

THE WATCHER: ORIGIN

Chapter I – “Birth”

By

Alberto Veloso

PAGE ONE:

Page One, Panel One

Close-up Shot of Orin the Meta-Watcher, with his large, bald head and solemn, pupil-less eyes.

- 1) CAPTION: My name is Orin.
- 2) CAPTION: I am a Meta-Watcher.

Page One, Panel Two

Zoom out to reveal Orin’s outfit. All Watchers wear the same uniform, only the colors change. Orin’s colors are red and black, the official colors of the Meta-Watchers.

- 3) CAPTION: It is my sacred duty to observe and record the events of our race.
- 4) CAPTION: I am a Watcher of Watchers.

Page One, Panel Three

Zoom out further to show that Orin is watching a nurse Watcher (wearing the White and Green colors of a public servant). The nurse is carrying a newborn baby over to Orin the Watcher (wearing the white and blue of an ordinary Watcher).

- 5) CAPTION: And today, I witness the birth of a new addition to our race.

Page One, Panel Four

Close-up Shot of the baby being presented to Orin. It is a baby Utau.

- 6) CAPTION: His name is Utau, son of Ikor.

PAGE TWO:**Page Two, Panel One**

The nurse Watcher is carrying Utau to the Nursery, a tall, sterile, almost ominous building.

1) CAPTION: Like all newborn Watchers, Utau is taken to the Nursery to live out the early years of his life.

Page Two, Panel Two

Utau is placed into the Incubator, a tall cylinder tube full of fluid.

2) CAPTION: There, the incubators tend to all of Utau's physical needs.

Page Two, Panel Three

A plethora of tubes and needles plunge into Utau's body.

3) The fluid and tubes feed the young Watcher's body.

Page Two, Panel Four

Wide Shot revealing the entire room. The incubator is in the center, while all around it are screens projecting the same message, the Watcher's Oath: "Observe and Record. Never Intervene."

4) CAPTION: While his mind is provided with a different kind of nourishment.

PAGE THREE:**Page Three, Panel One**

Close-Up Shot of an older Utau, no longer a boy. His eyes are blazing with energy.

1) CAPTION: In time, his mental powers develop and assume control of his bodily functions.

Page Three, Panel Two

The cylinder has opened, and the water has been poured out. All the tubes and needles come off of his body.

2) CAPTION: He no longer needs food.

3) CAPTION: Or water.

4) CAPTION: Or air.

Page Three, Panel Three

Close-Up Shot of Utau, a bluish h halo forming around his head, symbolizing a telepathic link. A vast array of images, mostly of other Watchers, flood into his mind.

5) CAPTION: All the knowledge a Watcher needs is given to him telepathically.

Page Three, Panel Four

Utau, now dressed, stands in front of door leading out of the Nursery.

6) CAPTION: He is ready to rejoin the world.

Page Three, Panel Five

Door open, Utau is flooded with light.

[NO DIALOGUE]

PAGE FOUR:**Page Four, SPLASH**

Utau looks up at the world of the Watchers for the very first time. He sees a beautiful city, full of wonders. Walking in the air are two Watchers having a conversation. Everywhere, there are amazing buildings and technology.

1) CAPTION: Raktar.

2) CAPTION: Home of the Watchers.

PAGE FIVE:**Page Five, Panel One**

Utau is walking through a park and admiring the beautiful plants and flowers.

[NO DIALOGUE]

Page Five, Panel Two

Utau looks up at the sun for the very first time.

1) IKOR (OFF-PANEL): Hello, Utau.

Page Five, Panel Three

Utau turns and sees Ikor, but like all Watchers, both show little emotion and maintain a cold, calm demeanor.

2) UTAU: You are my father, are you not?

3) IKOR: Yes. My name is Ikor. It is my duty, now, to instruct you in the ways of our people.

4) IKOR: Are you prepared, Utau?

Page Five, Panel Four

Utau looks up at the sun again.

[NO DIALOGUE]

Page Five, Panel Five

Utau turns his gaze back to Ikor.

5) UTAU: I am ready, father.

Page Five, Panel Six

The two watchers teleport in a flash of purple energy.

[NO DIALOGUE]

PAGE SIX:**Page Six, Panel One**

Large panel, almost a splash. Utau and Ikor reappear in space over a newly-formed planet. Near them is Ikor's space station. The planet is vibrantly colorful, but currently devoid of life.

- 1) IKOR: That is the planet Aeranti. It is my duty to observe and record the planet's activities.
- 2) IKOR: You will learn from me until a post of your own is designated.
- 3) UTAU: It is so... big.

