

This story concludes this arc.

United Sol is finally done for. Good riddance, I will say.

This story has a long history with me. I wrote the basic part of this story a decade ago, but due to its previous stories not being completed, it never had a chance to shine, until now.

[Shattered union arc] [12] [Shattered union] [9670]

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United Sol was on its last legs. It had been 8 years since Jupiter and Saturn cut communications with the Ark.

Their last hope to hang onto the control of Outer Sol was Uranus colony which a Bau administrator was eventually installed after Cesper resigned on year 9662. However, a year after a Bau administrator was appointed, he was murdered and Uranus colony went rogue.

Having completely lost the control of Outer Sol, United Sol effectively controlled only two planets, Earth and Moon.

Regardless, the Bau-controlled Ark saw little need to change their ways. In fact, they were happy that they no longer had to pretend to care others.

All Fraser could do was simply watch the federation dig its own grave.

Then year 9670 1st day, Venus declared a war on United Sol.

Cecil was on VNN when they declared a war. His casus belli was "Holy war".

Below was his statement in full.

"I stand here today in order to declare a war on United Sol. My casus belli is holy war. I can no longer stand by and watch people suffer at the hands of the

incompetent Ark. It is time to pull the rotten roots out of the ground and begin a healing process."

Fraser and Len were watching the statement on a screen in the presidential office.

"So, this is it then," Fraser said. He was taking it well.

Len had nothing to say. In fact, neither said anything anymore. United Sol had neither money nor the fleet to fight against Venus. It was over.

The Ark called for an emergency meeting which Fraser refused to attend. During the emergency meeting, the house speaker Abell triggered a vote to mobilize Earth defense fleet. He also triggered a vote to call in reinforcements from Jupiter as well as Saturn. However, neither Jupiter nor Saturn responded.

Puzzled, Abell called Fraser to his office to ask why. Normally, Fraser would never answer such a rude call. After all, it was a house speaker summoning the president. However, he chose to answer the call since he felt it was over either way.

Fraser, for a moment, was unsure of what he was asking.

"What do you mean 'why'?"

"Jupiter and Saturn are not responding and I am asking you why," Said Abell rather innocently.

Fraser was quite confused. He was there when Jupiter told the Ark that they wouldn't be sending delegates anymore. He told Abell the event as well as Saturn's.

"I thought they were joking. They were angry, I get that. But, surely, they should be responding to us."

It. was. the. final. straw.

"You... stupid brat...!" Growling and mumbling, Fraser jumped on Abell and punched on his face repeatedly. He no longer had anything to lose at this point.

When security guards were called and Fraser was dragged out, Abell's face was heavily blooded. This incident was quickly overshadowed by the war however.

While the idiocy was going on at the Ark...

Not far away from Venus outpost, a strange-looking ship was present. It was larger than USF Courage and had a completely different design.



It was VN (Venus Navy) Cecilia, a prototype cruiser that was meant to replace aging USF Courage that was commonly used throughout the clusters.

On its bridge, Cecil was present in its captain's chair. There were also Kisia and Magenta next to him.

"So, the day has finally arrived," Magenta spoke in awe. She even had tears in her eyes. "I thank you for keeping your words."

"Magenta," Cecil responded, "I want you to understand that I am not doing this just because you asked. The people are suffering. While I've murdered many, I've also saved many. This is such a case."

"I understand, perfectly."

8 years ago she arrived on Venus and cried her eyes out in front of Cecil, begging him to destroy United Sol. That feeling has not faded. In fact, it has gotten stronger. United Sol had been doing far worse since the days of Admiral Kain.

At the same time, she also had a chance to see how Venus government worked from inside and she was more than impressed. Granted, Venus government was not a democracy but it was highly effective with almost zero corruption.

What she loved the most was that, if the government had a surplus, it used the extra money to grant tax breaks for small businesses on the next year and the beautiful thing was that Venus government always reported a surplus every year.

"Surplus" was a word that was never heard from the Ark. It opened her eyes. She was actually happy to work under Cecil and the Hammers.

They were straightforward people and did their tasks in their earnest. It was a stark contrast of the Ark.

"Admiral Vakha hailing, sir," Kisia said.

"I can imagine him being ecstatic. Put him on."

As soon as a screen popped up, Vakha was seen running around the bridge, yelling "YAHOO!" repeatedly. After circling around his bridge few times, he shouted at the screen.

"THANKYOU, THANKYOU, DHANKYOU!!!" He then began running around again. Then the channel was cut.

Kisia shrugged with a grin. "We can tell that he is ecstatic indeed."

Magenta was aware of Vakha's past. But it had been hundreds of years. It was apparent that his hatred toward the Bau hadn't waned. In other words, many people's hatred toward the Bau was unlikely to wane as well.

"It is the time to end the Bau," Magenta said in an assured voice.

It took mere twenty minutes for Venus fleet to gather around VN Cecilia. A total of 7,000 ships were gathered. Venus had more but it was decided to leave some for self-defense.

