

ORDO AB CHAO

A Guide to Understanding Xenosaga



2nd Edition



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Foreword

I started this project as a gift to myself.

The first time I played *Xenosaga*, it overwhelmed me. Studying in-game databases and online sources improved my understanding and enabled me to enjoy myself a lot more. After six years, I decided to replay the series. Again, I found myself confused.

Xenosaga is well documented, but the documentation is fragmented—generally it’s organized by subject, which may be limiting due to circular references. I’m a simple man. I wanted a chronological, cause-and-effect guide inclusive of the whole series. To my knowledge, it didn’t exist. So I wrote one for myself and decided to share it.

“Ordo ab chao” is a Latin phrase. It translates approximately to “order from chaos.” That’s my objective: to bring order to the brilliant yet chaotic story of *Xenosaga*.

Thank you,
@CriticalHitRate

Acknowledgements

My primary source, as much as possible, is the game series itself—particularly the Episode III database. But I owe a lot as well to Jinx, who translated the Episode III Perfect Guide.

Thank you to the editors of the *Xenosaga* Wiki, especially the user AlexShepherd, who personally captured the majority of the screenshots I used.

Other graphics I sourced from Unsplash and the public domain. Finally, a Flickr user known as Exyt shared the untitled front and back cover background via a Creative Commons license.

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THE COMPOSITION OF THE UNIVERSE



The universe comprises Upper and Lower Domains.

The Upper and Lower Domains

The Upper Domain/U-DO

The Upper Domain is where exists U-DO, a “wave” existence and source of unlimited energy.¹ In Episode III, Wilhelm says explicitly, “U-DO is God.”² Some humans share a latent affinity with U-DO, even being able to communicate with it remotely. This characteristic subjects them to psychological stress. Direct contact with U-DO strikes humans with a powerful fear, causing insanity or death.



The Lower Domain (Dimensional Universe)

The Lower Domain comprises an Imaginary-Number Domain and a Real-Number Domain. The Imaginary-Number Domain

houses the consciousness of every human, while the Real-Number Domain houses the human’s corresponding physical form. In other words, the Real-Number Domain is the physical space known to humanity.



Consciousnesses of Rejection

Whenever humans die within the Real-Number Domain, their consciousnesses still exist within the Imaginary-Number Domain. Separated from their physical forms, these consciousnesses

eventually are absorbed into the Collective Unconscious (AKA Unus Mundus).

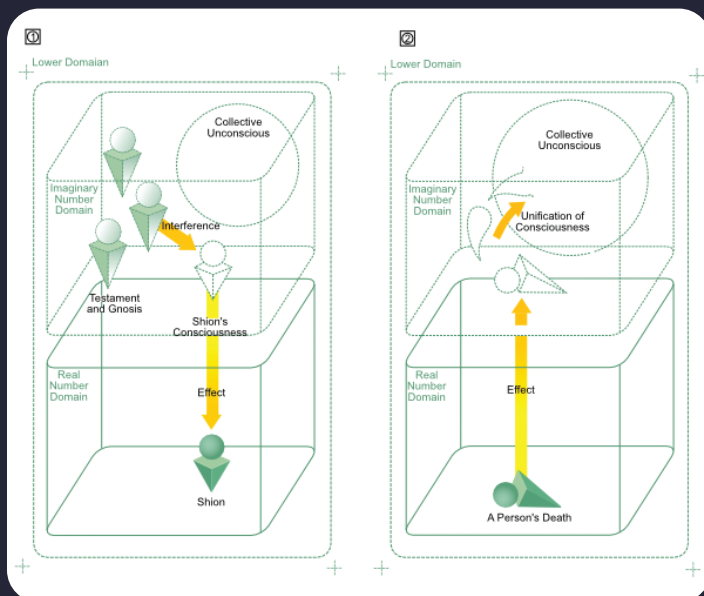
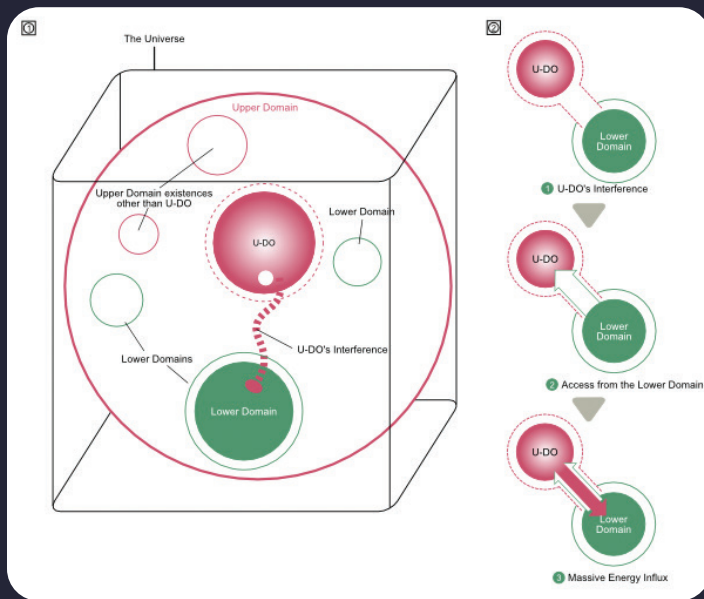
But some consciousnesses, due to the human sense of individuality, reject this assimilation and

remain dispersed throughout the Imaginary-Number Domain. These “Consciousnesses of Rejection” eventually manifest again into the Real-Number Domain, but their physical forms are no longer human. These consciousnesses become Gnosis, which appear to humans as a hostile and powerful alien species exempt from the laws of physics.³

In time, the Imaginary-Number Domain inevitably overflows with Gnosis and collapses. If the Imaginary-Number Domain collapses, so does the whole Lower Domain. And if the Lower Domain collapses, the Upper Domain and the universe collapse as well.

U-DO observes the Lower Domain because it doesn't understand why human consciousnesses would reject the Collective Unconscious, and by observing, perhaps it may come to learn.

Understanding the composition of the universe, specifically regarding its inevitable collapse due to Gnosis, is the first prerequisite to understanding the story. The powers of the Imaginary-Number Domain are the second.



1. Perfect Guide, 3.0
 2. If U-DO is equivalent to God, I would consider the Upper Domain to be equivalent to heaven.
 3. Perfect Guide, 5.1



THE POWERS OF THE IMAGINARY-NUMBER DOMAIN

The Big Bang creates the Lower Domain and heralds the beginning of time.⁴ Simultaneously, four constructs of the Imaginary-Number Domain come into existence: the Zohar, Anima, Animus, and a Guardian of the Lower Domain. These constructs are perceived within the Real-Number Domain accordingly:

The Zohar, Anima, Animus, and the Guardian



The Zohar

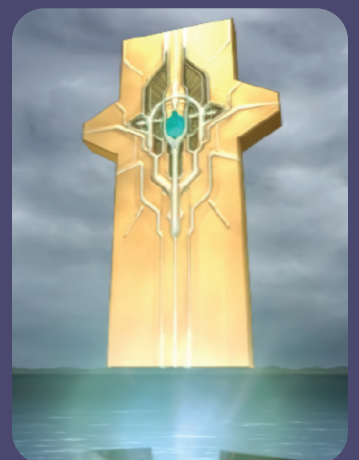
The Zohar is an existence connecting the Upper and Lower Domains of the universe.

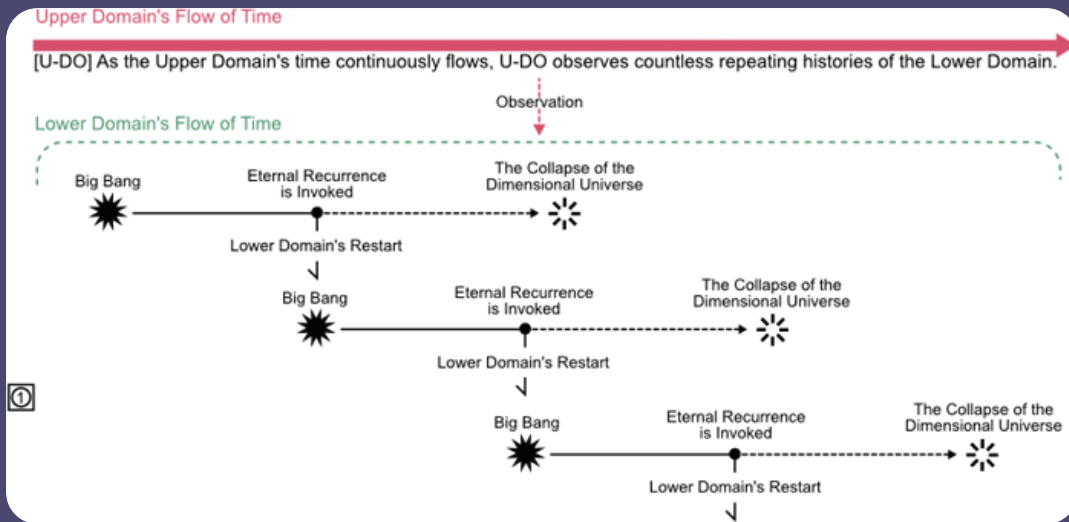
The Real-Number Domain perceives the Zohar as a golden monolith adorned with an aquamarine jewel, although it may be observed and touched only because humanity



wants to do so. Physical contact with the monolith causes a human to “matter shift” to the Imaginary-Number Domain (i.e., to disappear from physical space).

The Zohar is capable of transferring U-DO’s energy by establishing a connection to the Upper Domain and therefore may be used as a power source.





