**Anton’s Work**

By: Nick E “Xavkul” Sargent

The talks were not going well. All he had to do was secure a trade agreement with the Hobbans of the planet of Grioin. Their planet was one of the few places were the rare, yet extremely usefully crystals, bellino, which are used to power space travel. Of course it was hard to negotiate with people who are about half your height. At least the rooms are human height so I don’t have bend everywhere. I should back up shouldn’t I?

 My name is Anton Rogers. The Katajion Directorship sent me here to get the crystals, in order that are enemies, the Raltin Empire doesn’t get them. Got an impossible task that ends the known universe? Give it to Anton. I swear some god is messing in my life. Trust me; I have met him several times. And now I’m here negotiating over a trade agreement for crystals. Who knew Hobbans could be so stubborn?

“I think we can call it there for tonight.” The Chief Hobban, Deler said. Great, command won’t be happy about this. They wanted an agreement secured, oh, the day I arrived here. It was two weeks science I first arrived here.

“Shall I have a guide show you to our Shrine of the Beginning?” That shrine marked the first point where they ever had outside contact with another race. Might be a nice break.

“Yes please.” I bowed to the Chief. He smiled in return. Calling out, “Kylie” a younger Hobban hurried up. “Yes elder?” “Please show Mr. Anton to the Shrine room.”

“It will be done.” Bowing once more, Kylie turned to me. “Follow me Mr. Anton.” And with that, she bounded off through one of the surrounding tunnels. Oh, did I forget to mention the Hobban’s home was inside the mountains that covered their planet? Before I left the room, the elder shouted out. “Mr. Anton, the Marakian scientists will be arriving today. I’ll have Kylie led them to you once they arrive.”

 During the walk to the shrine, I was able to examine Kylie. She was about the average height (as far as I could tell) for a Hobban child. She had green eyes and blond hair that poked out of a pink hat that covered most of her head. Not long after we left the discussion room, we reached the Shrine of Beginnings.

 I can say that I was amazed. It must have been the biggest room in the entire mountain; I could not see the ceiling. In the middle of the room was a portal glowing blue, with two crystals powering it. How was that possible? The power required just to sustain one portal for a ship to enter often required three crystals. Kylie bowed and left. I heard music start to play, but I did not have a music player. An upbeat, catchy tune, which could only mean one thing. Oh, please gods, not now, I thought to myself.

 “Nice try kid, but you looked lonely. Oh and it is spelled god. Single god, no “s” required.” Ladies and gentlemen, may I introduce the Chief Editor, also known as the god that messes with my life. Dark, short, messy hair, wears shades, and wears disheveled cloths. That’s the Chief Editor.

“What is it now Chief?” He grinned. “Just swung by to offer some advice. Amazing people, these Hobbans. They were originally the servants of the ­­Chazari people, and managed to survive their downfall”

“A downfall that you caused?” A panic look came over Chief’s face. “No… They somehow prevented me from interfering with my galaxy while they were around. And however they managed to seal me out of my own universe was lost with them. Yeah, get that hopeful look of your face boy.” Alright I was prepared to give up everything to get Chief out of my life.

“Anyway, I’m here to tell you that you should listen to the advice of your friends.” Chief said getting back to business.

“Alright, but you traveled here to tell me that?” I asked warily.

“Oh and I want to see how things play out.” A wicked smile crossed Chief’s face. That was good news for nobody. Just then Kylie reappeared. “Mr. Anton, the scientists are here.” And with that three Lupides entered the room. Finally, some friendly faces.

“That hurt pal.” Chief said behind me. Curse his ability to see my thoughts! Whenever have I gotten good news from you? I thought back to him.

“Anton! It is great to see you again!” The tallest Lupide bounded over. “Nero! Great to see a friendly face again! Who are the other two people you brought with you?” Nero was the same height of me, but had a light green tail, that matched his ears and hair. To the left of him stood a tall Lupide with a dark blue tail and mischievous blue eyes. To the right of Nero stood a Lupide about half his height that had light grey-whitish colored hair and tail. Gesturing to the right of him “This is my brother Xavkul, who is a wander and story gather.” We exchanged greetings. “And this” Nero said as he patted the other Lupid on the head; “Is my daughter Faye. She is about to start training at Space Sector Academy, so I thought I would bring her along.” He tilted his head questionably. “Who is the man behind you?”

I was surprised by that. Normally, only I could see Chief. Not that he normally appears in front of other people. Chief had a grin on his face as he looked at Faye and Kylie. I wish them luck.

“This is Edus. A person sent with me to offer advice during negations. Although I would also like to hear your advice as well. Command wants results soon.” A puzzled look overcame Nero’s face.

“By what I have heard of this race, they did not originate from the base human race because of a virus, they were already here when we made contact with them. They believe that they were the bridge that allowed space travel to begin. And by the looks of the portal over there, I would not dismiss that information too quickly. A proud tribe, yet the real question is where did they come from?”

“Nero, focus.” Nero could wander a bit off topic if you allowed him to. A startled focus came over his face. “Sorry Anton, but that’s all I got.” Xavkul chimed up from behind him though.

“What if you promise them what they truly want? By the sounds of it, they want to remain independent. You can offer them the chance to allow them to send their people to school though, allow them positions in the government and Space Force. That way, it does not look like they are losing anything, which they aren’t, but making an investment that allows them more opportunities.” His piece said, Xavkul went back to examine the walls, tail wagging excitedly. I was surprised; I have not met a Lupide before who had a good grasp of politics. Seeing the look of surprise on my face, Xavkul, a wolfish grin on his face replied. “I pick up on this stuff while traveling to other cultures and seeing how they interact.”

“This sounds wonderful! I’ll present this to them tomorrow and with a little luck can make a report to command.”

Next Day

“And so, we keep our independent rule, and gain access to call for help from the Katajion Directorship if we needed, and can send our kids to your Space Academy, and can join your Space Force? And you want in exchange is the ability to use our Bellino crystals which are used in space travel, and an agreement not to give any crystals to the Raltin Empire?” The Chief Hobban, Deler asked. It was hopefully the last day of negations. Nero, Xavkul, and Faye were there. Oh and Chief was there too. He somehow managed to convince the Hobbans that he had always been there.

“Yes sir.” I replied.

“I see no problem with this treaty.” With a flourish he signed the paper. At last! My mission was done!

“Thank you sir. You will not regret this.” I bowed and headed to the space ships that would take me back to command so I can make my report in person.

Katajion Directorship’s Headquarters

“Good job Anton.” Jayko told me, the leader of culture relationships.

“Thank you sir. I’ll head back to my broom closet.” Jayko, grinning, replied

“You are getting a new office on the second floor. I managed to convince everybody else that you need a proper office to work.”

Smiling, I said “I truly thank you sir.” I bowed and moved to leave.

“Don’t thank me yet.” Jayko shouted at me as I left.

Climbing the two flights of stairs was great! A proper office, at last! All ends well, I guess. I managed to sort out a trade agreement, Nero, Xavkul, Faye, were still studding the Hobban planet, chief is god only knows were, and I get a proper office! Opening the door I could see an envelope on my new desk. I picked it up and open the letter and started to read:

“Dear Anton,

 Hope you enjoy the office! We need you to figure out a way to end a 100 – year war between the Frikons and the Draemon over some planet under our control. Can’t wait to see how you solve this!

Sincerely,

Jayko

P.S Also somebody named Chief Editor told me to tell you “Hi”.”

I groaned. Is some time off to much to ask for?

The End

Disclaimer:

 Jayko, Xavkul, Deler, Nero, and Grioin are all original names and characters that I (Nicholas E Xavkul Sargent) came up with.