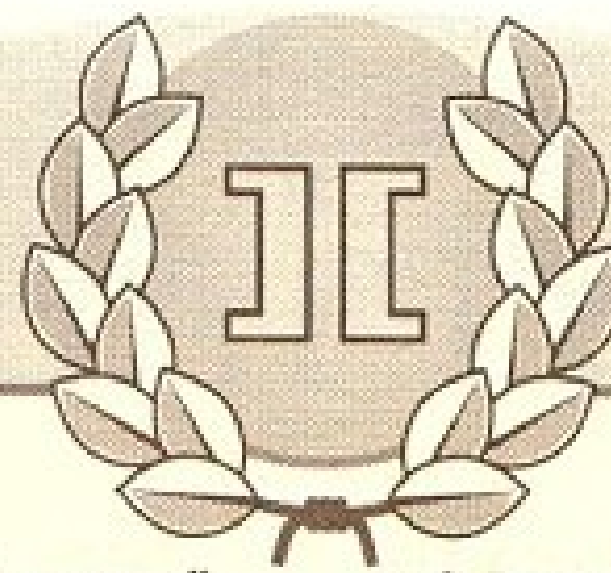


COMPUTER'S DREAM

BAT

SCENARIO

UBI SOFT
Entertainment Software



Extract from the "Encyclopedia of Planets", latest edition:

SHEDISHAN

Temporal link: COPERNIC (B8)

Link distance: 0.82 LY

Planetary data:

Diameter: 11,386 km

Mass: 0.987 (earth = 1)

Average surface temperature: 16° Celsius

Average pressure: 1052 mb

Day: 23 hrs. 51 min. 12 sec.

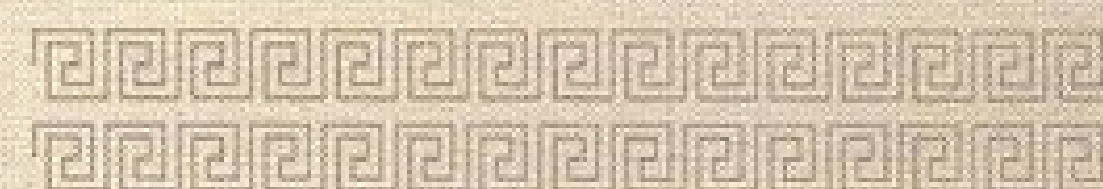
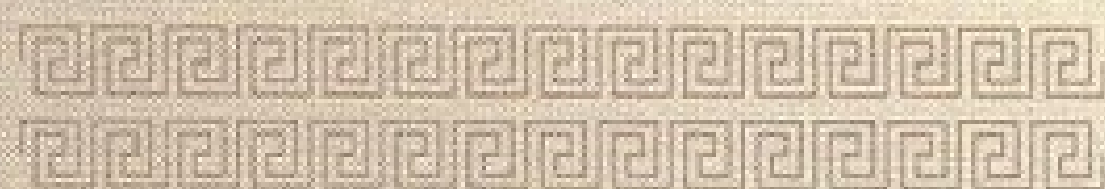
Atmosphere: Nitrogen/Oxygen

August 2121.

The billionaire Zygor Kyle and his spaceship city discover a system of nine planets close to the Miranda star. Structural damage forces Kyle to abandon the city and head for the third

planet in the system: SHEDISHAN. The settlers settle on the only continent and discover a medieval civilization, the Shedish. Kyle decides not to impose on the Shedish or their king, Ab'Dish II. He orders his people to set up camp not far from Ashan, the largest Shedish city. A good relationship is quickly formed between Ashan and its new neighbor, the technological city built by Kyle on its border. Not surprisingly, the Shedish knowledge level rises to that of Humans. During an archaeological expedition John Filnish discovers large deposits of Echiatone 21. Echiatone 21 becomes the planet's primary resource and the source of many conflicts. According to Filnish's research findings, these deposits are the remains of a Shedishan moon which exploded millions of years ago.

On June 21st 2130 Kyle is assassinated by Azis Anga, an aristocratic opponent. Anga seizes power and imposes a new political





order. Obsessed by ancient Rome on Earth, he re-establishes a monarchy power and imposes a new "Roman" way of life and style of architecture on the city. The great Roman battles are recreated on giant view screens and gladiatorial contests (the technoglad) are staged. Anga then kidnaps the Shedish king Ashan, an error which provokes the uprising of the king's followers. The uprising leads to the building of a wall around the Shedish city, which the Shedish defend successfully for five years. Anga is killed and a new political order is installed, dominated by the Shedish.

