

This is the last story of this arc.

This specific story does not fully cover the whole event. To see several missing pieces, you need to read [Juron arc] [8] [Bright Red] [9662].

[Kain and Suu arc] [16] [Bright Red] [9662]

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The fourth invasion was coming and, this time, Kain was duly prepared. However, unlike previous occasions, he no longer had cards in his sleeves. There was a vague promise of help from Freedom colony but Kain and Co knew they couldn't trust on that.

"Juron's fleet of 14,000 ships are enroute. He has formally decalred a war," Magenta reported.

His fleet had clearly shrank but so did Kain's. He had only 2,000 ships. Administrator Gaer had only 600 ships. Therefore, in terms of odds, it was the same as the third invasion.

This time, Kain didn't even bother contacting Earth.

"I am sure they know what is going on," He explained.

On Earth, at the Ark, inside of a house chamber, Fraser was desperately trying to sway the house members into casting a vote to mobilize Earth defense fleet to assist Grand admiral Kain. Fraser and Len both agreed that Earth defense fleet was the only way to help him. At the moment, the fleet's number stood at 4,400 strong. It

would still not be enough to fight Juron's fleet headon but it'd boost Kain's odds greatly.

"Juron's 14,000 strong fleet is due ETA in less than 10 days. If we are to assist Grand admiral, now is the only time because it takes roughly 10 days for the fleet to reach Uranus. His fleet is only 2,000. Saturn has only few hundreds. We must assist him."

As soon as he finished his speech, a Bau house member spoke up.

"The situation does look indeed dire. However, Admiral Kain has proven us, more than once, that he could cope with such odds. If we can pass this ordeal without sending Earth defense fleet, it would be win-win for both of us."

Fraser argued back fiercely that Kain had little means of holding them off and that the Ark couldn't simply rely on luck. Alas, the general consensus was that Kain had repelled Juron before, so why bother.

And the house session ended without triggering a vote and Fraser was absolutely livid when he got back to his presidential office.

"This federation is in fucking SHAMBLES!" He bellowed as soon as he entered with Len shutting the door with haste to prevent others from hearing. Raising his voice wasn't enough and he kicked his desk hard as well as throwing objects he could get his hands on from his desk.

"FUCKING IMBECILES!" He shouted and then he'd walk around in a fast pace with rapid breath, trying to come up with a way. After a short moment of calming down though, he pointed at Len who was quietly listening to his ire by door.

"This nation is going down. I have absolutely no fucking doubt. By whom, I don't fucking know, but it's going down."

Sighing weakly, Len suggested, "Sir, perhaps it's a wise idea to extract Magenta out of there."

Placing his hands at waist, Fraser sighed deeply and said, "No, I am not going to. If she wants to stay there, so be it. She's an adult. Let her make the choice. Besides, she is Kain's wife now. If she wants to die by his side, who am I to get in her way?" Len slowly closed his eyes and dropped his head.

Lila at Freedom colony had also received a word that Juron had declared a war on United Sol. She swiftly called for an emergency meeting. Reed, Ashuta, and Masu Jr made to the meeting within minutes despite it having been 3AM.

"Fourth invasion, that guy is mad," Reed remarked with a sneer.

They were gathered in Lila's office which had glass walls and floor and located on higher up on a wall looking down on the main office of their administrative floor.

"We all knew it'd go for it though," Ashuta replied.

Clearing her throat, Lila told them, "It is our best interest that United Sol remain intact. I am sure you all agree on that."

"Of course," Masu Jr responded, "If Jur-"

Cutting Masu Jr, Sae entered the office and told others casually, "Sorry, I am late."

Clearing throat, Masu Jr continued, "If Juron unifies the clusters, it will be the end of us. Nevermind the agreement, they can simply ignore it then."

Crossing arms, Reed said, "Can we send a fleet to aid Kain though? We are still bound to the agreement. Should we break it, we will give them a casus belli."

