



An Empire Reborn - Langy The Mutant Dwarf :: 2/20/01 ::

History Of Hiigara (Prologue)

The History of Hiigara From 0AL to 160AL:

Nine months AL: The first set of clones of the people that died on Kharak and in the Homeworld Wars were born on Hiigara. This was made possible by the invention of Cloning Technology in the last five years before the Mothership was launched. The Diamid saw the potential of this technology and had all of the Kushan people that were willing donate a sample of their DNA so that if that person died they could be cloned on Hiigara. At the bottom of the great Cryogenic Sleeping Chamber there was rigged a small set of vats that could possibly be used to make clones from the DNA samples, which were in a small vault at the bottom of the chamber or from the DNA sequences that were programmed into the computer. This first set of babies was only 50,000 large and every twenty years another set would come out that was 10,000 people larger.

15AL: The Beast Wars were fought. In this, the (then) mining kiith Somtaaw stopped an infection organism that was code-named "The Beast" that was ravaging the galaxy. It also led to great leaps in Hiigaran science, including the now-famous Helix Bundle, which allowed the development of small ion cannons, including those found on our old fighters.

25AL: The Kiith System was abandoned due to wars among the Kiith for land. The settlement of this conflict gave rise to the great Hiigaran Democratic Empire.

38-46AL: A civil war among the Bentusi was fought. It was the population of Unbound Bentusi against the much-larger population of Bound Bentusi. The Bound ones eventually won out but at a great cost: They lost most of their great technology, throwing them to just forty years ahead of the HDE and the Taiidan.

50-58AL: The Taiidan Imperialists and the Turanic Raiders savagely attacked the Republican Taiidans. They were beat back by the Hiigarans and the Republican Taiidans at great cost to both sides.

63AL: The great Time of Enlightenment began. In this time most of the technology that the Hiigarans have today started being looked into. This includes their new main fighter craft weapon, the Ion Pulse Cannon, which allows for our fighters to fire Ion Beams just as fast as they would Mass Drivers and do as much damage as an old heavy Ion Beam. It also includes our Ablative Armor, which we now have on all of our ships and the continuous fire Ion Beam, which is our main capital

ship weapon.

80AL: The first HDE Battleship, the Warlord, was built. It was as large as an old Explorer-class mining vessel and had more firepower than one of our current Dreadnoughts or Heavy Cruisers. It was decommissioned thirty years ago. Ten of these ships were built.

110A-118AL: The Imperialists and the Turanic Raiders attacked again, but this time with the help of the Bentusi. They took control of 3/4 of the Republican Taiidan Empire before stopping.

120AL: The Galactic Council was disbanded due to different views on the galaxy and fighting between the two highest member races.

140AL: The HDE started its major military buildup. It built so many ships that AIs needed to fly a good deal of them. The total number of ships that were built during this time is estimated to be 10,000 to 30,000.

160AL: The HDE Flagship Vengeance was built. It is currently the largest and most powerful warship in the HDE Navy.

Chapter 1 - The Battle For A System

The Segura Star System, 12 Light Years from Hiigara:

Twenty Hyperspace Windows opened in the Taiidan Imperialist owned system. For some unknown reason nothing came out. The windows were open for ten seconds and then closed. The Taiidan Sensor Manager was bewildered. His Proximity Sensors could find nothing. He began to think that this was some sort of trap...

The Bridge of the Assault Carrier Invincible:

"Commander, it appears that the Taiidan scum can't detect us. They are sending over a small scout wing that is all. The new cloaking system seems to have worked." The Invincible was the newest Hiigaran Democratic Empire carrier and it was crewed and defended by the best of the HDE Navy. The commander of the carrier, Th'lan Nabaal, was the best task force commander in the entire Navy.

"Good. Move the Battle Group into position. Be prepared to launch the Cloaked Fighters. We need to do this fast and furious."

"Aye, sir" was the Sensor Officers reply.

A young man, about 22, walked onto the bridge.

