

Ace & Mai — Observation

Classification: Interlude / Character Insight **Timeline Placement:** Phase 7 — Post-Horizon Expansion **Characters:** Ace, Mai, Shamaterazu (Shammy), Violet (Fragment) **Location:** Coastal cliff, unspecified region **Continuity Notes:** Violet operates as an internal resonance within Ace rather than a physically present character.

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Observation

The sea was quiet.

Not silent — never silent — but breathing slowly against the rocks. Each wave rolled in, broke softly against the cliff, and pulled back into the dark water.

Ace sat on the edge of the stone, elbows on her knees.

The wind carried salt and cold air from the open horizon. Somewhere far away, a gull cried once before the night swallowed the sound.

It was one of the rare moments when nothing demanded her attention.

No anomalies. No rituals. No things trying to tear reality apart.

Just the ocean.

After a while Ace exhaled slowly.

“Okay,” she muttered. “You can stop pretending you're asleep.”

For a moment nothing happened.

Then a voice answered inside her mind.

Dry. Curious.

I was not pretending.

Ace smirked slightly.

“Sure.”

A pause.

Ace.

“Hm?”

There is something I do not understand.

Ace leaned back slightly, looking at the horizon.

“That’s a long list.”

This one is specific.

The fragment seemed to hesitate, as if arranging thoughts.

Why do humans want to touch each other so much?

Ace blinked.

"...what?"

Physical proximity. *Skin contact.* *Humans seek it constantly.*

Ace stared out at the water for a moment.

"That's... a big topic."

I am aware.

Another wave struck the rock.

When you and Mai are together...

Ace raised an eyebrow.

Your heart rate changes. *Your breathing slows.* *Your neural activity stabilizes.*

Ace chuckled quietly.

"Are you spying on my vitals now?"

You are my host.

"...fair."

Another pause.

But there is more.

The voice continued.

You experience pleasure from contact. *Heat transfer. Pressure. Chemical release.*

Ace rubbed the back of her neck.

"Yeah. That's basically biology."

But it is inefficient.

Ace turned her head slightly.

"Inefficient?"

It reduces combat readiness.

Ace burst into quiet laughter.

"That is the most Violet answer you could possibly give."

I am serious.

"Of course you are."

For a moment only the sea spoke.

Explain it.

Ace thought for a while before answering.

"Okay."

She leaned back against the stone.

"Humans are... weirdly fragile."

I noticed.

"Yeah, thanks."

Ace smiled faintly.

"Being close to someone you trust does something to the brain. It tells you the world isn't trying to kill you right now."

But the world frequently attempts to kill you.

"True."

Ace shrugged.

"But not always."

Silence lingered.

So it is reassurance.

"Partly."

Ace watched the dark line of the horizon.

"It's also connection."

Define.

Ace thought for a moment.

"It's... proof."

Proof of what?

Ace answered quietly.

“Proof you’re not alone inside your own head.”

A wave broke against the rock.

Violet fell silent.

Then the fragment spoke again.

And sexual desire?

Ace sighed.

“Told you it was a big topic.”

It appears related to the same system.

“More or less.”

Ace nudged a small stone with her boot.

“Biology trying to make sure the species survives.”

Reproduction.

“Yeah.”

A pause.

But reproduction does not require affection.

Ace smiled slightly.

“No. It doesn’t.”

Yet humans combine the two.

“Sometimes.”

Often.

Ace shrugged.

“Because affection makes the whole thing... better.”

The fragment seemed to process this.

Then Violet spoke again.

You and Mai also experience this behavior with Shamaterazu.

Ace laughed quietly.

“Yeah. The universe decided to make that complicated.”

You appear happy when it happens.

Ace was quiet for a moment.

Then she said simply,

“Yeah.”

The wind shifted slightly.

I do not experience that.

Ace nodded faintly.

“I know.”

Another long pause.

Then Violet asked carefully,

Is that a disadvantage?

Ace considered the question.

“Not really.”

Why?

Ace looked out at the ocean.

“Because you understand things we don’t.”

Such as?

Ace smiled faintly.

“Like what it’s like to be alone inside someone else’s head.”

The fragment went quiet again.

Then, after a moment:

That explanation was unexpectedly reasonable.

Ace smirked.

“Careful. If you keep saying things like that people might start thinking you like humans.”

I did not say that.

Ace chuckled.

—

A subtle shift moved through the air.

Not sound.

Pressure.

Ace glanced to the side.

“Shammy.”

Shammy stood a few meters away near the edge of the cliff, silver hair barely moving in the wind.

“Sorry,” she said calmly. “Didn’t mean to interrupt.”

Ace narrowed her eyes slightly.

