallowing ships whole. The next portal should be close but it is not. The portals have floated and drifted from each other during the centuries.

While they drift, searching for the next portal, they see a fishing platform. The farcaster portal is on the other side of the platform. Raul must fly there on the hawking mat to investigate, and possibly create a diversion so they can safely get through the portal. Raul sets explosives on the side of the platform, and continues exploring the area. He is discovered by the Pax guards, and forced to pretend he is with the fishermen inside.

Chapter 32 resumes de Soya's story. He and his crew have explored eight systems, suffered eight deaths, and endured eight resurrections. They have found no sign of Aenea. Their next destination is Mare Infinitus. De Soya almost leaves believing this world has not held the girl, until his guide happens to mention a poacher with a hawking mat. The poacher is shot by the Pax officers, and fell into the water to his death. De Soya goes to the fishing platform and holds the hawking mat in his hands.

Chapters 29-32 Analysis

The return of the Shrike in Chapter 29 foreshadows his later appearance. He is following her, presumably protecting her, but he remains invisible or absent most of the

time. His appearance here shows that he is no irrelevant and that he is available if needed.

Raul's protective instincts and self-defeating tendencies are again shown in chapter 30. He is angry with himself when his first instinct is to rush with Aenea back to the ship when A. Bettik calls to inform of the Shrike's appearance. He is tasked with protecting her, and instead rushes her toward the danger. A. Bettik says that his intention for the call was to tell them to stay out exploring a little longer, and did not meant for them to come rushing. Raul is angry at himself for not thinking of this.

Chapter 31 offers the group a challenge. They are faced with the small problem of the platform, and Raul is given the opportunity to be the protector he believes that he should be.

In Chapter 32, de Soya longs to see Old Earth. His search pattern has taken him close to where Earth once was and he is filled with the desire to go there. This foreshadows a possible ending for the novel and a possible redemption for de Soya.



Chapters 33-36

Chapters 33-36 Summary

Chapter 33 recounts the story of the previous chapter from the point of view of Raul. He is forced to pretend to be a fisherman, and miserably fails in his attempt. The men on the platform believe him to be a poacher and rush to detain him. He knocks a lieutenant off the platform into the dangerous water. When fleeing on the hawking mat, he encounters this man with shark like creatures surrounding him. He cannot leave the man. When he picks him up, the lieutenant attempts to kill Raul, and knocks him off the mat. As the mat flies back to the platform, the guards on the platform shoot him and the lieutenant falls dead into the water. Raul is trapped in the deadly water with no way back to the raft.

Raul defends himself from swarming, shimmering shark-like creatures in Chapter 34. He swims, floats, and kicks at the creatures until he is afraid he will lose consciousness. Miraculously, he meets Aenea and A. Bettik in the water. They swim with him back to the raft. He is badly injured and bleeding when they transition through the portal.

After Mare Infinitus, they find themselves on the Jewish world of Hebron. Raul has picked up a microorganism in the water of Mare Infinitus, and he is dying. Since Hebron was a Jewish world, they did not have the cruciform, so they spend time and energy developing medical technology. A. Bettik and Aenea find a medical center and place Raul inside the autosurgeon. The world is completely deserted. They spend thirteen days on Hebron and then the power fails.

In Chapter 35, Captain de Soya is still on Mare Infinitus. He has upset the world by using his papal diskey to its full extent. He has all the poachers rounded up and arrested, arrests several Pax officers for corruption, and has the Archbishop Melandriano removed to get him out of the way. Then de Soya orders ships to hunt and kill the Lamp Mouths in the area, so the bottom of the ocean can be searched, something never done before. Using all the resources he has available, he identifies Aenea's companion as Raul Endymion. De Soya decides to abandon Raphael's search pattern and use the clues they have found to determine where to go next.

In Chapter 36, Aenea has transported through the portal into the Sol Draconi System. They are trapped in an ice cave. A large wall of ice is blocking their path. After much discussion and planning Raul ties himself to a rope and dives into the water with explosives, hoping to blast the wall out of the way. Aenea, Raul, and A. Bettik discuss the primitives who live in this world and the creature known as the wraith. They do not know if the primitives or the wraiths have survived the hyperglaciation of this planet.



Chapters 33-36 Analysis

Chapter 33 reinforces the goodness of Raul. He is free from disaster he created on the platform, and on his way back to the raft. He has a chance to escape through the portal with the others while the Pax and the fishermen are distracted. Instead, he risks the mission by saving the lieutenant he has pushed into the water, a man who has already tried to kill him. He is repaid by the lieutenant attempting to kill him and nearly loses his life in the water.

In Chapter 34, Raul exhaustedly fights for survival in the water and contemplates the existence of God. Theology often accompanies perceived imminent death. Raul remembers his Grandam telling him of Old Earth scientist Charles Darwin who became an atheist observing nature, and thinks of the story "The Open Boat" by Steven Crane in which a passenger was forced into the revelation that God does not exist. "The universe is indifferent," Raul thought (pg. 344.) These thoughts of God and the universe as indifferent and not listening are signs of Raul's lost hope. He believes that he will die in this ocean, and that his companions have already entered the portal. The thought that Aenea and A. Bettik are safely through the portal are actually a comfort to him. When Aenea finds him in the water, she becomes, both metaphorically and physically, his savior, reinforcing her role as messiah.

Chapter 34 is also a brief look at Judaism. The Jewish people who lived there refused to accept the cross and the cruciform, and they have been destroyed. In contrast to the Catholic Church, these people have no weapons, no Home Guard. They were a peaceful society who stood in opposition to the military Catholic Church.

Chapter 35 is about the corruption of the Catholic Church and the power of Pax. For the first time, officers of the church are shown to be corrupt. The fisherman from chapter 2 were dishonest and prideful, but this is the first time officers and high ranking church officials are openly shown to be liars and thieves. The Archbishop of Mare Infinitus is part of the poaching problem and prideful enough to ignore the papal diskey. He is the first to openly object to de Soya's power and he is so full of his own pride that he believes he is above that power.

