

In the Void of the Heavens, May We Find Sanctuary in the Stars

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ACT I: Lovecraft's Shadow

- 1a. 00:00 - 04:16 | Pink Floyd - Signs of Life
- 1b. 04:16 - 10:06 | Mors Principium Est - We Are the Sleep
- 1c. 10:06 - 15:00 | Anthriel - Under Burning Skies
- 1d. 15:00 - 20:12 | Pink Floyd - Wish You Were Here
- 1e. 20:12 - 25:33 | Vektor - Pillars of Sand

ACT II: To Kill the Gods

- 2a. 00:00 - 05:21 | Nevermore - Born (with intro from Linkin Park - Empty Spaces)
- 2b. 05:21 - 07:42 | Interlude (with excerpts from Void I-IV)
- 2c. 07:42 - 12:30 | Kingcrow - Night's Descending
- 2d. 12:30 - 18:02 | Pink Floyd - On the Turning Away
- 2e. 18:02 - 24:44 | Insomnium - The Promethean Song

ACT III: Eleventh Hour

- 3a. 00:00 - 06:29 | Pink Floyd - The Dogs of War
- 3b. 06:29 - 15:21 | Nevermore - This Godless Endeavour
- 3c. 15:21 - 28:58 | Vektor - Recharging the Void

Setting:

It is the early 24th century, and humans have colonised the solar system. Great technological advances earlier in the millennium meant that, despite societal turbulence along the way, humanity eventually stabilised as nations no longer had to fight so intensely over resources. It is an era of faith and religion being dominant, as people give thanks to their god, or gods, for blessing their worlds. For more than a hundred years, very little has changed as humanity has become increasingly content.

Main cast:

General Anders Cadman - military leader (harsh metal vocals)
Dr Dillon Albrecht - scientist (theatrical vocals)
Hamlin Herschel - astronomer (soft/calm vocals)

ACT I: Lovecraft's Shadow

1. Pink Floyd - Signs of Life

Hamlin Herschel sits in the bath in his house on Mars, pushing the water around with his palms, watching how it moves in the low gravity, and listening to the signals being transmitted from the sensors in orbit at the edge of the solar system. There has never been any tangible benefit to hearing the signals live - nothing has ever required any sort of rapid response - but it is a routine the astronomer nevertheless enjoys.

Not three minutes have passed when the sound changes. The sensors have identified an unmistakable signal: a sign of life, the first that humanity has ever recorded from outside the solar

system, right by the Alshain star system in the Aquila constellation. His system's AI works in seconds, and confirms what Hamlin - who has always had a remarkable talent for seeing patterns - already suspected. There is no doubting it: a fleet of some kind is travelling incredibly fast on a trajectory headed straight for the solar system. Factoring in the speed of light, the AI calculates how old these signals are and estimates that the fleet will arrive in approximately 20 years, 25 at the most.

Hamlin feels a sense of calm anticipation. He had all but given up hope that there was life out there. Without saying a word to anyone, he sends the information straight to the UN's Science Council.

[instrumental]

2. Mors Principium Est - We Are the Sleep

The Science Council immediately convenes an emergency session. General Anders Cadman, head of the UN's military, does not share Mr Herschel's initial optimism. The UN's scientific and military analysts very quickly assessed all the available information in time for the session. Based on the number of signals, the speed of travel and the direct trajectory, they conclude that there is an 89-94% chance the fleet is hostile. Given the obvious technological superiority of this fleet, humanity would certainly be wiped out. Very quickly, the Council begins informally referring to these unknown aliens as Reapers, and the name sticks.

General Cadman thinks about the death he has seen in his life, especially in his days as a soldier. Now though, as his favourite poet would put it, night is descending. Death is coming, too soon.

