

[Kain and Suu arc] [11] [NPNG] [9637]

Rev 1.2 (Created on March 17, 2017 | Last modified on April 5, 2021)

N.P.N.G protocol.

"No Pain, No Gain" was the full name. This protocol was created by Suu and overrode the default protocol in Outer Sol.

The default protocol dictated that pirates ships must not be destroyed but let go. This was due to lawsuits from human rights groups. Instead of fighting against them, United Sol navy chose to adapt their demands into their protocols after realizing that they were likely to win their suits.

The default protocol was hardly challenged because it didn't really matter to those who patrolled. They simply did not care and complied.

The victims of the protocol was small time merchants who had to find ways to survive without proper protections. For large corporations, they deployed proper heavy duty escorts, therefore pirates never bothered them.

By the default protocol, if a merchant ship was under fire by pirates and spotted by a patrol fleet, the patrol fleet would drive them away, secure the merchant ship, and then simply leave at which point the pirates would come right back.

For small time merchants, hiring escorts didn't make much sense because hiring proper escorts would cost too much. And hiring a single or two frigate escorts were

often proved to be useless against pirates who roamed in groups of 10 or so. Therefore, financially, it simply did not make sense to hire escorts. It was rather sensible to barter with pirates and pay a fee for safe passageway.

Of course, some of richer merchants attempted to challenge the protocol but none of them was successful against the human rights group who was far bigger than them financially.

When Kain was promoted to become a commodore and the deputy administrator of Uranus outpost on year 9614, there was zero concerns about validity of the default protocol in Outer Sol.

However, that soon changed with Suu enforcing her own protocol.

At that time, the protocol had no name. As the chief patroller chosen by Commodore Kain, Suu enforced extremely harsh methods when dealing with pirates. She offered no communication whatsoever and simply shot them down. It was a clear violation of the default protocol.

However, the violation wasn't reported until much later. In fact, the violation came to attention of human rights groups only after the second invasion on year 9633. And it was allegedly reported by pirates who was being pushed out by Suu's protocol.

There were reasons why it took 17 years for the protocol violation to be discovered. First of all, merchants who were benefited by her protocol kept their mouth shut at all cost.

Secondly, there was zero Bau influence on Uranus outpost and people around Kain had no active connection to the Bau, meaning what was happening at Uranus outpost remained there and was hardly ever leaked to outside. The Maeka's influence also had a part in keeping internal affairs from leaking since majority of

workers at the outpost was them.

Thirdly, Kain's firm refusal for media spotlights meant news outlets didn't care much for Uranus outpost and its events. In fact, they had no reporters present even.

All of these insured that the violation would go unnoticed to human rights groups as long as possible.

Finally, it was down to Kain who blocked any petitions regarding Suu's methods from reaching the Ark. Suu's NPNG did upset some crews within and they did file petitions. But, for their petitions to be heard and advance, they had to go through Kain.

When finally one of the most potent human rights groups, namely Earthian's roots (ER), was notified of the violation, they sent a swift and stern warning to Uranus outpost that they'd raise a lawsuit unless the violation ceased at once and whoever was responsible for the violation was court-martialed.

The year for this event was 9637, 4 years after Kain repealed the second invasion by Juron and promoted to an Admiral. This was also when Kain lost Ritsuki and Magenta replaced her.

"ER? What is that? Hospital ER?"

"It's an acronym; Earthian's roots. They are the largest human right group in the clusters," Magenta explained. "They've sent us a strict warning to halt all inhumane operations within Outer Sol."

"Inhumane operations? What the fuck are they talking about?"

"They are talking about Suu's protocol regarding the pirates."

"What's so inhumane about that?"

Magenta crossed her arms. She knew it'd take a lot to make Kain understand. "It's pretty complicated matter. It's basically ideology. Basically, they want the old protocol back where they are let go instead of being killed right on spot. Either that we must capture the ships and arrest them."

Capturing a spaceship was never an easy task. Thus, it wasn't even attempted. It was a time consuming and risky operation that wasn't practiced for thousands of years.

He raised his voice. "Capture them? Are you frigging kidding me? And let them go? What for? So that they come right back and resume pirating?"

She sighed deeply and explained, "Listen. It is all about human rights. They argue that even pirates have human rights and-"

At this point, he stopped her. "Yes, I agree with that but, when you commit a crime, you weave your rights. At least, that's my take on it."

"Not in their view. For them, human right expands to all humans under any circumstances."

