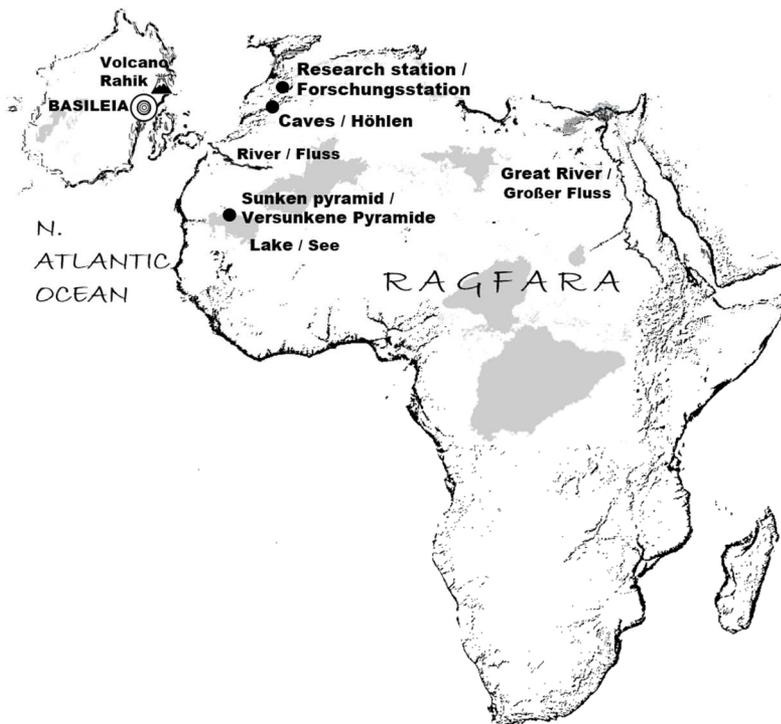


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Long Ago And Forgotten



*Ragfara and the east coast of Atlantis
(39,000 BC)*

*They didn't know that one day
it would be Science Fiction.*

The *manujas*, descendants of a highly advanced civilization, share the same habitat with humans around the planet they call *Achala*. A harsh climate in the northern hemisphere and huge ice masses dominate the seas and land areas. As natural disasters worsen living conditions and the magnetic field goes haywire, the *manujas* realize how dependent they have become on energy. They have been using the knowledge of their ancestors, the *Old Masters*, for

generations without developing it significantly. The problems require urgent action. Hardly anyone still has ancient wisdom of the universe and the technology for survival.

It is also unclear why fewer masters reach high levels of education. Some people suspect the negative development has something to do with their way of life. Finally, dark forces are taking advantage of the situation and trying to increase their influence among the people.

Mhia, the daughter of the proconsul of *Basileia*, is an exception among her peers. Particularly clever and endowed with social intelligence, she is given a particular task. A secret organization seems to be pulling the strings. Mhia and a few of her friends eventually embark on a risky journey to find the source of ancient knowledge and uncover its secrets. Their goal is to preserve the storehouse of wisdom of their ancestors for future generations.

The changing relationship between humans and manujas over time could seriously alter the course of history.

Anna has already heard about some of the adventures described here, which the manujas experienced 41,000 years earlier. She has learned much about ancient cultures and their spiritual life during special training.

The fact that many contemporaries classify her as highly gifted does not make life easy. Anna soon learns it is dangerous to know certain things about human history.

Going to museums today, we sometimes find exhibits called artifacts, which are often just marked PURPOSE UNKNOWN. Most people are like you and me. But some of us are beginning to see and feel the intangible stories these artifacts can tell us.

Δ

Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past.

George Orwell

1 - Indications

Berlin, Germany, June 2019

The station was unusually empty on this Tuesday morning. Anna had her backpack on and walked one step ahead of her mother and younger brother. She was excited because today, the television recording for a casting music show would take place in Berlin Adlershof.

Only two hours left, and mother is calm as if we would go shopping, ran through her mind. Nervously, she looked at the cell phone for the umpteenth time.

Anna had been practicing songs for weeks, and there was no reason to fear her performance. Mother knew this and was also happy about the chance the successful casting offered her child. As before every exam, she would manage her excitement today with special autogenic training.

Music was not her only hobby. She was classified as highly gifted, although the officially conducted tests had yielded very different results. She graduated high school at twelve and then began studying at the conservatory. Although the theoretical education focused on subjects such as music pedagogy, composition and harmony, she also enjoyed mathematics and physics on the side. These were already among her favorite topics during her school years.

When Anna reviewed something, she did so with extraordinary ambition. It was exhausting for the rest of the family. Especially in the last years, new interests were added, and her parents tried to encourage her as much as possible. Sometimes it was difficult for the parents to follow the complicated topics or to find adequate conversation partners for the lively child.

Anna's trip to Berlin didn't really fit into the schedule. She had enrolled in more courses than could be managed simultaneously. Days off were rare. She could have finished her music studies long

ago if it weren't for various exciting courses at the University of Freiburg. There, she took part in test series and special courses for two years, where an international team of scientists examined and trained young people with extraordinary abilities. Those responsible tried to avoid the term experiment. A lousy image or adverse press reports could quickly lead to a lack of sponsors. Therefore, there were strict language and secrecy rules for the lab staff and test subjects.

After the upcoming tests, it was to be decided whether Anna would receive special additional training in Freiburg or elsewhere in the world. There she could learn to use her gift purposefully and also professionally. She could communicate telepathically with other people. This gift was even more pronounced in some of the same-aged members of her test group, but Anna had some peculiarities in her physique. The temporal region in the cerebrum and the pineal gland in the diencephalon were more active and somewhat more developed than usual in humans. Her body size was also slightly above average.

At age 14, Anna could participate in the tests and training without her parents' consent. Her supervising physician felt that the best results are achieved when training begins at age two. Many lost their extraordinary abilities when they grew up. However, a natural explanation for this has not yet been found.