[General Cadman]

*If wisdom fails me not
A seer misled by omens
And wanting caution wise
She comes, true prophet with tread*

*Vengeance with hands that bear
The might of unity
She comes, my child
She comes, she comes too soon*

*She shall also come for us she comes
The sons of the night, we are, we are
She shall also come for us she comes
The sons of the night, we are*

*We are the night's desire
We bring the widow's deep
We are the deep desire
We are the sleep
We are the night's desire
We bring the widow's deep
We are the deep desire*

We are the sleep

*And through my scabs so new
Fearing but not of these dreams
That comes with the red of dawn
Will not forget for still*

*Wrought out in bronze of old
Which laid him low in death
Unless it gains its goal
This vision, vision of the night*

*She shall also come for us she comes
The sons of the night, we are, we are
She shall also come for us she comes
The sons of the night, we are*

*We are the night's desire
We bring the widow's deep
We are the deep desire
We are the sleep
We are the night's desire
We bring the widow's deep
We are the deep desire
We are the sleep*

*She shall also come for us she comes
The sons of the night, we are, we are
She shall also come for us she comes
The sons of the night, we are*

*We are the night's desire
We bring the widow's deep
We are the deep desire
We are the sleep
We are the night's desire
We bring the widow's deep
We are the deep desire
We are the sleep*

3. Anthriel - Under Burning Skies

Dr Dillon Albrecht is the UN's Chief Science Officer, who has travelled from his home on Mars to attend the session. In his years in the position, it has essentially been decorative - a nostalgia for a different age and the reason he had been awarded the post so young. But it does come with status, both on the Science Council and even among the general public.

He agrees with General Cadman's assessment, but is not so immediately defeatist. Despite the shadow of night looming over them, he is sure there must be a way to navigate the chaos and find a path to survival. He leaves the emergency session determined to find the answer.

Dr Albrecht analyses all of the options available, running dozens of realistic simulations to explore different scenarios. He judges that humanity is doomed unless it takes one of two actions. The first is to "paint the ground with the sign of fire" - develop weapons and military strength at home sufficient to fight off any aggressor. The other is to "paint the skies with the sign of fire" - escape our solar system and spread across the stars.

[Dr Albrecht]

*Through endless void I roam
In this maze of mysteries
Deluding me from path that I'm on
Once the way was clear to me
Under the pale moonlight
Now devoured by the shadows of the night*

*I watched the shadows dance
Like a flood has struck the earth
Engulfing all the signs I need to find (I need to find)
Oh, waves of fortune come to me
With the rising tide
And take me where the crimson stars align*

*Paint the skies above me
With the sign of fire
Let it light my way through this everlasting endless darkness
Paint the ground
With the sign of fire
Burn my soul as the flames grow higher*

He spends months on Earth - extending into years - pushing this message to the Science Council, and indeed the world. He becomes obsessed with his own status in spreading the word, dedicating all of his time to this journey, hoping for a ray of light in the darkness.

*My journey carries on surrounded by darkness
Where liquid shadows dye the ground I'm on
I'm waiting patiently for a fragile shine of light
The only light my eyes still bear to see*

*Paint the skies above me
With the sign of fire
Let it light my way through this everlasting endless darkness
Paint the ground
With the sign of fire
Burn my soul as the flames grow higher*

4. Pink Floyd - Wish You Were Here

Hamlin Herschel, the astronomer, is also Dr Albrecht's closest friend and confidante. Four years after his discovery of the Reapers' signal, he sits at home watching television, unable to contribute, thinking about how the scientist is becoming increasingly absent, focused completely on the impending threat and the stage and status he has on Earth. He begins to fear that Dr Albrecht's - Dillon's - obsession may be colouring their last days, and that he is losing his grip on what is really possible and what is just a dream. He wishes that he could help, but does not know how. Ultimately, he just wishes his friend were more present, literally and emotionally.

[Hamlin]

*So, so you think you can tell
Heaven from Hell? Blue skies from pain?
Can you tell a green field from a cold steel rail?
A smile from a veil? Do you think you can tell?
Did they get you to trade your heroes for ghosts?
Hot ashes for trees? Hot air for a cool breeze?
Cold comfort for change? Did you exchange
A walk-on part in the war
For a lead role in a cage?*

*How I wish, how I wish you were here
We're just two lost souls swimming in a fishbowl year after year
Running over the same old ground, what have we found?
The same old fears, wish you were here*

5. Vektor - Pillars of Sand

As more time passes, parts of humanity begin doing what Dr Albrecht hoped. Technological progress starts to pick up again after a century of stagnation. But this progress is slow and inconsistent.

The UN military, led by General Cadman, pursues the development of super-weapons called the Pillars. These are built in orbit around Earth, Mars and two of Jupiter's moons, mostly using resources mined from the asteroid belt. The name derives from their shape, cylindrical pillar-like particle accelerators used to create - and distribute - vast amounts of energy with great precision. General Cadman is told that they should work. That there should be time to build them.

