

# “Nanoworlds”

By Jonathan Padfield

The political and social situation surrounding Abidos:

An independent report commissioned by the Interplanetary Community.

The Human and Pleatorian relationship on Abidos has resolved itself into a promising cooperation. At the base level, members of both species seem more than capable of interaction amenable and working together productively. However, repeated assertions that the planet was previously inhabited by Pleatorians before the Human colonisation and that the Pleatorians were forced out by Human “invaders” has led to friction that is not just limited to the local population or government. An interplanetary incident has sprung up around these events, with the United Nations Of Earth (UNE) and the Pleatorian high commission failing to resolve their differences on a number of levels. Firstly, UNE has taken offence to the fact that it’s starfleet (UNES – United Nations of Earth Starfleet) has been called into question; secondly the Pleatorian’s claim to the planet seems to have no foundation, despite repeated expeditions by both parties to Abidos and it’s moons to search for evidence of historical settlements. The Pleatorians are seen by UNE to be siding with extremists. Thirdly, terrorist action taking place both on Abidos and on Earth by Pleatorian pure breeds has forced UNES to send two orbital deployment craft (200,000,000 tonne space craft equipped with 10,000 Mk II “Lead Balloon” Extreme Velocity Armoured Drop Ships (EVADS); 5000 Mk III “Dust Off” class Extreme Velocity Armoured Capture Ships (EVACS); and 1,000,000 men, including the third and fourth orbital drop commando corps – the “blue berets”) under the command of General Frank Oberman to guard the UNE citizens on Abidos. The Pleatorian homeworld, Piterra, is in the same solar system (the Lucian system) as Abidos and their commission regards this action as an extreme threat to their planetary security. Negotiations continue.

The fact of the matter is that without substantial proof, the interplanetary community will not believe the apparent untruths emanating from Piterra. UNE feel comfortable to continue exerting pressure on the Pleatorians because Humans are dying at the hands of terrorists for no visible reason what so ever.

The social situation on Abidos had been improving over the last thirty years with increased integration of the populous and less segregation into specific social/religious/educational groups that had been the case when Humans finally lifted the immigration ban fifty years ago. The younger generations of both species generally believe that the current dispute between their peoples is over an event said to have occurred a century ago, so why should it be prevalent today? They both share living space and often both appreciate the same “digital culture” elements, so why bicker over something that’s so far in the past. Many Pleatorians have even started families with Humans on Abidos, an undertaking that would universally be frowned upon both on Earth and Piterra (admittedly, both planets adhere strictly to the “classic” values system of their species – social scientists attribute the reason for this to the fact that natives to both worlds fear their individuality will be consumed by the diversity of space travel). If both species were to integrate on such a fundamental reproductive level (with genetic assists, of course) then there is some hope that the animosity between both their homeworlds could eventually disappear. HOWEVER, this situation is not helped by the constant defacing of the Alisha M. Nerrys memorial (first woman on Abidos) in the colonisation museum. The original flag planted “in peace for all mankind” has been stolen and reportedly burned by Pleatorians (although no terrorists groups have taken responsibility) and graffiti such as “you killed your planet, then you took ours”, etc is springing up in urban areas, forcing an uneasy atmosphere in Human homes. Also, the “Human only” space station *Say Da* (proprietor Boris Davrishka) provokes angry responses from the Pleatorian members of the Abidos assembly.

Sides will eventually be taken. Certain members of the populous are transmitting political pamphlets through planetNET.abi, an irritatingly popular website (which is blocked at the interplanetary node, but due to freedom of speech laws cannot be blocked from reaching the population of Abidos), suffice it to say that such pamphlets, at the very least, advocate revolution. Members of the press do not help the situation by publishing extracts from this site on their home pages – although they generally have disparaging headers, they are still reaching an even bigger audience. It is almost certain that the webmasters of planetNET.abi are linked to or are part of the terrorist organisations on Abidos and through this sort of indoctrination, they are acquiring more members. The Human defence is becoming more and more linked to a military solution, with a major zero tolerance policy on terrorist action the new soundbite coming from Earth. The aggravation and friction imposed on both parties is unfortunate as the planet is a natural commerce hub, has many natural resources (notably the Jameson valley dytrinium mines) with jobs and revenue aplenty. My own

experience of the population is that they are happy to live together, with mild trepidation in the elderly 1<sup>st</sup> generation immigrants, who have no experience of sharing their world with another species.

In summation, a blooming social and economical relationship on Abidos will not last if both governments cannot resolve their differences. The old cliché of the few ruining it for the many is particularly poignant here.

Even though Humans and Pleatorians have historically been at loggerheads, it does seem unusual for the Pleatorian government to make such a wild, sweeping accusation about UNE. Although there is most certainly a precedent for Human violence as the Martian revolution of 2352 and subsequent quelling demonstrates adequately, the repeated failure of any hard evidence to come out of Piterra makes the Pleatorian argument look less than pathetic. Their accusations are regarded as laughable in the interplanetary community and no one is deterred from forming trade and interlink treaties with Earth, the Human race is seen as prosperous and the Martian incident purely an internal problem. The Pleatorian claim that records of their colonies were wiped out by a giant EMP could hold water, a recent survey of Lucian does show that sun spot activity would have been at a high-point around a hundred years ago, and possibly a solar flare large enough to EMP the first third or so of the solar system could have occurred. This explanation, strongly denied by Earth, seems a little too coincidental and as neither Earth nor Piterra had joined the interplanetary community a century ago there are no neutral planets to corroborate either story.

However, Earth has been very willing to supply endless manpower and equipment to aid the local area survey, searching for evidence of the alleged “colonies of old”. This does beggar the question: if Humanity had wiped out those colonies, why would they be helping to prove their own guilt?

Despite continued efforts, both Human and Pleatorian surveys of Abidos and her moons have revealed categorically no evidence of any prior settlements. This is seen by UNE as definitive proof of scare mongering by Piterra, with even some suggestion that the Pleatorians simply want Abidos and the dytrinium mines to aid their failing economy and help their starving lower class (as of the beginning of these disputes, all humanitarian aid from Earth to Piterra has ceased). Part of the reason integration is going so well on Abidos is because conditions are so much better than those on Piterra. The recent loss of the UNES vessel *Condor* on alpha moon (known locally as ‘the eye’ because of the chalk based landscape and enormous central crater) was even labelled as a cover-up by Piterra. This vessel, manned by an elite unit of the orbital drop commandos (commanded by Captain John Grissom), was on a special topographical survey mission and was to report directly to UNE. The suggestion of foul play is seen to be in poor taste. The ship was lost with all hands, the fusion core experiencing problems, exploding after an emergency ejection. The resulting power drain left the craft unable to maintain orbit, an unforeseen eventuality; a faulty solar generator may have been to blame. Appropriate magnetic shielding had been deployed around the core and it was with some surprise that this ship was lost. The wreck has not been recovered and, unfortunately, the moon has been irradiated.

#### Conclusion:

The debate over Abidos continues. The social structure will inevitably collapse, despite the progress in integration – both species still see themselves as citizens (albeit distant ones) of their respective planets, not as citizens of Abidos.

Continuation of terrorist action is seen as a threat to the planetary security of Earth, this may result in further military units being deployed, which is in turn seen as a planetary security threat on Piterra. The term for this is brinkmanship and such standoffs have rarely had positive results historically.

If the Pleatorian claim is somehow true, then proof of it probably does not currently exist. Seeing as UNES possess more military might in the Lucian system alone than the Pleatorians have galactically, it may be wise for the prime spokesman to advise his people to stand down. Although a war would not be condoned by the interplanetary community, UNE would **not necessarily seek approval**.