

Gemini, please read and process scene 18 of “The Nanite Smuggler” (below), then we can discuss how to continue to scene 19.

Story Title: The Nanite Smuggler

Story subtitle: The implications of immortality

There are 18 completed scenes in the story so far.

Scene 18.

Many Sails was now closely approaching Tar'tron and would soon be close enough to teleport non-sedronic matter to the surface of the planet. Inside the sentient spaceship, F. Tyhry, F. Marda, and F. Anthony stood in tense anticipation while looking out the window at the dense field of stars there in the Galactic Core. The view of the swirling Galactic Core had become agonizingly familiar during the past several days of the long voyage. They yearned to be back on solid ground, under a blue sky. The unknown that awaited on Tar'tron.

"Approaching teleportation range," *Many Sails* announced, her voice oddly soothing despite the jarring implication of imminent bodily deconstruction. "Planetary coordinates confirmed... I'll place you within easy walking distance of Zeta and Eddy." A slow minute moved past. "I sense heightened anxiety in you. Relax... all will be fine."

"Just get it over with," grumbled F. Marda, her knuckles white as she gripped the edge of the window. Despite the brave front, her telepathic connection with F. Tyhry revealed a simmering fear; Marda was not at all pleased that her life had been derailed. She had planned a career as a biologist, but all her knowledge of biology was now useless. She wondered if she would ever speak to her mother again.

A surge of energy: teleportation. A dizzying disorientation that felt both endless and instantaneous. And then the scent of alien flora rushed over them on a wind that carried the warmth of twin suns. The three femtobot replicoids had arrived on Tar'tron.

Using her telepathic link to F. Tyhry, F. Marda and F. Anthony, *Many Sails* told them, "*Teleportation complete. Welcome to Tar'tron.*" *Many Sails* added, "*I will remain here in the Galactic Core for a few days, but then I must go attend to other tasks.*"

Tyhry looked at the surface of Tar'tron. Before her was no desolate landscape, but a clearing in a forest with a scattering of buildings and groups of humans who had been brought there by means of the special Reality Viewer on Tar'tron that could generate immortal copies of people. Quickly, dozens of people gathered around Tyhry, Marda and Anthony.

Tyhry noticed that these people were mostly members of the human subspecies from Siteq. Using the Viewer onboard *Many Sails*, she had watched the immortal copy of Eddy bring hundreds of tryp'At to Tar'tron. The tryp'At were slender, taller, their movements fluid in a way that contrasted with the regular humans who Tyhry had grown up among on Earth. One of the hermaphroditic Tryp'At stepped forward, their telepathic mind imprinting a strange feeling of familiarity upon Tyhry's telepathic senses. The tryp'At all had the appearance of young women, so Tyhry decided to think of them as being female, although she knew they were all hermaphrodites.

"Greetings, Tyhry," the tryp'At said. Formal, yet with a warmth that cut through F. Tyhry's initial unease. "I am Kyryk. *Many Sails* told me to expect your arrival."

Before Tyhry could fully process the odd telepathic signals she was sensing from the nearby tryp'At, Kyryk gestured towards a nearby building. "Your parents await... they were also warned of your impending arrival by Manny"

Something sparked within F. Tyhry. An instinct, a hint of recognition in the darting wisps of telepathic contact that she was experiencing with the tryp'At. She followed Kyryk into the building and towards the two human figures she knew without truly knowing.

These were the immortal replicoid copies of her parents. Her mother, Zeta, was unmistakable, though the woman before her radiated a youthful vitality that clashed with Tyhry's memories of her childhood and her biological mother. Yet, it was the swell of Zeta's belly, a testament to new artificial life blossoming on this alien world, that struck F. Tyhry more profoundly than the youthful appearance of her parents. Using the Viewer onboard *Many Sails*, Tyhry had seen the fact of Zeta's pregnancy, but now, in person, Zeta seemed ripe and huge. Tyhry hugged her mother and then Eddy.

Eddy said, "It is wonderful to see you again, Marda." He shook Anthony's hand. "Welcome to Tar'tron, old friend."

Kyryk sensed Tyhry's disorientation. "Your astonishment is understandable. Your mother's condition, the rapidity of her growth... it is a mystery. Many people on Tar'tron are now pregnant and all of the embryos grow at accelerated rates. I've been involved with an effort to understand how such rapid embryonic development is possible."

F. Tyhry explained to Zeta, "Mother, I've been told that your immortal body is composed of zeptite componentes. I suppose Manny programmed the zeptites to accelerate gestation."

Kyryk is from the far future of the Ekcolir Reality and had lived in Siteq, where tryp'At scientists had a history of many centuries of research into the mysteries of hierions, femtobots and sedrons. As a telepathic tryp'At, Kyryk also had personal experience with using the Sedron Time Stream. However, when F. Tyhry mentioned zeptites, it was the first time that Kyryk had heard that term. Kyryk had a weak telepathic link to Tyhry's unique mind, but he asked, "What can you tell me about these zeptites?"