And yet, the prototypes refuse to work properly. With the Reapers approaching from Aquila and time running out, the Pillars keep failing - every test ends with them falling and crashing to the surface below, earning them the nickname Pillars of Sand. In frustration and feeling more defeatist than ever, General Cadman reflects on how time is also like pillars of sand, never as reliable as it should be.

[General Cadman]

*Blotted skies subdue stellar cries
Bleeding out from the Pillars
Nebula of Aquila
You have served a killer*

*Time warps these hallowed grounds
As if to draw a line in the sand
Time brings disdain for the weak
Time is what I have
With Reaper squads still dispatching
You place your hopes on Pillars crashing*

*Time is a clock on the wall we command
And its hands made from pillars of sand
On our watch we don't seek what we find
Left bereft by the passage of time*

*I'll have built an empire
On the dust of Alshain
Collection sails extract the Enocules
From vast mines in space*

*And so, we live as ageless men
From the time the reaction begins
The dispenser is strapped to your wrist
You are shackled to my every whim
You are enslaved by the promise of tomorrow
You've paid the price for the time that you borrow*

*Time is a clock on the wall we command
And its hands made from pillars of sand
On our watch we don't seek what we find
Left bereft by the passage of time*

*Time moves like a crack in glass
Sometimes slow, sometimes fast
We all know the fate of the pane
But we move forth, piling on more strain
On the glass of melted sand
Forged by our greedy hands
On a path we choose to belie
It makes us feel alive*

*Pillars of sand fall down as gravity remands
The bones of the dead in a dusty mist
Pillars of sand cannot ascend
Such are we at the point of the obelisk*

*As Reapers dock in the Cygnus Port
My eyes are captured by the Pillars
Nebula of Aquila
Your skies have never been stiller*

*We have come upon the line
Where gravity intercepts with time
Time is without mass
And cannot exist in broken glass
The unrepentant nature of all
Everything falls*

*Time is a clock on the wall we command
And its hands made from pillars of sand
On our watch we don't seek what we find
Left bereft by the passage of time*

ACT II: To Kill the Gods

6. Nevermore - Born (with intro from Linkin Park - Empty Spaces)

More than a decade after the signal's discovery, solutions remain frustratingly out of reach, Dr Albrecht's optimism has run dry and he concludes that mankind has become complacent. A century of silence when it comes to social or technological advancement left a void - indifference, ignorance, apathy - filled by devout religion. This has distorted people's perception of reality, and led to a reliance on God, or gods, to do everything.

Dr Albrecht decides that there is only one way humanity can survive. He needs to find a way to end people's reliance on - perhaps even their belief in - gods. To do this, he must fill the empty space that people currently fill with faith. If the world cannot change, it will be the end.

[Dr Albrecht]
*Religion changed the face of man
Thou shalt not kill, we all are gone
The seed of ignorance is born
Thou shalt not think, thou shalt conform*

*The pigs order us to follow
Orders and obey
The flies drink the decaying nectar
Of their tortured effigy*

*Cling to wasted beliefs and visions
And bathe in apathy again
No solution, the retribution of
Spiritual sickness begins*

*The legacy of suffering is through
The guilt we bear shall not tear us in two*

*Born—we are the same
Within the silence*

*Indifference be thy name
Torn—we walk alone
We sleep in silent shades
The grandeur fades, the meaning never known*

*If nothing in the world can change
Our children will inherit nothing*

*Born—we are the same
Within the silence
Indifference be thy name
Torn—we walk alone
We sleep in silent shades
The grandeur fades, the meaning never known*

*The pigs call for pure submission
And fall into the fray
The lonely hunter beats his shallow drum
The soundtrack of world disarray*

*Cling to wasted beliefs and visions
And bathe in apathy again
No solution, the retribution of
Spiritual sickness begins*

*Born—we are the same
Within the silence
Indifference be thy name
Torn—we walk alone
We sleep in silent shades
The grandeur fades, the meaning never known*

*If nothing in the world can change
Our children will inherit nothing*

7. Interlude (with excerpts from Void I-IV)

Dr Albrecht returns to his simulations and expands the parameters, using all the technologies and data available to man. This time, instead of only analysing the more obvious options, he pushes his computers to their limit and runs thousands of distinct simulations - real historical events, alternate histories, futuristic scenarios, some even in the realms of fantasy but rooted in human behaviours - to try and find a way to break people's reliance on religion.

