## K-T PARADOX

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The silence in that room wasn't one of reverence—it was one of restraint. The tension hovered like a contained storm; a pause in time before what no one dared call a leap.

It was April 18, 2035. A date marked hesitantly on the internal calendars of the Cronos-1 station, secretly erected on a remote fault line in Patagonia. The mission had been authorized under the strictest international secrecy, overseen by a scientific consortium with more power than any government.

Dr. Leonel Vargas stood beside the central panel, his eyes fixed on the lines of code flowing across the screen. Even there, with his hands still, he exuded a cold, focused authority. He was the idealist turned executor. Creator of the very theory he now lent himself to validating—or destroying.

"Last stable synchronization," Takeshi Morita said, without taking his eyes off the monitor. His voice betrayed the nervousness he was trying to hide. "Jump window open for twelve minutes. After that, nothing is guaranteed."

Leonel nodded. He didn't answer. He didn't need to.