F. Tyhry quickly explained to Kyryk that zeptites were similar to femtobots, but much smaller. She added, "Femtobots are made from hierions. Zeptites are composed of sedronic matter. Sedrons have much shorter bond lengths between them, allowing zeptites to function as a type of artificial life-form at a scale a million times smaller than what is possible for femtobots."

Tyhry asked Eddy, "Can you show me the Reality Viewer that is here on Tar'tron? The one that is used to create immortal replicoids."

Eddy asked, "You are aware of what has been happening here on this world?"

"Yes, father." Tyhry explained that during her journey to Tar'tron she had been allowed to witness events on Tar'tron. "*Many Sails* allowed me to watch you using the Reality Viewer to bring people such as Kyryk to this world."

Eddy told Tyhry, "I've turned the task of bringing more people to Tar'tron over to the tryp'At. Your mother and I are preparing schools and other facilities for the children who will soon be born." He told Anthony, "I can use your help, Anthony. We have much to do. You raised and educated Tyhry back on Earth." He placed a hand on Zeta's bulging abdomen, "You will be able to help us educate Zeta's future children."

Kyryk told Tyhry, "I'll take you to see the Reality Viewer."

Tyhry's thoughts were focused on her new project: the problem of how to communicate with the original biological Tyhry who was on Earth. F. Tyhry knew that the original biological Tyhry had been able to "hack" the Reality Simulation System on Earth. She had accomplished that by using special "hacking nanites" that Tyhry developed and programmed. Now, on Tar'tron, Tyhry wanted to alter the function of the Reality Viewer, expanding its capabilities so that it could access data that was stored in the Sedron Domain for use by Earth's Reality Simulation System.

Tyhry again hugged Zeta. Eddy said, "I'll go along to the Viewer. I requested that a copy of an historical figure be brought through from Earth to help us with our plans for an education system." Eddy told Anthony, "You stay here. Zeta will start sharing with you are plans for a school."

Marda said, "I'll stay here, too."

Eddy and Tyhry then went with Kyryk to visit Reality Viewer. They walked across a meadow towards another building that housed the Reality Viewer. Tyhry asked her father, "Who is the historical figure that you selected?"

"Hypatia, of the ancient Roman Empire." Eddy was walking hand-in-hand with his daughter. "She was known for her teaching abilities and her passion for sharing knowledge."

Tyhry began describing her own education. She told Kyryk that Manny the bumpha had taught her to program femtobots. She asked Kyryk, "Are there experts at Siteq who can program femtobots?"

Kyryk replied, "Tyhry, I share your interest in femtobot programming. However, there are no femtobots on Tar'tron, only zeptites... unless..." Kyryk was learning how to telepathically enter into Tyhry's memories. Now Kyryk saw a promising fact in Tyhry's thoughts. "You!"

Tyhry nodded, "Yes, my body and those of Marda and Anthony are composed of femtobots."

Kyryk asked, "But can you reprogram those femtobots or do they have locked functions?"

Tyhry said, "We might be able to find a way to use the programmable femtobots inside me to modify the function of the Reality Viewer. We won't know until we try. But first, show me the Viewer."

They entered a building and passed through a large room where a group of people, mostly tyrp'At were lounging and chatting. Kyryk led the way to the room housing the Reality Viewer. Tyhry saw another tall tyrp'At who was adjusting the controls of the Viewer. Kyryk said, "Xyron, say hello to Eddy's daughter, Tyhry."

Xyron held up a hand and completed the adjustments to the Viewer settings. Now Tyhry could clearly see a young Earth woman being displayed by the Viewer. Xyron now turned her head. He spoke to Eddy, "I'm glad you are here. Do you really want her this young?"

"That's Hypatia?" Eddy explained, "The younger the better. I want her to be able to relate to young children."

Xyron suggested, "I could generate many copies, one each year from age twenty through thirty."

Eddy chuckled, "It is tempting, but I stand by the rule: only make one copy of each person. I don't want to deal with the possibility of conflicts between multiple copies of the same person."

Tyhry said, "I'm afraid I soured my father on the idea of multiple copies of a person."

There in the display of the Viewer, Hypatia was a fiery figure who drew F. Tyhry's eye—a woman with a striking presence. Her robes were brightly colored, not matching Tyhry's imagination of what should be worn by an

ancient scholar. Xyron activated the copy function of the Viewer and then the woman was replicated, the new copy materializing on Tart'ton as an immortal replicoid. Tyhry felt the full force of Hypatia's eyes, filled with a piercing intelligence that seemed to hint at wisdom accumulated over centuries of time.