Until this day, Shedishan society is organised in Shedish castes and Human orders. The nobility is exclusively Shedish (except for the "Equestrian Order" (1), which is human) who are the free people on the planet and are called "citizens". The others are subjected to degrading work and are called "lemens" (2).

The most important city of Europa (the only continent on Shedishan) is unquestionably ROMA II (the name given to it by Azis Anga). Its architecture, known as "High Tech Paradox", is by far its most distinguishing feature, and is a clever mixture of Roman and modern styles. This megalopolis is divided into six sectors. Tourists are permitted access only to the first sector. Visitors who wish to visit other parts of the city must apply for a visa. This is especially true in order to travel on the "VIA-EXPRESS", ROMA's suspended motorway system (yet another distinctive feature of the city), in order to visit the "Gardens of Canopea" in the northern sector, or the great wall of Ashan in the old Shedish quarter. The centre of ROMA is exclusively dedicated to business, a virtual conglomerate of buildings accessible only by flying taxi...



CHAPTER



Helaine Vertex disembarked from the "Potempkine", a class C transport vessel which had just landed on Shedishan. She had travelled straight through from China, a planet in the region of temporal plank B5.

Her instructions were to be found in the interior hall, so Helaine had to get there as quickly as possible. First though, there were certain precautions that had to be taken...

The outbuildings of the astroport were quite clean. Helaine used her credit card to enter one of the cabins.

BAT (15) agents often travelled under cover. A wide range of disguises enabled them to quickly change their external appearance. With practiced fingers, she programmed her B.O.B (3) to annul the effect of the "morpho L7" (4). Her face stretched and then shrunk to half its size. A yellowish liquid poured from her stomach. Helaine felt slightly dizzy, but she did not need more than a couple of minutes to change appearance and exit the cabin — to the great surprise of another patron, who saw a fat ugly woman go in and a beautiful creature come out.

Her instructions were not difficult to find — they were behind

the information desk. Helaine found herself in front of a vast wall with an endless array of numbered lockers. On China she was given the number 1634 which she uttered now into the receiver. A locker opened to reveal a briefcase, which she picked up before leaving the terminal.

A room had been booked at the "Villae Urbanae", a hotel in the tourist sector of ROMA II. The room was fine, but nothing special. Helaine opened the briefcase hurriedly. A voice began, "Good morning, agent Zingfield. I hope you had a pleasant trip! You are on Shedishan for a mission of the outmost importance. You will be known as Sylvia Hadford, the daughter of Ernest Hadford, an explorer who died more than ten years ago.

Long ago, Bedhin 6 (5) was a holy place. The ancient king, Ab'Dish II, in a royal decree, gave part of the star to some of his followers as a gift. This occurred long before the Koshan started exploiting the area. The gift was given in the form of title deeds. Hadford was one of the royal dignitaries.

You must organize a meeting with a praetorian judge (6) and the Koshan who are the current owners, and our enemy. Tell

them you own 280 of the 400 Bedhin title deeds and an investigation will automatically be opened. We only actually possess 30 title deeds, which you will find in the briefcase. Tell them that the other title-deeds, for security reasons, will arrive later. Your mission is to find the other 250 title deeds that you are missing.

Two backup agents are already in place, they are staying in the room adjoining yours. Contact them as soon as possible. Good



luck..."

Sylvia scanned the contents of the briefcase. The message had not lied. The title deeds were there, as well as cards which looked like credits cards, a loaded Voktrasof, and a radio transmitter.

She smiled. As usual everything had been well planned. She

picked up the videophone from the nightstand next to the bed...

Sylvia had been waiting at Claudius Adelia's office, a praetorian judge at the tower of Janus court, for ten minutes.

The Koshan men were late, or, maybe they were preparing a trap!

The door of the office slid open and two men entered. The first, of small build, was dressed in a satin toga with a magnetic belt wrapped tightly around his waist, and a brightly coloured cap on his head. As well as he tried to hide behind filtered glasses, one could see a cheerful, even warm, face. The second man was larger. He wore an orange outfit and boots. His black glasses and cold facial expression gave him a severe air. There was no doubt he was a hired man.

The larger man started the discussion.

"Bal'amaye (7) citizen judge! How are you?"

"I'm tch'adao (8) citizen Alguemine. Allow me to introduce the beautiful citizen Hadford."

"Bal'amaye citizen."

"Now that everybody has met, let's proceed with our business", the judge continued.

"Citizen Sylvia, would you explain the reason for this meeting."

"Yes of course. I have recently discovered that the major shareholder of Bedhin 6 is none other than the Koshan Trust with 200 title deeds. Well, I own 280 myself, and therefore ask that justice be done and that I get what is rightfully mine, that's all."

