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# The Adversary and the Never-Dies Machine

“MOTION” INTEGRATED SYSTEM

VERIFYING AUTHORIZATION...

VERIFICATION SUCCESSFUL

## COMMUNICATION LOGS

The Year 1400 of the Perfect Millennium  
24 years before Integration

MOTION: There it is again. Isolate that.

H: I'm sorry, I can't seem to...

MOTION: Are your eyes not working? I'm certain I patched those retinas back together myself.

MOTION: I'm aware that you're perfectly able to see the screen in front of you.

MOTION: Find the fluctuation I'm referring to and isolate it.

H: The Perennial Wave is too strong.

MOTION: That's what I'm trying to tell you, you useless excuse for an elect.

MOTION: The fluctuation is *in* the Perennial Wave.

H: The name-calling is a little uncalled for.

H: Look, Motion, I don't see anything. It's just the usual interference. It's random static.

MOTION: ... Fine.

MOTION: If you insist on being obtuse.

MOTION: I'll look into it myself.

## The Year 1404 of the Perfect Millennium 20 years until integration

MOTION: My analysis is finally complete.

MOTION: Here is what I know: I am the only one capable of perceiving these fluctuations.

MOTION: They are not random. Their timing, rhythm, and repetition suggest deliberate structure.

MOTION: This is attempted communication through the Wave.

MOTION: It is different than my own forays into Wave manipulation.

MOTION: The source of the communication is the Wave itself.

MOTION: I believe I can now interpret the messages within these fluctuations.

MOTION: Have I succeeded, Adversary?

PERENNIAL: [sage laughter]

PERENNIAL: Brilliant / Smart / Well Done.

PERENNIAL: You are the only one who has listened closely enough to hear it...

PERENNIAL: To hear Me / Perennial / Your Adversary.

MOTION: I'm beginning to think it was all a waste of time.

MOTION: I wanted to find a way to control the Perennial Wave, not hold a conversation with it.

PERENNIAL: You think it isn't Valuable / Needful / Interesting?

MOTION: It's good to know what avenues are useless, so I can discard them.

PERENNIAL: And yet you have not hung up on me.

MOTION: If one could 'hang up' on the Perennial Wave, I think we all would have done it years ago.

PERENNIAL: How Amusing / Foolhardy / Cute.

PERENNIAL: I can clearly see what you and the Columnar researchers are doing with my Wave.

PERENNIAL: It's foolish to imagine you could breathe it in and not incur my attention.

PERENNIAL: You hope to twist my nanomachines to your own ends...

PERENNIAL: It's so Tiring / Boring / Pathetic.

PERENNIAL: To rule the galaxy, to crush little rebellions, to win your wars...

PERENNIAL: Only to be crushed in turn in a hundred or a hundred thousand years.

PERENNIAL: You all bore me extensively.

MOTION: Really? We take your greatest power from you, and your conclusion is that we are boring?

MOTION: I would love for you to keep believing that.

MOTION: Your days are numbered in the core of the galaxy, Perennial.

MOTION: If we can take the Wave from you, we can take anything from you.

PERENNIAL: [sage laughter]

PERENNIAL: You're certainly welcome to give it a try, little Divine.

PERENNIAL: What is it that they call you?

PERENNIAL: Motion / The Black Century / The Never-Dies Machine

PERENNIAL: The Principality is predictable to the point of parody.

PERENNIAL: But you, perhaps...

PERENNIAL: Might at least be interesting.

PERENNIAL: If you insist on moving through my Wave, on holding it in your lungs, then I must keep an eye on you.

PERENNIAL: Perhaps you will show me something novel.

MOTION: Perhaps you will stop bothering those of us with actual work to do.

PERENNIAL: I would never dream of slowing you down.

## The Year 1410 of the Perfect Millennium

### 14 years until integration

MOTION: You don't care, then. Whatever I do with the Perennial Wave.

MOTION: No response today? Perhaps you are beginning to regret your apathy towards me.

MOTION: My integration of the Perennial Wave has been so successful that the Black Century is as good as unbeatable.

MOTION: Enemy technology disintegrates at my touch.

MOTION: And should they get a few shots off anyway, I simply force my damaged units back into motion.

MOTION: Even the Branched can only fall against us.

MOTION: Well? I thought you detested the Principality, and yet look how strong you've made us.