"Ah, good. Wing Commander Somtaaw, I was just about to call you down here. We need you to lead the strike wing on the Imperialist Defense Field Generator, here. You will need to use the new fighters on this one. They seem to have generated a field strong enough to stop an Ion Beam. We won't be able to hit them with that thing operational."

Wing Commander Artus Somtaaw was pleased. He was just about to suggest that very thing.

"I was thinking the same exact thing, Commander. Should I use my discretion on this one or do you have a plan on just how to pull it off?"

Commander Nabaal was pleased to see this kid's eagerness to go into battle.

"Use your discretion, I trust you that much at least. You are to launch in twenty minutes."

Artus then saluted and left. Twenty minutes later, the Sensor Manager reported that they had reached their destination. Th'lan headed over to the PA system and turned it on.

"All hands, battle stations! Launch Strike Wing Alpha! Let's do this!"

Wing Commander Artus Somtaaw's Cockpit

Artus Somtaaw was sitting in his cockpit, ready to take off in the new Specter MkVIII Cloaked Assault Fighter. It was the new special operations fighter and it was in every way as good as the new Blade MkXXI Heavy Fighter. It had the dual Ion Pulse Cannons, the dual Torpedo Launchers, the

excellent maneuverability, the Ablative Armor, and the great speed. It also had one of the new advanced cloaking systems and so was horrendously expensive. His wing of 32 CAFs was being prepped for launch. He turned on the engines and started taxiing to the launch bay, first in line, as always. Once he was in position, he turned on the cloak generator and waited for the rest of his squad to do the same. He saw them all disappearing and that reminded him to punch in today's sensor frequency code that allows him to see any HDE cloaked ship due to the way the cloak worked. Right at the twenty-minute mark he was given the signal to launch. He turned on the engine and gave it maximum thrust. He flew right out of the docking bay and headed straight for Military Parade formation.

When the entire wing was launched, he gave them their Formation Code, which kept the wing in formation even in high-g turns. With that, he headed for the center of the formation and locked himself in, right in the center of the Claw. Once the formation was set, he gave the order to head out. They moved off, straight for the Defense Field Frigate, torpedoes ready to fire. He pushed the comm. button.

"Strike Wing Alpha, you have weapons free, I repeat, weapons free. Break off and attack."

All of the fighters flew straight for the frigate and, once in range, fired off the Torpedoes. The field was useless against them. They headed straight for it and hit, repeatedly. After the Torpedoes were gone, they all started firing the Ion Pulse Cannons, hoping that some would penetrate the field. It seemed that this DFG was more heavily armored than the older models.

"Alpha 16-32. break off and reload. This doesn't seem to be working."

"Roger, Alpha Lead. Breaking off..."

The Taiidani forces seemed to be having a lucky day as they had already knocked out five fighters. They seemed to have faster turrets than ever before. The Fighters were not doing enough damage to the DFG with the IPCs. Hardly one in a thousand pulses would hit. However, luckily for the HDE forces, the newly rearmed fighters came back and fired the Torpedoes, which all hit and destroyed the Frigate, but not soon enough, as another six fighters were killed from the onslaught. There seemed to be a signal coming from the carrier.

"Alpha wing, break attack. An enemy Missile Destroyer is headed for you."

"You heard the man, break off attack. The new ones seem to be able to get a lock on us..."

"Roger, Alpha Lead, heading in for docking now." Artus headed in as well.

Bridge of the Assault Carrier Invincible:

"Commander, Alpha Wing has docked."

The Sensor Manager was always ready to state the obvious, especially when there was a large screen that said the same thing.

"Good. Get everybody ready to decloak. Have the Ion Cannon Frigates take out the Missile Destroyer. Tell the Assault Frigates to take out that wall of frigates over there. Have the Destroyers

and our friend Blockade the Heavy Cruiser attack that HVC of theirs. We need this to go as fast as possible. When the Missile Destroyer is down launch all strike craft and have them take out the other strike craft. You got that?"

