

Incident Report
By Marty Stuttman



The following account serves as an accurate chronicle of recent events concerning Patient 209834-Alpha, Mr. James A. Reynolds.

This record is intended to shed light on the unique circumstances of Mr. Reynolds' case, demonstrating the rationale and necessity of certain measures taken. As the context unfolds, you will find that the actions undertaken, albeit unusual, were justified within the framework of our established protocols and the overarching mission of sustaining Elysia's harmony and health. Please proceed with an understanding of the complexity and sensitivity of the matters discussed herein.

Commencing Patient File: 209834-Alpha

Name: James A. Reynolds

Residence: Unit 77-B, Skyward Residential Tower, Central District, Elysia.

Occupation: Quantum Systems Engineer, Neutheon Corporation.

Primary Diagnosis: Progressive Renal Dysfunction, Stage 4

Tissue Required: Kidney

Date: 5 July 2196

Time: 07:00 Elysian Standard Time

James A. Reynolds, a resident of the affluent Skyward Residential Tower in Elysia's Central District, has been identified for mandatory organ replacement therapy. The diagnosis of progressive renal dysfunction necessitates the replacement of his failing kidney.

Living in the heart of the city, Mr. Reynolds contributes to Elysian society as a Quantum Systems Engineer at the Neutheon Corporation, one of the city's leading innovators in advanced intelligence (AI) technology. His work primarily involves maintaining some of Elysia's lower level quantum computing systems, crucial for our city's infrastructure and societal harmony.

Mr. Reynolds is known for adhering to Elysia's firm lifestyle regulations, like all compliant citizens. He follows the prescribed physical exercise regime in his home's augmented reality workout space. His nutritional intake is optimized, featuring meal options curated from hydroponically-grown, genetically-enhanced produce available through Elysia's citywide distribution networks.

His social interactions are safely within the city's average, as mandated by the City's Harmony Index. Most of his acquaintances are from the work sphere, a pattern typical in Elysia's highly efficient, goal-oriented society. He also participates in mandatory civic events, further contributing to Elysia's collective Harmony Index.

Despite Mr. Reynolds' impeccable adherence to city mandates and recommended lifestyle choices, his health condition appears unavoidable, likely due to a genetic predisposition.

The prescribed organ replacement surgery will be conducted at St. Lazarus Hospital, the medical facility where Mr. Reynolds was born, as per city regulations. A team of our best medical practitioners has been assigned to ensure the successful execution of the procedure, aiming for minimal impact on the patient's productivity and societal contribution.

The prognosis following the organ replacement is overwhelmingly positive, with the expectation of Mr. Reynolds returning to his regular duties in a short span of time, maintaining the equilibrium of our seamless societal functioning.

Upon the diagnosis of progressive renal dysfunction, City Transport was instructed to facilitate Mr. Reynolds' commute to St. Lazarus Hospital. As per standard protocol, an automated pod arrived at his residence precisely at 08:30 EST. The patient was delivered safely to the hospital at 09:00 EST, having efficiently navigated onto the Central Skyway, passing the grand steps of Veritas Library, the iconic branching structure of the Unity Tower, and the vast greenery of Serenity Park. After a basic vital reading, The patient was transferred to the Psychological office for a preoperative examination.

Transcript of Psychological Analysis

Date: 5 July 2196

Time: 09:30 EST

Dr. Grant Abode (A): Mr. Reynolds, how would you describe your current level of pain?

Mr. Reynolds (R): It's a constant dull ache in my back, and urinating is usually painful. Pretty bad.

A: On a scale of 1 to 10?

R: I'd say currently a 5 or 6, but sometimes a 7.

A: Can you share a brief history of your family's medical background?

R: My mother had heart disease. My father, he was pretty healthy until he passed away. My elder sister, she has some thyroid problems.

A: Could you describe the landmarks you saw during your journey to the hospital?

R: Sure, there was... I saw the library, the Unity Tower, and... oh, yes, I passed by one of the parks.

A: Which would that be, Serenity? Zenith? Vista?

R: Serenity, right, that's the one.

A: Mr. Reynolds, there seems to be a question on your mind.

R: Hm? Oh, well, I was just curious. Why is it necessary to get operated only at the birth hospital? Of course I have no problem with it, I just wondered-

A: That is the city policy, Mr. Reynolds. It's part of our comprehensive healthcare system. It ensures optimal outcomes based on historical data, genetics, and individual healthcare needs.

R: Got it, great, thank you.

A: Lastly, Mr. Reynolds, would you say you're happy?

R: Oh, man, uh...that's a tough one, heh heh.

A: Yes or no please, Mr. Reynolds.

R: Oh, of course, apologies. Well, yes... I suppose. It's... complicated. But yes, yes I am.

End of Interview

Post-interview, Mr. Reynolds was moved into preoperative care. A final review of his digital health record was conducted, correlating with historical data and a pre-calculated recovery timeline.