This doctor and private lecturer, with whom Anna had regular dealings in Freiburg, differed from most there. He had lived in Asia for years and could read Sanskrit fluently. He spoke openly to everyone about how more scientific knowledge could be found in the Indian Vedas than in all the Western textbooks combined. According to tradition, the Vedas were once composed by Brahma as verses and transmitted orally to humankind through chanting. Much later, the texts were written down. Modern science began to reinterpret the ancient scriptures, of which little has been translated. Vedas translated did not mean belief but knowledge. Although the writings were included in the list of intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO in 2008, they were still considered secret knowledge in India. Yet, in Asia, people have been much

more open to alternative ways of thinking. Some researchers began to suspect that the Western attitude could soon lead to a dead end. The excessive use of resources had already left traces of devastation.

At age six, Anna noticed that others had a problem openly addressing extraordinary things. Deviations from Western philosophy, with its worldly way of thinking, often led to societal segregation. During the past centuries, everyone became an outsider and often hindered in their career as soon as they deviated too much from religious principles and respectively correct doctrines. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, materialism developed into a parallel dogma. Thus, instead of dismantling old regulations, it had merely established a new, competing doctrine in many parts of the world.

At Freiburg University, Anna's father learned from conversations with lecturers that some funding came from unknown private sources. It was also not always clear where some specialists came from. Paranormal research still had the reputation of being a pseudoscience with esoteric roots. That was what bothered Anna and her parents the most. Who wanted to be called a charlatan, a crank or something similar?

The song lyrics didn't give Anna any trouble. She learned earworms by heart just from listening to the radio. Playing the melodies on her keyboard was also part of it.

Sometimes she noticed disharmony in the music and learned that, in most cases, this was intentional. Just as with harmonies, inevitable disruptions could create specific moods in the listener.

Whether a song became a hit often depended on what the sound of the notes caused in the brain. At the latest, since she occupied herself with physics, particularly *quantum fields* and oscillations, it was clear that the entire planet and probably all remaining cosmic objects were in a gigantic oscillation system. Some claimed that this system is subject to cyclic fluctuations. This should have to do with the force relations and the spiral movements of stars and planets. Too gladly, she would know what it has to do with the

mysterious *scalar waves*. Thousands of pyramids and megalithic stone structures worldwide emit this kind of wave. Officially, research on this was not funded. This made it difficult for privately funded scientists to get permits on-site. Of the best-known sites, she had only been able to visit Stonehenge in England and Carnac in France. At such places, she felt a change in her body each time. Later, she sometimes remembered details that she had not noticed on the spot. But the most fantastic impression was left by the realization that she always felt at ease in such energetic places. Almost as if it were home.

Once, they were in the far north of Scotland to visit an uncle. Her father's twin brother knew of Anna's interest in Stone Age sites, and they went to Skara Brae to see an excavated settlement. The uncle had taken over a private stone collection from the father after he ran out of room for it. Because Anna was interested in an egg-shaped stone with a strange engraving, she was given it as a gift. The surface was decorated with spirals and characters that resembled Celtic runes. One side of the stone showed discoloration, perhaps from contact with a chemical.

One could find pictures of similar stones on the Internet. Such engravings were common in Scotland and Costa Rica. Similar, only much more extensive, was also found in European Bosnia and Herzegovina, including perfect spheres. The uncle pointed Anna to videos on the Internet showing something like this, with diameters ranging from four centimeters to one and a half meters. About the age and the purpose of use, there were only speculations so far.

Next fall, she was finally going to Egypt to be near the Great Pyramid. Somehow she always had an insane longing for Egypt.

Her parents were happy that Anna also had an ordinary talent and hobby in music. At least, they thought so until that evening.

Three minutes to go. A digital display counted down the remaining time until Anna was to enter the stage. Twenty minutes earlier, she was still in self-hypnosis and had a regular pulse afterward. Stupidly, she had to give a short interview before the

performance. The nervousness of the moderator then radiated back to her.

Her title should be something special, so she chose her own version of a current hit and accompanied herself on the keyboard. At the dress rehearsal, everything had worked. As strange as it may sound, Anna would have preferred it if a little had gone wrong. She was superstitious about some things. This included a little tic, according to which she imagined that a mishap happened after every successful run-through.

A quick glance at mother, standing at the side of the stage with her brother, gave a bit of assurance. All eyes were staring at Anna, waiting for the performance.

Something essential was different from the final rehearsal: her talisman. The engraved stone hung in a small cloth bag around her neck.

The ticking of the baton could be heard, and Anna began to play the intro on the keyboard. For a moment, she had forgotten that a jury was also sitting there, on whose decision everything depended. The voice kicked in, and as she approached the first pre-chorus, the whole body was deeply immersed in the story the song was telling. The song's lyrics were changed a bit to better fit her life.

As the mood reached another peak in the second chorus, she seemed weightless for a brief moment. Nothing, not even the studio, seemed realistic to her. Anna knew these moments when voice, fingers and the rest of the body worked as if automatically. She had no control over it. The vibrato in the voice transmitted from her head to her toes, and it was an explosion of feeling as if text, music and body had become one.

Anna did not notice that something completely crazy was happening in the audience. The longer she sang, the quieter it became in the rows of seats. When the music faded, it remained dead silent for a few seconds. Only hesitantly did the applause begin. Then unrest arose. Some of the audience had slumped in their seats and stopped moving. Cries for help from frightened people echoed through the studio as they saw motionless people

sitting next to them. Studio employees rushed over and tried to help. Everything seemed to amount to chaos.

What had happened?

After a few bars, all the jurors had already decided in favor of Anna. Now they also made a helpless impression. Instead of waiting for the jury's verdict, Anna ran off the stage. Tears ran down her face, which she tried to hide with her hands.

As a bony hand was placed on the girl's shoulder, warmth flooded her body. Anna heard an older man say, "It's all right. No one is hurt."

Mother was equally distraught and asked the tall older man, "But what just happened here?"

The man leaned down to Anna and said, "You have created moods with your own harmonies, which cause trance-like states in some people. They will recover quickly and then won't even know what happened."

Anna sobbed, "O k a y... but I didn't want people to fall asleep during my performance."

After wiping her face dry, she looked at him more closely, "I know you from somewhere. Is it possible that I've seen you in Freiburg?"

"Possible. I'm a psychotherapist in charge of another group of subjects in Freiburg. Frankly, I came here today to see you."

"Why?"