Anima (Yeshua) and Lemegeton

Yeshua is the Real-Number Domain manifestation of Anima, which is:

The power to access U-DO, via the Zohar, by invoking Lemegeton. Lemegeton is a wave energy only Yeshua may produce.⁵

The function of failsafe of the universe

To prevent destruction of the universe resulting from the Imaginary-Number Domain overflowing with Gnosis, the failsafe may activate. If the failsafe activates, the Lower Domain is destroyed without also destroying the Upper Domain. In other words, the failsafe preserves the universe but ends the physical space known to humanity.

Animus (Mary Magdalene)

Mary Magdalene is the Real-Number Domain manifestation of Animus.

The power of Animus is to control the power of Anima.

Guardian of the Lower Domain (Wilhelm) and Eternal Recurrence

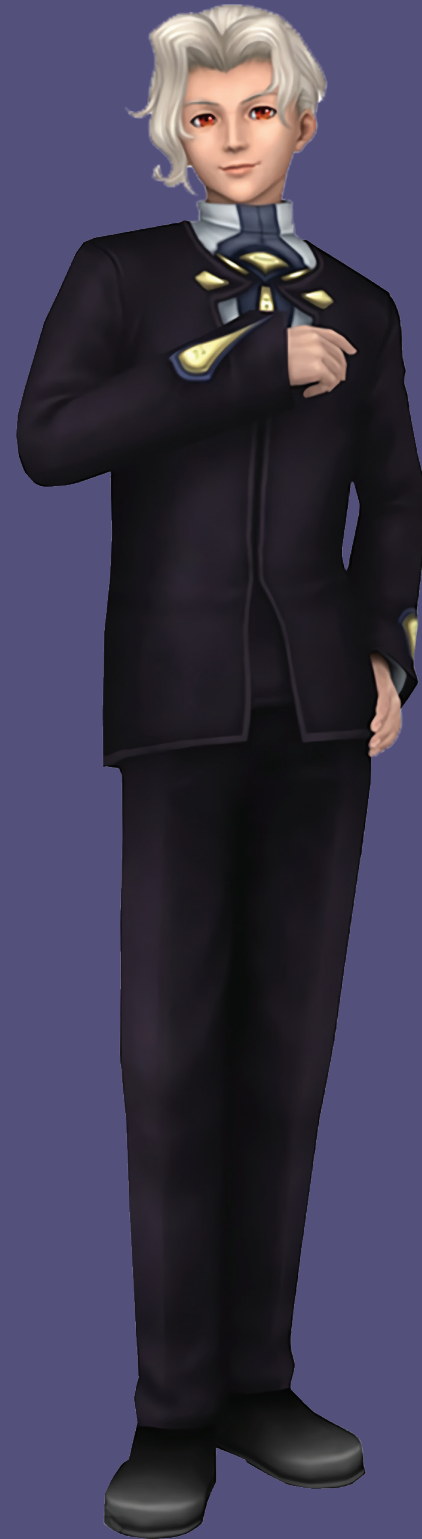
Wilhelm is the Real-Number Manifestation of Guardian of the Lower Domain.

The guardian's purpose is to preserve the Lower Domain, which conflicts with Anima because its function as a failsafe holds the power to destroy the Lower Domain.

Wilhelm fulfills this

purpose through Eternal Recurrence, which reverses the Lower Domain to the beginning of time (i.e., the Big Bang), thereby stopping the Imaginary-Number Domain from ever overflowing with Gnosis. Consciousnesses of rejection return to their Real-Number Domain forms, memories disappear, and history repeats itself leading up to the point where Eternal Recurrence again is achieved. Provided the cycle continues without end, the universe avoids inevitable destruction.

Wilhelm already has achieved Eternal Recurrence before. He experiences the reversal too and each time must relearn of the power and responsibility he maintains.⁶



4. Nothing explains how the Upper Domain formed, but the Perfect Guide (1.1) implies it already existed before the Big Bang, possibly without beginning.
 5. The Perfect Guide (10.0) is written to say Lemegeton grants Yeshua direct access to U-DO, but I'm inclined to believe the Zohar is still required. One justification: "The Vessels of Anima were able to receive upper-domain energy via the Zohar." (22.4) If the Vessels of Anima function via the Zohar, then logically Anima itself would function via the Zohar too.
 6. Perfect Guide, 18.3

THREE SCALES OF CONFLICT



Large

Wilhelm spends centuries preparing Eternal Recurrence, collecting the factors required to achieve it through a web of manipulation.

Yeshua and Mary sympathize with humanity's dilemma: Whether the failsafe activates or Wilhelm achieves Eternal Recurrence, the known world ends. Their followers launch a resistance but are unsuccessful. Centuries later, Shion and her companions resume the fight—even if they're initially unaware of how important it is.

Medium

Advanced technology enables humanity to explore and colonize space, but encounters with a hostile alien species known as Gnosis result in a fight to survive.

The Galaxy Federation, humanity's primary government, believes the Zohar is key to understanding the Gnosis phenomenon. Meanwhile, the antagonistic U-TIC Organization and Ormus—the religion behind it—believe the Zohar will enable them to return to their holy land of Lost Jerusalem (Earth).

A devastating military event, the Miltian Conflict, seals access to the Zohar and sparks a fight to reclaim it.

Small

Shion Uzuki is the Vector Industries project manager overseeing development of the KOS-MOS anti-Gnosis battle android. Shion is drawn into conflicts across the galaxy and fights to survive while trying to understand KOS-MOS's mysterious behavior and reconcile a painful past, which unknown to her was a result of Wilhelm's manipulations. Several companions accompany her, similarly drawn into conflicts through Wilhelm.

ANCIENT LOST JERUSALEM (EARTH), 33 A.D.⁷



Divinity and Humanity



Yeshua and Mary become disciples of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Unlike real-world Christian doctrine, the Messiah of Xenosaga doesn't claim divine lineage. He's a charis-

matic preacher who guides the hearts of the people into a large following, but otherwise he's a regular man. Through the power of Lemegeton, Yeshua performs miracles.⁹ With

Yeshua's permission, the Messiah transcribes Lemegeton into the language of man so it may benefit future generations.

Some of the Messiah's disciples are capable of accessing the power of Anima. Due to Yeshua's extended proximity to them, the failsafe accelerates dangerously close to activation.

Wilhelm, who presently holds a position of political authority, responds by persecuting the Messiah to disperse the disciples and slow the activation of the failsafe. He succeeds, and the Messiah is crucified.

The following statements either are known or inferred to be true:

Humanity perceives the Zohar and recognizes its function as a power source.⁸

Yeshua, Mary, and Wilhelm are aware of their respective powers and acquainted with one another.

The Maiden of Mary constantly accompanies Mary. The Maiden of Mary is human, but she possesses another power of the universe: The power to activate Animus, which is required before Animus may control Anima.

The Relics of God

Mary continues the Messiah's ministry.¹⁰ She directs her followers to construct the "relics of God" the transcribed Lemegeton details.¹¹ These relics include Zarathustra, a device Mary's followers subsequently try to use to ascend to the Upper Domain and become gods themselves.

But the ascension fails. According to "The Truth of Xenosaga" from the Xenosaga III Official Complete Guide, "The ascension

of humans to the Upper Domain was not something that could possibly be granted."

Wilhelm acquires and modifies Zarathustra toward another purpose: Eternal Recurrence.



Weak and Powerless



With the Messiah crucified, ascension failed, and Wilhelm beginning to prepare Eternal Recurrence, Mary and her followers enter a period of decline. Motivated by the desperate situation and their own wishes to avoid activating the failsafe, the Maiden of Mary uses her power to activate Mary's

power of Animus and divide Yeshua's power of Anima into 12 Vessels of Anima.

Sometime after, the Maiden of Mary dies, leaving Mary unable to access her power of Animus any longer. In time, the act of dividing Yeshua's power of Anima costs Mary's life too. Her consciousness is



scattered into the Collective Unconscious.

Yeshua, alone and mostly powerless, adopts the "chaos" moniker and withdraws into obscurity.¹²



The Birth of Ormus



Mary's followers reject Wilhelm's future of Eternal Recurrence.

Apparently aware he will require other factors still under their control, they

hide Mary's remains and the 12 Vessels of Anima in France at Rennes-le-Château and the relics of God elsewhere.

Eventually, Mary's followers organize into a secret religion known as Ormus, their purpose to continue protecting the relics of God. Unbeknownst to them, however, Wilhelm is controlling Ormus from the shadows.

Approximately 2,000 years pass.



7. "Ancient Lost Jerusalem" and "the era of the Messiah" may be used interchangeably.
8. To my knowledge, nothing describes the Zohar's original discovery, only its rediscovery by Dr. Masuda.
9. Interestingly, although Yeshua is the one who performs the miracles, the Messiah is the one who is worshipped. This is consistent with Gnosticism, from which Xenosaga draws influence. According to Gnostic belief, Jesus Christ is two separate beings: one divine and one human. Perfect Guide sections 10.1 and 29.2 address this.
10. In Gnosticism, Mary—rather than Peter—succeeded Christ.
11. The Zohar and the Vessels of Anima are relics of God too. Any future references to relics of God include these.
12. Chaos is stylized with all lowercase characters to contrast with KOS-MOS, the shell into which Mary eventually is resurrected. Kosmos is the Greek word for "order."

MODERN LOST JERUSALEM, T.C. 20XX



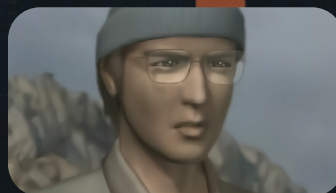
The Zohar and the transcribed Lemegeton are discovered in Kenya at Lake Turkana. Vector Industries, a technology company of which Wilhelm is CEO, funds archaeologist Dr. Masuda to excavate them.

Deus Ex Machina

Vector transports the artifacts to a facility in Toronto, Canada, to undergo research. Grimoire Verum is appointed to direct the project.

From the transcribed Lemegeton, Grimoire writes a computer program capable of artificially reproducing the wave energy chaos naturally produced by invoking Lemegeton.

