

STORY BACKGROUND

BLAME! Setting

In an endlessly huge layered city, Kyrii the Explorer wanders thousands of floors. He requires “Net Terminal Genes” from “before the infection.” He wields the unstoppable “Graviton Beam Emitter.”

“BLAME!” Explanation

The original “BLAME” (which won a Four Seasons Prize) depicts jacking into a living body and seems to be the origin of the Silicon Life. In fact, science nowadays suggests that the transfer to electronic counterparts and the accompanying transition of consciousness is possible. The real question is whether it is possible to digitize memory and personality instead of simply consciousness. This problem merits significant theological, philosophical, and scientific discussion. “BLAME” depicts a point in time where this problem has been solved. By the way, there’s another work called “Ghost In The Shell” in which digitizing life is simple, but the choice of whether or not to do so is moral. Also, in “Permutation City,” it is necessary to copy the proper calculation speed so that computerized people move at the same speed as natural people. But regardless of their personality, what really mattered was money and entertainment. In “BLAME!,” although individuality can be digitized easily, but entertainment really only exists in the Netsphere. Without the Netsphere, a digitized consciousness lives an infinite, meaningless “life.” It is a dangerous choice.

“NOiSE” Explanation [1]

Here’s why the world outside of the Netsphere has become such a dangerous, chaotic place. If one can jack into an pseudo-body (which the cult in NOiSE can do), before this knowledge is generally known, it is used by the military. If one can maintain an invincible “Warrior Body,” then no soldier would be capable of stopping it. Absolutely, the military decided to use it. Naturally, any opposing force would use the same thing. So, fierce electronic warfare occurs. I can’t say exactly how that war goes, but the result is that the net world becomes a wild and chaotic place, wouldn’t it?

“NOiSE” Explanation [2]

By the way, although Claus was killed, what use of he to the Order? Was he being experimented on when he was turned into data? Since Claus’s personality had been digitized, of course, it lacked the proper programs, so it would be scattered among the “IP Space” (not yet called the electronic backup world) and eventually become noise. Furthermore, if like the Lise in William Gibson’s short story “Winter Market” (printed in “Burning Chrome”), someone put their personality into the data, what would happen? You need hardware (body) outside of the Net (base reality), but everything else can be uploaded. Such a person existing only on the net might feel like a ghost.

Netsphere

The online society has expanded to the same or even greater than reality. I think the human race, whose life can no longer be achieved without the net, has tried to maintain a certain environment on the net. The Netsphere was established as a “world” with a perfect OS, at that time. The Netsphere may have had AI at first. But if we give “personality” to a program that manages a society that exhibits a state of logical contradiction, it will certainly go crazy. For this reason, at some point, it becomes a function without which only management can be completed.

(Translator’s note: I think what this means is that maybe there used to be an AI in Administration, but it got uninstalled due to the risk of insanity, and without the AI it was only able to do management duties.)

The Netsphere uses the “terminal gene” as a password. So, the Safeguard are in charge of “enforcement” independently of the Netsphere’s functions.

Net Terminal Gene [0 - Hypothesis]

Kyrii is looking for this. It has been “infected” and mutated long ago. If it is found, one can connect to the “Netsphere.” According to the words of the Administration, thereby, one could change the chaotic state of the world. It is believed that it was found in the genes of Seu from Toha Heavy Industries.

Net Terminal Gene [1 - Hypothesis]

Although it is unknown when, around the time of the establishment of the Netsphere, and around the time of the establishment of the Safeguards, it is presumed that there were a large variety of net criminals. This is because when the majority of information and economic activity is processed on the net, most crimes will also be committed on the net. Furthermore, if it is possible that “individuality/personality/all human information” is possible to be uploaded/downloaded to the net after a certain stage, what do you have to fear? It is very likely that criminals will do so. At that time, unavoidably, the police had to step in. Then, since criminals and the police conduct all kinds of search, defense, and attack activities on the net, it would be inevitable that “registration” becomes necessary to ensure safety of those opposing the criminals (agents?). Was the “registration” of this time taken over by the Safeguards later...? And then was the “Net Terminal” gene added to this? In other words, the situation is that the general public also uses the “net (Netsphere),” living not just in “base reality,” but the in net as well. If you are “in” the Netsphere, you can meet other people regardless of time.

(Translator's note: Contrary to the population translation, what this means is that it doesn't take any time to have to meet up with other people. It has NOTHING to do with time travel! Such a convenient function (instant transport) cannot be expected to be overlooked by those looking to make money.)

But wouldn't the “military” come first? I think so, but if you think about it, you have to hack the “enemy's” net first, which is very difficult. If both sides are connected to the net, I think that “military” confrontation would become impossible. In this era, even though there are “governments,” their “borders” would be meaningless, wouldn't they? In such a situation, a situation when the “net movement” aside from “special” persons like criminals and agents is detected, “registration” will be necessary, that is to say, a screening method for achieving safety.

(Translator's note: I think when it says that criminals don't need registration, what it means is that regular people have a registration. Criminals don't, and Agents don't need one.)

At this time, I think it was inevitable that the concept of the “Net Terminal Gene” was created.

Language Matrix

The current internet is based on Unix as an OS, but even though the Netsphere is much more advanced, it also seems to have a basic system. Based on that, device type organisms (representative entities of the Administration, high-level Safeguard, Silicon Life, AI) each have their own OS, which controls their ability to “live,” I think. Silicons Life and Safeguard have a common language matrix, probably because the process of “evolution” crossed on both sides. It extends to physical parts, but it is more pronounced in the OS-like parts. If you think about it, the Safeguard were the first to make the “silicon body,” while in contrast, the Silicon Life evolved by appropriating (plagiarizing?) it. By the way, although there is a human language matrix, it naturally cannot be processed like a device. It becomes an OS only through the use of an auxiliary brain. For example, you cannot back up all human memories (but it seems like the device system can. As will be described later, it was possible for Cibo). However, in the case of human beings, it seems that, to some extent, organized data “personally permitted to others” is exchanged through the auxiliary brain. In other words, in the case of humans, it seems to follow these steps: Memory → (Language

matrix) → Data → External device. Therefore, the matching of the language matrix becomes a very important element of communication.

The World [1]

It is like one huge building, or you could say it is a an endlessly huge city where all the buildings are connected. According to the control level of the Administration, it is “plagued with random growth.” Its endless growth is corrupting the world. To stop it, the Net Terminal Gene must be found.