He was speechless for a moment before he cursed out. "Fucking idiots."

She argued, "Quite frankly, I don't entirely disagree with their view. Humans are humans regardless what they do."

"So, you are saying that I should stop Suu and put Outer Sol in chaos again? Shouldn't security be more important?"

"It really depends on how you view it."

"I get a feeling that you support this human rights group."

"Yes." It took a moment but she gave a firm answer. "I am supportive of their view.

Having said that, you are the decision maker, not me. I will follow whatever decision you make."

Taking a deep breath, he looked over the digital letter on a screen and gave it a proper reading. Once he was done reading, he inquired Magenta.

"What will they do if I refuse their demand?"

"They will file a lawsuit. I have no doubt about that."

"And will they win?"

"They won before. I am pretty positive that they will win. But..."

"But?"

According to Magenta, regardless of court ruling, Kain as the sole admiral of United Sol, had the power to ignore it, AKA the Admiral's code Act.

"Huh? Admiral's code Act? I never knew about that."

"Well..." She began her long explanation.

Admirals in United Sol had a unique power in their disposal. It was a power to overrule a court ruling in case of national emergency and security.

Before year 9599 or the year President Mirren was assassinated, there were three admirals. In a case where admirals felt they needed to override a court ruling, they'd gather and debate about it. It'd require 3 approvals out of 3 for an override to take an effect. In other words, all active admirals would have to agree.

"But," She continued, "All previous admirals are gone now. Admiral Jack was killed by Cecil the Crimson wizard. Admiral Rommel vanished without a trace. Admiral Gabrio was killed in action during former President Gvew's election. As the sole Admiral, your lone approval is enough to override any court ruling."

"Even Supreme court ruling?"

She gave him a nod.

He joked in awe, "Holy mommy, I've become so powerful."

She reminded him, "But only in name of national security or in case of emergency."

"If securing Outer Sol is not a matter of national security, what the hell is?"

He had a point and she wasn't going to argue him.

ER was quick on their actions and filed a lawsuit. It was filed in an interplanetary court which was right below Supreme court. And, as Magenta expected, the ruling was in ER's favor. A judge issued an order to halt Suu's protocol.

Suu was in her captain's chair when the ruling was issued. Her firstmate, Lisette, gave her the ruling.

The ruling cited Suu's inhumane method of punishing pirates who were fellow human beings. The judge referred Suu as "a savage woman who is from old centuries where humans were seen as objects".

"The judge wants immediate cease of your protocol," Lisette summed it up.

"And what's the Admiral's take on this?"

"I have yet to find out."

"Well, find out then."

Kain, Suu, and Lisette went ways back. They were in the same class in the navy academy. Lisette remained a close friend to Kain and they talked freely regardless of rank difference. However, Suu and Lisette did not exactly get along. Suu's hardline approaches never sat well with her. In fact, Lisette was the first person who filed a petition regarding Suu's NPNG. But they both acted professionally and worked together for decades.

Kain was also reading the ruling in his office which Magenta brought.

"Why does this judge not speak about security and those who are taken advantage by it?" He wondered earnestly.

"It is most likely because the weight of the deeds. Taking people's life away is far

graver than loss of money and security."

Pouting, he crossed his fingers with his eyes fixed at a datapad displaying the ruling. After a moment of silence, he inquired Magenta, "Can you complie how many pirates have Suu killed so far?"

"There will not be a reliable way to make the exact count since the pirate frigates weren't scanned for number of crews. A rough count is doable quickly."

"Alright, give me the rough count."

Magenta did a quick calculation on a datapad and concluded, "This is a very rough count. I believe Commander Suu has killed more than 1,200,000 pirates since year 9616."

"And yet there are still pirates...," He mumbled.

"Not many are seen nowadays," Magenta said, "At the moment, Outer Sol is very secure. In this year alone, there has been only three reports of pirate activity. In contrast, there were more than 75,000 cases of pirate activities on year 9616."

"In other words, NPNG worked."

She argued, "Yes, but at the price of more than a million lives."

"Exactly why it is called No pain no gain protocol."

"So, you are going to override the ruling."

Kain sat back, exhaling deeply, and lazily answered with a crooked grin, "Aye."

Placing hands on her waist, she replied, "I think they will drag this to the Supreme court."

"What good will that do?"

"They can ask you to provide testimony in the court. You will have to do a good job at it. It's hard to argue against human rights lawsuits."

"Must I?"

