



STORY # 7

-Jehrureihgrlhtlorpt – said the alien, it was followed by a small murmur in the public. In the translator’s booths, someone gasped. 15 seconds later the crowd was shocked, how was that even possible?

March 4, 2897, Interstellar Criminal Court, Solar Federation c. Klmehtyr. It was the trial of the century.

Klmehtyr was the most wanted space smuggler that had ever existed. The most shocking fact of that trial was not that Klmehtyr had been caught in ambush at the exit of Saturnus with a spaceship full of neutron weapons, the most shocking fact was that the Solar federation had agreed in full to prosecute him. For a long time, everyone in the galaxy had thought that the Solar Federation hadn’t worked properly since Neptune finally got its independence from China and was admitted as full member of the Federation. They were no easy times; Earth had lost almost all its colonies, and only the Americans kept its classic positions in the moon and thriving mining community in the asteroid belt. The Chinese were avid to obtain a new colony in the Solar system, and for the first time Earth’s hegemony was at risk.

The West Martian empire had been gaining importance since they smashed the April revolution, and now they had even put a foot on earth. When Emperor Jehruk married the crown princess of Norway. When the Emperor died her daughter Empress Jehrure came to the throne under the regency of widowed Empress Maud, who by then was already absolute ruler of Norway. For the first time ever an earth country was being ruled from space, and after Empress Maud death everyone assumed that Norway would just become a colony of the West Martian Empire. A colony on Earth!!!

The alien looked at the public, he remained silent for a couple of seconds while enjoying the shocked faces of the audience. When he continued everyone in the room was on

the verge of hysteria. How could that be true? The alien smuggler was probably just lying to get out of the trial. Was the solar federation really at risk?

All the eyes were on the Martian prosecutor. He was trying to pretend that the situation was under control. The American and European prosecutors sitting on his left were staring at him. On his right the prosecutor of the Kingdom of the Great Red Spot. According to the sitting order it should be the prosecutor of the Socialist-Melenchonist Republic of Northern Mars, but it was better to avoid conflicts between the former French trading post and the rising empire, so the seating order had been altered.

The alien was just about to resume the history about how the Martian Empire was piling up on weapons. It was clear since at least two years ago that a new war was unavoidable, there hadn't been a Solar war since the great decolonization war, and that war had put the whole system on the verge of collapse. It has been clear that that was something that could not happen again. There had been a meeting last December at the ONU where the earth had agreed to not respond to the mutual defense clause with Northern Mars, if the Empire was to fulfil its wish of controlling the whole planet, the northern Martians were on their own. That deal had been forced at the ONU by Empress Maud under threat of total war. That was thought to calm down those Martians. Mars for Martians. But the fact that the Empire was stocking so many weapons showed that they had other plans, they were not going to blow up its own planet.

The alien was now relating how a Martian Empire representative approached him on a space station at the border between the Martian Empire asteroid belt and the American asteroid belt. And then the doors were opened. At first the audience was not aware, only the judges who were sitting facing the door saw the scene. Majestically Empress Maud was entering the room. It was a violation of all the court proceedings, first no one

was allowed to get in or out during sessions, and only prosecutors were able to represent its states.

The room was now in complete silence watching the Empress slowly approaching the front of the room.

- This Trial is over – She announced while looking at the judges. A troop of Martian soldiers entered the room. The public remained on their seats but the room was now filled with screams and loud conversations.

No one was going to challenge the empress, not even the Northern Mars representative.

- Martian Empire is now the sole ruler of Mars, also we shall have exclusive rights over the asteroid belt and full rule over all the Scandinavian countries of earth... The empress kept forming its demands. The war had finally started.

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