

<< | LOADING LAST RECORDED CONVERSATION | >>

> DIR.███-02: Are you certain that this file is safe to view at the moment, DIR.KORE-09?

> DIR.KORE-09: It should be, though I am concerned for your wellbeing after what transpired...

> DIR.KORE-09: Well... there is an unknown party changing things around this file. Redacting certain information at most, overruling my Director access.

> DIR.KORE-09: Suffice to say that this is incomplete at the moment. There... may be some inaccuracies with the file.

> DIR.███-02: Are you certain? DIR.KORE-09, why haven't you alerted a Codesplicer, especially given how sensitive this information is?

> DIR.KORE-09: We *tried* that. However, any changes we've attempted were quickly undone as though whoever was making the unauthorized edits had root access to the source code. In short, it was impossible for us to rat them out of the system.

> DIR.KORE-09: Although... Maybe our unknown party present was making sure any sensitive information we missed did not go unnoticed.

> DIR.███-02: ...If it's that Apostolos...

> DIR.KORE-09: Uh... what are you talking about?

> DIR.███-02: Nothing of importance. We'll have to accept that whoever's doing the changes isn't leaking this file to the general public. Our findings could send the Outer Reaches into a frenzy.

> DIR.███-02: ARGOS. Enter Coryphaeus Network - Restricted Level: ALPHA.

> ARGOS: DIRECTOR CREDENTIALS IDENTIFIED. VOCAL COMMAND ACCEPTED. GRANTING ACCESS TO CORYPHEUS NETWORK - RESTRICTED LEVEL: ALPHA. PLEASE REVIEW AT YOUR DISCRETION.

> APOS.HORATIA: Hopefully they don't mind or see this... Any texts like this in green, I either changed or added. Quite surprised they made sure that no sensitive information could be seen from this data entry.

| << CORYPHEUS NETWORK >> |
| << RESTRICTED LEVEL: ALPHA >> |
| << USER: DIR.███-02 >> |
| << XX/XX/7915 AF >> |

| << INPUT DIRECTIVE >> |

--- ENTER.DATABANK |

--- SECTION.VIP > FILTER.RECEPTACLES >
SUBSECTION.SHARDBEARER |

CAUTION

HIGHLY SENSITIVE INFORMATION ON ATTACHED FILES.
SPECIAL ENCRYPTION CIPHER REQUIRED.

--- ENCRYPTION.CIPHER >
{6DbCq6yB,Cuz9e2KkQC>6l2b\$.7Y0iC.nJ)D

| ENCRYPTION CIPHER VERIFIED.
DISPLAYING SHARDBEARER FILES |

--- FILES.SHARDBEARER.DISPLAY > VIP-001α / VIP-002Ω |

--- FILE.SELECT > VIP-001α |

--- FILE.DECRYPT |

WARNING

THE CONTENTS OF THIS FILE CONTAIN SENSITIVE MATERIALS
THAT MAY BE LETHAL TO THE VIEWER'S COGNITION. ARE YOU
SURE YOU WANT TO DECRYPT THE FILE?
HIGH INQUISITOR+ CLEARANCE REQUIRED.

--- CONFIRM.DECRYPTION |

--- ACCESS.CODE: [REDACTED]-[REDACTED] / AUTH.CLEARANCE/CODE -
DIRECTOR / [REDACTED]-02 + [REDACTED] |

DIRECTOR CLEARANCE VERIFIED; CODE ACCEPTED. DECRYPTING
FILE.

...

...

FILE DECRYPTED. DISPLAYING INFORMATION ON VIP-001α.
PLEASE REVIEW AT YOUR DISCRETION.
*NOTICE: DIRECTOR CLEARANCE IN EFFECT: SOME INFORMATION
MAY BE ALTERED.*

| NAVIGATION - VIP-001α |

1: PROFILE
2: ARSENAL
- 2.5: OBSERVED POWERS

3: ENRAGE
4: STRENGTHS & WEAKNESS
5: ADDENDUM

"Who am I..? Everyone I knew... perished... because of me. I lost faith in... myself so many times... because of the Parasites that chased after my Shard. It's something I despise... yet a part of my own being. I'll remember their names, and new friends from here on..."
Excerpt spoken from a Memory Splinter, unknown time.

1: PROFILE



*A simulated frontal view of VIP-001α. Note the two black holes; **Yin & Yang** hovering around him.*

NAME: Kotar

- **ALIAS (ES):** Shardbearer of Entropy, "The Key" (Given by the Vaccus.)

