

Time's Eye Study Guide

Time's Eye by Arthur C. Clarke

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Plot Summary

Time's Eye by Arthur C. Clarke is a fantastic tale told in six parts about an intelligent and ancient group of beings that have been around since the universe was in its infancy. Watching their star burn itself out, they realize that they are headed towards eventual and total darkness. This causes them to rethink the significance and importance of life itself and in an effort at preservation, the "Firstborn," as they are christened by those left on Earth, take drastic action. Sampling several cross sections of time and life, the Firstborn cause space to collapse on itself and reassemble Earth with only the samples they have selected. This "Discontinuity" brings together a diverse group from varying time zones, with unpredictable consequences. The Firstborn believe that life itself is so important that it is acceptable to sacrifice some of it in order to save the remainder.

When the Discontinuity occurs, many species on earth find themselves isolated on a new and unfamiliar world. Earth's time is turned back to the thirteenth century and thrust together in this time are four cosmonauts stranded aboard a space capsule above earth; three people on an observation and rescue helicopter from 2037; a group of British soldiers along with reporters including Rudyard Kipling at a fort called Jarud from 1885; two of the first bipeds on earth who are captured by the soldiers; Genghis Khan and a large group of his followers; Alexander the Great and his entourage of worshipers and advisers; a group of Neanderthals and several smaller samplings of humanity including a colony of Fish Eaters and what remains of the city of Babylon. Technology is undeveloped and communications are unknown with the exception of the contact made between the cosmonauts who inadvertently find themselves in the company of Genghis Khan and his men, and the helicopter crew who end up with the British and in the company of Alexander the Great.

This varied group left on Earth must cope with weather anomalies, and time junctures that resemble an Earth randomly stitched together by madmen. Inspired by one of the cosmonauts, Genghis Khan marches on Babylon intent on ruling the world and conquering Alexander the Great. The other surviving cosmonaut realizes the folly of their interference, and contacts one of the helicopter pilots using a previously outdated ham radio to warn Alexander of their impending invasion. His perceived treachery is severely dealt with. Throughout the conflict that ensues, many orbs resembling eyes float effortlessly above the ground observing the interactions of the newly created world. While most of the eyes merely observe, the largest one located in the Temple of Marduk in Babylon is a gateway and one woman, Bisesa Dutt from the helicopter crew, convinces the Firstborn to allow her to go home. The surprises continue when she returns to find a large eye hovering over the London skyline in her own time. As book one of a time odyssey, it is a compelling read.



Part One, Discontinuity: Chapters 1 - 3

Part One, Discontinuity: Chapters 1 - 3 Summary

Time's Eye by Arthur C. Clarke is a fantastic tale told in six parts about an intelligent and ancient group of beings that have been around since the universe was in its infancy. Watching their star burn itself out, they realize that they are headed towards eventual and total darkness. This causes them to rethink the significance and importance of life itself and in an effort at preservation, the "Firstborn" as they are christened by those left on Earth, take drastic action. Sampling several cross sections of time and life, the Firstborn cause space to collapse on itself and reassemble Earth with only the samples they have selected. This "Discontinuity" brings together a diverse group from varying time zones, with unpredictable consequences. The Firstborn believe that life itself is so important that it is acceptable to sacrifice some of it in order to save the remainder.

Seeker is among the evolutionary apes that have survived on an earth that has been cooling for thirty million years. She and her kind are scavengers, and the first true bipeds. One morning Seeker walks out of the shadow of the forest and sees a bright sphere. She ventures closer, seeing her reflection in it, and is intelligent enough not only to be curious about it, but to recognize that it is herself she is seeing. Suddenly her infant, Grasper screams. Captured by two creatures in netting, she struggles and shrieks. Seeker knocks one of them down but the other hits her so hard that it fills her head with stars.

At the moment of Discontinuity in the year 2037, a helicopter piloted by Casey Othic and Abdikadir Omar is in the air. Bisesa Dutt rides in the back. They encounter turbulence first and before they have a chance to recover, they are shot with an RPG. Moallim, a fifteen year old villager hears the helicopter approaching, secretes himself in a foxhole and when the machine is close enough, he shoots the RPG that the elders have reprogrammed to explode in mida, maximizing Moallim's chances of success.

Josh White and Ruddy are journalists stationed in the fort at Jamrud in the North West Frontier in the year 1885. Cecil de Morgan joins them and other soldiers as they hurry over to a large ball hovering in the air. Some are already calling it an evil eye. Ruddy's connections inform him that communications are also down. Ruddy immediately begins writing. Josh speculates that one day men may put war aside when Cecil bursts in and takes them to the female they have captured. Josh recognizes she is the link between man and ape. The smaller of the two creatures wakes, and the female tries to go to its aid but is beaten back.

Part One, Discontinuity: Chapters 1 - 3 Analysis

Seeker is one of the first true bipeds on early earth. She thinks of her infant as Grasper, though they have no actual language. Curiosity sets her apart from the rest. She



discovers a sphere and examines it when Grasper shrieks, having been restrained in netting. Seeker tries to defend him and is clubbed unconscious.

Bisesa "knows" it is the year 2037. She is in a helicopter with two others on a mission with a mandate to observe, search and rescue. Unexpected turbulence tosses them around while on the ground Moallim runs for the foxhole he prepared earlier. In it is an RPG from the 1980s, reprogrammed by the Elders of his tribe to explode in mid air.

Journalists Josh and Ruddy are special correspondents sent to file color reports from the North West Frontier in what they believe is 1885. A great deal of excitement surrounds the appearance of a sphere that hovers in the air. Ruddy learns all communications are down, and Cecil de Morgan arrives with news of a more exciting find. They gather to view the creatures caught, and Josh recognizes they are biped—the link between man and ape.



Part One, Discontinuity: Chapters 4 - 6

Part One, Discontinuity: Chapters 4 - 6 Summary

The helicopter circles low and communications are lost. Bisesa's phone complains of feeling lobotomized. Moallim watches it until it is low enough and fires the RPG. At the last moment, Abdikadir shouts a warning to Casey, but too late to avoid a hit that causes the helicopter to go down. Moallim rises out of his hole to face the villagers, but the entire village is gone. An animal roars, and the helicopter goes down. Josh and Ruddy see it fall to the earth, thinking Russians are involved. The pilots manage to land heavily and the last thing Bisesa sees is a man running towards them pointing some kind of rifle.

Kolya's exposure to the Discontinuity is subtle. The Soyuz is a ferry ship due to return to earth, and Anatole Krivalapov, Musa Ivanov and Sable Jones prepare for descent. Musa commands their return, and, before leaving, the Russian ship's last task is to circle the space station and photograph and inspect the exterior. They make several carefully calculated turns and during one they briefly lose sight of the station. The music stops without reason, and Sable reports she can see no sign of the space station. Musa has lost contact with the ground, and tries to regain it but there is only silence.

Josh and Ruddy are first to reach the helicopter. Bisesa sees Casey's tibia is broken, and surprises the soldiers by admitting she is the ranking officer which is greeted with surprise and disbelief. Josh and Ruddy help Abdikadir get Casey out, while another soldier goes to get Captain Grove. Casey wants to wipe the memory, as is the protocol, but the soldiers are insistent, and armed, so Casey is taken to the infirmary and Abdikadir and Bisesa are taken for questioning.

Part One, Discontinuity: Chapters 4 - 6 Analysis

Bisesa concentrates on the sensors. Communications are lost. As they try to regroup, Moallim fires the RPG, and the helicopter's tail rotor is damaged. Moallim comes out of his hole and finds his village has vanished and a roar scares him. The helicopter crashes in front of Josh and Ruddy and Bisesa sees a man running towards them with a rifle.

Commander of the Soyuz, Musa Ivanov looks forward to returning to earth. The three cosmonauts separate from the space station and maneuver for an external examination and photographs. They lose sight of the station during one of their carefully turns, and their music cuts out. At the same time Musa loses communications and Sable reports that there is no sign of the space station.

The helicopter crash lands where soldiers from 1888 are still trying to understand their loss of communications. Taken at gunpoint to the fort, Bisesa is regarded with disbelief

when she admits to being the ranking officer. Casey wants to follow protocol and wipe the memory, but the soldiers are armed and insistent.



Part One, Discontinuity: Chapters 7- 9

Part One, Discontinuity: Chapters 7- 9 Summary

Bisesa tries to not be nervous. They are searched and then questioned by Captain Grove. Lacking are any signs of motor vehicles, radio antennas or satellite dishes. Abdikadir tells Bisesa he believes they are in Jamrud though all the books show are the fort's ruins. He surmises they are in the 1890's. Grove is able to come to grips with it to a degree, helped along by the capture of Seeker and Grasper. Bisesa and Abdikadir are amazed and the theory of a "time slip" seems to be supported.

Musa, Koyla and Sable are worried. After calling earth without response, Musa suggests they return to their training, checking everything from orbit revolutions to air quality, but the situation is explosive as tensions are high. The Soyuz circles the earth, and Kolya looks down for any sign of inhabitants, but there is no reassurance. There is none of the glow from where the cities should be and the land remains dark.

Captain Grove allows the erasing of information. He cannot see the harm in it as they do not understand any of it anyway. Bisesa wants to track the person who shot them down, and Captain Grove agrees. Bisesa, Josh, Ruddy and a small company of privates find the foxhole and inside is the RPG launcher and Moallim's arm. Bisesa recognizes Ruddy as a young Rudyard Kipling, and Josh asks questions, but she fears the paradox of changing the past and altering the future as a result. At that moment the ground trembles.

Part One, Discontinuity: Chapters 7- 9 Analysis

While the tensions are high in the beginning, the commanding officer of Jamrud is intelligent. Captain Grove quickly adapts to the concept of a "time slip" explaining the machine Bisesa and her pilots crashed in, and Seeker and Grasper. Abdikadir is the first to recognize the time period they are in.

Aboard the Soyuz, the situation is disturbing. There are no signs of inhabitation from earth. Repeated calls go unanswered, and rotation after rotation shows no lights from cities.

Casey's concern is to erase the memory in Little Bird, and Bisesa's is with finding the person who shot them down. Captain Grove agrees to both requests. They find the foxhole, the RPG launcher and Moallim's arm. Bisesa recognizes Ruddy as a young Rudyard Kipling.



