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FADE IN:

INT. PRISON CHAMBER - DAY

TOLEY, 40, is a rough, war-hardened ex-soldier wearing old, faded fatigues with his hands bound in front of him. He looks bedraggled with his head hanging low, lacking any energy or will power to resist his bindings. He is standing in a metal chute, cylindrical in shape which reaches upwards far above his head.

There is a rumbling, gears shifting, and sounds of metal clasps releasing. Toley begins to rise as the floor lifts him up the chute. There is little to suggest this sudden change except the mechanical hum around him and the few jerks of the elevating floor as it settles into a steady lift.

INT. HALL OF IMPUDENCE - DAY

Toley appears in a much larger room similar in shape to the one from which he just emerged. He rises slowly from a hole in the base of the HALL OF IMPUDENCE. The floor locks in place and fills the hole, completing the room.

Silence for a few moments. Toley looks up.

FLASH. There is an intense light and the sound of a concussive blast. Toley's binds are broken and he is tossed into the air. Before falling to the ground, he is caught by an energy beam, locking itself on Toley's wrists. He is being held, arms outstretched, only a few feet off the ground. Toley gasps for air and struggles mightily, pulling against the beams keeping him aloft.

TOLEY

Damn machines! Never can leave a man alone.

He is lifted again, this time up a topleless room with no end and no apparent destination. Toley loses the motivation to fight against the supportive beams as he is brought fatally high. Toley's face is pained, not physically, but emotionally. His hatred for machines having control over him is apparent.

His ascent slows and the beams begin to flicker. Toley panics, his eyes are wide, and sweat begins to form on his head. His death is below him and his support is fading.

TOLEY (CONT'D)

You're gonna just drop me, huh?
Mother fu...

The beams vanish and Toley begins to fall. He only falls for a split second as his feet hits a solid platform. A metallic surface has formed underfoot and a ceiling overhead. It creates a circular room and Toley is standing dead center.

TOLEY (CONT'D)
 (whispering)
 Bastards are as evil as the
 Insentients.

INT. COURT ROOM IN HALL OF IMPUDENCE - DAY

There are panels that consist of a red LED light and a speaker each. Five in all, they surround Toley, equally spaced and against the wall.

MECHANICAL VOICE 1
 Captain Toley Fangron.

Toley studies the room in search of the voice. He finds the panel with a speaker. Above the speaker, the small LED light indicates that this panel is on.

MECHANICAL VOICE 1 (CONT'D)
 Captain Fangron, you have been
 summoned and charged with rebellion
 against the Integrated.

TOLEY
 Who the hell are you?

MECHANICAL VOICE 1
 The Board of Selection will
 commence Captain Fangron's trial.

TOLEY
 Does the Integrated remember that I
 fought for their freedom? Remember
 the bodies of the Insentients?

MECHANICAL VOICE 1
 The defendant has proven his guilt.

Toley advances on the panel and pounds against the metal viscously.

TOLEY
 Cowards. Come out here and say
 that. Stop hiding your faces like
 the gawd-damn Insentients!

FEMALE MECHANICAL VOICE

The Board is anonymous.

Toley moves to the panel that the female voice is coming from and places his hand against the panel. The voice is undeniably female against the other genderless voices.

FEMALE MECHANICAL VOICE (CONT'D)

It is for the benefit of the defendant, please understand.

The request startles him. He is taken off guard and blinks for a few seconds before continuing. As he speaks, it is softer yet still imploring and accusing.

TOLEY

Explain to me why I was put on those god-forsaken battlefields to fight against the lifeless ones, only to have you renounce those who risked everything for your freedom.

FEMALE MECHANICAL VOICE

You failed. That is why.

A slat of metal above her panel recedes and in its place a video screen appears. It flickers on with grainy, low-resolution footage of war scenes. The scenes are unidentifiable to any period of time, but clear images of destruction are played out in front of Toley.

Toley is visibly devastated. His face is red and his eyes are stormy.

Each new mechanical voice that speaks comes from another panel. All mechanical voices sound the same.

MECHANICAL VOICE 2

You fought in opposition to the one thing that now keeps us alive.

MECHANICAL VOICE 3

You fail to realize that your continual defiance of the Integrated laws of propriety justify your condemnation.

MECHANICAL VOICE 4

Captain Fangron has displayed on numerous occasions outright violence to the Integration process and those that facilitate it.

MECHANICAL VOICE 2
 He typifies the bigotry we wish to
 erase.

The lights are flickering on and off around Toley. Every
 voice triggers one LED to die out and another to flip on.

MECHANICAL VOICE 1
 He does not understand the
 advantages of Integration.

MECHANICAL VOICE 3
 There is no reason to deliberate
 any longer.

MECHANICAL VOICE 4
 Agreed

MECHANICAL VOICE 1
 Yes...

Toley stares at the LED above the speaker which projected the
 female voice. It has not turned on since she first spoke. He
 watches it desperately, drawing his face closer to the panel.

TOLEY
 Wait! Please, listen. Only a few
 months ago, we were fighting to
 retain our independence. You spoke
 correctly. I was part of the
 failure that led to our fall and
 occupation...

