

# **Foundation and Earth Study Guide**

## **Foundation and Earth by Isaac Asimov**

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# Contents

<a href="#">Foundation and Earth Study Guide.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Plot Summary.....</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">Gaia - The Search Begins.....</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<a href="#">Gaia - Tioward Comporellon.....</a>	<a href="#">8</a>
<a href="#">Comporellon - At the Entry Station.....</a>	<a href="#">10</a>
<a href="#">Comporellon - On Comporellon.....</a>	<a href="#">11</a>
<a href="#">Comporellon - Srtuggle for the Ship.....</a>	<a href="#">12</a>
<a href="#">Comporellon - The Nature of Earth.....</a>	<a href="#">14</a>
<a href="#">Comporellon - Leaving Comporellon.....</a>	<a href="#">16</a>
<a href="#">Aurora - Forbidden World.....</a>	<a href="#">18</a>
<a href="#">Aurora - Facing the Pack.....</a>	<a href="#">20</a>
<a href="#">Solaria - Robots.....</a>	<a href="#">22</a>
<a href="#">Solaria - Underground.....</a>	<a href="#">25</a>
<a href="#">Solaria - To the Surface.....</a>	<a href="#">27</a>
<a href="#">Melpomenia - Away from Solaria.....</a>	<a href="#">29</a>
<a href="#">Melpomenia - Dead Planet.....</a>	<a href="#">31</a>
<a href="#">Melpomenia - Moss.....</a>	<a href="#">33</a>
<a href="#">Alpha - The Center of the Worlds.....</a>	<a href="#">35</a>
<a href="#">Alpha - The New Earth.....</a>	<a href="#">37</a>
<a href="#">Alpha - The Music Festival.....</a>	<a href="#">39</a>
<a href="#">Earth - Radioactive?.....</a>	<a href="#">41</a>
<a href="#">Earth - The Nearby World.....</a>	<a href="#">42</a>
<a href="#">Earth - The Search Ends.....</a>	<a href="#">43</a>
<a href="#">Characters.....</a>	<a href="#">45</a>



Objects/Places..... 50

Themes..... 54

Style..... 56

Quotes..... 58

Topics for Discussion..... 60



# Plot Summary

Foundation and Earth is the story of one man's quest to justify a decision he's already made. The story begins with Golan Trevize asking why he had decided that all of humankind should become part of Gaia. Gaia is a planet of a single consciousness, a single super organism, in a sense. Trevize gradually explains that he has made that decision while discarding the idea of another plan, one that is never explained. That plan, devised by Hari Seldon, depends on two fundamental truths - that there be sufficient numbers of people involved so that statistical data can be projected, and that the people not be aware of the plan's projected outcomes.

Trevize believes there is something missing and believes the answer lies on Earth. It's not until he reaches the Earth's moon that Trevize decides that becoming a single organism is the best answer because Seldon's Plan doesn't take into account that intelligent life from other galaxies could interfere with humans, even causing a war and self-destruction. He reasons that if all are part of the greater consciousness, all will be interested only in what is best for the greater good. When he reaches that destination, he also discovers that the robot, Daneel, has played a role in his travels, guiding him to that location because Daneel is "dying." Daneel tells Trevize that it was actually the robots, including Daneel, who created several of the worlds and societies, including Gaia.

Trevize's traveling companion is a scholar - Pelorat - who is knowledgeable in the myths surrounding the existence of Earth. Pelorat met a Gaian named Bliss and the two become physically and emotionally involved. The three set off in search of Earth and the answers Trevize seeks. They travel to a series of locations, each with the hope of finding information that will offer the location of Earth. They encounter strange planets, such as Comporellon, where they are detained because the government wants their ship. Trevize convinces the transportation minister to allow them to leave. The minister allows it because she is superstitious about Earth and believes anyone on a quest for its location is likely to bring down the wrath of "He" who punishes. They visit Aurora, a planet with no humans but with ruins of buildings that yield up a clue. They are chased from the planet by a pack of wild dogs. They visit Solaria, a planet peopled with only twelve hundred humans, all living in solitude. Each has special powers that allow them to conduct energy that powers the robots that take care of his daily needs. They meet Bander the hermaphrodite who talks to them at first then informs them that in plans to kill them. Bliss tries to stop him and inadvertently kills it. As they are escaping, they discover that Bander has a child. They also learn that the child is too young to take over Bander's escape and take Fallom with them as they escape the guardian robots.

Their next stop is the uninhabited Melpomenia where they find additional clues to the location of Earth and are immediately inundated with moss that grows very quickly in the presence of their carbon-base. They next reach Alpha with its one island, called New Earth. The entire planet is water but for that one stretch of land. The people seem friendly and Trevize has sex with a beautiful woman named Hiroko. Fallom knows how to play the flute and mesmerizes the people with her talent. Then Hiroko tells Trevize



that she has infected him with a deadly but inactive virus and that it will be activated once the men of the planet return from fishing. Trevize and the others escape during the night. Finally, they find Earth only to find that their fears had been confirmed and the planet was radioactive. No life could survive there and Trevize spends some time trying to decide what to do. It's actually Fallom who tries to take control of the ship in order to return to her home planet that brings Trevize's attention to the moon. Once there, they discover the twenty-thousand-year-old robot Daneel who tells that he was responsible for establishing Solaria, New Earth and Gaia. After talking with Daneel, Trevize finds that he is ready to commit mankind's fate to Gaia. Daneel reveals that he is "dying" and that he needs to meld with a human brain in order to extend his own life and continue his work. He wants Fellom.

The book ends with Trevize, Pelorat and Bliss still on the moon and apparently ready to move on to the next phase of the development of Galaxia, a Galaxy-wide unitary organism consisting of all sentient creatures. The final sentence of the book is perhaps a tease of what's to come in the next installment. Trevize says that he feels a "sudden twinge of trouble," and tries to dismiss it, saying that there's no enemy "already here and among us." The final sentence reads, "And he did not look down to the meet the brooding eyes of Fallom - hermaphroditic, transductive, different - as they rested, unfathomable, on him."



# Gaia - The Search Begins

## Gaia - The Search Begins Summary

Foundation and Earth is the story of one man's quest to justify a decision he's already made. The story begins with Golan Trevize asking why he had decided that all of humankind should become part of Gaia. Gaia is a planet of a single consciousness, a single super organism, in a sense. Trevize begins by explaining to Dom, a Gaian elder, the reason he feels he must search for Earth. It's notable that Trevize questions the lack of documents related to the subject. Though he has no concrete information, he believes in the myths and stories that indicate that Earth did - and does - exist. Trevize makes plans to go in search of Earth. Pelorat, who had traveled to Gaia with Trevize, announces that he intends to accompany Trevize. When Trevize objects, citing the relationship between Pelorat and a Gaian named Bliss, Pelorat says that Bliss also plans to accompany them on the voyage. Pelorat explains that Bliss will go along as a representative of Gaia. Trevize agrees to meet with Bliss.

There follows a long discussion in which Bliss explains Gaia and her own part on the planet. There is a single consciousness and any part of Gaia can draw upon the memories of all others - which include people, animals, plants and inanimate objects. The memory of anyone who dies is distributed to others so that no memory is ever lost. Trevize expresses concern that all of Gaia will know what happens because of Bliss's presence on his trip. One of the many arguments Bliss presents in favor of Gaia is she can't imagine the isolation for those not part of a larger consciousness. Trevize says he can't imagine being part of the larger consciousness and that's why he must travel to Earth - to seek answers to support or contradict his decision. Trevize asks Bliss for their earliest records. Bliss says none exists though she can draw on the collective memories for fifteen thousand of Gaia's eighteen thousand years of existence. Bliss says that the oldest records are seldom needed, so are stored in the planet's mineral deposits - rocks and mountains, for example.

One of Trevize's arguments is that life and growth is limited if everyone thinks the same and there is never conflict. Bliss says that's not the case and not everyone who is part of Gaia sees things the same. When Bliss is unable to bring up memories of any records more than fifteen thousand years old, Trevize argues that someone destroyed or removed them. He supports the claim by pointing out that space travel was relatively new when Gaia was formed eighteen thousand years earlier. He said that means Gaia's earliest records would have contained references to Earth.

## Gaia - The Search Begins Analysis

The chapter is devoted largely to explanations. The consciousness of Gaia is one of those topics and the dialog between Trevize and Dom, a Gaian elder, is meant to explain how Trevize came to the point at which this book begins. It's important for the



reader to remember that *Foundation and Earth* is one of a series of books that actually began as a series of short stories. Though the book is self-contained, there are some things that the author must tell any reader who hasn't read the previous books. It's never clear how much Daneel is controlling the situation or whether he's driving Trevize to the quest, though it seems possible once Daneel offers his explanation of his own relationship with Gaia - that he is not part of Gaia, but that he is in contact with Gaia and can experience whatever any single Gaian component senses.

Trevize and Bliss are constantly arguing the points of Gaian society. Bliss argues that there is no better way to live than as part of the larger whole, as Gaians live. Trevize is not certain that giving up individuality is the best course for humans. It's important to note that he has already made a formal decision on that point - in favor of Gaia - but that he feels the importance of the decision requires that he back it up with something more than conjecture. It's for this reason that he sets out for Earth.



# Gaia - Tioward Comporellon

## Gaia - Tioward Comporellon Summary

With little solid information to direct Trevize toward Earth's location, he decides to head for Comporellon. As the party prepares to take off in the Far Star, there are a number of Gaians standing around the space ship to observe. Trevize questions the need for many when anyone of Gaia can draw from the memories of another. Bliss explains that each is at a slightly different angle from the ship. She also points out that people see things differently - even those people who are part of the larger consciousness of Gaia. Having many people watch means that Gaians have a full overview of the event. It's raining as Trevize prepares to leave. The people of Gaia control the weather because even the rain was essentially a part of Gaia.

The observers are standing around in the rain and Trevize says he expects they don't mind getting wet because the people sense what the grass and trees feel as well - all are Gaia. Pelorat defends Gaia, pointing out that the Far Star is built to be a comfortable shelter. He says he sees nothing wrong with extending to that the entire planet, as the people of Gaia have done. Trevize says he doesn't mind the comfort, but points out that he doesn't share a consciousness with the Far Star. Trevize wonders if he should be concerned about his safety. After all, he's already voted in favor of Gaia and now is on a mission to find out if that decision was correct. He asks Bliss if Gaia would be willing to kill him to avoid his changing his vote.

Bliss says that Gaia wants Trevize to be a "conduit" of the truth, and that they want only for Trevize to reveal that truth. As the three set out on their journey, Trevize tells Bliss and Pelorat that he doesn't want them to treat the ship as "a honeymoon" retreat. He warns them that the ship is small and he's likely to overhear them anytime they have sex. They agree to be discreet but don't abstain during the voyage. Pelorat asks Trevize to accept Bliss. Trevize says it's not Bliss he dislikes, but Gaia. Pelorat reminds him that the two are the same. Pelorat explains that he's experienced - to a small degree - the connection with Gaia through Bliss, and that he loves the experience. He describes the joy in euphoric terms. Trevize warns him not to become caught up in the experience and suggested that Pelorat could become addicted, though his brain can't handle the connection and he could be killed over long-term exposure.

After their conversation on this point, Trevize reveals that they're headed for Comporellon. They learned of the planet from a traitor, Munn Li Comporellon, who told them Comporellon was the city of his ancestors and suggested that it might hold the key to Earth's location.





## Gaia - Tioward Comporellon Analysis

Trevize points out that the people of Gaia control the rain and that they could have held the rain back for the parting of the Far Star. He seems to want to make an issue of the fact, but doesn't. Pelorat, however, laughingly says that it's Gaia "weeping" for their departure. As he steps onto the Far Star, Trevize looks back on Gaia and admits that it's a picture of serenity in a galaxy filled with chaos. However, he's come to cherish his own individuality to the point that he says he hopes he never sees that serene planet again. It's interesting to hear Trevize warn Pelorat against seeking the connection with Gaia through Bliss. The reader must wonder whether the purpose is true concern for his friend or simply another way Trevize has to argue his dislike and distrust of Gaia.