Chapter 36 introduces the indigenous people of the Sol Draconi Septem. These people are forced to hunt the wraith, and the wraith in turn hunts them. They are dependent on each other for survival, and one group could wipe out the other. This relationship and the harsh environment of this planet is an example of the indifference of God. God has abandoned this planet and its creatures.

Aenea is stuck in this cave of ice and Raul questions her purpose. She is following the farcasters, believing that she is being guided toward her destiny. This predicament appears to be a stumbling block, and Raul does not understand why they have been sent here. Aenea's faith is unyielding.



Chapters 37-40

Chapters 37-40 Summary

In Chapter 37, de Soya reveals his plan to travel to the closest Ouster controlled world. The modification's of Aenea's ship and hawking mat are from the Ousters, so de Soya believes Aenea is on her way to meet them. He risks letting the archangel ship technology falling into enemy hands, so he sets the ship to self destruct if captured rather than fall to Ouster control. The ship exploding means "true death" for the crew. The first Ouster world is Hebron.

Instead of waking in Hebron as expected, de Soya wakes from resurrection in Pacem being cared for by a resurrection priest. He discovers that they were pursued in Hebron, and that the Raphael returned to Mare Infinitus. Resurrection had been started when the pursuit began, and had to be abandoned. Secondary resurrection was unsuccessful and Rettig suffered the true death. De Soya and his crew were not resurrected on Mare Infinitus, and were instead returned to Pacem to face the Sacred Congregation of Universal Inquisition.

In Chapter 38, Raul is pulled by the forceful current under the ice wall blocking their path. He set the plastique in place with the charges, and A. Bettik pulls him back to the raft. Barely alive, Raul is pulled to the raft. Suffering shock and hypothermia, A. Bettik and Aenea spend the next few hours keeping him alive. When his core temperature finally rises, they detonate the explosives. The wall crumbles, but they are met with yet another wall of ice. Sending the comlog bracelet tied to a rope as a scout they discover that this wall is impassible. Refusing to give up, they row the raft upstream against the strong current and find a tunnel. They climb inside and through a maze ice until A. Bettik commands everyone to listen. Something is coming.

In Chapter 39, Captain de Soya faces the Inquisition. The interrogation is performed in Latin, as is the custom. De Soya must explain that he was unaware that the farcaster portal would work for Aenea, and must justify the vast expense he caused on Mare Infinitus.

Chapter 40 returns to Aenea on her icy world. The noise A. Bettik heard was a band of Chitchatuk hunters, the indigenous people that Aenea's party was not sure had survived. The meeting began with weapons raised on both sides until Aenea recognized these people as human. They were covered in the hide of the wraith and difficult to see through the disguise. They communicated through signs and motions and the hunters decided to take this group of visitors to see the priest in the frozen city. The Chitchatuk were a kind and generous people.



Chapters 37-40 Analysis

Chapter 37 again shows de Soya's loyalty to the Pax. He is willing to die the true death, and willing to sacrifice his crew rather than endanger the Pax by offering classified technology to the enemy Ousters.

Chapter 38 puts Raul in the passive position again. He must be protected and brought back to life by his companions. He must admit his weakness when he realizes that he would not have been able to pull A. Bettik or even Aenea against the current that way A. Bettik pulled him back to the raft. He is near death and must rely on the others to comfort and heal him.

Chapter 39 demonstrates the autocracy and politics of the church. The faithful captain is forced to defend his position. The church delays the important mission to examine, discuss, and rule. The church initiated the mission and is its largest obstacle.

The Chitchatuk of Chapter 40 is another example of heathen and un-Christian people being more kind and good than the Catholic Church. They have little and still happily give to their new friends.



Chapters 41-44

Chapters 41-44 Summary

In Chapter 41, de Soya is released from his near house arrest, and discovers that the Archbishop he had removed on Mare Infinitus had powerful friends and is partially responsible for this inquisition. De Soya tours the Vatican on his way to meet with the Secretariat. Throughout the Vatican, de Soya and the Secretariat pause to view and discuss the paintings and decorations of the Vatican. The Secretariat, Cardinal Lourdusamy, assures de Soya that his reputation has been restored and he is exonerated. Lourdusamy admits that the Vatican knows the Archbishop Melandriano is a thief, and has known for a while. The Bishop will be punished, but Lourdusamy is unconcerned with that. He wants de Soya to continue his mission, and he wants de Soya to understand why this mission is so important.

In Chapter 42, Aenea and her party encounter a wraith on their way to the frozen city. The wraith exploded through the ice and took one of the Chitachatuk. The hunters followed, but returned empty handed. The Chitachatuk are superstitious and travel in prime numbers. This loss has made their band an unlucky number, something they must remedy as soon as possible. When they arrive at the city, Father Glaucus speaks English.

Father Glaucus explains that their Chitachatuk guides are the hunters. The breeding Chitachatuk and the children live further south where it is warmer, protected as much as possible from the wraith. The people depend entirely on wraith cubs for food, clothing, and tools, everything they have. The hunters brave this dangerous terrain to provide for the children who are "more sacred...than warmth" (pg. 436.)

In Chapter 43, Admiral Lourdusamy asks de Soya if he believes that the church has brought peace and prosperity to humanity. De Soya responds that the church has improved the worlds he has seen, and that the gift of resurrection is immeasurable. Lourdusamy explains that the church is in the middle of a spiritual renaissance and that Aenea is a threat to this renaissance. The Pope has had a vision, and that vision shows de Soya saving the church from the mechanical evil the artificial intelligence of the Core has sent in the form of Aenea. If Aenea reaches maturity, Lourdusamy warns, the Shrike will simultaneously emerge from every farcaster portal to slaughter Christians. De Soya is the church's only hope. The Pope's vision also shows that Aenea is on Sol Draconi Septem. Rettig will be replaced by a woman, a new breed of warrior for the church, and she will also carry a papal diskey. Her name is Rhadamanth Nemes.

