

The beginning of ...

## [Kain and Suu arc] [9] [The mothership] [9646]

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This arc pretty much runs parallel with Shattered union arc. Therefore, keeping up with Shattered union arc is important up to 9<sup>th</sup> story.

***It was originally the Maeka clan's idea.***

“The mothership” they referred. Historically, there was nothing like it. Size-wise, only ancient Mammoth freighter would be a match. Officially, there had been no ship of such a size and purpose.

Regardless, from a pure engineer's prospective, building a mothership was a wet dream, an engineering marble so to speak.

“A mothership? What does that even mean?” Kain scratched his head as he was told that the Maeka had been drawing several prototype blueprints over a gigantic ship.

“Basically, it’s a mobile station that looks alike a ship,” Magenta explained as simple as possible.

“Why would I want that? We have this Uranus colony.”

“True, they are not asking you to build it. I just stole their prototype blueprint. That’s all.”

“You stole? What?” Kain raised his voice. “U serious?”

Magenta answered with a smile and a shrug.

“Ouch, woman. You can be mean. I am sure they had tight security around it, no?”

“They did.”

Kain looked carefully over the blueprint that was being displayed from a screen. He initially didn’t pay much attention to it until Magenta mentioned that she stole it.

“Crew capacity of 1,500... Two 500 fighter craft bays, and even an ability to dock over 10 USF Courages... Along with 80 cruiser class turrets...”

Kain was reading off its spec.

“Girl, this thing can even dock cruisers. This thing is insane,” He uttered in awe. “Why would they even want to build such a thing?”

Magenta replied, "I don't think they can. They are just dreaming. No harm in dreaming."

Kain lazily glanced at her. "Why did you steal this? Why take the risk?"

She brought up a debate between Kain, Suu, and her a while ago. It was a debate regarding a plan to fight against Juron. According to her spies, Juron was certainly preparing for yet another invasion, and as things stood, Kain stood little chances to repeal his invasion.

Suu argued that Kain should seek a solution with the Ark on Earth. Magenta argued that United Sol was out of money and that Kain stood alone.

The debate ended in deadlock in the end, but Kain was well aware of his available choices, which was none.

"The last time we fought against him, we almost lost Uranus colony. I can only reckon that his next invasion will be tougher. We will need a new base of operation," She argued.

Crossing arms, Kain let out of a sigh.

"We are gonna build this thing, eh." Having resigned to Magenta's idea, he whined because he felt like whining.

"We should talk to them first."

“Wat?” Kain frowned. “U stole this and talk to them now? Why steal in the first place?”

“I wasn’t sure whether this was even real. For all I knew, it could have been just a crazy blueprint with an unrealistic concept. Now that I see they were serious about it, we should talk to them and ask them to be realistic and come up with an updated blueprint.”

Kain felt she had a point although it didn’t seat him right that he had to admit stealing the blueprint.

Gaer’s face twitched when he was presented with the blueprint. It seemed obvious that he did not want the blueprint to be leaked in any form.

Blinking his eyes as well as shaking his head, Gaer finally made a respond after a moment of awkward silence.

“I cannot believe this has been leaked,” He said, “Who else got a hold of it, I wonder.”

“As far as I know, it’s been leaked only to me,” Kain replied.

“Admiral.” Gaer’s tone was grave. “This blueprint is something I’ve been opposing with inner circles. This blueprint is too ambitious. If it falls to wrong hands, it could be used against us.”

Kain realized he had a valid point. If it did fall to wrong hands, they could come up with a conspiracy theory that the Maeka was planning for a revolt.

“Administrator, I mean no harm when I brought this to your attention. In fact, I’ve come to see you to ask you about validity of the blueprint.”

“Validity?” Gaer seemed lost.

Kain explained to Gaer that he was looking for a way to battle Juron who was clearly preparing for yet another invasion.

At first, Gaer seemed shell-shocked. “You mean to tell me that you wish to build this? The scope of this project is ...”

Kain stopped him and gave him a firm nod, signaling him that he was fully aware of what Gaer was trying to say.