Ashuta added, "Then it is in our best interest to aid him discretely. Not sure how though."

A moment of silence struck the office. While they agreed that they needed to help Kain, no one seemed to have an idea on how to assist him.

Then Lila blurted out.

"Nebula pirates." Then she looked at Sae who wasn't paying attention. "You could summon them, no?"

Looking surprised at being talked to, Sae blinked her eyes few times and replied casually, "Um, they did a big favor for us last time. I don't think I can summon up a reasonable amount to be actually helpful for the K-dude."

"But you can summon them. How many?"

Scratching her head, Sae frowned. "Maybe a thousand? Or two if lucky."

"That's not gonna be very useful," Reed remarked.

"But that's something. Sae, you shoul-" Masu Jr stopped Lila.

"Madam, if I may," He quietly insisted. "Go on," She responded.

"The non aggression pact, we should break it," He declared which made Reed whistle and made Sae chuckle. He quickly added, "Before you say anything, allow me to explain. We won't be sending a fleet to aid Grand admiral Kain. We will be sending a fleet to assassinate Juron."

Masu Jr explained that Juron was the key part of the non aggression pact. Should Juron perish, Andromeda council would be happy to willingly rip the pact off since they'd be doing them a favor.

"The council sees Juron more of a menace," He added. "Due to high public support, they cannot fire him. If he were to perish in a battle though..."

"The dude is a class S ESP though," Reed said, "We tried to fight him. It was like four of us against him alone. We still lost."

Ashuta asked, "Sae hasn't fought him before, have you?"

"I have. Not with you guys, but I have met him before. I could kill him as long as he is willing to stand ground. If he wants to flee, I don't think I can stop him."

"In other words," Masu Jr said, "We need someone much more powerful than him to put him down quickly enough. And I think I know who that is."

"The Crimson wizard," Lila answered promptly with narrowed eyes.

"Yes, madam."

Lila quickly called out Sae who nodded at once and vanished on spot and told Reed to prepare for their fleet. She also told Masu Jr to make a contact with Andromeda council and explain to them what they were trying to do so that their fleet movement wouldn't alert them and inform Juron.

Cracking his fingers, he gleefully responded, "Finally, this is payback time."

At a similar time back at Uranus colony,

Kain and Co had to have a plan and their plan was exactly the same as before: Stand their ground at Uranus colony. However, this time, Administator Gaer's fleet had already arrived to reinforce painfully small defending fleet. It was Gaer's idea; he feared that Juron may push to defeat Kain's fleet with sheer force instead of gently trying to break down his fleet. Kain, who was also concerned with his small fleet, agreed to his idea.

"2,600 vs. 14,000...." Magenta mumbled as she watched a tactical overlay screen on the bridge of the outpost. There was a battle simutation occuring and the outcome was Kain's defeat.

"We've done this before. We just have to do it again," Said Kain in order to encourage her as well as others in the vicinity.

"Yes, we've done this before....," She responded weakly.

Yes, they had done it before but the feeling wasn't the same this time. Something felt amiss and it felt as if dark clouds were above them.

Outside of the colony, Suu's fleet of 2,000 ships parked in a sphere formation. She, too, was looking at a very similar tactical overlay on her bridge. She tweaked variables for a while but its outcome remained a defeat nevertheless.

Sighing deeply in her captain's chair, she rubbed her face tiredly.

"We've done this before..," She whispered to herself, "We've done this before..."

Yes, they had done it before. Still, it didn't change the fact that it looked utterly hopeless.

Meanwhile, Cesper was also having deep thoughts in his office. He had to consider the worst case scenario where Kain and Co were defeated. He was told by Kain himself to surrender if his fleet was defeated. That was the only choice indeed. However, still ... it didn't feel right. Cesper was a rational man who'd suppress any emotional involvement when making decisions. But even he was having a hard time leaving emotions out of this case.

