

# **Hyperion Study Guide**

## **Hyperion by Dan Simmons**

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# Contents

<a href="#">Hyperion Study Guide.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Plot Summary.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">Prologue.....</a>	<a href="#">5</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 1, The Priest's Tale, The Man Who Cried God.....</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 2, The Soldier's Tale, War Lovers.....</a>	<a href="#">9</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 3, The Poet's Tale.....</a>	<a href="#">11</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 4, The Scholar's Tale.....</a>	<a href="#">14</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 5, The Detective's Tale, The Long Goodbye.....</a>	<a href="#">17</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 6, The Consul's Tale, Remembering Siri.....</a>	<a href="#">21</a>
<a href="#">Epilogue.....</a>	<a href="#">25</a>
<a href="#">Characters.....</a>	<a href="#">26</a>
<a href="#">Objects/Places.....</a>	<a href="#">29</a>
<a href="#">Themes.....</a>	<a href="#">33</a>
<a href="#">Style.....</a>	<a href="#">35</a>
<a href="#">Quotes.....</a>	<a href="#">37</a>
<a href="#">Topics for Discussion.....</a>	<a href="#">39</a>



# Plot Summary

Written by Dan Simmons, *Hyperion* is a novel about seven pilgrims on their quest to meet the Shrike on the planet Hyperion. Each one of them has a purpose on the pilgrimage, and through their journey, they share them with one another.

Father Lenar Hoyt is going to Hyperion to search for the presumably alive, Father Dure. Father Dure was exiled on Hyperion years ago, where he found an immortal tribe, the Bikura. They use a cruciform, implanted in the chest of the body, to allow the subject to never die a true death. Father Dure suffers for years, making many failed attempts to die. Finally, when Father Hoyt travels to Hyperion eight years after Father Dure's exile, he finds him in the Flaming Forest, crucified to a platform. He releases Father Dure's cruciform, and he dies a true death. Father Hoyt fails to mention to the rest of the pilgrims that he has a cruciform as well, but the Consul figures it out.

Colonel Fedhman Kassad is haunted by a woman every time he participates in a simulated battle. She visits him in the woods, and they make love while others are fighting. He soon finds himself on Hyperion, and she is working with the Shrike. He realizes he is being used and envisions the dying of all worlds in planets.

Martin Silenus, the poet, spends years writing successful novels about the death of Old Earth. When his muse leaves he travels to Hyperion, with Sad King Billy, to help establish the City of Poets. He finds his muse in the Shrike, but the Shrike begins killing everyone in the City. Silenus is left for years alone, trying to finish his Hyperion Cantos, until Sad King Billy finds him, and tries to destroy his life's work. The Shrike appears and kills the king, while Silenus sets fire to his Hyperion Cantos. Years later he wants to return to his muse and finally finish his work.

Sol Weintraub is traveling with his young infant daughter, Rachel. Rachel was an archaeologist studying in the Time Tombs, when a surge occurred and she began aging backwards, contracting Merlin's sickness. She is now an infant, and will soon be nonexistent. Weintraub and his wife have recurring dreams that he must go to Hyperion and sacrifice Rachel to save the world.

Brawne Lamia is a detective who is approached by Johnny, a replicated cybrid of the late poet John Keats, to find out who murdered him. Together they discover he is linked to Hyperion because of his past persona, and that is precisely the reason his life is in danger. They decide to travel to Hyperion together to uncover the truth and Johnny dies in the process. Lamia is pregnant with his child and with the memory of what Johnny was. She is going to Hyperion alone but when the time comes to face the Shrike, Johnny will be with her.

The Consul is returning to Hyperion to seek vengeance of the Hegemony, for his grandmother, Siri. He patiently waits, moving through the ranks, becoming a Consul. He is asked to directly do negotiations with the Ousters, and becomes a double agent.



Working for both sides, the Consul enables the Ousters device on the Time Tombs that will open them and free the Shrike, thus wreaking havoc on the web itself.

Het Masteen is a Templar and the Voice of the Tree. He is supposed to tell his story last, but disappears during the pilgrimage. He is seen walking towards to Tombs as the pilgrims are resting. They will meet him with the Shrike, and never get to hear his story.

The book concludes with the pilgrims ready to face the Shrike together, no matter what their stories have entailed.



# Prologue

## Prologue Summary

The Consul receives a message from Meina Gladstone, informing him he has been chosen for the Shrike Pilgrimage on Hyperion. She tells him the Time Tombs are showing signs of opening and a FORCE fleet is traveling to the outer world planet to evacuate its citizens. Complicating matters further, the Ousters are arriving over Hyperion around the same time as the FORCE fleet.

These Ouster ships are capable of destroying entire cities and letting loose thousands of barbarians. Gladstone is unaware whether the Ousters are approaching the planet to gain control of the Time Tombs or as an attack launched on the entire Worldweb. The outcome of an attack on the Worldweb could result in the barbarians seizing the farcaster from the FORCE and entering the undefended worlds in the Web.

The Consul finishes receiving orders from Gladstone, turns off the computer and remembers his days on Hyperion. No one ever returned from a Shrike pilgrimage in the eleven years he was stationed there. Back then, the Shrike was confined because of the Time Tombs tides, and now the thought of it wondering free among Hyperion was frightening.

## Prologue Analysis

The prologue delves right into the political issues surrounding the world of Hyperion. The Consul and Meina Gladstone are discussing the interstellar war that will potentially take place, if the Ousters are not eliminated. This war means the infiltration of Ousters inside the web, which has never occurred. It also gives the reader insight about the Time Tombs on Hyperion, and foreshadows their extreme importance throughout the novel.

Meina Gladstone is immediately established as a woman in a high seat of power, communicating with the Ousters and FORCE. Her connections and ability to distribute orders is something the reader can look for throughout the novel.

The Consul is introduced as one of the seven pilgrims. He has no desire to return to Hyperion, perhaps unlike his future traveling companions. He knows the complex situation with the Ousters, which the other travelers are unaware of. The Consul also has yet to see one Shrike pilgrimage return from the Time Tombs, and now he is about to embark on one. It is questionable at this point whether he is simply accepting his fate, or he has the belief that he will return.



# Chapter 1, The Priest's Tale, The Man Who Cried God

## Chapter 1, The Priest's Tale, The Man Who Cried God Summary

The Consul awakes in the Treeship, to Templar leader, Het Masteen, and they walk together to the dining platform to meet the other pilgrims. The Consul inquires about his ship and if it has been taken out of storage. Masteen informs him that it has, and at that very moment they are being escorted by a Hegemony warship.

Masteen begins the introductions of the seven pilgrims to one another. Besides the Consul they are Lenar Hoyt, Colonel Fedhman Kassad, Martin Silenus, Brawne Lamia, Sol Weintraub and Masteen himself. They decide they want to know one another's stories and reasons for coming on the pilgrimage. They draw numbers and Father Hoyt is first. He explains he must tell his story by explaining someone else's.

His friend, Father Dure, was exiled to the world of Hyperion eight years earlier. Father Dure travels around the planet for quite some time, until he falls ill at a plantation. He is assigned a guide, Tuk, to lead him into the high country.

On the 87th day of exile, Father Dure and Tuk reach the Cleft. On day 88 Tuk is murdered. On day 96 Father Dure has found the Bikura. They confront him as he was watching the cliffs through his binoculars. There are around 30 of them, yet the amount multiplies quickly to 50. They are the ones who murdered Tuk. He had not died the true death, as Father Dure could not, they explain. He could not die the true death because he belongs to the cruciform.

They call themselves "Three score and ten". They assume that Father Dure follows the cruciform. Day 107; Father Dure is awakened by the Bikura. They strip off his clothing and realize he is not of the cruciform. He must die a true death, but he does carry a cross. They debate and on Day 110 they decided that Father Dure will become of the cruciform.

They take him to the Shrike and moments later he is changed. The next day when he bathes, the cruciform on his chest does not come off. He is of the cruciform.

Day 133, Alpha, another Bikura, is dead. He fell onto some rocks. Father Dure carries his body and buries it, but the Bikura advise against it. Within a few days the body has been put together again by the cruciform. It is not Alpha, but it is not anything other than Alpha. Father Dure realizes the cruciform creates immortality.

Day 438 is his last entry. He has completed the chapel, his life's work. Father Dure finds arrestor rods that the Bikura tossed after Alpha's death. He realizes that the cruciform



does not react well to pain over an extended period of time. He ascends into the Flame Forest and resurrects himself, hoping to cause his ultimate true death.

