

Trial By Consul

Sky Breach Base

Daleem

Kiast System

Commander Mauro Wynter awoke in a cold, dark cell. He shrugged his shoulders, uncertain on how he got there. There was soon a knock on the cell door as a woman slowly entered. "Good morning, Commander, how have they been treating you?"

Wynter knew the woman of course, it was the adjutant of Tython Squadron, Major Silvia Tanos. "This must all come as a surprise to you, but you have been here for some time now. You were injured on the mission to the Unknown Regions. Sadly, when we returned a large contingent of Odanite Expeditionary Force security guards were waiting for us. It appears our mission was not authorized and not strictly legal."

She finished with a smile, which she quickly removed from her face. "Consul Archenksova has brought you up on charges of treason for instigating open hostility with the Iron Throne without approval. Quaestor Alvinus and Aedile Iode defender your actions but a trial is being convened never the less."

Wynter rubbed his hands against his brow roughly. "And what do you think is the likely outcome? How do we stand?" asked Mauro. Major Tanos looked at him tentatively. "Well, for starters, the mission was a success and has raised morale within the OEF. They took it as a heroic stand against the Iron Throne and a valiant strike against our enemies. We took the fight to them for once. Tython Squadron are heroes in many eyes. If you seek clemency for your actions and admit wrongdoing you may be let off without prejudice."

The two sat for hours, discussing the actions of the mission and the pending trial. "When is the trial to occur?" asked Wynter. Tanos laughed lightly. "The trial is in one hour. They need to clear this off the docket immediately. It is raising issues with the OEF. It is becoming a political item the longer it stands unresolved."

Commander's Quarters

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The guards brought Commander Wynter into the Commander's Quarters, ringed by the defense counsel Major Silvia Tanos and the witnesses Maximus Alvinus and Len Iode. The Consul was sitting behind a massive wooden desk, surveying the crowd as his guards took their positions.

"Consul Archenksova, due to the makeup of this audience, can we remove the guards? The accused is not a threat or a flight risk. He has just come out of a medically induced coma after an engagement with the enemy." Tanos requested politely. Consul Archenksova nodded, and

the guards left the office. Commander Wynter took his seat and began in earnest. "Consul, humbly, I seek clemency for my actions. Under the circumstances we had actionable intelligence of enemy activity and we pursued it. I failed in not ensuring we had proper authorization from you. For that I state my guilt plainly."

The room remained silent as the Consul thought it over. Major Tanos and the Consul locked eyes for several seconds before she began. "Very well. I accept your plea. You will be fully pardoned but this will remain in your record."