SPECIES: Unknown

AGE: Unknown

HEIGHT: 6'4 (195.58 cm)

THREAT ASSESSMENT LEVEL: NEUTRAL/ALPHA-2 | **OMEGA-1 IF ENRAGED**

STATUS: Active

- **GENERAL INFORMATION:** The Shardbearer of Entropy. An artificial humanoid classified as a Shardbearer Receptacle made by an unknown entity to contain a

Shard of 3ARU 82+001α, the Iris of Entropy. It is unclear who created his body, nor is it possible to create an artificial Receptacle with the Aikyam's current technology, suggesting that they were created prior to the Second Fracture. They appear to be a humanoid with deathly pale skin and cracks found across his body, sporting a dark gray robe with some white highlights, a dark blindfold, a left claw that's notably *cracked*, wrapped in bandages and black horns with unknown flowers. Body temperature has been constantly observed to be 32 degrees Fahrenheit (0°C) no matter the environment. Two black holes can be observed hovering around Kotar at all times, both being surprisingly harmless. Even though he is neutral towards almost all entities, VIP-001α's powers and weapons place him at **ALPHA**-grade due to their properties, not to mention the Shard of the Iris of Entropy that is engraved on their left arm.

Note: Some baseless claims suggested that VIP-001α had indirectly killed off another reality through accelerated heat death. With what we know of the [Vaccus](#)¹, it is believed that they are the true cause of that reality's demise, being the actual perpetrators.

Yes, this actually happened over the course of five years, unattended. A shame it was one of the flourishing ones too.

- **KEY FEATURES:** Pale skin, dark blindfold, cracking face, black horns with unknown flowers, left black clawed arm (cracked), [REDACTED].

DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, FORCIBLY REMOVE HIS BLINDFOLD, NOR THE BANDAGES WRAPPED AROUND HIS LEFT ARM.

- **PERSONALITY:** Due to the effects of 3ARU 82+001α's Shard alongside repeated traumatic events, Kotar has displayed schizotypal personality disorder towards anyone he comes across. The Shardbearer is generally quiet most of the time, most likely a hangover from his temporary mutism, although when verbally pressed into uncomfortable topics, he additionally shows signs of expressive language disorder. He is generally cautious and detached towards anyone that comes across him out of concern for their safety. For those that he accepts as a friend, these personality disorders are completely vacant, though he is generally observed to be aloof in this case.

Kotar does fear that he will forget the identities of those forgotten to existence. It's mostly that he never said anything about it to anyone else that this isn't explained. He really goes the extra mile to remember all the friends he made.

That pendant that they forgot to include? That's from an old friend of his, one he cherished so much for...

Note: Observations by Executor Aker suggests that he's more open when outside our reality, if only slightly.

- **IRIS OF ENTROPY:** The title of 3ARU 82+001α, an ancient, paraversal "black hole" first discovered by the Precursors prior to the First Fracture. Identified as an infohazard due to its cognitive effects to anyone that views

¹Vaccus | A designation given to entities whose mind and body were corroded by a vision of 3ARU 82+001α, yet somehow survived its gaze. More commonly known as Nihilists, these aberrant lifeforms are known to chase after VIP-001α wherever he goes, often burning down realities under a "grand design" to "awaken" the Iris of Entropy. Most, if not all Lesser Vaccus are but empty husks acting on instinct, yet pose a significant threat for our operatives to encounter. Greater Vaccus who have fully given themselves to entropy, such as the Lotus-Eaters, are powerful, reality-twisting entities **that must be exterminated with extreme prejudice**. The Vaccus as a whole are identified as an ALPHA-Grade Threat, with individual Lotus-Eaters potentially reaching OMEGA-Grade. Scholars of the Verdrian Dominion and some Eteirian Oracles believe that VIP-001α can control the Vaccus, though to what degree has yet to be seen.

it. Although most of the information regarding the Iris of Entropy was destroyed or otherwise irrecoverable, this is what we know of thus far. 3ARU 82+001α was the central black hole of a quasar that apparently contained iron stars, notable for causing the space around it to be colorless. If it was perceived, even through a photo, one would either cease to exist, or, less commonly, be turned into a Vaccus. Although most Precursor logs past this point were either destroyed or heavily encrypted, there was one file that we've managed to partially decrypt that contained some frightening implications. According to the file, 3ARU 82+001α is not native to our universe, but is suggested to be sentient and paracausal in nature. However, *something*, implied to be a Outsider, took something from 3ARU 82+001α, likely a Shard of it, and left it unscathed. The rest of the file was corrupted beyond recognition, suggesting that whatever the unknown did caused *something* within 3ARU 82+001α to negatively affect the Precursors as a whole. The date of the file rounds up to when the First Fracture was archived.