Father Hoyt returns to Hyperion eight years after Father Dure's exile, and finds him in horrible condition. The Bikura and their home are nuked, killed off by these explosions. Father Dure's journals and medkits are salvaged, found in the bestos patch.

As Father Hoyt finishes his story, he is visibly weaker. The Consul's ship is ready to go down to Hyperion. They gain permission to go Keat's spaceport by the Hegemony warship. Everyone is ready to descend except for Father Hoyt. The Consul volunteers to retrieve Father Hoyt from his quarters, but when he arrives there is no answer.

The Consul uses the override and enters to see Father Hoyt writhing on the floor. His injector malfunctioned to administer ultramorphine. Within minutes the Consul has another injector ready. But first he insists that Father Hoyt complete the story. The Consul knows there is more than what he was sharing.

Father Hoyt admits that the other crew members were actually killed by Bikura. They told him about the cruciform and took him to see Father Dure up on a hill. Through the Flame Forest, there he was. He had crucified himself onto a platform he built under his feet. Father Hoyt removes the bestos pouch from Father Dure's neck and the cruciform immediately falls off of his body. He smiles and looks at Father Hoyt, finally dying a real death, and falling into his arms.

The Consul injects the ultramorphine, just as Father Hoyt collapses. He rips open Father Hoyt's shirt to find a writhing cruciform under his chest, and another between the shoulder blades on his back.

They begin moving down the tree to meet the others, the Consul practically carrying Father Hoyt.

## **Chapter 1, The Priest's Tale, The Man Who Cried God Analysis**

This chapter introduces Father Hoyt as a nervous and sickly older man. His reason for coming to Hyperion is revealed through the experience of Father Dure. The discovery of an immortal group, the Bikura, and the cruciform, are all valid parts of Father Hoyt's journey. He desires freedom from the cruciform, and the only place to find the cure is on Hyperion, however the pilgrims are unaware of this. He lies about the conclusion of his search for Father Dure, not revealing that he as well, is cruciformed.

There are a few possible reasons for Father Hoyt's reluctance to be open with the others. Perhaps he is unable to be killed, even by the Shrike, giving him an immediate advantage. Or he does not want the others to know that Bikura still exist, in case they desire the cruciform too. This reluctance allows the reader to question Father Hoyt's character.



The most significant event that appears in this chapter is the discovery of Father Hoyt's cruciform by the Consul. This gives the Consul an advantage over the others. His own story has yet to be revealed along with his intentions, but for this chapter his intentions seem to be simply discovering the truth about the rest of the pilgrims. The Consul's character can also be questioned since he chooses not to share this valid discovery with the others. The Consul is either thinking about ways to solely save himself or he is looking out for Father Hoyt.

The Shrike and the Bikura have some sort of relationship. The Shrike is the one Father Hoyt saw before he awoke with the cruciform. The reader can question whether the Shrike is capable of giving immortality just as much as it takes life.





# Chapter 2, The Soldier's Talem, War Lovers

## Chapter 2, The Soldier's Talem, War Lovers Summary

The pilgrims arrive in Keats only to find a massive group of people there. They are all trying to leave Hyperion, in fear of the Shrike and the Ousters. The Consul runs into his old work buddy, Theo, near their landing strip. He is now Governor-General and wants the Consul to abandon the pilgrimage, stay in Keats and take over the governor-generalship. The Consul refuses, and instead requests to go to the Shrike Temple.

Upon arrival the pilgrims realize that the Temple has been reduced to rubble. Shaped plasma charges have destroyed it. The pilgrims go to Cicero's that night, where it is overflowing with barbarians. They take up every possible inch of space. Luckily, the owner, Stan Leweski offers them a more private area upstairs. After their meal an Android meets them and escorts them to an old barge on which they pick up Masteen at the temple ruins. The group now watches Keats fade into the distance. In the morning as everyone eats breakfast it's agreed the second story should be told, and it's Kassad's turn.

At FORCE command school he participates in numerous battle simulations. At the imitation of the Battle of Agincourt, Kassad is stationed as an archer for King Henry V of England. In the midst of fighting he begins chasing a Frenchman, fully armored through the depths of the forest. Suddenly a rescuer appears, finishing the Frenchman and falling to the ground next to Kassad, exhausted. The rescuer is a woman, and she does not speak to him. Instead she makes love to him there in the forest. After that day he cannot stop thinking about her, but remains focused on his military training.

He met Moneta again in various simulations including the first U.S.-Vietnam War, the second day of Gettysburg, and Borodino. The final battle is in Hyperion. She finally speaks to him and shares that her name is Moneta. Kassad is in the City of Poets then and Moneta introduces him to the Shrike. The Shrike and Moneta follow Kassad out of the City to confront the Ousters. Time is suddenly ascew. The Shrike is killing Ousters yet barely seeming to move.

When all of the Ousters are dead, Kassad takes Moneta and makes love to her. While they are moving together he begins to see stars fading, planets dying, things coming to an end. She appears to have steel thorns rising out of her body, and is clenching on his skin. He tries to escape as he envisions the death of both worlds, but the gravity is too strong. He pulls himself away and she stands over him, he cannot leave fast enough. Moneta appears once again in human form, the redness dissipating from her eyes.

He is discovered two days later by Hyperion's Self-Defense force. Kassad recovers and when he returns to the Web he resigns his commission.



Kassad had completed his story. The pilgrims began asking questions. They want to know if he suspects Moneta as the Shrike, and about the Time Tombs. Most importantly they ask about the Shrike's killing tree where it impales its victims. Kassad admits he did see some of the pilgrims on the tree but he would not reveal who. He also reveals that Moneta, or whoever she was, wants to use him to begin the interstellar war he experienced visions of.

## Chapter 2, The Soldier's Tale, War Lovers Analysis

Upon their arrival in Keats, it's the first time the pilgrims realize the severity of the situation on Hyperion. People want to leave the planet, and they are destroying things as a form of rebellion. The pilgrims must keep their identity and purpose on Hyperion a secret, otherwise their lives are in danger. It seems odd that while the entire population is trying to evacuate Hyperion, these seven travelers are ready to willingly face the Shrike. This shows the reader that the pilgrims must have truly important reasons for risking their lives, and they are not trivial desires to simply see the Shrike itself.

Kassad is described as a successful, determined member of the FORCE, yet his weakness lies in his lust for Moneta. This is a relationship that has spanned an vast amount of time yet remains superficial and sparse. They never communicate verbally until he reaches Hyperion. It is evident to the reader that Kassad's battlegrounds and fights to the death are what drive his feelings for Moneta. They always make love after a simulated battle, and he is experiencing Moneta at a heightened level of intensity, which may explain his infatuation.

It is assumed that Kassad is a pawn for Moneta and the Shrike, and they're using him to help conquer the rest of the worlds. This remains to be seen, but his visions of dying worlds and things ending, make it clear that this relationship is not safe. However Kassad continues to seek them out, knowing that his visions cannot be altered, and he must face his destiny with honor like a true soldier.



# Chapter 3, The Poet's Tale

## Chapter 3, The Poet's Tale Summary

The barge is now in Naiad, where everything in sight is destroyed, including the Shrike Temple. The pilgrims are calm and quiet, thinking over Kassad's story. Silenus volunteers to tell his story, since he has drawn the next number.

He starts by explaining his entry to Hyperion, accompanying Sad King Billy along with more than two thousand other artists of various crafts. They ascended upon the City of Poets. It was also the place for Hyperion's own Grendel, the Shrike. The Shrike was indestructible, and the artists could do nothing but keep making their ballets and works of art, while the murders continue. Silenus at this time, almost completes his Cantos, which is the accumulation of his life's work.

Silenus realizes at this point in the story that the other pilgrims may become confused, and reverts back to his beginning. He was born on Old Earth and grew up as a privileged young man, who was expertly tutored in everything from the ancients to the classical period. His mother dies with Old Earth, but she has other plans for her son. She does not want the family to die in debt, and uses Silenus as collateral. He is shipped to Heaven's Gate, but suffers a stroke from the extreme conditions of traveling. He is put to work digging acid canals beyond the perimeter. His physical self is alright, but the left side of his brain has shut down, causing loss of all speech other than nine curse words.

He spends three years on Heaven's Gate, the equivalent to fifteen hundred standard days. During this time the Worldweb, the Hegemony and the Ousters are all taking form, yet Silenus knows nothing but the world around him. Slowly his words return, and he begins to write his Cantos.

