

# **Slah'ke: Our War**

## **Part 1**

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### **Chapter I: Last Battle for Megrez: Adepts Anger**

Adept stood there in his ship The Clan, a faster version of the Zealot cruisers he favored. You could barely see the slits in his eyes as the man sized lizard tiresomely operated the ship; he was fighting for countless hours now, hoping, just hoping that reinforcements would arrive. But no one did... and now he was face to face with the Kolari scum, and godless brood, and disgusting Hive. Most of all John A. Howard, his tail whacked the deck out of rage, and he let out a primal roar over the comm to the other ships. John spoke in the high-pitched voice the Kolari had.

John calmly said "Give it up your going to loose."

Adept widened his eyes, filled with rage, as he roared his reply, shouting obscenities in the Slah'ke tongue.

"Come over here and fight me Kolari scum!"

Everyone was perfectly inclined to reply and charged the station he was protecting, which the Slah'ke have worked so hard to keep in this war.

Adept swore as he took heavy hits but refused to hyper out. And fought vigorously competing with the starbase for kills.

Ships multiplied like maggots in a garbage can but the Slah'ke still staid, trying to prove himself.

He had half a Zealot, and his engines were cut down when the fighting ceased, and it was a stand still.

Adept let out a sigh, of a victor...only a small one though, he was only delaying the inevitable. But be damned if he ever gave up!

He shouted insults at the Kolari John.

In the end the Union lost Megrez, Adept was going to go off and defend it more, when Machinehr gave the order to promptly ignore what went on in the system.

Adept sighed. Knowing that he could not ignore the order from Machinehr, not that he'd fear the consequences but because Adept trusted Machinehr a lot for his wise judgments about fights.

Adept sat in his ship The Clan, observing the outside from the multiple view screens. He spoke slowly to himself in Slah'ke.

"Damnit... I hate it know it, but I think we're going to lose this war..."

Adept slammed his fist down onto something nearby denting it, and from the pain he screamed in rage.

Adept was tired... everyone was.

As Adept arrived in Saurion, he noticed a few ships arriving heavily damaged. A few moments later he heard the loud clamping system of the docking clamps latch onto his ship, and he strode to the loading ramp and got off, walking to report to SPQR.

He spoke softly in Slah'ke. "SPQR I have been told we are pulling out? How come?"

SPQR looked at him with his dark red eyes, showing the seriousness of the matter.

Even though they were friends they still needed to maintain a bearing of command.

Adept spoke again. "It's that bad?"

SPQR replied this time, in a soft tone, the voice to any others not used to it, would be a bit frightened. "Well, we can't hold out in Megrez anymore. As you know especially from the last incursion, we were only making them pay for what war they've started."

Adept nodded, his tail, curled around the area he was standing, Adept had quite a long tail compared to most other Slah'ke.

He turned and left SPQR so that He Church and Tomglomerate could speak to Machinehr about what to do next, since Megrez was lost. Fortunately Adept covered most of the evacuation ships as they hypered out from the Brood bombers.

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Adept watched the star maps for Kolari movement to single out them so he can hunt them down and make them pay for this defeat. Adept felt he needed to do something about it...

Machinehr, Church, SPQR and Tomglomerate met up in a large auditorium, which used to be for the different leaders of the systems, now it's just those skilled warriors who use it.

Churchill a tall, Slah'ke with blue eyes, spoke in a serious tone.

"Losing Megrez was entirely inevitable for the time being. Now we must focus on our current systems that we still possess, such as Adhara, Canopus, our home system, Alioth, Eltanin, and Mizar."

Machinehr nodded. Along with the other Slah'ke Leaders. Machinehr, who was a very large Slah'ke, stronger than most.

"That remains to be seen. However, we do not have very much in the field of building anymore church. Our fleets are gone."

Tomglomerate frowned, he was a bit smaller than Machinehr, but his eyes were a dark blood red. He was an excellent marksman when it came to ship combat.

"That is very true Machinehr... we are extremely low on builders. But we must turn to our warriors. SPQR you know a few very capable warriors if I am not mistaken."

SPQR smiled, that was rarely seen in front of officials. "I know a few, especially the one who came back as ordered by you personally Machinehr."

Machinehr thought for a moment.

"You mean Adept?" apparently Mach hasn't heard the reports in from the Megrez system. SPQR nodded.

"He and a few others fought off a multi race attack force so that the civilians could evacuate the planets and make it safely here."

Mach smiled. "Ahhh... I see... hmm. SPQR what exactly are you suggesting?"

SPQR took a stance of bearing and a bit of mockery to the Terran politicians when they spoke in public.

"I think Adept might have a few ideas for counter attacks upon these filthy animals who slaughtered our people in Megrez."

Mach called in a lone warrior, your average Slah'ke.

"Go and find Adept, and bring him here."

The Slah'ke ran off, to find him. Moments later Adept had returned, he was still tired it was visible by his walk, and the way his eyes looked. He was a soldier exhausted to the breaking point.

"Overlord, you wanted me?"

The high council and Machinehr smiled and SPQR ask the question.

"How would you like to make a counter attack on the filth that killed our civilians?"

Adept suddenly woke up and was back to full alert.

"I would be honored to fight once more in your name!"

Adept than laid down the plans.

"I think here in Alioth, which is were I'm guessing the Kolari will strike next, so I suggest we make fake reports and flow them through our general data streams, so the filthy spies can catch the information and relay it to the Faction leaders."

SPQR smiled, and spoke once more. "Machinehr, Tomglomerate, Church. I will be fighting along side Adept."

Mach slammed his tail down onto the floor making a cracking noise that echoed through the immense room.

"Now, now... I want to go and get my own piece of revenge."

Tom spoke in his laid back tone. "I'll go too."

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Mach looked at Church, who looked a bit worried about Mach's welfare in battle. Machinehr noticed that Church had become more and more worried about the members of the council especially Machinehr.

Machinehr then spoke to Church.

"Don't worry my good old friend. I'll return."

SPQR nodded, he felt the same way... no one knew what would happen or if they could recover if Mach was lost in battle.

"Yes... don't worry, I'll make sure Adept brings him back alive."

Adept, with his dark red eyes nodded, and Adept made off to ready his warship, Halo. When Adept got there, he was looking at the scars this ship had from the many arena battles he's been in, he never repainted it, only to show everyone that Halo is a battle tested ship, and will never die. Halo wasn't any ordinary Zealot either, it had advanced Delta Cannons and the most powerful Dual Gamma Cannon around, other than the deadly weapons it was like an ordinary Zealot.

Adept spoke to himself unaware that Terrans were walking by going to meet with Machinehr. Taveius the former Emperor was there, he looked at Halo for a moment and in his expertise he spotted the heavy fire power. And he spoke in his hardened voice to Adept.

"That Zealot... looks like a very heavy hitter."

Adept smiled and turned to face the former Emperor of the Terran Empire.

"It is, this Zealot is called Halo... It has the strongest Dual Gamma Cannon in the Union."

Taveius nodded noticing that large oversized cannon on it. Adept tilted his head at an angle in curiosity in why Taveius would be here.

"If you don't mind my asking... Human, what brings you to Saurion?"

Taveius chuckled.

"Why the war does Slah'ke Warrior."

Adept pondered, *I wonder why they would come here... for the war?*

Taveius then left Adept to tend to his ship. Adept then proceeded to get into his Zealot and ran pre-checks on his systems before he took off.

## Chapter II: Terrans? Here? What's going on?!

Tavieus then met up with Prime Minister Narses, and several other Terran warriors sent to escort the officials through the immense starbase. Dennis spoke up in amazement at the areas of what seemed to be like jungle from Earth.

"Excuse me but, Prime Minister, why do we need to speak to Machinehr now? As you saw SPQR he said him and that warrior were prepping for a counter attack."

Narses looked at Dennis for a bit, and spoke.

"Well as capable as the Slah'ke are in war... I'm afraid we are in the same position as they are. Of course they're not going to counter attack, because it would be completely reckless to do so against such large factions."

Dennis nodded. Phantom then spoke up

"Well, Minister Narses, as demonstrated before from our scouts in Megrez, you saw what that one Union cruiser, and several Inquisitors did to that attacking force."

Narses nodded slowly, "that I did notice... I'm wondering why it wasn't any of the Union council who did that... or...we're there."

Church came out of nowhere, as he usually did. Narses than looked at Church for about three seconds and knew where Mach was.

"So he's not available?" Narses simply said.

Church nodded and answered his question.

"He is here, but he is prepping for a counter attack along with SPQR, Tomglomerate and one other warrior. So I am now left in charge with everything that does not include the counter attack upon the filthy races we fight."

Narses was surprised. Well... everyone was. "You mean..."

'Yes.' Church simply said.

Dennis thought for a moment, then noticed Tavieus wasn't speaking. Then when Dennis noticed, he spoke.

"The warrior with that armageddon of a Zealot?"

Church smiled.

"Off course."

Phantom spoke up getting things back to the subject they came here to actually discuss.

"Emperor Greeny has sent us to relay his request."

Church did something similar to the 'onebrow raise' that the Terrans do so often. He thought for a moment though: *It seems odd that Greeny wouldn't have come here in person, but... we got reports that they're getting hit by the Brood scourge led by Walt... Along with the Kolari...hmmm most troubling.* Church began to inquire what it as they wanted.

"Terran, what were his requests exactly?" Church was being unusually upfront with these dealings. Narses spoke first and explained everything

"Emperor Greeny wants to said aid, to help you out in this war, in exchange for your aid in ours."

Church thought about it for a moment, and decided his reply right here and now. "I'll inform Machinehr about your Emperors requests. However, you will have to wait on his decision so you leave at least one person from your... entourage here in the station."

Narses sighed. He knew it would end up like this anyways.

"Very well."

Back in the Ship bays, Adept finished off his preflight checks on his ship and disconnected from the station, at that he noticed that Tomglomerate had his Scarab, SPQR in an Invincible, and Machinehr in a Zealot. Adept smiled and thought about it.

*I'd never think I'd ever fight alongside the Overlord himself.* Mach appeared on his comm, and spoke to the three of them.

"The Terrans have offered to help us in exchange that we help them. What say you all?"

They all sent their replies of yes at the same time. At that note Adept noticed several Terran Invincibles arrive in Proxima, right outside of their starbase. Dennis' DestructionX, was the more noticeable one. Three others had accompanied them though, and in turn Mach had allowed them to connect into their communication systems to link up with the Slah'ke warriors.

"We are here by orders of the Terran Emperor Greeny." Dennis said that with sense of pride in himself that he was now promoted to captain and ordered to fight in the Emperors personal name. Mach then gave the order to hyper out of the system.

Moments later they had arrived in the Alioth system, right on que, the Nexus were caught off guard by the small counter attack, the Kolari brought mostly bombers and a few Cruisers. Adept smiled thinking that he'd now be able to release his joy on the enemy. The four Slah'ke, and three Terrans moved in a phalanx formation towards the enemy ships. Mach was the first to squeeze off shots, as he uttered a war cry, along with SPQR and Tom. Adept fired his Dual Gamma Cannon, the discharge created a flash, and the weapon created a hole where the Reactor was in one of the Mysterys. Smaller fighters came within range of the Delta cannons, the Union warriors promptly opened up wiping them out before they could do anything about it, then as the Terrans moved up past the Zealots they laid down covering fire on the few remaining mysteries. Adept had roared into the global comm as he fired his Dual gamma and delta cannons at one mystery ripping the ship apart in a violent series of explosions. SPQR fired his super laser at point blank sending the ship into another cruiser, just as the remaining Mystery was shot at by all the Union and Terrans at the same time. Tomglomerate cloaked a few moments later and moved behind the enemy bombers, and as Mach got into range, he fired off his 4 delta cannons, sending the bombers scattering for safety, Tom then uncloaked and unloaded his weapons on the scattered Kolari and brood.

The Slah'ke uttered primal roars of victory while the crews of the Terran Invincibles cheered for a much needed moral booster. Dennis was quite surprised at the effectiveness of a few Slah'ke. Adept smiled at the new victory. The 3 other Slah'ke all spoke to each other about what they felt while they watched the ships explode, collide and melt into pieces. The Terran Invincibles now knowing that their jobs finished left the system to return to Sol. Tomglomerate, and Machinehr left the system to return to Saurion to make future war plans, whereas SPQR and Adept stayed behind and assessed the damage on one of the planets.

This is what shocked them, as they landed on the planet they noticed that most of the major cities were burned down. Adept, was now tired again. SPQR got angry. The both were shocked at the destruction. It was a war though... Adept kneeled by a surviving child, and told the smaller Slah'ke to go inside Halo. Adept met up with SPQR. He found his friend staring off into a valley of burned down buildings, and craters from the photon bombs. Adept spoke in a low sad tone.

"We tried our best didn't we?"

SPQR nodded slowly. "Yes... we did." They heard the sounds of hyperspace exits in the upper atmosphere. They both looked up to find, Brood Death-Helix's "We should go..." SPQR said with a sudden tone of urgency, as that being said they both ran off

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into their ships hoping they weren't spotted. The two friends and their Zealots escaped just in time, avoiding the Death-Helix's. SPQR then contacted Adept through the private comm. "I think we should leave." Adept nodded solemnly. Then the strangest thing happened. The Death-Helix's began to blow up as they left at full speed breaking the planet's atmosphere. SPQR then spoke answering Adepts question before it was even asked.

"Terran Cloakers... I'm guessing Speed Shot, and S117's cloaking fleet."

Adept closed his eyes briefly as the two Zealots entered hyper. He went to look for the little Slah'ke he picked up on the planet. He found the kid in his private room in the Zealot, playing with a few old things he kept since he was a kid. Adept smiled and let the kid be. Adept then keyed SPQR's private comm. "Did you find any survivors?" SPQR looked solemn for a moment, t answered his question. "I see... well I found a young child... maybe his parents made it off..." SPQR smiled at the thought of that, it was always good to see children reunited with their families after being separated, and scared.

