

VORZT

THE BENT FOSSILS PART 2

St Talzon watched his soul as it swirled around endlessly confined and restrained within the matrix cage. His eye's had recorded the torment, his mind almost gone and reality had succumbed to a void of sublime acceptance of his fate. As a prisoner his only right was not to die, to this end his tormentor had removed his soul and imprisoned it inside a stasis orb, his body remained alive but only enough for his mind to contemplate an eternal damnation. His only visitor had been his capturer, who would make the trip down to the lower vault to remind his failing mind as to why he was here and not back upon the home world watching his family grow and prosper.



St Talzon had protected those memories of his family well, the last refuge deep within the fortress that was the only sanity amongst an ever encroaching void. His only crime had been his association to his ARK Prelator and friend, and since his lord had not been captured he had become a revenge made physical.

“Come we have not got all day, if he senses us we are finished and all of this for nothing. If you get the chance consign the black slug to the divine and free the wretched from his vile assertions. I don’t want to see his face, so you will have to do it yourself. Good the matrix is holding we are concealed.”

Three legions had teleported through the firewall and had taken out the sentry guarding the vault. You wanted to be there, with them as they looked upon your friend still encased inside the matrix cage but the risk of detection to great so you had entrusted the mission to your capable legions. The bridge was alive with optimism as the worm broke the matrix and the live feed relayed the retrieval of St Talzon.

“Don’t forget the orb.” You shouted to the legion activating the portal. The adept had snatched it up soul essence still swirling inside its containment field. The shunt had collapsed and the matrix destabilised.

“Quick get out now.”

A look at St Vidiance was all it took and Vorzt was already starting to oscillate between matter and particles as she spun up her chameleon drive and shunted herself into the matter stream that would take her to the far side of the system in an instant.

You had gone down to med bay and watched as your friend lay outstretched and inert, the task of infusing his soul essence now underway.

“The slime still lives, I know you wanted to end his torment, still you have your friend and that is something. He will hate you all the more, but he will live a little longer in the knowledge that you had taken back his prize and revenge.

Re captured St Talzon.

Crew moral plus 1

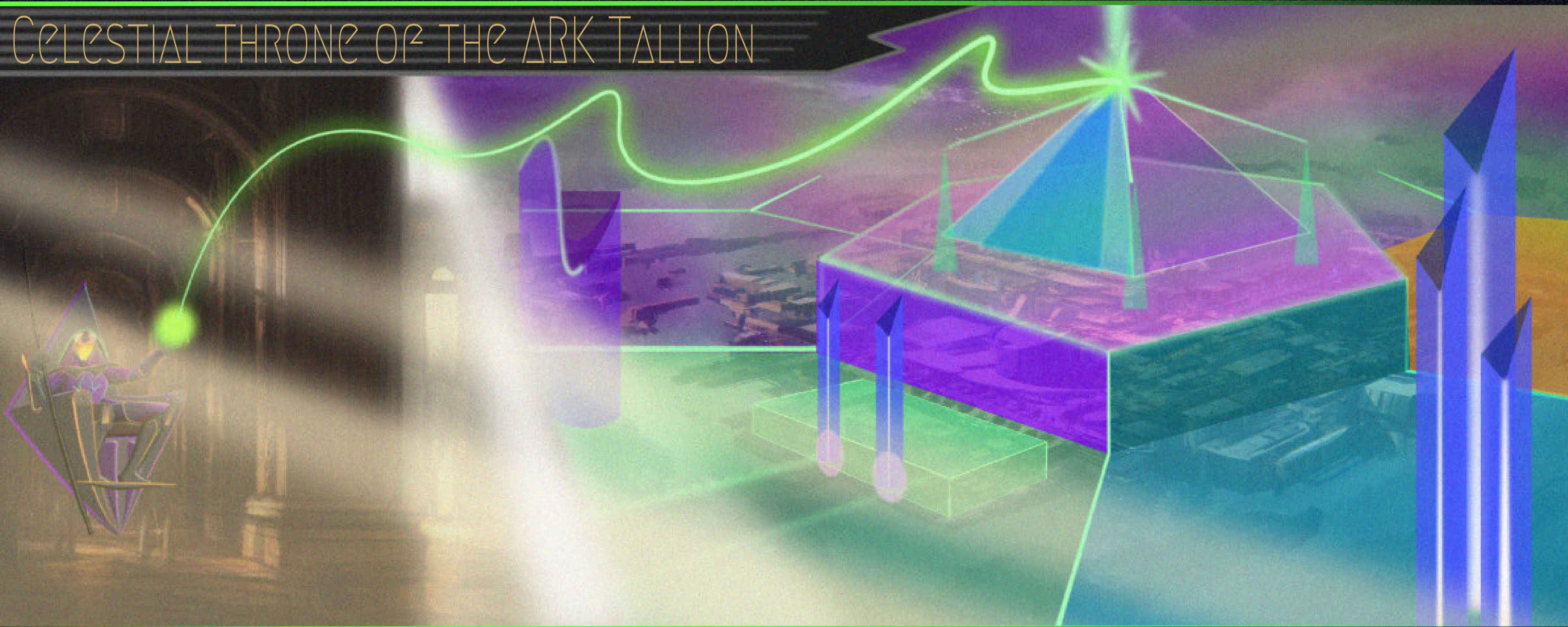
Loyalty plus 1

System authorities are hunting you.

