

OUR MARTYRED LADY



PART 4 – THE STERNEST TEST (2019)

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LIST OF CHARACTERS:

- * Inquisitor Katarinya Greyfax
- * Celestine, the Living Saint
- * Marshal Gardhelm
- * Custodian Longinus
- * Assistant Kyrillos
- * Greater Demon of Tzeentch;
- * Trevayne, Lord Inquisitor
- * Auward, Black Templar
- * Marzel, Apothecary

Black Templar: "Marshal Gardhelin. Surveyors are picking up massive energy discharges, plasma debris and fragment fields".

Gardhelin: "Void war... Broadcast to the whole fleet to assume general quarters2. Battle alert! Raise void shields!"

Celesine (over vox): "What is happening, Marshal? Have we not translated into Ophelia system?"

Gardhelin (over vox): "We are at Ophelia, sister Celestine. It looks like there's been an attack in our absence".

Celesine (over vox): "You must help Ophelia VII immediately, Marshal. I am coming to the command deck".

Gardhelin (over vox): "Contact Inquisitor Greyfax and inform her of the situation. Maximum power to surveyors, show me what's happening".

Black Templar: "Scan readings indicate ongoing conflict, Marshal. Detecting transmissions scatter from within system".

Gardhelin: "Decipher and put them on the command address".

Black Templar: "Aye, Marshal. Filtering the command address system now".

Female Voice 1 (over vox, interference): "Entering the domains of Ophelia..."

Female Voice 2 (over vox, interference): "Negative... Full back or we will open fire..."

Female Voice 1 (over vox, interference): "Cease fire! We require immediate detection... We act to... Full scale evacuation..."

Black Templar: "There are others, Marshal".

Male Voice 1 (over vox, interference): "Maneuver for broadside fire. We can't let those bastards... What happened to the semi-light? Where is the scan support? We are fighting blindly..."

Black Templar: "More of the same, Marshal. Fragmentary data, corrupted broadcasts. Whoever attacked did so with speed and precision".

Greyfax (entering the command deck): "Marshal, are we under attack?"

Gardhelin: "Not yet, Inquisitor Greyfax, but Ophelia VII is".

Greyfax: "Insanity! Ophelia VII is one of the most heavily protected planets in the Segmentum Solar. Who would be so stupid?"

Celestine (entering the command deck): "Have you received word from the Ecclesiarch yet?"

Gardhelin: "I have other priorities, sister Celestine. We have ships translating from the warp all around us. First we must make sure the fleet assembles safely".

Celestine: "Any contact from the Order of Our Martyred Lady?"

Gardhelin: "Three of their ships have translated and acknowledged the call to general quarters".

Greyfax: "It will be hours, possibly even days until all our ships arrive. We need to push in system and investigate what is happening".

Gardhelm: "Until this moment, Inquisitor, I have been content to allow you to dictate our course of action. That ends now. This is void battle and I will prepare for it as I deem right".

Greyfax: "Void battle or not I..."

Gardhelm (interrupting): "Inquisitor Greyfax, remove yourself from my command bridge or I will have you removed. Whatever the consequences later".

Greyfax: "Those consequences will..."

Celestine (interrupting): "Katarinya, is this the time for remonstration?"

Greyfax: "No, it is not. As you wish it, Marshal Gardhelm. I need a vox relay connected to my quarters. I may be able to contact Kyrilos for more information".

Gardhelm: "It will be done. Sister Celestine, you may remain if you wish".

Celestine: "No, Marshal. I shall not distract you further. If I may use your chapel, I shall pray".

Gardhelm: "Pray for what, sister Celestine?"

Celestine: "That our fears are unfounded and that Ophelia's fall will not herald another great catastrophe".

Gardhelm: "The battle is still being fought. We can still save the planet".

Celestine: "Yet because of Deacis's poor judgment it might be too late to save the Ecclesiarchy".

(Celestine treading away)

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Greyfax (writing down her report): "Entire system under attack, but we are not going to find who is attacking. Save us from the pride of military minds. Kultza could not have known, it was a reflex thought – San Leor. We were right to go there. It was not a diversion. As Longinus said it was both, not one or the other".

(beeping sound)

Black Templar (over vox): "This is the command bridge, Inquisitor Greyfax".

Greyfax (over vox): "Yes?"

Black Templar (over vox): "Your long band vox has been established. Which channel shall I put it on?"

Greyfax (over vox): "Private chamber. I shall encrypt it myself".

Black Templar (over vox): "As you wish, Inquisitor".

(beeping sound)

Greyfax (looking for something): "Where is it? Here? There you are. Detect voice, Inquisitor Katarinya Greyfax".

(ADSL modem sounds)

Machine: "Voice detected, analyzing. Identified as Inquisitor Katarinya Greyfax".

Greyfax: "Detect vox channel, replicate!"

Machine: "Vox channel detected, replicating".

Greyfax: "Encode channel, highest security. Scan for broadcast interceptions and signal fluctuations".

Machine: "Scanning, scanning, scanning! Channel is secure. Coding started, select destination".

Greyfax: "Naravand Kyrillos, destination Alpha, highest priority".

(ADSL modem sounds)

Greyfax: "Answer it! Come on, Kyrillos, I had it implanted in your ear so you could not lose it".

(sounds of gunshots over the vox)

Kyrillos: "Inquisitor, praise the Emperor! A blessing that you are alive".

Greyfax: "I am pleased that you are also still with us. Tell me everything".

Kyrillos: "It is pandemonium4 down here, Inquisitor. Unidentified ships arrived in system twenty one days ago (interference) protecting flotilla..."

Greyfax: "Are you still there, Kyrillos?"

Kyrillos: "Picked up unknown broadcast across the system. That when the attacks on the surface started. Two orbital stations fired down into the palaces with missiles. Luckily the Ecclesiarch was addressing the sanctification of a new statue away from the cardinal towers".

Greyfax: "Who, who is attacking?"

Kyrillos: "Everyone, renegade Space Marines, traitor Frateris Templars arriving on merchant vessels, sympathizers within the ranks of the pilgrims and clergy. It's like everyone has gone mad. Even the Adeptus Arbites are divided, taking sides precinct5 by precinct".

Greyfax: "Where are you? Is the Ecclesiarch safe?"

Kyrillos: "(interference) Deacis is alive, but wounded. We are moving him to the Convent Sanctorum".

Greyfax: "Say that again. Where are you?"

Kyrillos: "Under escort of the battle sisters. The enemy Space Marines have targeted the Convent Sanctorum but they are holding out (interference) It is not just a physical attack, Inquisitor".