The World [2 - Network]

In the “BLAME!” world, an electronic network is completely deployed and covers the world. In a fancy way of speaking, it can be called a completely ubiquitous world.

(Translator’s Note: The idea of the “completely ubiquitous world” is brought up a few times. I think it’s mean to refer to the omnipresence of the network throughout the world. Network, here, does not refer to just wiring and such, but more of the “lower level Netsphere,” the watery void that Cibo visits several times, where things like machinery controls and Safeguard systems can be accessed in Virtual Reality.)

Moreover, the performance of the computer running on this network has an approximately infinitely-fast processing speed, and an infinite storage capacity. Therefore, in theory, it is “omniscient and omnipotent,” but in practice, it is “nearly infinite, but not infinite,” and most of the data in its memory is “junk information,” so it seems there are limits to its capacity. The junk information mentioned here is a large amount of “memories” and “records” experienced by hundreds of billions of people. It is simply being stored, and has become a huge “load” on the network.

The World [3 - Shape and Size]

This world extends out to the entire solar system, while the layered city goes out to at least Jupiter’s orbit. It’s material comes from almost all of the planets in the solar system. This situation makes it a so-called “Dyson Sphere.” In 1959, the Dyson Sphere theory, proposed by astrophysicist Dr. Freeman Dyson, was based on the idea that if you use a spherical shape to cover a star like the Sun, the energy that was previously released into space and dissipated could be effectively used on Earth. Except, as mentioned later, the root cause for the world of “BLAME!” is probably due to the fact that “dark matter” engineering is possible, so perhaps the world does not have to be spherical.

(Translator’s note: In that, the world does not have to be a sphere around the sun. Could it be more like a thick donut of layers?)

The World [4 - Power]

As in the case of the Dyson Sphere, I think it also uses fusion power generation, where the sun itself is a “reactor.” Even by itself, infinite energy can be obtained for billions of years. However, given the situation in which power is transmitted through a stratified world, most of the energy supply actually used is likely to depend on the “Gravity Reactor,” which will be described later.

The World [5 - Environment]

The world is in an “aseptic” state. There are no biological viruses. Nanomachines that are always in the air cause harmful bacteria to disappear instantly as soon as there is an outbreak. The reason is, it was one of the original human commands given to the Administration, and so it was programmed, along with preventing system errors.

(Translator’s note: so, when humans made the Administrators, their original two commands

were “kill all harmful viruses and bacteria” and “prevent any errors in the Netsphere.”
If you build a habitable space with a much larger area than earth’s current surface, all of it will be “aseptic” from the very beginning.)

Thus, even if a human is injured, it is okay as long as they have enhanced regeneration abilities. In addition, the pain of shock can be eliminated immediately by strengthening (correcting) the nervous system. Even surgery on the spot is OK.

The World [6] Megastructure [1]

It’s like a super-durable wall that divides the layered city into parts. They are a barrier that cannot be penetrated by anything other than Kyrii’s Graviton Beam Emitter. There is also a relationship between them and the activity of the Safeguard; as one gets closer to them, more Safeguards tend to be activated. Inside, a “System” is created that maintains the layered world’s environment. They are created by the “Builders.”

The World [7] Megastructure [2]

In “BLAME!” the Megastructure is the backbone of the worldwide network. The computers that make up the network, even if you think that they have approximately infinite processing speed, and approximately infinite storage, still face the issue of application processing time. Even if the capacity is infinitely large and the processing is infinitely fast, it is actually “infinitely close to infinity but not infinite,” so a finite amount of time is required for processing. As a result, if you try to load a far away point of data from a far away place, it will take an “infinite” amount of time. In other words, the problem of movement will eventually remain. But, in that state, how can it be said that the processing power of the computer is “infinite?” The computer chips in the megastructure are folded into N-Dimensions “virtually,” and in terms of hardware, perhaps, do not exist. In other words, the Megastructure is just a mass of recording medium (down to the molecular or atomic level), and it has a “blank” memory space inside it. There is a “virtual” software computer built within.

(Translator’s note: I don’t understand this at all, but that’s my fault for knowing next to nothing about how computers work!)

However, it takes too much processing time as it is not realistic. However, by “parallel processing” an infinite number of chips, a virtually infinite speed is obtained. The only problem is that the weight of the physical chip imposes a limit, but this is solved by controlling gravity.

(Translator’s note: This section clarifies a vague detail about the Megastructure. You know how it’s mentioned that the GBE is the only thing that can destroy them? There’s a reason for that. If the Megastructure is made up of an infinite number of folded computer chips, that means it would have near-infinite density. Nothing would be capable of making it bend or break. But the GBE works by nullifying gravity in the area. As a result, it also nullifies the controls that make the chips in the megastructure capable of being infinitely dense. Without infinite density, the GBE can easily punch a hole in the megastructure.)

RECURRING CHARACTERS AND ENTITIES

Kyrii [0]

For quite some time, he has been searching this world for the “Net Terminal Gene.” He is extremely tough and high in combat ability. He’s certainly some kind of cyborg since he has device connectors on his body. After being “repaired” by the high level Safeguard Sanakan, he gains the ability to decipher the text that appears in his eyes, which provides him with information.

Kyrri [1]

He's human, but has a high amount of cybernetics. He's almost certainly immortal.

(Translator's note: It's the kind of "stay the same age forever, never die of old age" immortality.)

He is likely to have been alive for over 1000 years. But, his ability to recall "memories" is, probably, absent. In the past, when the Netsphere was still functional, he may have worked as a police officer. Anyway, criminals who "discarded their living bodies" later became their own "species" called "Silicon Life," and since he has been confronted before by those who have multiple "bodies" through use of the network, he holds a terrible opinion of them.

Kyrri [2 - Where did the power go?]