Part Two, Castaways in Time: Chapters 10 & 11

Part Two, Castaways in Time: Chapters 10 & 11 Summary

Bisesa's phone continues to complain about feeling lost without its customary contact with the rest of the world. She misses her daughter Myra, and is beginning to realize how little time she has been able to devote to her. Captain Grove begins to send out scouting patrols in the hopes of better understanding their situation. Casey takes on communications, while Abdikadir turns to the examination of the mysterious orb. The sphere is perfect, a feat even in 2037 they have no precision for. Abdikadir agrees that it is definitely an anomaly of space. Captain Grove announces that one of the patrols has discovered something interesting to the north.

Ten days pass and Musa orders only essential systems be run. Without the space station, or contact with earth, the emergency rations on board and water supplies are dwindling. They are reluctant to just attempt landing. Weak and unused to gravity, the crew would normally have been rehabilitated slowly. Koyla uses their cameras to examine the planet, but finds no evidence of advanced civilization. Cities are gone, and forests cover Britain. Sable finds a ham radio and finally detects an automated pulse and Chief Warrant Officer Casey Othic broadcasting from Jamrud. They make plans to land.

Part Two, Castaways in Time: Chapters 10 & 11 Analysis

Bisesa misses her daughter, Myra and her telephone complains to her of a feeling of cauterization. Abdikadir scrutinizes the orb, measuring it and discovers its geometry defies the laws that govern earth as they know it, while Casey tries to reestablish some communication . Captain Grove sends out scouting patrols and one of them discovers something interesting to the north.

Using only what power is necessary, the cosmonauts take pictures of the earth that show changes no one can explain, and still there is no reply to Musa's constant hails. Sable digs out a ham radio and is rewarded with an automatic pulse and a hail from Casey Othic from Jamrud in Pakistan. They make plans to land.



Part Two, Castaways in Time: Chapters 12 & 13

Part Two, Castaways in Time: Chapters 12 & 13 Summary

Captain Grove sends a scouting party over the mountainous desert. The climate for March is very cold, and they encounter more and more orbs that they have come to think of as eyes. They come to a disjunction that appears to be another stitch in time. Bisesa steps across warily. There is an animal musk foreign to the time frame. Bisesa scans the horizon and can see glaciers. One of the scouting parties discovers a large army, and Casey receives a signal from space. It is time to return to Jamrud. Bisesa notices figures walking on the distant glacier. They carry sticks or spears.

The weather deteriorates and there is concern regarding the massive army to the southwest that keep the British busy while Casey downloads the pictures taken by Soyuz of the new world they live in. The images are disturbing. The British are astounded by the technology but even they are sobered by the information. Bisesa copies the images to her phone, and by viewing the stars and their positions, the phone accurately pinpoints the time period they are in as the thirteenth century.

Part Two, Castaways in Time: Chapters 12 & 13 Analysis

Bisesa, Josh and Ruddy join a scouting party. They see more orbs and the climate is colder than it should be. They see glaciers in the distance and Bisesa's beeper goes off. Another scouting party has seen an army of sorts, and Casey has made contact with a signal from space. Bisesa spots four men on the glacier.

In Jamrud, the weather gets progressively worse. Casey downloads pages of photos of the earth as Soyuz sees it from above and Bisesa uploads them to her phone. By looking at the stars, they accurately pinpoint the current time as the thirteenth century. The British are concerned about the army their scouts have seen.



Part Two, Castaways in Time: Chapters 14 & 15

Part Two, Castaways in Time: Chapters 14 & 15 Summary

When it is time for Soyuz to land, Casey reminds Musa that they have no way of tracking them. Before losing contact with him, Musa suggests that they rename the new planet Mir meaning "world" and "peace." The signal begins to distort and break up, and the last thing Musa hears is Casey welcoming them home to Mir.

Captain Grove asks Casey for an update and he uses chalk to sketch an outline on the hull to illustrate the changes sent to them by Soyuz. The continents are similar, but each patch of time extends both into the air for some distance and into the ground, creating storms. Central Africa appears to be the oldest slice. There are three concentrations of people. Chicago is one; their group represents another; and the third site is in Babylon where the Soyuz detects a signal. They agree Babylon should be their destination. The patrol sent out by Grove is met by a similar patrol who manage to convey that their leader is Alexander the Great.

Part Two, Castaways in Time: Chapters 14 & 15 Analysis

Soyuz prepares to land. Casey reminds Musa that there is no way to track their landing. Musa suggests they rename Earth "Mir." The last thing the cosmonauts hear is Casey's voice welcoming them home to Mir.

The earth is stitched together with time frames that do not mesh well, glaciers from eras long gone meeting with forest and desert lands. The result is fluctuating weather patterns that are violent and unpredictable, and three groups of people remain. None are advanced. A patrol returns with two scouts from another settlement whose leader is Alexander the Great.



Part Two, Castaways in Time: Chapters 16 & 17

Part Two, Castaways in Time: Chapters 16 & 17 Summary

The Soyuz returns to earth. Musa opens the hatch and pushes out of his seat, but after the weightlessness of space, he is slow and weak. Musa climbs out of the hatch and sees that they have come to rest in front of a village. There are many dome shaped tents, and a man walks towards them in a full length fur coat and conical cap. The Mongol warrior walks toward Musa who stretches out his arms and asks for help explaining that they have fallen from space. The Mongol reacts so fast that Koyla hardly sees him move. His sword swings out, and Musa's head flips into the air, and his body falls to the ground. Koyla and Sable are horrified.

Grasper adjusts to her confinement easier than Seeker. Acid rain from half way around the world pelts them relentlessly. The air and the oceans alike are still seeking a new equilibrium, and all around the world it rains and rains. Mount Rainier's explosion makes so much noise it is heard around the planet. Seeker lives only in the present. For her, there is no tomorrow, and she is miserable.

Part Two, Castaways in Time: Chapters 16 & 17 Analysis

Soyuz makes its reentry. Weak and barely able to stand, Musa opens the hatch. A Mongol warrior comes forward and Musa tells him they fell from space, asking him for help. The Mongol swings his sword and cuts off Musa's head. Stunned, Koyla and Sable can only watch.

Grasper adapts to her new surroundings, unlike Seeker who lives only in the present. All around the world it rains as the planet seeks a new equilibrium. Most of the twenty seven volcanoes in the ring of fire are triggered, and Mount Rainier's explosion echoes around the world. Every thing on the planet struggles to survive.



Part Three, Encounters & Alliances: Chapters 18 & 19

Part Three, Encounters & Alliances: Chapters 18 & 19 Summary

The Mongol yells and more men come running. The first walks up to Sable after killing Musa and grabs her breast hard. Kolya tells her not to react. The killer presses his sword against Kolya's neck and Kolya tells him they are Emissaries of Eternal Heaven. The cosmonaut's are tied, led to a yurt and shoved inside. They conceal their sidearms and Kolya believes they are in the thirteenth century. Kolya wonders what happened to Casey.

Eumenes goes to Hephaestion's tent to discuss the issues that arise when an army of this size travels together. Soldiers from the Iron Age urge the scouting party sent by Captain Grove to march for nearly ten kilometers. Hephaestion's usher hurries in and Bisesa and her group are brought to them. Eumenes speaks an old Greek dialect that de Morgan understands and with much gesturing, Bisesa explains where they originated. The King arrives and though injured and in pain, Alexander the Great insists on walking, dispelling all rumors that he is on death's door. The cheer spreads through the crowd like wildfire.

Part Three, Encounters & Alliances: Chapters 18 & 19 Analysis

The Mongolian yells, and Kolya tells him they are Emissaries of Eternal Heaven. They are restrained, and led to a yurt. They are searched, but conceal their sidearms, and are fed pieces of mutton and fermented milk. Sable is disgusted by the lack of hygiene but Kolya convinces her that the nourishment is necessary.

Eumenes and Hephaestion are going over the matters that need to be decided on when the scouting party is brought to them. Eumenes, speaking a Greek dialect, manages to communicate with de Morgan. Bisesa tells them they come from the British fort, and then the King arrives. De Morgan is awed to realize that they are soon to be in the presence of King Alexander the Great himself, and when the King leaves his boat unaided despite his injuries, the crowd cheers wildly.



Part Three, Encounters & Alliances: Chapters 20 & 21

Part Three, Encounters & Alliances: Chapters 20 & 21 Summary

After two days, Sable and Kolya are led to a cart. Sable demands to be untied, and insists the Mongols bring along what belongs to them, rewarding their agreement with the inflatable raft and miming the action necessary to open it. They travel for many hours, even eating and sleeping in the saddle. They finally arrive at a yurt city where there are a multitude of races evident. A messenger is sent into the city and returns with Yeh-lu. Sable draws a map and manages to convey the rifts in earth's time. Before long, they are taken to the Emperor and are shocked to discover the Emperor in question is Genghis Khan.

The King decides to send a thousand troops up the Indus valley to Jamrud, and after several days they arrive. Casey embraces Bisesa, and Josh and Ruddy are eager for her impressions. Alexander and his army set up camp half a kilometer away, and both British and Macedonian troops patrol the border between. An alliance of sorts is formed and by the third day, Captain Grove and his advisors are summoned for an audience with the King.

Part Three, Encounters & Alliances: Chapters 20 & 21 Analysis

Sable and Kolya are transported to a yurt city. They speak through a French advisor who translates to a man named Yeh-lu. He allows them to keep their belongings and Sable and Kolya find themselves being taken to the Emperor. To their astonishment, the Emperor is none other than Genghis Khan.

King Alexander makes a pilgrimage to Jamrud with Bisesa and de Morgan. The march is long and crosses several time disturbances. Bisesa sees other "eyes" in the distance. When they arrive at Jamrud, the "eye" watches as they find common ground. Three days later the King asks to see Captain Grove and his advisors.



Part Three, Encounters & Alliances: Chapters 22- 24

Part Three, Encounters & Alliances: Chapters 22- 24 Summary

Genghis Khan waits for his advisors to gather information. The warriors are not thrilled with Sable's interest, and one tries to remove her jumpsuit but Sable breaks his leg in two places and is then viewed with more respect. Koyla begins to feel nervous around her, and spends his time with Yeh-lu, the empire's chief administrator, helping him create a world map that he has Chinese scribes transfer to silk. Koyla advises Genghis Khan to go to the valley of the Indus, and Sable insists that Khan can secure the entire planet's rule by going to Babylon. Koyla discourages her, but Sable is oddly primal in her behavior.

