

Synopsis:

## THE ASTRAL IMPERATIVE

(Vol. III ReGENESIS)

THE ASTRAL IMPERATIVE (Vol. III ReGENESIS) is the third in a planned series of novels that profile humanity's expansion into the heavens. It is 2046, twelve long years since the astronauts on Mars joined their minds to the Dream Machine, all dying in the process of manifesting the Lady In Waiting in a computerized, celestial sphere. She is the projected holographic image of a magnificent woman framed in blue neon against a phantasmagoria of stars, pointing the way to salvation, to a distant pulsar on the far edge of the galaxy.

"I am," she said. "I am. Come." And the species was joined at the heart to the alien challenge.

But all subsequent efforts to join with the Dream Machine have failed and the Earth has relapsed into a deathly malaise. The overwhelming feeling of brotherhood and optimism left in the Lady's magnificent wake has been eclipsed by another cycle of cynicism. International tensions are rising again as more powerful Northern industrial countries continue to lean on weaker equatorial nations for spheres of influence.

Rather than look to deep space for salvation, and attempt to make contact with the alien intelligence that projected the Lady, the species has begun to colonize Mars. This policy is highly questionable and cannot possibly account for the billions who will perish on Earth in the great freeze, and no one can fathom a solution.

Humanity is verily resigned to its dim fate, when astronaut Yuri Popovitch wakes from twelve year coma (Samadhi?) on Mars with a controversial message from the Lady In Waiting. The only survivor of that first, ill fated manned mission to Mars, it is Yuri's timely awakening and claims to enlightenment that sparks a catharsis. Past theories and debates are revisited and revised until the intensity of the debate rivals the growing tensions on Earth and on Mars.

The conflicts reach a maddening pitch. The species is again poised at the pinnacle of annihilation when the Dream Machine is finally returned to Earth. Many more lives are lost in the process of joining until success grants humanity a vision of an alien universe, rife with unimagined terror and unparalleled majesty.

Problem: who gets to join with this marvelous Machine and travel to the far reaches of the cosmos and who gets left behind?

Solution: the entire species – if it can be joined to create one super-mind. It is in this mega process of joining that a new being may be fastened into one oddly conscious, ethereal body that will engage and explore the far reaches of alien space. It is this mass of energy, honed and compressed (with great difficulty) into one remarkable personality, that is all too human and nonetheless determined to be born again into the heart of God.