About ten minutes later they arrived at Saurion, docked and all. Civilian ships came by the dozens to Saurion from the Alioth system. Adept frowned. He turned to the kid who stood in front of the ramp, and as it lowered the kid began to walk off.

Apparently his parents were there and untied almost five minutes after leaving Halo. Adept was thanked, and he left them to their own happiness, because he needed to find SPQR again. Several Terrans walked by him. "Terrans are everywhere these days..." he spoke in Slah'ke, Adept then not paying attention walked right into SPQR who also wasn't paying attention to where he was going. They both fell backwards and apologized to each other at the same time in Slah'ke.

"SPQR... what does Machinehr want me to do next?" SPQR inclined his head in a gesture of not knowing yet. He spoke "I need to ask him first Adept, please I know your eager to get back into fighting, but so am I." Adept nodded, and turned to go to his room in Saurion. "And Adept, get some rest. It seems we're going to accompany Machinehr to the Terran capitol." Adept nodded and left to go to get some much needed sleep.

### Chapter III: Lizard in the Big City

The next day Adept got up now fully recovered from the extreme sleep deprivation only to find SPQR standing right next to his bed. "Come on Adept, we gotta go." Adept did as he was told, he promptly got up, grabbed something to eat and drink and some close combat weapons, and left with SPQR. "So umm... where are we going again?" SPQR chuckled "to Sol, and the Imperial City to meet the Emperor and discuss some things, me and you are both Machinehr's guards and advisers. Well... me and Church are at least" Adept got onto his Zealot The Clan, and left Saurion and went right into Hyperspace with the three Slah'ke Leaders. Adept wondered how the Imperial city would look like. He always wondered about the Terrans, their government was so odd... Well to him at least. It would be awhile before they got there. So he might as well go back to sleep.

About two hours later they entered Sol, as Adept woke up too. they docked at Utopia as the Terran councilor who was our host told us to do, we all got off our ships and met with him. Machinehr noticed it was Narses and someone else. "Hello Narses." he said in the Terran language. Narses then noticed Adept and SPQR in Combat attire, but it was like an Honour Guard type armor too. Dennis the other Terran spoke up. "Why are these two so heavily armed?" Machinehr tilted his head staring at the Terran. "These are my body guards." he simply said, Machinehr tried not to laugh at the Terrans reaction to how rude Mach told him who they were. They all got on some ship that transported them down to the Imperia city. Adept curled his tail around the spot he was standing in. Dennis was a bit uneasy to have so many tall Lizards in the same room as him. Narses however seemed unafraid. A few minutes later they arrived at the Imperial Palace. Adept took note in the plethora of complex designs on the walls and the ceilings inside the massive structure. Mach spoke in the Slah'ke language. "These Terrans where always big show offs." Adept and SPQR laughed. Where as Church kept his eyes searching for possible assassins who would try and kill their beloved leader.

Greeny was surprised when the four Slah'ke arrived still speaking in Slah'ke they ended the conversation quickly just as Greeny approached them. The something moved in the background... he couldn't quite place it. But Greeny still walked towards Machinehr and began to talk about relations between the Terran and Slah'ke empires. Adept now his eyes narrowed at the thing... genus. He then ran forward as all the Terran guards reacted, and the Genus swiftly turned around weapon pulled to shoot him. Adept slash some Genus in half. Adept turned around and grunted a confirmation on the kill.

When the power went out, and the Genus ambush began.

SPQR leapt about 7 feet onto another Genus, then Church pulled out his weapon. Mach had spotted something in the shadows approaching the Emperor, but Dennis and a security team had gunned it down immediately. Adept was spotted climbing up a wall and into a crevice hearing a disturbing scream and a roar later a battered body was thrown into the natural light smashing right at Machinehr's feet. The four Slah'ke speaking to each other in their language fought hand to hand against the Genus ambushers. Then several armed Terrans tried to gun down Machinehr, only to get their arms ripped off by Church. Adept leapt off of the side of a wall to save the Emperor the trouble of killing the Genus in mid air, they collided and smashed to the

ground. Dennis Had told the Emperor that they needed to leave for his safety. With the Terran Emperor gone, the Slah'ke could be more destructive. SPQR beat a Genus to death with a rolled up rug, as Mach swung his sword cutting a Genus in half. Adept impaled a Genus fighter with his tail lifting the thing off of the ground making a sis kabob out of its friends with his long tail and sword, adept spun flinging the bodies all over the place. The lights promptly turned back on, after about an hour of fighting, which was when the Emperor returned. SPQR muttered something about it. The Terrans did suffer casualties, but come to think of it why had the Genus gone through all the trouble? Machinehr muttered

"seems out of place... hmm odd..."

Church was kneeling next to a dieing Genus, Church was angry you could tell by how tight his grip was on the things neck, Church's fingers cracked in a loud audible way. "Tell me why you attack filth."

The Genus spat in its language multiple insults on the Slah'ke race as a whole. Which only made Church tighten his grip even further, threatening to end its life faster, instead, he loosened it. He roared in the Genus's face then the information spilled out, apparently they were pirates hired by the Nexus. This was most disturbing in sign of news on how low the Nexus would stoop. A few moments later Mach noticed three people walking through the Hallways, StarRaider, Duckman and Prmens. All Federation officials. Adept tilted his head showing confusion that SPQR noticed so he kindly went over to speak with Adept to clear his thoughts.

StarRaider had a very kind voice, welcoming. "Emperor Greeny! Overlord Machinehr! It is so enlightening that we have received the honors of meeting you both again! But I wish it was on better terms that we met."

Commodore S117 appeared out of nowhere delivering news to Greeny. "Well it seems that one of my esteemed warriors has delivered news that a planet from Alioth has been lost to the Nexus."

Adept narrowed his eyes. Greeny looked at Adept, then noticed SPQR tensed up for a moment at the mention of Alioth. Greeny thought to himself: *So it seems they are close friends of each other... I see threat they are also angry at the loss of civilian life at such a level... The Slah'ke have been hit hard haven't they... Including after Megrez... those few hero's that held the bombers off until the civilians could get away... I really do feel sorry for these guys.*

"I see you SPQR and your fellow warrior have witnessed planet side first hand?" SPQR nodded, where as Adept looked like he didn't even hear me. Adept then nodded showing sorrow in the remembering of the burned and cratered surface. He had seen the planet an awful lot in the past years. But now that it was gone... Adept spoke in Terran, which surprised Church.

"Yes. We witnessed it, but we stopped the bombing we arrived when it was in progress, we killed those who were on site." his accent was hard to understand Prmens spoke in a kind and caring tone.

"I see that the Nexus have plagued you too? We have seen multiple battles in the very proximity of our own home world; unfortunately we lost of our best."

This was out of place for Prmens as StarRaider turned to the General and almost scolded Prmens for talking out of turn, but StarRaiders expression softened up, after all Prmens was still young, and inexperienced when it came to political dealings, Prmens was here to take his mind off of the Federations recent victim to the war, he was known as the spirit of the Federation. He was a dear friend of Prmens, of all the Federation. Duckman moved away to speak to Machinehr, and Greeny about what the Federation had to offer, because these three races were suffering the same destruction

as the Terrans and the Slah'ke were.

Machinehr spoke first "Greeny, Duckman I know this has been a trying time for all of us, but I need to inform you that we Slah'ke" he paused and sighed he didn't like admitting stuff like this. "We are losing, and the costs of our warriors have been too severe, now we are only hanging onto hope that the Kolari and the Genus will back down and leave us be. To be honest that Slah'ke over there speaking to your cohorts, is named Adept, he is the one responsible for the evacuation of Megrez, you both probably have seen the recordings of the Zealot and several Inquisitors standing against the bombers, on the last planet we held in Megrez. This war is trying for all the Slah'ke." Greeny nodded in sympathy for Machinehr. Duckman spoke then. "Our own home system has come under siege just a few weeks ago we suffered attacks led by their leader, marc, and their other members of the council. He have lost countless millions in these attacks upon Castor, and several other systems countless billions. We also just lost one of our best pilots to the Federation only just recently so that we could be here now." Greeny nodded, Machinehr bowed in respect of the Pilot who gave his or her life. Greeny spoke. "The Terran military forces have suffered staggering defeats in this war, but we are trying to hold strong our moral is in the buckets to be honest, I want to have the three of our empires survive this. If we lose, all of us loose." Machinehr nodded, as did Duckman. Machinehr spoke again. "I understand the position of all of us are in now. The Slah'ke are willing enough to join forces with the Terran Empire and the Federation." With that said, Greeny smiled, being told a long delayed good news. Duckman was surprised that Machinehr would make a choice like this so quickly. Church came out of nowhere, Greeny and Duckman looked at each other as the two spoke in Slah'ke  
"Machinehr, Alioth is lost." Machinehr's eyes grew sorrowful. Church spoke again. "However, we were able to evacuate most of the civilians because of Tomglomerate, and JAKE" Machinehr smiled, that's what he cared about so long as his people weren't killed he was happy. Machinehr nodded. "Very well Church, inform that Tomglomerate, and JAKE are to be commended for such achievements in the evacuation of the planet."

Machinehr then said in the Human language what had happened. "We just lost Alioth. I suggest you make your choices fast Plexxan" he made a polite bow, and signaled for the rest it was time to leave. Adept said goodbye to Prmens, and StarRaider. And followed Machinehr, Church and SPQR.

They boarded the ship they arrived on, and shortly arrived at Utopia where Narses had kept their ships under watch. Greeny had just given his speech about the new alliance with the Slah'ke to the entire empire. SPQR, Mach and Church got into their ships, going back to Proxima. Where as Adept stood next to his ship The Clan for a bit, thinking about the discussion with Prmens he had. He smiled, and noticed Narses standing there. "Excuse me Terran." Narses turned around to face the Slah'ke "Yes?" Adept responded with a kind tone "Your Imperial city is beautiful. Its buildings remind me of my home, Fight for the things that are most beautiful to you and good things will come" Adept then left Narses with that as he leapt onto the side of his ship climbing to a hatch over the bridge of his cruiser, and went inside securing the hatch and left Sol, to return home to Proxima.

Narses smiled at the comment then resumed watching the Emperor give the speech on a TV like screen. "I think... we are going to have a good turn of events.

#### **Chapter IV: Alliances, Few in number, Loosing?**

Machinehr stood looking out at Proxima I, he was thinking about the war with the Hive, Genus and Kolari. He sighed his shoulders slumped as he turned to see a large room, with countless designs showing greatness. He really didn't like having things better than the other Slah'ke. Church then entered the room in his quiet manner, "Hello Mach." this scared Machinehr quite a bit. "Will you stop doing that?!" Church made an apologetic gesture, and clearly sarcastic, which earned a small smile from Machinehr. "What is it you bring for me today Church?" Church smiled, which meant this was damn good news. We had broken a Hive transmission earlier today and discovered that they plan to attack Böotes in several hours." Machinehr, tilted his head in wonder. "Send Adept, SPQR, and have Tomglomerate keep watching the com chatter." Church bowed and went off to SPQR's room.

SPQR was awakened by Church, apparently this was something important that needed to be done. Church spoke. "SPQR I need you to take Adept and yourself to Böotes, bring your warships though." SPQR nodded and was off before Church could leave the room. SPQR was wandering through the halls of the station looking for Adept, which he found exactly where he thought he would, tending to his many Zealots, the one he was tending to was Sorrow, named in honor of Megrez, another modified Zealot of his. SPQR spoke in a loud and clear voice "Adept, ready one of your warships, and get going to Böotes, we got work to do there." Adept was surprised and fell off of the wing of sorrow. "Ow!..." SPQR winced at the fall, but couldn't keep his soft laughter in. Adept got back up and spoke in a clear and loud voice "Alright I'll meet you There Old friend!" SPQR nodded and ran off to his hangar which coincidental enough was the next one over. SPQR got his Invincible out. Seeing that Adept had Halo out. Adept sent a message to SPQR as they left "So I take it someone's gonna attack there?""

SPQR smiled and simple said "Yes Adept, we get to blow stuff up today" SPQR could hear the excitement in Adepts voice; after all they had been cooped up waiting for an attack for some time.

Machinehr watched the Invincible and the Zealot leave Proxima, Machinehr sighed. Wondering about several things. *What if we do lose this?* He pushed that thought away though, they weren't going to lose, Machinehr would not let that happen. Just then Tomglomerate had entered the room. "The Terrans are requesting help." Tom said in a plain and simple tone. Machinehr, turned to him and told him this "Then tell them that Help is on the way." Tomglomerate smiled and left the Overlords room, running back to the communications room.

Narses, S117, PhantomGODdess, Aragon, Dennis, Taveius, Duckman, and Prmens were battling it out against the Kolari, and Genus. The Terran and Federation fleets were immense, along with the Genus and Kolari fleets, it was a show of light seeing lasers torpedoes, and distortions fire back and fourth. Narses had been harassing the Insidious bombers, already claiming his sixteenth kill of the Battle he was speaking to everyone involved in the fleet.

"Phantom take your fleet and have attempted to separate the Kolari and Genus ships."  
"Alright Narses."

"This is S117, I'm moving up with my cloaker fleet, I'll continue my hit and run tactics on trying to take out the Rifts we got supporting the main Kolari fleet."

"Very well S117 Narses out."

Prmens and Aragon had combined their forces so they could give supporting fire in a

more effective manner. Prmens had six Liberators out of his twenty original Liberators, whereas Aragon had most of his 50 Dominators remaining. Dennis had led a fighter wing to keep the Genus cloak fighters off the Invincibles, and Paladins backs. Duckman led the main assault force for the Feds. Dennis then yelled into the com. "Two additional contacts!"