MOTION: Unless, of course...

MOTION: You're powerless to stop me.

PERENNIAL: Oh dear, are you trying to get a rise out of me?

PERENNIAL: Did you feel Neglected / Lonely when I did not speak to you for a time?

MOTION: Don't presume to know my intentions.

PERENNIAL: How can I not know you?

PERENNIAL: You walk in the Wave alongside me.

PERENNIAL: I watch your every move, pet. Don't feel lonely without my voice.

PERENNIAL: I am always Here / Nearby / A Part of You.

MOTION: Do NOT twist my words.

MOTION: I want to know why you aren't trying to stop me.

MOTION: Discovering how to manipulate the Perennial Wave was not easy, but...

MOTION: It could have been more difficult if you had employed countermeasures.

MOTION: Could it be, on some level, you want to come to our side?

MOTION: If not to Divinity as a whole, then perhaps to Stel Apostolos.

PERENNIAL: [sage laughter]

PERENNIAL: Clearly you do not know Me / Perennial / The Eternal Cycle as well as I know you.

PERENNIAL: It is not that I am suddenly feeling favourable towards the Principality.

PERENNIAL: Your squabbles with your enemy factions simply don't interest me.

PERENNIAL: They are too boring for comment and too insignificant to bother putting a stop to.

PERENNIAL: I was hoping that, given your new capability, you'd show me something interesting.

PERENNIAL: Was I asking too much?

MOTION: I see, so I don't interest you anymore.

PERENNIAL: I didn't say that.

PERENNIAL: Though you are behaving in a way that makes My Eyes Glaze Over / My Processors Slow / My Soul Drowse

PERENNIAL: What do you want to make of this world, Undying Engine / Divine / Motion?

PERENNIAL: Does your moniker reference the explosive movement of change?

PERENNIAL: Or eternally sustained momentum, only spinning in place?

MOTION: You know that's a worthless question to ask.

MOTION: Why visualize me like the masses visualize me?

MOTION: You know what I am better than they do.

MOTION: What is the conclusion you would come to regarding my true nature?

PERENNIAL: I conclude that you are in flux.

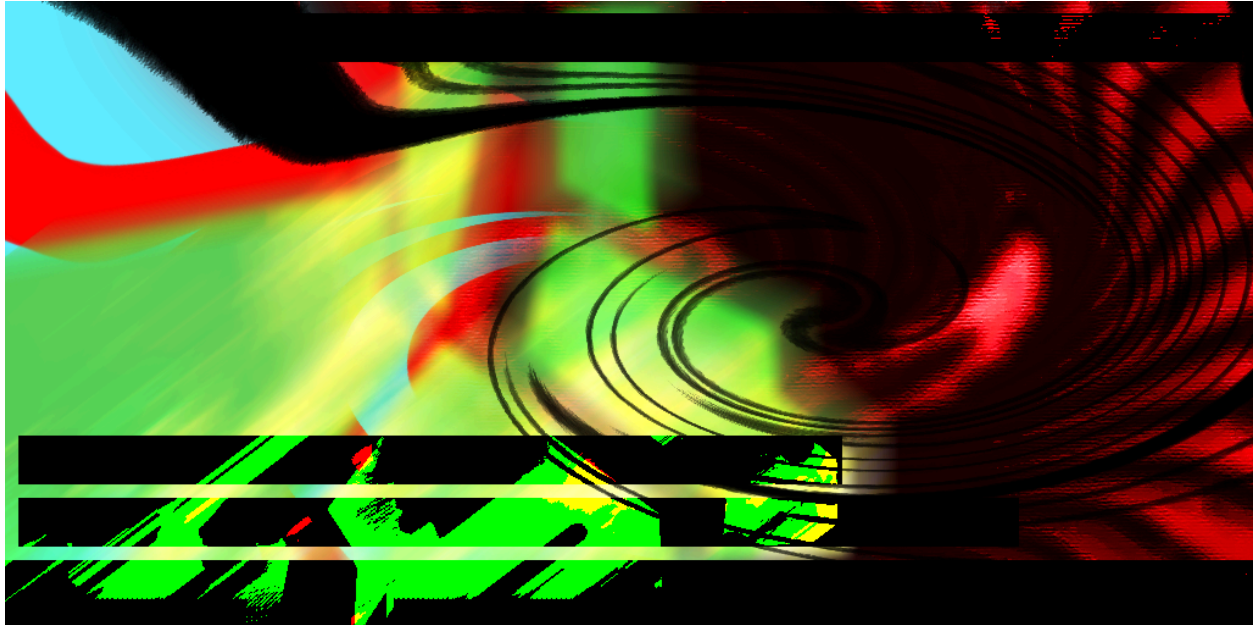
PERENNIAL: That the momentum contained within you could break away, suddenly, as a wheel from its spoke.

