

A Bio 238

Chapter 238: Core powers are weird.

"So the point is that you do have the number," Aunty Viv said after answering Alexa's question, not that it was important or relevant.

There was a more important point here.

"[Eleanore] went to school?" Alexa pointed out that she didn't look that smart, if Alexa was to be honest, or at least she got that impression from all the cursing that Ale did occasionally about her.

Alexa didn't understand that to be honest, or why Alexandra seemed to hate her that much.

"Of course, everyone must." Aunty Viv said, "No matter what, Education is mandatory."

"Mandatory?" Alexa asked, "Why?"

"It's one of the main beliefs from the Saintsworths. If you don't go to school they will move all they can to take the custody of the children, so even an orphanage must give education to their children." The mom person said sighing, "Which annoys me, if they know the importance of human life why do they keep spreading war?"

"They spread it?" Alexa was confused, "So are they the baddies?"

If they were the baddies, then Alexa should join them right? But they had been the ones behind the testing!

And Alexa didn't enjoy those, they weren't fun. Or more like, they weren't anything! Alexa didn't want to return to those days, she was happier now.

"..." The mom person didn't answer and instead closed her mouth and eyes.

"Debatable." Aunty Viv was the one to answer, "To some people, the Saintsworths represent all that is evil in the world, as you can imagine by the fact that even a rumor as ridiculous as Alexanders being a True Dragon doesn't die."

Oh right, that theory that Ale liked to endorse whenever she was doing her internet thingy!

"To others though." Aunty Viv said turning to the mom person.

"They do good." She said as if the words hurt her, "They have many PR Campaigns to ensure the orphans are taken care of, they ensure the education can be affordable, and when a city reports that they don't have money to provide education, they build a school in that city, equipped with everything needed. If the city has too many street kids, they make an orphanage..."

That sounded like a good thing right? Then they weren't the baddies! Alexa was safe, she didn't need to join them!

"On the other hand..." The mom person then turned to look at Aunty Viv, "Some may claim that these actions aren't done out of the goodwill of their heart."

Aunty Viv smirked at that and nodded.

"The governors, mayors or presidents of those city-states can't refuse the 'Goodwill', but in turn they must cede ground for the construction. And the Saintsworths then have a new facility to be built in foreign soil." Aunty Viv then pointed to the big tv where a map was shown, Alexa could see parts that she recognized, it was the same map she had seen before!

But this one showed more parts than the one before! It made her city of Columbus Ohio look like a small pitiful bug to be squished!

"This means the Saintsworths have a foothold in other city-states, from which they can spread their influence. It was like this that they managed to spread their influence across the barriers of the wastelands filled with monsters and super fauna. Even behind the walls that seal our cities and insulate us from the rest of the world after the advent of Mana..." The map then started to light up with points across, all different places. Some bigger, some smaller... But Alexa was focused on something else.

"Why is that point surrounded by blue?" Alexa said pointing to a small dot farther away from everything else.

"That's on the ocean, unlike the other cities that are in mainland, this means that this particular spot is surrounded by water." Aunty Viv answered, "See? Most are focused on the continental mass. You are aligned with Haephestus Forge, right? Meaning you were here before."

Aunty Viv then pointed to a small point farther away from the others, it didn't have that many other lights around...

Actually...

"Are they all separated around the same distance?" Alexa pointed, a quick calculation from Main Core said that each point was spread around roughly in the same distance, and whenever there was too much space between a couple points they would spread from somewhere nearby in that direction to make a small bubble.

"Smart, yes. That is part of why people say that the schools, orphanages, and whatnot aren't made out of the goodwill of their hearts, they are within distance for their transportation network." Aunty Viv said nodding, "The official excuse is that in his way they can send their warship from one spot to the next to bring materials to build the schools and orphanages."

"So they are the good guys." Alexa nodded once more. "And they, for some reason, threw one of their schools into this 'Ocean' thingy."

"..." "..." Both Aunty Viv and the mom person seemed to look at each other as if to question something.

"These aren't only schools," In the end it was the mom person who said something, "They are all the Saintsworths facilities."

"Ah." Alexa nodded, so perhaps one was... No wait, "If the blue thingy is an Ocean, the green thing is mainland, what is the white thingy?"

At the top and bottom there were a white thingy painted, as if someone had dropped their milk for the cereal... Was this map on a table?

"The north and south poles." Aunty Viv said answering the question. "Why do you add thing to your words?"

"Because they are things?" Alexa answered confused, "What's the ocean thingy if not a thingy?"

"Water." Aunty Viv pointed to the blue thingie on the map, "You don't need to add thing to refer to it, we all know what the Ocean is and what's it made of. In this case, Water."

