

1: The History of Mana: How an Austronesian Concept Became a Video Game Mechanic

Laurence van Cott Niven's best known work is Ringworld (Ringworld, #1) (), which received the Hugo, Locus, Ditmar, and Nebula awards. His work is primarily hard science fiction, using big science concepts and theoretical physics.

The History of Mana: Amidst the suffering and wreckage, the survivors took stock of the new world they had found a land which was, like them, part of the on-line video game World of Warcraft. They were draenei, an uncorrupted race of Eredar that had been added to the game as part of its Burning Crusade expansion pack. I decided to play one, mostly because I was getting tired of playing dwarves and elves. I named him Izzycohen and taught him how to make jewelry. Spellcasters rely on mana. In World of Warcraft, mana is a magical energy possessed by druids, mages, paladins, priests, shamans, and warlocks, which is measured in points. Different spells cost different amounts of points. Much of the game mechanic revolves around managing and using mana wisely: Characters can replenish their mana by eating mana strudel and mana biscuits. Mana oil can be applied to weapons to increase the rate that their bearers regenerate it. Mana looms are required to weave enchanted cloth. Magical beasts such as mana leeches and mana serpents roam the land, ready to prey on spellcasters. At its height, there were more players of World of Warcraft than Pacific Islanders: At this time there were only about 6. And Warcraft is really just the start. How did a concept from Pago Pago become part of global gaming culture? How did an Austronesian spiritual force come on board the Exodar, and become part of the life of my draenei shaman? To answer this question we have to return to the Pacific, and to the Austronesians themselves. We first catch sight of them 5, years ago. Just as French, Greek, and Hindi share the common ancestral language of Indo-European, the native people of Taiwan, island Southeast Asia, some of mainland Southeast Asia, Madagascar, and much of the Pacific speak Austronesian languages. And just as anthropologists and linguists have reconstructed Indo-European culture the chariots, the sacrifices, the epic poetry so too have they pieced together a coherent picture of the Austronesians. Like the Indo-Europeans, they liked to travel. Around four thousand years ago Austronesian speakers began expanding outward from their homeland in Taiwan, moving south and west in voyages that make Indo-European migration seem puny. Austronesians were seafarers, building rafts and canoes capable of breathtaking journeys. Some expanded west as far as modern day Mozambique and settled Madagascar. Mostly they moved east: They were probably matrilineal, reckoning descent through women rather than men. The made amazing pottery decorated with human figures, and imagined their leaders to be strangers of great power who came from far away. Although most people have never heard about it, the world of Austronesianists can be disputatious. A map of the remarkably rapid expansion of Austronesian languages. From there, he argues, it seems likely that the term shifted meaning and kept the sense of power and efficacy while losing its primary meteorological referent. Aram Oroi, a pastor and theologian from the island of Makira in the Solomon Islands, says that mana is like a flashlight being turned on. You sense something powerful but unseen, and then "click" its power is made manifest in the world. Wikimedia Commons It took centuries for Europeans to catch up with Austronesian-speaking people in their exploration of the Pacific. When they did, they were astounded. He then proceeded to journey with Cook, leading him to New Zealand, where he served as interpreter. On this and other trips Europeans were gobsmacked. How could people living thousands of miles from each other, across huge expanses of open ocean, speak languages as closely related as French or Spanish? How could they navigate to these islands without clocks or sextants? What they had not yet realized "what would take many years to grasp" was that the ocean was something that connected Pacific Islanders, rather than separating them. Those European attempts to understand the Pacific were at first racist and ham-fisted. Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia. Micronesia was pretty much was everything that was left over. We still use these categories today, despite their conceptual inadequacy. Austronesian languages and cultures, for instance, can be found in all three areas. Mana crosses the lines Europeans drew. Wikimedia Commons Over time Europeans slowly began to understand the languages and cultures of Polynesia, which had a relatively simple and short history of migration. Further west, however, more mysteries beckoned. One of the first people to study this area was Robert Henry Codrington. In he moved to Norfolk Island, off the coast of Australia, to