On his desk, a holographic screen was displaying a result of a survey. The question was weird. It read: "Would you join militia in case of emergency?" The result was 78% in favor of it. He would stare at the screen vacantly.

Eventually, Juron's invasion fleet had arrived at Uranus outpost. His fleet of 14,000 ships surrounded the station this time instead of attacking from one front. This meant the defense fleet would have little places to hide if damaged.

Juron chose such a tactic that exposed his backside but, fully knowing that no one would tackle him anyway, he went for it.

"They've surrounded us," Magenta reported, "Looks like they mean business this time."

Kain replied from his captain's chair, "He's been here four times now. He should know our tactics just as well as us."

She said, "We are going to need the potato probably at some point."

The potato was the codename for the mothership or Shinigami as it was named.

"I'd say so. Have it ready."

"Understood."

The mothership was too large to dock. Therefore, the ship was a distance away from the colony. It could easily be spotted by direct visual but, due to numerous ECM devices around it, it was invisible on sensors as long as it had its engine powered down.

Without further ado, the invasion fleet commenced their siege on the colony. There was no communication at all between the two parties. At this point, Juron was fully aware that Kain wasn't going to surrender. Thus, communication was a waste of time.

The battle, from the beginning, did not look good for Kain and Co. Being confronted from all sides, the defending fleet had little places to hide when damaged. The defending fleet held out for three days before simple rotation wasn't enough to cover incoming damage.

Eventually, Suu came up with an idea to use the docking bay as a hideout. This would damage the docking bay modules but there was no other choice.

USF Imparis, Suu's cruiser, was taking a shelter right behind a docking bay wall which was half-open.

"Admiral, Commander Mack is reporting heavy casualties in his squad," A bridge crew reported, "He says he is unable to find a shelter."

"All docking bays are currently occupied. We can probably squeeze him in though, somehow," Another crew added.

"We have, like, few tens of ships out there. This is not working," Another chipped in. There was very little Suu could do in this situation.

"Let him squeeze in," She eventually put a stop to the debate and gave an order.

"We can't hide forever. If their shield is recharged, force them out."

The situation did not look good.

Magenta walked toward Kain on the bridge of the colony. She whispered to his ear.

"Maeka engineers reckon that the docking bay won't hold for too long. We have less than a day before it's beyond repair."

"Ready Shinigami. Bring it close to the colony so that we can board it."

"Right."

The station wasn't going to last more than a few days at the most under this barrage of incoming shots. Therefore, Kain decided to use the mothership instead as a meat shield and move away from the colony.

Now, this was a very risky move because the mothership wasn't even remotely tough as the station. However, the station was at a risk of being blown up at this point.

Meanwhile on Suu's bridge, a crew blurted out.

"Admiral, Shinigami has suddenly appeared on the sensor. ETA 5 minutes!"

"Too early...", Suu whispered to herself.

The mothership was supposed to be a hidden card meant to be used as a last resort. But it was showing up on fourth day of the siege. At the same time, her fleet was

barely hanging on. Therefore, it was understandable why Kain decided to bring it up already.

She ordered, "Open a channel to the fleet."

"Open, sir."

"This is Rear admiral Suu speaking. The mothership has been activated. Prepare to form a sphere formation on it as soon as it is here. To those whose ships can no longer function adequately, abandon your ships, ready your shuttles and prepare to board Shinigami."

Shinigami had its own fleet although it was only 50 cruisers. It also had its own fighters of 2,000 crafts. In comparison to Juron's 14,000 fleet, this was nothing. Still, this was all Kain and Co could come up with.

Meanwhile,

around a table, there were three women. It was employee-only high security cafeteria located within the Fallen Crater city hall. The place was mostly empty with just the three women present along with one worker behind a counter.

"I'd say Kain has held on remarkably well," Ksa remarked. Tuhina, Dante, and she were having a casual discussion over the war.