“Well, the engineers will be overjoyed, I am sure,” Gaer joked. His next tone was grave however. “Admiral, I hope you realize that I want to reject your proposal. Like I said, if anyone else finds out that this whole idea was from us, or to be more specific the Maeka clan, it can and will be used against me. I

earned my post by swearing an oath to President Fraser that I would not revolt and not side with Emuel.”

Gaer’s concern was that, even if the source was hidden, it would eventually be revealed.

Then Kain came up with a bold and daring idea. He suggested, “Administrator, why don’t we have a talk then?”

Gaer narrowed his eyes. “What do you mean?”

“You, I and the President. Let’s have a talk. You know, man to man. Be upfront and honest with him.”

“What!!!” Gaer raised his voice at once. “That’s suicidal!”

“I am not a bureaucrat, Administrator,” Kain said, “This is how ordinary people do things. We talk face to face. It is not like you are really planning to revolt. You are simply afraid of the political issues associated with the blueprint.”

Crossing arms, Gaer dropped his head, considering his options. Soon enough, he came to a conclusion that he had little choices. The blueprint was in Kain’s hands already. If he wanted, he could simply begin the project without Gaer’s consent. If so, he feared whirlwind of rumors and gossips. It could well be out of his control then.

At least, with Kain's suggestion, the card would be in his hands at least. He could argue that he was being upfront and honest because he had nothing to fear, on surface at least. If Kain was going to go ahead with the blueprint, the latter sounded more attractive for Gaer.

"Very well, I will invite the President to here. We will talk at the Maeka bar."

Fraser was skeptical when he received the invitation.

"Gaer wants to see me in person and on Saturn."

He was consulting with his adviser, Len, in the presidential office.

"I have no clue why he wants to meet me and quite frankly I am skeptical of his intentions," Fraser said.

Len also had no idea why Gaer sent out the invitation.

"Our people at Saturn have informed me that Admiral Kain has recently paid a visit," Len informed Fraser. "They have no idea the purpose of the visit."

Fraser groaned. It smelled.

At first, Fraser and the Ark house welcomed Kain's influence in Outer Sol because he was effectively caging Emuel. However, as time passed, the sense of welcome had faded and new fear emerged. The Bau council had been

increasingly skeptical of Kain's agenda. Their fear was fueled further by unknown. They had virtually no intel on Kain due to Magenta having completely blocked off communication.

"I don't want to attend this. What is your thought on this, Len?"

Len affirmed Fraser's stance. "You shouldn't attend this, sir."

In the end, Fraser rejected Gaer's invitation which actually fueled Gaer's fear further because his refusal meant the President did not fully trust him.

"He refused?"

Kain had received a message from Gaer regarding the outcome. "Why would he refuse? What does he have to lose?"

Magenta feared Fraser might refuse as well. She was well aware of the fear that had been going around the Ark. They were losing control. The Ark had virtually no influence in Outer Sol. Their loss of control brought them fears and mistrust. She did consider re-establishing her connection with the Bau council. However, in doing so, she feared losing Gaer's trust. In her mind, having Gaer as an ally was more important than comforting powerless Bau.

"I believe I can lure him out," She told Kain. "We have the perfect bait for that."

“What? What are you scheming now?” He sounded skeptical and rightfully so. Suu was a straightforward person and Magenta was polar opposite. He could never tell what she was really thinking and who she was really working for or against.

“It’s nothing really. The President has been like a father to me and-”

“Woah, woah.” Kain stopped her at once. “He’s been like a father to you? Who are you?”

“I haven’t told you?”

“You. Have. Not. You’ve better spill everything out, girl. I know your name, gender, and that’s it. Again, who are you? Is your name real even?”

Magenta shrugged with a grin, muttering, “Of course, you’d know my gender... You’ve fucked me long enough.”

“Well, duh. What are you hiding?”

“I am not hiding anything on purpose. My name is Magenta. I was named after the color of my hair and I think I told you that I was originally a spy sent to watch you.”

“Right.”

“I guess what I haven’t told you is my upbringing. At young age, I was entrusted to Mr. Fraser who just so happened to become the President. That’s pretty much all.”

Kain pointed out. “If so, why are you a bait?”

“I was sent out to spy on you which I quit absurdly. I haven’t reported back then. Take a guess.”

In short, she sort of betrayed.

“Are you going to be alright then? I mean strictly you could be arrested.”