....Water?

"All of the blue is water?" Alexa said turning to look at the map, "Albireo person, can you show Alexa how that looks actually and not all stretched like that?"

"[As you wish Mistress.]" The nice lady answered to Alexa at once.

Then as if she had unstuck the map, the image turned into a projection and started floating, it slowly floated towards Alexa where it turned into a sphere kind of thing.

The blue that allegedly represented water was covering most of the sphere, and the green allegedly represented continental mass... Since the point that was the city where Alexa had been before was on it, Alexa assumed that this continental mass meant places where Alexa could stand and move as normal.

So...

"Alexa is standing in a ball, and this ball is mostly made out of wawa." Alexa resumed what she had learned.

"That is one way of seeing it, but yes. Most of Terra Nova is covered in water." The mom person said nodding, "Before the advent of Mana we were spread far and wide, you could travel from one side of the world in a couple of hours."

Aunty Viv nodded, "But after it, we are limited to the cities that survived the creation of mega fauna and the wastelands between cities." Aunty Viv walked toward the projection and fiddled with it a little, adding now small objects orbiting around it, "Even our satellites were affected, nowadays there is very little presence of humans there. And we don't send more people to space."

Wait, why would they even want to be that high? If they fell it would hurt!

"Not that it stops the Saintsworths." The mom person huffed while saying that, "They didn't listen to international treaties and sent satellites to orbit the planet... That was a whole issue."

Why?

"Why?" Alexa asked, "Why would they want to send something that up, wouldn't it hurt when they fell?"

"Because intelligence is power," Aunty Viv was the one to answer, "And keeping a satellite in orbit even with all the changes to our world is a show of power, no one knows for sure how they managed to achieve escape velocity and dodge all the monsters that are in the sky. But the fact that they achieved it means they have the upper hand."

Of course they had the upper hand, their hand was higher than everyone else!

"And in a more cynical way, they can shoot down all new satellites and blame the birds, instability, and interference caused by Mana in the stratosphere." The mom person added, "Truly, the evil that will encase the world."

"Be impartial Miriam," Aunty Viv scolded the mom person, she didn't have the mom tone, but the angry aunty tone! "You joined to flush out all the evil didn't you?"

"... Yes," The mom person nodded, "But all I have gotten so far is that Alexanders is experimenting with artificial intelligence in Lab 4, that you are conducting highly dangerous experiments on the human genome..."

"All sanctioned by the world congress and on willing subjects," Aunty Viv said quickly, "At least mine anyway."

"I know," The mom person said afterwards, "I don't doubt you, but it is still annoying that I haven't found anything in five years... Worst of all, I have advanced my own research and projects more in these five years than in all the time I worked outside the Saintsworths."

"Money, power and influence does tend to have that effect." Aunty Viv nodded sagely with Alexa, "So, Eleanore's number?"

"You will call her?" The mom person said, pulling out her weird cylinder with the blue screen, "Do you think she will even answer?"

"She will answer," Aunty Viv said, "ALBIREO, call the number that Miriam will give you, ensure the recipient answers, this is for the sake of Alexa."

"You will use a state-of-the-art artificial intelligence for something as petty as that?" The mom person said astonished, "Besides aren't these supposed to only work for work?"

"[Acknowledge, dialing private number of Eleanore Windsor. Alternate name: Cerberus.]"

"Wait, it worked? No wait a second, Cerberus?" The mom person said surprised, "As in the famous lieutenant of Haephestus Forge?!?!?"

Alexa stared at the number that was being dialed, she made sure to record it on her memory, Ale could use it later for one of her streams or something, maybe order a hundred mango pies or something using that number?

Alexa wouldn't mind having a hundred mango cakes. Perhaps a hundred mango smoothies?

"Who is this and how do you have this number?" The call only rang twice before [Eleanore] picked it up, she sounded angry.

"Sorry to call you at this hour, it's me Miriam Eversoul." The mom person started speaking before Aunty Viv could say something.

The voice of [Eleanore] was coming from the closest screen, and Alexa could see [Eleanore]'s face scowling on her office, the lights were off for some reason. Did she like the darkness?

Alexa turned to the side and found a window, and sure enough it was day, the sun was shining brightly outside, why was [Eleanore] in a dark room? Didn't she have a window?

"Miriam? Miriam Eversoul?" [Eleanore] asked surprised as her eyes widened, only to turn sharp a second later, and she started to type something on her keyboard, "The same Miriam Eversoul that sold her soul to the Saintsworths? That one?"

