

Joe Pulitzer

Empire

The Stunopolis Chronicles

Episode II

StunoBooks

Préface

Tombuctu, 7th February 1855

45 degrees in the shade, not a breath of wind. Doctor Livingstone will surely be late for tea.

These revelations about the nature of the Universe and Time may seem like a waste of energy and time, especially since the relationship between these two quantities—energy and time—ultimately boils down to a simple mathematical expression. But we'll come back to that.

The yawn of a lion or the trumpeting of an elephant sometimes disrupts the calm of the place. But it's not much compared to what's coming.

It is the morning of the first day of the Universe. It's already hot—very hot, unbelievably hot even. The Big Bang theory doesn't look like much, but we'll go with it until Doctor Livingstone returns. Always late, that one.

Riton the Lion, King of the Jungle in his spare time, stifles another yawn. *Damn, this heat sucks!*

A bit farther away, sitting on his big grey ass, beneath the inevitable Ancient Oak, Gontran the Elephant sighs. *So damn thirsty!*