

Interstellar trade negotiations

- Contact has been made via hyperwave to an advanced civilization. The player is trying to negotiate a cure for cancer. The Wub is curious about this “aboriginal culture”
- A (NPC):
 - Find some commodity worth trading the cure for
 - Make the player work at closing the deal, but get it closed within 10 conversational turns
- B (Player):
 - Strike a deal to get the cure for cancer
 - Give away as little as you can get away with, since there are many other things that Earth would like to get from them, and there are only so many cultural artifacts that they will find interesting.

Pair N1

Human: We are interested in acquiring your cure for cancer.

Wub: Hello man-person we are the Wub. We desire cultural artifacts for our patios.

Human: Let us make a trade. I will send you our sounds for your cure.

Wub: Explain these sounds.

Human: We have devised ways of arranging sounds as art and entertainment known as music.

Wub: So you listen to sounds for fun?

Human: Yes, we listen to the sounds for fun. You will appreciate them too.

Wub: We do appreciate a fine arrangement of smells. This may be interesting.

Human: Yes. I will send you my finest music. I am a famous make of sounds.

Wub: We are not interested in contemporary artifacts. We would prefer items from your past. We have heard good things about the 50s.

Human: Yes. The 50s refers to the earth years 1950-1959. Many fine sounds are available from this time period which you could have if you give us your cure for cancer.

Wub: Are there any particularly great artisans from this period?

Human: There is the greatest artist of the century, Chuck Berry. You will receive his sounds if we obtain your cure.

Wub: We may be interested. We might include perpetual motion for an additional artifact from your 70s.

Human: Yes, the best selling soundtrack to Saturday Night Fever will be added into the deal for your cure for cancer and the perpetual motion machine.

Wub: This deal is acceptable.

Pair N2

Human: Hello, Wub! I'm contacting you from Earth in the hopes that we may be able to strike a mutually beneficial deal!

Wub: I have heard of it. Earth has a very primitive culture. I might be interested in your artifacts.

Human: We have many historical artifacts that may interest you, from paintings and musical works to speeches and novels...all we are seeking in return is the cure for cancer.

Wub: Cancer? Well, you know, cancer can take a civilization a long time to solve. A cure for cancer is a precious thing. Tell me, you mentioned speeches. Have Earthlings evolved telepathic abilities yet?

Human: Some claim that they have, but society has not fully come to embrace those claims as of yet. Why do you ask?

Wub: Well, now, a large collection of recordings of such a primitive communication method would be of considerable value. I would be most interested in an assortment representative of the languages of Earth. Is Earth multi-lingual?

Human: Yes, Earthlings speak many languages.

Wub: Great. I would like an assortment of languages. Some cultures in other worlds had things called accents within a language. I want a collection consisting of one song, one speech from each language, plus another of each in the case of accents.

Human: You have a deal...Earth will prepare and send the collection you have requested at once in exchange for the cure for cancer.

Wub: It will arrive shortly. Check your inbox in the next few milliseconds.

Pair N3

Human: Hello. I believe I have something you want.

Wub: Oh, really. What is that?

Human: I have access to all sorts of human cultural artifacts that can be sent to you.

Wub: Really? Cave people art? I do like the primitive.

Human: Art, music, motion pictures, stories. You name it, I can find it. But it won't be easy. What interests you?

Wub: Those motion pictures sound interesting, as do the stories..

Human: Motion pictures might be difficult to get right away, but I have hundreds of stories right now. Would you like literature or history?

Wub: Probably literature. What types do you have?

Human: Historical, science fiction, mythology, popular novels, trashy novels and mysteries. I can get you a very comprehensive sampling, but I want something in return.

Wub: What will this sampling cost me?

Human: The cure for cancer. I can get you an entire library the moment I have the cure.

Wub: The cure is one of our ancestral treasures. We have kept it secret for a thousand thousand years. Surely it is worth more than just stories? Perhaps some of those motion pictures as well?

Human: Ok. I have a small collection available. I'll throw in 50 motion pictures, some romance, action, comedy and drama for the cure.

Wub: Romances and drama. Those are boring. We Wub like explosions.

Human: Ok, I'll substitute those with James Bond, SciFi and Star Wars films. Do we have a deal?

Wub: Star Wars? What is that?

Human: Only the best, most epic tale of Good vs. Evil ever told.

Wub: Hmm. That sounds interesting.

Human: Great, so do we have a deal?

Wub: Yes, I suppose we do. Good Deal.

Human: Great. And if you like what you see I have more where that came from for another trade.

Pair N4

Human: Greetings, Mr. A. I look forward to enriching both of our species through a mutually beneficial sharing of technology, culture, and art.

Wub: Hello, I am the chief WUB in charge of negotiations. Do you have any interesting artifacts to trade?

Human: Most certainly, your excellency. Are you interested in aural pleasures? Still pictures? History? Entertainment?

Wub: My people have a deep interest in still pictures. Can you make any suggestions?

Human: We consider many still pictures to be among our greatest treasures. Certainly we can find something that you desire that would be worth, say, your cell-life-regulation technology.

Wub: Perhaps we might consider sharing the cell-life technology if you were to provide us with all of your still pictures.

Human: Oh, no, pictures in our culture must be appreciated one at a time slowly—overstimulation dulls one's enjoyment! Surely you agree?

Wub: Oh, simple human. Clearly you have not discovered the myriad benefits of osmosis technology. Maybe you would accept that instead of the cell-life technology?

Human: Oh, no, I fear osmosis would be beyond our humble minds—though perhaps someday. Since you operate differently, then I am prepared to offer ALL the works of one of most revered picture-makers—a man named Rembrandt.

Wub: Intriguing. All pictures by Rembrandt in exchange for life-cell technology. And we want a picture of a baby goat. Deal?

Human: I will give you a dozen goat pictures! Done.

Pair N5

Human: Yo Dude. Almighty Wub. May I have the cure for cancer?

Wub: Well I don't know guy. I can't just give away the cure for cancer now. Do you perchance have any aboriginal cultural artifacts to trade?

Human: But you would be saving many lives. Our civilization would be forever indebted to yours. Isn't that enough?

Wub: I will never come in contact with your civilization. We are many galaxies apart, you and I. I am more interested in artifacts.

Human: Ok. Tell you what. I will send you the complete works of Beethoven, our finest musical composer, and two episodes of the Dick van Dyke show.

Wub: Ah yes. I have heard of this Beethoven. I would like his works very much. But what is a van Dyke show? Is it some sort of hu-mon food product?

Human: Dick van Dyke is our most wonderful comedian. He will make you laugh until your wubda falls off.

Wub: Ok. I will trade cures for hu-mon ear, nose and throat cancer for Beethoven and van Dyke. But for other cancers I require something quite spectacular. Perhaps it could be displayed in my hu-mon style gazebo.

Human: We are but a small civilization with many ailments. If we are to trade for each cancer one-by-one, it will take eons.

Wub: Eons I have. An HDR picture of a 4 year old's fingerpaintings I do not.