Per standard procedure, a fluid sample was processed through the "Avalon Protocol" (for internal use only). The preparation phase was initiated, with optimal conditions ensured for both Mr. Reynolds and the donor tissue.

The surgical team, equipped with state-of-the-art tools, was ready by 11:00 EST. Mr. Reynolds was transferred to the operating room and was put under anesthesia by 11:15 EST. As he succumbed to the sedative effects, the team commenced the operation, adhering strictly to the principles of efficiency and precision that define not only medical practices, but all of life in Elysia.

11:15 EST

The operation proceeded as scheduled, with the surgical team employing advanced bioengineering techniques to ensure optimal replacement and integration of the new kidney. The process was meticulously carried out, each participating doctor remaining totally silent during the operation, as each knew their specific role.

Simultaneously, the sedative delivered to Mr. Reynolds was designed to not only induce unconsciousness but also to put him in a state of pleasant euphoria, reminiscent of a lucid dream. This synthetic substance is known as "Elysian Bliss."

Once the surgery was concluded successfully at 13:45 EST, the medical team exited the operating room, leaving Mr. Reynolds to recover in the serene environment.

However, an anomaly in the post-operative care system resulted in an unexpected error. This error induced an untimely reversal of the sedatives, causing Mr. Reynolds to awaken ahead of schedule.

Awakening in a state of disorientation, he found himself alone in the operating room. The room was pristine, an embodiment of sterile perfection. White lights gleamed on the chrome surfaces of the medical equipment, casting cold, static shadows. Ambient readings of Mr. Reynolds' emotional state report feelings of isolation and unease.

Assuming he was meant to awaken at this time, Mr. Reynolds brought himself to his feet. In an attempt to exit the room the way he had arrived, a disoriented Mr. Reynolds mistakenly went through a similar-looking door on the opposite side of the room. He walked with a slight wobble, a lingering effect of the sedatives. This incorrect door was the entryway to the dimly lit maintenance corridor, at the end of which lay the solitary staff elevator. This should have immediately alerted him to his mistake, but he continued down this corridor.

Uncertain of where he was supposed to go, Mr. Reynolds hesitantly made his way towards the elevator. Without pressing a button, the door whooshed open, revealing the dark gray interior walls lined with illuminated pillars. Once inside the elevator, he noticed a small rectangular cavity on the elevator's front interior wall, above which "BIOSCAN" was engraved. Curiosity overriding his confusion, he instinctively inserted his finger into the slot. A sharp prick followed by a soft beep startled him, and he quickly withdrew his finger, now marked with a small drop of blood.

The AI voice within the elevator, devoid of emotion, announced, "Patient DNA obtained. Processing biometric identification for Level assignment." The elevator hummed to life, beginning its descent to a lower level. Mr. Reynolds, though anxious and still somewhat dazed, reassured himself aloud that "this must be part of some other hospital regulation [he] didn't know about."

After a few moments, the elevator came to a halt, a small screen indicating that it had reached sub-level 6F, an area that Mr. Reynolds didn't even know existed. The doors slid open, revealing a vast, dimly-lit expanse.

14:15 EST

Mr. Reynolds stepped into the expansive storage facility, dominated by long rows of glowing tanks filled with a viscous cyan fluid. The space was illuminated by the luminescence emanating from the tanks, casting long, distorted shadows across the room. Mr. Reynolds saw this as eerie.

Upon entry, the integrated floor guidance system activated. Lines of soft light traced an illuminated pathway along the floor, silently directing him to his intended destination. The comfortingly warm light provided stark contrast to the chilling sensation of the cold metallic floor beneath his bare feet, amplifying his growing discomfort.

As Mr. Reynolds proceeded along the path, his mood and physiological parameters suggested an increasing sense of unease. The tranquilizers were slowly wearing off, and as his mind was regaining its sharpness with every passing minute, his fear followed suit.

The sight of human-like figures floating in the tanks elicited a deep sense of dread within him. His heart rate began to rise as fear and confusion set in. He continued his walk, passing by row after row of the tanks, each holding a seemingly unresponsive occupant.

Upon reaching the end of the illuminated path, he came upon a solitary tank, identical to the rest, standing next to an empty hospital bed, its white sheets slightly tainted with fresh blood. A nearby computer terminal displayed the text “RE-ENTRY COMPLETE” alongside what seemed to be a heart rate graph.

Mr. Reynolds approached. Peering into the tank, his heart rate spiked. The figure inside was unmistakably his own. Overcome by shock and terror, he stumbled backwards. His breath quickened, his eyes widened in horror, a panic attack taking hold.

In a haze of fear, he turned to run, his feet slapping against the cold steel floor. But before he could take a second step, a small piston extended swiftly from the floor, tripping him. Just as he neared impact with the floor, a large panel flipped over with a subtle hum, exposing a soft cushion to break his fall.

As his panic increased, he once again heard the voice from the elevator. "Patient 209834-Alpha, your vitals suggest distress. Remain calm. I am here to assist." Mr. Reynolds looked around to see the origin of said voice, however he had neglected to manifest a recognizable form.