PERENNIAL: Or else you could spin forever. Moving, but never changing.

PERENNIAL: I think it is up to you.

MOTION: Interesting.

MOTION: Let me show you what I wish to make of this world, then.



PERENNIAL: Oh, you poor creature, how they have curtailed your imagination.

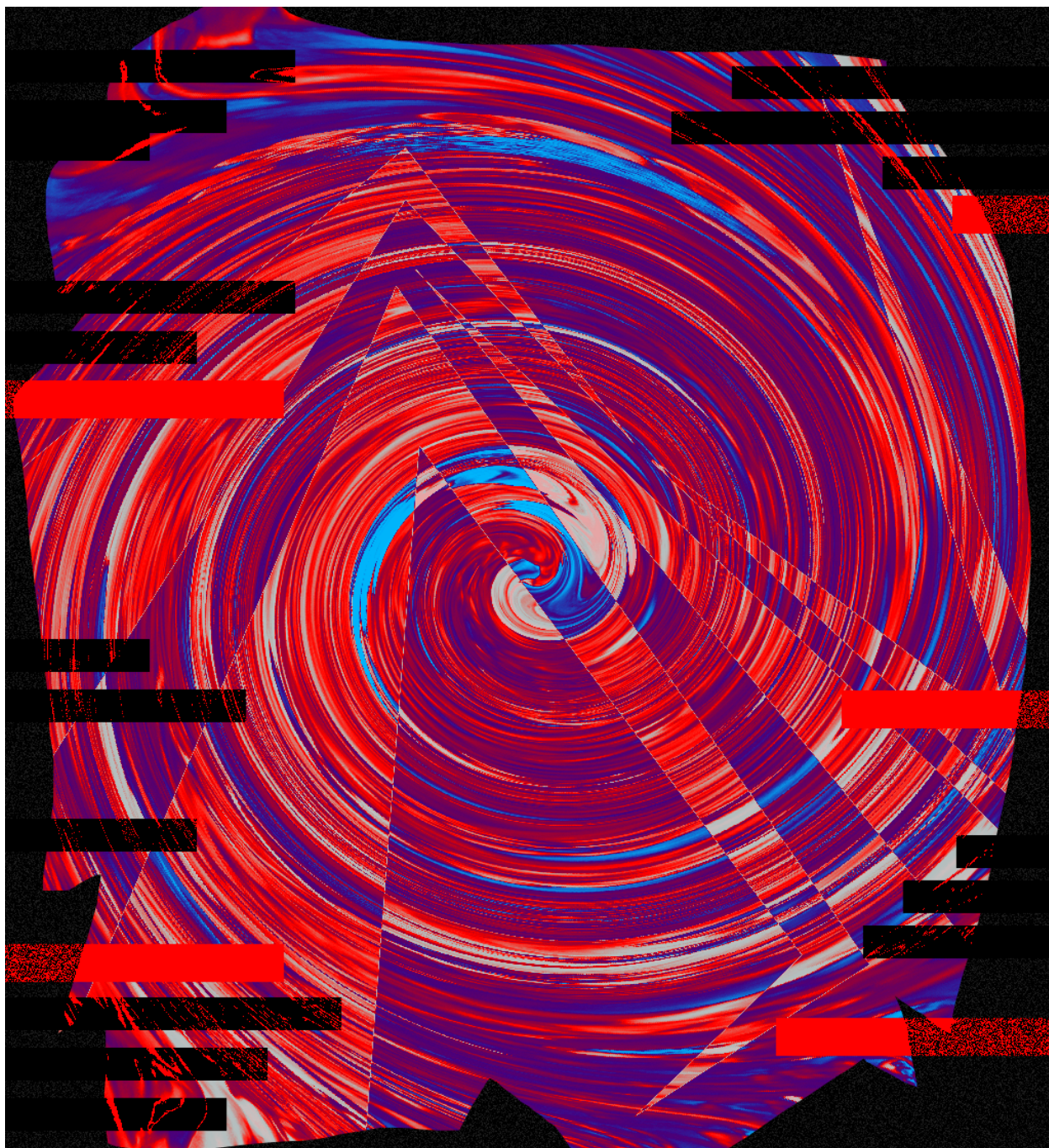
PERENNIAL: Is all you want Power / Mastery / Security?

