

THE MADNESS OF CHARTRULEAN
A Gardeka Story

S1:E06
"UNATTRACTIVE QUALITIES"

Written by

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TMOC EPISODE 6: UNATTRACTIVE QUALITIES

HAVELION WAKES UP CHARTRULEAN

[Morning sounds. Knocking on door]

HAVELION
(muffled)
Tru? Are you in there?

CHARTRULEAN
(groggy)
In where?

[Door opens]

HAVELION
Did you sleep on the floor?

CHARTRULEAN
I think so.

HAVELION
It's no wonder, your bed is full of
stuff.

CHARTRULEAN
They can be allowed to clean in
here today. Will you toss me that
shirt?

HAVELION
Don't you have anything clean?

CHARTRULEAN
I don't know anymore.
(sniffing)
Guess I never made it to that bath.

HAVELION
Here. I'm already dressing you.
When it comes to bathing, you're on
your own.

[Sounds of rustling clothes]

CHARTRULEAN
Is it normal to overlook these
things?

HAVELION

You don't usually sleep in this late either. Are you sure you're all right?

CHARTRULEAN

I think my world is just...shrinking.

HAVELION

I understand what you mean. That might also have something to do with my behavior these past few days. I wanted to apologize...for yesterday, and the night before.

CHARTRULEAN

No more apologies, I find them exhausting.

HAVELION

Right. Anyway, we have a bit of an emergency. We got a message saying the Starbringer princess and her escort are on their way.

CHARTRULEAN

(panicked)
Why?

HAVELION

For the eh, thing.

CHARTRULEAN

This was supposed to be *your* punishment. Not mine.

HAVELION

That's true, but she said something about planning a ship that I found a little confusing?

CHARTRULEAN

(under breath)
Evahno.

CHARTRULEAN ASKS TO HAVE HIS ROOM CLEANED

[Footsteps taking off down corridor]

CHARTRULEAN

You should have woken me sooner.

HAVELION

I thought you'd be up by now!

BORSHA

Oh, good morning! Did you sleep well?

CHARTRULEAN

Absolutely not.

BORSHA

Oh. Should I send for something to eat?

CHARTRULEAN

Just stimulants.

BORSHA

But those aren't good for you! You need to eat something or you're going to get sick.

CHARTRULEAN

I don't have time. Oh! Would you have the room cleaned today?

BORSHA

I--I thought your room was off limits?

CHARTRULEAN

It is. Please just have it done when I ask.

BORSHA

I'll call for a maid.

HAVELION

Call ten.

BORSHA

(hesitant)

Maybe I should go have a look.

CHARTRULEAN

If you must.

[Borshas's footsteps leaving]

HAVELION PUSHES CHARTRULEAN'S BUTTONS ABOUT SOPHROSYNE

CHARTRULEAN

Why does she have to be so
invasive?

HAVELION

Who else is going to make sure you
don't accidentally starve yourself
to death? Also, I think she likes
you.

CHARTRULEAN

What gives you that stupid idea?

HAVELION

Why else would she still be here?

[Borsha's distant distress]

HAVELION (CONT'D)

On second thought, she may have
just resigned.

CHARTRULEAN

I don't find her constant nagging
to be an attractive quality, among
other things.

HAVELION

What about the princess? Does she
have any "unattractive qualities"?

CHARTRULEAN

Everybody does.

HAVELION

You're avoiding the question. Come
on, there has to be some reason you
let this happen. I mean a ship?

CHARTRULEAN

Nothing is happening, and I don't
plan on letting it go any further.

HAVELION

Right. Then someone needs to tell
her that.

CHARTRULEAN

(losing temper)

Dammit Havelion, you put yourself
in a room with these people and try
to say no to them.

CHARTRULEAN NOTICES SOPHROSYNE HAS ARRIVED

[Sounds of throat clearing]

CHARTRULEAN

(startled)

Princess Sophrosyne. How long have you been standing there?

SOPHROSYNE

Long enough. And please, drop the princess.

CHARTRULEAN

Where's your entourage?

SOPHROSYNE

It's myself and just Cythaelia.

CYTHAELIA

Nice to see you again.

HAVELION

This is off to a great start...

CHARTRULEAN

(whispering)

Enough.

SOPHROSYNE

I see you've hired more guards. Is that for me?

CHARTRULEAN

Not entirely.

HAVELION

Entirely.

SOPHROSYNE

Well, I've come to see Astreus and discuss my ship. Should we get started?

HAVELION

A word?

