Prologue

What is the purpose of life and where is our place in the stars? I don't know, but perhaps we should stop asking and start figuring out. Man has always explored the horizons and now in 2025, the only way is outward. However, there continues to exist the limits of space travel. Challenging is having an infinite amount of funds and the sustainable energy to get far away from the Earth and carry on life in the process.
Once these are accomplished, we can chart missions to the Moon with ease and rapid succession. Building a Moon Colony will be essential to further life on another celestial body and to build communities that will flourish and develop the space technology to travel to Mars.
The time and distance to travel to Mars from the Moon will be long and challenging. That is why it is more efficient to build orbiting space stations along the way. Three station outposts would be ideal, each with its own inhabitants serving as crew. Spacecraft would be able to refuel along each outpost and reach Mars with ease.
Trips to Mars could be made monthly and the population would grow vastly on the Red Planet. Within a matter of years, a new population of hundreds of thousands could populate Mars. These would be the forefathers that begin the next generation of space travelers.

Chapter 1

To tackle the first problem of securing enough money, one has to look to be fully self-sustaining financially. This can be accomplished from being analytical enough to gain profit through investing.

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Earth's first space visionaries had little money to begin with, but through ingenuity and hard work they were able to amass trillions of credits. They basically funded all future space missions and continue to generate funds through savvy investing and creating scales of plentitude. 'The money is out there as they said, you just need to know how to make it!'

Chapter 2

There was a robot named Miti:

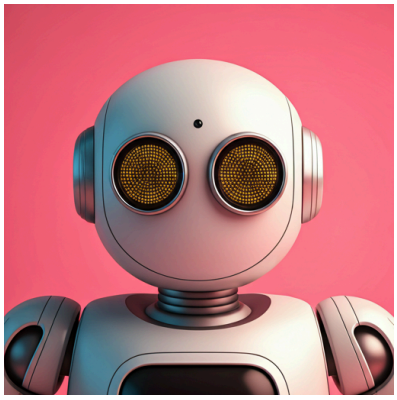

Image created by Gemini

Miti was a space robot designed to do all the tasks a human was expected of for space flight missions. But Miti did not have the limitations that a human had while traveling in space. Miti was a 1st generation AI space-bot. It was manufactured at SpaceFactory from state of the art government military surplus. Powered by a fusion power source that was auto-replenished from movement and a quantum computer brain, Miti was quite powerful. On its first mission to Mars, Miti saved a SpaceForce's spacecraft from solar storm gales that rocked the vehicle off course. Miti never panics, as emotion is not part of its programming, and even through a crash will continue to operate as normal. Its mission is to carry out whatever is needed to endure a space mission to success and to explore the vast universe with precision, skill and aptitude. On Mission 14, Miti was forced to put down a human traveler that had succumbed to space insanity. This unfortunate disease is when a human has been in microgravity too long and has been exposed to the harmful effects of radiation and becomes unable to operate. It is currently untreatable and the only course of action is euthanization by robot injection. If intervention is avoided, the human will go frothy and attempt to sabotage the mission and attack all inhabitants on board. Termination of the patient is the most ideal course of action to take for the good of all and continuation of the mission.

On Mission 51, Miti was exploring the surface of Jupiter for solid surfaces to land the team's spacecraft, Explorer 1. The surface of the gas giant had not been explored before and there was little data that was known because of the thick gaseous atmosphere. Tethered to a titanium rope, it was lowered to the surface from where it ignited its powered jetpacks to traverse from one location to another. Miti finally found an island made of silica after an hour into the search. The island was the size of Manhattan and provided plenty of space for the large spacecraft to land. It would thereafter be colonized as New Manhattan.