How did Kyrri, who was completely vaporized by the Level 9 in Log 51, manage to revive? And then where did the enormous amount of energy in the Parallel Battery Storage Cluster go? In this mystery, a large element of Kyrri's true identity is seen, but hidden. First of all, it is possible to think of Kyrri as an example of the "Secret System Emissary." First, I would like to confirm that the resurrection is quite unusual. In such a place, it is impossible to make a download. Then, how was Kyrri able to download his mind and body information, and where did he get the energy from to revive? However, as Iko explains, "Netsphere hardware is embedded in the megastructure," and the stratum is disconnected from the Administration, but even then, this function continues to work, even if it is not perfect, so, in short, is there a "BIOS" in this world? In that case, is he immortal? In fact, Iko also uses the word "System." What a "Secret Emissary" is lies in the words of the dying Administrator in the electronic backup world. "Kyrri is different, he is a secret emissary of the system from before the Safeguards"..... these important words are all that tell us the true nature (?) of Kyrri. In other words, does Kyrri have something to do with the "System?" Therefore, by some means, the System returned the data/energy to itself, and got restored? If so, is his body truly indestructible? It is only natural that the Administration asked for his cooperation. If so, the power withdrawn from the Parallel Battery Storage cluster could be compensation.

(Translator's Note: The power from the PBSC is paid to the system. Energy and matter interact, one can become the other, and it is physically impossible to store that much power in Kyrri's body.)

There's no doubt that the power went somewhere else after entering Kyrri's body.

Kyrri [3 - Mechanical intelligence vs. organic intelligence]

It is already recognized that to some extent, Sci-Fi predicts the future (I think). Various things that have been written so far (mainly bad things) embody the genre. These themes have been repeated over and over again to the point of pretentiousness. "2001...", Benford's works, the Terminator series, "Sento Yosei - Yukikaze," the list goes on. Man versus machine. Surely, this will happen. Someone must have thought so. So, the Administration, I mean, even more so, the entire world, when humanity's habitat had been replaced with network space, started to get worried. If this is the case, it might be a bad thing. However, since it's impossible to go back, in the future, when an AI with an organic-like intelligence is created, has a "safety device" been incorporated that allows it to be deactivated...? Something like that... There is evidence of this in Dhomochevsky and Iko's "creation" episode, hidden in the meaning... That's right. The root of the "system" was included. It is a piece of software that, no matter what happens, cannot be deleted. So, in the event that the machine started killing people, the software would activate and stop the machine, so we think. However, somehow, something worse happened, instead of the mechanical intelligence exterminating the human race, the object that emits the signal to trigger the software was destroyed.

So, at any point in time, did the “system” do... anything? Whatever it did... we still don’t know. Simply, remember, it has to do with many different things. For example, when a representative entity of the Administration first came into contact with Kyrii, who as acting alone with Cibo as his partner. Could it be that the Administration could not contact Kyrii when he was alone...? However, if so, what about that “woman with the dog” then...?

Kyrii [4 - Why the coelacanth?]

When Kyrii is revived after the Level 9 destroys him, he had a “dream” before the “start” of the restoration about LOG.2 Memory of Land where the woman and the dog are quite symbolic. Clearly, this scene seems to be related to the “creation” scene of Dhomochevsky and Iko. The woman corresponds to Iko, and the dog corresponds to the coelacanth. Kyrii is, in his own mind, a human. There seem to be memories of him growing up, like Dhomochevsky and Iko, he was not suddenly “created” in his current form. Well, he wasn’t like that at “first.” But, Kyrii’s current body, it is not the first “self” that was created, make no mistake. If that wasn’t the case, there’d be no explanation for his body specs and fighting power. So, is the first “combat model,” or the memory of being “reborn” after that, the image before the repair starts...? When Kyrii “was born” for some reason, just like Iko, that woman supported Kyrii. The dog is her partner. Then, are they also part of the “system”...? The idea is, Kyrii is associated with the “safety devices,” and also agrees with the hypothesis that he can be “reborn” for other purposes. It is quite strange that Iko was partnered with the fish that came to land, but that may be explained by the time anomalies of the Unofficial Stratum. In a crazy world where gravity anomalies lead cause time anomalies, it’s no wonder that happened. Well, the coelacanth is a species that still survives in the present day, so it would be no surprise if a Builder brought it from somewhere. Speaking of bringing things, the fact that Dhomochevsky carried something like a pen cap is similar to how Kyrii carried a book at first. That too, naturally, was probably brought by the Builders from somewhere else.

Kyrii [5 - Memory Disorder?]

Maybe, in some circumstances, like surviving for too long, the memory process of the brain becomes degraded. Human memories are thought to last about 30~50 years of life. In Kyrii’s case, several times along the way, he seems to have lost his memory, but at least before the “collapse of the Netsphere,” which seems to have taken away a means by which to store memories. The question is, can it not be used now, or is it almost unusable?

(Translator’s note: Meaning, of course memories cannot be retrieved from the Netsphere, but the real question is whether or not these memories are still there. Could they be retrieved somehow in the future, or are they lost forever?)

Administration

This is the control level of the Netsphere that can be accessed with the Net Terminal Gene. Is it something like this whole world’s OS? However, network space other than the Netsphere = the entire “BLAME!” world? It seems possible, but it does not (cannot) manage very much, so it may just be the OS of the Netsphere. Then, the World’s OS, must be separate on that basis. Is that what is called “the system?” In the “lower strata,” the Administration is thought to be the same as the Safeguard and the “Builders” who aimlessly rebuild cities. Maybe they found hope in rebuilding the world in the quest of Kyrii and friends, and as such are trying to cooperate?

Builders

Their existence is changing structures. They are a kind of machine, with (generally) no personality (consciousness). An place with active Builder movement is called a “growth zone.” The city expands at random. Its main structure is embedded with Netsphere hardware. This is the main cause of chaos in the world, according to the “Administration.”

Silicon Life

On their own, promoting the process of cyborg-ization, a group of criminals who pursued a strengthened body eventually became their own species. To maintain the chaotic state of the world, they spread the Net Terminal Gene infection. They are called “Silicon Life.” There are males and females, and they grow from fetuses. They must avoid the crisis of a “logic contradiction” because they are AI. When intelligence and memory are entered as data, only useless things can be done.

(Translator’s Note: I don’t entirely understand the line above. I think it’s trying to say that you need an AI and that it’s not enough to just have “intelligence” and “data.” The proper comparison might be that “intelligence” is like an advanced computer code, memory is the storage of past experiences, but true “AI” contain emotions, described later as personality. Without a proper AI, you can be no more advanced than something like a Safeguard Exterminator.)

Sometimes they will go crazy. Nevertheless, education is necessary. So they raise their mechanical children. They are in a hostile relationship with Kyrii. They are also hostile to the Safeguard, who they fight using their own powerful forces.

Bio-Electric Inc.

