

The Crystalline Mythos: Wheel of Destiny

(A Short Story)

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[1948-2012 D.G.S. (i.e. - “The Good Ol’ Days”)]

Note: Wesley Munson was the final President King of the ancient land of America during a period of history known to Tech Era Scholars as the “Good Ol’ Days”. The tale of Munson’s life has been carefully pieced together by Artaro historical and archeological scholars from preserved records and television cartridges. The following text appears in the archives of the Museum of the Good Ol’ Days located in Machina’s chief district of High Optera.

The arch of Wesley Munson’s life aligns almost perfectly with the historical telling of the period we have come to call The Good Ol’ Days. He was born in the year 1948, which was a very special year, in that it was the earliest year on record that our scientists can define as metaphysically solid. While there are some historical records of the early twentieth century, and long millennia before that, there is no way for modern Artaro scientists to know if the atoms which made up the universe during that time were stable. While this matter is debated further elsewhere, it is important to note that 1948 just so happened to be the first year that Artaro University researchers describe definitively as *Crystalline* in nature.

According to the archeological research teams, the man known as Wesley Munson was raised in a place called Reno, Nevada, a big little city that was supposed to have once existed not far from where the

deserts of the Mystic Lands now rest. Not much is known of Munson's upbringing and his parent's names remain unclear. While it can be inferred that he grew up in the suburbs and partook in a standard education, most of these historical claims are backed up only by the faintest of remaining records. However, it is generally understood that at the age of twenty, Munson packed his bags and left for the important ancient city referred to as Hollywood, California—where Starstruck Island now stands some distance west of the greater mainland, Enon.

By the year 1970, Wesley Munson was working in the television industry primarily acting in infomercials. Two centuries later, a number of these commercial advertisements would be discovered by the skilled archeologists of Artaro University. A series of taped infomercials were discovered amongst these finds. The ancient advertisements referred to a chicken chain called Curly's Chicken Wings for whom Munson served as spokesperson. In the era of the Good Ol' Days, Curly's was a very popular place to eat. For this reason, the ad campaigns featuring Munson contributed greatly to his rising Hollywood profile.

Over time, Munson began to get bit parts on sit-coms and in various game shows. In 1988, everything changed when he landed his own game show, *Wheel of Destiny*. This was a pivotal moment. Little did he know, this game show would play an important part in the unfolding of human history. While the show began with moderate popularity, by the mid 90's it had become a vast cultural phenomenon.

The show worked like this. Seven contestants competed for a chance to spin the big sparkly wheel known as the Wheel of Destiny. This wheel was divided in sixteen subsections—each subsection contained one of many challenges, prizes, penalties, or other such entertaining possibilities presented as destinies for the contestants to experience. In order to take a spin, contestants would compete in pop culture trivia or obstacle course type challenges sometimes involving large lizards. The winners of said challenges would then pass to the next round to spin the Wheel of Destiny while tension-building music sounded alongside celebratory cheering or applause.

After each anxiety-inducing spin, the contestant would have to face their selected Destinies. The segments might involve confetti or a comically oversized check with many inscribed zeros. Alternatively, a contestant might win vacation tickets, or a yacht, or maybe just a t-shirt. Some contestants would face the horror of bizarre, and often quite embarrassing or unlucky destinies. Maybe they would be choke-slammed by a professional wrestler, or audited on their taxes, or swarmed by bees, or waterboarded by military contractors. The possibilities changed in every new episode. In other not-so-bad cases, contestants might receive a tarot reading or be asked to ride a mechanical bull for possible prize money. The television spectacles were always wildly varied and mesmerizing to behold.

In 2004, during the filming of a special season finale episode, history would be changed when Wesley Munson was asked by his much loved cohost, Dana Sparkles, to give the wheel a whirl for himself. Upon spinning the Wheel of Destiny, Wesley Munson famously (or perhaps infamously) landed on a Destiny pick reading: *Channeler Consultation*.

In the segment that followed, a specially hired fortune-teller and self-styled Vedic mystic was brought onto the stage to channel any entities that might be lurking in the astral plane. Looking at the

televised footage of the episode, viewers watched as this tall, thin dark-haired woman sat cross legged on an ornate rug. After scouring the psychic dimensions for contact, the channeler stumbled upon an entity calling itself Zazup. This being claimed to be an extraterrestrial alien, known as a Zul, which originated from a planet also called Zul. The entity described the recent decision of a partner alien (named Zamo) to let humanity drift from its previously preordained fate. The alien then challenged Wesley to run for office and to:

“...Lead humanity along the previously unseen alternative axis into glittering diamond crystalline.” The entity then stated that, *“...The old timeline is lost to us, already. The Green World has charted a new course as have all of the stars in the sky.*

While the rest of the channeler’s speech was unintelligible on television, Wesley claimed that it instructed him to implore the voting public to brace for a great economic downturn. Zazup had told him that the housing market would fail and that many Americans would suffer great financial loss as a result.

