

THE MADNESS OF CHARTRULEAN
A Gardeka Story

S1:E13
"RED TANKS AND TERRIBLE EYES"

Written by

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TMOC EPISODE 13: RED TANKS AND TERRIBLE EYES

MAGOGOSO ARRIVES AT ASTREUS

[Alarm sounding]

HAVELION
That's the perimeter alarm.

[Distant yelling]

CHARTRULEAN
The guards have someone.

HAVELION
Is that Mago?

[Doors opening, shuffling feet]

MAGO ARRIVES AT ASTREUS

CHARTRULEAN
What's going on?

GUARD
We found this man at the perimeter.
Says he's a friend, but doesn't
look to be in his right mind.

CHARTRULEAN
Bring him inside, quick. He needs
medical attention.

GUARD
We have strict orders to--

CHARTRULEAN
This man is a friend. I will take
responsibility.

[Dragging footsteps]

CHARTRULEAN (CONT'D)
Set him down here.

MAGOGOSO
This is very grand indeed! I like
your house of blasphemy.

CHARTRULEAN
What are you doing here?

MAGOGOSO

I don't remember. Mind if I stay a while?

CHARTRULEAN

You could get into trouble.

MAGOGOSO

I'm already in trouble.

CHARTRULEAN

Because of me?

MAGOGOSO

(suddenly afraid)

No. Don't let me in. Send me away. Kill me.

CHARTRULEAN

What's wrong with your eye?

MAGOGOSO

You tell me.

CHARTRULEAN

Your right eye is drifting downward.

(yelling)

Borsha!

[Running footsteps]

BORSHA

What's going on?

CHARTRULEAN

Wake Shan. We need to move him to the infirmary.

MAGOGOSO WAKES UP IN THE INFIRMARY

[Medical sounds]

SHAN (V.O.)

Look at this slob. He's gotten so fat. To think I used to find him attractive. Of course that was very long ago, when we were young. And before we became separated by all these nasty politics. Our job was to protect the Etruvian. But you drove your wedge in too deep.

(MORE)

SHAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Magogoso...what trouble have gotten
yourself into?

[Heavy breathing. Magogoso waking.]

MAGOGOSO
Am I dead?

SHAN
I wish.

MAGOGOSO
It's been a long time. You look
so...old.

SHAN
What are you playing at?

MAGOGOSO
What do you mean? Where...where am
I?

SHAN
You should be grateful that
Charturlean stuck his neck out for
you. If it were up to me, you'd
have been left out there in the
gutter.

MAGOGOSO
I still have no idea what ever I
did to offend you.

SHAN
Nothing. I just never liked you.

MAGOGOSO
Liar.

SHAN
Uh, huh. Your fever has gone down.
That's good.

MAGOGOSO
How did I get here?

SHAN
You don't remember anything?

MAGOGOSO
No.

SHAN
 What's the last thing you can
 recall?

FLASHBACK - MAGOGOSO TRIES TO REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED

MALDORO
 (echoey)
 This man is hereby excommunicated
 from The Order. Deliver him to
 Astreus. May he find sanctuary
 there.

MAGOGOSO WAKES IN THE ASTREUS INFIRMARY B

MAGOGOSO
 There was water. Lots of water. I
 think I nearly died. And now my
 head feels strange...

SHAN
 Well until you can remember
 everything, whenever I leave this
 room, that door stays locked. I
 don't trust you as far as I could
 throw you.

MAGOGOSO
 Do remember to feed me from time to
 time.

SHAN
 I'll think about it.

MAGOGOSO
 Is Chartrulean.....

SHAN
 I'll go let him know you're awake.

MAGOGOSO
 (losing coherence)
 I.....something.....very wrong.

[Transitional music]

HOMENA'S ROOM A

[Sounds of Homena mumbling. Havelion Yawning]

HAVELION

(groggy)

Tru? What are you doing in Homena's room?

CHARTRULEAN

I should the same thing of you.

HAVELION

Well I was sleeping.

(beat)

Do you have to sit so close to her?

CHARTRULEAN

Be quiet.

HAVELION

I'm just saying I don't think Homena would appreciate it. Girls have boundaries.

CHARTRULEAN

Would she appreciate you spending entire nights in here?