Greyfax: "I am losing the signal".

Kyrillos: "There's.... There's something else... Nightmares, fights, murders... Since just after you left there have spates6 of discord7 and aggravation8 in the pilgrims. They are short-tempered, quick to violence. Three weeks ago there were riots when access to the Emperor's holy relic was closed. Even the Synod Minstra seems punctured through. Everything is becoming fractured".

Greyfax: "What data can you send me?"

Kyrillos: "I tried studying the outbreaks for a pattern, but I can't see anything at all. I told to match it to allies of Kultza and I spoke with the Ecclesiarch to see if he could make sense of it from a politics view point".

(explosion, debris falling over screaming Kyrillos)

Greyfax: "Kyrillos? Are you there?"

Kyrillos: "Some of the involved cardinals argued heavily against the Decree Passive dissolution before aligning with the vote. Others were in favor. There is no geographical context. It's all across Ophelia VII, same is sectarian, theological and hierarchical analysis".

Greyfax: "So not an environmental contaminant?"

Kyrillos: "Right, it can't be water or airborne. It has to be psychic. The astropaths sent messages on Terra, also growing reports of disturbance from the edge of the system. Navigators are refusing to translate at the system's boundary".

Greyfax: "First the Alpha level event on Terra and now this. To blanket a whole world with this type of effect requires terrible power. They must be in the system somewhere".

Kyrillos: "We are boarding now. Jamming array will come into effect. What do you want me to do, Inquisitor?"

Greyfax: "Stay alive, Kyrillos. When you reach the Convent Sanctorum, get a secure uplink to Marshal Gardhelm and send everything to me".

Battle Sister: "Closing the ramp in thirty seconds, archdeacon".

Kyrillos: "What about the Ecclesiarch?"

Greyfax: "Keep him alive if you can but your data is more important. This schism is already bigger than Deacis".

Kyrillos: "Right, I will signal in a few hours. Emperor, protect you, Inquisitor".

Greyfax: "Stay alert, help is coming. End of transmission. Contact command bridge".

Black Templar: "Inquisitor".

Greyfax: "Inform Marshal Gardhelm that I need an audience with him. Centurion Longinus and sister Celestine should be present also in one hour".

Black Templar: "Affirmative, Inquisitor".

Greyfax: "That level of psychic power needs a focus. Time to see where it is coming from".

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Greyfax: "Servitor, enforce communication silence and bar entry protocols".

Servitor: "As commanded, Inquisitor".

Greyfax: "Activate vox record personal archive".

(beeping sound)

Greyfax: "Archive recording of Inquisitor Katarinya Greyfax, auto-transmit. The investigation that began on Gallant V nearly a year ago is almost complete. Whilst on the journey from San Leor I have been reading the book of Eucletus and the selected inquiries by Inquisitor Doambassa. The eight turned god I am reasonably confident to presume is a euphemism for abyssal entity code 9, also known as the Changer of the Ways, Zahnoris and many other names and titles. Disciples are known to be masters of morphism and sorcery. Combined with the presence of the Alpha Legion warriors and operatives at San Leor and Ophelia VII it is sensible to assume widespread infiltration of part of the Ecclesiarchy".

(Greyfax taking a sip)

Greyfax: "As well as political agitation I believe the evidence presented by my agent on the surface indicates psychic influence of some kind, affecting the judgment and loyalty of those at Ophelia. An extensive planet-wide if not system-wide effect would require considerable resources. I believe it should be straightforward to trace the psychic disturbance to its source. I expect the practitioners to have employed a demonic contract to safeguard themselves against repercussions⁹ associated with the conjuration of this magnitude. I am no demonologist despite recent experiences and I will need protection. To that end I am going to employ a theo-tangent aurary as a focus. Time to find out exactly what is guarding this world".

(Greyfax launching the weird clocklike device)

Calm, Katarinya, no harm can come to you, if you do not allow it".

(Greyfax using psyche abilities)

Greyfax: "Ophelia VII. Celestine was correct. The faith burns like an aura. Yes I feel it".

Greater Demon (barely heard): "From the darkness springs light. From the past springs life".

Greyfax: "I can feel you, traitors. Where are you?"

Greater Demon (barely heard): "Norus tashkan ah kanwud of kenron! As was the burning fire... shall be the burning fire..."

Greyfax: "I have you, just a few more... Ah"

(enigmatic device breaking up)

(Greyfax collapsing to the floor unconsciously)

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Celestine (standing behind the door): "Katarinya? Inquisitor Greyfax?"

Servitor: "Command override not accepted, inquisitorial protocols in effect".

Celestine (standing behind the door): "Stand back, brother Auward!"

(Celestine breaking the door)

Celestine: "Katarinya! Fetch her Apothecary, brother".

(brother Auward running away)

Celestine: "Inquisitor Greyfax, Katarinya! Can you hear me? Wake up, Katarinya. It is Celestine. Wake up!"

Greyfax (moaning): "Eh... Oh... What power of..."

Celestine: "It is sister Celestine, Katarinya!"

Greyfax: "I felt them too, the flames, the flames that will consume Ophelia".

Celestine: "Do not try to get up".

Greyfax: "We are running out of time. Help me up, sister".

Celestine: "You look unwell, Inquisitor. These metal shards... What happened?"

Greyfax: "A psychic ability greater than I had anticipated, demonically powered".

Celestine: "An Apothecary is on the way, rest a moment".

Greyfax: "No, we do not have time, Celestine. This power, it is growing stronger every hour. I felt it, this is not the end of the matter simply, a process of the beginning of something more devastating".

Celestine: "What can we do to stop it?"

Greyfax: "Find the sorcerers and kill them".

Celestine: "And you know where they are?"

Apothecary: "Inquisitor, I was told you were incapacitated".

Greyfax: "As you can see, Apothecary, I have recovered".

Apothecary: "My med-scan indicates no trauma. Have you sustained any injury?"

Greyfax: "Only to my pride".

Apothecary: "It would be better if you came to the Apothecarion for analysis".

Greyfax: "I am unharmed, brother Apothecary. I require no further assistance".

Apothecary: "I will not insist, but contact me immediately if you feel something amiss. You also, sister Celestine. Please report any untoward¹⁰ behavior from Inquisitor Greyfax".

Celestine: "I will, brother Marzel".

(Apothecary treading away)

Celestine: "You vex¹¹ them".

Greyfax: "I know. My psychic powers concern them, but my authority overrides their suspicion of witchcraft. I can feel the drives at full power, what is happening?"