He always needed to make sure the Communications Officer understood as she was prone to listening to what everyone else was saying.

"Yes, sir. Sending orders now."

Good. Now it's time to watch the fun.

"Helm, take us in towards that Carrier. We should be able to it and it's strike craft out easily."

"Aye, sir. Moving."

With these orders taken care of the Commander headed for his chair. He sat down and watched the light show.

Bridge of a Bentusi Warship, Two Light Years from Segura:

"Commander, our Taiidan allies are hailing us. They are requesting help. It seems that a Hiigaran Carrier Battle Group has attacked them. Their estimates say that they will lose this battle within the next ten minutes if they don't get help."

The Bentusi Commander, Kallha'Chusa, was displeased.

"Tell them that we are on our way. Helm, set a course for their position."

"Yes sir."

Bridge of the Assault Carrier Invincible:

The battle continued. The Taiidan fleet was badly damaged and down to only three Assault Frigates, the Carrier, and some fighters. The rest of the ships were destroyed, including the Heavy Cruiser. As the last of the Assault Frigates exploded a large hyperspace window opened with a familiar, but unwelcome, signature. It was that of the Bentusi. Since the Bound Bentusi took over they have become increasingly aggressive and so they allied with the Imperialist Taiidans and the Turanic Raiders. With their superior technology, they built warships of all types. This one happened to be one of their Destroyer class ships. It had four continuous fire Ion Beam cannons, multiple IPCs, and a few missile launchers. As it was exiting Hyperspace, the different weapons began to fire on the Hiigaran fleet. Th'lan was not pleased.

"This isn't good people. Get our Destroyers and Heavy Cruisers targeting that thing NOW! Have the Ion Beam Frigates flank it. Keep the Invincible and her strike craft attacking the carrier. We can't let this one get away."

The communications officer was frantic.

"Yes, sir!"

Th'lan sat up and began to take interest in this current turn of events.

On the tactical screen, which showed what was happening from a gods-eye perspective, there were many little red blips being chased by lots of little green blips. There was a large 3D representation of the Carrier and the Destroyer, both shaded red, and the Hiigaran capital ships, shaded green. The red carrier was starting to tilt on the display. After a few seconds, it disappeared and many small red blips flew out from it and then disappeared as well. The Bentusi Destroyer was taking a toll on the frigates but the Destroyers and the Heavy Cruiser Blockade were taking the hits. After a while, the Destroyer's representation started turning as well and then it started emitting red blips.

"Commander, it appears that the Destroyer is trying to evacuate. There are escape pods flying around everywhere!"

The Sensor Manager was shocked. He had never heard of the Bentusi ever abandoning a ship.

"This is most odd. Send out a salvage crew to pick one of them up. Perhaps we could get some information out of them."

Th'lan was not too pleased that they gave up that easily. He sighed and sat down.

Salvage Corvette Lockhart:

"Coming along the side of the craft now. Boarding team, be ready to get out and grab any Bentusi onboard."

The pilot of the corvette was his usual "I can boss you around because I'm the pilot" self again. There was a chorus of "Yup"s from the marine compartment. They were all ready to head in and grab whatever Bentusi was around. As the corvette docked, the laser drill began making a hole in the larger craft. It was about as large as a heavy corvette, almost one and a half Salvage Corvettes.

"All right, the door is open. Move out!"

About twenty seconds later the marines got back.

"There was only one on it. He says that he was the communications officer. His name is Kah'La. He also says that this corvette is going to be entering Hyperspace any minute. Let's go!"

"All right, grunty. Closing boarding hatch. It is closed, disengaging. We are free, heading back to the carrier."

The corvette got back and docked.

Bridge of the Assault Carrier Invincible:

"Commander, it appears that we have a live one. They are bringing it to the Interrogation room now."

The communication officer was always giving useful hints.

"Good. Send Artus Somtaaw over there now. We need to interrogate this prisoner."

"Aye, sir."

Just then, the Sensors Manager spoke up.

