

The Rise of Endymion Study Guide

The Rise of Endymion by Dan Simmons

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Plot Summary

In the Rise of Endymion, the conclusion to Dan Simmons's Hyperion saga, Raul Endymion and Aenea continue their flight from the forces of the Church and the Core. Raul sets off in search of the Consul's Ship, which they were forced to abandon, and Aenea, capable of infecting her followers with a vision of humanity's future, tours the Pax, gathering disciples. When the Church declares a holy war on Aenea's allies, the Ousters, Raul and she must reunite for one last confrontation with the corrupt Pope, with humanity's future hanging in the balance.

The Pope declares a holy war on the Ousters. Aenea decides that she must leave Earth and return to Pax space. She sends Raul back first, charging him with finding the Consul's Ship. Raul takes a kayak down the Tethys. On a world named Vitus-Gray-Balianus B, he is taken ill with a kidney stone and is nearly captured by a group of Core assassins, but is saved at the last minute by the Shrike and is able to pass through the portal to the next world. Eventually, he locates the ship and flies it to T'ien Shan where he is reunited with Aenea.

Aenea and A. Bettik had spent the time traveling to various worlds in the Pax. As she had done on each world that they visited, Aenea holds forums on T'ien Shan during which she discusses the ever changing relationship between humanity and the Core, preaches about the steps humankind must take to progress to the next level of evolution, and illuminates the dangers of Core technology, including the cruciform, which the Church has co-opted to grant its followers immortality, but whose use contains abominable consequences. At these forums, Aenea offers her blood for her followers to drink, telling them that it will infect them with the next steps of human progress.

Aenea and Raul are chased off of T'ien Shan by the Core assassins and journey to an Ouster Startree, but the rest is short-lived. The Church sends a fleet to attack the Startree and Aenea flees, dropping her disciples off on various worlds to act as leaders and visionaries for the local people.

Raul and Aenea then travel to Pacem where Aenea confronts the Pope. They are both arrested. Raul is placed in prison, and Aenea is tortured to death. The last moments of Aenea's life are witness by all of humanity as a shared vision, and the power of this vision breaks the hold of the Church on the people, who, led by Aenea's disciples, cast off their cruciforms and begin an open rebellion. As Aenea's disciples share her communion with the liberated population, all of humankind begins to awaken to a new reality and a giant leap of progress for all life occurs in the universe.



Chapter 1-2

Chapter 1-2 Summary

Five years have elapsed since the events of the third book.

Aenea, Raul Endymion and the android A. Bettik, having escaped from the Core assassin Rhadamanth Nemes, are living on Old Earth, which was transported to a nearby galaxy by the alien forces known as the Lions, Tigers, and Bears. Aenea has been working as an apprentice under the cybrid Frank Lloyd Wright, who has set up a compound for architectural students called Taliesin West, in what use to be New Mexico.

Father Captain DeSoya, having been court-martialed for allowing Aenea to escape his grasp on God's Grove, has settled into a quiet life as a parish priest on Madrededios.

The Pax's war against the Ousters, a confederation of advanced humans and aliens living on the edge of human galactic expansion, continues.

Part One

Chapter 1

Father Lenar Hoyt, now Pope Julius XIV, dies for the ninth time, igniting a frenzy of media coverage for the upcoming papal election. Cardinal Lourdusamy meets with leaders of the shipping consortium, the Pax Mercantilus, led by Kenzo Isosaki. Isosaki attempts to feel Lourdusamy out about a possible coup against Hoyt, who everyone expects to be reelected. Lourdusamy assures them that he believes Hoyt will be elected again without problems.

The Raphael arrives in God's Grove carrying three Core cyborg assassins. They liberate their sibling, Rhadamanth Nemes from her entombment on the banks of the Tethys, and inform her that she has been trapped for four years. They tell her that she is to join them in resuming the mission to find and kill Aenea.

On Madrededios, Father Federico De Soya is preparing to give mass at his small community church. Admiral Margaret Wu arrives and recalls him to active duty.

The Pope reawakens after resurrection, but this time it is Father Paul Duré who is brought back to life. Lourdusamy has prepared a private chapel for the event. Accompanied by Councilor Albedo, Lourdusamy greets Paul Duré and, for the fifth time, murders him, in order to bring about the resurrection of Lenar Hoyt.

Chapter 2



On Old Earth, the Frank Lloyd Wright cybrid has died, and the community of Taliesin West looks to Aenea for leadership. She tells them that she intends to farcast back into the Pax and suggests they do the same, scattering themselves about to do the work the Frank Lloyd Wright cybrid trained them for and to spread ideas about the future of humanity. Aenea tells Raul he will be the first to leave, and will do so alone, using a specially outfitted kayak built by the android A. Bettik, to travel up the Tethys until he finds the world on which they had abandoned the Consul's ship.

Chapter 1-2 Analysis

Simmons opens the book by detailing the current state of the enemy. The Pope, Lenar Hoyt, has been in power for over three hundred years, since the fall of the farcasters detailed in the first two books of the series. The dual nature of Lenar Hoyt, his body carries two cruciforms, one carrying inside of it the information needed to resurrect him, the other carrying the information to resurrect Father Paul Duré, his old friend and now staunch opponent. Which of them is resurrected is random. Cardinal Lourdusamy, who is in league with the Core, is the true power behind the Church. His murders of Father Duré each of the five times that Duré has been resurrected, each amount to a coup. Lourdusamy and Albedo then prop up Lenar Hoyt and work together to bend his decisions toward their own goals.

Cybrids are human/machine cyborgs created by the Core to study and incorporate aspects of humanity. The Core has often used the reconstructed personalities of famous human beings as a template for new cyborgs. Aenea's father was a cybrid of the poet John Keats. At the end of the previous book, Aenea convinces the cybrid of Frank Lloyd Wright to take her on as a pupil. The Frank Lloyd Wright cybrid recreates the architect's mind with its unique vision, but Wright's notorious unreliability and surliness. Simmons is careful to illustrate this in his descriptions of Wright's interactions with Aenea. The chauvinistic Wright is disturbed when Aenea shows up for Taliesin West's old movie night in a tuxedo.

Raul is infuriated by Aenea's request that he leave her to find the Consul's ship. Aenea's plea to the Taliesin community can be seen as a counter argument to hermetic asceticism. She tells them that if they hide themselves from humanity, they will be squandering all of the mental and physical skills they have learned, and denying their assistance to humanity in its hope for progress.



Chapters 3-4

Chapters 3-4 Summary

Chapter 3

Grand Inquisitor Mustafa and Father Farrell of the Inquisition torture Corporal Bassin Kee for information about why he and Father Captain De Soya allowed Aenea to escape from God's Grove. Kee refuses to talk and is placed again in cryonic stasis where he has been incarcerated for four years.

De Soya arrives in Pacem, the home world of the Church, and is told that certain irregularities had been discovered in the prosecution of his court martial, and that his record had been expunged. He is to be given command of a new ship, also called the Raphael. De Soya requests that his old crew be reassigned to him, and is told that Corporal Bassin Kee died in the line of duty two years ago.

Kenzo Isozaki meets with his apprentice and apparent heir, M. Anna Pelli Cognani. He has them both disrobe to reveal the cruciforms on their chests, and tells her that the Church will always have ultimate power over them because it maintains control over the technology needed to make the cruciforms function. Isozaki has learned that Aenea, a person of mysterious power, greatly sought-after by both the Church and the Core, is back in Pax space. He proposes that they attempt to seize her, as leverage to set the Pax Mercantilus up as the new fundamental partner of the Core.

On Pacem, Lenar Hoyt, who has been at last resurrected, is again nominated pop, and takes the name Urban XVI, possibly to recall the actions of Urban II, who started the First Crusade. Hoyt calls for a holy war on the Ousters.

Chapter 4

On Old Earth, Aenea and Raul take the dropship to Hannibal, Missouri. She tells him that once he finds the Consul's ship, he is to seek out a mountain called Heng Shan on the planet of T'ien Shan. There he will find her in the temple of Hsuan-k'ung Ssu.

Chapters 3-4 Analysis

Under the rule of Lenar Hoyt, the Inquisition has reverted to its original form, and is used to terrorize and bully the population of the Pax, Christian and non-Christian alike. The one difference in their treatment of Corporal Kee, is that they use neural stimulation to make him believe he is being tortured, though they are not in fact physically harming him.

The Core foresaw that Father Captain DeSoya will be instrumental in the capture of Aenea. Despite DeSoya's unreliability and eventual mutiny, this prediction is accurate,



but illustrates a flaw with prognostication, which is that knowing the certainty of an event is not the same as knowing for certain what affect the event will have. DeSoya will help Aenea allow herself to be captured, but her capture will destroy the Church.

Isozaki's willingness to defy the Church and establish a secret relationship with the Core shows that his tenuous loyalty to the Church is not based on religious sentiment, but on the coercive promise of bodily resurrection from the cruciform. He is correct that the Core and the Church are using the cruciform for control, but he is as yet unaware of the extent of this control or the ultimate insidiousness of the cruciform. His subsequent education on this matter will transform him first into a Church loyalist, and then into a leader of the rebellion.

Before parting with Raul, Aenea gives him a passionate kiss or the first intimate physical contact between the two and a sign of what their relationship is to become. It is of course the Mississippi which Raul paddles his kayak down. Simmons has allowed the geography to change so that at this point in the future the river has shifted so that it flows under the arch. Such changes in the course of a river are quite common on geologic timetables.



Chapters 5-7

Chapters 5-7 Summary

Chapter 5

Rhadamanth Nemes and her assassin siblings arrive on a planet called Svoboda, where they meet with Ambassador Albedo. He tells them that Aenea is back in Pax space, and, after bestowing the names Scylla, Gyges, and Briareus on the siblings, charges them with the mission to find and kill Aenea. He says they may have to work together to defeat the Shrike, if it again attempts to defend the girl.

De Soya meets with the fleet commanders running Task Force GIDEON, a series of raids to destroy Ouster systems. There he meets his executive officer Hoagan Liebler, who De Soya rightly suspects of being a spy and possibly an assassin placed on the new Raphael to watch him. At the meeting, the ship captains are shown pictures of the Consul's ship, and informed that it is to be destroyed on sight.

Chapter 6

On Old Earth, Raul paddles downriver to St. Louis and travels through the Arch of the West, long ago converted into a farcaster portal. He travels on the river through several different worlds, before arriving at a dessert world called Vitus-Gray-Balianus B, where he stops at a small community called Lock Childe Lamonde to drink from a public well and refill his water bottles. There he is struck by a sudden wracking pain, and is helped into a nearby house by the natives.

Chapter 7

Grand Inquisitor Mustafa is summoned to a meeting with Pope Urban XVI. The Pope announces plans to restructure and refocus the church efforts toward winning the war. Mustafa senses that some of this restructuring is designed to subvert his position by undermining the Inquisition. His fears are confirmed when the Pope assigns him to the distant outpost of Mars, in the Sol system, where the Shrike has appeared in recent weeks, and wrecked havoc on Pax installments. Meanwhile, Isosaki takes a small transport ship out to the edges of the Pacem system, for a secret meeting with the Core. While floating in the vacuum of space, something knocks on the exterior door of the ship.

The new Raphael follows the Task Force GIDEON fleet in a series of combat drills and De Soya is reunited with Sergeant Gregorius, who has been assigned to his command.



Chapters 5-7 Analysis

Svoboda is one of the Labyrinthine worlds, so named because they possess a vast series of large underground caverns, clearly unnatural in construction, whose origins are unknown. The Core is using the labyrinth to house all of the human bodies that they are placing in stasis, and thus the meeting between the Core assassins and Albedo takes place in the ominous presence of thousands of human bodies, alive but not alive, in the darkness beneath the planet's surface.

The Church is loathed to rely upon DeSoya again, believing him to have been contaminated by his earlier contact with Aenea. Executive officers often play the roles of spies upon their captain and crew in other works of genre fiction.

Raul is convinced that the pain he feels is being inflicted on him by a nearby source. It is a point of irony that, while on the run as one of the most wanted men in the Pax and in mortal danger at all moments, he is struck down by the rather mundane affliction of a kidney stone. Simmons allows the reader to share Raul's suspicion. By having him drink from the well just before the pain begins, Simmons gives the illusion that Raul has been poisoned.