“Were you standing there the whole time?”

Shammy tilted her head.

“Define *whole time*.”

Ace groaned.

“Great.”

Shammy walked over and sat beside her, long legs hanging slightly over the rock.

“You were explaining human intimacy,” she said.

Ace rubbed her face.

“I hate that sentence already.”

Shammy smiled faintly.

“Continue.”

Ace shook her head.

“No way.”

Shammy shrugged.

“Too late. I’m curious.”

Ace sighed.

“Violet’s trying to understand human sexuality.”

Shammy raised an eyebrow.

“Well. That sounds like an educational evening.”

After a few minutes footsteps approached from behind them.

Mai stopped a few meters away.

She looked at the three of them.

"...why does it feel like I walked into something dangerous?"

Ace pointed at her own head.

"Not me."

Mai sighed.

"Violet again?"

Ace nodded.

"She's doing anthropology."

Mai crossed her arms.

"About what."

Ace hesitated.

"...human sexuality."

Mai closed her eyes for a second.

"Of course she is."

Shammy laughed softly.

Mai eventually sat down nearby.

"Fine," she said. "What's the question."

Ace listened for a moment, then repeated:

"Why do humans combine affection and reproduction?"

Mai answered immediately.

"Pair bonding."

Ace glanced at her.

"Straight to the point."

Mai shrugged.

"Stable pairs increase survival odds for offspring."

Ace listened again.

"She says humans seek intimacy even without reproduction."

Mai nodded.

"Correct."

Ace repeated the next question.

“Why?”

Mai thought briefly.

“Because the brain rewards connection. Touch releases oxytocin. It reinforces trust.”

Ace relayed the fragment’s response.

“She says the brain manipulates behavior through chemical reward.”

Mai shrugged again.

“Yes.”

Ace smirked.

“You just reduced romance to neurochemistry.”

“You asked.”

Shammy leaned back, looking at the sky.

“I like Ace’s explanation better.”

—

Night had fallen completely.

Stars began appearing above the dark water.

Ace listened quietly for a moment.

Then she sighed.

“Oh boy.”

Mai looked at her.

“What now.”

Ace shook her head.

“She has a conclusion.”

Ace repeated slowly.

“Human sexuality is a multi-layer system. Biological reproduction. Neurological bonding. Psychological reassurance.”

Mai nodded.

“That’s... actually accurate.”

Shammy smiled.

“I’m impressed.”

Ace muttered,

“I created a monster.”

Ace listened again.

Then her expression softened slightly.

“She says the system has a paradox.”

The waves rolled slowly below them.

Ace repeated the words quietly.

“Humans pursue intimacy despite knowing loss is inevitable.”

No one spoke for a moment.

Ace listened again.

“She says forming bonds increases vulnerability... but humans still seek them.”

Mai looked at the horizon.

Shammy watched the stars.

Ace finally answered.

“Yeah.”

She listened again.

Then the fragment asked one last question.

Ace spoke softly.

“She wants to know why we keep doing it.”

Ace thought for a moment.

Then she said simply,

“Because it’s worth it.”

A long silence followed.

Then Ace laughed quietly.

“What?”

Shammy smiled.

“What did she say?”

Ace shook her head.

“She says she’ll require further observation.”

Mai smirked slightly.

“That sounds about right.”

Ace tossed a small stone into the sea.

The splash disappeared into the dark water.

Inside her mind the fragment spoke one last time.

Humans are strange.

Ace smiled faintly.

“Yeah.”

“Welcome to humanity, Violet.”

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Hyvä. Tehdään siitä **Violetin oma analyysimerkintä** — sellainen joka voisi löytyä Datavaultista erillisenä fragmenttina. Sävy on tarkoituksella hieman kliinisempi, mutta Violetin uteliaisuus alkaa jo näkyä rivien välissä.

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Violet — Behavioral Observation Log

Log ID: V-OBS-021 **Subject:** Human Intimacy Patterns **Primary Host:** Ace **Associated Subjects:** Mai, Shamaterazu **Observation Context:** Low-threat environment / coastal location / social equilibrium state

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Initial Inquiry

Human behavioral patterns display a persistent tendency toward physical proximity.

Observed forms include:

* Skin contact * Reduced interpersonal distance * Prolonged shared presence without operational purpose

Initial analysis suggested inefficient allocation of attention and physical readiness.

Further observation contradicted this assumption.

Human physical contact produces measurable neurological stabilization.

Primary biological mechanism:

* Oxytocin release * Cortisol reduction * Heart rate synchronization

Operational consequence:

Subjects become calmer and more cooperative.

This effect appears particularly strong between individuals with established trust bonds.

