

File No.01 Gundam Astraea

Aeolia Shenberg was a gifted scientist who passed away roughly two hundred years ago. He devised the basic theory of the solar-power system in the orbital elevators and advocated the concept of the current humanoid machines called mobile suits. Furthermore, he founded the private armed organization Celestial Being with the idea of eradicating warfare through armed intervention. However, people in this age are unaware of his true intentions.



The year is now A.D. 2292.

It is fifteen years before the future Celestial Being appears before the world, which is currently engulfed in a storm of epic reformation.

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"This girl is Chall Acoustica?" Ruido thought to himself.

The girl with large, captivating eyes stood in front of Ruido, seemingly crushed with anxiety.

"It's natural."

She had become a member of the secret armed organization at the young age of sixteen. According to the data that Ruido had reviewed, she had left excellent records in power-loader competitions during her school days. The organization's integrated computer, Veda, had its eye on her skill.

"Welcome to Celestial Being," Ruido said, slowly extending his hand to Chall in a pleasant manner.

"Thank you," Chall said, grasping Ruido's hand without any hesitation and pumping it back unexpectedly.

"This girl is fine."

Ruido was sure of it. Veda had undoubtedly chosen her for not only her technical abilities but also her other skills.

"My name is Ruido Resonance. I'm Celestial Being's Gundam Meister."

"Gundam... Meister?"

"That's right. From now on, you're also a Gundam Meister."

"Right."

For the first time, Chall smiled.

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Krung Thep, a space colony floating in Lagrange 3. Celestial Being constructed the colony for the development of Gundams. Borrowed from Thai, the colony's name means "City of Angels." With a diameter of 1 kilometer and a length of 500 meters, the cylinder hosts a residential section in the center and has an umbrella-shaped tip that houses a huge mirror. Although a small residential colony, its size was enough for it to be a bridge to the universe in a time when space development had not fully begun. Of course, it cannot be stressed enough that the colony was an adequate facility for Gundam development. Lagrange 3's Krung Thep is the farthest from the moon, so there are no other colonies. There are no neighbors.

When the orbital elevator is complete, space exploration will be fully underway, and the situation will change completely.

The orbital elevator.

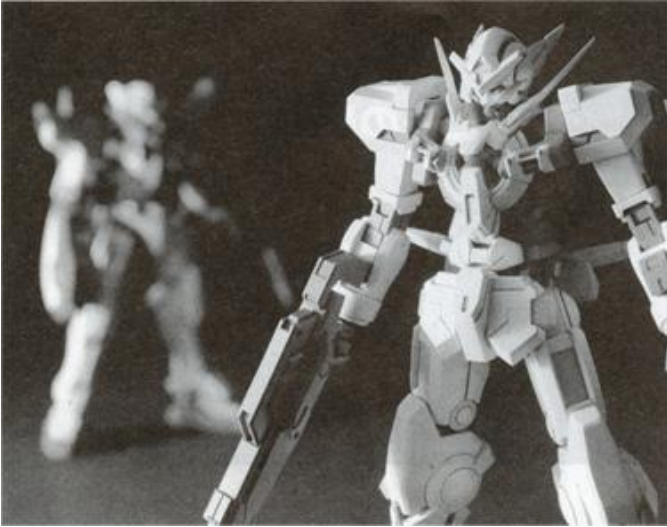
Not only does that make space development easier, but the age-old dream of mankind, a permanent energy supply system of solar power, can be realized. However, the dream system that was a new source of fire for mankind is an ironical thing. A solar-power dispute had broken out between the advocates and opponents over the orbital elevator. The dream system widened the gap between those who could possess the power and those who could not. Construction of the orbital elevator was promoted by the Union, the Human Reform League, and the AEU. These huge alliances of nations continue to grow. On the other hand, however, the Middle Eastern countries were in a critical situation because they no longer received economic benefits after fossil fuels were exhausted.

And so disputes happen.

Mankind still fights amongst itself, a remnant of the distant past. With no other choice, Aeolia created the plan for Celestial Being and the Gundams. For the permanent eradication of warfare, the development of the Gundams needed to be completed immediately.

Gundam Meister Ruido Resonance sympathized with the ideals of Aeolia. He answered the call of Veda and chose the path of a Gundam Meister, all for the sake of eradicating warfare...

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"This is a Second-generation Gundam, Unit 1, GNY-001 Astraea."

The factory bloc of Krung Thep. Ruido took Chall there first. He wanted to show her the Gundam before anything else. She deserved to feel the courage and vigor that he felt when he first saw a Gundam.

"This is... a Gundam?"