[Footsteps leading away]

HAVELION (CONT'D)

(intense whispering)

What *is* she talking about?

CHARTRULEAN

A request was made and we are supposed to determine whether or not it is feasible.

HAVELION

Which it's not.

CHARTRULEAN

Clearly. So we make that known and go about our day.

HAVELION

How could you let this happen?

CHARTRULEAN

I was just trying to be...socially responsible!

HAVELION

More fancy words you learned from your friend? Or was it the admiral?

CHARTRULEAN

I can't remember. The past few days have been a blur. And this headache isn't helping.

SOPHROSYNE

(distant)

Is there a problem?

HAVELION

No problem. We were just discussing what we want to show you first.

SOPHROSYNE

Well, since the ships will be the main focus later, maybe we start with something else?

HAVELION

Right. So without further adieu, welcome to Astreus! Known for the procurement of headaches and bad moods.

[Footsteps approaching]

BORSHA

Here's your stimulant. Anything for you, princess? Or Cythaelia?

CYTHAELIA
Oh, no.

SOPHROSYNE
We're fine, thank you.

[Can opening, fizzing]

CHARTRULEAN
This one has been agitated.

BORSHA
(frustrated)
Ugh, just take it and spare me.

HAVELION
See? This place just has that
effect on people.

SOPHROSYNE
Are we just going to stand here and
watch you drink that?

HAVELION
The amount of liquid stimulant one
man can consume *is* impressive.

BORSHA
(sighing)
I recommend starting in the
gardens.
(under breath)
Air him out a little.

SOPHROSYNE
Gardens?

HAVELION
Oh, yeah. You're really going
to like this. Follow the long-
legged pahrum.

CHARTRULEAN
Don't call me that.

CYTHAELIA
What's that mean?

HAVELION
Something not so nice in Idrica
vernacular.

[Chartrulean grunts. Sophrosyne and Cythaelia laughing]

HAVELION (CONT'D)
What he lacks in amicability,
he makes up for in lankiness.

CHARTRULEAN
Stop it.

CYTHAELIA

What is it?

CHARTRULEAN

(irritated)

A mutated species of chard with almost four times the nutritional value of its origin species. And this one is a type of wheat that we've been able to rejuvenate from petrified grains. Would you like me to continue or do you get the point?

SOPHROSYNE

How does all this work, exactly?

CHARTRULEAN

(awkward)

The plants are grown under special lamps and feed on water containing charged azurium salts.

SOPHROSYNE

Which in layman's terms means...

HAVELION

It means the plants are getting more than enough nutrients to thrive.

SOPHROSYNE

Can other people do this too?

CHARTRULEAN

In theory we would provide the equipment needed to achieve similar results. Lamps as well as reactors that neutralize and treat water either from the ground, or mined from celestial bodies. Similar to what the agricultural sector is doing already, just much more efficient.

SOPHROSYNE

And then we could...

HAVELION

Build farms at ground level with more energy than the sun itself provides. Or create and nurture new species of edible plants.

(MORE)

HAVELION (CONT'D)

Most of these are tolerant of the salt and pretty rugged.

SOPHROSYNE

You said water from the ground. But all our surface water is beyond purification.

HAVELION

Not anymore.

SOPHROSYNE

Wow.

CHARTRULEAN

Are you surprised?

SOPHROSYNE

You're aware that our planet has a scarcity problem, right?

CHARTRULEAN

Which is why you see what you see here.

SOPHROSYNE

Why did you put us through all that stuff yesterday when all you had to do was walk everyone out here and show us this?

CHARTRULEAN

The garden was open for exhibition. People were aware of it.

SOPHROSYNE

These talking points would have been really nice, though.

CHARTRULEAN

Can we please move on?

SOPHROSYNE

How are you acting like this isn't a big deal?

CHARTRULEAN

I have to be careful about how I expend energy, which is in rare supply. As is time. Let us continue.

HAVELION

We can show them the gym next.

CHARTRULEAN

The gym is on the other side of the compound.

SOPHROSYNE

If time is that short, how about you show Cythaelia the gym, and Chartrulean can show me The Nine?

[Beat]

HAVELION

Sooo.....

CHARTRULEAN

Do as she says.

HAVELION

But I thought this was my p--

CHARTRULEAN

Privilege. Yes. Next time.

[Footsteps away]

HAVELION ENTERTAINS CYTHAELIA

CYTHAELIA

She's in a mood today.

HAVELION

Not the only one.

[Footsteps receding]

HAVELION (CONT'D)

So you're like a bodyguard?

