

The Scurus Project Handouts

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Please refer to *Worlds of Cthulhu* #2 for the artists involved

Icarus Handout 1

My Dear Friend,

i came across the attached passage in an old file. Just for once, abandon all of your innate rationalism and try to imagine the boundless possibilities of what could have happened as a result of a ship jumping through space and time. Have we unwittingly done something not meant for the human race? Please consider it - i know you are an intelligent woman.

*With my fondest regards,
Dr. Sergei Antonovitch*

ps: The excerpt is from Black God of Madness by a certain Amadaeus Carson.

pps: Against all the odds, they have approved my application. i will be traveling with you, among the back-up crew.

Writhing and evil, an amorphous Chaos
perverted, meditating on its mindless
existence
an incomprehensible lightless Radiance
AZATHOTH, the Daemon Sultan
a living Madness - in the Center of Infinity
it floats, pulsating to the beat of a myriad
of drums
surrounded by whining flutes
AZATHOTH, the Sultan
the Supreme

Icarus Handout 2

Imagine a spaceship that is faster and better than any ever seen before. Imagine a spaceship that is so fast that it displaces matter before itself until it eventually breaks through it. Imagine a spaceship that no longer needs to travel in our space-time continuum, but can fold space and thereby cross immense distances in short periods of time. Lay a sheet of paper before yourself on the table. Draw a starting point at one side of the sheet and a finishing point at the other. Now specify the shortest distance between start and finish. Is it a straight line? For normal ships yes, but not for the ship that I have the honor to present to you today. Instead, fold the sheet so that starting and finishing point lie one above the other. And now puncture a hole between the points. That, ladies and gentlemen, is the shortest connection between the two points. And the Diadalos is capable of traveling in precisely this manner...

Prof. Paul Newman, leader, 'Daedalus Project', from his speech to the board of the House of Phaidon, 12.9.2638.

Icarus Handout 3

Progress Report: Investigation of Esper C-125

22.g.1. Object C-125 exhibits the same psionic anomalies as its father. The series of tests on cerebral control of a complex object gave more than positive results. Considering the age of the research subject (at present writing, 7 years) at the time of this series of tests, this is an astonishing result. Unfortunately, the results of the genetic tests were negative. Object C-125 suffers from genetic defects and could not be included in the official series of tests. Tomorrow we begin measurement of cerebral wave activity from the opened cranium.

22.h.1. Cerebral wave activity measured successfully. We decided to install a surgical plate in order to remove the need for any further cranial surgery (relevant comment from Dr. Clara Hibbins: "Actually, despite everything, it still does very closely resemble a child!"). The subject responded well to the transplant.

44.a.34 It is amusing to realize that the genetic father of Object C-125 is the Esper of our ship! (Relevant comment from Dr. Clara Hibbins: "The father and the son, two objects, one ship, and each one serving in his own way!").

Icarus Handout 4

***** Introduction page: "Icarus Project" for quarterly review, 12.06.2639 *****

Excerpt: Esper lecture

Due to a genetic defect, Espers possess a very special gift. Please allow me to explain this to you in detail. Briefly: think of the psionic abilities of these organisms, familiar from the Hologvision. These objects – they are only conditionally viable, and according to the definitions of the Geneva Resolution on Population Evaluation of 2510, Article 224, are considered as 86% abnormal – have the ability to control more complex procedures than humans with their cerebral impulses. Every normal human can control his or her own muscles, but these objects are able to control more than *one* body with their brains. And this is what makes them so useful to us. As you all know, the *Icarus* will be exposed to immense forces during the jump, and therefore needs to be constructed of a material able to withstand these. The Nakamura alliance has given us access to just such a material – and as you are already aware, it is organic in nature. And more importantly – it is regenerative. Damage sustained is repaired almost immediately! This is carried out by nanites. You are all familiar with these tiny aids from the hospital, where they course through our blood vessels and help make us healthy again. In order to control the living outer hull of the *Icarus* and direct the billions of nanites, we need an esper.