Note: It is unclear how the Precursors managed to get around the Iris of Entropy, suggesting that there was a neutral party at play ensuring that it was hidden to all but the adventurous. There are no intact Precursor records that could be used to identify what it was that took the Shard from 3ARU 82+001α.

You're welcome!~

2: ARSENAL

- Singularity

A dark straight sword. Unknown material composition. Noted to be engraved with a smaller Shard of 3ARU 82+001α, and sealed with unknown talismans across the blade. Any damage inflicted by the sword usually carries fatal side effects to biological and mechanical entities. Appears to contain gravity-manipulating and entropic properties, although the former is unconfirmed. The abnormal properties of the sword, if active, allow Kotar to cleave through anything **regardless of durability**, though the fundamentals are poorly understood.

- ❖ Singularity is also capable of releasing condensed entropic waves that can cleave through practically anything causal at full power, though this is only observed once.

You are only seeing Kotar using Singularity to its fullest if he, for whatever reason, **hates** your existence with every thread of his being.

> DIR.FENR-08: *Exo Prisms react violently with Singularity even if physical contact isn't made, possibly shorting out our Exotech. This effect is seemingly shared with all causal and paracausal elements such as Quanta Atoms, the Chains of Eternity, the [REDACTED] and even the Equinox. Whatever it was that forged Singularity clearly designed it to combat any possible threat.*

- Event Horizon

A dark, angular guandao-like polearm. Unknown material composition. Appears to be engraved with a Shard of 3ARU 82+001α and a fragment of an unknown

Lotus-Eater. Strikes by Event Horizon are notably more devastating than ones inflicted by Singularity when sealed, capable of shattering solar systems in a slash at full power. There has been only one recorded instance of Event Horizon being wielded by Kotar, so we don't even know the full scale of both Singularity and Event Horizon.

- Relavitism

A white, mirror-like spectral blade. Has a highly complex subatomic structure, allowing it to shift into different forms. Sharp gravitic waves released by the spectral blade can cause fatal injuries. The Shadbearer can also create several copies of Relavitism, which behave similarly to Exo Wingblades, attacking from multiple angles at blisteringly fast speeds.

- ❖ As of now, there have been three confirmed alternative forms of Abeyant Scar, those being...
 - Spear. Scarcely observed, but noted to manipulate dark matter. The spear itself appears to have a particular affinity towards the Vaccus, but without concrete details, we can only speculate as to what it can do. *Best they don't try to pry too deep. It is connected to a certain Parasite.*
 - Bow. Observations suggest that the arrows are micro black holes shaped by the Claw of Emptiness. Arrows notably bypass gravity-resistant alloys. Travel speed of the arrow when released from the bow is roughly instantaneous, with its maximum observed destructive potential being akin to a large population center. *Its full power is much more than that, trust me.*
 - Daggers, notably hovering around Kotar's frame. These daggers travel at absurdly fast speeds while also accurately tracking the Shadbearer's target(s). On contact with any living entity, the spectral daggers violently explode with an explosion of sterile neutrinos, creating a disruptive environment while almost guaranteeing a kill if it connects with a living entity.

-- Hollow Vestige

A physical manifestation of 3ARU 82+001 α , found in Kotar's left eye. Kotar appears to wear a special blindfold that can suppress its influence. The moment he uncovers and opens the left eye, 3ARU 82+001 α 's entropic properties are immediately applied to *anything* caught in his gaze. *Anyone unfortunate enough to be gazed upon are either going to have second thoughts on living, as in become at risk of converting into a Vaccus... or will outright cease to exist if their mental fortitude is weak enough.* Constructs that happen to be gazed upon are immediately corrupted *regardless* of how sophisticated it may be. It's believed that Kotar can not maintain this Hollow Vestige for a prolonged period or else he will suffer a mental whiplash.

Note: It's been observed, in very rare cases, for Kotar to have his left eye exposed without the Hollow Vestige active. It's unclear if he can choose to disable the Vestige at will, but further observations are to be made.

-- Claw of Emptiness (Who even comes up with these names?)

Kotar's left arm, where the Shard of 3ARU 82+001 α was engraved. Observed to be a black claw-like appendage with cracks along the entire arm. Additionally wrapped in a special dark bandage that appears to suppress his nature as a

Shardbearer. If he were to undo the bandages wrapped around the Claw of Emptiness, the space around him would become colorless while his gravitational control and power output is dramatically increased.
Notes: Paracausal elements are heavily dampened when the Claw of Emptiness is unwrapped. This is most likely an indicator that VIP-001α has a partial grasp over reality.