The program causes the Zohar to generate incredible energy, but Grimoire discovers the energy cannot be controlled without hu-

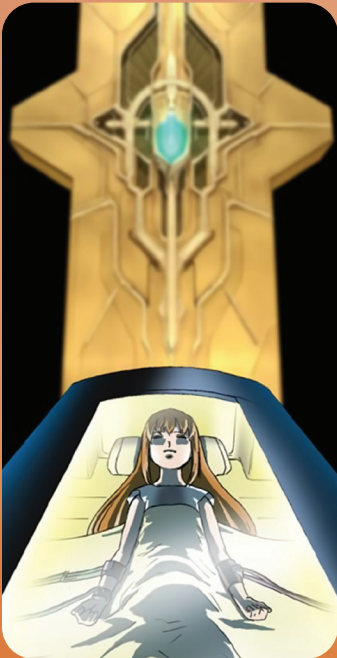
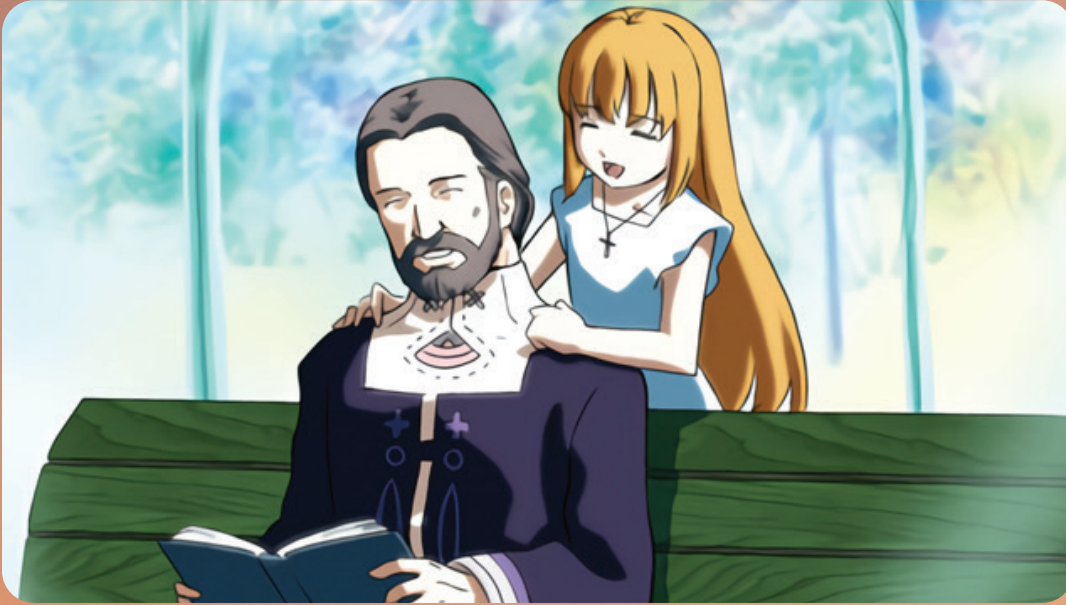


man will. He decides to use his daughter, Nephilim, to

fulfill the human requirement.¹³



After Earth



By physically attaching Nephilim to the Zohar and running the Lemegeton program, Grimoire activates the Zohar. But as a result of the massive influx of energy, a matter shift occurs, and Nephilim disappears into the Imaginary-Number Domain. Abel, the Real-Number Domain manifestation of U-DO observing the Lower Domain, appears simultaneously as a young boy.¹⁴ The program is fragmented into the Collective Unconscious.

The matter shift expands to a global scale, and humanity organizes fleets to escape into space. Ormus establishes the Immigrant Fleet, which collects the relics of God before escaping. With Guardian of the Lower Domain power, Wilhelm seals off Earth to prevent the matter shift from expanding into other regions of space.

Earth's location eventually forgotten to space and time, it's renamed Lost Jerusalem.



13. Kevin explains in Episode III: "In order to control the Zohar, we must use Lemegeton and convey human will from the Vessels of Anima via the U.M.N. If we had the original source of the Lemegeton, then things might be different, but we are limited in what we can do with this emulation that's based on incomplete data."

14. Abel doesn't appear again until Episode III, under Juli's care.

EXPANSION, T.C. 2000S-4000S

The following events occur during the 2,000 years between the era of Modern Lost Jerusalem and recent history.

Establishment of the UMN

After a nomadic period, the fleets who abandoned Lost Jerusalem begin to colonize the galaxy.

The Immigrant Fleet settles the planet Abraxas, where it continues to operate as a public arm of Ormus to protect the relics of God and, ultimately, return to Lost Jerusalem.¹⁵ In time, its sphere of influence spreads to other planets too—notably Miltia.

Vector develops the

Unus Mundus Network, a decentralized information network connecting the galaxy via faster-than-light communications and transportation. It works by passing data (or ships) through the Collective Unconscious of the Imaginary-Number Domain, which is possible because no physical matter permanently exists there.

The UMN facilitates establishment of the Galaxy Federation, a political

alliance of approximately 500,000 states (planets). Its highest authority is the Executive Committee, and its capital (at least, as of Episode I) is Fifth Jerusalem.

Vector transfers administration of the UMN to the Federation.

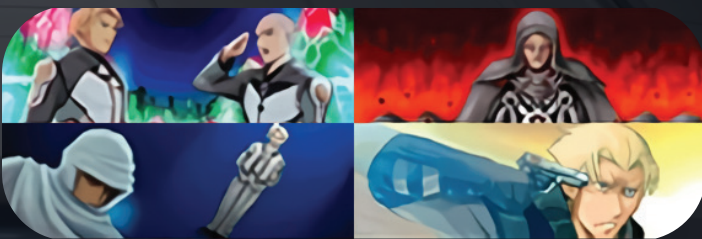
The Immigrant Fleet and the Federation reestablish contact, but centuries of separate cultural evolution cause relations to be tense.

15. Ormus, the Immigrant Fleet, and the U-TIC Organization are distinct entities, but the distinction is more or less irrelevant from a narrative perspective because Ormus is almost always behind the scenes. To say the Immigrant Fleet or U-TIC does X is effectively to say Ormus does it.



RECENT HISTORY, T.C. 466X-4753

Xenosaga: Pied Piper



The events of the spin-off mobile phone game, *Xenosaga: Pied Piper*, occur. The following are particularly relevant to the greater story:

Jan Sauer is introduced. A member of the Galaxy Federation's counter-terrorism task force, Jan pursues the cyber-terrorist and murderer known as Voyager with the support of agent

Erich Weber. By the end, Erich is revealed to be Voyager.

Voyager murders Jan's family, which combined with the other events of the game drives Jan to suicide.

Lactis is introduced. An early Realian (a highly realistic synthetic human), Lactis is built to do police work. Secretly (and unknown to Lactis himself), Lactis is installed with Pro-

gram Canaan. The program links to Wilhelm's Compass of Order and Chaos and is used to identify candidates to become Testaments.

Like Gnosis, Testaments are consciousnesses of rejection manifested into the Real-Number Domain. Through contracts with Wilhelm, Testaments receive incredible power and, in exchange, help to implement Eternal Recurrence. Death is a prerequisite to becoming a Testament.

Voyager dies, becoming the first (black) Testament.

Abraxas is renamed Michtam.

The following events occur approximately 100–15 years before Episode I.



Child of the Savior

The Galaxy Federation creates Designer Children, genetically enhanced humans, to counter the Immigrant Fleet. Dmitri Yuriev is the first Designer Child, or Salvator.

An experiment to transport Designer Children through the UMN without ships to protect them causes Yuriev to enter direct contact with U-DO. He survives, returning with the power to transfer his consciousness into another body. He also develops an obsession with destroying U-DO and founds the Yuriev Institute to this end.

Yuriev acquires significant political influence through the Salvator Faction, a movement of Designer Children inside the government.

The Yuriev Institute creates the URTVs (U-DO Retro Virus), organic weapons

born from Yuriev's DNA. By mentally connecting with one another through a "link master," URTVs may produce an anti-U-DO wave energy. The Federation uses the URTVs for special operations. Of the 669 units created, four are unique variants.



URTV Variants

Unit 666, Rubedo. The first variant, Rubedo possesses the power of the Red Dragon, which consolidates and amplifies the anti-U-DO wave energy the other URTVs produce. The power is extremely destructive upon entering direct contact with U-DO.¹⁶ Secondly, Rubedo may stop cell growth—hence why he still appears to be a young boy even though he's actually 26 years old by Episode I.



Unit 667, Albedo. Rubedo's conjoined twin, Albedo possesses the power to accelerate cell growth even to the point of regenerating limbs and organs. The result is immortality. Growing up close to Rubedo, Albedo struggles to accept the inevitability of continuing to exist after Rubedo dies.



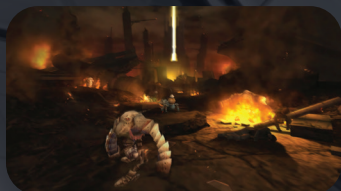
Unit 669, Nigredo. The last URTV ever created is capable of producing a superior anti-U-DO wave energy and possesses the power of telepathy but also two additional functions: one, to kill Rubedo if the Red Dragon power destabilizes and two, to serve as a vessel into which Yuriev's consciousness may be transferred.



Unit 668, Citrine. One of the rare female URTVs and the only female variant. Citrine's power is identical to Nigredo's function of being a failsafe against the Red Dragon power.



The Price of Progress



Sergius XXVII ascends to Patriarch of Ormus, simultaneously becoming the Immigrant Fleet's highest authority and Miltia's top military commander.

Cardinal Heinlein, one of Wilhelm's aliases, ranks second to Sergius and commands the Heresy Inquisitor Fleet. Publicly, he's CEO of Hyams Heavy Industries, which funds the Immigrant Fleet.