Eddy approached and spoke to Hypatia, a touch of awe in her voice. "Hypatia... welcome. You are among the brilliant minds we are bringing to this world to help with an ambitious project."

Hypatia's gaze was locked on the alien features of Xyron, a glow of intense curiosity colored her features. "And who might you be? Your form... It speaks of a strange type of... a form that I do not recognize."

F. Tyhry asked Eddy, "How can she speak English?"

Eddy explained, "It is a feature that Manny built into this replicator. Everyone arrives here on Tar'tron knowing how to speak English."

Hypatia said, "Manny! Of course. So, she asked you to teleport me off of Earth?"

Eddy asked, "You know Manny the bumpha?"

"She trained me and sent me to Earth as her agent." Hypatia demanded, "What does Manny want... where is she?"

Tyhry laughed loudly then said, "I suppose we should not be surprised if most of the famous people from history were working as secret agents for Manny!"

Hypatia, a woman of formidable intellect, quickly began to understand the situation in Tar'tron. "So...this world. A new beginning? Manny's grand experiment?" Her eyes swept the room, then fixed on Kyryk and Xyron. "And who are these... beings?"

Hypatia was in telepathic contact with Kyryk and Xyron, allowing her to learn from their thoughts that her mission on Earth had been a success and her life on Earth had been remembered by future generations of Earthlings and people like Eddy. She approached the tryp'At and extended a hand to Kyryk. "Hypatia. My world knew me as a philosopher, but my role under Manny the bumpha was less... traditional."

Intrigued, Kyryk offered a mental greeting, causing a wave of intimate sensations to wash over Hypatia. "Kyryk. A pleasure, Hypatia. As you telepathically see in my mind, my people are the tryp'At, a human variant from the far future of a different Reality. We tryp'At were created by Manny the bumpha through a process of artificial evolution in the far future of the Ekcolir Reality, which is an alternative timeline of Earth that came before the Final Reality... the Earth you know. You appear to be an Earthling, but you are a powerful telepath... like a tryp'At."

"A different Reality?" Hypatia's brows furrowed slightly and she glanced at the Reality Viewer. "Ah, so this device can retrieve people from every past Reality of Earth!" She turned to Eddy and asked, "Tell me, what is your vision for this budding society here on this world, Eddy?"

Eddy stepped forward. "To create a new human society based on telepathic communication rather than speech. But more than that, this is a community of immortal replicoid copies of people... you and I are now immortal copies of our former biological selves!"

Just at that moment, a cry pierced the air. Zeta, face flushed with pain and she clutched her swollen belly. Kyryk was telepathically in contact with the near-term fetus that was inside Zeta and he was aware that Zeta was going into labor. He told Eddy, "We should return to Zeta. I believe your new child is soon to be among us."

Eddy rushed from the chamber that held the Reality Viewer. Kyryk and Hypatia follow, at a more sedate pace. While they walk, Kyryk explained to Hypatia that Zeta would soon give birth to the first person born on Tar'tron, a telepathic child of Eddy and Zeta who had gestated to full term in only one month.

Eddy hurried into his house and rushed to Zeta's side.

Meanwhile, F. Tyhry remained with Xyron. "I need to use the Viewer," she said with a sense of urgency in her voice. Xyron activated the device, and with the Viewer now guided by Tyhry's thoughts, an image of a woman flickered into existence within the display screen of the Viewer.

Gesturing towards the Viewer, Tyhry said, "This is Rylla, my sister," Tyhry explained. "She has long used a Reality Simulation System to study the secret history of Earth. She once wrote a report about Reality Viewers, the kind used by Grean the Kac'hin to plan new Realities. I believe this Viewer can be modified to allow two-way communication with those being Viewed. In the past, on Earth, I used hacking nanites to modify the function of my father's Reality Viewing System. I might be able to use programmable femtobots to modify the function of this Viewer, allowing me to communicate in real time with people on Earth."

A flicker of interest crossed Xyron's face. "I understand. Kyryk was a skilled nanite programmer when we lived in Siteq. Perhaps a collaboration between you and Kyryk would be productive. In fact..." he paused, "...Kyryk is telepathically calling for you. Your mother wants you."

F. Tyhry rushes to be with Zeta, a mix of hope and trepidation swirling in her mind. Upon entering the room, she had a sudden vision, information flowing to her telepathic mind from the Sedron Time Stream told Tyhry that she would soon witness the birth of her new sister.

"The zeptites..." Kyryk glances at F. Tyhry. "Not only have they accelerated fetal development, but they appear to be... responsive. Maybe there is a way to adjust their programming and ease the birth process..."

Tyhry said, "I don't know how to program zeptites." She glanced at Anthony who was holding one of Zeta's hands.

F. Anthony was a special replicoid. Anthony had been made by Manny and used as her agent in the Asimov Reality. Now in what appeared to be an emergency situation, Anthony was ready to make use of his ability to morph the structure of his body and assist with the delivery of Zeta's baby.