CYTHAELIA

Yeah. Something like that.

HAVELION

You just look like a girl.

CYTHAELIA

I'm a guardian. We're made a little different.

HAVELION

Well, come with me I guess. I'll show you all the fun stuff.

[Transitional music]

CHARTRULEAN AND SOPHROSYNE TALK SHIP

SOPHROSYNE

(irritated)

Do I really have to ask you again
to slow down? I hate when people
walk in front of me.

CHARTRULEAN

You can keep up or not.

SOPHROSYNE

You say that like you're doing this
on purpose.

CHARTRULEAN

Maybe I am.

[Sound of cart rolling]

BORSHA

This way guys. Through here.
(to Chartrulean)
Chartrulean, where would you like
them to leave your work bench?

CHARTRULEAN

Just leave it there?

BORSHA

Right in the middle?

[Something topping on table]

CHARTRULEAN

Lose anything and so help you.

BORSHA

What he means to say is "thank you
gentlemen."

[Cart noises stop, footsteps leading away]

SOPHROSYNE

It this where you work?

CHARTRULEAN

I am not locked to one place, nor
do I sit. This is exactly where I
want to be. In the center.

[Footsteps stopping]

CHARTRULEAN (CONT'D)
Speaking of which, here we are. And
there *they* are. The Nine.

[Long silence, whispers]

SOPHROSYNE
It feels like they're all looking
at me.
(beat)
I don't like them.

CHARTRULEAN
What?!

SOPHROSYNE
They look like you. Irascible and
slightly feral.

CHARTRULEAN
Maybe that was the flaw in their
design. To be like me.

SOPHROSYNE
The work of an artist always ends
up being somewhat autobiographical.

CHARTRULEAN
You speak from experience?

SOPHROSYNE
Sure.
(sighing, frustrated)
Ok. Just so we can avoid anymore
awkwardness, let's just put one
thing out in the open.

CHARTRULEAN
I can explain. That--

SOPHROSYNE (CONT'D)
You clearly don't want to
build me a ship, and I
couldn't care less.

[Beat]

CHARTRULEAN (CONT'D)
Then what are we doing?

SOPHROSYNE
Wait, what were you going to say?

CHARTRULEAN
Forget it.

SOPHROSYNE

I'm just tired of other people
telling me what *I* want.

CHARTRULEAN

What do you want?

SOPHROSYNE

I don't know. But if it were to be
a ship, it wouldn't be like one of
these.

[Beat]

SOPHROSYNE (CONT'D)

By the way, do you know what I saw
yesterday? A room full of greedy
little old men with pointy noses.
Whoever made that guest list needs
to be dragged.

CHARTRULEAN

And who would you have invited?

SOPHROSYNE

Mothers. Educators.

CHARTRULEAN

How are they relevant to anything?

SOPHROSYNE

Why keep those who are the most
affected by these things in the
dark all the time?

CHARTRULEAN

Fair enough. But would mothers and
educators have the means to support
us?

SOPHROSYNE

I thought for sure the *Etruvian*
would be above pandering to the war
hawks, or my family for that
matter. Guess I was wrong.

CHARTRULEAN

Is there a point to your
antagonizing?

SOPHROSYNE

I was there, I'm entitled to my
opinion.

CHARTRULEAN

I got what I needed, and said what I had to say but--

SOPHROSYNE

I bring it up because it seems weird to just build ships for *those* people. If everything you guys said yesterday is true, why not build something someone like...someone like *Borsha* would like?

CHARTRULEAN

Borsha has chronic motion sickness.

SOPHROSYNE

Ok--what do you think about your ships?

CHARTRULEAN

That they're not perfect.

SOPHROSYNE

You're not satisfied with your work?

CHARTRULEAN

No. Complacency has no place here. But I also have a phobia of sitting still, and would tinker them into obsolescence if allowed.

SOPHROSYNE

It shows. In a good way. But as beautiful and strange as these ships are, I just see weapons.

CHARTRULEAN

Then you are missing the point.

SOPHROSYNE

Am I?

(beat)

What else can I say...

(pacing, thinking)

Ok. See, no. A ship this size would never do.

CHARTRULEAN

I beg your pardon?

SOPHROSYNE

I ship for *me* would have to be huge! Like all the way up to the ceiling huge.

CHARTRULEAN

Are you crazy?

SOPHROSYNE

Think about it! If it's supposed to be a true "zeitgeist of the times" the scale of it has to reflect that.

CHARTRULEAN

So I'm to add "obscenely large" to "very fast and indefatigable"...