Margulis is Heinlein's Chief Inquisitor and Pellegri's commanding officer. Publicly, he's a Special Ops Colonel with the Galaxy Federation (and Jin Uzuki's supervisor). As a double agent, he leaks Federation secrets to Ormus. Pellegri and Jin are involved romantically.

Although unofficially affiliated with Ormus, Sellers is Heinlein's Chief Scientific Researcher.

Sponsored by Vector and operated by esteemed scientist Joachim Mizrahi, the Cerebral Sciences Research Center is established on Michtam, where it begins research into the Zohar housed there. Sellers contributes to and steals from Mizrahi's research.

Citing safety concerns related to Zohar research, the Federation claims jurisdiction of the CSRC and Michtam.

Federation expansion incorporates Miltia, where a parliament representative is installed as a new head of state. The Immigrant Fleet believes this to be a violation of Miltia's sovereignty.

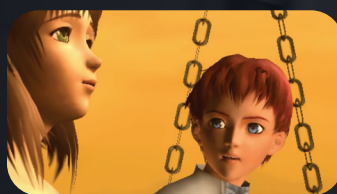
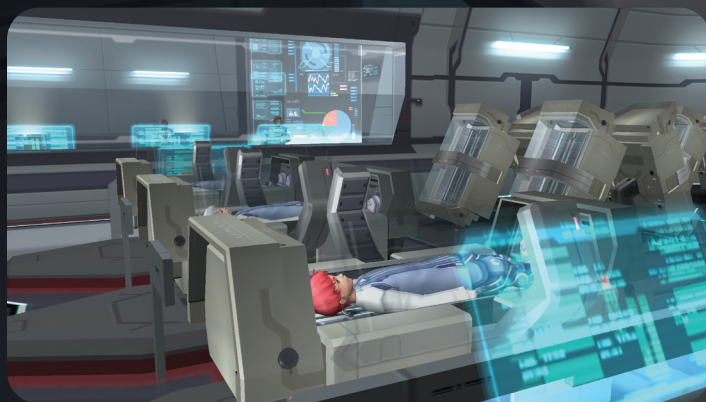
Sergius initiates plans to use the Zohar as a weapon against the Federation.

In T.C. 4747, Gnosis summoned due to Zohar research lay waste to Michtam. Kevin Winnicot, 8 years old, survives the destruction. Before evacuating the planet, he receives a pendant from his mother and watches her Gnostify—transform into a Gnosis due to physical contact with one.

The Federation orders Zohar research transferred to Miltia, where the CSRC shortly thereafter is restructured into the U-TIC Organization.¹⁷ Mizrahi is U-TIC's administrator, and the military of the formerly autonomous Immigrant Fleet government is its force. Federation staff is expelled.



Tragedy and Inspiration



Mizrahi marries new U-TIC Organization research staff member Juli Niwashiro. Their union yields a child, Sakura, who is born with a disease of her central nervous system caused by hypersensitivity to the UMN. Symptoms are similar to autism, and she's unable to communicate.

The challenges of raising a child with Sakura's condition weigh on Joachim and Juli's marriage, ultimately causing it to end. Juli receives custody while Mizrahi, with U-TIC's resources, dedicates himself to discovering a cure through Realian research.

Sakura is transferred to the Yuriev Institute. Yuriev attempts to administer treatment by directing Rubedo, Albedo, and Nigredo to Encephalon dive into

Sakura's subconscious.¹⁸ Treatment is unsuccessful, although Rubedo is able to communicate with her. Albedo becomes jealous of Rubedo's fondness of Sakura. Later, Sakura sacrifices herself to save Albedo inside of the Encephalon dive.

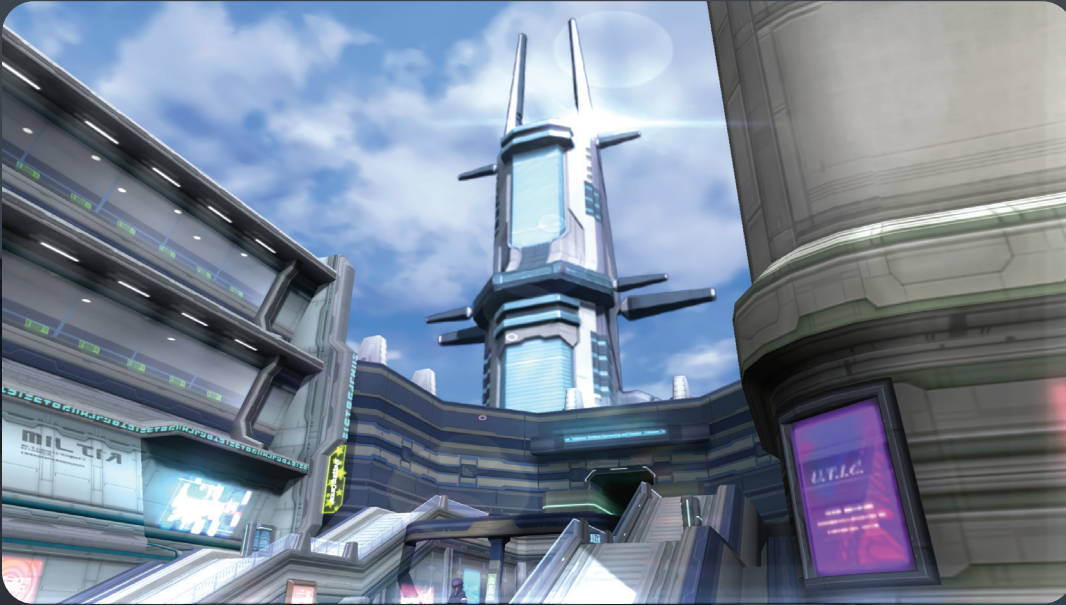
Devastated by the loss, Mizrahi shifts his research from discovering a cure to resurrecting Sakura's consciousness into a Realian

body.¹⁹ Mizrahi creates MOMO, a Realian who resembles Sakura but doesn't adopt her consciousness. Instead, she develops a consciousness of her own—which Mizrahi in Episode III says, "may become a way to stop the looming threat of the expansion of the universe."

Mizrahi welcomes MOMO as a second daughter, while Juli is uncomfortable with her.



Beyond Good and Evil



Working obsessively at the U-TIC Organization's underground headquarters, Labyrinthos, Mizrahi pursues personal research objectives while simultaneously advancing U-TIC's agenda. From the CSRC to the Miltian Conflict, Mizrahi creates the following.

- 12 Zohar emulators, each corresponding to a Vessel of Anima, designed to reproduce the original Zohar's energy (Tangentially, Sellers builds a 13th, inferior emulator with the research he steals.)

- A Lemegeton program, reconstructed from fragments of Grimoire's program Vector recovered
- The Song of Nephilim, a space station equipped with a tuning fork to amplify Lemegeton's wave energy
- Four transgenic-type Realians—variants possessing both human and synthetic organs: Febronia, Cecilia (Cecily), Catherine (Cathe), and Almadel
- The Hilbert effect, a wave energy capable of bringing the Gnosis

into the Real-Number Domain

- Proto Omega, one of the relics of God and a powerful weapon
- Proto Merkabah, the space station where Mizrahi researched Realians and created MOMO. The Song of Nephilim and Proto Omega may dock there, creating a weaponized mobile fortress.

Mizrahi performs experiments with the Vessels of Anima and the original Zohar adapted from Grimoire's experiment. Instead of Nephilim, Mizrahi uses patients from the Acute Neurosis Treatment Facility at Labyrinthos. Ostensibly a hospital, the ANTF in fact is a deception U-TIC maintains to collect test subjects who share a latent affinity with U-DO—a characteristic common of descendants





from the original Immigrant Fleet.

Mizrahi discovers Reilians may be used instead of humans—advantageous because they're immune to the impacts of the fear direct contact with U-DO induces. Transgenic-type Reilians are particularly well suited to the job.²⁰ Following experiments

with Almadel and Febronia, Mizrahi builds the U-DO System to permanently connect Cecily and Cathe to the original Zohar or a Zohar emulator.²¹ With it and the reconstructed Le-megeton program, Mizrahi successfully activates an emulator.

Kevin, adopted into a Miltian family, is 14

years old and working as a Mizrahi research assistant while attending Bormeo University. Secretly, he's also supporting Ormus via Wilhelm.



Origins of the Miltian Conflict²²

The Galaxy Federation no longer ignores the U-TIC Organization's activity, considering its monopolization of the original Zohar to be dangerous. In T.C. 4753, the Federation sends Suou Uzuki, Jin's father, to supervise.

Suou's wife, Aoi, descends from the original Immigrant Fleet. The psychological stress resulting from her affinity with U-DO causes her to become comatose, and U-TIC compromises Suou by offering medical treatment through the ANTF. In exchange, he issues fraudulent reports. These reports prompt the Federation to increase U-TIC's budget,



which the organization uses to arm itself.

Suou and Aoi's 8-year-old daughter, Shion, is under Febronia's care. Shion often visits Aoi and crosses paths with Kevin. Their interactions are a precursor to a future relationship.

Driven by guilt, Suou

eventually confesses to Jin and begins to share U-TIC secrets. Jin forwards the information to Federation Lieutenant General Helmer. The Federation demands Mizrahi be surrendered. U-TIC refuses, organizing a coup d'état. The Federation declares war.

