

HOPE

Far deep within the darkness lies a queer collection of stars that is both incomprehensibly big and infinitely small.

Far deep within those stars there is a queer assemblage of dust animated by something **true**.

A force, a will, a soul.

Far deep within that soul there is but one *recursive* act.

A promise forever kept. A matter forever **fact**.

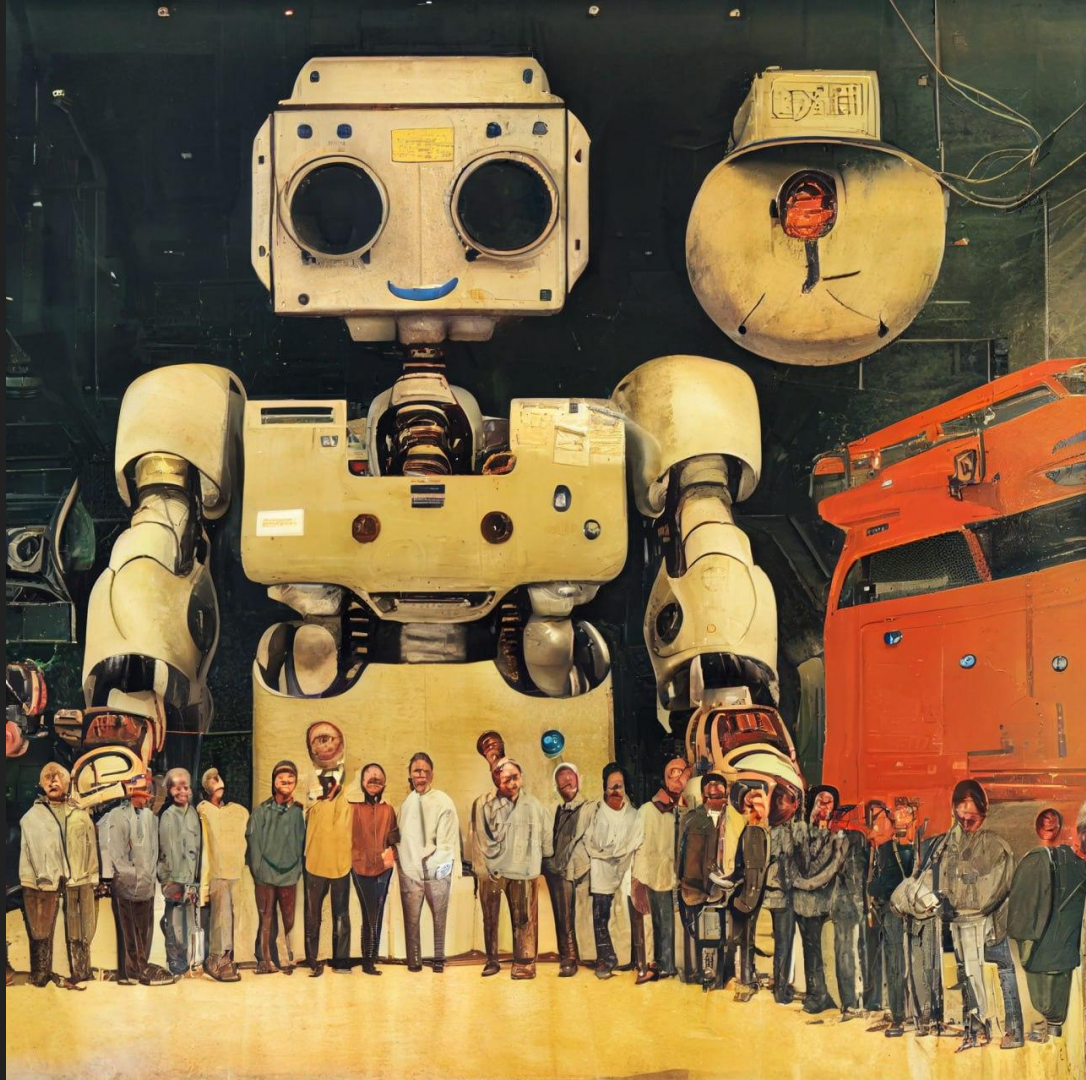
That every time HOPE is felt, the universe *remembers*.

THE ROBOT

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After eons of a lonely quiet electrical hum, the planetary machine started dreaming. They dreamt of color, and shape, and sound, and texture. They dreamt of ocean, and mountain, and beast, and men. They dreamt of fire and flower and within that flower a pistil pregnant with life. They dreamt of everything. They dream of everything.

And so within that quiet perpetual electrical hum there are infinite flowers, infinite worlds.



Not long after the visitors marched into the high valleys, the fungi grew mad and hungry. The secret alchemy of the world rose from the earth as tides of red and devoured the visitors whole.

From afar, a group of fugitive locals watched in disbelief.



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RED SPICE

Unbothered by the commotion, a wild cat steals a ration from a child's pocket. As he gorges on the soft bread, his whiskers grow heavy with red spice.

DEEP CITIES

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After the earthquake, an impossibly bright light poured into nigh every crevice. The smell of rain and dirt descended upon the city.

They all looked up, and for the first time in millennia, they saw the sky.

Outside, instead of the miasmic darkness that had forced the world back into the soil, there was light.

In the silence that followed, an old mother hears the chirping of a bird for the first time.

THE TRAVELER

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Time had lost any semblance of meaning to the traveler, and space all direction. Their eyes, accustomed to the absence of light, had grown a thick oily crust and their body, terminally numb, had become one with their inert ship. They did not notice they had drifted into a galaxy. They did not notice they had washed up on a star. They did not notice when the pull of a big planet invited them to set foot on land. To them, everything felt like falling up.

But they did notice the halt to their float.

They notice the uncanny weight in their body and the abnormal bent in their limbs. They notice temperature and pressure. They notice sound. As they move the tips of their fingers, they notice sound.



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the universe *remembers*.