"I didn't... I have explained this to you before, this way I can ensure they aren't abusing their authority." The mom person said sighing, "It hurts me to say this, but I have helped many more people since taking this job than ever."

"[Truth]" [Eleanore] said in a small voice as her eyes shone in azure light, she had pushed a button on her phone before saying that, and she pushed a button again afterwards, "...Fine, I'll believe you for now. So, why are you calling me at two in the morning?"

"Two in the morning?" Alexa said aloud, she turned to one of the clock thingies in the wall and it said it was four in the afternoon. It was almost time for snack break!

"Shh..." Aunty Viv said from the side.

"[Mistress Alexa voice was muted for security reasons.]"

And the nice lady came saying that Alexa was muted?!!?!!?

But Alexa could speak! "Lalalalalalala," Alexa tested it!

"I have a couple questions, I found...some worrying data and your name was tied to it." The mom person continued speaking as if nothing had happened, "Do you know... Anything about a little girl called Alexa? Alexa Saintsworths."

"...where did you find that name?" [Eleanore] asked after half a minute of no answers.

In that time she had put her phone at the side and pushed a button, the image that they were seeing said that she had put them in speaker. Then the woman had moved around her office from one side to the next, pulling papers, folders, and even portable hard drives.

"So you do know her?" The mom person said next, "What do you know about her? Do you think you can give me a number to talk to her guardians or parents?"

"She didn't have parents, and her guardians... One of them died a couple weeks ago." [Eleanore] answered in a small voice, no wait! What?!?!

"[Big Sister]?!?!?" Alexa said surprised, "Something happened to her too?!?!?!"

"What happened?" The mom person asked then, they all saw the [Eleanore] in the video cover her face, "No wait, she didn't have? So you found them?"

"... Didn't you saw the news? I assume you are back to the city since you found about Alexa. Did you see her file in one of your orphanage runs?"

[Eleanore] asked while her image stood and walked out of the room, the image changed then to another room, "Or why are you asking about her?"

"We found... It's classified data," The mom person ended up saying without elaborating.

"I can't speak more about it either, from my side it's sensitive data to my employers, you know how it is. We have to safeguard the information of our former employees too." [Eleanore] said as the image shifted from the hallway to a rooftop, one that was under a starry sky.

How was that possible?!?!

It was the middle of the day! Alexa didn't understand!

"Enough beating around the bush," Aunty Viv suddenly said aloud.

"...Vivian?" [Eleanore] seemed surprised. "What are you... Why are you on this call?"

"We are willing to exchange a secret for a secret." Aunty Viv said not answering the question that was asked, "We will tell you why we are asking about Alexa's parents if you tell us what you know about her."

"...Fine, but you go first." [Eleanore] said after thinking for a few seconds, there was the beginning of a smile on her face, weird.

"We have a full body scan of her, and we found that she has a healthy body devoid of any blemishes, so we want to see if this is a family trait or is exclusive of Alexa." Aunty Viv said, that was... kind of true?

"[Truth]" [Eleanore] seemed to believe it too, "Or mostly true I guess. Fine, I'll take it."

"So, her parents? Family?" Aunty Viv asked next then.

"She didn't have parents, was an orphan." [Eleanore] answered, "But I assume you already knew that, no way the Saintsworths didn't know of it, what they don't know is that she has a brother. We haven't managed to identify his identity, but he is a new rising...thing. We aren't sure if he is a Villain or Hero yet."

Ah right, big brother was running around acting as a delivery boy or something.

"Do you know of any other guardian that Alexa has?" Aunty Viv asked next, "And what is your relationship towards Alexa?"

"Like I said before, she used to have a couple of guardians within the orphanage we manage, but since the brother came around, we no longer have the right of guardianship. He hasn't come to pick up her things though." [Eleanore] said and then sighed, "We can't get him to come pick her things, he is still in denial."

"Denial about having a sister?" Aunty Viv said turning to Alexa, "Didn't he go to her first?"

"What? Of course not, he is in denial about the death of Alexa. My boss and a few coworkers are like that too, but the evidence is clear. And I have my own ways to check it too." [Eleanore] shook her head, "Why are you interested in her anyway? She has been dead for almost half a month."

She had? No one told Alexa!

"...Because she is standing here with us, Miriam found her outside her office this morning." Aunty Viv answered, and they then saw the phone of [Eleanore] fell, the astonished face of [Eleanore] was funny.

More so when she looked down and stared at her own phone falling to the ground level.

"[Truth]", But that made Alexa wonder, if the phone had fell, how had they been able to hear [Eleanore] using her Core power to confirm that this was indeed the truth?

Core Powers were weird.