

The Vault of Erised
SBL Rajju Kang (4024)

The room was unbearable.

Four identical walls, all painted a dull space grey, lit with a single light bulb that hung over head and flickered as it swung back and forth. The room was more like a closet, large enough for the four foot square table that the Nautolan Rajju Kang sat at and perhaps two occupants. The only colour in the room was found on air duct panel at the top of one of the walls that had faded yellow more than a decade ago. This all was, of course, intentional. Just like how the heat had been turned up for the past half hour.

The only relief from the heat, and the death by boredom, was room's only door suddenly opening. Stepping inside, the Nautolan already knew, was the lead investigator. A tall, lanky human with sunken eyes and a crooked mouth. As a member of the Inquisitorius, Rajju was already well acquainted with the man - but him and his crownies seemed to forget that.

"Rajju Kang-

"Chief Inquisitor, Maulen." The Nautolan was quick to interrupt the man as he started talking while taking a seat opposite of Rajju. "I am still a member of the Inquisitorius and therefore should be address properly."

"Forgive me, Rajju." Maulen inhaled deeply before pressing himself back in his chair. The fool always had the best posture and wore it like a badge of honour. One of the many things that annoyed Rajju. "For the duration of this investigation you have been suspended-

Struggling against the chains that held his two arms behind his chair, Rajju was quick to lift his right leg as if he were to pass gas and just held it there as he interrupted the man once more.

"Oh, knock it off Maulen. If you are going to bend me over at least tickle my brown eye while you are down there."

"-as such you are not granted the rights and privileges of your rank; both within the Inquisitorius and the Brotherhood."

"You know you would never have pulled this crap if Jac was still Justicar, you huttsucker. And as soon as I'm out of here I'll be letting Elincia know what happened here."

"Be it as it may, your Consul can't help you for the moment." Maulen said with a dismissive tone as he pulled a datapad from his robes. "If you cooperate, you will find yourself out of here sooner."

"Spare me your good cop attitude. Let's just skip to the point that Aiden steps in and tries to beat the information out of me; maybe I'll get lucky and he will drop me on the first punch like he did to that Quarren last time."

"Enough." The words had a bit of bite to them this time, as if Rajju had struck a nerve. These guys obviously needed a win and were upset one of their one wasn't cooperating with them. "We just want to know what you did with it all?"

"Did with what?" The tone of the Nautolan failed to display any concern.

"Knock it off, Rajju. You were found within the Vault of Erised, there's no denying you were in there-"

"Ain't denying it, Maulen. I was in the Vault, I heard there was some great loot in there. I broke in, and I pride myself on doing it before Mav's or Marick's cronies got there - or whoever you are serving today." As the Nautolan's words dragged on his volume increased as well. "But when I got there, there was nothing - so your boss has no beef with me. Can't imagine a stupider move than arresting a Chief Inquisitor for a simple B&E!"

"So your claim is that the vault was empty?"

"The entire time!" The words burst through gritted teeth, and laughter could be heard from outside the door. While that had caught Raiju's attention, when he turned back to face the man he noticed the human to be embarrassingly red.

"You saw nothing? Seriously?" The concept seemed to truly confuse the man.

"Not a coin, a datachip, not even a damn toilet."

The Nautolan's words held in the air for several moments. Across the table, the man's face just had this dumbfounded look on it that failed to fade. After several minutes, the door of the room opened and Aiden popped his head - looking only at Maulen. A key was quickly tossed on the table, and a grin crossed the second man's face.

"Told you this was useless, let me go."

Now it was Raiju's turn to look dumbfounded.

"You're just going to take my word for it? And let me go? Just like that?" Raiju was quick to rub his wrists when Maulen finally uncuffed him but before the man left, the Nautolan grabbed the sleeves of the man's robes.

"Honestly, what is going on?" There seemed to be a shift in the room, as if Maulen knew Raiju would have his full command of his rank at any moment, and the answer finally came with a sigh from the man.

"This whole thing is a setup. Neither Mav or Marick have an interest in the vault, it's a farce." A sheepish look finally came over the man's face. "We use it extort people. We find out what they see in there, arrest them before they can collect it, and then Ayden & I run a tab on the person."

"And you thought with my connections you should make a tool out of me?"

"Aiden disagreed but we needed to recover after our last mishap-" Suddenly, the man's robes were in the Nautolan's fists.

"You were going try to use me?!"

"Raiju, I-"

"Shut it!" Raiju screamed, shoving the man out of the room and into the arms of the waiting Aiden. "The pair of you better get out of here, now. But I ruin you both for wasting me time."

With that, the two were gone in an instant; leaving the Nautolan to stand in the open doorway by himself. When the Nautolan was sure he was finally alone, he glanced cautiously down the hallway outside and then retreated back in the room.

Slowly, knowing what had been hidden behind it, the Nautolan looked up to the panel high on the wall.