

Oneghus

Astern

**“Come to the Casaba with me honey”**



**He knew Earl Flynn didn't have a patch on him**

**“The price of defection,” Horatio handing Marshal Rattray the imperial defence**

**discs.**

**Only half of Rattray's mind was on what was happening, the other half was being**

**interfered with by Apollyon.**

**“Play this disc and it will give off ultra gamma rays that will distort Apollyon's mind probes,” Horatio begged Rattray, fearing Slayer would be victorious.**

**Then Rattray became himself again as the sky filled with horrendous explosions.**

**Dr. Yokel's rain machine was causing thunder and rain to wash away the radiation, and the sound brought Rattray to heed Horatio's warnings.**



It should have been a terrific evening of cool rain and a chorus of frogs.

The sky apart from nuclear bangs was clear and full of twinkling stars and ship trails like falling stars. Mind you there were some new stars as ships exploded.

And in the distance a green ball, Planet Xerum. It was a night for lovers, or had been.

**SOUND**

Up there a burning ship with Slayer aboard.

**SILENT**

**LASER ANTI AIRCRAFT FIRE**

He was groping about and in an awful panic. Where his fingers should be telling him he was touching things, they were not, and he screamed as he saw why, his arms ended at the elbows.

“Apollyon,” he screamed.

But Apollyon lay in a heap with a cracked skull.

Slayer knew he had to regenerate growth in his bleeding stumps but to do so needed peace.

His brain was dizzy and he slipped in his own blood.

“Withdraw,” he commanded and the steering computer span the wheel starboard.

As the ship sped north Slayer gave orders for missiles to rain down upon Hessian cities as a rear guard.

Ah but Horatio was responsible for saving them for Rattray had played the discs.

The shields in front of the warheads vanished and counter missiles sought them.

Then sought Slayer’s ships. And something really nasty happened, cities loyal to

**The Beast had taken themselves out of Rattray's defence grid. They were not protected by the counter missiles and so vaporised. Millions of loyal beastly subjects: never mind these subjects would only have caused Oneghus problems later, therefore a good thing their loyalty to evil?**

And the Slayer didn't care; burning cities were a warning to others not to defect  
Darkness.

\*

Oneghus watched the rout with Oasis clinging to him.

"Only you could have pulled this off, what a man you are Oneghus and I love you dearly," Oasis showing the ways of a woman.

Oneghus went red.

"She is right Gov'," Wong.

Oneghus straightened quickly as if by changing posture the subject was changed.

He was so naive.

And Oneghus knew his attack had caught Slayer unprepared, The Dragon Eye's stern exposed waiting for a fat missile.

And Oneghus knew he owed so much to Slayer's brutality. Let's face it, if he hadn't disfigured Horatio, the officer would never have pressed SELF DESTRUCT. And Oneghus made a mental note too always treat Horatio with kindness, in fact all his soldiers; just in case.

"What is that buzzing?" Oneghus asked.

No one knew but Insect had such an innocent face he must be guilty.

"Well?" Oneghus asked.

The Insect produced a small wooden box and the buzzing became louder.

"Well?" Wong.

**And a patch Slayer gave him**



**I am only handsome to frogs now**

“No, do not touch Fluke, it doesn’t know you. It is hungry. I did better go to the kitchens and find it some honey, then it will sleep,” Insect explained.

“What is in that box?” Cullen reaching to snatch.

“Beetlenut,” Insect replied walking to the kitchens.

“What next Gov’?” Wong as an orange mutant dog chewed a rubber chicken at his feet.

“What next?” Oneghus replied.

Oasis was dreaming about what next too, about a family, a garden full of pomegranate trees and jasmine and babies.

A Zarpod howled with excitement.