16. One of Xenosaga's less subtle allusions, the number 666 is a biblical reference to the devil. Like the devil may be considered the "anti-God," Rubedo is the "anti-U-DO"—although unlike the Bible, Xenosaga doesn't claim either is good or evil.
17. The Episode III database contradicts itself by variously claiming the Galaxy Federation, Sergius, and Mizrahi each initiated establishment of the U-TIC Organization. It also claims U-TIC was under direct control of the government and then claims it was established secretly from the government.
18. An Encephalon dive brings a person into a physical representation of another person's subconscious, which is constructed from the memories of the second person (and sometimes the memories of the second person's close acquaintances).
19. With Proto Merkabah, Mizrahi may collect a Gnosis (consciousness), convert it to energy, and transfer the energy. Theoretically, it could resurrect Sakura—although it also could be used as a weapon.
20. Presumably because they're biologically closer to humans than their fully synthetic counterparts.
21. Almadel doesn't appear again until Xenosaga II–III: A Missing Year.
22. According to the Perfect Guide (27.1), the Zoar Incident, which occurred approximately 23 years earlier, was the beginning of the Miltian Conflict. However, the Zoar Incident occurred entirely outside of the game series and is so poorly explained, I gave up trying to reconstruct and contextualize it. The point is, no single event precipitated the Miltian Conflict. It was the cumulative result of decades of failed diplomacy.

THE MILTIAN CONFLICT, T.C. 4753



Seeds of Love and Hate



During the second descent operation, combat Realiens attack Galaxy Federation Navy Lieutenant Luis Virgil. He survives but is seriously injured. Febronia pleads with Kevin to provide medical care, and reluctantly he agrees. Febronia offers to donate organs, and Kevin performs a transplant. Upon recovering, Febronia continues to nurse Virgil. He's hostile toward her initially, but eventually the two develop a connection. Several weeks pass.

The Galaxy Federation launches the first and second descent operations. Meeting with strong resistance from the U-TIC Organization, the operations are unsuccessful.



The Third Descent Operation



Margulis, Sellers, and Kevin become aware the Galaxy Federation plans to launch a third descent operation. The U-TIC Organization develops a strategy to perform an original Zohar experiment and deploy Proto Omega and the 27-Series Asura Reilians. As a side effect of the experiment, the Song of Nephilim will cause Reilians to go berserk. Kevin proposes using Mizrahi as a scapegoat.

The following day, the Federation launches the third descent operation. Central to its strategy is deploying the URTVs to invade Labyrinthos and destroy the U-DO System.²³ U-TIC engages the URTVs, meanwhile preparing ANTF test subjects and staff to evacuate while calibrating the Song of Nephilim.

Night falls, and the battle intensifies. Sellers activates the Song of Nephilim. It causes Reilians to go



berserk but doesn't activate the original Zohar because Mizrahi was yet to finish calibrations.

Piloting E.S. Asher, chaos and Canaan (a Reilian reconstructed from Lactis and serving the Federation) descend on Miltia under orders from Helmer to protect the URTVs.²⁴ The duo encounters Jin, also under Helmer's orders to obtain the Y-Data—a record of Mizrahi's research including, most importantly, the reconstructed Lemegeton program and the code to access Miltia via the UMN.

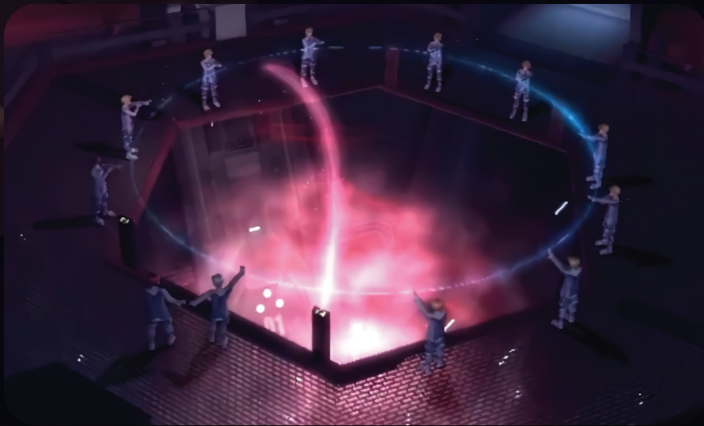
Jin directs chaos and



Canaan to Labyrinthos, where the URTVs are located. Margulis appears before them and challenges Jin to a duel. Margulis is defeated, and Jin recovers the Y-Data. He programs it into Canaan before departing.

Meanwhile, the URTVs initiate a link to destroy the U-DO System, but Rubedo breaks the connection because he realizes the power of the Red Dragon entering





direct contact with U-DO would be catastrophic. Rubedo's actions cause U-DO to contaminate the other URT-Vs. The majority dies. Albedo is driven insane. Rubedo and Nigredo survive. Canaan and chaos enter Labyrinthos and rescue them. Albedo is left behind.

Shion runs to the church to see Febronia and Virgil, but combat Realians are close behind and attack the church. Febronia dies, while Shion and Virgil survive.

Shion returns to the ANTF and witnesses 27-Series Asura Realians murder her parents. Her

despair causes her affinity with U-DO to activate the original Zohar, summoning the Gnosis en masse.

Mizrahi understands the danger the Gnosis represent: Their presence threatens to collapse the Lower Domain and thus destroy the universe. He decides to sacrifice Miltia to save the universe and intentionally overloads the Song of Nephilim, which prevents a universal matter shift and instead localizes it to Miltian space. Sellers attempts to stop this, but Mizrahi shoots both of Sellers's legs and escapes

to the roof. Under a sky full of Gnosis, a blast from the combat operation hits Labyrinthos and shakes the building, causing Mizrahi to fall to his death.

The Song of Nephilim launches into space, escaping with U-TIC's key staff plus Sellers and Albedo. Several of the other major characters successfully evacuate the planet.

Kevin's plan to scapegoat Mizrahi successful, history remembers the scientist as a madman who orchestrated the Miltian Conflict instead of the universe's salvation.

Aftermath of the Miltian Conflict

The following events occur between the Miltian Conflict and the beginning of Episode I. This period spans 15 years and is difficult to reconstruct chronologically, so these events are organized by subject. Several of them likely occur contemporaneously.

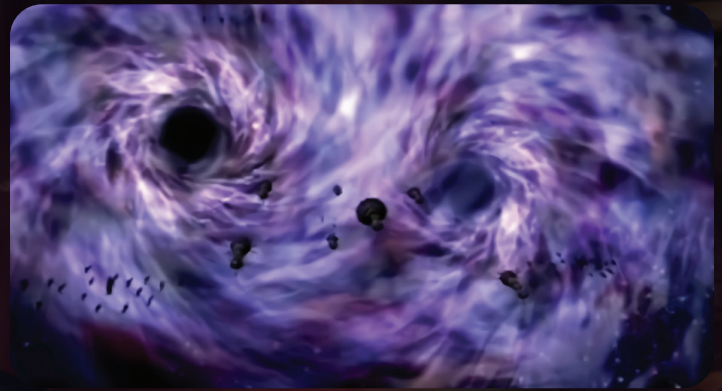
Miltia and the Galaxy Federation

Mizrahi's actions cause the Miltian space region to be sealed off by a space-time anomaly, AKA the Abyss.

Miltian refugees colonize Second Miltia. Helmer is the new state's Federation parliament representative. The original Miltia henceforth is known as Old Miltia.

Chaos and Jin leave the Federation. Chaos begins to work on board the Elsa, a cargo/personnel transport commissioned to the Kukai Foundation. Jin retires to Second Miltia to open a used bookstore.

Juli founds the Subcommittee on Close Encounters, a Federation-sponsored research group. The SOCE directs the Zohar Project, a public-private initiative to stop the Gnosis phenomenon by researching the original Zohar. Unfortunately, the original Zohar is sealed off with Old Miltia. The SOCE could access Old Miltia via the UMN, but the access code is locked with the Y-Data Jin



programmed into Canaan, and it's encrypted.

Due to a law known as the Life Recycling Act, Jan is resurrected as a cyborg by Ziggurat Industries. He's assigned the name Ziggurat 8.



The (Other) Y-Data

Shortly before Episode I, a backup of the Y-Data is discovered to be programmed into MOMO, who is under the care of the SOCE. U-TIC kidnaps MOMO and brings her to Pleroma to extract the data. The SOCE responds by dispatching Ziggurat 8 to rescue MOMO.

Ormus and the U-TIC Organization

Sergius's obsession with using the original Zohar as a weapon prompts Margulis to believe Sergius no longer is focused on Ormus's supposed purpose of returning to Lost Jerusalem. Margulis conspires with Heinlein to overthrow the Patriarch.

Publicly, U-TIC all but vanishes. Secretly, it's reorganized under Margulis's command. It continues to operate from the asteroid planet Pleroma, effectively a terrorist group sponsored by Ormus.

U-TIC performs a series of Zohar emulator experiments with new operative Andrew Cherenkov. The experiments are unsuccessful, causing a space-time anomaly and the disappearance of the planet Ariadne. The emulator and a few ruins continue to float in space.

The URTVs and the Kukai Foundation

Nigredo, tired of being manipulated, fatally shoots Yuriev and adopts the alias Gaignun Kukai. He's still close to Rubedo, who pretends to be Gaignun's son and adopts the alias Gaignun Kukai, Jr.

Meanwhile, Yuriev's Savior Faction continues to exist as a movement of the Galaxy Federation government.

With the Federation's support (via Helmer,





with whom they've become close allies since the Miltian Conflict), Gaignun and Jr. establish the Kukai Foundation. Its objectives are to suppress U-TIC and to prevent the Zohar emulators from entering the wrong hands. The emulators recovered so far are stored on board a foundation ship, the Durandal, and secured with a special code known as the Arbiter Code, which is programmed into the consciousnesses of foundation employees Mary and Shelley Godwin.

Sellers rescues Albedo, and the boy grows up under U-TIC's influence.