"No support from his central government for 50 years, yep, it's a miracle that he has held on this far," Dante added in agreement.

"He has been lucky. That's all," Tuhina said.

"Never underestimate luck though. Often sheer luck is what makes things happen," Ksa said.

"You can't just blindly rely on luck though," Tuhina responded.

Dante chipped in, "True, from what I can tell, he has been trying what he could with his scarce resources."

Then a short moment of silence struck until it was broken by Tuhina.

"So, I assume Vakha is on his way there then," She asked Ksa indirectly, "I thought you'd be aboard his ship as well."

Ksa's speciality was teleportation. Therefore, she was utilized for most of distant diplomatic matters.

"Normally, I'd be on the ship, but master said he had to take care of it this time."

Master meant Cecil.

"Someone's going to die then," Tuhina chuckled, "Juron perhaps? He doesn't have a reason to kill him, does he?"

She and Dante gave a stare at Ksa who shrugged. Ksa was personally one of the closest to Cecil. If anything involving Cecil was going on, she was generally the first one to know.

"He doesn't have a reason, yet," She responded, emphasising on 'yet'.

Cecil was nicknamed "The Crimson wizard" for seemingly murdering millions of people over the course of his life. The media, especially ENN, pushed hard to make Cecil look as bad as possible and even claimed that he had absolutely no valid reason to have killed such many people. Those close to him, however, knew Cecil wouldn't kill people without reasons. He had reasons.

He always did.

Shinigami and its small fleet caused a small havoc when they came into a contact with Juron's fleet. After all, it was sitting only 5 minute-distance away from the

battle. It was also the first time a battleship of such a size was shown in real world application.

Purely, thanks to the short chaos, Shinigami and its fleet made to the colony safely at which point Kain and his crew swiftly made into the ship.

Kain barked out an order as soon as he entered the bridge.

"Move the fleet away from the colony. Move toward the direction of Freedom colony and keep sailing in that direction!"

This was his attempt to break off their attack from all directions. They'd be on move constantly and this would stop them from surrounding them.

And, to a degree, it worked. Instead of being surrounded in all sides, their front was open. If Shinigami was a faster ship, it would have worked better but a ship of such a size was never going to be as fast as a cruiser.

"Release fighters, Kain to the fleet, hug Shinigami for a shelter," Kain commanded as he settled down in the captain's throne on the bridge. Magenta took a station nearby and other crews kept on entering the bridge to staff rest of empty stations. "Tactical overlay," He said and a holographic screen popped up in front of him, displaying overall battlezone. "Magenta, we are going offensive. Let Suu know and adjust their formation."

"Understood."

Going defense was going to get him nowhere. Still, at the colony, they were on defensive formation due to being able to withstand the attack. Situation was different with the mothership.

The battle soon became desperate a ping-pong play. Each side showed little discard for damages and went for it. Juron's fleet, due to sheer larger number, was having a clear advance however and it seemed only a matter of time.

"Overall shields at 68%, Admiral," A crew reported on the bridge. "ETA to shield energy depletion is 16 hours."

Kain inquired, "Fleet status?"

"1287 ships in Rear admiral Suu's fleet. Administrator Gaer's fleet is almost routed."

Unexpectedly, a bright smile emerged on his face. Looking sideways to see Magenta who was already looking at him, he shortly told her, "I think this is it, honey."

"So be it then. I am going down with you," She told him with determination and other crews agreed with nods.

"Weren't you going to suggest me an escape route to somewhere?"

She startled. "You knew?"

"Come on. I didn't come this far with just pure luck. I may act dumb but I could see that you were keeping Elemist closeby and I saw only one reason for it."

She dropped her head and explained, "I was going to suggest you. The route is already set. But...I don't think you are going to agree to that."

"No, I would not. I don't think you were here when I said this but I was suggested to surrender when Juron invaded. I think it was the second invasion he made. I will repeat what I said back then."