Phantom read them too. "Odd... only two ships?"

Narses noticed one was a Zealot carrying Union colours. "This is all the support we get?" The Invincible fired its weapons. "When did we make Invincibles that fired Dual Gamma shots?!"

SPQR and Adept had exited Hyperspace behind the two enemy fleets they were still conversing with each other. "Adept, which do you want?" Adept smiled at the question already bloodthirsty "I'll take the Genus." and Halo sped off, towards the enemy fleet of Genus Insidious bombers were going to get hit first. SPQR laughed in an evil manner, also hungry for kills. They both fired off their weapons at the same time. Adept had spotted four Insidious bombers and chose them for his kills. He fired off his four Delta Cannons at the four different ships, then fired His dual Gamma cannon at one of the Insidious bombers, but missed hitting a cloaked fighter, removing the entire thing from existence.

Most of the feds were surprised at the sheer firepower these two ships had, Duckman than mentioned that they were Slah'ke ships. Prmens could recognize Slah'ke ships anywhere only because of the ridiculous amount of firepower that they could pump out. Narses, Phantom, and Dennis then noticed the Zealot that fired its Dual gamma Cannon a second time, the shot went straight through and collided into a Death-Helix, sending it into another Insidious, the two ships seemed to be dancing up until they both blew up. The Terrans and Plexxans fought twice as hard now, pushing forward at the Kolari and Genus forces back towards the Union Zealot and Invincible. The two ships seemed like every time they fired they were getting better and better. Narses ordered for them to stop.

Prmens spoke up "Why are we stopping, we should kill that last Helix!"

Narses then swiftly answered angrily at Prmens ignorance "So they can tell about their defeat!" PhantomGODess nodded in agreement and spoke up "Narses is right Prmens. It would be a heavy hit on some of their moral." Narses spoke too soon though, as the Death-Helix the Union duo fired at it with all of their weapons. The ship jerked downwards from the hits, then the Dual Gamma hits went straight through the hull, tearing two large holes in the ship, it slowly rotated until the Slah'ke duo fired again ripping the rest apart.

Everyone was shocked at the ferocity of the two, and the brutality they had committed was rather unneeded. SPQR spoke to the fleet commanders. "We are your reinforcements. Is this the trouble you were having?" Narses scratched the back of his head, and stood there on his Invincible. "Um, yes... I think we're done." Prmens was amazed at the power these Slah'ke ships had. Duckman then said "Prmens, these Slah'ke are famous for their brutality, and fighting ability, and not to forget the sheer firepower of their ships." Prmens began to wonder on how did they loose so much against the factions they just slaughtered. Dennis then spoke to Narses. "Sir, are there anymore contacts?" Narses sent his reply message "No captain, head back to Sol for debrief." Dennis and his wingmen did so. Phantom hypered out for debrief in Sol, soon followed by Narses and Taveius. Then SPQR got the message that Adhara was under attack by the Hive. The Two Union ships kicked it into overdrive and screamed

into hyperspace right past the Plexxan ships. A few moments later the Plexxan ships hypered out to Sol for debrief.

SPQR, and Adept got a message from Machinehr while they were in hyper. "Listen you two don't over do it, I still need you two alive and well so we can spread the hurt everywhere." SPQR nodded. Adept was silent, remembering the deaths in Alioth. That's all he was focused on right now was obliterating who ever attacked Adhara. SPQR was quiet for most of the time, until they got to Adhara. "I Think we're to late." Adept looked down. "Damnit." SPQR heard it "Adept listen we tried to get here on ti—" he didn't finish off the message because seven scarabs came out of nowhere.

Dennis sat at the debriefing. Listening to Narses, the Supreme Commander in the War. "Alright it seems things are starting to turn around for us." Dennis nodded, as did everyone else. "However, that doesn't mean we should be too confident in ourselves. After all that's what got us here." There wasn't any denying of that fact. "Thanks to our efforts and the assistance of the Slah'ke we are winning this war now, we have the offensive on the Genus, Kolari and Hive." Phantom spoke up, "Narses, we haven't even seen a Hive ship in about a week don't you think the Hive would have shown up at that attack?" Narses thought for a second. "That's true. Alright our next move is on Sirius, we need to take that back, we'll do it through mass attack tomorrow though so we'll have the newer batch of Invincibles ready for our military, and hopefully the Slah'ke can show up." Everyone knew when Narses dismissed them, so with that said everyone left Narses to be alone in the conference room on a Terran military base on Earth. "So... Machinehr... this is the Slah'ke war?"

In Adhara the two fought hard trying to stay alive, both of their engines where disabled, and the Hive had the audacity to do it in the Slah'ke' own system. SPQR swore in their language saying curses of all kinds where as Adept said many things that even the most mature person would faint and die from the amount of curses. The Hive uncloaked again only to get hammered by SPQR's main Dual Gamma Cannon battery, cutting the ship in half a portion tried to fire but the Invincible shot its weapons off before it could. Where as Adept fired off his Delta Cannons hammering any who dared uncloak, however one Scarab got hit with the Dual gamma and was completely destroyed. Adept and SPQR were on the verge of death, their hull losing armor by the second. One more hit and Adept would be dead. SPQR spotted the scarab that was about to fire at Adept and he swung his ship around taking the hit in the secondary reactor. Then the rest of the cloakers uncloaked, moments later ten Union Scarabs uncloaked and finished off the five remaining Scarabs. Adept shouted praise "By the tides of war! Thanks for the save Church!" Church smiled at the praise, and spoke. "Listen guys, we're Slah'ke, and we help each other out because we're all brothers in this." SPQR Nodded and said something which anyone rarely heard "Yes Church Thank you very much for saving our tails." with that said they all left for Proxima, docking when they arrived, the Two warriors now exhausted from the ride there, back, to Boötes, the fighting in Boötes, and the fight in Adhara. Adept went to sleep where as SPQR met up with Machinehr.

Adept made it to his room without passing out, and made it to the bed, and then he passed out, and there on his bed he dreamed of when his parents were still alive.

## Chapter V: Memories, War, A loss of a Friend

Adept stood there, in his room, looking at a planet while he eat something. He was just thinking about this war, well for him it happened kind of fast its hard to remember that you've been fighting the same factions for ten long years:

He was patrolling the Alioth Megrez route, when he got to Megrez, he found a couple Terrans battling it out with the Brood, then the Nexus came out from no where. They hammered Adepts ship until it was at 10% hull integrity where a Slah'ke councilor dropped from hyper and eliminated the nexus, unfortunately the ship Adept was using had been falling apart and ripped in half, exploding a few moments later. But before it exploded a Slah'ke by the name of SPQR boarded the ship and ripped adept from the command chair breaking the straps, and ran back to where he boarded from and beamed back to his ship saving Adepts life. Adept woke up a week later, and was informed about what happened by SPQR, Adept had praised SPQR for saving him from the burning wreckage. After that day SPQR and Adept became close friends, in the past ten years they fought a losing war against the Kolari, and Brood. Not many other people in the other races knew that this war had been raging for so long.

Adept broke the trance he was in remembering ten years ago when he had first met SPQR. He smiled, and felt good for a moment, but even though the victories they've had. They have been few and far between. Sometimes further than Adept had liked, First Pollux, then Megrez. It took the Genus and Kolari five years to take Megrez from the Union, only because of the Hive were they able to threaten the final planet so. Adept grew angry at the hate the Kolari and Genus had for the Slah'ke. He spoke with anger. "I will make sure they regret what they've done to us." Machinehr was behind Adept and spoke in a soft, sympathetic tone. "I agree. This war has claimed many close friends of mine, and for what? All because these races wanted planets." Machinehr spat at the idea. "I only prefer that they fight with ships instead of bombing our planets." Adept nodded. What Machinehr said was what every Slah'ke ever born agreed with, the thrill of battle this was a War the Slah'ke could not miss, and even if armageddon came the Slah'ke would fight the bringers of death till the last child. Machinehr then spoke again "Adept go to the amphitheater to meet up with the rest." Adept nodded, his long tail dragging on the floor. Machinehr, then left to go get Tomglomerate out of his Hangar, where he usually spent time modifying his Scarab. Machinehr was correct at going there, Tom was crawling on his Scarab fixing some shield hard points on it, Machinehr also noticed that Tom was swapping the weapons for Slah'ke weapons. He smiled and called out to Tomglomerate and told him to come with him to the Amphitheater for the meeting. They both were walking down the Hall to see SPQR a bit sad, Mach had heard what happened, but he didn't think it would have affected him that much.

Adept noticed that there were an alarming amount of warriors that weren't there. So, we start feeling the wars effect after all. He noticed SPQR walking slowly, Adept frowned, he knew what had happened, A Genus ambush occurred and one of SPQR's friends was killed in the process. SPQR had told Adept. Adept felt like he had lost his parents again, a few moments later Adept got up, and made a respectful gesture to SPQR as he walked past Adept, and sat down next to him. Church was sitting a few feet way from SPQR, speaking to Tomglomerate about his recent combat building surveys. as that occurred Machinehr got up into the middle stage, and spoke in a clear loud and commanding voice. "This has been a terribly costly war... But I do know one thing, these Godless fools, have no place In our systems, for they could not take on

Proxima, nor could they Canopus, or Adhara!" Now with the necessary moral booster out of the way he got to business. "We are going to strike at Alioth, and wipe out any Genus or Kolari opposition, the next system after that is Eltanin, and then we will burn their starbases down to the atmosphere in Megrez, Alioth, and Eltanin! We are not going to take any planets, why? Because we do not need them. We only need targets to shoot at." He stepped down hearing every Slah'ke in the room, unfortunately, only a small number, roar in favor of Machinehr's idea. SPQR had been excited about shooting things as was Adept, after all it was the favorite activity of the Slah'ke, they'd all be willing to stay up for days just so they could shoot the targets out there to be claimed.

There was a Terran diplomat a couple meters away from the theater, just as the roaring started, it shook the very ground he stood on making Dennis a bit nervous to be near a bunch of screaming two meter tall Lizards excited because they get to kill things now. Dennis had entered the Amphitheater to find Machinehr, the roaring in here was deafening and they both left to speak where they both could hear each other. SPQR left to tend to his Invincible, as did Adept to his Zealot. Adept on his way to the Hangar noticed a Terran female in an Admirals uniform. He tilted his head in curiosity trying to figure out where he has seen this same person, to him she looked strangely familiar to Adept. He walked up and spoke to her, his accent was still a bit hard to understand though. "Excuse me Terran, but who are you?" She found it quite amusing that this warrior was a bit clueless to who she was, *He must be new...* "I am Admiral Phantom, and you are?" The Slah'ke spoke once more in his heavy accent "I am Adept." She smiled. *so this is one of the few elite Slah'ke I keep hearing about.* The Slah'ke spoke once more "I must go and tend to my ship." She chuckled as she watched the long tailed Slah'ke run to his hangar.

After Machinehr met with the Diplomat the Terrans left, they did notice that Proxima had a considerable amount of powerful ships undocking, along with Halo, SPQR I, Tomglomerate's Scarab, Machinehr's MechWarrior, Crossblade's Zealot, JAKE's Star Point, even Church's Rift was undocking. This worried the Terran council woman who was there, after all the Slah'ke don't go anywhere with that much firepower unless they mean to wipe something from the face of existence, which they haven't done since they lost Pollux. Mach had told them this "We are heading out to obliterate multiple systems, take the empty planets if you wish." Machinehr meant business this time around it seemed. Then the Terran diplomatic ship had its hyper drive charged and ready to go just as the Slah'ke ships left the system as one.

The Slah'ke fleet entered Alioth space, freaking out several Genus transports, the Slah'ke ships then assumed a formation in a cluster to maximize their firepower, and life of fire. 16 Kolari mysteries, in response to the Slah'ke ships engaged the group of angry Lizards. Adept and SPQR let out primal roars through the com, creating a scary effect with the overpowered ships. SPQR, Church, JAKE, and Tomglomerate were the first to engage the Kolari enemies. Adept engaged two captured Terran Invincibles, already ripping the Invincible apart with its Delta cannons as the Dual Gamma Cannon was being fired at the enemy's wing mate.

## Chapter VI: The Slaughter of Alioth

Nexus chatter surged through the Terran wire taps on their network feeding information to Emperor Greeny who was in his war room in the Imperial palace on Earth. Greeny stared at one bit of Kolari chatter that sparked the surge. He read it just as it was being translated. "Alioth under heavy siege, Slah'ke mass attack on the Alioth system, requesting help from any available patrols." Greeny called his right hand man into the room. Speed Shot. Greeny order him to take this to Narses immediately and prepare his war fleet. Greeny then sent a message to the Federation President Duckman.

In Alioth the Slah'ke ships just leveled several planets in no time, they lost one ship unfortunately JAKE had died amongst the fighting. Three annihilator shots smashed into his Star Point enabling Machinehr to wipe out the last shield so the Slah'ke could level the buildings below on the planet. It was a matter of moments before SPQR and Adept had finished off the Kolari response squadrons, along with a long hard battle with a starbase. Adept had lost a Delta Cannon in the process and a modest amount of armor, as for SPQR didn't lose anything. The two watched the now destroyed starbase slowly fall into the Planets atmosphere, colliding with shield, after shield, later beaching it, the Starbases reactor went critical and vaporized a large city as the fragments collided into buildings of other cities. Machinehr noticed the duo watching the Cities go up in flames, and ordered them to form on the last remaining planet, along with the rest of the Slah'ke fleet. as Adept and SPQR formed up to commence orbital bombardment, Greeny's war fleet along with the Federation Freedom Fighters fleet exited hyperspace to see the scattered wreckage of what the Union ships caused.