"I've read the test reports. Many years ago, I mentored a young woman who was like you. Something similar happened to her when speaking to a large crowd during a lecture."

"What is she doing today?"

"I don't know. The last time we met, she was starting a career with an American investor. Twice we met because she wanted my advice. Last time, she said the problem got under control now. We hadn't contacted since."

"Am I crazy?"

"Yes, completely crazy. And that's probably why so many people love you," the man said, and everyone laughed.

With this performance, Anna's music career was over for the time being. The station had not broadcast this part of the recording. Not even cell phone videos of the event could be found on social networks.

In the following months, Anna received special training in preparation for an upcoming exam. Some of her instructors called themselves masters and came from worldwide. But they all had one thing in common: they studied Buddhism and Tibet's even older *Bon religion*. This religion returned to the Buddha Shenrab Miwoche, whose lifetime is said to have been 18,000 BC. Buddha Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism, is said to have been born as his incarnation in 563 BC. None of these lecturers gave details about what they were taught in Tibet. Only in general, it was always said that the answer to why people and nations are so divided and intolerant could be found there. It sounded strange to hear that in Tibet, there was that child who resulted from a male and female union in this world. Anna only learned so far that this would be revealed to her shortly.

It was only a few months until the exam, with which she could receive the eleventh degree of training. She had been trying to figure out how this test would go. The masters always told her the same thing. The examination should take place when she feels ready for it. As to the contents of the test, they said that the eleventh degree included the science fundamentals. Another part was her ability to use her body and mind for the common good. Somewhat casually, it was mentioned once that this also included controlling one's own fear. She suspected this had something to do with the Freemasons for a while. They were known to hold such rituals and had a system of training up to the thirty-third degree. Then she read a lot on the subject and learned from a historian at the university that Freemasonry had nothing in common with what she learned and how she was taught. Their lived rituals would also not have much in common with the actual knowledge based on which the Freemasons were once founded. The historian believed that most things had been falsified or lost over the centuries. Especially in the Anglo-Saxon area, men in lodges and grand lodges shared arch-

conservative views. In these circles, not even the free exchange of ideas would be allowed for quite some time. This Order's increasing separation from the ordinary people's spirit could be due to this.

Then Anna finally became aware that the basic ideas of the Freemasons, originally from Egypt, including knowledge and rituals, had now lost something fundamental; the female component. This violated natural laws such as duality. Free thinking, open discussions, and the ability to think with the heart all disappeared over time.



Basileia in Atlantis, summer in the year 410,360 (Chronology of the manujas)

Although the fifteen-year-old Mhia didn't usually let herself be woken up when she meditated before going to bed, something must have woken her up today. Perhaps *Rahik* was rumbling again, a small volcano north of *Basileia*. For days, residents had been talking about nothing else.

Atlantis was now only a group of large and small islands. Actually, one could no longer speak of a continent. The east of the once vast mainland in the northern Atlantic rose more and more out of the sea. In the west, where there used to be a mainland, there was only a shallow sea with many small islands. At that point, the ground had been sinking for a long time until it was finally underwater. There was no place on this planet where the landscape changed so much within a few years.

Before Mhia opened her eyes, she tried again to find her way back to her last dream. She couldn't get one question out of her head: *is it just imagination, or does so much change simultaneously?*

After the telepathic exchange with her meditation partner MhiaKha, she thought about the future the same night. It was always exciting stories that he could tell. Also, any form of questions was possible. All *manujas* got a *mentor* as a meditation partner in their early youth. This mentor existed only in a subtle world and accompanied them as long as they both wished.

This relationship had a decisive advantage. The child was allowed to develop without being steered in a predetermined direction by the parents. After a certain age of the child, the parent's education should be limited to nurturing their talents. A *manuja* could *telepathically* connect with other beings in various ways. Children have already learned the basic rules of meditation and the ability to disconnect their minds from external stimuli. This made it possible to concentrate on one's own body. In the second stage, they learned to hypnotize themselves and bring them back to the waking state. The decisive factor for targeted telepathic contact was the mastery of the trance state. The vibrations of the brain were adjusted to the frequency of the interlocutor. The trance state could also be used for more complex things than communication. However, Mhia was not yet initiated into this knowledge.

Some mastered *telepathy* even without meditation and self-hypnosis. It depended on the affection of the contact partners, the environment, and the practice. The relationship between the *Manujas* and their mentors did not always work smoothly. Sometimes the sympathy was not there.

Mentors were also called guardian spirits or light spirits. If *manuja* and his mentor did not find each other alone, a meditation teacher could help. These helpers were called *masters* because they reached the highest levels of education among the people.

Some of what Mhia learned from her mentor MhiaKha she did not yet understand. But the more they talked, the deeper she immersed herself in his world and began imagining an existence without a body and solid materials. She could confide in him things that otherwise seemed taboo with her friends. Mhia's mother once said that she had to learn to limit her meditation time. A relationship with a charismatic personality, whether flesh and

blood or ethereal, could bring dangers. Focusing on a single person might distort one's view of the rest of the world and also make one dependent on that person.

Her mother spoke from personal experience that a relationship with an ethereal being could not replace visual and physical contact. On the contrary, adolescents should become skilled in everything, including body language and voice. Otherwise, they would not learn to sense other beings' radiation and energy fields. This began with the body heat and went over brain waves to the aura. All this a normal manuja could perceive only through personal contact. Her mother had also repeatedly emphasized that empathy ability was essential for the survival of species living in groups.

Mhia sometimes worried about whether she was paying enough attention to all her friends. Today, however, she was preoccupied with something else. MhiaKha regularly asked her even banal things that such an intelligent being should know. Today he wanted to understand how the energy for the many technical apparatuses, heaters and vehicles was produced by the manujas. She thought this had been explained before to him. But now she realized that not much had been taught in class about the energy balance of her planet.

When Mhia dreamed, she sometimes felt like a being from the *aka*, the subtle world. Everybody was surrounded by an aura, and the entire material world was permeated by this aura. The manujas believed they could travel between the ethereal and the materialized world. This idea came from the inhabitants of the Eastern Hemisphere, the *Yellow Land*. This theory has been interpreted in different ways over time. In any case, contact with ethereal beings was part of everyday life for manujas. The prerequisite, however, was to live according to spiritual rules.