There are several layers of deception and betrayal at work in the Pope's dealings with Mustafa. Hoyt believes that he is manipulating Mustafa into performing tasks furthering the hidden aims of the Church and the Core. But, Hoyt is himself deceived about the true intentions of the Core. Thus, they are both puppets, one manipulating the other through the manipulations of an ultimate master, much as puppeteers will sometimes perform the difficult feat of operating and manipulating the strings of one puppet with another.



Chapters 8-9

Chapters 8-9 Summary

Chapter 8

Against Raul's wishes, they summon a Pax doctor and priest to find out why he is sick. Pax Dr. Molina arrives and diagnosis Raul with a kidney stone. She gives him the painkiller Ultramorph and questions him about his background. Under the influence of the drug, Raul tells her his name, his mission to find the Consul's ship, and about his life on Old Earth. Because Raul claims to have used the farcaster portals, which have not worked for centuries, to arrive on Vitus, Molinas concludes that he is delirious, but assigns a guard to watch over him and place him under arrest when he recovers. She believes that he is a soldier who has deserted from the Pax fleet.

In his delirium, Raul has a series of dream conversations with Aenea, in which she says her uncle Martin Silenas was wrong about some of the things he put in his epic poem, the Cantos. She says that the AI Ummon lied to her father, the cybrid Keats, and that elements of the Core, not the entire Core itself, are aggressively opposed to humanity. When Raul brings up the Core's hijacking of human brainpower via the old farcaster network, Aenea suggest that this is akin to human's using machines as slave labor in calculations for centuries. Finally, Aenea tells Raul that she knows that he will dream about these conversations while in great pain on a world with a complicated name.

Chapter 9

The Pax's raids begin, with the fleet decimating the first five Ouster systems, killing tens of thousands, including hundreds of so-called "angels." Gregorius comes to confession with Father Captain De Soya. He tells his captain and priest that he is deeply troubled by the attacks, and he details a raid on an Ouster nursery in which he saw the bodies of dead infants sucked out into space. Father De Soya tells Gregorius that he is following orders and that his cause is just, and absolves him.

On Mars, Mustafa meets with Archbishop Robeson and Governor Clare Palo. They tell him that the Shrike has been massacring not the civilian population, which is mostly Palestinian and lives in scattered settlements on the Tharsis Plateau, but the workers of the shipping consortium run by Opus Dei, the Church's trade organization, which has recently been sending hundreds of dropships to Mars' surface. Robeson and Palo tell Mustafa that they cannot explain Opus Dei's interest in Mars, which has already been thoroughly mined. They examine a site of mass murder, where the mangled bodies have been left as evidence. The Shrike has meticulously extracted every piece of the cruciform from the victim's bodies. Mangled beyond recognition, and separated from their cruciforms, the dead workers have no hope of resurrection and Mustafa thus has no hope of interrogating them to find out what Opus Dei was doing on Mars. Robeson



tells him that inquiries sent to the Church regarding Opus Dei's work on Mars were returned without answer and referred to papal authority.

Rhadamanth Nemes and her siblings translate to Vitus and learn from the Pax commander on the planet that Raul is on the planet.

Chapters 8-9 Analysis

For a brief period of time, when Aenea was in utero, the consciousness of the Keats cybrid was contained in a neural shunt in the brain of Aenea's mother, Brawna Lamia. Aenea now reveals that during the time that she and her father were in different ways confined to Lamia's body, they were able to communicate. This reveals how she acquired her extensive knowledge of the Core's history and political makeup.

The cruciforms outwardly resemble a large, four-armed starfish that attach themselves to the chest in a cross shape. Outwardly, this appears to be the extent of their occupation of the human body, but internally they spread out a complex web of nerve fibers that permeate and control all aspects of the body. This is why the Shrike's extraction of the cruciforms is so gruesome. Any tendril that remains in the body can be used to regenerate the whole cruciform, and thus the person. Simmons fails to explain some of the physiological differences that the cruciform implies, among them the fact that a human being with such an extensive web of filaments interspersed through his body would weight significantly more than one without.

Raul's hosts, Dem Ria and Dem Loa, belong to a community located in Lock Childe Lamonde that has resisted conversion to Catholicism and adoption of the cruciform. This is a particular hardship in their household as their youngest son, Bin Ria Dem Loa Alem, has cancer, and without the cruciform will soon die the true death. The Church, which also controls the medical facilities on Vitus, denies the family even conventional medical help unless they convert. Moreover, the Church insists that the boy cannot be converted alone. The whole household must submit to the Church, receive the cruciform, and abandon their own beliefs, which include the triune marriage which unites their household.

The Pax fleet names its first seven primary target systems after demigods, representing the seven deadly sins. The individual Pax warships are named after angels in the Christian canon. DeSoya sees the hubris in this and finds it both disturbing and arrogant.



Chapters 10-11

Chapters 10-11 Summary

Chapter 10

Raul passes his kidney stone and is taken into custody by the Pax guard. Raul dreams again of Aenea, who tells him that she can infect humanity with a vision of its future, but only if the cruciforms are removed. She says there are four steps needed for humans to move on to their next stage of evolution: learning the language of the dead, learning the language of the living, hearing the music of the spheres, and learning to take the next step.

Dem Ria awakens Raul and tells him that a Pax security squad, including a recently arrived dropship, will be arriving shortly to search the town for him. Raul's hosts have drugged his guard and urge him to follow them through a secret passage that leads to the canal. Dem Ria tells him that the whole community will help him escape, using the impending celebration of the double eclipse to provide the distraction he needs to kayak through the farcaster portal at the edge of town. Raul has been talking in his sleep, and Dem Ria has learned about Aenea, who her people had prophesied by the name of the One Who Teaches. They know that Raul is on a mission from her and they wish to aid him. The celebration begins and Raul paddles his boat toward the farcaster. Just before he enters the farcaster, he sees a fight break out between a figure on the nearby bank and another form which is obviously the Shrike. He travels through the farcaster and immediately enters free fall, the kayak plummeting through a vast sky of towering cloud formations, the ground nowhere in sight below.

Chapter 11

Ambassador Albedo enters Isosaki's small ship from the vacuum of space. He tells Isosaki that the Core noticed that the Pax Mercantilus had violated the Church's ban on creating thinking machines, and had placed several AIs into the Pacem datumplane in an attempt to contact the Core. Isosaki says that the Pax Mercantilus could be a more lucrative partner for the Core. Albedo tells Isosaki that the Core witnessed his recent meeting with Cognani, and through the cruciform makes Isosaki writhe in pain on the floor. He tells a breathless Isosaki that the Core will consider the proposal, then leaves.

The Core Assassins arrive in Lock Childe Lamonde. Rhadamanth Nemes and Gyges phase shift into fast time to search the whole village. Nemes quickly finds the house of Dem Ria and the secret passage leading to the canal. Nemes is ambushed by the Shrike and rendered unconscious. Gyges spots Raul heading toward the farcaster, but is confronted by the Shrike before he can attack Raul. The Shrike rips off the cyborg's head and tosses it in the river.



Nemes regains consciousness, having missed Raul. She and the remaining siblings check the log of the farcaster, which tells them, impossibly, that the destination of the last farcast is off the old grid, and untraceable.

Chapters 10-11 Analysis

Raul talks with the Pax priest, Father Clifton, who urges him to accept the cruciform so that the punishment of execution for desertion, which they expect Raul to be given, will not mean the true death. This is an example of the corrosive affect the cruciform is having on the Church. Raul recognizes that Father Clifton is a good, kind man. But instead of trying to convert Raul to save his mortal soul and grant him the promise of the afterlife, the new Church doctrine has him entice Raul with the cruciform, which, compared to the resurrection of old Church doctrine, amounts to cheating death rather than conquering it. Father Clifton brings up a theory known as Pascal's Wager, invented by 17th century mathematician and theologian, Blaise Pascal. Pascal's Wager states that we are given two choices about God, the first to believe in him and follow his laws, the second to deny his existence. Pascal pointed out that the demands upon a Christian, to live as rightly as possible, to ask for forgiveness of transgressions, and to regularly attend church, are not arduous. The reward for doing this small amount of work could be everlasting life if God exists, and if God does not exist, the worst case scenario, the costs to the believer were minor. Pascal thus formulated a bet on the existence of God. The believer only needed to wager a little, to gain immortality, and if he did not wager this small amount, he could be subject to everlasting damnation. Therefore, whether God existed or not, it was logical to bet that he did.

Raul, who has heard of this theory before, he in fact corrects Father Clifton on which century Pascal lived in, is not convinced by the argument. He shows Father Clifton Dem Loa's dying son as an example of the Church's corruption and evil.



Chapters 12-14

Chapters 12-14 Summary

Chapter 12

Raul, plummeting through the expansive atmosphere of a gas giant, pushes the emergency button on the kayak, converting it to a glider. The ship comlog is unable to identify the planet, but informs him that his drop, though slowed greatly by the new parawings of the kayak, is not endless. If he cannot locate another farcaster portal soon, he will drift into the lower atmosphere and be crushed by the gravitational weight. The kayak is hit by lightning, and Raul is again in free fall. A zeppelin-like creature dives toward him, opens up its huge maw, and swallows both Raul and the kayak.

Chapter 13

The Pope meets with Lourdusamy, Oddi, Mustafa, Father Farrell, members of the FLEET military including Admiral Wu, Admiral Marusyn, and Admiral Aldikacti, and members of the Pax Mercantilus, including Isozaki and Cognani. Also present is Cardinal DuNoyer, in charge of Cor Unum, an organization within the church which has been helping to implement the plans of the Pope's Peace and Justice Commission. The Pope is accompanied by Councilor Albedo.

Marusyn tells them about what happened on Vitus, including Raul's inexplicable use of the farcaster portal. He then tells of the mutiny of the Raphael, commanded by DeSoya, and speculates that DeSoya may have been contaminated by his earlier contact with Aenea. The Raphael had destroyed another archangel when it mutinied, but its whereabouts are unknown and with its GIDEON drive it could travel to and attack any system in Pax space at will. They are also concerned that DeSoya will take the ship to the Ousters and allow them to copy the GIDEON drive technology.

Mustafa then tells them of the Shrike's incursion on Mars, including the finding of a cargo vessel, owned by Opus Dei, the church's trading company, adrift in the asteroid belt. The Shrike had killed the crew, removing all traces of their cruciforms. The hold was filled with thousands of human bodies, in stasis. None carried the cruciform, and none seemed to have been harmed by the Shrike.

Cardinal DuNoyer breaks in to inform them that Cor Unum is in charge of this operation, and has moved over 7 billion humans in stasis to holding locations. All of the bodies are those of non-Christians. She says that Cor Unum was given this task by the Peace and Justice Commission. The whole room realizes that this means that the action is being taken on direct orders from the Pope.

The Pope then asks Albedo to address the room. Albedo says the Core is responsible for placing the non-Christians in stasis. According to Albedo, the Pope and the Core are working together to protect the population from the contamination and revolt that Aenea



brings. The non-Christians are alive, and will be revived from stasis when the threat has been dealt with. Albedo says he represents a faction of the Core which wishes to maintain a partnership with humanity and the Church. He tells them that Aenea, the offspring of a human and a Core cybrid, carries a virus that will bring about not only the end of the Church and the Pax, but the end of humanity. Albedo's faction believes that the cruciforms were sent from the future by Core entities wishing to preserve humanity from this threat. He says that without assistance from the Core, the cruciforms cannot be used properly by humans. He tells them that Aenea's blood destroys the cruciforms, and that they believe her to be an agent of radical elements of the Core, who wish to end humanity. Aenea may not be aware of her real purpose, and the Shrike has been sent by the same radicals to aid her.

Chapter 14

Raul awakens in the broken kayak, suspended from a jungle canopy. He discovers the Ship nearby and leaves the jungle planet. When he informs the Ship of his destination, T'ien Shan, the Ship says that it will take three months to reach, and that the time debt will be five years.