Celestine: "Marshal Gardhelm has ordered that the fleet makes all speed for Ophelia VII. Sit, Katarinya".

Greyfax: "You disagree with that course of action?"

Celestine: "I do not trust the Black Templars to show due restraint around the cardinal world. His intervention could be even more catastrophic than the current attack".

Greyfax: "We might have another target for him. When I detected the demonic surge, it did not come from Ophelia VII. One of the other planets or ship, perhaps. I could try to locate the source more closely but my focus... the theo-tangent aurary is spattered across my armor".

(pause)

Celestine: "Would you be able to use me as a focus?"

Greyfax (pouring some water in a glass): "What do you mean?"

Celestine: "I do not understand the intricacies of what you are trying, but I think the focus acts as a kind of proxy to protect you from the backlash of power".

Greyfax: "Put simply, yes, it is a psychic shield of sorts".

Celestine: "Had you not been using one, you would now be dead or mindless".

Greyfax: "The focus acts between my mind and the warp to create a sanctuary buffer. I do not see how you could do that".

Celestine: "My faith is my shield. You have seen that. Open your thoughts to me. Pass your scrying¹² through me and I shall protect you".

Greyfax: "Impossible".

Celestine: "What is impossible? I assure you, I have the mental fortitude to resist whatever comes upon us".

Greyfax: "We would share thoughts. I am an Inquisitor possessing secret knowledge and I cannot simply open my mind to you".

Celestine: "Trust me, Katarinya. Show a little faith".

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(Greyfax and Celestine entering the chapel)

Greyfax (scornfully): "The Marshal's chapel. Look at the artifacts, relics and bones, superstition given form".

Celestine: "This chamber is imbued¹³ with the faith of the Black Templars. Their prayers have... The objects here are imprinted¹⁴ with their blessings, focused on the God Emperor. I can feel them. They give me strength".

Greyfax: "Very well. When can we start?"

Celestine: "I am ready. Kneel with me, Katarinya".

Greyfax: "I do not pray, Celestine".

Celestine: "It is an act of subservience¹⁵. You are a servant of the Emperor, are you not?"

Greyfax: "I am".

(Celestine and Greyfax kneeling)

Celestine: "God Emperor of Terra, lend us your strength..."

Greyfax: "Is that going to be necessary?"

Celestine: "Yes, Katarinya, it is. If you desire the shield of my faith, you must accept it. Justify it how you wish, the channeling of warp current or a nascent¹⁶ psychic deflection, but I am the conduit for the Emperor's will. You may have seen many amazing and terrible things in your life, Katarinya, but you have not died and been returned. I have seen beyond the veil and so I will pray".

Greyfax: "Well, my apologies then..."

Celestine: "Perhaps it will help to focus your power upon me as I pray".

(silence)

Celestine: "God Emperor of Terra, lend us your strength as we embark into the darkness. Let our undying devotion to you be the light that burns away the shadows. We are but the blade, the divine will is the hand that moves us".

Greyfax (using psyker abilities): "I feel you, Celestine".

Celestine: "We are the bolter and the bolt, the gauntlet and the fist, the lantern and the light".

Greyfax (using psyker abilities): "I see the light. I see..."

(Greyfax having a vision)

(Trazyn laughing)

Imperial Guardsman: "Die, abomination".

Trazyn (slashing the soldier): "Ahahaha, the Corpse Emperor..."

Greyfax: "I see... abomination..."

Trazyn: "That word again. Stop me if this sounds familiar, but I suspect your priorities require re-evaluation".

Greyfax: "You sow corruption wherever you tread. Your reckoning is overdue".

Trazyn: "I am not a fool. The mind shackle will not let you harm me".

Greyfax: "You've corrupted me as you did Valeria".

(vision fading)

Celestine: "What did the Necron do to you?"

Greyfax: "It no longer matters. Celestine, we are losing our connection".

Celestine: "What did the Necron put into you, Katarinya? What happened?"

Greyfax: "Your suspicion is weakening our bond".

Celestine: "Then reassure me, Katarinya. What did that alien lord put inside you?"

Greyfax (sobbing): "Ah... It was the one called Trazyn the Infinite. It spared my life and used some kind of techno-infection to control my mind to stop me attacking. It does not matter. The tech-priest Cawl removed its taint from my body. I am free of the mind shackle17".

Celestine: "All of it? You are wholly free of the taint?"

Greyfax: "That is my hope. I was helpless, Celestine, rendered incapable. I wish I can promise. I do not know if I will be helpless again".

Celestine: "I believe you. I believe in you, Katarinya".

Greyfax: "I see the source of it again. It pounds upon my thoughts".

Celestine (moaning): "I hear their whispers. They are scratching at my soul, daggers of evil trying to plunge into my blood".

Greyfax: "Not this time! Not again! Ahhhhhhhh"

Celestine: "I am with you, sister. Push into your flames. I am your shield".

Greyfax: "It will scorch18 me".

Celestine: "The God Emperor protects, Katarinya. Trust in the Emperor".

Greyfax: "I see through the flames. I see bones..."

Celestine (sobbing): "Ahhhhhhh..."

Greyfax: "A mountain of bones... A sea of skulls..."

Celestine (sobbing in shock): "I hear them all... The martyred ones... My dear sisters... I will nothing more".

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Celestine: "I saw the source of the flames".

Greyfax: "One of the inner planets, Ophelia IV".

Celestine: "The ossuary19 sanctorum, world grave of the system".

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Gardhalm: "The fleet is assembling in orbit over Ophelia IV. Are you ready, sister Celestine?"

Celestine: "Any signals from the surface?"

Gardhalm: "Nothing remarkable, yet. I hope we've not diverted from the real battle to a deserted planet. Twelve days have passed since you and the Inquisitor determined our new course, but we haven't seen any sign of enemy activity here".

Celestine: "Both Inquisitor Greyfax and I sensed the same origin for the malicious energy that afflicts the system".

Gardhalm: "We would have arrived at Ophelia VII two days ago had we travelled directly".

Celestine: "We have been brought here. That cannot be changed now. I pray that we do the right thing".

Black Templar: "Marshal, the Inculcate²⁰ Hate and the Wisdom of Sigismund are on escort position. The flotilla from the Order of Our Martyred Lady is also maneuvering to orbit".

(Katarinya entering the chambers)

Celestine: "Any fresh word from Ophelia VII, Katarinya?"

Greyfax: "Nothing useful since Kyrillos's last report eight days ago and that was almost incomprehensible. There is a communication blockade in effect. The Convent Sanctorum was holding, but I don't think it would do so for much longer".

