

ON THE SEVENTH DAY

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As the 5 suns of the galaxy Industria diffused into a blazing pentagon behind him, Mellorick stood proudly on the transparent mono-platform which spanned the vast industrial territory, and pushed out his enormous chest, like a weight lifter who had vanquished the last block of iron. With his index finger, he guided the knowledge beam towards the head of the tall man standing to his right. "Protector, please listen carefully to my presentation. Our construct ratios exceed all other units in the galaxy."

After less than a minute, the Protector motioned to him that he had heard enough. As Mellorick snapped shut the beam, he stole a glance at his impressive master, hoping for some indication of approval. Instead, in his striped grey silver uniform, the leading bureaucrat in the solar system looked down

sullenly at his short portly
industrieller. "Despite your so called
knowledge and statistics, back in the
Chrome Zone we hear rumblings about your
operation. Is it true that the Molybdenum
feeder plant was dysfunctional for a week
and that clones died of kidney failure
soon after leaving 'Heaven'?"

Mellorick paced back and forward. "My
Protector, you must understand what a
complex operation I run here. In order to
maintain our weekly output of one million
humanoids, we have to supply 132 feeder
plants, one for every element of the human
body. We have many operational
constraints. You might not have heard but
we have to import oxygen and nitrogen
because we can no longer strip it from the
air because of the pollution."

The protector pointed his right hand
towards Mellorick and spread out his four
fingers. The industrieller screamed in
pain. "This is a sample of what you will
feel in a month if you do not improve our
output. Times of war call for special

efforts and I don't see you sharing our pain - until now."

The industrieller fell to his knees. "Master, we have been focusing on a new development which will give the humanoids the power of self-reliance. Think what a difference that will make at the front. You could push the droid to human ratio from fifty to over one thousand to one."

The tall man relaxed his hand. "I hope that this not just more of your vapour-speak. You had better explain this."

Mellorick rose to his feet. "As you know, our multi-dimensional cloning technology is based on building up molecular layers from a human cloning subject. Up until now, the finished clone has a fully functioning body but none of the emotions and reasoning of its human subject."

The Protector appeared impatient and started rolling his fingers. "I know all of this. Why do you continue to waste my time?"

Fearing another beam lashing, Mellorick's vocal pace speeded up. "We

have invented a technique which also transfers emotions and reasoning to the clone. We discovered the building blocks of emotion, clusters of what we call Angelite, substances which are one million times smaller than a Hydrogen atom and undetectable until now. After months of work, we have built a special bio printer which can construct a clone from sub molecular units, in other words incorporate the power of thought within their molecules."

On hearing this, the Protector's sneer disappeared." If I understand you properly, you are telling me that you can produce humans, not humanoids and that they can engage in war without continual intervention. When can I see the evidence?"

"Follow me, sir." said Mellorick, guiding his master to the transit mirror. They stepped through and found themselves in a vast banqueting hall where a large wooden table and chairs broke up the monotony of the stainless steel canyon. From nowhere, two servants appeared and

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