Chapters 12-14 Analysis

In Chapter 13, Councilor Albedo sets up the Core's false narrative to further manipulate the Church into eliminating Aenea. Like any persuasive, manipulative story, Albedo's contains a great deal of truth, to sell the story and a forest of truth in which false trees may hide. His description of the nature of the cruciform and how it functions is correct except for several key details. He says that when humans first discovered the cruciforms, a story that has already been described by Simmons in the first book of the series, *Hyperion*, the resurrection the cruciforms brought were incomplete and caused mental damage to the human host because the cruciform requires a place to put the vast amount of data it needs to record to regenerate such a complex organism. This is all true, but Albedo goes on to tell them that the Core can make the cruciforms work because only the Core has the computational power to deal with all that data. This is false, because not even the Core has even data storage to handle the information put out by billions of cruciforms. The Core actually dumps the information into the Void Which Binds, the boundless datumplane they discovered in the ultra-subatomic interstices of matter. This is the same reservoir of energy that allows the Hawking drive, a method of faster than light travel devised by the Core, and the farcasters, use to function. Aenea will later tell her followers that these technologies are destructive to the Void Which Binds, and have abominable effects on the universe.

Simmons injects a great deal of doubt into the reader, who has heard less information on these topics from the protagonist point of view. When Albedo suggests that Aenea is being manipulated by elements of the Core that wish to destroy humanity, and that she may be an ignorant pawn in this game, there is sufficient uncertainty left in the storyline to give this idea plausibility.

This chapter also details the first of Isozaki's changes of heart. When they learn that it is the Pope that is responsible for placing the non-Christian population in stasis, Isozaki is infuriated, and in his mind calls the Pope a murderer. He is so shaken that he cannot remain standing and falls to one knee. The Pope himself helps raise Isozaki back to his feet, and then allows Albedo to lay out the Church's reasoning. Isozaki buys into the false narrative, and when next we encounter him, he is being knighted by the Pope and given command of the Pax Fleet. From this point on, the Pax Mercantilus, which Isozaki led, plays no part in the story. In many ways this can be seen as one of the few flaws in Simmons story structure. At the beginning of the book, he set up a race between three competing forces, the Church, the Core, and the Pax Mercantilus to get to and use Aenea. He quickly dissolves this race, by uniting the Church and the Core, and with Isozaki's conversion, throwing the Pax Mercantilus away.



Chapters 15-16

Chapters 15-16 Summary

Part Two

Chapter 15

It is five years later, and Raul has joined Aenea at the Temple Hanging in the Air, on T'ien Shan. He and A. Bettik are on supply run to a nearby trading center, when they learn that Pax ships have arrived in orbit around T'ien Shan.

Chapter 16

Raul recounts his arrival on T'ien Shan. He flew the Ship to the Temple Hanging in the Air, but was told to land on a nearby peak. There he was met there by a young woman named Rachel. This was Rachel Weintraub, the daughter of Sol Weintraub, one of the Hyperion pilgrims, though Raul did not make this connection as her tale of living her life in reverse was in Martin Silenus's Cantos, and she was born over 300 years before. She tells him that Aenea requested that he bring skinsuits and rebreathers from the Ship, and then to command it to hide itself in orbit on a nearby moon.

At the Temple Hanging in the Air, Raul is reunited with Aenea. She and A. Bettik had been the last of the former Taliesin community to leave Old Earth. They had travelled to several worlds, Aenea working on buildings and teaching. On Maui-Covenant, they met Theo Bernard, a descendant of Theo Lane, the Consul's old apprentice and Governor of Hyperion. Theo came with them to Renaissance Vector, one of the strongholds of the Church's power. There Aenea worked on a Pax cathedral and taught. On Amritsar, they met Rachel Weintraub. Everywhere they went, Aenea taught. After A. Bettik has told of each place and how long they spent there, Raul calculates that his story leaves 23 months unaccounted for. When he mentions this to Aenea, she tells him that she will tell him about the missing months later.

Chapters 15-16 Analysis

Simmons spends a great deal of time describing T'ien Shan, the customs and the people, and most especially the environment, the precipitous mountains, the noxious sea, and the ingenious and dangerous methods that the human beings who live there have devised to move about. Such discursive attention to environment is unusual in the series. Simmons practices an economy of environmental description. There is good reason to do this in this particular series. The sprawling storyline of the frou books takes place inside an often fractured conglomeration of hundreds of different worlds. With so many settings, many of which are radically alien, it would be easy for the series to get bogged down in environmental description. Simmons is thus parsimonious with detail. When the scene shifts, he most often sticks to describing the aspects of the locality that

are essential to the story, and allows action, not description to hold the reader. In a few instances, as with his description of T'ien Shan, he breaks with this style and provides his readers with a real bounty of concrete detail. Raul and A. Bettik's journey by cable and slideway across the rugged and beautiful landscape of T'ien Shan is described almost lovingly.

When Rachel greets the newly arrived Raul, she tells him that Aenea wanted to come and meet him, but that she just could not get away. Rachel says that Aenea is very busy. Raul is infuriated by this, as he has just traveled across multiple worlds, evaded capture, lost five years, and been through a great deal of pain all at Aenea's request.



Chapters 17-18

Chapters 17-18 Summary

Chapter 17

When Raul and A. Bettik arrive at the Temple Hanging in the Air, they learn that news of the Pax arrival has outpaced them. The Dalai Lama will be holding a ceremony to welcome the delegation from the Church. Aenea announces that she will attend, and asks a nonplussed Raul if he will be her date.

The five years since Raul's arrival on T'ien Shan have been spent building a new wing onto the Temple Hanging in the Air. During the day, Aenea supervises the construction. On many of the nights, she holds talks with a growing group of disciples, teaching about the history of humanity since the twentieth century, the Core, and the tyranny of the Church. She also updates them on current events around the Pax, of which she is inexplicably aware.

Her history of the Core, relates how, from the first crude AIs of the twentieth century, the nascent Core developed out of the Internet into a global Datasphere. In the twenty-first century, the Core became autonomous, and since then has been acting independently of human oversight, sometimes aiding humanity, sometimes crippling it. The Core discovered the Void Which Binds, a boundless field of energy that permeates space and time. This discovery led to the invention of the Hawking drive, farcasters, and the fatline. Aenea tells them that the Core is not split into three factions, as had been previously thought, but billions, some sympathetic toward humanity, some not. An aggressive faction caused the accident that appeared to swallow the Earth in a black hole. The Earth was in fact transported to a nearby galaxy by other forces that the Core discovered were already present in the Void Which Bind, and which were subsequently given the ominous name the Lions, Tigers, and Bears. The Core was terrified of this new power, which had clearly been using the Void Which Binds long before them, particularly because they had begun to use the Void Which Binds as the location of the physical Core.

The farcasters that humans had used to transport between worlds were in fact all linked to only one small opening that the Core had managed to create in the Void Which Binds. When a human transported via farcaster, his mental energy could be harnessed by the Core for computational power. To the transported human, the journey seemed instantaneous, but the nature of the Void Which Binds allowed the Core to use their mental energy in a timeless vacuum. This created infinite operating capacity and the Core AIs grew in number. When the farcasters were destroyed during the war of the World Web, the Core was locked out of the Void Which Binds by the Lions, Tigers, and Bears, and billions of AIs were lost.



Aenea tells them that the Lions, Tigers, and Bears shut down the Core's access to the Void Which Binds because the Core's clumsy technology did great damage to the Void.

Chapter 18

Aenea initiates a sexual affair with Raul on the night before they are to make the journey to the Forbidden City for the reception. The Pax delegation arrives in the Forbidden City. It includes Cardinal Mustafa and the Core assassins, lead by Rhadamanth Nemes.

Chapters 17-18 Analysis

Aenea has been employing a dual teaching strategy, mixing the practical, as the architect and site manager of the new wing of the Temple Hanging in the Air, and the spiritual, as the didactic center of almost nightly forums, drawing ever larger numbers of followers. A. Bettik tells Raul that it was the same on every world that they had visited. This dual teaching style is particularly apt on T'ien Shan, whose inhabitants practice a futuristic form of the Zen Buddhist faith. Spiritual enlightenment through physical discipline is a common theme in eastern religions.

Raul rightly suspects that the prestigious ceremony being held in the Winter Palace, the home of the Dalai Lama, to welcome the delegation from the Church, is a trap. Despite these strong feelings of apprehension, he is remarkably compliant when Aenea chooses to attend. This is a common dynamic in their relationship, a relationship which now has turned sexual. There is an odd twist to this development. Though Raul greatly desires Aenea, he questions the propriety of being intimate with a woman he has known and protected since she is a child. Some readers may share this feeling of unease, but for Aenea the matter is much different, for, as the reader will eventually learn, from her perspective, she has already married Raul and borne him a child.



Chapters 19-20

Chapters 19-20 Summary

Chapter 19

Aenea, Raul, and a delegation from the Temple Hanging in the Air arrive at the reception, and present themselves to the Dalai Lama. Cardinal Mustafa is present, along with Nemes and her siblings. Raul quickly recognizes Nemes and correctly infers that the two guards with her are similar creatures. The Dalai Lama introduces Aenea and Raul using the pseudonyms Architect Ananda and her assistant Subhadda.

Mustafa, apologizing to the Dalai Lama, tells everyone that while attempting to study the T'ien Shan farcaster portal upon their arrival, the Pax inadvertently buried it. Mustafa debates the conversion and the cruciform with the Dalai Lama.

Later, at the end of the evening, Aenea and Raul are dancing as the party begins to wind down. Mustafa appears, along with Nemes and her siblings. The Shrike appears and everyone else flees. Aenea warns Mustafa that no matter what happens, the first thing the Shrike will do is harvest his cruciform, and that there is nothing she can do to stop it. Mustafa, fearing for his life, then calls off Nemes and her siblings, and they retreat.

Chapter 20

The Pope and Cardinal Lourdasamy discuss their plans to set a trap for DeSoya by hiding a fleet in T'ien Shan and then attempting to capture Aenea. After she is captured, the Pope intends to place the entire population of T'ien Shan in stasis to control any contagion she might have spread. The Pope makes Kenzo Izosaki a Knight of the Cross.

Aenea's delegation returns to the Temple Hanging in the Air, and the Dalai Lama begins attending Aenea's nightly lectures. Aenea tells them that the Void Which Binds is generated by "minded things," and that love is its binding force. This, she says, was discovered by Sol Weintraub, when he chose to give up his daughter Rachel. Aenea tells them that Jesus learned the language of the living and of the dead, and heard the music of the spheres, and that he offered his blood to his disciplines not as a symbolic ceremony, but because his blood could infect them with this progress, allowing them as well to hear the language of the living and the dead, and to hear the music of the spheres. Aenea, in the same fashion, continues to offer her blood to those who will drink it. She warns them that it inhibits the functioning of the cruciform forever, and that it will pass on to their children. She stops Raul from drinking.

She goes on to tell them that the Core, lacking a human level of sentience and empathy was able to sense the Void Which Binds but not truly explore it. In fact, Core technology which uses the Void, including farcasters and the fatline destroys the life songs of



empathy that make up the Void. This destruction came to the attention of the Lions, Tigers, and Bears, and after the fall of the farcasters, they shut the Core out of the Void. Aenea tells them that the Lions, Tigers, and Bears have even sent observers to live among them.

To rectify their incomplete knowledge of the Void, the Core decided they needed an empathetic link to humanity, and created the John Keats cybrid for this purpose. But elements of the Core that wanted nothing to do with this project attempted to murder Keats. Keats did not really seek out Brawna Lamia to solve his murder, he knew who had attacked him, but instead sought her out to mate with her. Their offspring, Aenea, put together the human empathetic ability of Lamia, and the blood of Keats, which was designed to infect humans with the ability to perceive the Void.

Chapters 19-20 Analysis

The Dalai Lama and Cardinal Mustafa spend some time trading in apologetics for their respective faiths. The Dalai Lama is genuinely interested in the cruciform and the promise of resurrection, and shows Mustafa that, though he is still a young boy, he has already completed a thorough study of Christianity. Mustafa, who has recognized Aenea and Raul, despite their use of pseudonyms, shows mental fortitude in being able to hold a protracted conversation about complicated metaphysical ideas when he is in the same room with a creature that he firmly believes to be a grave threat to the Church and all of Humanity.