begin service with the Melanesian Mission. Most importantly, the Mission felt that conversion should not be rushed. Local cultures had to be learned and local languages carefully studied, perhaps for decades, before they could be understood. In fact, the main goal was to train Pacific Islanders to act as evangelists in their home communities. A drawing of a church at the Melanesian mission, But Codrington did more than that. He was the chief cook of the school, and produced plum puddings for the marriage feasts of his students. He learned how to print books, take photographs, and teach people to play the harmonium. Eventually, he served as the head of the mission from to before retiring to England. Europeans had been sniffing around Melanesia for over a century by the time that Codrington had gotten there, but few had spent as much time as he had living and working alongside Melanesians. Fewer still had travelled across the region the way he had, and none were as hell bent on spending their retirement as a gentleman scholar producing a massive ethnographic work about their experiences. Studies in their Anthropology and Folk-Lore appeared in This is what works to effect everything that is beyond the ordinary power of man, outside the common processes of nature; it is present in the atmosphere of life, attaches itself to persons and to things, and is manifested by results which can only be ascribed to its operation. Moreover, his book was one of the first ever written about Melanesia: But there was more to it than that. By the late s European knowledge of the world was growing in leaps and bounds. Philology and archaeology had revealed thousands of years of history in the ancient Near East that predated the world described in the Hebrew Bible. And translations of Buddhist, Hindu, and Confucian textsâ€”as these traditions came to be labeled in the Westâ€”revealed an entire world of thought whose antiquity and complexity made Christendom blush. A synthetic story of human civilization seemed within reach: Could mana represent the most basic, embryonic form that religion could take? Could it be the seed out of which Christianity would eventually spring? Could this belief in a universal spiritual force be similar to the concepts of orenda, zemi, and oki found in other regions as far away as Native North America? Was there in fact a universal human awareness of a generic cosmic force? How could the concept of mana as a generic spiritual force become invalidated and ubiquitous at the same time? One answer can be found in the story of Mircea Eliade. Born in Romania in , Eliade began his academic career studying the philosophy of Renaissance Italy. A detour took him to India, where he studied South Asian languages and Indian philosophy, eventually producing a Ph. Throughout the s and 40s, Eliade lived as an intellectual and writer in Romania, inadvertently spawning numerous Wikipedia edit wars by possiblyâ€”or possibly notâ€”becoming a fascist. It was there that he wrote the two works that presented his master philosophy: Wikimedia Commons Eliade believed that all humans had a fundamental experience of the sacred: Rather, Eliade argued, our experience of the divine is shaped by our culture, which filters it and makes it comprehensible. Eliade proposed a global comparative study of the culturally distinct shaping of hierophany. It was a new humanism, like the humanism of Renaissance Italy, but one that respected all cultures and treated them equally. It was be an entire academic discipline, one dedicated to documenting the history of human spirit. And, conveniently, it was a discipline that could be overseen and administered by Eliade himself. There, Eliade used his position at the Divinity School to become a hegemonic force. It would be a stretch to call this an Eliade industry. But not much of a stretch. His timing was perfect. In the late s a massive bolus of baby boomers was slowly being pushed through the American education system and out into the counterculture. These young people were looking for strange new worlds to replace the square one they had grown up in. Psychedelia famously provided a way to explore inner space, but young Americans began looking outside their country for cosmic assistance as well. Intellectuals such as Victor Turner and Joseph Campbell were widely read. Eliade was just a small part of this cultural movement, but he was a key part for our story because he was one of the few academics who read about the Pacific and wrote about manaâ€”a concept that might otherwise have disappeared in the deluge of European and Asian cultural material being consumed by the baby boomers. And consume it they didâ€”especially in California, where mana made the leap from the counterculture to gaming. Timothy Leary published *The Psychedelic Experience* in *In Lord of the Rings* was published in paperback in the United States, beginning decades of Tolkienmania and legitimating the burgeoning but disrespected genre of fantasy fiction. This was world that received *Dungeons and Dragons* when it first appeared in Its influences ricochet across recent cultural history like twenty-sided dice in a rolling tray.

2: Wait It Out (Audiobook) by Larry Niven | www.enganchecubano.com

first story in the series The Magic Goes Away.