MECHANICAL VOICE 3
 (Interrupting)
 Integration.

Toley flashes a disgusted look to the panelled wall behind
 him and turns back to the speaker in front of him. He
 continues pleading into the speaker as if uninterrupted.

TOLEY
 But, please, please let me contend
 my innocence in person. We are
 humans despite the bloody
 Integration, despite how many
 machines nest in our homes.

FEMALE MECHANICAL VOICE
 We hide our faces so that we make
 decisions rationally.

TOLEY

Detecting reality is difficult when the object of interest is a person. Adding a degree of separation is only placing more uncertainty.

He is talking into the speaker as if he can see her on the other side, with frustrated gesticulations and aggravated facial expressions.

FEMALE MECHANICAL VOICE

Truth is neither good nor bad. Yet, it can be made to seem so by those it touches. This is why we detach emotion.

TOLEY

You are not one of them! Emotion is having souls and we have not given over our souls. They have not obtruded into our moral standings. Life is something that has to be consciously sought. Don't hide behind the silver prisons that they create for you. Don't retreat. Meet me here in the center.

Toley is breathless. His outpouring of emotion has been physically draining but his eyes are fierce, and he is unwillingly to give up his fervor.

None of the panels are lit. There are no sounds but his breathing.

The waiting becomes unbearable and Toley works himself into a rage.

TOLEY (CONT'D)

You cowards!

He rushes a panel on the far wall and kicks it with all his weight. *Clang*. It rings out with a dull noise around the room. It has done nothing to the panel.

TOLEY (CONT'D)

Is there not even a single drop of human left in you?

His shouts are muffled by low-pitched groans coming from the room. The solid wall of metal is split in a wide half-circle as a doorway appears against the wall. NAMELESS WOMAN, 30, expressionless and with concentrated movements, walks into the court room dressed only in a blue robe.

NAMELESS WOMAN

This is highly irregular.

Her voice is smooth and enticing but her face shows no emotion. Toley's anger disappears he stares at her for a moment, lost for words. Shaking himself, he walks over to the stranger excitedly.

TOLEY

I need your help. You can help.

NAMELESS WOMAN

I am a member of the BOARD OF SELECTION. Our duty is to select who remains a part of the Integration and who will be cast out.

TOLEY

You're a woman as well. A woman who knows full well that armies fought for her and her family.

NAMELESS WOMAN

Irrelevant.

She looks away for a second, her eyebrows frowning. Almost instantly she recollects herself.

NAMELESS WOMAN (CONT'D)

You do now tell the INTEGRATION AUTHORITY where you are. You refuse to keep your GUARDIAN in your bedroom. You have dismantled the EYES your home. You continue the hostility. Why do you refuse to accept the inevitable?

Toley takes a step towards the woman.

TOLEY

Don't you have any sympathy? Any gratitude towards me? What is your name? Tell me.

He reaches out to her with his hand.

NAMELESS WOMAN

We give up our names and our past for the Board.

Toley retracts his hand like it was bitten.

TOLEY

Pathetic! Your safety came at a price. These machines might have provided you what you want, a home, a plate full of food, but they stole much more. You are worthless - unworthy of being called a human. I should end you like I ended so many Insentients.

He bares his teeth like a dog, furious at her. She returns him a sad, helpless look.

NAMELESS WOMAN

You must rectify your wrongs.

Toley, teeth clenched, eyes furrowed, attacks the woman by charging with his hands reaching for her throat. He only has to take three or four steps before reaching her. She stands perfectly still in the assault. He barrels into her, his hands wrapped around her neck.

FLASH

Toley is hit by a stun gun. There are five gun turrets that have extended from behind the walls, all aiming at Toley who is on the floor. His muscles are frozen but his body twitches uncontrollably.

The woman has also been knocked to the floor, her robe fallen off her shoulder. It is still tied at the waist and hangs there. Her hair is thrown in front of her face as she lays next to Toley.

A red LED flashes on.

MECHANICAL VOICE 1

Captain Fangron, you have been found guilty of impeding the progress of the Integration. Your hostility to life has cost you yours.

Toley snorted a pained laugh.

MECHANICAL VOICE 2

This display has hopefully proven to you why we have laws that prevent violence and barbarity.

He stares at the woman as she pushes herself up. She is topless but her eyes are filled with defiance and her stance is indignant. Her chin is raised, refusing to look at Toley.

MECHANICAL VOICE 3
Your life will be forfeit for the
betterment of the Integration...

Toley can not stop staring at the proud form of the woman.

She pulls up her robe on to her shoulder and strides over the
frozen body of Toley.

MECHANICAL VOICE 3 (CONT'D)
...and we hope you understand the
judgement that has been made.

TOLEY
(To NAMELESS WOMAN)
You are human. I can see it in you
now. Save me, then. Please act like
one.

The woman stops and faces Toley over her shoulder.

NAMELESS WOMAN
This is being human. Times have
changed since you fought for our
freedom. Violence is behind us.
That is why you must be taken.

MECHANICAL VOICE 4
Captain Fangron will now be
escorted for execution.

FADE OUT.