# Comporellon - At the Entry Station

## Comporellon - At the Entry Station Summary

During the journey to Comporellon, Trevize, Bliss and Pelorat talk about the attitudes toward Gaia. Bliss says that Trevize believes she is a robot and says there were robots in Gaia's distant past. Bliss also reveals that there are "parts of Gaia" throughout the galaxy, though she won't tell where. As Trevize and his crew make their way into the Comporellon region, they're summoned to an entry station. The purpose of the entry stations is to ensure that visitors to the planet are legitimate, carrying no illegal cargo and have the legal right to be on the planet. Though Trevize hadn't previously mentioned the need for documentation to gain entry, he seems to have expected that there would be few - in any - questions about Bliss and her lack of papers.

Trevize tries to bully his way in, touting his standing as a government official and demanding to be allowed to land. When that doesn't work, he tries a bribe but the entry official, A. Kendray, who doesn't believe that Trevize has the power to make any promises and turns down the offer. Trevize then turns to the age-old tradition of appealing to the man's loyalty to other men. He tells Kendray that the woman is Pelorat's companion and that it would be extremely embarrassing if Pelorat's wife were to find out about the woman. In truth, Pelorat isn't married. Kendray seems to relent, though it's later revealed that he has orders regarding the ship - not the occupants. While Kendray considered refusing the party admittance and requiring that Bliss remain at the entry station, he ultimately felt Trevize might simply take his ship and leave. In an effort to get the vessel onto the ground and into the hands of the Comporellon government, he allows them admittance.

## Comporellon - At the Entry Station Analysis

This is one of those points where the reader had better grasp the subtleties of the book if he has read previous books in the series. Trevize refers to the Gaian decision to lessen people's memories of Trevize himself, but forgot to lessen their memories of the Far Star. It's the ship - not the people - who cause the custody issue on Comporellon. Bliss and Trevize continually discuss Gaia and whether the individual is more important than the many. It's easy to understand Trevize's fears - he has made a decision that will change the course of humankind. While he's not willing to trust in himself to have made the correct decision, he's also unwilling to bestow that trust on anyone else. Trust and faith in varying degrees is a continuing theme throughout the book with the various characters coming to trust themselves and each other to varying degrees.



# Comporellon - On Comporellon

## Comporellon - On Comporellon Summary

As they begin their approach to the planet, Trevize tells them how he got past the entry point. During the conversation, Pelorat assures Bliss that he has no wife and offers to marry her. Bliss says it's only "Isolates" - her word for those who are not part of Gaia and the collective consciousness - who need that ritual. However, she is outraged once she learns that Trevize also told the guard that she onboard for Pelorat's sexual diversion. That sparks a debate over whether it's right to lie, and which laws and rules are to be enforced.

Trevize continues to argue that the greater good of humankind is served by individuals who dare to challenge the system, even when those challenges are against the law. Bliss argues that without adhering to laws and rules, society breaks down. Kenday confides in a friend that he broke the rules to allow Trevize and his friend entry to the planet. He says that he believes he'll be excused because the government wants the Far Start. Once on the planet, the three were immediately taken into custody by a person they first believed to be a cab driver. Trevize first believes it's because he told Kendray that he was visiting Comporellon on official government business and that the government of the planet simply wanted to see him. They are taken inside a huge building.

## Comporellon - On Comporellon Analysis

Comporellon is bitterly cold and Bliss wonders that the planet hates its inhabitants, because the weather on Gaia is harmonious with the people. The theme of diversity, seen throughout the book, is evident here, as Trevize stands up for the Comporellons, saying the people of the planet have adapted, as people of all sorts of climates tend to do. Bliss herself is seldom tolerant of the diversity and complains about the bitter cold. The three seem unprepared for the bitter cold and don't have sufficient clothing for warmth. Nevertheless, Bliss quickly takes off her jacket as armed Comporellians search the three. She doesn't shiver, despite the cold and Trevize admits that he admires her for her action. It's important to remember that Trevize isn't only a government official himself - though not currently of good standing - but is former military. That makes it necessary for his own pride to stand up to situations as they occur. He seems perturbed that he didn't expect to be searched and simply stood there while it happened.



# Comporellon - Srtuggle for the Ship

## Comporellon - Srtuggle for the Ship Summary

Trevize notes that there are few colors on Comporellon - everyone and everything appear in shades of black and white. Trevize, Pelorat and Bliss meet Mitza Lizalor, minister of transportation on Comporellon who points out that Bliss is on the planet illegally. Lizalor questions them at length, refusing to answer any questions herself. She asks Bliss's purpose aboard the Far Star and Bliss says that she's a passenger, nothing more. Trevize asks what law they have broken and Lizalor says Bliss has no papers. She acknowledges that some planets are lax on that regard, but says Comporellon is not. However, Lizalor then tells Trevize that they have not been arrested because Bliss has no papers, but because they have orders from the Federation to seize the Far Star.

Lizalor says that she plans to take the ship, but is willing to give Trevize another ship - something less technologically advanced. She tells Trevize that there are two options, turn over the Far Star or "demand the law" and all three would be punished for the lack of identification by Bliss. Lizalor says she'll offer Bliss transportation home and that Trevize and Pelorat can even seek citizenship on Comporellon. She assures them that the Federation does not want Trevize - only the ship.

Trevize asks for a private consultation with Pelorat and Bliss to consider options. While they're in the small room, Trevize points out that Gaia "withdrew" Trevize from the minds of government officials, but failed to withdraw their memories of the Far Star. Trevize insists that he wants to travel in the Far Star and tells Bliss to control the minds of those in authority to make it happen. She refuses, saying that she'll only interfere if Trevize's life is in danger. When Trevize returns to Lizalor's office, he says that the Comporellians can't take over the Far Star because they don't know how the technology works. He promises that the ship will explode if anyone tries to board her. Trevize says he doesn't believe Lizalor intends to turn the ship over to the Federation and Lizalor takes Trevize to her private apartment to continue the discussion. Trevize tells Lizalor that his mission could be of importance to Comporellon. He doesn't tell what that mission is, but says he "might be" willing to give them the ship once his mission is complete.

The two share a meal then move on to discuss social issues. Lizalor asks about Trevize's relationship with Bliss and to question his moral and religious beliefs regarding sex. She explains that sex is controlled on Comporellon and that she, as an unmarried woman, has to be very discreet. The chapter ends with the two preparing for an encounter.

## Comporellon - Srtuggle for the Ship Analysis

The fact that everyone dresses in shades of black and white should be very limiting, but Trevize notes that the people still find ways to exert their own personality into their



clothing. That's in keeping with the diversity theme throughout the book. Lizalor's apartment is luxurious. She says that wasteful opulence is abhorred but that the luxury of her apartment serves a purpose - allowing her to unwind after her stressful duties. Though Trevize points out Lizalor's size and that he wouldn't like to enter a physical struggle with the large woman, he does seem to be attracted. He is willing to engage in the sexual encounter though he'll work very hard to be sure that he continues to appear the dominant figure.

Trevize may have been playing on a hunch when he suggested that the Comporellians had not intention of turning the Far Star over to the Foundation, but the hunch ultimately pays off. It's important to remember that the ship has mapping capabilities and can perform calculations that make the trip go much more smoothly - advantages Trevize isn't willing to give up.



# Comporellon - The Nature of Earth

## Comporellon - The Nature of Earth Summary

Trevize has sex with the transportation minister and knows that he has to prove himself as a strong, virile lover. After their encounter, Lizalor goes to sleep and Trevize admits that he also wants to sleep. However, he holds himself back so that he's watching her when she awakes. Trevize rightly guesses that he has satisfied Lizalor and tells her that he has a plan for them to remain lovers. Trevize says that someone would begin to suspect the two of them were lovers if he were to remain on the planet, slipping away to see her when he could. Nevertheless, he suggests that it would be only natural for him to report to Lizalor periodically if he were allowed to continue on his mission. Lizalor suggests that Bliss remain behind to ensure that Trevize returns. He insists that she's vital to his mission. It's only then that he tells her he is searching for Earth and her reaction is immediate. She extends her arms, crossing the first two fingers of her hand in a sign obviously meant to ward off evil. It's only after he's already said the word, "Earth," that Trevize remembers that he's been told that Comporellians are superstitious about the word.

Lizalor takes a shower and Trevize has trouble operating the water, which is only moderately warm, but then warm air dries him and reheats his body. Lizalor tells Trevize that they refer to Earth as "The Oldest." Lizalor explains a complicated version of history, that robots were used and ultimately caused the downfall of Earth, and that the Earth is now radioactive. She says "He Who Punishes" caused the downfall. She is reluctant to talk about the subject but directs Trevize to Vasil Deniador, a historian with knowledge of Earth. Lizalor calls Deniador a Skeptic and Deniador later explains that the term refers to anyone who won't take things at face value without proof. Once Trevize is reunited with Pelorat and Bliss, he tells them of the conversation and that he believes Lizalor has softened toward him.

When Pelorat and Bliss learn that Trevize had sex with Lizalor, Pelorat offers congratulations but Bliss is somewhat judgmental. She accuses Trevize of selling his body in return for a favor, which Trevize denies, saying he'd been without sex for months and enjoyed the encounter. Deniador was a small man who enjoys the verbal sparring with Pelorat and Trevize. Pelorat first talks of "The Oldest," and Deniador says it's superstitious to avoid the word Earth. In fact, he reveals that some use the word as an expletive. Deniador does tell of the legends - that the first settlers were dependent on robots and that some believe they died as punishment by "He Who Punishes;" that a second wave of settlers took over the galaxy but without robots; and that Earth is now radioactive. He claims that he doesn't know the location of Earth.

## Comporellon - The Nature of Earth Analysis

It's interesting to note the various conversations between Bliss and Trevize regarding sex. Trevize warns Bliss when they first set off on the voyage that he would be able to hear a sexual encounter between Bliss and Pelorat. He tells them he doesn't care what they do, but doesn't want to be forced to hear it. Bliss admits to breaking down some of Lizalor's inhibitions regarding her attraction to Trevize when she's declaring that she will keep the Far Star, but then seems judgmental when Trevize and Lizalor have sex, accusing Trevize of selling his body. This conversation is repeated again on a later planet with almost the same situation and almost the same result. The conversation with Deniador offers stories similar to those already heard. It's interesting to note that Trevize accepts many of the details of the legends in order to find his way to Earth, but he holds out hope until the final moment that Earth will not be radioactive.



# Comporellon - Leaving Comporellon

## Comporellon - Leaving Comporellon Summary

The conversation with Deniador continues, including a discussion of Yariff's project. Yariff believed that he could locate Earth by considering the age of all planets. The oldest planets would be nearest Earth and in a roughly concentric pattern around the home planet's location. The project failed, probably because the inhabitants of most planets either exaggerated or underestimated the age. Deniador says that he has located an ancient document that could be a ship's log. That log indicates that Comporellon may have originally been known as Baleyworld, and that the captain of that ship had taken a Spacer woman on board. It was generally accepted that the Spacers - those from Earth who first settled other planets - refused contact with others, Deniador dismissed the document as a fake.

The log does have a set of coordinates and, lacking any other direction, Trevize decides to head for those coordinates. Lizalor is on hand to tell Trevize good-bye. She says that no one will question her decision to allow him to leave, and that if they did she would tell them of his quest to find Earth. She believes that superstition is so prevalent that people will commend her for sending him on his way before he could bring ill fortune down on Comporellon. Trevize promises to return, though Lizalor says she doesn't expect to ever see him again.