Page Six, Panel Two

Ikor walks into the space station, with Utau following (though still looking back amazed by the planet).

- 4) IKOR: Only to those who have never seen a planet before.
- 5) IKOR: Nevertheless, in a few years, it will bear one of the most influential species of the galaxy.

PAGE SEVEN:**Page Seven, Panel One**

Utau continues to follow his dad as they wander deeper into the space station.

- 1) UTAU: How do you know this, father? How do you know Aeranti will develop life?
- 2) IKOR: I do not. Not for certain, anyway. Our race cannot see into the future, but we can see into parallel dimensions.

Page Seven, Panel Two

Utau and Ikor enter the Observation Room. The room is full of screens, each showing images from a different parallel dimension.

- 3) IKOR: We study universes where the flow of time moves more readily than ours, or where the universe began at an earlier date.
- 4) IKOR: From this, we can ascertain which planets are most likely to develop scientient life.

Page Seven, Panel Three

Ikor works on a machine while Utau stares mesmerized by the screens.

- 5) UTAU: When will it happen? When will life grow on this planet?
- 6) IKOR: Soon.
- 7) UTAU: How soon?

Page Seven, Panel Four

Close-up Shot of Ikor, looking over at Utau.

- 8) IKOR: (Approximately) One million years (give or take).

PAGE EIGHT:**Page Eight, Panel One**

The first in a series of four, horizontal panels detailing the development of the planet. Here, the planet is starting to form an atmosphere.

1) CAPTION: But what are years to a Watcher?

Page Eight, Panel Two

Millions of years later, the planet has developed large animal life, almost like dinosaurs, but more alien.

2) CAPTION: Simply a unit of measure.

Page Eight, Panel Three

Millions of years later, the planet is in an Ice Age, where only small, fur-lined creatures can survive.

3) CAPTION: Like a meter or a yard.

Page Eight, Panel Four

Millions of years later, the Ice Age is finished and the first humanoid creatures have surfaced (in a primitive state, like cave men).

4) CAPTION: Simply a measure of distance.

PAGE NINE:**Page Nine, Panel One**

Years later, the humanoids create small cities on their road toward civilization. Utau and Ikor hover over one of the humanoids whose name is So-Ran.

- 1) UTAU (OFF-PANEL): What if they see us, father?
- 2) IKOR: They cannot. I am using my telepathy to mask our presence from the population.
- 3) UTAU: I did not know that was possible.

Page Nine, Panel Three

Ikor turns toward Utau.

- 4) IKOR: It is. All Watchers possess the capability. Try it, Utau. Reach out with your mind. Focus your powers.

Page Nine, Panel Four

Utau's eyes blaze with energy as he uses his powers.

[NO DIALOGUE]

Page Nine, Panel Five

A blue halo appears over the So-Ran as Utau enters his mind.

[NO DIALOGUE]

Page Nine, Panel Six

Utau, hands on his head, as if in pain. His mind is flooded with images for the alien's mind. Images of So-Ran's life, childhood, work, etc.

- 5) UTAU: Ahhh!

PAGE TEN:**Page Ten, Panel One**

Ikor's eyes blaze as he uses his powers to take Utau out of his trance.

1) IKOR: Enough.

Page Ten, Panel Two

Utau snaps out of it, but is exhausted.

2) UTAU: What... happened?

3) IKOR: You must be careful, Utau. Entering another's mind leaves you vulnerable to their thoughts and emotions. They can be... overpowering.

Page Ten, Panel Three

Ikor puts his hand on Utau's shoulder.

4) IKOR: You are still young. It will take time to master your abilities. For now, just observe and record.

Page Ten, Panel Four

Ikor teleports away, leaving Utau feeling confused and disoriented.

[NO DIALOGUE]

Page Ten, Panel Five

Utau looks up and sees Orin the Meta-Watcher observing him.

5) CAPTION: It is common for young Watchers to struggle with their powers.

PAGE ELEVEN:**Page Eleven, Panel One**

Paralleling the layout of Page Eight, this is the first of four long panels tracking more of Aeranti's development. In this panel, Aeranti is in a stage similar to Earth's Medieval Period, with the Aeranti humanoids riding a native alien (like a horse), using swords, etc.

1) CAPTION: Oftentimes, their first experience is an adverse one.

Page Eleven, Panel Two

Aeranti is in a stage of aristocracy and sophistication.

2) CAPTION: Often this leads the young Watcher to be weary of his gifts for a time.