Its most famous entry is Ringworld, one of the very few novels to win both the Hugo and Nebula awards. The most recent additions to the series are the novels Fleet of Worlds and Juggler of Worlds, both co-authored by Edward M. See also "Overview of Known Space" elsewhere at this website. The near future "After" to A handful of stories concern exploration of planets in our own solar system, which in the Known Space series is called Sol System. The early interstellar period "to" Using slower-than-light starships, Humans have established hard-won colonies around nearby stars, mainly on marginally habitable worlds: On Earth, population pressure has forced mandatory birth control, strictly regulated by the United Nations UN world government. Life-extending organ transplants are supplied by the organ banks, which are mainly supplied by the bodies of executed criminals. The enormous demand for organs has vastly increased use of the death penalty, to include even minor crimes. He investigates various crimes relating to organleggers black market dealers in organ transplants and newly discovered, dangerous technologies. Dates range from to on our Known Space Timeline. The intermediate era "to" The organ bank problem has greatly eased, due to various medical advancements. Several technological improvements, such as advanced psychotropic drug treatments and advanced psychiatric therapy, have created a "Golden Age," a society almost completely free of violence, in Sol System. Most of these advancements have been facilitated by the hidden influence of an unseen superhuman protector, one who sees a threat far beyond anything Humans can imagine. On Human colony worlds, life is not so ideal "especially on oppressed Plateau. The Man-Kzin Wars" to The Human colony of Wunderland is overrun by the Kzinti. Sol System desperately fends off repeated invasion by fleets of Kzinti warships from the much larger, militaristic Kzinti Empire. Unexpected salvation finally comes in the form of hyperdrive technology, sold to Humans by the mysterious alien Outsiders. More wars with the Kzinti Empire follow over the space of a century or so, all of which are easily won by Humans. By the end of the Man-Kzin Wars, the Kzinti Empire is a pale shadow of its former self, and several former Kzinti colonies are now part of Human Space. Most of the stories covering this period are from the Man-Kzin Wars series see separate entry, below of shared-universe collections, edited by Larry Niven but written by other writers. The beginning of this era overlaps the last decades of the "Intermediate era" summarized above. The Beowulf Shaeffer era "to" circa Over a century after the end of the Man-Kzin Wars, it is a pleasant period of easy interstellar tourism, using hyperdrive starships. Each interstellar species in Known Space has its own independent sphere of influence, and interaction is mainly peaceful trade. These species include the technologically advanced Puppeteers, and a former Kzinti slave species, the Kdatlyno. Over half the stories from this era concern interstellar tourist and accidental adventurer Beowulf Shaeffer. The Ringworld era "to" Human Space has expanded somewhat, establishing new colony worlds. A few technologies are more advanced. There is one fundamental change: The spread of the so-called "Teela Brown gene," the ultimate in psionic power, which manipulates probability in a manner making its possessor appear incredibly "lucky. But in later sequels to Ringworld, it seems that the UN central government has become somewhat oppressive, with significant restrictions on personal freedom. The Thousand Worlds "circa" Known Space has expanded enormously. Protected by the widespread so-called "Teela Brown gene," Humans have entered an era of ubiquitous peace and prosperity. Such an era may be pleasant to live in, but makes for rather dull stories. Only one such has been published:

3: Larry Niven Bibliography

A short story by Larry Niven. A short story by Larry Niven. FANDOM. Games Movies TV Video. Wikis. Explore Wikis Not Long Before The End (short story) Edit.

Click on the above pic to visit our sister site Bear Alley Books Wednesday, November 05, Larry Niven The first gallery in a while and the first relating to a living author. Just so happens, Larry Niven is one of my favourite writers. I sat down and re-read some: Harness and a whole bunch of stories by Larry Niven. Of course, Niven is still with us and still writing, so I headed over to Amazon and picked up some of his more recent titles—Scatterbrain, Crashlander, The Draco Tavern and his latest novel in paperback, Fleet of Worlds, co-written with Edward M. Lerner, to catch up on his more recent work. In the s I was living in a tiny little flat and most of my books had to be stashed away in boxes; after a couple of moves, I got so fed-up with lugging boxes around that I sold off most of my SF collection. However, I allowed myself to keep a select few titles: Niven was one author I held onto. Clarke was my first obsession, followed by Isaac Asimov. I read quite a lot of their non-fiction, too, so I started to get to grips with all sorts of astronomical terminology. I knew what a neutron star was before I discovered a story with that title. From memory, it must have been in the Asimov-edited Hugo Winners anthology reprinted by Sphere in but which I must have picked up second-hand a few years later. Inconstant Moon was, I think, the first and that was in Loved that Eddie Jones spaceship on the cover and swapped 65p for it. Jones was also the artist on the Asimov anthologies. The surface area is 3 million times that of Earth and has an incredibly diverse range of life-forms living on its inner surface. He attended schools in Beverly Hills and Carpinteria, flunked out of the California Institute for Technology, having spent too much time reading SF, but subsequently graduated in mathematics from Washburn University, Kansas. Lerner which is in some part a sequel to Protector, due in A Gift From Earth Space. The Flying Sorcerers, with David Gerrold. Inferno, with Jerry Pournelle. A World Out of Time. Chicago, Playboy Press, The Magic Goes Away Magic. The Ringworld Engineers Space. The Patchwork Girl Space. New York, Ace, ; London, Macdonald, Dream Park, with Steven Barnes Park. Oath of Fealty, with Jerry Pournelle. The Descent of Anansi, with Steven Barnes. The Integral Trees Trees. Footfall, with Jerry Pournelle. The Smoke Ring Trees. The Ringworld Throne Space. New York, Tor Books, May New York, Tor Books, Jun Fleet of Worlds, with Edward M. New York, Tor Books, Oct Juggler of Worlds, with Edward M. New York, Tor Books, Sep Three Books of Known Space contains: New York, Ballantine, Sep The Integral Trees contains: New York, Ballantine, Aug New York, Pocket Books, Feb Collections Neutron Star Space. New York, Ballantine, Jan New York, Ballantine, Jun Holland, Meulenhoff Science Fiction, Minneapolis, Steel Dragon Press, Dec The Roentgen Standard; In Memorium: San Francisco, ConFrancisco, Nov Introduction; Procrusties; Where Next, Columbus? New York, Ballantine, Apr New York, Tor Books, Aug New York, Tor Books, Jan New York, Ace, New York, Berkley, Jun New York, Baen, Aug Riverdale, NY, Baen, Sep Riverdale, NY, Baen, Oct Riverdale, NY, Baen, Jul The Best of All Possible Wars. The Houses of the Kzinti. The Wunder War by Hal Colebatch. New York, DC Comics, Television Plays Star Trek: Sanctioned by Niven, with news and a comprehensive bibliography. Interviews Silver Bullet Comics. August interview by Aaron Hughes. Audio interview from 21 Feb August interview by Shaun Farrell. Adventures in SciFi Publishing. Audio interview by Shaun Farrell from Conjecture, 29 Sep