UTrevize goes through a complex set of calculations, allowing for time and spatial movement, in an effort to find a planet or planetary system at the coordinates discovered on Comporellon. It does not exist. Then Trevize explains to Bliss and Pelorat that he believes the system may have been left off the map because Earth and its system are called "Forbidden Worlds." Toward that end, he uses the ship's telescope to look at the Milky Way as it appears, rather than as the map depicts. He finds a planet he believes to be the "gas giant" around which the Earth orbits, though it turns out to be Aurora. It's during this part of the voyage that Pelorat and Bliss get a lesson about the rings surrounding a nearby planet. Pelorat suddenly makes a connection to a line from an old poem that referred to a planet in Earth's system that had spectacular rings.

## Comporellon - Leaving Comporellon Analysis

While Yariff's project failed, the premise is later used by Trevize to calculate Earth's location. Trevize is interested in Lizalor, though he says he's not certain he could physically hold up to a long-term sexual relationship. He does tell Lizalor that he'll return and it's noted that he truly believes it is true. In fact, he doesn't return in this book, but the reader should remember that Foundation and Earth is one of a series. It's interesting to note that Trevize takes a long time to do the calculations to reach his next planned stop, though he fully expects that the system does not appear on a map. It's likely that he's hoping that he's correct in his assumptions - that it will be there but not included on





the map. He seems reluctant to actually look for fear that he might have been wrong. It's also interesting to note that he continues to put faith in all the myths and legends he can find, but refuses to give up the search even though all those myths insist that Earth is radioactive and without life.



# Aurora - Forbidden World

## Aurora - Forbidden World Summary

Trevize talks at length about the operation of the ship and how he plans a "jump" through space. He then engages in a conversation with Pelorat while Bliss is asleep. Pelorat explains that Bliss needs lots of sleep in order to maintain her connection with Gaia over the long distance they've already traveled. They are joined by Bliss and the three debate the likelihood that any Spacer worlds still exist. When they locate the next planet, which turns out to be Aurora, Trevize approaches cautiously. Bliss says there's no need for caution because she - and Gaia - protect them. Bliss uses the opportunity to point out that she still has the ability to call on the combined minds of Gaia for power. She tells Trevize that an individual cut off from his fellow man is truly on his own.

Trevize finds that the planet they are approaching is habitable, but has no satellite, therefore is not Earth. Trevize, using the computer, believes there to be abundant plant life on the planet and Bliss detects animals. Trevize waits in orbit to see if anyone hails them. He notes that the entry stations are very old and seem uninhabited or are inhabited with a very advanced race that produces no radiation signs. Bliss then tells Trevize that the animal life she detected is not human and that there are few - if any - humans on the planet. As they draw nearer the planet, she detects animals, but not humans. The planet has forests and grasslands, but has a "moth eaten" look. Bliss says that indicates that the planet is no longer peopled. Bliss said that only Earth naturally evolved.

On all other planets, people introduced only plants and animals that were beneficial or necessary. Pelorat interrupts to relate an old creation myth. He says that the people of a particular planet did "something silly - never mind what," causing the planet's soil to be cursed. The story goes that thorns and thistles were forever after a part of the planet's ecosystem. Pelorat suggests that some things unwanted by humans - such as thorns and thistles - may be necessary for a balanced eco-system.

Bliss returns to her conjecture, suggesting that in this case, the planet was terraformed by people and that when the humans ceased to be in control, the eco-system collapsed. She then suggests that the unbalance alone may not be enough to prove the lack of humans. She says that it could be possible for a planet's balance to break down, if the humans became uninterested. Pelorat is appalled at the thought that any society could decay to that point. Trevize looks for ruins as a place to land in the hope that they can locate some clue to help them locate Earth.

## Aurora - Forbidden World Analysis

There's a long conversation between Pelorat and Trevize that centers on the existence of a "psychohistory." Though it's never clearly explained to the reader, it's a plan by



which someone controls and/or predicts the future of humankind. Pelorat argues that it exists and that it works. Trevize, as usual, wants proof. When the two discuss the creation myth, it seems likely that Pelorat is referring to the story of Cain and Able as told in the Bible. The fact that Pelorat is appalled by Bliss's suggestion that a society would possibly allow their eco-system to deteriorate is another example of the diversity theme. Pelorat has obviously been raised to respect the environment and can't conceive of a society that does differently. As they prepare to land, it seems Trevize and Pelorat are hopeful of finding something. That hope is exactly what causes Pelorat to be somewhat misleading when he discovers a robot on the planet.

# Aurora - Facing the Pack

## Aurora - Facing the Pack Summary

Trevize prepares to disembark and straps on two weapons, a blaster that has the power to heat the core of a living being until it explodes and a neuron whip with the power to inflict severe pain for a short period of time. Bliss argues against the need for the weapons, saying that the planet is empty. Trevize won't be swayed and takes them anyway. As the party steps off onto the first planet they encounter, Trevize talks of being apprehensive. He does note a number of living things - butterflies, birds, trees and small animals. He considers that he may be apprehensive because he's never been on a deserted planet. He talks of his military experiences, including the use of such planets for naval maneuvers. It's here that Trevize says there has been no war for the century before his birth.

Trevize sends Pelorat and Bliss to search the nearby ruins while he stands guard. Pelorat is excited at the thought of what he might find and Bliss is charged with his protection. Trevize stands guard, marching back and forth in the area around the ship. It's when he turns an abrupt about-face that he sees the first dog. He talks about his dislike for dogs and first thinks to ignore the beast. When the animal snarled, he decides to make friends. He approaches but the dog becomes more threatening. Trevize believes that reaction is because that dog has probably never seen people and credits that with the reason the dog doesn't immediately attack. Trevize begins to retreat, the dog staying near. More dogs arrive and Trevize makes a dash for a tree, barely beating the dogs.

Within a few minutes, Trevize counts twenty-three dogs at the base of his tree. He decides to shoot on with his blaster. Though he adjusts it to a low setting, the dog is immediately blown apart and the dogs eat the dead animal. He abandons the plan, realizing that it's not scaring them away, but feeding them. Just then, Bliss and Pelorat arrive. Bliss holds them off for a few minutes while Trevize uses the neuron whip. The dog he shoots falls to the ground, howling, and all the dogs run away. Bliss, Trevize and Pelorat then carry on a long conversation regarding the event - whether it was some foretelling that prompted Trevize to take the weapons, for example.

Both Trevize and Bliss admit that they'd each played a part in diffusing the situation. Janov then tells Trevize that he discovered the planet's name is Aurora - a word meaning "beginning." Pelorat believes this means the planet was settled by the first wave of settlers, and further supports the idea by saying that they found a robot. Pelorat claims that the robot had "a spark of life" remaining when he touched it, a statement backed up by Bliss. It's not until later that Bliss says she didn't really see the robot move and that it wasn't functioning. She explains that she backed Pelorat's story because he was so excited and she loved him too much to disagree.



## Aurora - Facing the Pack Analysis

It's interesting to note that Trevize talks about the things he's seen on the "hypodrama holoscreen," including lions, unicorns, bears, brontosaurus and whales. He refers to them as the "monsters" of fiction and says he believes those stories may be come from "the vague myth of Earth." He also talks about primeval honeybees that sting, but says that honeybees are "in no way harmful." The reader should note that Trevize does some things to amuse himself while waiting for Pelorat and Bliss. He marches in time, pretending to be on the parade grounds during his military career, for example. That military training has come to the forefront of Trevize's mind and he's ashamed of his fear. He says that he'll never live down the shame if anyone finds that he was chase up a tree by dogs. He talks of the fact that he had medicine for the scrape on his hand, but none for his injured psyche.

The fact that Bliss backs up Pelorat's story of a functioning robot is important as it proves her devotion to her companion - a point Trevize continually questions. Even though she later tells Trevize the truth, he isn't fully trusting - a theme repeated throughout the book.



# Solaria - Robots

## Solaria - Robots Summary

Trevize, still believing that Pelorat encountered a functioning robot on the planet's surface, opts to spend the night on Aurora. Then Bliss confides that she hadn't really seen the robot work, but had felt she couldn't say so in front of Pelorat. She says that she believes he wanted to make the discovery so badly that his mind played a trick on him. Bliss talks at length about her devotion to Pelorat and the reason for it. She explains that she, as part of Gaia, is "good" because of her relationship to the whole. Pelorat, as Bliss says, is good simply because he is. He's a selfless person and Trevize admits that Pelorat would lay down his life for another, if called upon to do so. Trevize also admits that he would likely do the same if he didn't have time to think about it beforehand. Trevize then tells Bliss that he's held back his friendship of her personally and that he's ready to make the commitment of friendship. That doesn't mean they'll stop their discussions about Gaia's pros and cons.

Trevize then decides to move on to the next star on his list. He notes that Pelorat and Bliss have become comfortable with his abilities as pilot and no longer watch his movements. He also admits that he's come to trust the ship's computer more and is no longer so concerned with double-checking each movement. Using the information they've already gained, Trevize takes the Far Star to the next planet that he discovers is habitable and is not on the computer's maps - just as he expected. He calls on Bliss to "listen" for life. She reports an abundance of animals and an occasional "whiff" of human intelligence, though she admits that it could be that she's sensing something that's not actually there, but that she desperately wants to find. Then she tells Trevize that she feels certain there are many robots on the planet.

When Pelorat joins them, he admits that he'd felt they should remain on Aurora to search for additional robots and credits Trevize with knowing that there would be more robots on this new planet - Solaria. Trevize says he had no idea of that fact, but was working on a hunch. Pelorat then tells Trevize of a game of chance that appears in legends. He explains that players throw small cubes on the ground. Each face of the cube had some decision - yes, no and postpone, for example. Decisions were made based solely on the result of the throw.

Bliss, who has been in another room aboard the ship concentrating on listening to the planet, says that she's heard several "maybes." She then says that their landing won't be like a game of chance because she's discovered human thought and that the ship will be taking them to that location. When they land, Trevize arms himself with a blaster and neuron whip and this time Bliss doesn't object. He warns Pelorat not to be alone and Pelorat says that he's happy to hide in the shadows of either Trevize's weapons or Bliss's protection.



Once they emerge from the ship, they are almost immediately approached by three robots. He greets the robots, saying, "We come to this world as friends." Trevize is very surprised when the robots don't speak the currently accepted Galactic language. Pelorat, on the other hand, is delighted at the find. There follows a discussion of what it means - the the society has grown static and is unable to evolve, perhaps. Pelorat says that it could be that retaining the language is a convenience for the sake of the robots. Because the robots wouldn't be able to learn a new language but would have to be programmed to understand, keeping the language the same through many years would mean no robot became obsolete because of a language barrier. Pelorat recognizes the language and attempts to communicate, discovering that the robots are only twenty-six years old and that they don't know the location of Earth. Pelorat says they should have remained on Aurora to search for other robots there because those would likely have been older. Trevize says there are bound to be older robots on Solaria as well and promises they'll return to Aurora if they need to.

It's during this conversation that Sarton Bander approaches, greets them cordially as "wanderers" and asks what they want with his robots. Trevize realizes he can't tell whether Bander is male or female. When he addresses Bander as "sir," Bander quickly points out that he is neither male nor female, but is both. Bander is thereafter referred to as "it." Bander also tells Trevize that "in the old days" the ship would have been shot on sight. Trevize promises that they come in peace. Bander asks why he is armed and Trevize explains that it's because he wasn't certain what he might have encountered. Bander asks to see the weapons and Trevize refuses. Bander then holds out its hand toward Trevize and his weapons come from their holsters. Trevize tries to resist but is held fast by a force. Bander then drains the energy from both weapons and returns them to Trevize.