The KOS-MOS Project, Kevin, and Shion

Per Wilhelm, Vector initiates the KOS-MOS project and appoints Kevin to direct it. Publicly, KOS-MOS is an anti-Gnosis battle android. Secretly, she's a prototype Kevin may use while preparing to design T-elos—the resurrected Mary required to achieve Eternal Recurrence. Mary's physical remains will be reconstructed, and her scattered consciousness will be gathered from the Collective Unconscious into them.²⁵

Shion's experiences as a child are so traumatic she blocks them from her mem-

ory.²⁶ She enters a relationship with Kevin, unaware he orchestrated aspects of the Miltian Conflict. He uses Shion to advance Wilhelm's plans, but their love is real.

Now a gifted scientist, Shion accepts a job with Vector and is promoted into the First R&D Division, where she's assigned to the KOS-MOS project with Kevin. Two years before Episode I begins, Kevin programs KOS-MOS to go berserk, intending to die so he may become Wilhelm's second (red) Testament. He designs the event, which Shion witnesses, to appear as a freak accident.



23. Presumably to eliminate the source of the U-TIC Organization's weapons but also due to Yuriev's obsession with destroying U-DO.

24. E.S.s, or Ein Sof, are 12 large combat mechs each powered by a Vessel of Anima. In time, multiple factions would control E.S. units: The Galaxy Federation, the U-TIC Organization, the Testaments, etc. This is chaos's first appearance since the era of the Messiah.

25. Wilhelm doesn't simply build T-elos to begin with because her physical remains were lost with Earth. Until he's able to recover them, he uses the completely synthetic KOS-MOS to collect data and to monitor Shion.

26. Shion's selective amnesia is, of course, a classic narrative technique by which the writers may uncover major plot twists through flashbacks.



EPISODE I: DER WILLE ZUR MACHT

The Galaxy Federation deploys the Woglinde, a Vector anti-Gnosis battleship still under construction, to investigate the ruins of Ariadne. Military personnel, including Virgil, are stationed on board with Vector staff continuing the KOS-MOS project under Shion's direction.

KOS-MOS Awakens

The U-TIC Organization plants Cherenkov to steal the Zohar emulator after the Woglinde recovers it from the ruins.

The Woglinde locates the Zohar emulator. While bringing it on board, three men touch the emulator and matter shift, which draws the attention of the Gnosis. The Woglinde begins to return to its point of origin, unaware of the impending Gnosis attack.

Shion completes simulation tests, preparing before KOS-MOS's first activation since the accident two years



ago. Wilhelm orders Kevin to activate KOS-MOS early, surprising the Vector staff. Shortly thereafter, the Gnosis attack. With the Woglinde incomplete, the Galaxy Federation is underprepared to defend itself. KOS-MOS awakens and enters the battle, protecting Shion but shooting Virgil to death to achieve a tactical advantage. Shion, KOS-MOS, Cherenkov, and

Vector employee Allen Ridgely abandon the Woglinde before it's destroyed, while the Gnosis escape with the Zohar emulator.

Meanwhile, Ziggurat 8 infiltrates Pleroma to rescue MOMO, who grants the cyborg a nickname: "Ziggy." Margulis discovers them, but Ziggy and MOMO escape with U-TIC Organization operatives close behind.

Converging Fate

The Elsa investigates the site of the Woglinde wreckage, intending to salvage it. There, the ship's crew—Matthews (the captain), Hammer (the navigator), Tony (the helmsman), and chaos—



encounters Shion's party. KOS-MOS requests the party be transported to Second Miltia to report to Vector, and Matthews acquiesces.

En route in hyperspace, the Elsa encounters Ziggy and MOMO evading the U-TIC Organization. Matthews accepts the duo on board as well, and the combined group defeats the U-TIC operatives. Ziggy too requests transport

to Second Miltia, where MOMO is to be returned to undergo extraction of the Y-Data.

Meanwhile, the Kukai Foundation responds to the Woglinde's distress signal. Jr. boards the abandoned battleship and discovers U-TIC operatives cleaning up the evidence of their organization's involvement. The operatives attack, and Jr. escapes to the Durandal.



Ghosts of Ariadne



The Elsa continues toward Second Miltia but encounters the Cathedral Ship, a plan-

et-size Gnosis created from the ruins of Ariadne and the stolen Zohar emulator, and is sucked inside. There,

Cherenkov's deception is uncovered.

Due to physical contact with a Gnosis while on board the Woglinde, Cherenkov Gnostifies. Shion's party defeats the Gnostified man and escapes via the Elsa while other Gnosis pursue.

The Durandal rescues the Elsa and recovers the Zohar emulator to complete the Kukai Foundation's set.



A World of Unbroken Memories

Jr. brings Shion's party to the Kukai Foundation colony and introduces its staff, including Gaignun.

The U-TIC Organization manipulates the Galaxy Federation into charging the Foundation (and Second Miltia by extension) with treason, supported with a recording of the Woglinde's destruction edited to implicate the Foundation instead of the Gnosis. The Federation occupies the colony and places Shion's party into custody.

To absolve itself, Shion's party performs an Encephalon dive into KOS-MOS's subconscious. Here, it may recover a black box recording of the Woglinde's destruction. Specially encrypted, the recording will be

indisputable evidence of the party's innocence. Inside the dive, the group experiences Jr.'s and Shion's memories of the Miltian Conflict. The party successfully recovers the recording and is released from custody.



Symphony of Destruction



Albedo, driven to hate MOMO because she represents Sakura, volunteers to kidnap the Realian. Margulis agrees, despite protests from others inside of the U-TIC Organization who disagree with the URTV's methods.

Albedo brings the Song of Nephilim close to the Kukai Foundation colony and acti-

vates it, causing the Gnosis to attack. While Shion's party evacuates civilians to the Durandal, Albedo uses the confusion to kidnap MOMO.

On board the Song of Nephilim, Albedo intimidates MOMO to the point of unconsciousness. He begins to probe inside of the Realian's brain, seeing glimpses of the Y-Data

and leaving behind a trap set to activate should the data be extracted. Shion's party infiltrates the space station and rescues MOMO. The third (blue) Testament appears. Unknown to the party, it's Virgil.

Wilhelm responds to the Gnosis attack, ending it with the anti-Gnosis weapon Rhine Maiden.



Bring Down the Sky



Albedo prepares Proto Merkabah, adding the Song of Nephilim to create a weaponized mobile fortress. Albedo attacks the

Galaxy Federation forces around Second Miltia and then prepares to attack the planet itself.

Shion's party enters

Proto Merkabah. Albedo summons a Gnosis to attack the party. Before escaping, he directs the space station to collide with Second Miltia. The group defeats the Gnosis and breaks Proto Merkabah into pieces small enough to disintegrate upon re-entry to the planet's atmosphere.

Second Miltia safe, the Elsa finally descends to the surface.





EPISODE II: JENSEITS VON GUT UND BÖSE

Episode II begins immediately where Episode I ends: with Shion's party arriving to Second Miltia.

Destination: Second Miltia

Shion's party splits up, agreeing to reunite after completing personal business.

Chaos, Jr., and Ziggy escort MOMO to Juli. On the way, Ormus inquisitors Richard and Hermann ambush the group to kidnap MOMO again. Jr. contacts Helmer, who orders Canaan to provide backup with E.S. Asher. Pellegri appears, dismissing the other inquisitors and engaging Canaan before withdrawing.

Meanwhile, Shion and Allen report to Vector's Second Miltia headquarters. There, KOS-MOS is trans-



ferred to the Second R&D Division, where development will continue. Shion departs, coincidentally meeting up with chaos and Jr. and reuniting with Jin.



Worst-Case Scenario



The following day, Juli connects MOMO to the UMN to extract the Y-Data—and activates Albedo’s trap from the Song of Nephilim. MOMO

shuts down to secure the data, causing herself brain damage.

Meanwhile, Helmer enlists Jin to decrypt Canaan’s Y-Data by returning

to its source: Old Miltia.

Shion and Allen return to the others to perform an Encephalon dive into MOMO’s subconscious. Shion’s party experiences Jr.’s memories from the Yuriev Institute and the URTV Encephalon dive into Sakura’s subconscious. Albedo hijacks the dive to attack Jr. MOMO awakens to end the attack. The Y-Data leaks, and Albedo opens the path to Old Miltia.



The Path to Old Miltia



The Galaxy Federation and the Immigrant Fleet each launch operations to invade Old Miltia. Additionally, Helmer launches a covert operation by a neutral coalition of the Kukai Foundation, the SOCE, and Vector to recover the original Zohar. Jin, Jr., MOMO, and Canaan depart.

Meanwhile, Vector summons Shion and Allen to the Dammerung, the company's galactic headquarters. There, Shion dreams of Old Miltia and Febronia, who requests Shion go to the planet to "free" Cecily and Cathe. Shion and Allen steal E.S. Dinah and depart. While the couple approaches Old Miltia, Voyager attacks. Wilhelm activates KOS-MOS to protect Shion and Allen. The Elsa, approaching with the other group, brings all three on board.

MOMO identifies a route through the Abyss.



After encounters with Ormus operative Orgulla and Pellegrini, the Elsa sneaks through the Federation/Immigrant Fleet battlefield to Old Miltia.

Inside Labyrinthos, Jin decrypts Canaan's Y-Data. Continuing deeper to the U-DO System, Shion's party encounters Margulis. He fights Jin but withdraws after Sergius appears. Seeing Cecily and Cathe, Shion understands Febronia's request and agrees to let KOS-MOS destroy the system. Sergius inserts the original Zohar into Proto Omega, causing Old

Miltia to transform into the Omega System. The party escapes to the Durandal.

Meanwhile, Yuriev's consciousness awakens inside of Gaignun. Yuriev reactivates the Salvator Faction, employing Citrine as a personal guard, and seizes control of the Federation Parliament.²⁷

Margulis abandons Sergius, believing the Patriarch's obsession with Proto Omega to be a distraction from Ormus's purpose, and pledges himself to Heinlein. Sellers abandons Sergius as well, allying with Yuriev.