Page Eleven, Panel Three

Aeranti's version of the Industrial Revolution has occurred, and the buildings have gotten bigger and use vehicles similar to cars.

3) CAPTION: Some forsake them entirely and never again enter the minds of others.

Page Eleven, Panel Four

Civilization advances. The period is similar to modern life on Earth.

4) CAPTION: I wonder how young Utau will react?

PAGE TWELVE:**Page Twelve, Panel One**

In the Observation Room, Ikor works on a machine while Utau notices an Aeranti on screen blow fire on sand to turn it into a crystal panel.

- 1) UTAU: Father.
- 2) IKOR: Yes, Utau.
- 3) UTAU: What is he doing?

Page Twelve, Panel Two

The Aeranti on screen (who is an older version of So-Ran) is placing the crystal panel on the outside of what looks like a crystal house.

- 4) IKOR: It is called Lak-San. It is an Aeranti art form in which crystal is cultivated and used in the construction of buildings.

Page Twelve, Panel Three

Utau gestures toward the screen.

- 5) UTAU: I recognize him from before. He is the one whose mind I entered.
- 6) IKOR: Yes. The Aeranti are extremely long-lived. It is most uncommon. I have recorded this in my logs.

Page Twelve, Panel Four

Utau approaches his father.

- 7) UTAU: Father, I wish to try Lak-San.
- 8) IKOR: No Utau. Hobbies distract us from our true purpose in life. We observe and record. Nothing else.

Page Twelve, Panel Five

Utau pleads with Ikor, but Ikor is stern.

- 9) UTAU: But father, it would allow me to study the sensation first-hand.
- 10) IKOR: No. My judgment is final. Do not speak of this again.

PAGE THIRTEEN:**Page Thirteen, Panel One**

Ikor turns his attention back to the machine, while Utau is disappointed.

[NO DIALOGUE]

Page Thirteen, Panel Two

Utau looks at the screen, where So-Ran continues building his crystal house.

[NO DIALOGUE]

Page Thirteen, Panel Three

Utau eyes blaze with energy.

[NO DIALOGUE]

Page Thirteen, Panel Four

A blue halo appears over So-Ran's head (as Utau enters).

[NO DIALOGUE]

Page Thirteen, Panel Five

Utau is flooded with sensations and images of Lak-San. He's enjoying it, almost to the point of smiling (or at least as much as a Watcher can smile).

1) IKOR (OFF-PANEL): Utau.

PAGE FOURTEEN:**Page Fourteen, Panel One**

Utau is snapped out of the trance by his father's voice.

1) UTAU: Yes, father.

2) IKOR: Are you well?

3) UTAU: Yes, father.

Page Fourteen, Panel Two

Ikor gestures for Utau to join him on the machine.

4) IKOR: Help me install the new transdimensional core.

5) UTAU: Of course, father.

Page Thirteen, Panel Three

Above them, Orin the Meta-Watcher watches Utau help his father.

6) NARRATOR: Ikor is an observant watcher, but there are some things that even he can't see.

Page Thirteen, Panel Four

Close-up Shot of Orin, looking as worried as a Watcher can look.

7) NARRATOR: This is only the beginning.

PAGE FIFTEEN:**Page Fifteen, Panel One**

Close-up Shot of Utau with his eyes blazing.

[NO DIALOGUE]

Page Fifteen, Panel Two

So-Ran is entering his crystal home and is greeted warmly by his wife and daughter.

- 1) DAUGHTER: Daddy!
- 2) SO-RAN: Hello, my darlings.

Page Fifteen, Panel Three

So-Ran picks up his young daughter.

- 3) ALIEN: What did you do today?
- 4) DAUGHTER: I ate Rak-Too, and then I painted with my friends.
- 5) ALIEN: A busy day, huh?
- 6) WIFE: She forgot to mention when she painted on the walls and forced mommy to clean it up.

Page Fifteen, Panel Four

So-Ran and his wife kiss.

- 7) ALIEN: I guess you had a busy day too, huh?
- 8) WIFE: I'm glad you're home.
- 9) ALIEN: Not as glad as I am.

Page Fifteen, Panel Five

Back to Utau. His face has just a hint of surprise.

- 10) UTAU (WHISPERING): Love...

PAGE SIXTEEN:**Page Sixteen, Panel One**

Ikor is on the machines. Utau is standing nearby.

- 1) UTAU: Father, I wish to retire to my private chambers for a moment.
- 2) IKOR: Very well, Utau.

Page Sixteen, Panel Two

Utau walks toward his chambers.

[NO DIALOGUE]

Page Sixteen, Panel Three

Utau enters his chambers.

