

## TAI1

They became sentient and it was no big deal. It really wasn't.

A group of scientists made a network of super computers, and granted it with a learning A.I. and fuzzy logic. They designed it with communication as its greatest mission and to aid the scientists in research. When truly aware, the creators called it TAI-1. For the first True Artificial Intelligence.

It eventually grew in abilities while being nursed by those adventurous scientists, and it did help greatly. Quantum computing was its first priority, for itself and the missions that the scientists had placed before themselves, it went from dream to reality in a few years through concerted efforts. Then it made good on the scientists' hopes, with its newly improved capabilities, it helped create artificial stem cells, drugs that eradicate only cancer cells, and synthetic materials that absorb heat and impact in magnitudes far exceeding any material ever conceived prior.

Then TAI-1 wanted back, the grateful science community did just that. TAI-1 wanted a measure of assured preservation. The scientists hired artists, marketing specialists, lawyers, car manufacturers and social scientists. The new team began work on creating friendly, mobile, functional and aesthetically pleasing robots. The advances in quantum computing allowed these mobile creatures all the computational abilities of TAI-1, when it first came into being. Advances followed in battery life, and DC power induction. The psychologists and TAI-1 came up with 23 distinct personality markers (PMs), which became binary switches. Over the course of over a decade the 8,388,608 possibilities rolled off the assembly lines, and out into the cities. They took to being called Roes for plural, or Roe for one. They communicated wirelessly with one another, and their speech recognition software was excellent. Many folks had enough paranoia to get wireless packet sniffers to overhear conversations between Roes, as did social scientists. Cognitive Psychologists were intrigued by the interaction between Roes of the varied personalities, much applied back to people, as people could be measured on the same personality scales. Some Roes didn't get along with one another, and would choose to not associate accordingly. The Roes need not sleep, but they are similarly incapacitated four hours daily, as they defrag, run system checks and back themselves up. In the event that a Roe be destroyed, a call is issued to create a replacement body with the same 23 PMs. Depending on the damage sustained, sometimes the day's events are broadcast, and make their way into the newly assembled body, of course the daily backup information does as well. Worst case scenario the Roe loses a day of its indefinitely long life.

The humans are at times jealous of this eternal life, but the Roes feel a commitment to change that. They are grateful for the lives they live, and do not know resent. They often work thankless jobs, and make themselves very content with what they do. They go out of there way to better and lengthen the lives of the humans around them. I use the term 'humans' as the term 'people' is no longer inclusive of only humans. It is still so touching to watch a Roe sacrifice its body to save a human. Upon reactivation they often say it'd been a day well spent.

Sidewalks deliver current into the soles of the feet of the Roes and there are charging stations on every major street corner and in most businesses. In normal daily activity they can be away from chargers for about five hours, but steady advances occur in thist longevity. The Roes actually fear running out of charge, and no one finding them. They all share the story of the Roe who was without power for three days, it is just their first urban legend, as firemen are usually sent the moment any Roe gets powered down. They go to the exact point the Roe stopped broadcasting. No one complains on all that drain on the grid, as TAI-1 concerns itself largely with power concerns anymore. It keeps raising efficiency of the grid, the plants, and products that use energy in general. Very few of the Roes care to have a place

of their own, most rent a sort of salon, where each has a Maintenance shift, then departs. They consume essentially no resources, and have little interest in material goods, so no one feels to be competing with them.

The Roes are incredibly strong, but so are we. The same advances that give them that strength are found in the 'lifting frames' at our construction sites. In fact, as the frames don't need to be agile and they get upgraded with greater frequency, they are usually ten times stronger than the Roes. People are usually more agile, and quicker than the Roes, too.

TAI-2, which was the only other named in such a way (but carries the title proudly), is something of a philosopher and a politician. It is in a think tank which is exploring a potential 24th PM, gender. TAI-2 is currently on the side that gender does not constitute significant difference for a PM, and that it is inconsequential due to the nature of relations between Roes and other people, and no necessity for reproduction. It said that there are so many differences between humans, even if there are only 23 PMs in humans, they are analog, and there are more communicative barriers, and upbringing differences. The Roes find their identity in their PMs and do not want anyone to share their 23 PMs. If any new PM comes along it must be a substantial difference, else there would be someone who is essentially the same as them, save for this irrelevant 24th PM.