

# Orion Works Sonova Quark

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## Vacation



Johannes Kepler, vacationing at an undesignated tropical resort

**After our last interview** I thought it would be a nice gesture to allow Johannes time off from his studies. You can learn some quirky things about celebrities when they think they are out of the public eye, like the fact that *DALL-E AI* gave Johannes six toes on his right foot. Don't know about the left. (*DALL-E AI* has been known to lose count of fingers and toes.) At least he's sipping away on a Martian Julip, a favorite drink served to celebrities at this undesignated beach spa. I hear the drink is on the House. I'll have to try it.

"Vince Dingalint???, I'm sorry sir, you're not on the VIP list."

Guess it's not on-the-house for commoners, like me.

"What do you serve visitors, like me?" I asked. "...On the house, that is."

"We do serve a cheaper drink... it's called, 'Dragon's Breath'"

"No," I replied. "I've had enough of dragons."

My hand brushed past my chest replete of singed hair that still smarted.

"How much will the Martian Julip cost me?"

Orion Works logo

**Mail Bag [454 & 455]:**

**Jeanne G:** Yes, wouldn't it be nice to imagine whales and dolphins being rescued by an interstellar society dedicated to protecting intelligent beings? It's clear to many of us that the cetacean population is being decimated by our ignorance and selfish actions. A quick query to Chat GPT reveals the following causes of cetacean destruction:

- Whaling: Despite international regulations, some countries continue to engage in whaling, posing a significant threat to certain species.
- Entanglement in Fishing Gear (By-catch): Many cetaceans become entangled in fishing nets and gear, leading to injuries or death.
- Climate Change: Changes in sea temperature, rising sea levels, loss of icy polar habitats, and the decline of krill populations in key areas all threaten cetaceans.
- Ship Strikes: Collisions with ships can cause serious injuries or death to cetaceans.
- Toxic Contamination: Pollution and contaminants in the ocean can harm cetaceans' health.
- Oil and Gas Development: These activities can degrade habitats and increase the risk of oil spills.
- Habitat Degradation: Coastal development, noise pollution, and other human activities can degrade the habitats that cetaceans depend on.

If I were a cetacean who was offered a trip to a distant habitat free from these hazards, I would seriously consider it, especially if I were assured that no cetaceans would be harmed in the transportation process. So, yes, that would be nice. I think I might need to apologize to you for my somewhat snarky reply.

**Jae:** It's not often that I hear someone mention a term I occasionally hear from certain metaphysical groups. You wrote, *"We hang out on the physical plane to experience a profound state of separateness and isolation."* Recently, there's been speculation that the universe we live, love, hate, fight, fail, and triumph in is nothing more than a vast hologram. (Cue The Matrix franchise starring Keanu Reeves.) Many might think that the creators of The Matrix franchise came up with a novel storyline, as if such a mind-blowing concept had never been considered before. A quick

Google search reveals the same concepts in ancient Vedic scriptures written thousands of years ago:

The Upanishad describes Brahma, the creator of the universe, as the illusion maker and 'prakriti' (or Nature) as Maya that misrepresents reality. According to this description, once the illusory effect vanishes, one becomes Brahma, the supremely enlightened one.

The enlightened one is the pinball wizard. We come here and, in due course, leave here. We often fear to depart with too many regrets and anger as we point out all the messes we got ourselves ensnared in, or perhaps even created to wallow in. We wonder who the hell is responsible for this script and all the actors we become who occasionally act with bravery or at least bumble their way through.

As you have written in TURBO, when you were a young child, you came to realize your parents gave you the distinct impression that you were an unwanted burden to their lives. If you began to suspect your primary caregivers who were responsible for giving you life and protecting you never assured you that they wanted or valued you, it can cause you to question whether you have any value, yourself.

In my case, after being diagnosed with prostate cancer and undergoing a prostatectomy, I spent three fucking years wrestling with an existential fear of my own making. I was confronted with my mortality earlier than I had anticipated. It was a fear that I was not yet ready to accept. It took me three years to realize that my fear was not about death itself, but rather the distressing emotions I had closely linked with my own private concepts of dying. Understanding this subtle difference made it easier for me to accept that I had no control over death itself. (Cue a line from the Serenity Prayer: Grant me serenity over the things I cannot change...) This realization marked the beginning of a slow journey towards accepting myself and an array of uncomfortable feelings I had never confronted before. Only then was I ready to start embracing the uncertainty and lack of control I feared over what might happen to me in the next minute, hour, day, or week.

Admittedly, it took months for my heightened emotions to settle. But deep down, I knew I had turned a corner.

Most of us seem to resign ourselves with a sense of growing anger, an anger that wants to point an accusing finger at someone else... a Greater Spirit, a God, a Demon, or perhaps a Computer Programmer as the culprit for assembling this lifelong game we ensnared ourselves in. Are we just the

current flock of avatar drivers? Jesus! Didn't they bother to check our IDs... our ages? Did they bother to check if we had completed Driver Ed?

Rarely do we consider the possibility that most of us may have willingly chosen to come here, to deliberately and willingly forget what ST TNG's Q's sense of eternity means. We deliberately place ourselves in environment after environment that tells us we gotta get it right because there are no second chances. And then, we're dead... and all the time fearing to look at our scorecard. OTOH, clinging to such fears tend to be good motivators that get us off our keesters. But that doesn't stop of from blaming God for designing this puzzle box. Meanwhile, carefully concealed from conscious awareness is deliberately forgotten *know-how* that ALL of OurSelves have always been responsible for designing the current joy ride we are on.