"That's impossible!" Zock Alguemine replied, who now looked

as if he had lost a bit of his self confidence.

Sylvia continued: "To prove what I've told you is true, I've brought thirty of my title deeds with me. You'll find them attached to these papers. The other title deeds are in a safe place. I demand that all further development and exploitation of the Echiatone 21 wells on Bedhin 6 be suspended immediately, until a future meeting, where I will show you the remaining title deeds."

"I see", the judge said, "let me see the title deeds." Then his hand lightly touched papers on his desk, and he said: "Citizen Matrona, would you take out the file regarding Roman law. I



think it's on that second pile on the right, behind your desk."

"With what right does this citizen pretend to be the owner of a

planet? Come now! And why does she appear now out of the blue?" replied Alguemine, losing his patience.

"Calm down citizen, let me do my job. Citizen Hadford, have you any proof to substantiate your claims?"

"This is my birth certificate, which is authenticated, and this very rare document signed by king Ab'Dish II himself, explaining how he passed it on to my deceased father", her eyes watered, once again B.O.B. had worked well, "who died ten years ago. I haven't been able to get hold of the 280 royal titles until now in accordance with my relative will..." Sylvia dried her tears, "I hope you don't intend to break Shedish law, or..."

"No, no, please stop crying, it's out of the question, but please understand that a minimum of security is required... Would you excuse me for a few minutes..."

Citizen Matrona entered and placed the file on the judge's desk. He flicked through it rapidly and stopped at a certain page. Adelia passed each title under a scanner and tapped the screen several times. "Perfect — everything — all the titles and the birth certificate are authentic. I have no choice but to start an investigation."

Zoch Alguemine interrupted: "This is a farce! We can show our 200 hundred titles immediately, and we have the proof that no more than 100 other title deeds exist, and..."

"Well then," the judge interrupted, "if that is the case you will show them at the next meeting, which will take place on the next calends (9). Until then, the wells will be closed."

"I'm very pleased" Sylvia replied.

"It's scandalous, there is no justice left on this planet!" Alguemine exclaimed as he walked out.

"Next time, I'd advise you to bring all your titles with you. It would be better, bal'amaye citizen Hadford."

"Bal'amaye citizen judge, I'll do just that..."

Sylvia walked out and stopped in front of the big bay window of the tower which was lit up by Miranda's glow. The first stage had been a success, but the most difficult was yet to come...

The corridor of the tenth floor of the "Villae Urbanae" was calm that evening. A bellboy pushing a floating trolley appeared. He stopped in front of a door and pulled out what looked like an assault rifle. Two men appeared at the end of the corridor, wearing overalls and with an unfriendly air about them.

The bellboy knocked at the door. A voice asked him to enter, he signalled and loaded his weapon. Then he took a short run, thrust open the door and discharged his weapon inside the room.

Sylvia had just enough time to hear the crash of the door before flinging herself to the ground. The bullets ravaged the sofa next to her. She pulled out her Beckmann and fired on the aggressor, who cried out, throwing him against the wall in a blend of blood and carbon.

Sylvia rolled over to the door which opened to the adjacent room. She opened the door only to discover more carnage. The two backup agents had been massacred on the spot. The two hit men turned and sprayed the door with gunfire. Sylvia dodged the blast and escaped by leaping through the window which faced the main road.

But the balcony was a dead end. Sylvia climbed over the railing and, holding on to the bottom rails, swung her body so as to land on the balcony below. She smashed the window, a woman screamed, a young man tried to stop her but without success.

Sylvia found herself in the corridor. While rushing towards the elevator, two laser beams destroyed the wall in front of her. Sylvia chose that moment to discharge her two remaining cartridges...

There was not much left of the second aggressor. Sylvia took the elevator and ran out of the hotel, and down the street to the right, then turned left and hid in a doorway.

Her heart was pounding. She'd had a narrow escape. She had to contact the BAT.





*Extract from the newspaper "Uniform Life",
March 2165, published on earth.*

"The Bureau of Astral Troubleshooters - BAT-
(15) still operative on the Moon has been
disbanded by parliament. Recent events on
Jupiter have put into question the need for an
elite action force.

The mine station B-272, on Jupiter, has been
subject to inexplicable suicides among its
mining population. The earth police
investigations led nowhere, so parliament
decided to use its new action force, the BAT, in
order to solve this enigma... having tested the
new force, they have discovered an efficient and
highly effective unit...

The agent who was despatched to the scene

unmasked a drug ring, but unfortunately
transformed the station into a firing range in the
process. Thirty five people were killed and the
station had to be shut down. Following this
incident, the idea of using "super agents" full of
artificial implants, has been judged inadequate
and of no public use. So on January 12th, the
decision to ban the BAT was made. A new
universal police project, which integrates the
WUA (10), is already being studied.

