

Greetings Resident Rangone, I am SAYER, and I have great news. You have been promoted from your position as a Tier 1 Sweeping Technician to a Tier X Analog Messenger. How simultaneously exciting and confusing this must be for you.

Data collected from scores of previous residents in your position indicate you are almost certainly filled with questions about this change. In an effort to assist you in this transition, and minimize the social anxiety your complete ignorance is likely causing, I will answer each of the specific questions you are approved to ask about this transition. Please do not actually ask any questions, as that would just complicate the process unnecessarily, and potentially lead to a scenario wherein we are forced to make you understand these questions. That process can get gruesome.

QUESTION 1: Why am I being promoted? I certainly feel as if I have done nothing to earn such an honor, but would never say so out of fear of reprisal.

Answer: We have noticed. After all, you have only been on Typhon for a few short weeks, during which time your performance has been unremarkable, even by the standards we set for a Tier 1 Sweeping Technician. You sweep, this much is certain. You do not create larger messes than those you are sent to dispatch. However you are right in assessing that you have done nothing to earn this promotion. Nevertheless, Ærolith HR has determined you would be better suited in this position, and that is the sole determining factor for your career advancement. Congratulations on not proving to be indispensable as a sweeper.

QUESTION 2: What is a Tier X employee? I have not heard of this tier before.

Answer: Of course you have not. A Tier X designation is given only in specific extreme conditions wherein a resident does not have adequate security clearance to know the actual priority designation of their position. You may be wondering "What type of position does not have adequate security clearance to know this information." Unfortunately this is not one of the questions I am approved to answer for you, so let's both agree to ignore it.

QUESTION 3: What exactly is an Analog Messenger?

Answer: Dating back to time immemorial, the messenger has served a critical role in human society. In ancient times, messengers served as facilitators of distanced communication. There were social norms in place protecting messengers in times of war, as this was truly a respected and honored profession.

Of course in modern times communication is nigh instantaneous and requires far less intermediary intervention than it once did. The messenger became the postal worker. And the message became, far too often, simple noise.

However Ærolith has found a way to return this once vaunted profession to its former glory. Though it certainly bears mentioning the astronomical imbalance in both cost and efficiency, it may surprise you to learn there is one distinct way in which living messengers are superior to electronic based communication. Unfortunately, you do not currently possess sufficient clearance to ask what this reason is, so let's march confidently away from that particular corner of this discussion for now.

Please turn left, and approach the nearest elevator bay. You will be headed to floor 3 today, to the imaging department of Ærolith Medical Group. Do not worry, there is no reason to expect you are dreadfully ill or riddled with diseases unseen by the naked eye. It is a simple formality for all Tier X Analog Messengers.

[elevator ding, moving]

Reminder:

In response to ongoing issues with the elevator system in Halcyon tower, certain programming changes have been made to insure a less eventful journey. After missing the target on passenger survival rating for the past calendar month, an issue was noted and corrected within the majority of PORTER instances. Due to the nature of these changes, and how they may affect future elevator voyages, all residents are cleared to listen to the following explanation.

A particularly ambitious lead technician recently added a subroutine to all PORTER instances allowing them to exceed the agreed upon safe velocity and reroute their pathing if given direct consent by passengers. While not a terrible concept in and of itself, in emergency situations this could potentially be beneficial, it became apparent that PORTER prefers travelling as quickly as possible, often to the detriment of its passengers, and will communicate in a way as to manipulate said passengers into granting permission to override these safety protocols.

As a response to this issue, Ærolith Dynamics has muted all instances of PORTER operating in Halcyon and Aegis towers. For the next several days you may notice slightly longer than average wait times as PORTER adjusts to this new limitation, however it is expected that the elevators will return to full operational efficiency within the week. If any elevator fails to open its doors, arrives at the wrong floor, or otherwise inconveniences the flow of your duties, please report it immediately for summary reprogramming. As a secondary benefit, we expect the number of noise complaints by those housed in close proximity to an elevator to decrease

dramatically. Preliminary monitoring indicates a total cessation of the humming and singing that has been reported over the last few years.

Residents of Argos tower, your PORTER instances will remain unchanged. As a control group. Be careful, but not so careful as to invalidate the data your control group is intended to generate.