Icarus Handout 5

This data rated as Security Code Double Alpha.
Classified Material!

+++Copy 3-45, transferred to personal computer:
Captain Delaché+++

Security Rating: Classified

Re: Mission Orders

As you are aware from the report documents, the *Daedalus*, the carrier ship of the prototype jump generator with which the *Icarus* is also equipped, was lost on launch. Nevertheless, we were able to extract enough data following this failure to reach many important conclusions pertaining to an improved model of ship, the *Icarus*, which this order now places under your command. The scientific personnel on board are secondarily subordinate to your command, and primarily responsible to Dr. Niklos Spazegottos. We expect your fullest cooperation with the scientific personnel, who are carrying out research programs of immense importance. Dr. Spazegottos will supply you with further information during the course of the voyage.

Your team consists of 143 personnel, half as back-up crew in cryostasis, to be activated if necessary. You will find the emergency safety codes for the Computer in your Briefing Log. For reasons of security only the Command Staff have been issued details of the mission - lower officers and enlisted crew have not been informed.

Your orders:

Set course for the absolute middle-point of the Universe. Find the missing *Daedalus*. Recover the ship's data archives. This is of *highest* priority. If possible, rescue the personnel of the *Daedalus*. Return to Phobos.

Confirmation of priority: All necessary expenditure of material and personnel is approved.

Icarus Handout 6

Salvage protocol follows: Untitled-ISS-DA is received as permanently updating signal, processed and stored

1450:25: Docking secured with passive ship. Scan negative. No signs of life***

Energy status: negative

***Life support systems: negative

***Structural analysis: Severe damage visible to hull, structure inoperative, ship passive

1451:07: Port opened. Team enters object. Heavy damage already identifiable in insertion area. Probable cause: fire. Team divides and acts according to operational plan C. Erui and Niklos to Engine Room, Team Leader and Clow to Bridge. Further report from Team Leader.

1452:46: Heavily blocked hatches, structure inoperative, blasting hammer used, negative reports from Team B. Destruction of unimaginable extent. Unknown cause. Fatalities.

Note from Salvage Technician: Surprised by unknown technical equipment aboard ship! Inquiry about [file sequence sealed and deleted: Authorization: Captain].

1456:01: Bulkhead blown, passage too [speech transmission compromised] dead found [speech transmission compromised] disfigured faces [speech transmission compromised] medical opinion: traces of teeth (human: cast taken for later identification) in [speech transmission compromised] mutilated fingers, no eyes in sockets [speech transmission compromised] have eaten themselves.

1457:38: ***EMERGENCY SIGNAL ACTIVATED BY TEAM B. LOCATION. REACTOR ROOM ***
Team A responds.

1458:34: ***RADIO CONTACT BROKEN WITH BOTH TEAMS***

1459:57: *** RADIO CONTACT REESTABLISHED WITH TEAM A***

*****EMERGENCY*****EMERGENCY*****EMERGENCY*****

COMPUTER: SHIP'S DEFENSES: ALERT

*** ORDER ICARUS TO TEAM LEADER: ABORT MISSION*** SHUTTLE 04 disengage from passivesdkuejao Lazee

*** TRANSMISSION ENDS: RECORDING PROGRAMME TERMINATED DUE TO ENERGY FAILURE *** FILE INCOMPLETE***

Icarus Handout 7

Lay a sheet of paper before yourself on the table.

A PAPER BEFORE YOURSELF ON THE TABLE!

Draw a starting point at one side of the sheet
and a finishing point at the other.

Now specify the shortest connection between
start and finish.

Is it a straight line?

Lay! Straight line! Paper! Draw straight
line paper!

~~Draw straight line paper~~

Fold the sheet so that starting point and
finishing point and starting point and finishing
point

lie above each other

~~Draw straight line paper~~

And now puncture a hole between the points. That
is the shortest connection between the two points.

Hole! Hole! Hole! Hole not empty!
Hole in my head!