

Farewell, my children.

## [The Hammers arc] [11] [Farewell] [9873]

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### **Required reading:**

[Cecil arc] [6] [Project Marat] [8961]

[Cecil arc] [7] [Fall of the Oren] [9737]

Year 9873, Venus.

Venus was being run by Gair Klisis, the president, who was assisted by ex-Hammer members and his wife, Nikki. Cecil had stepped down soon after he finally dissolved United Sol and had even left Venus.

Although Venus was still under dictatorship, the government structure had largely become democracy. It was mostly due to the fact that Cecil Klisis was no more. With him gone, Gair and the others had to barter with political parties and clans which resulted in a lesser degree of dictatorship. However, the core of Venus governing structure was still, nevertheless, dictatorship.

Two women in identical clothes entered the lobby of the great city hall of Venus. They were Brellia and Hiean, the twin daughters of Karl and Devon. Devon retired

not long ago, and she was succeeded by her two daughters. The original members of the Hammers were in progress of retirements as well. Kasper had also retired recently.

They approached a reception desk with certain swagger, and a receptionist recognized them immediately.

"Greetings," The receptionist said. "He is waiting for you in his office."

Vakha had summoned them to his office. When the twin arrived at the office, he was being donned a long coat by his wife, Ardilia

"Welcome, you two." After he greeted them casually, he placed two sealed envelopes on his desk. "Each of you, take one of these."

Brellia and Hiean picked them up at once. "What's this?" Hiean asked.

After he finished donning his coat, Ardilia was dusting off the coat with a device.

"I am retiring," He declared. "And I am splitting my fleet. Each of you will get 2/5, and your rank will be promoted to commodore."

Vakha was an admiral, though he was not as highly regarded as Nikki was. There was no variety in Venus' admiral ranks. In other words, admiral was the highest rank for admirals. There were no vice and rear admiral ranks. All admiral ranks were unified although there were junior and senior admirals.

Nikki and he were both senior admirals.

Meanwhile, Hiean found something odd. If the twin was to get 2/5 of his fleets, there was 1/5 left. Vakha read her mind and explained, "Someone else will be getting the final portion of my fleet. He should be here soon."

"Speak of the devil," He added.

A man entered the office and saluted at him. "Karveel reporting, Admiral."

Karveel, he was originally an administrator of Moon. After United Sol fell on year 9747, he fled to Venus before Emuel would take over Earth and Moon. Karveel had lost his rank and had to start afresh. He started as a mere field-officer at Venus outpost.

"Karveel," Vakha stated. "I hereby declare that you've been promoted to commander. You've also been specifically assigned to be in charge of patrolling."

He placed another sealed letter on the desk. Taking the letter, Karveel bowed deeply to him. "Thank you, sir!"

"You are all dismissed."

After Brellia, Hiean, and Karveel left the office, silence struck the room.

"Well, it's done, Ardilia." He shrugged. "I am officially retired now."

"Good for you," She smiled at him. "Now, we should enjoy life."

He was, by no means, that old to retire. He was over 500 years old, but as a hyper human who went through Cecil Klisis' training, he had still plenty of years to live for. The retirement was proposed by Ardilia who wanted to raise a family. Having spent his entire life in battles, he agreed to withdraw from front line. Even with his retirement, he wasn't completely off from duty. He became a backup agent per Gair's request.

Vakha had a last look around his office, which he had never really worked in. He was an active admiral who was, most of time, out for duty in space. If anything had changed in his office, it would be dusts that had gathered over time. Cleaners were not allowed to do their duties in high ranking officers' offices due to security.

"What's for dinner today?" Changing the subject, he asked Ardilia casually.

Placing her arms around his neck, she softly replied, "Omurice."



The great rivers region was once a source for fresh water. During 95xx and 96xx, the region was largely a protected area where human settlement was strictly forbidden. The policy had changed as the Crater sought to expand its borders beyond its walls. Since then, the region had been developed and human

settlements were allowed gradually. By year 9873, it became a fully developed urban. The place now bore a name, Aqua.

The incident began here in this city. It started with appearance of a strange person, later identified as a woman, causing chaos in the city. Aqua was a part of the Crater, but it was an independent entity. City police reported the incident as an ESP rampage in the beginning. It wasn't exactly common. However, they believed that it was not noteworthy and did not report the matter to their higher ups.

"Freeze! Halt what you are doing!"

