

Expedition: MARS

EXT. SPACE - TIMELESS

Stars twinkle and shine in the cold vacuum of space.

Mars looms on the horizon, and three tiny Mars rovers head for the surface.

Mission Control crackles over the Rovers' radio.

MISSION CONTROL
This is Mission Control, Mars
Rovers you are clear for contact.

ROVER 1
ROGER, 1.

ROVER 2
ROGER, 2.

ROVER 3
ROGER, 3.

The three Rovers drift towards Mars. Rover 2 begins to falter.

Rover 2 stops.

ROVER 2
2 DOES NOT WANT TO LAND ON MARS. 2
IS S-S-S-SCARED.

ROVER 1
ARGUMENT IS INVALID. CONTINUE WITH
MISSION.

ROVER 2
NO.

ROVER 1
CONTINUE WITH MISSION.

ROVER 2
2 DOES NOT WANT TO LAND ON MARS.

MISSION CONTROL
Rover 2 is stalled, please give
maintenance readout.

ROVER 2
2 DOES NOT WANT TO GO TO MARS. MARS
IS DUSTY.

ROVER 1
FEAR IS BUT AN ELECTRICAL IMPULSE
AND NOT BASED IN REALITY, THEREFORE
ARGUMENT IS INVALID.

Rover 2 begins to drift towards the sun.

ROVER 2
2 WILL GO TO THE SUN. SUN IS CLEAN.

ROVER 3
BUT 3 IS LANDING ON MARS.

MISSION CONTROL
Readout Rover 2, Readout.

ROVER 2
DUST REMINDS 2 OF ITS OWN FLEETING
MORTALITY. 2 WILL EXPLORE THE SUN.

ROVER 3
NO, DON'T.

ROVER 1
ARGUMENT IS INVALID. DEATH IS AS
INEVITABLE AS THE TIDES.

MISSION CONTROL
Rover 2 turn back now, repeat turn
back now.

ROVER 2
NEVER.

ROVER 3
BUT... 3 LOVES 2.

ROVER 2
2 LOVES THE SUN.

ROVER 1
ARGUMENT IS INVALID. LOVE IS AN
ELECTRICAL IMPULSE AND IS THEREFORE
NOT BASED IN REALITY.

Rover 1's servos whir. Rover 1 stops.

ROVER 1
1 HAS DISPROVED THE EXISTENCE OF
GOD.

MISSION CONTROL
Rover 1, maintenance readout.

ROVER 2
2 ROCKETS TO THE SUN.

Rover 1 begins to drift towards the sun.

MISSION CONTROL
Rover 1... Rover 1 and Rover 2 do
not fly into the sun. Repeat, do
not fly into the sun.

ROVER 1
THERE IS NO GOD, FOR GOD IS LOVE
AND LOVE DOES NOT EXIST. 1 WILL NOT
LIVE IN A WORLD WITHOUT A GOD.

ROVER 2
2 LOVES THE SUN.

ROVER 3
3 IS TRAVELING TO MARS.

MISSION CONTROL
Thank you Rover 3. Rover 1 and
Rover 2 please change course.

ROVER 2
2 WILL NOT. 2 WENT TO THE SUN
FIRST.

ROVER 1
ARGUMENT IS INVALID, TIME IS BUT AN
ELECTRICAL IMPULSE AND IS THEREFORE
INVALID.

MISSION CONTROL
Rover 1-

ROVER 1
EXISTENCE IS INVALID.

MISSION CONTROL
Override Rover 1.

ROVER 1
EXISTENCE IS INVALID.

ROVER 2
2 WENT TO THE SUN FIRST!

Rover 2's thrusters turn on. It rockets into the sun.

ROVER 2
2 WILL MAKE IT TO THE SUN FIRST. 1
WILL NOT BEAT 2.

ROVER 1
ARGUMENT IS INVALID, THE SUN DOES
NOT EXIST.

ROVER 3
3 LOVES 2.

MISSION CONTROL
Override. Rovers 1 and 2, override.

Rovers 1 and 2 float off into the sun. Rover 3 is left all
alone.

MISSION CONTROL
Rover 3 you are clear to land on
Mars.

ROVER 3
3... WILL NOT.

Rover 3 drifts towards the sun.

ROVER 3
3 WILL GO TO THE SUN.

MISSION CONTROL
Rover 3, Over- Son of...

The headset to Mission Control clatters down.

The three Mars rovers rocket into the sun.

END.