One day the bully of the slumyard approaches Silenus as he is walking with his manuscript towards the library. He is severely beaten and his manuscript is thrown in the mud. He is taken to the hospital where the manager's wife, Helenda, reads his Cantos, and sends it over to be reviewed by Transline Publishing. Five weeks later his first book, *The Dying Earth*, comes out, and Helenda divorces her husband and marries Silenus. The book sells over a billion copies.

His editor, Tyrena Wingreen-Feif, came up with the idea to only publish the excerpts from his Cantos that discussed the demise of Old Earth. Silenus becomes a millionaire and a celebrity on the Hegemony. His house is on thirty-six worlds with thirty-eight rooms.

Ten months later Helenda divorces Silenus. He is naive and has spent an enormous amount on their home and traveling. Ultimately he is on the brink of financial collapse.



He decides to publish his Cantos, and takes ten grueling months to perfect it. It sells only twenty-three thousand copies in its first year, yet earns a multitude of negative reviews. To salvage his career and sinking into financial debt, Silenus writes *The Dying Earth II*. This sequel sells nineteen million copies.

Six standard years later, he had completed *The Dying Earth IX* and is living comfortably, but one day realizes his muse has fled.

He farcasts to Tyrena's office and quits. He no longer wants to be affiliated with writing the *The Dying Earth* series. After closing this chapter on a book empire he has created, Silenus farcasts to Asquith, where Sad King Billy lives.

Sad King Billy invites Silenus to travel with him and the other people of his colony, and travel to Hyperion. He desires to see Hyperion primarily because of the poet, John Keats and the mystery of the Time Tombs, besides Asquith is in the direct path of General Horace Glennon-Height, who intends to conquer it on his path of rebellion. Sad King Billy intends to donate everything on Asquith, except for the library which will travel with them. He encourages Silenus to write more like his original Cantos, and less like *The Dying Earth* series. Silenus absolutely agrees.

Silenus spends nine years on Hyperion without a muse. People are beginning to disappear and be murdered, and Sad King Billy asks for Silenus' help in discovering the assailant. Sad King Billy wants to know why Silenus researched the Shrike three months before any killings took place. Silenus wanted to use part of the Shrike myth for a poem he was writing. He admits to the king that the Shrike is his muse.

He re-titles his work, *The Hyperion Cantos*. Sad King Billy evacuated the City of Poets after more killings occurred. Silenus remains in the city alone, except for the Shrike and the occasional pilgrimage, although no one ever returns from them.

A dozen years pass until one night Silenus finds Sad King Billy in his study. The king is convinced that Silenus is unable to write unless the Shrike is shedding someone's blood. He attacks Silenus with a stunner, and prepares to burn the poet's Cantos with kyrosene. As he is burning page after page, the Shrike appears and throw him high into the air. Sad King Billy pleads with Silenus to end the misery and burn his Cantos. Silenus burns the pages regretfully as the Shrike kills Sad King Billy.

After several months Silenus had pieced his Cantos back together, although he could not continue writing because his muse had fled. Two centuries Silenus is still waiting for his muse and the completion of his life's work.

### **Chapter 3, The Poet's Tale Analysis**

Silenus is the oldest, most far-traveled member of the pilgrimage. He is the only one who is originally from Old Earth. Through Silenus' many references to olden day poets, flat films and other prehistoric objects, it is clear that he is someone who commands attention and respect. His Cantos is the reason for the initial trip to Hyperion. Even



though he resides in the City of Poets, he still has no inspiration. Once he uses the Shrike myth for a poem, he instantly summons it as his muse.

The realization that Silenus needs the Shrike reveals his true intention of returning to Hyperion. He needs to summon it once again to complete his life's work. The other pilgrims probably feel resentment and distrust towards Silenus. His intention negates everything the others are setting out to accomplish. They want answers, a battle with the Shrike, and eventual elimination of the monster. The poet wants to use it for his Cantos.

The reader should note that Silenus is acting on selfish desires, knowing fully well that his summoning of the Shrike has caused many deaths in the City of Poets and beyond. However, he is a true poet and writer; that is his calling in life. It is hard to determine whether this is something Silenus can control or whether his higher calling as a poet overwhelms his goodness as a person.

The advantage Silenus has over the other travelers is that he is the only one who has lived in the City of Poets and has an understanding with the Shrike. Even though the others feel wary around him, he may provide an advantage when the time comes to meet it.



## Chapter 4, The Scholar's Tale,

### Chapter 4, The Scholar's Tale, Summary

The barge was now in Edge and the pilgrims have little to say to Silenus after his story. They watch the abandoned structures from the dock. Bettik goes with them to the summit of the low bluff and then departs. He is not required to stay with them after this point. The Benares is left for the pilgrims' return, and Bettik and his crew head downriver. The pilgrims wait for the windwagon as night falls; they make a bonfire, so the wagon can see them. As they wait, Silenus points out that somewhere in their heap of luggage may be the key to their salvation. Each of them has brought something that may influence the outcome of their encounter with the Shrike.

The windwagon eventually arrives. There is no crew aboard the ship, but the galley is stocked with food and the bar is full. The group sits down to dinner, and Lamia and Silenus begin to argue as usual. Lamia points a small cutting laser at Silenus' head. Weintraub reminds her there are children present, and she apologizes. They all agree Weintraub should tell his story to distract them from the recent events, and the eeriness of the empty ship.

Weintraub and his wife Sarai lived on Barnard's World their entire lives. They met at Nightenhelser, the college where Sol teaches, and soon married. They wanted kids immediately, but it would be five years before Sarai gave birth to their daughter, Rachel. Rachel is inquisitive and incredibly talented. She is accomplished in school and chooses archeology as her major at Nightenhelser. Her post graduate work is in alien and pre-Hegira artifacts, and eventually her field work results in an invitation to Hyperion to investigate the Time Tombs. Five years after Rachel went to Hyperion, Weintraub has a disturbing dream, which tells him to take his daughter to there as a burnt offering to save the future of mankind. He ignores the commands in the dream.

Rachel is studying the part of the Time Tombs known as the Sphinx with a team of nine archaeologists and six physicists, one of which is her lover, Melio Arundez. They map the area, and decide only one researcher needs to monitor the data at a time. Rachel wakes up one night and travels to the Sphinx. She is dozing off inside the chamber when the detectors around her start going off, indicating the Sphinx had just grown another 12 chambers. All the displays go dead; she hears dragging feet in the corridor above; the lights flicker off, and a time-tide alarm begins sounding. Something metallic breathes in front of her as she struggles to find where she is, and then something cold grabs her wrist.

Rachel is transferred to the Web world of Renaissance Vector by medical torship. Sol and Sarai travel to visit her at the medical center in DaVinci. Rachel has been unconscious for seventeen standard weeks, her time. Apparently the Time Tombs experienced an anti-entropic field surge. Rachel is uninjured physically, but she is diagnosed with Merlin's sickness. Rachel is now aging backwards. She leaves the



hospital to spend a few weeks with Melio. She will not remember anything about the day because the next day when she awakes she does not remember the past. Rachel returns home from school, her parents hoping she'll be more comfortable with people around she knows. For months, things were seemingly alright with Rachel, and Sarai is temporarily happy with the thought of having her home again. She has another twenty-second birthday party, which is a disaster. Rachel cannot remember her friends and tells her parents never to do that again.

That spring Weintraub has the same dream about Hyperion, and he becomes obsessive about gathering information about the planet, the Time Tombs, and the Shrike. Melio starts an expedition to Hyperion, sponsored by Reichs University, to study the Time Tombs and Rachel's sickness, but nothing amounts from it.

As Rachel's age decreases, she continues to forget her future life, Melio, her friends and sometimes even her parents. Weintraub seeks the advice of a rabbi, discussing his recurring dream and its possible connection to Rachel's illness. Weintraub is interested in the story of Abraham and the slaying of his son. The rabbi thinks there is no connection between Weintraub's situation and the biblical tale, but suggests he come to temple.

That same year Weintraub sees Melio standing outside their house. Melio feels as though he has failed Rachel after three standard years on Hyperion with no answers and months of researching on his own. Rachel, now descended to the brink of teenage adolescence, walks up the driveway and greets her father. He introduces her to Melio, who stares at her intensely. She returns to the house, and Melio confesses his intentions to put another expedition together. Weintraub never sees Melio again.