Several policemen were a distance away from the woman. They armed themselves with anti-ESP pistols. One of the policemen took out a scanning device to obtain the woman's ID.

The woman was average height of 5'7" and had slightly curly blond hair. She was also wearing what appeared to be an old-fashioned, European medieval, dress.

The scanning device identified the woman as "Illy O'ren". They recognized the O'ren but failed to recognize "Illy O'ren". After all, Illy O'ren was a person of late 95xx era. Failing to recognize who she was, they relayed the identification to their station.

Gair was in his office. Though people of this era was physically immortal, Gair showed the weight of time slightly overall. His aura and appearance were no longer that of his younger days under Cecil Klisis' protection. His aura had a noble weight.

His daily routine involved checking through planetary affairs. It was truly a pure coincidence that he was looking at status of Aqua. Noticing that Aqua was currently under status of yellow alert, he looked deeper where he noticed a familiar name.

"Illy Oren...!" He uttered.

Gair immediately summoned Kisia and showed her the report. Unlike Kasper, Dante, and Vakha, Kisia had not yet retired. However, her role had largely shifted since her marriage with Marglus Vlues. She acted as more of a diplomat between Venus government and the Vlues clan on surface. She was, nevertheless, still one of the most trusted people for Gair.

She narrowed her eyes as she saw the report. *'The time has come,'* She thought. Cecil did warn her that Illy O'ren would appear one day. It had taken hundreds of years however.

Gair suggested recalling Vakha. However, Kisia objected, stating that he retired. Instead, Kisia suggested Brellia and Hiean. The twin appeared shortly after in the office.

"Did you call us? It was an urgent summon," Hiean said as they entered the office.

Kisia explained the situation to them.

"What is your final order?" The twin asked indifferently. They could care less who Illy O'ren was to be honest.

"You are to eliminate the object," Kisia answered gravely. "Show no mercy."

Gair remarked after the twin left, "I doubt they can defeat her." To which Kisia refused to reply but let out of a long sigh instead.

She knew something which no one else did and knew that she had to earn time until Cecil would appear. She didn't exactly know what had happened to Illy O'ren. The little knowledge she had was from Cecil who had warned her of this very incident before he left Venus for good. He promised that he'd return to deal with Illy O'ren.

When Hiean and Brellia arrived at the scene, a few policemen were already down and cars were burning. Armored cars were present; they were being defensive.

After the twin identified themselves to the authority, they went forward to deal with Illy O'ren.

She was on a road, quietly enjoying her moment of solitude.

After slowly gazing upon Brellia and Hiean, Illy O'ren spoke, "I do not recognize you two..., a twin?"

"I am Brellia," One with slightly longer hair claimed.

"And I am Hiean," One with shorter hair claimed. They both had pitch black hair.

Illy O'ren beamed a grin and shrugged, saying "No matter. You stand in my way. Step aside. I am here to collect a debt."

The twin posed to attack, "Surrender, or we will force you to," They warned.

Illy O'ren sneered at first, but her sneer turned into a hysterical laugh soon after. "Typical, very typical!" She uttered. "Be gone!"

Brellia and Hiean were ambushed by invisible objects. They were unable to see what was attacking them through their eyes until they were close enough to notice some sort of distortion in the air. At that point, all they could do was dodge.

"She is being protected by something invisible!" Hiean shouted as she dodged in air. "We can't even approach her!"

Brellia and Hiean evaded against the invisible objects, and that was all they could do at the moment.

"We need backups!" Hiean shouted at her communicator as she continued to dodge.

Gair wanted to send reinforcements, but he knew that sending ordinary personnel would only hinder them, and most members of the Hammer retired at the moment.

Kisia read his thought.

"Sad, isn't it," She remarked. "We don't have good replacements for ourselves..."

It was true. Because the Hammers were trained personally by Cecil Klisis, they were exceptionally more powerful than anyone else on Venus or even the whole clusters. Therefore, they were unable to find suitable replacements for themselves. Brellia and Hiean were the only ones that were barely good enough to take over few spots.

Gair had two children, but they were too young. Kisia was yet childless. Scheer O'ren and Dante had seven children who all reached their maturity, but none of them worked for Gair's government except one.

Myelvon was the only child of Scheer and Dante who chose not to work for his parents' organization. He was also the only one who refused to take on the last name O'ren and opted to work for Gair's government. However, Myelvon was too young at the moment. He was only twenty one years old and he was only a mere field officer at this time.

He was, however, a class A hyper human.