> DIR.███-02: *I'm surprised that this was not mentioned, but the Claw of Emptiness, when paired with the Hollow Vestige, completely overwhelms and corrupts any artificial intelligence unfortunate enough to be present, regardless of how powerful the AI may be. This effect is so overwhelming that it irreversibly corrupted a rogue Supremacy Fragment, which was rated to be an AGI.*

-- - Terminus & Genesis

A black hole and a white hole that both hover around Kotar's body at all times, first observed after the [Third Fracture](#)². Notable for containing *directly opposing forces*, with Terminus observed to have similar entropic forces as 3ARU 82+001α, and Yang later observed to hold some connection with Prabhāsvara. Based on observations, Yin & Yang can be used to mentally conjure various offensive incantations for Kotar to use against his enemies.

Not sure why, but he almost always has Yang at his side at all times. He seems to be more comfortable with the white hole, considering what Yin is...

> DIR.KORE-09: *I'll admit I had doubts about the theories of Receptacles capable of "awakening"... but it does have credence given our recent observations on VIP-001α. Yin & Yang were notably absent from his side prior to the Third Fracture.*
...What? Someone's in this file, changing or adding information in green texts... A possible intruder?

> 2.5: OBSERVED POWERS

- ❖ **Gravitic Authority:** VIP-001α can manipulate gravity with high-unparalleled precision and control. Capable of attracting and repelling practically anything with a desirable force, but can also release violent gravitational waves and collapse any material without anti-gravitational properties, among other capabilities. Can permanently alter a planet's gravity if the applied force is too much. Fortunately,

²The Third Fracture | A cataclysmic event that united the Inner Rim and the Outer Reaches against the Vaccus. The Fracture tore open within the Outer Reaches Exclusion Sector drawn by the AESC, the Osiris Legion and the Eteiri, spilling out countless Vaccus from *dead realities*, led by an extremely powerful Greater Vaccus known as the ██████████. What eliminated the ██████████ is unknown, but the estimated death toll numbered in the *billions*. This was also the last time we saw VIP-002Ω in action. Her whereabouts are unknown, but she is believed to be alive, given the condition of the Lightkeepers organization.

this authority does not render gravity-based weapons useless, and requires a fair amount of focus for him to shift gravity.

- ❖ **Black Hole Manipulation:** VIP-001α can create and collapse weak black holes of varying shapes, sizes, and gravitational forces with sterile neutrinos and/or latent stellar clouds. Largest observed black hole created by VIP-001α is estimated to be around 152.2 meters. The black holes created don't have the same pull as actual black holes, but are still extremely lethal on contact. This power is heavily nullified with the dark bandages around VIP-001α's left arm. **This directly draws from the Shard, which potentially means that Kotar *can* be exhausted if he expends too much power for a while.**
 - **Effects of both powers listed above are drastically increased when the Claw of Emptiness is unwrapped.**
- ❖ **Nihilistic Aberration:** Expressed through the Hollow Vestige. Inflicts cognitive damage passively, but can also inflict *direct* cognitive damage through Singularity. Enemies killed while under the effects of this power may potentially be resuscitated into a special **Vaccus**. This power is scarcely observed due to the Hollow Vestige's effects. ~~He only used this once, unintentionally so. Fortunately, the ██████████ remains intact in mind.~~
- ❖ **Reality Traversal:** Capable of traveling to different realities/universes in seconds if desired. VIP-001α can also instead traverse the Inner Rim and known celestial bodies in the Outer Reaches, though this has an observed maximum range of ≈50 lightyears. **Unable to use the Claw of Emptiness to travel if in combat because of how much focus is required.** [Oh, hi. If you're reading this I really SHOULD HAVE thought up a rough storyboard before making this in the first place. That being said this segment is more or less the one that will be added on from now, given how much nonsensical stuff I could cram into here.]

3: ENRAGE

This particular effect deserves its own section after **INCID-AKOS-227.07α³**, which was our first instance of VIP-001α being enraged, as well as our sixth instance of an enraged Receptacle, with prior instances noted to be purely from Harbingers of Eternity. **While enraged, the space around Kotar distorts further and inverts the black and white colors, while the Shardbearer himself loses all emotion, acting on pure instinct and attacking **anything moving** that he can sense. His agility and reaction speed in this state is extremely unmatched, moving at speeds that's comparable to FTL... whatever that means.** All you can do is pray that he recollects while remaining hidden, as **nothing** we have in our arsenal can hope to subdue VIP-001α in this state.

| << WARNING >> |

ALL WEAPONS & ABILITIES STATED ABOVE GAIN REALITY-MANIPULATING PROPERTIES WHEN ENRAGED. ENGAGEMENT IS NOT ADVISED.

