

Antimatter, a fascinating concept, behaves like regular matter unless it encounters normal matter, leading to catastrophic reactions. This interaction can yield anything from harmful gamma rays to a swift release of high-speed subatomic particles, emphasizing the need for living organisms to steer clear of it. Antimatter's breakthrough came on old Earth prior to the Diaspora, wherein its synthesis and containment paved the way for advancements in interstellar travel, integral for missions like the Diaspora that aimed to escape dire conditions back home, specifically the Bubble War.

History reflects that each new technology is typically first exploited for vanity and warfare, and antimatter was notably engineered for destructive purposes. The introduction of the magnetic monopole bubble made it possible to safely store and detonate antimatter, producing remarkably lethal yet clean "bubble bombs." These devices could annihilate populations without leaving behind radioactive residues, thus enabling invaders to occupy strategically advantageous territories with minimal fallout—effectively presenting a terrifying weapon of choice in warfare.

During a profound environmental crisis on old Earth, characterized by overpopulation and resource scarcity, the introduction of bubble bombs exacerbated tensions among nearly two hundred competing political entities. The subsequent Bubble War erupted and ended within a mere three weeks, depleting the planet's antimatter supply and resulting in the deaths of over half of the global population. The aftermath prompted the launch of the ****Ching Shih****, indicating a desperate bid for survival and a move away from humanity's violent tendencies.

Despite the exodus into the Diaspora, a prevailing fear lingered: the potential resurgence of antimatter weaponry. To counter this anxiety, the Union established a clear, unwavering rule against the use of antimatter, believing themselves distinct from their predecessors on old Earth. However, the reality remains that the Union is not inherently different; conflicts still arise, albeit without the catastrophic weaponry of the past. Breaking the antimatter rule would incur dire consequences, solidifying the gravity of adhering to this principle among the worlds within the Union.