This is a group of scientist living in a massive city called the Cluster in the Abandoned Level, which is ignored by the Administration (including Safeguards) and Silicon Life. In fact, they rule the city, and control its inhabitants. Cibo was a “chief scientist” there, but she opposed the President. With the help of Kyrii, she successfully escapes, takes control of his power, and joins Kyrii on his search.

(Translator’s note: “takes control of his power” probably doesn’t mean that Cibo became the President, just that she overthrew him.)

Safeguard [1]

Humans who do not have the Net Terminal Gene automatically trigger them when trying to connect to the Netsphere. Even the Netsphere’s Control Level / Administration cannot interfere with or stop their function. You could even say that they’re something like a virus checker.

Safeguard [2]

First, artificial intelligence is born. I don’t know the process, but anyway, in the near future, “HAL” may not be the first one made, but one of the initial models will be called “Hal,” maybe? Up to a certain stage, this OS will be used, but it is impossible at first, as understood from the failure of “HAL.” I think it will be created like Astro-Boy, but don’t take that very seriously. But I think its interface is the best, so its usage continues. But that alone is a waste. So, the most effective use of it was thought up. It’s for use against criminals. The “enemy” of the Safeguard are criminals who exploit the net. The villains who nest on the net. Internet refugees. Furthermore, human beings who have “abandoned their bodies.” Crazy AI? On the other hand, the “exterminator” Safeguard, that is, an artificial body with a simple AI, acts mechanically like a “calvary.” Other than that, there are high-level Safeguard with advanced AI that respond to irrational human behavior. In order to avoid the crisis of a function failure due to a logic contradiction, the high-level Safeguard basically do not keep in contact with humans for any longer than a certain period of time. However, these were programmed to not fight with “undercover officers,” if they are “registered.”

The Drybodies

Human beings, as organisms, have an artificial race genetically specialized for dominance. It is named “the Drybodies.” Or, perhaps, was it studied for organ transplants at first?

(Translator’s note: I’m pretty sure this section is talking about the drybodies. The driver of the cargo ship that brings Kyrii to Bio-Electric Inc. mentions that Drybodies are “neutered,” and

the translation of this section's title suggests the same.)

GRAVITON BEAM EMITER

Graviton Beam Emitter [0 - Hypothesis]

Kyrri's gun. An unstoppable weapon that nothing can withstand if hit directly. Rather than a solid bullet, it emits something like an energy beam. The power can be adjusted, and, it can rapid-fire. For a long time, although Kyrri was thought to be the only one with this gun, it became clear that high level Safeguard also use it.

Graviton Beam Emitter [Hypothesis 1]

A beam of gravitons is not very powerful. So where does the power of the GBE come from? Like the Gravity Reactor, it may be through the medium of dark matter. That is, the graviton beam creates a field where a whole bunch of dark matter appears, and the explosive increase in mass leads to a reaction that can destroy anything. It is, so to speak, a radiation emitting device that changes the attributes of the gravitational field.

Graviton Beam Emitter [Hypothesis 2 - Type 1 Unknown Criticality Weapon]

That is the original name of the "Graviton Beam Emitter," according to Iko. "Graviton Beam Emitter" is the name given to it by the people of Bio-Electric Inc of the abandoned level, a name that describes its function. In other words, "Type 1 Unknown Criticality Weapon" is the original "name" of Kyrri's gun, and Graviton Beam Emitter describes its function. So what does it mean to be an "Unknown Criticality Weapon?" It is important to note that its only users were Kyrri, Sanakan, and the Annihilator that Sanakan controlled. The reason for this is that the settings of the BLAME! story (The lower strata where Kyrri first wandered) (The Abandoned Level of Bio-Electric Inc.) (Toha Heavy Industries without the Administration) (The Unofficial Stratum) (the layer damaged by the Level 9) are all places where the Safeguard and Administration cannot function well, and are unlikely to have any other "weapons." However, do not think that the Safeguards do not have a sufficient commander, since, when Sanakan attacks the Silicon Life Citadel, she used a no-limit version of the weapon, and you might think the High Level Safeguard she attacked would be immune to such might and firepower, so Kyrri's gun seems to be the strongest weapon in this world. So why is the weak Kyrri able to use such a weapon? After all, it is probably because Kyrri is a very special person. Is it because he is a "Secret Emissary of the System?" Go back to the previously stated question. What does it mean to be an "Unknown Criticality Weapon?" It is certain that the world created by the Builders is a layered city the size of the solar system, completely filled with a breathable atmosphere at 1 atm, and the gravity is constant. Since it is physically impossible to create such an environment naturally, it must be controlled by some means. Of course, the biggest control is the gravity control, for which a control device must exist somewhere in the megastructure. If gravity control breaks down, then it is possible that the layers themselves could collapse instantly. So, isn't it an "Unknown Criticality Weapon?" Kyrri's gun "emits" a "beam" of "gravitons," collapsing the "criticality" of the gravitational field, leading to an "unknown" situation, making it the ultimate "weapon." The artificial gravitation field will be disabled in a straight line and everything within it disintegrated. If you were to fire blasts here and there, the world would be in danger, so the weapon's usage is restricted. Sanakan is of a "higher order," and so she is capable of using such a weapon. That's why, much later, the Administration ... asked her to look for the Level 9 ... Right?

TOHA HEAVY INDUSTRIES

Secret of Toha Heavy Industries [Power and Propulsion]

Toha Heavy Industries' main source of power is the Gravity Reactor. There are two forms of propulsion. One is the precise, short distance Gravity Saber (it's like a sail boat that spreads a

gravity “sail” and is propelled by the graviton interaction with dark matter). And then there’s the long distance “transfer,” which uses gravity to open a hole in the “world line,” called a “wormhole” and then “warps.”

Secret of Toha Heavy Industries [Purpose]

In a past long forgotten, a large company called Toha Heavy Industries sent out a colony/exploration spaceship for an unknown purpose. However, a long time before the ship’s destination was reached (perhaps after it completed its purpose?), tensions between the ship’s inhabitants caused the ship to return to its point of departure. The ship’s management AI, which was not allowed to understand the details of human beings, fell into a state of confusion along with the ship’s inhabitants. From this, it can be determined that the ship was manufactured during a period of history where it was not yet known that AI could suffer a logical contradiction crisis if incorporated into not only the interface of a operating system but also its management software. In addition, the cause of the tension may have had something to do with the unfinished “wormhole” engine and unexpected side effects of the “transfer.” The departure point the wormhole had returned the ship to was suddenly in the middle of the layered city.