“If they wanted to arrest me, I would have been arrested many years ago. Like I said, he is like a father to me. If I show up, he will. I have no doubt about that.”

“Are you going to be alright?”

“Like I said, if they wanted to arrest me-”

“No, I mean are you going to be alright? I am sure you had reasons to cut the ties especially when you didn’t need to. I get a feeling that you dislike your own clan and that you don’t necessarily want to meet the President if you could for whatever personal reasons you have.”

Kain was spot on and his sharp senses made her realize once again why she chose him. He acted dumb at times but he proved to be crucially sharp at times as well.

She beamed a smile at him. "Of course, I am going to be fine."

She was grateful for Fraser to have supported her in his own way, but she did not appreciate the father-and-daughter relationship he tried to impose. The truth was that she never saw him as a father figure. She knew Len was also aware of her stance on the matter but Len chose not to do anything which irked her even further.

Regardless, this was a business and she chose to use herself.

When Gaer sent his invitation again, Fraser had to accept. The invitation was sent by Gaer but it had Magenta's writing as well as signature on it.

The meeting was to be held at one of the Maeka's bars. The Maeka maintained several antique bars. The bars were fully wooden and were of top quality. Only the highest guests were allowed to use them. This was the very same bar which Kain was invited to when he had just become the deputy Administrator of Uranus decades ago.

Fraser, accompanied by Len, entered the bar. Gaer and Kain immediately welcomed him after walking to him at once. However, Fraser's attention was

on someone else. His eyes were fixed on Magenta who was quietly breaking a small ice block behind the bar counter.

“Mr. President, I thank you for coming,” Gaer greeted him while offering a handshake.

Taking his handshake and nodding at him, Fraser’s attention was still fixed at Magenta who was focusing on her job at hand.

Once they were all seated, Magenta skillfully slid drinks to each man. It was certainly not her first time serving drinks.

Gaer carefully began his confession.

He said, “Mr. President, the reason I invited you to this meeting is that I wish to reveal you something.”

“Reveal?” Fraser caught on quickly. “What have you been hiding?”

Exchanging an eye signal with Kain, Gaer glanced at Magenta who swiftly pulled up a display device and placed it on counter. Clicking a button, a holographic blueprint of “the mothership” displayed.

Even though Fraser wasn’t an engineer by trade, he could easily see the scope of the ship.

“What is this?” He raised his voice. “What’s this ship about?”

Len also took a careful look and remarked, "This ship is enormous, sir, and powerful."

"It's the mothership," Kain answered.

"The mothership?" And Fraser repeated.

Kain said, "Maeka engineers were fooling around with this, Mr. President. Engineers are like grown-up kids. They dream of the impossible."

Len narrowed his eyes and made a prompt reply. "Admiral, I get a feeling that you wish to build this, and the reason for this meeting was that Administrator Gaer wanted to reveal this before any suspicion was placed on him."

Crossing arms, Fraser closed his eyes while dropping his head slightly. At the same time, Gaer replied.

"Yes, Mr. Adviser. You are correct. Do note that I have nothing to hide. This was a blueprint conceived by day dreaming engineers."

Fraser opened his eyes and unfolded his arms to take a shot at his drink. He eventually spoke. "Administrator, you do realize the weak balance. If Admiral Kain builds this, the balance will be broken. Admiral Kain will, on surface at least, become too big."

"This is no time for playing politics."

It was Magenta who spoke. She added, "My spies tell me Juron will be invading again in near future, and at current status, the Admiral cannot hold him off. He is trying to survive and his survival is the survival of United Sol. What balance are you talking about, Mr. President? If he is defeated, the balance will be the last thing you want to be concerned about."

Fraser and Len, both of them would stare at her with eyes widely open. And uneasy silence dominated the bar. The silence was eventually broken by Kain.

"Mr. President. I am no bureaucrat, sir. I don't do things the way bureaucrats do. This meeting was my idea because I wished to talk to you face to face, a man to a man, a guy to a guy. You've placed me the title of admiral on me but that doesn't change who I am. I am just a guy who's trying to make a living-" At this point, he chuckled and corrected, "No, I am trying to survive, sir. You've placed me on a shitty position. Every single night, I have nightmares on how to defend the colony." Shaking his head with a bitterly grin on his face, he added, "I've got to talk to a shrink."

