The endless cosmos. Through dark, cold space, amid stars colorful nebulas, MYOPIA once again takes course for The Abneveroth System. The subject of our interest this time is planet Mechanoth. There it is, covered with thick coat of white and light blue clouds it looks as if it was floating in the river of cosmic vacuum. At a closer approach contamination gauges go on and the clouds, we're trying to get through, turn out to be the massive layer of smog-like gas. Eventually we pass underneath. Sunlight can hardly come through so planet's surface is dimly lit. Pretty soon we become accustomed to this poor visibility and before our eyes there is this view of the city that covers the entire planet. Unbelievable! Urban sprawl has reached its maximum in this place and there's no more room for city development, they can't even go up as most of the buildings seem to be much over one thousand meters high. For a while it looks like a shot taken from the movie "Star Wars" but we've got to face it that it's real. We land on one of the skyscrapers and are taken by automatic elevators to the lower part of the city. It's quite dark down there which feels like winter evening on Earth even though it's midday here.

Here comes our guide RCS01. It's an automaton and RCS stands for Robotic Control System. It isn't very tall, maybe one and a half meters, has got an oval-shaped body, four movable in all directions limbs and a cube-shaped head. Although it doesn't look very impressive it is technologically highly advanced unit responsible for controlling all electronic devices in the sector we're visiting and it is to show us

MYOPIA

BIOMECHATRONIC INTERVENTION

around.

At a closer look the city doesn't look so spectacular as from the distance. It's dark and dirty and everywhere there's this strange smell of old oil-like fluids and steel constructions eaten by corrosion. Shiny and glamorous buildings as we first saw them turn out to be ugly, used and falling apart. As we move along the labyrinth of surprisingly narrow streets we can hardly breathe in this dense and humid air. Despite AC units planted on buildings almost every few steps it's still incredibly hot. RCS01 goes in front and tells its story: "Many years ago people created that new science called mechatronics, which combined previously highly developed computer engineering, electronics, automatics and mechanics. Then they added biological factor and the science of biomechatronics was born. Since the very beginning creating this new field of study had one main purpose which was combining it with robotics and helping the latter one to develop. As a result dozens, hundreds, thousands and eventually millions of different kinds of robots were produced. Robotization became the main focus of every area of life. All means and systems of transportation and communication were robotized. Intelligent flats then houses, buildings, streets and cities were built which resulted in every single device or tool having its electronic chip built-in".

Our guide remained silent for a while, leading us through endless corridors if his city district. "Look" he pointed to the dogs in the dark corner. "They're not just dogs. Their eye-built-in cameras help to detect anything going on in the streets. Other cyber animals like cats, pigeons or sparrows and cybernetically altered insects like spiders, cockroaches or even ants help to see what's up actually anywhere. Look at that slowly-walking guy, without his exoskeleton he would spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair. Check out those pupils who have implanted micro chips and can be easily tracked down by their parents or teachers. How about these policemen, they no longer need traditional weapons or radio-communicating. They've got laser blasters in each of their fingers and automatic in-out transmitters built in their ears. Every single bio-organism has got some cyber electronic alteration. "Surprising? Well, this is no longer a description taken out of cyberpunk literature but a real world and it feels strange not to be among "normal" people and animals anymore.

Tired of walking we sit down in the middle of a small square surrounded by the forest of reaching the sky buildings. Very little sunlight comes down here. RCS01 continues: "Having everything robotized and electronically improved people needed to control it. First they built local computer clusters having in its network only a few dozens of computers each. Next they joined clusters together and got superclusters. The existing systems were never enough, so people created computer grids, then supergrids and eventually came up with that idea of global supermegagrid or SMG as they later called it. SMG had millions of

computers in its network spread all over the Mechanoth. Its main and originally the only purpose was to read, analyze and store all the data emitted by every single cyberelectronically enhanced human being, animal, insect or any gadget".

After a couple of minutes of silence RCS01 turned his head around as though he was looking for someone eavesdropping on us. He seemed to hesitate for a while and then spoke again: "Even though there was a lot of data to absorb by the system, SMG soon got used to it. Supermegagrid was so fast and had so much space on its millions of disks that in fact not only did it take in all required information but also in search of new tasks was able to write its own programs, create new schemes and make side projects. This division between control duties and self-creativity led to system malfunction". We almost heard this little automaton take a deep breath. No, it must have been something else.