"SIR! The Destroyer, it's moving towards us on an intercept course! We don't have the time to move out of its way!"

Chapter 2 - The Defection

The Segura Solar System

As the Bentusi destroyer came hurtling through space towards the Invincible, a small contingent of frigates, 5 Ion Frigates and 3 Assault Frigates, started firing on the abandoned destroyer. The Invincible had no time to enter Hyperspace. The frigates weren't doing enough damage and the destroyers and the heavy cruiser had no time to aim at it. And then the head engineer of the Invincible had a stunning idea. She came rushing to the bridge as this came to her mind.

"Commander, I just got an idea that could stop this! We could just do some slight change in programming on the hyperdrive module and then we could simply make a stationary hyperspace window. We could put this right in the destroyer's path! It would make it head into hyperspace, wherever it goes it won't be going into us. What we need to do is fire off the module and it should make the destroyer either use it's own hyperspace module or be stranded in hyperspace!"

"Are you serious? Why haven't we done something like this before?"

"Well, sir, it was used as a shielding system before but it was deemed to much of a power hog to keep a window open for a long enough time to be effective. I already have my team working on the reprogramming now."

"Good. Once it is ready activate it. We can't have that thing hit our ship!"

"Yes sir."

With that Lieutenant Sarah LiirHra left the bridge heading back for the engineering section.

Interrogation Room of the HDE Assault Carrier Invincible:

The room was bare except for three chairs, a table, and a bright light. All three chairs were filled. One of these chairs was different, however. There was a strange-looking biped creature on it that resembled a Kushan but with gold eyes and hair. On this creature there was a strange headset and some strange brace lets and anklets. There was a strange lever on one wall.

"Now, Mister Gabon Harka, we want some information. Like why you are helping the Taiidan's, where is their main base, and what do you know about their plans for attack?"

"Do you really think that I would tell you these things? I would rather die!"

"All right. Lets do this the old-fashioned way. You tell me what I want to know and I leave you alone. You don't, I pull this lever. You decide."

"Do you really think that that scares me? I've had fuller threats from a baby!"

"Really, Mister Harka? Do you really think I was bluffing? Tell me what I need to know! Tell me why you helped these, these THINGS!"

"If you are referring to the Taiidans that is our business. If---"

"YOUR BUSINESS IS MY BUSINESS! If you think that you can get away with withholding information from me, you are sorely mistaken. Tell me what I want to know!"

"Your threats are more hollow than that empty skull of yours! You don't scare me and I will NOT give you classified information!"

"This is IT! I will not take this from one who helps the murderer of my parents! You will regret your decision!"

As Artus Somtaaw walks up to the lever on the wall the guard walks out the door. Artus pulls the lever up to about half way. The Bentusi in the chair suddenly is lit up as four thousand volts of electricity flows through his body. Artus holds the lever there for ten seconds and then lowers it to about a centimeter from the off position.

"Now do you think that my threats are hollow? Tell me why you are helping the Taiidan scum!"

"You, you are hurting me! I will tell you if you just stop the pain! It courses through my veins! It hurts, it maims. Stop it and I will tell!"

Artus walks over to the lever and puts it in the off position.

"Now tell me what I want to know! Why are you helping the Taiidan scum?"

