

## Triumph of the Tortoise



### Overview

The year is 2100. Mankind has had a turbulent century. The implosion of the national state, technological transformation of human nature, the start of an ice age, the eruption of an alien biosphere forcing space colonization or radical biotechnology, the rise of artificial life and a splintering of the biosphere into incompatible ecosystems... many people who lived through it all hope for a more stable century. They are probably wrong.

The key event of the century occurred in the afternoon of May 5 2035 when the Dragons erupted near Socotra outside Yemen. The Dragons were the original creators of life on Earth: an utterly alien civilization that seeded the planet with bacteria so that they could live within a slow but enormous internet made of genetic transmission inside the Earth's crust. But a little understood threat made them "upload" themselves into the biosphere with disastrous consequences. Dragons have a backdoor into the genome, and are able to reprogram cells at will. As they began to convert everything they touched into alien biotechnology mankind was threatened by extinction.

One way of escape was outwards. Of the 5.4 billion humans, almost 500 million live in space. The spacers mostly live in space habitats ranging from small stations to giants tens of kilometres long. The rest live in cave cities built into the moon, a world dominated by the Japanese who migrated there rather than having to endure the dragon invasion.

As the dragon powers were understood other people turned to use their “neogenetics” to change themselves – or enable ecosystems to fight off the dragon’s abilities. This produced the Immunities, areas and people that share a special immune system. Some immunities are just protective, others enable biotechnological societies or the reprogramming of citizens.

## **Mood**



**Figure 1: (Daily Telegraph)**

*A sense of insecurity will probably be the underlying tone of everyday life in the future.*  
- Susan Greenfield

The world is reeling from confusion. It seems that the technological Singularity happened but nobody noticed at the time.

Mankind is severely splintered, and it is unclear if it can be united for any purpose.

Mankind is not triumphing, but neither is Armageddon close. Rather, mankind has muddled through ever greater changes with surprising complacency.

## **Inspirations**

Linda Nagata (*Limit of Vision, The Bohr Maker*)

Paul di Filippo, *Ribofunk*

Greg Egan, *Distress*

Ian MacDonald, (*Chaga, Kirinya, River of Gods*)

Ken Mcleod, *The Star Fraction*

Neal Stephenson, *The Diamond Age*

Scott Westerfeldt, *Evolution’s Darling*

Vernor Vinge (*Fast Times at Fairmont High, Rainbow’s End*)

Charles Stross (*Saturn’s Children*)

Planetes  
Code 46  
Nextnature blog

**Visuals**

[http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x26rsf\\_madonna-bedtime-story\\_music](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x26rsf_madonna-bedtime-story_music)  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04hDmXW0fXg&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04hDmXW0fXg&feature=player_embedded)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmA3x92LjHc>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghzOKEgH80>  
[http://www.metacafe.com/watch/59133/amazing\\_plants/](http://www.metacafe.com/watch/59133/amazing_plants/)  
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<http://motionographer.com/theater/prologue-off-2009-titles/>  
<http://vimeo.com/5109641?pg=embed&sec=5109641>  
<http://vimeo.com/5127125>  
<http://vimeo.com/4978525?pg=embed&sec=>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UO3-3USoG0k>