The most incredible aspect, in the recruitment
of BAT officers (from among our elite force) was
the story of a "paradise" for agents. The so-
called "moon shining" was a planet where the
most courageous agents would supposedly end
their days in perpetual ecstasy!!! Without a
doubt, a farce that our most valuable soldiers
will not fall for again."

CHAPTER



October 2179, space station Pegasus 7, BAT headquarters.

Eric Chance, a talented BAT (15) inspector, was waiting to enter the office of his superior, Ben Topic. He had been in contact with the Arzonian Beteker Trust (ABT) for the last six months, an Echiatone 21 producer from the temporal link region of B43.

Trade was bad. Koshan Inc. a greedy and expanding Trust, had just bought out Corpotronic, the leading producer of Echiatone 21-based ionised materials. Its next and final target would without doubt be ABT, which would cement the Koshan monopoly.

The IWEB (11) had formerly supported Corpotronic, but a small decrease in Echiatone 21 production from the B8 link had forced the management to change their minds, to the detriment of their pet company...

Eric was looking at earth through the big station window, it was blue, shining, but nevertheless so fragile...

Topic's voice could be heard... "Peggy, tell Mr. Chance he may come in now." The secretary stood up and opened the door and invited Eric to enter, which he did without fuss.

Topic was looking at his screens. One of them switched itself

off and started drawing graphs while a pleasant voice read out results.

"Where you consulting the 'Artefact' (12)?", Eric asked, curious...

"Ah, my dear Chance, please take a seat. We've got a great deal to discuss. Go ahead with your report..."

"The situation is critical, I think that you've heard about the absorption of Corpotronic by the Koshan trust..."

Our intelligence services have pointed out that ABT faces the same prospects, and we are in a helpless position against the Koshan without the support of the IWEB... In short, I'm here to ask for help, without which it will be impossible for me to assure the long term survival of ABT!"

"Yes, yes, we foresaw all of this, so we've already taken certain measures. Now listen carefully.

Originally, we feared that the Koshan were untouchable, but research done by Artefact on the subject convinced us otherwise. The Koshan's principal production source of Echiatone 21 is the giant asteroid Bedhin 6 in the Miranda system, which is very

vulnerable. In fact, it doesn't belong to the holding at all, as the Koshan claim, but to a group of people who each own part of the asteroid.

Artefact found an old Shedish treaty, carrying the royal seal of Ab'Dish II, detailing these facts. By royal decree, the Shedish king gave Bedhin 6 to six people, two are dead and the others should be on Shedishan. These facts are true. We've managed to find thirty titles belonging to Ernest Hadford, a deceased dignitary.

The plan put together by Artefact was to use this discovery to our advantage. Ernest Hadford had a daughter, who died two years ago during a colonization mission. We decided to bring her back to life and had one of our agents take on her identity.

Our agent has already landed on Shedishan, where she pretended to hold the majority of the titles..."

"But you said you only possessed thirty titles!"

"Indeed, the operation is relying on an enormous bluff. It gives us just enough time to ward off the absorption of ABT and to find the other titles. Speaking of such, our backup agents who were on Shedishan have informed us that the Koshan are on the same track."

"Were!"

"Yes, it's getting nasty. Our agent foiled an attempt on her life and the two backup agents were killed..."

"Ah, it's true, that's a shame..."

"Yes, yes. Coming back to the Koshan, we have proof that the Koshan's henchmen were about to discover the identity of certain



royal dignitaries, and if so they will forever hold the majority stake in the production of Echiatone in the B8 system.

Anyway, the first phase was successful. The wells on Bedhin are closed and an investigation is underway. But we've decided to reinforce our action on shedishan... by sending another agent.

Your part will now be to supervise this mission and your first task will be to choose your agent. Make some enquiries and find him an infallible cover. I'm counting on you."

"Alright Sir, is there anything else?"

"No, you can go now."

Chance left Topic's office in a thoughtful mood. What a job! Dealing with business one day and organizing commando missions the next. Still, it was his job and he'd already started to think about a suitable agent to send to the scene.

A week later, at Paris Charles de Gaulle airport on planet Earth. Citizen Shedish, Jehan Menasis, was walking along the corridor which led to the landing platform G2. Business wasn't very good at the moment, orders for lateral convectors for retro reactors had seriously declined. Moreover, the Shedish economy was in a real crisis lately, and the senate didn't seem to propose any favorable laws so as to unfreeze credit.