## Solaria - Robots Analysis

Trevize notes that Bander is not a well-muscled individual, but is rather on the flabby side. This had been one of the arguments against constantly allowing robots to do all the manual labor for a society. The reader should remember that Trevize has expressed concern about Pelorat's feelings with regard to Bliss. There's little doubt that Trevize believes that Bliss will eventually abandon Pelorat and Trevize is concerned about his friend. That could have been at least part of Trevize's dislike of Bliss. Though he says that he dislikes what Gaia stands for - the loss of individuality - he hasn't exactly been friends with Bliss personally. It seems that he's turned a corner when Bliss explains her reason for lying about the robot. Trevize will continue to have points of contention with Bliss but has at least momentarily softened.

The continuing theme of trust is again shown in this instance, as with Trevize's realization that Pelorat and Bliss are learning to trust his piloting abilities and that he's learning to trust the ship's computer. As Bliss listens to the planet below, she detects an abundance of animal life. It's not until later that she detects a single "whiff" of human thought. The three don't learn until later that the reason is that the people of Solaria live underground and that there are only some twelve hundred people on the entire planet. It



will also soon become evident that the reason Bander didn't immediately come to meet the party was because there was a cloud cover when the Far Star first touched down. Bander depends on escaping heat from the planet as a source of his power, and probably didn't want to meet the travelers with any sort of disadvantage.

It will also soon become evident that most people on Solaria would have destroyed the ship and crew on sight. Though Bander assured them that the solitary lifestyle was the only way he'd want to live, he does seem eager to carry on a conversation and show off his estate to the visitors before he kills them.





# Solaria - Underground

## Solaria - Underground Summary

When Bander asks Trevize if he believes in sorcery, Trevize answers, "No, we do not, little Solaria." Bliss immediately cautions Trevize not to anger Bander because it is dangerous. Trevize asks how Bander took his weapons, but Bander doesn't answer. It does ask them to follow. Bander calls Bliss the "feminine half-human," and "the lesser half." Under questioning from Bander, Pelorat says that he is fifty-two years old and will likely live another thirty years. Bander says that his ancestors settled fifty worlds. When Trevize says the fifty are nothing compared with the many settled since then, Bander says quality counts and the fifty originally settled are more important than all the others.

Bander then begins to tell of the evolution of his race. He says they sought solitude and the ability to procreate singly was vital to their desired life and it credits gene research with that. It says that they sought freedom and the only way to fully achieve that was to live singly. It was toward that end that the Solarians moved underground. By having no cities or major structures above ground, the planet appears uninhabited, discouraging visitors. Bander says there's no desire to compel another to his will, such as forcing a conversation via the electronic communications available. Bander says there are twelve hundred people on the planet, and says that quality is more important than quantity. Bander then explains that it is able to tap into the subtle thermodynamic energy of the planet as a source for his power. It shows them transducers, located inside its skull, as the mechanism for harnessing that power.

Trevize acknowledges that Bliss is likely pushing Bander to reveal more than he might ordinarily, but he also realizes that Bander is probably very excited about the opportunity to talk to other intelligent forms. Bander says it's possible that the Solarians could take over other planets based on this technology, but says he doesn't see that the Solarians would actually gain anything in the process. He later says that he believes the "swarmers," as he calls those who live in groups, will eventually kill themselves and each other, leaving Solarian alone.

Bander then tells Trevize that it was the Spacers who struck at Earth, causing the radioactivity. Bander then tells of a story about a space traveler who visited Solaria in the days before the race developed genetically to live singly. Bander says the story goes that a Solarian woman went with him, but discredits the story as simply unbelievable. Pelorat asks about records of the history of Solaria and Bander says any ancient records would have been destroyed out of sheer revulsion. Bander takes the three into a small room that they think is his home, but Bander says that's merely an anteroom equipped with the communication device.

It then takes them on a tour of its home, which is extensive. It says there are likely rooms he's never visited and that robots have built it all. They enter an elevator that takes them farther underground, into additional rooms that stretch for miles. Bander



says each estate manufactures or grows what it can, then trades with other estate owners for anything else they need. Among the pieces of information Bander shares is the fact that he uses the energy produced in his brain to power the entire estate. Bander claims no knowledge of Earth's location.

Bander then takes the group to the ancestral death chambers. It's there that it tells of the Solarian tradition of interring all ancestors on the estate and that his own interment room is already complete. There are films in that chamber of the earlier Solarians and Bander refuses to allow them to watch or to give them any information from the films. Bander then says there will be a successor for the Bander Estate when it nears the time of Bander's expected death. If someone dies without a successor, others on the planet will choose one. Bander then delivers a piece of news. It tells them that it will have robots take the Far Star underground and learn about the technology, and will kill Trevize, Pelorat and Bliss.

## Solaria - Underground Analysis

Bander is appalled at the expected life span and the fact that humans live as "half-humans." Though its own ancestors were the same, Bander clearly thinks that his people have evolved far past their humble beginnings. Though Bander talks at length about the "freedom" of his lifestyle, there are still rules that limit that freedom. It isn't at all interested in discussing those rules. Perhaps it's natural that Bander, like all people, is eager to declare that its way of life is the best. Bander does say that it is content to allow others to live as they please, but then adds that it's contingent on the fact that others do the same. It doesn't expand on that and what would happen if someone on the planet were to try to force another to some action.

It's notable that Trevize is told again that Earth is radioactive, but again continues the search. The reader is left to decide whether Trevize doesn't believe the stories or if he merely hopes that he'll find the answer he seeks anyway. It's interesting to note that Bander seems somewhat excited to talk with Trevize, Pelorat and Bliss. Even though it claims to want complete solitude, Bander almost seems starved for conversation.

It's also interesting to note that Bander claims to have seen little of the estates of others on Solaria, but claims the Bander Estate is better than others. As he's questioned about Earth, Bander claims to have no knowledge of the planet's location. A sense of the selfishness of the society shows through when Pelorat says that myths and legends of Earth has been his area of study and that he wants to find it. Bander calmly says that Pelorat should find something else to study and shows no concern for the desires of another. Bander is equally unsympathetic when he tells the three that he plans to kill them. It's interesting to note that Bliss has given no indication of the fact. It's possible that Bander's thoughts weren't available to Bliss because of the total lack of emotion from it.



# Solaria - To the Surface

## Solaria - To the Surface Summary

Trevize, Bliss and Pelorat are initially in shock. Bander admits that it's indulged itself by allowing them to stay so long. He argues that their mere presence was an offense and that they'll be put to death. When Bander raises its hand, the room falls dark. As Trevize and Pelorat recover consciousness, they fear they're dead. Trevize knows Bander must be dead because it was the Solarian who powered the entire estate. The darkness indicates Bander's death. Bliss says she was only successful in overpowering Bander because it didn't know of her own powers. Bliss then says that she hadn't intended to kill it, but stopped the power going from Bander for a few seconds, resulting in almost immediate death from an overload. Bliss discovers that she can produce enough power for lights and the three decide to try to find their way out of the extensive underground home. Bliss detects fear and they follow her senses toward the feeling, hoping that it will be a person who can lead them to the surface.

Trevize wonders how long it will take others to discover Bander's death. As it turns out, it's relatively fast and there are "guard robots" at the surface before they can reach their ship. They make their way toward the fear Bliss detects until the whimpering of a child is audible. There they find Fallom, an immature Solarian. There is a robot stopped in mid-step and Fallom later tells them that the robot is Jemby. The child has learned all its language from the robots, so speaks the outdated language of the robots. Pelorat attempts to communicate and finally gets the idea across that they want the child to lead them outside. Fallom is fourteen-years-old and Pelorat tells it that they'll reactivate Jemby if the child leads them out.

Fallom finds the way out quickly but four robots are near the Far Star. The robots are Guardian Robots, still working because their power is independent of any single estate. They say that the Far Star is on Bander's estate and that Bander is apparently dead and demand an explanation. They examine Trevize's weapons and say they'll "damage" the three until they answer questions about Bander's death. Trevize offers explanations - they weren't aware of Bander's death or that they found him already dead. The robots then say that Fallom is of no importance because it is not yet fully developed and indicates that the child will be destroyed. It's only then that Bliss uses her mind to disable the robots. She cries, saying she was close to figuring out how they worked so that she could neutralize them without destroying them.

## Solaria - To the Surface Analysis

When Bliss kills Bander, she is immediately upset. Bliss has constantly argued for the sanctity of life - all life. She's disturbed that she killed Bander and is only slightly comforted by the fact that she had no choice. Bliss could have still been reeling from that event when they meet up with the Guardian Robots. She doesn't immediately



disarm them though she apparently has the ability. Though the robots grab Trevize and hold him in a painful grip, Bliss doesn't intervene until they reach for Fallom. Whether it's some maternal instinct or simply a reaction isn't explained.

Later, Trevize will ask her about her timing, criticizing the fact that he was hurt and Bliss didn't intervene. As Trevize's nature become more evident, it's possible that his pride is injured at his rough treatment, especially since he was powerless to take action against the two. The reader can wonder what would have happened had Trevize still had working weapons. It's interesting to note that Bander didn't mention it had a child of its own, and in fact denied that a child existed. The reader is left to guess whether it was because Bander felt some paternal instinct that prompted it to try to protect the youngster or for some other reason.



# Melpomenia - Away from Solaria

## Melpomenia - Away from Solaria Summary

As the Far Star makes its way from Solaria, Trevize realizes that Bliss has brought Fallom aboard. Pelorat suggests that Bliss's reason for saving the child was guilt for having taken the life of the parent. Pelorat and Bliss say that the child would have been killed, making it necessary to save it. Trevize argues that the child belonged on that planet and should never have been removed. Trevize decides to take a nap and then to head for the next planet on their list.

When Trevize gets out of the shower, Fallom is pointing at his penis and announces that Bliss said for Trevize to wash the child. When Trevize confronts Bliss about it, she says that she thought it important for all the adults to bond with the child. Trevize says Bliss brought the child along and that she'll have to take responsibility for it. Bliss explains that Fallom is young and that she believes the child will adapt to life aboard the ship. Trevize says that he wants Bliss to wash the child and then "get rid of it." When Bliss questions his meaning, he says that he didn't intend for her to drop it down the airlock, but only to send it to her room.

Trevize then falls into a session of introspection and searching for reason to his quest and the information he has to that point. As the three continue discussions on the various societies, Trevize points out that the solitude of the Solarians couldn't be attained without the aid of robots. Also, the men of Solaria haven't always been solitary - they have evolved from Earthmen. Pelorat then tells of a folk tale he knows in which someone is granted three wishes. He says there's something important about the number three but also that no one seems to be able to get their thoughts in order so that three wishes gain them anything. Trevize has explored two of the three planets he felt could lead him to Earth without success. He admits to Pelorat that he doesn't know what he'll do if they don't discover something on the next planet. He does, however, vow to continue the trip

## Melpomenia - Away from Solaria Analysis

Trevize and Pelorat briefly discuss the disadvantages of the Solarian society. While Pelorat suggests that a society that is accustomed to having children reared by robots is acceptable, Trevize points out that a breakdown of the robots could mean the demise of the society. The two are in their typical roles - Pelorat accepting and Trevize pointing out the potential pitfalls. Trevize later has a conversation with Bliss regarding her action - and the delay in her action - when confronted with the robots on Solaria. He says that his concern is for their safety. He points out that Bliss had the ability to disable the



robots but didn't use it until Fallom was threatened - even failing to intercede when the robots were hurting Trevize.

Bliss rationalizes her actions, saying that she'd not felt anyone to be in mortal danger until the robots reached for Fallom. Bliss and Trevize are again at odds over their perceptions of life and the sanctity of life. Trevize believes Bliss acted the moment her maternal instincts kicked in. Trevize then takes the potential problems of having Fallom aboard, including the fact that the race procreations singly. Bliss assures him Fallom is too young to procreate.