With everyone on the bridge looking at him, he spoke while gazing into air, "I have many fond memories with you guys. And those fond memories are my assets.

Without it, I am just a bum. If I surrender or even flee to Venus, those fond memories I have will be tainted. To some, perhaps that is fine as long as you get to live. For me though? Tainted memories will haunt me forever until I die and, when I finally draw my last breath, it will be the most painful death. I would rather die the way I am right now than die with all of my legacy tainted."

A crew argued, "But, sir, the Ark has done nothing for you. Even if you betray United Sol, people will understand. We will understand."

Another agreed. "We won't blame you even if you leave for Venus. The Maeka know what you've been though."

Another spoke, "I am sure ENN will spin the story though but we, the Maeka, will let the clusters know what really happened."

Looking at the crew, Kain beamed a satisfied smile. "Thanks, guys. But this is it for me. I am tired. I am too tired to go on with tainted memories."

Some crews began to sob at this point and Magenta had her eyes closed.

"Magenta, you go though. You are a Bau. I am sure they will welcome you back."

"No," She replied firmly. "If you are going down, I will go down with you."

"I knew you'd say that but I really want you to live for a different reason. Someone has got to live on to set the records straight. If we all die here, the Ark will spin this the way they want. The Maeka's words won't be enough."

She hated to admit but Kain was correct in his assessment. There was every chance that the Ark would spin Kain's defeat and death to their advantage. She'd be dreaded to see it happen.

Seeing Magenta was at a crossroad, Kain opened a channel to his fleet.

"This is G. Admiral Kain here. To all ships capable, withdraw. Shinigami will hold Juron's fleet as long as possible while you retreat. Don't retreat to Uranus colony because I ordered Cesper to surrender."

Magenta made fists and they were shaking hard.

"Saturn fleet retreat to your home planet. As for Suu's fleet, you should retreat to Jupiter. Simply stay there until this is over just to remind Emuel that we fought while he slacked. Then ... go wherever you want. Perhaps Venus."

Suu was listening to Kain's speech rather stoically on her bridge. She looked neither angry nor sad and the bridge crews were looking at her.

She would salute as sincerely as she could.

"It's been an honor to serve you, Admiral," She said over the channel, "I will revenge you."

"Feel free to do that as long as you don't kill yourself," Kain joked.

She ordered retreat and remained still in her captain's chair. She was as cool as anyone could have been in such dire situation.

And when she said she'd revenge him, she meant it; she had her own plan.

Juron's fleet did not chase any of ships that broke apart from Shinigami. His target was Kain and him only. As long as he was dead, he couldn't care less about anything else.

On Kain's bridge, there were only five people left. There were Kain, Elemist, Magenta, and two other crews who chose to remain.

One of the crews reported, "They are focusing on us and the shields are going rapidly down. Overall energy capacitor at 39% We have less than 3 hours before we will take direct hits at the hull, Admiral."

"God, this is going to be such boring death," Kain joked, "Anyway, Elemist, I entrust my wife to you."

Placing his hand on his chest, he bowed. "Aye, you can trust on me."

Magenta looked despressed for an obvious reason. She also lamented a fact that there was nothing she could do. While she did sincerely wish to remain, Kain have a valid point. Someone had to stay behind to protect his legacy and she couldn't trust Suu to do it.

"Suu has something up in her sleeves," Kain commented, "I could feel that in her voice."

He pointed out why Magenta felt she must live on. Someone reliable had to be left and Suu wasn't one.

"Kain," She told him, "I was influential in the Ark's decision to appoint you the full administrator of Uranus outpost and I don't regret that decision even if it ultimately led you to this point. If you weren't here, United Sol would have fallen decades ago."

Elemist nodded along in agreement.

She continued, "At that time, I wasn't fully exposed to how the people of United Sol felt about the Bau. I knew they hated us and I knew the reasons because of reports I've gathered, but I was never fully exposed to the feeling of resentment they were going through."

