

Martin turned to the small holo disc in the center of the bridge and Garget and Lasun followed suit as the disc flared to life and almost instantly cleared. Martin felt genuine warmth and happiness fill him when he saw Daniel's tall figure on the bridge of his own ship. He didn't know how, but someone must have released the *LEONIDAS IIA*-Class Strike Cruiser from its duties on Earth. This was Danny's personal ship and his home away from home. Martin could make out with his eyes the *ARIZONA* and at least nine other *LEONIDAS IIA* Class ships with the *SPARTAN'S SOUL*, not to mention upwards of at least a hundred other Union warships. He smiled when he realized his brother was not taking any chances and brought the most firepower with him that he could without leaving Ventori undefended.

Danny met his eyes in the transmission. "I heard you were throwing a party so I brought the party favors." Danny spoke with his trademark smile, exposing his brilliant white teeth and his long wolf fangs for all to see. Garget Ranev and Lasun Vesrak looked at one another for they were thinking the same thing it seemed. This man was easily their equal in height and he had far more muscles than they did. He was utterly huge.

"Bout time you showed up!" Martin quipped.

Danny nodded his head with a smile. "You know me *fervon*... I do like to make an entrance."

Martin saw Anuk and Nayeca step into the transmission with Kesyla between them. "Do not let him fool you Martin..." Anuk spoke. "He has been like a child since the *SPARTAN'S SOUL* came to Ventori two days ago."

Danny nodded his head. "Yeah... that means I don't have to leech off of you anymore. I got my own ship back now. We got better food and the sleeping arrangements are way more to my liking! If you get my drift *fervon*..." Daniel told him waggling his eyebrows.

"Daniel!" Nayeca admonished him with a sharp intake of breath and a slap that struck the back of his head lightly.

Lasun and Garget stood there in shock as Martin burst out laughing. This man, this Alpha wolf was speaking to the *Mard Revik* of their people as if he had not a care in the world and Martin was allowing it. They watched him step closer to the transmission.

"Ventori?" He asked Danny.

Dan nodded his head quickly. "Admiral Ceneu did some maneuvering of the CFGs and he released *SPARTAN'S SOUL* and her entire CFFG to us out here. I left the 2nd SED on Ventori and only brought Manda's and my Fleet Groups. I figured that would be enough. The *ARC ROYAL* is returning with Dysea, Bella and Cirith; they should be arriving in the morning. Ventori now has a full SED on the surface and upwards of four hundred ships guarding them *fervon*. Ceneu even sent a detachment from the 1st Elven Engineering Division. Nalmos and the other Justices are working fast and the Tasmor are working right alongside them. Nalmos has offered them a permanent place on Ventori for those who wish to stay, and Saydia already has about a thousand of her best engineers on Ventori working with our folks and preparing to rebuild Jorlari for starters. They will branch out from there."

"You have been busy." Martin spoke with a smile.

"Who says I can't get things done without you?" Danny snorted playfully. "All of the adolescent dragons are on the surface and Syrilth chopped several of her best instructors from Dragon Mountain. They arrived with *SPARTAN'S SOUL* and are having

a blast teaching them.” He told him. “Carina and Moneus are coordinating everything from Manne.”

Martin stepped closer to the transmission still. “Danny we have... we have learned quite a bit.” He said softly.

“I’m assuming some of it has to do with the tattoo that now mars my beautiful and flawless skin.” Danny spoke with a grin, even as Martin saw Anuk and Nayeca roll their eyes and Kesyla laughed softly. “Pablo saw it and about shit his pants over the detail.”

“Who else?” Martin asked him.

“Our whole team.” Danny answered. “Anuk, Nubian and Kesyla too. Moneus as well.” Danny looked intently at the man he called brother without question. “I’m assuming our little ones on Earth too.”

Martin nodded his head slowly. “It’s a long story *fervon* and I got a feeling the parts we haven’t heard are not going to be pretty.”

Danny nodded his head. “They never are Marty.” He agreed. “We’ll get through it. We always do.” He told him. “Now, you told me I would be able to kick someone’s ass! How bout that?”

Martin grinned at him as his spirits began lifting. “Hold that thought. I have a call to make.”

“Well hurry it up old man!” Danny barked. “Captain Jaban tells me we got a new refit and I want to try out some of the new toys!” He said referring to the man who commanded *SPARTAN’S SOUL* for him and had for the entire time Danny had been in charge of the 2nd SED.

Martin chuckled. “Stand by.” He said turning to Martin. “Andro should be hitting that facility right about now Armen. Open a channel to this station and let’s talk to whoever is in charge.”