

Communion of Dreams: Analytical Chapter Outline

Downey

- Chapter 1: Introduction of several of the main characters, the setting of the novel, and the discovery that drives the main theme of the book: an alien artifact is found on Titan, the largest moon of Saturn. Basic plot is established: sending two research teams out to investigate, protagonist and major characters in first team.
- Chapter 2: Introduction of additional characters, establish more of the culture and societal forces at work. Reference to potential problems the teams may face. First use of dreaming as plot device. Introduce mystery character.
- Chapter 3: Shift in locale as team starts journey to Titan. Explanation of the base technology of the novel. Character development. Dreams used to foreshadow future events.
- Chapter 4: In transit. Exploration of characters as they speculate about the artifact. First instances of shared dreaming.
- Chapter 5: In transit. Development of character interactions & tensions. Major complicating fact about mystery character discovered. Dreaming now hinting at a deeper psychological reality.
- Chapter 6: In transit. Start of lucid dreaming for protagonist. Characters realize that their preconceptions about the artifact could define a paradigm limit.
- Chapter 7: Arrival at Titan. Introduction of additional characters. Tension of military precautions with hint of future problems. New technological element (an experimental ship leaving the solar system) introduced, which is an off-shoot of the basic technology that has led to the discovery of the artifact.
- Chapter 8: Development of relationship between protagonist and another major character. Protagonist encounters artifact, has a related dream sequence. News comes that the secret of the artifact has evidently leaked back on Earth.
- Chapter 9: Evidence discovered that the artifact seemingly has had effect on general population through dreams. Protagonist and others experience more shared dreaming, lucid dreaming, and dream revelation. Reintroduction of antagonist element.
- Chapter 10: Protagonist has another dream encounter with artifact, leads to his focus on Heraclitus' *Fragment B 16* from early Greek history. Arrival of secondary characters in the additional research team. Tension builds as news of the artifact's existence is broadcast, suspicion is that this is due to antagonists.
- Chapter 11: Character depth and history explored during interactions between the teams. Discrepancy in cargo manifest adds to growing tension. Revelation about mystery character. Protagonist has a waking dream.

- Chapter 12: Further exploration of the Heraclitus theme about the development of cognitive awareness. Parallel development of dream awareness when the artifact is accidentally touched during scientific examination. Revelation that one of the main characters was the source of the news leak, suspicion directed at him.
- Chapter 13: Tension starts to crank up. Introduction of new element: anyone who comes in contact with artifact is changed by it such that they cannot use common technological equipment hard-wired into their bodies. First real evidence of minor psychic abilities. Problems back on Earth. One of the guards assigned to provide protection is killed, and an attempt is made to ruin the research mission. Protagonist has additional dreamtime sequences.
- Chapter 14: Tension continues to build. Major unrest on Earth. Mystery character shows signs of hidden psychic abilities. Problems with experimental ship, hints that it might be related to artifact. Protagonist starts to experience a dreamtime connection with the artifact itself.
- Chapter 15: Complete loss of contact with experimental ship. Protagonist discovers that his contact with the artifact has led to the development of psychic healing abilities. One of the major characters is subsumed by the artifact.
- Chapter 16: Protagonist touches artifact again, finds and rescues lost character. Discovery that there are dozens of such artifacts on Titan, with implication that there are others throughout the system, and they are somehow connected with the loss of contact with the experimental ship. Revelation that one of the characters was involved with a 'healing cult' during a flu pandemic decades previously. Also discovery that someone has released a deadly new flu virus on the station.
- Chapter 17: Flu virus is just one effort to sabotage the mission, there are others, including an attempt to kill the mystery character. Realization that this character is immune to the new virus, as is anyone who has come in contact with the artifact. Effort to determine identity of antagonist.
- Chapter 18: Attempt made to circumvent the threat of the virus. Antagonist revealed, he and protagonist have confrontation, protagonist is shot.
- Chapter 19: Protagonist saved through use of psychic healing. Final questions about mystery character answered, and at the same time understanding of the Heraclitus reference and how it relates to the artifact. Second confrontation with antagonist leads to his death, but another major character sacrifices himself to save artifact. Transformation of protagonist, also of another major character. Epilog is back on Earth, weeks later, when full ramifications of the changes for man and society are just starting to become clear.