Why is it fixed at that position? What is the agreement with the Administration?

It seems that the ruined city does not have a high population. Originally, the layered city had a low population density. The Administration and the on-board AI of Toha Heavy Industries were in talks after the incident, and the job of reconstruction was left up to the Builders. However, there could be no agreement on the treatment of the humans surviving in Toha Heavy Industries, especially because the on-board AI are relics of an era where AI had “personality” while the “fully logical” Administration are a simple and mechanical operating system. Just like HAL in “2001 A Space Odyssey,” the on-board AI are given an absolute priority command, “the protection of the ship personnel’s lives is a top priority,” but the Administration have no such “order” because it is likely to cause a logical contradiction. The Administration’s supreme order is to ensure smooth operation of the System. Thus, no agreement could be reached between the two parties, and so they decided on a temporary “agreement.”

The contents of the agreement are:

1: Toha Heavy Industries will stop manipulating gravity. In other words, stop making holes in the “worldline” on that spot.

2: As compensation for ceasing operations, the Administration will consider Toha Heavy Industries as independent. In other words, they will be disconnected from the Netsphere.

3: The Administration will protect anyone trying to leave Toha Heavy Industries.

After the agreement was signed, the Electrofishers decided to leave, while the other humans decided to stay inside with the AI.

Changing Conditions [Failure]

Several incidents occur simultaneously leading to the AI’s failure. First of all, the Gravity Reactor started generating excessive amounts of power for navigation, causing a large anomaly in the Worldline. Furthermore, the Silicon Life, who are independent from the Administration, started to invade, along with the semi-independent Safeguard. And, like the early version of the Administration, the on-board AIs capable of “fuzzy thinking” start to break down due to the logical contradictions resulting from multiple conflicting orders (originally, there were 13 AIs, one for each section).

Mensab, Central AI

Mensab, an AI in the early stages of insanity, puts Seu in top priority. The other AI were in much more severe stages of insanity, so she isolated herself from them. Some of the AI were destroyed by Silicon Life. The remaining AI came together and formed a “Central AI” (like Eva’s Magi and Hyperion, they try to prevent madness by double-checking with each other, but this is not fully

functional).

Forwarding

This is Mensab's ultimate defense, but it has a very difficult problem. First of all, she doesn't know what is happening on the receiving side. It is possible that she can "forward" without thinking about that, but in that case it is still extremely dangerous. It's okay if the object you want to forward is "dead," but if that's the case, it is still extremely dangerous because you won't know where it actually appears. If an object is forwarded into an object, it undergoes "nuclear fusion." At the end of the Toha Heavy Industries arc, this is exactly what happened. Therefore, it is believed that there originally "was" a destination. However, the system itself is already crazy, and Kyrii might have come out at a different place. The place where it came out is thought to be a kind of "singularity."

GRAVITY REACTOR ANOMALIES

Gravity Reactor

A graviton is a particle that controls gravity, though its force alone is very weak. Because its power is much less than light, even if it is used to make a laser, it would not be very effective (but that's not impossible. There is a possibility of using gravitons to disintegrate other particles and extract energy). Now, the graviton's force may be very weak, however, the range of its force is infinite, so can it be used as an energy source like a "reactor?" There seems to be a possibility here. Actually, the "Gravity Reactor" as drawn in "BLAME!" is marked with what seems to be a neutrino.

(Translator's note: The Gravity Reactor is marked with a chi (a fancy looking X) which as far as I know has nothing to do with neutrinos? I did some research and the closest I found were a few diagrams that use chi to depict dark matter particles.)

Neutrinos are thought to account for more than 90% of the mass of the universe, and are considered to be a fraction of "Dark Matter," matter which cannot be easily recognized. Right now, detection experiments are being actively conducted at scientific research facilities around the world to study neutrinos and other elementary particles, but because they are electrically neutral, they are hard to detect at all naturally. However, because they have significant mass, they absolutely seem to be influenced by gravity. If this is so, wouldn't it be possible to use gravitons? If the interaction can be controlled, then using it, it is possible to draw energy from the very existence of the entire universe. In other words, we create a "field" using gravity, so to speak, to form the "blades" of a "windmill," and a "current" of dark matter turns the "blades" to generate power. It is thought that our solar system is moving super-fast through heavy, non-moving dark matter, so even if you turn a little "windmill," there is no effect at all.

Cibo's Scattering Across Space

The Central AI abandoned the agreement and thought about moving Toha Heavy Industries, but it was impossible to "transfer" due to the Gravity Reactor's anomalies. Hundreds of years passed, bringing change. Kyrii and Cibo invaded. In fact, the Central AI has once (or several times?) tried to normalize the Gravity Reactor by performing a "forbidden" worldline transformation. By continuing to use the energy of the anomalous Gravity Reactor, Central AI had entangled several worldlines. But, according to the people in Toha Heavy Industries, there was a possibility of returning to the underlying worldline, but even untangling the world lines was not enough to do so. As a result, the chaoticness spread mischievously. (Maybe the first attempt to eliminate the crisis in Toha Heavy Industries led to the Gravity Reactor anomalies?) There, new data appeared. I decided to play with Cibo's worldline. However, then, the Gravity Reactor anomalies were fixed, if only for a moment. The Central AI bet everything on that one moment???

Hypothesis about the Gravity Reactor's anomalies.

The Gravity Reactor requires a location with stable space-time. However, due to the builders' random construction around Toha Heavy Industries, the field collapsed and stability was lost. In order to protect the stability of the field, the Gravity Reactor was put into overdrive to forcibly maintain spacetime stability. The field became impossible to maintain. Space-time began to duplicate. The duplication has gotten worse, making the maintenance of the space-time continuum even more difficult. Soon the space-time itself is going to collapse. To prevent this from happening, the Gravity Reactor must be shut down, allowing space-time to be restored, and then restarted. The primary component of the Gravity Reactor is an impeller/rotor made of gravitons. No object can interfere with it. Only graviton emitting devices can temporarily "pierce" the "blades." The hole will eventually close, but during that time, the Gravity Reactor will stop, effectively resetting it. However, once the Reactor is stopped, the duplicated world collapses. We have no idea what this would look like. Since all of the world's energy has been lost, space and time might freeze all at once? Also, when the duplicated world was destroyed in the heart of the Gravity Reactor, everything was teleported out.