"Why are you hesitating to call him?" Kisia asked, seeing Gair was unable to make the call.

"He's too low in ranks," Gair replied with a troubled face, adding, "He is also too young for this."

Kisia sighed. Cecil would never care about ranks or age. If one was fit for a job, he hired anyone no matter what circumstances. She wanted to tell Gair that but she chose not to because she also knew that he had been overshadowed by his stepfather. As much as he respected his stepfather, he was also Gair's nemesis who he had to overcome.

"How about calling Vakha?" Kisia gave an alternative choice. She knew she rejected the choice before but he was the only one.

His face brightened a little after Kisia spoke what was in his mind. "Yeah, I think that's the only choice we have now."

Vakha received a call from Gair and responded immediately by reaching out for Brellia and Hiean. His wife, Ardilia, was with him as well.

"Sir!" Brellia and Hiean welcomed them gladly.

Ardilia narrowed her eyes as she looked over the scene and situation. The surrounding area was slowly turning into rubble, and she recognized Illy O'ren who was standing idly on a road.

"That's Illy O'ren, alright," She declared.

Illy O'ren recognized Ardilia as well. "I know you," Illy said with a resounding tone.

"Amor's granddaughter..., wasn't it?"

Ardilia nodded and said, "Yes."

Illy had a bitter look on her face. "You being here means it has happened," She said as if she concluded everything on her own within seconds.

"What has happened, what are you talking about?" Ardilia asked while Brellia and Hiean were fighting invisible objects. Vakha was about to assist the twin, but he was by Ardilia still.

"The crimson wizard hated the O'ren from bottom of his hearts," Illy lamented.

"Has the O'ren fallen?"

"Heart...s? Plural?" Ardilia mumbled.

"No, milady," Vakha replied. "The O'ren stands still. What's more, they are prospering."

Invisible objects that were attacking Brellia and Hiean ceased suddenly. The twin was confused and did not react well to the sudden change of situation and swung their blades in air in attempt to locate them.

She did look shocked, surprised, and at the same time, sad.

"It stands still?" She asked.

"Yes."

"Who is the headman?"

"Scheer O'ren."

"I do not recall his name..."

Ardilia told Illy O'ren the conflict between the O'ren and The Klisis regime. It took half an hour to tell her the story, and it was enough time for Kisia to arrive with a reinforcement. Kisia had brought Myelvon, of course without Gair's knowledge.

"What an interesting revelation Cecil has chosen. I must say I am impressed by his control over hatred..."

"Why have you come here?" Vakha demanded, pointing his energy blade at her.

"I have a right to be here. This is my planet," Illy responded fiercely. And, at the same time, the invisible objects resumed their attacking once again against Brellia and Hiean.

"No, it is his planet," Vakha replied as he ran toward her, only to be distracted by invisible objects. "Ugh," He let out of a painful moan as he was hit by the invisible object. He had to recoil several steps. Ardilia jumped in with her spear in order to assist her husband.

Meanwhile, Kisia was instructing Myelvon from a distance.

"Your task is earn time," She told him. "Do not risk anything. Don't be a hero. Be defensive and earn time."

"Earn time for what, ma'am?"

Myelvon resembled his father very much who was considered tall and intelligent-looking.

"We must wait for him."

"Him?"

"Our master."

He had no idea what Kisia was talking about. Regardless, he gave her a nod and initially went to Vakha's side to assist him, but he told him off, telling him to assist the twin.

"I have Ardilia!" He added. "I will be fine!"

Vakha appeared to be slashing at the invisible objects indefinitely as if he lost his mind. He was attacking so vigorously that he was hurting himself. Ardilia had her spear pointed at Vendm as if she was ready to thrust forward at any moment.

As he slashed at the invisible object mercilessly without giving it a time to react, it started to lose its invisibility slightly. Others could barely make out its outline.

"It's a drone," Kisia asserted.

"A cloaked drone? That's unheard of outside of nebula," Gair remarked. They were a distance away from the scene for safety. He noticed Myelvon approaching Brellia and Hiean. He assumed Kisia called him and made no comment about it.

The twin was mostly evading attacks from invisible objects. Myelvon had a quick overview at the battle scene and predicted location of the invisible object. He slashed his energy blade in the air at once. His blade made an impact with

something although the attack failed to decloak it, but the attack forced the invisible object to stop momentarily, giving the twin a chance to attack at last. Using Myelvon's blade as a point of attack, Hiean slashed her blade from top to bottom while Brellia thrust her blade forward.

