

Prodigal "Chapters 1–2"
Synopsis
November 3, 2016 (2.8.6)

The descendents of interstellar colonists return to clash with Earth, and our hero, a colonist, rebels.

Three key characters:

- Sangh Fharha: Exoanthropologist and diplomat representing Prezghod, a planet colonized almost two millenia ago by an expedition from Earth.
- Willem Limhoon, his commander, the captain and confessor (“vhatta”) of light destroyer HHS *Cross*, a starship in the Prezghod Navy.
- XC, a robotic woman, representing Earth and its government. (Her name is pronounced “sheess-ceh”; the best approximation the Prezghodlings can manage is “Šheessay.”)

Chapter-by-chapter synopsis, one sentence per chapter:

1. “Home?”: *Cross* goes into orbit around Earth; Limhoon accuses Sangh of treason and imprisons him.
2. “Ambassadors”: XC blackmails Limhoon into appointing Sangh Ambassador to Earth, and Sangh descends to the surface in that capacity.

Chapter-by-chapter synopsis, one paragraph per chapter:

1. “Home?”: Her Holiness’s Ship *Cross*, representing the Empire of Prezghod, goes into orbit around Earth, and is met by a spacecraft named *XC19*. Its sole crewmember is a woman named Šheessay Dezeenawvee, who creates endless bureaucratic problems to solve before *Cross* will be allowed to land. Sangh, caught between Šheessay and Vhatta Limhoon, flubs the negotiation, and is imprisoned on a charge of treason by Limhoon, when Šheessay is revealed to be a sophisticated robot, a “*Seque*,” to whom Sangh has given a blood sample. Because of the Empire’s historical clash with secularists using robots, the people of Prezghod have been taught that robots and computer networks are inherently demonic. Limhoon orders a landing and seizes a small chunk of territory near the Earth’s capital city, *São Paulo*.

2. “Ambassadors”: Sheessay blackmails Limhoon by revealing that she has recorded him fabricating orders that allow him to exceed his authority and intervene in Earth’s affairs. Sangh gets Limhoon to reappoint him ambassador and allow him to descend to the planet’s surface. Limhoon reluctantly agrees, but sends Tralf Ghiller, Sangh’s best friend, along as co-ambassador. They land at the *São Paulo* airport, where they are greeted by the President of the Solar System. Sangh and Tralf are joined by Lieutenant Commander Kolfhaj, who commands the first landing party, and by Bewinda Wharbut, a historian in Kolfhaj’s group. She resents Sangh and distrusts the *Seques*. A motorcade takes them all to the Presidential Palace. It is morning, on a Friday.