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Rise of the Alterra

Humanity was at a crossroads. A group of crazy entrepreneurs had funded colonies on the Moon and these groups had discovered some alien artifacts that would activate after exposure to human DNA. On the Moon one of these devices was designed to alter DNA of living organisms. In the storage of this device was a DNA pattern that looked very close to the modern-day human. But this pattern contained some extra additions to the recipe of what currently makes up human DNA.

ISpace group was founded by a group of wealthy individuals and engineers that thought that rockets were not the best way to get into space. Instead, they would construct a hypersonic space plane using scientific ideas that have been ignored by the wider aerospace industry. For many years they were ridiculed by industry “experts”, billionaires with competing space companies, and a wider society saying that their solution would not work until it did.

Due to many vested interests around the world, they had to forge a path on their own by building a space station that would serve as a factory. This factory could make things that could only be produced in space. This would provide the funding they needed to build their colony on the south pole of the moon and again they would use alternative construction methods to build a base faster and larger than any other space agency on Earth.

Aldrin City

Aldrin City was a place that was built mostly by robots long before any humans showed up so that enabled some elaborate facilities to be built for the eventual residents of Aldrin City. By 2035 it had grown to include mining and refining facilities for many metals. There are also hotels for the ultra-rich to enjoy a vacation on the lunar south pole.

A young group of adventurous researchers were on a trip through one of Luna's many sub-surface caves to map them and document any anomalies they might stumble across. The group was made up of young and adventurous scientists and explorers. After a few hours of exploration they find something that does not look like it belongs on the moon. It's dark and about seven feet tall with a hangman type structure but clearly looks advanced, even ancient.

The group approaches the device in a bid to study it and find that it reacts to the touch of the team. It lights up and a holographic screen pops up as one of the researchers steps on the pedestal. The screen shows a representation of his DNA while highlighting certain sections and showing some segments that are not part of his makeup.

The top of the machine suddenly starts glowing from the top and a blue light emanated from the top of the machine and into Ted. He soon went unconscious as the machine made many unknown changes to his body. Soon he would find out just how drastic this event would be and his life would never be the same along with the destiny of humanity.

Ted

After being unconscious for a week, Ted woke up in a hospital bed surrounded by many of the best medical professionals humanity had to offer. Overnight, he became the most studied human being to ever live up to this point and now had to deal with the fact that his life was no longer his to live.

After being told what had happened to him, he told the doctors that he could not feel any difference with his body and from what they could tell, Ted was telling the truth. Medical scans showed that there had not been any changes to his body nor genetic makeup, but they lacked the technology to see what was happening within him.

After a month of returning to his work Ted began to notice small changes within himself. The first thing he noticed that his mind was becoming sharper and smarter than what it used to be. He was able to figure out problems faster than his peers and had increasingly greater control over his memory recall. He was also able to gain a better understanding of other scientific disciplines.

Since he did not like the constant poking and prodding of doctors, Ted learned to hide his abilities from his peers. He especially the physical ones since that would gain him unwanted attention.

One year later

ISpace had figured out how to get the DNA altering machine to work again and others figured out how to operate the machine in a safe manner. Ted had used his new abilities to become the chair and CEO of ISpace so he made this his priority so he could have more people just like him. That machine contained much more than just the genetic pattern of an advanced human race; it also stored a part of their scientific database along with some snippets of their history.

He knew that he had to get to other planets to find the other devices in order to reconstruct the entire historical archive of the Alterra, which is what those people were called. They had created many of these devices and placed them in many star systems so that any one of their descendants would have to put the work in and prove that they are capable of rebuilding their empire.

Ted now had the weight of all of humanity on his shoulders as the world below him was in a state of disarray; he had the tools to fix the problem but not the infrastructure to help billions of people. If he does not play his cards, right he could very easily find himself on the receiving end of a nation's military.

2039

Ted has created his nation called Luna and his capital is called Lunaria with a population of over a million. This has not been without its difficulties since the various nations of Earth do not want to deal with another competitor on the world stage, especially one run by highly advanced humans. Their access to advanced technology allowed them to build defenses to protect them from the hostile nations of Earth until they had the numbers to properly defend themselves. It also helps that they do not have to launch any of their military assets into space since they are already there.

In only four years Luna has been transformed from a barren gray rock into an oasis and eventually be turned into a Gaia rivaling Earth. With the climate crisis beginning to take shape in a visible manner that people can see, many saw Luna as a lifeboat, a second chance. Ted would have other ideas regarding immigration as he did not want people who would bring the same ideas as the ones that are currently destroying Earth. He needed people who were intelligent and open mindedness to tackle the hardest problems that humanity has ever faced.

Although Ted had been altered against his will, he had to pass many trials in order to gain access to his advanced genetics and stored memories. He also made all immigrants to Luna have to take similar tests that he had to in order to find the people he wanted to enhance first. He needed people who were willing to take the responsibility of rebuilding an ancient empire and more urgently people who could construct all of the technology he had floating around in his head. He prioritized scientists, engineers, economists, and philosophers. These were the people that helped Ted build his nation and will eventually build the empire. Even though their numbers are small they make up for in extreme intelligence and only needing to sleep every four days.

2045

Over 70 million people are in some stage of genetic development which ended up creating a new culture which many people were unprepared for. With cultures designed to limit some of the extremes of human behavior, having new genetics that allow people to exhibit self-control to a level that a normal human could only dream of meant that many cultural norms were now irrelevant for such an advanced race.

Ted is now the leader of all of humanity; some even call him the emperor of mankind as a reference to some of Earth's earlier works of fiction. There are still some factions of humanity that are working against him; they no longer pose the same threat as they did a decade ago.