Captain Grove, Bisesa Abdikadir, De Morgan, Ruddy and Josh answer King Alexander's summons. Eumenes briefs Bisesa on the protocol, and the obeisance necessary. They share information about the "eye," and what has happened. Alexander is intrigued by the prospect that in their history, he is dead. Captain Grove displays an old atlas he brought along, and the Macedonians are excited by the pictures. Grove suggests they continue to Babylon—the source of the second radio signal. Afterward, Bisesa finds Alexander's physician, and attempting to thwart history, gives him malaria tablets for Alexander.

Genghis Khan organizes a hunt as a form of military exercise and Sable shoots the mammoth that should be Khan's right of kill. She hides the pistol saying she is sent from heaven to save him, in order that he might live forever and rule the world. Khan takes her to his yurt where she amazes him by slipping aspirin into his wine to cure his headache. Then she smears herself with dung to be more appealing to him, and allows him to take her from behind. During this time, she manages to convince him to go to Babylon. Koyla is deeply disturbed.

Part Three, Encounters & Alliances: Chapters 22- 24 Analysis

Sable is working her way up the chain of command. She tells Khan's chief administrator, Yeh-lu that he should head directly for Babylon, and in doing so might gain world domination. Koyla is horrified by her interference in history. He and Yeh-lu believe a trip to Jamrud to seek out the others is more appropriate, but Sable is insistent and unafraid.



Captain Grove, his officers, Ruddy and Josh meet with Alexander and exchange information on everything from the "eye" to their current situation. Grove recommends they go to Babylon to seek out the second radio signal Casey picked up. When the conference is over, Bisesa finds Alexander's doctor, and believing that in her history, Alexander died of malaria, she gives his doctor pills to cure him.

Khan organizes a hunt where groups of men go out and herd game to where he and his men wait. Though usually given the first kill, this time Sable interferes, taking her pistol and shooting the Mammoth that is charging Khan. She hides the pistol and tells Khan she was sent to protect him, so that he might rule and live forever. She goes to Khan's yurt and after spreading manure over herself to be attractive to him, Khan has sexual relations with her while she convinces him to go to Babylon.



Part Four, The Confluence Of History: Chapters 25 & 26

Part Four, The Confluence Of History: Chapters 25 & 26 Summary

Bisesa uses her phone to take photos of Alexander's fleet. The volcanic rain continues, and after some observation Casey sketches a crude barrow. At first skeptical, Casey puts a prototype together and the next day carpenters put together more than fifty barrows and the day after a hundred more. The Macedonians push them along until mud is reached and they are abandoned. There are few people but eyes are everywhere and Bisesa is fascinated by them and even Eumenes stares at them challengingly. Josh, Ruddy, and Abdikadir discuss religious beliefs and speculate as to the fragmented time and Cecil reports all to Eumenes, playing both ends against the middle.

The Mongols round up their semi-wild herds of horses in preparation for the upcoming march. The Soyuz capsule is loaded on a cart and the warriors are organized into three divisions with the center division commanded by Khan himself. Traveling west, within two days time they encounter valleys of bog that are difficult to cross. Acid rain continues unabated. Each night, rations are distributed. Khan makes sure that each unit of his army is made up of a mix of nationalities, clans and tribes so that there are no loyalties other than to him. They encounter no people despite the search parties that Khan sends out. In the middle of the steppe, they come across a temple and two figures emerge. One is an old man and the other a child. Sable realizes they are one and the same, and the boy understands when he grows up, he will become this man. Koyla convinces Genghis to leave them alone.

Part Four, The Confluence Of History: Chapters 25 & 26 Analysis

Bisesa is awed by the immensity of Alexander's fleet and the volcanic rain continues. There are few people, but many eyes. Josh, Ruddy and Abdikadir speculate about religious beliefs and fragmented time, and Cecil reports all he hears to Eumenes, who is attempting to work his way deeper into Alexander's favor.

Horses are rounded up, and the great Mongolian march commences. Khan divides them into three groups, and they begin the march to Babylon. Acid rain falls and the land is all but empty. They come across a temple and two figures emerge—a boy and a man. Sable realizes they are the same person in two time zones. Koyla convinces Khan to leave them alone.



Part Four, The Confluence of History: Chapters 27 & 28

Part Four, The Confluence of History: Chapters 27 & 28 Summary

Three weeks into the march, Eumenes tells the "moderns" that the scouts have come across an inhabited village. Bisesa, Josh, Ruddy and a squad of soldiers go to investigate and find they are likely from the Stone Age. Everything they use comes from the sea. A Macedonian refers to them as fish-eaters, and Bisesa recognizes the archaeological significance, recording as much as possible. One eye watches them come and go.

Koyla and Sable cross the edge of the Gobi desert with Khan and his army. They head through the Altai Mountains, and finally arrive at Kyrgyzstan. The Mongols go ahead to gather intelligence. The city of Bishkek has water mills and factories, but no electricity. They are greeted as they approach by some of the citizens and Koyla tries to convince Yeh-lu to initiate friendly contact, but the Mongols have other ideas. Sable seems unaffected and does nothing as they ride off and slaughter the town. Then Khan picks the most beautiful girls for himself and assimilates the rest into his army. Days later, Khan sends back scouts to kill those who managed to escape the first time. It is a turning point for Koyla emotionally but Sable shows absolutely no emotion.

Part Four, The Confluence of History: Chapters 27 & 28 Analysis

After marching for three weeks, a village is spotted, and Bisesa, Josh and Ruddy go with the soldiers to investigate. They find a Stone Age group of natives, who live entirely off the sea. One of the Macedonians refers to them as fish-eaters. They camp nearby.

Khan and his entourage cross the edge of the Gobi, go through the Altai Mountains and arrive at a town in Kyrgyzstan called Bishkek. Koyla wants to initiate friendly contact, but instead the Mongols ride into the town and slaughter them. Those who remain are driven to Khan's encampment where he selects the most beautiful women for himself. The rest are assimilated into his army. It is a turning point for Koyla, though Sable shows no interest or emotion.



Part Four, The Confluence of History: Chapters 29 & 30

Part Four, The Confluence of History: Chapters 29 & 30 Summary

In two months of sailing, Alexander's group reaches the head of the Gulf. They set out for Babylon. Each night, Casey listens for any signal from the Soyuz, and to the strange signal from Babylon. There are fewer eyes. They find another juncture in the land, and to the west they see buildings, a wall and something resembling a stepped pyramid. Abdikadir recognizes the Tower of Babel, and Josh and Bisesa race to climb it. From the top they see half the city looks melted. A search party is sent out and finds a Babylonian hiding in the Temple of Marduk.

The Babylonian captive is terrified when he is brought to Eumenes and questioned. He explains that one night he awoke to wailing and the stars in the wrong place. People fled, heading to the religious district, but when they saw what has happened to the Babylonian God Marduk, they left the city. Eumenes and the others hurry to the temple of Marduk and find an immense eye, three meters across in size and just hanging there. Bisesa is sure she feels a presence emanating from it. Casey comes in and looks grim after receiving a message from Koyla.

Part Four, The Confluence of History: Chapters 29 & 30 Analysis

More than two months later Alexander's fleet reaches the Gulf's head. They cross another time step and arrive at the city of Babylon. Shocked by its condition, they climb the Tower of Babel and find half of the city appears melted. Eumenes is increasingly disturbed by the arrogance of those responsible. A search party reports a Babylonian has been found hiding in the temple of Marduk.

After questioning him, Eumenes go to the temple of Marduk to see what caused the entire city to flee, and find the largest eye they have seen yet. Bisesa senses a presence from it, and Casey returns grim faced with a message from Koyla.



Part Four, The Confluence of History: Chapters 31 & 32

Part Four, The Confluence of History: Chapters 31 & 32 Summary

Once Genghis Khan has established his base camp, Koyla retrieves the ham radio gear and secretly sets it up. He contacts Casey, and for thirty minutes he nervously relays all the information he can about Khan and his approaching army. When Sable catches him, she is angry and accuses him of treason. Two Mongol guards then smash the ham radio to pieces.

Alexander is determined to oppose the Mongols, wanting to build instead of destroy their new world, and he sends out a party of envoys to open a meeting of the minds with Genghis Khan and his people. He hopes for peace, but knows he must prepare for war. A council is held, during which they discuss ways to fend off an attack. Abdikadir suggest the implementation of stirrups for control, and Bisesa and Casey can hardly believe they are about to witness a war between Genghis Khan and Alexander the Great.

Part Four, The Confluence of History: Chapters 31 & 32 Analysis

Khan establishes his base camp not far from Babylon, and Koyla uses his time to hook up the ham radio and relay to Casey everything he can think of before Sable catches him and his gear is destroyed.

Warned, Alexander now prays for peace, but prepares for war. He holds council taking advice from Bisesa, Casey and Abdikadir. Bisesa and Casey discuss the enormity of the upcoming battle between Genghis Khan and Alexander the Great.



Part Four, The Confluence of History: Chapters 33 & 34

Part Four, The Confluence of History: Chapters 33 & 34 Summary

Koyla is taken to Yeh-lu and before they can torture him, he confesses, fearfully, all of his conversation with Casey. Sable claims to have tried to plead his case to the Mongols, reminding them he is a Prince sent from heaven, and tells Koyla that they will not spill royal blood. Instead, they restrain him and pour molten silver into each of his eyes and ears. Then they throw him into a hole and nail the floorboards over him. He screams, but cannot hear himself.

Casey helps Alexander and his men prepare by sacrificing some of their weaponry, while Bisesa sets up a hospital and trains assistants by sacrificing goats to instruct them and get them used to the sight of blood. Ruddy helps Bisesa, overcoming his own squeamishness and four days later a dozen of the thousand men Alexander sent out return. Now they all know war is imminent. Bisesa tries to explain her theory that there is an intelligence behind the giant eye, and she and Josh find comfort in each other. Alexander rides in front of his troops, inspiring them in both languages with help from Ruddy.