# Melpomenia - Dead Planet

## Melpomenia - Dead Planet Summary

As Trevize nears the next planet, he discovers several astronomical features that indicate there might not be a habitable planet in the region. As he travels through space in search of the next planet, Fallom thanks him for allowing it be on the trip. Trevize commends Fallom for memorizing the message, but Bliss says Fallom is picking up the language quickly. Trevize admits the hermaphrodite prompts a "grisly" feeling. Bliss points out that a Solarian would think the same of a human with the sex organs of only one gender. Trevize then says that he's annoyed because he doesn't know whether to refer to Fallom as "he" or "she." Bliss suggests that it's because the human language doesn't have a pronoun for a person of both genders and suggest they refer to Fallom as "she."

Trevize and Bliss then talk about what will happen if Bliss has a child. That child would necessarily be fathered by a Gaian and Trevize asks if that means Pelorat would be discarded. Bliss says the father would be "a temporary diversion" or that the child could be conceived artificially. Trevize then admits that he's also concerned because he fears Bliss is ignoring him in favor of Fallom. Bliss then notes that Trevize seems sad and offers to talk about it. Trevize reveals that he's found the next planet and that there's little atmosphere. Trevize still plans to check out the planet.

Trevize and Pelorat have a discussion regarding their mission. Pelorat is of the opinion that it might be best to accept that Earth is radioactive and end the quest. Trevize vows that he'll never give up. Trevize does discover that the planet has no craters - a sign that there was likely once civilization, meaning there may be existing records. Trevize tells Bliss that he and Pelorat will explore the planet. He says there is no space suit small enough for Fallom and that she can't be left on the Far Star alone. After some discussion, Pelorat and Trevize decide that they want to find the administrative part of the city and decide on an area that seems to fit that requirement.

## Melpomenia - Dead Planet Analysis

As Trevize heads to the final of the three planets that could hold the key to Earth's location, he seems to have lost hope that this planet could be Earth itself. He hesitates before instructing the computer to make the jump and admits that it's because he fears he might find nothing. Trevize, Pelorat and Bliss have continued their discussions about various points and it seems that Pelorat and Bliss are typically on one side of an issue while Trevize is on the other.

As Trevize tries to decide where to land for their exploration, he talks with Pelorat. Pelorat asks if he's expected to make the decision himself and Trevize says no. It seems necessary to Trevize to maintain his position and appearance of authority, but

he's also looking for some information to make the correct decision. He seems to contradict himself, declaring that he'll never give up the search and being willing to drag Pelorat and Bliss along for a trip that lasts into eternity, but also seeking to comfort them or ask their opinions on other points.





# Melpomenia - Moss

## Melpomenia - Moss Summary

The first building Pelorat and Trevize encounter as they exit the Far Star is a bank. As Pelorat explains the concept of a bank, Trevize is not inspired by the ancient history. They next find a large building called "Hall of the Worlds." They find a very large statue and three columns with a list of fifty planets. Each has three numbers - coordinates of their locations. Pelorat immediately makes the connection between the fifty names and the fact that legend says there were fifty Spacer worlds.

Trevize photographs the columns in order to study the names in more detail aboard the Far Star. In order to get a better angle, Trevize climbs up on a large statue in the middle of the building. The statue is missing an arm and Trevize notes that the other is in poor condition. Though the statue is huge, the vibrations as Trevize jumps to the floor is enough to loosen the other arm. Trevize admits to being scared, just as a child would be. He says he expects to see a security guard grab him for the vandalism. It's when the arm falls off that they notice the first bit of "fuzz," that turns out to be moss.

They go through the rest of the building and find book-films. Trevize is so caught up with trying to make a reader work that he ignores Pelorat. When he turns his attention on his friend, Trevize realizes there's a film of moss around Pelorat's faceplate. It's also growing on Trevize's faceplate and he quickly decides that the moss that has clung to life so precariously, grows in abundance anywhere there's carbon - such as the edges of the faceplates where carbon escapes. The moss immediately dies when subjected to the rays of the sun - hotter than normal because of the weak atmosphere.

When Trevize and Pelorat return to the ship, they discover that the moss has also grown around the edges of the ship's door. They instruct Bliss to leave the door closed, then use the blaster to heat the moss and kill it. They then stay within the airlock and heat each other with the blaster's beam turned to low until the moss is dead. To be safe, Trevize then turns on the ship's ultraviolet light system to be sure no spores survive.

Once onboard the Far Star, Trevize and Bliss engage in another of their debates, on the sanctity of life and the advisability of all humans joining for a Gaian society. In the midst of that debate, Trevize swears again that he'll keep searching for Earth. He points out the list of fifty planets they discovered in the Hall of the Worlds and says he'll visit everyone in an effort to find Earth. It's then that Pelorat finds an opening and says that he believes he has the location of Earth.

## Melpomenia - Moss Analysis

Pelorat is excited about the various finds though Trevize sometimes is so caught up in a particular point that he can't see the overall picture and doesn't have near the excitement as Pelorat about what they do find. For Trevize, it's all about the bottom line



and his bottom line is the location of Earth. The historical significance of everything else they encounter pales in comparison. The fact that Trevize doesn't listen to Pelorat as he's trying to explain his perception of one of their discoveries is typical of Trevize. Once Trevize realizes that he ignored Pelorat and the valuable information he had, Trevize apologizes. He tends to be caught up in the moment, but then to be ready to give credit where it's due. The most sparks another debate between Bliss and Trevize.

As usual, Bliss argues that life is sacred, even when that life is in the form of moss spores. Trevize points out that they could have inadvertently transported the spores to another planet where it could have wreaked havoc on the ecology of an entire planet. Bliss gives in to the point, but refuses to admit that killing is right.



# Alpha - The Center of the Worlds

## Alpha - The Center of the Worlds Summary

Pelorat explains that he believes Yariff's Project would have worked, had the scientist had good information. The supposition was that Earth would be located in a central location with the newly settled planets spaced fairly evenly around it. Pelorat points out the fifty planets listed in the Hall of the Worlds and says that he believes Earth will be situated centrally to those planets. Trevize immediately begins the calculations in his head, a process that first makes Pelorat think that perhaps it is hopeless. Nevertheless, Trevize says it's not and that the computer can calculate a location fairly quickly. Trevize plots a course to the next planet and tells Pelorat that the planet is included on the galaxy star map in the ship's computer.

The other planets had not been included on the map, which makes Trevize skeptical that the planet could be earth. However, there's a question as to whether the planet has life, and Trevize grasps the fact that little seems to be known about the planet as a possibility that the planet could be Earth after all. As it turns out, the planet is in a binary system - with two stars around which the planets orbit. That's not a part of the legends of Earth, meaning it's likely not Earth after all. Trevize then tells Fallom that he believes someone has gone to a great deal of trouble to conceal Earth. Fallom had recently tried to touch the ship's computer console and likens that to Trevize's quest for Earth. She reasons that it's the same, and that the fact that Trevize won't allow her to touch the ship's controls means it must be interesting to touch them.

Trevize is amazed at her reasoning and tells Bliss that she's "created a monster." Trevize cites negative encounters on other planets and says he wants to be more careful when approaching this planet, which they've learned is called Alpha. The fact that the planet can't possibly be Earth is discussed, but they decide to visit Alpha anyway to restock their food supply and see if they can learn anything about Earth. They know that Alpha was the first letter of an alphabet once used on Earth and decide to call the second star Beta.

## Alpha - The Center of the Worlds Analysis

Trevize sets an alarm to sound when the computer has completed its calculations of Earth's possible location. When the alarm goes off, it brings everyone to the deck. Bliss is annoyed because she thought the signal indicated an emergency. Fallom is also curious and asks questions about the journey. Those questions annoy Trevize, possibly because he's already aware of her extreme intelligence and that makes him nervous. It could also be that Trevize tends to be skeptical and suspicious of many things and Fallom is one of them. It's notable that Trevize is willing to ignore some facts about the planet in order to hold to his dream that the planet could be Earth, but not all. He discounts the fact that the planet is on the star charts, but he grabs to the fact that it



has a binary star as an orbital point - a point none of the legends about Earth mentions. It's Fallom who asks the question: What if the land of their ancestors doesn't exist? While Trevize has faced that question from many and considered it himself, it seems to make him angry when Fallom asks. His insistence that Fallom be good becomes another point of contention between Trevize and Bliss.



# Alpha - The New Earth

## Alpha - The New Earth Summary

The Far Star approaches Alpha without being intercepted. However, when they get their first look at the planet, they discover that it's covered in water. Fallom is fearful and begs them to leave. They travel thousands of miles around the planet without finding any land. Then they discover one small island, wait for daylight and land. They are greeted by Hiroko, who says she is the daughter of Hiroko. She says her father is of no importance, but doesn't explain that statement.

Hiroko is dressed lightly with nothing above her waist. She later asks if Bliss has ugly breasts and if that's why she has them covered. One bold woman walks up to Bliss, asks if she has breasts and then touches Bliss without waiting for a reply. The travelers are greeted warmly and without hostility. The people stand at a respectable distance but stare at them while they move to a large dining room to eat. Hiroko says there are "more than a score and five thousand" people on the planet. She says that many of the men are away on the fishing boats. She says that the weather of the planet is controlled by engineers. When asked what the land was called, Hiroko says it's New Earth. While Trevize asks why it's called New Earth and where Old Earth is located, Hiroko insists she doesn't know. Bliss assures Trevize that she's not manipulating their thoughts and that the people seem truly friendly and kind. Fallom, however, is having a difficult time dealing with the crowds of people.

Trevize asks for information from older people on the planet and Hiroko arranges for Pelorat to visit an old man. Bliss and Fallom are to remain with an older woman. Trevize plans to spend time with Hiroko. Trevize and Hiroko go to her home and Trevize notes that there's no door. There is a curtain and Hiroko assures Trevize that pulling the curtain will deter company - that no one would invade the privacy of another. She then asks about Trevize's relationship with Bliss. After he assures her that there is no sexual relationship, she invites him to have sex. Trevize asks if that was her intention all along. Hiroko says "yes," and adds that it's both her "hostess duty" and her "wish." Trevize says it's also his wish.

## Alpha - The New Earth Analysis

Trevize continues to be intolerant of Fallom. In his defense, the Far Star is his ship and they are on a quest to fulfill his own mission. He continually says that he didn't ask Fallom to join them and that the child should have been left on her own planet, even though it would have meant certain death. Bliss continues to be Fallom's champion and Pelorat also stands up for Bliss. When Trevize learns that the name of the island is New Earth, Trevize immediately begins asking about "Old Earth" and the origins of New Earth. Hiroko says she doesn't have that information but Trevize continues to ask

questions, almost as if he expects her to eventually recall the information and give it to him.

As Trevize announces his plan to spend time with Hiroko while the others are busy with their older people, Bliss asks if he planned it that way. She points out Hiroko's youth and beauty. Bliss's attitude about sex and sexual encounters is interesting. While she has a sexual relationship with Pelorat, she seems almost angry whenever Trevize has an encounter of his own.



# Alpha - The Music Festival

## Alpha - The Music Festival Summary

Trevize and Pelorat eat lunch in a large dining hall. Bliss and Fallom eat in another room somewhat removed so that Fallom is at least slightly removed from the crowds. The food is plentiful and Pelorat wonders how it is that they don't get fat. Trevize suggests it's because they work hard.

Once the four are again together, Pelorat tells of his conversation with the elderly man, Monolee, who insisted the Earth was radioactive and the search useless. As always, Trevize says he won't give up the quest. Pelorat tells the story he got from Monolee. Earth was home to millions of plants and animal species. Space travel was invented and Spacer worlds settled. Once those worlds developed their own cultures, they came to despise Earth. After Earthmen regained control of their own planet, they sent out a new wave called Settlers. They established worlds and a Galactic Empire and there became a conflict between Spacers and Settlers. Pelorat said there had been books, but all records about Earth had been destroyed.