It was such a blunt talk that Fraser grinned. His bluntness reminded him that Kain was indeed from a common background. He feared the decades may have turned him into a bureaucrat but he saw that he hadn't changed.

By the end of the meeting, Fraser approved Kain to build the mothership. He assured Kain that he'd stop the Ark from doing anything to prevent him from building it. And, once the meeting was over, Gaer and Kain left, leaving only Magenta, Fraser, and Len in the moody bar.

Swirling his glass casually, Fraser told Magenta, "So, you really chose him."

To which she replied firmly, "Yes, I have."

Fraser said, "I always thought that you'd end up with Len. You two were childhood friends after all."

Len did have feelings for her, and Magenta did also have feelings to some degree. However, Len's passive stance when she needed help turned her off. Basically, he didn't come in when she wanted a hand. On his defense, Len was focusing on getting Fraser elected as the President and didn't have time and energy to divert his attention despite of being aware that Magenta wasn't pleased with the father-and-daughter relationship Fraser created.

"Just so you know, the shrink Kain was referring to is me," Magenta declared.

Fraser chuckled weakly. "The guy can be pretty comical."

She replied, "He speaks his mind. He does scheme though. It's nothing sinister however. He is simply focused on doing the job he was given which I don't think any of the Ark house members do."

Fraser dropped his head; he couldn't argue. The political system at Earth had been broken for a long time. However, there was little he could do to alter anything. His vision of a government differed too much from the council's view of a government.

It was no secret that the Bau had a strong tendency to do what would benefit only them, and the Bau controlled house did exactly that; they would pass laws that would benefit only them.

The three knew United Sol couldn't keep going on like this. In a way or another, change was needed.

"All good?"

Kain greeted Magenta when she finally made her way to Parashe II. He was waiting for her at a bridge leading to the cruiser in a docking bay.

Beaming a smile, she nodded and replied, "All good, I guess."

"U guess? Come on."

Shrugging, she pouted. "Fine, all went good."

"Now, you are talking, attagirl."

With the President's approval, Project Mothership was officially announced by Uranus administration which drew attention from everywhere.

The Ark was initially very shocked to hear the news and was about to call an emergency meeting which Fraser canceled and called Abell to his office instead.

Abell was the house leader at the moment. He and Fraser did not share a good relationship and rightfully so, he was cocky when he spoke to the President.

"What is the meaning of the cancellation?" He demanded.

Fraser explained, "There is no need to call for a meeting. The Admiral has personally informed me of his intention of launching Project Mothership. There is nothing to fear."

Abell's face twitched, showing obvious displeasure.

"Mr. President, with all due respect, you should have told us."

Fraser fired back. "When you congress tells me of your plans before making votes, I shall."

Abell displayed his discontent by silent growling. He'd soon turn around and left the office. He wasn't backing off and he called for a chamber session which would discuss Kain's sacking.

Fraser opted to attend in order to defend Kain but he wasn't confident that he'd be able to protect him. Len was aware of this and came up with a bold plan.

First, he advised Fraser to contact Kain and marry a Bau woman. He explained that it would be easy for Kain since he already had two eligible Bau women near him.

Second, he wanted a private talk with Cecil.

"The Crimson wizard?" Fraser raised his voice in the office. "How come?"

Len was standing in front of the presidential desk with hands on back. He explained, "I am going to ask him to summon his fleet and make a fake advance toward Earth. Doing so will cause panic in the house and sacking Kain would be foolish in such situation. Your voice will then be heard."

"Would he even talk to you? There hasn't been one to one communication since Mirren's regime. Even Gvew didn't talk to him."

"I am going to try, sir. I just need your authorization."

"What have we got to lose?" Fraser shrugged. "Fine, go for it. I am going to talk to Kain meanwhile."

Len gave him a firm nod.

Kain was on a secured channel with Fraser. Magenta was present on his side when Fraser broke news that he needed to marry a Bau woman. Of course, Fraser wasn't aware of a fact that Kain swore not to marry again when Ritsuki was killed in the last war.

Crossing arms, Kain let out of a long sign. He knew he swore but the situation called for it apparently. He wasn't going to argue with the President about his past promise, after all he was trying to protect him from being sacked.

