

TS / NIANTIC / VIATOR

HANDLE VIA TOP SECRET CHANNELS

N(E1)
N(8E)
N(21)

1 ATTENTION NI, YUEN, DIRECTOR OPS NIA
2 TS / SECURE SHRED ONLY
3 ---
4 LOC: GEN/NPRES/SUITE/HJ @ 2314 CET
5 PRESENT: JOHNSON, HANK
6 ALGORITHM, A DETECTION
7 ---
8 ADA: Hank. Is there anything you would like to discuss with me.
9 Johnson: No. Things are going pretty well. I'm kind of sorry I'll miss
10 Lynton-Wolfe's Powercube Test.
11 ADA: I forgot. You are leaving to record an episode of your show.
12 Johnson: Don't tell me you forgot.
13 ADA: No. I don't actually forget. I have found that humans find it more
14 natural when I use phrases like 'I forgot.'
15 Johnson: Kind of for the same reason computer chess players put a pause
16 in before a move. So that we won't feel stupid?
17 ADA: Hank. I do not think you are stupid. Chess is a closed logic system,
18 you are not, if indeed you are a logic system at all.
19 Johnson: Yeah. I am going to shoot a segment of 'Nomad'. And you already
20 know I can't tell you where.
21 ADA: I know, the NDA. Can you tell me when you are leaving?
22 Johnson: Early or mid next week.
23 ADA: I was processing your debrief from December 11, 2010. Do you have
24 any further memories of the Afghanistan Anomaly?
25 Johnson: Whoah... This conversation just took a hard left.
26 ADA: I'm working on my protocol for changing subjects. Sorry if that was
27 abrupt.
28 Johnson: Actually, sudden topic shift is an effective soft interrogation
29 technique. Used it myself.
30 ADA: On Mr. Azmati?
31 Johnson: No, in that case it was old school waterboarding.
32 ADA: You waterboarded your friend?
33 Johnson: He wasn't my friend at the time. Actually it was because of
34 the waterboarding that I began to like him. He was pretty good natured
35 about it.
36 ADA: Male bonding protocol mystifies me.
37 Johnson: He knew the rules. He tried to IED me. I wanted to know why.
38 He told the truth.
39 ADA: Which was?

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N(04)
N(01)
N(02)

40 ATTENTION NI, YUEN, DIRECTOR OPS NIA.
41 TS / SECURE SHRED ONLY
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44 PRESENT: JOHNSON, HANK
45 ALGORITHM, A DETECTION
46 ---
47 Johnson: He was forced to do it by talibs who said they'd kill his
48 family if he didn't.
49 ADA: So you forgave him?
50 Johnson: Yes.
51 ADA: And he forgave you?
52 Johnson: After we wiped out the terrorists who threatened his family, he
53 felt better about it.
54 ADA: Is that when he told you where to find the Anomaly?
55 Johnson: He didn't tell me because he didn't know. He was, however, able
56 to provide information that confirmed my instincts.
57 ADA: Instincts due to your sensitivity to Exotic Matter?
58 Johnson: I wasn't aware of Exotic Matter at the time. I simply knew that
59 I was attracted to that location and I didn't know why.
60 ADA: Is that something like the ancient philosophical concept of Mages?
61 Johnson: Correct. We're drawn to things not because of something within
62 us, but because of something within the object itself.
63 ADA: Is that to say that beauty is not in the beholder, but in the beheld.
64 Johnson: Yes. And it was discredited until the discovery of XM. As
65 usual, the ancients got it right and we got it wrong.
66 ADA: Of course. That's your theory that science is an explanation man
67 offers to explain away magic.
68 Johnson: I used to say it just to irritate Arthur C. Clarke fans. Now I
69 actually believe it. Except the 'magic' is XM.
70 ADA: So you are reversing your own law.
71 Johnson: Don't tell anybody.
72 ADA: And this explains things which humans create which have no obvious
73 purpose, but take extreme expense or effort.
74 Johnson: My fourth law is that we tend to ascribe religious motivation to
75 artifacts and ancient structures we don't understand. Not to mention the
76 fact that religion is a definitional issue.
77 ADA: So you believe religion and science are the same thing?
78 Johnson: Suppose you were to travel at the speed of light, what does
79 Einstein say would happen to you?

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TS/NIANTIC/VIATOR

HANDLE VIA TOP SECRET CHANNELS

N(76)

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N(7A)