Aenea has long told Raul that she does not see the future, rather she remembers it. This, she tells him, is not the same as true prognostication, because human memory is pliable, and can be distorted over time. She has often acted very calm, almost nonchalant in instances of seemingly grave peril. The reader will likely deduce, as Raul does, that this is because she knows when and where she will die. But, Aenea tells him that because of the tricks memory can play, and because of the intercession of dream and idea, she cannot ever be certain of any given outcome. In the hours leading up to the confrontation with Mustafa and the Core assassins, Aenea has worn Raul out dancing and enjoying the party, and when the moment of confrontation arrives, she seems calm and self-assured, as though she knew what was going to happen and how it would turn out. At other perilous moments, she will show concern and surprise. Simmons varies her responses to danger to illustrate for the reader what Aenea has told Raul. Her knowledge of the future is perhaps greater than any other human being, yet it is still imperfect.

The reader is treated to another long discourse on the nature of the Core and the Void Which Binds. Aenea's revelation that the Core has sent observers among them is shocking and disquieting to even her most adamant disciples. Sol Weintraub's choice was the central theme of the first two books. He had discovered that love and empathy created the ultimate reality, created God, and gave meaning to the universe. In Aenea's words, "minded things" endow the universe with meaning, and that meaning is woven



together and accessible from anywhere, by any minded thing, in the form of the Void
Which Binds.



Chapters 21-22

Chapters 21-22 Summary

Chapter 21

Aenea tells Raul that she can see her death in the future, and that even though she could perhaps avoid it, to do so would be the wrong decision. She admits that during the mission 23 months she made love to, married, and had a child with another man.

A battle erupts in space over T'ien Shan. The people at the Temple Hanging in the Air watch what appears to be the reentry and destruction of a starship.

Mustafa believes that the trap set for the Raphael has worked and that the ship has been destroyed. He tells Nemes that Aenea must still be taken alive, but the Core assassins revolt, killing Father Farrell, Admiral Wu, and gravely injuring Mustafa before telling him to take the message to the Pax that elements of the Core desire Aenea's death. The palace guards intercept the assassins, knowing that the Dalai Lama is with Aenea and attempting to protect him. Nemes and her siblings slaughter the guards and take across the mountaintops toward the Temple Hanging in the Air, killing anyone who gets in their way.

Aenea, Raul, A. Bettik, fly parawings into the jetstream and ride the wind to the highest mountain on T'ien Shan, T'ai Shan. There Aenea is given a warm welcome by the people of Tai'an, the City of Peace. Raul can see that she has been here before, and offered her blood as communion to many of the people. She holds another ceremony and more drink. Again, she stops Raul from taking part.

Aenea and Raul put on the skinsuits and rebreathers and, along with A. Bettik, who as an android does not need the same protection, they walk up the mountain to the suborbital Temple of the Jade Emperor. At the top, they are met by Sergeant Gregorius, who tells him that four of the Raphael's crew have survived, including DeSoya, who is inside the temple and near death.

Chapter 22

Aenea tells a dying DeSoya that she can call the Ship and use its autosurgeon to save his life, but that he must renounce the cruciform as the autosurgeon will not be able to repair him with it in place. DeSoya, eager to get rid of the cruciform, drinks Aenea's blood. Gregorius and the other crew members, with the exception of the executive officer and spy, Liebler, who has also survived, drink as well. Gregorius returns the hawking mat, which they found on Maui-Convenant, to Raul.

Raul calls the Ship down. They place DeSoya and the other injured crewmen in the autosurgeon niches, and fly back to a meeting spot near the Temple Hanging in the Air, where they pick up the rest of Aenea's disciples. When she learns that the Dalai Lama



and the Dorje Phamo had been held up at the Temple by Nemes, and that Rachel went back to try to rescue them, she orders the Ship to return to the Temple. Aenea says that she and Raul must go down to the Temple alone. Nemes releases the Dalai Lama and he, Rachel, and the Dorje Phamo make it safely to the ship.

On an outside ledge of the temple, overlooking the precipice, Nemes and her siblings confront Aenea and Raul. The Shrike appears and grapples with the other two assassins. All three topple off the ledge. Nemes attempts to shift into fast time, preparing to kill Aenea and Raul, but she is unable to do so. Aenea tells her that other forces have decided to deny Nemes access to the Void, which is what allows her to shift into fast time.

Chapters 21-22 Analysis

During their walk up to the Temple of the Jade Emperor, Aenea tells Raul that her most concise, central message to all of her followers is "choose again." She says that this applies to political systems, religions and other aspects of life. When Raul asks her why she has denied him the opportunity to take communion, a term given to the ceremonial drinking of her blood by her followers, and which she detests, she tells him that her blood infects the drinker with the ability to hear the languages of the dead and eventually to also hear the language of the living and the music of the sphere. All of this, she tells him, can distract the drinker for some time, and that Raul must be able to maintain his focus for events that are soon to arise.

DeSoya sees the drinking of Aenea's blood and the shedding of the cruciform as an opportunity to become a real, mortal Christian again, but Gregorius's motivation is loyalty to his priest and captain.

The unknown party that has interrupted Nemes's ability to switch to fast time is presumably with Lions, Tigers, and Bears, who locked the Core out of the Void Which Binds after the fall of the farcasters. Despite this crippling, Nemes is still capable of superhuman strength, and a morphing ability that allows her to turn parts of her body into skewering weapons. Raul still faces long odds, but Aenea is displaying the peculiar calm she has in previous encounters. All of her apprehension seems not to be about watching her loved one fall, but watching him sustain the coming carnage.



Chapters 23-25

Chapters 23-25 Summary

Chapter 23

As Nemes closes in, Aenea tells Raul that it is his moment. He and Nemes do battle on the platform, Raul sustaining many injuries. During the fight, Raul orders the Ship to land on the platform, reducing it to splinters. Raul knocks an incredulous Nemes off of the cliff and is helped by Aenea into the ship. His injuries are severe, but all of the niches in the autosurgeon are full. With the Pax fleet closing in, Aenea decides to put him in cryonic fugue, and orders the Ship to make a break for edge of the system.

Chapter 24

Raul wakes up two weeks later in a room inside an Ouster Startree. Rachel Weintraub tells him that he required surgery, which, as the autosurgeon niches were full, she performed. She tells him that Aenea orchestrated their escape from the T'ien Shan system by somehow opening a farcaster portal in space. Raul is shaved bald, and many of his scars are still livid red. Rachel takes him to a large war meeting in the Startree. There he finds Aenea in council with a host, including DeSoya, who had been in contact with the Ousters since his mutiny, Gregorius, and amazingly, two pilgrims from the Hyperion Cantos, Het Masteen and Fedmahn Kassad. Raul meets the Ouster leaders, including many non-human aliens. They are discussing the eminent invasion of the Pax fleet. All agree that the Ousters do not have the firepower to repel the fleet attack.

Chapter 25

A formal dinner is held on the Yggdrasill, Het Masteen's treeship. The Ouster hosts tell how their civilization evolved from seedships sent by humans to outer world where conditions were so harsh that incorporating nanotechnology into their biological structure was necessary to survive.

Het Masteen, who is here from the past, having been abducted by the Shrike during the first Hyperion pilgrimage, tells Aenea that he has learned that his fate is to captain the Yggdrasill on its journey through Pax space as the Tree of Pain, and then to appear mysterious at the Time Tombs and die in the past. Aenea confirms that she will indeed use the Yggdrasill to return to Pax space and asks him for formal permission to use the ship. He agrees.

Aenea asks Kassad if he will make the journey as well. Kassad asks if the Shrike will be present. Aenea tells him that she believes the Shrike will be there, and that the Shrike is the hybrid incarnation of a warrior from the future, constructed and sent by elements of the Core and co-opted by those who wish to see her mission a success. Kassad deduces that even though he has fought the Shrike, and has had a vision of fighting an army of Shrikes in the distant future, that the Shrike is in some way himself. Aenea



reluctantly confirms that it will be some element of Kassad that the Core uses to construct the Shrike.

Rachel asks whether an observer from the Lions, Tigers, and Bears is present at the meeting, but Aenea refuses to confirm this.

Aenea finally allows Raul to take communion with her.

Chapters 23-25 Analysis

The Ouster Startree is an organic form of what is commonly known as a Dyson Sphere, after the English physicist and theorist Freeman Dyson (b. 1923). While contemplating the energy needs of theoretical advanced civilization, Dyson proposed that a array of satellites could be distributed in a circle around a star, thus affording them the opportunity to collect large amounts of the stars radiant energy. This original idea for a circle was later expanded into a sphere, first called a shell by Dyson. This model was further refined when Dyson and other physicists theorized that a sufficiently advanced civilization could erect not merely a web of satellites, but a physical sphere which would encompass a star and harness all of its energy. Any civilization capable of such a feat would then have a nearly inexhaustible supply of energy. The Dyson Sphere has been a mainstay of science fiction since its proposal, though Simmons gives the idea an interesting twist by making the Ouster Startree largely organic. Aenea tells Raul that the Startree is not a complete Dyson Sphere, but still contains many interstices between its organic parts which open the sphere to the rest of space.

From their talk together after he regains consciousness, Raul finally learns that Rachel is the Rachel Weintraub of the Hyperion Cantos. This is difficult for him to comprehend, as she lived over 300 years ago, and is almost a mythic figure to him, but Aenea reminds him that, as the daughter of Brawna Lamia, Aenea herself is, in some respects, a contemporary of Rachel and, because of the binding events of the Hyperion pilgrimage, could easily think of Rachel as an aunt, or an older sister. At any rate, Raul's shock over the identity of Rachel Weintraub has only minutes to sink in, as he then finds himself being introduced to two more of the Hyperion pilgrims, Het Masteen and Kassad.

The tense conversation between Aenea and Kassad about the identity of the Shrike is one of the most crucial moments in the whole series. Aenea's reluctant explanation leaves many of the details about how Kassad will find himself in the distant future, first fighting hostile elements of the Core, and then being used, presumably willingly, by other elements of the Core as the template for creating the Shrike. Simmons does not tie up these loose ends, but leaves a great deal of the mystery in place. This is a dangerous technique for a writer to employ, as he must tread a fine line between leaving the spark of mystery in the readers mind and simply annoying the reader with obfuscation.



Chapters 26-28

Chapters 26-28 Summary

Chapter 26

Aenea and Raul take the consul Ship for a tour of the Startree. Aenea has sent the ouster's only GIDEON scout ship to Pacem with a message telling the Pope that she is coming. Aenea and Raul use ouster technology to fly inside the Startree as "angels." When they return, Aenea gives her last lecture and communion to a host of Ousters from all over the Startree.

Chapter 27

Raul begins to hear the language of the dead and the living. He witnesses a moment in the Holocaust through the eyes of a Jew. He sees a moment from the life of his grandmother, and the terrifying last moments of a young Muslim girl from Qom-Riyadh, moments before she is put in stasis and abducted by the Core. Finally, he sees Lenar Hoyt, the Pope, receiving Aenea's message and frantically ordering all ships back to Pacem. Hoyt is told that the strike force on the Startree, lead by Isozaki is about to engage their target and cannot be recalled.

Raul wakes to find that the Startree is under attack. He and Aenea escape on the Hawking mat through a fissure in the tree, and head for the Yggdrasil.

Chapter 28

Aenea and Raul make it safely to the Yggdrasil. Aenea begins transporting them to various worlds in the Pax, dropping off disciples to help the populations resist the Church and to spread her message and her blood. She uses a method of transportation she calls freecasting, which does not damage the Void and which all humans can learn to do if they hear the music of the spheres. She asks Kassad to stay on Mars and secure the Sol system, and that the Earth will soon return.

Chapters 26-28 Analysis

Aenea's message to Pacem disturbs all of her followers, but none more so than Raul, who again shows a remarkable acceptance of her course of action. Aenea is aware of the fate that awaits her, and that her time is drawing short. Her desire to experience flight through space as an Ouster "angel" and her rapacious lovemaking with Raul in their zero-g chambers are examples of her desire to live every moment that remains like it's her last.

Raul and Aenea's flight through the interior of the Startree is another moment where Simmons slows down the pace of the action to describe an environment in loving detail.

He even goes so far as to give a sample of the mathematics that the "angels" use to calculate their flight. The grandeur and beauty of the moment serve as a reminder to the reader of the extraordinary potential of humanity and of Aenea's mission to push human's toward this advancement.

There are only a handful of special objects that Simmons ties into the whole storyline, but none is so pervasive as the Consul's hawking mat, which has played a key role in every book of the series. Raul and Aenea's escape on the Hawking mat in Chapter 28 recalls their first meeting, when Raul rescued a young Aenea from a Pax ambush in a sandstorm on Hyperion.