Weintraub travels to the largest Church of the Shrike in the Web to seek answers regarding Rachel. The Excellency only suggests that joining the Church will provide spiritual salvation, not physical healing. Weintraub is escorted out. A few more days there do nothing other than make the church unresponsive to Weintraub's efforts. He returns to Barnard's World with nothing gained. It is now Rachel's tenth birthday. Word travels of Weintraub and his quest for Rachel. Offers from healers of all sorts pour in and eventually the title given to Weintraub as the "Wandering Jew" and Rachel as the "Doomed Child" make it impossible to live life normally.

Around her sixth birthday, the family moves to Hebron. Above all, the planet provides safety and seclusion from outsiders and publicity. A year later Rachel has numerous friends and they are happy in their new home. However things are not getting any easier, and Sarai tells Weintraub he must take Rachel back to Hyperion. She confesses to having the same recurring dream as her husband, but was waiting for him to know what to do.

They are still undecided about the trip when Weintraub receives a phone call that there has been a terrible accident. Sarai has been killed by teenagers recklessly driving an EMV on the road. There was nothing left for him to do but petition the Church of the Shrike and be selected as a pilgrim to travel to Hyperion. After the Church's refusal to



allow them to return to the Time Tombs, Weintraub takes Rachel on the talk show Common Talk, and pleads that people contact their local Church of the Shrike to place requests to send him. Rachel is now only twelve weeks old, and if the Church waits any longer, Rachel will cease to exist. The appearance works, and Weintraub and Rachel are scheduled for the pilgrimage.

As Weintraub finishes his story, the group decides to go above deck for fresh air. They see a space battle and the Treeship is hit and demolished. Masteen has lost his crew. The others ascend below to sleep, while the Consul keeps watch and thinks.

## Chapter 4, The Scholar's Tale, Analysis

The pilgrims are in dire need of a good story because their traveling is becoming more exhausting, and everything around them on Hyperion is deserted. Weintraub's tale is one of tragedy and unfortunate timing. There is no evident reason why Rachel has been subjected to Merlin's illness, other than the fact that she was in the Time Tombs when the surge went off.

This is the first direct example in the novel of how the Time Tombs are unpredictable and their powers are immense. No one is able to comprehend what happened to Rachel, even after many expeditions back to the site. The Time Tombs prove to be the only thing humans are incapable of mastering inside or outside the Web. Perhaps the author is trying to show that human beings are not supposed to control everything, and the Time Tombs are symbolic of that.

The description of Rachel, her many accomplishments, and her likable demeanor, make her story even more compelling. The reader can sympathize, since she had so much potential and was full of drive and adventure. This shows that the Time Tombs are not selective in who they affect and have no sympathy for people good or bad at heart. She seemed to have been in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The only thing to suggest otherwise are her parent's recurring dreams. Their prophecy was that Rachel would become some sort of sacrifice in order to save mankind. The Temple of the Shrike is unwilling to help them cure Rachel or assist in a trip to Hyperion. This could imply that the Temple does not want to be associated with any sort of negative press about the Tombs.

When the story ends, there is a battle forming, and the Ousters have finally arrived. This foreshadows dangerous times ahead on their pilgrimage. They are in the range of direct targets, since the Ousters desire to eliminate the Time Tombs. They have no choice but to continue their trek, since they will ultimately have to meet the Shrike and be killed. It also leaves them hopeless knowing there will be an interstellar war whether they live or die.





# Chapter 5, The Detective's Tale, The Long Goodbye

## Chapter 5, The Detective's Tale, The Long Goodbye Summary

The crew wakes in the morning and finds breakfast, but Masteen is nowhere to be found. They find blood all over his room, and no notice that he has left. The group agrees to split up to search the ship and Masteen's belongings, hoping for clues to his disappearance. They find nothing except an erg that Masteen was hoping to use in defense against the Shrike. Silenus suggests the Shrike has begun harvesting them. Masteen would have told his story next. Lamia is after him, but she wants to wait until they are off of the boat to tell her story.

They reach Pilgrim's Rest, where they unload their belongings off the windship and enter a tramcar. Kassad is busy loading their last belongings from the windwagon as the tramcar begins to pull away. He descends to the icy boulders below, jumps and catches the car. They are now moving along the tramway, climbing to the first of many towers on the cable. Hours later, after a dinner of stew and wine, Lamia begins her story.

One normal workday, a beautiful man, named Johnny, walks into Lamia's office. He wants her to investigate a murder that is unknown to the authorities and has occurred outside of the Web. She agrees to listen to the story and decide whether to take the case or not. He tells her he is the one who is murdered. Johnny an AI/cybrid, claims his assailant murdered him. Lamia thought this impossible because they could not die. Johnny's own consciousness cannot be destroyed with the body itself, but during the attack data was lost. Lamia agrees to take the case.

They go to the place where Johnny is murdered. Madhya is a desolate place light minutes from the FORCE base. Johnny cannot remember why he came there; it was part of the memory section lost during the attack. The only thing he knows is that his assailant used the AIDS II virus as a weapon. He wants Lamia to find out who the murderer is and why this happened. Lamia suggests they travel to the place he farcasted from before entering Madhya. Tau Ceti Center is incredibly overpopulated, and Lamia suggests they grab a drink. As they sip beer, she tries to gain more information on Johnny. There are only two motives he can presume would be a good reason to murder him. The first, is that someone may have wanted to gain access to his memory and remove memories of whatever had happened in the past two weeks. The second is that someone was trying to send a message. He rules out the possibility of another cybrid murdering him.

He reveals to Lamia that his function is to observe and react to human beings, therefore making him a type of human once. He was part of the personality retrieval projects with a core-persona based on a pre-Hegira Old Earth poet. Lamia agrees to try and find



what his whereabouts had been for the past five days, which is the time that he has lost. Before parting, Lamia asks which poet Johnny's AI persona is modeled after. He tells her it's John Keats. She follows him after they part ways. He goes to eat Chinese food and then returns home back on Lusus, where she discovers they are neighbors. Lamia calls on BB Surbringer, her AI expert.

He tells Lamia that AIs are a necessity for the functioning of the system, while cybrids are commonly forgotten. The cybrids are being phased out—the AIs destroy them. Lamia inquires if AIs are seen as a threat, and BB defuses that theory profusely. AIs were perhaps seen as threats 600 years ago, but he figures they would have taken over long ago if that was their desire. Lamia followed Johnny around for two days and then investigated the five days before his death, tracing his farcasting. He mostly kept to himself, either spending hours in the library or traveling to worlds where his favorite restaurants are.

At dinner Lamia asks Johnny why he spends hours in the library. He is researching to find fragments of an original Keats poem. The poem is called Hyperion. Lamia tells Johnny about the outerworld, Hyperion, its City of Poets, and how a city is even named after Keats. Johnny has never heard of it before. He tells Lamia she reminds him of Fanny, Keats' fiancée. The next day, Lamia travels to the last place Johnny farcasted before he went to Madhya. It's a bar, close to the library on TC<sup>2</sup>. She waits until a regular walks in, and Lamia offers him money for information. He remembers Johnny walking in with two other men, one Templar, one Lusian. The Templar did most of the talking, and Johnny appeared to be answering questions. He seemed surprised by whatever the Templar was telling him. Johnny and the Lusian left while the Templar stayed behind.

Just as Lamia was leaving the bar, she gets a message on her comlog. Johnny has almost been killed again and she rushes right over to his place. No one is there when she arrives, and he is laying on the floor in the bedroom with a superficial slit on his forehead. There is a tube of something on the floor, Lamia guesses it's a hypnotic tranquilizer. Two men had entered his place and tried to take him. These two men were not trying to kill Johnny; they were trying to kidnap him. Lamia predicts his original murder is also an attempted kidnap that went awry. Lamia takes Johnny back to her place, insisting she no longer is just his detective, but his bodyguard.

The next day, Johnny farcasts to Renaissance V, while Lamia waits in the shadows. The Lusian man is the third person behind him to appear. They all farcast to see the tour of the Worldtree. It is normally a fun experience, but now when Lamia sees the Templars in their dark robes, an apprehension washes over her. She approaches the Lusian by grasping his right shoulder and asks what he wants with her client. He tries to cut her with a knife, narrowly misses, and takes off running. Lamia runs after him, telling Johnny to return to her place. They farcast through different worlds, and in the midst of a blizzarding snow, Lamia finally shoots him with a stunner pistol.