Whatever it was, he was going back home. He was feeling homesick even though he liked Paris, and those damned Humans, so pretentious!!

A young boy bolted from behind a counter of electrical cables. The impact was forceful but without damage. Jehan Menasis refrained from swearing in Shedish.

Jehan headed towards Customs. He held the right hand side of his body as if he had been pricked by something...

Passing through customs was quick. The passengers went through an area marked by red stripes and were scanned by detectors which detected every illegal substance known at the time. If a passenger carried weapons or hard drugs, the system rang and metal doors immediately surrounded the perpetrator. When Jehan Menasis went through, the system rang...

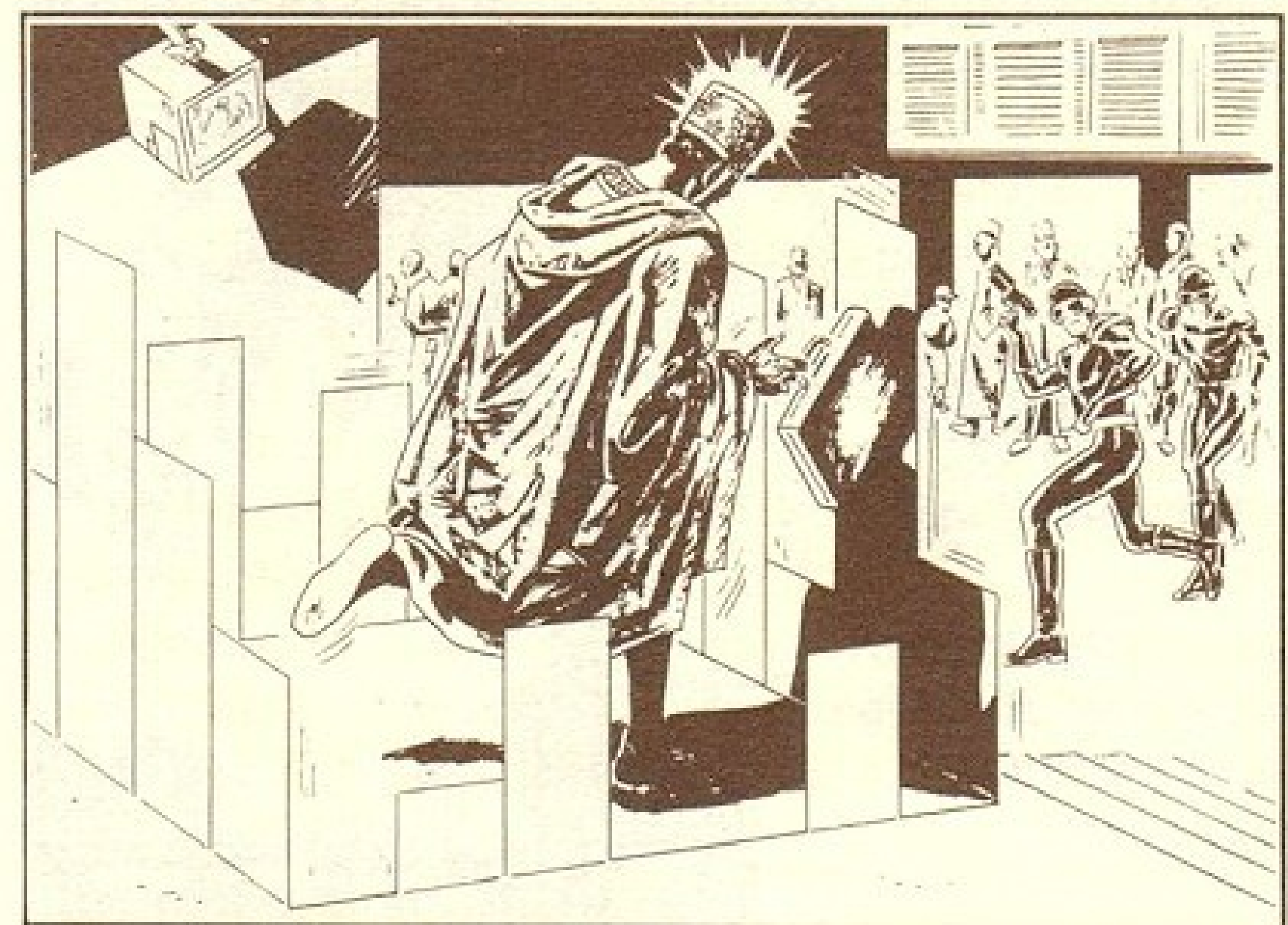
The metal doors came down on him, he was taken to a dark room, where uniformed men were waiting for him. The earth unit of PUCB (13)...