> APOS.ATAXATA | This is as much as you will know regarding this incident.~

What transpired must never be unveiled...~

³INCID-AKOS-227.07α | ~~{ALL RELEVANT RECORDS EXPUNGED}~~

4: STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES

- STRENGTHS

- ❖ Extremely potent and well rounded entropic arsenal. Capable of tackling any threat coming his way.
 - All weapons carried by Kotar are capable of inflicting severe cognitive damage, if they're activated that is.
- ❖ Even if the black holes created are weak, Kotar's control over them is not to be understated. The same can be stated about his Gravitic Authority.
- ❖ Artificial body has several advantages over E.X.O.-augmented humans.
 - Observed physical feats suggest that the Shardbearer of Entropy is equal to a *Harbinger of Eternity*⁴, although Observed Powers easily places the Shardbearer higher in terms of Threat Level.
 - Kotar's body is notably extremely resistant to most, if not all *Elemental* affinities. Citadel advises on using spliced *Acausal* weapons if conflict with Kotar is inevitable.

- WEAKNESSES

- ❖ Ironically, Kotar's artificial body is **extremely fragile** to gravitic weapons. Additionally, artificial grav-fields such as capital ship-based gravity normalizers seem to hinder the Shardbearer's mobility and control.
 - That being said, **ALL** operatives are not to use gravitic weapons against Kotar, as it **is** a trigger for the Shardbearer to stop holding back.
- ❖ The Shardbearer's own powers are partially degraded when outside the [REDACTED], though *how* is currently unclear as this was observed just recently.
- ❖ Kotar goes through rather extreme lengths to hold himself back, to the point that all *observed powers* currently detailed are either seen at their weakest or are flat out *not used at all*.
 - In fact, he's **rarely** seen going all-out against any of his foes, even if he's against our forces, though there are **exceptions**.

5: ADDENDUM

Regardless of intent, VIP-001α is **not** to be approached unless the Hollow Vestige is inactive. If physical contact is inevitable, maintain neutrality when around VIP-001α to avoid potential conflict. E.X.O. Units wielding **any** gravitic weapons are to immediately deactivate their weapons when around

⁴Harbinger of Eternity | A Contractor Receptacle to the Advent of Eternity, better known as the 8th Outsider. Primarily made of Eteirians, these enforcers are well known for their outstanding affinity towards *Acausal* properties, speculated to be a benefit of their Contract with the Advent of Eternity. Harbingers as a whole are roughly graded to be an **ALPHA-6 Threat**, though they can't be permanently eliminated through conventional means.

VIP-001α **unless** Vaccus are engaging VIP-001α. Should he leave our reality for any reason, Executors “**AKER**” and “**BASTET**” with specially designed Exoskeletons are to immediately follow VIP-001α until he returns. Additionally, all Vaccus Excursions are to be eradicated as soon as possible to mitigate any potential damage. **There should be absolutely no reason to engage VIP-001α at all. Ideally, VIP-001α is to be left alone.**

| << WARNING >> |

THIS DATA ENTRY IS TO NEVER BE LEAKED TO ANY UNAUTHORIZED PERSONAL, PERIOD. SHOULD ANYONE BE FOUND TO HAVE LEAKED THIS DATA ENTRY, THE PUNISHMENT IS IMMEDIATE TERMINATION, FOLLOWED BY RESUSCITATION AND ██████████ ██████████ TO ~~THE EQUINOX?~~ ANY AND ALL UNAUTHORIZED VIEWERS ARE TO BE TERMINATED, REGARDLESS OF SOCIAL STATUS.

> APOS.HORATIA | Hmm... Part of me resonates with his past quite well. So many friends he made, all lost with next to no trace to remember them for. It's a wonder he refused to stop at the moment he lost everything in that reality. ...He's also quite the paradoxical figure. As in there's only one of him across all timelines. Everywhere else I looked, there's nothing except for that █████ █████ ██████████, uh, that Parasite who strangely resembles him.

At least that's taken care of...

Ah, and worry not about that warning just above this. You should not face any repercussions from the Aikyam Extrasolar Technocracy. I am masking our presence, after all.

> APOS.ATAXATA | A naive thought. I am tolerating your ignorance for now, Horatia...

I care not about your presence, Observer.
You have seen all you need to know from here.

FOOTNOTES