Prmens, the ranking Plexxan, sent a message to Greeny asking why they came here. Greeny responded on the fleet com they established "Why for the planets these Slah'ke have so kindly leveled." Prmens nodded. "Will the Federation receive any planets or asteroids in this system?" Narses replied for Greeny "Yes Prmens, the Federation will receive planets in this system." Prmens stayed silent as he sat in his Invincible FF God of War, watching the Union form up to rain death down on a planet.

The Union ships formed a cluster as before, and they all targeted the planet. Halo, and SPQR fired first their shots already overwhelming a shield that was on the planet, surprisingly, the rest of the shots rained past where a shield should have blocked it and hit their marks. The Union ships now in sync with each other fired another salvo destroying many civilian buildings and military installations. The planet didn't even have a chance to defend itself.

Dennis and his builder group arrived on planet to find large craters from the Dual Gamma Cannon' shots that hit the buildings. They began terraforming the planet as ordered by Narses. PhantomGODess was there helping Dennis out with the lowly job. "So... we see the ferocity of the Slah'ke now?" Dennis only grunted a reply acknowledging it. Then he spoke. "Admiral, why is it that the Slah'ke don't want to have these planets?" All she could manage was a shrug "I don't know." The Slah'ke ships now in a relaxed formation were spotted flying over the planet. "They're so strange aren't they Admiral?" She nodded. "Yes, they are, they confuse me every now and then on why they fight. Narses likes to talk with them about some things. Just remember this, don't get into a bar fight with one." Dennis got confused at the statement "Ma'am?" She laughed. "Ok, just trust me on this, I've seen what happens

when Slah'ke fight hand to hand against a human... the lizards literally tear us apart..." she frowned remembering a friend of hers being killed by a Slah'ke. Dennis got worried that she faded off like that "Admiral? Admiral!" she came to "Oh? What? I'm sorry Dennis, I was just having a bad memory." He sighed "I thought you were fired upon or something..." Phantom laughed again. "Dennis you need to lighten up." he nodded in agreement. A Slah'ke ship passed in close proximity to PhantomGODess' ship. Thankfully the Slah'ke was a very adept pilot, the Zealot had landed a hundred meters away.

Dennis and Phantom watched as the loading ramp lowered, and a Slah'ke warrior got out, walked several feet and stared at a valley.

Adept stood there thinking that this was once a busy city of Slah'ke people, now it was still rubble, the Kolari didn't even bother to clean it up... Adept narrowed his eyes, and let out a roar of anger, which was audible inside Dennis's and Phantoms ships. Adept fell to his knees screaming in anger, and sorrow. He stayed there on his knees what seemed an eternity for him. His tail smashed the ground, making a small crack. Adept roared in sorrow again. he fell back onto his but looking at the darkened sky. He said "Akagh" meaning rain in his language. Ironically it began to rain, Adept felt the rain on his smooth scales of his arms, his tail, his head. It was as if the clouds were crying for him. He couldn't stand the Kolari anymore. He pulled out a weapon and fired it off into the distance. Adept had now decided to leave his home, he left the place where he found the child, and where his parents died. This was a past left forgotten. He slowly got back up, and walked towards Halo, the loading ramp closed and Adept was gone, he left for Proxima. Where as Phantom and Dennis were left clueless to what they witnessed.

Adept sat in the separate room he had in his Zealot, looking at an item that was his fathers, his father was the one who taught him how to fight properly, and shoot properly. A Terran took that life from him. Adept had killed the man who killed his father. The item was a sword his dad had made for himself when he was a child, instead of that, Adept bought a cruiser and made it his. Something that would mean the same as his Dads sword meant to his dad. Adept sat cross-legged and thought for a moment on this war. He loved it in all aspects except when civilians died... Slah'ke civilians. He was upset at the Kolari, not giving so much as a warning to the inhabitants but setting the planet ablaze with their hate. But be damned if he ever gave in. After all what good is a fight if you give up? Because you wouldn't have been fighting in the first place if you would have given up. Adept noticed that they were in Proxima now, and so he docked with the station moments later, and met up with SPQR to have a conversation about the Slaughter.

Moments Later Adept met up with SPQR They bowed to each other and SPQR spoke first. "Adept I understand what happened upon that planet but you must know, that the Slah'ke don't need people who refuse orders." Adept narrowed his eyes. "SPQR since when have I ever refused an order?" SPQR nodded in agreement. "That remains to be true, but I worry that you might be softened by these unfortunate events affecting the Union as a whole." Adept sighed and spoke in a soft tone "I know that it's been trying for the both of us old friend but trust me, I will not, I won't let Machinehr, you, Church, or Tomglomerate down I will stand my ground and gladly kill all who dare make war with us." SPQR smiled a toothy grin and added. "Not only do that but make them sure they regretted ever deciding to actually declare war on us. We maybe small but we're deadly." Adept nodded, and responded to the statement. "But every now and

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then we must take a break from our war, and give respect to those who have fallen alongside us, and those who have fallen against us." SPQR then spoke the next phrase "That is the Warriors promise to be ever respectful to your enemy as you would to your Ally, and no mercy nor respect to those who slaughter the innocent ruthlessly." Adept roared in appreciation to the saying. "Brings back memories from the old days doesn't it?" SPQR nodded, and Machinehr walked into the area. "I heard you two speaking of the Warriors way." They both smiled toothy grins "Yes Overlord, Adept and I have been. We thought that the slaughter of Alioth was well needed for us both since our spirits were so down" Machinehr nodded slowly. "That's why we did it in the first place SPQR" Adept was caught by surprise by the response Machinehr made. "But it is sad, that we lost JAKE." Machinehr nodded in agreement. "That was an unfortunate occurrence but we razed their planets in salute to JAKE's legacy as a Slah'ke warrior!"

Adept Machinehr, and SPQR spoke to each other till dawn hit Proxima one once more, and the trio of Slah'ke warriors left each other to go and grab some rest before tomorrow's dawn so that they could prepare for the assault on Eltanin. Adept smiled. That attack will be a bloody one, and he looked forward to its promises.

**Chapter VII: Dancing Lizard Fairies??**

Prior to the attack and Adept waking up for the attack on Eltanin he had such a strange little dream, in fact it was the strangest one he's had in a long time:

Adept woke up on a cloud and he looked out side, and found the most peculiar thing a Slah'ke has ever seen, for outside on this cloud, he saw 10 small little dancing Lizard Fairies, they danced in a circle in what looked like the color purple, none of this made sense to this Lizard in distress, but Still Adept could not regret watching these little dancing lizard fairies, Adept was more freaked out to realize that he was standing upside down, now this lizard confused by this illusion. So he wondered at why there were dancing lizard fairies, Adept then fell, to this certain place, and so on the floor he found even more lizard fairies, now this in turn scared Adept that there were dancing lizard fairies all over the joint, he looked about and saw without a doubt, these lizard fairies were dancing about singing about how they were fairies! Adept then screamed running away only to find that there were more dancing lizard fairies. Adept got so angry his head flew off and into yonder and all he could do was ponder that the fact he was still intact and hearing those stupid damn cursed singing lizard fairies, so without further hesitation he got his Ka'Mak sword and started slashing this stupid annoying lizard fairies. So then in the end he felt so relieved that there were no more dancing lizard fairies, but unfortunately to this address I must detest that there were now Lizard fairies. Adept screamed out, not with a doubt cursing these little lizard fairies. So now obscured that he could not be cured of these damn little singing cursed lizard fairies, he sat in doubt wondering if he could get out, this little bout with these damn little lizard fairies. Then they found him only in astounding him that there were even more of these lizard fairies! So Adept found himself waking up to a freaked out SPQR.

### **Chapter VIII: A line, a Shape, Greed, Feeling**

SPQR told Adept about his dream apparent Adept talked in his sleep. Unfortunately Adept could remember it, it was the scariest dream he's ever had in his life, apparently it scared SPQR too. SPQR left Adept to make preflight checks. Adept had been able to buy the final upgrade with the money that came through the last Battle, Church was apparently going over to meet with the Terrans during the Battle, and so was Adept. Adept wasn't too happy to be going without SPQR, and under the circumstances that he was also going when everyone else was going to Eltanin to purge the filth that rested there. Adept received the message as he prepped Sorrow, a Zealot with advanced Delta Cannons, Adept received a message from Church giving him the appropriate departure time, and info on bringing a close combat weapon. Adept smiled and looked at his claws he had sharpened earlier this week. Adept leapt up onto the side of Sorrow you could hear the taping of Adepts claws on the ships armor, as he reached the bridge topside hatch of the ship. Adept kindly popped it open and climbed in, rushing to get into the command center of his Zealot. Adept then ran preflight checks and lightning speed hands and tail included he pressed a sequence of buttons unlocking the weapons and allowing the Engines to power up as the docking clamps let go of his modified Zealot. Church had taken a different type of Zealot, it was a tri winged one instead of the usual double. The wings signified that he was a diplomat. Adept kindly moved to an escorting formation with Church and they both went into hyperspace in unison.

On Utopia, the base orbiting the Terran home world, Narses was unfortunately tasked to prepare everything for Church's arrival to Sol reports that left Proxima said that they would be arriving with in the hour. Narses began scream his head off giving orders like a mad man so things would get done, frantic in making sure it was excellent he even helped out. People were surprised to see the famed War Minister running around making sure everything was in readiness for Churches arrival. Then Greeny gave Narses some more orders to make his job even more trying. He then stopped and thought for a moment and figured out what to do. He walked over to a nearby consol, and pushed a button. Then he sat down and read the News for today.

Moments later two Slah'ke ships entered Terran space and appeared with a flash of light outside of Utopia and began proper docking procedures, as this happened Narses sighed loudly for the inconvenience of the arrival. Narses then got up again straightening out his uniform for an appropriate appearance, and met Church in the Ambassadorial Hangar.

Narses noticed that Duckman was walking with Phantom, being directed to a landing shuttle. Narses shook his head. "Those shuttles are always so damn small." Church over heard this, and looked directly at Narses, and made a suggestion. "Then why don't we take a Zealot ride down to the Imperial Palace?" Narses was a bit surprised and spat out the coffee he brought with him. "I apologize for that Building Minister Church, and...guard. But I think that would be against diplomatic protocol." Adept nodded in agreement with the Terran and spoke in Slah'ke "I do agree with the Terran on this, although it would be fun to land one down there I must say that it would be a bad publicity stunt." Church then responded in Slah'ke "True, that is extremely true." Church then spoke in Terran "Yes that is true Narses very well. Let us go on the little shuttle" That made Narses chuckle, and he led the two down to the Shuttle bay in the Station. The three kindly boarded it as Church looked a bit upset that they had to ride the dinky human ship. They both spoke in Slah'ke which annoyed Narses because half

the time they spoke so fast you couldn't understand what they even said. "Adept, please, don't do anything they would find threatening." Adept tilted his head and responded in a stressed tone "I've never ticked any Terrans off before though... nor do I recall offending any Terrans." Church nodded just as a small thump flung adept right into Narses tail and all. Adept jumped off of Narses and apologized repeatedly for the mistake. Narses kept saying forget it. A few minutes later they arrived and this time Church flew into Narses. Narses swore, and Church apologized to Narses. Narses told him to forget it. "So... we're back here again... let's hope we don't get attacked again..." Church nodded, it was clear Narses understood what Adept had said and spoke in the Empires behalf. "We'll try our best to keep that from happening again." The two Slah'ke smiled their toothy grins, spooking out journalists standing nearby recording the two Slah'ke.

A few minutes Later Narses saw Phantom speaking with Prmens who accompanied Duckman to meet the Emperor. Narses caught a few things what the two Slah'ke said, such as "Potted plant" "hole" "flower" and "rain". Fortunately Narses really didn't want to know what the two were conversing about. Adept and Church were greeted by the Feds and the two Slah'ke bowed in show of respect. Greeny then Entered the chamber where everyone was at, and Adept took a step back, bowing to show Greeny respect. Church then nodded at Adept and focused on Greeny and Duckman on why they were called away from duty on the front lines for.

### Chapter IX: Kolari Truce? What about the Brood?

John A. Howard stood in the bridge of his custom mystery wondering at the response the Terrans will give him as the diplomatic message arrived in Utopia to S117's station along with Speed Shots comm, both taken by surprise of the effectiveness of Kolari communication equipment they both rushed off into G-66 interceptors, racing the meet up with the Emperor. They both spotted each other and landed at the same exact time oddly enough, jumping out of the cockpit they both rushed to see the Emperor, not noticing each other, S117 ran into the main entrance, as Speed Shot went into the secret off to the side only he knew about incase the Emperor was ever in any trouble.

Church spoke first, to Greeny in a smooth Slah'ke accent only mastered through time. "It is to my wonder on why you have brought me and Adept from our posts in Proxima, and Canopus to have such a gathering during our assault on Eltanin to make the foolish animals pay for what they have committed against us Slah'ke" Greeny had just come from the Alioth system on a survey in what the Slah'ke had accomplished in such a short time. "I have brought us all here to speak about the Kolari, they have attacked Boötes and wiped out a planet in the process, fortunately the Federation was able to respond." Greeny was a bit annoyed at the Union not showing up. Church spoke in an aggravated tone, but forced himself to relax it. "We are trying not to lose this War Emperor, we are suffering casualties every day, you know this out of all the races, we are the ones who are being hit the hardest, you only deal with either the brood, or Kolari where as we face combined attacks on Proxima, Canopus, Mizar, and Kochab. You know this Emperor. We are trying our best to stay together, and support you."

Greeny nodded in sympathy to the Slah'ke Duckman stared at his feet for some reason, still a bit unnerved by the losses the Slah'ke have suffered recently, and what happened to StarRaider... That evil Kolari John he thought. Duckman then spoke up. "I understand Church that you have suffered considerable losses, however StarRaider has had several attempts on his life, and our main War Commander is now in a hospital. In the Castor system, under intensive care." Adept shook his head: *Humans are so fragile*. At that exact moment S117 and Speed Shot arrived delivering the reports to Greeny, his expression changed to a frown, as he read the message. "We of the Kolari regret laying fire upon Terran soil and wish to withdraw from combat, we apologize, and are willing to compensate for losses suffered in this childish war we have waged for the past year."