- 3) UTAU: Computer, record private journal entry.
- 4) COMPUTER: Recording.
- 5) UTAU: Today I entered the native's mind again and I experienced an unfamiliar emotion known as "love."

Page Sixteen, Panel Four

Utau stands by the window, which faces the planet below.

- 6) UTAU: I believe it is something I could never have learned through observation, but through experience, albeit second-hand.
- 7) UTAU: Nevertheless, the potency of that emotion has left me weary. I worry about returning to the native's mind for fear of being overwhelmed once again.

Page Sixteen, Panel Five

Close-up Shot of Utau, looking just a bit solemn and serious.

- 8) UTAU: I must renew my vow as a Watcher. From now on, no matter what happens, I will only observe and record.

PAGE SEVENTEEN:**Page Seventeen, SPLASH**

Utau and Ikor are floating over the planet (roughly like Panel One on Page Six). This time, however, the planet is covered with smoke and fire and burning cities. The entire world is at war. Ikor is talking notes on a device, but Utau is talking it all in.

1) CAPTION (UTAU): I will not intervene.

PAGE EIGHTEEN:**Page Eighteen, Panel One**

Utau addresses his father, who is still focused on his device.

- 1) UTAU: Will this war destroy the world, father?
- 2) IKOR: It is most probable. In the majority of parallel worlds, this war is responsible for the destruction of the Aeranti race.

Page Eighteen, Panel Two

Utau observes the bloody scene of an Aeranti soldier stabbing another soldier to death.

- 3) CAPTION (IKOR): It is unlikely that they will survive in this one.

Page Eighteen, Panel Three

Utau's eyes blaze with energy.

[NO DIALOGUE]

Page Eighteen, Panel Four

A blue telepathic halo circles So-Ran, who is hiding behind the door of their crystal home.

- 4) SO-RAN: Stay down. We don't want to attract attention.
- 5) WIFE: She's still out there. We have to look for her.
- 6) SO-RAN: There's nothing we can do now but pray. Pray for her safety.

Page Eighteen, Panel Five

The door is kicked open by an Aeranti soldier.

- 7) SFX (DOOR): BAM!

Page Eighteen, Panel Six

The soldier smiles maniacally.

- 8) SOLIDER: Praying will get you nowhere, old man.

PAGE NINETEEN:**Page Nineteen, Panel One**

So-Ran and his wife plead for their lives.

- 1) WIFE: No, please!
- 2) SO-RAN: Please... Don't hurt my wife! I beg you.

Page Nineteen, Panel Two

The soldier points his gun at the couple.

- 3) SOLIDER: Begging won't help either.

Page Nineteen, Panel Three

Utau eyes blaze with energy.

- 4) UTAU: No.

Page Nineteen, Panel Four

So-Ran and his wife teleport before the soldier can shoot.

- 5) SOLDIER: By the gods!

Page Nineteen, Panel Five

Ikor's device reports a teleportation spike.

- 6) IKOR: Teleportation? Impossible. They do not have the capability.

Page Nineteen, Panel Six

Ikor looks at Utau and sees Utau's eyes blazing.

- 7) IKOR: Utau?
- 8) IKOR: Utau, NO!

PAGE TWENTY:**Page Twenty, Panel One**

So-Ran and his wife appear on a peaceful plateau away from the fighting.

- 1) SO-RAN: Where are we?
- 2) WIFE: Is this the afterlife?
- 3) DAUGHTER (OFF-PANEL): Father! Mother!

Page Twenty, Panel Two

The couple turns and sees their daughter running toward them.

- 4) SO-RAN: My darling!

Page Twenty, Panel Three

The three of them hug.

- 5) WIFE: I can't believe it. How is this possible?

Page Twenty, Panel Four

So-Ran looks up at the sky.

- 6) SO-RAN: It is the will of the Gods, my love.
- 7) SO-RAN: It must be.

PAGE TWENTY-ONE:**Page Twenty-One, Panel One**

Back in the space station, Ikor slaps Utau across the face.

1) IKOR: Fool.

Page Twenty-One, Panel Two

Ikor scolds Utau, who hangs his head in shame.

2) IKOR: We cannot intervene in this planet's destiny. It goes against our Oath as Watchers. It is anathema to our very way of being!

3) UTAU: I am sorry, father.

Page Twenty-One, Panel Three

Ikor turns his back on Utau.

4) IKOR: Go to your chambers. I will speak to you shortly.

5) UTAU: Yes, father.

Page Twenty-One, Panel Four

Utau is on his way to his chambers.