[Beat]

HAVELION

What are you doing?

CHARTRULEAN

I am istening.

HAVELION

For what?

[Homena mumbling]

CHARTRULEAN

For patterns.

HAVELION

Patterns?

CHARTRULEAN

These whispers you hear. Do they sound like anything you've ever heard before?

HAVELION

No. I'm not even sure they're whispers. It's.....hard to explain.

[beat]

HAVELION (CONT'D)
Any news on Mago?

CHARTRULEAN
Are we really going to talk now?
After I asked you to be quiet?

HAVELION
He shows up here acting weird and
you don't think we need to talk
about it?

CHARTRULEAN
Until we can ask him directly all
we can do is speculate.

HAVELION
The man has spent decades now
helping people get in and out of
this city. Knows every secret. And
yet, he ends up here.

CHARTRULEAN
Because I may very well be the
reason he's in trouble.

HAVELION
Why? What did you do?

CHARTRULEAN
I...may have snuck into the
temple.

HAVELION
Hah! That is such a double
standard!

CHARTRULEAN
(hissing)
Now silence. Please.

[Shuffling feet. Door opening]

SHAN
The fat monk is awake.

HAVELION
I'll go in with you.

CHARTRULEAN
Let's try not to say too much.

CHARTRULEAN AND HAVELION CONFRONT MAGOGOSO

[Footsteps, door opening]

MAGOGOSO

Before you say it again, no, this was not your fault.

HAVELION

Mago!

MAGOGOSO

Wow, look at you! At least half a man by now.

CHARTRULEAN

How are you feeling, Magogoso?

MAGOGOSO

As good as circumstances allow, I think.

CHARTRULEAN

What are the circumstances?

MAGOGOSO

We both know the extent of my actions against Maldoro. Why do you think any of you are here right now?

CHARTRULEAN

And we thank you for that. But--

MAGOGOSO

(laughing)

Thank me? Gods, don't thank me...please. Anything but that.

[Door opens]

LAPADINE CHECKS IN ON MAGOGOSO, CHARTRULEAN

ADMIRAL LAPADINE

What's going on here? I came as soon as I could.

CHARTRULEAN

Magogoso arrived late last night in need of medical attention.

ADMIRAL LAPADINE
Oh. I'm so sorry. Are you all
right?

MAGOGOSO
Nothing to fuss about.

ADMIRAL LAPADINE
Heal well.

MAGOGOSO
I'm in good hands.

ADMIRAL LAPADINE
Chartrulean, a quick word?

CHARTRULEAN
Of course.

[Footsteps, door closing]

ADMIRAL LAPADINE
Magogoso has been labeled a
fugitive.

CHARTRULEAN
By whom?

ADMIRAL LAPADINE
Who do you think?

CHARTRULEAN
Maldoro. And his supposed crime?

ADMIRAL LAPADINE
Nothing that would be news to us.
Espionage, smuggling, the whole lot
of it.

CHARTRULEAN
He should be protected, same as the
rest of us.

ADMIRAL LAPADINE
It's not a question of whether he's
protected. It's a question of
whether he should be *here*.

CHARTRULEAN
Who else knows where he is?

ADMIRAL LAPADINE
I don't know. Did he come here on
his own?

CHARTRULEAN

Unclear.

ADMIRAL LAPADINE

His network reaches farther and wider than we can possibly know.

CHARTRULEAN

Farther and wider than Idrica?

ADMIRAL LAPADINE

I'm more concerned with his relations *in* the city. He's served as an informant for decades, crossing lines as suited. And frankly, I don't trust him.

CHARTRULEAN

He is accountable to Yulia.

ADMIRAL LAPADINE

I don't know Yulia. And honestly, I have my hands too full to bother with any of this.

CHARTRULEAN

Are you going to arrest him?

ADMIRAL LAPADINE

No. To your point, this place is a sanctuary, and you are in charge. I'll leave it up to you to decide what to do, but do it soon.

CHARTRULEAN

Once he regains some strength, we can decide.

ADMIRAL LAPADINE

Can I say something else?

CHARTRULEAN

Yes, of course.

ADMIRAL LAPADINE

You have to learn how to see the world from the point of view of one who leads. For a man who is supposed to be devoid of emotions, you tend to let them cloud your judgement quite a lot lately.