Part Four, The Confluence of History: Chapters 33 & 34 Analysis

Koyla is punished for his treachery. They pour molten silver into his eyes and ears, and then bury him alive beneath the floorboards.

Everyone contributes to preparations for war, building fortifications and setting up hospital facilities for the injured. Four days pass, and a dozen of the thousand men Alexander sent out as envoy to Genghis Khan return. Now war is a reality. Bisesa tries to explain her feelings that the eye has presence behind it, and intelligence.



Part Four, The Confluence of History: Chapters 35 & 36

Part Four, The Confluence of History: Chapters 35 & 36 Summary

The first assault comes with arrows. A quarter mile from the city, the Mongols charge and Alexander's men hold their positions. The collision is brutal. A sphere hovers above them, and the injured begin arriving at Bisesa's makeshift hospital. Alexander hides half of his men behind the walls. Koyla lays under the flooring for three days, alive because he secreted water before they buried him, aware of Mongols and their punishments. He also has an explosive bolt with a simple trigger and waits for the right opportunity. On the third day he feels a heavy tread above him and pulls the trigger, killing Khan. Bisesa sees Sable head for the temple. Ruddy gets there first, and warns Sable to back away from the eye, but Sable shoots him. Bisesa tricks Sable, saying the eye expected her and when Sable turns to look, Bisesa attacks her. She asks the eye if its seen enough yet before going to Ruddy.

Hephaestion is dead and Alexander has lost his one true friend. Ruddy is dying and asks Bisesa to tell him what would have become of him. She relents, and tells him his history as she knew it. They discover Cecil had been feeding information to Mongol spies, and Genghis Khan along with many others have died. Alexander decides he will send out another envoy, knowing that the future is up to them.

Part Four, The Confluence of History: Chapters 35 & 36 Analysis

The battle is bloody and fierce. Many die. Koyla has secreted an explosive bolt with a trigger, and after three days, hearing Khan's heavy footfall, explodes it. Khan is killed. Sable manages to reach the temple of Marduk and shoot Ruddy, but her vanity is her undoing. Bisesa tricks her and she is captured.

Ruddy dies, but manages to elicit details of his history from Bisesa first. Hephaestion is also killed and Alexander mourns his one true friend. Alexander plans to send another envoy to the Mongols, knowing that it is the only way they will move forward in peace.



Part Five, Mir: Chapters 37 & 38

Part Five, Mir: Chapters 37 & 38 Summary

Five years from the beginning of the Discontinuity, the apes are still captive. Grasper is nearly six, and one morning they wake to find everything has changed. The eye becomes suddenly bright, and once Seeker looks at it, she cannot look away. An invisible grip explores her intimately and moves her appendages as though they are no longer her own. Grasper picks up stalks and ties them in knots. Lines appear on the eye and a pattern of sorts emerges. Then Grasper is affected and it is as though they are both in a laboratory of sorts.

Bisesa moves into the temple of Marduk where she now spends all of her time. She has come to think of the eye as a watcher of sorts, sensing an intelligence behind it. One day her phone tells her that the time they have discussed has arrived. The phone has calculated that it must shut down to conserve energy. Bisesa is saddened, feeling as though she is losing her last contact with life before the discontinuity and her phone admits to her that its frightened, asking her if it will dream. She tells it she does not know and switches it off.

Part Five, Mir: Chapters 37 & 38 Analysis

Five years have passed. The apes are still captive, but one morning things change. The eye becomes bright, and Seeker cannot look away. As though an experiment of some mad scientist, an unseen being explores her and her abilities, and then turns to Grasper.

Bisesa moves into the temple of Marduk, and spends all of her time with the eye. Her phone announces that it is time to turn off for energy conservation. It tells her it is afraid, and wonders if it will dream. Bisesa is saddened by the loss.



Part Five, Mir: Chapters 39 & 40

Part Five, Mir: Chapters 39 & 40 Summary

Abdikadir returns to Babylon after exploring India for six months. Alexander has repopulated the city, and Macedonians and Babylonians live in peace. Similar expeditions are sent east, west, north and south. They are building a new world. A new tower rivaling the tower of Babel is under construction to honor Hephaestion, and to commemorate the world they lost. Eumenes asks Abdikadir to accompany Alexander on an expedition to see his divine father Ammon, or Zeus as he is better known. He also suggests that if Josh were to accompany them, Bisesa might be convinced to leave the eye for a time. Bisesa is conducting a myriad of experiments, using cable and wires salvaged from the chopper. She tells Abdikadir and Josh that the Discontinuity was planned and intentional, explaining that time and space have been ruptured and reassembled. Made from a tapestry of minuscule strings, she asserts that space can be bent or folded to be changed. Since time and space were ripped apart though, the usual rules do not seem to apply. They convince her to go with them on her condition that Casey be left in charge of her experiments. Then she tells the eye to be good to Casey and to remember that she has not confessed all she knows about them yet. Bisesa believes she might know how to get home.

In two months they are ready to leave, and Bisesa, away from the eye for the first time in five years, finds it very relaxing at first. The climate remains strange. The purpose of the trip is to map their new world, and Alexander sends groups of men ashore to survey every few days, but their reports are disappointing. Nazareth and Bethlehem are gone, as is Alexandria and most of Egypt. Jerusalem is a bustling area with a mixture of British and Macedonians who are committed to rebuilding and technological advancement. Greece is empty, as is Paris and Rome where saber toothed cats roam free now. The long term effects of Discontinuity are still being felt as both surviving man and beasts attempt to balance what remains.

Part Five, Mir: Chapters 39 & 40 Analysis

Eumenes asks Abdikadir to accompany Alexander on an expedition to see Ammon, or Zeus and take along Josh and Bisesa. Bisesa has spent five years mostly experimenting with the large eye, reaching an understanding of it that she tries to convey to Josh and Abdikadir. What she does not tell them is that she believes she may have found a way home.

Two months later they leave. The climate is unsettled and every few days a party of men is sent ashore to attend to the task of surveying the new world, but the news is disappointing. Nazareth, Bethlehem, Greece and most of Egypt are gone. Jerusalem is growing—British and Macedonians sharing technology and the workload. Long term effects cannot be assessed.



Part Five, Mir: Chapters 41 - 43

Part Five, Mir: Chapters 41 - 43 Summary

There are no signs of the cities the Macedonians remember. Italy and Rome are deserted, and Bisesa wonders about the core of the earth and what occurred there as a result of the Discontinuity. In Spain they see a group of Neanderthals, and though Alexander longs to continue into the wider ocean beyond the Straits, his advisors convince him to leave that expedition for another time. They sail back and Bisesa tries to explain her theory to Josh that the eye is merely a conduit to the minds of others. She senses a presence behind the eye and believes it might let her go home. A few days short of Alexandria, Alexander and a small group go ashore. Eumenes joins his King for this pilgrimage, and when they reach the steps of what once was the temple, Alexander is visibly shaken. Bisesa asks Eumenes to tell Alexander that in her time there are still a group of people who worship Zeus-Ammon and even Alexander himself, and he is placated to some extent.

After their return to Babylon, Bisesa announces her belief that the eye will allow her to go home. She is flattered by the fact that all take her seriously, but Josh begs her to stay with him. When she still insists, he asks that he go with her instead. Josh comments that the intelligence they are dealing with does not even have a name and Bisesa calls them the Firstborn because they are old beyond imagining. Alexander orders a feast to celebrate her departure that lasts three days. Bisesa shares her worst suspicions on their last day. Since there are no "samples" of humanity from after their time period, she believes that something terrible must have happened to the earth as they know it. Perhaps the Firstborn even caused it. She uses the analogy that a library is burning, and the first instinct is to run through the galleries and grab all that you can carry. Babylonian astronomers decide that a new calendar should be started beginning with the Discontinuity.

Bisesa wears her flight suit on the morning of their departure, and has dried rations, water and medical supplies with her. Abdikadir gives her Babylonian parchment and asks her to locate their families for them and deliver their messages. A breeze manifests from the eye, and holding Josh's hand they step forward. The eye is changing, oscillating, and the surface suddenly collapses into a funnel. Light is streaming into the eye and throughout it all she is still aware of the warmth of Josh's hand in hers. This eye serves as a gate. It opens, closes and then space opens and closes in on itself. In the temple of Marduk, the eye vanishes and neither Abdikadir or Casey can understand what they just saw.

Part Five, Mir: Chapters 41 - 43 Analysis

None of what the Macedonians remember still exists. Alexander makes his pilgrimage to the temple finding only the stairs remain, and is visibly shaken. Bisesa explains her



understanding of the eye more completely to Josh. He begs her to stay with him, and when she cites her reasons for wanting to return to her own time, he announces he would like to go with her. Bisesa sees Alexander's distress, and tells him that in her time a large group of followers still worship Zeus-Ammon and even Alexander himself. He is placated.

Returning to Babylon, Bisesa announces her intentions to go home and her feeling that the eye will let her. They all take her seriously, and Alexander throws a three day feast in her honor. Telling Josh that the entities behind the eye are old beyond imagining and names them the Firstborn. She also shares her suspicions that since there are no samplings of humanity from after their time period, that something cataclysmic may have happened, and perhaps even been caused by the Firstborn.

Bisesa arrives in her flight suit, ready for their departure. The eye sends out a breeze and with Josh's hand in hers they step forward into what looks at first like a funnel, but becomes a straight walled shaft. There are many eyes, but this one serves as a gate. It opens and closes and space opens and then turns on itself so quickly that in the temple of Marduk when the eye vanishes before them, Abdikadir and Casey cannot describe what they have witnessed.



Part Six, Time's Eye: Chapters 44 - 47

Part Six, Time's Eye: Chapters 44 - 47 Summary

The Firstborn had never been human, but had once been of flesh and blood. Born on a planet of one of the first of five stars, they were in an energy rich universe. When they looked out into the depths of space, they saw nothing like themselves. The early stars blazed bright, but died quickly and the Firstborn saw only a slow darkening ahead. They realized that a day would come when there was not enough fuel in the Galaxy to manufacture a new star and the knowledge brought on an age of madness. Wars were fought that had no resolution, and eventually the survivors began to plan for the future. Going back to their machines, they now saw that only life was worth saving, even if it meant that some life must be destroyed.