Celestine: "I am sure the battle sisters will fight until the last".

Greyfax: "I would rather they did not have to. Are we ready, Marshal?"

Gardhelm: "We will be entering high orbit above Ophelia IV within the hour, Inquisitor. Drop cascades and gunships have been rearmed and prepared for the planet-fall assault".

Black Templar: "Marshal, readings from the surface".

Gardhelm: "Energy surges... Vox scatter... There is definitely someone down there".

Black Templar: "Surveyors are also catching dissipating plasma trail, estimate a small group of warships of light cruiser class or larger in orbit on the other side of Ophelia IV".

Gardhelm: "A paltry²¹ force... We outmatch them, though had all of the ships from the Order of Our Martyred Lady arrived it would be an even swifter victory".

Servitor: "The Majesty of Terra has arrived in system".

Celestine: "You agreed that it was necessary to split the two fleets, Marshal. The defense of the cardinal world had to be reinforced and sending some of the battle sisters was the best choice".

Gardhelm: "It still feels like we are chasing shadows here. The battle rages and we slink away from it".

Greyfax: "In the contrary, Marshal. If the psychic projection is emanating from Ophelia IV, it is imperative that it is eliminated as soon as possible. Your warriors are the best suited for a drop assault".

Celestine: "While it may not be as glorious a charge into the heart of the enemy fleet, your actions here will save the Ophelia system".

Greyfax: "And a far greater threat. If Ophelia VII falls, not only will it spell the end for the Ecclesiarchy and herald a nightmare of intersect wars and fighting, the psychic backwash could rupture²² reality and drag us all into another raging warp rift".

Gardhelm: "I am aware of what is at stake, Inquisitor".

Greyfax: "Good, we do not know exactly what to expect other that the enemy has strong psychic potential. Be on your guard".

(alarm siren going off)

Black Templar: "Detecting multiple energy signatures emerging from behind the largest moon, Marshal".

Gardhelm: "Numbers? Classes? What are the other ships in orbit doing?"

Greyfax: "Perhaps, the enemy is not on the surface. Are the new readings moving toward or away? They might be trying to escape".

Gardhelm: "Get answers now!"

Black Templar: "Six new ships moving on an intercept! All cruiser class and above, at least one of battleship classification. Detecting plasma spikes. Vessels on the far side are accelerating. Also picking up Imperial Navy cypher transmissions".

Greyfax: "It seems the rot has taken hold in the Navy also. I suspect cardinal Kultza's machinations will continue to reveal themselves for years to come".

Celestine: "We still have superiority. The remaining ships from the Order of Our Martyred Lady will arrive within the hour".

Gardhelm: "I disagree, Saint Celestine. My ships are ideal for planetary assault, but in a void war they are outranged and outgunned by these Imperial Navy vessels. If we bring our forces to bear on the ships, we will have nothing for the surface attack. If we assault..."

Greyfax: "The ships will be vulnerable during the drop. Continue with the drop, Marshal".

Gardhelm: "Inquisitor, did you not hear what I said?"

Greyfax: "Whatever is on Ophelia IV must be silenced. If we are not detecting any large scale readings from the surface, we can assume that a small strike force will be sufficient. Bring your ship into orbit, drop what you can and then fight the intercepting ships".

Gardhelm: "We will not be able to provide covering bombardment, Inquisitor".

Celestine: "I do not think it would be of much help. Almost all of Ophelia IV tombs are underground. The surface is still irradiated".

(alarm siren going off)

Black Templar: "We've got incoming torpedoes".

Gardhelm: "Full power to engines and prepare for hard break orbital entry Rapid strike vessels on torpedo intercept! The rest of the fleet, disperse and counter the traitorous Navy vessels. I want the Inculcate Hate ready to attack any drop ships they launch. Transmit to the Order of Our Martyred Lady that we plan a diminished insertion. We need all of their support for orbital battle".

Black Templar: "Aye, Marshal! Imperator Victoris!"

Gardhelm: "You best get ready, Inquisitor. Planetary drop will commence in thirty minutes".

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Greyfax: "You have decided to join us, Centurion Longinus?"

Longinus: "My time has been spent well, Greyfax. I was transmitting the most recent reports in the not unlikely event that neither we nor the fleet escape this entanglement".

Greyfax: "Your confidence is noted, Centurion".

Longinus: "We are relying on you to pinpoint the source of the psychic disruption. We will not have the numbers or firepower for a protracted²³ fight. I do not expect magic bells to aid us this time".

Celestine: "We can take heart from the lack of readings. It seems that this malaise²⁴ has been inflicted upon Ophelia since before our first arrival. Any large force would not have remained hidden for so long".

Greyfax: "There were no conventional surveyor readings to confirm the location, but I am confident we will land within a kilometer of the target. When we are on the surface, we shall evaluate the situation and proceed as appropriate".

(siren going off)

Servitor: "Five minutes to launch".

Celestine: "The ossuary levels are a maze of subterranean tombs and corridors".

Longinus: "I have memorized the layout you provided".

Celestine: "Even if we move unerringly²⁵ towards our foe it is an ideal site for ambushes and traps".

Longinus: "Which is why we will have 100 Black Templars for company. I suggest we allow them to lead the charge".

Celestine: "I would not place another in harm's way to save myself".

Longinus: "I would. You must reframe your perspective, Celestine. This is not a glorious fight for the Emperor. It is a mission to protect Ophelia and hundreds of other star systems. It is defined by success or failure, nothing else".

Greyfax: "Happy is the warrior that can deal in absolutes".

Longinus: "As guardians of the Emperor the Custodians cannot afford anything less than absolute certainty".

Greyfax: "It is not bolt shells and las blasts that concerns me most. Whoever, whatever is perpetrating this psychic attack has the power to influence an entire world, maybe the whole system. If that ability is turned upon us, there's no knowing what might occur. Remain vigilant and be ruthless²⁶".

(siren going off)

Servitor: "Brace for impact! Brace for impact!"

Gardhelm (over vox): "The renegade battleship has pushed hard to intercept us. Three torpedoes have made it through the escort screen".

Celestine: "We must board now".

Servitor: "Impact imminent".

Gardhelm (over vox): "We are detecting further torpedo launch. By the Throne, the enemy has a Nova cannon".

(Celestine, Greyfax and Longinus running to a drop pod)

Gardhelm (over vox): "Torpedoes are a threat, but one Nova cannon hit in the wrong moment could wipe out every drop craft".