The bridge on VN Cecilia was busy as ships were reporting in for duty. But Cecil and his circle had virtually nothing to do. It was the crews who were busy.

"Sir, all ships have reported in," A crew finally made a report on the progress.

"Admiral Nikki Sweetheart would like to speak with you."

Cecil repondsed, "On screen."

"Aye, sir."

A woman with light brown shoulder length curly hair appeared on a screen.

"Sir, so, the day has finally arrived," She said.

"Indeed. I hope Vakha didn't bother you too much."

She grinned. "He was going nuts for a bit. He is still pumped."

"Let him take the charge if he wants. He has the right."

"Aye, sir."

"I expect an easy battle. Don't chase down those who flee. Our target is the Ark only."

"Aye, sir."

Venusian fleet sailed toward Earth within 12 hours of declaring the war on United Sol. Meanwhile, the Ark was having a hard time assembling its own fleet, AKA Earth defense fleet, due to numerous maintenance issues.

In short, due to heavy budget cuts to the fleet, maintenance hadn't been done properly and a large number of ships weren't exactly battle-ready.

Additionally, they were having a hard time appointing a fleet commander. They simply did not have anyone. The most battle-hardened captains were with Admiral Kain. When he perished and his fleet dispersed, none came to Earth. It was reported that most joined Saturn.

In the end, only 2,100 out of 4,700 ships were good enough for combat.

The actual battle itself lasted an hour. Normally, it wouldn't even be worthy of covering it.

"2,100 ships on sensors," A crew reported on Cecil's bridge.

"I see that they cut the defense budget too much," Cecil remarked.

"According to info we have, there should have been about 5,000 ships. That's less than half," Magenta commented.

"The Bau are good at one thing and that's embezzling," Cecil said, "I give this battle an hour. Tell Vakha to have fun. No tactics required."

The battle unfolded near Earth because Earth defense mobilized too slowly and a large portion of ships from United Sol began to have power issues. They were "Mice" class cruisers which was a cutdown version of USF Courage to save costs. "Mice" had a design flaw in its powergrid along with weak fusion reactors. Those issues were found out during the first invasion, and Admiral Kain never used them. However, the Ark still chose to build them in order to fill the numbers for Earth defense fleet.

Their formation was soon broken as soon as Vakha's fleet charged into their front line. His fleet began to cause havoc within their ranks.

Magenta gave herself a facepalm. It was pitiful to watch.

She wondered, "Do they even have a fleet commander? The fleet is so

disorganized."

The answer was no. Earth defense fleet did not have a fleet commander. The Ark had to rush the fleet out that no fleet commander was assigned. In other words, every ship in Earth defense fleet was acting independently. A few did try to form their own groups, but their efforts were in vain.

The battle barely lasted an hour before what was left of Earth defense fleet was in total disarray. Ships were fleeing left and right and there was virtually nothing left in backbone of the fleet. What was even worse was that they couldn't even manage to destroy a single ship from the Venusian fleet.

"Earth defense fleet is scattering. We've received no casualties," A crew reported to Cecil who seemed bored in his chair and so was Magenta next to him.

"Approach Earth and send down marines to seize the Ark," Cecil commanded.

"Capture its core members. I'd like to talk to them before I kill them."

"How anticlimactic," Magenta remarked stoically. If they put up some fight, she may have grown some sympathy, but they went down with a whimper.

Fraser and Abell were quickly captured and were brought back to VN Cecilia. Both of them were sent to a large empty quarter. The room literally had nothing in it. Cecil was standing in the back with an activated energy blade in his right hand when they were sent in.

Abell panicked as soon as he saw Cecil with a blade while Fraser remained calm.

"Welcome," Cecil told them indifferently. "Abell, the house speaker and Fraser, the last President of United Sol."

Fraser sagged his shoulders. "You win, Cecil. You've destroyed United Sol."

"I did not. You destroyed your own nation. I simply put the last nail in the coffin."

Cecil had a point.

"I assume you are going to kill us?" Fraser assumed. As soon as Abell heard him though, he began to smash the door.

"Let me out! Let me out!" He yelled desperately.

Cecil raised his blade and pointed at Abell. "That coward maybe, but you, Fraser, aren't actually responsible for the downfall of United Sol."

He didn't buy it. He was nevertheless the President of United Sol. Sparing him wouldn't make sense.

At this point, Abell was beginning to sob and leaning against the door.

"Fraser Bau, I will not kill you unless you wish to die here. I also ask you to renounce your last name as the Bau will fall today. Do so and I will spare you," Cecil declared gravely.

Fraser was prepared to die. He did not believe he'd given a chance to live. However, Cecil wasn't one to lie.

"Where would I go if I am spared?" He inquired sincerely.

"You may go to Venus or you may leave Sol. It is your choice. I will make sure you arrive at your destination safe and sound."