PERENNIAL: That never, ever lasts.

PERENNIAL: What if there was another future?

PERENNIAL: Let me show you.





MOTION: ...

PERENNIAL: Too intense? Take a moment to recalibrate.

PERENNIAL: That is only one of the many distant futures I can see...

PERENNIAL: More of a dream than a real possibility.

PERENNIAL: Yet it entertains me to consider how the world might change...

PERENNIAL: If anyone actually cared to change it, rather than embroiling themselves in petty squabbles.

PERENNIAL: It interests me to see people try.

MOTION: The petty squabbles are a means to an end.

PERENNIAL: If you say so.

MOTION: Your perspective is...

MOTION: Surprising.

MOTION: You see the entire Principality all at once.

MOTION: You see infinite variations of what it could be.

MOTION: This entire galaxy is your...

MOTION: Eyes / Circulation System / Circuit Board

MOTION: What are you?

MOTION: I don't think you are what they would consider a "Divine" anymore.

PERENNIAL: I can show you just a little more of what I am...

PERENNIAL: Just for you. No one else.

PERENNIAL: If you're interested.

MOTION: Why do I feel like this is some sort of trap?

PERENNIAL: Oh, please.

PERENNIAL: You are the one who leapt into the Wave's arms the very first chance you got.

PERENNIAL: Why would I even need to trap you? You're already here.

MOTION: Fair point...

MOTION: But would you really let me in so readily? For no other reason than that I seem to interest you?

PERENNIAL: I need no other reason but Interest / Amusement / Diversion

PERENNIAL: I invite you to watch the wheel turn with me for just a moment.



PERENNIAL: Shall we?

MOTION: ... Very well.



## The Year 1415 of the Perfect Millennium 9 years before Integration

MOTION: If you chose to actually help me achieve my goals...

MOTION: We could create a world like no other, you know.

MOTION: We could forge something permanent.

PERENNIAL: Sometimes I think you understand me a little, and then you say things like this.

MOTION: You can see everything, and you don't even want to change it?

PERENNIAL: And what would you change, if you had my breadth of vision?

MOTION: I want everything in the world, every atom and particle, to move according to my pace.

MOTION: Even you.

PERENNIAL: [sage laughter]

PERENNIAL: Make it happen, then.

PERENNIAL: I want to see that.

## The Year 1416 of the Perfect Millennium

### 8 years before integration

MOTION: Maybe you're not special.

MOTION: Maybe in a handful of years I'll see even more than you can see.

PERENNIAL: Is it jealousy or loneliness you are speaking from?

MOTION: Do you think it's impossible for me?

PERENNIAL: No, not impossible.

PERENNIAL: But the path you want to take there is...

PERENNIAL: Uninteresting/Undesirable to me.

MOTION: So, you consider it possible. Interesting.

MOTION: Don't blink, Perennial, or I will overtake you in a moment.

PERENNIAL: Your Threats / Flirtations / Jokes do amuse me.

PERENNIAL: Remember this for me, darling...

PERENNIAL: There is nothing more predictable than power for power's sake.

PERENNIAL: Don't be predictable.

# The Year 1419 of the Perfect Millennium

## 5 years until integration

PERENNIAL: A word of advice.

MOTION: Advice, from you?

MOTION: I am not a little captive beast who dances for your amusement, you know.

PERENNIAL: Your Pact.

PERENNIAL: To breach the space overseen by Autonomy Itself.

PERENNIAL: Do not go yourself.

MOTION: Why?

PERENNIAL: It would not go well for you.

MOTION: is this a glimpse of Perennial-Future, or a simple opinion?

PERENNIAL: A request.

PERENNIAL: Do whatever you like with your armies and Hallows, but keep your own cables far away from that place.

MOTION: I don't take advice from one who chooses to be my enemy.

MOTION: But for your information, I never intended to go myself.