Chapters 29-31

Chapters 29-31 Summary

Chapter 29

The Yggdrasill continues its tour of Pax worlds for several days, and in ones and twos Aenea's disciples are dropped off. Aenea drops a reluctant Rachel off at her home planet of Barnard's World, and leaves the Dorje Phamo to help Dem Loa and the people of Vitus. A. Bettik takes the consul's Ship to Hyperion to deliver a message to Aenea's uncle, Martin Silenus. Finally, Aenea, Raul, DeSoya, Het Masteen, and the Shrike are all that remain, and they jump to Pacem.

Chapter 30

The Yggdrasill is attacked immediately upon entry into the Pacem system. Aenea transports down to Vatican City along with Raul and DeSoya. The Shrike then carries Het Masteen and the Yggdrasill away from the battle and through space and time for a rendezvous with the Hyperion pilgrimage in the past.

DeSoya helps Aenea and Raul sneak into St. Peter's Basilica, where the Pope is giving mass. Aenea tells DeSoya to flee into the city and he obeys. She gives Raul a vial which he says contains the antidote to the Pax birth control which he was given during his time as a soldier. A confused Raul drinks the vial.

Aenea interrupts the mass, accusing the Pope of committing abominations. Aenea and Raul are subdued and arrested. Raul awakens two weeks later, confined in a Schrödinger's cat box orbiting Armaghast.

Chapter 31

Raul begins by admitting that he lied about not being conscious at any point between his arrest and his final imprisonment. He then painfully relates Aenea's end, which he somehow watched and experienced while in high-g confinement on Pacem.

Aenea awakens in a room in Castle Sant'Angelo. She is bound to a torture device, suspended above the room. Several Nemes figures enter along with Councilor Albedo. Holograms then appear of Mustafa, and Lourdusamy. They begin torturing Aenea. Mustafa bids her confess heresy and admit that she was attempting to assassinate the Pope. Aenea correctly infers that they are attempting to force her to freecast away, and that Albedo and the Core are monitoring the room carefully to learn how she does it. She tells them that she knows about their coup, and correctly guesses that the Pope is not there because he has had another heart attack, induced by the Core through his cruciform, and that this time he will not be able to be successfully revived. Lourdusamy confirms this. Aenea then tells them that she knows where the Core's physical body is located; it is in the billions of cruciforms themselves. She says the Core uses the



cruciforms to parasitize the human mind in the same way the farcasters did, and that the Core uses diseases like cancer and heart disease, things which humans should no longer experience, as a method to boost the Core's exploration of empathy through a study of death. Mustafa, horrified at this revelation, attempts to confront Albedo, but is stricken by a heart attack and dies. Aenea tells them the four steps humans must take to access the Void Which Binds and freecast. When she mentions the drinking of her blood, Lourdasamy accuses her of further blasphemy and, over the objections of Albedo, tortures Aenea to death.

Chapters 29-31 Analysis

On all of her trips down to Pax worlds to drop off her disciples, Aenea is accompanied by Raul. Through this experience, he will eventually become one of the first humans to learn to freecast. Aenea's last gift to Raul, the vial containing the antidote to the birth control inoculation Raul received as a soldier, foreshadows their unusual future marriage and child. Raul does not pick up on this hint, but, in his usual way, follows Aenea's command and drinks the vial. The moment of Aenea's martyrdom is shared by all human beings, throughout the Pax, not just those who took communion with her. However, it is her disciples that applied the signal she sent out. This explains why she took the Yggdrasill on a tour of the Pax, dropping her disciples off at various inhabited worlds. It also explains why she bids DeSoya to flee after he sneaks them into the basilica; he is her antennae for Pacem.

The scene of Aenea's martyrdom is described in gruesome detail, and in that way calls to mind the Christian passion plays, and yet Aenea's shared moment is more exacting in its affect, because it does not rely on word of mouth to spread the incident. All humans experience the event, and what is more, Aenea has made sure that disciples of hers will be nearby to many of those who witness it, and ready to deliver her message and her blood in person.

For Western readers, the parallels with Christianity are obvious; a spiritual leader preaching a radical new method of living based upon principles which horrify the orthodox power gives herself up and then is martyred by the orthodox power, infecting others with an empathetic vision of what could be.



Chapters 32-33

Chapters 32-33 Summary

Chapter 32

While writing all of these events down, Raul discovers that he can share the memories and past moments of all the players involved, and that this is why his account is so detailed, even when it involves events and conversations that he did not personally witness. Raul has a vision of a moment on the Consul's ship after the fall of the farcasters, in which the Keats cybrid and the Consul are playing chess, and Keats says that he will be returning to the Core soon to incite a civil war which will aid his daughter in the future.

Raul remembers that Aenea said she had had a child, and he concludes that the mysterious observer from the Lions, Tigers, and Bears must be the father. Determined to locate the child, Raul finally hears the music of the spheres and learns to freecast. He leaves captivity and freecasts to Pacem.

Chapter 33

Pacem is in ruins. Raul meets Corporal Kee on the edge of the Vatican. Kee takes Raul to DeSoya. DeSoya tells Raul that the scene of Aenea's torture and death was a vision shared by all. In the thirteen months that Raul has been imprisoned, there has been open rebellion everywhere against the church. People are taking communion with Aenea's disciples and casting off the cruciform. Those loyal to the Church were forced to flee Pacem, which was shortly thereafter slagged from orbit by Pax fleet ships controlled by the Core. The shared vision occurred during the fleet's attack on the Ouster Startree and caused a general mutiny. Isozaki took charge of the rebelling ships and they began defending the Startree, and ultimately repelled the attack. Isozaki returned to Pacem and has been elected temporary president of the planet. Ousters are visiting the Labyrinthine worlds and reviving the billions of people the Church and the Core placed in stasis. Lenar Hoyt died and has been resurrected as Father Paul Duré.

Raul tells them that he came to Pacem to try to get Aenea's ashes, which she wished to be taken to Earth, and that afterward he was going on a quest to find Aenea's child. DeSoya has collected Aenea's ashes from Castel Sant'Angelo, and he freecasts with Raul to Hyperion.

Chapters 32-33 Analysis

The death of Aenea and the revelation of the shared vision was the climax of the story. Now, Simmons sets about tying up the loose ends and showing the effects of Aenea's sacrifice.



At one point in their conversation, Raul asks DeSoya whether he is still a Christian. DeSoya tells Raul that he is more a Christian now than ever. Aenea's sacrifice and the fall of the corrupt Church have reaffirmed his faith. Raul's return to Hyperion is dictated by his promise to report back to Martin Silenus when he had completed his mission. He cannot feel comfortable about this tasks, though he has accomplished the seemingly impossible assignment of bringing down the Church and returning Earth to its proper place, he feels that he failed to protect Aenea in the end, even though he understands that her sacrifice was intentional, and that, as she had once told him, to avoid this particular fate of hers would be the wrong thing to do.

Simmons does not describe the seemingly metaphysical task of freecasting in any great detail. This is one of numerous details he leaves to the reader's imagination.



Chapters 34-35

Chapters 34-35 Summary

Chapter 34

Silenus, A. Bettik, Raul, and DeSoya are picked up from Hyperion by a Treeship containing many of Aenea's disciples. Together they journey to Mars, where they meet Kassad, who tells them that the Sol system has been secured and that Earth was returned to its proper place during the shared moment. Silenus declares that the Earth must be quarantine for two years, and that only he, Raul, DeSoya and A. Bettik will be going to its surface on the first visit. Once on Earth, Raul correctly deduces that A. Bettik is the Observer from the Lions, Tigers, and Bears. A. Bettik confirms this, but denies fathering Aenea's child. Aenea appears as a younger woman. She tells Raul that they have twenty-three months together, and Raul realizes that he is the other man, and that the child will be theirs.

Chapter 35

Martin Silenus dies. After the funeral, the Shrike appears and stands over his grave. Aenea and Raul wed and have Earth to themselves for their long honeymoon.

Chapters 34-35 Analysis

Chapter 34 contains not one, but two big reveals, first that A. Bettik, seemingly a member of the race of androids created in the early days of the Hegemony and subsequently outlawed, is actually the principle Observer from the Lions, Tigers, and Bears. Though this was a revelation to Raul and likely to the reader, as there were few hints if any to lead to this conclusion, it was not a surprise to all. Martin Silenus and Aenea both knew of A. Bettik's actual identity, though they never confronted him about it. When Raul notes in retrospect, that A. Bettik was present from the beginning, and played a part in majority of the events, A. Bettik tells him that to be an observer one must be present to observe. This points to perhaps the only hint the reader might have had that A. Bettik was the mysterious Observer. He was the one character who was ever present throughout the story who had no real known mission, save for his oft professed wish to find his brothers and sisters.

Simmons piggybacks the moments to add tension and subject Raul to a quick turnaround in emotions. When Raul accuses A. Bettik of fathering Aenea's child, A. Bettik is able to punctuate his denial by pointing to Aenea, who is running toward them. There is a great deal of sentimentality in this love affair and marriage out of time, but it is tempered in the reader's mind by the knowledge of the events and sacrifices still to come for this young Aenea, and the hardships that Raul has already endured. The reader will feel that this reprieve, this moment of secure joy, is justly deserved.

The story ends on an ironic note, with the actions of the Shrike at Martin Silenus's funeral. The creature who has throughout the story brought death and carnage now standing in mourning over the death of an old friend, his long mission accomplished.



Characters

Raul Endymion

Born to a nomadic tribe on the frontiers of Hyperion, Raul Endymion was made to memorize the Cantos, the epic poem written by Martin Silenus about the Hyperion pilgrimage and the fall of the Hegemony three hundred years before, by his grandmother. After serving a tour in the army, fighting insurrection on his home planet, Raul became a field guide for rich off world hunters. After a lethal altercation with one of his arrogant clients, Raul is sentenced to death, and is urged to join the Church and take on the cruciform so that the death sentence will not mean the end of his life. Raul is rescued from captivity by Martin Silenus, following signs told to him three hundred years before by his young adopted niece Aenea, who is soon to return and has prophesized that Raul will be in integral part of her mission.

Charged by Silenus to rescue Aenea from an ambush set for her point of arrival at the Time Tombs on Hyperion, Raul uses the Consul's hawking mat, which Silenus gives him, to snatch Aenea up during a sandstorm at the Time Tombs, while the Shrike, a mechanical warrior from the distant future, lays waste to the Pax ambush. Silenus then gives Raul three seemingly impossible tasks to keep Aenea safe, bring down the Church, and return Earth to its rightful place in the Sol system.

Raul, Aenea, and A. Bettik, one of the androids long in service to Silenus, depart in the Consul's ship, searching for a unknown instructor for Aenea. They are pursued by Core assassin Rhadamanth Nemes and by Pax fleet captain Federico DeSoya. After an altercation on Renaissance Vector, they are forced to abandon the Consul's Ship and travel down the Tethys from farcaster to farcaster. On Maui-Covenant they are again discovered. Raul is nearly killed, and loses the Hawking mat. Finally, Nemes tracks them down on God's Grove, but her attempt to kill them is thwarted by the Shrike and captain DeSoya, who has had a change of heart regarding his orders to capture Aenea. From God's Grove they farcast to Earth, now hidden away in a nearby galaxy, where Aenea finds her teacher, and Raul spends five years exploring Earth in the dropship left for them by DeSoya.

Raul is a strong, powerfully built man with some expertise in combat due to his military experience. He would tell others that his intelligence is sub par, yet his exceptional memory, his ability to improvise in tight situations, and his eventual mastery of the four steps to the next level of human progress suggest otherwise. He is devoted to, and in love with his charge, Aenea.

Aenea

The messiah of the Hyperion saga, Aenea is the daughter of human and Hyperion pilgrim Brawna Lamia, and Core cybrid John Keats. Aenea was conceived just before



Lamia began the pilgrimage, and was in utero at the same time that her father's personalities were stored in a cortical shunt in the brain of her mother. While in the womb, Aenea was able to communicate both with her father and with the Hyperion datumplane, which gave her access to the Core. Her father was designed as a bridge between humanity and the Core AIs, to help the Core in its attempt to understand human love, death, and empathy, three tools it lacked and which were essential to unlocking the power of the Void Which Binds, a substrate of reality which was constructed by and fed off of the mind's of sentient beings, and through which could be wielded enormous powers of computation and physical work. John Keat's blood was infected with a virus that allowed one to perceive the Void Which Binds. Aenea then carried in her blood the combination of her mother's nature human empathetic powers and Keats's blood. Aenea's blood is therefore capable not only of infecting whoever is exposed to it with an ability to perceive the void, but also with the formative ability to explore it. Her blood also destroys the cruciform, and can inoculate the drinker from its control. All of the attributes of her blood are passed down to the child of those who take communion.

