

# When the Cosmos Speaks: Deliberations at Norrvakten

## (4I/EDDA-version)

**Playing time:** ~60 min (flex)

**Players:** 5–10 + 1 Gamemaster (GM)

**Props:** Laptop + SignalConsole v1.6.3 (offline) + laptop speaker, paper + pens

---

### Premise

A faint, recurring beep at **1420 MHz** now follows the same window as the interstellar body **4I/EDDA**. Several stations have independently confirmed the correlation.

The game is about **how you relate to this**—and what **decision** you make for Norrvakten.

---

### Running the game

**Set up the SignalConsole** by opening the file “SignalConsole v1.6.3” on a computer/tablet. It should be available to all participants during the larp.

*(If SignalConsole v1.6.3 isn't available, you can still run the larp—just clarify to players that the sound is a regular beep, exactly once per second.)*

**Arrange the room.** During play there should be a central large table to sit around, or a circle of chairs. Players may move freely during the larp. Ensure there are extra chairs elsewhere so roles can circulate and several parallel conversations can happen.

**Hand out the role cards.**

**Give participants time to read their role cards (2 minutes).**

**Remind them the roles are only a base**—they are free to play them as they wish.

### Warm-up

Each player says their character's name and who they are (**30 seconds each**): “I am ... and in the village I am ...”.

**Walk through the room layout.**

**Show the operators** how to use the console (Play/Stop/Loop/Static). They operate it during the larp.

### **Read the Mood Text.**

Inform players that all characters know what was said in the Mood Text—they were briefed at the start of the meeting.

**Remind the group of the goal:** decide what Norrvakten should do with the information about the signal (the signal is just the beep itself; it contains no other information).

**Explain that when the larp starts, we are dropping in early in the meeting held at Norrvakten.**

**Start the larp by counting down from 5.**

**As GM, announce when 5 minutes remain.**

**Ensure there are 5–10 minutes after play to talk about the larp.**

---

## Closing

- **Check-in** — What did everyone think about the larp?
- **Closing** (debrief as needed)

---

## Roes

Roles are distributed from the top down; e.g., if there are 8 players, roles 9 and 10 are not used.

1. **Radio Operator (Primary), LYSS-17 — console/telemetry**
  2. **Radio Operator (Secondary), LYSS-17 — console/telemetry**
  3. **Journalist, P4 Local Radio**
  4. **Priest in the nearby village, Church of Sweden**
  5. **Representative for Coastal Fishers (professional fisher)**
  6. **Pub Owner, Harbour Pub “Fyren”**
  7. **Astrobiologist, Uppsala University**
  8. **Site Manager, Listening Station LYSS-17**
  9. **Crisis Psychologist**
  10. **Librarian, Stora Sagan Library**
-

# Mood text

## Listening Station LYSS-17 — aka “Norrvakten”

### Shift log, night

The Norrvakten crew returned from the village two days ago and hasn't left the station since. Coffee became meals. Cables were replaced, ground points re-measured, the generator ran hot. They compared with their other telescopes to the north, south, and far to the west: no local source of interference; no cataloged satellite fits. What remains is the beep itself.

On the screen: a clear, stubborn pulse at **1420 MHz**. At first it was numbers refusing to behave; now it carries a name on the network: **4I/Edda**. 4I/Edda was discovered a few weeks ago, logged as an interstellar asteroid—another passing stranger. But over the last days it has become clear the beep **tracks Edda's path**. After two days of attempted explanations, the pattern holds. Is Edda just stone? Or a vessel transmitting to establish contact? *Is that possible?*

The network has switched to **Rio scale: 10**.

*For the record:* the **Rio scale** (0–10) weighs credibility against consequence for interstellar radio signals. **10** means: a **confirmed artificial signal** with immediate, worldwide ramifications.

Norrvakten's **preparedness list** is activated: fishers, the press contact, the local priest, and others are called to a meeting at Norrvakten. Protocol requires **civilian witnesses**, but the decision is formed **together**: station staff and those called from the community, same table, same responsibility. They are here to weigh the **implications**—risk, ethics, consequences—not to “solve the riddle.”

If this is true—what changes for us, here? For humanity? Tonight the conversation itself is the instrument. The decision you shape will be **Norrvakten's voice**.

**Your goal** is to end the session with **a clear course of action based on what you know**.

Examples of possible decisions:

- **Wait & observe** — await further signals from **4I/Edda**
- **Escalate – press** — allow the journalist to go public in the media
- **Escalate – upward** — inform the relevant authority
- **Reply** — draft a brief message and transmit to **4I/Edda**

You are **not** limited to these options; you decide what to do—and you may choose multiple actions. What matters is that you **own** your stance together.

## Role cards

### Radio Operator (Primary), LYSS-17 — console/telemetry

- Methodical and calm.
- Strongly **positive** that the signal is genuine; wants the whole world to access the data.
- Values a calm, orderly discussion.
- Operates the signal console
- **Relationships:** Has worked closely with the **Site Manager** for many years. Long-running bickering with the **Journalist** about “quotes taken out of context.” Studied together with the **Astrobiologist**—mutual respect.