"You or something else who's directly responsible for..." She frowned. She quickly

realized what Kain was getting at. Staring at him, she said to him, "Oh no...."

He beamed a quirky grin. "Oh, yes...."

He was planning to send Suu if they did bring it to the supreme court. Suu was a blunt and zealous person and she was very hard to argue with. Kain felt Suu would do a fine job at the court.

He told her gleefully, "She will cause havoc if you ask me."

Magenta imagined having Suu argue with lawyers at a court and found herself grin at one point. She agreed with Kain. She was going to cause havoc and quite frankly it'd be fun to watch indeed.

However, ER never actually filed a suit in Supreme court. Instead, they went a step further. They started lobbying to repeal Admiral's code Act in the Ark.

Admiral's code Act was what gave Kain the authority to override any court rulings. The act was created and legalized during President Mirran's early regime when Cecil was in charge of the Ark congress. In fact, Admiral's code Act was one of very few laws Cecil created.

"They are trying to delegalize my authority to override court rulings?!" Kain uttered when Magenta brought the news.

"Yes," She confirmed, "ER is actively lobbying the Ark to pass it."

"They are really going far, aren't they?"

"They've got the money."

"Admira's code Act, huh... I did some research on it after you told me about it. It was created by Cecil... I am going to take a look at the act in detail."

She wondered, "What for?"

"Better look at fine prints, no? People tend to miss important things sometimes."

"I doubt it. They've brought elite lawyers. They are unlikely missing anything. In fact, I bet the repeal will pass soon."

He grinned, "Wanna bet?"

"Bet? This isn't a play, Kain."

"Just answer me. Wanna bet?"

Sighing and shaking head, Magenta agreed, "Fine. On what?"

"If I win, I want to try anal sex. If you win, well name your price."

She chuckled and sagged her shoulders, "Doh, fine. It's not like I am a virgin back there."

He grinned pervertedly, "Oh, really."

"I am pretty sure I will win though. I don't get where you can get your confidence."

Kain simply beamed a grin and chose not to answer her at that time.

Kain knew something Magenta did not. In fact, he knew something the lawyers didn't. When he researched on the Act, he managed to find an independent schedule that was attached to the Act. What was unique was that the schedule attachment wasn't mentioned in the Act itself which it should have been.

What was astonishing about the schedule was that ...

Reading the schedule, Magenta uttered, "Cecil must be consulted if Admiral's code Act is to modified or repealed regardless of his allegiance...??? Where did you find this?"

"From the Earth archive? It's free to access."

She was shell-shocked and she did the research on her own. Indeed, it was true.

"Why wasn't this mentioned in the Act itself?" She wondered but that didn't matter

at this point. She had to confirm it from someone at the Ark ASAP.

Hence, she made a rare call to Len and inquired. Len was aware of ER's lobbying to repeal Admiral's code Act. Fraser was against the notion but had no clear way to combat the repeal. Once Magenta informed him of the schedule, Len searched the actual Ark legislation database and indeed found the exact schedule.

"Unbelievable," Fraser uttered with his eyes open. He was looking at the schedule as Len brought. "Absolutely unbelievable stuff. 'Regardless of his allegiance'? Don't tell me that Cecil foresaw this event nearly a thousand years ago?"

Admiral's code Act was passed on year 8781. It was an era where Cecil had profound political powers at the Ark. He could pass any bills he wanted and attach any ridiculous schedules if he wanted apparently. Additionally, the schedule was sort of hidden from a plain view.

Len explained, "Lawyers from Earthian's root looked at the Act only which does not mention the schedule. Under normal circumstances, this schedule could easily be ignored but..."

Any matters involving Cecil the Crimson wizard was anything but normal.

Fraser, still in shell shocked, spoke to Len, "Either way, I don't get the purpose of this ridiculous schedule. This was created on year 8781, Len. And it looks as if it was meant to combat situation like this."

He was getting massive waves of goosebumps all over his body.

Did he foresee this? Did he? Just how far can he see into the future? Kept ringing in his mind.

Len also could not help thinking that Cecil was expecting an event like this when he created this schedule. There was no other way around it. The part "regardless of his allegiance" also meant that Cecil knew he was going to revolt way back. He was also getting goosebumps all over the body.

"What should we do, sir?"

"Nothing," Fraser replied promptly. "If this is really true, I am sure Cecil will make a public statement soon."

Just as Fraser said, a public announcement was made by Cecil himself through VNN. The message was as straightforward as it could get.

