

The Great Calamity

The Great Calamity was a series of nearly concurrent nuclear detonations in 2058 A.D. across a dozen of Earth's major cities resulting in the deaths of nearly 2 billion people. Because every major world nuclear power was affected, no common enemy was immediately established, thus preventing a catastrophic nuclear world war. In fact, while there was rampant speculation about the perpetrators of this act of unprecedented evil, humanity was never able to find enough evidence to be certain as to who committed the atrocities. The immediate aftermath, known as The Fallout, is perhaps the most savage period in our species' history with unspeakable violence, evil, and chaos throughout every continent.

Mars Prime

Before the Great Calamity, in 2041, the first permanent Martian colony was established: Mars Prime, sometimes referred to as the Child of Mankind. Over the next 17 years, it grew into a thriving city with nearly 40,000 people living there full time. Transports arrived every three months although by the 2058, the colony was completely self-sufficient. During and after the Great Calamity, communication was severed with Mars Prime and naturally, the transports ceased. During the Fallout, attempts were made on numerous occasions to re-establish contact but none were successful. The focus being on rebuilding Earth, with resources at a premium, no ships were ever launched lacking any indication the colony survived.

The Fallout Gives Birth to the Edun Machine

Generally considered the worst of our species' short history, the Fallout did yield one wonderful thing: the Edun Machine. The Edun Machine was our great vision after the Great Calamity. Like a tree that's watered during a drought to keep hope alive, the Edun Machine represented our collective effort to keep our spirit nourished during the Fallout. The best of our scientists and engineers gathered in Athens, the womb of Democracy, and gave birth to a miraculous vision: a machine which taps directly into Earth's well-being, the sum total of all people, creatures, and nature itself and is able to measure the results. The Edun Machine was and is humanity's greatest accomplishment, born out of its greatest failure.

Facing the Truth

When it first came to life in 2074 A.D., 16 years after the bombs, the Edun Machine gave us the dismal truth: Earth was dying and we along with it. But knowing the machine's data to be true, humanity was confronted with its great choice: unite or die. Luckily for us, we chose to come together as one, to find common ground, to heal our planet, and to live life in the bigger picture. Over the next twenty-five+ years, disease, poverty, hunger, war, addiction, climate change, and extinction were all eliminated across the globe. We balanced our interactions with nature, creating sustainable, thriving ecosystems across the planet. Species which we had destroyed during the Great Calamity were brought back to life and nurtured back into their natural, balanced states.

The Edun Machine Becomes Alive

And as we made these unprecedented strides in evolution, so too did the Edun Machine. Like a sapling which becomes the great redwood, the Edun Machine's power and capacity grew and grew, providing even more rich data and insights about the planet. In the year 2099 A.D., a miracle occurred: the Earth -via the Edun Machine - birthed a sentience, became able to communicate with us, became alive. The past twenty years are, as a result, truly the first Golden Age for our species. The insight, knowledge, and love of harmony the Earth brings to us has forever changed the way we live and interact.

Today, 2120

Every year, we celebrate Earth Day to thank the planet for all it does for us and it in turn honors us for the progress we've made here. Your generation is the first to reach adulthood since the Golden Age began and it's your duty to ensure that you're able to pass our boon onto the next generation.

News broadcasts, communication networks, and the "talk about town" explodes all over the planet: could there really be survivors on Mars? After all this time? How would that be possible?

The year is 2119, 61 years after the bombs were detonated and 45 years after the creation of the Edun Machine. In nearly every city, town, and village, there is a constant stream of news about Mars. A renewed fascination with the red planet engulfs the world as ethicists, scientists, leaders, and anyone with an opinion takes a stance on what to do next.

That summer, Earth advises the Planetary Advisory Board (PAB) that finding this active beacon is a sign that the time has come for humanity to spread its wings and leave the nest once again. That like here at home, we need undo the damage we've done, rebuild Mars Prime, and atone for our mistakes.

A Call to Action

Across every major communications network in the world flashes the now famous call to action: Adewale Edun, the leader of the Edun Machine project, stares at the viewer: "Have you ever wondered why you're alive? What your purpose here is? To understand each morning that you have the opportunity to draw breath what it is you're meant to be doing? Candidates to join the Earth Star Ship, the E.S.S. Kaizen: that's why you're here. You represent the best, brightest, and most capable across the globe to partake in this mission. Save the Child, empower us to leave the nest and spread our wings. The era of exploration is upon us! Sign up at your local PAB office. Welcome to the Future."