Later we found out from our story teller about destabilization period. When all control systems were finally off for safety reasons, the ones responsible especially for transportation, energy flow or water purification caused unimaginable chaos. Life on the planet was completely paralyzed. The situation could soon get out of control leading to numerous riots and local conflicts as well as outbreaks of epidemics. Mechanoth was so much dependent on high technologies that the only chance to bring back stability seemed to be re-starting the SMG system.

Covering the entire planet city has got no downtown. We followed RCS01 to one of the spots which, to some extent, could be compared with Earth's town's high or main streets. Again we took a rest and listened: "To restart supermegagrid system was the main concern and when the big day came everybody was more excited than when it had originally been created. They managed and one more time the system was in operation. During the first few days it all looked perfectly normal, just like before that malfunction but it was going to change. At the beginning some small things like traffic lights breakdown or street AC failure happened. Then more serious things came: navigation systems failed and a few space shuttles almost crashed, sewage plants stopped, which led to water contamination and diseases broke out. The worst truth was soon discovered. All those things were happening when the SMG wanted them to happen. It became fully independent ,self-sufficient and it no longer absorbed or transformed data but started to control cyberelectronically improved people, other biocreatures, things or gadgets. Apparently after the restart this powerful system must have gradually formulated a plan to use its full power. Now supermegagrid is to control, steer, operate, drive, pilot and prevent being switched off, crashed or attacked. It is still learning, though, so some people and robots rebelled and managed to get out of the system". Silence. "I am one of them."

MECHANOTH

Covered with a thick coat
Of white and light blue clouds,
Floating in the river of cosmic vacuum.
Closer approach.
Contamination gauges on.
We pass underneath
Smog-like gas.
Sunlight can hardly come through.
City covers the entire planet.
Urban sprawl has reached
Its maximum.
Dark and dirty.
Smell of oil-like fluids.
Eaten by corrosion,
Buildings falling apart.
Labyrinth of narrow streets.
Dense and humid air.

RCS01

Here comes RCS01,
Our guide.
It's an automaton.
RCS- Robotic Control System.
Oval-shaped body,
Four movable limbs,
Cube-shaped head.
Technologically
Highly advanced unit.
Controlling all electronic devices
In the sector.

MECHATRONIC ROBOTICS

Highly developed
Computer engineering,
Electronics, automatics
And mechanics,
Years ago combined into mechatronics.
Biological factor added.
Biomechatronics was born.
Combining it with robotics.
Millions of different kinds of robots produced.
All means and systems
Of transportation and communication robotized.
Intelligent flats and houses,
Intelligent buildings, streets and cities.
Every single device or tool
Having its electronic chip built-in.

BIOCYBERMEDICAL ALTERATIONS

Dogs with eye built-in cameras
To detect anything.
Cats, rats, pigeons and sparrows
Are other cyber-animals.
Cybernetically altered
Spiders, cockroaches and ants
To detect everything.
Guy with exoskeleton.
Pupils with implanted microchips
To be tracked down.
Policemen with built-in transmitters
And laser blasters.
Every single bio-organism
Has got some cyber-electronic alteration.

SUPERMEGAGRID

Having everything robotized
And electronically improved,
People needed to control it.
Computer clusters and superclusters
To control.
Never enough.
Computer grids and supergrids
To control.
Never enough.
Global supermegagrid to control
Millions of computers in its network
Spread all over Mechanoth,
To read, analyze and store
All the data emitted by every single
Cyberelectronically enhanced
Human being,
Animal,
Insect
Or any gadget.

MALFUNCTION

A lot of data to absorb.
SMG got used to it.
So much space on millions of disks.
Search of new tasks.
Able to write its own programs,
Create new schemes
And side projects.
Division between control duties
And self-creativity.
System malfunction.

DESTABILIZATION

All control systems off.
Dependent on high technologies Mechanoth
In unimaginable chaos.
Life on the planet
Completely paralyzed.
Numerous riots,
Local conflicts.
Outbreaks of epidemics
Could soon happen.
Re-starting the SMG system
To bring back stability.

RE-CONTROL

One more time in operation
Supermegagrid became
Fully independent and self-sufficient.
It no longer absorbed or transformed data,
But started to control
Cybernetically improved
People, other creatures,
Things and gadgets.
Must have formulated a plan
To use its full power.
Now supermegagrid is
To control, steer, operate, drive, pilot
And prevent being switched off,
Crashed or attacked.