"It shouldn't be too hard for you to be honest. You have two Bau woman who are single and are in prime age to be married. Choose one, sign a marriage certificate and that's it. I can take care of the rest," Fraser explained and added, "You can even marry both if you like. The Bau tradition allows polygyny."

"Polygyny? Oh, for fuck's sake, we live in year 9600-something," Kain whispered which Magenta heard. Clearing his throat afterwards, he replied, "Mr. President, thanks for sticking up for me. I suppose I don't have a choice on the matter, no?"

"No, you do not. Marriage is the only way for me to be able to defend you in the house session. Otherwise, they will sack you due to Project Mothership."

Shrugging, Kain let out of strong sarcasm. "I had no idea that trying to protect the border was considered treason..."

Regardless, Fraser answered earnestly, "This is how the Bau works, Admiral. They do not trust non-Bau which is exactly why you need to become one of us for me to be able to protect you."

"I see. I will let you know the outcome in a day, sir."

And that was the end of the conversation. As soon as the channel was closed, Kain bellowed out loudly.

"FUCKING SHIT!" And then he stood up, kicking a wall. "FUCKING MESSED UP POLITICS!"

Magenta let him be. She felt it was rightful that he wanted to vent. When he came down and sat down, she told him softly, "Well, a marriage at this point isn't that of a big deal, no? Speaking of which, why don't you talk to Suu about this?"

Kain muttered, "The hell? Why her? If anything, if I must marry, it should be you. After all, we've fucked each other long enough."

"The President did say marrying both is an option."

"And you'd think I'd marry two women at once? What am I, a mimbo?"

Magenta explained, "You and Suu don't talk too much but realize this; Suu has been around you for 30 plus years. If she had nothing for you, she wouldn't have stuck around that long."

To which Kain explained, "That's because I am likely her key to success. I gave her a cruiser and then made her a commodore. She wasn't going to go anywhere if she hadn't struck around."

"Do you really think the only reason she struck around was to use you? Do you really see her as that kind of person?"

Kain couldn't talk back because she did have a point. Suu wasn't a kind of person who'd stick around just for success. Still, there was no way he'd talk to her about marriage. They simply did not have the required level of friendship toward each other to even bring up the topic.

"Regardless, marrying you is easier," Kain insisted. "Pretty much everyone thinks you are my wife anyway."

"I have no problem with that. But talk to Suu beforehand."

Kain didn't understand her eagerness to bring Suu into this but, nevertheless, he complied.

Kain summoned Suu and informed her of the situation in full.

Magenta added, "The President did mention that you are an option for him."

Suu didn't seem to shocked to hear but remained silent. Eventually, Magenta added, "He did also say that marrying both of us is also a visible option."

Taking a deep breath, Suu replied, "I have a long history with the Admiral here. When I just joined the navy, I just didn't know the outside world because I had a sheltered life. Long story short, if it wasn't for him, I would have dropped out of the navy. For that, I am grateful. However, there is absolutely no way I will marry him."

"Why are you sticking around then?" Magenta inquired with slight aggressiveness in her voice.

"Where else would I go? Who else would tolerate my discipline?"

Suu was known to be a hard disciplinarian. Some crews loathed her for that while some favored her for the same reason. Regardless, combat readiness was high under her rule. She was also credited for making Outer Sol a lot safer than before. Therefore, even though she was nicknamed "Hardass" by some, her work was appreciated by the general populace.

Once Suu left, Magenta remarked immediately, "I am pretty sure she's got hots for you."

Waving his hand off, Kain responded, "Oh, enough of that already. She's 'Hardass'. She ain't going anywhere because she knows I am the only one who tolerates her."

"Trust me on this. My woman's gut tells me that she's got the hots for you."

“Yeah, right.” Kain didn’t take her seriously.

In the end, Kain and Magenta got married which was as simple as signing a marriage certificate online.

Meanwhile, Len captained a lone cruiser and was making his way toward Venus. In two days into the journey, he was alerted that a small Venusian patrol fleet was approaching him.

“Keep shields down and weapons offline,” He commanded at once.

In half an hour, the Venusian patrol fleet was in visual range and made a contact.