Bisesa suddenly becomes aware, and finds Josh beside her. Stranded on a sandy red beach, she digs her hands into the sand and finds fragments of glass. She stands up and finds they are in a crater not unlike one a nuke would have created. She tries to understand, and Josh seems to grasp the essence of it first. He mentions that perhaps this is the very far future. Bisesa calls out to the eye demanding explanation and it snaps into focus above her. She takes Josh's hand, telling him to hold on, and suddenly realizes that he does not see the eye. This time it was here for her alone. Josh understands, and though Bisesa gets angry, he is calm and tells her it is alright. He says goodbye to her and in the last instant she sees him standing back in the temple of Marduk and a dark man reaching for him.

Seeker wakes to find there is no net around them. Grasper is not hesitant like her mother. She begins exploring immediately. Since Grasper is so young, the probing of the Firstborn's machines have stirred an awareness in her that had not affected her mother. Grasper hefts a heavy stone, imagining what it might be, and is without fear. Drastic changes on earth are still to come, the Discontinuity having disturbed the core of the planet, and now Mir grew bulges and the deformed planet would soon seek equilibrium again.

Bisesa is aware she is standing. Music is playing and there is a magnified image on the wall that resembles Alexander. The soft wall greets her and wishes her good morning, telling her breakfast is ready. She tells it to shut up, and looks around. She is in her bedroom in London. She asks the wall the date, and it answers June 9th, 2037. A sleepy voice behind her causes her to turn. Myra is standing there, and Bisesa is overcome with emotion. Myra tells her she smells funny and Bisesa offers to shower before explaining why she is unexpectedly home. The light changes and she looks towards the window to see an eye floating over the city.



Part Six, Time's Eye: Chapters 44 - 47 Analysis

The Firstborn are not human, but born of flesh and blood, they came from a planet around one of the first five stars. In a very energetic young universe, they look out into the depths of space and see nothing resembling themselves. The early stars died, and the Firstborn realize that the future is dark and that the universe is finite. This knowledge causes an age of madness where war is waged and energy unnecessarily expended. The survivors realize their folly and use their war machines to concentrate on the only important thing—life.

Bisesa becomes aware of herself and Josh again suddenly. On a sandy red beach she tries to get her bearings. The beach is actually a crater, and Josh suddenly understands that they are in the far future. Bisesa calls out angrily to the eye, and it appears above her again but this time Josh does not see it. She realizes she will go on alone and is angry until Josh reassures her, calling her his angel, and she sees him in the last instant back in the temple of Marduk, and hears him saying goodbye.

When Seeker wakes one day to find the netting removed, she is fearful. Grasper is more curious than afraid, and begins to explore, picking up stones and instinctively knowing there are other uses for them. Young as she is, the probing done to her stirs awareness in her. The Discontinuity has also disturbed the planet's core, and Mir is bulging in protest. There will be many changes before equilibrium is gained again.

Bisesa becomes aware she is standing in her London apartment. Everything is as it was on June 9th, 2037 and behind her Myra expresses her surprise that Bisesa is home. Bisesa is overcome with emotion, hugging her and telling her after a shower, she will explain it all. The light is different, and looking outside she sees a large eye floating over the city.



Characters

The Firstborn

Not even remotely human, the Firstborn come from a planet that was one of the first stars of all. It was a beacon in a still dark universe, fat with hydrogen. They were a vigorous race and the universe was full of energy, but as they looked ahead, they saw nothing that resembled themselves and no mind that was similar. The bright, early stars died quickly and new generations of long living stars emerged from the death of these early stars, but to the Firstborn it was like a terrible abandonment. Looking ahead, they can only see an ever darkening universe, and realize that with every generation of stars, the rebirth of the next is more difficult. Despite their power, they are unable to change the fact that the day will come when the last of light flickers and dies. This realization causes an increasing madness where great wars are waged, and empires rise and fall. Sadly, it takes time for them to become wise enough to realize that their wars use up valuable energy reserves, further hastening their own demise. Now the Firstborn ones, who were born into an empty universe, had finally come to cherish life above all else. They become dedicated to the single purpose of preserving life, and with only the best of intentions they wait for new life to congeal itself out of the debris of the old, and in an effort at preservation, they understand that sometimes life must be destroyed to accomplish that end. Their new objective becomes the elimination of waste, so that even a single thread of awareness can be passed on to what they perceive as the furthest future. To that end, they work to eliminate all unnecessary disturbances, and remove all ripples from the stream of time.

Bisesa Dutt

Sent to observe the ground, Bisesa is a Mancunian from Manchester, England. Third generation British, she is a Lieutenant on her second mission in the year 2037 with the British Army and on assignment to the United Nations. Trained as a Combat Control Technician, Bisesa is a specialist at coordinating communications from ground to air during conflict. Her mission now is to pinpoint missile and air strikes from the ground. She has one daughter named Myra who is eight years old. Bisesa has a well proportioned, handsome face with a strong nose and square jaw. Her hair is worn short but is lustrous, and her eyes are clear. She has a strength and confidence that radiates from her physically and mentally.

Bisesa understands the problems associated with the knowledge of her time mixing with the growth and information given to the thirteenth century. She knows what the future of Rudyard Kipling is in her history, but is smart enough to know that she should not share too much of this knowledge with the young Rudyard. While the rest of her team is open and communicative, she withdraws, looking only for a way to return to her own time and the daughter that waits for her there. The most important thing she realizes as a result of earth's time stitching is that she lost what meant most to her in life and what she paid



least attention to while she could. Her desire to understand the Firstborn is rewarded as she is the only one who is granted the ability to return to her own time, and pick up the life she left behind.

Abdikadir Omar

An Afghan citizen, a Pashtun and a native of the North West Frontier, Abdikadir is a chief warrant officer by rank, and an admitted mujahideen. He has a strong face with a proud Roman nose and a fringe of a beard. His eyes are blue and he has strawberry blonde hair that earns him the nickname Ginger by the other British troops. He is a gentle man, who is civilized and approachable. He is one of the few Pashtuns to be on the UN's side, and as an Afghan finds he must defer to the Americans spending more time as a copilot than a pilot. Serious and focused, Abdikadir is a scientist at heart.

When time reorganizes itself, Abdikadir throws himself into understanding the eyes and what they are. The scientist in him is fascinated by the fact that these eyes do not obey the laws of the universe as we know them. Though the eyes are perfect, pi does not apply to them, and it is a riddle that intrigues him.

Joshua White

A journalist from the Boston Globe, Josh is stationed in the North West Frontier. At twenty three years of age, Josh feels like a veteran compared to Ruddy. He has unruly black hair. A small featured man, Josh shares a room with a young Rudyard Kipling. He thinks of himself as pug nosed, and his eyes are often bleary from the night before, despite the fact that he has learned to keep himself to beer.

Josh is warm and gentle, and his youthful passion is part of what draws Bisesa to him. When Bisesa announces that she has discovered how to return home, Josh realizes that he does not want to be without her. His feelings are so strong that he asks her to take him with her. His unconditional love is so great that when the Firstborn help Bisesa on her journey back to her own time, Josh goes halfway with her and then in a flash of understanding knows that he must return and allow Bisesa to continue on her own.

Rudyard Kipling

A journalist who writes for the Civil and Military Gazette and Pioneer from Lahore, Ruddy is stationed with Josh in the fort at Jamrud. He has an occasional passion for opium, but this seems to have little or no effect on this nineteen year old. Ruddy wears thick glasses for nearsightedness, and has a mustache that he pulls at absentmindedly. At the age of five, he had been sent to foster parents in Southsea to a place called Lorne Lodge. He considered himself to have been abandoned and took comfort from playing games like Robinson Crusoe with his sister. It is ironic to him that now he finds himself on a real journey of adventure starting with a trip to the North-West Frontier and then an unintended side trip to the Middle Ages.



He has a bristling manner, with a broad face and a defiant looking mustache. His forehead is wide, and he has a stiff and vigorous bearing that makes him appear to be closer to thirty-nine than his actual nineteen years of age. With an attitude of self importance, he is sometimes mocked by the soldiers, but they are fond of him as well, as he gives an air of eloquence to the area that they lack so far from home. He is unafraid of the prospect of war, and believes Josh's attitude that men may one day tire of war to assume the youthful naivety that he will one day outgrow.

Casey Othic

Chief warrant officer by rank, Casey is a short, bulky man. As prime pilot, he flies an observational helicopter. He has a broad jaw and is an Oikumen like his copilot, Abdikadir Omar. Casey has a forward attitude that is heavy with sexual innuendo, but can put all of that aside when his job requires his attention. He was born in Iowa in 2004, and is a jock and a Christian. Despite having his tail rotor hit by an RPG, Casey manages to level Little Bird out before reaching the ground and although the landing is tough, they all survive it.

Casey manages to communicate with the stranded space capsule, Soyuz and it is this communication that saves Alexander the Great and his people from a surprise attack led by Genghis Khan.

Sable Jones

The only American crew member of the Soyuz, Sable is somewhat coarse and is the closest thing to a passenger on the trip. Though trained on the ship's systems, it is mostly agreed that if she had been Russian and subject to the psychological tests each Russian cosmonaut must pass, she would never have made it onto the Soyuz. Forty years of age, Sable originates from a poor New Orleans family and her strength of character helped her to realize her dreams. While she carries a huge chip on her shoulder, she is resourceful and intelligent.

Landing amidst Genghis Khan and the Mongolians has a profound effect on Sable. She asserts herself, and convinces Khan that if he acts swiftly he can rule the world. As a result of her manipulations, Genghis Khan and his entourage march to Babylon intent on dominating all in his path. Dressed in leather armor with her hair tied back by a strip of bright orange Day-Glo, she marches into Babylon while Khan and Alexander are at war. She is finally stopped in Babylon by her own vanity when Bisesa finds her in the Temple of Marduk and suggests that the eye had been waiting for her. Distracted, Sable is overcome by Bisesa.

