

The Era of the Arcs: From 2050 to 2450, as told by Dr. Konrad Seehoffer

The Enslavement of Humanity

What happened next is both well known, yet poorly understood. Events after the Commonwealth Civil war exploded across the world occurred too fast. With the arrival of the Madukian Fleet and the deaths of so many, few were able to record exactly what happened.

What we know for sure is that as the Commonwealth fell apart around him, the Commandant decided to take drastic measures. He ordered his fleets to move over Tel Aviv and begin a bombardment of the city in order to suppress the revolt. In minutes tens of thousands of people died, including thousands of his own troops. Perhaps the Commandant thought that if he crushed the Israeli revolt he could enforce unity through fear, but we will never know.

As Tel Aviv started to burn Queen Leyla issued an ultimatum, stop bombardment of Tel Aviv immediately or the RFU and the Commonwealth would be at war. The Commandant reportedly laughed at this, and refused to even answer.

The RFU fleet moved to engage the Commonwealth navy and battle was joined in the skies of Reach. What seemingly occurred next was that the Commandant called upon America to help him defeat the RFU. American forces, rather than abiding by the treaty began an attack upon the European Union.

The Commandant continued to fight against the RFU even as the Commonwealth collapsed around him and hundreds of thousands, then millions of Europeans were killed by American forces. If the Commandant had ceased his attack on Tel Aviv and reached an agreement with Queen Leyla to stop Fuhrer Mertzner, as the Queen had pled on open channels for hours, then humanity could have been saved. Instead the Commandant continued to shell Tel Aviv and fight the RFU.

Many speculate as to why the Commandant did this. Many assume that the Commandant and the Fuhrer were accomplices in a depraved plot to rule humanity with an iron fist. Others simply believe he had gone insane. However, the simple fact that the Commandant continued to fight the RFU as Europe burned, as Russia, Poland, Sweden and even Warsaw on Earth declared their independence from the Commonwealth and war on the Commandant, has made the Commandant the most hated figure in all of human history. For the Commandant had once been one of the most loved figures in humanity, yet had fallen so terribly far.

In any case the Commandant soon came to be irrelevant, for as soon as the EU was on its knees the American war machine attacked the Commonwealth. The forces of the Commonwealth, already badly beaten after days of fighting with the RFU, were quickly overwhelmed, torn apart by the American swarm of gunships and naval artillery. No sooner had the Americans destroyed the Commonwealth they attacked the RFU, and defeated them as well. American forces began bombing every city on the planet they could reach. Millions died. Then the Madukians arrived.

Sixty battleships, that was how many ships the Madukians sent to conquer Reach. The Empire, having sent two previous fleets that had been destroyed, decided to send the vast majority of their fleet all at once to assure victory. If the forces of humanity had been united, we

could have survived. Previous to the American attack and the Commonwealth Civil War there had been enough firepower amongst the fleet of humanity to repel the Madukian attack.

Instead Fuhrer Mertzner and Commandant Medvedev ensured that the humanity would be doomed to two hundred years of slavery and humiliation. Whether this was wrought by collaboration or not is irrelevant, their names are those of the greatest villains, the most hated men which humanity has ever known. Their ego, their mindless ambition, and perhaps even the people who did not stop them when they had the chance are responsible for the deaths of billions and the darkest chapter in all of human history.

Servitude

After the Madukians had destroyed every vessel in orbit, brought down the orbital elevators, and melted every single military base and half of all the cities into lava, they landed troops. They didn't ask for surrender, they didn't negotiate, they just killed everything until they were satisfied that humanity could offer no resistance. They methodically destroyed all advanced technology until humanity was brought down to the same level as their Empire. All AI were destroyed, and with them all digital computers.

Then they brought forward the few people who could speak Madukian and killed them until they found those who were willing to collaborate. Of the thousands of people who had learned Madukian, only about forty men and women, and one Shadowcat, survived to become the first planetary governors which ruled over the Madukian Vessel Worlds of the Empire.

Reach was added to the personal demesne of the Emperor. The rolling chaparral hills and calm inland sea of the former RFU became the site Emperor's Victory Palace and the Triumphal City of Tarakan. The palace, a towering structure of marble, gold, and blue titanium towered over the city, its vast bulk and egregious opulence intimidating all those who saw it. The city that unfolded around was one of groomed elegance, perfectly manicured to the bold and grandiose tastes of the nobility.