In Chapter 44, Father Glaucus tells Aenea how he came to this world. He was exiled so Sol Draconi Septem because he belonged to the heretical Teilhardian order that Pope Julius XIV despised. He had been on the icy world fifty-seven years. The Chitachatuk give the priest wraith meat for fuel pellets that provide light a heat. The priest explains



that the Teilhard philosophy is that the evolutionary process will bring humans to the Omega Point when all creation would become one with the Godhead.

Chapters 41-44 Analysis

Chapter 41 explores the grandeur and showmanship of the church. The Vatican is about pride and putting on a show for believers, distracting them from inconsistent doctrine and hypocrisy. The fact that the church is well aware of Archbishop Melandriano's activities underscores the corruption of the church as a whole. The leaders of the church have allowed the Archbishop to continue in his evil activities and have not intention of correcting him. They have put him in power, and preserving that power is all that matters.

Chapter 42 demonstrates the devotion and dedication felt by the Chitchatuk toward their fellow men. They are also a peaceful society, like the Jewish society of Hebron, and have been left by the universe to fend for themselves. They show ingenuity in how they use the bodies of the wraith cubs to meet their needs in the absence of raw materials in their frozen worlds, and are fiercely protective of their families. They sacrifice for the good of the group and for the sake of their children. Unselfish, giving, and dedicated, the Chitchatuk are another contrast to the portrayal of the greedy, prideful, selfish members of the church.

In Chapter 43, De Soya is finally given the reason for his mission. The Pope's vision that de Soya is necessary to complete the capture of Aenea prompts Lourdusamy to offer de Soya the vivid image of the destruction of the church. De Soya is a faithful Christian and will give his life to preserve the church. Lourdusamy makes sure that de Soya is firmly grounded in his version of good and evil, reinforcing de Soya's mistaken idea that the church is right and must survive.

Chapter 44 is the introduction to another religion. Teilhard's philosophy rejoices in evolution. This process, and every event including mass extinctions, brings humanity to a greater state of consciousness culminating in becoming one with the Godhead. This philosophy contradicts the Catholic Church's teaching of humanity's disconnection from God. Father Glaucus's order had rejected most of Teilhard's philosophy but that mattered little to the church. He was still exiled showing the cruelty of the church.



Chapter 45-48

Chapter 45-48 Summary

In Chapter 45, the Raphael reaches Sol Draconi Septem. The inner workings of the top secret Raphael are explained. The super speed drive that exceeds light speed is a hoax. The ship is controlled by the Core who uses a device to, "tear though the fabric of space and time itself" to give the illusion of super speed (451). Rhadamanth Nemes does not die on the trip, and rises from her crèche to head to the surface of Sol Draconi Septem while her crewmates are awaiting resurrection. At the end of the chapter, she has used a shape shifting finger to probe Father Glaucus's brain.

In Chapter 46, A. Bettik discusses his siblings and his childhood. He has a dream of seeing his siblings again, but has no real hope this will ever happen. Aenea reveals her belief that "Love is one of the basic forces of the universe" (457). Then Aenea, Raul, and A. Bettik leave the frozen city with the Chitchatuk.

In Chapter 47, Nemes has received images of Aenea and details of their plans from Father Glaucus's brain. She drops him down an elevator shaft to his death and makes her way toward the portal. Outside in the harsh cold, she shape shifts her arm into a blade, slips into fast time and easily kills three wraiths. She murders the Chitchatuk guides when they tell her Aenea is gone. She then connects herself to the portal and is told the next destination is Qom-Riyadh, then God's Grove, and then a world that is inaccessible to the Pax and the Core.

Chapter 48 goes back in time a bit to show Aenea leaving Sol Draconi Septem. They must travel the surface where the wraith is the most plentiful, but incredibly, they encounter no wraith on this trip. They transition the portal and are in Qom-Riyadh, the desert world colonized by Muslims. Aenea is suddenly seized by unexplained sharp pain and fever. Like Hebron, this world is empty, but they have an autosurgeon in the city.

Chapter 45-48 Analysis

In Chapter 45, the truth of the Raphael's high speed capabilities is revealed. The Core, the professed enemy of the church, has given them this technology. This further demonstrates the hypocrisy of the church. The introduction of Rhadamanth Nemes is also evidence of this hypocrisy. She is an advanced version of the Shrike. She has all the capabilities of the Shrike, but is fully disguised as human. The Shrike is denounced as an agent of Satan, but Nemes is an agent of the church.

Chapter 46 humanizes A. Bettik. Throughout the novel A. Bettik has been separated for humans with the honorarium A. Father Glaucus refuses to offer this honorarium to Bettik and calls him M. Bettik, the honorarium reserved for humans. Father Glaucus says that



the A. on Bettik's name creates a false separation between him and humans. Bettik is human. A. Bettik is a symbol of the division of races and the subjugation of races.

Chapter 47 shows the cruelty of Nemes. This cruelty is significant because she has been sent by and is an agent of the church.

In Chapter 48, Aenea's empathetic abilities are shown. She is seized by pain and fever, becoming physically ill by the murder of her friends on Sol Draconi Septem. While in Qom-Riyadh, Aenea's dreams are more fully explored foreshadowing the end of the journey. She reveals that God's Grove is the last world before the end and says that the future is never written. Stating that she could die and that they all could die, increases the urgency of the action leading to the climax of the story.



Chapters 49-52

Chapters 49-52 Summary

In Chapter 49, Captain de Soya wakes from resurrection to find orders from the Pope that they have been rerouted to God's Grove. De Soya becomes suspicious when he notices his coffee bulb has been moved, and suspects that someone was moving around when she should have been dead. In the moments before the ship embarks for God's Grove, de Soya searches for any sign that his suspicions are correct. He finds the evidence in a series of thruster bursts that signal the release of a dropship to the planet's surface, and has just enough time to change Raphael's commands before death.

In Chapter 50, Aenea tells her friends that Father Glaucus and the Chitchatuk are dead. She tells Raul that the Core is alive and dangerous and that it has sent something to kill her. Tomorrow they leave for God's Grove and she knows that she could die there. "The future is never written," she says (pg. 497.) She also reveals that the Core provided the church with the cruciforms.