At first, he tries using this to learn about other religious societies, both real and hypothetical. But on its own, this is unhelpful. Religion has always existed, and even where it has waned, this has generally followed advancements in science rather than the other way round, or otherwise been a response to pain and injustice in the world. His simulations do not offer any clear or consistent solutions.

[Interviewer]

"Suppose it's all true, and you walk up to the pearly gates, and you are confronted by God. What would Stephen Fry say to him, her, or it?"

[Stephen Fry]

"I'd say: 'Bone cancer in children, what's that about? How dare you? How dare you create a world in which there is such misery that is not our fault?' It's not right. Why should I respect a capricious, mean-minded, stupid God, who creates a world that is so full of injustice and pain..."

Instead, he expands the parameters further, and turns his attention to other voids and distortions of the human mind - guilt, obsession, paranoia, depression.

[extracts from Void I-IV]

"...how I wish I was here..."

"...never let fear control our lives, the ghost of the innocent..."

"...I couldn't help but ask for you to say it all again, I tried to write it down..."

"...wild, feeling the call sometimes..."

"...I try to escape from my world of the void, from my world of the banks of fog..."

"...save me - somebody reach out a hand..."

"...consciousness torn from the void..."

"...but I always try to find a place with you..."

8. Kingcrow - Night's Descending

The simulations are clearer this time and offer a greater range of outcomes, but Dr Albrecht struggles to decipher what he sees. He observes times when these voids are overcome, and others when they are not, but he cannot identify the pattern. It's as though the simulations are demons taunting him, keeping the truth tantalisingly close but just out of reach. He begins to despair that his efforts are hopeless. The dark night is still descending, and the end is coming.

[Dr Albrecht]

Night's descending with its toll

Passing as a breath, stripping my soul

That's the moment where I find

Lighter shades of sorrow just for a while

Night's descending more and more

Can a dying star answer my call?

Tides

Time

Meet up

Inside

Drowned

Fears

To feed

My dreams

*Rise before the sun comes
Rise before the sun comes
Rise before*

*Dark's descending with its truth
All these smiling demons feasting on you
Grinning faces crowd around
Staging plastic heavens out of control*

*Rise before the sun comes
Rise before the sun comes*

*Burn your shell
To light this night
Burn yourself to life*

*Like never before
Never rise before*

9. Pink Floyd - On the Turning Away

Despite several years of estrangement, Dr Albrecht turns to the man who was once - and in a way still is - his closest friend. He asks Hamlin Herschel to use his talents at seeing patterns in complex information to help him analyse and decipher his simulations, and find a way to overcome the void.

Hamlin sees everything that his friend Dillon saw, and finds the pattern clear and unarguable. Push too hard and you create resistance. Fail to listen enough and you find yourself adding to - or joining in with - the original problem.

[Hamlin]

*On the turning away
From the pale and downtrodden
And the words they say
Which we won't understand
"Don't accept that what's happening
Is just a case of all the suffering
Or you'll find that you're joining in
The turning away"*

*It's a sin that somehow
Light is changing to shadow
And casting its shroud
Over all we have known
Unaware how the ranks have grown
Driven on by a heart of stone
We could find that we're all alone
In the dream of the proud*

*On the wings of the night
As the daytime is stirring
Where the speechless unite
In a silent accord
Using words you will find are strange
Mesmerised as they light the flame
Feel the new wind of change
On the wings of the night*

Hamlin judges that success comes from being supportive, honest, and patient. Patience is something mankind may have limited time for, making the others even more essential. He is not comfortable with the idea of manipulating people, but decides that he will do what he can to help his friend.

*No more turning away
From the weak and the weary
No more turning away
From the coldness inside
Just a world that we all must share
It's not enough just to stand and stare
Is it only a dream that there'll be
No more turning away?*

10. Insomnium - The Promethean Song

As storms break over the General's home, Dr Albrecht, Hamlin Herschel and General Cadman work together to devise and deliver a message for the world. It is firm and direct, but at the same time it is designed to be kindly and empowering. It tells mankind of the impending threat, and that rather than swoop in to save us, the gods gave us the strength and intelligence to save ourselves.