Celestine: "We must postpone the launch or risk the whole landing been wiped out".

Greyfax: "No, we cannot afford such a delay".

Longinus: "I agree. Drop us now, Marshal, or we will never get to the surface".

Gardhelm (over vox): "We are still 500 kilometers short of optimal drop".

Greyfax: "Which is less optimal, Marshal, dropping earlier or being blown to pieces by a Nova cannon?"

Longinus: "The impacts were abstemious²⁷. We can still launch".

Gardhelm (over vox): "We've lost void access from the port lodge bay. That's one less Thunderhawk and 20 less warriors for the drop unless we wait to clear the debris".

Greyfax: "Launch, Marshal!"

Celestine: "The Emperor shall watch over us".

Gardhelm (after a pause, over vox): "Ah, as you say, sister Celestine. Launching now".

Servitor: "Prepare for immediate launch".

Longinus: "That is the drop cascades firing. Three squads already are on their way. We are committed now".

Greyfax: "Better than the Marshal's effort to secure orbit for our ships. Our task is straightforward: locate the enemy and execute them swiftly".

Celestine: "No prisoners, Katarinya?"

Greyfax: "We cannot afford to take chances. Every heretic must be hunted down and slain".

Black Templar (over vox): "This is command, we are detecting energy buildup²⁸ in the enemy Nova cannon".

Savior 2 (over vox): "Everyone, lock down. This is Savior 2 command, launching now".

Celestine: "God of Terra, reach out your hand to shield us! Reach out your will to guide us".

Greyfax: "Praying? I've never seen the appeal, oh!"

(Nova cannon shot passing wide and shaking the craft)

Savior 2 (over vox): "We are undamaged. Stay lock down".

Gardhelm (over vox): "Nova cannon impact, starboard gun decks. Launch now while they reload".

Longinus: "What about the drop pods, Marshal? Is the first wave intact?"

Gardhelm (over vox): "We are safely inbound to the surface. Go now with the God Emperor's wrath as your companion".

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Savior 2 (over vox): "Savior 2 ascending to fire support patrol! Ave Imperator!"

(drop craft taking flight)

Celestine (almost silent): "Graves of my sisters. I can feel their souls buried with their bones. Four thousand years of our greatest leaders interred²⁹ beneath the blessed earth, from which the temple of the savior Emperor sprang. This is what called to us, Katarinya, their torment at the corruption of their spirit".

Greyfax: "I can sense it too, Celestine. The corruption is like a great weight upon the warp, bending everything around it".

Longinus: "Focus on the mission. Auspex readings are clear. What is your status, Marshal Gardhelm?"

Gardhelm (over vox): "Perimeter secured, Centurion, second wave incoming. Clear landing area".

Greyfax: "This is the mission. It is not simply because it is over abandonment that the enemy has made the lair on the Ophelia IV. It is a loadstone³⁰ of psychic energy".

Longinus: "So the warp potential generated here is being perverted to corrupt the warp potential that exists on Ophelia VII?"

Greyfax: "Which in turn will spread like a plague to other systems, each world that falls further stretching the ridge of the Great Rift. A cascade of corruption that will fuel a terrifying expanse of the warp storms".

Celestine: "The worst of blasphemies, to turn our faith against us".

Greyfax: "Yes, a servant of the dark powers has found the way to pervert the warp essence generated by veneration³¹ of the Emperor. This is far worse than I ever envisaged back on Terra".

Celestine: "And yet would this have been made possible without Deacis's action? Instability and poisoned ambition have fueled this attack, aided if not instigated by the Lord Ecclesiarch's annulment of the Decree Passive".

Greyfax: "He is possessed of a different source of ambition, to see his name remembered in great legacy. It is likely that what he heard and saw confirmed his desire to become a war leader".

Longinus: "If these acts require an existing surge of faith to enact, that would explain how we were unable to detect the Alpha level psyker that appeared on Terra. He did not reach his full potential until he stood on the psychically charged grounds of the cathedral of the Ascendancy".

Celestine: "You speak in clinical terms, Centurion. Bereft of the terrible truth our prayers, our hymns, the blessings we lay upon our weapons and ships will be tainted and abused by the servants of darkness. This is not a distant strategy of galactic dominion, but an attempt to sunder³² us from the font of our power, to turn our love of the God Emperor into slavery to the Ruinous Powers".

Savior 2 (over vox): "Multiple heat signatures detected in sector 11. Powered-armor infantry only, closing at speed".

Longinus: "Alpha legionaries, our arrival has finally been noticed".

Greyfax: "Engage the enemy immediately. We must breach the catacombs without delay".

Savior 2 (over vox): "Acknowledged, engaging targets".

Gardhelm (over vox): "Squad Abdurant are moving to secure the left flank. Heavy weapons fire incoming. Auspex report show enemy reinforcements are heading towards us".

Savior 2 (over vox): "They are moving underground. We have no targets".

Longinus: "Can you feel the source of the psychic disruption any more clearly, Inquisitor?"

(Greyfax using psyker abilities)

(sorcerers and cultists muttering incantations)

Greyfax: "About three hundred meters ahead, twenty meters down".

Longinus: "Then I know where they are. There is a gateway 200 meters ahead, 50 meters to the right behind that ruined marble colonnade. We need to secure the entrance and sweep the defenders".

Greyfax: "You seem very confident, Centurion".

Longinus: "From the records you showed me, Celestine, we are close to the sacrosanctus Dominica".

Celestine: "The tomb of Alicia Dominica. It is the holiest site of the ossuary shrine".

Longinus: "Exactly. That's why I would use it to power a spell of corruption".

Greyfax: "An odd choice phrase".

Longinus: "The Adeptus Custodes are raised not just to react to the enemy, but to predict their every possible move. It is more than a simple deduction of facts. It is a means to place ourselves within the thoughts of our foes. I would say that a Custodian spends as much time thinking about how he would assassinate the Emperor as he does contemplating33 anything else".

Celestine: "There is a procession that leads more directly to the sacrosanctus Dominica".

Longinus: "Which will be well guarded, Celestine. The gateway I speak of is an old supply port used by non-clergy. It is deliberately discreet34".

(Alpha legionaries opening fire)

Longinus: "You should move ahead. I'll provide support fire".

Greyfax (shooting back): "No we must stay together. We need to push on to the entrance. The longer we wait, the further the ritual progresses. Savior 2, any auspex readings from beyond the gateway in sector 1?"

Savior 2 (over vox): "Negative, no readings bellows the gates".

Gardhelm (over vox): "Second wave arrival in five, four, three, two, one".