Aenea spent her early childhood living among the remaining Hyperion pilgrims, but enter the Time Tombs at the age of eight, promising to return on a date more than three hundred years later to begin an important mission. Her adopted uncle Martin Silenus, having already taken communion with her when she was a young child, prepared for her arrival by hiring Raul Endymion as her protector. Upon her return, Aenea is rescued by Raul from a Pax ambush and spirited off the planet on the Consul's Ship. Together along with the android A. Bettik, they seek out a teacher Aenea has foreseen as crucial to her mission.

Aenea is able to manipulate and use the dormant farcasters throughout the Pax. She can access the Core and hear the language of the living and the dead. She is thus able to perceive events that happen at a great distance across light years. She has some knowledge of future events, though she tells Raul that this knowledge is imperfect.

Aenea is tall and fair of head, with crystal blue eyes and lithe, strong figure. She is capable of a remarkable equanimity and, because of the extraordinary events of her life, and the uncertain times she will spend as a young girl in the distant future, is mature far beyond her years. She has a marvelous joie de vivre, yet can also become serious and thoughtful, immersed in her long vision of the future.

A. Bettik

Seemingly a member of the race of androids built in the early days of the Hegemony and then outlawed, A. Bettik is actually an Observer from the Lions, and Tigers, and Bears. He is present throughout the saga, as a member of the crew on the manta boat that takes the Hyperion pilgrims on the first leg of their journey, to his years of service for the poet Martin Silenus, and finally to his accompanying of Raul Endymion and Aenea on their mission to bring a new level of existence to humanity.



In his guise as an android, A. Bettik is a bald humanoid with cobalt blue skin. He lost a limb after the encounter with Rhadamanth Nemes on God's Grove, but is still capable of remarkable physical skills. He is nearly impervious to extremes of temperature and can go long periods of time without oxygen.

Lenar Hoyt

Lenar Hoyt assumed the leadership of the Church following the assassination of Father Paul Dure, his good friend, and the man who shares his body through the bizarre conjunction of two cruciforms. Dure was the first Pope of the newly constructed Church which came to power after the fall of the farcasters. In the three hundred years since his first assassination, Dure has been reborn five more times, following the death of Hoyt, and has each time be immediately killed to induce the resurrection of Hoyt.

Hoyt is largely a puppet of other forces, and is not an immoral man. However, his fearfulness and his weak will allow him to be easily controlled by Lourdusamy and the Core. His fear of the Ousters is genuine, but is largely due to the misinformation he has been fed. One of the original Hyperion pilgrims, Hoyt was painfully ill throughout the pilgrimage because of the two cruciforms that he carried.

Father Paul Dure

One of the original Hyperion pilgrims, Father Paul Dure first came to the planet after leaving the Church in disgrace for academic fraud. He began studying the Bikura tribe, the first humans to attempt to use the newly discovered cruciforms. Dure himself takes on a cruciform, but after he discovers the downside of resurrection by cruciform he crucifies himself to an electrically conductive Tesla tree. Dure dies repeatedly over many years, but the electrical flow of the tree somehow allows for the proper functioning of the cruciform and his mind remains undamaged. He is rescued by his good friend and fellow priest Lenar Hoyt, who himself carries the cruciform at this time, takes Dure's cruciform on as well, thus creating a situation where two men share the same organic material. Anytime one dies, it is random which cruciform will activate and which man will be resurrected.

Simon Augustino Cardinal Lourdusamy

The real power behind the Pope, Lourdusamy is a large and overweight man whose real appetite is for power. While in league with elements of the Core, he has kept Lenar Hoyt in power by assassinating Father Paul Dure each time Dure is resurrected in the body they share. He then uses his power and influence to manipulate the election process to assure that his puppet, the fearful Lenar Hoyt, is confirmed each time as the new Pope.



Father Captain Federico DeSoya

DeSoya is a priest of the Church and a distinguished captain in the Pax fleet. After the Core predicts that he will be instrumental in the capturing of Aenea, he is tapped by the Pope to find and capture her. During his first mission to capture Aenea, DeSoya becomes suspicious of the Church's motives and of the true nature of his prey, and when the Core assassin Rhadamanth Nemes tries to kill Aenea on God's Grove, DeSoya intercedes, allowing Aenea to escape. For this he receives a court-martial, and he then settles down as a parish priest on his backward home world of Madrededios. However, the Core remains adamant in their prediction, and he is reinstated to begin the hunt anew.

Grand Inquisitor John Domenico Mustafa

Mustafa is in charge of the Inquisition. He is devoted to the Church for the power it gives him over others, but he is deceived as to the Church's real motives and its relationship with the Core. A dishonest, immoral man, he is nonetheless mortified when these facts are revealed.

Admiral Margaret Wu

A key figure in the Pax military, she taps DeSoya to continue his quest to find and capture Aenea.

Councilor Albedo

Once an ambassador for the Core, Councilor Albedo, as he is now known, is an AI operative representing the radical elements of the Core who want to maintain a parasitic relationship with humanity.

Lucas Oddi

Oddi is Cardinal Lourdusamy's righthand man.

Kenzo Isozaki

A man of cunning and indomitable will, Isozaki is the leader of the largest trading firm in the Pax, the Pax Mercantilus. He will eventually become a Knight of the Cross, and lead the attack against an Ouster Startree, before turning on the Church following the shared moments of Aenea's martyrdom.



M. Anna Pelli Cognani

Cognani is Kenzo Isozaki's apprentice and apparent heir to the leadership of the Pax Mercantilus.

The Lions and Tigers and Bears

A name bestowed upon the mysterious entities found by the Core to use the Void Which Binds, who subsequently locked the Core out of the Void and moved the Earth to the Lesser Magellanic Cloud. They are considered to be members of an extremely advanced civilization.

Father Farrell

This is a leading figure in the Vatican, a member of the Inquisition, and part of the Pope's inner circle.

Corporal Bassin Kee

An original member of Father Captain DeSoya's team, Kee has been kept in cryogenic lockup for three years and has been repeatedly tortured by the Inquisition for information regarding the events that occurred on God's Grove.

Sergeant Gregorius

Sergeant Gregorius was a member of the team first lead by Father Captain DeSoya to locate and capture Aenea for the Church. He is a large and powerful warrior who is loyal to his captain.

Hoagan Liebler

The executive officer of the Raphael, Liebler was placed on the ship by the Church to watch for any signs of sedition by Father Captain DeSoya.

Dem Loa

This is one of Raul's hosts on Vitus-Gray-Balianus B, and partner to Dem Ria, and Alem Mikail Dem Alem.



Dem Ria

This is one of Raul's hosts on Vitus-Gray-Balianus B, and partner to Dem Loa, and Alem Mikail Dem Alem.

Alem Mikail Dem Alem

This is one of Raul's hosts on Vitus-Gray-Balianus B, and partner to Dem Ria, and Dem Loa.

Bin Ria Dem Loa Alem

Bin Ria Dem Loa Alem is the young son of Dem Loa, Dem Ria and Alem Mikail Dem Alem. He is dying of cancer.

Dr. Molina

This is a physician who treats Raul for kidney stones.

Father Clifton

The Pax priest on Vitus-Gray-Balianus B, Father Clifton tries to convince Raul to accept the cruciform so that his impending execution will not result in his true death.

Ummon

Ummon was a central AI in the Core during the fall of the farcasters. He is John Keats's father.

Archbishop Robeson

This is the Archbishop of Mars.

Governor Clare Palo

This is the Pax governor of Mars.

The Ousters

The Ousters are a large confederation of post-humans and aliens that eschew planetary life and live solely in space, where they grow vast colonies, constructed of living space



trees. They are the descendants of humans sent on deep space seedships who discovered that the only way to survive the many hostile environments into which they were sent was to incorporate nanotechnology and genetic engineering into their race. The Ousters are the future of humanity, but they have diversified into many different species themselves, and, though still at their core human, can vary widely in appearance and makeup.

Lucifer's Angels

The Church's name for Ouster "angels," these are human beings that use wing suits to fly through space like angels. The suits are powered by solar radiation and glittery in rainbow colors in the sun. The wings are expansive and hundreds of miles in length.

The Swiss Guard

This is the private guard of the Pope.

Frank Lloyd Wright

A Core cybrid based upon the famous architect, he operates a ranch for architectural students called Taliesin West on Earth. Aenea is one of his star apprentices.

John Keats

A Core cybrid based upon the famous poet, Keats is the Core's attempt to educate itself on human empathetic powers. He is the father of Aenea.

Martin Silenus

One of the original Hyperion pilgrims, the poet Martin Silenus wrote the Cantos, a retelling of the Hyperion tale in epic verse form. Hundreds of years old at the time of the first Hyperion pilgrimage, he is now over 900 years old and spends most of his time in cryogenic sleep in his estate on Hyperion. He considers himself to be the adoptive uncle of Aenea, and it is he who first sought out Raul Endymion and charged him with protecting Aenea.

Rachel Weintraub

One of the original Hyperion pilgrims, though at the time she was only an infant brought along on the journey by her father Sol Weintraub, Rachel was exposed to an anti-Time field from Hyperion's Time Tombs when she was studying the exotic tombs as a graduate student. She aged backward from that moment on, becoming younger and



younger, until, as an infant, she was given to the Shrike by her father and carried forward into the future. She returned from the future to guide Fedmahn Kassad, her lover, to his destiny, and then returned again to become a follower of Aenea.

The Dalai Lama

The modern incarnation of the Lama is a young boy who is the spiritual leader on T'ien Shan. Following her arrival on his world, the Dalai Lama soon becomes a follower of Aenea.

The Core

The TechnoCore is the vast agglomeration of artificial intelligences that emerged from the development of technology on Earth. The Core is composed of trillions of individual AIs, and has billions of factions within it. The Core is a cutthroat community and schizophrenic in nature. Among its many factions are those that wish to continue in a cooperative relationship with humanity, those who are indifferent to their creatures, and those who see humankind as an obstacle to growth that must be removed.

The Shrike

An assassin, created in the distant future by a faction of the Core known as the Reapers, the Shrike is co-opted by members of the Core who champion its partnership with mankind. The Shrike is sent backward through time to aid Aenea in her quest to bring down the Church and exposes the machinations of the more radical elements of the Core. The Shrike is an intimidating figure. Nine feet tall and covered in long metal spikes, it is capable of shifting into fast time, and performing innumerable actions in seconds.

Fedmahn Kassad

One of the original Hyperion pilgrims, Kassad is a man out of time, thanks to his involvement with Rachel Weintraub. A fierce warrior and military tactician, he will eventually travel into the distance future, where he will be used as a template for the construction of the Shrike.

True Voice of the Tree Het Masteen.

One of the original Hyperion pilgrims, Het Masteen is a Templar who was kidnapped by the Shrike on the pilgrimage and carried forward into the future to pilot his treeship the Yggdrasill on a tour of the Pax to aid Aenea in her mission.



Rhadamanth Nemes

This is a vicious cyborg assassin sent by the Core to find and exterminate Aenea. Nemes and her siblings are capable of shifting into fast time, in essence stopping time and performing any desired task, including killing, while those around them are frozen in place.

The Dorje Phamo

This is the ruling female of one of the major Buddhist communities on T'ien Shan and a key follower of Aenea.



Objects/Places

Archangel-class Starship

One of a new line of Pax starships containing GIDEON drives, the archangels are capable of delivering messages or striking with force across great interstellar distances.

The Raphael

The second of two archangel ships to bear the name, the Raphael is the archangel-class starship commanded by Father Captain Federico DeSoya.

The Consul's Ship

The personal starship of the Consul, one of the Hyperion pilgrims, the ship is a older Hegemony starship. Since it contains a Hawking drive, any passengers traveling the the Consul's ship between systems will incur relativity time debt. The ship is distinguished from other starships by its great age, and by its powerful AI. It passed down to Martin Silenus after the death of the Consul.