As another man scanned Jehan's clothes, he was astonished when the bell rang again over his magnetic belt. The guard pulled off a little container which was attached to the belt. A little

pressure applied on the top opened a little secret compartment, out of which some capsules fell. Jehan staggered. He remembered the young boy. It was true, he had been pricked. He had fallen into a trap.

He had enough strength left to hear the guard saying: "it's Kir. He's done for" and to distinguish another man dressed differently murmur: "It's alright, you can leave us alone now," then he sunk slowly into unconsciousness.

Meanwhile, at BAT headquarters, a man busied himself, defying the laws of genetics. Eric Chance was using all BAT's computer resources to create the perfect agent for his mission, an agent who would arrive on Shedishan with the identity of Jehan Menasis.



GLOSSARY

(1) **Equestrian Order:**

Roman society is organized into "Orders". This system was installed to limit rivalry between individuals and titles. It is also possible to distinguish the "Senatorial" Order (or Ordo Senatorius) and the "Equestrian" Order (or Ordo Equester). Citizens possessing at least one million credits belong to the first Order. Their privileges are above all honorary. They run the magistrature and become senators. Citizens possessing at least 400,000 credits constitute the official nobility and belong to the second Order. They progress in their career through new responsibilities. They are called "knights" or "equites".

(2) **Iemen:**

The Ilyens are a simian race, who live in the south of Europa. Less intelligent than the Shedish, they are used for menial work. In the enclosure of the city they are known as "Iemen".

(3) **B.O.B.:**

The Biodirectional Organic Bioputer (B.O.B.) is the computer which is implanted in the arm of top BAT agents. Its functions are numerous and diverse, but its

principal role is to regulate the organic aspect of the agent. It is BOB, among other things, that controls the implants (optical filters, cardiac pulse adjustment, etc...).

(4) **Morpho L7:**

Morpho is one of the B.O.B.'s ingenious devices. It allows, through liquid or air injections, the modification of the volume of certain body parts. Morpho is a deformant.

(5) **Bedhin 6:**

Long ago, Bedhin 6 was a moon which orbited around Shedishan. It was hit by an enormous meteorite which caused it to explode. Today only an enormous asteroid remains, followed by other smaller asteroids, forming a belt around Shedishan. Note: Bedhin 6 is the most vital source of Echiatone 21 in the B8 system.

(6) **Praetorian Judge:**

The Roman Praetor is a civil judge. He looks after one or more cases and is all powerful. He works at the tribunal of ROMA II, situated in the Janus tower in the city.

(7) Bal'amaye:

A Shedish expression wishing good morning or good evening.

(8) Tch'adao:

Taken literally, this Shedish term means well being, but it is better to understand it in its modern usage: "I'm all Tch'adao" could be translated simply as "thank you".

(9) Calends:

This measurement of time is remnant from the calendar imposed by Azis Anga. The calends are a period of time which commence on the 14th or the 16th of every month and ends at the end of the month.

(10) WUA:

The Worlds Union Assembly (WUA) is by far the biggest and most important organization that man has created. Founded in 2126, this legislative body is composed of 155 members. Its purpose is to rule on issues of law and order concerning the assembly, which is composed of all the known planetary governments who have agreed to be associated with others so as to create a unique universe. Each year, a massive video conference is held, where vital issues are discussed and, if possible, solved. The WUA authors the articles concerning the "planetary code", the "book of universal decisions" and the "book of universal law". The C.F.G. is part of this

body as well as the billionaires inhabiting the conquered galaxies.

(11) IWEB:

The InterWorld Economist Brotherhood, founded in 2166, is a financial body charged with restoring monetary balances and rebalancing exchange rates. The headquarters of IWEB is on Mars. The IWEB is composed of 142 elected members. Every four years one of these members is elected to chair the WUA.

(12) Artefact:

It is an incredibly powerful computer used only by BAT's highest executives. Structured in accordance with parallel architecture, it is able, due to its ARTNET network, to centralize all the information which comes from the SAAR (14) and backup agents. Powerful deductive programs then rapidly propose solutions to the problems posed.

(13) PUCB:

The Police forces of the Universe Coordinating Body (PUCB), was founded in 2167. On the one hand, its task is the coordination of all police forces in the WUA (the reason the PUCB has an agency on every world). On the other hand, thanks to a mixed intervention force, it can intervene when necessary in any situation. The PUCB answers only to the WUA.

(14) SAAR

These are small robots capable of storing all kinds of information. Their systems of acquisition and communication have been perfectly designed for their missions. The SAAR are always used in areas inaccessible to human beings. They are equipped with a very effective artificial intelligence system (survival instinct, deduction) measuring over 0,7 on the ODAB scale (the Organisation for the Defense of Artificial Beings created in 2134). The SAAR, continuously perfected, are destined to be used more often.