Sometimes Mhia pondered where all the things MhiaKha talked about could even be. His world seemed as natural as hers. He could describe beautiful things that existed only in his thoughts and the *aka*. These were fantastic landscapes on foreign planets with a colorful world of plants and animals. This is how it should have

looked once on the planet of his own ancestors. He could describe other beings precisely, even if he never had direct contact with them. The beings in the aka exchanged these experiences with each other and thus continued to learn. However, new knowledge about the material world they could collect is only about the mental exchange with beings from exactly this material world. In this sense, it was a true symbiosis, as each side benefited from the other world. How this functioned, Mhia did not understand yet correctly. For such questions, actually, one of the masters would be there. But he would undoubtedly have wanted to know details of her conversations with MhiaKha, which made her a little uncomfortable. After all, she also exchanged private topics with him to get advice on everything.

After getting up, Mhia felt good. Sitting in front of the mirror, she looked at her reddish-blond hair and thought about whether long black hair would suit her. Almost all the human girls in the neighboring village wore their hair like that. She liked her hair only very short because the stubborn curls on the long back of her head always stood out so strangely. Most manujas loved and wore headdresses made of cloth to protect their sensitive, fair skin from the sun. Mhia's father seemed to be an exception. Although bald, he rarely wore anything on his head.

Ending the morning beauty discussion with her reflection in the mirror, she wrapped her colorful shawl around her again today and put on a wide light coat.

"Did you feel that too?" Mhia heard her cousin ask at the end of the large breakfast table. Because the mother was away for a long time, the children of the neighboring relatives often dined together in this house because there was the most space. At the same time, the older children could keep an eye on the younger ones.

There it was again, that rumbling in the distance. Her brother Rhe was sitting opposite her today for once. Perhaps he had thought up something crazy again and needed Mhia's advice. And so it was.

"Dad said the new power towers will be ready before the old power supply collapses. He said the work will take longer because of all the quakes, but everything is still on schedule."

Then he leaned forward a bit toward Mhia and whispered, "Does MhiaKha perhaps know what's going on? RheKha doesn't seem to get anything I ask her. She keeps dodging these questions."

RheKha, Rhes' *mentor*, always answered everything very patiently. However, she did not know everything, and sometimes she promised to ask her companions about it later. After the meditations, Rhe was often dissatisfied. Probably, he was too lively to follow the detailed and sometimes very flowery explanations of RheKha.

"I will ask him when he has time for me," Mhia answered her brother. "By the way, I went to the village yesterday and talked to Set and Pia. The humans are scared because of the volcano and think the guardian spirits are upset because of the huge construction sites along the coast."

"You know that Dad doesn't take kindly to you seeking advice from the humans. They are full of superstition and have little knowledge about our projects and the technology of the *Old Masters*."

Mhia whispered, "I'm not sure if any manujas today understand everything that the Old Masters have left us. Perhaps papa fears that people may believe that the gods are no longer favorable to us and that the manujas may lose some of their power as a result."

"Mhia, this is all nonsense. We should first research the reason for the power outages and why the old power towers are no longer working properly. We'll have to find out for ourselves."

With this, Rhe also indicated that he wanted to end the topic for now.



Since the last full moon, the City Council has met in its annual session. The main topic was the discussion of current and future

projects. According to the rules, this had to be completed and submitted to the *Terra Atla* World Council within one month. So there were only two weeks left. Terra Atla was the global empire of the manujas and consisted mainly of the remaining islands of the continent Atlantis with the capital *Basileia*. There was also the seat of the world government. According to common belief, the first civilization on this planet arose before the Old Masters on a continent far to the east.

Parallel to the annual meeting, the new election of the city council took place this year, which made some members nervous. Since the last meeting, many questions have remained unanswered, and the energy supply problem was not solved. On the contrary, it was unclear why the energy network was malfunctioning irregularly. Although the new towers were already under construction, no one knew whether they would then function better than the several thousand-year-old constructions. Experiments with smaller models had already shown success, but that was different from a global grid. The first goal was to build a new ring of towers around the planet. The locations were critical to the function of the entire system. Each energy tower had to be able to be flooded with water.

Basileia experienced regular flooding due to the tidal currents of the Atlantic Ocean. The new power plant sites were to be located somewhat closer to the equator of the land mass. There, where a balance existed between the land masses of the northern and southern hemispheres. Here, the landmass distribution was as decisive as the thickness of the planet's crust. Since the planet was in the middle of an ice age, the ice masses had a significant impact. Because of all these changes, the towers no longer had ideal locations. This was now to be corrected, although scientists agreed that this shift could not be the cause of the current disturbances. Scientists also argued about which projections for the future should be considered.

All Manuja cities were connected to the global energy grid. The ring-shaped structure of Basileia was unique. However, no one knew precisely why this shape was once chosen. According to

legends, Basileia was not the first city of the Old Masters. But where the older cities existed at that time was not known.

Originally, Basileia was located directly on the sea. Over time, the coastal area rose. The canal with the harbor entrance connected all three ring canals and had to be extended again and again.

In the meantime, the original buildings no longer existed. They were changed several times, damaged by quakes and later rebuilt massively. However, the ring structure with its three water channels was always maintained.

The system was not arranged in this way by chance. The central circular part was dominated by a stone tower. Like all large buildings, this tower had a foundation that reached deep into the ground. The foundations were cast from crushed rock into huge ashlar or cut from the rock in blocks. The masonry structures built on top of them were usually also made of rock.

An essential feature of all foundations and walls was that each stone had a slightly different size and often a different shape. Nevertheless, the stones were joined together without gaps. Jointing material was used only to seal the walls against water. This allowed the stones to move slightly during earthquakes but always slid back into their original position afterward. This construction method was able to protect against collapse for thousands of years and was even resistant to sonic weapons. Due to the different shapes of the stones, the sound waves broke, and no destructive resonances could occur.

The central tower consisted of 216 stone courses, each one *meh* high, with a top clad in precious metals. The unit *meh* was also known among the people as the *royal cubit*. In the circular center of the city was another building made of massive stone blocks. Several large granite containers had been used in the past for ceremonial acts. In the meantime, they served only to store apparatus whose purpose was unknown.