Image created by Gemini

Upon securing its feet to the surface of New Manhattan, Miti lit up like a bright light bulb that could be seen from one of Jupiter's moons. The humans onboard Explorer 1 initiated the auto-pilot sequence to land the craft on the surface. The crew of 10 exited the spaceship and were the first people of Earth to step foot on Jupiter. After a 5 day exploration of the island, they found volcanoes that were active. There were also caves that burrowed deep into the Jupiterranean rock. It was established that this was a habitable environment and Miti signaled back to the closest orbiting station between Mars and Jupiter to initiate the next mission to habitat the planet. There are currently 10 orbiting stations between the two planets. Over the next year a population of 100,000 soon formed and 10,000 Miti prototypes aided the habitation and exploration of the part of Jupiter surrounding New Manhattan.

Chapter 3

"What's the matter?", said the engineer to the soldier. "It's not budging at all!", replied the soldier as he leaned into the large wrench snug around the bolt. "Well, let me give you a hand or two.", as both got behind the handle of the wrench leaning into it attempting to turn the bolt counter-clockwise. All of sudden the bolt loosened albeit too fast and both went tumbling forward onto the ground, breathing a sigh of relief along with a giggle. That was the last sentry capsule that needed to be removed in order for the first step in energy refueling that allows the orbiting station to begin rotation and move forward in its orbit around the Moon. Both men have been working on the orbiting station for over a decade and progress has been swift and rewarding. Orbital 1 was the station closest to the Moon and gravitated towards it on a 30 day cycle linking close enough to Orbital 2 at the 15 day mark. Orbital 2 circled the Earth on a 150 day orbit and you guessed it, linked with Orbital 3 at day 75. Orbital 3 is the distant station and orbits Mars every 6 months. Depending on the location of Earth, Moon, and Mars in the Solar

System - linkages can be made between Orbital 2 and 3 every 3, 5, or 7 months. “That’s enough for today, let’s grab some space-beers”, bellowed the engineer as the soldier fired up the ion engines to the space-truck both came in on. For your information, space-beers contain 0% alcohol and have the same effect as beer on Earth in that the oxygen and hydrogen compounds are engineered in a way to give a great taste and light buzz. In fact, these beverages are full of vitamin c and calcium along with fortified proteins to ward off the prolonged effects of microgravity and radiation of space. As both raced down the space freeway, they marvelled at the hard work they have done over the past year. Over 100 missions accomplished and the same amount of sentry capsule jobs performed to keep Orbital 1 in tip-top shape. Sentry capsules are the housing the fusion powered cells that keep the station running. They tighten up and clamp down on the fusion cells as they expend energy through a thermonuclear process. Closing this capsule conserves energy to the maximum amount possible and prevents nuclear radiation from expanding into the community. After each nuclear fusion reaction has calmed to absolute zero, the sentry capsules are, and have to be manually loosened to reload the *energenium* isotope and begin the process all over again.

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Chapter 4

The team slugged on against the dreary redness of the Martian sunset. Team Alpha-bravo was assigned to set up the base nodes that would be the foundry of the first Martian base camp. Venturers who had been to the top of Everst ten times, could barely move 10 meters without needing to rest to catch their breath. This environment was brutal, far harsher than any location expedition to the most difficult treks of Antarctica. Robot technology was not advanced enough yet so most of the legwork still has to be done by humans. It would be another decade before AI would be able to do more than fly spaceships and pinpoint the most ideal flight windows for missions. This was the rough age of space exploration and the wild west in colonizing the Red Planet. Many sacrifices were made and many perished along the way. Burial was not an option

as it was more efficient to utilize the bodies as rocket fuel. The carbon makeup of the human body made it combustible and ideal for powering the next team of humans to their destination. Newton's 3rd Law says you have to leave something behind to move forward. It is truth and the push forward that motivates all of us. It is the light of a new dawn and the ideal of greater aspirations that propel us forward each step to treatments of attaining the knowledge of the Universe. These things are why we sacrifice and move on accomplishing feats and treacheries. Soon victory will be near and the exploration of the Solar System will be the first step to going to Interstellar. Then comes the big adventure that we know nothing about but are willing to go.

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