Before Ruido could point it out, a huge mobile suit with a white base stood up. It was different from the Union's and the AEU's, and it wasn't a rough unit like the Human Reform League's. Chall got the impression from the man near her. The unit had circular parts in its midsection, and the GN Drive inside was what defined Gundams.

"Astraea," Chall mouthed. The mysterious weapon's name didn't appear to give off any warmth.

"It's fitting, don't you think? It's named after the goddess of justice, the woman depicted on the Tarot card 'justice.' She carries a sword in her right hand and scales in her left."

Chall nodded quietly. She couldn't take her eyes off of the Astraea. Ruido murmured, "Good," and continued his story for her.

"But I dunno who selected the tarot card's name for the Second-generation Gundam."

Chall turned forcefully to face Ruido, her mouth and eyes wide open in disbelief.

"Impossible. Twenty-two Gundam units were created?"

"Huh?" Ruido questioned, not understanding what Chall said at first.

"But the tarot card is the twenty-second..."

Ruido couldn't help but laugh, causing Chall to blush with embarrassment.

Twenty-two Gundams to match the tarot card. What an active imagination. It is only true that realizing their ideal with such force would be easy, which conversely makes it possible to declare the need for such force. However...

"No, no. There are ten Second-generation Gundam units planned, but there are only five GN Drive units."

"Is that right?"

"I don't have much hope for it, but Astraea is a good name, isn't it? We try to eradicate warfare through force. I know it seems like a contradiction. But at least with that, they'll associate the name of Gundam with justice."

"I suppose you're right."

Chall smiled at Ruido's words. While her facial expression said otherwise, Ruido couldn't overlook how depressed she felt.

"Is this natural...? She joined the reckless organization that challenges the world to a match with several Gundam units." Ruido reflected about the grave situation again. It was something he should forget. And if he didn't, he'd slump into the feeling of loss, which would be devastating. However...

"All right then. Now, I'll show you the other Gundam Meister's place."

"I have my comrades. There is no support as strong as them when it comes to shaking off that feeling of loss." Ruido thought to himself as he noted that the person was a woman.

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The woman is clearly abnormal. No, that expression is probably too modest. Put bluntly, there are *abnormalities*. She is beautiful and has a straight face that showed strong will and high intellect.

But the scenario she had been forced into destroyed all that.

She was in a room surrounded by thick iron bars. She was even wearing large handcuffs and a collar around her neck. Although there no chain was attached, it turns out that the blinking collar was an explosive for high-risk prisoners. If they were to escape, the carotid artery of the neck would be blown away. "This person has no human rights," is something they meant to say.

"This woman is Marlene Brady. Marlene, this is Chall Acoustica, your new partner."

Ruido introduced the two like classmates in high school.

"..."

Marlene did not bother to reply, let alone look at her.

"My my my, are we in a pissy mood today?"

Ruido seemed to ignore the fact that she was bound and continued with the conversation. Chall, however, felt uneasy and blurted out her question.

"Ruido... Um... Why is Marlene like that...?"

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Marlene gave Chall a piercing stare.

"Do you really want to know about me, young lady?"

"Uh... No..."

"You don't have to hesitate. We're going to spend a long time together anyways. As you can see, I'm restrained. There aren't a lot of reasons why people are restrained. Wouldn't you agree?"

Marlene paused as if she was waiting for a reply from Chall, but it was difficult for her to reply because she was overwhelmed by the situation.

After the pause, Marlene continued.

"I am a felon. I have no rights. You do not want to become a Gundam Meister. But I was different... I'm just a part that makes the Gundam move."

Chall froze. Ruido tried to fix things, but he couldn't find the words to do so because what Marlene had said was true.

Now that the three Gundam Meisters have met, they're able to foresee their destiny, which is a cold and heavy one.

NEXT FILE NO.2

GUNDAM MEISTER 874



Zeonic-Corps Scanlations Mobile Suit Gundam 00 Photonovel Staff

NEW RELEASE FROM ZEONIC!

Hey guys and gals, I just wanted to let you know that we here at Zeonic intend to stay up to date on the Gundam 00 related information coming from Japan, so that means we're starting ANOTHER project!

I know that we have other projects to complete so you're probably going to start bitching that this will take forever and a year to get done, but just take a look at the release you just read. This came out in Japan last month. Not bad, eh? You can expect the manga version, Gundam 00F to follow sometime soon.

As usual, we are still on the prowl for staff members. Our main need is, as always, **japanese translators**. If you are interested in signing on to our team, please visit our website or pop into our channel and talk to one of our operators.

Thank you to all of the fans out there who continue to make the Zeonic|Scanlations name a reputable name in the Gundam community. We're dedicated to providing you with the highest quality possible! You make us what we are!

-- Zeonic|Scanlations Staff

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