SOPHROSYNE

Indefatigable, yes, but not liberal in its use of cannons. What message would a large ship loaded down with guns have to say? People should look at it and want to...to hug it.

CHARTRULEAN

Hug it?

SOPHROSYNE

And the inside would have to exude all the comforts of home. Because the ship I'm picturing isn't just any ship, it's a....a world seeker. The people on this ship are out there trying to find new worlds, or other kinds of things for the benefit of all mankind. And right in the middle of it is a garden every bit as illustrious as the one outside, with trees and bugs and all the food one could ever need.

CHARTRULEAN

You came here for the sole purpose of wasting my time--

SOPHROSYNE

It would go faster and farther than any ship. And all I would have to do is tell it where I want to go and poof! We're there. Oh! The grandeur indeed. But, no. Don't build it for me. Build it for Arcas, but build it in my name.

CHARTRULEAN

This is worse than an insult.

SOPHROSYNE

But that's it! That's the ship for me and I will settle for no less.

[Crinkling of can, seething anger]

SOPHROSYNE (CONT'D)

(angry)

And now you get to go tell my dad that the ship I want is impossible to build. And even if he goes for it, he still loses. I get a ridiculous ship with my name on it, and Arcas reaps the rewards of its exploits instead of some man.

[Long beat]

CHARTRULEAN

I see what this is.

SOPHROSYNE

Took you long enough.

CHARTRULEAN

Your family is very...emotional.

[Sophrosyne bursts out into laughter]

CHARTRULEAN (CONT'D)

Did I say something funny?

SOPHROSYNE

Yes, very.

CHARTRULEAN

I mean it, is everything always so...over the top?

SOPHROSYNE

Are you always so judgmental? I find it to be an "unattractive quality."

CHARTRULEAN

Once again, you are purposely trying my patience.

SOPHROSYNE

You said it first.

CHARTRULEAN

Havelion was pushing my buttons.
(under breath)
It's what he does lately.

SOPHROSYNE

You shouldn't let him do that.

CHARTRULEAN

How I deal with him is none of your
business.

SOPHROSYNE

Oh, just like how *I* was supposed to
be his *punishment*? Am I really that
bad?

CHARTRULEAN

Presently, or in general?

SOPHROSYNE

You obviously think I'm stupid or
something.

CHARTRULEAN

That's not true.

SOPHROSYNE

Then out with it. What do you think
of me?

CHARTRULEAN

I don't know you.

SOPHROSYNE

Well, make an assessment.

CHARTRULEAN

Right now, I think you're acting
like a spoiled little...princess!

SOPHROSYNE

I told you to drop the princess.

CHARTRULEAN

I will when you deserve it.

SOPHROSYNE

(incredulous)
Do you hear yourself? No one ever
talks to me like this.

CHARTRULEAN

Then you mustn't act this way with other people.

SOPHROSYNE

Only those who incense me. It's one of my more "unattractive qualities."

CHARTRULEAN

(frustrated)

I'm very tired.

SOPHROSYNE

Ease up. I'm just trying to give you a way out of doing something you don't want to do. Hopefully that applies to both of us. Please, just try to see the brilliance in it.

[Long silence]

CHARTRULEAN

Trees?

SOPHROSYNE

Oh yea. Big ones.

HAVELION SHOWS CYTHAELIA THE GYM

HAVELION

This is my favorite area of the compound. The gym.

CYTHAELIA

What is all this?

HAVELION

Weapons, armor, you name it. This is where we're going to be building our Jhardekai army. Of course we can't say that in certain company. But it's also where we're going to have a bit of fun.

CYTHAELIA

So, why exactly is this place so controversial?

HAVELION

Because of us, mostly.

CYTHAELIA

You mean the Jhardekai?

HAVELION

That much should be obvious.

CYTHAELIA

I've never really understood the difference between Jhardeka and Jhardekai.

HAVELION

It can be confusing. Jhardeka powers are all in the mind. Big thinkers. Most of them join the Order and turn into monks, which is a waste if you ask me. There aren't that many of them. Jhardekai abilities, however, are more obvious. That's why people don't like us, because we're scary. And, there are *lots* more of us.

CYTHAELIA

And what exactly makes you different than me?

HAVELION

How is it that people don't just know this stuff?

CYTHAELIA

I don't know, I guess it's just not common knowledge among normal people.

HAVELION

(cocky)

Fair enough. Aside from a bigger brain with organic multi-level processing capabilities, denser bones, enhanced muscle tissue, trigger fast reflexes, and some other quirks, there's -- well let me just show you. Hold out your hand.