The invisible object decloaked at last.

"What the..." Myelvon lost his words as he saw what looked like a pair of shiny steel plates bound to each other by nothing. A small green fragment of semi-transparent object sat between plates.

"I wouldn't call that a drone," Gair remarked, "I wouldn't even call that a machinery."

"It's very alien but I think it's still a drone nevertheless," Kisia added. "That green object seems to be its weak point though."

The twin and Myelvon apparently had the same thought and attempted to attack the green core which was met by an unexpected resistance when the two plates expanded in a surreal manner to block their attacks.

Hiean managed to slash the plates, but it seemed to be immune to energy blades. If it was a metal, it would have melt, but it did not.

They were forced to jump backwards when it spun out needle-like attacks in all directions.

“At least, we can see one,” Hiean remarked. “Too bad we don’t know how to defeat it.”

“For now,” Myelvon added, recalling Kisia’s comment.

“How pitiful!” Illy O’reen shouted. “You can’t even defeat that? How do you expect to protect Venus?” Then she laughed hysterically again. “I might as well take back this planet again!”

She continued her hysterical laugh and paid little attention to those who were battling the alien objects. “So pitiful, so hopeless,” She uttered.

Vakha and Ardilia were in deadlock with one. The twins and Myelvon were in deadlock with another. There seemed to be only two of the alien objects. Therefore, Kisia figured she would confront Illy directly.

As she teleported right in front of Illy who was still having her hysterical laugh, glared at her. “I know you,” She said with assurance. “I do recall your face.”

“My name is Kisia,” She said.

“I care not for your name.”

“Why have you returned?”

Illy narrowed her eyes; she was certain that no one expected her return. She was certain that everyone would have considered her long dead. “So, you knew I’d return? Who told you?” She let out of a short laughter then. “Of course, he would have told you.”

Of course, Cecil would have known. But She did not expect that he would inform anyone. She was, again, proven wrong.

Kisia summoned her blade out of compressed air. “Time to die,” She declared. She had no intention for a long conversation with her. She knew she wouldn’t listen and meant only harm to Venus. There was no doubt in her mind at all about killing her.

Despite of Illy O’ren unstable speech and behavior, she was in clear mind and realized Kisia was serious. Illy was a fine ESP in her own time and responded adequately by creating a protective barrier around herself which deflected Kisia’s blade with ease.

“What did he tell you?” Illy demanded.

“Why would you want to know?”

Illy chuckled at her response. She was right. She had no reason to ask such a question.

Kisia’s movements weren’t that of an ESP but more of a hyper-human’s. Although born as an ESP, she had long trained herself to be an augments ESP and specialized in converting her ESP into hyper-human abilities – it was a very rare specialization of ESP. Nevertheless, she had mastered her art and it had become her forte along with teleportation skills.

Her attack patterns were very defensive, attacking only when a clear opportunity arose.

“You know you cannot defeat me,” Illy O’ren provoked her. “And you think there are only two of those? There are billions.”

Kisia knew she could not defeat her. “Why only two today then? And why are you with those ... things?”

Quickly realizing her provocation did not work, she uttered, “Silent!” Fierce blow of air rampaged toward Kisia.

Meanwhile, whatever it was that Vakha and Ardilia were battling eventually decloaked itself under heavy duress. Having noticed from Hiean and Brella’s battle that the green object seemed to be its core, he came up with a plan by giving a firm nod to Ardilia.

“Here I go!” He bellowed as he took a firm step forward and started to barrage his giant blade onto the object.

As expected, it defended itself with its floating plates. The silvery plates deformed into various shapes in order to reduce damage from his blade. It did attempt to counter-attack numerous times which were all deflected by Vendm’s own attacks.

Ardilia was standing a distance behind her husband who was smashing the object nonstop. Inhaling a deep breath, she aimed and steadied her spear straightforward. She aimed at the green core; she had a fierce look on her face as she seized breathing in order to aim with further accuracy. It appeared as if she was going to thrust her spear through his belly.

At one point, she simply started to charge forward at lightning speed; she didn't howl or anything. It was as silent as it could have been.

To everyone's surprise, Vakha did not avoid her spear and let it just pierce through his abdomen. Blood spattered all over, and the bloody spear made a violent contact with the green core which shattered into pieces at once.

Smiling and bleeding from his mouth, he spoke with glee, "Gotcha."