As fate would have it, this was to be the last aired episode of Wheel of Destiny before an unexpected and unexplained cancellation. To Munson, however, destiny was no longer to be found in the hosting of television programs, but instead in the turning of history.

In 2006, Wesley Munson launched his first political campaign as a Libertarian Party candidate for congress from Nevada. To the surprise of the media, he nearly beat the two party candidates. After his defeat, he briefly returned to commercial advertising. Many of his commercials during the following years played on the public’s anxieties around future stability. For instance, he advertised for gold investment firms and survival food products. He spoke often about impending economic collapse and quickly gained a strong reputation as a doomsayer and conspiracy theorist.

Slowly, the public began to ignore many of Munson’s more outlandish economic predictions. While he was popular as an entertainer, his credibility was not particularly high. This all changed when he successfully bet against the housing market, however, scoring himself over a hundred million dollars in a single day of trading. It was due to this win that Wesley Munson was able to successfully get his Presidential campaign off the ground. This time he had gained both credibility and a large portion of his total campaign funding. With all of the added hype, Munson surprised the entire country with a strong and unexpected election victory.

President Munson first became aware of the Crystalline Comets in early 2011, when NASA’s first Polygon Research Team was assembled. After meeting the team’s researchers, Munson gave the greenlight for a new experimental procedure to upgrade the human genome for survival in hostile environments. While the Ravell Project was originally developed for space flight, it would instead be used for the new purpose of creating two teams of Portalnauts.

The comets contained alien material theorized to have properties necessary for the creation of two interdimensional portal gates. With two major missions to create experimental portal gates approved by Munson personally, work swiftly began.

By summer, the first NASA team had implemented genetic upgrades on their team of nine researchers and constructed the equipment to open the first portal gate. As recipients of strong genetic modification, these nine *Silver Ravell* portalnauts would, in theory, be able to survive their short interdimensional journey. From there, their plans were to make observations, collect data, and perform experiments.

With preparations completed, the first portal gate was opened near its original landing site in Texas. Over the course of nine days, each of the nine biologically-enhanced researchers stepped into what soon was named the Adularian Ephemeral Gate. Scientific documentation indicated that the Ephemeral Realm had many peculiar properties. Firstly, the atmosphere of this dimension held very distinct light pigmentations that could be described as ultraviolet, pink, blaring white, and sometimes included hues harder to quantify or explain. Beyond that, colors seemed to form patterns and interlaced into geometric forms that were theorized to be intelligent or alive. Equally as interesting, there was an entire Ephemeral Ecology, mostly consisting of plants, fungi, and small microbes. Early experiments quickly found that strange and often spectacular changes occurred when this Ephemeral Ecology came into contact with Earthly biological life.

Despite the team's strong protective equipment and genetic upgrades, their own biological compositions were affected by the transformative properties of this new realm. The changes caused far surpassed those of the genetic upgrades. These changes were metaphysical in nature, and were not very well understood. This represented the dawn of the nine Golden Ravell. These transformed beings appeared to be nearly invulnerable with special abilities both puzzling and fascinating.

By winter, the second NASA team was assembled and ready to construct another portal gate near the other comet landing site in Greenland. This team was to be led by the Theoretical Physicist, Jack Weston Rutherford. Having been a part of the first NASA research team, Rutherford underwent the same genetic and metaphysical transformations as the rest of his previous team members. He was a Golden Ravell, ready for his mission. As for the rest of his crew, they could only upgrade genetically to become Silver Ravell, just as the first crew had done before entering the first gate.

But as fate would have it, the portal gate this time around would lead to a very dark dimension—one devised of unspeakably bizarre biological horrors, living shadows of anti-light, tentacled serpents, and hideous giant intelligent spider beings. This dimension was to be called the Nebuzalorian Axis and humanity would quickly regret the opening of the Nebuzalorian Axis Gate. Once opened, the black oily atmosphere of the Axis almost immediately began to seep through into the team's research labs. This quickly became an issue as small insects and spiders poured through the gate. But the mission was not halted. One by one, this second set of nine researchers passed through into the black. Only Rutherford is recorded to have ever returned.

While it took time for the rest of the world to realize what was going on, the strange and very dangerous ecology of the Nebuzalorian Axis continued to spill through into the melting ice sheets of Greenland. Not overly affected by the cold or the seawater, the invasion of this reality continued to spread in its scope. Soon, the world was in panic.