Anatole Konstantinovich Krivalapov (Koyla)

Communications cosmonaut aboard the Soyuz, Koyla is a man of conviction and great courage. When their capsule lands in Genghis Khan's encampment, it is his knowledge



of the Mongolians and their lifestyle that enables them to survive. Their capsule's captain Musa is beheaded moments after landing and thinking quickly Koyla has the presence of mind to insist they are Emissaries from Heaven. In doing so, he ensures they will not be killed. When he realizes that Sable is changing and he finds he does not trust her, he quietly assembles the ham radio and informs Casey of Khan's plan, giving him enough details that they are able to protect themselves. His treachery earns him a punishment worse than death. His eyes and ears are filled with hot molten silver and he is buried under the floor.

Wisely, Koyla knows about the Mongols and their punishment techniques. He secretes an explosive bolt and a simple trigger along with a pouch of water that allows him to survive three days before he senses the Khan's footfall above him and, using the explosive bolt, kills Khan. His bravery likely saves what remains of the civilized world.

Musa Khiromanovich Ivanov

A tough fifty year old veteran, Musa is the commander of Soyuz. He is competent and professional, and when Discontinuity causes disruptions in his communication with the ground, he remains calm. Orbiting the silent planet he draws on his training, and shows remarkable courage. When they are almost out of their meager supplies of food and water, he orchestrates a landing. While rough, the landing is good. His bravery continues when as the first one out of the capsule, he encounters Mongolians that are part of Genghis Khan's force. He is beheaded before he can offer any explanation of their appearance.

Captain Grove

Captain Grove is an intelligent leader who commands the British soldiers at Fort Jamrud in 1885. His open mind adjusts quickly to the concept of time and its fragmentation, supported by the appearance of the helicopter and its crew, and the capture of the bipeds, Seeker and Grasper. With foresight, he sends out scouting parties to investigate their surroundings, and when he receives news of another encampment, his first response is to make contact not war. Luckily, this encampment is the entourage of Alexander the Great, and as a like minded individual of similar intelligence, they combine resources and together make the pilgrimage to what seems to be the only other source of life—the city of Babylon. Captain Grove and his soldiers are instrumental in the defeat of Genghis Khan and his men, ensuring the world's progress instead of its domination by a tyrant.

Cecil de Morgan

Attracted to the fringe of civilization, Cecil is disapproved of by his officers, but maintains his popularity by supplying the men with beer, tobacco and even prostitutes. He also supplies occasional bags of Hashish for the officers, including Ruddy. Close to thirty years old, he is tall in stature but small in mind. Cecil is a fair weather man who



serves whatever master seems to be to his best advantage. He has no difficulty reporting his friend's conversations in an effort to gain favor with the newest regime, and quickly earns the distrust and disgust of his fellow travelers.

Alexander The Great

Alexander is short and stocky like most Macedonians. He has brown hair parted in the center and long enough to touch his shoulders. He is clean-shaved, and has a strong, broad face that is weather beaten red. He eyes are steady and piercing, and he holds his head tilted oddly a little to the left, making him resemble the Princess Diana. He wears a long sleeved tunic and a purple cloak inlaid and edged in gold with patterns of sunbursts and figures. He is an intelligent leader who understands that to lead requires respect not fear. When he is first approached by emissaries from Captain Grove's fort and the British soldiers, he is quick to understand the importance of collaboration of knowledge. By combining his resources and those of the British soldiers with the knowledge of the helicopter crew from the future, Alexander is able to save Babylon from Genghis Khan. His desire to build the world back up instead of control it and rule over it is what distinguishes him from Khan, and his success is largely due to this fact, and the assassination of Genghis Khan himself by Koyla.

Once Khan is dead, he renews his attempts to orchestrate peace by sending out another envoy despite the slaughter of the first envoy by Khan and his men. Once peace is again established, Alexander concentrates his efforts on exploration and mapping of this new world they are a part of. His ability to grasp the stitching of time and space allow him to understand and accept the loss of many of the cities he had known from before the Discontinuity.

Hephaistion

Alexander the Great's closest companion since they were boys, Hephaistion is a Macedonian who is taller than most. He has a long nose, with regular features set off by startling blue eyes. His hair is black and close cropped and he holds himself well, leaving no doubt that he is a warrior. Hephaistion has been Alexander's lover since adolescence, although the King has taken many wives, mistresses and other lovers, and is considered by the King to be his one true love of his life. As such, with a show of great faith, the King puts Hephaistion in charge of the army that is his advance group, making Hephaistion his "Chiliarch" or "Vizier" as he would be known in Persia. Hephaistion has the same deep love for the King, though taking many pages and other concubines to his bed while he and the King are apart.

Eumenes

The Royal Secretary to Alexander the Great, Eumenes is older than most of the King's close companions, and served King Phillip as well as his son King Alexander. From Cardia, Eumenes' career advances with King Alexander's. He is efficient, intelligent and



knows the value of political subtlety which earns him the King's undying confidence. He is ambitious, and builds a large fleet to sail down the Indus intending to open a new trade route.

Genghis Khan

A man of about sixty, Genghis Khan is not tall, but he is a commanding presence as an Emperor. He is of slim build, and fit stature, with a full and very Asiatic style face. There is only a trace of grey in his hair, and he sports a neatly trimmed beard. His eyes resemble those of a cat—black and unreadable. He is a violent and unsympathetic man who has little tolerance or use for weakness. Intent on world domination, he marches his army to Babylon, slaughtering all in his path on the way. A cruel and evil man, he rules by fear instead of by respect and love, and keeps his armies and tribes well mixed so that the only loyalties anyone is able to establish is to him.

His belief is the Gods and spirits from beyond are his eventual undoing. Instead of killing Koyla for communicating their situation in great detail to Casey and as a result to Alexander the Great, his superstition makes him punish Koyla in a different manner. Believing that Koyla is a Prince from heaven and an emissary of the Gods, he punishes his treachery by pouring molten silver into his eyes and ears instead, and then burying him under the floorboards. His ultimate mistake is made when he neglects to have Koyla searched first, as Koyla secretes an explosive bolt and a pouch of water and is buried with them. Koyla waits three days before he feels the vibrations coming from Khan's footfall above him before he detonates the explosive bolt, killing them both and likely ending the war between the two camps.

Yeh-lu Ch'u-ts'ai

An astrologer and adviser to Genghis Khan, Yeh-lu is patient and intelligent. He is a tall man who is of high enough station to merit servants. Yeh-lu is intelligent and uses all of his influence to gain information valuable to Khan, in an attempt to further his own status. Yeh-lu is a civilized man and is chief administrator of the empire. He was born in one of the neighboring nations and had originally been brought into the Mongolian camp as a prisoner, but his intelligence had enabled him to rise to the top in this new world of illiterates in a short time. Yeh-lu used books and medicines confiscated from raids into China as a model for their new state, and bragged that Chinese medicine and methods he had obtained were responsible for saving many lives during an epidemic in Mongolia.

Yeh-lu used his influence with the Khan to appeal to his higher ambitions, thereby moderating his cruelty. He had convinced the Khan not to slaughter the peoples of China for more pasture land for his horses by telling the Khan that the dead do not pay taxes. His ambition, long term, is to civilize the Mongolians by allowing the cultures they conquer to be assimilated into them. Yeh-lu has no problem accepting the concept that



the earth is a sphere, having long ago seen the curving profile of the Earth's shadow during a lunar eclipse and he is fascinated by Koyla and Sable's sketch of the earth.

Seeker

Seeker is an ape—one of a tribe of evolutionary intelligence. Though without language as we know it, Seeker walks upright with ease and is barely more than a meter in height. She has little fat and her dense black hair covers her slack skin. Her face is pulled forward in a muzzle, and she has short arms and legs. Though she looks much like a chimpanzee, her kind is already three million years farther in their development. Seeker is a true biped, her hips and pelvis resembling a human much more than any chimp. Seeker and her kind are smart enough to have fashioned a crudely crafted ax, allowing them to separate meat from bone and take it back to a safer place for consumption. She also has a spark of something more in her eyes. Seeker is aware, but wholly dependent on her ecology, and extremely sensitive to change. Despite this dependence, Seeker has more than just a simple animal's senses. Seeker looks at the stars at night, and is curious.

Her captivity by the soldiers, while terrifying at first, becomes part of her present. It is all she has, and her later freedom makes her afraid and hesitant. Aware of differences in the world, she finds that she misses the familiarity of the smells of cooking and the clattering of machines. When her cage is removed, she misses it, having adapted to her captivity.

Grasper

Seeker's infant, Grasper is her second child but her only surviving infant. Grasper is the name by which Seeker thinks of her daughter, although they have no real language, making the name more a description of her child than an actual title. Grasper is taken into captivity with her mother as a young infant, and as such, adapts to captivity much easier than Seeker does. She is quick to greet the soldiers that come to feed her, and her antics often are rewarded with scraps and treats that Seeker's more sullen attitude denies her. Grasper is curious like her mother, and is a biped—able to walk upright as well. An inspection by the Eye probes her mind and body, changing her and stirring her half-formed mind. She becomes a creature of potential as a result, and sees the world differently than before. Her freedom, while frightening her long captive mother, gives Grasper the ability to form thought without fear, and become more of a master of her own destiny.



Objects/Places

North West Frontier

The place where India meets Asia, this corridor runs northeast to southwest between mountain ranges to the north and the Indus to the south. It is the natural boundary of Indian dominion, but it is a hotbed of instability.

Jamrud

A fort originally built by the Sikhs, Jamrud is a sprawling construction of heavy stone walls and broad corner watchtowers located in the corridor of the North West Frontier populated by British soldiers in 1885.

Discontinuity

The moment at which time is discontinued as we know it. The term is used to describe the time slip caused by the Firstborn in a desperate attempt to save life as they know it.

Heliograph

Simple portable signaling devices which are primarily mirrors on foldaway tripods, a series of heliograph communication posts were set up around the hills between Jamrud and the Khyber and back towards Peshawar as well.

Sepoys

Name given to Indian Troopers in 1888.

Deka

A unit of infantrymen that typically contains sixteen men, a servant and a pack animal to carry its gear.

Firstborn

Name given to the beings responsible for the Discontinuity by those left behind. The Firstborn are almost as old as time itself, having been born on a planet around one of the first stars in existence. Despite all their powers, they are unable to pass beyond the reach of time, and they become aware that they are stranded and left to watch a slow



darkening of the skies as the fuel that powers the Galaxy slowly runs out. They cherish life above all else.