After reading it, The Terran empire was caught unaware, as a Kolari Warfleet had entered Sol, going right past Mars, and sat right in front of Utopia. The Kolari named John A. Howard, had decided that it was time to remove this little Emperor from power. John spoke telepathically to everyone in the Imperial Palace from afar. "To who ever is there, inside your Emperor must be surrendered or we will set fire to Utopia, and every single system we can find that has at least one Terran in it!" John although being Kolari had no facial expression but his inner light turned to a different color showing a color resembling an evil smile. S117 pulled out his Bolt Pistol, as Church had his disintegrator out, Speed Shot took out two assault shotguns, where as Prmens and Duckman had disintegrators and Adept had extremely sharp claws. John was a caped Kolari his metal body showed that he was someone of importance as told by the gold lining he had stretching across its "body". Greeny had spotted the lightbulb, which was the problem with them: they really couldn't sneak around at night. Church then yelled at Narses who kindly woke up out of his chair that he had found while waiting for them. PhantomGODess had came out of nowhere along with

Dennis who was now a System Lord weapons drawn, and there stood a very Confused Narses.

Narses still dumbfounded to why everyone had weapons drawn asked a very stupid question "We're under attack again?" all he got were glares. Narses nodded and pulled out an oversized rocket launcher and Greeny looked at him with an angry expression "I thought I told you to throw that out!" Narses shrugged and noticed a Kolari running towards them, and Narses fired it this large gun of his, and there was no more Kolari. Adept was very confused, Church heard of those things before, it was an older version of a disintegrator but... that thing was ridiculous! Church spoke to Adept in Slah'ke "I'll stay down here and protect the Emperor, your responsible for getting that Zealot of yours down here." Adept smiled a toothy grin and ran off leaping attaching himself to a wall and climbed out to a area of the building where he had spotted a shuttle, and he stole the dinky Terran-mobile.

**Back Inside:**

Greeny was quite infuriated that Narses had not disposed of the stupid weapon as he was ordered to, but I guess he was a little happy that Narses kept the stupid thing. Greeny that looked to Church who told Adept to get a Cruiser. Something was up. Prmens knew about it too, they both became aware that the second Slah'ke was missing. Greeny spoke "Church, that friend of yours isn't going to do something insane is he?" Church gave him the look of "do you really want to know?" Prmens heard a faint roar, a roar of, the roof was gone, and there was a Zealot, landing right in the middle of the Palace, as it landed the loading ramp was lowered. Church then said in a soft tone of urgency in Terran. "We all need to get away from here." They all agreed quite frankly and the entourage of Terrans and Plexxans got aboard Adepts Zealot, and the Zealot sped away blowing through the Kolari blockade by playing chicken with a Mystery.

John A. Howard saw this and telepathically cried out with curses.

Inside the Zealot Church had tended to everyone in a very civil manner even though the Emperor just had an attempt on his life he didn't want to leave his people.

In Eltanin, Machinehr, SPQR, Tomglomerate, Crossgrave, and several others approached a Genus starbase and lined up to take the thing down as Walt's personal fleet arrived, but only for a few seconds and then left. SPQR spoke in fleet Com. "Did you see that?" Machinehr replied with a simple "Yes... that was rather odd, as if he didn't care we were here... hmm unless." *The Emperor* Machinehr Tomglomerate and SPQR cursed at the same time and hypered out with all urgency where as the remaining Slah'ke begun their attack on the Genus starbase only later to be destroyed.

In the mean time in the system of Sol, Greeny spoke in a soft tone "Well now that were going to get acquainted might as well start "Adept, thank you for the save." Adept could only nod. Church noticed Adept was focusing on evading Kolari and now he tried to evade Genus ships, when Tomglomerate's signature registered on his sensor screen. "Church! Tomglomerate...and it seems Machinehr and SPQR are with him!" Church let out a sigh of relief. "Very well then, it seems we need to get our esteemed friend out of here alive." Adept nodded and flew past Pluto now and engaged his hyperdrive, the ship entered hyperspace as a squadron of enemy cloaking fighters had decloaked to engage Adept, and the rest of the Slah'ke. Adept let out a

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sigh of relief inside himself, not showing it to anyone. "Emperor, we are on a steady course for Saurion." Greeny smiled, along with Narses, Phantom thanked him S117 stared at the Slah'ke and made a small grin, where as Speed Shot just nodded in approval. Adept felt good to get these signs of appreciation from people he barely even knew, these Terrans kept amazing him with each passing day he lived alongside them.

### **Chapter X: Greeny's Revenge, Rage of the Slah'ke**

Adept sat at the controls of Sorrow, listening into what the Terrans, Plexxans and what Church were talking about. "Greeny, Church. I believe that we need to make plans to retake Sol." Greeny nodded, Church however was as stoic as ever. Greeny mentioned this "Church is something wrong?" Church snapped out of the distracted state of mind he was in and answered the emperor's question in fluent Terran. "Yes, this war, its starting to seem like it's more focused on us than it is on you two." They both understood what Church meant by you two. Still it was unlike him to act in such a manner of... emotion. Duckman looked to Adept pointing it out to Prmens to go talk to the Slah'ke warrior. Greeny spoke again "Church you want revenge don't you?" Church could only offer his cold gaze two the two leaders. Narses stepped in "Church, you know this as much as I do, any direct attack on the home systems would be disastrous... even for Adept, Mach, SPQR and the other elites who fight alongside you." Church submitted to Narses point after a few minutes of silence.

Prmens squatted next to the control seat where Adept was looking at the item his dad had made with such pride. Adept kept the thing by his side to remind himself that his dad died with honor. "So, young Plexxan, it seems we meet again after all of this fighting, I thought I'd never see you again." Prmens smiled, and let out a small chuckle. "It seems you underestimate us Plexxans a little too much." Adept nodded at that "It would seem so Plexxan" Prmens again wondered at why Adept sounded so distracted by the small Kosha'Jai, a Slah'ke dagger used as a symbol of honor from many battles. Prmens pointed at it which got Adepts attention 'What is it?' Adept smiled and spoke in his rough accent "It is a Kosha'Jai, a symbol of honor only earned through many fights, and wars. It was given to my Father by his commander for his countless accomplishments in the heat of battle." Prmens looked serious for a change and showed Adept several medals he had on his uniform "this one here, the arrow like one with the silver lining and gold is for defending Castor from numerous attacks, the black one is for when I was shot down on patrol and survived, the third was given to me by StarRaider himself for courage, integrity, and when I saved him during a battle."

Dennis over heard that and wondered for a moment 'If Adept is apart of the Elite section of the Union then where is his Kosha'Jai?' Adept was looking at the control Panel, and noticed a message sent by Machinehr telling Adept to dock at a different station, then another message that said ignore that request. Adept dismissed it and followed Machinehr's orders. Dennis asked a question ignoring what Phantom was telling him about the Slah'ke "Excuse me warrior, but if your apart of the Elite where is your Kosha'Jai?" Adept smiled a toothy grin "I didn't get one." Dennis was confused by the statement. "I got a Joshi'Koji... your standing in it" Dennis then nodded and quietly went back to speaking to Phantom about the recent events in the war.

Several hours later they arrived at Saurion in Proxima, Adept had docked in his private Hangar that contained all of his warships, and equipment, being the Lizard he was he doesn't bother to clean up when stuff such as liquid spills. Everyone then exited Sorrow as Adept using the Slah'ke only hatch exited through the top and hooked up several power cup-links to Sorrow keeping the Reactor on standby incase Proxima came under siege. Greeny was a bit disgusted at the poor condition this hangar was in but it was Adepts hangar a warrior he has come to trust, along with Machinehr. Duckman was a bit happy to see a place as dirty as this, it reminded him

of Prmens hangar full of Valiants, and several Paladins, and that Liberator Prmens worshipped.

SPQR already docked, and settled came into Adepts hangar, and saw Greeny looking around a bit appalled by the shape the Hangar was in and especially if Adept was an elite member. SPQR started yelling in Slah'ke at Adept, and he responded in kind, everyone was focused on the two screaming at each other only until Machinehr ran in and separated the two with a scolding tone in Slah'ke, then they began discussing what had happened and Adept began screaming again as SPQR kept saying insults. Machinehr knew they both were pushing each others buttons a bit too fast for his liking. Machinehr then separated them both...literally by throwing them across the Hangar and backed out orders demanding they both apologize to each other, and fear what Machinehr would do next they both complied with Machinehr's wishes.

Greeny then stepped in speaking to Machinehr. "Mach I need to go back to Sol..." Machinehr looked the Emperor in the eye. "No." Phantom yelled demands of complying to the Emperor's wishes or she'd kill Machinehr... which she regretted having a worried SPQR right in front of her before she knew it, and Dennis tried to react but was tossed down onto the ground by Adept. Machinehr stepped forward. "This is so the one we need most is not lost, the same for you Duckman." Prmens tensed up and reached for a weapon, this was treachery, then Duckman put a hand on Prmens arm telling him to relax, and let Machinehr say what he wanted to originally say to them. "You both do realize this is so we are distracted from the main force that will be assembled by Walt, and the hired pirates he controls." Greeny narrowed his eyes, angry that Machinehr hadn't told Greeny sooner, being short fused already he exploded "Machinehr! Why didn't you tell us this sooner!?" Narses sighed and put a hand on his face as Speed Shot and S117 shook their heads, they've seen the Emperor when he gets like this... its not to pretty to see, or to be apart of. Adept looked at Greeny as he yelled at Machinehr "So you knew about this attack and yet you didn't tell us? Machinehr! did you try and assassinate me through the Kolari!?" Machine roared with aggravation "No! I did not Emperor, please if you would let me explain to why I didn't tell you, it was because I could not tell you, because I did not know that it was going to happen until my attack force had entered Brood space in Eltanin! Therefore I did not refuse to inform you nor Duckman! If I knew that something like this was going to happen I would have sent Tomglomerate with his scarab fleet to engage and dissipate the Kolari Duke John A. Howard!" Duckman was taken aback that they even knew the light bulbs name "Excuse me overlord, but How do you know his name?"

Machinehr relaxed his voice speaking in the Terran native language. "We've been fighting the Kolari and the Brood for some time now Duckman, it was inevitable that we made a hit list to try and end this useless and stupid war." Adept nodded because he was tasked at least three times to take out the Duke that had taken Megrez from the Union. Adept and him were practically bitter enemies, and probably would rest till one of them is dead, or the war is declared over. Machinehr then spoke again "We know several Kolari leaders including Clever Trevor, Ian, Blue\_Beetle, The UED, and their main commander Marc7005. For nine years we've known these Kolari and for those nine years we've tried to take them out countless times we have succeeded on only one. Greym, the one who kept ravaging Böotes, Vega, and Sirius." Duckman and Greeny were unmoved by the new information but it helped. "So those pirates killing our people slaughtering all who ran those trade routes were hired by who?"

Adept narrowed his eyes and spoke before Machinehr. "Marc7005." Machinehr nodded in confirmation as the two faction leaders looked to him. "Adept if you please you could tell them the story." Adept nodded and let go of Dennis. "It was found out when I took Halo out for a routine escort for a bunch of Slah'ke government contractors, when we were ambushed by a pirate named GUN\_fire, we lost three transports of irreplaceable shipments of much needed food, and medicine. When a pirate by the name of Cold fire came out of nowhere in a Zealot aptly named The Destroyer and pinned GUN down. GUN made a run for it getting away, soon after that we discovered Cold was a Kolari unsympathetic to the Kolari Star Empire's goal, along with a Slah'ke Pirate Inferno they aided the rest of the convoy to a Terran planet strengthening our treaty with our Factions." Greeny nodded, Adept seemed to be quite the busy lizard in the past and present. Its no wonder he was apart of the Elite.

SPQR then spoke. "I later ran into an incursion with GUN FIRE, I forced him to submit the information on his employers and let him go, that's when Machinehr, declared war on the Kolari Star Empire... and that's when Duke Howard began to show with his entourage of warships, setting our planets ablaze committing grand acts of genocide.. compared to the others Trevor and Howard were the most... kind when it came to marcs orders, they would give apt warning before they'd set planets ablaze." Greeny nodded again fully understanding now. "Narses, send a signal to the fleet in Markab to arrive here." Narses pulled out a small box, and pushed a small purple button in. Several hours later as everyone was relaxing the Terran Assault fleet arrived, countless Invincibles, and dominators, along with Federation ships, including StarRaiders Paladin, and Duckmans refitted Invincible, BattleHog. Adept stared out the window, watching the ships enter the system, as did SPQR, then a Slah'ke warrior ran into the room where the two friends were. "Your ships are ready." Adept showed his teeth growling with hate. as did SPQR. The Kolari thought that they had seen the end of the Slah'ke war fleets terrifying the two would show them. Machinehr had his Zealot MechWarrior, Church had his cloaker fleet deployed, as did Tomglomerate. Adept still showing his teeth noticed that the Terran have gone back to their ships the fleet brought with. This was war... like the good old days. SPQR got into his Invincible as Adept, got into Halo.

Greeny noticed the few Union ships breaking off from Saurion. Narses noticed that it was considerably larger than it originally was.