“Sir, they are asking the purpose of our approach,” A bridge crew informed Len.

“Open a secure channel,” Len commanded. “And then send a one-way message with signal-die opt-in. Tell them that I must speak in person.”

Signal-die opt-in was a special electronic signal that would die within a second of being released by a transmitter. This method was used when even secured channel was deemed insecure. When such a signal was used in deep space, there would be no way to track and trace it.

Once the message was sent, Len made his way down to a docking bay where a Venusian shuttle landed. An office with two guards exited from the shuttle.

“Sir, what is the business?” The office promptly inquired Len politely.

“My name is Len. I am the President Fraser’s top adviser. I am carrying a classified message on his behalf. I must speak to Cecil Klisis directly in person.”

Upon hearing “Cecil Klisis”, Len could see the officer’s attitude stiffing up. “I will get back to you soon,” He said as he rushed to depart.

And then in a matter of minutes, a woman teleported in the docking bay Len was casually waiting. He certainly didn’t expect such a rapid response.

The woman had a distinctive disheveled hair as if she never took care of her hair after waking up.

“You are not Cecil Klisis,” Len remarked. “I believe I requested to meet him.”

“And you thought you’d see him like that? Would you do the same for your President?”

She had a point.

“Fine, who are you?”

“My name is Ksa, a member of the Hammers. You claim to be Len, the adviser of United Sol President Fraser Bau.”

“Yes, I am.”

“Alright, what do you wish to discuss?”

Len hesitated momentarily. “I must speak to Cecil Klisis in person.”

To which Ksa replied promptly, “I am here on his behalf. Speak.”

“I cannot trust you,” Len claimed. “I must speak to Cecil Klisis.”

Len could hear the woman sneer weakly. “So be it then. I am done here. Good bye, Mr. Naive.” And before even Len could respond, she was gone.

“God damn it,” Muttering, he rushed back to the bridge and attempted to contact the patrol fleet. However, the patrol fleet was unresponsive and simply left at once.

Fearing that he had just failed what he considered as a simple mission, he ordered the cruiser to proceed further.

“Sir, we are already pretty deep. Going further may actually be a violation of the treaty,” A bridge crew alerted and informed him.

“I don’t care. Keep going, and that’s an order.”

Shaking his head, the officer obliged. And it didn’t take an hour for a small fleet to appear in front of them. A fleet of a thousand ships stood before Len’s cruiser.

A female officer popped up on a holographic screen on Len's bridge.

"This is Tuhina of the Hammers. Whoever you are, I suggest you to turn around and go back."

"Sir, their weapons are powered up and we are actually locked," A bridge crew alerted Len who was growling in his chair.

Len responded, "I am Len, the President Fraser's adviser. I demand to speak to Cecil Klisis."

Clearly unimpressed by Len's response, Tuhina scoffed. "Know where you stand," She replied. "You are in no position to make any demand. Under democracy, you may be able to do so, but Venus is no longer democracy."

"Sir!" A bridge crew bellowed. "They are firing!"

"Retreat!" Len exclaimed. "Retreat at once!"

Tuhina never meant to actually kill Len and the shots were mostly misfires. Still, the message was clear and Len was forced to withdraw. He had to report his failure to Fraser.

"My apologies, Mr. President. I've failed," He told to Fraser in person with a deep bow."

Sighing, Fraser comforted him. "It's not the end of the world. Kain took my suggestion and married Magenta. I suppose this will have to do."

Len believed he could get his way by acting strong but realized he was wrong in the end. Cecil and his people did not play around.

“Time for some lobbying also. Len, open the wallet,” Fraser ordered.

In a house session which Fraser attended, the members began debating the project Mothership. The debate was that Kain was acting too reckless and ambitious that he needed to be relieved of his duties at once.

Initially, the debate was going to be heavily in favor of sacking Kain. However, after Len’s heavy lobbying who was determined to make up for his failure as well as news that Kain married Magenta Bau, the sack-him tone had died down significantly.

And Fraser made his speech as soon as the debate was laid out.

“Admiral Kain is with us, with the Bau. He had been with two Bau women for decades. He simply did not tie the knot because he felt it wasn’t needed. I ask those who wish to have him replaced. What good will it do? With rumors of Juron preparing for yet another invasion, who else is qualified? The Admiral has faced him twice and survived. He knows the best how to deal with that monster.”

