

History repeats always which is testament to a fact that the core of mankind doesn't evolve; it's only select few who evolve and, well, die.

## [Kain and Suu arc] [14] [Calling] [9654]

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Much changed ever since Kain was appointed to become Grand admiral of United Sol. He became the first man who earned the right to become one.

Historically, the only other Grand admiral was Gawain Klisis who was given the title in a honorary sense.

His rank of Grand admiral altered the political structure of Outer Sol. Kain outranked both Gaer and Emuel and the two men would actually be under his command although Emuel obeying Kain's commands wasn't expected.

Meanwhile, Saturn administrator Gaer happily welcomed Grand admiral Kain and swore an oath to serve him.

In spite of all the positives, the lingering issue didn't change: the financial troubles. Outer Sol defense fleet was only 2,500 strong and war bills were filed up. Since the Ark was unable to pay off those bills, it came down to Kain to take care of it.

Ah, yes, Kain's fleet had been officially renamed "Outer Sol defense fleet", OSDF.

Gossips said the bills was why he was promoted to Grand admiral in order to stop Kain from complaining about the financial troubles.

With him being in direct charge of Outer Sol, any bills incurred would be his responsibility.

And, while Kain was busy dealing with restoring the order of Outer Sol once again and taking care of economical issues, Magenta had been onto something else.

It all began at a moment where she was told that the Ark, in essence the Bau, did not trust Kain. She genuinely started to fear Kain's future. He was a man she was willing to spend rest of her life with and she did not want him to end up dead, especially due to the idiocy of the Bau.

Therefore, she decided to keep Elemist closeby and silently tested him for over a year, giving him various tasks to take care of before attempting to work out an escape deal with him.

Elemist proved to be a very efficient person to work with. He finished all tasks given by Magenta swiftly and accurately without any complaints or objections.

Eventually, she slipped in an idea that Kain was willing to retire soon-ish if he can find a safe place to retire to.

Kain was completely unaware about Magenta's agenda and it was her intension to keep this secret as long as possible. She intended to break the news to him when everything was ready to go.

When finally she decided to begin the talk, Elemist's answer was cryptic.

"Venus will not assist Grand admiral again."

Accroding to him, Cecil had apparently briefed him and the members of the Hammers possible scenarios on how United Sol would fair in the next 100 years.

And he was ordered to tell Magenta Cecil's visions.

Cecil in his crimson robe stood in front of a round table. Around it, all members of the Hammers were present, plus Elemist and Nikki. They were also standing.

It was the first time for Elemist to see Cecil despite having joined Venus government 50 years ago. He had heard rumors of his appearance being feminine and he realized that the rumors were mostly true.

However, regardless of the femininity, there was absolutely no mistake that it was in fact the Crimson wizard. His aura was thick and strong despite not displaying any hostility at all. He felt suffocating and he was the furthest among those present in the conference room.

"United Sol will fall. It's not a matter of if but when," Cecil finally spoke, "Now, that is not our concern. Our concern should be ensuring the safety of our own people."

Long story short, Cecil predicted numerous possible scenarios of how Admiral Kain was going to fair against the fourth and final invasion by Andromeda union because the outcome would decide when and how United Sol would fall.

Magenta had to stop Elemist at this point.

"Wait, the final? How could he be so sure?" She inquired.

Elemist promptly replied, "A nation can't afford to keep invasion for no gain. If victorious, war expenses could be paid by the loser, but they haven't acquired any actual victories. War expenses would have come out of their own coffers. Cecil

believes that their coffers are almost empty at this point. They can pull off one more invasion and it will be the last whether they win or not."

Magenta looked down, falling into deep thoughts but she could think for few second because Elemist continued pulling her out to the reality.

"If Admiral Kain is defeated." he raised his voice slightly at this point. "Juron's fleet will reach Jupiter and Emuel will join him, crashing inner Sol ultimately. Venus and Mars will survive this ordeal but it won't be ideal for us."

"What of Kain in this scenario?" Magenta inquired.

"Knowing his character, he'd perish in the battle."