(Black Templars' drop pods landing)

(furious battle erupting)

Black Templars (altogether): "No pity! No remorse! No fear! Ave Imperator Dominus! Death to the heretics! To purge is to be pure!"

(newly arrived Space Marines charging into battle)

Gardhelm (over vox): "Second wave landing successful. Inquisitor, what is your command?"

Greyfax: "Secure the drop site and then follow us into the catacombs".

Celestine: "I shall cut a path".

Longinus: "What happened to letting the Space Marines lead the charge?"

Greyfax: "Speed is more important. They can watch our backs instead".

Celestine (over vox): "I see the gate, just as you said, Centurion".

Longinus: "I see the gateway but how do we open it?"

Celestine (over vox): "With the word of the Emperor of course. I shall transmit the codes, Indomitus... Oh.... I see movement, enemy ambush".

(Greyfax moaning)

Celestine (over vox): "Are you hit, Katarinya?"

Greyfax: "No, not seriously just stone splinters".

(cultists and traitor legionaries erupting from underground)

Greyfax: "The sorcery is masking... There I see them!"

Longinus: "Another in the rubble using an anti-auspex cloak".

(Longinus killing another traitor with a las shot)

Celestine (over vox): "The last of them chokes on his final breath".

(Celestine approaching)

Celestine: "Indomitus Substantia! Imperator Rex Eternis Astra! Supplicatum Sororitas! Ex Mortis Diem!"

(Celestine opening the door)

Greyfax: "You know the way, Centurion, lead on".

* * *

(Longinus, Celestine and Greyfax treading along the catacombs in menacing silence)

Longinus: "Endless catacombs of skulls and bones. It is as if you revel35 in the demise of your sisters, Celestine".

Celestine: "A commemoration of their lives, Longinus, not a celebration of their deaths. The bones of saints, martyrs and leaders of the sisterhood have been interred on Ophelia IV for three and a half thousands years".

Greyfax: "Even before the sisterhood this world was steeped in death. It was the seat of the Conclave Belacorum, one of the cardinal worlds responsible for the deployment and command of the Frateris Templars of the Ecclesiarchy. Those ancient orders that sent millions to their deaths still echo here".

Celestine: "Which is why it was subjected to atomic scouring³⁶ in the latter years of the Reign of Blood. Vandire's corruption had turned its organization into a depraved³⁷, bloodthirsty war machine. The cardinals sanguine were intent on overthrowing Sebastian Thor".

Longinus: "You speak of history, but for me these events are memory. Followers of Thor and the Imperial Navy turned the world into a radioactive wasteland thinking it would please Him. Why would the sisterhood choose the place as their shrine tomb?"

Celestine: "Great wrongs were perpetrated³⁸ from this world but it had once been a beacon of hope, a bastion of the temple of the savior Emperor. With our bones we reconsecrate this ground to the glory of the God Emperor".

Gardhelm (over vox): "We have a cordon above ground, one hundred meters around your entry point. Another entrance has been secured in sector 3. Enemy moving on your position underground".

(distant explosion, debris falling from the ceiling)

Longinus: "We need to keep moving".

Greyfax: "Wait! As much as I think you are right about the sacrosanctus Dominica. I need to see for myself. Guard me while I seek their psychic essence".

(Greyfax using psyker abilities)

Greyfax: "The chuff of battle, where are you hiding? Where? Strong, so strong... Three millennia of faith and superstition locked into the warp... Closer... Torment, such perversion of spirit... These heretics will burn for this".

Celestine (in the distance): "Katarinya, we are running out of time".

Longinus (in the distance): "Auspex signals have enemy approaching from left and right".

Greyfax: "Almost have them..."

Greater Demon (muttering barely recognizably): "From the darkness springs light. From the past springs life. What zeas accorass ankwak. The blue flame shall burn bright again".

Greyfax: "Blue flame..."

Celestine: "What did you say?"

Greyfax: "I have found them, cultists of the eight-turned god. They are servants of the Tyrant of the Blue Flame".

Celestine: "The demon that enslaved Ophelia?"

Longinus: "This isn't just about polluting the psychic emanations of Ophelia. The Alpha legionaries are going to unleash a demonic incursion".

Greyfax: "The last time the Tyrant of the Blue Flame manifested it took a whole Space Marine crusade led by the Primarch to defeat it".

Celestine: "Yet we are here and shall prevail. We have been brought to this place to stop a terrible evil. Praise the God Emperor".

* * *

(explosion)

Longinus (opening fire): "Quickly, Inquisitor. I have them".

Greyfax: "The next chamber, the taint is like a wall. I have to push through".

Longinus: "Clear!"

Celestine: "I am the blade of the God Emperor! No barrier can hold me back".

Longinus: "Eh, lightning from that archway on the left. Even I can feel the impression of their demonic power".

(Celestine, Longinus and Katarinya going on a run)

Greyfax: "We have no time to waste. That pressure is the Tyrant of the Blue Flame trying to break through. If it arrives..."

Celestine: "When last they came, the demons slaughtered more than half of Ophelia's population. The Tyrant's existence twisted the ground and corrupted the temples themselves".

Longinus: "It is the mutating power of the warp incarnate, a Greater Demon of change. If we cannot stop its summoning, we haven't the strength between us to banish it".

Greyfax: "Then we cannot allow it to..."

Longinus (interrupting): "Get back!"

(a nearby explosion)

Celestine: "Unholy fire!"

Longinus (moaning): "Oh... Like a warp flame during the first attack on Terra".

Greyfax: "Even more powerful. Get behind me, I shall do my best to shield us from the next attack".

Longinus: "No, Katarinya. I shall..."

Greyfax (ordering psychically): "Behind me! Swiftly now!"

(Greyfax moaning)

Longinus: "More Alpha legionaries!"

Celestine: "The wrath of the God Emperor has come for you, heretics!"

(Celestine, Longinus and Katarinya charging the legionaries in melee)

Celestine: "Only two of them. I cent get into the chamber beyond".

Greyfax: "Celestine, wait!"

Celestine: "I see them! Three corrupted psykers, sorcerers of the heretic Astartes".

Longinus: "Your leg, Greyfax!"

Greyfax: "Will heal, help Celestine".

Celestine (screaming in horror): "Oh, the flames. They've set a fire in my soul! AAAAAAAA!"

Longinus: "Celestine!"

Greyfax (spitting words): "Suffer not the heretic to live!"

* * *

Longinus: "Ah, the warp flames have trapped Celestine like she's caught in stasis. I can't get to her. The flames thrust me back".