After making a short pause, she continued on.

"During last few decades, as you deflected Juron's invasions with bare minimum resources, I started to see why exactly people hated the Bau. Their indecisiveness, their lack of regards for pretty much everything, and ..., well, pretty much every action they were taking have been wrong or lack thereof."

Elemist clapped weakly at this point. She then bowed deeply toward Kain.

"I thank you for everything you've done on behalf of ... the people."

Kain chuckled in response. "Go now, girl. Go."

A frigate carrying Elemist, Magenta, and few secret staffs from Venus departed Shinigami which was being battered from all directions at this point. The frigate wasn't even shot at as it swiftly sailed away from Shinigami.

Elemist was in the captain's chair on the small bridge with Magenta crouched in a corner, sobbing. She was perfectly calm and corrected until they reached the bridge. With only two of them on the bridge, perhaps she felt the need to let out.

For Elemist, this was a mission complete. However, even he felt strongly about the overall situation and wished that perhaps Cecil would do something.

"Ma'am," He called her out. He didn't expect a reply though and continued, "I was actually ordered to give you a choice."

She still did not respond.

"If you wish, I can drop you at Earth."

"Fuck that," She blurted, "Fuck the Bau."

"Very well, to Venus then."

For Kain, just like he said, his last moment would prove to be a boring one. With him and just two other crews on the bridge, all they could do was simply watch shield array capacitor energy to drain.

"Some poet said life is just a big dream. Maybe, I will wake up from this when it ends," He talked to himself. Crossing his legs, tapping his index finger on chairarm, he really had nothing better to do.

"How anticlimactic," He added.

When the ship's capacitor was finally fully drained hours later, the ship began to experience small explosions. However, since the ship was virtually abandoned at this point, no one made any reports, thus no fuss over the incidents, making it even

more dull for Kain and remaining crews on the bridge which was located in the deepest part of the ship.

"You guys engineered this ship too good. The ship's exploding and I ain't feeling anything here," Kain joked at the two crews who were of the Maeka.

They smiled and told him, "Our apologies, Admiral."

"Let's have some beer after this."

All three of them saw in their very last moment was a big flash of light which was originated from the ship's main reactor which caused a series of large explosions that swept across the entire ship as it was split in numerous pieces.

And just like that Kain perished. Just like he said, it was anticlimactic.

The remnant of what was left of Kain's fleet was swiftly heading toward Jupiter. With Kain dead, all hope seemed to be lost. Not that there wasn't much hope to begin with, but at least with him, it felt like there was a way as long as there was wills. Along the ships that were retreating, there was Suu's cruiser, USF Imparis. Her bridge was silent eerily. Suu herself was stuck in her captain's chair.

At one point, the bridge jolted and then a crew reported shortly later.

"Shockwave detected, it must be from Shinigami."

Just as she was informed, she gave out an order.

"To the fleet, all stop."

Puzzled, the crews asked, "Adrmial?"

She stood up from her chair after opening a channel to the fleet.

"This is Suu. We are turning back and we are going to fight the invasion fleet."

The bridge crew immediately murmured.

She explained, "The enemy must have let their guard down. This is the only chance to strike them."

A bridge crew argued, "Admiral, that may be so but we are just 600. They are like 12,000. Even if their guard is down, there is no way we can take them!"

"True!" She exclaimed and then lowered her voice, "But we are not going in to take them out. We are going in to take out their commander. I know which ship it is."

Another crew argued, "Even if we take their commander out, they'd still kill us!"

"I don't care," She said firmly. "I don't care even if I die as long as I get to kill their commander. In fact, I aim to die with him."

Their conversation was being broadcast to the fleet.

"But, Admiral, what's the point of taking the commander out if the fleet can still proceed?"

She raised her voice at an instant. "The point? Are you seriously asking what the point is?! He killed our admiral! So, we are going to kill him in return. Isn't that the reason enough?!"