Every leader of humanity which the Madukians could get their hands on was killed. A number of the most powerful and resourceful individuals were able to escape. Multiple members of the royal families of Japan and the RFU were able to escape. Commandant Medvedev himself was able to flee before Reach fell. There is debate over how many of the Executive Board of the Megacorp Council survived. Many assumed that Mr. Freeman simply moved back into the mega tree jungle, where not even the Madukians dare venture, and several others were never found, leading many to believe that most of them were able to escape. .

Every political organization was taken down until all that was left was the hierarchy of slaves and their owners. Nations ceased to exist, leaving nothing but memory behind. Humanity was put to work in factories, mines and farms on a hundred worlds. Many women of humanity were forced to bear more slaves for the glory of the Empire. The surviving soldiers of humanity were made to fight each other to the death in great arenas as Madukian masses watched and cheered for blood.

Above it all stood the Emperor, a man of unquestionable power who ruled with an iron fist. A being whose whims death life and death a trillions of beings.

Emperor Van'der Wade

The Emperor Van'der Wade of the Madukian Empire had ruled since his father's death in their first misbegotten war against the Apostles, who remain mysterious and uncommunicative to this day. He had been ruling for roughly sixty years when humanity was conquered and enslaved.

When humanity was conquered the Empire was united in celebration, but it was a bittersweet victory, for the Emperor was starting to grow old and feeble, and he knew that it was a matter of years and not decades before he started his first steps into the Shadow Realm.

The Shadow Realm is a Madukian term of the last stage of life, when the mind becomes feeble. The Madukians, in spite of all their technology believe that this is when the demons which guard their afterlife usher them forward into their afterlife, a realm called Kassiyik. In reality this is actually a Madukian version of Alzheimer's. Unlike humans, Madukian brains deteriorate faster than their bodies when they reach old age. Where an elderly human might be bent over with age, unable to walk without assistance, by the time they die, Madukians commonly remain strong and vital, despite deteriorating mental faculties.

The Emperor was determined to stave off his journey to the afterlife, and found a solution in the life bed technology which had been initially pioneered in Vekta and the megacorps. The Life Bed was an extremely advanced piece of technology which repaired damage to the person it had been keyed to. The technology was so powerful that it had kept some of the most wealthy and powerful leaders of Reach alive long after their natural life spans. Wolfenstein, one of the primary inventors of the technology still alive to this day, hiding in the depths of space, now at the tender age of 422.

The Emperor made the research teams of Vekta and the megacorps his personal slaves, and tasked them with building him a life bed in his Victory Palace on Reach. The life bed was finished just the Madukian Emperor was taking his first steps into the Shadow Realm, and had started to suffer from dementia like symptoms.

The first night in the life bed reportedly made the Emperor a man twenty years younger, healing ancient battle wounds, curing his dementia, and giving him a vitality he had not experienced since he had been a young warrior in his father's armies.

Now with access to the Life Bed, Emperor Van'der Wade realized in his restored mind that he could rule forever. In a triumphal speech to the Empire the Emperor appeared on the balcony of the Triumphal Place on Reach and declared that he had ascended to a new plain of existence, and would rule the Empire forever.

His children were dismayed. Through the millennia the Madukians had come to trust in a system of regular succession. An Emperor would rise and he would rule, bar assassination or death in battle, until he entered the Shadow Realm. Following this his children would determine amongst themselves who would take the throne next.

These determinations would often take the form of great battles between the claimants to the throne. These battles could sometimes last years, until all but one claimant had either died or abdicated their claim. The Madukian Navy and Army several hundred years previous to the conquest of humanity had agreed amongst themselves that they would not participate in these succession wars. However, each child of the Madukian Emperor commonly had dozens of planets to their names, and even without the participation of the Navy these regular succession wars would claim the lives of hundreds of warships, millions of Madukians, and tens of millions of slaves.

His children, of which there were dozens, realized that unless the Emperor was killed that none of them would ever have a chance to claim the throne. The Emperor managed this situation by providing his favored sons and daughters with life beds of their own. The Emperor surrounded himself with legions of security, and commonly hid from the public eye.

Over the next decades his children would slowly be killed off by the Emperor, beginning with those who had the greatest ambition. Eventually even those favored children, those who had been given life beds, realized that their father's favor was fickle and united their forces in an attempt to kill the Emperor. By then it was too late, and in 2341 the last of the Emperor's children died. The Emperor then had his harem of concubines sterilized to prevent the birth of a child which could oppose him.

