

The defense of the Valneikian Spire was proceeding exactly as projected. Killiks were not exactly known for their tactical creativity. Insects like them had one strategy, keep throwing bodies at the enemy until one side was dead. This made dealing with them quite easy; especially when you have a hive of Geonosians to respond with in kind. So while the Ascendant Legion and the hive's forces attacked the Killiks head-on. The members of Opress Squadron and the 406th could attack from other angles and undermine the lines of Killiks.

However, being left to their own devices, meant that the members of Opress were free to execute some, off the books, operations. Including the continuation of the First Dreadbringer's last orders; Operation Cleanse.

This was the focus of the Second Dreadbringer. Having quickly grown bored of cutting down mindless drone after mindless drone, Aleister Mavros had pulled back some into the bulk of Ascendant Forces and began searching for a target.

Operation Cleanse. The final order of the late Wrathus. A secret operation handed down to the members of Opress Squadron, to continue the Epicanthix's personal mission to eliminate any disodents, traitors, or persons with connections to the Collective within the population of Aliso. A list of names had been left behind.

'I hold here a list. Left by the First Dreadbringer. One hundred names adorn it, one hundred men and women who need to die. They are traitors, a plague on the clan... Their presence and influence corrupts Aliso, ensuring that the Collective will live on. Find them, kill them... In doing so, you sow the seeds of control, both for the planet and for the Clan. In this way, you might become legends.'

This had been what Aleister had said to the assembled members of Opress upon taking control of the unit.

Now Aleister was moving among the lines of Ascendant Forces, searching for one man; Lieutenant Vitellius Otho. Commanding Officer of the 2nd Platoon of Assault Company Beta.III.d of Battalion Beta.III of Mobile Infantry RCT Beta of the Ascendant Legion. A minor officer, but

more importantly, an informant for the Collective. Now while the Collective had been soundly defeated in the Battle of Eos City, they had not been eradicated completely. As such, their agents continue to work against the Brotherhood.

Now this man had not done anything too grievous. Simply selling some minor information about the Ascendant Forces. In any other situation, this would have gone under the radar, or at worst, imprisoned. But unfortunately for Lieutenant Otho, his treachery had been discovered by Wrathus, and now his punishment fell to the dangerous sociopath Aleister.

The Zeltron hybrid stood alone, watching the man record the movements of his troops. On the surface, it simply looked like he was doing his job, reporting the progress of the battle. But Aleister knew what he was doing. And it made his blood boil. The Sith walked over to the traitor and called out to him.

"Lieutenant Otho!" Aleister's voice boomed over the din of battle.

"Dreadbringer!" The man snapped to a curt salute. "Sir!"

"Report Lieutenant." Aleister ordered while extending his hand, indicating for the soldier to hand over his datapad. The soldier hesitated. "Problem Lieutenant?"

Otho shifted on his feet. In his hand, was the greatest piece of incriminating evidence against him. And now the, arguably, most dangerous member of Plagueis's Summit was asking him to hand it over. He was in a lose-lose situation. Either he could hand over the pad and likely be killed for what was held inside, or refuse and definitely be killed for refusing a direct order. Sighing in resignation he handed the datapad to the Sith.

Aleister took the pad and calmly drew the deep azure dagger that hung from his belt.

"Very good." The Sith said with little emotion as he drove the blade through the lieutenant's throat and left him to bleed out on the ground.