



1840 SMT: During the course of a survey mission, the UNSC *Infinity* abruptly fell out of slipspace, landing in an uncharted area beyond the Outer Colonies.

1845: Subsequent attempt to initiate slipspace jump failed. Engine malfunction became apparent, though its origin remained unidentified.



2030: Captain Thomas Lasky deployed a recon team to investigate a potential source of interference emanating from a nearby planet -- provisionally designated Aktis IV.



2345: Aktis IV exhibited habitable conditions upon initial atmospheric assessment.

Surface imagery revealed a vast ocean of an opaque, foamy substance. It is of unknown composition and largely impenetrable to radar analysis.

0130: The energy emissions in question led to an equatorial archipelago, the exact source pinpointed on the chain's northern end.



0245: Covenant forces identified at point of interest. Spartan Commander Sarah Palmer requested permission to engage.

HOPE
SOMEBODY'S
COVERING MY
LEFT FLANK...

"...CAUSE WE'VE GOT
A **RUNNER** HEADED
STRAIGHT FOR THAT
PLASMA CANNON."

I'M ON IT,
COMMANDER.

PHEW

THWOP

AK!

NO! NO! NO!



GOOD WORK, RAY.

I THINK THAT'S ALL OF 'EM.



CAPTAIN LASKY, YOU COPY?

WE DID...

FIND ANYTHING INTERESTING DOWN THERE, COMMANDER?



A COUPLE OF RECENTLY UNEARTHED FORERUNNER STRUCTURES.

COVIES LEFT A REAL SKELETON FORCE DOWN HERE TO GUARD THIS DIG.

PROBABLY THOUGHT THE SITE WAS FAR ENOUGH OFF THE MAP WE'D NEVER FIND IT.



WE CAUGHT THEM OFF GUARD, BUT AN ALARM MAY HAVE BEEN TRIPPED.

KEEP AN EYE OUT. CAVALRY MIGHT BE ROLLING IN ANY SECOND.

ALREADY ON IT.



GOOD. I'LL PULL GLASSMAN OFF THE PELICAN, HEAD DOWN FOR A LOOK...



THE HUMANS HAVE COMMENCED THEIR ASSAULT ON THE SHRINE.

EVERYTHING'S BEEN ARRANGED AS I'VE REQUESTED?

DOWN TO THE SMALLEST DETAIL, HALSEY. SO THERE IS NO EXCUSE IF THIS DOESN'T WORK.



COMMANDER 'MDAMA, A MOST URGENT MATTER HAS ARISEN...



IT PAINS ME TO SPEAK OF IT, BUT WE HAVE IDENTIFIED A CIRCLE OF **TRAITORS** WITHIN OUR RANKS.

WHEN WE MOVED AGAINST THEM, SOME ESCAPED. OTHERS WERE KILLED.

WE CAPTURED THIS ONE, WHO HAS BEEN BUSY FOR SOME TIME NOW TRYING TO RECRUIT OUR BROTHERS INTO HIS **BLASPHEMOUS** CAUSE.



HE CLAIMS THE HAND OF THE DIDACT IS A **FALSE** PROPHECY.



REMOVE HIS MUZZLE.



LET HIM KNEEL BEFORE ME AND RENOUNCE HIS SINS.



I RENOUNCE NOTHING.

IT IS YOU WHO SHOULD RENOUNCE.

YOU ALLOWED REQUIEM, THE HOLIEST OF SITES, TO BE ANNIHILATED.



AND NOW YOU RECEIVE COUNSEL FROM A FILTHY HUMAN.

SHE IS POISON, SENT TO DESTROY US FROM WITHIN.



YOU CALL YOURSELF HAND OF THE DIDACT, BUT YOU ARE NOT THE TRUE HAND.

WHO, THEN, DO YOU CLAIM IS THE TRUE HAND?



HIS HOLINESS, SALI 'NYON.



SALI 'NYON?

SALI 'NYON IS A DELUSIONAL PIG POSSESSED BY DEMONS.



NO! HE IS BLESSED AND HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO THIS UNIVERSE TO DEPOSE ALL USURPERS --