The inner city core was surrounded by walls. The shape and material of the buildings influenced the bundling of the lines of force and energy flows. The various metals with which the walls

were sheathed also minimized the undesirable electrostatic effects during energy transmission.

Around the city's center ran the inner ring canal flooded with water. Under the surface of the adjoining second ring of land were some research facilities, the seat of government, spiritual sites and technical facilities, such as water treatment. A few old harbor facilities on this land ring could still be found. The third land ring included recreational facilities and sports fields. Since that ring no longer offered space for the residential areas, residential houses already existed along the channel that led to the sea.



After a meal break, the council members slowly gathered in the meditation hall. Mhia's father, Thom, was proconsul of Basileia and responsible for the entire administration. In addition, he had himself regularly informed about the ongoing projects before these reports were forwarded to the king and the Senate. Thom was talking to two female manujas and asked, "Why haven't the employees from the Energy Institute contacted us anymore? They were going to tell us the measurement results of the experiment this morning."

He meant the experiment from the big project started a few months earlier. It was about the cause of the disturbances in the information and energy network. The study was to transmit data using a new method.

Thom turned to one of his assistants and said, "Someone goes to the institute and asks. Maybe they're having trouble connecting with us."

Because of the intermittent interruptions, the personal transmission channels did not always work either. The manujas also used the net without technical aids when they communicated telepathically. Since every living being emits energy, it leaves a signature in the environment. This can be used as a sending and

receiving address. Of course, these signatures could also be obtained in the aka, which encompassed the entire space of the universe. Therefore, it was not necessary to know where the interlocutor was at the moment before establishing contact.

Later, at dinner together, Mhia said to her father, "I searched the Planetary Science Register in the central archives today but found no article on the principle of operation of power generation. MhiaKha had asked me about it. He wanted to know how we generate our energy. Moreover, I didn't understand some of his questions, so I wanted to read about them."

"It's true, some topics are not open to the public," she got from Thom in response.

"But I thought learning is essential for our survival?"

"Yes, little one."

At this address, Mhia contorted her face defiantly, which Thom immediately recognized because his daughter had already reached the tenth *degree of education* at almost sixteen. Usually, most *manujas*, in the course of their lives, managed only a little more than the eleventh of a total of thirty-three training levels.

Thom then continued to speak in a tone meant to express a conversation at eye level, "That's right. However, the knowledge of the Old Masters is so powerful that it can be abused. We have experienced it in the past. Do you remember the story about the dwellers in *Brahma's Land*? In the power struggle, their ancestors destroyed an entire part of the planet with their energy. Where precisely this happened, no one knows today. When the survivors reestablished the empire, this sacred knowledge was restricted. Therefore, filters in our data stores allow only authorized *manujas* to access them."

"Will humans also have access to this knowledge?"

"Step by step. Their cognitive abilities still have to develop. The secrets of technology are hidden and encrypted. This prevents them from making the same mistakes we did back then. They'll find and understand it when their culture reaches the maturity necessary for it."

"Then explain to me again exactly how the energy grid works!"

"That, my inquisitive daughter, is not fully accessible to me either. But I can try with what I know..."

The whole planet is a gigantic accumulator with a resonance frequency of about eight oscillations per minute. Because the atmosphere and the planet's crust are constantly in motion, the particles in them rub against each other. These frictional forces generate thermal energy and electrically charge the particles. In addition, radiant energy reaches us from the cosmos, especially our sun. All this energy heats up the planet, and a large part is radiated unused back into space. Often it also discharges in storms and thunderstorms. So our energy towers are antennas that tap into this planetary accumulator. I also know that planetary surface, magnetosphere and ionosphere form a unit."

"And if we don't send messages telepathically, will they be transmitted through the energy store?"

"Yes."

"How are electricity and the news kept apart?"

"Since the planet vibrates at a constant frequency, this can be used as a carrier frequency. It's like a vehicle being loaded with packages of different sizes. You can compare the vehicle with the carrier frequency. We put the current in a large electric parcel and some photos of your chamber's mess in a small one. Then we send the whole thing to Mom. Since there are several antennas at Mom's research station, she gets the electricity via one antenna and the small package with the photos via another."

Mhia smiled a little, then she asked again, "It's dangerous for us to go straight to the tower, right?"

"More precisely, for all living creatures. Whereas most animals can sense it and therefore avoid the towers."

"I understand, but there wasn't much new there now."

"Wait a minute, didn't you say MhiaKha asked you about this?"

"Yes."

Although Thom knew he could violate Mhia's privacy, he asked with a slightly increased pulse, "What exactly is he interested in?"

You know now that the subject of energy could excite the *Guardians of Knowledge!*"

"Oh, I'm sure that was just another thing I misunderstood."

Her father was not at all reassured by the answer. He decided to ask about it again later. He also wondered why a being from the *aka* should not know such banal things as energy generation.

Soon two consecutive holidays would come, dedicated to the heritage of the Old Masters. The next day served as preparation for it. During the official celebrations, ritual acts and spiritual events took place all over *Terra Atla*.

The humans mostly lived in small villages around the cities of the manujas and celebrated the year's first harvest on these days. There was then a joyful exuberance to be seen, and some had adopted rituals of the manujas, holding sacrificial rituals in honor of their guardian spirits. These varied from place to place. At least in Atlantis, it was important for the manujas not to impose their spiritual life on the humans. However, there were also divergent opinions about this.

"Are you going to be late again today?" Mhia asked, but her father was deep in thought. His tension was noticeable after lying awake all night and talking to many people. At night, the data connection was more stable those days, so some used those hours more often for communication.

Not wanting to alarm her brother Rhe, Mhia telepathically checked in again, focusing on Thom's frequency, "*Dad, please tell me what's wrong. I can feel your high pulse and that you are not really with us.*"

"I have to go to the energy institute. There's something to sort out, and I won't be able to take care of the festivities today, either. That's why I can't promise that I'll see you in time for dinner."

"Does this have anything to do with the staff you can't reach?"