As Pelorat is explaining, Fallom asks if she is a Spacer, why is she different and if she is a demon. Bliss helps the child sleep and the discussion continues. It was during the time of conflict that the Empire dug dirt from the bottom of Alpha's ocean and created the small island called New Earth. They stocked fish in the seas and introduced plant life. There follows a lengthy discussion with Trevize arguing that Earth might not be radioactive but that it could be a plot to get people to drop their search for that planet. Bliss talks about the people of Alpha. They control the weather but are also experimenting with genes, planning to someday have a race of people with gills so that they could build homes and live in the ocean. Bliss said the fact that it would be raining on the following day means the fishermen would be returning home, and that the people of Alpha have planned a music festival for this evening and a party on the beach for the next.

At the music festival, Pelorat is taken with the primitive instruments. Trevize admits that he could come to enjoy the sounds and Fallom recognizes the flute because Jemby played it for her. She knows how to produce music without touching the instrument and plays beautifully. It's that playing that prompts Hiroko to give Fallom the instrument and then to warn the party that she infected Trevize with an inactive virus during their sexual encounter. The virus will be activated the following day to kill off the four space travelers. With that information, they sneak away in the middle of the night.

## Alpha - The Music Festival Analysis

Their meals are social affairs and the people are loud and rather unruly, often thumping the table with their cups. Pelorat winces at the noise, but Trevize is very relaxed, a state



he attributes to his encounter with Hiroko. After the meal, Trevize and Pelorat join Bliss and Fallom. As they begin to talk, there is some concern that they could be overheard. Trevize explains that the people will respect their privacy if they simply pull the curtain across the doorway, and that they'll keep a respectful distance. Bliss asks how Trevize learned so much in the little time he spent with Hiroko. Trevize says that Bliss can guess the reason his mind is so relaxed and asked her to leave his mind alone. Pelorat asks if it happens all the time and Bliss says she believes it must. Trevize says it doesn't and attributes the encounter at least partly to the fact that Hiroko had likely encountered few space travelers.

The discussion and Trevize's sexual encounter prompts only amusement in Bliss at this point, but later in the chapter she becomes angry with Trevize because he indicates that he might want to remain on the planet a few extra days. Then, Bliss accuses him of wanting to stay because of Hiroko. Bliss says she doesn't mind if Trevize has a sexual encounter, but objects when Trevize makes decisions based on those encounters. Bliss's role on the mission is complicated. She is both protector of Trevize and hoping that he finds the information he seeks to support his decision making all mankind Gaia. Bliss at times seems to show the human emotion of impatience, wanting the journey to progress toward an end as rapidly as possible. It's unclear as to why. It seems feasible that she simply wants to return to Gaia - her home - but also wants the mission to be a success.





# Earth - Radioactive?

## Earth - Radioactive? Summary

Trevize worries about the virus, wondering if there's something that might activate it or that he might suffer ill effects anyway. He considers the fact that Hiroko could have been lying about the virus being inactive at all. Bliss, able to detect all sorts of life forms, agrees to mentally search for the virus and to eradicate it if she can. The reader never learns the outcome of that situation. Fallom comes to the conclusion that she is different and questions that difference. She asserts that when she is returned to her home, she'll power Jemby and be happy. Bliss cries with the child and later admits that she was on the verge of telling Fallom that she was the cause of Bander's death. Bliss says she couldn't do it for fear of Fallom's reaction.

Bliss and Pelorat become overly concerned about Trevize. They fear what will happen to him if he can't find the answers he seeks. Trevize locates a sun that is not on the computer maps and believes it could be Earth's sun. The Far Star makes its way through space to the sun's system of planets, then to the planet they believe could be Earth where they discover that it is radioactive. As Trevize contemplates the situation, he says that he wishes he could simply return Bliss and Pelorat to Gaia, return to his own home planet and forget about everything. He says he can't do that, but isn't certain what he could do.

## Earth - Radioactive? Analysis

As is typical of the group, there is a lengthy discussion about the various societies immediately following their escape from Alpha. They discuss the differences between the Solarians and the people of New Earth, but agree that both societies are ultimately concerned only with protecting their own way of life. Trevize admits that having Fallom a long could have saved them, but says he's still uneasy with her presence. He even says that she learns too quickly. He says he wishes Bliss would stop teaching Fallom. He says he believes Solaria should be destroyed because he "fears and mistrusts" it. There follows another of the debates regarding the sanctity of life.



# Earth - The Nearby World

## Earth - The Nearby World Summary

Trevize begins by talking about the records of Earth. He says that it seems that all records were purposely destroyed. He says that indicates that someone or something feared that the secret of Earth would be found. He followed that logic to say that he believes that secret information is still hiding somewhere, and vows to continue the search. They are discussing possibilities when the ship lurches - their first indication that Fallom is in the control room. Fallom has made the connection with the computer and is having difficulty expressing her directions. She wants to go home, but doesn't know how to convey that to the computer.

When Trevize appears to be going after Fallom, Bliss warns him away. She says that even though she's been instructed not to hurt him, she will if he tries to harm the child. Bliss talks Fallom away from the controls and Trevize prepares to take over. Trevize is concerned about the computer, takes a seat at the console and announces that he knows where the secret is now hidden. He points out the moon. They head for the moon, realizing any inhabitants will be underground and wondering how to locate them. Bliss detects thought, but describes it as neither wholly human nor wholly robot.

As they near the moon's surface, something takes over control of the ship. They land and are greeted by Daneel Olivaw. As soon as Fallom sees him, she races toward him yelling, "Jemby." She flings herself at Daneel, crying. Trevize tries to explain that Fallom lost her protector and is desperately searching for it, though he doesn't understand how she could have mistaken this man for the robot. It's then that Daneel reveals that he is a robot.

## Earth - The Nearby World Analysis

It's interesting to note that even though something takes over control of the ship as they're landing, Trevize isn't overly concerned. Considering the fact that they've encountered several hostile societies, it's notable that Trevize feels confident that he's reached his destination. Trevize notes a sense of euphoria, at least partly because he has no need to make any decisions in this matter. The crew will soon learn that Daneel has similar abilities to that of Gaia and that is likely at least part of Trevize's sense of peace. There's absolutely no explanation for the fact that Fallom recognizes Daneel for what he is - a robot. It could be because she has known little of humans and simply senses the artificial intelligence. It's never explained.



# Earth - The Search Ends

## Earth - The Search Ends Summary

The "grounds" underground that are inhabited by Daneel are evidently extensive. Trevize, Pelorat and Daneel are seated under a tree while Bliss and Fallom go off exploring. Pelorat recalls stories of a robot named Daneel and asks if this robot is named in his honor. Daneel says he is that robot and is some twenty thousand years old. Daneel explains that artificial gravity is created on the moon much as on the Far Star or any other space ship. He says there is a vast ecosystem on the moon, but the only inhabitants are robotic.

Daneel then talks of their beginning. He says there were a robot named Giskard who could "adjust minds." Before Giskard ceased to function, he passed that ability to Daneel and Daneel was charged with the protection of the galaxy in general and Earth in particular. He says he is the one who began the terraforming on Alpha and undertook a project to recycle Earth's radioactive soil. He says there were robots throughout the galaxy at that time, but those were all later recalled and ordered to bring with them or destroy all references to Earth.

Daneel then talks of the problems facing him as he sought to keep the galaxy safe. The rules of robotics - never harm a person or allow harm to come to a person; obey orders unless they result in harming a person, protect yourself unless it conflicts with other rules - were difficult to follow. He said they came up with a "zereth" law - protect humankind first and foremost. However, Daneel says it's difficult to decide what to do in many cases because humanity is an abstraction while an individual is a reality. The answer, Pelorat says, is to have humans all be Gaia.

Daneel then reveals that he has a connection with Gaia though he is not Gaia. Without details, he reveals that he may have helped Trevize along on his journey. He then says that he had another reason for bringing Trevize to the moon because he - Daneel - is dying. He says all his parts have been replaced many times and that he must merge with a human. While Trevize hesitates, Pelorat volunteers. Daneel says it's not Trevize he wants and that Pelorat is too old. When he says he wants "her," Pelorat thinks he means Bliss but Daneel is referring to Fallom. Bliss is sad but realizes that Fallom would never have been happy anywhere else.

Trevize then says that he believes the decision to become Gaia was correct. He supports his decision as length and then admits to again feeling uneasy. The final sentence in the book is that he says he doesn't understand the feeling because it's not as if enemies of the human race are already present, but that he doesn't look into Fallom's eyes "as they rested, unfathomably, on him."

## Earth - The Search Ends Analysis

It's interesting that Trevize seems momentarily perturbed to find that his sexual encounters may have been helped along by the robot, Daneel. He says he doesn't believe Daneel has the power to make "complete puppets" of them, but acknowledges that he was likely drawn to Daneel's location. He also doesn't dwell on the fact that Fallom is conveniently the one with whom Daneel wants to merge. The book ends with a huge question - the role of Fallom and whether she is ultimately an evil power as Trevize has insisted all along. It's likely designed to encourage the reader to follow up by reading the next book in the series.



# Characters

## Golan Travize

Golan Travize is a councilman of the ruling galactic government of the day, though he's not a councilman in good standing at the time of this book. Travize has voted against Seldon's Plan - a complicated series of calculations that he admits he doesn't understand. He believes there is some hidden or undisguised part of that plan that makes it unworkable for the future of the human race. Instead, he wants humans to become Gaian. Rather than a specific planet, Gaia is a single consciousness that could stretch across the entire galaxy. Travize has now come to doubt his decision and believes the answer he seeks is on Earth. He sets out on a journey to find the planet that some believe to be nothing more than a myth.

Travize is often short-tempered and argumentative, especially with regard to Bliss - a part of Gaia who accompanies Travize on the quest. He is also very human, arguing against Gaia for human reasons - chiefly that he doesn't want to give up his individuality. Gaia tells him that he's made the correct decision, but he doesn't believe them without finding the answers he seeks. He admits occasionally to being "self-important" and worries more about the soundness of his judgment because of that. He has sex with two women he meets on separate planets and seems later to be saddened by the fact that their attraction was helped along by minds associated with Gaia.

## Janov Pelorat

Pelorat is a friend of Travize and a scholar who gathered myths and stories of Earth. He travels with Travize on his quest to find Earth, offering information, serving as translator and helping with the search for clues. Pelorat apparently agreed to the trip with little thought to his own safety or comfort and pledges to stay with Travize throughout the quest. Pelorat is quickly convinced of the rightness of the decision to incorporate all humans into a single consciousness - Gaia. It could be that Pelorat is swayed because of his love of Bliss who was one part of Gaia. Bliss gives Pelorat an occasional glimpse into the shared consciousness, which could be the reason Pelorat approves of the plan.

Pelorat finds some clues that Travize alone may have overlooked. For example, it's Pelorat who considers that the list of fifty planets found on Melpomenia could be used to calculate the position of Earth. Pelorat is much older than either Bliss or Travize and is often absorbed in his learning. He has a rather annoying habit of lapsing into long dialogues that stray from the point but is always contrite when brought back to the current point.



## Bliss

Bliss is a Gaian, and, as such, part of the entire consciousness of Gaia. Bliss is taken on the quest for Earth against Travize's wishes. He only gives in when Pelorat convinces him that having Bliss along could be valuable. Bliss's own reasons for going are twofold. She loves Pelorat and wants to be with him, but she's also committed to protect Travize. It's Travize who holds the power to decide the very fate of Gaia. Though it's not thoroughly explained, Gaia's survival depends on Travize's agreement to incorporate the rest of humankind into that single consciousness.