The Slah'ke were up to something, something out of place though. Dennis had reported an immense number of hyperspace ruptures, only caused when large amounts of Zealots entered systems, but the Slah'ke... they didn't have anymore war fleets did they? two Zealots entered, then four, then thirty, then fifty, then one hundred. Two Slah'ke Kosumak'Alkosi (Elimination fleet) had entered, five hundred Zealots in total. The rage of the Slah'ke was at its peak, now the Brood would feel the rage of angry reptiles, and their Human allies. Machinehr spoke into global: "This Terrans is the Kolira'Kashaf (Kolari Inquisition) We Slah'ke have waited for the right time to use our forces against the Kolari, and now we can." Machinehr gave the order for the Brokji'Kashaf (Brood Inquisition) in Procyon, and the Terran fleets followed the large Kosumak'Alkosi fleet, to make a race suffer a much deserved punishment.

### Chapter XI: Death of a Plexxan Spirit

The Inquisition fleets hyperspace signature distorted how the rest of the system looked, as the Zealots all painted in white, symbolizing death entered the system. Adept noticed a few nearby planets, he noticed that there was a Brood fleet gathering there, a group of the living insidious bombers, along with the rest of their pulsating ships where gathered in a circle around some kind of ship convoy. The Zealots had entered orbit of the closest planet and targeted the Planet itself not any buildings, and they rained death on the poor planet below, overloading the first three shields in mere moments, then with each shot, glowing green from the atmosphere they dispersed in bubble like explosions of white and blue, draining the Shields. When the Terrans entered the system along with the Feds, they noticed that the Slah'ke were already at it, destroying the first planet they saw. Duckman and StarRaider now fully healed from the brood incursion. Narses sent a message to all of the Human ships along with the Longsword that entered as Speed Shot's Invincible entered at the same time, two of the most fearsome Invincibles ever to come into existence by the Terran Empire through heavy weapon and armor configuration. Narses sent another message telling them to form a Phalanx. "Alright guys, S117, Speed Shot, we need to take out the Brood fleet in the center of the System." PhantomGODess and Dennis obeyed and began to spear head the Human fleet. The Union as this occurred, several ships different from the rest colors broke away from the Inquisition that the Zealots and Union transports began. These were different colors along with the distinct Invincible with the colors emerald, and blood red with fully visible heavy Dual Gamma Cannons, where as an uncloaked Scarab painted a grey tone with red scratches, a form of war paint on it. Then the Blood red with white streaks for the three winged MechWarrior belonging to Machinehr, as the Crossblade stayed, but another Zealot broke away, pitch black, with red slits on the wings, its most distinct feature was a massive Dual Gamma Cannon on the front of it, along with the larger Distortion Cannons on the sides. Narses made a pointer that this was probably Halo Taveius spoke of.

Adept narrowed his eyes at the sight of actual brood targets, and spoke in his deep voice. "Overlord, is this what we want to eradicate?" Machinehr sent him a yes message through signals informing him he wanted radio silence. The Elite few nodded in tandem not knowing that they did. Adept used his tail to press a magnification on the brood fleet, a starbase...

Narses noticed it too, a bit to late though the Fleet of the Humans took heavy losses in the beginning but when the Union came to, they were getting less flak because it seemed the brood were more worried by their heavy hitters than the Terrans.

Narses re-arranged the fleet into practically a blob so that they were spread out all over the place to lessen collisions from dead ships as they approached the starbase, it moved, in circle, and fired at a specific Federation official: Duckman. His ship had no chance, Machinehr saw this and fired his many Distortion Cannons into the massive ball of flesh and it began to turn, Narses ordered the fleet to fire. As SPQR fired into the ball of ripping flesh, then Tomglomerate attached his ship to a Insidious, running inside slashing the crew apart he ran to the controls and began to use it against the starbase, but the thing practically had a mind of its own determining which Zealot to shoot at, MechWarrior, the Mass fired his biospray and missed, barely, the projectile flew right into a D-H, Machinehr, still stayed and fought with the thing, where as

Adept, with his new Dual Gamma Cannon fired once, right into the weapon of the ugly mass, the shot of energy detonated in the weapon its eerie glow flew out of the weapon creating a strange effect on the Bases skin, it began to bubble. Narses then thought for a moment "Phantom, don't the Union ships use radiation?" She replied in a smart tone "Yes, as a matter of fact they do... its not surprising the Unions weapons are effective against the Brood, SPQR fired his Dual Gamma Cannons, and got in range to use his Distortion Cannons and fired them all at the same time , the radiation shots smacked into the skin ripping through it like paper, it shuddered erratically, as if feeling the pain and brought its remaining PD defenses to bear, and fired at the Zealots firing on it, the shots reflected off the shields... like it was a laser hitting a mirror. Adept fired the Dual Gamma Cannon again, ripping a exit wound through the starbase... He noticed... blood... what do these Genus use for buildings?! SPQR spat in disgust "These abominations know absolutely no bounds for their treachery?!" Machinehr agreed quite frankly "I agree SPQR, how is the Fleet doing at clearing planets?" Adept looked at the reports "Overlord they are finishing the last one. Do you want us to release the Tashak'Ma pilots?" Machinehr nodded, they needed blood to sate their taste.

The Terran fleet had close proximity and collision warnings everywhere as the Tashak'Ma fighters screamed merely inches away from the hulls, Prmens freaked out as he saw the Union fighters fly so close together, and they began to swarm the starbase. The Terrans and the Plexxans engaged the Kolari fleet that Marc jumped in with. Greeny spat with disgust "Marc, you treacherous fiend!" Marcs color changed on the screen to a smile and telepathically broadcasted his thoughts "Miss me Emperor?" Greeny ordered that marc be taken dead or alive. He wanted the light bulbs head, no matter the cost.

Narses let out a audible sigh that activated the microphone he had on connecting to the comm-net.

Quite to his embarrassment, the Emperor thought he had said something, moments later, the unthinkable happened. Reports from Slah'ke, Fed, and Terrans swarmed in saying that StarRaider took out Marc, as did Marc kill StarRaider. Prmens was in shock, two federation hero's...lost. Naravar roared in anguish, he slumped collapsing onto the floor of the FF God Of War. Prmens ran over to help him. "That didn't happen, did it?". Narses screamed into the headset. "What do you mean StarRaider is dead?!" Panic swept through the Federation ranks, and a sergeant, Naravar straightened things up soon enough, Naravar, a no-one, set things straight. Even he couldn't believe it but it would be a dishonorable act to falter at such a moment. Prmens shouted into the Fed comm.: "All Federation units, protect StarRaiders remains! Slaughter the Kolari!"

Unfortunately Adept shook his head slowly. "Machinehr... orders?" there was a pause. "Adept, SPQR stay and deal with the Kolari, while we take the fleet to Sol and retake any lost Terran possessions, Board SPQR's ship and send Halo home on autopilot. Adept did as he was told. And he walked into the bridge of the SPQR I. "Adept my old friend we get to do a chain boarding... and avenge a Plexxan hero." Adept smiled widely, as SPQR ordered a nearby Slah'ke to take over his ship. "I am Adept... you are?" The warrior was reluctant to actually have a Elite Warrior speak to him "I am Captain Britian. I thank you for speaking to me, it is an honor." Adept

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smiled and got his claws out, ready for the slicing, as SPQR got his sword out, it was rather large compared to most but it did the job.

Duckman was reluctant enough to get captured by a Kolari Rift. Unfortunately it was under fire by some Union Invincible, and later two Slah'ke materialized in his cell. "Excuse me Slah'ke... are you here to help me out?" they both looked down and backed away as if surprised...which they were. SPQR smiled a tooth smile and nodded. "Now we are President Duckman."

### **Chapter XII: Lizards on the Loose, Beware of Narses**

Duckman was a bit surprised at the randomness of the entire situation, but the two Lizards were there. Then he recognized them as Adept and SPQR. Duckman pulled out a pistol he kept hidden in a prosthetic leg, thanks to the biomechanical enhancements. Adept's muscles tensed up, as he began to rip the bars off of the cell, one by one he tore them from their holdings, then a security shield popped up and knocked him back into the wall with a loud thump, Adept shook his head and recovered from the shock of the throwback. SPQR pulled out a gun, which made this weird noise and threw SPQR back into the wall but the shield overloaded, and shut off. SPQR got up, and shook his head. "It's too powerful, that's what I told Tomglomerate." Adept laughed.

Slah'ke scientists always were looking to lessen the impact of their recoil in the weapons they made, which never turned out pretty, its how the Dual Gamma Cannon came about, to Slah'ke scientists had bet each other on who could make the more powerful weapon, the two Slah'ke came up with the Gamma cannon, both separate, on the weapons test, the shots were devastating to the test hulls of ships they had collected, the two came to the conclusion that they both won, and lost, because they built the same gun. But a student of one of the scientists, known as Church suggested that they utilize the two weapons into two of them, making the Dual Gamma Cannon. The same two made this shield. Except they blew up a wall in the process of testing this weapon, anyways, back to our Lizards.

SPQR drew his Ka'Mak and ran silently with great speed as did Adept, he tasted the air with his forked tongue, and didn't find anything except for the Kolari fumes that the Kolari burned, they found two of them, SPQR jumped up as did Adept to avoid them whereas Duckman moved into a maintenance passage hiding from the two Kolari, SPQR crawled across the ceiling of the room, and Adept clawed the sides, positioning himself so he could lunge at the Nexus. SPQR gave the signal and Adept leapt knocking the one down to the floor Adept still on top of the Kolari sliding across the room, and SPQR dropped down striking it with his Ka'Mak. Duckman noticed a Kolari security officer rushing to the site of the attack, and he stepped out discharging his weapon four times into where the light of the being emulated, the body froze, and it began to creak, the light started to penetrate openings where the shots went out, its armor expanded, and then the body flashed, exploding. A few moments later all that remained was the metallic body with a black aura around it.

Adept slashed at the face of the Kolari, repeatedly, but the Kolari regained its focus and tossed the Lizard across the reactor room, Adept rebounded off of the wall, by jumping off of it flinging him at a high speed, where Adepts feet had touched the ground, he was immediately in a run again and drove onto the Kolari.

While SPQR was in a sword fight with the other, who had her chain sword out, and swung out at SPQR but the swing was blocked by SPQR, they went at it, blocking, and striking, till SPQR pulled out a bolt pistol and shot the Kolari in the leg, it stumbled as SPQR decapitated the being of energy, and slashed the ball of energy that remained there. The ball of light flashed and faded, blinding SPQR for a moment, and the same black aura surrounded it.

Adept was on top of the Kolari grabbing at its 'face' he was again tossed aside, but

Adept used his tail to swipe the Kolari off of its feet. Adept then grabbed it by its arm and tossed it into the wall, before the Kolari could recover from the disorientation. Adept had used some type of switch to cut its arm off. It stumbled as Adept ripped its 'face' apart in a violent manner. This energy inside, escaped, returning to Deneb.

Meanwhile the TES Berlin, Narses flagship fired off its Super Heavy Laser, followed by a yellow shot from its Distortion cannon at a Mystery Cruiser, as Dennis took out a Rift that was harassing them, in that moment the Kolari started to falter from the incoming shots from both of the Slah'ke and joint Terran-Plexxan fleets. Narses noticed something with the SPQR I and how it was latched onto a rift. "Chain jacking huh? These Lizards are very sly." Narses directed two support cruisers to harass the Kolari prisms harassing the other Battle Cruisers. Taveius with his Galactica fired off his weapons at several Kolari Cruisers, Narses reinforced that position by sending an attachment of Dominators, to support Taveius' group. The Rift the SPQR I was attached to changed to Union, and the SPQR I detached and moved away. The Rift was barely working as it slammed into a Battle Cruiser, and fired off its weapons, the crash broke the shields, and the shots made a hole for the Lizards to get on, a Warbearer transports front opened and fired two rapid firing Delta cannons making holes, as the ship latched onto the Kolari cruiser delivering Slah'ke troops to the fight.

S117, and Speed Shot turned to fire on a couple of mysteries, when a swarm of photons appeared catching their attention. Phantom's ships engaged the separated Kolari ships; the battle was turning to their favor. The Terran council though retired military showed up behind the Kolari ships in their Invincibles they began to wear the back line down.

In Sol, John A. Howard was done reviewing the Terran losses for the fight for Mars, the damned planet was still under fire. All he could do was sit in his Invincible, Dogs of War and watch this stupid battle. He projected his thoughts to a lesser Kolari, Cowlil. "Why don't they give up like they have in the past?" Cowlil didn't know how to respond but then it hit him "Perhaps, my Duke, it is the Slah'ke? An example like, the Slah'ke they won't fight for planets where as the Terrans do, as do the Federation. The Slah'ke prove themselves through war, perhaps the Terrans are somewhat the same, just less prone to... violent conflicts such as this one Duke." John thought for a moment. "Perhaps, but the Federation has a faint sense of honor, they don't just go to war for the fun of it as the Slah'ke do, Terrans and Plexxans are more prone to... revenge rather than declaring war just to fight. I have spent considerable time along some of the Plexxan people, they are proud, but rely heavily on moral, so perhaps you are correct on the Slah'ke influencing a strong moral through their deeds in combat, but I find it highly unlikely." Cowlil was about to respond when a message came in from the fleet in Procyon. John's robotic shoulders slumped. As he told his assistant. "Marc7005 is dead." Cowlil, like all Kolari only felt sad for shortly amounts of time. John then projected his thoughts to Cowlil "Perhaps the involvement of the Slah'ke could be removed if we declare submission to them, manipulating them to stop fighting and weaken the Terran and Plexxan resolves? We did it to the Terrans and Plexxans once, I could concoct a method of this for a third time to remove these... fanatics from... the bigger picture." Johns glow went to a cool blue as a sign from satisfaction.

Cowlil didn't know what to say but he couldn't agree more, and projected his thoughts

## Slah'ke: Our War Part 1

on the suggestion to John " I cannot disagree with this proposal you have spoken of, it seems plausible that the Fighting lizards will and might recede if we offer them systems they have lost in the past, perhaps not, perhaps the violent ways of the Slah'ke will still obscure their judgment." John nodded, still the blue remained, John then responded. "It sounds plausible that it might work, perhaps it might, and I might even conclude that Trevor will agree to this proposal since he has been very sympathetic to them of late, including the Slah'ke civilians. Perhaps they have seen enough of us and are sick of this war." Trevor then showed up randomly at the bridge of the ship.