CHARTRULEAN

Believe it or not, I am trying.

ADMIRAL LAPADINE

I know. You and Havelion make a good team. Don't be afraid to lean on his intuition.

[Transitional music]

HAVELION QUESTIONS MAGOGOSO

HAVELION

How many?

MAGOGOSO

How many what?

HAVELION

How many Jhardekai have you helped out of the city?

MAGOGOSO

Hundreds. Maybe even thousands over the years. Including you.

HAVELION

Yes, I remember.

(pauses)

How many don't make it out?

MAGOGOSO

Way too many.

HAVELION

Shan doesn't seem to think we should trust you.

MAGOGOSO

When you've been in the business as long as I have, son, you're bound to lose someone's trust.

HAVELION

Why did you come here for help when you could have gone anywhere?

MAGOGOSO

Maybe I thought there'd be room for me in this odd little family you've got here.

HAVELION

I'm sure we can make it work.

MAGOGOSO

The family will be growing soon,
from what I've been able to gather.

HAVELION

And who'd you hear that from?

MAGOGOSO

I don't know, word travels.

[Beat]

HAVELION

Get some rest.

[Sounds of Havelion getting up]

MAGOGOSO

Are you going to lock me in here,
too?

HAVELION

Shan's rules, not mine. I'll check
in on you later to make sure she's
not torturing you.

[Door closes]

CHARTRULEAN ASKS HAVELION'S OPINION

CHARTRULEAN

Well? What's your opinion?

HAVELION

He's lying. How would Mago know
about our plans for the Jhardekai?
I thought that was classified.

ADMIRAL LAPADINE

He's a smuggler. I'd imagine he has
his ways to get information he's
not supposed to have.

HAVELION

This just feels really off.

CHARTRULEAN

I have known him my entire life.

HAVELION

That's not good a way to gauge
someone's trustworthiness.

CHARTRULEAN

I know. But I do owe him some kindness.

ADMIRAL LAPADINE

Don't let it become a problem.

[Transitional music]

SOPHROSYNE AND CYTHAELIA GO TO BOETHEMA

[Sounds of transport]

NARRATOR

Sophrosyne and Cythaelia's transport passed through the gates leading to Boethema Labs. The building's facade was oppressive, dwarfing them in the shadow of Jhardoestra statues that stood sentinel on either side of glass doors.

CYTHAELIA

How is that even the front? It looks terrifying. Remind me what we're doing here, again?

SOPHROSYNE

I have to know if it's connected.

CYTHAELIA

Connected to what? Your dream?

SOPHROSYNE

Everything.

CYTHAELIA

Isn't coming here in person taking things too far?

SOPHROSYNE

No. This is me being proactive and figuring things out on my own, without anyone's help.

CYTHAELIA

But this is a terrible place. It's nothing more than a people factory.

SOPHROSYNE

I definitely agree, but too many things are popping up to be coincidence.

CYTHAELIA

Did *Chartrulean* tell you to come here?

SOPHROSYNE

No! This is entirely my idea. A bad one, maybe. But if I don't do this, all these questions will just continue to go unanswered.

CYTHAELIA

I don't like it.

SOPHROSYNE

It's not your job to like it. But it *is* your job to watch my back.

CYTHAELIA

Will you need it?

SOPHROSYNE

That depends on what happens once we get inside.

CYTHAELIA

I definitely don't like the sound of that.

NARRATOR

The main building was ancient, but there were several modern additions. One wing extended out over a man-made pond. Somewhere off in the distance, children could be heard playing. The sounds together did something nice to the atmosphere despite the unwelcoming aspects of the edifice.

A nurse was waiting at the top of a long flight of stairs. She had a young face and wore a crisp white habit. But her eyes were distant, and her smile slight.

CYTHAELIA (CONT'D)

The first impression leaves much to be desired.

SOPHROSYNE

Shhhhh.

SISTER EUNSTICE

Welcome to Boethema Labs, Princess Sophrosyne. I'm Sister Eunstice.

SOPHROSYNE

I'm so sorry for coming on short notice.

SISTER EUNSTICE

It's no trouble. We're always ready for visitors. We've had quite a few lately, as you can imagine.