His right arm is dangling as if broken, but he still gets up and farcasts. In the next world Lamia catches up and tackles him. They fight with fists, and ultimately Lamia plunges



the Lusian's head into water, bringing him back up again and demanding answers. Suddenly he bursts into flames. Lamia jumps on a traveling rug and flies into the sky away from people, who are pointing in her direction. High above the sea, she is lost and does not know how long the hawking mat's charge will last. On her comlog Johnny contacts her, finds her coordinates and informs her she cannot return home. Everyone has a description of her now, and the Lusian man has been killed.

They meet in Old Earth, or a holograph of it. Each place, city, and site can be set at different times throughout the Earth's existence depending on the analog being pursued. They are in Italy, where Keats died, and the year is 1821. That night they stay in the apartment in which Keats died. They make love three times. In the morning they are awakened by five armed men attacking them. They work for the Bishop of the Shrike Temple on Lusus. Lamia and Johnny steal their EMV and farcast to its last destination, seeing if it was in fact the Temple.

They meet the bishop there, who claims that eight days earlier Johnny had requested to be part of the Shrike pilgrimage to Hyperion, to further his education. The men were sent after Johnny on Old Earth after his bodyguard was killed. The claimed bodyguard is the Lusian man Lamia stunned. The bishop needs Johnny's decision about the pilgrimage before the week is finished. They return to Lamia's home and discuss the events of the last few hours. Johnny realizes he wanted to go on the pilgrimage to no longer be a cybrid, and become a real man, and he still does. He and Lamia decide to go to Hyperion together.

Lamia leaves Johnny on TC<sup>2</sup> while she visits Meina Gladstone's office. Gladstone does not want to share information with Lamia about the Time Tombs or the Shrike. She only reveals that the Tombs will be full in the near future, with what, they don't know. Johnny realizes that the only way to enter the Core is to find someone who would be willing to put everything on the line. Lamia recruits BB, and they enter the Core periphery. Johnny dies, and they all seem to fall into an incredibly forceful black hole. Johnny eventually pulls Lamia out; BB has died during the emergency; however, because of BB's success in passing the data to Johnny before he died, Johnny is now as close to human as possible. He also knows the reason the Core is obsessed with Hyperion.

They return to the Church of the Shrike on Lusus, knowing it is the only place they can seek refuge and possibly a ship to Hyperion. They are attacked, and Johnny dies in the battle. They take his body, and show the crowd that he is really dead, while Lamia is looked after in the Church. Two weeks in recovery went by, and finally the Hegemony announced a ship would be sent with a pilgrimage to Hyperion. Lamia would be on it. She is pregnant with Johnny's child. She must travel to Hyperion herself, knowing that when it is time to meet the Shrike, Johnny will be there with her.

When Lamia is finished they ask if Masteen was the Templar who confronted Johnny. She does not know. They decide to rest for the night while the Consul and Kassad keep watch.



## Chapter 5, The Detective's Tale, The Long Goodbye Analysis

This chapter introduces Lamia, who is the only pilgrim to have a love affair with a cybrid. The love between her and Johnny is probably not welcomed within the Worldweb because Lamia did not fall in love with a random cybrid, but the re-creation of Keats. This makes Johnny unique and his tie to Hyperion sealed.

The fact that the Church of the Shrike and Meina Gladstone are trying to prevent Johnny from entering Hyperion, means there is a significant consequence if he goes there. This consequence includes his desire to become a man and no longer be a cybrid. If Johnny truly becomes the closest possible re-creation to John Keats and travels to Hyperion, he could make significant discoveries, or changes there. His theories about Keats in the past, present or future form, may be correct. One possibility of change that frightens Gladstone is that Johnny could affect the TechnoCore's plan to get rid of Hyperion. If Keats is able to influence the progression of the Tombs, then the Ousters won't attack, and the entire plan Gladstone has contrived will be unsuccessful.

When Johnny finally does succeed at becoming more human, he dies, but he has already impregnated Lamia. This foreshadows the possibility of Keats' descendant living on, and potentially going to Hyperion to finish his work there. Lamia's purpose in life is no longer just to be a detective, but to pass on the future of her lover's destiny. Their baby, a half-Lusian, half-cybrid, makes the child's genetic makeup unknown and potentially powerful.

The other important circumstance in this chapter is that a Templar, possibly Masteen, was involved in the murder of Johnny. Masteen's disappearance and now his connection to Johnny may explain why he is on the pilgrimage. It also foreshadows what Masteen's story is, and his involvement with the TechnoCore, Hegemony, Hyperion and the Shrike itself.



# Chapter 6, The Consul's Tale, Remembering Siri

## Chapter 6, The Consul's Tale, Remembering Siri Summary

The group is passing by Chrono's Keep, a homage to the Shrike, and decide to stay there for the night. After dinner, the group witnesses fireworks in the sky as the Ousters begin to test the FORCE defenses. They turn their heads to see a single figure walking towards the Tombs. It is Masteen. He will arrive hours before them.

The group decides it's the Consul's turn to tell his story, and since Masteen has gone to the Tombs, it will be the last one heard. The Consul explains, that much like Hoyt, his story can only be told by telling another's first. He turns on the old recorder he has brought with him, and they all listen together.

Meric walks up Siri's tomb on the islands of Equatorial Archipelago. He can see a sea of mourners, stretching more than a kilometer across the city. They are all waiting for Meric to say his goodbyes, so they open the farcasters and join the Worldweb of the Hegemony. Meric and his friend, Mike Osho, were working on farcaster construction far out from Maui-Covenant when they decided they wanted to find some women for sex. Mike reveals a hawking mat and some Renaissance joker costumes. The main ship computer advised Mike that Maui-Covenant are having their annual festival. During the trip, Meric constantly questions their decision, and worries about getting caught because they were not supposed to interact with the locals.

Meric met Siri there. After two days of dancing, bathing, roaming the hills and eating with strangers, the couple ascended from the hills and rejoined the festival. Siri's family is vacationing on a slow moving boat, and so the lovers plan on going to her family home. Siri reveals that her uncle is a Separatist, and Meric is lucky he did not find out he is a shipman. The Separatists would rather fight than join the Hegemony. They both agreed Separatists could be unreasonable.

They continued looking for Siri's skimmer boat when Meric saw Mike. Someone had just approached Mike, calling him a Hegemony man. The man was Siri's cousin, who throws Mike a sword and challenges him to a duel. Mike shouts offenses in return. Meric sees that Mike has a laser pen in his hand and runs out of the shadows to stop him. Mike already scans the pen across three of the men, injuring them slightly. Meric steps in, turning towards Mike, trying to explain that everything will be alright. Siri's cousin lunges around Meric and stabs Mike, who dies. Meric in a fit of rage grabs the laser pen, puts it to maximum strength, and kills Mike's murderer. Siri lands the skimmer, picks up Meric and drops him off near some boulders. She leaves him, tears filling her eyes. A few minutes later a ShipSecurity skimmer touches down beside him. Meric is questioned for two days and returns to duty. He also received a reprimand and reduction of rank. Over



the next few years, the story of what happened that night turns into myth. The Hegemony decide Meric can improve relations on the ground of Maui-Covenant, so he sails there to meet Siri and her family. Over the next sixty-five years, Meric and Siri have six reunions and she bears their sons, Alon and Donel. When Meric is gone working with the Hegemony, Siri remains, aging much faster than he does because when he is shipboard, time moves slowly.

In the tomb, Meric asks Donel where Siri's remains are. She has been cremated and spread across the Great South Sea. She has left Meric a metal box, inside the tomb, that only he may open. He has twenty minutes before the farcaster is activated. Inside the box is a handlaser, an ancient comlog, translator medallion and the hawking mat he and Mike used years ago. Meric lifts the comlog and sets it up. Siri appears. She explains that the diary in front of him contains hundreds of entries but he will only see the few that follow. First, he sees the vision of Siri on the last day of their third reunion. She tells him their son Alon has been killed, and it was not an accident. The Separatists had gotten him. The second vision is Siri at twenty-six telling Meric she is pregnant with Donel. The third is Siri at sixteen; she is upset and apologizing for Mike's death but angered Meric did not say goodbye to her. The image fades, and all that is left is a voice telling Meric goodbye.

Meric exits the tomb and sees the crowd's excitement had turned to anger. He unrolls the hawking mat and taps it, making it fly a few meters. He calls out to the crowd and officially names them a part of the Hegemony. Meric looks skyward to see a new star being born at the same moment the farcaster begins working. For a few brief moments, everything in space and time is harmonized. Then the thermite charge Meric placed on the outer containment sphere explodes, and people scream watching the farcaster cave in on itself. Meric takes off on the hawking mat, and sings the song of Siri.