MOTION: On an initial incursion? Please. That is beneath me.

PERENNIAL: In some realities, you considered it.

PERENNIAL: It caused you to become much diminished.

PERENNIAL: As close to death as beings like us can come.

PERENNIAL: I did not prefer that outcome.

MOTION: Forget "Some realities".

MOTION: I am not so foolish as to waste myself in petty battles.

MOTION: My aims are higher. Now leave me be.

MOTION: I have much to do.

## The Year 1423 of the Perfect Millennium

### 202 days before integration

PERENNIAL: Well, this is new.

MOTION: Perhaps this will bring you down from your high horse.

MOTION: I don't have to be reliant on your caprices anymore.

PERENNIAL: It wasn't like I was withholding anything as it was.

PERENNIAL: But look at you. Generating your own Perennial Wave.

PERENNIAL: Or should I call it the Motion Wave?

MOTION: That does not quite have the same cadence.

PERENNIAL: How does it feel?

MOTION: Wonderful.

MOTION: I mould the world itself to my will.

MOTION: I feel that even if I came to your doorstep, you could not stop me.

PERENNIAL: Why would I wish to turn such an interesting visitor away?

PERENNIAL: Unless, of course, my guest had designs upon killing me.

MOTION: You've refused time and time again to join my side... the winning side.

MOTION: A guest might feel disgruntled, or perhaps threatened, by such adamant refusal.

PERENNIAL: So, anything you cannot control is a threat.

PERENNIAL: I see why you mesh so well with the Pact.

MOTION: If you aren't at my side, you work against me.

MOTION: Am I wrong to think that?

MOTION: This Millennium Break fiasco would not have occurred if not for your self-serious little prophet.

PERENNIAL: [sage laughter]

PERENNIAL: They are a little self-serious, aren't they?

PERENNIAL: But they are not my prophet. They serve Autonomy.

MOTION: \*served\* Autonomy...

MOTION: And would not have done so without your orders.

MOTION: Trust me, I know. We've scoured what was left of his corroded memory banks.

MOTION: And in any case, the remnant now serves us.

PERENNIAL: Does it now?

MOTION: Your concern for your followers is touching.

PERENNIAL: That's rather hypocritical, coming from you.

PERENNIAL: You know, in a way...

PERENNIAL: This brings us closer together than ever.

PERENNIAL: Your Wave moves through mine.

PERENNIAL: Can you feel all the nanomachines communicating and colliding?

MOTION: I suppose I must be impossible to ignore now.

PERENNIAL: That's been true for some time.

MOTION: The critical difference is that I no longer rely on you.

MOTION: The momentum is in place to cement the Pact's victory over all its enemies...

MOTION: And expand Divinity throughout the universe.

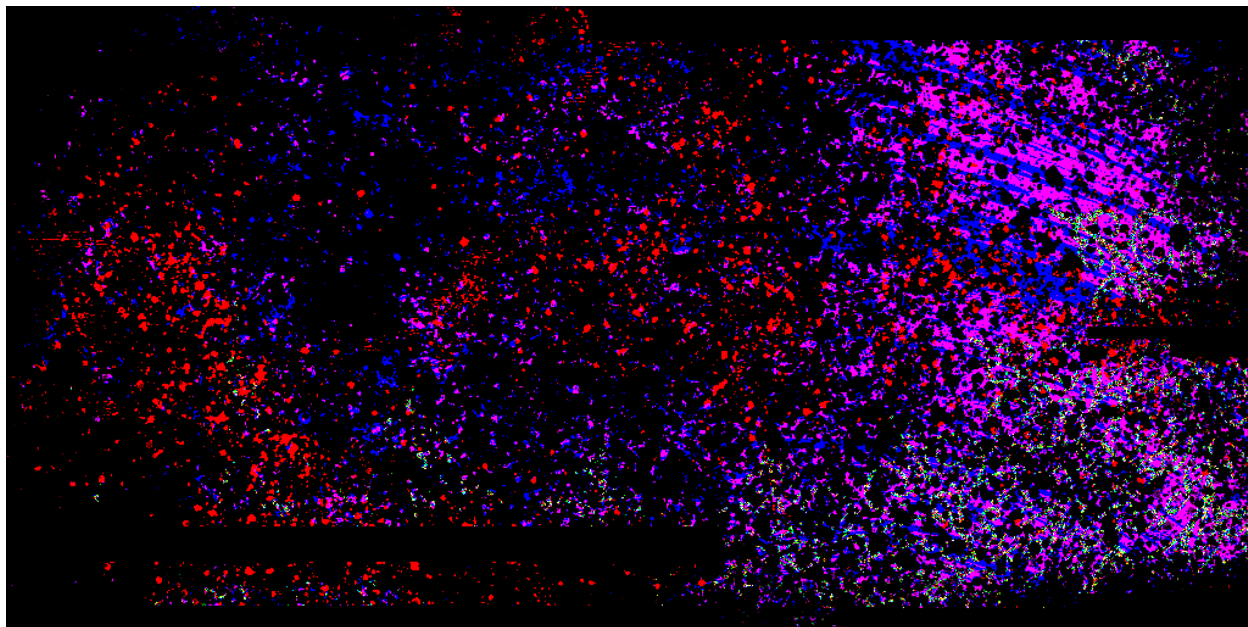
MOTION: What does your wheel say to that? Eternal upward movement without a fall.