In Chapter 51, in God's Grove, Nemes uses the dropship to get to the surface and begins setting her trap for Aenea. She weaves invisible, razor sharp monofilament in a web above the river, places claymore microexplosives that target living things in the one flat area suitable to pull off the river, and then lays earwig eggs in the water to attack anyone who attempts to swim upstream.

In Chapter 52, the Shrike is back and waiting to go through the portal to God's Grove, and Aenea reveals her theory that the church is behind the disappearance of the people on Hebron and Qom-Riyadh.

Chapters 49-52 Analysis

Chapter 49 is a turning point for de Soya. He is suspicious of Nemes, even though she has a papal diskey and is an agent of his church. De Soya is a good, moral character on the evil side of the novel, so this turning point for him was foreshadowed throughout the novel. His suspicion of Nemes on a hunch with no real evidence is also his suspicion of the church.

Chapter 50 highlights and finally shows more in-depth the intuitive and empathetic abilities of Aenea because she becomes physically ill when her friends on Sol Draconi Septem are murdered. She reveals more details of her dreams, and outlines the evil nature of the church. Until this moment, the evil nature of the church has not been specifically named. Mystery surrounds the institution. The church is filled with immoral, hypocritical characters, and the church has shown its cruelty and inconsistencies. However, in this chapter, the evilness of the church is escalated when their top priority is revealed to be the killing of Aenea and their partnership with Core is uncovered. The



Core, throughout the novel is evil, and now the church is reduced to the puppet of the Core.

In Chapter 51, details of Neme's ability and her thoroughness are displayed. She is a formidable opponent, who leaves nothing to chance. A trap is set from which it appears Aenea could not possibly survive. The reader knows from chapter one that Aenea has died by the time Raul is imprisoned in the orbit of Armaghast, and begins to wonder if she dies here.

In Chapter 52, the reappearance of the Shrike signals he is needed for this battle. This novel has been a quiet look at many religions. The Catholic Church is spreading their gospel, offering the cruciforms and overtaking other religious people. Aenea's words leaving Qom-Riyadh reveal that the church is not just offering Christianity, but is actively involved in genocide. Christianity or death is the real offer, mirroring elements of the Christian church during the crusades.



Chapters 53-56

Chapters 53-56 Summary

Captain de Soya wakes early from his resurrection in chapter 53. He had set the resurrection cycles to a dangerous six hours instead of three days. Gregorius's resurrection is unsuccessful, and de Soya discovers Nemes's crèche is empty. De Soya orders the ship to get as close to the planet as possible to get a view of what is going on, but he has no way of getting to the planet's surface.

In Chapter 54, Aenea's group travel easily through down the river. A few rapid get their attention, but nothing they cannot handle. Then they come to the microfilament. Raul dives onto Aenea and into the water. A. Bettik loses an arm. Raul and Aenea do not fall for the trap laced with microexplosives, and carry A. Bettik further upstream. The Shrike appears again to fight Nemes. They seem to appear and disappear as the move in and out of fast time.

Chapter 55 shifts to Nemes's perspective as she waits for Aenea. She describes watching the Shrike create the rapids in an attempt to stop Aenea from reaching the microfilament web. Nemes traps the Shrike in something she calls the Sphinx trap that sends him five minutes into the future. Aenea and Raul are powerless against her. Raul's comlog bracelet vibrates and whispers to him to get the girl to the rocks. They run toward the lava rocks, but Nemes beats them there. A blast of intense heat melts Nemes on the rocks.

In chapter 56, Aenea and Raul speak with de Soya through the comlog. De Soya tells them that the dropship has an autosurgeon that might help the injured A. Bettik. De Soya expresses his frustration about Nemes saying that he hopes she was not the Church's creature.

Chapters 53-56 Analysis

In Chapter 53, de Soya's suspicions about Nemes are revealed to be true. His suspicions about the church are true, but he does not want to believe. He must act according to his core beliefs as a character, and those core beliefs and desires include protecting Aenea. He has demonstrated on every encounter with her that he is willing to let her live even if it means allowing her to escape. When he lowers and turns the ship to face the surface, he is acting within his character.

In Chapter 54, A. Bettik is injured for the first time. Both Raul and Aenea have needed the services of hospital facilities on different worlds. A. Bettik's injury serves to further humanize him, and allows him to be the vulnerable one for the first time. Raul even has a moment in which he wonders if androids die like humans, struggling with his misconceptions of race even after traveling with A. Bettik for months.



In Chapter 55, the battle in God's Grove is the climax of the novel. , but through this battle between the Shrike and Nemes, the mirror image of the two creatures is indisputable. Nemes is a later generation Shrike that has been updated and modified to appear and behave human. The threat to the church has been embraced by the church.

In Chapter 56, de Soya helps Raul and Aenea to get to the autosurgeon to save A. Bettik, further demonstrating his humanity by helping to save the enemy.



Chapters 57-60

Chapters 57-60 Summary

In Chapter 57, Aenea and Raul reach the autosurgeon with A. Bettik. Aenea invites de Soya to come with them, but he declines. He is a soldier and an agent of the church. He can only hope that the church was not responsible for the Nemes creature. He will only know if he returns. Raul, Aenea, and A. Bettik fly the dropship through the last forcaster.

In Chapter 58, the dropship tells them that they are on Earth. Aenea sees the house she has seen so many times in her dreams. The house is named Fallingwater. Aenea tells Raul that they should be here no more than six or seven years while she studies with the architect.

Chapter 59 returns to the older Raul suspended in his prison cell in orbit. Last night, Aenea visited him and read the pages he has written. He feels he may be slipping into madness, but she left a note.

Chapter 60 is the note Aenea left for Raul in his impenetrable prison cell as he waits for death. Aenea tells him that their final voyage has not yet begun and closes her letter with her father's poem, the original John Keat's poem, Endymion.