THE UNOFFICIAL STRATUM

Mystery of the Unofficial Stratum [1 - 780 km, 800 hours]

The distance separating the Unofficial Stratum and the time required to cross it. By the way, the radius of the Earth is about 6400 km, and 800 hours is 33 days and a half. Kyrii and Cibo accept this information without saying anything back. Cibo, though she was in the limited environment of Bio-Electric Inc, spent her entire lifetime there studying the Megastructure. She wouldn't find anything strange about that. It's strange, isn't it? Because the megastructure is made from the material of dismantled planets, it is impossible for it to be similar in thickness to the planets (Cibo may have not known entirely about the solar system, but she probably had some knowledge). Even the 33 day time, Kyrii and Cibo are organic beings, I would think they'd be unable to bear it, but they don't act like that. So, the most important thing is, think about like, when trying to copy a file, sometimes, the time remaining can be an abnormal number. Soon enough, it's half that time. It's the same as that, "...anyway" and did you not care? So, why were these unusual numbers presented? Something in the megastructure had caused the system to malfunction, but what was it? Which means... is there some kind of time anomaly? Probably, actually, here is the key to the confusion and strangeness! At first, the Administration, naturally, knew and promoted the expansion of the world by the Builders in a controlled manner. But at some point something went wrong, in the system itself. The system's perception of "time" has become strange. Why? Perhaps the phenomenon was something that not only exceeded the awareness of the Administration, but also the scientific recognition of humanity and computers at the time. Anomalies occurred in the physical properties of the expanding megastructure. A scientifically unknown situation arose. The distortion of gravity and space interfere with time. Since the system clock is originally unified, if time is distorted, commands cannot be transmitted, and interference becomes impossible. This occurred over a long period of time, and it was impossible for the Administration to recognize the situation, in other words, by the time they noticed the confusion, it was impossible to put to a stop. Is this, in fact, the main cause of the turmoil in the world?

Mystery of the Unofficial Stratum [2 - Safeguard Armor]

One of the most mysterious things in the Unofficial Stratum is that there was Safeguard "Armor." What's even the importance of armor to a Safeguard with a basic downloaded body? Well, they're for those who cannot upload and download themselves to and from the system again, the data is stored in case of emergency, and can be retrieved during an emergency.

The Level 9

When Davine Lu Linvega failed to make a temporary connection, what happened? While Cibo is in the same situation, Davine Lu is about to be killed by a high level Safeguard, so his connection

device was destroyed. However, due to the pressure of the situation, unlike the defenseless Cibo, Davine Lu was preparing a strong support unit, and an appropriate place to send the exterminator to was needed.

(Translator's Note: This part was pretty difficult to translate. Not entirely sure what it means. Something about Davine wanting to use force to enter the Netsphere, unlike Cibo.)

But anyway, he could not obtain his “goal” by force, and in the end, Davine Lu had to use Seu’s genes. Now, what was the “goal” of Davine Lu? Most of all, although the relationship between the Administration and Silicon Life is not friendly, it is not a confrontational one. However, they do have a confrontational relationship with the Safeguard. It is a systemic hatred, similar to that between a virus and a vaccine. The Administration are interested in “humanity” and “the world,” they are responsible for management, and they are not interested in Silicon Life without access rights. If something interferes with the world they manage, they will eliminate it, but through the use of the Safeguards. On the other hand, the Silicon Life want to prevent the recovery of the Netsphere, which is managed by the Administration, but as long as the Administration do not reside within this world, it is unlikely that the Silicon Life would want to destroy them. It is ideal that the current state of chaos continues, and if the net is completely down, perhaps, the Silicon Life might not be able to survive. So, after all that hard work, if Davine Lu accessed the Administration, what would he do? In his last moments alive, is his purpose still to obtain the “Level 9?” So, why did he want the Level 9? As the story goes on, though it could be Cibo’s intention (?), a “orb” with access to the Administration is created within the Level 9, which the capture and abduction of produced another struggle, so this is, of course, not the first purpose of Davine Lu. Davine Lu would have wanted the Level 9 purely for its fighting ability. His true purpose may be unknown after all. It may have been used for anti-Safeguard research, or to raise his position within the Silicon Life’s hierarchy. So, the next question. How strong is the “Level 9?” Specifically, that is, what kind of weapon is it? There are three hints. First of all, it is (more so than Kyrii’s gun) the ultimate weapon (though it is harder to control). Next, its destructive “high temperature” effect spreads across surfaces. Finally, the energy of Kyrii’s gun does not interfere with it. By the way, there are a few “final weapon” -like things in “BLAME!,” among them, the Mensab’s transfer (or rather, the result after the transfer) is the most similar. As for the above, as a guess, it is considered to be a weapons that transfers the surface of another world. Could it be the surface of the sun? Well, there’s no way to counter that.

Conversion Tower [About Electricity, Again]

In the Unofficial Stratum, Dhomochevsky and Iko talk about the lack of power, which does not mean that there is absolutely no energy, just that it cannot be used freely. The conversion tower, which is a source of energy, is fought over in a hacking battle with the Silicon Life, a battle of skill which Iko loses to Davine Lu. By the way, the world of “BLAME!,” is a “perfect ubiquitous world.” The interface may not be freely accessible, but from gravity to the atmosphere, all elements of survival are dependent upon the net, there is nothing that’s natural. Electric power too; Kyrii’s gun needs energy. However, even in the Unofficial Stratum, he can shoot without a problem. Why..? The situations in which Kyrii’s gun cannot be used are quite clear, it’s when it’s been cut off from its energy supply. Otherwise, it’s when countermeasures are taken. In Bio-Electric Inc, the beam was bent, but that was probably due to the powers of a strong psychic. From a physical perspective, is it graviton interference...? It seems that Cibo has done some research, proving it may be possible to create an interference field. In the end, it was used by Silicon life, but that’s to be expected since it was created by Bio-Electric Inc. It seems that Sanakan also had her line of fire momentarily deflected. Anyways, it is possible to change the path of the beam because it uses graviton particles. It could not be used in Toha Heavy Industries, because the software would not work. It is understood that, though it is Kyrii’s gun, in terms of OS, it relies on the Netsphere. Well, that’s

natural, since it was a weapon originally designed for the Safeguard. That's how Iko is able to hack the gun for a moment, and could have control. Even though the gun is special and uncommon, the software it uses has probably been used elsewhere. When fighting against the Annihilator, the energy was taken from Exterminators, because the supply of energy from the net was less than the amount required by the built in software to remove the limit. More importantly, at that time, the energy was being transferred through Kyrii's body. In other words, the gun's energy is supplied using Kyrii's body as a conduit. So, when other people can use the gun, they're just using the amount of energy stored in the gun's built-in stock, if it runs out, it cannot be fired until the next time Kyrii's holds it. Back to the story of Toha Heavy Industries, Cibo made it possible to use with a "magnetic shield." The point is that there is a ban on weapons, because it is the same thing as a ban on Safeguard. It's just like flagging the head of the software, which is easy to check with another piece of software.