Greater Demon: "Kee letyano tlanet akawerki dorush ok kunan korush do nelitsan. Ektsil dash kor".

Greyfax: "Three sorcerers standing beyond her, just ignoring us. Longinus, why do you not open fire?"

Longinus: "See for yourself".

(Longinus unleashing a bolt round, that is deflected by an invisible shield)

Longinus: "This witch light... It robs my round of their charge".

Greyfax: "We shall see if the blessed ammunition of my bolter is more effective".

(Greyfax unleashing a salvo of shots with the same effect)

Greater Demon (voice changing to Celestine's and back): "It is the ritual from the prison of the righteous. Akna rensevish agnak orob kar".

Longinus: "That voice... The Tyrant is using Celestine as its conduit".

Greyfax: "I can feel it getting closer. It is almost here".

Greater Demon and Celestine: "Her faith feeds me. She has strong will. Her soul will power my transition to your realm. Tu kak anfofa mortza mak amatulsh gok ishka arkakol".

Greyfax: "Celestine, fight its power! You breached his defenses before. You can stop him now".

(Celestine screaming, her voice distorted)

(Greater Demon laughing)

Greater Demon and Celestine: "Where are you prayers now, servant of the false god? Duk akshatzin atuk naphoph ashatzin pot kas".

(Celestine screaming, her voice distorted)

Greyfax: "By the Throne I will not let this happen".

Greater Demon and Celestine: "I shall make you fall, slave".

(Greater Demon unleashing warp flames)

Greyfax: "Oh..."

Longinus: "I cannot get near the summoners either".

Greater Demon and Celestine: "You flesh will melt beneath my will and your soul, your sweet soul, will quench my thirst for but a moment. Orok tov tsagon morek isha anuph, uph isha tsagon morek toph".

(Celestine screaming, her voice distorted)

Gardhelm (over vox): "Inquisitor, we are facing a renewed attack through sectors 4 and 5. Estimate time until we are overrun at five minutes".

Greyfax (over vox): "Hold for as long as you can".

Gardhelm (over vox): "Acknowledged, terminus extremis! To slay in the Emperor's name is to be divine".

Longinus: "The flames, Greyfax! I see a saint forming in them".

Greyfax: "The Tyrant of the Blue Flame is corrupting Celestine's angelic incarnation. Her wings become dark tatters, her halo an eight-pointed star..."

(Celestine screaming, her voice distorted)

Greyfax: "We cannot defeat this foe with mortal weapons. Stand ready, Centurion, and strike swiftly when you can".

Longinus: "Behind you".

(sorcerer charging Greyfax)

Gardhelm (over vox): "You hope to defeat a Lord of Change? You cannot match its psychic power".

Greyfax: "I may have a chance before it is fully manifest".

(Greyfax using psyker abilities)

Greyfax (praying to the Emperor): "Keep me safe... I think I will have some help".

* * *

(Greyfax and Tyrant in the warp)

Greater Demon (laughing): "Ahahaha, foolish. This is the realm of the magic, the world of my lord. Are trying to hasten your demise?"

Greyfax: "I will not let you take her".

Greater Demon: "It is too late, witch of the emperor-corpse. When I have drained her soul, I will devour yours too. Can you feel them, beings of mortals with their fingers locked around each other's throats? Their naked ambition and desperate hope is a beacon to me. And you are kind enough to bring me a portal".

Greyfax: "Celestine! Celestine! I feel you! She is not finished yet".

(angelic chant emerging at the background)

Greater Demon: "And will you stop me? You have no filthy shield of dead souls to protect you now... Ahahahaha".

Greyfax: "Oh, come back to us, Celestine! The Emperor is not done with you".

Greater Demon: "She cannot hear you, child of false faith".

(demon unleashing warp flame at Greyfax)

Greyfax: "Ah, the Emperor has need of you, Celestine! This is not the end".

Celestine (in normal voice): "I am lost, Katarinya! In this darkness and fire"

Greater Demon: "No, she is mine. The world of shrines shall be mine again".

Greyfax: "Come back to me, Celestine. Listen to the prayers of your sisters. Their strength is your strength. Their faith is your faith".

(angelic chanting getting louder)

Greyfax: "Your sisters are waiting for you, Celestine. Reach out to them".

Greater Demon: "No!"

(demon unleashing warp flame at Greyfax)

Greyfax (laughing): "Yes, throw your ire at me, spawn of the muted! Vent40 your anger upon me!"

Greater Demon: "You cannot defeat me, mortal".

Greyfax: "I do not have to, demon. I just needed to distract you".

Celestine (regaining conscience): "Katarinya, I see you. I feel them".

Greyfax: "Call to them, Celestine. Call to your sisters in death".

Greater Demon: "NO!"

(angelic chanting getting even louder)

Celestine: "Cursed are the unholy, my sisters! Purge this sanctuary of its taint!"

Greater Demon (roaring): "NOOOOOOO!"

Greyfax: "Now, Centurion! Strike now with all your wrath".

Longinus: "I cannot see them. The flames still shroud the sorcerers".

Greyfax: "Not the summoners, Centurion! The conduit! Celestine! The Tyrant of the Blue Flame cannot be allowed to use her as its vessel"

Longinus: "Kill the Living Saint?"

Greyfax: "Now, Longinus, cast your spear and end this!"

Longinus: "If she dies, the demon will use her body to manifest. There must be another way".

Greyfax: "Have some faith, Longinus".

(Longinus charging and slaying Celestine)

(Celestine screaming in pain)

Longinus: "The flames die out".

(Celestine's body collapsing to the ground)

Greyfax (running towards the Living Saint): "Celestine!"

Longinus: "The sorcerers, Greyfax, the mission is not yet finished".

Sorcerer: "Interloper41! You will pay for this insult!"

(Longinus and sorcerers engaging in melee combat)

Sorcerer: "You cannot defeat the eight-turned god".

Greyfax: "I do not have to, only you".

(Greyfax hitting the sorcerer to death)

Sorcerer (moaning): "You... cannot... kill... me..."

(Longinus slaying the sorcerer)

Longinus: "I see your true face, traitor! A weak weird mortal, nothing more".

Another Sorcerer (impaling Longinus with a dagger): "You will pay with your lives for your interference! Face the power of the eight-turned god".

Greyfax: "I do not fear death!"

(Greyfax charging the second sorcerer)

Gardhelm: "Oh, Inquisitor, stay low!"

(Gardhelm unleashing a salvo of bolt rounds, killing the second sorcerer)

Longinus: "Oh, a timely arrival, Marshal".