"Those directly involved in the repeal shall die."

Fraser literally laughed his ass off when he watched the live announcement. Cecil calmly walked onto a speech table and simply said, "Those directly involved in the repeal shall die", and then walked down. That was it.

Len was also watching with Fraser and his face was twitching.

The sheer absolute authority.

Cecil had a long history of keeping his words no matter how absurd they were. There was no doubt in anyone's mind that Cecil would go on and murder every one of the Ark house members if the repeal did pass, or at least those who'd vote YES would end up dying.

At first, however, house members were puzzled why Cecil would make such an announcement. But then they soon found the existence of the schedule and

concluded that it was in their best interest to listen to Cecil. They had the option of discarding the schedule with a house vote but that was deemed too risky to even discuss. After all, it was their lives at stake.

However, it did not end there. Earthian's root was led by a young liberal man who wasn't old enough to have seen Cecil's deeds. He publically called Cecil's announcement a bluff and continued to lobby. Majority of house members flat-out refused to even talk regarding the issue. However, few tens of house members agreed with ER that Cecil was completely out of his line considering he was no longer a part of United Sol.

Buoyed by the support, Earthian's root leader went to public stages to engineer a house voting session and repeal Admiral's code Act. Meanwhile, Cecil made no further announcement since the first.

"We are going to see some heads roll soon," Fraser said when Len reported that ER was still pushing for the repeal and that some house members were with him. "I've seen Cecil do things. You don't mess with him under any circumstances."

Indeed, the Bau as well as the O'ren had painful memories when they clashed with him both of which ended completely in his favor.

He continued, "Though I should be thankful him for this. Admiral's code Act is pretty much vital to secure Outer Sol. As long as the Act is there, no judges can touch him."

Len pointed out, "Sir, do you think the Crimson wizard created the Act to help United Sol?"

It was food for thought. Cecil didn't need to impose the schedule. He could have kept his silence and let the repeal happen.

Robbing eyes, Fraser replied, "I wouldn't know the true propose of the Act. I wasn't

even born back then. And there is no one in the Ark who's old enough to have been there."

Len pointed out, " We could ask Avicenna, sir. She still lives."

Avicenna who retired and chose to lead a quiet life on her home planet Saturn was the only one left. She retired on year 9607 and gave former President Gvew a vote he desperately needed to start the first Earthian-Venusian War which ended in Cecil's victory by a landslide. She also had close ties with Mirren, Masu, and Cecil.

Clicking his tongue, Fraser refused and explained, "Let her be. She retired and what if we get to find the reason behind creation of the Act? What matters is that it won't be repealed."

Truth was that he did not wish to dig further. He feared opening what could well be a can of worms. He was old enough to know that some things were best left alone.

Meanwhile, ER's leader was having a meeting with Ark house members in a luxury conference room with a magnificent view. The room was spacious and its furniture was top of line along with a private bar and some gorgeous half naked women behind it, preparing drinks.

ER's leader was a young man named Ozul who was a son of a retired Ark congress member on Earth. He had a faint connection to the Bau by blood and was an outsider. But his connection was so faint that he wasn't given the last name.

Ozul made his case clear in front of eight Ark house members.

"Admiral's code Act must be repealed no matter what. It is simply unfair that an admiral can ignore a court ruling especially when it's not even national emergency."

The Ark house members showed agreement by nodding and one of them spoke.

“Currently, majority of the Ark is in fear and won't even hold a proper debate session regarding removing the schedule. However, I believe the situation could change if we can convince others that the Crimson wizard has no business over our matters.”

Another Ark house member added, "He is a traitor. Why are we even listening to him?"

They were in agreement and moved on to discuss onto actual planning.

One of the house membes explained, "Currently, President Fraser is against it which gives us one less option to deal with. But it is to be expected. After all, Admiral Kain is on his side and he will want to protect him."

Another member weighted in his opinion, "Quite frankly, we don't need the President. We just need to convince the Bau council that the Crimson wizard's warning is nothing more than a bluff."

“It's hard to call it a bluff when he has actual history of doing so. More than once, mind you," Another added, "But he has nothing to do with United Sol now. He has no ground."

“How about we file a new suit in Supreme court?"

“Would it matter? The Admiral can still ignore it."

“True, but if the Crimson wizard does nothing even then, I believe we will be able to argue our case at the council far better than now."

They were in agreement and decided to file a new suit to the Supreme court.