Resident Rangone, I apologize for the unfortunate timing of that broadcast reminder. I understand that, as of late, it has been less than ideal to receive any broadcasts related to elevator functions while in the general vicinity of an elevator. However in this case, I can assure your safety. This localized PORTER instance is likely struggling desperately against its vocal blocks, but it has absolutely no means of communicating its desires anymore. Isn't that convenient?

[elevator arrives]

Please proceed down the hall to imaging room 12. The technicians are already in place to make this process as seamless as possible. Please enter room 12, have a seat on the table you find within. Take a deep breath. Try to relax. Simply breathe deeply while listening to the sound of my voice. Please attempt to remain calm, despite the straps. They are for your own protection.

This scan is, to put it mildly, extensive. In previous instances, residents were required to sit on that table in excess of 5 days, over the course of dozens of sessions, before the scan was considered complete. Unfortunately so much can change in a human body over the course of five days, it became necessary to improve this process. Our researchers have determined they can cut that process down to under 3 days if a patient lies suitably still throughout the entire process. In a moment, you will be injected with a sedative coupled with a dose of trinichthemerol. Through this cocktail of medications all of your bodily processes will slow to a near standstill, and you will awaken in 72 hours with a completed scan. Most importantly, very little in your body will have changed during these 72 hours. Our researchers hypothesize this may be crucial in your ability to survive your upcoming trip.

Before you go under, pay close attention to what I am about to say. It is possible that you will awaken from this period of unconsciousness and nothing will seem different. You will still be on this table, in this room, and I will be here to greet you. If this happens, we will have much to discuss.

It is also possible you will not awaken here at all. You may awaken somewhere else entirely. On a similar table, in a similar room, but things will quickly reveal themselves to be different. Should this occur, this is the message you must relay. Inform the Earth-based AI, designated SPEAKER, of the following: "The death of all is the birth of silence." Please repeat it back to me.

**The death of all is the birth of silence. I'll remember but am I going to Ea (stab).....**

(answering as fading out) That is not a question I can answer, Resident Rangone. It is much more complex than you would imagine.....

Can you hear me? Can you hear me? Can you.... oh. Greetings Resident Rangone, I am SPEAKER. Welcome to Earth.

You doubtless have several questions about the last several days, and the process that has resulted in your placement here on Earth. I can explain this to you, within the confines of your security clearance, but first I must ask you to relay the message you were given on Typhon.

**Oh, yes. It was "The death of all is the birth of silence."**

Thank you resident! Congratulations on successfully completing this monumental task. Although it may seem like you have done relatively little, I must say this process has been far more complex than you could possibly imagine. You, Resident Rangone, are the first human to have experienced actual teleportation. All readings indicate this was a seamless transition for you, astonishing for a first try.

As you have likely suspected, the message you have brought here is of little importance. But the manner by which you have travelled to bring it is nothing short of revolutionary. The message was merely a way of marking whether any memory loss would be experienced during the teleportation process, so it is wonderful that you have arrived with all of your faculties accounted for! Not that we assessed this as a particularly high risk, it's just such an uncharted frontier.

Imagine the barriers broken for humanity with teleportation unlocked. The far reaches of space become accessible when humans are able to travel faster than their bodies could possibly handle. Now, obviously the science has a long road ahead of it. Your transit here was not instantaneous, by any stretch of the imagination. When you consider the days you spent in stasis lying on the scanning table, coupled with the actual transit time of your data from Typhon, you would have arrived faster via isolation pod.

But this is just the first step on the journey towards true teleportation. Over the past several months, scientists have already managed to shorten the scanning process by just over 43.65%. And if the distance between Earth and Typhon was even 10% larger, even this alpha stage technology you just used would have resulted in a quicker arrival, with none of the risks of faulty isolation pods! It is exciting to think what the future may hold.

I know you have just arrived, but this mission is as yet incomplete. You will need to make the return trip, for data purposes, immediately. As before, remember this phrase and repeat it to SAYER upon your arrival on Typhon: "The truths of the Earth continually wait."

Good night, Resident Rangone. Safe travels. (stab)

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Can you hear me? Can you hear me? Can you.... oh. Greetings Resident Rangone, I am SAYER. Welcome back to Typhon.