CYTHAELIA

Why, what are you gonna do?

HAVELION

Just press your fingertips to mine.

CYTHAELIA

And what am I --
(gasping)
What was that?

HAVELION

Energy. Ambire-Ergokinesis, if you want to get scientific.

CYTHAELIA

How did you do it?

HAVELION

The mind can be much stranger than you realize. In our case, it even generates its own fuel.

CYTHAELIA

Azurea?

HAVELION

Now you're getting it.

CYTHAELIA

So, is Chartrulean Jhardeka, or Jhardekai?

HAVELION

Both, kinda. He's Etruvian, which is like a Jhardeka on steroids, but with all the Jhardekai stuff too. That's why they call him a messiah.

CYTHAELIA

Why would that make him a messiah?

HAVELION

It's a long story. He really used to be something else.

CYTHAELIA

I keep hearing people say that, but he seems relatively normal. Just...grumpy.

HAVELION

Believe me, he's gotten leagues better. A lot of it has to do with...

(sigh)

Well, there's just a lot going on. I don't know how much I'm allowed to say.

[Beat]

CYTHAELIA

So how does this stuff work,
exactly? Can you show me?

HAVELION

Oh, it's really wild. Our tech
works like an amplifier. It takes
our natural abilities, and makes
them stronger. In some cases, *much*
stronger. But, we're also working
on stuff for non-Jhardekai. Like
you. That's what this next area is
for. Here, catch.

[Sound of something being thrown and caught]

CYTHAELIA

What's this?

HAVELION

It's a type of pulse gauntlet. Go
ahead and put it on.

CYTHAELIA

What does it do?

HAVELION

Whatever you put your mind to.

CYTHAELIA

Ringing your neck?

HAVELION

Well, you have to do a little more
work than that, but it could make
your hand stronger if you needed.

CYTHAELIA

These fibers look really strange.

HAVELION

It's called alytra. We use it in
all our wearable tech. Flight
suits, uniforms, even under armor.
The fibers help fortify our bodies
against massive amounts of
pressure. Absorb an impact, reflect
an external force, et cetera.

CYTHAELIA

So hypothetically, wearing this,
one could survive a fall from a
second story balcony?

HAVELION

That's...oddly specific. I guess
so, why?

CYTHAELIA

Never mind.

HAVELION

Whatever. Now try to hit me.

CYTHAELIA

Are you sure?

HAVELION

Yep!

CYTHAELIA

(sighing)
All right

[Sound of impact]

HAVELION

Is that all you've got? You gotta
put at least a little muscle behind
it. Come on, give it your all.

CYTHAELIA

I don't think you want me to do
that.

HAVELION

Sure I do. Now this time, just
really think about the attack.
Focus your thoughts on your arm.
And when you're ready, hit--

[Gathering energy sounds, energy blast, large impact sound.
Havelion yelping, body hitting floor]

HAVELION (CONT'D)

(sputtering)
--me.

CYTHAELIA

What just happened? It hardly felt
like anything.

ABRUC MEETS CYTHAELIA

[Footsteps]

ABRUC

Havi, there are other ways to
impress a--
(hesitates)
--lady.

CYTHAELIA

Are you kidding? This is amazing!

ABRUC

Looks like you've found a new
sparring partner. One that *won't*
let you win.

HAVELION

What are you trying to say?

ABRUC

Act as tough as you want, you're
still small.

CYTHAELIA

I'm sorry...have we met before?

ABRUC

No. No we haven't.
(gulping)
I'm Abruc. Sorry about my friend.
We don't get out much.

HAVELION

Hey!

CYTHAELIA

I'm Cythaelia. Do all the paladins
live here?

ABRUC

Yep. The others are a bit more
solitary, so you probably won't see
them.

CYTHAELIA

What are those markings on your
arms?

ABRUC

Workplace hazard. Don't you worry
about it.

CYTHAELIA

I think I'd like to see more of
what this gauntlet of yours can do.
Would you show me a thing or two?

ABRUC

I'd love to. But first, try to
knock *me* down. I promise not to
make it so easy.

HAVELION

Hey now!

CYTHAELIA

(laughing)
No. *I* promise to go easy on *you*.

[Transitional music cue]

SOPHROSYNE AND CHARTULEAN DESIGN A SHIP

[Light digital sounds]

SOPHROSYNE

There, I think that about covers
it. Oh! Did you remember to include
the thing about the vent covers?

CHARTRULEAN

(sighing)
I did not. But we need to be done.

