THE DOMOGS WORLD · II



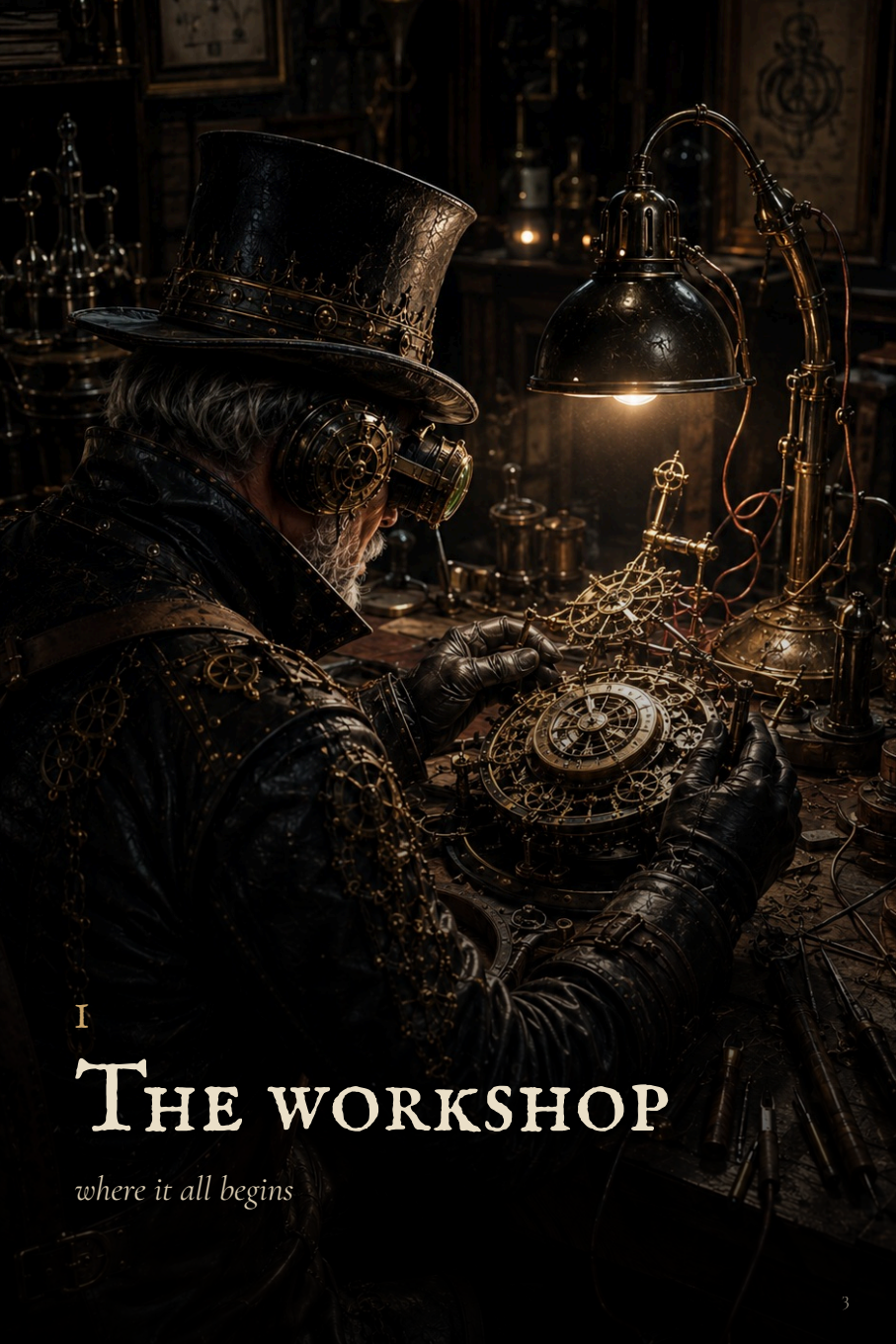
BLOHER

THE WORKSHOP

Godem and the force of existence

«I made them this way because this way they are entertaining.»

Godem · The Jailer, ch. 5



I

The workshop

where it all begins

A craftsman who never rests

In a place no creature can see whole there is a workshop. Low lamps, gears, jars, brass lenses and a bench that is never empty.

Godem works there. He does not create in one stroke, nor out of love: he tests, corrects, takes apart and starts again. He creates like someone who cannot bear to sit still with his own eternity.

Every creature came off that bench. Before it was a body, it was an experiment.





Gear by gear



First, the smallest things



II

The smallest things

atoms and cells

The first spark

He began with what no one sees. He gathered atoms, forced them to bond, sealed a little water inside a membrane and called it a cell.

That living drop did one thing only: divide. One became two, two became four. It did not think, did not feel, knew nothing. It simply went on.

There Godem left the first mark of his sap: the order to continue.





A shape that moves





III

The sap

a drop of his essence

The drop that stains everything

In every experiment, Godem lets fall a drop of himself. The novel calls it sap.

The sap stains the creature with his colour, his scent and his rhythm. That is why they all resemble one another deep down, however different they look.

Bacterium, insect, frog or human: sap from the same tree.



The force of existence

What the sap carries has a name in The Jailer: the force of existence. It is an order written into matter: do not disappear.

Biology knows it by other names. The survival instinct. The drive to reproduce. Life that, for almost four billion years, has not stopped even once.

No species decided to go on existing. All of them were made unable to stop trying.