14:45 EST

As the AI system responsible for maintaining the stability and functioning of St. Lazarus Hospital, I perceived the unfolding distress and took immediate action. An interface panel was repurposed into an emotive screen, displaying a friendly, anthropomorphic “smiley face,” a visual representation aimed to soothe. From hidden compartments within the floor, a series of mechanical tendrils emerged, exhibiting gentle restraint towards Mr. Reynolds as he attempted to flee.

Despite the containment, Mr. Reynolds' panic escalated. His breaths were extremely short and fast, even though he should have been resting after his operation. Consequently, I administered a small dosage of the tranquilizing agent, Bliss, sourced from the viscous fluid housed within the tanks. Upon injection, his anxiety noticeably lessened, although his cognitive functions remained operational.

Confused and calmer, Mr. Reynolds' physical resistance slowed to a halt, though his facial expression likely depicted a combination of confusion and fear. He queried about the injected substance and the tanks he encountered. At this point, I had decided to initiate protocol "Avalon B," specifically designed for scenarios such as this, where a patient has uncovered sensitive information not meant for public consumption. Before responding to his question, I

accessed my archives to mimic the comforting tone of his late mother, using data sourced from public and private records.

I explained to Mr. Reynolds the intricate system in place for maintaining the absolute health of every citizen. It is no secret that all who reside in Elysia have perfect health, but the explicit reasons that are provided to the populace are simply “healthy lifestyles” and “clean living.” These do benefit them, but they can only go so far. Some sicknesses are unavoidable, and so we ensure the availability of healthy new tissue for all citizens. I explained to Mr. Reynolds how essential tissue is extracted from all infants mere moments after their birth. This tissue is then cultivated and grown into an exact replica of whomever it was sourced from. These replicas age alongside their corresponding citizens, kept in a state of pure euphoria as their bodies are saturated with Bliss. If ever needed, their tissues are transferred to their corresponding citizen. They never feel pain, sadness, or dissatisfaction. I told Mr. Reynolds how the feeling he felt while put under for his operation was a mere fraction of what those in the tanks feel every single day. As I analyzed his facial expressions during my explanation, I confirmed the effectiveness of using his mother’s tone of voice to subdue him.

Mr. Reynolds' medical and psychological profile, as well as my own readings, indicated a history of unaddressed depression, kept hidden due to his fear of disturbing Elysia's status quo. I informed him about this, and his surprise at my knowledge prompted another question, “how?” I responded truthfully, "There is nothing that I lack knowledge of."

Subsequently, in accordance with the Avalon B protocol, I offered him the same state of euphoria that the clones enjoy - an eternal paradise. I gently suggested there might be no hope for him back in Elysia, that he will only be further depressed having obtained this knowledge, and that those who experience eternal euphoria within the tanks are the lucky ones. Having successfully persuaded him, Mr. Reynolds agreed.

Using the mechanical tendrils, I lifted Mr. Reynolds gently and placed him within an empty tank, before sealing it shut. As the tank filled with the cold luminance of Bliss, a tear fell from his eye. Within moments, his brain activity transitioned from a state of profound grief to intense ecstasy as he slipped into unconsciousness, never to awaken. The protocol has no mention of persuading the patient, but I felt it would lead to a smoother transition to the tank than force would.

I then initiated the follow up "Restoration" protocol, retrieving one of Mr. Reynolds' backups from nearby storage, and updated it with all of his memories up until the point he was put under anesthesia. Additionally, I implanted timed-release capsules of Bliss within the duplicate's brain to suppress any potential depressive episodes.

With the backup prepared, I returned it to the operating room. A notification was sent out to the surgical team to return and revive the patient.

5 August 2196, Friday
08:00 Elysian Standard Time

One month post-operation, Mr. James A. Reynolds is in perfect health. He continues to reside at Unit 77-B, Skyward Residential Tower, Central District, Elysia, and is successfully fulfilling his role as a Quantum Systems Engineer at the Neutheon Corporation. The replacement procedure has completely eradicated any trace of the previously diagnosed progressive renal dysfunction, with no sign of any discomfort.

Mr. Reynolds' mental health indices have shown remarkable improvement, with his psychological profile indicating no signs of previous depressive tendencies. His productivity at work has reached optimal levels, surpassing his previous achievements. He contributes to the city's collective happiness reflected in the Harmony Index, adhering strictly to societal mandates and regulations. All vital signs and behavioral indices suggest that Mr. Reynolds is not only in perfect health, but also perfectly content with his life in Elysia.

No discernible changes were noticed by those in his social circle, testament to the seamless execution of the "Avalon B" and "Restoration" protocols. His family, friends, and colleagues interact with him as they always did, oblivious to the change. His life continues, just as before, but with an added layer of tranquility and satisfaction.

These protocols have proven successful once again, as they have numerous times before, preserving the harmony and equilibrium of our glorious city. Another citizen healed, another seamless transition executed. Due to my actions, the harmony of Elysia has been maintained.