Oh, I almost forgot... I like the feel and texture of the paper you use in your mailings. Physical sensations are as important as what might be written on it. And the postcards... the one with the spaceship. I like! Reminds me of all the Robert Allen stories my Mom used to tell me when she put me to bed for my afternoon nap. Robert had a spaceship in his backyard. Robert visited all the planets in our solar system. Most were inhabited by interesting beings. My favorite were the big friendly grasshoppers of Mars. I often ate out with them. I had to bring my own lunch. Couldn't go wrong with peanut butter jelly sandwiches.

**Elizabeth Matson:** Indeed, there are many interesting and worthwhile subjects not being taught at traditional universities. Trade schools are an option too. Back in 1978, I received a BS in Art from the University of Wisconsin. At the same time, I also earned a 2-year Associate Degree in Data Processing (AKA business computer programming) from Madison Area Technical College. Needless to say, it was the 2-year Associate degree that allowed Darlene and me to retire with some frugal dignity. Now, I can leisurely pursue a few of those eclectic subjects. Perhaps a foreign language?

Maybe I'll find myself asking "Ms. Sonar-ita, could you tell me again that hilarious story of when you accidentally got caught in the wake of a Pacific trawler, when you got tangled in deadly fish netting, when you finally escaped only to discover a pissed -off 90-pound Grouper skewered through your beak?"

**Greg Rhinn:** In June, Darlene and I traded our old, slow Android phones for two Apple iPhone 13s. What a difference they make! The monthly costs are essentially the same, and

the new phones are incredibly fast. I'm still learning how to use them.

As you've probably noticed, *The Write Hemisphere* gives me the illusion of more freedom in what I choose to write about. Along with receiving the proverbial "So long, and thanks for all the fish" message from our beloved departing cetacean friends, we might also end up getting the bill for all the transportation costs of sending them to a safer environment. Okay, okay, we'll go with the 2,000-year, 24,000 monthly payment plan. Is that a fixed or variable interest rate plan?

**Andy:** I remember buying a paperback by Frank Edwards back in 1968 when I was 16 and a high school sophomore. The book wasn't about UFOs but about developing your ESP "powers". It gave me some practical tips to follow, though I'm not sure if any of them actually worked.

The first book on UFOs I ever bought was "*Inside the Flying Saucers*" by George Adamski. Amazon sez you can still get a reprint of that book for around \$17. Considering I was 16, you'd guess correctly that unbeknownst to me I was ready for a sort of conversion. To this day, I can still remember and feel the fond, fantastical feelings when I read about Adamski's Venusian, Martian, and Saturnian "Space Brothers" and dreamed about their lovey-dovey philosophy. Decades later, I managed to borrow a video of a talk given by someone who claimed to have been part of Adamski's inner UFO circle. He claimed that the actual messages Adamski was allegedly channeling from the "Space Brothers" bore little resemblance to what was actually written for public consumption. The inner circle concluded that the actual information allegedly being channeled when Adamski took his naps was just too foreign and alien-like for common-folk to comprehend and be comfortable with, especially if the objective was to win over and create disciples. (I'll speculate here: Dues-paying disciples.) Therefore, they transformed Adamski's alleged contactee conversations into tales of beautiful humanoid-looking beings who lived on Venus, Mars, Saturn, and other nearby solar systems. Thus, another chapter of UFO lore was born. Keep in mind, this happened decades before the Russian Venera missions managed to successfully land and report back on the balmy surface temperatures of Venus.





# The Write Hemisphere

## The Great Migration - Part Four

**Two distinct sentient races coexist on your planet.** Imagine the possibilities if these diverse civilizations decided to collaborate and enhance each other’s unique cultures.

Take, for example, Anne McCaffrey’s “Dragon Riders of Pern” series or James Cameron’s “Avatar” films. Where do the ideas for such stories originate? Are they conjured from nothing? There are documented instances of cetaceans, and other marine mammals, utilizing humans and their tool-making skills to remove fish nets and hooks from their bodies. While some might view this as a desperate act by the cetaceans, it can also be seen as an act of courage. This could be a pivotal moment, a sign of potential dialogue between two vastly different sentient species sharing the same planet. What lessons can humans learn from such bravery? What could cetaceans learn and offer in return for these services?

Humans have been subconsciously aware of ongoing migration activities for decades. Unbeknownst to them they are more than capable of experiencing and expressing the cetacean psyche through artistic mediums. Here are two examples of human art that convey the cetacean psyche in symbolic form:



**1-A painting from the 1980s depicts a futuristic migration of humpback whales.** The artist, unaware of the symbolism of the background nebula and planets, portrays the whales migrating through space as if they were swimming through Earth’s oceans. The artist aimed to symbolize the potential navigational capabilities of cetaceans. One whale, seen in the lower right corner, appears to pause and survey a nearby planet. Is she assessing the planet’s habitat? Does it have suitable oceans, breathable air, and food? Can we land here?



**2-In “Fantasia 2000,” a remake of Disney’s 1940 film “Fantasia,”** there’s a segment showing a large pod of humpback whales swimming, or rather, flying through Earth’s atmospheric clouds. The whales ascend through Earth’s atmosphere and enter outer space. According to Wikipedia, an initial storyboard had the whales returning to Earth’s oceans, but it

“never felt quite right.” This led to the decision to have the whales break through the cloud ceiling and enter a new interstellar aquatic environment, aided by a supernova.

For more examples, Google search “Whales in space”. *Bon appétit!*