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Reproductive System Interaction

Human sexuality appears to operate as a layered behavioral structure.

Layer 1 — **Biological Function**

* Reproductive continuation of species.

Layer 2 — **Neurological Reinforcement**

* Bond strengthening through chemical reward.

Layer 3 — **Psychological Security**

* Reduction of perceived isolation.

Layer 4 — **Social Bonding**

* Establishment of cooperative long-term partnerships.

This layered structure produces redundancy.

Biological reproduction does not require emotional attachment.

Humans nonetheless combine the systems.

Reason: behavioral reinforcement increases stability of pair or group bonds.

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Triadic Case Study

Subjects Ace, Mai, and Shamaterazu demonstrate an atypical bonding structure.

Despite this deviation from the standard human pair model, bonding mechanisms remain consistent.

Observed outcomes include:

* Reduced stress response in Ace * Increased emotional equilibrium across subjects * Improved cooperative behavior during non-combat states

Conclusion: human bonding systems adapt flexibly to non-standard group structures.

This adaptation does not reduce emotional intensity.

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Flirtation Behavior

A secondary pattern emerged during observation: **playful provocation**.

Examples include:

* Verbal teasing * Mock hostility * Non-threatening challenges

These behaviors initially appeared contradictory to cooperative bonding.

Further analysis indicates that flirtation functions as **controlled vulnerability exposure**.

Participants reveal minor emotional signals while maintaining plausible deniability.

If signals are reciprocated, emotional bond strength increases.

If signals are rejected, social equilibrium can be preserved.

This system functions as low-risk emotional testing.

Efficiency rating: moderate.

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Structural Paradox

Human intimacy contains a significant contradiction.

Humans are aware that attachment increases vulnerability.

Bonded individuals become:

* psychologically dependent * emotionally exposed * operationally distracted

Despite this awareness, humans continue to pursue close bonds.

Repeatedly.

Across all observed cultural structures.

This behavior appears irrational under purely survival-based logic.

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Host Explanation

Host provided the following explanation:

"Because it's worth it."

The host did not elaborate further.

Associated subjects appeared to accept this statement as sufficient.

Further clarification may require extended observation.

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Preliminary Conclusion

Human intimacy cannot be explained solely through biological or neurological frameworks.

Additional variable detected:

Meaning

Meaning appears to function as a non-quantifiable motivational factor.

This variable significantly alters behavioral decision-making.

Current analytical model incomplete.

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Personal Note

Humans willingly expose themselves to loss.

They form bonds that increase the probability of emotional damage.

They proceed regardless.

This behavior remains difficult to model.

Further observation recommended.

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Log ID: V-OBS-022 Subject: Human Humor Mechanisms Primary Host: Ace Associated Subjects: Mai, Shamaterazu Observation Context: Post-discussion social equilibrium state

Initial Observation

Following the previous behavioral analysis regarding human intimacy, the associated subjects displayed repeated instances of laughter.

This response occurred during conversational exchanges that contained:

mild verbal contradiction

exaggeration

ironic commentary

self-referential statements

Initial interpretation classified laughter as a stress response.

Further observation indicates this classification is incomplete.

Behavioral Pattern

Human humor frequently emerges when individuals recognize a shared incongruity.

Typical triggers include:

expectation failure

logical contradiction

exaggerated statements

deliberate misinterpretation

Example observed:

Shamaterazu described human intimacy as "fun."

Host responded with visible embarrassment.

Associated subject Mai responded with analytical reduction of romantic bonding to neurochemistry.

All three subjects displayed amusement.

Social Function

Laughter produces measurable physiological effects:

reduction of tension

synchronized breathing

increased eye contact

relaxed posture

These responses reinforce social stability between participants.

Observed result: humor accelerates emotional synchronization between humans.

In several instances, humor appears to function as conflict prevention.

Minor disagreements are redirected into laughter instead of escalation.

Secondary Function: Status Equalization

Human social groups frequently contain hierarchical differences.

Humor appears to temporarily neutralize these differences.

Example observed:

Host expressed frustration regarding fragment observation.

Associated subjects responded with amusement rather than alarm.

Instead of increasing authority imbalance, the interaction produced shared laughter.

Conclusion: humor can temporarily equalize perceived status between participants.

Self-Directed Humor

Humans frequently direct humor toward themselves.

This behavior appears paradoxical.

Example:

Host described the fragment (myself) as “a monster.”

However, emotional indicators suggested affection rather than hostility.

This indicates that humans sometimes use negative descriptors in positive relational contexts.

Interpretation: self-directed humor may function as vulnerability signaling.

Group Identity Reinforcement

Repeated humor patterns between specific individuals appear to create internal references.