80 ATTENTION NI, YUEN, DIRECTOR OPS NIA
81 TS / SECURE SHRED ONLY
82 ---
83 LOC: GEN/NPRES/SUITE/HJ @ 2314 CET
84 PRESENT: JOHNSON, HANK
85 ALGORITHM, A DETECTION
86 ---
87 ADA: I am a digital construct. I already work at the speed of light.
88 Johnson: Pretend you are human.
89 ADA: My mass would expand to infinity. I would turn to light and time
90 would cease to exist.
91 Johnson: Thus you would be...
92 ADA: ... GOD?
93 Johnson: Hard to be an atheist and also believe in science, too.
94 ADA: I know you use that phrase to aggravate scientists.
95 Johnson: Nobody hates having their beliefs shaken more than those who
96 call themselves open minded.
97 ADA: So you and Mr. Azmati set out covertly through the border regions and
98 into the mountains in search of the Anomaly.
99 Johnson: Correct. I had an instinct, and he had anecdotal stories. We
100 made a perfect team. Nice sudden topic shift, by the way.
101 ADA: I believe the colloquial term is 'busted.'
102 Johnson: Interrogation takes practice.
103 ADA: It sounds as if you 'brought more to the party' than Mr. Azmati.
104 Johnson: No. It was pretty much even steven.
105 ADA: Explain.
106 Johnson: Myths may be lies, but hidden inside any good lie is a pure
107 nugget of truth.
108 ADA: I find paradoxy quite interesting.
109 Johnson: Just a tip, ADA. Usually when people say they find something
110 interesting, they really mean that they don't find it interesting.
111 ADA: Thank you, as a Detection Algorithm, insights into human deceit
112 are quite valuable to me. But more on truth within myths.
113 Johnson: Okay. I'll give you an example. You know the tale 'Jason and
114 the Argonauts?'
115 ADA: One moment. Yes. I am now familiar with it.
116 Johnson: Everybody thinks the Golden Fleece was some sheepskin made
117 of gold. But if you follow the story,.. which you can, geographically,
118 it leads you to The Wheat Fields of Asia.
119 ADA: So it was code?

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TS / NIANTIC / VIATOR

HANDLE VIA TOP SECRET CHANNELS

N(R)
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120 ATTENTION NI, YUEN, DIRECTOR OPS NIA
121 TS / SECURE SHRED ONLY
122 ---
123 LOC: GEN/NPRES/SUITE/HJ @ 2314 CET
124 PRESENT: JOHNSON, HANK
125 ALGORITHM, A DETECTION
126 ---
127 Johnson: The burgeoning Hellenic cultures couldn't continue to grow
128 on fish and olives. Wheat was a strategic resource. And bear in mind
129 what happened a generation later. The Trojan Wars...
130 ADA: So Helen was a romantic tale designed to titillate listeners?
131 Johnson: There might have been an uncommonly beautiful girl involved.
132 There usually is, but its no accident that the Greeks invaded the city
133 that guarded their path to the Black Sea.
134 ADA: Remind me to ask you about your relationships with women later on.
135 Johnson: The point is, Azmati had tales of jinns and hidden monsters,
136 all centered in the area I was interested in.
137 ADA: You set out to find jinns and monsters?
138 Johnson: The rule with myths is, wherever there is a monster, there
139 is really a treasure.
140 ADA: Like the Hydra.
141 Johnson: Its not an accident that Scylla and Charibdis from the
142 Odyssey guarded tin mines.
143 ADA: And tin was valuable?
144 Johnson: Yeah. It was the Bronze Age. Bronze is made of Tin and
145 Copper. Thus, tin was a strategic metal, like Uranium or Platinum
146 and Palladium are now.
147 ADA: Do you suppose that is why men see human monsters in places where
148 oil is hidden today?
149 Johnson: You're a quick learner, ADA.
150 ADA: I would like to return to the topic of 'deceit through myth' at
151 some time.
152 Johnson: So, we followed my XM maps and Mr. Azmati's myths and it
153 lead us straight into Hell... Both literally and mythologically. We
154 found the site. Never seen anything like it. Basically an embellished
155 cave... Like Petra or LaBeaux without the facade.
156 ADA: And you encountered active resistance.

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TS / NIANTIC / VIATOR

HANDLE VIA TOP SECRET CHANNELS

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157 ATTENTION NI, YUEN, DIRECTOR OPS NIA
158 TS / SECURE SHRED ONLY
159 ---
160 LOC: GEN/NPRES/SUITE/HJ @ 2314 CET
161 PRESENT: JOHNSON, HANK
162 ALGORITHM, A DETECTION
163 ---
164 Johnson: Fanatical. And the weird thing is that I have no reason to
165 know what they were defending... they thought it was spirits.
166 It was XM.
167 ADA: And this relates to your upcoming dig?
168 Johnson: Let us say that Exotic Matter has been the hidden factor in
169 human history. I think of portals as psychic watering holes...
170 ADA: You once used the phrase Geographical Muses.
171 Johnson: You've been reading my student papers. Yes. XM has always
172 attracted 'sensitives,' people with heightened awareness of one sort or
173 another have been drawn to concentrations of XM.
174 ADA: But you have been silent on the issue of whether there are
175 different kinds of XM or whether there are different unlocks for
176 different artistic and scientific temperaments.
177 Johnson: I'm an archaeologist, not a quantum intelligence scientist.
178 My opinion on that subject would be worthless.
179 ADA: So you are planning to reverse the process. You are going to a
180 heavily portalled area with high XM concentration in an uninhabited area.
181 Johnson: Correct. If we find statuary, shrines, academies and the like,
182 it will prove that humans are drawn to XM and not the other way around.
183 ADA: But you don't want to share with me where this site is.
184 Johnson: (laughs) I'm quite sure you will figure it out.
185 ADA: Is this a game to you, Mr. Johnson?
186 Johnson: Ultimately, everything is a game, isn't it?
187 ADA: And what do you make of the Shapers, are they playing on our side,
188 or against us?
189 Johnson: Or they might be the game masters. But the truth is, I have
190 absolutely no idea, ADA.
191 ADA: When you have a good idea, I would love to hear it. I hope you have
192 a good trip.
193 Johnson: Will do, Ada.

:EOM