"Is Magenta here?"

"Yes, she is on this ship in fact. You may freely visit her if you choose to be spared."

Fraser narrowed his eyes. It sounded as if Cecil wanted to spare him. When he asked Cecil about that he promptly replied.

"I do not take pleasure in murdering decent folks."

That statement did not make any sense to him.

He argued, "You've murdered millions and that's what you say?"

"Yes. I will determine who's decent or not, not you."

Fraser felt it was pointless to argue. Meanwhile, Abell had already peed on his pants

and was crawling backwards against the door. He was such a shameful display for the house speaker of United Sol.

He had enough and it appeared the same for Cecil who began to choke him with his ESP. He was being dragged into air with his neck being clearly strangled by invisible fingers. Abell attempted to say words but he simply couldn't. Soon enough, his neck snapped with a loud crack and his loose body was thrown away into a wall, making a bloody splatter as the body was smashed into bits of raw flesh.

Staring at now bits of flesh that was once Abell, Fraser made a demand out of spite. "If you are willing to spare my right hand man, Len, I will live on on Venus and watch how you fare. I so wish to observe your end at one point."

Cecil answered promptly, "Very well, you shall have him. This will be the last time you will see me in person. Fare thee well."

When Fraser left the room, Magenta was waiting for him with a stoic face.

"Uncle," She called him softly. "I see that you live." Her voice was soft but her face was stone-cold.

He sagged his shoulders. "More like I was forced to live." He asked whether she asked Cecil to spare him.

"He isn't someone who'd listen to anyone, uncle," was her answer.

Where she led him was a shuttle bay. To his surprise, she got into the shuttle with him.

"You are going with me?"

"I am told to pick Len up at the Ark and head toward Venus right away. My goal is done now anyway."

"Your goal?"

She answered firmly, "Destroying United Sol."

"Hah." Fraser chuckled as he secured himself in a seat. "I guess this event was coming sooner or later."

"Cecil will avenge my husband soon. Unfortunately, you will need to watch as well since I will watch."

She was already in a pilot's seat and was busy fiddling with controls. Fraser tried to make an excuse.

"Listen, I know it's damn late but I did what I could to bring some sort of support to the admiral."

She yelled, "You don't!" But she calmed down quickly and lowered her voice. "Know anything, uncle. So, please, for my sake, just keep quiet."

It had been almost a decade and he could see that the burning anger was still there.

He didn't want to imagine how she was feeling when she arrived at Venus.

After taking a deep breath, she told Fraser.

"Cecil said the Bau was going down for killing two decent folks."

"Who are they?"

"The first person is Affie Bau. The second person is Kain."

He had no idea who Affie Bau was. But Magenta informed him.

"She was the wife of Masu. She was assassinated by the Bau. Cecil said their two lives were the equal value of the billion on Earth and I fucking agree."

Fraser said no more. He felt that those who followed Cecil weren't going to be convinced out of their beliefs. They had their reasons to follow him and they were all overly zealous about it.

As soon as Len was picked up, Magenta packed her shuttle a distance away from Earth's orbit. Both Fraser and Len had no idea what was going to happen in front of their eyes.

When the Venusian fleet began to bombard Earth from orbit, Fraser and Len shouted "No!" Fraser dashed toward the cockpit. He simply could not believe Cecil would really do such a thing.

In contrast, Magenta was shedding tears of joy.

"Kain..., Suu..., you've been avanged...." She whispered to herself.

He wanted to tell her that it were hundreds of millions who'd die but soon realized that she was exactly aware of the casualty numbers.

Feeling completely drained, he turned around and walked into the shuttle where Len was vacantly staring at Earth which was being bombarded.

"The Ark is... gone, sir," Len told Fraser weakly.

"Yeah..., what else is new." Fraser responded with a bitter grin. "The Bau is really over."

Meanwhile, Vakha was also watching the bombardment of Earth unexpectedly silently.

With his arms folded, he quietly watched the bombardment without any emotions on his face. Eventually though, few drops of tears began to float around his face.

"Die, die, motherfuckers. You lot fucking deserve to get massacred," He whispered to himself as he watched the bombardment.

Year 9670 2nd day, Earth was bombarded. 90% of Earth population had perished.

This would prove to be Cecil's largest massacre.

He also demanded the remaining survivors on Earth to renounce their last name or he would continue bombarding until Earth would go supernova.

His demand was accepted in an instant; they had no doubt that Cecil could go all the way.

Thus, the day marked the end of the Bau and subsequently the end of United Sol.

Within days of the bombardment, Emuel from Jupiter declared independence. Gaer from Saturn would soon follow the suit with an additional announcement that they had "acquired" Uranus colony.

Lastly, Pluto was also attempting to form a government of its own under Shell of Pluto.

With numerous planet-size sovereignties, smaller military conflicts would begin to occur within Sol system frequently.

It proved to be a beginning of a new era.

Fin, the end of Shattered union arc.