

**Warrior-class Gunship *Broken Blade*  
Styx's new mobile headquarters**

*Thump thump thump*

Zakath's heavy fist pounded the door to the office in a quick efficient manner, intentionally designed to display the fact that he had little patience. It was a move designed to rattle and off-set whomever was within.

"Come in." A muffled male voice came from within the office, and Zakath grunted, slapping the release button.

The door whisked open, and the Barabel entered. The office was sparse, with only a small desk and three chairs dominating the room, with a few boxes piled up on the commander's side of the desk. And standing from behind the desk was the new commander of the operation- A thin and somewhat bony man, whose long hair was kept tied back in a ponytail, and his eyes- were not eyes at all.

At least not in the normal sense.

"Ah, you must be Zakath," The man smiled thinly as he gestured to the front of his desk. "Come on in, please."

"Yez. Greetingz, Commander," Zakath replied as he stepped forward, reaching the desk in three long strides, his hand extending a datacard. "My orderz."

"Commander?" The man raised a dark eyebrow at the title as he accepted the datacard.

"Nobody haz yet to explain the hierarchy of thiz operation," Zakath grunted as he met the man's unusual eyes- noting that his own glowing violet eyes were reflected back in the obsidian marble-like surface. "Commander will do for now unlezz you decide otherwize. You are... Emm Kay Ezz?"

"Yes, Mks," Mks nodded slightly as he popped the card into a datapad and reviewed the orders. "Yes, this matches up with what I'm told about you. Here, take this datapad, and follow me. I'll show you to our operational briefing room, and you can review the material on this new operation of ours while our team is assembling. I'll be conducting the introductory briefing within the hour. You know your role, I assume?"

"Yez," Zakath's lips curved up into a serpent's smile. "I am to serve as your second-in-command, or whatever title you chooze to give me, and I will overzee the interrogation of any prizoners."

“That’s the initial assignment, yes. Though I imagine circumstances may change as time goes on,” Mks’ smile widened slightly. “In any case, welcome to Operation Styx. Now come, let’s get prepared for the briefing and to meet our new team, shall we?”

“Lead the way.” Zakath said, inclining his head.

Mks nodded slightly and swept past Zakath, leading the way out of the office, with the huge Barabel falling into step just behind him. The two passed the next few minutes in a comfortable silence as the Barabel reviewed the information on Operation: Styx and the background leading to it.

“If I may ask, Commander,” Zakath said, his eyes still on the datapad. “What prompted the formation of this operation? My understanding is that we will be conducting cover-ups?”

“Among other things, yes,” Mks replied as he glanced back at the Barabel. “Cover-ups will be the primary objective of this operation, though I imagine not the only things we will be placing our skills to use on. The briefing I was given also emphasized joint operations with other Battle Teams in the future once our infrastructure is more solidly in place.”

Mks paused and slapped the release button on a door leading into a large empty conference room, and entered while continuing on with his words.

“As for what prompted the operation’s creation, there has been a recent spike in overt Force usage on Port Ol’val and elsewhere, enough that it threatens to expose a considerable amount of House Qel-Droma’s operations in the Dajorra system,” Mks said as he stepped up to the holoprojector and gestured to a plainly dressed man seated in front of it, who promptly began to tinker with the terminal. “Obviously, that cannot be allowed to continue. Hence, Operation Styx. Consider us a test-bed of sorts. If we’re successful on Port Ol’val, then our role will most likely expand to include a greater amount of Qel-Droman, and eventually, Arconan operations.”

“Ambitious,” Zakath noted as he watched the holoprojector come to life with interest, noting the various images that popped up as the man tinkered with it. “And judging from the images you are using, this operation is already in play?”

“To an extent, yes,” Mks nodded slightly in agreement as he turned to face Zakath. “Limited operations that we’ve conducted to showcase our potential to the Clan Summit. This won their approval for a full-scale test on Port Ol’val. If we succeed in this, then the sky’s the limit to what we can achieve.”

“Interesting.” Zakath said after a long pause, a slow smile touching his lips as he reached out with the Force. “Then I look forward to seeing what we can achieve... Commander. And now it seems our new people have arrived.”

“So they have.” Mks agreed with aplomb. “Let’s get ready for glory, my friend.”

“Let’z.”