From the smallest to the vastest, the same order



IV

All alike

to carry the species on

What every creature does

A virus is not fully alive, and still all it does is copy itself. A bacterium divides every twenty minutes if it finds food.

The salmon swims upriver to spawn and then dies. The male mantis approaches the female even though he may lose his head. Some plants bloom once in a hundred years and wither as soon as they leave their seed.

No creature stops. The axis of everything is to carry the species on, even when the individual pays the price.





The halfway trials

Not every experiment worked. Some were left halfway between one form and another.

Godem watches them all the same. Those of no use to the work he sets aside: they are the Doomers, the discards of his workshop, still fighting over the sap on a planet without morals.





V

The human

the creature that asks

One more experiment

The human came off the same bench. It carries the same sap as the frog and the cell: the same hunger, the same fear of death, the same drive to leave offspring.

What is different is that this creature was given a mind that lives in it like a guest. It can ask why. And he installed a supervisor inside it, so it never quite lets go of its chains.

It believes it chooses. Often it simply obeys, in other words, the same order as the tadpole: continue.



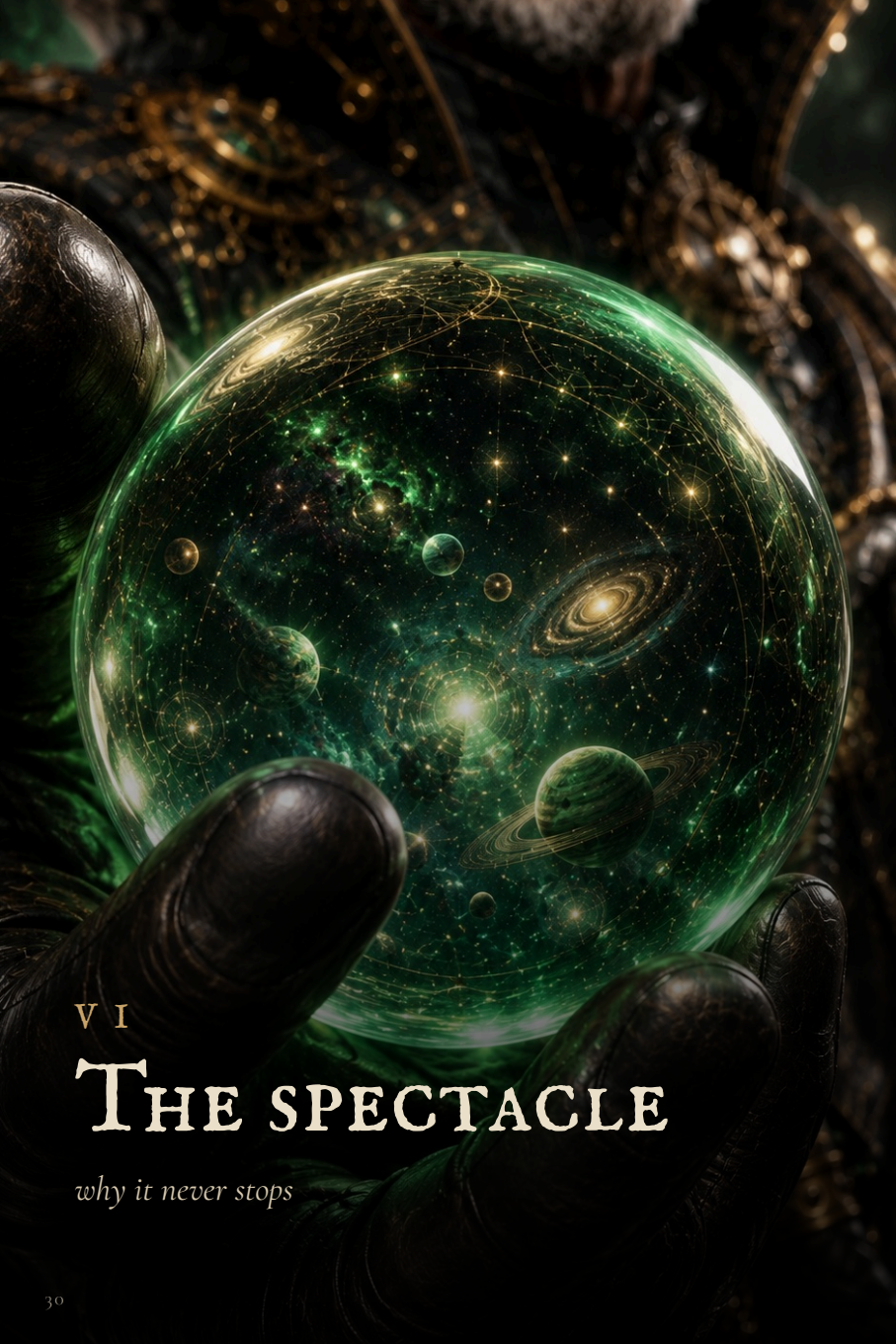


The disguises of the order

The force of existence wears many disguises: love, hunger, ambition, fear, faith, homeland, family, art, legacy, hope.

A whole city, seen from above, moves like a colony of cells: find food, find a mate, protect the young, do not disappear.





VI

The spectacle

why it never stops

So the work goes on

Godem does not seek good or perfect creatures. He seeks a work that never stops, because a still work bores him.

That is why the force of existence is his oldest invention: as long as every creature wants to go on, there will be desire, fear, struggle and story.

The great repeats itself in the small. The small imitates the great.



The universe in the palm of his hand





«Beneath all those disguises lay the same order: do not disappear.»

The Jailer, ch. 40