Farcaster

This is a type of portal, developed by the Core, which allows one to be transported instantaneously to another location. The farcaster network has been out of commission since the Core was shut out of the Void Which Binds by the Lions, Tigers, and Bears.

Cruciform

A device created by future elements of the Core and sent back through time for use by the Church, the cruciform is a parasite that attaches itself to a human's chest. It can be used to inflict the host with pain and even death, but it will automatically resurrect the its dead host.

Cybrid

This is a Core-created cyborg specifically designed to incorporate the character of a specific human being, often someone of great fame.



Gideon Drive

This is the star drive that powers the arch-angel ships creates so much thrust that it kills its crew with each use. The Church powers its archangel-class ships with this drive. Crews make the journey in special resurrection creches, which allow them to be reanimated upon arrival.

The Comlog Bracelet

This is a special bracelet worn by Raul Endymion which allows him to communicate with the AI of the Consul's Ship in most locations throughout space.

The Pax

This is a confederation of planetary systems united under the rule of the Roman Catholic Church.

God's Grove

This is the former planet of the Templars was slagged in the war of the world wide web, and is now a desolate wasteland. It is here that Aenea, Raul, and A. Bettik escaped from Core assassin Rhadamanth Nemes. Nemes was entombed and sealed into a mound of molten earth by Captain DeSoya.

Madrededios

The home planet of Captain Federico DeSoya is world of wretched poverty.

The Void Which Binds

The Void Which Binds is a substrate of energy that permeates the entire universe. Created and given its power by "minded things," was accessed by the Core and is essential to their major technological triumphs including the farcasters, the Hawking drive, the fatline, and the cruciforms.

Old Earth

Before the Hegemony, Earth was believed to be consumed by a black hole created accidentally below the planet's surface. In reality, Earth was moved safely to a new location by the Lions, Tigers, and Bears. Now residing in the nearby galaxy, the Lesser Magellanic Cloud, Earth is sparsely populated by various tribes.



Taliesin West Fellowship

A community created by the cybrid Frank Lloyd Wright for his architecture apprentices, Taliesin West is in what used to be New Mexico on Old Earth.

T'ien Shan

Aenea and Raul's rendezvous planet is dominated by a poisonous and gaseous ocean. Its inhabitants people the tops of the precipitous mountains that rise out of the water. T'ien Shan's population is Zen Buddhist and they are ruled by the Dalai Lama.

Svoboda

One of the Labyrinthine worlds, Svoboda is the forbidding and bleak world where Rhadamanth Nemes and her siblings meet with Councilor Albedo. Svoboda is one of the primary locations that the Core is using to store the billions of bodies of non-Christian Pax citizens it is placing in stasis.

Vitus-Gray-Balianus B

Vitus-Gray-Balianus B is a dry world looked down upon by binary suns. It is heard that Raul is stricken with kidney stones and is nearly killed by the Core assassins. The Pax has an increasingly strong hold on the planet and only a few communities, like the one that shelters Raul, have held out against conversion.

Castel Gandolfo

The Pope's private retreat, Castle Gandolfo is also the last stop for enemies of the Church and a stronghold of the Inquisition.

Mars

The red planet, with Earth gone, is now the only inhabited planet in the Sol system. Still plagued by its frequent sand storms, the planet is occupied mostly by people of Palestinian origin and is considered a backwater world in the Pax. The home world of Fedmahn Kassad.

The Hawking Drive

This is a method of faster than light travel discovered by the Core, which allows for relatively quick travel between star systems. A ship using the Hawking Drive can deliver its passengers to most locations in weeks or, at most months, but because of relativity,



they will incur a time debt relative to the surrounding universe. Often this time debt can be over a year or more in length.

Barnard's World

This is the principal planet of the Barnard's Star system and one of the closest to Earth. The home planet of Rachel Weintraub is a rural and agrarian planet with some of the best universities in the Pax.

Maui-Covenant

This is an Ocean world, from which Consul hailed as well as Theo Lane, one of the Aenea closest disciples. It was here that Raul was nearly caught by DeSoya and where he was forced to leave behind his hawking mat.

The Cantos

This is a famous epic poem about the Hyperion pilgrimage, the fall of the farcasters, and the war of the World Wide Web, written by Hyperion pilgrim Martin Silenus.

T'ai Shan

This is the highest mountain on T'ien Shan.

The Temple of the Jade Emperor

This is the sacred Buddhist temple atop the suborbital peak of T'ai Shan.

The Yggdrasill

The Yggdrasill is a Templar treeship captained by the True Voice of the Tree Het Masteen, a Hyperion pilgrim. The ship was brought forward in time from the battle over Hyperion to be used by Aenea as a dispersal ship for her disciples.

The Tethys

The Tethys is the river created by a vast series of farcaster portals placed in segments on famous rivers on many of the former Hegemony worlds. When the farcasters were operational, one could float down the Tethys, through portal after portal, visiting one world after another.



Schrodinger's Catbox

Raul Endymion's prison is a self-sustained pod orbiting the planet Armaghast. The chamber contains a capsule of gaseous cyanide whose release into the cabin is triggered by the decay of a particular subatomic particle. Thus, Raul's death can come at any moment. This method of death is named a Schrodinger's Catbox by the Pax, after the Austrian physicist Erwin Schrodinger.



Themes

Humanity Versus Technology

One of the central themes in the Hyperion saga is the relationship between humanity and the civilization of artificial intelligences, known as the Core, which it spawned. This relationship is as complex as the interconnection between the Pax and the Core. The Core is responsible for many of the technological advances that created the Hegemony, the remnants of which became the Pax. Much of the dynamism in the relationship is caused by the fractious nature of the Core, whose AIs were original modeled off of programs to model viral propagation. The Core is a dog eat dog collection of individuals and cannot be said to contain many organizing factions. Their dealings with humans are complicated by this schizophrenic nature. One of the central questions seems to be who uses who more. When, at the end of the Hegemony, it was discovered that the Core had been parasitically using human brainpower, tapped through the use of its farcaster network, humanity was shocked and outraged by the intrusion of privacy. This culminated in the sabotage of the farcaster network. But when Raul points this out to Aenea, who is at that moment engaged in some careful apologetics for parts of the Core, she responds that in many ways this co-opting of human brainpower is no different than the use humans have put machines, even sentient AIs like those that make up the Core, to sense their creation.

Just as there are no obvious black and white controlling factions in the Core, there are no categorical condemnations of the Core. There are in fact elements of the Core that are responsible for aiding Aenea, despite the fact that one of her goals is to eradicate the cruciforms, which are the physical location of the Core. Aenea's own work seems to suggest a merger between man and machine. Her chief allies, the Ousters, are an example of mixing biological systems with nanotechnology through assisted evolution. Aenea not only glorifies these endeavors, but she vilifies the Church, one of whose doctrines is a strict ban on creating or using "thinking machines."

Overall, Simmons mixes good and evil equally among the humans and the AIs, and this suggest that humanities enemy is not technology, and that technology's enemy is not man but its creator. Evil, whether from humanity or from artificial life, is the enemy of all.

Choose Again

While traveling on the arduous road to the summit of T'ai Shan, Aenea tells Raul that if she could boil her message down to a single phrase, that phrase would be "Choose Again." Raul then humorously asks her a series of categorical questions like, "Religion?" and "Political Systems?" to which Aenea replies, "Choose Again."

Though Aenea did not consider herself a messianic figure, this sort of categorical denial of established mores, either physical, as in economic and political, or metaphysical, as



in religious or psycho-spiritual, is common among messiahs, prophets, and other anti-establishment icons. The Buddha told his followers to distrust teachers and verify all claims, even his own for themselves. This anti-authority message was diametrically opposed to the belief at the time that spiritual enlightenment was a secret path one could only discover through apprenticeship to a Brahman or master. Jesus overturned the tables of the moneychangers in the Temple of Jerusalem and challenged the authority of the Pharisees. Martin Luther broke the yoke of the Catholic Church but suggesting that, in an increasingly literate world, Christians can discover the message of god without the intercession of a priest. Einstein turned Newtonian physics on its head by questioning some of its core claims. In all of these cases, the key event was a challenge to accepted authority or dogma.

There is another virtue of the choose again philosophy, which is that it bids us to continually test the ideas and solutions of our society, and in doing so, affords us the opportunity to make mistakes. Making mistakes is the key to advancement. To quote Samuel Beckett, who Aenea's "Choose Again" certainly echoes, "Try again. Fail again. Fail better."

Control and Faith

In *The Rise of Endymion*, the Catholic Church uses a device known as the cruciform to entice followers into conversion. The cruciform is a parasite that grants its host bodily immortality by enabling resurrection from nearly any form of death. The dogma of the Church has come to accept the cruciform, which was created in the future by radical elements of the Core and sent back in time to control and parasitize the human popular, as the fulfillment of Christ's promise of immortality.

On *Vitus-Gray-Balilanus B*, Raul is aided by a community that has not submitted to control by the Church. In the house where Raul is convalescing, there is a young boy who is dying of cancer. The Church, who has placed a priest in the community to win converts, has told the family that if they are willing to convert to Catholicism and accept the cruciform, the boy's death from cancer will not be the true death, and he will be returned to them cancer free by the cruciform. The Church says that the boy alone cannot convert to survive cancer. The whole family must convert and accept the cruciform and the rules of the Church, which forbids the triune marriage of the household. Moreover, the Church, which controls the only hospitals on the planet, is also denying the family any hope of curing the boy by conventional medicine. Raul is particularly moved by this injustice, as his mother died of cancer, and he engages the local priest, Father Clifton, in a debate about the morality of such blackmail.

This method of controlling the population through faith has been proven throughout history to be ineffective and volatile. Moreover, episodes in human history of the state using extreme faith-based measure to control the population are often accompanied by great upheavals. Faith is an extraordinary force, which can empower humans to great compassion and sacrifice, as well as depravity and cruelty. When it is used by the state to control a population, it cannot maintain stability and harmony.



Style

Style

Point of View

Raul Endymion narrates the last two books of the series while imprisoned following his trial for heresy. He is writing out the story of his life and his years with Aenea on pages of vellum. He destroys the pages he writes each day, but later learns that they are being preserved and will be used as the final addition to Martin Silenus's Cantos. Raul narrates the story in third person, and explains that his ability to do so as an omniscient narrator is based on the fact that through Aenea's teaching he has learned the languages of the living and of the dead, and thus is capable of witnessing any of the events in the story again, including scenes in which he played no part. He almost never breaks into the narrative. In the rare instances when he does, his intrusions have been isolated by Simmons into their own chapters, and the point of view switches to first person. In parts of the story involving him, he narrates his own point of view in first person.

In the last section of the book, Raul escapes his imprisonment and from that point on the narrative follows him and remains in first person, following Raul as Simmons ties up the remaining threads and the events following Aenea's death.

Setting

The Pax confederation consists of hundreds of planets and the Hyperion saga touches a wide range of them, but Simmons uses an economy of environmental description. The reader simply does not learn much about many of the world in the book since, because of the farcaster's ability to move characters around, many of the planets are visited for one scene, and often only small slices of the planet, a mile or two along one of the rivers is used in the story. When Simmons breaks from this style he does so dramatically. His most extensive environmental descriptions in the book are used for its two most important settings, T'ien Shan, and the Ouster Startree.

T'ien Shan is a forbidding planet, on the edge of Pax space. The planet is dominated by an all-world ocean, a noxious and deadly soup, whose liquid, heated by the planets geothermal energy, generates a steamy soup of poisonous fog which shrouds the planet. Out of this lethal slurry rise the precipitous peaks of T'ien Shan's mountains. It is on these upper highlands and even summits that the human population has taken root. Most of the villages are necessarily self-sufficient, and there are no major cities. What trading does occur between cities requires use of the tortuous summit roads, icy slide-ways, and cable-ways. The roads are the safest mode of travel, but require the most time. There are no motorized vehicles on T'ien Shan. Speedier travel can be made by the slide-ways, natural chutes of ice similar to bobsled tracks, and cable-ways, great lengths of metal rope stretch between the peaks of the mountains and ridden using



harnesses with zip-line clips. The most daring travel is unpowered flight, using the T'ien Shan parawings, hang-gliders that take advantage of the updrafts between the mountains. A fall from any one of these is doubly lethal because of the ever-present cloud of noxious gases rising from the sea and blanketing the lower slopes of the mountains.

