

The beings were perfectly preserved. The skin of their hairless bodies was the color of copper. The thickly clustered strands of black hair that draped off the back two-thirds of their heads resembled Arlo's short dreadlocks. Their eyes had lashes but no eyebrows. Their ears were flat against the sides of their heads, and the features of their faces were smaller than those of humans. Their hands had five fingers and their feet had five toes. The females had two prominent mammary glands with nipples. The beings' genitalia were in the same place and position as those of humans, but they had no pubic patches. The male's penises were longer and thicker than those of humans, but they had no external testicles. Arlo was six feet two inches tall; all of the encapsulated beings, male and female, were taller.

As Arlo went from cylinder to cylinder looking at the occupants, he was thinking about how much the Museum of Extraterrestrial Biology might pay for actual members of an extinct species. He would go down in history as the discoverer, and, in the Human Dominion anyway, the species would be named after him.

Glowing green energized plasma suddenly flowed up from vents in the bottom of the cylinder that was front and center, startling Arlo. The plasma filled the cylinder and lingered around the bodies inside for some time, and then it was drawn out through the vents.

When nothing else happened, Arlo surmised that the inflow and outflow of plasma was part of an automated process that had prevented the bodies from deteriorating over the millennia. The beings in the cylinders suddenly inhaled. Astonished, Arlo blurted, "Oh my god, they're alive!"