SOPHROSYNE

What do you mean?

SISTER EUNSTICE

With the war ending, people are ready to focus on building families. Isn't that why you're here?

SOPHROSYNE

Oh, no. I just wanted to learn more about the facility and see the children.

SISTER EUNSTICE

We'll be here when you're ready to have that conversation. In the meantime, I'd be happy to give you a tour.

[Transitional music]

THE BOETHEMA TOUR

NARRATOR

Sister Eunstice led Sophrosyne and Cythaelia through a foyer filled with murals and life-like sculptures of long extinct animals. Strange beasts and birds filled the entirety of the gallery, reaching from the ground all the way up into the ceiling. Sophrosyne paused in front of a giant wolf. Her stomach churned at the sight of it, but she gulped down whatever it made her feel and pressed on.

SOPHROSYNE

This is incredible!

SISTER EUNSTICE

The gallery of natural history is our magnum opus. People travel from all over just to see *it*. Several of the beasts you see here are preserved in our vaults. With any hope, we might be able to someday reverse several mass extinctions.

SOPHROSYNE

I wasn't expecting anything like this.

CYTHAELIA

(whispering)

This is creepy.

SOPHROSYNE

(whispering)

Oh hush.

SISTER EUNSTICE

People may be our bread and butter, but our mission extends to all life.

SOPHROSYNE

I see that.

SISTER EUNSTICE

It's fun to open with. And of course the children love it. The facility itself is one of Arcas' ancient wonders. Its facade is part one of the first structures to be built here. It's been preserved for generations.

SOPHROSYNE

How old are these murals?

SISTER EUNSTICE

Some go back thousands of years. Of course many are reproductions. But a few of them were recovered from Zاراstra before the ice set in. You'll see them scattered about, some in rather strange places.

SOPHROSYNE

Ok, I'll keep my eyes peeled.

SISTER EUNSTICE

There are three wings to this building. The hall to the right is dedicated entirely to research, genetic and otherwise. Arcas has been epidemic-free for almost a millennium. In these halls, we've also found ways to prolong normal human life by twenty years on average. Our ancestors lived much shorter lives. Did you know that?

SOPHROSYNE

I did know that.

SISTER EUNSTICE

The left wing is all medical. We are home to Simitu's most prestigious doctors. And right down the center is where we work with the children. Where would you like to start?

SOPHROSYNE

I guess...with the children?

SISTER EUNSTICE

Good answer.

[Door opening into atrium]

SISTER EUNSTICE (CONT'D)

This area is for the parents. It's where they plan their future families.

[Sounds of large room, children laughing, people talking]

SOPHROSYNE

How long are the children kept here?

SISTER EUNSTICE

We incubate them up to twelve months or until their core functions are a bit more developed. That's one of the key differences between what we do and letting nature take its course. Our research has shown that longer gestation periods lead to healthier children, fortification against disease, and less strain on the parents. They are reared here with the sisters until they reach about five years of age. Of course there are exceptions. Some parents are anxious to take them home, but the practice is a bit out of fashion.

SOPHROSYNE

Do you see many natural births?

SISTER EUNSTICE

Virtually none. I think royal tradition offers an exception, as I understand it.

SOPHROSYNE

I was born naturally, my brother was not.

SISTER EUNSTICE

It's costly and very dangerous for the mother. If we didn't do what we do, who knows how our population would suffer?

SOPHROSYNE

Can *anyone* have a child here?

SISTER EUNSTICE

Of course! That's the best part.

SOPHROSYNE

What about people like my brother? Those who are considered genetically weak?

SISTER EUNSTICE

Well, there are options. We do a fair amount of adoption. Another subset of what we do is producing Jhardeho children, often from more ancient gene pools. Those children obviously don't have parents, and need to be reared.

SOPHROSYNE

Like Chartrulean?

SISTER EUNSTICE

(uncomfortable)

Eh, yes. People like him. Though very few get to be the Etruvian.

(changing subject)

Would you like to see how our matching system works?

SOPHROSYNE

With Chartrulean?

SISTER EUNSTICE

(laughing uncomfortably)

Oh heavens, no. Though strangely enough, many have asked in recent days.

SOPHROSYNE

That's not really why I'm here.
Really just a tour is fine.