Thom was startled because he had not expected that Mhia had already made such significant progress with telepathy. That meant being more careful when thinking from now on. Apparently, she had already reached a new stage. Thoughts could be read, or

images and patterns could be recognized if there was a strong inner connection between sender and receiver. Very experienced ones understood in this way; other living beings, without these, had to consciously open a channel for it. However, knowledge about these special techniques of telepathy was not publicly available.

"Please, tell me what's going on! Strange things have been happening here for some time. I'm not a kid anymore, and you can't hide it anyway. I'm not going to let up!"

"You know what? Tomorrow we'll take some time to talk," Thom promised.

"Will you finally tell me why Mom hasn't contacted me in so long?"

"Child, I've told you she cannot return by flying boat until the communications network is stable again. I'm sure everyone there is fine. No need to take the risk of traveling without safe navigation."

"Thom...," Mhia called her father whenever she wanted to emphasize her adult status. *"...I don't think you're so sure about that. I feel you suppressing images of Mom and her expedition team."*

That Mhia recognized a weakness in her father here, which would soon get him into trouble, neither of them suspected.

"I can't believe that!" Thom got excited again. He had just learned that two employees of the institute had disappeared.

"Who are they, anyway?"

"Chlora and Theara. They are among our best researchers. And the records of the experiment are gone, too."

"What about the rest of the project data?"

"They are there. However, the egg says it cannot verify completeness until authorization for this from a member of the *Grand Row*."

With the egg, he meant the central computer or, more precisely, the terminals with which access to the central data archive of Terra Atla was made possible. The term actually came from humans. They sometimes got to see these terminals while the manujas

communicated with the central computer through them. The terminals resembled an egg floating in space and were egg-shaped holographic projectors. These could display three-dimensional images. Communication was possible via speech and, to a lesser extent, telepathically. Humans worshipped this talking wonder, which seemed to embody omnipotence and all-embracing knowledge.

Some humans owned simple and more miniature replicas made of wood or stone, which were also incorporated into their ritual acts. The manujas also possessed engraved egg-shaped or spherical stones and, in rare cases, rock crystals, which, however, had a completely different function. These eggs and spheres existed for ages and were passed down from generation to generation. No one could say who had once made them. But perhaps this was also one of the secrets of the Old Masters, which were not open to the public.

A little later, Thom lay on a couch in the meditation room to think. He wasn't sure he could share the news he had just received with anyone. It had shocked him at first. If the egg denied access in such a case, control could soon slip out of his hands. How would he get authorization from a member of the Grand Row? Of the members of this selected caste, he knew only King Rhenus personally.

The term of the current king traditionally ended after a royal year, which corresponded to 360 years on this planet. The royal year ended shortly, and, therefore, a new head was to be elected. During the year-long ceremony for office transfer, King Rhenus was only available for audiences to a minimal extent. There was only the unofficial way to get to him, and Thom had to come up with something for that. He should ask Ohlak for help. This guy was the head of the science council in Basileia and thus often had to deal with Rhenus. He also regularly used connections to hidden sources, which had helped Thom sometimes in the past. Personally, Thom didn't like him that much without being able to

say why. It was also strange that Ohlak did not like telepathic communication.

With guys like Ohlak, Thom sometimes felt they hid part of their thoughts. But that didn't have to mean anything. Sometimes such Manujas had terrible experiences and wanted to avoid misunderstandings.

Thom contacted Ohlak after all and made telepathic contact over his frequency.

He got an immediate connection, *"Hey Thom, to hear from you today when you must have a busy schedule? How is your family, and is Rhia back yet?"*

"All is well with us. Rhia will be back as soon as a safe flight is possible. I've stayed away from the festivities because a few issues have arisen. I need your help with one thing. It would be good if we could meet in person."

"Not so convenient right now," Ohlak replied somewhat hesitantly. *"I'm spending the festivities on the west coast. Don't want to fly the 200 **iteru** during the day. It's just too unsafe right now. Then I'll fly back at night in the next few days."*

"I see. Let me briefly explain what this is about. Two female employees of the Energy Institute have disappeared, and so have the measurement results of experiments. Also, we are having problems accessing project data from Energy Research. Authorization is needed from a member of the Grand Row."

"I don't know if I can help you with that," Ohlak replied, sounding lost in thought. Thom quickly realized that there wasn't much more to get out of him and asked Ohlak only, *"If you think of anything, please let me know."*

"Will do. Good luck!"



Rhia could think of her home in peace when everyone had retired to their dormitories. She needed to contact Thom today.

In the past few days, they had discovered so many new things at the research station that she had to sort them out first. Talking with Thom helped her to prioritize in such situations. However, it wasn't easy to use the official channels for this. Those responsible for research in the capital had imposed a news blackout on her team. The knowledge gained was to be reviewed first to avoid panic. They could not afford to make a mistake. Every detail had to be verified again before it could be sent to Basileia.

Shoa, the head of the research station, had the same point of view as Rhia. Most scientists respected her opinion on other matters as well. This was because Shoa was one of the brightest researchers on Atlantis. For many years, she had trained students as a master and had acquired knowledge herself incessantly. Rhia didn't really know anyone with a higher level of education.

The official report first had to be backed up with facts. Above all, they wanted to avoid giving vulnerable material to a strong lobby. This would make it easy for them to insist on their outdated views. The king and his advisers had withdrawn from many official acts because of the preparations for office transfer. There was now a danger that decisions had already been made by officials in lower offices. Because of their many years of specialization, these would have a limited perspective on global problems. The king's year ended at an inopportune time. It was just about to be introduced that government officials regularly change their areas of expertise, as had been the case in the past. At that time, it was more difficult for lobby groups to infiltrate the civil service.

"How the new head will address this issue, we do not know yet," Shoa had said to her today. Moreover, not all manujas agreed on how the relationship with humans should be in the future. There was a trend against the old rules. These said that it was the duty of the manujas to ensure the continuation of all races. There have always been different ethical views here. A group among the manujas, which was growing in size then, was critical of the rapid cultural development among the humans. These could one day be in competition with themselves.

