

Sofia Turner

Political Theory

Lilly Goren

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### Thought Experiment; First Draft

#### *Day 1*

After waking up on Planet 7X, alongside 9999 strangers, we were confused, dazed, and a little reluctant to be there and doing something. I mean, what do you do when you wake up in a random place with random people? Unfortunately, my first thought was to check for my phone which I had, but with no signal and half a battery what was I to do? The way I imagined this new world was like Lord of the Flies, I am surrounded by strangers, new wildlife and nature, as well as no way to get back home (so, I thought). Since everyone was in the same predicament, people started to converse and ask questions. We all spoke Esperanto so at least we could understand one another, but we still had no clue what to do. There is no government, no laws, rules, structure, anything, it's honestly a little scary when you think about it. And, if it is anything like Lord of the Flies then I want no parts. Undeniably, the only way this will work is through teamwork and organisation. The smart thing to do would be to divide ourselves into groups, among individuals of around the same age and profession, this way, we would be able to know what each individual role is and how they can help. I believe this new society should value freedom and security, while also prioritizing equality and wellness, no one is inherently better than the next, nor will anyone have more control or power over the majority just based on their qualities.

Right away a few people tried to assert dominance, mostly men, sort of rich, nice profession, the stereotypical 'asserting control' type. I understand in some situations these types of people can act as leaders or get others to listen to them, but in this situation, I feel like it's more so about one's skills, personality, and how they actually treat others, not being focused on power or the 'reward' they will get out of it. Obtaining leadership should be earned, not just assumed based on rank or other attributes. Personally, I'd like an anarchy form of leadership to allow us to be united. Despite the men who claimed leadership randomly, I did notice other individuals connecting with each other, parents checking on their children, nurses or doctors tending to the elderly and offering their assistance when needed, regular people just providing guidance and support. It's clear that most individuals will prefer working together then listening to one ruler, and I believe that when certain individuals stand out the most, they will be given the honor to help guide us through this process, without needing something in return.

*A few days in (3 maybe)*

Decision making has been a big challenge, as hectic as the first day was, we all somehow came together to figure out how to set up shelters, those who knew wilderness or handy skills provided the most insight when it came to building a hut, starting a fire, and the food situation. Due to this society being more of an anarchy, we decided to form groups of individuals like I mentioned earlier where people of different professions or similar age ranges can help in specific areas, like the children that were old enough to comprehend what was going on, were tasked with collecting twigs, leaves, and dry goods to help with building the fires. No one was commanding anyone but rather everyone as a collective is being split up into different groups to work on different things. Anyone could propose, exchange, or dismiss ideas and we went with what

worked. We allowed the farmers and gardeners to guide us on how and where to plant crops, as well as how to deal with certain animals, which ones to tame for domestic purposes, and which ones we'd actually have to hunt. The animals here are really unique, unicorns exist on this planet, and are basically like regular horses, so we decided to try and get them for transportation purposes. Insects are big, like, prehistoric big, they are not harmful though and mosquitoes apparently aren't around. Regular forest rodents like squirrels, mice, etc. All look the same and don't bother much, the birds continue to sing their songs but in siren like harmonies that feel luring and sinister at times. It's all a lot to take in.

Labor seems like the easiest thing to get done, those that know what to do naturally gravitate towards it. Hunters, farmers, gardeners, and wilderness explorers all help normal citizens with tasks they are keener on. Teachers are getting the kids together to not only give the parents a slight break but also begin teaching them what they know about this new planet. Of course, not all jobs can be done here, at least not now, so we work with what we have, and everyone has a helping hand. We all understand that not everyone can perform the same tasks, and therefore we try and be as open and honest as possible to prevent confusion or frustration. Those that cannot do much physically help in spiritual, caregiving, ways, teaching others in more ways than one. Slowly, but surely, we as a new society are beginning to understand one another. One thing we have learned is that what existed on Earth, doesn't necessarily exist on Planet 7X, (we actually want to call this new world, Novaterra which means new Earth but sounds 10x better). For example, there are people who still are tied to their religion from home, so those who had similar beliefs did find comfort in others knowing they share something in common, marking the beginning of subcultures within our big one. Women were still very concerned for their safety, as they should be, so there were certain camp areas that were women and children

only. Some individuals, those who initially tried to assert dominance formed their own community, but often got ignored, if they didn't want to fully participate, we wouldn't force them, but we also wouldn't give them the time of day either.

## *Week 2*

Unfortunately it wouldn't be a human society without conflict or crime. Sexual harassment and other abuses have already occurred. However, without laws, or ordinances, the community wasn't sure what to do. After much conversation, we decided on restorative justice circles (I learned about something similar in a criminal justice class, so I brought up this idea). The idea of restorative justice allows for offenders to meet with their victims and the community to somehow repair the harm they have caused, they, as well as the community all must agree on the consequences, while allowing the offender to rebuild everyone's trust. Now we haven't had to deal with a more gruesome crime like murder yet, but we did come to the decision that if someone was to commit a heinous crime, it would be a societal vote on whether that person deserves to live or die. However, the only way one can be put to death, is if there is plausible evidence connecting said individual to the crime. Anyone who was an offender on Earth got a clean slate, and if they were repeat offenders they were then closely monitored, mostly by ex-military officials or police officers. Although the system is not perfect and still has its flaws, it is a reflection of how we decided to do things. We push for freedom, but it needs to be responsible, we earn trust, but it cannot be forced.

## *A few weeks in*

Lately, I've reflected on how our choice of an anarchist society makes sense for Novaterra, hierarchies would slow decision making, create resentment, and risk someone abusing their power. Allowing individuals the freedom to do as they want, voluntary cooperation, mutual respect for everyone, and still allowing for people to earn some type of authority/leadership role all help our society progress. We have created a functional, fair, and so far, sustainable society that will hopefully prosper as long as we need it to. Novaterra has taught me something about people, and even myself. This kind of freedom doesn't mean that we have no structure, but rather that we've built things on trust and vulnerability, it's a freedom structure that allows for everyone to help each other and not be standoffish or hostile.