Chapters 57-60 Analysis

In Chapter 57, de Soya discusses his disappointment with the church for sending Nemes, but he still has hope for the church's redemption. He is offered the opportunity to continue with the group on the surface, an opportunity to see the Old Earth of which he has dreamed. He refuses. He is wrestling with his core beliefs, and must return to Pacem to determine if the church is truly evil.

The trio transitioned through the final forcaster in Chapter 58, and find themselves on Old Earth. This ending is the foreshadowed world for the end of their journey. Uncle Martin spoke of the survival of Old Earth, Raul and Aenea speculate about the survival of Earth, and even Captain de Soya longs to visit Earth. Earth is the only logical safe haven for Aenea to continue her studies to become the One Who Teaches.

Chapter 59 is a chapter to wrap up and completes the circle back to the older Raul in his prison cell. Aenea has visited him in this cell when chapter one clearly shows that this is impossible. She has been there in physical form and left a message for him.

Chapter 60 Aenea has left a note for Raul signaling her physical presence in his cell. She waits for him to begin a new journey, but it is unclear if this journey is in life or in death since chapter one says that Aenea is already dead. Regardless, the ending is hopeful, anticipating the reunion of the lovers and future adventures.



Characters

Raul Endymion

Raul Endymion is born on Hyperion as a peasant. Raul is twenty-eight at the beginning of the novel and believes he has his life figured out. He is comfortable with weapons, confident in his abilities, and with himself and his meager life. Raul has experience with women but admits that he has never been in love. He completes a series of odd jobs including sheppard, black jack dealer, and Home Guard soldier until unfortunate circumstances lead him to a death sentence for murder.

Raul is rescued from this death by Martin Silenus and asked to rescue Aenea from the Pax. At the moment he accepts this assignment, his life changes from one of insignificance to a life of a hero. He is chosen for this assignment because of his name. Endymion is the name of a poem by Jon Keats, and the poet Jon Keats is cloned as the Jon Keats cybrid who eventually becomes the father of the other main character Aenea. After human pilgrims settled Hyperion, they named a city and college Endymion in honor of the poem. When Raul's family was forced to leave the city of Endymion, they kept the name as their own to stay connected to their homeland. Raul's name connects him to the history of Hyperion and connects him to Aenea in a way that he does not fully understand. Through his name, he was chosen to be Aenea's hero and lover by her father. Raul is fulfilling his destiny.

He struggles throughout the novel with his view of who he should be versus who he is. He has a vision of himself as a protector and is repeatedly forced into situations where he is dependent and being protected. He finally becomes comfortable with the fact that he cannot always be the hero.

When he meets Aenea at the Sphinx, she is a child. She grows into a woman and he grows to love and admire her. The novel is filled with his memories of Aenea as his lover but the novel ends before that time in their lives.

Aenea

Aenea is a twelve-year-old girl when her mother dies. Her mother is Brawne Lamia, one of the original Hyperion pilgrims who helped to establish the colony of humans on the planet. Each of the pilgrims have been immortalized in the forbidden poem the Cantos written by Lamia's brother Martin Silenus. Two weeks after Lamia's death, Aenea enters the Sphinx in the Valley of the Time Tombs on Hyperion and steps out 250 years later as the mortal enemy of the Pax and the Catholic Church. This trip through time has been carefully discussed and planned by Lamia, Silenus, and Aenea.

Aenea has communicated with her abominable and cybrid father Jon Keats as a fetus and has been in communication with the TechnoCore. The cybrid Jon Keats has artificial intelligence and is part of the web of communication that is feared by the Catholic



Church. The fact that this child, as a fetus, was able to connect to the web and communicate with her father demonstrates her power and her connection to the feared machines. Aenea has prophetic dreams of the past, present, and future that haunt her. She has visions that she cannot always immediately interpret. These dreams and visions have prompted her to enter the time tombs to come to this time in which the church and the TechnoCore are the most dangerous.

Aenea is intuitive and immensely empathetic as demonstrated by her illness after the murder of her Chitchatuk friends, and her constant invitation to everyone she meets that they come with her on this journey. She invited even her enemy Captain de Soya at the end of the novel offering him a chance at redemption.

She says she wants to be an architect and find the house she has seen in her dreams. This desire is both a misinterpretation of her dream and an attempt by her to avoid her greater destiny. She grows to love and long for this house she has seen, and knows that finding the house is essential to her destiny. However, she does not know exactly how the house fits into her future. She is prophesied to be the One Who Teaches and the messiah but has not yet become either by the end of the novel.

A. Bettik

A. Bettik is an android. He was biomanufactured with blue skin but he is not programmed like a machine. He is a separate class, a servant to humans, and has been engineered to be stronger than humans. In addition to his strength, the android requires little sleep, can hold his breath for extended periods, and can better withstand extreme temperatures.

Androids were created in groups of four. He has two brothers, and a sister. His childhood was abbreviated since his manufacturers accelerated his growth, but he did have a childhood with brief periods of play during his early years of training and education. He lost contact with his siblings, and for years has dreamed of meeting one again. He is not optimistic that he will ever see them again because androids have been destroyed but he still entertains the dream.

Federico de Soya

Father Captain de Soya is the commander of the Pax charged with the apprehension of Aenea. He is the representation of the good side of the Catholic Church. He is a penitent priest who is honest, trustworthy, and follows the teachings of Christianity in contrast to the many of the other Christians surrounding him. He follows the leadership of the Pope and the church believing that if he does not the future of church will be compromised. He does not know that the church is causing the destruction he witnesses throughout the universe.



Pope Julius XIV

Julius XIV has been the Pope for 250 years. The pope was once Lenar Hoyt and worked under the guidance of Paul Dure. Paul Dure discovered the cruciform on Hyperion. Dure accepted the teaching of St. Teilhard that humans could evolve toward God, and even reach God. Hoyt rejected this idea as heretical, and spent his first years as Pope eradicating this idea. Dure disliked the cruciform, believing that it reduced the church to reliance on a parasite instead of faith. When Dure died, Hoyt took his cruciform. Hoyt made a pilgrimage to Hyperion and died. Dure was then resurrected carrying both cruciforms. Dure became known as antipope Teilhard I. When Dure died, Hoyt was resurrected instead. Hoyt then became Pope Julius I. He was given the secret of successful resurrection, introduced the faithful to the Sacrament of Resurrection, and set out to make the Church the official faith of humanity.