Greyfax (falling to the knees): "It is done, the summoning halted. The spell of mayhem unbound".

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Gardhelm: "The enemy has pulled back from the inner catacombs. My squads are pursuing".

Greyfax: "Good, how fares the battle in orbit?"

Gardhelm: "My castellans have initiated boarding actions against the traitor battleship. The fight continues".

Greyfax: "I am confident the Black Templars and Order of Our Martyred Lady will prevail. You should lead your brethren in the hunt. We are safe here".

Gardhelm: "No heretic will escape Ophelia IV. Tempestum Bellum Acto Vingus Imperator".

(Gardhelm taking his leave)

Longinus: "The enemy has been stopped. The Tyrant of the Blue Flame was banished (taking the dagger from his breast plate) I fell sullied42 that Celestine died by my hand".

Greyfax: "Do not be. I cannot count the number of loyal servants of the Emperor that have died by my command, sacrificed to protect the Imperium".

Longinus: "By your command, yes. But how many died directly by your hand?"

Celestine (coming back to life): "Ahhhh...."

Longinus (shocked): "Emperor's tears..."

Greyfax: "I am surprised at this gap in your knowledge, Centurion".

Longinus: "What gap? No blood spilled from the wound. My blow was mortal. This cannot be".

Greyfax: "She is a Living Saint".

Celestine: "Oh, the God Emperor guided your hand, Longinus. Do not feel ashamed at being his divine instrument".

Longinus: "By the Throne! I've seen my companions return from wounds that would kill lesser warriors, but never a soul returned across the veil".

Celestine: "My penance⁴³ continues. The God Emperor still has need of his blade. My task here is not yet complete".

Greyfax: "What do you mean? Without the influence of the sorcerers' malignant⁴⁴ spell the Ophelia system will be soon cleansed. The Cicatrix Maledictum will not expand to Terra".

Celestine: "In my moments between life and death I saw afresh visions that took me to Terra. I understand better that which the God Emperor desired of me. If I had understood sooner, much bloodshed would have been avoided".

Gardhelm (over vox): "The void war turns in our favor, Inquisitor. My warriors have returned control of the battleship to officers loyal to the Emperor. Other renegade ships are scattering. The landing zone is secure. I'll have a gunship ready for when you need it".

Greyfax: "My gratitude, Marshal. You have done the Emperor's work and shall be remembered in the rolls of your Chapter".

Gardhelm (over vox): "When Ophelia VII is purged of its invaders, we will hunt down those that perpetrated the attack. The crusade never ends, Inquisitor".

Greyfax: "I also have much work to do. Once I have retrieved Kyrillos, there's the matter of Kultza's taint upon his diocese. I will be travelling to Atromesta".

Longinus: "I will stay in your company, Greyfax".

Celestine: "What of your duty to guard the Emperor?"

Longinus: "As you have both shown me, there is more to defending the Emperor than standing sentry at his gate".

Greyfax: "A Centurion of the Companions will be a helpful ally, I am sure".

Longinus: "Then it seems we are all bound for Ophelia VII".

Celestine: "That is good. The Ecclesiarch has been instrumental in this calamity. I should have seen that earlier. He must face the consequences of his actions".

Greyfax: "Indeed, by what authority would you punish him?"

Celestine: "Do you accept it yet, Katarinya? You know the authority that guides my hand, do you not?"

Greyfax: "The will of the God Emperor".

* * *

Kyrillos: "And another, Lord Ecclesiarch! This is to grant permission to cardinal Ulthuso to assemble a regiment of Frateris Templars to accompany the Missionaria Galaxia expedition into the wayward void beyond Inrocksi sector".

Deacis: "Thank you, Kyrillos. You are an efficient administrator. I can see why Inquisitor Greyfax made such good use of you".

Kyrillos: "Speaking of which she should be..."

(trumpets chiming at the entrance)

Herald: "The Living Saint Celestine, Inquisitor Greyfax and Centurion Longinus, Your Holiness"

(door opening)

Deacis: "Ah, come in! Come in! Oh, my deepest likes and heartiest congratulations to you all. Celestine, blessed sister! Truly the God Emperor guides you upon the path".

Celestine: "Indeed, he does, Lord Ecclesiarch! It is by his light that I arrive again before you".

Greyfax: "Ecclesiarch Deacis, Kyrillos informs me that you have been dispatching messages to recruit millions of Frateris Templars across the Imperium. Quite an army you are raising".

Deacis: "Has he indeed? He would know. He drafted most of the ordinances⁴⁵".

Longinus: "Not all threats to the Emperor cleave⁴⁶ to dark powers nor seek to destroy him outwardly⁴⁷. There are those that are unintentional, the consequences of forgetting the lessons of humility and sacrifice that bind the Imperium together".

Deacis: "That sounds like an accusation, Centurion. You are far from your jurisdiction. Be aware of that fact".

Kyrillos: "I am just going to step over her".

Celestine: "Four thousand years ago the first of the sisterhood – Saint Alicia Dominica – stood before an Ecclesiarch and said these words. You have committed the ultimate heresy. Not only have you turned your back on the Emperor and stepped from his light, you have profaned⁴⁸ his name and almost destroyed everything he has striven to build".

Deacis: "I have done nothing wrong".

Celestine: "You have perverted and twisted the path has laid for mankind to tread".

Deacis: "You are still a battle sister, Celestine. I am your Ecclesiarch".

Celestine: "As your own decrees have stated, there can be no mercy for such a crime, no pity for such a criminal".

Deacis (stepping back in fear): "No! No-no-no, this is outrageous! I am a High Lord of Terra! Greyfax, surely you do not condone49 this. The sisters of battle cannot be alorum to themselves"

Celestine: "I renounce your lordship. You walk in the darkness and cannot be allowed to live".

Deacis (scared): "I am Ecclesiarch. I am the Imperial Church and the word of the God Emperor incarnate".

Celestine: "Your sentence has been long overdue and it is now time for you to die".

Deacis (sobbing hysterically): "G-g-g-greyfax!!! S-s-s-stop her!!! Think of the Imperium".

Celestine: "What do you say, Katarinya?"

Greyfax: "As an Inquisitor of the Ordo Hereticus I judge this be a purely internal matter of the Adeptus Ministorum. Come, Kyrillos, Longinus. We have no further business here".

(Greyfax, Kyrillos and Longinus leaving the chambers)

(Celestine unsheathing her blade)

(Deacis crying in fear)

(Celestine finishing the Ecclesiarch in one swift blow ending his scream)