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December 9, 2015

[The following transcript was intercepted by NASA's New Horizons spacecraft and was translated by the Associated Press. Any word still not understood was left in its native tongue but spelled out phonetically]

DOV'IRC, Nygniss—The Prime Kyb of the Dov'irc Interplanetary Zoo has revealed a new addition that has tourists from as far as the Vrouvrolt system clamoring for tickets: a new human male. The specimen was abducted from the “London” quadrant of Earth seven weeks ago and arrived safely in Dov'irc two nights ago. “He’s a bit shaken by his new surroundings, but we think he’ll get comfortable soon enough,” reported Qugeo Wirruohsi, head of the alien breeding program, later adding that the specimen “has only experienced 22 solar rotations and seems to be in prime shape for breeding. We are really optimistic this time.”

Not everyone shares Wirruohsi’s optimism. Though the alien breeding program has been a wide success in general, no humans have yet to be born in captivity. And not without considerable effort. The human female—adorably nicknamed Cluecl, due to her relatively small stature—was abducted from the “Hong Kong” quadrant close to 11 solar rotations ago but has yet to bear, or even conceive, a human child. Since the female is now roughly 40 solar rotations old, this may be her last chance to produce offspring. “There is still just a lot that we don’t know about human mating practices,” Wirrouhsi said, “but we have learned and continue to learn so much about this strange species. For example, we have always known that humans are a non-verbal species but we are now starting to think that the guttural sounds they make from their food intake is a primitive sort of language, maybe even making up 7% or more of their

communication. This is profoundly shifting our understanding of how human pairing might happen.”

In spite of these findings, the Prime Kyb has expressed dismay over the overall failure of the project thus far, noting that over 3 billion Crem have been spent on this project with no concrete results. Even Wirrouhsi has conceded that things have not gone as planned. “Our first attempt was a disaster. We know that it is the female that usually selects her mate in most species, so we thought the most natural way to go about this would be to supply Cluecl with two males to choose from. We thought at first that the males were doing a sort of fight or competition to earn the female’s attention. They would attach to each other’s food intakes, sometimes with a small tendril emerging from each food intake to interlock with the other’s, they would also rub each other with their appendages frequently. We thought it was an inefficient way to kill a rival, and eventually have come to realize that they might be conducting a separate sort of mating ritual altogether.” They have since been relocated to D’evry Institute for further study.

Wirrouhsi insists that things will be different this time. “We have really done our homework. Though the neural pathways of humans are too complicated for us to meld with, our researchers have been able to inhabit the minds of the canines and felines that cohabitate with them and have thus been able to watch humans copulate in their natural environment for some time now and that has really increased our understanding.” When asked what specific changes have resulted from these observations, Wirrouhsi explained: “Everything, oh everything! We now believe that humans have an entire protocol that must be followed before mating can begin and we have completely redesigned their habitat to suit that purpose. For example, we have supplied our new male with severed earth plant genitals—what our research team now calls “flowers”—to present to the female. And each meal time will now be accompanied with

cylindrical pillars of wax set aflame alongside a repetitious rhythmic noise that our researchers call “David Bowie.” We have also scattered additional plant genitals upon their sleeping area. We believe that this is some sort of religious ritual. It’s just a matter of time now.”

Tryq’uq Frokhapho, professor of alien studies at D’evry Institute, says that he is cautiously optimistic about the new habitat, but stresses that we should wait before getting too excited. “There is just an awful lot we don’t know about humans and how they mate,” he said. “We have found small tentacles inside their food intake and we have discovered a somewhat larger tentacle on the lower region of the male, but even that is barely the size of a kribroth. How they manage to procreate with just three tentacles is amazing. Especially since their bodies are incredibly limited in regards to flexibility and flight. And that’s just anatomy. Some of my colleagues believe that there may be an additional unseen component to human sexuality. Maybe smell or something. I don’t know. I just know that I can’t wait to see what happens.”

So far not much has happened at all. Since his arrival the new male—nicknamed “Gid” because of his pale complexion and red hair—has done little but try to escape. Cluecl has been trepidatious around the new male so far. Seemingly unsure of what to think of her new mate, she has mostly remained in her quarters. Everyone involved hopes that this is just a period of settling in. Tomorrow evening Wirrouhsi will begin to supplement the human’s meals with a liquid made of fermented grape. Even though it acts as a mild poison to the humans, Wirrouhsi insists that it is also part of the ritual. Only time will tell. The Prime Kyb has stated that if no copulation has occurred within the first month, they will scrap the program and try mating the humans with sex robots.