[General Cadman]
*A child will look up in the sky
Ask guidance from the sun
And directions from the moon
Counsel from the mighty ones
Hiding beyond the stars
Far above this earth*

[Hamlin and Dr Albrecht]
*No redemption from the skies
No response up from heaven
No relief will ever come
From beyond this realm*

[General Cadman]
*For the spirits in their halls
Will turn away their glance
Hearken to the songs of the stars*

*Consider the weight of time
Ponder over the spheres
Watch how the firmament turns
To place your trust in them
Is like leaping in the dark
Like letting the gale take you where it may*

[Hamlin and Dr Albrecht]
*No redemption from the skies
No response up from heaven
No relief will ever come
From beyond this realm*

[General Cadman]
*Ward off your fears
Break your harness
Forge your own fate
Rebuild yourself*

[Hamlin and Dr Albrecht]
*No redemption from the skies
No response up from heaven
No relief will ever come
From beyond this realm*

Over the coming years, mankind's faith in God or gods wanes. Many do not explicitly reject the idea, but they do not actively think about it. Technological advancement picks up, with new ingenuity and creativity not seen for decades.

ACT III: Eleventh Hour

11. Pink Floyd - The Dogs of War

Unfortunately, as more years pass and the Reapers' arrival moves nearer, it becomes clear that humanity is not all pulling in the same direction. Whole swathes of society abandon their faith completely.

Some become nihilists, and it is not long before rioting and looting become rampant. Others - fanatics calling themselves the Reaperists - replace their faith with a belief that whatever is coming across the stars is our salvation, and seek to stop all efforts to advance either military power or interstellar travel.

Most concerning is a collaboration between these two groups. An unusually well-organised group of nihilistic mercenaries, known as the Dogs of War and willing to cause any manner of chaos and destruction for the right price, begin actively sabotaging all military and scientific endeavours they can access on behalf of their paymasters, the new cult of Reaperists.

[Leader of the Dogs of War]

*Dogs of war and men of hate
With no cause, we don't discriminate
Discovery is to be disowned
Our currency is flesh and bone
Hell opened up and put on sale
Gather round and haggle
For hard cash we will lie and deceive
Even our masters don't know the webs we weave*

*One world, it's a battleground
One world, and we're gonna smash it down
One world... One world*

*Invisible transfers and long distance calls
Hollow laughter in marble halls
Steps have been taken, a silent uproar
Has unleashed the Dogs of War
You can't stop what has begun
Signed, sealed, they deliver oblivion
We all have our dark side to say the least
And dealing in death is the nature of the beast*

*One world, it's a battleground
One world, and they're gonna smash it down
One world... One world*

*The Dogs of War don't negotiate
The Dogs of War won't capitulate
They will take and you will give
And you must die so that they may live
You can knock at any door
But wherever you go, you know they've been there before
Well winners can lose and things can get strained
But whatever you change you know the Dogs remain*

*One world, it's a battleground
One world, and we're gonna smash it down
One world... One world*

12. Nevermore - This Godless Endeavour

Dr Albrecht now realises what a miscalculation he made. In trying to break religion's hold on humanity, he inadvertently made it, if anything, even worse, fuelling faith-based conflict not seen for decades. He runs new simulations, but they are useless. At such a crucial juncture, it has become clear that there is now no real chance of fighting back.

He tells the UN's Science Council of the guilt he feels over his actions, and his frustration at the bleakness of the godless endeavour mankind struggles through. He had put so much effort into what he thought was the right solution - the people listened, they even gave him the stage and the public status of a rock star - but he was wrong.

[Dr Albrecht]

*And on the open road
We came to a sign
For it was foretold
That the weak would inherit and nothing would change
Here we are at the crossroads
Standing face to back
Still afraid to see our eyes*

*I feel helpless and alone
Trapped on the third stone*

*Godless are we
Godless are we*

*Sitting here sideways on a cold stone floor
My guitar gently bleeding and wanting more
When I heard a sound come rapping, tapping on my door
"Hello, I'm happy to meet you" (In your confidence, is it safe)
"Sit down, I'm happy to greet you" (To feed your greedy dog at the edge of the stage?)
"But before, before you slam the door
Tell me when, tell me why, tell me what this fucking life is for"
We fly through this godless endeavour
We try to explain the black forever*

*I feel helpless and alone
Trapped on the third stone*

*I feel permanently stoned
This godless endeavour
The only cage I've known*

*Our organic equation has shown its flaw
Can we agree to disagree on the concept of God?
As I lifted up my brother, he said to me
"Abandon naive realism
Surrender thought in cold precision"*

*I feel empty and deranged
Denied one last epiphany and ushered from the stage*

Once Dr Albrecht has finished, General Cadman speaks up as well. He reflects that the scientists had tried too hard to eliminate God - it consumed their focus at the expense of more meaningful action, and in the end it backfired anyway.