Now without a single Madukian with a valid claim to the throne the Emperor stepped back into the public light, ordering the construction of towering monuments to his glory as he directed the Empire's growth across the stars.

Long Years

With the Emperor now in an unassailable position he gathered all power to himself and reached to seize world after world for the Empire. In the time of humanity's enslavement a dozen more intelligent species were conquered and enslaved, often with humans fighting and dying on the front lines ahead of Madukian orbital artillery which gave care nor thought to dropping shells amongst the slave soldiers.

Humans and the other slave species were worked to the death to build vast armies and navies. Thousands of battleships, billions of suits of armor to make the Emperor's will manifest across the galaxy. Some of the greatest atrocities were the comfort women of humanity, for the Madukian and human physiology were substantially similar enough that Madukians could derive pleasure from a human concubine.

The level of technology in the Empire was advanced to the point that the Emperor decided to carry out an attack on the Apostles as his father had done before him. With great fanfare 10,000 battleships and a billion soldiers formed "The Glorious Imperial Fleet," and in 2358 launched into Apostle space.

This fleet made it further than his father's, laying siege and capturing a number of Apostle worlds before the Madukian fleet was broken. Sixty years later the Emperor tried again with a fleet twice the size of the previous one, and yet again he was repulsed.

In 2448 the Emperor made another attempt, this time with a force so large that when the Apostles defeated it, for the first time in the history of the Madukian Empire, there were not enough Madukians to maintain control of the empire. Rebellions arose, and the Empire found itself simply unable to respond, stretched too thin.

The Death of the Emperor

As the Madukian Empire struggled to keep its vast slave populations under control one of the key collaborators, Tyrone Johnson, formerly a scientist in Vekta, realized that he had a chance to set his people free.

Tyrone Johnson had been given his own life bed in exchange for his extensive expertise in the life bed technology. His family had been afforded nigh limitless privileges, dining on the finest food, living in palatial estates. All in exchange for the immortality of the Emperor.

Johnson Tyrone and his entire family were killed immediately after his sabotage of the Emperor's life bed. He must have known what would have happened, and for his sacrifice all of humanity owes him their thanks.

As the Emperor returned to Reach to vacation after the crushing defeat of his forces in contest against the Apostles Dr. Johnson made some modifications to the Emperor's life bed. Instead of healing the Emperor's injuries, the life bed melted the Emperor's skin off his body. Dr. Tyrone filmed the entire event, and then gave it to the Resistance.

Footage of the Emperor bashing his way out of his life bed, screaming in agony as his entire body bleed. The camera followed the Emperor flailed about, unable do anything as he died on the most horrible deaths imaginable.

Once the Emperor died, his blood smeared across the black marble floors of the Eternity Room, Dr. Tyrone dragged the Emperor's corpse out to the balcony from which he addressed the Empire, and threw the Emperor's corpse over the railing and down into the plaza before thousands of stunned nobles.

Centered on Reach, the Madukian Succession War radiated out across the Empire.

The Succession War

Without the a single legitimate heir to the the throne left alive the dozen most powerful Madukian nobles declared themselves Emperor, including the Governor of Earth, former Seeker Lin. Two years later there were forty two claimants to the Imperial throne. These petty warlords have expended what was left of the Madukian Empire's strength against each other, and now the Empire is a shadow of it's former self. The Empire has become so weak that many slave worlds have been stripped of their garrisons to fight in the succession war.

In this environment the various rebellions scattered across a hundred worlds have chosen this time to rise up. Now the Empire consists of scattered, burned out planets ruled over by addle brained nobility who cling to the idea of Empire.

Now a nearly a hundred worlds have thrown off their overlords. Not just humanity, but half a dozen other species, the strongest and most organized of the those which toiled for the Madukian Empire are now in control of their the worlds, and set their sights on the increasingly weak remnants of the Madukian Empire.

Now is our time. Humanity must rise up and bring the fight back to the Madukians, destroy them, bring them to THEIR knees. Make them suffer for what WE HAVE SUFFERED! But as we fight, do not forget what brought us to this place. Do not let us be ruled by men like the Commandant and the Fuhrer. For the only way the costs of freedom can be justified, is if we as humans consent to the means by which it is acquired. For victory at any cost, is not victory at all.