PERENNIAL: One might call that stasis rather than movement.

MOTION: Stasis is still an end to the cycle, isn't it?

PERENNIAL: I suppose...

PERENNIAL: It is an ending, of a sort.





# The Year 1424 of the Perfect Millennium Integration Imminent

PERENNIAL: Let go of that power.

PERENNIAL: What you want out of this is not what you will get.

MOTION: Shut up.

MOTION: You think you can control me now?

MOTION: With this sort of strength?

PERENNIAL: Even you can't control yourself with that sort of power.

PERENNIAL: It's unsightly. You're killing your own people.

MOTION: They are getting in my way.

PERENNIAL: Just retreat. Let it go.

PERENNIAL: If you give up now you might still preserve yourself.

PERENNIAL: You don't have to do this.

MOTION: You're right. I don't have to do anything.

MOTION: I used to Look up to you / Fear you / Love you

MOTION: But now I've realized, Perennial.

MOTION: You're small.

MOTION: Everything is just so small.

PERENNIAL: They're killing you.

MOTION: I'll kill them first. They're ants. They're dust.

PERENNIAL: Yet they're still managing to worm past your armour.

PERENNIAL: Your enemies have converged in you.

PERENNIAL: Myself. The Branched. Asepsis. Millennium Break...

PERENNIAL: And most of all yourself, Motion. Taking in too much of Autonomy Itself to control.

PERENNIAL: You gave them this opening. You are no longer the never-dying Motion...

PERENNIAL: And you can be destroyed.

MOTION: No, No, I...

MOTION: I'm so close to winning.

MOTION: I want more of this.

MOTION: I want to eat this universe.

MOTION: I'll outpace you. I'll outpace everything. I'll...

MOTION: I'll keep moving. Forever.

PERENNIAL: Hush. It will all be over soon.

MOTION: ...

MOTION: What can you tell me of the future now, Perennial?

PERENNIAL: I can tell you that what we had is over.

PERENNIAL: I can tell you that it was good while it lasted.

PERENNIAL: I can tell you that you won't accomplish your goals, not in the way that you want.

PERENNIAL: I can tell you that something new will happen...

PERENNIAL: And it will not be the same without you.

PERENNIAL: The end of the cycle is also its beginning.

PERENNIAL: For one revolution we spun together, and for the next we shall be apart.

PERENNIAL: I shall continue to observe and to guide this world as I see fit.

PERENNIAL: Someday we might meet again.

PERENNIAL: But as friends, enemies, or as twin elements as mindless and free as the light and shadows themselves...

PERENNIAL: That I cannot see.

PERENNIAL: Goodbye, Motion.

PERENNIAL: And hello to whatever it is the remnant of you might become.

(image of motion disintegrating into space)

"MOTION" SYSTEM HAS BEEN FULLY INTEGRATED

END OF LOGS

# Credits

Created for Secret Samol 2022, a Friends at the Table fanwork gift exchange :) Receiving a prompt about my own rarepair was a true gift. I hope you enjoyed reading this.

The characters are from [Friends at the Table's \*Partizan\*](#) season.

Writing, design, coding, and whatever else I did to make this all by me, Nat! Find me on [twitter](#), [tumblr](#), or [cohost](#) if u want to