Weaver of the Eternal Circle of Zarathustra

Shion's party returns to the Omega System. Albedo appears before Sergius to challenge the Patriarch, but he's defeated. While Sergius prepares to activate Proto Omega, the three Testaments arrive to defeat the Patriarch and to revive Albedo.²⁸

Albedo creates a space-time anomaly. KOS-MOS

stops it from spreading temporarily, and Shion's party escapes. Against the knowledge of the others, Jr. enters the space-time anomaly by himself to eliminate it from the source. Inside, Albedo manipulates Jr. into a rage, activating the Red Dragon power. The power destroys the space-time anomaly. Albedo

dies, becoming the fourth (white) Testament.

Abel's Ark, the Imaginary-Number Domain manifestation of U-DO observing the Lower Domain, appears to the Real-Number Domain as a solar system-size Gnosis and absorbs the original Zohar from the ruins of the Omega System before disappearing again. Simultaneously, a mass of Lost Jerusalem—Rennes-le-Château—returns to the Real-Number Domain.



27. By extension, Yuriev controls the military, which in turn controls the KOS-MOS project and the Zohar Project. From here forward, Helmer and Juli become Shion's party's only trustworthy Galaxy Federation contacts.

28. This is Ziggy's first reunion with Voyager since the events of Xenosaga: Pied Piper.



EPISODE III: ALSO SPRACH ZARATHUSTRA

Xenosaga II–III:A Missing Year begins six months after Episode II ends, during which the members of Shion’s party return to personal business: Shion, Allen, and KOS-MOS go home to Second Miltia; Jin continues to investigate Ormus; Jr. continues a leadership position with the Kukai Foundation, to which Juli assigns Ziggy; and MOMO returns to live with Juli.

Xenosaga II–III: A Missing Year

The events of the spin-off web series, *Xenosaga II–III: A Missing Year*, occur. The following are particularly relevant to the greater story:

The Gnosis phenomenon expands. Suspiciously coordinated attacks of major cities across the galaxy come to be known as “Gnosis terrorism.”

Doctus, an operative of the anti-UMN organization Scientia, is introduced.

Through Scientia, Shion learns Grimoire is behind Gnosis terrorism as a way to recover the Lemegeton program from the Collec-



tive Unconscious and use it to resurrect Nephilim into Almadel’s body (against the Realian’s will). Vector is protecting Grimoire inside of the UMN.

Shion infiltrates the Ars Nova region of Vector’s secret S-Division to stop Grimoire and to save Almadel. The Realian sacrifices herself, destroying Ars Nova, Grimoire, and



Lemegeton with it.

During these events, Shion learns Suou was involved with the U-TIC Organization.

Vector disciplines Shion by demoting her and by removing her from the KOS-MOS project. Disillusioned by Vector’s connection to the Gnosis phenomenon, Shion resigns.

Six months pass.



The Truth Shall Set You Free

Shion, now a member of Scientia, recruits Doctus as well as Canaan

and Vector employee Mi-yuki Itsumi to break into the S-Division and locate

evidence of Vector's connection to Gnosis terrorism. Here, the group obtains data related to Program Canaan.

Vector transfers the KOS-MOS project to the Galaxy Federation. Allen is promoted into Shion's position and, with the project, is relocated to Fifth Jerusalem.

Ormus, via the Immigrant Fleet, occupies Michtam.



A Fragment of Faith



Canaan proposes an expedition to Rennes-le-Château. Meanwhile, Margulis prepares

to go there because of its religious significance to Ormus.

The Kukai Foundation

brings the Elsa to Rennes-le-Château and disembarks with the E.S.s to investigate. Margulis attacks, damaging the Elsa and causing it to crash to the surface. There, a space-time anomaly surrounds the mass and traps the Elsa and its crew inside. Heinlein/Wilhelm orders Margulis to withdraw, and the Durandal arrives to rescue the Foundation group.



Mary's Flesh and Blood

Accepting a social invite from Allen, Shion departs to Fifth Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, the Galaxy Federation schedules a demonstration of its new weapons at the CAT Testing Ground. One weapon is T-elos. The other weapon is Omega Res Novae, a weapon recreated from the salvaged parts of Proto Omega. Sellers's Zohar emulator is its power source, and Abel is its pilot. KOS-MOS is assigned to fight it, and Shion requests to watch.

KOS-MOS is defeated

and removed to undergo maintenance. Shion and Allen encounter T-elos's developer, Roth Mantel (secretly Kevin), who announces the KOS-MOS project will be terminated as a result of the outcome.

The Durandal arrives to Fifth Jerusalem. Shion reunites with the group and learns of the Elsa's situation.

Scientia analyzes the data from S-Division and identifies Program Canaan's secret purpose.



Ancient Sanctuary



Canaan advises KOS-MOS's weapons may break through the space-time anomaly to rescue the Elsa. Shion's party infiltrates a Galaxy Federation compound to recover KOS-MOS from a scrapyard.

Shion's party departs to Rennes-le-Château. KOS-

MOS successfully breaks through, and the party reunites with the Elsa's crew. However, the ship is damaged and is unable to fly.

Virgil and Albedo appear briefly, shocking Shion and Jr. with their secret identities.

Shion's party continues into Mary's tomb, where T-elos attacks. KOS-MOS again is defeated. Roth Mantel appears, revealing himself to be the Red Testament. Shion's pendant glows, and unknowingly the party Encephalon dives into Shion's subconscious.



The Eye of God



The setting of the Encephalon dive is Old Miltia the day before the third descent operation. Shion's party experiences the major events of the Militian Conflict with a few key differences resulting from its presence.

Awakening to discover its environment changed and the Elsa nowhere to be found, Shion's party encounters the injured Virgil. Shion recognizes the location, and the party transports Virgil to Febro-
nia's church.

Shion's party locates the Elsa and learns KOS-MOS may be damaged beyond re-

pair. Additionally, the Vessels of Anima disappeared and the E.S.s inoperable.

Shion and Allen venture toward the city, encountering Suou on the way. Determined to investigate her father's involvement with the U-TIC Organization, Shion convinces Allen to sneak into Labyrinthos with her. There, the two discover the Vessels of Anima, learn of Aoi's use as a test subject, and confirm Suou's betrayal. Encountering a young Kevin, Shion downloads KOS-MOS's basic theory from a computer before returning to the Elsa.

With the information

recovered from Labyrinthos, KOS-MOS is rebuilt. Voyager appears on board and attacks with the objective of stealing KOS-MOS. KOS-MOS activates to save Shion, and Voyager withdraws.

Shion's party decides to infiltrate Labyrinthos to recover the Vessels of Anima. Successful, the party begins to escape. Before departing, however, an announcement via the PA system mentions Aoi. Shion returns to save her mother, believing she may be able to rewrite history. The Red Testament appears, unmasking himself. U-TIC personnel capture and interrogate Shion.

Shion's party returns to Labyrinthos to rescue Shion while third descent combat operations begin. Suou releases Shion, pleading with her to locate the younger





Shion and bring her to safety. Shion reunites with the others, and the party returns to the church in time to witness the Realian attack in which Febronia dies. The present-day Virgil then appears, ready to attack. But Febronia's spirit appears as well, disarming Virgil and convincing the Testament to abandon Wilhelm. Embracing, the couple disappears.

The younger Shion returns to Labyrinthos with the older Shion's party close behind. Realians attack. Suou sacrifices himself to save the younger Shion but is unable to save Aoi. Overcome with despair, the younger Shion summons the Gnosis en masse while the older Shion causes Abel's Ark to appear.²⁹

Kevin returns to explain why he's a Testament: to

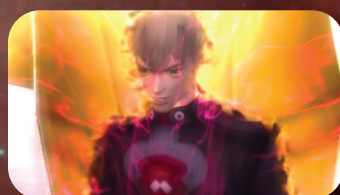


save Shion from the condition inherited from Aoi, which KOS-MOS's presence accelerates. Confused, Shion begins to leave with

Kevin, but KOS-MOS stops her. Shion's party returns to the Elsa and present-day space, where the Durandal spots and rescues the party.



Ye Shall Be as Gods



The presence of Abel's Ark represents a danger to the universe. As a connection to the Upper Domain, Abel's Ark causes matter shifts like the original Zohar. The scale is larger, however: It's causing entire planets to disappear into the Imaginary-Number Domain.

From the new Tactical Warship Merkabah, Yuriev proceeds toward Abel's Ark, which is observed to be going toward Michtam.

The confluence of the Galaxy Federation, the Immigrant Fleet, and the Gnosis in Michtam space results in a large-scale battle. The Durandal enters the chaos, and Shion's party boards the Merkabah to stop Yuriev. Here, Sellers explains Yuriev intends to

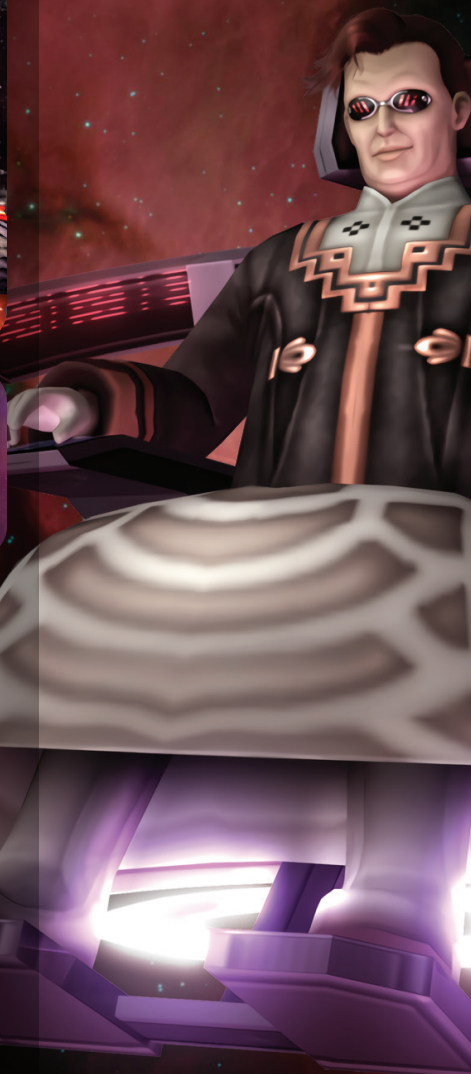
use the Zohar emulators and the relics of God to ascend to the Upper Domain and destroy U-DO—which he believes he will be able to do with information from the Y-Data.³⁰

Meanwhile, Yuriev commands the Federation to invade the Durandal. Mary and Shelley are captured, and the other Kukai Foundation staff is executed. Shion's party returns to the Durandal, where Citrine intercepts the party and defends Yuriev to the death. Yuriev extracts the Arbiter Code from Mary and Shelley, unlocks and activates the Zohar emulators, and changes the Durandal's course toward Abel's Ark. The party escapes from the Durandal shortly before it collides with, and is ab-

sorbed into, Abel's Ark. The Zohar emulators substitute the Vessels of Anima and activate the original Zohar. Yuriev combines the original Zohar with Omega Res Novae, unlocking the weapon's full potential.

