

Found Poetry Project Free Writing

Word count: 460/A level

When they first arrived, we thought everything would change. Well, I can't deny that everything did change, but it is remarkable how much everything has stayed the same. Aliens! The first we knew of them was when they dropped out of warp into orbit around Earth. A collective comprised of over 100 races, with thousands of planets under their control. Technology that we could only begin to comprehend the workings of. FTL travel, genetic editing, terraforming, the list goes on and on. They offered to uplift us, share their technology with us. How could we refuse? With their help, humanity finally truly launched itself off of its world and into space.

For a while, everything went amazingly. Humanity took a while to get its footing, find its niche, but hey, what do you expect? We mostly kept to ourselves for the first couple hundred years. We wanted to become a unified people before we tried to join the council. However, humans being humans, no one could agree on exactly how to do that. A few wars, a couple glassed planets, a diplomatic scandal or two, and one blown up star later (we're still not sure how they managed that), humanity finally united under the banner of the United Terran Government. Of course, even after all of the governments agreed to this, there were plenty of individuals and groups who rejected this, and it took another hundred years to get rid of all the insurgencies (mostly). Five hundred years after first contact, humanity finally felt that it had it together enough to join the galactic community as a whole.

That's not to say that humanity had zero contact with the Collective since contact, there was plenty of trade and exchange going on, it was all just unofficial up until that point. The Collective required all member states to have a united government to be able to join, but still allowed trade and communication with non-member species. Finally united, Humanity was ready to embrace The Collective and the promise of a perfect, united galaxy.

The process for joining The Collective was relatively short and painless, but it wasn't long after that the problems started. In uniting, Humanity had done their best to eliminate corruption, to become our ideals, to shy away from achieving only personal gain, and instead work and contribute to the good of our species. However, we quickly found out that this was not how the rest of the galaxy functioned. Instead of a free exchange of knowledge, we found jealously guarded secrets. Instead of loyalty and professionalism, we found that without leverage, be it money or force, it was hard to make headway anywhere. It was somewhat ironic. No matter how different we were, we were still the same.

Authors note: I'm not happy with this ending at all. I'd like to possibly expand it further, but I'm not sure where it would go.