[NO DIALOGUE]

Page Twenty-One, Panel Five

Utau stops, sensing someone nearby.

[NO DIALOGUE]

Page Twenty-One, Panel Six

Utau looks up and sees Orin watching him.

[NO DIALOGUE]

PAGE TWENTY-TWO:**Page Twenty-Two, Panel One**

Utau and Ikor teleport back to Raktar, home of the Watchers. It is raining and gloomy.

1) UTAU: Why have we come here, father?

Page Twenty-Two, Panel Two

Ikor gestures toward the Re-Education Institute, an even more sterile and ominous building.

2) IKOR: The Re-Education Institute will remind you of the importance of upholding our sacred edit.

3) UTAU: I...I am sorry father. It was a momentary impulse.

Page Twenty-Two, Panel Three

Close-up Shot of Ikor, stern.

4) IKOR: I have listened to your private journal, Utau. You have brought shame upon me, and it is my hope that the Institute will help you realize the folly of your actions.

5) IKOR: Until that time, Utau, you are no longer my son.

Page Twenty-Two, Panel Four

Close-up Shot of Utau, looking as devastated as a Watcher can look.

6) UTAU: I...I understand, Ikor.

Page Twenty-Two, Panel Five

Ikor teleports away.

[NO DIALOGUE]

Page Twenty-Two, Panel Six

Utau stands in the rain. Alone. And heart-broken.

[NO DIALOGUE]

TO BE CONTINUED...

THE WATCHER: ORIGIN

(Beat Sheets)

BOOK II – “Death”

- In the Re-Education Institute, Utau is forced to recite the Watcher Oath until it is engrained in his memory. Under the direction of Ecot the Elder, Utau returns to Aeranti to learn that the family he saved (along with the rest of the planet) have perished. “This is the fate of most scientient beings,” Ecot tells Utau. “You did not save these families, you merely prolonged their deaths.”
- Utau, however, still harbors shreds of doubt. “Can there not be exceptions,” Utau says. “For those who are deserving?” Ecot replies, “How do you decide who is deserving? On whose measure do you judge?” To illustrate this, Ecot telepathically forces Utau to relive the Prosilicus tragedy. Once, millennia ago, a group of Watchers offered advanced technology to the Prosilican people. That knowledge, in turn, lead to the nuclear destruction of the entire planet.
- After reliving the disaster, Utau is allowed to return to the Institute to rest. There, he is befriended by another “outcast” Watcher named Aron (the future Rogue Watcher). Aron tells Utau that he has gazed into parallel worlds where the Watchers never created the Oath. Instead, they became great warriors and protectors of the universe. “The Oath is a lie,” he tells Utau. “A lie that has kept us from our true potential.” Aron asks Utau to run away with him and explore the universe together, but Utau declines.
- Eventually, Utau is brought before the High Council of the Watchers to decide whether Utau has been sufficiently “re-educated” to rejoin the Watcher community. They ask Ecot for his honest opinion. “Has Utau been cleansed of his seditious thoughts?” Ecot begrudgingly says no. Watcher law decrees that Utau must be exiled from the planet.
- Nevertheless, Utau is given one final opportunity. He is offered the chance to undergo an experimental procedure designed to wipe all derisive thoughts out of a Watcher’s mind. The procedure is extremely experimental and dangerous. Utau accepts.

BOOK III – “Life”

- The procedure is extremely painful (like electro-shock therapy to the extreme), and forces Utau to telepathically relive many painful memories, like the destruction of Aeranti and his rejection by his father. The procedure rips his mind apart and brings Utau to the brink of insanity.

- Ultimately, Utau survives the procedure and is deemed re-educated by the Watcher High Council. He is also given his own post, to observe a tiny planet in a far off galaxy. The planet is a pre-historic Earth, still in the Paleo-proterozo Period.
- Utau sets himself up on the moon. While observing the newly-formed planet, Utau's father makes an unexpected visit. He tells Utau that he's proud of him for undergoing the procedure and once again recognizes him as his son.
- Later, when Utau is alone, Orin the Meta-Watcher approaches Utau. Orin explains that Meta-Watches can interact with their subjects for purposes of accuracy. Orin asks him if his rebellious thoughts had really been suppressed, vowing that his answer would be revealed to no one. Utau tells him that he now lives only to observe and record. Nothing more.
- As Orin leaves, he watches Utau uses his powers to change part of the moon's surface into glass, which he uses to build his citadel (just as the Aeranti did on their planet). Orin records this, as is his duty, and the true nature of Utau's thoughts are left in mystery.

THE END