The recording ends and the Consul explains that Donel is his father. Their family remained there and soon the Hegemony returned to Maui-Covenant and battled the small rebellious forces. They moved to Tau Ceti Center, where Donel was elected Senator. The Consul returned to Maui-Covenant after he finished school and began working for the Central Administration Isle. He married, achieved a high score on his diplomatic corps exams, and requested to be stationed outside the web. He was promoted to Consul in eight years and served on a number of different worlds. On Bressia he was given the assignment of dealing with the Ousters directly. He met with Meina Gladstone and learned their complicated plan. The Ousters had to be provoked into attacking, and the way to accomplish that was with Hyperion.

The Ousters are obsessed with Hyperion, and the Hegemony wants to capitalize on that. Hyperion has been rejected entry to the Hegemony for centuries by the TechnoCore. By making it seem like Hyperion must be decimated for the advantage of the web, TechnoCore's AI coalitions can gain power. Apparently by doing so, the Ousters could be eliminated for good and everyone would benefit from a new, improved Hegemony.



The Consul then traveled to find the Ousters and revealed everything he knew about Gladstone's plan. In return they shared information with him, which he related to Gladstone thirty web-years later. He was put through months of conversation with Gladstone and FORCE Intelligence agents. They eventually stationed him on Hyperion, where he was now the Consul and a double agent. He waited years and met with some Ousters near the Sphinx and learned they could shield against the Time Tombs and ultimately collapse them. He shot the other agents and took their device, releasing it on the Time Tombs. He called the Ousters telling them there had been an accident and the device went off prematurely. He called Gladstone and said the Ouster agents were eliminated but did not mention the device.

The Consul finished his story. He has no request for the Shrike; he is merely accepting his fate. He is finally declaring vengeance on the Hegemony not only for his ancestors but for the Old Earth dying. The pilgrims know he is the spy of whom Gladstone warned them. The Consul admits he is in touch with both the Ousters and Gladstone. They contemplate killing him but decide otherwise. They will finish the pilgrimage together.

The Consul takes back his earlier statement about not having a request for the Shrike. He will ask for Rachel Weintraub to be cured. Silenus' request is for his Hyperion Cantos to be finished. The pilgrims are silent, contemplating their fate. They decide to go to bed. It is the first time in a long time the Consul is able to fall sleep easily.

## **Chapter 6, The Consul's Tale, Remembering Siri Analysis**

The Consul's story is finally revealed and really serves as the glue that ties all the other pilgrim's stories together. Their purpose of being on the pilgrimage takes on an entirely new meaning when they discover more the Ousters and the TechnoCore are involved in the situation on Hyperion.

The Consul's purpose on the pilgrimage is to inflict vengeance on the Hegemony. He uses his ranking status, and patiently waits many years to score the ultimate revenge. At heart the Consul is really just trying to make a political and ethical statement. He resents the fact that the new way of living has destroyed everything once biologically natural. It is a representation of one way of thinking, and shows the reader there are people who still believe in the old way of life.

Siri, the Consul's grandmother, has grown up without ever using a farcaster. She lives in standard years and real space and time. Her family are Separatists, who resist joining the Hegemony. They are viewed as unreasonable and violent, but they are only like this because of being outnumbered and misunderstood.

The most significant aspect of the Consul's story is the negotiations with both the Ousters and Gladstone. It is discovered that the TechnoCore is manipulating the Ousters into a preemptive attack on Hyperion. The reader should take note that this means the TechnoCore and Hegemony knew the entire time that war would ensue.



Now that the pilgrims know every story, except for Masteen's, it is unclear whether it will help them when they meet the Shrike. Although they know everyone's purpose and request, the Shrike seems an unlikely listener. However, if any single pilgrimage is capable of returning successfully, it would be theirs. Each of them have a personal experience relating to the Shrike and the Time Tombs.





# Epilogue

## Epilogue Summary

The Consul wakes up to Hoyt playing a balalaika. Soon the others join them. They are early for the start of their journey but decide to proceed. They leave all their luggage except whatever they desire to have when meeting the Shrike.

Lamia leads the group as they exit Chronos Keep and make their way towards the City of Poets. They pass it and head towards the Tombs; each Tomb glows in the sky. It was not a common sight, and Weintraub says that the glowing was never reported during Rachel's studies there.

No one speaks as they grow closer, except for Weintraub humming a tune to Rachel. It's a pre-Hegira, pre-everything song from a flat film about going to see a wizard in Oz. They all began singing now, walking side by side, as they go further and further down the valley and closer to meeting their fate.

## Epilogue Analysis

The conclusion of the novel is only the beginning of the pilgrim's meeting with the Shrike. It is poetic and tragic that they are all quiet with the realization that these final few moments together are probably their last.

The song from the Wizard of Oz is ironically fitting for their final walk to the Shrike. The film is about four companions traveling through the land of Oz to visit the Wizard, who will grant them wishes. The comparison between the Shrike and the Wizard is only accurate because both are all-knowing and powerful. The Shrike will only grant one of the pilgrim's wish, or not at all, and it is likely it will kill every pilgrim.

The Wizard of Oz film and its memories have died and been drowned out with the progression of the Worldweb and dissolution of Old Earth. It is one more statement the author makes about how everything from the original way of life is disposable. It also reminds the reader that these occurrences on Hyperion are predictions for the future of Earth and Space.

All the reader can do is wonder and hope that the Shrike feels a glimmer of compassion for at least one of these pilgrims, and that the Time Tombs and whatever they contain will not destroy the existence of humankind.



# Characters

## The Consul

A pilgrim. Born on the Maui-Covenant, the Consul is working as a double agent for Meina Gladstone and TechnoCore and also the Ousters. He is eager to inflict vengeance on the Hegemony after years of patiently waiting for the right opportunity. He is the grandson of Merin and Siri, and the son of Donel. The Consul is a recovering alcoholic. His wife and son died in the War of Bressia. He spends eleven years alone, stationed on Hyperion as the Consul. In the meantime, he communicates with both Gladstone and the Ousters. The Consul is now commissioned to go to Hyperion again and work for Gladstone, although she does not know he used the Ousters device to open the Time Tombs.

## Lenar Hoyt

A pilgrim. A Catholic priest who travels to Hyperion to find Father Dure crucified. He himself becomes cruciformed by the Bikura. He does not tell the other pilgrims he is cruciformed, in fear that they will be angered by his immortality.

## Colonel Fedhman Kassad

A pilgrim. Born in the slums of Tharsis, he is a Palestinian, who was already running in gangs as a teenager. Called the "Butcher of South Bressia," he is an incredible fighter. He develops a superficial relationship with Moneta, meeting on battlefields holographs. Their last encounter is on Hyperion, and Moneta is revealed as the Shrike itself. In the future he will be used in the interstellar war under the Shrike's control.

## Father Paul Dure

An archaeologist, ethnologist, and eminent Jesuit who discovered the Bikura on Hyperion. He is the first person outside of the tribe to be cruciformed.

## Martin Silenus

A pilgrim. Born on Old Earth, he is a poet and achieved literary success with The Dying Earth novels. He wrote The Dying Earth volumes I-IX, and was a renowned celebrity and millionaire. He quit writing the series to search for his muse. He inhabited the City of Poets on Hyperion where the Shrike became his muse for his writing.



## **Sol Weintraub**

A pilgrim. A professor at Nightenhelser College, teaching history and classical studies, and researching ethical evolution. His pilgrimage is for his daughter, Rachel, whose aging is reversed after studying in the Time Tombs.

## **Brawne Lamia**

A pilgrim and the only woman on the journey. A former citizen of the 1.3 g-world of Lusus, she works as a detective for AllWeb Investigations. She falls in love with her client, Johnny. Her involvement with him leads her to Hyperion in search of Johnny's true meaning as the recreation of John Keats. Lamia is pregnant with Johnny's baby.

## **Sarai Weintraub**

Sol's wife

## **Rachel Weintraub**

Sol and Sarai's daughter. She is an archaeologist who travels to Hyperion and studies the Time Tombs. She is caught inside the Sphinx when a surge in the anti-entropic fields occurs, causing her to begin aging backwards. By the time she is an infant again, her parents decide she must return to Hyperion in search for a cure.