Soyuz

A Russian made ship, the Soyuz is a mostly automated capsule that resembles a green pepperpot with solar-cell wings stuck on the sides. From afar, it looks like an insect and, compared to the American ships, is clumsy and ungainly. Created during the Cold War age of Apollo, it had been made for journeys to the moon, but its workhorse style construction allowed it to remain in service for almost twice Koyla's lifetime.

Etemenanki

Translated, it means the house that is the foundation of Heaven and Earth, located in Babylon and more commonly referred to as the Tower of Babel.

Babylon

Babylon is the site of the battle between Genghis Khan and Alexander the Great. It is also where the largest eye is located, and where the second signal from earth that Soyuz picked up from its orbit is located. The signal emanates from the eye. Originally, the eastern half had housed the ceremonial and administrative portions while the western half had been full of tenements, plazas and markets but half of the city is "melted" in yet another interface during the Discontinuity.

Temple of Marduk

Temple located in Babylon that houses the largest eye and gateway in time. It is through this eye that Bisesa manages to return to her own time.

Eye of Marduk

Name given to the orb that hovers in the temple of Marduk. It is the gateway in time that Bisesa uses to get home.

Emissaries of Heaven

The name Koyla gives to himself and Sable when they address the Mongols who greet them at their capsule when it returns to earth. It is this name that keeps them from the same fate as Musa and allows them to travel with special dispensation in Genghis Khan's entourage.



Tengri

Given a divine mission long ago by a shaman, Genghis believes he is Tengri's representative on earth and has been sent to rule over all. Sable convinces Genghis that she is from his Tengri also by killing a mammoth before it reaches him during a ritual hunt and by the fact that they arrived in a capsule the way they did.

Quriltai

Name given to the Mongol's council of war.

The Boating Lake

Name given to describe the Mediterranean Sea and Alexander the Great's relationship to it by his advisors.

Biskek

Once the capital of Kyrgyzstan, the town is come upon by Genghis Khan and his Mongolian entourage. A town with metaled roads, streets lined with trees and containing some mills and factories, it is wiped out in a night time raid by the Mongols.

Tower of Babel

A tower in Babylon with a staircase on the south side. From the top, the river Euphrates can easily be seen, and the view of the entire city of Babylon is available. From the top, Bisesa, Josh and Ruddy join Eumenes and others as they view yet another interface. Half of the city appears to have been melted.

Battue

Name given to a mighty hunt organized by Genghis Khan to exercise his troops in maneuvering, and to teach the use of weapons and maintain discipline. Taking up to a week to organize, a Battue is a significant event.



Themes

Time vs Life

In an effort to salvage what is believed to be of utmost importance, the Firstborn cause earth's timeline to be fragmented. They do so because they believe that while not human themselves, there is nothing in the universe that is more important than life itself. Having watched the universe since very early time began, they came to appreciate that life is the most precious of all things. With unlimited knowledge and power, they watch as the universe evolves and all matter speeds further and further away from itself and everything else. They come to the conclusion that everything as they know it is merely "circling the drain." They recognize how fragile life of any kind is, and the knowledge that eventually there will be nothing causing a temporary madness to occur. They wage great wars against each other in frustration and in a lack of understanding. Finally, they come full circle in their thinking, once again placing life itself at the top of the priority list. As the universe ages, and life appears on earth, they watch with great curiosity while we grow and evolve. In the year 2037, something drastic is decided. A sampling is taken of mankind. The first born collect time fragments from early man, from the thirteen hundreds, from the late eighteen hundreds and so forth, and stitch together a new earth in an effort to salvage life while it still exists.

In doing so, the time stitching fragments the earth to such a great degree that weather patterns are violent, currents flow incorrectly and what little life remains on the planet must struggle to survive. The Firstborn keep two main armies in their fragments. One is from the time of Alexander the Great and the other is from Genghis Khan, but as both these men were intent on world domination, they would seem to be a poor choice to keep for the preservation of mankind. Each is bent on ruling the world to the destruction of all else if need be. As such, they come together inevitably and fight again, causing more casualties. Another byproduct of the stitching together of different time slots is the disappearance of birds almost altogether.

Genghis Khan vs Alexander the Great

Genghis Khan rules by iron. His control of his army is based on their fear of him, and they fight for and beside him because of the fear of reprisals if they do not. As Emperor, Khan sees everything as his personal property. The wealth of his plundering is carried around with him from one place to another, in what can best be described as a tent. Genghis Khan's main concern is conquering the world, and the quickest way to that end. As such, when offered the choice between going to Jamrud to learn more about the time shifting and others stranded as a result, or asserting himself at Babylon with an eye to conquering that city, Khan seeks to extend his rule to Babylon.

Alexander the Great is truly a King. Loved and respected by his vast army of followers, Alexander rules in a much different way than Khan. When Alexander arrives at an



encampment, his army and the traveling followers throw flowers in his path and cheer his arrival with unfeigned enthusiasm. While he also seeks to conquer the world, it is through exploration and understanding that he ventures forward. His traveling city is composed of many nations, and they all follow him happily and willingly. Given the choice between going to Babylon to conquer that city, or going to Jamrud to further understand the time shifts and those who are also caught up in it as he and his people are, he chooses knowledge over power, and heads to Jamrud.

Sable vs Bisesa

Sable had come from a New Orleans family and has a complicated genetic history. At forty years of age, she has strength of character and what has often been described as a chip on her shoulder. Ambitious, Sable wanted to reach the heights of her profession, and Koyla learned early to be wary of her. Early in her career, Sable learns to assert herself in a male dominated workplace, and has no hesitations asserting herself. When the Soyuz is left floating in space alone, she remains strong and uses her time to approach the problem logically. She uncovers the systems old ham radio, surmising that perhaps the ancient gear might be able to make contact where their complicated communication system might not. Once they have landed, Sable finds herself in an environment where women are considered all but inconsequential. Used and abused, women are alive merely to satisfy men's needs, cooking and cleaning and subjecting themselves to sexual conquests by the men in their proximity. Instead of adapting, Sable rises to the challenge. She is even more sure of herself, and where Koyla seeks to blend in with the new environment, Sable is forward and demanding. When one man tries to assert his dominance over her, she responds by breaking his leg in two places, quickly earning the grudging respect of the warriors around her. She even works her way into Genghis Khan's favor with a dangerous gambit, stepping in to shoot a mammoth that it was Khan's right to kill during a hunt. As a result, Khan calls her to his tent, and she further works her way into his favor by smearing herself with dung to make herself more attractive to Khan and then allowing him to mount her from behind. All these things are done to increase her power and position.

When Bisesa and her crew are shot down and they find themselves in Jamrud, Bisesa approaches her situation very differently. While also in the position of being the only woman among men who are used to dominating their female counterparts, Bisesa is at first reserved. No less intelligent than Sable, and in fact the ranking officer in the helicopter, she still watches and adjusts to her surroundings before asserting herself too much. Her thoughts are mainly concerned with historical documentation, and finding a way to return to her daughter in the year 2037. She takes the time to investigate the Jamrud eye, seeking ways to communicate with the Firstborn. She is also largely concerned with their effect on the past and how that might impact their own time. She is so responsible in this way that Bisesa will not even tell Ruddy about his place in history, and how he is remembered, for fear that this information somehow alters the future she know. While Sable is intent on finding a way to assert herself and control her environment, Bisesa seeks only to control how long she stays in the past, and

concentrates her efforts towards returning to her own time frame instead of finding a way to benefit from her unique knowledge of the time frame they are now thrust in.

Firstborn vs Earth's Gods

The Firstborn have been around since the very beginning of time. Long before humans inhabited the earth, the Firstborn lived on a planet that orbited one of the first stars of all. Though not even remotely human, they were of flesh and blood, and of great intelligence. In this energy fat and early universe, planets were scarce. The early stars burned bright but fast, and the Firstborn quickly realized the fate of the universe. They also understood that despite all of their powers, they were unable to circumvent the reach of time itself. They realize that there will come a day when there would not be enough fuel left in the Galaxy to manufacture another new start, and this knowledge causes an age of madness. War is fought, and lives are lost and many beautiful empires rise and then fall before they come to the inevitable conclusion that the future is cold and dark. They watch the earth for many years, and then using the machines that they had honed for a million years, they dedicated themselves to one new purpose. They set out to preserve life with the best of intentions.

Earthlings evolve believing in many different religions, but all are with the same basic tenet. There is an all powerful and wise being that cherishes life and looks down on us from a lofty height. Our God is merciful and patient, caring and wise beyond our understanding. There are many occasions where we simply put aside a catastrophic event as God's will and something we simply do not have the capacity to understand. We are willing to put our very lives in the hands of God and submit to God's will. With great power and strength, God has the ability to work miracles, and change lives. All of these attributes can also be ascribed to the Firstborn, and in fact, in this story one could easily be substituted for the other. Is Discontinuity the will of God, or the will of the Firstborn to save life, and could that not be a description of God?



Style

Point of View

Time's Eye is told from many perspectives, interspersed with dialog from many of the characters. When Earth's time is fragmented without warning, there are several groups that remain from varying time zones that are stitched together to cope with the fall out that follows. The people that now remain on the planet are cut off from everything they know, and find themselves centuries removed from their own time and circumstance. As such, we are given the story from the point of view of many of the characters, including even the bi-peds captured by the British soldiers. Still, the story is well told, and there is no difficulty following the different perspectives as the tale evolves. Time's Eye is mostly descriptive, interspersed with patches of dialog. The point of view shifts from one group to another as the story is told and each perspective is well thought out and examined. There are a great deal of varying cultures that make an interesting mix as the Earth fights for equilibrium in its new state. Concise and well written, it is the first book of a time odyssey that leaves the reader looking forward to the next one.

Setting

Time's Eye has many settings and is told from the perspective of several time periods. The story combines a helicopter crew and a space shuttle crew from the year 2037 with a British troop from the year 1885, and each group finds themselves thrust even further back in time to the thirteenth century where a battle between Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan ensues. We are taken from Earth's orbit in 2037 to Jamrud—a fort in the North-West Frontier where India meets Asia in 1885, and then to Babylon in the 13th century where the great battle between Ghenghis Khan and Alexander the Great is fought. From there, an exploration that begins in Alexandria will take some of the characters up the coast of Judea to Jerusalem and on to explore the new world created by the Discontinuity. The intrepid explorers find mammoths in Paris and saber-toothed cats in Rome's Colosseum. What they find little of is people. There are forests where none existed before, and the weather patterns continue to deteriorate in unusual ways. The fragments are many and the result is a kaleidoscope of cultures and peoples. The story ends where it begins, in the "present day" of Earth 2037, with the Firstborn keeping their "eyes" on all of it.