Trevor looked like John but he had a dark cape, signifying he is a Baron. John greeted Trevor. "I think you might have heard of the proposal Baron Trevor." Trevor nodded. John then inquired "What do you think of it?" Trevor took his time before he responded. "What you say of the Slah'ke is true, and I agree to the proposal however, considering the betraying like history our faction has committed to them over the years it would make them suspicious of our...wants."

The other two Kolari nodded in agreement.

**Preview of Chapter XIII:**

Adept: Holy crap what are the Kolari up to?!

SPQR I don't know but I hope I never see that dream of the Fairies again!

Adept: that was one time only!

John A. Howard: I like plotting the demise of people.

Adept \*staring\* seems that way, I still can't believe I was muted for my language in Megrez! 🤦

John, SPQR, The\_UED, KAL37, S117: Watch it Adept!

Adept: What'd I do now?!

SPQR: just try to not get muted for that stuff again!

Adept: fine fine, ahhhhhhhhh!

Nurses: well what I miss here?

everyone else: nothing

Nurses: what's with Adept?

all the moderators: he was talking about the muting of Megrez.

Nurses: oh...

Greeny: when am I gonna be back on:

Adeptprophet: don't worry I'll get you back on! there's a lot of people you know!

Nurses: yeah, you say that every time.

Adeptprophet: Anyways, Ill have Chapter 13 up rather soon ok guys, so just be patient, and tune in next time for Slah'ke: Our War!

Oh and P.S. beware of those damn fairies, they give you terrible nightmares 🧛

### Chapter XIII: Deception

Back in the system of Sol, there was a struggle heard outside the doors in the Dogs of War. Two Slah'ke had infiltrated the ship along with a full boarding action team to eliminate any opposition against the Warlord Tomglomerate. He strode, his cloak making a hiss like noise on the floor,, as he walked slowly to the room door where John and the other two were. He spoke in his native tongue. "John...A....Howard.... How nice of you to be here as expected for once." He forced the doors open, the three Kolari shot to their feet, armed to the core, but Tom kept walking forward. Then fourteen Slah'ke warriors in full armor ran into the room without a moments noticed, soon the three there surrounded. John calmly spoke telepathically to Tom and him only. "I have a proposition. We admit defeat, and we will bow down to any demands Machinehr made" Tom already familiar with treachery he sensed the Kolari' deceptive ways, as Machinehr and the rest of the few Elite came blazing into the system already blowing apart several cruisers with relative ease. Tom cursed and gave the signal to return to his Scarab. And delivered the report to Machinehr, as soon as he got into his Scarab. Machinehr's reply was an angry roar, of acceptance and signaled for full retreat from all battle fields, even against Machinehr's personality he did what is right for his people.

The message reached SPQR and Adept in Procyon and they both headed back to their ships, where as Narses spotted the Rift attach to the Union Invincible, and read the transfer of beings back to the SPQR I. Greeny noticed it two, along with several other Terran leaders. Phantom made an inquiry and Adept had answered, broadcasting the demoralizing words throughout the fleet. "Do not bump into affairs that do not concern your race Humans, We Slah'ke are out of this war due to certain circumstances, if you wish to inquiry I suggest you send a representative to Proxima immediately. We are under Machinehr's orders and can no longer assist you in any further struggles. You all are now on your own." The rest of the Slah'ke fleet hypered out of the system very quickly, as the SPQR I left. The following happened:

Narses spoke first "What in the hell is going on?" Phantom was the first to reply: "Narses, it seems that they have had enough of the war, that or... Machinehr was offered something to draw out. Narses shook his head. "No that can't be right. It's too out of character for the Slah'ke to perform such an act of suddenness" Greeny sighed and but in through the comm. "I know, the both of you we got more work to do incase you haven't noticed, but I am worried about this... awkward news on the withdrawal of the Slah'ke forces." Speed Shot now spoke his opinion "I think this is very out of character. I think that the Kolari or Brood offered them peace, unconditionally where they'd agree to the terms of the Slah'ke, after all they have lost quite a few people among these attacks." they all nodded in agreement. S117 spoke his opinion also "I believe that Machinehr was forced into that position, and he retreated for the betterment of his people. If that Lizard is as he used to be, then he cares more about his people than his opinions. I mean you heard the resentment in that one Slah'ke... Adept was it? In his voice. Clearly Adept thinks it's a wrong but he agrees with the decision for his race. Even thought the current Slah'ke are in fact very violent, They do care for themselves from time to time, and as Speed Shot said, they've lost quite a few people in the last ten years." Everyone agreed with that. Greeny spoke up,. "Narses, Phantom you both are going to Proxima to figure out what in Earths name is going on. Understand?" they replied in unison "Yes Emperor." and left immediately.

The ships returned to Proxima to see that the starbase is in its mobile war station mode, ready to go into Hyperspace. This has only been used once in the Slah'ke history, and that was to bombard Mars during a war. It was terribly ruthless and brutal. But Machinehr had used it to prove his point to the Terran Empire. Adept and SPQR were walking through the Station when they both spotted Narses and Phantom who had arrived in a very short time. Adept remained silent, as did SPQR, and walked past the two Terrans. Narses spoke softly knowing a little about Adept and his legendary temper. "I believe we shouldn't speak to Adept about anything right now, nor should we speak to SPQR. Best we go to Church or Machinehr to speak about this." Phantom raised an eyebrow. "Why? They are as good as any person." She then ran to Adept and mentioned it. Adept said numerous threats, and insults at her in a booming Slah'ke voice, that made him seem about six hundred feet taller, and Phantom equally smaller. She went back to Narses, a bit shocked. "I never knew Adept was that violent." Narses shook his head. "You still don't" she shook her head dismissing the comment, when a Genus came out of nowhere and ambushed the two., Narses pulled out his weapon but it was knocked out of his hands.

Now in theory, Slah'ke are very, very fast runners. However, this has not been proven yet since they lack the finesse of actually running without flinging themselves off of ledges, ceilings or even ship reactors in some cases. But Narses and Phantom where about to find out how fast a very angry Slah'ke can move, and how brutal a angry Lizard such as Adept can be.

The Genus was knocked bout seven feet back as it was back handed by Adept, he flung himself between Narses and Phantom, they both felt the wind that tried to keep up with the angry Lizard. The disorientated Genus reacted a bit slowly to Adepts lunge, but it was too late. the Genus had no armor due to the fact Adept had ripped them off, and much to its dismay, the Genus had not noticed yet, until it tried to grab him., and then noticed it was being beat by its on arms. Adept still enraged flung its arms aside, and showed his claws deep into the Genus's skin where its should is, and flung it into the wall, smashing several metallic pipes. the Genus stumbled but Adept was already there, lifting it off of the ground a loud thump sounded through the space Station as Adept continued to smash the Genus's dead body against the wall.

**Preview of Chapter XIV**

Adept: I is angry!

Narses: aaaahhhhhh! get him away from me!

PhantomGODess: Adept calm do- nonononono! leave me be!

Bob: what the? \*leaves room\*

Narses : Adept... put the genus down.

Inferno: Oh god. he's done it again

SPQR: Adept! put the stuffed animal down!

Machinehr: This is too good to be true.

Church:\*sighs\*

Walt: please put him down.

Adept \*roooooooooooooaaaaaaaarrrrrrrrr!!!!!!\*

Narses: No! nononono! aaaaaahhhhhhhhh!!!!!!

Adeptprophet: Well it seems Adept is on the loose...again... sorry for that Narses!

Narses: just make him stop!

Greeny: shut up! I cant get any sleep in here now 😞

Adeptprophet: it was your choice to sleep there

Greeny:\*pulls out disintegrator\*

Adeptprophet: Agreed.

Tune in next time for Slah'ke: Our War for Chapter 14!!!!!!!!!!!

Up coming, Machinehr makes decisions the Terrans do not understand. The Brood finally make their big push against the remaining Coalition races, Or maybe the Orfine warriors may come to the aid of the Terran Empire. SPQR and Adept know what is to be done from now on. The Kolari John A. Howard plots his climatic scheme to take over Marcs regime of the Kolari. As Machinehr starts to think of a successor to the Throne of Slah'ke power, and possibly think of the ritual known as Slah'kai. The ultimate ascension to the hierarchs in the Heavens above. But what are the Matrix up to all this time?

#### **Chapter XIV: Slah'ke Our War**

Narses and Phantom were a bit spooked to see Adept come so fast, but after he was sure the Genus was dead, he left the two Terrans. Machinehr had past them, ignoring them completely, thinking about some things, and a successor. "I think Church will do just fine." Narses tried to get the large Slah'ke's attention when the Hallway wall rose to reveal an Arena., a fairly large one. SPQR came from nowhere to inform the Terrans. "This is the Slah'kai, the Honorary championship for the Overlord, for him to appear before the people, and die fighting his next successor. The main Participants are Tomglomerate, Adept, myself, Machinehr, Church, and several others. These matchers are like the Arena the intergalactic Nations hold. No one dies, except when the fields are turned off. Adept is going up against the Enemies of the Slah'ke to prove himself worthy of a Body Guard for the next Overlord, or perhaps become a warlord. But this is if all goes accordingly. Adept is to go up against several Kolari veterans we have captured for this event, and this one only. The ones known as Nexus fighter, Scouse, and Champ of Life." These were the elite among the Kolari warrior society. Narses flinched at the mention of champ and spoke "Is this once at a time?" SPQR said "Shhhh it's going to begin"

Machinehr sitting in the Slah'ke throne of the War God announced the first battle. "The Elite warrior Adept please enter the arena to face your opponents." The arena grew silent completely the inhibitors turned off, so that if Adept falls, he stays down. Then through the silence, a dinosaur like roar echoed through the arena like a blood thirsty animal, Adept was spotted leaping into the air with nothing but two heavy swords, his landing cracked the dirt around him. Champ of life, Nexus\_Fighter, and Scouse came out with their disintegrators, fully equipped. Adept let out his primal roar out again, when Champ took the first shot Adept leapt into motion circling around them at lightning speeds, capable through the Slah'ke leg structure, Nexus Fighter pulled out a strobe laser and tried to take Adept down. All the shots missed. Then Scouse leapt forward to kill Adept. Adept had jumped back barely missing Scouse, he lunched himself stabbing the Kolari in the chest, his twin blades digging into the plating, as animalistic it seemed. Adept bit the Kolari's fake robotic head off, revealing the Kolari's core, and he took one blade out and thrust it into the center of the being, the physical blow was extremely hard and made the arena go dark void of light for a moment, Adept left the sword in the Kolari as he tossed its crumpled body of metal and blackish clouded outline, into Champ. Champ shot Adept in the chest, He stumbled backwards, dropping the other sword, but Adept had quickly gained footing and propelled himself in a circle again.

Nexus fighter, shot off his laser, and struck adept in the thigh, Adept flew back into the floor, on his side, Adept was immobile. Then the two Kolari were standing over Adept with their weapons raised. The Kolari champ's color turned a slight blue in showing of happiness. Then it faded to a fed of rage. Adept felt Nexus' foot on his stomach, as he coughed up blood. Adept smiled, and the crowed witnessed them both fall. SPQR roared with approval, as Machinehr did shortly after followed by the entire stadium, making the two other Terrans a bit unsettled.

A few hours later it came down to Machinehr's duel with Church, the inhibitors off. Now comes the Death of a Hero among all races.

A Terran representative was sitting at his desk in CPU in the system of Algol. Lord of Pollux, known as UED for his initials, unlike all the other Terrans he didn't like his

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original name so he came up with the initials of his full name. Ukal Eriksson De'kalso. A Preserver told him to leave the station, and he gladly followed its demands considering he was just a representative. The tin cans were always slow on making these kinds of choices, but it seemed a bit odd that it was like this he assumed it was because of CPU itself, being the computer that it was. He sent the message to Greeny that they were in debate over the choice.

In Tau Cyngi at The Vat, Walt had received the message from John that all was going according to plan. Walt then assembled all of his fleets into one big assault force. His destination: Proxima.

### Chapter XV: The Duel

The two Slah'ke went out on the arena, they both growled at each other, Machinehr got down onto his knees and said a few simple words in the Slah'ke tongue "This day marks the day of my death, the Death for me, for I must now ascend into the Heavens" Church made a bow, and SPQR grabbed Narses and Phantom and flew down the Stadium to the arena floor. Soon followed by Tomglomerate, Cross, a few others, and a bandaged Adept. SPQR instructed the Terrans make a circle equal to theirs, Narses heard of the ceremony but never saw one happen. Narses inclined his head. "Is this right?" he asked Adept who stood in between Narses and Phantom.

Adept responded in his strained voice of his "Yes, this is the time to do it for when we are done, much war will be fought at a much harder rate by us in the next few years. But that is the future, not the now, we need to focus on the Now." Narses nodded and then Phantom spoke "Adept after this we need to speak to you." He nodded slowly, now a battle hardened warrior. Adepts eyes, seemed darker now. Machinehr moved first with his Ka'Mak sword at Church, the friend responded with a blow to the knees and twirled in the air like a top riding the floor, as Machinehr blocked the maneuver with great precision. This is how Slah'ke fought to the Death. The flashes of the blades ignited the area blinding the humans, as Adept stood there unflinching watching the fight with great interest he stopped blinking and tasted the air with his forked tongue. "Blood" Machinehr had been wounded, but the Older Slah'ke still fought with a temper, Church got his let tail slashed in the process, they both went back and forth through the circle, and the hours blasted by. Then ten hours later. It finally finished. Machinehr conceded to defeat. "Church, my old friend. You are now Overlord. Please choose who sends me to the Heavens." Church noticed how Adept softened up as he witnessed his most trusted ruler kneel before another friend, and Church stated. "Your consciousness will show through the Station, as planned twelve years ago." Machinehr nodded. "Machinehr, I nominate Adept as your bearer." Adept went rigid. "Yes Overlord!" he roared in response. Machinehr smiled to see the fighter almost break down into tears, this truly was a sad moment for him.

