

## **Chaucer Story**

Sometime around the year 11,285 SME (Second Modern Era), the Temporal Council decided to embark on a daring (for them) project. The Council had spent the last 16,000 years doggedly living up to their charter – to protect the Timeline...to guard Eternity.

It was 16,000 years ago that Time-Travel first appeared (chronologically). Kevin Williams and Diana Vanderbilt Williams had been projected into their own future by a Temporal Field.

That is the only time in known temporality that humans had traveled to the future of their own timeline.

One hundred years later, shortly after creating that Temporal Field in the first place, Kevin, Diana, and one of the first Cyberons named Jeeves created the Temporal Council with the explicit purpose of protecting existence itself. They hoped that by jealously guarding the secrets of time-travel, they could prevent proliferation and carefully watch for disturbances in the temporal flow caused by causality paradoxes.

The direct descendants of that first triumvirate Council had watched carefully for 16,000 years. During that time no one had actually made a temporal jump.

It is true that they developed the technology to LOOK back in time without actually TRAVELING back in time. So they contented themselves with studying the past. But there was a 100 year blind spot that their temporal spy-eyes were unable to see. There was something about that era from the first jump that Kevin and Diana made to the second jump backwards that prevented them from seeing.

This kept them from understanding how Kevin and Diana had traveled FORWARD – past their own timeline... an impossibility according to their mathematics. There MUST be something unique about them – or that time. And for 16,000 years they tempered their curiosity out of caution.

Now, after considering a modification to their cautionary charter for more than 1000 years, the Council finally decided to design and launch a temporal probe that could and would study the unique singularity that allowed Kevin and Diana to travel FORWARD in the first place.

The Council next spent almost 200 more years in a closed-network, mind-merge in order to consider the design features of the probe.

For many thousands of years the ancestral humans and the ancestral Cyberons have been equal partners in the makeup of the dominant sentient creatures in known space.

Some sentients were exclusively electronic, some were exclusively organic and most were a dazzling hybrid of the two. Shapes were chosen for the task at hand, although a long-standing prejudice resulted in most organics being of human shape unless a strong necessity of function dictated otherwise.

The probe would be exclusively organic, and its genome would be chosen to give it the maximum computational abilities their most advanced science could cram into an exclusively organic being.

Like all organic sentients of this advanced era, the genome of the probe would leave NOTHING to chance.

Like all organics, it would have about  $10^{14}$  cells and each cell would have more than  $10^9$  unused bits of information in its DNA available for programming as a built-in, organic computer.

So while Cyberon Jeeves had a remarkable  $10^{20}$  bits of EXTENDED storage, the probe would carry within itself  $10^{23}$  bits...more than 1000 times that of the most capable Cyberon of its day.

But that wasn't all of course, 16,000 years of nanotechnology allowed organic nanots to be added to the probe. One per neuron in the probe's brain would give the probe 10 billion independent quantum processors at its command. This massively parallel computing network would give the probe essentially unlimited processing speed and power. There were networks in existence that could match ONE of these capabilities. But no sentient of the time, and no network of sentients came close to the probe's total package. It would be unique!

The probe was engineered to be able to segment its brain and its storage and its processing power in any way it chose. This would allow it to use only the knowledge and computing power appropriate to whatever era and whatever persona it was inhabiting at any given time.

That said, engineering was NOT everything...engineering simply defined the extent of the enhancements. The other 40 percent of its genetic makeup would be chosen from actual human ancestors. And the makeup of the computational organics and the nanots would be chosen to reflect the design of one of the most successful of the original Cyberons.

Thus, the probe would have none other than the three Temporal Council founders as its direct ancestors. It would have the genes and the cyber-makeup of Kevin, Diana and Jeeves.

As the Council decided, so was it done. The probe was “born”... And...Eureka! It was a BOY!

And since it was no longer appropriate to refer to the new (human) male sentient organic as “the probe, they Council gave him a name...Chaucer.

Chaucer McHale grew quickly (by their standards) into adult maturity. After 100 years of “adolescence”...100 years more of intense training...and 100 years of mind melds with the most powerful “minds” of that era, it was done.

Chaucer’s preliminary training was over. His teachers had taken him as far along the path as they themselves were able to go...and it was clear that Chaucer was still at the beginning of HIS potential. But he would have to develop his talents on his own from this point forward. There was no one capable enough to direct him. They would all be available at any time to give counsel or help him study a problem; but his was the most able mind the known universe had ever seen.

Chaucer used to laugh at this idea as he realized how short of his potential he still was. But undaunted by the task ahead, he outlined a plan...a regimen to train the rest of his abilities.

He learned to use his nanots to look inward and study himself studying...to watch as he segmented his mind...to record as he made his first attempts at transporting HIMSELF through time...AND BACK. He learned how to control the temporal rebound field. He realized that the transport of inorganics was a simple problem if he had the storage to hold the matrix...and...he did.

He studied and practiced until he had his wonderful array of abilities under complete control – in the laboratory.

But now it was time to hone his skills in the field. He outlined a series of projects for himself. The first being fairly simple and short, the second a little longer and harder, and so on...until the last would be his final preparation for that which he was intended.

So, on one beautiful Spring morning, he prepared himself. He collected his travel belt -- a normal looking (lab-grown) leather belt, but one which contained a spinning, microscopic black hole held in stasis in its buckle. This was the one requisite for time-travel that was completely external to his being, and one that was the most critical.

This micro-blackhole was spinning in just the right way when it was formed in Chaucer’s lab, and it collapsed into a Kerr ring with a black hole in the center of the ring.

Because of its spin, its gravity dragged space-time with it enough to tilt the time axis on its side...providing a passageway into the past through the center of the ring.

Using the micro-blackhole he first established a channel through the hole to the time (and place) of his destination. Then he created a quantum entanglement between his current state and the destination on the other side of the blackhole.

Standing quite at ease in his lab, Chaucer initiated in his own mind the scanning process of his clothes and portables first, then his cells containing his genome, and lastly his own unique, magnificent brain. As each tissue, cell, neuron and atom was scanned, the entanglement collapsed and quantum teleportation occurred. Chaucer materialized in the distant past.

He chose his initial jump – one of his longest – to be well before any sentient creatures existed so that if there was a mistake of any kind, it would go unnoticed in history. The dinosaurs were magnificent, but they had a distinctively unpleasant odor – so Chaucer didn't stay long. He returned to his lab in much the same way he left and at a time so close behind his departure that a witness would have sworn he didn't leave at all.

This initial jump was followed by countless others. And many of these involved lengthy stays in the company of humans in well-developed civilizations.

After one particularly stressful jump into a primitive tribe who tried to take his travel belt away from him. Chaucer spent years re-designing and implanting the critically important, spinning, micro-blackhole inside a Calabi-Yau, dimensional fold deep within his person.

And he didn't restrict his travels to times before the Kevin-Diana-Jeeves era. He explored all of humankind-cyberon history from the earliest primitive hominids to the latest hybrids.

And after hundreds of years of such preparation, he felt he was ready.

He set his sights on the year 2111 and jumped to the location of the CounterClockwise laboratory. Historical records indicated that it was on this day that Kevin was hiring the Chief of the Research and Development of Eternity – RdoE – Department.