SISTER EUNSTICE

Of course! Follow me this way.

[Door opening]

SOPHROSYNE

Wow, it's bright.

SISTER EUNSTICE

Yes, if you notice, this area is almost all skylight. That way no child is deprived of the natural world, even during gestation.

SOPHROSYNE

What do all these tanks do?

SISTER EUNSTICE

It's how we incubate the children. The fluid they are in is made to simulate the womb, but it's recycled regularly so that we have a clear view of their development. It makes it easier to detect problems early on.

SOPHROSYNE

What happens if a tank were to turn red?

SISTER EUNSTICE

(awkward scary laugh)
Why would you ask that?

SOPHROSYNE

Just something I've heard.

SISTER EUNSTICE

It means there's a problem. We don't see it often. This room on the right is where we create the embryos. And if you look through the window to your left, these children are in their first stages of development. It progresses the further back we go.

SOPHROSYNE

What kind of prob--

SISTER EUNSTICE

(interrupting)

What luck! Looks like a little man
has come to term before our eyes.
Such a happy moment.

SOPHROSYNE

Oh, wow. So they just take them out
of the tank like that when they're
ready?

SISTER EUNSTICE

It's as simple as that.

SOPHROSYNE

Where are the parents?

SISTER EUNSTICE

They'll come visit when the child
is more cognizant.

SOPHROSYNE

Why wouldn't they want to be here
for this?

SISTER EUNSTICE

Why would they? It's just a
technical procedure.

SOPHROSYNE

It's....never mind.

SISTER EUNSTICE

Shall we continue?

SOPHROSYNE

Sure.

[Sounds of heavy doors opening, sounds of children playing
explode]

SISTER EUNSTICE

This area connects to our living
and education centers.

SOPHROSYNE

Look at these children! They all
look so...perfect. No scratched
knees, no soiled dresses, no
pushing or arguing, no tears--

SISTER EUNSTICE

Yes, we are slaves to their
happiness.

SOPHROSYNE

Yeah but they all look
so...similar.

SISTER EUNSTICE

I guess they do.

SOPHROSYNE

I thought Boethema was creating
genetic diversity?

SISTER EUNSTICE

We are! Most of that work cannot be
seen.

SOPHROSYNE

Soooo, why do they all look the
same?

SISTER EUNSTICE

At Boethema, we give parents the
flexibility to choose what their
children will look like. Within the
range of the genetic traits we have
to work with, that is. If you ever
desire a child of your own one day,
rest easy that they would enjoy the
most perfect early development
imaginable.

SOPHROSYNE

I see. How many of these children
are Jhardekai?

SISTER EUNSTICE

(uncomfortable)
None, princess.

SOPHROSYNE

Why not?

SISTER EUNSTICE

Those are reared under different
circumstances.

SOPHROSYNE

Are they not children?

SISTER EUNSTICE

They are. It's just that Jhardehos
are very difficult to produce. They
require special resources and
facilities.

SOPHROSYNE

Oh great! Can I see them? I feel like I've seen so little for such a large campus.

SISTER EUNSTICE

I'm sorry, but that area is off limits to visitors.

SOPHROSYNE

I'm not a normal visitor, am I?

SISTER EUNSTICE

Well, no...

SOPHROSYNE

And as your future queen, I think it's important for me to learn about Jhardehos, too.

SISTER EUNSTICE

Ah, I see.

SOPHROSYNE

I *am* here to see the children. But as you're aware, there's a question being put to my family about our continued support. And if that's going to happen, we have to see what's behind every door.

[Giant power down, crashing thunder in distance, worried kids]

SOPHROSYNE (CONT'D)

What's going on?

SISTER EUNSTICE

Something seems to have happened to the power. Forgive me but I must go find out what's happening. Please stay here, I will return shortly.

[Footsteps]

CYTHAELIA

Something is massively wrong with this place. Everything's a little too shiny.

SOPHROSYNE

I think so too. Surely there's one child here who can tell me the truth.

CYTHAELIA

What?!

SOPHROSYNE

Come on. We might not have much time before she comes back.

CYTHAELIA

What are you looking for exactly?

SOPHROSYNE

Red tanks and a woman with terrible eyes.

CYTHAELIA

I can't believe we're doing this.