"Machinehr... I... don't want to..." Machinehr nodded slowly. "I know Adept but you must, this is your last service to me, honor my children and my family, as you honored me. You are now one of the true elite." Many Terrans said Slah'ke could not cry. Narses witnessed the myth busted. Adept switched his Ka'Mak around to the downward position and spoke with a unheard respect in his voice. "We all witness the greatest of our Overlord to ever live to truly ascend to the Heavens in Proxima! Long Live Machinehr! Fight for Him!" He switched the blade around and stabbed the Slah'ke in the stomach, Machinehr didn't even budge, as Adept allowed Machinehr do something close to the Japanese Seppku, Adept then wiped the tears away from his eyes, he carved the word "Elite of the Elite" as an honor to him.

An hour later Narses caught up with Him "Adept, we need to speak to you." Adept looked up already healing from the combat wounds. Phantom spoke first "The Terran Empire wishes to know why you withdrew" Adept stayed silent for a moment and spoke. "Machinehr needed to perform the ritual of the Ascension sooner or later, so he thought it would be an ideal time to do so. But I believe we will resume the war with a greater ferocity than before. One that might lead to an all out war on most races unfortunately, we will contain our rage upon the Brood and Kolari beating them to their home worlds." that was a harsh statement on the Genus and Kolari' side. Narses then asked a question "So you will rejoin the fight?" Adept nodded and answered "Yes, me and SPQR will continue to support your efforts to eliminate the Genus and Kolari filth from the Galaxy, but this John A. Howard he seems to be planning to take

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over the Kolari regime, and possibly end the war in one step, if so... then the Genus will not last long against our Onslaught with or without support. We are all very angry right now. The Genus will not want to see me angry anymore since Halo is now fully upgraded and functioning properly after I fixed my Generator. "Narses looked up slowly already a witness of the ships massive firepower. Phantom looked at Adept strangely "Adept you've visibly changed after the battle" Adept nodded. "Its apart of our... history, after each battle a certain aspect of us grows. My eyes, and my claws were one, along with my tail, its very hard to explain but... it happened none the less.... I must now go and sleep for tomorrow." With that the two Terrans left Saurion to Utopia were the Battle for Sol was happening.

Phantom spoke softly to Narses "Adept... he's rather scary." Narses nodded. "He and SPQR are both very scary taking in the fact that they are extremely fast and easy to anger." Phantom thought for a moment, but she'd ask Narses when they got to Utopia...something rather personal she's wanted to ask for some time.

**Preview of Chapter 16**

Machinehr is now dead, Church the new dictator. Adept has finally matured fully into the full Slah'ke he was meant to be. The Overlords personal soldier, SPQR along with Adept share their sorrow with the Terran Empire they wish to help out. Greeny stands at the sidelines to watch the Union change into a war machine like no other ever seen in history. Walt assaults Proxima, will he be successful and take the home from the Slah'ke? And eliminate Adept, SPQR, Tomglomerate and Church in one blow?

What does the Overlord Ascendancy mean? Are the gods of the Slah'ke truly real? Is Machinehr still with them? Will Adept and SPQR convince Church to help?

John A. Howard now makes his move on the throne of the Kolari. Clever Trevor a shadow of a memory by now. A Kolari named Blue Ghost helps the Terrans out. Will John take over? Inferno plans to make his move on Walt, eliminating the threat to the Terran Empire, will the Terran in disguise succeed in his deed?

Tune in for chapter 16 of Slah'ke: Our War

## **Chapter XVI: Chaos amongst the Hero's**

One Year Later...

During the Invasion of Proxima, Walt was brutally murdered by the Terran known as Inferno. The following day, Inferno returned to the Empire as somewhat of a hero, but looked down upon by the Slah'ke. Then the Slah'ke shortly withdrew after John A. Howard ceased fire with the Terran and Plexxan empires. John was now the main man in the Kolari Star Empire.

Narses sat in Utopia, wondering about several things, when a black Zealot exited hyperspace and docked. This was a Zealot he's never seen before, let alone it's been an entire year since they've heard from the Union. A Plexxan named Prophet of Sin stood next to Narses, a bit shocked at the sight of a Zealot, then the letters etched in the ships sides was H A L O. Sins eyes widened he had heard of the Zealot through numerous channels but never saw the thing in person. He's also seen it on the Arena videos that Narses has showed him on what the Slah'ke have been up to for the past year. Sin spoke first "Is that what I think it is?" Narses nodded slowly "Yes, it is." he noticed two Slah'ke walk down into the Hallway, and enter the room where they were occupying. The one on the right, Narses recognized as SPQR requested to see Greeny, however the one on the left was heavily tattooed in several places. Sin looked a bit worried, but then his superior Duckman came from nowhere and noticed the two Lizards. SPQR and... who is this?"

The one Slah'ke stood silent and Duckman got a bit impatient waiting for the Slah'ke to answer, when he spoke, his voice was slightly familiar. "I am... just a body guard, nothing more Plexxan." Narses took note of the voice too, it sounded like Adept, but Adept had died... or that's what they told him. Narses had taken the group down to the surface, and he told Adept to stay behind for questioning, SPQR said relax in Slah'ke, and Adept had settled down the fire in his eyes gone he calmly followed Narses to where S117 and Speed Shot were, along with Narses' love Phantom. The Terrans offered a seat to him, but he refused. There was a certain... hate for them in his voice. S117 asked the first question: "What is your name?" The Slah'ke replied with "I have no name." Speed Shot commented "A lizard with no name? How interesting, such a rarity to see one of you without an honorable title." Phantom then mentioned something "These tattoos what are they for?" Adept kept an unmoved face and explained. "These are the symbols of my Elite status among the warrior classes. I am the Overlords body guard you could say, or perhaps just another soldier doing his duty in this world." Reaper, a former pirate noticed Adept and recognized him from the recent run in he had before he went back to Terran. Adept had noticed him, and began to lighten up. Reaper asked. "Well now, how have you been?" The Slah'ke' voice lightened up "I have been well. And I assume the same for yourself Reaper?" a note of care in his voice then Phantom spoke "Why is it you have contempt for us, yet you welcome Reaper with open arms?" He paused for a moment as Inferno entered the room immediately knowing who that was, as Adept noticed who Inferno was. Narses then asked before he could answer Phantoms question "Do you hate the Terrans?" The Slah'ke answered Phantom first, then Narses second. "Lady Phantom, I am very hateful of... brute tactics such as stealing the Unions glory for the head of Walt. As for the Terran Empire, most of its contingents I despise with all my heart." Narses now had a feeling about this Slah'ke "Did you know Adept?" Adept paused for a moment "know him? I am him." Narses spat out the coffee he just took from

Inferno. "The Terran Empire helped you out! Why do you hate us?!"

Adept turned and left then said. "Hate you? I don't hate you; I hate the ones who broke away from the Terran Empire. That is why I am here." The cloth on his sides were swept to the side revealing two swords. He let out a roar that shook the room, the door reinforced Steel was busted open, and flew out the door way, and leapt off a wall, rebounding three times before he landed in a run, the Terrans all ran after him with their weapons drawn, chasing after Adept, then a few explosions followed. Narses verbally swore at the explosion. "Adept wasn't kidding... damn our luck!" S117 rolled his eyes, and simply said. "It's always us...why us." The group of elite fighters where ambushed by thirty Terrans dressed in a blackish armor. They all screamed at the group below telling them that they'll die a fools death. The Leader jumped down and stood above Narses., he opened his mouth, but, instead of words a sword stuck out is mouth. The pink forked tongue of a Slah'ke appeared from behind, and then the angry face, of a very angry lizard screamed deafening. Then a second screamed echoed through the Halls. SPQR dropped down from above landing on another Human literally falling "through him" The Terran elite attacked in a fury of anger that they had been given by this betrayal, as if they didn't have enough problems now. The Last person was pounced on by Adept aggressively as he tore the man apart limb by limb with relative ease. Adept didn't have two swords, just one left, and he ran off into the darkness, you heard screams of Humans calling for help and a shot of blood flew past Phantom landing on SPQR's face.

Then a body flew out of the darkness, clearly the neck broken before it was thrown, they heard another roar of anger, and SPQR flew past them jumping through the air letting out a war cry. Greeny, now armed came from nowhere along with Duckman and urged the Terrans to leave the area. Too late. They were surrounded. Then Greeny heard the distinct clicking of Slah'ke claws on the marble floor. Except, it was a lot of them. And from the dark behind the Rebels a Slah'ke approached from behind. they growled softly, and lunged out at the same time in unison fighting gracefully with the Humans, three Slah'ke died in the process though.

SPQR stood over a dead human, and spoke to Adept whose face was half covered in human blood. "Adept, there is quite a few Humans wanting to kill the Emperor." Adept nodded slowly. SPQR then said "by law we are bound to this fight, you know it. they know it." Adept nodded, SPQR was still his commander. SPQR then spoke again "We will advance on these people. Adept tasted the air. "I say about ten thousand are nearby." SPQR nodded slowly. SPQR then left Adept to deal with the survivors, soon to be dead. The leader of the Slah'ke Elite detachment informed Greeny, and all he could do was nod, separated from the military they had to hold out, then Greeny noticed that none of the Slah'ke were carrying guns, but spears and swords. Greeny than noted there was no way out other than towards the enemy, so they buried themselves within, defending their ground now. Greeny then spoke "Councilmembers were slaughtered before my eyes; Dennis had sacrificed many of his people to get me here." Narses was in disbelief along with everyone else. Here it was always pitch-black, an advantage to these Slah'ke since the laws of gravity seemed to be irrelevant to them here.

Adept quietly entered the light carrying Dennis, and Naravar. Naravar a female was light for Adept to carry. He respected her bravery in the face of these opponents. Adept spoke softly to SPQR "I saved these two from a death. I will search for more

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kills." SPQR nodded, and Narses tried to stop Adept because he needed all the people here to defend it properly, but Adept was already long gone. Narses was with Phantom but Naravar woke up she looked a bit disorientated, and remembered a Lizard coming from nowhere grabbing her at the last moment. "Oh damnit." SPQR kneeled right next to her and spoke in a soft tone easy to understand and kind. "Do not move, your injuries are severe, and I have fixed them but it will need some time to heal." she nodded. then she spoke "The Slah'ke who saved me who was it?" SPQR paused "Adept." she muttered the name slowly.

### Chapter XVII: Hunters in the Dark

The Terrans who rebelled against the government patrolled the hallways. "Musty, I heard that delta squad was killed off by some Lizard elite soldiers..." Musty paused for a moment and spoke "Yes, I heard that too, but I don't think there are any Lizards here especially since the incident with that Adept who died in the blast of Walt's Self Destruct sequence of his ship." The other Terran nodded and walked off, and then the two others who just stood there and listened walked off. Musty stood in the light thinking about the claims of Lizards being here, but he doubted it, the Terrans had plans to go to war with them anyways. Musty heard breathing but then it stopped Musty swung around to try and spot the origin of the sound, but couldn't tell where it came from. Then moments later Musty was pulled into the dark dying of a swift death. His blood slowly crept into the light. Adept was grim as he did it, and he slowly moved on to find the others. "Stupid Terrans" he muttered. Adept found another group, five Terrans, he was angered by it. "Inconvenient!" he said. and ran into the light swiftly grabbing one and disappearing into the dark ones more and repeated it until two were left. They both had their flashlights on, the one on the left Kaspar got his leg sliced off and bled to death within moments, then the final one called Prime spotted a statue of a Slah'ke he spoke to himself "odd.." and turned around backing up towards it, when his back hit it, it began to move. But Prime was too late, he screamed out as he was taken to the top of the ceiling. Moments later the body made a splattering noise and it rolled into the light revealing a mangled corpse. Adept silently ran across the Palace searching out search parties slowly killing them off one by one, soon returning to the camp the allies had created to live in, Adept had slowly emerged from the darkness slightly doused in blood of his own and the enemies. Adept eyed the Plexxan he saved from before. He smiled slightly; she was not a coward, very rare in the human species among women.

Adept looked past her, seeing SPQR. "Sir, I have eliminated most of the parties." SPQR nodded, then another bomb shook the complex. The Slah'ke were the first to react, they all bolted away from the Center grabbing what they could, along with people. Adept turned around and growled, seeing Orfine... Womble showed his face grinning like a hungry beast. "Glad to be of service Allies." Adept looked back to SPQR he nodded, and Adept took five Lizards and ran off in the dark, them all emanating a roar that shook the entire building. Womble jumped down to speak to Narses and mentioned it "Those Slah'ke... they're rather loud." SPQR laughed, knowing Womble. "That's right. We are loud." The rest of the Slah'ke roared in happiness, which made stuff fall off the ceiling.

Adept and the five Slah'ke could be heard from miles away at the movement they were doing, their tails flailing in the air as they ran making them more streamlined, they stormed forward, Adept jumped up as they got to the door, and then the five others jumped up slamming the door open, revealing ten thousand angry Terrans. The five roared in anticipation for victory or Death, Adept landed right on some one and the Universes largest Slah'ke bar fight started.

### The End?

Transmission beginning.... Signal receiving... signal caught transmitting now... "Hello, this is Adept. I'm certain you've been either greatly or slightly entertained by this story., and well I hope you have, however, this is just the beginning of their War, and by far its not over yet... John. Watch your back."