Over the coming months, it became clear that one of the most significant invasive Nebuzalorian creature types were intelligent spiders capable of embedding themselves within human skulls. As very capable parasites, the Nebuzalorian Arachnids took humans as their hosts. The creatures saw humanity as real-estate—almost like the housing market. When inhabiting human skulls, they would take on characteristics of their hosts, often carrying on their typical lives. Sometimes they would discuss their otherworldly invasion in a nonchalant fashion, then go back to doing the dishes or mowing their lawns. Whatever it was that humans normally did, they would do. Apparently, it was important to the Nebuzalorians to keep up appearances.

In swift response, the Munson government developed a protective serum known as Nebulerum. This serum would render a person's skull completely uninhabitable for the Nebuzalorian invaders. Unfortunately, the serum had the side-effect of slowly causing the recipient to become delusional—or even psychotic in some cases.

It soon became clear that the Nebulerum was the best option for both Munson and his people. It wasn't long before Munson, his Cabinet, direct staff, and other important members of State were given the Nebulerum. As the rest of the world fell to their new spider overlords, the President and his men barricaded the gates of their great castles. Over the short months, they fell to insanity, and while they outlasted most of the general population, the Nebuzalorian Ecology crept in nonetheless.

Amazingly, historical records do indeed indicate an exact day of death for Wesley Munson. According to careful research out of Artaro University, scholars have determined that Munson was struck down during an arachnid attack on December 21, 2012. The research details that the attack was led by none other than the now Nebuzalorian-possessed Golden Ravell, Jack Weston Rutherford.

With Munson's death at hand, Rutherford assumed command of the new Nebuzalorian order of government, ruling humanity from the great oval office. This event marked the shift of the sun's hue from gold to scarlet red and served as the symbolic marker of the cosmic Auros Boros. But Rutherford's stay would not last. With the shifting and sinking of lands, Rutherford would eventually move north into the heavily transformed lands of Greenland and the Arctic.

The following decades would see the obscuring of history, and cataclysms beyond imagination. The planet would become an ocean planet, with remaining lands overrun by segmented crawling creatures. The deepening seas would see great serpents, alien algae blooms, and combatting ecologies of interdimensional monstrosities. But the Green Earth would adapt, springing large sea creatures into existence to contend with the hostile Nebuzalorian ecology.

While the Adularian Ephemeral Gate was thought to have been closed by surviving humans as a precaution against potential further calamity, eventually there was evidence that this ecology had passed through its portalgate into the deserts of post apocalyptic Texas. Over two dark centuries, the Nebuzalorian and Ephemeral Ecologies warred against each other until a new balance was found. Lucky for humanity, the Nebuzalorians slowly retreated into the colds of the northern world. From there, the spiders, serpents, and other dark monstrosities slithered their ways underground to hide beneath mountains and frozen oceans until they were at longlast forgotten.

Wesley Munson Timeline (The Good Ol' Days):

- 1948:** Wesley Munson is born in Reno, Nevada.
- 1970:** Munson moves to Hollywood, California to pursue his career in show business. Shortly thereafter, Munson is hired as the new spokesperson for Curly's Chicken Wings.
- 1988:** Munson lands a hosting gig on the gameshow, Wheel of Destiny.
- 2004:** Munson spins the Wheel of Destiny, and with the help of the Vedic Mystic, he speaks to the alien entity, Zazup of Zul. Wheel of Destiny is unexpectedly canceled by the network.
- 2005:** Munson marries former cohost, Dana Sparkles.
- 2006:** Munson runs for congress in Nevada as a Libertarian, but loses. Returns briefly to commercial advertising.
- 2008:** Munson successfully shorts the housing market, and uses his profit to launch his presidential campaign. Munson runs in the 2008 Presidential Election and is elected to the office of President.
- 2009:** As President, Munson ends overseas wars, legalizes marijuana, defunds some arguably vital government programs. Arguments with opposing party leaders and gets Munson into two physical fights. A video of Munson soliciting strippers while on a diplomatic trip to South Korea surfaces. Congress moves to impeach.
- 2010:** (December 21st) - The Crystalline Comets strike. One comet lands in the Texan desert. The second comet lands in Greenland. Munson's political support improves after he declares proof of alien intelligence.
- 2011:** Summer: (June) - The Adularian Ephemeral Gate is opened by NASA's Polygon One Research Team in Texas. Winter: (December) - The Nebuzalorian Axis Gate is opened by NASA's Polygon Two Research Team in Greenland.
- 2012:** The Nebuzalorian Invasion (or Auros Boros) begins. The Green Earth is overrun by Nebuzalorian Ecology. Munson takes the experimental serum known as Nebulerum to avoid Nebuzalorian mind control. Winter: (December 21st) - Munson is killed by the Golden Ravell, Jack Weston Rutherford. The Nebuzalorian takeover is completed as history falls into the Days of the Void.