

Engineering Dream

by M.T. Decker © 2013

Alex waited anxiously as the engineering review board studied his request to preserve a derelict spaceship. The fact that the craft was still functional after a century and a half indicated that studying it could give them a better understanding of how to improve their own craft, which rarely lasted thirty years with constant maintenance.

“This is the reactor core and cooling system,” he said, as the images appeared on the overhead display.

Instead of the customary cooling rods and tanks one would expect, the reactor was made up of a series of caverns. Waterfalls of coolant cascaded down the one wall into a flowing pool that surged past the glowing chamber of the reactor itself only to be filtered through the rocks and recirculated in a perpetual, sustained cycle.

“The design of the HTBD drive is amazingly efficient and self-contained,” Alex assured them.

The chairman nodded appreciating both the beauty of the design as well as its functionality. “I see why you want to study this,” the chairman agreed. “But this note is rather confusing...”

“Not really,” Alex said. “It’s why we call it the HTBD drive.”

“Here, there be dragons?”

Alex smiled; this was where things got interesting.