SOPHROSYNE

Oh my gosh, look who it is!

CYTHAELIA

Isn't that one of the children who visited the capitol?

SOPHROSYNE

Yes, and she's perfect.

CYTHAELIA (CONT'D)

Oh, boy....

SOPHROSYNE FINDS DUA 642

SOPHROSYNE

Hi again!

DUA 642

Hi.

SOPHROSYNE

I'm so sorry, I didn't get your name the first time we met.

DUA 642

Dua six four two.

SOPHROSYNE

What?

DUA 642

(reinforcing)

Dua six four two.

SOPHROSYNE

Last time I saw you, you said you didn't like it here.

DUA 642

Mmmm, mmm...

SOPHROSYNE

That makes me very sad. Can you tell me why?

DUA 642

Mmmm, mmm...

SOPHROSYNE

Listen. I'm looking for red tanks. Have you seen anything like that?

DUA 642

Through that door over there.

SOPHROSYNE

Thank you Dua 642. I promise you, I'm going to stop the tanks from turning red.

DUA 642

Careful of the woman with the scary eyes. I don't like her.

SOPHROSYNE

We will be. I have to go now.

[Footsteps]

SOPHROSYNE (CONT'D)

We should hurry.

CYTHAELIA

That was easy.

SOPHROSYNE

It helps if you know who to ask. Now come on. I want to see what's through that door.

CYTHAELIA

We're just going to walk in?

SOPHROSYNE

What? No one's looking right now. Now let's go.

[Heavy door opening then closing]

CHARTRULEAN TAKES A BREAK

[Daytime sounds]

NARRATOR

Chartrulean stepped out into the Astreus gardens. The afternoon was warm, the air dry. He walked over to the bed of violets and noticed several places where their lives had been cut short. At that very moment, one of them sat wilting in a glass of water at Homena's bedside.

CHARTRULEAN

(thinking)

*I cannot understand the gesture.
Why gift someone you love with
something such a temporary joy?
What pleasure is there to be found
in watching something beautiful
wither and die?*

[Sounds of flower being plucked]

CHARTRULEAN (CONT'D)

(thinking)

*The act of pulling this pretty
thing from the earth only adds to
my already guilty conscience.*

(frustrated)

*Where do I go from here? What
happens if I just turn off? If I
just stand here with my face to the
wind, feeling the flecks of salt
that have traveled all this way
just to collide with me?*

[Eerie whispers]

CHARTRULEAN (CONT'D)

(thinking)

*Where would my feet take me if I
gave into chaos? Let them carry me
where they willed?*

[Large metal door opening, slow footsteps.]

CHARTRULEAN VISITS THE NINE

CHARTRULEAN

Niven. Keivan. Ustra. Ekta. Marduk.
Telkos. Lileil. Raptavian.
Caliburn.

[Chartrulean sighs deeply]

CHARTRULEAN (CONT'D)
What madness leads me here?

[Void sounds. Low rumbling and heartbeat]

CHARTRULEAN (CONT'D)
(growing frustration)
Talk to me. Please. Let me hear
your voices. Help me help them.

[Void rumbling, then nothing]

CHARTRULEAN (CONT'D)
(angry)
Why? Why won't you let me in? I
made you! How dare you shut me
out?!

[Sound of metal crashing as something is thrown. Tantrum.]

NICOLA
(meek)
Chartrulean?

CHARTRULEAN
Nicola....?

NICOLA
(awkward)
I'm sorry, I'll just go back.

CHARTRULEAN
Wait.
(beat)
What are you doing here?

[Beat]

NICOLA
I know it sounds crazy.....but I
don't think they tried to hurt us
on purpose. They're scared of the
berserker. Just like we are. We
just have to learn how to talk to
them. Then all of this will be
okay.

[Several footsteps approach]

HAVELION
(angry)
Nicola, what are you doing?

NICOLA

(firm)

He needs to see it too.

HAVELION

I said not yet.

CHARTRULEAN

What is this? Why are you three here?

CORBIN

Do we need an excuse?

ABRUC

Corbin, don't.

CHARTRULEAN

I would prefer an explanation.

HAVELION

Nicola wanted to show us something.