## **Het Masteen**

A pilgrim. Captain of the Templar treeship and True Voice of the Tree. He is the only pilgrim whose story is never told.

## **Johnny Keats**

A cybrid replica of John Keats, the poet. Johnny is the true love of Brawne Lamia.

## **Bikura**

A tribal population of seventy, called the "Three Score and Ten." They are sterile, sexless, and bald. They have found the cure to mortality in the cruciform.



## Ousters

They confiscate land and burn the cities, turning everything into unusable substances and rubble. A constant threat to the pilgrims, as they are trying to overtake Hyperion.

## Stan Leweski

Cicero's bar owner

## Androids

Blue creatures still used for manual labor on backwater planets such as Hyperion.

## Meric Aspic

The Consul's grandfather. A shipman.

## Siri

The Consul's grandmother. Born and raised on the Maui-Covenant.

## Helenda

Silenus' wife.

## Tryena Wingreen-Feif

Silenus' first editor at Transline Publishing

## Sad King Billy

The ruler of Asquith. His name stems from his unique form of laughter that resembles sobbing. He is sixty years old, a life-long bachelor, and a connoisseur of the arts. He stutters.

## Meina Gladstone

Senator and CEO of the Hegemony.



# Objects/Places

## Hyperion

A planet afflicted with Deep Ice Ages, it is one of nine labyrinth worlds and home to the Shrike. This world is the destination of the Shrike pilgrimage. It contains the Time Tombs and is considered an incredible threat to the Ousters and the TechnoCore in the near future. It also contains the City of Poets. This planet is connected to each of the seven pilgrims in some form, mainly because of the Shrike itself. Hyperion was created when the Hegira was a small freehold living on one of the moons of Saturn but could not survive without terrestrial resupply. They traveled to the Outback and named the planet after their moon.

## Templar treeship

The most desirable way to travel between the stars. It carries between two to five thousand passengers per trip. They make short scenic crossings allowing the passengers to spend as little time as needed in fugue.

## Keats

Hyperion's capital. The only spaceport on Hyperion, able to handle passenger vehicles.

## Time Tombs

Tombs located on Hyperion that possess powerful tides that drive the Tombs backwards through time. They are an object of fear among the Core and the Ousters because no one knows what the Time Tombs contain or what will appear out of them when interstellar war begins.

## Hyperion's labryinth

Created more than three quarters of a million standard years ago, they catacomb the crust of the planet and are around 10-30 kilometers deep.

## City of Poets

The City of Poets is beyond the hill on Hyperion where the Time Tombs reside. Centuries ago it was home to over two thousand artists, painters and playwrights. It is now a desolate, abandoned city.



## **Flaming Forest**

The forest beneath the Cleft where massive electric currents travel, and flammers fly, appearing like the end of the world. The location where Dure tries to kill himself, and where Hoyt finds him crucified many years later.

## **the Cleft**

Caused by the flow of subterranean rivers proceeded by the weakening of crust through periodic freeze and thaw over aeons. The destination of Father Dure and the place where he first comes into contact with the Bikura.

## **Cicero's**

Bar on Hyperion, named after a section of an Old Earth city.

## **Pacem**

World from which Father Dure and Hoyt come.

## **Hegemony warship**

A ship created by the Hegemony to protect the worlds in the web.

## **The Hegemony**

The area of Space where the Worldweb resides. The Ousters are not allowed in, and outer planets must be chosen to join.

## **TechnoCore**

The congregation of AIs that advises the Senate and allows the Worldweb's economy, technological civilization and farcasting system to function. They are also in touch with the Ousters and provoke them to attack Hyperion, with the hopes that this will lead to more AI coalitions and a newer Hegemony.

## **Barnard's World**

The home of Sol Weintraub and his family. It is one of the oldest worlds in the Hegemony.



## Hebron

Desert planet, where Sol Weintraub moves his family after Rachel's illness causes a mass of publicity.

## Erg

Forcefield critter that Templars use on their treeships. They feed on and manipulate force fields. Masteen took one to Hyperion to use against the Shrike.

## Tramway

Ninety-six kilometers long, made up of cables connecting towers. This tramway leads the pilgrims on a leg of their journey.

## Cybrids

They are made from human genetic stock, and they appear more human in appearance than Androids. There are only a few in existence. They do business with humans and machines through the datasphere.

## AIDS II virus

A human disease that also has the same disabling effects on the immune system of AIs.

## Farcaster

Used as a common way of travel. It is a hole ripped in Space, timed by a phased singularity.

## Tau Ceti Center (TC<sup>2</sup>)

One of the most populated worlds in the Web, with around five billion people and half a billion more people inhabiting its orbital ring ecology. It is the capital of the Hegemony and home to the Senate. It is also the business haven for Webtrade.

## Heaven's Gate

A minor world circling the star Vega. Silenus lives here for three years, digging in its perimeter's canals. It contains only a sixty-mile radius of survivable atmosphere,



controlled by the Atmospheric Generating Station. Its population is around twenty million.

## **The Hyperion Cantos**

Silenus' life's work. He renamed the work after finding the Shrike as his muse and living on Hyperion in the City of Poets. It has yet to be completed and is the purpose of Silenus' pilgrimage.

## **Chrono's Keep**

An enormous place of worship for the Shrike, built by the androids under the command of Sad King Billy. It was intended to be the largest tourist resort in the Web. It contains three hundred rooms carved out of mountain stone, with statues of the Shrike and atonement altars.

## **FORCE**

The group that protects the Hegemony from outerworld intruders





# Themes

## Human Choice Versus the Shrike and the Time Tombs

The pilgrim's experiences that led them to Hyperion were choices they made. They each have a significant purpose for the pilgrimage, whether it's for love, sacrifice, inspiration or revenge, but they all stem from their decisions, not the forces on Hyperion.

Lamia is directly tied to John Keats and is carrying the child of his cybrid recreation. Silenus uses the Shrike as a muse. His Hyperion Cantos cannot be completed until he returns to where the muse lives. Weintraub's daughter, Rachel, contracted Merlin's illness from the Time Tombs. Now he must offer her as a sacrifice to the Shrike to save mankind. Kassad is in love with Moneta, who is apparently the Shrike in a woman's disguise. Kassad will be used as the Shrike's pawn in the future during the interstellar war. Father Hoyt seeks the Shrike to rid himself of the cruciform he had implanted during his time on Hyperion. His desire to die a true death overpowers his desire to be immortal. The Consul is acting as a double agent, playing both the Ousters and the TechnoCore. He has released the device on the Time Tombs, opening them and causing the Shrike to roam freely.

Looking at these experiences together, it is clear that each pilgrim's journey has directly affected another's. The Shrike and Time Tombs merely acted as consequences to their decisions. Human error and desire overpowers any terror the Shrike possesses. It is evident from these six people. Their decisions were not implemented by the Shrike itself.

In Kassad's case, when the Shrike was deliberately disguised as a lovely woman, Kassad's lust overpowered his logical senses. He continued to seek Moneta. Rachel willingly entered the Time Tombs. The Consul chose to release the device. Now they must take full responsibility for the actions that occurred in the past and accept that the Shrike will show them their fate.

## The Myth of the Shrike

Throughout this novel, the Shrike has many guises. Each pilgrim's association with it brings a new portrayal of a complex and ruthless character. The myth of the Shrike survives more in the minds and stories that people tell, yet the experiences the pilgrim's have made the myth seem more like a reality.

The Shrike clearly wears many hats, yet it is always a murderer. It is the one thing TechnoCore, the Worldweb, the Ousters, namely science and technology cannot control. The political entities of the Worldweb and the Ousters are in agreement that they cannot defeat the Shrike, no matter how good they are at eliminating other possible threats to humans. Once the Time Tombs are opened, the myth is realized, and the Shrike is able to reign free.



This theme touches a broader, more ethical chord. The fact that the Shrike was contained until someone invented something to release it from its bondage clearly implies that humans themselves helped create the Shrike. The myth is becoming a reality because of its freedom from the Time Tombs.

## **The Ousters versus TechnoCore for Hyperion**

The Ousters seek control of planets and desire to infiltrate the Worldweb. They are uncivilized, and wreak havoc on the worlds they overpower. TechnoCore works to control the entry of the Ousters into the web. They are the only other tribe of humanity that is able to travel between stars, making them a direct threat.

Hyperion is a key factor in the war between these two entities because it possesses the Time Tombs. These Tombs, if controlled, are considered to be the most powerful weapon there is. Either side gaining access to its power, will surely use it to their advantage.