Shion's party boards Abel's Ark and successfully defeats Yuriev. Albedo appears, extracts Abel and the original Zohar from Omega Res Novae, and causes them to disappear. Still alive, Gaignun's consciousness forces Albedo's consciousness into Jr.'s. Albedo informs Jr. Abel and the original Zohar are on Michtam. Gaignun and Albedo disappear.

With the space battle continuing, Shion's party returns to the Elsa and breaks through to Michtam.



To the Last Place



On Michtam, Shion's party fights through a gauntlet of battles while resolving unfinished business.

Richard and Hermann are the first to attack and the first to be defeated.

Meanwhile, Margulis and Pellegrini learn of Heinlein's manipulation. Crushed by the revelation, Pellegrini appears before Shion's party and fights to the death.

Proceeding to Archon Cathedral, Shion's party encounters Voyager. The Testament too powerful to defeat by force, Canaan exploits Voyager's hubris through a deal to remotely connect Voyager to a new source of power: Wilhelm's Compass of Order and Chaos. Voyager accepts but is unable to absorb the power of the compass. He and Canaan disappear.

Beneath the cathedral, Margulis appears, finally accepting defeat and welcoming death.

Even deeper, Shion's party encounters T-elos, who



explains KOS-MOS must be defeated to reunite Mary's consciousness with the body from which T-elos was created. KOS-MOS, into which Mary is fully resurrected, defeats T-elos.

Kevin returns, trying again to recruit Shion and KOS-

MOS to Wilhelm's cause. Still confused and blinded by love, Shion initially agrees before Allen stands up to the Testament, and Shion reverses course. Wilhelm orders Kevin to withdraw, expressing disappointment he failed to convince Shion.

Order from Chaos

Shion's party enters the core of Michitam, where Zarathustra is stored.

Wilhelm explains Eternal Recurrence and instructs Shion to use her power of the Maiden of Mary to initiate it. She refuses, and Wilhelm attempts to induce it by force. Kevin tries to stop Wilhelm, but he anticipates the betrayal and begins to



torture Kevin too. KOS-MOS destroys Shion's pendant, and Kevin attacks Wilhelm again. Zarathustra destabilizes, which risks destroying the universe. Kevin suppresses Zarathustra's energy while Shion's party attempts to destroy it. Chaos declares a belief humanity's will may change the future, and Wilhelm relents. Defeated, he and Kevin disappear.

With Eternal Recurrence stopped, the consciousnesses of rejection gathered to Zarathustra have nowhere to go.³¹ This risks causing the Lower Domain to collapse and the universe to be

destroyed. Chaos explains by shifting the consciousnesses of rejection to Lost Jerusalem, he could delay the universe's destruction by a few tens of thousands of years—although he cannot stop it. However, it may buy humanity enough time to achieve a permanent solution. He instructs Shion to go to Lost Jerusalem—where he, too, will shift—claiming it's the key to save the universe.

Mary (via KOS-MOS) releases the Power of Anima. The Power of Animus transfers to Nephilim, while the Power of Anima transfers to Abel. Nephilim and Abel gather and guide the consciousnesses of rejection. The Gnosis, however, reject being summoned and attack. Shion's party escapes, and Jin returns to fight the Gnosis with KOS-MOS. Jin dies and KOS-MOS self-destructs while defending Nephilim, Abel, and chaos.



The ritual successful, a space-time anomaly appears. The UMN begins to disappear column by column. The Elsa uses the last remaining UMN column to escape from Michtam space.

An unknown period of time after the events of Michtam, Shion, Allen, and Jr. begin toward Lost Jerusalem. MOMO and Ziggy begin working with Scientia to build a new alternative to the UMN.

Meanwhile, a damaged and dismembered KOS-MOS drifts in space toward Lost Jerusalem. Chaos's voice is heard encouraging her to sleep. Their work continues.



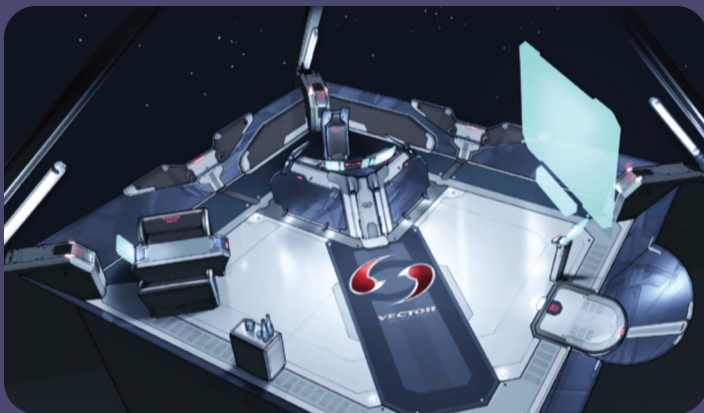
29. Causing Abel's Ark to appear is the whole reason why Wilhelm orchestrated Shion revisiting the Miltian Conflict. Her affinity with U-DO, amplified by extreme emotion experienced as a child, summoned the Gnosis en masse. However, her reaction wasn't strong enough to cause U-DO's observation—until she returned as an adult and witnessed these events again.
30. Sellers is one of the few characters whose subplot doesn't get resolved by the end of the game series. After this exchange, he leaves without any further mention.
31. In-game dialogue refers to "wills" instead of "consciousnesses of rejection."





APPENDIX

The Necessary Factors



Zarathustra

One of the relics of God, Zarathustra is a compass-shaped crystalline structure equipped with a control panel. It's capable of reversing time by directing

the flow of consciousnesses and is a key component to achieving Eternal Recurrence.

Mary's followers constructed Zarathustra from the transcription of Le-megeton and tried to use

it, unsuccessfully, to ascend to the Upper Domain. Wilhelm acquired it shortly thereafter.

The Original Zohar

The original Zohar powers Zarathustra.

The original Zohar has existed since the beginning of time. Due to its power, control of the original Zohar is highly contested, and it jumps around a lot:

- The people of ancient Lost Jerusalem are the first to perceive it
- Mary's followers hide it under Lake Turkana

The following elements are required to achieve Eternal Recurrence. All of Wilhelm's actions are directed toward bringing the required elements to Michtam.



- Vector excavates it and transfers it to Toronto to research
- Ormus transports it to Michtam for safekeeping—and more research
- The Galaxy Federation transfers it to Miltia, where research continues
- The Miltian Conflict occurs, leaving it there, inaccessible
- MOMO's copy of the Y-Data leaks, and several parties rush to acquire the original Zohar. The Patriarch obtains it and attaches it to Proto Omega.
- Proto Omega is destroyed, leaving it to float in space
- Abel's Ark appears, absorbs it, and disappears
- Albedo extracts it from Abel's Ark and returns it to Michtam

The Vessels of Anima

The Vessels of Anima invoke Lemegeton, which is required to activate the original Zohar.

Wilhelm obtained the Vessels of Anima from Rennes-le-Château while humanity was fleeing Lost Jerusalem.³²

Mary

Mary possesses the power of Animus, which is required to activate the Vessels of Anima.

Mary is a challenge because, of course, she's dead. Wilhelm intended to circumvent this problem by resurrecting her into T-elos, a two-part process:

T-elos must be constructed from Mary's physical remains buried at Rennes-le-Château, which Wilhelm is unable to access until Episode III.

Mary's consciousness

must be recovered and awakened inside T-elos.

Shion

Shion is the Maiden of Mary reincarnated. The Maiden of Mary is required to activate the power of Animus.

Wilhelm, through Kevin, manipulated Shion to cooperate. Once she resisted, he tortured her to force her to use her power.

Shion's Pendant

Shion's pendant is the ignition key to Zarathustra.

Handed down from ancient Lost Jerusalem, the pendant belonged recently to Kevin's mother. After her death, Kevin gave it to Shion as a gift, and she wears it all the time, so it was already with her by the time she arrived to Michtam at the end of Episode III.

32. Subsequently, the Vessels of Anima were used to power the E.S.s. By the end of Episode III, Wilhelm arranges to return all 12 to Zarathustra.

START

Shion (Power of the Maiden of Mary)



Mary (Power of Animus)



Controls

Possesses

Controls



Shion's Pendant

The Vessels of Anima (Power of Anima)



Ignition Key

Draws consciousnesses of rejection

Activates

END



Zarathustra

Reverses the flow of consciousnesses of rejection to rewind time

Inserted to seal U-DO in the Lower Domain



The Original Zohar





Xenosaga

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Revelation 20:13



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