Bliss, as a part of Gaia, can protect herself, Travize and Pelorat from hostile forces by drawing on the power of the collective minds of Gaia. Bliss has the ability to detect other humans, and to sense emotions. She can also push emotions in a particular direction - to encourage calm, for example. It's Bliss who kills Bander in an effort to keep him from killing them and then insists that Fallom be taken along.

## Fallom

Fallom is Bander's child. Travize, Bliss and Pelorat find Fallom inside the estate after Bander's death. Fallom - neither male nor female but "whole" as his parent, leads them to the surface where the party is almost immediately captured by guardian robots. It's those robots' assurance that Fallom is too young to be ruler of Bander's estate and will be summarily killed that prompts Bliss to inactivate them. Fallom winds up going along with the crew. Bliss takes to it, mothering it and soothing it. Fallom, a hermaphrodite, has small testicles and a small vagina. On the second day out from Solaria, Travize wakes to find Fallom staring at Travize's penis.

At the end of the search, it's Fallom who immediately knows that Daneel is a robot. Fallom becomes the person who'll be melded with Daneel's positronic brain. Travize continually says that he's nervous about Fallom, though he admits that he doesn't know why. Bliss thinks it's because Fallom is incredibly intelligent. The reader is left to wonder because of the final statement - that Travize feels nervous and that he doesn't notice the look Fallom gives him.

## Dom

dom is an ancient of Gaia.

## I/me/we

I/Me/We are the people, things and animals of Gaia. As all shared a common consciousness, all could call upon the memories and knowledge of another. By contrast, an isolate was a person not of Gaia and not connected to that common knowledge base.



## A. Kendray

A. Kendray is the Comporellian who boards the Far Star upon arrival at Comporellon. He first denies the party entrance because Bliss has no identification, but Trevize convinces him to allow them in, intimating that Bliss is a paid female escort of Pelorat and that it would be embarrassing for him if her presence aboard the ship were noted. Kendray seems to agree with the argument and allows the ship through, but later reveals that he knows the Comporellian government wants any gravitation ship such as the Far Star, and that if he felt the men would have decided not to land on the planet had he denied Bliss entry.

## Mitza Lizalor

Lizalor is the Minister of Transportation on Comporellon. She wants the Far Star and tries to demand that Travize give it up. She claims that the Foundation wants the ship and offers Travize a different ship. Travize quickly learns that she has no intention of turning the ship over to the Foundation, but plans to keep it for her own people. When he asks for a compromise, she takes him to her apartment and they have sex.

Travize later discovers that Bliss knows Lizalor is attracted to Travize and "snaps an inhibition or two." Bliss claims her actions are only to make Lizalor more kindly inclined to Travize, not to initiate sex. Lizalor is a large woman, taller than Travize and finds herself limited by her society's sexual morality. She was born in a Central Mountain region of the planet and is superstitious, at least on one point. She thrusts her arms forward, crossing the first two fingers of each hand in an effort to ward off the ill omen when anyone uses the word "Earth."

In the end, it's that superstition that persuades Lizalor to allow Travize to leave with the Far Star because she believes that his presence will bring misfortune to her people. As he's leaving, he tells her he will return for her, but she says she knows it will never happen - that people who go on a search for Earth never return. Once aboard the Far Star, Travize admits that he was tempted to stay with Lizalor but knew he couldn't keep up the sexual pace for a long-term relationship.

## Vasil Deniador

Deniador is a scholar on the planet Comporellon, called upon by Travize and Pelorat for information about Earth. It's Deniador who tells Travize that the word "Earth" is used on Comporellon as an expletive.



## Humbal Yariff

Yariff is a Livian historian who believed Earth could be found by finding the oldest planets and searching in the center of that region. His efforts never located Earth, probably because planets exaggerated the date of origin.

## Sarton Bander

Bander is the owner of an estate on Solarius, Bander greets Travize and his party upon their arrival. It's Bander who explains that Travize is the first "settler" to visit their planet in thousands of years. Bander is neither male nor female, but is "whole." Bander has telekinetic powers and immediately disarms Travize and says the Far Star could have been destroyed as easily. Bander later explains that his brain transducers so that he can harness heat to power his telekinetic abilities. Bander talks with the tree for some time, giving them a tour of his underground mansion. Then, he reveals to them that he should have killed them the moment they arrived and that he will do so now. Bliss blocks the exit of energy from his mind for a split second, resulting in his death.

## Hiroko

Hiroko is the woman who greets the Far Star when they land on the inhabited planet Alpha Centauri, in the country known as New Earth. Her mother's name is also Hiroko. Her father is Smool, though she says that she never knew him. As soon as she finds an older woman to stay with Bliss and sends Pelorat to talk with an elderly man, she invites Travize to her home for sex. It's not until later that Travize finds out that she's infected him with a deadly virus for which the people of her world have become immune. Travize learns that the virus is inactive until activated by a vote of the people and that they plan do to that the following day, prompting Travize and his friends to sneak away during the night. Hiroko says that she made the decision to warn them because of Fallom's musical ability with the flute.

## Monolee

Monolee is an old man on New Earth who Travize believes could have information about Earth. Monolee tells Pelorat lots of details, including how his planet was settled.

## Daneel Olivaw

Daneel is the robot that greets Travize and his friends once they arrive on the moon. It's Fallom who recognizes that he is mechanical, though he has to tell the others that he is robotic. It's Daneel who tells them that he engineered the people of Gaia in an effort to unite humanity, making it easier for robots to determine what was and was not harmful





to humanity as a whole. Daneel tells Travize that he helped them along their journey and that he has a reason for drawing them to him - that Daneel himself is "dying."

## **Giskard**

Giskard is a robot able to perform mind control over humans. It was Giskard who, before his own demise, determined that the three laws of robotics must be preceded by another - that robots must do nothing to harm humanity as a whole.

## **Elijah Baley**

Baley is an Earthman, confirmed by Daneel Olivaw who is credited with much of the legendry regarding Earth. Some believe Baley to be an imaginary person, or a compilation of many who played roles in Earth's history.

## **Jemby**

Jemby is Fallom's robot nurse.



# Objects/Places

## Gaia

Gaia is a planet of a single consciousness. Travize selected the planet as the home for his own people, but began to question the decision because of the single consciousness. There were no written records of Gaia. All history was kept in a single consciousness shared by every person, animal and inanimate objects of the planet. The deepest history, including that of "dead data" seldom needed by another member of Gaia, is typically stored in rocks, mountains, oceans and the like. The planet has the power to control all aspects of life, including temperature and precipitation.

## Sayshell

Sayshell is the nearest important star to Gaia and a point of reference for Travize's takeoff from that planet

## Far Star

Travize's space ship is the Far Star.

## Comporellon

Comporellon is a planet known to Travize and believed to hold the key to the location of Earth. Upon their arrival on the planet, Travize and his party are taken into custody. Pelorat notes that there is little color on this cold planet - blacks, whites and shades of the two make up the majority of the color scheme. There are exceptions, as Travize finds when he enters the private apartment of the planet's transportation minister.

## Earth

Also known as "The Only," "The Oldest," "Mooned World," "Lost World" or "Marooned World," Earth is believed by some to be the world from which people colonized other worlds. The word "Earth" is also used as an expletive by some people on Comporellon.

## Spacers

Long-lived original Settlers, believed to be from Earth or those planets settled by the inhabitants of Earth were Spacers. The planets they inhabited were called "Spacer Worlds" or "Forbidden Worlds." Travize is told they are likely a myth, just as Earth is believed by some to be a myth.



## Gallia

Gallia is a gas giant in the Comporellon galaxy. Gallia has particles circling the planet to form rings. When Pelorat sees the rings and Travize explains how they are formed, Pelorat suddenly recalls a "scrap of poetry" that refers to rings around the sixth planet in Earth's galaxy.

## The Mule

The Mule is an aberrant Gaian, likely a mutant and possibly a robot. Though the Mule plays no role in this book and was apparently in a previous book of the series, it is occasionally referred to.

## Aurora

Aurora is the first planet Travize lands on. He doesn't know the name of the planet as they arrive and it's Pelorat who finds the words "Planet Aurora" on a piece of concrete that was likely the wall of a building. Pelorat and Bliss find a robot on this planet, rusted and crumbling. Pelorat claims that it was functioning faintly at the time of the discovery. Bliss first supports the claim but later tells Travize that it was not true. It's also on this planet that Travize encounters a pack of wild dogs and it takes his weapon and Bliss's brain power to save them from attack. The planet is completely deserted of people but has animal and plant life. Pelorat believes Aurora to have been inhabited by one of the earliest waves of humans from Earth.

## Solaria

Solaria is the planet visited by Travize, Pelorat and Bliss after leaving Aurora. They find the planet heavily inhabited by robots and it's here that they meet Sartor Bander who is neither male nor female, but "whole," and refers to Travize as "half-human" because he is only male. The people of Solaria live in total isolation, seldom coming in contact with each other. Bander says that's so that each can be truly free. There are some twelve hundred people on the entire planet, calculated to be an ideal number. Babies are born only when someone dies. The baby does not live with its parent, but is reared by robots.

As soon as Bander meets the three, it takes Travize's weapons and drains their energy. Bander explains that his brain has transducers so that it can harness the heat of the sunlight and the planet to develop telekinetic powers such as he used to disarm Travize and to restrain the three upon their arrival. Solarians live underground, each alone though Bander's home included an anteroom with a screen for viewing other Solarians when the need arose for conversation.



## Seldon's Plan

Seldon's plan is created by Hari Seldon to bring all humans under the reign of a Second Galactic Empire. Travize voted against the plan, supporting instead the idea of creating a Galaxia - an extension of Gaia in which all people, animals, plants and things would be part of a galaxy-wide organism. Seldon's plan has been in action some five thousand years when Travize goes on his quest to find Earth. The two major parts of the plan are that many people must be involved in order to provide correct statistical data, and that none know of the outcome before it is put into play. Travize believes there's a third tenant, so widely accepted that no one thought to include or question it. It's not until he lands on the moon and meets Daneel that he discovers the third - that it's possible other intelligent beings other than people exist, and that they might someday penetrate the galaxy and turn humans against each other.

## Melpomenia

Melpomenia is another planet visited by Travize during his search for Earth. The planet is uninhabited and has insufficient atmosphere for human life, but the presence of cities indicates that there was one human life. It's on this planet that Travize and Pelorat find a bank and a library. They also discover that moss quickly grows in abundance on anything with a carbon base. They take particular precautions as they re-enter the Far Star, ensuring that they don't bring spores inside. It's on Melpomenia that Travize and Pelorat find a list of Spacer planets - fifty in all - each with coordinates of their locations. As they're leaving the planet, Pelorat says he believes those planets were settled by Earth and that the location of Earth can be determined by finding a central point among those fifty planets.

## Alpha Centauri and New Earth

Alpha Centauri - sometimes referred to simply as "Alpha," is another of the planets visited by Travize and his friend in their quest for Earth. The entire planet is water with the exception of a single island. New Earth is an island on the planet Alpha Centauri. The people wear nothing above the waist and are interested in the upper clothing of Travize and Bliss, going so far as to ask Bliss if she has breasts hidden under her blouse.

An elderly man on the island tells a story of the planet's settlement. He says that the people of Earth were clinging to life with radioactivity quickly limiting their chances of survival. The Galactic Empire - a ruling body over all settled worlds - selected the Alpha Centauri for resettlement.

The planet was completely covered in water and the Empire selected a shallow point, used dirt from the ocean floor in other places, and built up the land mass that became known as New Earth. Seedlings, animals and fish were transplanted and the planet, along with its new inhabitants, abandoned. The people seem to have survived the ages



without being inhospitable. However, the three soon find that it's not so and that they will all be put to death, leading them to quickly leave the planet in the dead of night.

## Flute

The flute is an instrument played by Hiroko and similar to an instrument known to Fallom, though the word for that escapes translation from Fallom's language. After hearing Fallom "play" the flute using energy from her transducer lobes, Hiroko gives her the flute.