The problem began long ago when a group of Manujas started to create another humanoid race. In doing so, they acted against the Galactic Code, and no one could later say whether the violation was done unknowingly. They had altered the genetic material of the primates living on the planet with parts of their own genetic material. The genetic hurdles were insignificant because the manujas were also based originally on primates. The goal was a robust humanoid that could help with heavy physical work and mining. Eventually, however, some of the newly created creatures also developed into docile companions in everyday life.

Mixed reproduction was never supposed to happen, but this problem was difficult to solve. Eventually, the first hybrid offspring of manujas and humans saw the light of day. At the time, the science leadership believed they had the problem under control. By exploiting the property of blood to form antibodies under certain conditions, the reproduction of parent pairs with certain blood groups was to be prevented. Over time, however, this method proved to be unsuitable. Nature always found a way to overcome this barrier.

Another method was found. This time, antibodies were to be formed in the sex gland, which produces the pre-ejaculate in men and the vaginal fluid in women. The change causes damage to the sperm when manujas have sex with humans. Of course, even this procedure was not absolutely safe. But in any case, cross-racial fertilization by natural means would hardly be possible. Since all manujas born were recorded in the central registry, targeted vaccination and monitoring were not a significant problem. The vaccinations already routinely given to children only needed to be supplemented by one more. It was planned to control the effectiveness of this procedure through long-term observations.

As the cost of vaccination increased, so did opposition in the Senate. Eventually, influencing the immune system became a perennial issue of contention. It wasn't about the vaccinations per se. Without the strengthening of the immune system, their race would have already died out. What was problematic for some was that this particular vaccination did not serve to defend against

natural pathogens. Here, crossbreeding with humans was prevented, even though nature did not provide a natural barrier. There were even fears that this intervention in reproduction could one day cause permanent damage or mutations. However, these voices were then eventually no longer heard.

But there was also something good in the dispute. As time went by, more and more members of the Senate realized that decisions of such magnitude could no longer be left to the Science Council alone. For a long time, the advocates of the knowledge of the Old Masters prevailed. However, there were already discussions about whether parts of the Code were not outdated. Rhia's life partner Thom had often led heated debates here and defended the rules. Applications for genetic manipulation were also repeatedly submitted for approval. New plant and animal species were supposed to be able to cope better with the changed climatic conditions. In addition, the demand for premier foods increased, necessitating more efficient food production. Life-prolonging medicine in humans was also a point of discussion. Humans had now become valuable working tools. At that time, however, their life expectancy was only a maximum of fifty years.

Ultimately, the inadequately regulated genetic engineering resulted in the manifestation of two opinions, and thus there was a danger of a split among the people.

Rhia went to the crew kitchen and made herself something to eat. After intense discussions with the others on her research team, she felt the need to be alone. Besides, she wanted to look at the others' notes afterward. It wasn't a specific aim, but she felt something else was being overlooked.

"Open log 'Magnetic Field Analysis' from day 183, year 410360," was her command to the egg. A holographic display built up, containing a summary of all teammates' results. The computer knew Rhia's desire to display texts two-dimensionally in black letters on a light background for better readability. It had already summarized the data in various categories and, as was expected,

immediately worked out some hypotheses. These contradicted all the predictions of the previous years.

"Are you unhappy with the data?" the voice asked. "Do you want me to add more options to the evaluation? All possible solutions with a probability of occurrence of 50 percent or more are included."

"Show me the biggest factors influencing the result!" Rhia commanded.

The picture changed, and a graphic appeared with the image of the planetary system to which *Achala* belonged. When viewed from the center, the first six planets were visible in their orbits around the sun. The second, third and fifth planets were each highlighted in red. These were in line with the sun in the display.

The voice of the projector explained, "The calculations have shown that the following factors have the most significant influence on the result:

The magnetic fields of the sun and Achala influence each other. In addition, an extreme solar wind leads to the weakening of the magnetic field of our planet.

The sun's activity fluctuates strongly in a solar cycle of several years. Every 11.07 years, the second, third, and fifth planets line up with the sun. The gravitational pull of these planets thus amplifies the tidal effect on the central star, increasing its activity."

"Now show me the direct effects on our planet's magnetic field!" Rhia asked the egg.

A color simulation was played. On the left was the sun, and on the right was Achala. Both celestial bodies were surrounded by black field lines, representing the magnetic fields. The lines ran in each case from the north to the south and were constantly in motion. Especially at Achala, the lines bent significantly in the direction of the side facing away from the sun. While the

simulation was running, a clock at the bottom showed the year. The cycle covered a total of 800 years. The simulation started 200 years ago and led the changes over the next 600 years in fast motion.

"I have marked in red all deviations from previous calculations of the magnetic field," the egg explained.

It could be clearly seen that the magnetic field weakened about 100 years ago and began to flicker ten years ago. At present, the flickering was heaviest, and while another 300 years were counted forward, the north and south poles reversed once and jumped back to the original position shortly after that.

Rhia did not trust this simulation and explained to the egg what she thought of it, "It's not possible. We have overlooked something important. All previous research results and the information from the archives say that the planet's magnetic field reverses once every 500,000 years. Also, geological investigations at the rock layers with magnetic inclusions confirm this. The last pole jump was 740,000 years ago. Even if the next one is overdue, this process has lasted some thousand years. There cannot be such a fast change as in the simulation."

Rhia decided to discuss the issue with Thom before debating it further with the others on her team the next day. Because of the explosive nature of the case, the assistance of scientists from other disciplines may be valuable. Thom could help with that.

Rhia lay down on a meditation couch and took the *port stone*, which should facilitate the telepathic connection to Thom. In her youth, she received the stone from her grandfather, who advised her to use it if she ever made a difficult decision. Grandfather had been unable to tell her where the stone originally came from. On Rhia's twentieth birthday, he died in an accident while flying across the Atlantic. He and the other passengers on the flying boat were never found. Since that day, the stone was always present, even when traveling.

She couldn't concentrate properly and tried again to establish a connection with Thom. The opportunity to make contact may not be favorable. He would have to have time for a detailed

conversation first. However, only feeling his presence would be enough for her now. Thom should be busy preparing the celebration in honor of the Old Masters. She wanted to try it nevertheless further.