Martin Silenus

Martin Silenus is the uncle of Aenea and author of the Cantos. He has survived hundreds of years using illegal Poulsen treatments on Hyperion waiting and planning for Aenea to emerge from the Sphinx.

Swiss Guards

Sergeant Gregorius, Corporal Bassin Kee, and Lancer Ahranwhal Gaspa K.T Rettig are the Swiss Guards who become Father Captain de Soya's traveling companions and crew. The Swiss Guard is an elite group of soldiers in the Pax military.

Brawne Lamia

Brawne Lamia is one of the original pilgrims to Hyperion and her journey is described in the Cantos. She is Aenea's mother and investigates the TechnoCore and the disappearance of Earth before her death.

John Keats Cybrid

The John Keats Cybrid is a cloned human of the poet John Keats. He is Aenea's father, and dies before she is born. His persona enters the web and communicates with Aenea before she is born.

Rhadamanth Nemes

Rhadamanth Nemes is a creation of the TechnoCore that is used by the church in an attempt to capture Aenea. She has the abilities of moving in fast time that is invisible to the human eye like the Shrike. Her skin is able to shapeshift, and she is able to



withstand fatal gravities and g-forces. She does not require Oxygen, and can survive extreme temperatures of heat and cold unlike any other characters. The church claims that she is a new breed of warrior that will help them finally defeat the Ousters, but she is a representation of the technology the church claims to be against.

Chitchatuk

The Chitchatuk are a race of people indigenous to Sol Draconi Septem. They are short and stocky people that are kind and generous.



Objects/Places

Cruciform

The cruciform is a symbiote discovered on the planet Hyperion. A group called the Bikura found the cruciform and used them for resurrection, but they had the unfortunate side effects of irreversible brain damage and disappearance of sex organs. Only the church held the secret of successfully resurrected an individual fully intact, and this secret became the source of their power. The church offered physical immortality to converts. When death is imminent, the cruciform does not seem an unfair trade. The church only required one year of service from the convert for every ten years of life. Aenea reveals at the end of the novel, that the cruciform was created by the evil Core, and planted on Hyperion to be discovered and abused by the church.

River Tethys

The River Tethys connected hundreds of rivers on hundreds of waterways. Pleasure boats and trade ships entered a river on one world, and followed the river through a farcaster portal, and into another world. The portals were constructed in pairs. Tourists entered one portal, continued downstream sightseeing the new world, and then entered another portal into another world. The farcaster portals of the River Tethys stopped working 300 years before the beginning of this story and at first seem irrelevant. These portals only work for Aenea.

Cantos

The Cantos is a long and narrative poem written by Martin Silenus. This poem chronicles the journey of the pilgrims to Hyperion hundreds of years ago. One of the pilgrims is Aenea's mother. Raul was forced to memorize the poem as a child. The Pax and the church have outlawed it. Violators who read the poem are threatened with excommunication. Like everything forbidden, the poem becomes more tantalizing, and the result is that everyone knows the story. The Cantos describes the Fall of the WorldWeb, hints at Aenea's destiny, and suggests that Old Earth has simply been moved. The Cantos also warns of the dangers of the Core and the power of the church.

Pax

The Pax is the governing body of most of the known universe. This institution is the army of the Catholic Church under the authority of the Vatican. The Pax is in a constant war with the Ousters. They conquer worlds, offering the cruciform for conversion or death.



Valley of the Time Tombs

The Valley of the Time Tombs is located on Hyperion, and is comprised of the Sphinx, the Jade Tomb, the Obelisk, the Crystal Monolith, and three Cave Tombs. These tombs are time travel portals that are closed and guarded by the Pax. Aenea entered the Sphinx at the age of twelve, before the Pax occupation, and emerges 250 years later in Raul's time.

Shrike

Covered in razors and swords, the Shrike is more a thing than a person and is said to have been created by the Core. It can move in fast time, invisible to the human eye, and is a terrifying agent of death. The Shrike is present with Aenea when she leaves the Sphinx, and defeats the 30,000 Pax troops waiting for her so she can escape with Raul. The Shrike returns at the climax of the story to protect Aenea from Rhadamanth Nemes, Aenea's more formidable opponent.

Farcasters

Farcasters were created by artificial intelligence and they are portals that allow people to instantly appear on distant worlds. They were shut down because people were not using them properly. Travel and entertainment are not valid reasons to use the portals. Every person who went through the portal had his intelligence and persona captured by the TechnoCore. The farcasters were used in deep space, in the River Tethys, in the Grand Concourse, and people even used them in their homes to have a different world in each room.

TechnoCore

The TechnoCore is the artificially intelligent enemy of the church. The TechnoCore is responsible for the farcasters and is feared to have the desire and ability to overtake humanity.

Wraith

The wraith is a massive creature who hunts humans on Sol Draconi Septem. The wraith hunts and kills the humans for food and wears their skulls on a necklace. The humans hunt and kill wraith cubs, and use every part of the animal since it is their only raw material in their frozen world.



Hawking mat

A flying rug designed and created by Old Earth inventor Vladimir Sholokov shortly after the destruction of Old Earth. Originally capable of twenty-six clicks per hour, the rug had been modified by the Ousters to reach speeds of three hundred clicks per hour. An energy field holds the rider in place on the mat while in flight and the rug is operated by tapping a series of threads on a complicated design.

Cybrid

Human cloned by the artificially intelligent TecnoCore. Cybrids are banned by the church and considered an abomination.



Themes

Good versus Evil

Good versus evil is a theme found in nearly every work of fiction. The conflict propelling the action is almost universally the forces of good attempting to defeat a force of evil. In this novel, Aenea and her group of heroes are fighting the evil force of the Pax and the Catholic Church. The twist in this novel is that the main agent of the evil church is a moral and sympathetic character.