### Radio Operator (Secondary), LYSS-17 — console/telemetry

- Practical, solution-oriented; loves listening to the signal.
- **Curious optimist.**
- Wants to be taken seriously by the locals.
- Operates the signal console
- **Relationships:** Cousin of the **Representative for Coastal Fishers**. Often has dinner at the **Fyren** pub.

### Journalist, P4 Local Radio

- Fast; thinks in headlines.
- **Ambivalent:** wants to be first with the story (*preferably* without triggering panic). It would be good for the career.
- Seeks set lines: *What do we know? What don't we know? What do we do now?*
- Practicing Christian.
- **Relationships:** Often gets scoops from the **Pub Owner**. Pushes the **Site Manager** and **Radio Operators** for quotes. Knows the **Crisis Psychologist** well privately; they attend the same church.

## **Priest in the nearby village, Church of Sweden**

- Down-to-earth pastoral carer; prefers to avoid doctrinal lock-ins.
- **Hopeful but careful:** opens space for meaning without stating conclusions.
- Wondering what this implies for Christian doctrine.
- Christian.
- **Relationships:** Has had several factual conversations with the **Astrobiologist** about meaning. Sometimes in friction with the **Journalist**. Mutual trust with the **Librarian**.

## **Representative for Coastal Fishers (professional fishers)**

- Demands plain speaking.
- **Skeptic:** “What am I supposed to say in the harbor tomorrow?”
- Wants to know who carries the cost—believes it will fall on the village if this information spreads.
- **Relationships:** Backs the **Secondary Radio Operator** (cousin). On bad terms with the **Fyren** pub owner (due to reduced compensation for fish). Previously supported by the **Crisis Psychologist** after a colleague was lost at sea.

## **Pub Owner, Harbour Pub “Fyren”**

- Rumor hub and everyday diplomat; helps keep the village together.
- **Pragmatic humanist.**
- Advocates a joint message when the decision is made.
- **Relationships:** Often feeds scoops to the **Journalist** (news brings people to the village, which is good for business). Trusted by the **Crisis Psychologist** and the **Librarian**.

## **Astrobiologist, Uppsala University**

- Technically on vacation; happened to be at the **right place at the right time**. Was called in for perceived expertise related to aliens.

- **Cautiously positive:** often frames scenarios as “if X, then Y.”
- Very excited about the situation but wants to remain professional.
- Gladly brakes speculation that isn’t supported by facts.
- **Relationships:** Studied together with the **Primary Radio Operator**—mutual respect. Has had several factual conversations with the **Priest** about meaning.

### Site Manager, Listening Station LYSS-17

- Bears responsibility upward.
- **Pragmatic caution:** “anchor before you promise.”
- Wants to reach a decision that withstands scrutiny.
- **Relationships:** Trusts the **Primary Radio Operator** highly after years of work together. Asks the **Librarian** for advice on how to address the public. Unsure why the **Astrobiologist** happens to be in the village right now—something seems off.

### Crisis Psychologist (human response)

- Steady, listening; sees people before narrative.
- **Neutral/care-focused:** concentrates on how the decision affects the village.
- Gathers the group when things heat up; tries to catch feelings.
- Practicing Christian.
- **Relationships:** Has supported the **Fishers’ Representative** after a previous crisis. Knows the **Journalist** well privately; they attend the same church.

### Librarian, “Stora Sagan” Library

- Popular educator; collects stories and sources.
- **Curious bridge-builder** between science and everyday language.
- Good at knowing how to speak to the general public.
- Practicing Christian.

- **Relationships:** Often collaborates with the **Journalist**. Mutual trust with the **Priest**.

# Credits & Permissions

***When the Cosmos Speaks: Deliberations at Norrvakten*** is conceived and developed by Felix Hemström Trolin.

***When the Cosmos Speaks: Deliberations at Norrvakten*** is part of the ***When the Cosmos Speaks*** series.

**Copyright:** © 2025 Felix Hemström Trolin. All rights reserved.

**Use & Permissions:** This material may **not** be copied, distributed, translated, published online, or modified **without the author's prior written consent**. Printing for a single game session is permitted; any other use (including adaptations, excerpts, or public hosting) requires permission.

**Scope of Fiction:** The scenario employs real-world terms (e.g., the Rio scale) in a **fictionalized** context. It makes no claims of scientific or operational accuracy and should not be treated as technical guidance.

**Wellbeing:** Themes may touch on faith/doubt, crisis, and media attention. Facilitators are responsible for safety tools, consent, and an appropriate debrief.

**Trademarks & Names:** Any referenced names or entities are used fictionally; no endorsement is implied.

**Contact:** For licensing, distribution, or adaptation inquiries, please contact Felix Hemström Trolin at felhemtro@outlook.com