The opposition was rather silent but Abell did raise a concern.

Abell stated, "What is the purpose of such a ship? Why did he have to start such a project?" To which Fraser responded promptly, "He has informed me that he almost lost Uranus colony in the last invasion. Therefore, he wanted a secondary base where he could make his stand without having to risk all the civilians. It makes sense to me at least."

And his answer shut Abell up good for the remainder of the debate.

In the end, there wasn't a vote and the session was dissolved.

Fraser was pleased personally because he finally scored one against Abell who was representing the Bau council. However, in reality, financially it was a big loss for him. If Len had succeeded, he wouldn't have to lobby and would have used fear instead.

"Talk about overreacting the shit out of ass..."

Kain remarked as he was skimming through the final verdict of the Ark session behind his desk.

“The Ark has been dysfunctional as far as I can remember, Magenta replied.

“They never liked you in the first place because of your common background.”

“What, they dislike me because I am not a politician?”

“More or less. Bureaucrats think alike. You are not a bureaucrat, so they don’t know how to tame you or buy you. Therefore, they fear you.”

Clicking his tongue, he shut off his computer and stood up. “I am going out. See you later.”

Magenta was doing paper works and waved him away. “Have fun.”

Kain’s daily routine involved taking a stroll around the colony. He felt it was important to see how his people were doing daily. And his routine was well-known to others. Therefore, those who had concerns came up to him in person when he was taking a stroll around.

He generally had few visitors every day and this day was no exception. A man in business attire approached him as he was walking on a street of commercial district.

“Admiral, greetings.” The man threw a friendly greeting over Kain.

“Hello, Mister. I don’t believe I’ve met you before?”

The street wasn't too busy but wasn't empty, either, which wasn't too unusual considering the time was 09:00 at the moment.

"No, Admiral. You have not. I am a business man based on Freedom colony. I was told to speak to you directly for a business permit."

In other words, he wanted it fast. Kain had done this countless times.

"Give me a memory card containing your application and I will see what I can do," Kain replied casually.

Beaming a grin, the man handed Kain a thumb-size memory chip which Kain shoved it away in one of his pockets.

"You will hear from the office in 24 hours," Kain said to which the man looked pleased.

Increasing population meant increasing opportunity for business. Having established their own news channel, Uranians wanted more. Kain approved plans for new schools, public libraries, as well as new institutions.

Slowly but surely, Uranus colony was becoming a powerhouse which even Emuel couldn't just sneer off.

When Kain walked into a docking bay, he saw Commander Suu training crews. Suu was nicknamed "Hard ass" by those around her. She was a disciplinarian

and spared no quarter even in battles. Her methods were criticized but results didn't lie her effectiveness. Pirates feared venturing into trade routes around Uranus colony and overall pirate activities saw good reduction overall in Outer Sol.

"Hey, Suu." Kain casually greeted her who was focusing on drilling crews.

"Admiral." She saluted at once.

"Come on, girl. Take it easy." Shrugging sarcastically, Kain beamed a grin. But Suu took no notice and continued on her job.

Kain's final destination of his stroll was the colony bridge.

"Sir!" A crew named Ragnar saluted at once.

"At ease, dude."

"Sir."

Ragnar was originally a backup to Samuel on Parashe II. He wasn't given any new role initially. However, after Samuel backed out during the last invasion by Juron, he was subsequently given a promotion and became the chief of staff on the bridge. He was also a disciplinarian although he was a lesser disciplinarian compared to Suu.

"Anything to report?"

With his hands firmly on his back, Ragnar answered politely, “No, Admiral. Everything is green, sir.”

When Kain had just arrived at the colony in year 9614, the bridge was manned by a single crew in non-emergency times. It was due to slow traffic and a single person was able to meet the demand. Fast forward to year 9646, the bridge was manned by at least three people all times.

When Kain arrived back at his house, Magenta was absent but she certainly did leave something to do for Kain. While she didn't leave any message, an updated blueprint of the mothership was displaying on her desk. Additionally, the blueprint needed Kain's signature to be approved for the project.

Using his index finger, Kain made his signature on a right corner of the holographic blueprint.

**Fin**