"We are only helping them because it is you that they are fighting. We are only allies with them because we too are being killed and maimed by your people! You come in your warships, kill all the people in the guarding fleet, and then scorch the skies on all of the planets in the system! You kill all, even civilians! I am sure you know this but I tell you all the same because you ask for what I know and that is it! Your people attack us without warning, without a message of war! You simply appear in one of our civilian systems and launch your atmosphere deprivation devices, just as the Taiidans used on Kharak! You are just as bad, no, worse, than them. You kill everything in the system with no regrets. You kill everything on the planets without a second thought. You kill hole worlds as if it was just a game. You have no respect for people. You have no respect for life. You only have respect for yourselves. You claim it is to reclaim your empire but an empire cannot live on dead worlds. You claim the worlds you destroy have a virus on them. In fact, your ship is probably launching your planet killing bombs now. You simply maim, kill, and move on, killing the next thing you meet up with. I cannot understand why my own race, the Bentusi, helped you reclaim Hiigara. This was one of the reasons your race was exiled. You killed all you encountered unless they offered help and then you kill them after they give you help. Your entire race should have been destroyed. Why do you think the Hiigarans at the Great Nebula, the ones that call themselves the Kadeshi, attack all that enters? Did you think it was for the protection of their race? No. It's for the pleasure of killing those they don't need. Their speech 'Will you join or will you die' was your race's main motto for the entire time your race started forming an empire. Now you do the same thing except you just kill, you don't give them an option. The Unbound Bentusi were foolish. They had thought that after three thousand years of isolation you would have changed. They even talked the council into making a law that states that we can't tell any Hiigarans the truth. Most races thought

that it would harm you if you knew the real truth about your 'empire', that it was actually just a large killing ground? You didn't even kill the people honorably. You dragged them out from their systems with your salvage corvettes and took them to Karos. Do you have any idea why it is called the Graveyard? Most say it is because a large battle was fought there. That isn't true. You dragged your victims to Karos and bled the air from their ship slowly, letting them slowly suffocate to death. You even went to such lengths as to give them enough food and water for them to last for three weeks as the air slowly leaked out. You even recorded most of them and played them for your people as a form of entertainment. I am most grateful that you have evolved to not do that anymore. The Taiidan Empire was. but at least they didn't kill people for the fun of it. The only reason you were allowed to come back was an agreement in the inner Council that was kept secret from the rest of the galaxy. They would let you come back if you were not helped in any way unless you paid a specified fee for a service. If you were helped by anyone without a fee then the council would exile you again. If they had known you were to do this again they would have burned your planet a long time ago."

It took Artus a long time to absorb this. It was the complete opposite of what the Bentusi had said before. But that would make sense as they were just trying to get rid of the Taiidan Empire. But he couldn't think these blasphemous thoughts. It had to be a lie. It had to...

"You.. must... be... lying. This can't be true. It goes against all that I was taught..."

"Yes, it does. But you were taught that by people that were taught the way you were. Wrongly. Most races either forgot your past or chose not to interfere with you. They had thought that you wouldn't revert to your old ways. But they were wrong. They were all wrong."

"I DON'T BELIEVE YOU! SHUT UP YOUR BLASPHEMOUS TALKS! SHUT UP!"

Artus ran to the lever and flipped it again, this time all the way. He held it there for over two minutes as Gabon screamed in pain. He stopped screaming thirty seconds after he flipped it. After this time Artus fell to the floor, crying.

"Oh, Sajuuk, what have I done... What have I done."

He cried for seemingly an eternity longer.

Bridge of HDE Invincible:

As the interrogation went on the Bentusi destroyer moved forward, faster and faster, towards the Invincible. When it reached three hundred meters from the ship a large hyperspace window opened in front of it. Unlike a normal one, which moves up and around the ship, this one stayed still as the destroyer moved into it. As it moved into it, it disappeared to cries of joy from the crew of the battle group. Interestingly, nobody could ever pull this off again without the ship coming out of hyperspace a second later. Some believe this is because the Bentusi ship was unmanned or it didn't have enough energy to power the module. Most accept this theory. Forty minutes after Artus Somtaaw entered the bridge.

"Ah, good. How did the interrogation go?"

"The stupid Bentusi wouldn't tell me anything. He just kept repeating that he wouldn't tell me anything. In the end the interrogation killed him.

"This is too bad. We might have gotten some information out of him."

"Yes, but he refused. He was very stubborn."

"Yes, I understand. It must have been a hard time for you."

"Yes, it was. Do you have a need for me now?"

"No, we already fired off the Atmosphere Deprivation Devices on the planets. The virus will be no more."

"What virus, Commander? I had thought our mission was to take over this system in the name of Hiigara."