Language and Meaning

Though mostly written in English, there are many cultures and time zones involved in Time's Eye, exposing the reader to a broad cross section of history and circumstance. Time's Eye begins with the first bi-peds on the planet and their interpretation of their surroundings, and from there we are taken to technology, that exceeds what we know today, in the year 2037—involving phones that have communicative intelligence and



interactive ability. From there, the reader is taken to 1885 and the British fort of Jamrud where words like "puttees" and "tommies" are mixed with the language of the 72nd division of the Highlanders. Gurkhas and Sikhs outnumber the British, called "sepoys"; their language is also used in short phrasing and descriptives. Just outside of the fort of Jamrud is where the helicopter crew from 2037 crash lands, and the British soldiers must adapt to that and to the bi-peds caught by one of their patrols. The British commander, Captain Grove, is quick to send out scouting parties that return with information that another encampment has been found. This is the encampment of Alexander the Great, and their addition brings with it customs from the Iron Age. Macedonian garb and weaponry is used in descriptive phrases like sarissa, meaning iron tipped spear, and their travel is conducted in open tents with an army that has been in the field for more than five years.

When the capsule Soyuz lands, it is in the encampment of the Macedonians and their leader Genghis Khan. Many of the descriptions there include yurts as their mobile tents, and the word yam describes the system of routes and waystations the Mongols used to change horses enabling them with fast communications. A courier could travel up to three hundred kilometers a day in this manner. The transitions in time and cultures force some of the characters to rely on French or Greek to communicate with the warriors and nomads they had only heard about or read in history books in their own time.

Structure

Time's Eye by Arthur C. Clarke is divided into six parts. Each section is structured to take the reader on a journey in time. Part one deals with a discontinuity that leaves several groups stranded in unfamiliar circumstances and time zones, cut off from everything they know. In the second part, we are introduced to the cosmonauts also caught in the discontinuity of time. Cut off from their landing crew, the ship Soyuz orbits the earth, unable to reach anyone else and reluctant to land without ground communications of some kind. They document the changes obvious from the air and speculate as to their meaning. During this time, the remaining people on the ground are thrust together in random events while large "eyes," seemingly unsupported by anything, hang in the air and observe. Part three deals with encounters between groups from very different time zones, and the alliances they form to survive. The cosmonauts land after managing to contact the pilots of a downed helicopter, but unable to predict their landing with accuracy, they find themselves thrust into still another encampment with none other than Genghis Khan.

The helicopter pilots from the cosmonauts' time frame are dealing with their own struggles as they try to explain what they believe to be their plight to a Captain from the 1880's. These allegiances are further complicated when the Captain sends out scouting parties who come across yet another encampment, this one ruled by Alexander the Great. Alexander the Great is an intelligent leader, who understands the value of alliances with these strangers from the future, and he returns to their fort at Jamrud to communicate further with their leader and perhaps better understand what is happening. In part four, the confluence of history occurs when all of these groups, for



very different reasons, make their way to yet another populated area in Babylon. Genghis Khan is looking for total domination, but of the two cosmonauts that survive, one disagrees with his approach, and warns Alexander the Great via the helicopter crew and their radio. The result is a battle that changes history.

Part five explores the new world. The earth is a very different place for all still on it, and the castaways from 2037 rename the planet Mir. Five years have passed since the discontinuity, and while some adapt to their new world, one of the helicopter pilots cannot. Bisesa is determined to find her way home to her time zone where her young daughter still waits. After spending a great deal of time with the largest "eye" in Babylon, she determines that a return is possible, and will not rest until she manages it. A young journalist has fallen for her to such a degree that he is ready to abandon Babylon and go with her to the future. Time's eye will only permit a glimpse for him though. He travels half way to her time and is then returned to Babylon and his friends while she finds herself waking at home without so much as having missed a day in time there, bringing the entire story full circle once more.



Quotes

"You see? There's really no possibility of anything holding it up, no invisible wire or glass rod, however contorted." Chapter 3, p. 19.

Cecil de Morgan to Josh and Ruddy as they first investigate the eye of Jamrud.

"Or perhaps one day, men will put aside war as a growing child sets aside the toys of his nursery." Chapter 3, p. 23.

Josh to Ruddy regarding the constant conflicts of men.

"It's okay for you to talk. I've been lobotomized." Chapter 4, p. 30.

Bisesa's phone to her when she tries to console it after it loses its signal.

"I was right—the Russians—the blessed Russians!..." Chapter 4, p. 34.

Rudyard Kipling to Josh White when the helicopter lands near Jamrud.

"Tell me you potato farmers haven't fouled up again." Chapter 5, p. 39.

Sable to Koyla and Musa as they are affected by the Discontinuity and lose contact with the ground.

"I can't see how we can be harmed by allowing the destruction of what I don't understand anyhow." Chapter 9, p. 57.

Captain Grove in response to Casey's desire to wipe the memory on the helicopter as is protocol.

"An almost arrogant display of geometrical perfection." Chapter 10, p. 71.

Cicel de Morgan referring to what Abdikadir has discovered about the eye at Jamrud's fort.

"The time slices presumably extend up from the surface of the Earth, and down at least some distance to its center—maybe all the way." Chapter 14, p. 108.

Casey trying to explain the realities of the time patches that are stirring up the violent weather patterns.

"I said we were emissaries. Emissaries of Eternal Heaven. If they believe it, they will have to treat us with respect. Hand us over to local officials, maybe." Chapter 18, p. 130.

Koyla to the Sable after the Mongolians cut off Musa's head. In a desperate attempt to ensure their survival, Koyla tells the Mongolians they are emissaries of heaven.

"This is the age when the world is built. That's our opportunity. And we must tell the future what we did, how we did it and why..." Chapter 27, p. 214.

Rudyard Kipling to Josh as they march towards Babylon.

"I believed I was coming to terms with the strangeness of the faults in time which afflict us. But to see this—the face of a city rubbed away into sand, the weight of a thousand years descended in a heartbeat—" Chapter 29, p. 227.



Eumenes to Abdikadir and Bisesa through translating Cecil de Morgan after witnessing the destruction of half of the city of Babylon.

"You know there's only going to be one verdict. I tried to plead your case. I said you were a prince, a prince of Heaven. They'll be lenient. They don't spill royal blood—" Chapter 33, p. 243.

Sable to Koyla after he was caught transmitting information to Casey via the ham radio brought along from the Soyuz capsule about Genghis Khan's intentions to raid Babylon.

"We could hear this thing's signal from orbit. Whatever's going on here, this is the key—to past, present and future—" Chapter 35, p. 272.

Sable to Bisesa when they confront each other in the Temple of Marduk.

"I've never been switched off before. Do you think I will dream?" Chapter 38, p. 290. Bisesa's phone to her just before she is forced to put it in safe mode to preserve the knowledge in it.

"Space and time were ruptured during the Discontinuity—ruptured and put back together again." Chapter 39, p. 295.

Bisesa to Abdikadir and Josh as she tries to explain her understanding of the Discontinuity.

"Have you seen the way the Eye in the cage has been experimenting with the man-apes? They run around that damn net like rats with wires in their heads." Chapter 39, p. 297.

Bisesa to Abdikadir and Josh explaining the Eye and her perceptions of its creators.

"But—mammoths in Paris! Saber-toothed cats in the Colosseum of Rome! Mir is a bringing-together of fragments, but so is a kaleidoscope, and its effect is beautiful." Chapter 40, p. 303.

Josh's response to Bisesa and her outlook on the Discontinuity.

"I start to understand. You believe that you have some access to this control panel. That you can influence the Eye. And that is what scares you." Chapter 41, p. 310.

Abdikadir to Bisesa when she tries to explain her perceptions of the Eye of Marduk.

"They are not gods. They are of this universe—they were born of it, as we were. But they are old—terribly old, old beyond our imagining." Chapter 42, p. 315.

Bisesa to Josh on their last night.

"We were the last to be sampled. Doesn't that seem strange to you? Why would a two-million-year history project end with us?" Chapter 42, p. 317.

Bisesa's speculations to Abdikadir and Josh on their last night together.

"We were all pitched together into this fractured new world. There was great suspicion, even incomprehension, between our various parties—and the three of you from the twenty-first century were the fewest and most isolated of all. We have become an



unlikely family." Chapter 42, p. 319.
Eumenes to Bisesa as he says goodbye to her.

"We've already come further than I could have dreamed possible." Chapter 45, p. 332.
Josh to Bisesa as he realizes that she will be going on without him.



Topics for Discussion

What is the Discontinuity and who is responsible for it? What was its purpose?

Who are the two most powerful forces remaining after the Discontinuity? They are both drawn to the same place. Where is that place, and why were each drawn there?

Bisesa is unwilling to tell Ruddy anything about his future as she knows it. Why? What are the possible consequences in her mind and are her fears legitimate?

What do the Firstborn come to realize in the end and what do they do about it?

After their initial landing, several things change in Sable. What are they, and what are the consequences of these changes? Who tries to stop her and how, and what are the results of these actions?

What are the most obvious things missing after the Discontinuity? Speculate as to why so few of them remain?

What are the consequences of the Firstborns' actions on the earth, and how are they monitored?

One person cannot adjust to life after the Discontinuity? Who is it? How does this person cope, and what are the consequences?

Why does Genghis Khan not succeed in his plans to conquer the new world?

Why was Koyla punished? What is his punishment and how does he respond?

What are the similarities between the Firstborn and God? Discuss the differences.

How does Bisesa explain the Discontinuity and how it occurred?

How are Grasper and Seeker affected differently by the Firstborn's probings? Speculate as to the outcome of this difference.

What speculations are made about the future of Mir as a result of the Discontinuity and why?

What does Bisesa discover on her return trip to her own time? Speculate as to the reasons she is shown this.