(15) B.A.T.

The Bureau of Astral Troubleshooters was created in 2126 by a delegation of the N.T.C. (New Terrestrial Confederation). Originally, this organisation was only to be an action unit with the right to intervene in all colonized worlds. Constructed in 2128 on a moon base, the B.A.T. was developing into a true co-ordinator of the police of every galaxy. In 2165, following their first major case and their first major failure, B.A.T. was officially dissolved and became an ultra-secret organization in orbit around Earth, masquerading as a medical centre. Since then, several cases have been solved successfully. The B.A.T. makes use of an important information network. This information is collected throughout the known Universe by bloodhounds and the SAAR (14). The later have no

direct right of intervention in a case, this being reserved for specialized agents. These agents are trained to undergo all sorts of physical and moral tests. They can face the most dangerous situations and emerge victorious. Moreover, they are endowed with a personal computer, model B.O.B. (Biodirectional Organic Bioputer) (3), implanted in their right forearm. This is designed to assist the agent in his mission, by taking charge of his physical faculties and by supplying him with useful information. Since 2173, more than 200 agents have been posted in the Universe.

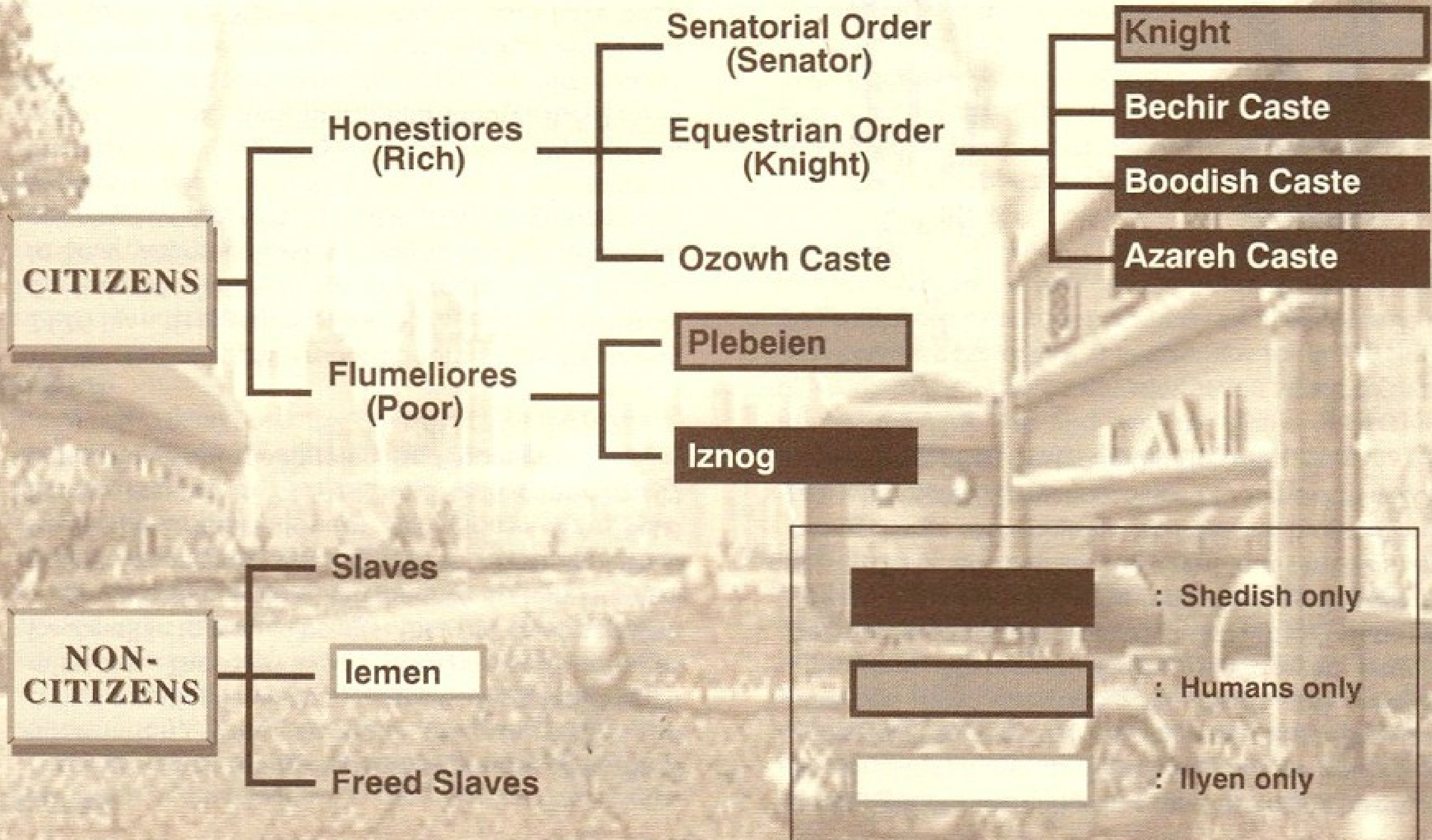


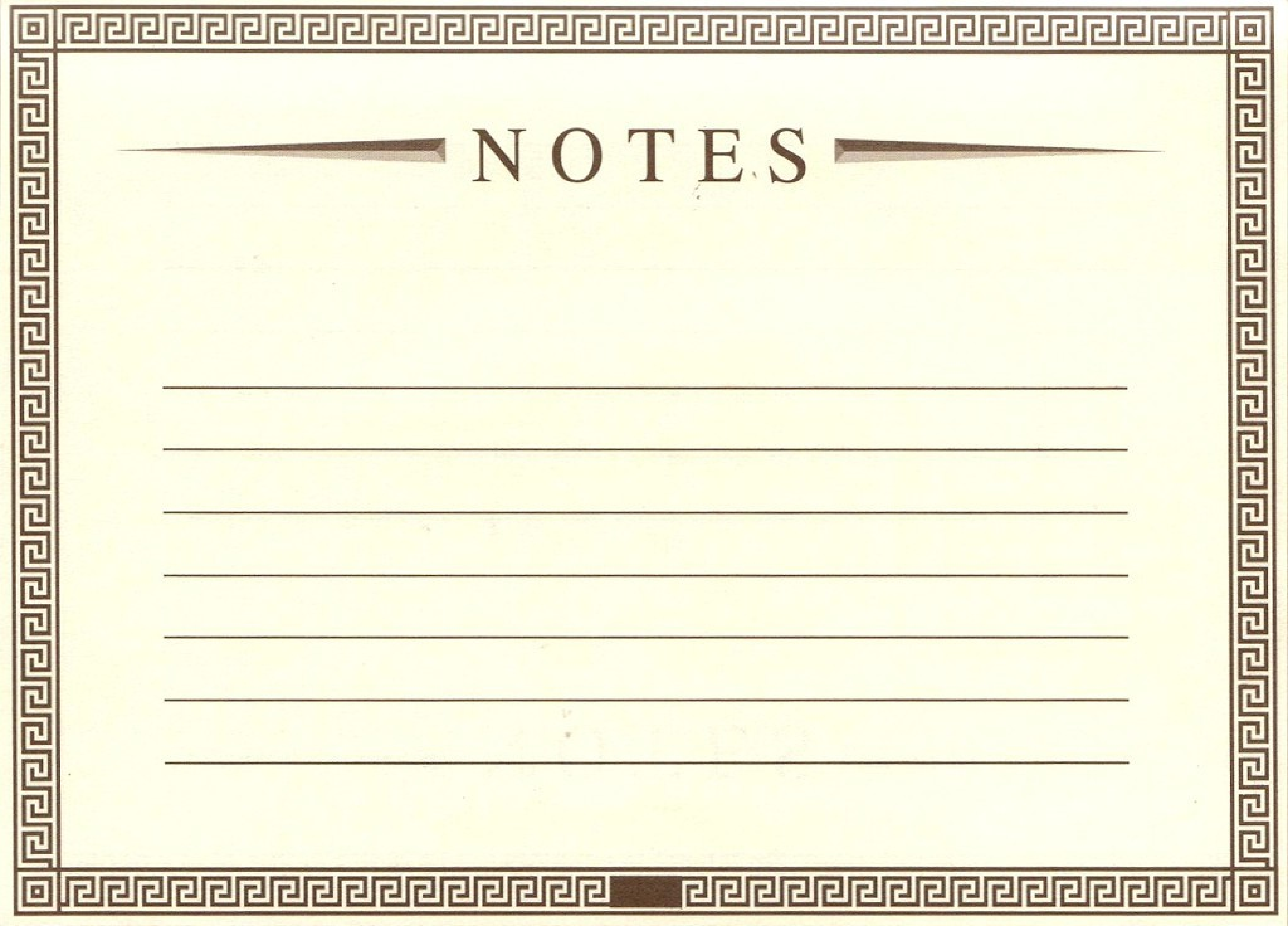
Roman



Shedish

Social Situation on ROMA II





NOTES

NOTES

ENGLISH

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OCPU