"Yes, that is our objective but our primary one was to destroy the source of a virus that can travel through space and metal. It is causing many deaths in our trade ships. This battle group is one of the few that has been armored against this threat."

Artus was struck back by this. How could the Bentusi have known that this would happen?

"Huh, I can understand why I wasn't told of this. Now, Commander, could I have some leave to visit the Lucky Shot to see my girlfriend? I haven't seen her this entire patrol and we have been on essential comms. only so I couldn't talk to her."

"Yes, of course. Just take the shuttle that is heading there to give them some more ammo. It should be leaving in ten minutes."

"Thanks sir!"

With that Artus leaves the bridge in a happier mood than earlier.

Captain Jane Manaan's Quarters, the Luck Shot:

In the middle of their love making Artus suddenly starts thinking about what the Bentusi had said. He suddenly lost the mood that he was in and stopped.

"Hey, what's wrong? You never just quit before and you look pale."

"I'm just thinking about what the Bentusi said when I interrogated him. It was scary."

"What do you mean? I thought that he didn't say anything."

"Well, that's not exactly true. In fact, it isn't the truth at all. He told me that we aren't taking over systems. He said we are just killing them, scorching the planets. He told me that in our races past we did the same thing, only worse, and that's the reason we were exiled. It was never the Taiidans trying to take over our empire. It was them trying to stop us from killing them. He told me we did all these evil things. And I didn't believe him. Then he told me we were scorching the planets here.

We weren't taking them over to better the empire. We were just killing them. And I got mad and I killed him. I murdered him in cold blood. I fried him on the top setting for two minutes. I can't believe I did that, but I didn't believe him and I didn't want to keep hearing that. So I killed him. Then I went to the bridge and told the Commander he didn't say anything. And he told me that we scorched the planets in the system. We killed all those non-combatants. It just isn't right.."

"Are you serious, Artus? Your talking blasphemy! Do you have any idea what the laws are against traitorous thoughts? If you tell ANYONE these things your thinking you'll be killed along with who you tell! If you keep saying these things I'm going to have to leave you!"

"I'm sorry, but I can't just forget what I've been told! Everything that he told me makes sense! He couldn't have just made that up on the spot! He just couldn't have!"

"SHUT UP! I told you, I can't have you saying these things. Get out of my room if you're going to say them. Get away from me. I don't want to go down with you!"

"Please, I can't help it. It was just so convincing. I really shouldn't have erased the recording..."

"Oh, Sajuuk, help him! He needs to be cleansed of these foul thoughts! We can't have these thoughts in his head or he will surely get himself killed!"

"Please, stop. I will try to stop these thoughts but it is hard. What he said was so convincing now that I think about it, yet it goes against all that I have been taught. I don't know what to believe!"

"Then don't believe any of it! Keep it out of your mind and just do your job! We can't have our pilots thinking like this!"

"Oh, Sajuuk, I can't. I just can't."

"If you continue like this then I suggest you leave. Leave and don't come back."

"I just can't help it, Jane. It just keeps flowing through my mind I can't get it off of it now. I don't know what I'm going to do..."

"Then you're going to leave, and you're going to leave now. And don't come back because I'm not going to be here for you."

"Then I will go. I can't clear my head from these thoughts."

Artus then gets dressed and leaves, taking one last look at the naked Jane Manaana.

The Invincible's hanger control room: The sensors in the hanger detect unauthorized movement near one of the crew's personal fighters. The warning light turns on and a beeping sound starts emerging from the console. As the movement gets closer and closer to the fighter the sound gets louder. Eventually a different warning light turns on as one of the fighters' doors is opened and shut. Upon closer inspection it was the same one. A short time later another warning light turned on, this time that of an unauthorized movement of one of the fighters. And lastly a loud blare sounded across the entire ship as an unauthorized fighter launch occurs.

Chapter 3 - The Skaarlot Mission

Bridge of the HDE Invincible:

There were sirens blaring across the entire ship. Somebody had made an unscheduled launch in one of the crew's personal fighters. This didn't look very good.