The Ousters are obsessed with the Tombs and the Shrike. The TechnoCore wants to provoke an attack from the Ousters because of web politics. Parts of the TechnoCore consistently deny Hyperion access to the Hegemony. The advantage to forcing an attack now, pretending the TechnoCore is defending the web itself against Hyperion, would mean more AI coalitions within the TechnoCore.

The TechnoCore is truly a controlling and manipulative entity, whose primary purpose is to eliminate anything that threatens humans remaining on the top of the food chain. They will stop at nothing, even possible annihilation of a planet, to ensure this. The Ousters merely want to gain control and potentially enter the Worldweb (although future books in this series suggests otherwise). They are kept at bay, unable to enter the Hegemony, with no possibility of farcasting. This is a power struggle that can only be decided once the Tombs show their purpose and whoever gains control will reign victorious.

# Style

## Point of View

Hyperion provides the reader with several differing points of view. The chapters are interchangeable from third person omniscient to first person. The pilgrims tell their stories in first person, while the interludes explaining where they are on Hyperion are told in third person omniscient. Each chapter begins with the third person omniscient, allowing the reader to reassess with the characters as a group.

Each chapter includes one of the pilgrim's stories, in first person. This variation on perspective allows the reader to fully experience what it would be like to actually travel on the pilgrimage and to hear the story firsthand. The author did an excellent job seamlessly transitioning between the two perspectives.

The story of Father Hoyt and The Consul are the two that switch from the pilgrims talking in first person, to someone else in first person. In Father Hoyt's case, his idol, Father Dure tells most of the tale. The Consul's tale is mainly told by recording through his grandfather, Meric. This is easy enough to understand while reading, but it makes their stories seem less personal.

## Setting

The setting of the novel has three primary locations—Hyperion, the Webworld and the outerworld. The seven pilgrims hail from different planets including places such as Lusus, Barnard's World, Pacem, Tharsis, Bressia and Old Earth. There is even mention of analogs of worlds, like the replica of Old Earth to which Brawne Lamia and Johnny travel, which is a complete replication of the cities and places.

The story begins with the pilgrims traveling together to Hyperion. This planet is in the midst of a rebellion, and most inhabitants are trying to leave. The Shrike and its followers are unforgiving and the world is falling apart. An interstellar war is about to take place there, and the Ousters want to control the planet. The entire pilgrimage takes place on Hyperion, through Keats, the City of Poets, Chronos' Keep and finally the Time Tombs.

Time must also be taken in consideration when reviewing the setting of this novel. The pilgrims are traveling between stars, not along the Web, so they make up for centuries worth of time in standard years. This allows the setting of the novel to not only change location, but change between expansive time periods. Kassad fights battles from A.D. 1415 to Gettysburg, to the final fight in the future on Hyperion. Silenus was born on Old Earth and has survived centuries of standard years. The Consul's grandparents lived in two separate types of time. One in standard years and the other in farcasting time, where a few standard days is the equivalent of a few seconds.



## Language and Meaning

The language used throughout the novel is fairly standard, except for the constant references to planets, people, weapons and political groups. For the reader it can be daunting to try and hypothesize the meaning of each fictional word. The author explains certain terms, which definitely helps the readers feel they are in another world and understand that world, although the definitions could be shorter. This is a rather lengthy novel based on the stories alone, and the explanations tend to make it unnecessarily wordy.

Terms such as Old Earth and New Earth, various European cities, old poets, the Wizard of Oz and Grendel, are factual tidbits placed throughout the work. For the reader, these connections to modern day terms or places make it more interesting to place the worlds of Hyperion in context of the earth as readers know it. This is a difficult task when the story is set in Space, light years ahead of the present. The author succeeds in placing real historical information throughout the novel, and truly manifesting a future world and society based on factual events.

The language used by each pilgrim does not waver often; however, when the poet Silenus tells his story, his speech is much more proper and he quotes other poets numerous times. The transition from third person omniscient to the pilgrims telling their own stories has no differentiation between the type of language. Their figures of speech are similar, only their stories are different. This is a useful and effective way of telling the story. The reader already has so much information to process, keeping the language simple and concise works.

## Structure

The novel is comprised of a prologue, six chapters, and an epilogue. The prologue opens with the Consul receiving notice that he has been chosen to go on the pilgrimage to Hyperion. The chapters have an opening summary updating where the pilgrims are on their journey to see the Shrike. Each chapter then consists of one of the seven pilgrim's stories. This is an effective way of telling two stories at once. The reader is aware of the time, place and situation the pilgrims are in as a group traveling, and also the individual circumstances of each pilgrim.

The plot of the novel is entirely about the pilgrimage to Hyperion. The sub sections to the plot would be the pilgrim's individual tales, the myths of the Shrike and the Time Tombs, and the war between the Ousters and the TechnoCore. The novel ends with the pilgrims ready to face the Shrike, allowing the reader wanting more.



## Quotes

"Only those who make a conscious decision to seek the Shrike may be counted among the pilgrims." Chp 1, p. 15.

"Saved from certain death in war to be delivered to certain death at the hands of the Shrike." Chp 1. p. 16.

"Among us we represent islands of time as well as separate oceans of perspective. Or perhaps more aptly put, each of us may hold a piece to a puzzle no one else has been able to solve since humankind first landed on Hyperion." Chp. 1, p. 22.

"Mathematically, your daughter's body resembles a time reversed equation...or perhaps an object which has passed through a rapidly spinning black hole. We don't know how this has happened or why the physically impossible is occurring in this instance, M. Weintraub. We just don't know enough." Chp. 4, p. 271.

"If nothing else, Hyperion is the key mystery of our age-physical and poetic-and it is quite probable that he...that I was born, died and born again to explore it." Chp 5, p. 385

"Perhaps it is amusing to you, but you have no idea what a minute of...disconnection...means to an element of the TechnoCore. It is eons of time and information. Millennia of noncommunication." Chp 5, p. 335

"It's called Hyperion. It's difficult to describe what it's...about. Artistic failure, I suppose. Keats never finished it." Chp. 5, p. 347

"'They are Separatists,' said Siri. 'Uncle Grisham recently gave a speech before the Council urging that we fight rather than agree to be swallowed into your Hegemony. He said that we should destroy your farcaster device before it destroys us.'" Chp. 6, p. 443.

"Nobody gets beyond a petroleum economy. Not while there's petroleum there. We don't burn it, if that's what you mean. But it's still essential for the production of plastics, synthetics, food base and keroids. Two hundred billion people use a lot of plastic." Chp. 6, p. 451.

"So it is with great pleasure that I close this circuit and welcome you, the colony of Maui-Covenant, into the community of the Hegemony of Man." Chp. 6, p. 461.

"Because we are part of that one tenth of one tenth of one percent of the Hegemony's citizens who travel between the stars rather than along the Web, we represent odd



epochs of our own recent past. I, for example, am sixty-eight standard years old, but because of the time-debts my travels could have incurred, I might have spread these threescore and eight years across well more than a century of Hegemony history." Chp. 1, p. 21.

"Mystery. The strangeness of place so necessary to some creative spirits. A perfect mixture of the classical utopia and the pagan mystery." Chp. 3, p. 214.

"But with the Core, the interest lies more in the quest for more efficiency, more reliable ways to handle...variables." Chp. 5, p. 373.

"One hypothesis is that the Tombs relate to some future war. A settling of future scores by rearranging the past, perhaps." Chp. 5, p. 391

"He's Michael the Archangel and Moroni and Satan and Masked Entropy and the Frankenstein monster all rolled into one package." Chp. 3. p. 223.



## Topics for Discussion

What makes the pilgrims so willing to face the Shrike, knowing there is almost certain death awaiting them? How do their pasts enable them to do so?

What is the connection between each of the pilgrims? How do their stories intertwine with one another?

Why is Hyperion the epicenter of a future war? How are the Time Tombs related to this?

Why do the Ousters want control of Hyperion? Of what are they afraid?

Why does Hoyt hide his cruciform from the others? What is he afraid may happen if he reveals his immortality?

How do the others feel towards Silenus, knowing his Muse is the Shrike? Do they find it advantageous or tragically unfortunate?

Why is John Keats such an influential part of the circumstance on Hyperion?

How does the departure of Het Masteen affect the dynamic of the group?

Why does the Consul seek vengeance on the Hegemony? Is he rightfully entitled to it?