"*Let it happen!*" someone whispered after a few minutes of self-hypnosis, which was supposed to give her more energy for the thought transmission to Thom. Rhia knew that no colleagues were nearby. And again, she realized that someone wanted to make contact, "*Let me in! It's all good. Let it be! Receive my voice!*"

"*Who are you?*" Rhia asked the caller. It wasn't unusual for someone to contact her this way, but it was done in a not-so-personal way unless both partners opened up to each other first.

"*I am RhiaKha. Don't you remember?*"

Rhia was startled. She had not been in contact with her former mentor for many years. Since a viral illness at 19, this no longer worked. The doctor had explained it with accompanying and several days-lasting malfunctions in her pineal gland. Typically the manujas automatically lost the connection to their mentors when they grew up or, at the latest, when they had offspring. Rhia was consoled at that time because she was now ripe for a new stage of life.

She remembered RhiaKha as if it were only yesterday. Their relationship was very intense. She knew many details of his life and vice versa. In RhiaKha's world, beings do not need bodies. Although the beings from the *aka* also had a gender, they knew topics like sexuality only theoretically. Strictly speaking, Rhia knew that also the ethereal beings knew the orgasm. But she had never asked him about it and thus did not know how it worked for them. The *Kha* had discarded their bodies long ago when they ascended from the material to the ethereal world. As Rhia knew, this ascent was sometimes necessary for all higher-developed beings to escape extinction. At the latest, when the life-giving star began to die and the living beings threatened by it could not settle on a new planet until then, this time had come.

The *Kha* were not the only beings in the *aka*, but they were so similar to the inhabitants of *Achala* that they could form a symbiosis. This allowed the *manujas* to learn things from other worlds. However, this knowledge was only understandable if they had reached the necessary level of education. Getting there was hard work and sometimes took a lifetime. Not all *manujas* wanted to spend that extended learning.

On the other hand, the *Kha* gathered new experiences from material beings like *Rhia* and passed them on among themselves. There was no self-interest in the existence of those *Kha* with whom *Rhia* personally dealt. However, dark forces also existed in their world.

Incidentally, the *manujas* decided what sex their mentors should be, but the general view was that it should be helpful to have sufficient exposure to sexuality before reaching sexual maturity. Countless generations ago, it helped their ancestors understand why equality for all genders was necessary for development.

After shaking off her brief confusion, *Rhia* asked, *"Why are you suddenly contacting me after so many years, and why is this suddenly working again? I said goodbye to you after we were separated. I became ill and was told reconnecting would become increasingly difficult as I reached adulthood."*

"I didn't know why we suddenly couldn't have contact any longer," *RhiaKha* replied. *"I'd tried repeatedly but then believed that something had happened to you or that you didn't want to meet me anymore. Anyway, I never stopped thinking about you,"* her old mentor replied.

The inner clock told *Rhia* that hours had already passed. She indicated that they should continue their talk another time.

Before resuming her original intention, *Rhia* thought again about the conversation. It seemed different from what she remembered from her youth. Back then, she always felt a certain warmth during the connection. Was it because of the long break in contact or because she was now a grown woman? The words and vibrations he used seemed no longer familiar.

The matter was not so important to her after all. Instead, her left hand clasped the *port stone* while resting on the chest. Then she concentrated again on Thom's frequency. This time, lying on her back, she looked at the simple furnishings of the room. The ceiling was natural and consisted of roughly worked rock. Only a few traces could be seen, which machines had been left on the surface during the construction of the temporary shelter. Rhia loved the natural textures in the rock. They told stories that the material had experienced over millions of years. Limestone and sandstone, in particular, contained a lot of information. These had accumulated as the rock formed from loose sand or dead organic material. It had withstood various environmental conditions, high pressure, solar radiation, water and wind, and now protected living creatures against these dangers.

A construction crew built and equipped this research station months ago. All materials came from the surrounding area. The furnishings of the buildings consisted, as was common everywhere, mainly of wood and other solid plant materials.

Rock was used as the primary building material if it was available in sufficient quantity. This could be cut with light or finely crushed. Complex or commonly used building elements were made from molten rock after the base material was crushed and poured into prepared molds. Rhia knew from documents of the Old Masters that they knew another method of making stone blocks. Unfortunately, no one understood how that might have worked. Since it is said to have been a process based solely on the thoughts of the master builders, the accounts of it were thought to be incomplete and understood to be a myth.

Rhia didn't manage to contact Thom during the next hour. Finally, she fell asleep, exhausted. Shortly before duty started the following day, she made her way to the hygiene rooms to freshen up and get new clothes.

Shoa looked at the previous day's simulations when Rhia entered the lab.

"You look tired. Must have been late? Did you at least succeed?"

"I don't have a good feeling about the simulations. Something is not right. Please, let's calculate everything again with other parameters. We must have overlooked some important factor."

Shoa answered hesitantly, "However, perhaps the data in the central archive is incomplete, or the Old Masters did not know certain factors of the present time at that time."

"We could get help from Basileia. I want to talk to Thom about it, but I haven't reached him for days."

"Yes, we should repeat the calculations and continue trying to get help. Also, access to the central archive would be necessary to retrieve more data than we currently find in our local storage. If we do not reach anyone, I will fly back tomorrow," Shoa replied.

"You really need to take me with you."

"No, because of the unstable magnetic field and unreliable navigation, the risk is too great. Besides, you have to stand in for me here."

"But there's something else bothering me. And that's why I wanted to talk to you. You asked me the other day to send data to the archives in Basileia. It was about the records of the expedition in the caves we found nearby."

"Yes, and?"

"I wanted to do some more reading about the murals found there. In doing so, I noticed that all the film footage of the drawings is missing."

"And this can't be due to transmission problems?"

"No, the log clearly shows that everything was transmitted. I then looked at the recordings from the station's memory. And here, the films are still available."

"Sounds strange. But to be secure, save the original data again in one of the portable crystals. I'll take it with me to Basileia."

Next, they talked to the others on their team about the plan. Their opinion was also to be sought. However, they did not mention the problem with the missing data.

After the team talk, Rhia immediately wanted to back up the original data again. She asked the egg to copy the corresponding records to the memory crystal she was wearing on her wrist. The

projector responded, "The requested information is no longer available. They were deleted last night."

"By whom was the data deleted?"

"You gave the order."