Aenea's destiny is to become the One Who Teaches. When she reaches maturity and has become this messiah, she will overthrow the corrupt Catholic Church. She will teach the truth that will illuminate the false teaching of this power hungry, ruthless church.

The church is portrayed from the very beginning of the novel and evil. It begins with the brutish and slovenly liar Herrig who succeeds in earning Raul a death sentence for a crime he did not commit. This theme of Christian hypocrisy is continued on Mare Infinitus when every Christian encountered there is involved with extortion, bribery, and theft. This hypocrisy and dishonesty of the church is continued to the end when they send Rhadamanth Nemes to murder Aenea when church officials have assured de Soya that her safety is their top priority.

Standing in stark contrast to the cruelty of the Catholic Church is every other world visited by Aenea. Each of these worlds was colonized by a different religious group, and all are peaceful and gentle civilizations crushed by the Pax.

Self View versus World View

The internal struggle between a character's view of himself versus the way the world views him is a classic literary theme. In this novel, Raul struggles throughout with his vision of himself as a warrior, protector, and man of the world. Several instances force him to reevaluate his view of himself.

At the beginning of the novel Raul is a young man and says, "At the age of twenty-seven, I thought I knew everything" (pg. 6.) He had been a soldier with the Home Guard and had become even more familiar with weapons as a hunting guide. He is constantly busying himself with searching for weapons and survival gear and then is forced to admit that all the weaponry he has surrounded himself with is useless.

He is the hero. He is in charge of the mission to protect Aenea and get her safely to her destiny of becoming the One Who Teaches. In this pursuit, he is afraid, docile, and even has instances of inaction that plague him. On his first leg of the journey, he is terrified flying the hawking mat through the labyrinth tunnels on Hyperion. During the first encounter with de Soya and his men in the Parvati System, he remains hidden at the



direction of Aenea and lets her take the lead. He then doubts his abilities, and is angry with himself for allowing her to handle the first real danger they faced.

Raul's self view as a warrior and protector forces him to volunteer to scout the fishing platform on Mare Infinitus, and nearly costs him his life. His bravado causes him to become dependent on his companions and he must be docile until he is healed on Hebron.

When the party reaches the ice wall on Sol Draconi Septem, Raul's internal conflict and his view of himself as the leader forces him to jump into the water which nearly kills him from hypothermia. His actions require that his traveling companions and friends save life before continuing the journey. Each time he is dependent on someone else, he reminds himself that he should be the protector.

Validity and Truthfulness of Religion

The existence of God and the validity of religion is one of the main themes of this novel. The religion of the Catholic Church has led to corruption and seizure of power. People have accepted the cross because of the promise of resurrection offered by the cruciform or they have rejected the cross and been destroyed by the church.

Each of the other worlds, all with a different religious perspective, have been peaceful societies. Jewish, Muslim, Pagan, and even atheist societies are all represented as moral. The Catholic Church and the Pax claim to be representative of morality and truthfulness, but are proven to hypocritical at every turn.

This theme is demonstrated most notably by Raul drifting in the deadly waters of Mare Infinitus. He is contemplating theology at the moment he believes will be his death, and remembers his Grandam's stories of Charles Darwin and Stephen Crane's character from "The Open Boat." Both characters are forced by nature to believe that God does not exist and is not listening or intervening in the lives of humans.



Style

Point of View

The point of view of the novel switches between the first person and the third person. The main hero character is Raul and he tells the story in a first-person narrative. The point of view is limited by his thoughts and assumptions about the action he witnesses. First person allows the reader into the mind and emotions of Raul in a more personal way than third person allows. The action is viewed through the filter of Raul's eyes.

The third person point of view is used to tell the story from Father Captain de Soya's perspective. The limited voice allows the reader to glimpse insight into the motivations of de Soya and helps to develop the de Soya as a sympathetic and moral character.

The switches in point of view are marked with a new chapter or with additional space within the same chapter during the faster action sequences.

Setting

The novel begins on the Planet Hyperion. Hyperion is a comfortable planet that has been controlled by the Catholic Church and the Pax army for centuries. A fourth of the book takes place on this planet, but once the characters leave, the novel never returns to this setting.

After a few weeks on an artificially intelligent spaceship flying through deep space, the characters spend the remainder of the novel traveling by raft through the River Tethys. The River Tethys is a collection of rivers on many worlds connected by farcaster portals.

The first major world the heroes enter is Mare Infinitus is a water world with no islands or continents and three bright moons that has been abandoned as useless by most of the Pax government. The Pax officers and church officials who are still there are corrupt liars, thieves, and murderers interested only in obtaining and preserving power. The water of Mare Infinitus is infested with dangerous sea creatures and deadly microorganisms. This world is popular with hunters because of the giant Lamp Mouth Laviathan.

They transition next to the desert Jewish world of the planet Hebron. The main city to which Aenea and her party pass through is New Jerusalem. They have advanced medical technology because they do not have the benefit of the cruciform. These Jewish people have only one life. They are a peaceful society without weaponry or armies. By the time Aenea arrives, the people have vanished.

Then the heroes enter the frozen world of Sol Draconi Septem is a frozen world inhabited by the Chitchatuk. The Chitchatuk are a warrior society, but their only enemy is the dangerous wraith that they depend on for survival. Sol Draconi Septem is a harsh



world with extremely low temperatures and is described as being glacial because the surface is covered in glacier ice. Everything on the planet has been consumed by the ice when attempts to terraform the planet are abandoned.

Qom Riyadh is the next world they pass through. This planet has been colonized by Muslims. The capital city is Mashdad. The peaceful people of Qom Riyadh had also refused the cross and cruciform offered by the Pax, and are eerily absent. The planet is deserted.