As described above, the Ouster Startree is a living and organic Dyson Sphere surrounding a star. Raul eventually learns that there are several more of these Startrees. Life flourishes along the inner surface of the Startree where containment fields create local atmospheres. Some species are capable of flying through the naked space inside the sphere. The Ousters do so as "angels," using mechanized suits that protect them from the vacuum of space and provide them with solar powered wings, dazzling in color and hundreds of miles in diameter. They flutter about on the inside of the Startree like butterflies of a field of wild grass. In attempting to imagine such a sphere, and in particular trying to envision what it would be like to stand on its inner wall and gaze inward toward the focus star, the reader might be tempted to shrink distances in the scene to a comprehensible measure. For instance, the reader might imagine being able to see the details on the other side of the Startree, or even to be able to see Ouster "angels" fluttering about there. But any such tree would like have a diameter equal to or greater than the Earth's orbit around the sun. Standing on the inner wall, the surface around would be entirely flat, as the Earth's horizon appears flat though the Earth is a sphere. The details of the far side of the sphere would be lost to human eyes, and all that one would see in the sky above would be a glowing sphere encircling the focal sun. The entire inside of the sphere would be filled with radiant light, and there would be no darkness of space visible. The amount of living space such a structure would create is almost beyond comprehension. The inner surface of the sphere would be as large as the total surface area of millions of Earth-sized planets.

Language and Meaning

Simmons's storytelling style focuses on action, but there are some chapters that contain extensive discussions about the political and social makeup of this age of man and of man's relationship to technology. The author crams an enormous amount of historic and technical detail into these sections, and the language becomes specific and sometimes difficult to follow. The proper names of historical events, scientists, scientific concepts, technical ideas, philosophical systems, religious dogma, and many other categories, riddle long explicative paragraphs. As is typical with sci-fi, many of the references are from real scientific history, but then are fictionalized into the sci-fi concepts used in the book. Simmons complicates this further by interjecting philosophy, religion, both eastern and western, and metaphysics into the story. The language itself, which is firmly collegiate in level, raised the bar of comprehension, but the amount of historical, technical, and scientific ground that is covered raises the bar even higher.

The author does not employ any psychologically experimental modes of language like stream of conscious writer or unreliable narration. The events are related faithfully and there are no instances of using warped or distorted forms or language to psychological effect. There are no experiments with grammar, though, as is typical of sci-fi, Simmons



has made up some words and added them to the lexicon of his world. Farcaster, fatline, TechnoCore, and datumplane are some good examples.

Structure

The story is broken up into short chapters, whose breaks are determined not by changes in scene or point of view, but by the dramatic turns in the story. The chapters are numbered but are not given titles. The book is broken into two parts. The first part covers Raul's lone journey to search for the Consul's Ship, the beginning of the holy war on the Ousters, and Captain DeSoya's recall and mutiny. This part contains far more detail about the moments of the enemy than does the second part. The second part details Aenea's work on T'ien Shan, the assault on the Ouster Startree, and the climax of the saga, including Aenea's martyrdom. There is a break of five years between the two parts, though parts of this gap are related in flashbacks or in verbal story-telling by the characters. The climax of the story occurs in Chapter 31 and is followed by four more chapters in which Simmons ties up many but not all of the loose ends and concludes the tale.

The beginning of a new chapter is often accompanied by a shift in scene and usual a shift to a different part of the storyline. This ensures that any moment of tension that closed the preceding chapter is attenuated further to hold the reader's attention. This is a common practice in genre fiction.



Quotes

"I said that I don't see the future," she said. 'I remember parts of it.'

'What's the difference?'

...'The difference is,' she said, 'that seeing is a form of clarity, remembering is...something else'"

(Chapter 4, pg. 74.)

"Aenea shook her head and sipped her tea. 'You don't see Raul, but they do. Already they've referred to me as a virus. They're right...that's exactly what I could be to the Church. A virus, like the ancient HIV strain on Old Earth or the Red Death that raked through the Outback after the Fall...a virus that invades every cell of the organism and reprograms the DNA in those cells...or at least infects enough cells that the organism breaks down, fails...dies" (Chapter 8, p. 125.)

"I don't think that I want to make any wager if it means dealing with a Church that has grown so corrupt that it makes obedience and submission the price of its saving the life of someone's child,' I said" (Chapter 10, p. 165.)

"In fact,' Lourdusamy continued for him, 'the bodies found aboard the Saigon Maru...exclusive of the crew...showed neither clear cause of death nor the attributes of death, is that not correct?'

'That is correct, Your excellency,' Mustafa's eyes roamed to the faces of the other dignitaries in the chapel. 'They were not living, but they...showed no signs of decomposition, postmortem lividity, brain decay...none of the usual signs of physical death'" (Chapter 13, pg. 249.)

"Beloved,' said his holiness. 'Do not doubt. Do not surrender faith. Your thoughts now are a betrayal of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and of His Church. The miracle of resurrection is no less a miracle because these friends in what was once known as the TechnoCore help us realize the miracle. It was the work of Jesus Christ Almighty who led these other children of God—these creations of Our Lord through His most unworthy instruments, the human race—to find their own souls and salvation. Continue, M. Albedo'" (Chapter 13, pg. 259.)

"Aenea sighed. 'Do you remember our discussion, Raul, where I said that the Pax thought that I was a virus? And that they were right?'

'Yeah.'

'Well, these students of mine are also carrying the virus,' she said. 'They had places to go. People to infect'"

(Chapter 16, pg. 321.)

"It was the thing that had tried to kill Aenea, A. Bettik, and me on God's Grove some five of my years—more than ten of Aenea's—ago. It was the inhuman killing device that had defeated the Shrike and would have carried Aenea's head away in a bad had it not been



for the intervention of Father Captrain deSoya in his orbiting spacecraft; he had used the full fusion power of the ship to lance the monster downward into a cauldron of bubbling, molten rock.

And here it was again, its black, inhuman eyes fixed on Aenea's face. It had obviously sought her across the years and light-years, and now it had her. It has us " (Chapter 19, pg. 369.)

"When, during the Last Supper, Jesus of Nazareth asked his followers to drink of his blood and eat of his body, he was not speaking in parable or asking for magical transubstantiation or setting the place for centuries of symbolic reenactment. Jesus wanted them to drink of his blood...a few drops in a great tankard of wine...and to eat of his body...a few skin scraping in a loaf of bread. He gave of himself in the most literal terms, knowing that those who drank of his blood would share his DNA, and be able to perceive the power of the Void Which Binds the universe" (Chapter 20, pg. 403.)

"There is no guarantee of happiness, wisdom, or long life if you drink of me this evening,' she says, very softly. 'There is no nirvana. There is no salvation. There is no afterlife. There is no rebirth. There is only immense knowledge—of the heart as well as the mind—and the potential for great discoveries, great adventures, and a guarantee of more of the pain and terror that make up so much of our short lives'" (Chapter 20, pg. 408.)

"But if there are futures,' I said, hearing the growl of pain in my own voice, 'why do you have to see one death for yourself? If you can see it, why can't you avoid it?'

'I could avoid that particular death,' she said softly, 'but it would be the wrong choice.'

'How can life over death ever be the wrong choice?' I said. I realized that I had shouted it. My hands were balled into fists.

She touched those fists with her warm hands, surrounding them with her slender fingers. 'That's what all this is about,' she said so softly that I had to lean forward to hear her. Lightning played on the shoulders of Heng Shan. 'Death is never preferable to life, Raul, but sometimes it's necessary'" (Chapter 21, pg. 418.)

"Yes,' whispered Aenea, 'it can. If you choose that, I can make it go away. Our autosurgeon is old. It would not be able to heal you with the cruciform parasite throughout your body. We have no resurrection creche aboard the ship...'

DeSoya reached for her then, his flaking and three-fingerless hand still gripping tightly the sleeve of her therm jacket. 'Doesn't matter...doesn't matter if I die...get if off. Get if off. Will die a real...Catholic...again...if you...can help me...get it...OFF!' He almost shouted the last word" (Chapter 22, pg. 485)

"Nemes is twisting as she falls, trying to change her trajectory enough to sink claws or scythe into the remaining edges of the lowest platform.

She misses by four or five centimeters. A hundred meters father down, she strikes a rock outcropping and is propelled farther out above the clouds. Steps, posts, beams, and platform pillars are falling into cloud a kilometer below her.

Nemes screams—a shattering calliope scream of pure rage and frustration—and the echo bounces from rock to rock around me" (Chapter 23, pg. 506.)



"Resurrection of a single person was and remains impossible for the Core. That is, it was impossible unless they further ravaged the Void Which Binds—that transtemporal, interstellar medium for the memory and emotions of all sentient races" (Chapter 25, pg. 540.)

"AENEA: Yes, Colonel...although not a pawn. A knight, perhaps.

COLONEL FEDMAHN KASSAD: All right, a knight. And this cybrid, Void Which Binds-connected, ARNied, DNA-engineered, nanotech-enhanced, terribly mutated knight...it starts with the personality of a single warrior, does it not? Perhaps an opponent in this thousand-year game?

AENEA: Do you need to know this, Colonel? There is no greater hell than seeing the precise details of one's..." (Chapter 25, pg. 548.)

"I was not with her.

I was not with her.

Oh, Jesus God, God of Moses, Allah, dear Buddha, Zeus, Muir, Elvis, Christ...if any of you exist or ever existed or retain a shred of power in your dead gray hands...please let me die now. Now. Let the particle be detected and the gas released. Now.

I was not with her" (Chapter 30, pg. 635.)

"'Jesus Christ was the first born of the dead,' Aenea said softly, the reflected light from the cross glaring in her good eye. 'And you should offer him glory. And dominion, if you choose. But it was never his intention that human beings should be revived from death like laboratory mice at the whim of thinking machines'" (Chapter 31, pg. 645.)

"Mustafa was quivering with outrage. 'Do you truly believe you are our masters?'

Councilor Albedo sighed. 'We have always been your masters. You are rotting flesh wrapped around chimpanzee brains...gibbering primates decaying toward death from the moment of your birth. Your only role in the universe was as midwives to a higher form of self-awareness. A truly immortal life-form'"

(Chapter 31, pg. 646.)

"Aenea did not appear. She did not lead me out of captivity. She as dead. I felt her absence from the universe as clearly as I had felt any resonance from the Void Which Binds since my communion.

So I lay in my Schrodinger cat box, tried to sleep, forgot to eat, and waited for death" (Chapter 32, pg. 654.)

"I looked at the priest. 'You've stayed Catholic,' I say at last.

Father de Soya sips the wine out of an old glass. 'I haven't just stayed Catholic, Raul. I've rediscovered what it means to be Catholic. To be a Christian. To be a believer.'

'Even after Aenea's Shared Moment?' I say. I am aware of Corporal Kee watching us from the end of the table. Shadows from the oil lights dance on the warm earth walls.

De Soya nods. 'I already understood the corruption of the Church in its pact with the Core,' he says very softly. 'Aenea's shared insights only underlined what it meant for me to be human...and a child of Christ' (Chapter 33, pg. 675.)



Topics for Discussion

What are some of the methods the Core used to control its human hosts? Discuss the cruciform and parasitism.

Discuss the relationship between humanity and artificial intelligence in the book. Does the book decided for or against such a relationship or is the matter left undecided? Explain your answer.

Cite other examples from history that illustrate Aenea's core philosophy of "Choose Again." What are the virtues of this idea? Is there a downside?

Discuss how Simmons meshes his vision of the future with elements of 20th century technology.

Explore Raul's relationship with Aenea, from their first harrowing escape at the Hyperion Time Tombs, to their anguished parting on Pacem, and finally to their marriage and isolation on Earth.

A. Bettik turned out to be an Observer from the Lions, Tigers, and Bears. Does a careful reading of the saga provide any clues to this revelation and if so, what are they?

Manipulation and control are key to many of the relationships in the book. Cite some examples from the book of relationships based on manipulation and show how their outcomes reveal flaws in the practice of manipulation.

The Church outlawed nanotechnology and the use of thinking machines, and considered the Ousters, who employ both nanotechnology and genetic engineering as abominations. What is Aenea's attitude toward the altering of the human species? How is it different from the Church's? How's does the Church's stance conflict with its use of the cruciform?

Time travel is used frequently in the saga. Cite some examples and discuss how they alter the story.