There was another powerful uterine contraction and Zeta screamed again. She said, "I never had such intense pain during the birth of my other children. What is wrong?"

Sweat beaded on Eddy's brow. "There's a complication," he rasped. Kyryk's brow furrowed in telepathic concentration. "The programming of your body's zeptite components seems to be in conflict with the natural human birthing process. I fear that Manny made a programming error."

F. Anthony went into action. His arms shimmered, morphing into a series of long, flexible tendrils. "I can assist," he said, his voice gentle and reassuring. "These tendrils can provide support and manipulation of the baby from within her body. Look! The baby is not correctly positioned in the birth canal, but I'll make adjustments..."

"There might be far more that we can do," F. Tyhry said, her voice tight with determination. "The nanite components in Anthony's body... they are flexible... maybe I can reprogram some of them. If I can create hacking nanites, like the ones I used on Earth, I might be able to modify the functions of the Reality Viewer."

A flicker of understanding crossed Kyryk's face. "Let me use my telepathic abilities to find the code... the access code for Anthony's femtobots..."

F. Tyhry concentrated, her mind telepathically suggesting to Kyryk a collection of nanite commands that she had learned from Manny.

At the same moment, Hypatia was at work. With a surge of will, she telepathically shared her knowledge gained in training as an agent for Manny, knowledge of how to control the behavior of femtobot tools that she had brought with her to Earth at the start of her mission. The telepathic minds of Tyhry, Kyryk and Hypatia merged into a collaborating group mind. They bonded in a flash, and suddenly Tyhry gained control of some of Anthony's femtobot components, allowing her to reprogram them and pull them away from his control.

"Let's get this over with!" Anthony ignored what Tyhry was doing, his thought focused on helping Zeta. "I will expand the birth canal. Be warned, this will be painful Zeta..."

Another scream pierced the air as Anthony's tendrils shifted position and sliced into Zeta's body. Then, with a gasp, the baby emerged. Eddy reached for the newborn, a sense of triumph and relief washing over him.

Almost instantly, the bleeding wounds of Zeta's body began to close, her body's zeptites aggressively healing the incisions that had been made by Anthony. "Very good, Anthony!" Kyryk exclaimed. "Zeta simply needed a slight assist to complete the birth process."

F. Tyhry's pulse quickened. Being engaged in her nanite programming, she had missed seeing the birth. She announced, "I have crafted some hacking nanites!" She added, "We need to test them on the Viewer!" She bent and kissed Zeta's forehead.

To take control of some of Anthony's nanites and reprogram them, Kyryk and F. Tyhry had both pushed their femtobot programming skills to the limit. Now they were eager to see if it was possible to use the reprogrammed femtobots to activate latent functions in the Reality Viewer. With one last glance at her new sister, Tyhry rushed out of the room and ran towards the building that held the Reality Viewer. Kyryk ran after Tyhry, but Hypatia remained in the room and helped Eddy wash the baby. She asked, "Does this child have a name?"

Zeta giggled and replied, "I have not had time to decide on a name."

Hypatia held a hand against the baby's head and she synchronized her telepathic mind to that of the newborn. Hypatia realized that because of continual telepathic contact with the tryp'At, the baby's mind was already quite active and linked to the Sedron Time Stream. The baby knew its own name. Hypatia announced, "This child's

name is Tarynon.”

{end scene 18}

Gemini, please work collaboratively with me to write scene #19 of “The Nanite Smuggler”. Take note of the following plans for additional scenes in the story.

Where is the story going? Gemini, I envision the following sequence of events in the remaining (yet to be written) second part of “The Nanite Smuggler”. Plans for scene **19**: F. Tyhry learns something from Kyryk and Hypatia that allows her to use programmable femtobots to modify the function of the Reality Viewer on Tar’tron, allowing F. Tyhry to View events taking place inside the Reality Simulation System of Earth. Plans for scene **20**: F. Tyhry then learns how communicate with the original biological Tyhry on Earth. Two-way communications requires that there be a functioning Viewer at both ends of the on-going communication process, on Tar’tron and in Tyhry’s secret laboratory. Plans for scene **21**: Kyryk, communicating to Earth from Tar’tron, provides hints to the original biological Tyhry on Earth that allow her to start programming zeptites. Plans for scene **22**: the original biological Tyhry then smuggles programmable zeptites to F. Tyhry on Tar’tron. Plans for scene **23**: Those zeptites are a key to activating an additional feature of the Reality Viewer on Tar’tron, allowing the immortal replicoids of the developing society on Tar’tron to enter into a simulation of the Sedron Domain, thus simulating human transcendence into the Sedron Domain.

Gemini, building on the first 18 scenes of “The Nanite Smuggler”, what do you think will happen next in scene 19 of the story?