




"WE ARE BASED BENEATH THE DENVER AIRPORT--WE SPREAD RUMORS ABOUT THE NEW WORLD ORDER CONSTRUCTING A COMPLEX HERE, A LIE SO BLATANT IT'S IMMEDIATELY DISMISSED."



"THERE ARE **NINE FAMILIES** THAT RULE THE WORLD, AGENT SHIN. YOU SERVE THE FAMILY BASED IN NORTH AMERICA--WE ARE CALLED **MARS**."


"OUR TASK IS TO **PROTECT** HUMANITY FROM ITSELF AND... OTHER THREATS, TO **SHEPHERD** IT INTO A BETTER FUTURE."



IN TRUTH, OUR BASE HAS BEEN HERE FOR CENTURIES. WE BUILT THE AIRPORT TO HELP MASK OUR ACTIVITIES...

...ACTIVITIES THAT YOU HAVE ONLY **BEGUN** TO GRASP. TODAY, YOUR **EDUCATION** BEGINS IN **EARNEST**."

I THINK YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU **DISAPPOINT** ME AGAIN. ANY QUESTIONS?



JUST...**THE BOY**, MR. TUCKER'S SON SAW THE MEETING BETWEEN HIS FATHER AND THE LEVEL TWO AGENT. DID YOU--?



"I TOOK CARE OF IT."

GRAHAME, NICK AND I WERE JUST DISCUSSING HOW COMPLETELY YOU **BOTCHED** THE DARK MATTER OPERATION.



THE RESULT WAS SUBOPTIMAL, ADMITTEDLY. BUT I'VE DEALT WITH IT, TEMPLE.

YOU PUT **EVERYTHING** INTO DANGER, YOU DOLT--



ENOUGH, DAUGHTER. THE PRIESTS' FORECAST LEFT **NO UNCERTAINTY**. IF THE RESEARCH HAD PROGRESSED, IT WOULD HAVE LED TO A **WEAPON** MORE POWERFUL THAN CAN BE TRUSTED IN HUMAN HANDS.



SACRIFICING **HUNDREDS** TO SAVE **MILLIONS**. THIS IS THE WEIGHT THE **FAMILY** MUST CARRY--

SHAKGH!
SHAKGH!



NICK! ARE YOU--?

SHOWING MY YEARS. ALL **TWO HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR** OF THEM. I MUST ANNOUNCE THE **TRANSITION** PLANS SOON.

NO. WE DON'T NEED TO DISCUSS THAT, NOT YET--



I WILL BE
READY
WHEN CALLED,
FATHER.

PATIENCE,
DAUGHTER. AT
THE MOMENT,
THERE IS MORE
URGENT FAMILY
BUSINESS.



UNREST
GROWS AMONG
THE **NINE FAMILIES**. I
FEAR THE OTHERS KNOW
I AM WEAK AND CONSIDER
BREAKING THE TREATY.
JUPITER ESPECIALLY
HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN
THE NORTH.



BUT THE ARCTIC IS
NEUTRAL GROUND.
DO YOU WANT ME TO
MAKE AN **INTER-**
VENTION--?

OH, **YES,**
GRAHAME. WHY
DON'T YOU GO
PICK A FIGHT WITH
BABAK, ONLY
THE STRONGEST
OF THE **NINE**
ELDER'S?

NO
OFFENSE,
FATHER.



PATIENCE, GRAHAME.
SOMETHING IS **AMISS**--THE
PRIESTS HAVE DIVINED A THREAT.
NOT ANOTHER FAMILY--
SOMETHING ELSE. BUT
THE READINGS ARE VAGUE. I
SHOULD CONSULT THE
PROPHECIES...

THE **PROPHECIES**
ARE JUST
LEGEND. BESIDES,
NOTHING CAN
THREATEN
US--

GO TO
LEVEL FIVE AND
CHECK ON **THE GRAYS**.
SEE IF THEY'RE PICKING
UP ANYTHING **UNUSUAL**.
AND KEEP ME UPDATED
ABOUT THE **TENNESSEE**
OPERATION.



EVEN WHEN WE
WERE KIDS IN LEVEL
SIX STUDIES, YOU WERE
JUST A WORTHLESS
COG. NICK MIGHT HAVE
PEGGED YOU A
SENIOR, BUT YOU'RE
STILL A **COG**
NOW.

MY TIME TO RULE
IS **FINALLY** ALMOST
HERE. DON'T YOU OR YOUR
LITTLE DOG DARE █████
THINGS UP AND RUIN
IT FOR ME.