Calming down, she continued after an uneasy silence on the bridge.

"Juron is their commander. I am sure you've heard of him at least once. He is the one responsible for all of the invasions. If we take him out, there will be a good chance that they will stop this invasion, thus saving our nation. If that is not good enough of a reason to sacrifice our lives, I don't know what else is."

Looking around the bridge, she continued.

"I realize that I am asking you to die. But our admiral has already done it for us. I am not sure whether he was aware but this has given us a golden opportunity to take him out. They must be celebrating right now. After all, it took decades to kill our admiral. Now is the chance. Now is the only chance."

Crews looked at each other. Some looked convinced and some didn't. She noticed this.

"Those who wish to cower, leave now. I will not shame you. You have every right to live."

Two third of crews on the bridge rushed out. Suu was informed that, while many left, the ships themselves were functional for a battle.

"Good." She sat back down in the captain's chair. "Turn around, form an arrow formation. I will mark the target. We will take it down no matter what. I will ram this ship if I must."

If she returned to Earth, there was a good chance that she would have been able to resume Kain's role. She could have been given the command of Earth defense fleet and deal with Jupiter Administrator Emuel and the invasion fleet.

This scenario would make her face a fleet size of 22,000 ships which would leave absolutely no chance of victory.

Ironically, this reckless suicidal plan of hers was actually the most sensible one at the moment. Additionally, death wasn't even her concern. Avenging Kain no matter what at all cost was.

When her fleet of just 600 cruisers reached close enough for a visual confirmation on Juron's fleet, something totally unexpected was occurring in front of their eyes. Juron's fleet was battling another sizable fleet.

"Their signatures..., it's from Freedom colony! A fleet of 8,000 ships!"

Tears gaterhed up in Suu's eyes as she heard the crew's report. Their presence meant they broke the non-aggression pact. In other words, Freedom colony was risking their own existance to help Kain even though it was too late.

What truly mattered though that Suu now had a chance. It was a very slim chance before. Now with the battle, thus chaos, the chance was much higher.

"I am marking their commandship. Guard me. Protect my ship at all cost. I will take their commandship down with my own hands," She commanded.

Because of the ongoing battle, Juron's fleet paid very little attention to Suu's fleet which was simply too small to inflict any serious damage. What they weren't aware was a fact that Suu spent much efforts to track down their commandship during their four-day siege at Uranus colony. She studied their movements and formation and guessed which ship was their commandship. There was no guarantee that it would actually be the one but she had to gamble it and believed in her work.

As her fleet breezed through the battle without firing a shot, little attention was paid at her fleet. As her fleet dove deeper without attacking at all began to alert some of ships. By time they realized that her fleet was after Garrick's ship, they immediately began to focus on her ships. Her fleet retained the arrow formation for speed and maneuverability regardless.

As her fleet was approaching closer and closer to their commandship, her fleet was met with barrages of shots. With all ships in her fleet strengthening their shield arrays, it wasn't easy to slow them down. Still, it was thousands versus six hundred. Casualties began to emerge. With under-crewed ships, they simply did not have an ability to repair or even react and any ships that was falling behind was quickly obliterated.

"Commandship in sight!" A crew exclaimed. The bridge was jolting very hard at the moment.

"Charge!" Suu bellowed. "Don't fire at him! We are going to ram it!"

Tens of ships ramming into a single cruiser would absolutely leave no chance to react indeed.

As if realizing what her fleet was going to do, the invasion fleet formed a dense sphere formation around their commandship. However, that certainly did not deter Suu and her followers as they crushed into the sphere formation, leaving explosions and shockwaves in its vicinity.

Her ship, USF Imparis, was very close to the front of the formation. When her fleet crushed into the sphere formation, her ship and few others were the only ones that made through the defensive steel shield.

"Captain Mack confirmed killed!" A crew reported.