"Commander, we have finally been able to isolate whose ship it was that left. It was Wing Commander Artus Somtaaw's."

"Damn. Find Commander Somtaaw and inform him of this."

"Uh, sir, that could be a problem as we can't seem to find him. I think that was him in that fighter."

"Why would he defect? That isn't like him. He's one of the most patriotic people in the entire ship."

"Yes, sir. I don't get it either. But what about the ship, sir? We can't seem to raise it on any comm. channel."

"Send out a small EMP probe task force. Maybe we can take him out without hurting him."

"Good idea. Dispatching probes now."

Four small ships similar in design to the old Taiidan probes from the Homeworld Wars but with larger engines and a small array attached to the front were launched from the carrier and headed straight for the fighter. AS they got close the fighter sped up until it reached maximum speed and then a strange blue gate appeared in front of the fighter and enveloped it. The probes flew right to the fighter and then stopped, there target gone.

"Sir, it appears he had a small Hyperdrive Module attached to his fighter. It has escaped us."

"DAMN! Retract those probes and get me Admiral Sirhaa Somtaaw. We need to tell him of this."

"Roger. Calling him now."

On the main view screen a middle aged man appeared.

"Ahh, if it isn't Commander Th'lan and his battle group finally reporting on what happened."

"Yes, we are sorry for the delay but we are sending out the exact information as we speak. The main reason we called is because one of our officers defected and entered hyperspace in a fighter before we could catch him. He was one of my best men."

"Hmm. Don't worry about that now. I'll handle that. How did the mission go?"

"Very well. We lost two Assault Frigates and a single Beam Frigate as well as some fighters but most of the pilots successfully ejected. All in all we lost forty of our men, thirty on one of our frigates that had no time to launch escape pods. All of the Taiidans in the system are dead. We caught one Bentusi alive and we interrogated him but he didn't tell us anything and died from the

information extraction procedure. One thing to note is the same person that served as the interrogator was the same as the one that defected."

"Interesting. We will keep on a lookout for him. Now we need you to stay in that system and move under normal thrusters to an area of space a few AUs on a positive XYZ vector. Once there we need you to jump into the Skaarlot System. This should take about two weeks. We need you to jump from here as that is where the Taiidan base that you will be attacking usually gets reinforcements from."

"Aye, sir. Is that all?"

"Yes it is. Good luck and Godspeed."

With that said the image disappeared to be replaced with a tactical map of the system.

"Helm, you heard the man. Set your course. I'm going to be in my room if you need me."

Th'lan leaves the bridge and his number one, So'kar Mana'an, took over.

Two Weeks Later:

The small fleet finally reached the location. It was an area with a large amount of asteroids and dust around it. It was also a very good place to hide as the asteroids and dust clouds fogged the sensors, which hadn't evolved as fast as the other Hiigaran technologies. At the specified time the fleet entered hyperspace bound for the Skaarlot system.

The Skaarlot System:

As the fleet exits hyperspace sirens start to blaze as sensors come on line. An enormous Taiidan fleet surrounded the small battle group...

Bridge of the HDE Invincible:

"My, god. They must have sixteen Heavy Cruisers. Four of them alone could destroy us. We don't stand a snowball's chance in the Great Desert against them. If we even tried they would fry us before we could take out a single frigate. We should surrender."

The other officers on the bridge were listening to Commander Th'lan talk. They silently agreed and then voiced their opinions.

"Yeah. We can't win against that."

"We don't have the firepower to even try to stand up to them."

"We're doomed..."

Everyone on the bridge seemed to agree with these statements. They seriously couldn't defy them and still live.

"Get me a comm. line to them. We need to negotiate the terms of surrender."

"Aye, sir. Line open."

As the Sensor Officer pushed the buttons on the control panel a view of a Taiidan officer. He seemed to be waiting for something.

"This is Commander Th'lan Nabaal of the HDE Assault Carrier Invincible. We would like to negotiate terms of surrender as we cannot stand against this force."