CHARTRULEAN

Something having to do with The Nine. And you chose to exclude me? Their maker?

CORBIN

It was hid idea, actually. I was just goin' with the flow.

HAVELION

Just let me handle this guys.

(beat)

Nicola is saying we might have more influence over our ships than we thought.

CHARTRULEAN

I have already observed this.

HAVELION

What? When?

CHARTRULEAN

What concerns me presently is that you are still trying to hide things from me. Why?

HAVELION

Because you're sick.

CHARTRULEAN

Sick?

HAVELION

I know you. You'd just fixate on it and forget about everything you're supposed to be doing. And in the end, you'd just come out more hurt than you already are.

CHARTRULEAN

Clarify this line of thinking...you withheld something from me out of concern?

HAVELION

Your azurea, Tru...it's only a matter of time before it's used up. And we need you to take care of your stupid self so you can stop the berserker.

CHARTRULEAN

(angry)

I get to decide when and how to use my energy. Not you. Not any of you.

HAVELION

(angry)

Do you even see what's going on? What kind of game you've been dragged into lately? The party. The summit.

CHARTRULEAN

A...a game? Is doing what I can to ensure we have a *home* some kind of *game* to you?

HAVELION

Please. Since when has any of it been about us?

CHARTRULEAN

Do you not see how much effort goes into *protecting* you?

HAVELION

Right! Because you know what we are to these people? Property. *Astreus* is property. These *ships* are property. *You*, are property. We have been purchased. Owned.

(MORE)

HAVELION (CONT'D)

You're an idiot to think that they will see you as anything other than what you can give them.

CHARTRULEAN

We need to learn how to trust those who are in a position to help us.

HAVELION

Oh, and who told you that? Huh? Someone who desperately *needs* your trust? Ever stop to ask why? All this posturing--it gets us nowhere.

CHARTRULEAN

Nowhere? Astreus. Is. Power. Azurea is power that we control. This is the legacy I am building for you! All of you! These people don't move against us, they move beneath us. If they are here, they are worthy. If they benefit, it was earned. But we are the ones in control. We are gods.

HAVELION

Then why are *they* the ones telling us when to feel safe?

(beat)

This isn't a sanctuary, it's a cage. Why can't you see that?

CHARTRULEAN

Your *anger* is a cage.

HAVELION

My...anger? Seriously? I never asked for any of this. It *is* a cage, and you put me here. You don't care what happens to us.

NICOLA

Havi, you're wrong.

HAVELION

How am I wrong?

NICOLA

The other night, Chartrulean found me here. He took me to see Shan, then spent all night holding my hand. Afraid that I would become lost like the others. I can see it.

(MORE)

NICOLA (CONT'D)

What he's going through is the same. You're just looking at the parts that you don't understand, seeing what you choose to see and ignoring the rest.

CORBIN

Yeah. Nicola's right.

[Whispers]

HAVELION

You're all taking *his* side?

ABRUC

You're drawing sides in the wrong places, Havi. Look. It's just us, and the whatever this is.

NICOLA

I think the berserker wants us to fail. To divide us. And you're letting it.

HAVELION

No. HE is.

CHARTRULEAN

What do you want me to do, Havelion? Huh? Would you have me on my hands and knees, begging you for what--*forgiveness*? You want to end the suffering, yet you want me to be careless? You would keep me sequestered and in the dark to serve your own interests, then stand here accusing me of being selfish? Never try to think for me again. You are just a *child*.

[Whispers intensifying]

HAVELION

A child?!

CHARTRULEAN

Yes. A man who is losing a battle with a child.

[Energy rumbling]

NICOLA

Stop it!

HAVELION
Look in the mirror!

CHARTRULEAN
I know. And I have. Now calm down
before you make a mistake.

HAVELION
Do not tell me to calm down.

ABRUC
Uhhhh, ok....

CORBIN
Uhhh, Havi?

NICOLA
(screaming)
Stop! Just stop fighting!

HAVELION
(antagonizing)
Someday, I'm going to bring you to
your knees, Tru. Mark My Words.

CHARTRULEAN
Havelion! Look at what you are
doing!

NICOLA
It's preparing to strike!

HAVELION
(ignoring)
But don't bother begging me for
forgiveness while you're there.
Because the one you need to ask it
of is yourself.