"Overload the reactor! 1000% Prepare for immediate self-destruct on contact!" She barked.

"Aye, aye!"

"I see it! Ram it! RAM IT!"

On a badly jolting brige, Suu along few crews desperately hung onto their safety bars to secure themselves. She kept on pointing at a screen on front, yelling "RAM IT! RAM IT!" And her crews made desperate last second adjusts to secure a direct ramming route to the enemy commandship.

Just as frontal shield of her ship made a contact with shields of enemy commandship, an intense flash of light ignited from back of USF Imparis, pushing her ship with such a force that the two ships were joined for a painfully short moment before exploding violently together.

Once the enemy commandship or Garrick's ship was literally obliterated, leaving not even savagable debris, the invasion fleet and Freedom colony fleet immediately ceased firing. Then the both fleets would simply withdraw afterwards.

Historians would later call this, "One in a million shot.", and would claim that such an act would and should have never worked under normal circumstances. Because, when shields of different frequency collided, they repelled each other. Therefore, normally, USF Imparis should have bounced off Garrick's commandship. Even if Imparis' shield was down, her ship was likely to have bounced off since Garrick's commandship would have likely had full shield strength.

However, the precise timing of Imparis' reactor explosion meant that raw forward force overcame shield repulsion.

In other words, even if Imparis had somehow failed to ram the commandship once made a contact, the commandship would have likely burnt all of their shield arrays in an instant and a catastrophic energy backflow would have exploded the ship's reactor, destroying the ship regardless.

In short, either way, Garrick's commandship would have blown due to the precise timing of Imparis' reactor explosion.

There was another aspect that left historians hard questions. Juron being a class S ESP would and should have made out of the ship before it exploded via teleportation. However, apparently he did not or failed to do so. Nobody knew what exactly happened on the bridge of Garrick's ship in the final last minutes because no debris was left, not even its blackbox.

Regardless, historians viewed it as a powerful ESP versus a group of hardworking men. On paper, the result was a tie. In reality, it was a victory for United Sol at a great expense.

Meanwhile, Elemist's frigate had successfully reached Venus outpost and sent a shuttle, carrying Magenta, down to Fallen Crater on Venus. When it landed on the shuttle port, guards surrounded the shuttle to ensure safety of its passenger. Magenta eventually descended from the shuttle made her way toward Cecil who was flanked by Vakha and Ksa.

“Magenta Bau,” Cecil called her out. However, Magenta quickly put a stop on him.

“I am no longer a Bau. I've renounced my last name.”

“So be it,” Cecil responded stoically. “Magenta, welcome to Venus. As you are aware, you are the last one with true knowledge of what Grand admiral Kain attempted to achieve as well as being the only one having seen his last moments.”

She ground her teeth as she heard Cecil. The tragedy could have been prevented only if the Ark cared. Many good people died for United Sol, and a sad truth was that the Ark probably couldn't care less.

It was selfless sacrifices they conducted and she wasn't pleased about it, not at all.

“I will do anything to destroy United Sol,” She declared with shaking fists. Tears were forming in her eyes. “I want the Bau to be completely destroyed. I want them dead.”

Those were strong words and she meant every one of them. It was pure hatred to her former clan that did nothing at all to save its people as well as her husband.

Cecil slowly approached her while Vakha and Ksa remained still. Once close enough, he placed his hand on her shoulder and softly told her, “United Sol did not deserve

such patriots. I share your sentiment. Mark my words, United Sol will fall and I will make sure to bombard Earth. I will bomb the shit out of them. I will not disappoint you.”

Magenta began to sob as she heard Cecil’s words. Soon enough, she fell to her knees and uncontrollably wailed.

At this very point, Vakha and Ksa realized that United Sol was as good as dead. Cecil wasn't one who'd give words easily, and when he did, he made sure that he'd keep it. He gave his words that United Sol would fall.

It was only a matter of time.

- Fin, the end of Kain & Suu arc