4: Larry Niven - Wikipedia

The Magic Goes Away is a fantasy short story written by Larry Niven in , and later expanded to a novella of the same name which was published in While these works were not the first in the "Magic Universe" or "Warlock" series, they marked a turning point after the oil crisis and Niven's subsequent transformation of the series into an allegory for a modern-day energy crisis.

I lost faith when he was writing his fascist military books together with Jerry Pournelle but I got this from a friend and it was worth a few hours reading. There are some pretty wild ideas but most of the stories are so easily forgettable I had forgotten the ones in the beginning by the time I reached the end. All the Myriad Ways refers to the theory of the multiverse in which every decision everyone faces spawns a new universe. Niven puts a couple of spins on this. There is a sword and sorcery story which foretells his series that begins with The Magic Goes Away. The most famous story is no doubt Man of Steel, Woman of Kleenex in which Niven points out the difficulties of Superman ever having children with a human woman- L. Better to read fiction! Not being a dummy Niven saves the best for last. The final three stories are all unique and exciting. In Inconstant Moon he shows us, among other things, how a writer can hoodwink a reader. As someone who has read a deal of popular astronomy I know this is balderdash. Our sun is not the type to go nova, and something which Niven later confirms. IT does make a good story though. What if all creation myths were true? Not a pleasant place but an interesting environment for us to meet two humans in trouble. Human I mean, they are absolutely in deep shit Quite a bit of fun, actually. Especially the first one throws up many interesting questions concerning practical philosophy - what do "free will" and "free decision" mean? What are their value? Is a free decision only pure chance and nothing more? I feel the other stories do not match up in quality to these two, but they all are short, interesting and fun reads. Jan 21, Craig rated it really liked it This is an early of collection of fiction and non-fiction from Niven with many of what would be come to be known as his early classics included. There are also a number of early Known Space stories

5: Nebula Final Ballots from the s

This early Niven story was the first of many to delve deeply into the legal and ethical implications of organ-transplant technology. It introduces Known Space's organ banks and the breed of criminals known as "organleggers".

6: www.enganchecubano.com: Customer reviews: The Burning City

Larry Niven's Bibliography Compiled by David Lambert and Carol Phillips. Not Long Before the End (#39) Date Setting Type Published I.U.C.

7: Title: Not Long Before the End

Not Long Before the End by Larry Niven - book cover, description, publication history.

8: Not Long Before the End | Larry Niven Wiki | FANDOM powered by Wikia

Not Long before the End audiobook written by Larry Niven. Narrated by Bronson Pinchot. Get instant access to all your favorite books. No monthly commitment. Listen online or offline with Android, iOS, web, Chromecast, and Google Assistant.

9: Bear Alley: Larry Niven

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