ABRUC	CORBIN
Ok, that's taking things far enough.	Get the small one.

[Intense Whispering. Canons powering up more intensely. Void
sounds, screeching]

[Sudden crash of thunder, deep rumbling, then ship powering
down]

CORBIN (CONT'D)
Uhhhhh, what was that?

NICOLA
Thunder.

HAVELION
What?

ABRUC
Guys, you should really come take a
look outside..

[Rain starting]

CORBIN
Is it.....raining?

ABRUC
Yeah, it is.

CORBIN
It's rainging.

CHARTRULEAN
The air is heavily ionized.

HAVELION
Did I do this?

[Sounds of transport approaching]

CHARTRULEAN
Say nothing more until we can
discuss this in private.

[Transport stops]

ADMIRAL LAPADINE
Someone care to explain how and why
we have manufactured a *storm*?

CORBIN
We are so in trouble...

[Storm sounds]

Yوبا AND KSB TALK ABOUT THE STORM

KING STARBRINGER
Well Yoba, what do you make of
this?

Yوبا
I love the rain. It's too rare of a
delight.

KING STARBRINGER

I agree.

YOBA

One thing about it concerns me.

KING STARBRINGER

Anything to do with *where* the storm appears to be localized by chance?

YOBA

Well, yes, and also considering most of Simitu has lost power to the storm, *except* for Astreus.

KING STARBRINGER

Well, I'd say makes a good case for azurea reactors.

YOBA

True, however at present it looks like quite a...well...rude gesture. Don't you think? All of Simitu dark with that damn elevator lit up like a beacon.

KING STARBRINGER

Hah! There are definitely people who will think of it as such. And let's hope they do. Maldoro thinks he can pull the plug on my city. Now he sees who can pull his plug I'd say. The age of azurea is off to a good start if you ask me.

YOBA

You know, you say that but with each passing hour, I'm just watching the cleanup bill get larger and larger.

KING STARBRINGER

Yeah, that's certainly true. Give and take, I suppose. Well, until we know the extent of it, let's just sit back and enjoy the rain.

[Beat]

YOBA

What's going on at the gate?

KING STARBRINGER

It's Sophrosyne's transport.

YOBA

Looks to be in a bit of a hurry.
Where was she off to this morning
anyway?

KING STARBRINGER

Boethema. Come on, I sense trouble.

[Clap of thunder, transitions to ground rain sounds]

SOPHROSYNE AND CYTHAELIA RETURN

CYTHAELIA

Someone help! Hurry!

KING STARBRINGER

What happened? Where's Sophrosyne?

CYTHAELIA

She's here! Careful, she's faint.

KING STARBRINGER

Give her here, quickly.

YOBA

You go ahead in, I'll be right
behind you with Dr. Tomlin.

(beat)

Cythaelia, what happened?

CYTHAELIA

Red tanks and terrible eyes.

[Storm sounds]

SHAN VISITS YULIA IN THE VOID

[Sounds of Shan humming]

SHAN

Crazy storm.

[Void sounds. Echoey voices]

YULIA

There you are, sister. What news do
you bring me?

SHAN

Chartrulean travels to Idrica soon.
Things here are getting very
strange.

YULIA

Dr. Fillion's expedient return from
Zarashtra is under way. What other
news?

SHAN

Magogoso arrived here in curious
condition.

YULIA

At Astreus?

SHAN

I do not trust him.

YULIA

His duty to me was fulfilled the
moment Chartrulean left the temple.
His reasons for lingering beyond
that are his own.

SHAN

I agree. He could have returned to
Idrica, as I did.

YULIA

Do what you feel must be done in
order to keep the Etruvian and the
children safe.

SHAN

I will.

YULIA

Artedemis awaits Chartrulean's
return. He's growing impatient.

SHAN

As he would.

YULIA

Chartrulean *must* seek him out.

SHAN

I cannot make him do anything.

YULIA

The starmakers themselves bade
Artedemis return from the void to
guide him. Much depends on their
reconciliation. This is what I sent
you to do.

SHAN

And I have taken heed.

YULIA

The path of abomination will fail
without the Etruvian. If
Chartrulean cannot find the true
source within himself soon,
Jhardeho have mercy on us all.