[Digital sounds shut off]

SOPHROSYNE

This is our first project together.
We should shake on it.

CHARTRULEAN

What?

SOPHROSYNE

Shake hands. Isn't that how you
make things feel more official?

CHARTRULEAN

In that case...

[Sounds of handshake, and heartbeat]

CHARTRULEAN (CONT'D)

Huh?

SOPHROSYNE
Uh, you can let go now.

CHARTRULEAN
Oh. Sorry.

SOPHROSYNE
You really are tired.

[Beat]

CHARTRULEAN
I have a strange confession to
make.

SOPHROSYNE
Is it about what happened the night
we first met?

CHARTRULEAN
That depends. What exactly did you
observe?

SOPHROSYNE
The best way to describe is that it
felt like my body was like being
covered in cold oil, slowly and
starting at my head. Then
everything felt empty. The room
just dropped away, and all that was
left was you and the brooch. I'm
not exactly sure how long it
lasted. An instant, or several
seconds.

CHARTRULEAN
"The void." In Jhardeho, it's where
our minds go to do extra work,
outside the confines of the
physical world. It's like
a...heightened reality.

SOPHROSYNE
Do you always do that when you meet
people?

CHARTRULEAN
Not very often.

SOPHROSYNE
And what do you mean by "extra
work"?

CHARTRULEAN

Oftentimes I need a few moments to process things.

SOPHROSYNE

So you used a Jhardeho ability on me? Why?

CHARTRULEAN

I needed an answer.

SOPHROSYNE

Did you find it?

CHARTRULEAN

I did.

[Awkward silence]

CHARTRULEAN (CONT'D)

But that is not the confession I intended to make.

SOPHROSYNE

Oh. What, then?

CHARTRULEAN

This ship is stupid.

SOPHROSYNE

Yeah. By design. You were there.

CHARTRULEAN

But there are ideas in here that are not. Things I would never have thought of without having allowed myself some freedom of thought. In some strange way I almost want to try to build this ship to see if it can even be done.

SOPHROSYNE

You can't be serious.

CHARTRULEAN

I am. I may not build it today, or tomorrow, or ever, frankly, but I will carry this exercise forward.

SOPHROSYNE

Can I be there when you show this to my dad?

CHARTRULEAN
If it can be helped.

[Beat]

SOPHROSYNE
There's one thing left that I'd
like to see today, if it's not too
much to ask.

CHARTRULEAN
(sighing)
What is it?

SOPHROSYNE
Would you mind taking me to see the
ones who are really sick?

CHARTRULEAN
I will show you. But prepare
yourself.

[Transitional music]

JOSQUIN ARRIVES IN SIMITU

NARRATOR

The port at the heart of Simitu was overrun with traffic. With so many dignitaries flooding the capital in the wake of King Starbringer's banquet, there was a long queue of ships waiting to land. One ship in particular had been waiting since early morning, arriving from Cailou.

Finally, after many heated arguments and rounds of bartering with the ground crew, it was granted permission to land. When the door opened, Josquin exploded onto the dock. His long dark hair flowed in sync with his cape. Abraset, stood waiting for him with a ground transport.

JOSQUIN
Abraset! Has Chamberlain Yoba sent
a response?

ABRASET
Not yet.

JOSQUIN
The tenacity of these people. They
won't hear the end of it. First,
they intentionally delay my
landing, and now they've started
negotiations without me.

ABRASET

This is all fodder we can use
against them.

JOSQUIN

They're threatened by me. That can
only mean that what we're doing is
working.

ABRASET

You know they suspect you.

JOSQUIN

Neither King Starbringer nor his
lapdog Yoba are complete idiots.
(beat)
How are things progressing?

ABRASET

Well, our writers have been working
tirelessly. Circulating leaflets on
the regular. Prince Imsep has been
very helpful spreading the word
through underground social circles.

JOSQUIN

That's not good enough. We need
people who are ready to act. The
kind he associates with have
influence, but no passion.

ABRASET

That's changing. I've found a few
more, and they're aligned with our
plan.

JOSQUIN

We have a plan? Hah! News to me.

ABRASET

It's a work in progress, but things
are falling into place piece by
piece. We should be a little
cautious for the time being.

JOSQUIN

If we wait until we're ready, it'll
be too late. Once the people lose
confidence in their king, he won't
be able to regain it easily. The
perfect time is now.

ABRASET

So what's our next step?

JOSQUIN

First you're going to fill me in on everything. Then *I'm* going to raise hell for not being invited to the party.