# Themes

## Pride

Trevize is entrusted with the fate of the human race and it is left to him to decide whether the race will continue as individuals or to merge with a single consciousness - Gaia. There's little doubt that he should feel the weight of responsibility for that decision, but he also admits to feeling at least some measure of pride. The Gaians have complete trust in him and from the beginning say that they won't interfere with his decision-making process, though in theory they could sway his mind to their way of thinking. However, in fact, they allow him to go about the business of reassuring himself whether his decision to create an extended Gaia is correct without their interference. They say that they believe in him to that degree. Trevize's pride is further increased because of his handling of the ship, the Far Star. At the beginning, he talks of his own abilities as they are enhanced by the melding of his mind with the ship's computer. Later, he learns that the ship's computer can function largely without him, only needing directions for whatever next step Trevize deems appropriate.

There's little doubt that Trevize eventually begins to believe himself incapable of failure. Though he's faced with his constant failure to locate Earth, he continues to search. He tells his companions that he'll never give up that search, an obvious indication that he also believes he cannot fail. Evidence of Trevize's pride is seen again as he learns that Daneel and Bliss manipulated the minds of the two women with whom Trevize had sex during the journey. Both Daneel and Bliss assure Trevize that the women were favorably inclined and that they merely nudged them in that direction. Yet, Trevize seems to be at least somewhat disappointed that it hadn't been him alone that prompted the encounters.

## Faith and trust

Faith and trust are common threads throughout the book, exhibited in many of the characters. Though faith is often tested, it remains. For example, Bliss has no faith in the individuals who inhabit most of the galaxy. Trevize is exposed to the same situations as Bliss - the uninhabitable and inhospitable planets they first visit, being taken into custody on Comporellon and then the encounter with Bander on Solaria. However, when Trevize meets with the people of New Earth on Alpha, he trusts that they are truly pleased with the encounter and is convinced that the party should extend their stay. His faith is perhaps tested when he finds that he's been infected with a virus and he's more cautious as he approaches the next planet, but he's immediately and completely trusting when Daneel takes control of the ship and lands them on the moon.

Pelorat has faith in Trevize, though it takes him some time to come to the conclusion that Trevize is completely knowledgeable about the operation of the ship, the Far Star. Pelorat also has complete faith in Bliss and in her ability to protect both him and Trevize.



Faith is seen in varying degrees by other characters. Fallom trusts Bliss though never completely gives her the adoration she bestows on her robot-nurse.

## Diversity

Diversity is an important theme in this book. Not only are the people and societies on the various planets diverse, but the very core of the reason Trevize is searching for Earth. Trevize has decided that humankind should become a single, superorganism with a single, shared consciousness. Gaia is the beginning of that culture and each individual will become part of the greater whole. There will still be individual people, animals, plants, insects and even inanimate matter, but each will share senses, thoughts and memories with all the others. One of Trevize's biggest concerns is that he's essentially giving up the right for people to be diverse.

On the other hand, Trevize and his traveling companions come across a great array of diversity among the people they visit. The Solairans are extreme loners. They never interact unless absolutely necessary and procreate without sexual coupling. Robots raise the children and the Solarian Seldon Bander claims there could be no other option that would suit him. While Trevize, Pelorat and Bliss say they could never be happy in that situation, they accept the race for what it is. The same is true of the people of New Earth, an island on the planet Alpha. These people are extremely social, eating all meals in a large, communal dining room and sharing the work and entertainment.

What Trevize discovers is that the cultures may be exact opposites in some ways, but both were willing to kill in order to keep their own planets safe from intruders. It's the fact that individuals can be turned against each other that assures Trevize that he's made the correct decision and that starting the plan to have all humankind become Gaia is correct and necessary for the survival of the race.



# Style

## Point of View

The reader has an omniscient point of view. This works well because there are things each of the characters don't know at any given time. By providing the omniscient point of view, the writer is giving the reader the larger picture. That's vital since Travize and Bliss are constantly arguing. Bliss tries to sway Travize to her point of view and Trevize is constantly offering reasons to disagree. The dialog is used extensively, making it evident where each stands. What's not evident through the dialog is that Travize constantly questions whether Bliss might be correct. If the entire book were written from a single person's point of view, the reader would miss out on the unvoiced thoughts of the other. However, it's vital to know Travize's state of mind - especially when he admits to himself that the Gaian's absolute trust in him could affect his decisions, at least on a subconscious level.

The omniscient point of view is also necessary because of one of the over-riding themes of this book - Travize's sense of pride. It's only in Travize's private thoughts that the impact on his actions becomes evident. At that same time, that view makes it possible for the reader to understand how Gaia and Gaian minds affect Travize's pride.

## Setting

The book is set in a combination of fictional and real locations. There is sufficient reality to make it plausible to the reader that all are real. The story begins on the planet Gaia and moves on through a series of worlds that don't exist. Those worlds are each different, lending a certain credibility. The story ends on the moon - the same moon that exists as a "satellite" of Earth. The travelers come in contact with Saturn - though it's not named - clearly identified by the distinctive rings. Those points of reality are important. It would have been possible for the writer to make the entire setting fictional and the fact that he doesn't is a powerful addition to the story.

For the majority of the story, Travize, Bliss and Pelorat are aboard the Far Star, Travize's space ship. The ship itself is incredibly technologically advanced. It doesn't use fuel but is powered by gravitational pull. The complexity of the operation of the ship is unexplained except in very general terms. The ship is operated by a melding of the operator's mind with the ship's computer. The real and fictional places are well defined, described in great detail and believable within the confines of a fictional story.

## Language and Meaning

The book is made up of almost-constant dialog. While it offers an effective way of showing the characters, there are times when the dialog itself becomes almost repetitious. For example, Travize and Bliss argue continually about the pros and cons of





Gaia. While those arguments show the nature of the characters, it is sometimes tedious to go through yet another of their arguments with neither side striking a definitive chord.

The book is written in English though the travelers occasionally meet up with a society that has at least some differences in language. For example, one woman points out that the letter "F" is different than in her own language. There were also those who talked in an ancient dialect that sounds very much like Old English. The similarities of language all over the galaxy is explained by the fact that an international language has been established and is largely accepted. Travize points out that the same is true of numbers, vital to the story line because of the need to use ancient coordinates to locate Earth.

## Structure

The book is divided into seven sections, Gaia, Comporrellon, Aurora, Solaria, Melpomenia, Alpha and Earth. There are a total of twenty-one chapters within those sections, ranging from two to five chapters per section. Each chapter is divided into one hundred, four smaller segments which are chronologically identified and do not begin again at number one with each chapter. Segment length varies and splits whenever there's a change of dialog, topic or location.

Foundation and Earth is one of a series by Isaac Asimov, noted for his science fiction writings. The concept began as a series of short stories and wasn't put into book form until many years later. This particular installment falls at the center of the series, after the main character has made a crucial decision regarding the future of humans. The book truly stands alone though there are sections that undoubtedly be better understood if the reader were familiar with the details of the previous books.



## Quotes

"Granted, it is now thousands of years - twenty thousand perhaps - since the people of the Galaxy have concerned themselves with Earth, how is it possible that we have all forgotten our planet origin?"

— Trevize, Chapter 1, Page 5

"You can't have geniuses and saints without having people far outside the norm, and I don't see how you can have such things on only one side of the norm."

— Trevize, Chapter 1, Page 26

"If we only obey those rules that we think are just and reasonable, then no rule will stand, for there is no rule that some will not think is unjust and unreasonable."

— Bliss, Chapter 4, Page 80

"The study of the oldest," said Pelorat, "is not a well-rewarded niche in the corridors of learning, so the first-class scholars, even in the field of primeval history, would not tent too find their way there."

— Pelorat, Chapter 6, Page 130

"It is easy to argue that a society that depends totally on robots becomes soft and decadent, dwindling and dying out of sheer boredom or, more subtly, by losing the will to live."

— Dr. Vasil Deniador, Chapter 6, Page 140

"The Skeptic's view is, of course, that Earth's radioactivity and its large satellite are both simply legends. If we look for them, we look for sparrow-milk and rabbit-feathers."

— Dr. Vasil Deniador, Chapter 7, Page 145

"Nevertheless, you must understand that, to use an analogy, the thought of the advantage of improving my sense of smell would be insufficient motivation for me to decide to abandon my humanity and become a bloodhound."

— Trevize, Chapter 8, Page 185

"In fact, since human-occupied worlds exist by the million and none of them have deteriorated in an antireforming fashion, your fear of Isolatism may be exaggerated, Bliss."

— Trevize, Chapter 8, Page 188

"He thought bitterly of the two Spacer planets they had visited - hostile wild dogs on one - hostile hermaphroditic loners on the other - and in neither place the tiniest hint as to the location of Earth."

— About Trevize, Chapter 13, Page 295



"You go ask him. If it annoys him, then he'll have a chance to practice sociability, and that will be good for him."

— Bliss speaking about Trevize, Chapter 14, Page 328

"There's natural size, a natural complexity, some optimum quality for everything, whether star or atom, and it's certainly true of living things and living societies."

— Trevize, Chapter 15, Page 358

"Wouldst thou think more of me if my breasts were massive and dangling, with nipples pointing to toes? I have, in good sooth, seen such, yet have I not seen men flock to them. The poor women so afflicted must needs cover their monstrosities - as Madam Bliss does."

— Hiroko, Chapter 18, Page 403

"Janov, if you consider that gas giant with its enormous ring system in sixth place, and this planet with its enormous satellite in third - both of which your legends told you about, against all credibility, before you ever saw them - that that world you're looking at must be Earth. It cannot conceivable be anything else."

— Trevize, Chapter 19, Page 449

"You are faced then, sir, with three alternatives. Either I am a man who is lying to you; or I am a robot who has been programmed to believe that it is twenty thousand years old but, in fact, is not; or I am a robot who is twenty thousand years old."

— Daneel, Chapter 21, Page 483

"The First Law, he said, is this, sir: A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm. The Second Law; A robot must obey the orders given it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law. The Third Law: A robot must protect its own existence, as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law."

— Daneel, Chapter 21, Page 485

"'After all,' and here Trevize felt a sudden twinge of trouble, which he forced himself to disregard, 'it is not as though we had the enemy already here and among us.' And he did not look down to meet the brooding eyes of Fallom - hermaphroditic, transductive, different - as they rested, unfathomably, on him."

— Trevize, Chapter 21, Page 499



## Topics for Discussion

What is the purpose of Trevize's search for Earth? What does he hope to find? Does he?

What are some of the myths regarding Earth? How is it that the records and documents regarding Earth are unavailable?

What was Pelorat's job prior to his joining Trevize? Why is that significant?

What are some of the differences of cultures Trevize and his party encounter? What credence does that lend to Trevize's argument that humans should remain individuals? What credence does it lend to Bliss's argument of the opposite, that humans should join Gaia?

Describe the makeup of Gaia. How does Bliss offer Pelorat a glance into the inner workings of the society? What impact does that have on Pelorat? Feeling as he does, why does he continue to travel with Trevize?

Describe some of the most notable characteristics of the planets Trevize encounters. What have each done to ensure their own survival?

Where does Fallom join the group? What would have happened to it had Bliss not taken it aboard the Far Star? What does Trevize think of Fallom? What's the significance of Fallom's appearance on the moon?

Describe the role of robots in Trevize's life prior to setting out to search for Earth. Where do Trevize, Pelorat and Bliss encounter the first robot? Some societies scorn the existence of robots, while others use them extensively. What differences in those cultures can be attributed to the presence or lack of robots?

Why does Trevize often hesitate before approaching a world he believes to be Earth or to hold a key to its location? Does he try to justify his delays? Does he admit to the true reasons?

What is Bliss's purpose with the expedition? Does she ever live up to that purpose? When and under what circumstances?