



Act V
Scene 3

Anomalous Materials

Author: Mike Crawford

Faegan stares blankly at the empty space where her captain and crewmates had been standing two seconds ago. Huge, hemispherical cavities of varying sizes have been carved out of the rock below where their feet had just been.

Suppressing her panic, she rushes back through the airlock into the ship, and uses the scanners to search for her friends' communicators on the barren planet.

Nothing.

For a brief moment, she considers fleeing...

No, she'd never forgive herself. She wasn't that kind of thief.

Suddenly, the back of the ship creaks threateningly. The noise spreads through the ship like a wave, until it reaches her in the cockpit –

Oof. It feels like her weight just doubled. She collapses into her seat.

The gravity fluctuation passes, but alarms are now covering the panel. Some kind of structural damage to one of the ship's landing jets. If it isn't repaired before take-off, the ship might not be able to land again without suffering even more damage.

She jumps out of the chair, moving for the repair kit at the back of the cockpit, and notices that dozens of peculiarly-shaped, smooth bits of rock now pepper the interior of the ship. Where did they come from?

The situation is even worse in the engine room – there are strange green objects embedded in the walls. They look almost like fossils. And some unusual pictures have integrated themselves with the landing jet's ventilation panel...



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The puzzle consists of several interconnected parts:

- Top Left:** A grid with symbols v_T , τ , μ , v_e in the left column and e , s , v_μ in the right column. A red diamond is in the top-right cell.
- Top Right:** A grid with symbols Ge, Pt, Ru, B in the top row; C, Xe, S, H in the second row; Br, Cs in the third row; Cu, V in the fourth row; Gd, Cn in the fifth row.
- Middle Left:** Two vertical columns. The left column contains N, K, V, He. The right column contains Ac, P, Rb, Au.
- Middle Right:** A grid with symbols Zr, Y, Nb in the top row; Ag, Pd, Cd in the second row; Mn, I, Xe, Te, Rb in the bottom row. A red diagonal line is drawn through the bottom row.
- Bottom Left:** A grid with symbols Db, Mg in the top row; Re, Li, Cd in the second row; Cr, Hs, Es in the third row; O, F in the bottom row. A green grid pattern is overlaid on the middle rows.
- Bottom Middle:** A grid with symbols Zn, Fe, V in the top row; Pd, Ag, Cu in the second row; Co, Cr, W in the third row; Au, Pt in the fourth row; As, Ni in the fifth row.
- Bottom Right:** A diagram with a central grey circle. Above it are symbols Na, Cl, F. Below it are Uus, Br, At. A ladder-like structure is on the right side.
- Bottom Center:** A grid with symbols d, e, μ in the top row; three empty dashed boxes in the middle; t, τ , b in the bottom row. A red line is drawn through the bottom row.