The floating plates lost its levitation and dropped to the ground where it quickly faded away into thin air. Ardilia gently pulled her spear out and quickly placed medical devices on his wounds which ceased his bleeding at once.

Illy O'ren was silent over Vakha and Ardilia's hard-earned victory. Her reaction was content in that she was neither laughing nor frowning.

Meanwhile, Hiean, Brellia and Myelvon had their spirits lift up due to Vakha and Adrilia's victory. However, they had no way of defeating the alien drone. Hiean and Brellia were keeping it busy while Myelvon would occasionally try to attack the green core.

As much as Vakha wanted to assist them, he was in no such condition, and Adrilia chose not to leave his side at all. If there were any positives, it was that the twin sisters were becoming used to attack patterns of the unknown object which gave them more chances for counterattacks.

Not having any decent chance to strike at the green core, Myelvon came up with an idea to create a chance. All of a sudden, he deactivated his blade which caught Hiean and Brellia surprised.

“What are you doing?!” Hiean exclaimed desperately. The battle situation wasn’t in their favor and she was becoming frustrated at not having any progress.

Myelvon had a distinctive grin on his face as he pulled out battle gloves. Swiftly wearing them, he attempted to grab one of the plates. The plate acted accordingly and changed its shape. Hiean and Brellia didn’t miss this chance and immediately pressed for more offense. It quickly moved backwards instantly to give itself a breathing space which was disturbed by a gun shot. Myelvon apparently had also pulled out a pistol and shot at it.

“Melee, gun, and hand-to-hand,” Kisia commented as he saw Myelvon’s attempts to throw his opponent off its track. “He reminds me of Reed.”

Reed was known to be an expert in various types of combat styles and he earned his nickname as “The Master”.

Then she realized something, rather someone. She quickly vanished on spot, leaving Illy O’reen.

“Hmph,” Sneering, Illy continued observing the battle.

The twin and Myelvon were having a better flow of attacks, thanks to Myelvon’s chaotic attack patterns. He used his pistol, and then used his blade, and then used his fists in a random order. However, the battle still remained in deadlock with no

side having any clear advantage. It went on for a while until a figure quickly jumped in to join the battle.

“Mom?!” Hiean and Brellia exclaimed.

“Hi, kids,” Devon casually hailed her daughters.

“Your mom’s hot,” Myelvon remarked with a grin.

Even in her advancing years, Devon hadn’t changed much of her provocative outfit. Physically, on surface, she looked as young as her twin daughters. Her age was, however, well past five hundred years. She had retired over a hundred years ago.

She had two very distinctive guns in her hands. It was too big to be called a pistol and it had a very unusual design.

“You brought the Needles!” Hiean exclaimed in excitement.

The Needles were Devon’s signature weapons, and only she knew how to properly handle them. In untrained hands, the feedback was so great that it’d break one’s wrist upon firing a needle-like high caliber bullet. The guns were cooled by liquid and it held only one ammunition. Additional ammunition were equipped on her belt.

In a simpler term, the Needles were a smaller version of bazooka.

“That thing’s the target?” Devon pointed at the opponent with her gun.

“Yeah, mom, and we are having a really hard time,” Hiean replied.

“Distract it for me,” Devon said.

The twin nodded together at once with giggles.

“Yes, ma’am,” And Myelvon answered firmly.

The twin and Myelvon continued their attacks as usual while Devon aimed at it boldly from a short distance.

“Was that your idea?” Gair spoke as Kisia approached him.

Shrugging, she replied, “She has a unique weapon. If my assumption is correct, they seem to have studied human weapons and have expert knowledge of how to evade and counter them.”

“Which means it won’t know how to react to her weapon?”

“Probably not fast enough. That’s what I am hoping for.”

Devon had only one of her Needles aimed at the alien opponent, and when she eventually fired her gun, it made a loud hissing as a large titanium needle flew through air. The alien drone made a logical choice and had one of its plate in its path while pending off the twin and Myelvon with another plate by changing its shape into numerous needles.

Upon the impact, the needle had simply penetrated the plate and continued to advance onward; it missed the core by hair. Devon immediately fired the other gun. This time, the alien drone froze momentarily as if nothing knowing what to

do. And it was too late when it decided to act. The needle had already gone through whatever defense it had and crushed the core. Unfortunately, the needle's trajectory was altered by the impact and it went through Myelvon's left thigh.

Groaning, but not screaming, he jumped backwards and quickly attempted to stop bleeding by his hands. The twin jumped back also to give him medical attention.