(Translator's Note: The last sentence is kind of weird but essentially what it means is that there's a software that looks for just the "root" of things. Both Safeguard Exterminators and the GBE have their origins within the Safeguard, so the software that's blocking the Safeguard blocks both things because it's easier that way.)

Cibo back in Bio-Electric Inc. uses "anti-electric coating" to "black the electromagnetic field," which may be the same thing. The reason Cibo invented a "magnetic shield" is because she thought one day Kyrii might need to use his gun, but more accurately, it would be to help against Sanakan.

(Translator's Note: We're talking about Toha Heavy Industries here, where Kyrii's can't use his gun, and Cibo is still worried about Sanakan trying to take over here body. The "magnetic shield" is pretty much like an anti-wifi zone, so it would be capable of keeping Sanakan out.)

I'll get back to the point: in short, isn't the Conversion Tower like a spare power supply? Perhaps, the basic power supply maintaining the "BLAME!" world is part of the the "system" built into fundamental components like the Megastructures. Otherwise, the world would collapse if the gravity control malfunctioned. So the power needed to start the software requires an alternate path. Poor little Dhomochevsky and Iko, they didn't have the power to start the software themselves, or were prevented from doing so by the Silicon Life, while Kyrii goes around without any trouble. Kyrii's gun has an energy supply ranking, which must be fairly high, because even basic power can be used in an emergency, so Kyrii can blast away.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

The Artificial Net Terminal Gene Experiment

The facilities for Net Terminal Gene research that Cibo of Bio-Electric Inc. created were gigantic, but why? As mentioned earlier, without the proper programs, one cannot exist within the virtual world. The program itself is very small, since it connects to the OS of the Netsphere. Probably small enough to fit on a single chip, or smaller. But if you have the right programs, how do you know you have the right hardware? This can be compared to a situation where you have the save data for a game, but you don't know what game it is, or even the console the game runs on. And the game is still going on in real time. You HAVE to load this save data, so what you do is, you take every possible console, and every possible game, and have them at ready. There is no choice but to make a switchable simulation and then load the data. Since Cibo had to make the equipment for such a situation, it had to be huge equipment. In addition, since the hardware of the Netsphere is contained within the Megastructure, that's why the equipment was installed there.

Cibo's Reincarnation [1]

Cibo has definitely died once, during the “Artificial Terminal Gene” experiment. After that, she was revived by the president. How does the human reincarnation deal with personality data? One way of thinking is that the people of “Bio-Electric Inc.” or the “Cluster” are no longer human. Assuming the process of cloning is used, the whole brain has been converted into data, the body is still a biological body, but if the entity is Silicon Life, it seems that it is possible for the mind to be put into simplified bodies. So far, even if it is hard, it might be made easier by preparing in advance. In other words, only in the event of dangerous experiments, a “replacement” body is prepared from the start (only for important people), and one option is to keep it online but cut it when it becomes dangerous. In this case, it takes a long time to scan the inside of the brain, so that it may be kept homogeneous to the molecular level. However, even in this case, the danger of “quantum noise” cannot be avoided, so there is no doubt that that data will gradually deteriorate. Once more, in a fierce battle against Safeguards, Cibo dies again, but as mentioned above, Cibo is a “human” with very simple data, so it is thought to have been relatively “easy” for her to enter the “electronic backup world.” Or maybe the reason why is, in order to control the Builder just before, she had to overwrite her language matrix to sync with Kyrii. However, here she is in a completely data-only state. Once again, the problem is, is it possible to have an intelligence that exists only on the net? Later on we meet Iko, but she’s different because she’s an AI. Also, if it remains data for a long time, it would be deteriorated by the “noise.” In fact, it is also true that original copy is deteriorating, but in order to contain it, it has a boundary, which we call a “living body.”

(Translator’s Note: What I suppose this means is that our minds aren’t in a constant state of deterioration since we have a living body.)

So, if you stay in the “electronic backup world,” like the Administrator at that time, your body may break down, and eventually you will become just noise.

Cibo’s Reincarnation [2]

During the battle at Toha Heavy Industries, Cibo was easily reincarnated in the electronic backup world immediately after death, but this is not something that anyone can do. If everyone had an electronic backup like that, then, and this is not a joke about ghosts, everyone’s consciousness would soon be laid to rest in the electronic backup world. This means there is a separate software/program that turns the human consciousness into data, and you should think about how this works. In other words, at some point Cibo’s personality data became attached to a program that can upload that data to the electronic backup world. There are two explanations for this.

1. When she learns Kyrii’s language matrix, it was transferred over (like a virus?)
2. It happened because she was linked to the Builder.

Or some combination of those two.

A person with this kind of application may be able to survive in data form, so to speak, though they may be alive (if you even call it living), it is in a form similar to the Administration.

Things Made by Zuru

If the deterioration of data in the analog → digital process by passing through the language matrix, along with the effect of “quantum noise” from repeated conversions, causes changes to humanity, then a solution is required. Perhaps, Zuru’s “cell packets” originates from this point, it would seem. I think it may be data storage for clones, but in essence it is “analog” data storage. At the end of the Toha Heavy Industries arc, when Cibo regains her body, it is likely that she used one of Zuru’s cell packets.

CHARACTER PERSONALITIES

About Personality [1]

By the way, when we turn a human being into information, what do we define as the boundaries of

that information? A simple hypothesis is, since a human is a living organism, isn't it genes? Information on the Net, probably, because it is packetized, making the genes a "key," to some extent, seems reasonable. Since genes are kept in a certain part of every human cell, if you have a way to do so, you can easily trace it. Since the sequence of genes is unique in each individual, so with them, it will also be possible to establish "individuality" on the net. Get a specific gene, so that it can be completely scanned, and it will become a mass of "human" information. By the way, assuming that a the PC of the Net's ability is infinite, it will be able to maintain that information exactly for an infinite amount of time. But, if that ability is limited, a kind of swap starts to happen, and the amount of time that information can be maintained for is limited. Also, because of unavoidable generation of (so-called) quantum noise, when stored for any longer than a moment, complex information breaks down naturally. In other words, if there is an available receptor, and if it is instantaneous, then there is a possibility of "moving the body" or "transferring personality" over the net, but if the entirety of "human" information is saved somewhere, it is "impossible" to move to a new body later.