She agreed and he continued citing Cecil's words.

"If Kain repels the invasion, United Sol will last, at maximum, 100 years."

"How?" Magenta argued.

"Emuel won't sit still then."

"Perhaps, but he is isolated. Even if his fleet is big, he can't take whole United Sol alone."

"The Dietrich on Mars may give him a hand."

Magenta was struck back, hard. She had completely forgotten about Mars because they had been pretty much dormant. She argued again, "But will they act against Cecil's will?"

A faint grin emerged on Elemis's face. "Cecil won't oppose Kan Dietrich's decision to assist Emuel. He fully understands his desire to acquire Earth and punish the Bau. He won't assist the Dietrich however."

Cecil's stance would not matter at that point, Magenta thought. If Emuel and Kan Dietrich attacked United Sol, it was over. Mars would tackle Earth and Emuel would block Saturn and Kain.

Goosebumps rose all over her skin. The situation looked far, far, worse than what she had in her mind.

"W, what are other scenarios?"

"Don't those two cover enough?"

Magenta pressed, "It's Cecil, the Crimson wizard, he must have predicted more."

Cecil had been known for his accurate predictions and the NPNG incident cemented that even further. The man could predict the future with scary accuracy.

"Indeed." He lightly bowed to her. "He has spoken of several more. Alas, he has instructed not to tell you more than the two."

Magenta had her own plans to save Kain and perhaps the others. However, upon listening Cecil's predictions, all seemed to be dead in the water even before she could start.

Therefore, she decided to change the approach and altered her question.

"Is there any way to save United Sol at this point?"

"As long as the Bau is in charge, the answer will be a resounding no."

She became silent. Crossing arms in her chair, she dropped her head and fell into thoughts. No matter how much she attempted to spin the situation, there was no clear way to survival other than blatant defection which, knowing Kain, would not work at all.

It was this moment that Elemist decided to drop a bomb.

"I am not here for insider info actually. My task is to save you from certain doom."

She didn't look too surprised. Rather, she had encountered too many surprises for the day that she was just numb. "Why me?" She asked stoically.

"Cecil believes you are the only one who can be saved."

"What I am saying is, why save me?"

"To be able to leave accurate legacy of Admiral Kain. If not, the Bau will taint Admiral Kain's legacy to their bidding."

Indeed, it was entirely possible that the Bau would make up stories to fit their agenda and Magenta would hate to see it happen. Thus, she saw a point in Cecil's attempt to save someone from Kain's inner circle to set the record straight.

She scoffed though and dismissed him outright afterwards.

"Let's discuss this matter later," She said as she sent Elemist away.

As Elemist walked down in a corridor after being dismissed by Magenta, he recalled the final part of the conference meeting with Cecil.

"Sir, if I may," Said Elemist as he rose his hand for a question. Nobody in the conference room turned their heads toward him. They weren't blatantly ignoring him however. It was that their respect toward their master was too strong to simply turn their heads back to him.

Weakly nodding, Cecil gave him permission.

"Why are you trying to save or help Admiral Kain like this? Isn't he our enemy?"

"Yes, he is indeed an enemy Admiral. But let's put it this way. Those who are in this room, they are all here for a reason. They aren't here because they are the members of the Hammers. They aren't here because they are crucial to what I am trying to achieve. They are here because they are incorruptible. I can safely tell them everything and expect complete security."

Cecil paused and slowly glazed over those proudly in the room before continuing.

"It has taken me hundreds of years to find those who had the qualities to be incorruptible. And Admiral Kain has assembled a core of his staff who are incorruptible right away in a matter of just few decades. It's either his charisma or his luck, perhaps both. The point is that both are crucial to success. If there is a way for me to save such a man, then I shall. This is not about arbitrary rules of defining friendly and enemy. I am simply trying to save decent folks."

A weak grin emerged across his face. He had to applaud Cecil for his visions and assessment. He had never met them in person and Elemist felt he assessed them accurately.

"They are indeed worth going through the troubles to save," He said to himself.

**Fin**