With its core shattered, the opponent slowly fell to the ground at which point it vanished.

The twin cheered along with Vakha further away.

"Ha-!" Illy O'ren sneered out loudly. "So, you defeated the two I brought. Good for you."

She raised her arm and spoke aloud, "Now then face the real ordeal."

At once, hundreds decloaked. It'd appear that the whole area was full of them all along.

"Holy Daddy," Vakha uttered jokingly without any fear in his voice. "That's a bullshit load of'em."

"Kill them all! Venus shall be mine by the end of the day!" She bellowed.

They closed in swiftly from all directions. Adrilia closed her eyes and held Vakha's hand firmly.

“Oh, it’s not over,” He said, realizing that she was about to give up.

Hiean, Brellia, and Myelvon didn’t understand him, but they didn’t say anything.

“Illy O’reen!” He exclaimed. “You know he will be here!”

She slowly turned her attention toward him.

“He’s dead,” She declared to which Vakha laughed out loud. “Haha, stupid bitch, you think he’s dead? I thought you were an intelligent woman!”

Kisia had never told anyone what Cecil Klisis had told him. She could only assume that Vakha just knew that he’d return. After all, he was one of the closest people to him.

Illy frowned just slightly and turned her attention away from him. She, then, exclaimed, “Kill them all!”

Just as she finished her command, a low and cold voice resounded, “Not so fast.”

A figure appeared; a figure that Kisia had been waiting for, one that donned a crimson red robe with vivid silver linings, one that had a pale skin hue but two blazing eyes. His aura immediately dominated the whole area.

“So..., you’ve come back.” Illy didn’t appear too surprised.

He appeared not far from her.

“He’s...back?!” Gair was shocked to see Cecil Klisis. He feared that he may have come back permanently.

Knowing what Gair was fearing about, Kisia told him, “No, he is not. He is here just for this occasion.” Saying so, she teleported herself to the center where everyone was including Illy.

As Cecil proceeded toward Illy O’ren who was standing idly, the alien drones attacked Cecil at once, ignoring Vendm and the others. They were simply too fast for anyone to react in Cecil’ defense besides. However, Cecil’ blade cut through them as if they were nothing. His blade dance was as smooth as it could have been. The drones weren't any challenge at all for him. Their defensive plates posed no difficulty for his blade to cut through. Once a wave had been defeated in a matter of seconds, the rest of them froze on the spot.

“Holy crap,” Myvelon was in awe of what had just happened.

“Take that, bastards!” And Vakha cheered out loud with his hands in the air.

He slowly raised his blade in the air when he was within touching distance of Illy O’ren. She didn’t do anything but simply stared at Cecil with unexpectedly peaceful eyes. Shortly after, there was an unpleasant slashing sound of a blade cutting through clothes and flesh; she fell to the ground but there was no blood.

The drones slowly moved backwards, and soon enough they had all cloaked and seemingly disappeared.

His aura was dazzling and he was showing vividly that he was not pleased with this ... revelation.

"Illy O'ren...," Cecil spoke with slight resentment in his voice. "Or how should I call you now?"

She was lying on ground hopelessly. Her body was slowly fading away, turning into nothingness as seconds passed from her hands and feet to inner body area.

"I am still Illy O'ren you used to know..."

Cecil shook his head firmly. "No, the woman I used to know passed away hundreds years ago."

She beamed a tranquil smile. Raising her hand, she noticed her half-transparent hand.

"They are waiting for you to die," She said. "They know they cannot defeat you no matter what."

"I will be there when they decide to come forth," He declared.

She closed her eyes and beamed another smile; she said no more and her entire body eventually disappeared.

*Life is just a dream ...*

Cecil was about to leave the scene, but Kisia stopped him.

"Are you not staying?"

He remained facing away from her.

"You know that I cannot."

"Aren't you afraid? Aren't you afraid that this nation you've built is not going to last long?"

Turning back his upper body, Cecil gazed vacantly at a seemingly random spot further away, it was where Gair was supposed to be, and told Kisia, "Nothing lasts forever. A nation can certainly not last forever. United Sol was a good example."

She just couldn't talk back, for she knew that he was right.

"Farewell, my children. You will not see me ever again." He vanished on spot after saying so.

Vakha raised his hand and waved repeatedly. "Bye, bye." His tone had a childish feel to it.

This would be their last time ever seeing Cecil Klisis.

- Fin