God's Grove is the last planet they visit before finding Old Earth. God's Grove was colonized by Templars, a nature-worship cult. They turned the world into a lush forest including the Worldtree that had a diameter of more than eighty kilometers with branches reaching the fringes of space. The Pax has destroyed the planet and left it in ashes. None of the trees of the forest survive, and all that is left is black lava rock. A few grasses and saplings have begun to sprout in the centuries since the planet was burned, but it is still a sparse landscape.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel shifts from simple and straightforward to sophisticated and academic with no reason. The self-educated Raul uses words like impervious just as easily as he uses the word solid. Most of the backstory and history in the novel is told through dialogue with little exposition. This use of dialogue is sometimes difficult to follow because the characters do not always discuss what the reader needs to understand, but this adds to the mystery.

The writer often omits necessary information to increase the suspense, but this is not always effective. The characters understand the different elements in the novel, but the reader has no frame of reference in a science fiction work. The reader is left to figure out the basic elements of the future world and must fill in the pieces left by incomplete dialogue with imagination.

Structure

This novel contains sixty short chapters. Many chapters are as few as two pages, but others are as many as ten pages. The chapters are not named and are mainly used to transition the narration from Raul's point of view to de Soya's perspective. The constant switches between the two characters are tiresome in places. In several instances, the author chooses to repeat the same action from the other characters perspective, but offers no new essential information in the new perspective. The effect is that the reader is simply reliving a scene instead of moving forward in the story.

The book is a memoir that the main character Raul is writing as he awaits his death in prison and when the story is in Raul's perspective, the narrator shifts to the older and future Raul who is remembering the events in the main story. Then after some retrospect and commenting on his feelings of the current passages, the perspective is

shifted back to the younger Raul in the current action. These shifts are unexpected and jarring. Each time this happens, the reader is pulled from the story and it is an effort to reengage.



Quotes

"My last hours were spent pondering the folly of my short, useless life" (Chapter 3, pg. 18.)

"I don't mean hero as in the fools who throw themselves on plasma grenades," he continued, licking his thin lips with a lizard's flick of tongue. "I mean hero as in he whose prowess and beneficence is so legendary that he comes to be honored as a divinity" (Chapter 8, pg. 66.)

"As for what will happen to her... again, I reassure you, my son, our intentions are to prevent her from infecting the Body of Christ in the Pax from her virus, but we will do so without harming her. Indeed, our mission... your mission... is to save the child's immortal soul" (Chapter 9, pg. 83.)

"The effect was a definite inducement to acrophobia, the illusion of standing unprotected in space created something akin to agoraphobia. I had no known until that instant that I was susceptible to any phobia" (Chapter 19, pg. 145.)

"I admit that it had been disturbing in Parvati System to sit out of sight of the vid pickup and watch this child threaten to kill herself - and us! if the Pax ship did not back off. I'd spent ten months dealing blackjack on Felix, and one of the Nine Tails, and had watched a lot of gamblers; this eleven-year-old was one hell of a poker player" (Chapter 25, pg. 189.)

"What he wanted - what he wanted his shepherd hero to learn - was how exalted these things could be - poetry, nature, wisdom, the voices of friends, brave deeds, the glory of strange places, the charm of the opposite sex" (Chapter 31, pg. 283.)

"The message,' said Aenea, 'was- there will be no further misuse of this channel. You are disturbing otherw who are using it to serious purpose. Access will be restored when you understand what it is for'" (Chapter 31. pg. 291-292.)

"Father Captain de Soya no longer dreams of Aenea as his daughter; he no longer dreams of Renaissance Vector and his sister maria. He dreams of Armageddon - terrible dreams of burning orbital forests, of worlds aflame, of deathbeams walking over fertile farming valleys and leaving only corpses" (Chapter 32, pg. 302.)

"One of the men in the boat - I could not remember which character - had moved through all the circles of theological supposition: praying, believing that God was a merciful Deity who sat up nights worrying about him, then believing that God was a cruel bastard, and finally deciding that no one was listening" (Chapter 34, pg. 344.)

"Run checks against every poacher you've captured... and I have to say, there's never been a mass arrest like this on Mare Infinitus before. You're upsetting a delicate balance of corruption that has existed here for centuries" (Chapter 35, pg. 366-367.)



"The Ousters are...strange. Their attempts to adapt to odd environments...to space even...are...blasphemous. They may no longer be human" (Chapter 37, pg. 385.)

"That love is a basic force of the universe, like gravity and electro magnetism, like strong and weak nuclear force" (Chapter 46, pg. 457.)

"All during the centuries of the Hegemony of Man, everyone knew that there were hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, or TechnoCore-created farcaster portals - from the smallest doorway to the larger River Tethys arches to the the huge spaceborne portals. Everyone was wrong. There is only one farcaster portal. But it is everywhere" (Chapter 47, pg. 467.)

"I had the urge to enter the great stone space, but the urge was cancelled by my reluctance to profane anyone's sacred house" (Chapter 48, pg. 483.)

"Father Captain de Soya is part of a millennia-long line of sailors, sea and space, who become fanatic about a place for everything and everything in its place" (Chapter 49, pg. 490.)

"'The Faustian bargain,' said the girl. 'All the church had to do to gain the universe was sell its soul'" (Chapter 50, pg. 498.)

"This is a turning point for me. Either I am truly insane and none of this matters, or I am saved and everything matters very much" (Chapter 59, pg. 560.)



Topics for Discussion

Discuss the cruciform symbiote, parasite. The Pax initiated laws to limit reproduction to prevent overpopulation but what are some of the other ramifications of near immortality on culture, medicine, technology, and religion?

Why is Aenea's father, the cybrid, named John Keats and what is his connection to Endymion? Why is the name Endymion significant?

What does it mean when Rhadamanth Nemes reveals that there is only one farcaster portal and why is this significant?

What is the most important theme of Endymion?

Compare and contrast Father Captain Federico de Soya's view of Christianity and his observance of the religion to the other Christians described in Endymion.

Who is the architect Aenea wishes to study under that she finally encounters in Pennsylvania?

What power is Aenea tempted to use in the Sol Draconi System?

Is there any significance to the order of the worlds to which the farcaster portals send the trio?

What is the true purpose and reason the farcaster portals were shut down? What will make them reopen?