About Personality [2 - Sanakan]

At the time of her disappearance (death?), Sanakan certainly has a personality. However, it is doubtful that Sanakan had such a personality from the beginning, and I do not think that such a specification was originally expected for a top rank Safeguard. The personality (consciousness) of High Level Safeguards is enough to easily pass the artificial intelligence problems of the Turing Test easily, a feature I do not think was intended. For what purpose do High Level Safeguards have a personality? It's definitely for battles with Silicon Life. Most of the Silicon Life, even if they were once human, do not always act rationally! Even if Maeve and Ivy are not the perfect examples, they are superhuman, and victory is impossible for their opponent if it is a very mechanical AI. Therefore, the exterminators deal with so-called illegal access of the net by ordinary humans, but they were too primitive to deal with Silicon Life, so High Level Safeguard with personalities were prepared. However, the originally planned specs of the high level Safeguard are "personalities" like Sanakan's when she first appears, and the mysterious boy (?) from Log 4. So! Why did Sanakan end up like that? By the way, there are other characters in "BLAME!" who, despite being Safeguards, have very "unique" personalities. Yes, Dhomochevsky and Iko! So, these two, while unusual in "BLAME!", have an explanation for their origin. In LOG.43, the "creation" of these two "provisional Safeguards" is shown, but it is explained as an "emergency system" of the "stratum." The situation is presented from Dhomochevsky's perspective, so while the two of them seem to have their current personalities, it may have actually been different. Anyway, undoubtedly, Dhomochevsky and Iko, with their so-called AI, in response to the Silicon Life problem, in an area without access to the Netsphere, were designed (?) to be automatically activated as a Safeguard security measure, for the time being. In the absence of the net, if you can imagine a modern PC, in a situation where there is no internet or LAN connection, and a browser software that does not function, you cannot update the antivirus, still the virus (Silicon Life) enters the system through downloaded software and data. It's like that. Wouldn't they keep fighting alone for the rest of their lives? Over 250 years...? Iko, without a body, is more like an AI. If there had been enough electrical power, she could become a real entity. Well, or, the basic data from when she was an entity was lost, or had become damaged, so maybe she can only exist as data? Anyway, maintaining a personality without a body isn't really living, it's more like just being an AI. Nonetheless, the two have "personality" like any other human being. In this regard, in short, they spent so much time with personality, they sort of "became human," I think. If you ran a very well made "personality" program for a long time, it would eventually become human. In that case, isn't "that" what happened to Sanakan as well? With that feeling in mind, even in the story, the Builders are in the process of gaining a personality as well. Originally, it was just a "combat personality," but maybe ten years of symbiosis with Cibo would work? Even after regaining control over its body from Cibo, it was influenced by Cibo, and it gained a level of personality different from the high level Safeguards. Then, the Safeguard Organization was shut down. It was judged to be not necessary and

over-specialized. They were simply switched off, or put to sleep, apart from Sanakan, and it would have not been painful at all. Sanakan was summoned by the Administration. In order to search for the crazy Level 9. Cibo's personality remains in the Level 9, but she lacks the ability to make rational actions, and though the opponent is a bad safeguard, it is difficult for the Safeguard to search and destroy an ally. So, the time has come for Sanakan, and she is more than enough. Sanakan, Dhomochevsky, and Iko all had quite the personality at the time of their deaths, which is a little sad. Although, they probably didn't feel sad. Because they began as a function and ended as a function, that's life... During the final battle, Sanakan used her battle form for functional reasons, but she may have purposefully chosen that body as she viewed it as her original.

About Personality [3 - Mori]

Sanakan, Dhomochevsky, and Iko, who fought until the end, most of the "humans" who appear in "BLAME!" are cowards. This might have something to do with the "personality" (consciousness)'s primitive instinct to continue one's genes. Silicon Life are free of any genes, and so they live life more easily. Zuru made samples from dead bodies. The Mensab and Seu group escaped through "space-time." There was also the "Beautiful Life" clone. On the other hand, AI follow a straight line toward their purpose. Toward the ending, Kyrii finds a partner, "Mori," who is kept alive in an emergency preservation pack. Speaking of "Emergency Preservation Pack," when Cibo was using Sanakan's body, remember how she created a cylindrical object for use in an emergency, what data was in that? According to one theory, the "data" for one person is about 2 terabytes? How is that calculated? Is it the molecular structure? Well, believe it or not, if that's the case, in this world, that can fit in an object that small. In Cibo's case, because she has "reincarnated" so many times, her basic data may be less in size. On the other hand, Mori's emergency preservation pack is huge. But, since the performance is not the same, can you measure performance by size? However, in the end "multiple" personalities were overwritten, the capacity must be greater. Whether Mori is the name of the pack's maker, or the name of the first girl to use it, might be a permanent mystery. That character, if it was a girl's personality, might have had someone else's (a man?) data overwritten, which is not the same. However, compared to Sanakan, there is a more obvious commitment to life.

About Personality [Final - Netsphere Manager]

Why does the Administration give something like a "personality" to the representative entity? It's just to be user friendly, so there shouldn't be a problem? The reason why the Safeguard Organization created the high level Safeguard was because it was necessary to use them as a weapon against the "Silicon Life," but in that case, the "personality" created for them could not be erased, so it was kind of inconvenient. But even so, The Administration itself has no "personality" at all. This is because, under working conditions, unless the function is prioritized, it will surely break down some day, and if a personality is given, one day it will surely encounter a "logical contradiction." But, nevertheless, I think people would have wanted something with a human element. And, such a "personality" as just an interface for humans could exist as a "window clerk" for the Administration. Him/her probably doesn't even have a real body. Sometimes, when a representative entity is forwarded to Base Reality, this copied personality is given. The original personality continues to exist, endlessly. That is, after a long time, it will continue to accumulate personality, unintentionally. Whatever spoke to Sanakan, it may have been such a thing.