At the mention of "surrender" another comm. window opened. It was Commander Ortus Shir of the Heavy Cruiser Blockade.

"What are talking about, Commander? You will actually surrender to these, these barbarians!? I can't believe this, you're talking about surrender of a carrier to them! We can not let this be. All ships loyal to Hiigara, ATTACK!"

The Blockade and about three fourths of the Battle Group attacked the carrier. Over the comm. link there were shouts of "FOR HIIGARA!", "DIE, BLASPHEMOUS SCUM, DIE!" and other shouts against the crew of the carrier. Even on the inside there was a small fight among the gunners. Some targeted the ships that were helping the Invincible and others fired on the ships helping Blockade. Fighters were launched from the Carrier, swarming the Heavy Cruiser. They fired off their torpedoes and their IPCs. The battle waged on. Hiigaran frigates were destroyed by other Hiigaran frigates. And the battle waged on. Hiigaran fighters attacked Hiigaran fighters. And the battle waged on. Hiigaran destroyers attacked Hiigaran destroyers. And the battle waged on. A Hiigaran Heavy Cruiser attacked a Hiigaran Carrier. And the battle waged on. Hiigaran corvettes attacked Hiigaran corvettes. And the battle waged on. Hiigaran ships were destroyed by Hiigaran ships. And the battle waged on. Hiigaran fought Hiigaran. And the battle waged on. Brother fought brother, sister fought sister. And the battle waged on. And it continued until a Hiigaran destroyer fired on a Taiidan Destroyer. And then the battle stopped as Hiigaran ships blew up everywhere. The only Hiigaran ships that were left were the ones that had wished to surrender.

The battle ravaged the group. They were down to five Assault Frigates, three Ion Frigates, a single Destroyer, some strike craft, and the carrier. All of the ships were heavily damaged. The silence after the battle was deafening. Nobody would speak as what they had done dawned onto them. They had killed their own people. They had killed their friends. Their relatives. Their significant others. Everybody was in shock at what had happened. It was silent for over ten minutes before someone spoke. That someone was Commander Th'lan Nabaal.

"We have killed our own fleet. We have killed our brothers, our sisters. We have killed those who we loved. We killed the ones that we need the most. We killed our friends, our relatives. Some even killed their children. But the important thing is to survive. That is what we will do. We will survive. We will surrender to the Taiidans and have them do whatever they want to do to us. But we will survive. If they kill us as we surrender, we will still survive. The name of this ship symbolizes that undying will to survive. Our will to survive is what will keep us alive. If we forget, even for a second, then we are lost. Never forget that will you had today as it is what binds us as a people. If we forget our will to survive, then what's next? Our lives. That is what we would lose without this will. That is what our comrades that attacked us lost. That is what would have happened to us if we had lost it. Do not falter on the path of life as this will help you lose your will to survive. If any of you lose that will, then I pity you, as you will never know the true love of life until you live a full life. When you are an old man, when you have seen everything you wanted to see in life, then you

can lose the will. But not today! Today we will not die. We will not go out in the black of the night! We will stand up for our life! If the Taiidans want us to die, so be it! We will not go down without a fight if that is what they want. But we will do it on our terms! This is not the place for a fight and it is not the time. It is the time to surrender. All of our ships are badly damaged and need to be fixed before we go into hyperspace and we can't activate the cloak. So we will surrender. But we will not lose the will to survive!"

His speech had raised the entire crew's spirit, as well as that of the rest of the fleets, and even that of the Taiidans. He had been transmitted on all frequencies and in all languages. There was a great cry of agreements coming from across the fleet and even from some of the Taiidans. Then another voice broke through. This one was very commanding. Much like the leader of a people.

"You would make a good politician, Commander Nabaal. I believe that we have some negotiations regarding your surrender. We would like to make them inside the outpost, during dinner. You and five of your crew are invited to come."

"We accept. We will come to it in an unarmed shuttle."

"Good. I can't wait for this."