



ASCENSION

Origins

The Rise of Poliate, Part II

A Brief Account by Master Historian Jahrahr Tuhlkeen

LIBERATION OF PLANET KATHAYO

Commander Milbek immediately enhanced his special forces by adding a broad range of Minders who possessed varying levels of ability. This purposeful identification and selection of the differing Minding skills enabled Milbek to deploy his forces with strategic intent as to the specific missions he fashioned for each unit.

With his teams assembled, Melbek's first military action was to liberate Kathayoh, a planet that housed a huge armory and other resources that he intended to subsequently appropriate.

He launched a preemptive strike on Kathayoh's sizable outpost, which was crammed with enslaved soldiers. The outpost was laughingly referred to as The Pit of Inferno in reference to the deadly boiling swamp that surrounded it. The planet was controlled by a cruel and violent despot named Dilliak Strah, who also commanded a massive fleet of starships.

It is recounted that prior to the planned incursion, some Minders, fearful of sacrificing innocent lives, suggested to Milbek not to engage in direct combat. Instead, they proposed that a careful selection of high-level Minders simply invade the thoughts of the officers in charge of Strah's garrison, and persuade them to surrender their forces without bloodshed. They concluded that such a victory could be obtained efficiently. But Milbek had studied the minds of a myriad of invaders, and understood that taking the garrison without incurring some casualties was unlikely, regardless of any Minding influence exercised. He pointed out that each species required different Minding controls, and Kathayoh was home to a myriad of species, which made it impossible for a simultaneous coordinated effort to influence their minds and actions. Once he shared his knowledge with those concerned Minders by linking his thoughts to theirs, each understood the immensity of the task before them and acknowledged Milbek's wisdom and military acumen.

Milbek strategized a plan of attack on the garrison and the fleet, by assigning key Minders to command small divisions that would infiltrate and disrupt all operations on Kathayoh. It was a targeted tactic, creating a vortex of misinformation amongst Dilliak Strah's individual enemy units. As the distorted intelligence spread, the enemy lost focus, and the orders from the tyrant Strah and his officers went essentially adrift.



The evil tyrant was no match for Milbek's military mind.

In the end, although there were few casualties on both sides, the infiltration plan left Strah's troops in complete disarray, and the garrison was taken in a mere three days.

The garrison command fell easily under the control of Milbek's forces, and the military contingent surrendered without further incident. The tyrant Dilliak Strah was tossed by his men into the swamp, where he perished instantly.

Out of this confrontation a most encouraging development transpired. Every soldier living on Kathayoh had been abducted and enslaved to serve at the pleasure of Dilliak Strah, which resulted in no fidelity to the army they were mandated to serve. When Milbek informed the hapless soldiers of the Planetary Union's objective for liberating the universe of tyrants such as Strah, each and every one volunteered to join Milbek's forces. In a matter of hours, the army at his disposal grew from a mere three thousand, to over half a million. Every battlecruiser, starship and carrier on Kathayoh now came under Milbek's command.

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