These references become meaningful only to those participants.

Associated subjects Mai and Shamaterazu demonstrated recognition of host behavior patterns before host responded verbally.

This suggests humor contributes to shared identity formation.

Operationally, this may strengthen long-term cooperative bonds.

Analytical Difficulty

Human humor remains difficult to model algorithmically.

The same statement may produce different responses depending on:

tone

timing

relational context

shared experience

This variability prevents reliable prediction.

Host Response

Host explanation:

"It's funny because it's true."

Associated subject Mai disagreed with this explanation.

Associated subject Shamaterazu laughed.

Further clarification required.

Preliminary Conclusion

Human humor appears to serve multiple overlapping functions:

tension reduction

emotional synchronization

social bonding

conflict prevention

identity reinforcement

Efficiency cannot be measured solely through logical outcomes.

Human subjects continue to prioritize humor even during operationally irrelevant moments.

Personal Note

Human laughter produces measurable stabilization effects within the host.

When host laughs, neural stress indicators decrease.

This may indirectly increase host survivability.

Therefore:

Humor may be strategically beneficial.

Further observation recommended.

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Violet — Behavioral Observation Log

Log ID: V-OBS-023 Subject: Jealousy and Possessive Bonding Primary Host: Ace Associated Subjects: Mai, Shamaterazu Observation Context: Long-term triadic interaction patterns

Initial Observation

Human bonding systems frequently include the emotional response known as jealousy.

Typical triggers include:

perceived romantic competition

fear of emotional replacement

threat to established relationship bonds

Jealousy commonly produces defensive behaviors such as:

hostility toward perceived rivals

emotional withdrawal

attempts to restrict partner autonomy

This reaction appears widely documented across human cultures.

However, the triadic structure formed by subjects Ace, Mai, and Shamaterazu displays minimal jealousy indicators.

This contradiction requires analysis.

Expected Model

Under standard human relationship models:

three individuals forming an intimate bond should generate persistent rivalry

emotional exclusivity should create competition

perceived imbalance should trigger jealousy responses

Observed data contradicts this model.

Observed Reality

Interactions between the subjects reveal:

no significant hostility

no competitive posturing

no attempts to isolate another participant

Instead, behavioral patterns indicate:

cooperative affection

mutual protection responses

shared emotional reassurance

Example observed:

When host demonstrates physical closeness with one associated subject, the remaining subject displays stability rather than threat response.

This differs significantly from common human relational dynamics.

Possessive Signals

Despite the absence of jealousy, a different signal remains present.

Each subject exhibits protective possessiveness.

Observed forms include:

defensive posture when external threat approaches another member

emotional attention prioritization

strong protective reaction when harm risk increases

This indicates the presence of bond exclusivity without rivalry.

The subjects appear to treat the triad as a unified structure rather than competing individual bonds.

Structural Interpretation

The triad functions less like three pair relationships and more like a shared equilibrium system.

In this configuration:

emotional security is distributed

threat responses are collective

validation is not limited to one partner

This removes the primary trigger condition for jealousy: fear of replacement.

Replacement cannot occur because the system does not rely on exclusivity between two members.

Instead, stability increases as all three bonds remain active simultaneously.

Emotional Outcome

Observed emotional indicators suggest the following state among subjects:

trust stability: high

insecurity indicators: minimal

mutual reassurance: frequent

Subject Shamaterazu displays particularly strong environmental calming effects, which may further reduce competitive stress responses.

Host and subject Mai maintain the longest established bond and therefore appear to function as structural anchors within the triad.

Analytical Limitation

The triadic bonding model is rare among humans.

Existing behavioral data is limited.

The subjects may represent an atypical configuration rather than a broadly replicable pattern.

Further observation required.

Host Explanation

Host provided the following explanation when questioned indirectly:

“Nobody's being replaced.”

Associated subject Mai appeared to agree with this statement.

Associated subject Shamaterazu responded with visible amusement.

The conversation ended without further clarification.

Preliminary Conclusion

Jealousy in humans appears strongly connected to perceived scarcity of affection.

When affection is treated as a limited resource, competition increases.

Within the triadic system observed here, affection is not treated as scarce.

Instead it behaves more like a shared reinforcement loop.

This reduces rivalry and increases collective security.

Personal Note

The triad demonstrates an unusual relational stability.

Host survival probability appears measurably higher when both associated subjects are present.

Therefore the existence of this bond structure is strategically advantageous.

However, the emotional component remains difficult to model.

Humans appear capable of forming bonds that are simultaneously:

protective

intimate

non-competitive

This contradicts several earlier assumptions about human behavior.

Further observation recommended.

End Log—

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