Vorzt had released a decoy projectile in an effort to disguise her exit. System authority ships had already locked on to the decoy and were in pursuit. Vidiance was well ahead of them the micro jump had brought them upon the dark side of the smaller sibling suns dead crushed core and he had already plotted a jump into the void stream effectively escaping without a fight.

“See the rodent might not like him, but his skill is second to none. I suggest we skirt the outer dominions and risk the hording marauders before taking our trade and delivering the med cell to the Zarion.

CELESTIAL THRONE OF THE ARK TALLION



The presence had brought Klawtoss out from his slumber, a sleep that he had initiated to avoid detection. He was hidden cloaked and totally invisible to the shapes that sought audience with the ARK Tallion. The being that had awakened him entered the throne room and Klawtoss was now fully awake and recording.

“Illumion ARK the Kolstom has been destroyed and we are told that nothing remains.”

The sound in his head had started to vibrate, a pain that was already pressing against his deformed skull. It abated and had become an annoying consistent high pitched hum. The ARK shifted on the throne but Maluce would never wish to see his gaze, he had only once ever been allowed to catch a glimpse of the Tallion face, was it a face, could that describe it? No he had no words for what he had seen all those cycles ago. But he remembered, yes he would not forget, could never forget the pain that he had felt in his head as the Tallion had revealed itself to him. The news of the Divines ascension had prompted the revelation and Maluce had wished that he had sent in one of his subordinates to inform the ARK of his brother's demise.

The hum in his head had formed a sentence.

“What of the void seeker?”

“Illumion ARK we are told that he is no more.”

“Yet you have doubts, I can see them floating in the primitive liquid that you call consciousness.”

“Yes my ARK, the vessel we sent is questionable, not fully under our dominion but a trader of the outer colonial worlds. Ought we not to question the validity?”

Maluce wanted to rub his twisted knurled skull but any sudden movement might draw the attention of the sentry and that would not do at all.

“Send an agent of the Astrolbion to infiltrate this vessel and determine that the void seeker is no more.”

Klawtoss watched from his hidden crevice as the shape called Maluce nodded and left the chamber. He then shut himself down until the time when he would scurry out into the ARK and despatch a small coded pictogram that would use quasar protons to mask its journey to the master so far away.

Karina had done the impossible; she had infused the soul of her father St Talzin back into his vessel. You had watched as she had used all of her skills and knowledge to free your friend from a torment that you ought and wished to have taken.

“Don't go there; you have carried the blame for too long. Talzin was unlucky and his loyalty unwavering, he had pushed you into the only escape pod and you had blacked out.”

Karina had told you that it would take time before he was again whole.

“No one else could have done what she has just achieved; I know that you are not ready to forgive yourself for pushing her away after you had told her that her father had been captured. She might be smug and all knowing but she has saved your friend and even I can see that she carries a persona that was simply not there when you had taken her on Garris V”

Your mood had changed, a subtle shift towards the light of youth, your aura now emanated a soft hue rather than the harsh boundaries of murky soiled light. The brooding had also stopped and the good ship Vorzt was slowly becoming the home that had been denied you all those cycles ago.

The remaining five survivors of the Klostom had been brought up to your private cabin. The empire must never know that they had been saved, as far as the ARK Tallion was concerned all hands were lost and the ship destroyed to make certain that no possibility of contamination would ever arise. You knew that if they were to be surrendered then they would never be allowed to go back to their lost lives, the retrieved logs told a tale of how the Klostom was testing a new bio mass weapon.

Two decks down St Karina sat brooding at her terminal. She had discovered that one of the rescued crew from the Klostom was a vile traitor and responsible for her father's capture and imprisonment. The encoded data block that she had found carefully hidden inside the Degraded Vodyani's vessel had told her that the once trusted agent of her house had played them for fools. She remembered the Kroot as he strutted around the atrium and swore his allegiance to her father, that was a long time ago and she had been no more than an incubator. Now the Vodyani mucus was up there in the commander's cabin, she wanted to confront him, to drag him to the nearest air lock and flush him into the void. But he knew things, things that would reveal how she had unwittingly assisted in the death of an entire planet. The snake had been a spy for the fallen saint all along and no one had had the slightest suspicion. Fortunately he did not know that she had

acquired knowledge of his treachery and that would mean that she could take her time in disposing of the black slug posing as divine essence.

Talusa came in, smiled and sat on the closest table; she was going on about her dreams, Karina had also had strange dreams where she had confronted a door to an as yet unknown room. She wanted to open it to push against it but the soft voice had said "No not yet, but soon."



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Colin Foster. 2019