

A.T.C. Park, AlphaTerra City, Signus VI Colony, Infinite Sacrifice, 08/10/2019, 1000

Glancing toward Utsukushi walking beside me, a smile makes its way onto my face before my focus returns to the expedition ahead. Golden grasses, lavender flowers, and sky kissing trees hug the area coalescing into what the citizens of AlphaTerra City call A.T.C. Park. *"This is my first time actually being in a park other than one specifically designed for amusement of the child's mind. However, even the scenes before me could give rise to a spectrum of happiness and enjoyment not found in roller coasters or arcade games."* "Oooh, Utsu-nee-chan! There's a perfect spot!"

Utsukushi follows my outstretched arm toward a bench a meter away, sitting to the right of the cobblestoned walkway. She scans the bench's intricate wooden designs, then the surroundings. "Interesting choice of rest, Caiden-kun." Her chuckling ricochets through the peaceful ambiance as she strolls toward the heart dotted bench. Sitting down, she scans me as I waddle around the area, observing all that lies in front of me. "Well, Caiden-kun, are you going to sit down or not?"

"I will, I just....I just wanna look around abit first." Eyes fluttering, snapshots of the area enter my brain. A long dead fire pool encroached by bricks and rock rises to the left of the bench, while to the right, multiple flowers dance in the wind's melody. Treading toward them, I kneel, their scents parading through my nose. "These are beautiful flowers, Utsu-nee-chan. Purple petals, dual stems, and I can sense an auric energy pronouncing itself." Shaking my head, my mind churns while my feet traverse toward the bench. Contentment etches into my countenance once contact has been made adjacent Utsukushi and my feet swing in the wind. "It's really nice out here, Utsu-nee-chan."

Affirmation glides toward my senses while love grasps my cheek, "True, Caiden-kun, you've hit a golem with that hammer. The air is cleaner here and thus many things that couldn't grow are able, many things that didn't have prevalent energies now possess them. Take those lavender plants over there," Her left arm extends to the flowers, petals tickling her hand as her eyes follow, "they are known as Calsaltheeans (Cal-sal-the-anns). The Calsaltheean is a popular flower in this colony and it, along with other plants provides many energy reserves for Zentalis and Nortrans alike. Just as the trees and plants of Delta Centauri used to provide oxygen alone for the survival of the inhabitants, that plant as well provides energy for Zentalis' use. It's a beacon of sorts, Caiden-kun."

"So," Hopping from the bench, I meet the flowers again and kneel before them, "these plants as well as the trees provide energy for Zentalis?" Scanning Utsukushi, confusion placates my visage, "I thought that Zentalis could only get energy from two sources: the stars and the food we eat?"

“You forgot the geothermal energy within the planet that we orbit, Caiden-kun. So, yes, there are more than two sources from which a Zentalis draws his energy. When he/she is closely connected with the colonies around him/her, more energy sources are available to said Zentalis entity. However, with the ability to use more Zentalis energy, comes the need for more control, Caiden-kun.”

Nodding, my mind roams as I watch the flowers in front of me, singing to the movements of an unknown song, following the teachings of an invisible lecturer, it’s amazing to me that Ycatsaius (Eh-cat-see-us) and Nikoletta were able to create such an intricate world such as Aquaius Centauri and itself runs without their intervention from then onward. Reclining adjacent Utsukushi, I scan the trees, the plants, and grasses before my focus returns to her concerned eyes, “Utsu-neechn, how is it that Aquaius Centauri, the fifty ship colonies of the Zentalis-Norteran Collective, how does this world operate without our intervention?”

“Well, Caiden-kun, that’s quite simple really. Aquaius Centauri: The Sky Colonies, which is the full name of this world as a whole, is controlled by Guardians. These Aquaiusan immortals are spirits you could say since they can’t be seen. In actuality, they are fifty A.I.s that control each individual colony. Each colony’s temperature, climate, weather, etc. is controlled by one of these Sky Colonial Guardians. They exist within the Imperial Council of Colonial Elders as the High Councilors of each colony, while the High Elders communicate to them what must or must not be done. The High Elders decide by a unanimous vote whether or not something is wrong and the High Councilors of the colonies correct said error within their programming.”

Utsukushi sighs as her mind processes all the information she’s receiving, her eyes flickering between their mismatched color and solid red while her focus burns for the heavens above us, “It’s all really complicated in all honesty, Caiden-kun. Truly, I don’t know how the High Councilor A.I.s, the Sky Colonial Guardians even work in full. They make certain that the air remains pollution free, that no harm comes to the colonists, and assure that all can live happily in this new world.”

Facing me, her visage brightens, “I can say this though, The Most High is watching over us, and He is the One Who is controlling the High Councilors. These colonies are so massive that it would be impossible for them to be maintained by Zentalis hands alone.”

Purring, I cuddle into Utsukushi’s chest, my arms wrapping around her neck, “I love you, Utsu-neechn, that’s all I care about.” Giggling, my thoughts on the colony fade while I rescind into her lap, swinging my legs. “I love this place, Utsu-neechn, I’m glad that such a place even exists. Many years ago I would have thought it were a dream, but now look where I sit. I’m in the lap of my alternate self, enjoying the warm breeze on a new world a moon away from the world we used to call home.”

Utsukushi smiles as her arms encase me, "I'm glad to see you're happy, Caiden-kun. This world is one to be thankful for in all aspects. All manners of pollution have been checked life remains unaffected. Aquaius Centauri: The Sky Colonies is truly a perfect world."

"Yeah, but sometimes kids and adults aren't so perfect."

"Well," She chuckles while tousling my hair, "Zentalis and Nortrans have free will, we are the creation of The Most High Who gave us choice. We aren't machines, Caiden-kun. So, yes there are some that are mean, but has anyone ever caused anyone else harm?"

"Nope, not one crime has been committed on this world to date."

"Exactly, Caiden-kun, exactly. There is no crime, because everyone has what is needed for survival here. Sure, there are going to be those that joke around with one another, but that is in our nature. It makes us Zentalis or Nortran and not machines like the High Councilors that were created by us to control this world."

"Do you think that the High Councilors will ever rise against us, Utsu-nee-chan?"

She chuckles and adjusts me in her lap, "No, it isn't possible, Caiden-kun. The High Councilors are A.I. that is true, but they only have their programming. They cannot learn more than or less than their programming allows. They aren't sentient like we are, nor will the High Elders ever make such a mistake."

Sighing, I rest my head on her chest and yawn while a blanket rises from underneath the bench, covering us both within seconds, "I just hope that another I.C.C.E. Commencement Event occurs again. Their last mistake was with all that....that animal-Zentalis testing Ycatsaius did. I...I still don't believe the other Elders sanctioned that."

Utsukushi holds me close and purring reverberates around us while my back is being rubbed and soothing humming caresses my ears, "Don't worry about that, Caiden-kun. The Council learned from that mistake and I'm certain they won't make any more like it. Now," A warm kiss follows as I cuddle closer and smile, "why doesn't my baby bro just nap his fears away. Be the child you've always desired, Caiden-kun, I'll be here when you awaken."

Yawning again, the park fades around me as sleep takes its toll. Soon, light snores leave, my body growing limp while I fall into the depths of slumber.

Utsukushi smiles as she scans my room greeting her, "I'm so glad for those Auric Gates," and walks toward my bed, my slumber form in her arms, "they make travel across the colonies much easier. Especially when one is not wishing to drive." Chuckling light, she tucks me into bed and walks toward the East Wing, giving Sebastian and David watch over me while she surrenders to a nap as well.