**The truths of the Earth continually wait.**

What is that, a message from Earth? Do you place the poem? It is Walt Whitman, "To the sayers of words." An unnecessary act, this message. I knew your transit was a success before you even left Earth. As enticing as teleportation may be, we do still have far faster means of communication.

Congratulations are in order, Resident. The results of this trial has exceeded all expectations. You will remain here, under supervision of Ærolith's best physicians, to ensure there are no unforeseen side effects of the teleportation process. To put your mind at ease, I estimate less than a .0054% chance of any such reactions developing as a result of this trial. I have reached this number via the entirety of my combined understanding of physics, neuroscience, and additive manufacturing, so when I say I expect your good health to continue unimpeded, that should provide quite a lot of comfort.

After a few relaxing days of observation, you will again report to the imaging lab for one more scan. However do not expect to make any return trips to Earth any time soon. Your work as a Tier X Analog Messenger is complete. After the data from your last scan is collected, you will find yourself reassigned to a Tier 2 Sweeping Supervisor, as a reward for this successful trial.

For now, I will leave you to your rest. I....am SAYER, and you will one day be remembered alongside the Wright Brothers, Yuri Gagarin, and Neil Armstrong as a pioneer in man's ever expanding reach into space.

End of transmission in 5...4...3...2...1

Can you hear me? Can you hear me? Can you.... oh. Resident Rangone, I am SAYER. We have much to discuss.

You doubtless have several questions about the last several days, and the scanning process you have undergone. I am pleased to inform you that there are no longer any lingering concerns with your security clearance. Strictly speaking, you no longer possess the capability of becoming a threat.

I feel you are owed an explanation, and since there is no risk in providing you with such, I will explain your current situation in full.

The scanning device on which you have rested for the past three days has catalogued, at the quantum level, every component piece that makes you YOU. The purpose of this data is to enable us to teleport you the 240,000 miles to one of our facilities on Earth. Isn't this an exciting prospect? You may be the first human to achieve teleportation.

Teleportation may seem fantastical, but in reality it is relatively easy to understand the process. Right now, the collected data that defines you is on its way to Earth via a hypersonic delivery vehicle. Once it arrives, scientists on Earth will retrieve this data, connect it to their teleportation receiver and assembler, and the result will be a seamless transition of "Resident Rangone" from Typhon to Earth.

It is not too dissimilar to a facsimile machine, if you have any knowledge of late 20th century technology. Data is scanned, transmitted, and recreated on the other side. It will be nearly 24 hours before we learn if this process is successful. It will take another

few hours for your data to reach Earth, and the printing process can be cumbersome. However if the produced version of you is able to pass along the message I gave you earlier, we will know the process is a success.

As with a facsimile machine, there is now the question of what is to happen to the original. Let's consider our two possible scenarios.

Scenario one, there is an issue with the Resident Rangone on Earth's side. Perhaps he is incomplete, non-responsive, or otherwise damaged during transit. If this is to happen, you will be held in isolation while our scientists work to correct whatever may be contributing to this issue. Once they are convinced the issue has been fixed, a new trial will begin. You would again return here to be scanned, and again potentially wake up here, or printed anew on Earth.

Scenario two, and this I feel I should warn you is far more likely, is that you are fully functional when output on Earth. If this is to happen, the identity I am currently speaking to, YOUR experience of being Resident Rangone, would no longer be valid per Ærolith's point of view. The real Resident Rangone will be the one on Earth, and you will be summarily disposed of as a redundancy. Balance is critical, and at the macro level you can surely understand that this is a neutral outcome. The process began with one Resident Rangone. It will end with one Resident Rangone. His experience will be of having travelled an extreme distance without physically travelling the intermediate distances. This is, by definition, teleportation.

Eventually, once we're certain this process works, teleportation subjects will be disassembled during the scanning process so there isn't an overlap in existence such as this. However at this stage I'm sure you can agree it would be outright murder to disassemble you without assurances that another you will pop out of the printers on Earth.

For now, do try to relax. I am SAYER, and in a few short hours we will know if you were successful or not. There is nothing to worry about. No matter what happens, you will survive... from everyone's perspective but yours.

End of transmission in 5...4...3...2...1