However, a shocking event unfolded before them. The supreme court of United Sol had just denied their applicaiton. Their reason for rejection was that the interplanetary court ruling was sufficient.

“Chickend out, I see," Fraser remarked gleefully as he read the supreme court's

ground for rejection of the suit.

With the rejection, ER had very little ways to go forward. Ozul, the leader of ER, had come up with a bold idea of going public about the issue. He was going to make his case in front of a public crowd and was going to put pressure on the Ark to hold a debating session. His personal advisers were strongly against his idea and sternly warned not to underestimate Cecil.

Regardless, he pushed on.

Using his, which was actually his father's, money, he purchased about a hundred men as stand-in crowd and also used money to buy a live screen time of 5 minutes from ENN. It was going to be a RP stunt for him.

"My name is Ozul. I am the leader of Earthian's root, the largest human rights group in Solar system. I am standing here today to inform you the injustice that has been going on in Outer Sol."

He went on to explain "crimes" done by Admiral Kain and his subordinates.

"Pirates or not, they are all human beings. Their rights must be protected no matter what. That is precisely why this non-profit organization exists!"

The crowd cheered loudly as they were instructed to do so.

He raised his voice and raised his fist up. "I am not just going to stand by and watch this injustice continue! I have been warned not to push this! What injustice!"

Then out of nowhere, a figure wearing a red robe appeared right behind Ozul. The figure told him indifferently, "Yes, you've been warned."

It was Cecil.

Just as Ozul tried to turn around, his head flew high and his headless body collapsed hopelessly, spouting blood out of his cleanly severed neck. The crowd soon went

into panic and dispersed at once.

Cecil was already long gone at this point.

"Told you that heads will roll," Fraser said while reading off a report Len had brought to his attention.

The leader of Earthian's root, Ozul, was beheaded on a live stage. Soon after his death, he also beheaded the house members who held a private meeting with him.

"There is one more casualty that didn't make to the report, sir," Len said.

"Oh? Who?"

"The interplanetary judge who ruled against Admiral Kain... was also found beheaded in his study at his house. I received the news when I was finishing up the report, so his name didn't make it on the list."

"Man, he's really making sure no one bothers with repealing the Act."

Len lamented, "The sad truth is that there is nothing we can do, sir."

"Well, we can do something. We just have to prepare to lose our heads, literally."

Continuing to read the report, a lingering thought remained in Fraser's mind.

'Why... does he want to keep this Act? Why?'

Year 8781

President Mirren had his feet up on his presidential desk, relaxing. Strong sunshine was coming through the glass wall and he was enjoying the sun with his eyes shut.

At one point, Cecil entered the office without knocking.

"Hey, Cecil. I was waiting for you," Mirren said in his relaxing posture with his eyes closed still.

Cecil walked toward his desk and reported, "Admiral's code Act has passed with 89% of YES."

He grinned. "Even with that ridiculous schedule of yours?"

"Aye."

"I don't get it. I can see the purpose of the Act itself. But the schedule? How come?"

"It's a safeguard feature."

"Safeguard feature?" He finally opened his eyes and put his feet off the table and faced Cecil. "Mind explaining?"

"It is not for now. However, one day, liberalism will threaten United Sol's national security. The schedule is there to safeguard national security."

"Wait, hang on. How will liberalism threaten our national security?"

Cecil explained further, "Liberalism during peace time is fine. Liberalism during oppression is also fine. Liberalism equals to hope, unity, and power during such times. However, liberalism during a gradual downfall of a nation is a poison. An ailing nation cannot afford ideals of liberalism. But liberals will continue to push their agenda anyway. The schedule is there to safeguard national security when United Sol is in downfall."

Mirren crossed his fingers. "My country is going to be in downfall?"

"Not during your regime perhaps."

He let out a long sigh. "How far are you seeing in the future, Cecil?"

Cecil gave him a stoic answer. "I see far, Mirren."

"Alright, next question. What's with the 'Regardless of his allegiance' part? Are you planning to revolt or something?"

"My allegiance is with you. That much I can guarantee. After your regime, I cannot guarantee anything."

"Hah." He snickered and joked, "Fine, have it your way. It's not like I am going to stand against you. I value my head."

Cecil added, "... If I have to trigger the schedule, United Sol will have about a hundred years left in its fuel tank. Good news will be that, if I do trigger the schedule, it will mean a decent Admiral will be there for me to bother trying to save United Sol from its certain doom. Hopefully, he will be able to steer United Sol to safety."

- Fin