[General Cadman]

*Thou shalt not question, the role of science is not to eliminate God
As alternative gods multiply, science stands accused of theocide*

Consume

Conform

Consume

Conform

After the session, Dr Albrecht's mental state continues to deteriorate. Angry at himself and at the gods - whether they exist or not - he can no longer find the strength or the hope to keep going. His mistakes have left a void within him he cannot overcome.

[Dr Albrecht]

The children sitting in the trees

They turn to laugh at me

They tell me that I'm insane

But in my mind, I know I'm to blame

Alone within my lunacy

Dementia fills the void within me

No testament, prayer, or diseased lament

Can heal my wounds, they are so discontent

All the faithful fall onto their knees

And praise the priests of industrial disease

With the will to live gone, Dr Dillon Albrecht lets the darkness take him.

We contemplate oblivion

As we resonate our dissonance

In godless, random interpretation

The universe still expands

Mankind still can't understand

How to define you

So hide your face

And watch us exterminate ourselves over you

Welcome to the end, my friend

The sky has opened

13. Vektor - Recharging the Void

With the Reapers about to arrive, humanity faces its last chance for survival. Even had Dr Albrecht still been available, there are no more simulations to run, no options to consider. At this eleventh hour, there is only one path to avoid extinction.

A handful of generational interstellar ships, all that mankind was able to build quickly, depart immediately with the few thousand people they can carry, setting out for the stars so that future

generations might find a new world. But to achieve this, the military must do what it can to fight - and distract - the invaders.

Motivated by this one last chance, General Cadman leads the military in embarking on a suicide mission to take the fight to Alshain's Reapers. He knows, just as he has always known, that they cannot possibly win. But their firepower now will at least be enough to keep the invaders occupied while the interstellar ships depart. The Pillars may fall, as they always do, but they can do some damage first.

War commences and General Cadman experiences the intense danger of the battle for the first time in many years, closely avoiding death several times. He thinks back to his conversation with Hamlin Herschel following Dr Albrecht's death. All this will be for nought if humanity cannot learn from its mistakes. They agreed then that whatever is left of humanity needs to "recharge the voids" of the human mind - help people understand and learn how to deal with such traits, rather than try to remove or repress them and risk creating a greater emptiness.

[General Cadman]

Follow me to Alshain

Toward a fiery grave

We have spun a web of worlds

Spinning out of control

I crossed the other side

But I was brought back

The air sucked from my lungs

My hull was cracked

The dust sifted in

Like an hourglass

It sealed my ship

And I was intact

Hourglass between worlds

Emptiness on the side that employs

The upper hand

Recharging the void

Each half of the cosmic breath

Moved by a void

With our lungs at capacity

Recharging the void

Follow me to Alshain

Toward a fiery grave

We have spun a web of worlds

Spinning out of control

We've lived beyond our years

And now we hear our calling

We've outlived our pillars falling, falling...

*I must return to Alshain
To release our clutch
Terminal redux*

*Like our star at its end
Time will warp in the space we bend
As we burst to our stellar tomb
Its planets will be consumed*

*Hourglass between worlds
Emptiness on the side that employs
The upper hand
Recharging the void
Each half of the cosmic breath
Moved by a void
With our lungs at capacity
Recharging the void*

*All the things
We've destroyed
But there is one thing left
Bring balance through our death*

As the fight rages on and the end draws nearer, General Cadman makes contact with Hamlin Herschel who is aboard an interstellar ship with the last of humanity. They are headed in the direction of the Cygnus constellation - mankind's best hope of eventually finding a habitable world. He once more implores Mr Herschel to make the sacrifice of those left behind worth it.

Hamlin assures him that he will do everything he can to ensure that the few thousand that remain and their descendants, wherever they end up, remember where they came from, what happened and the mistakes that were made. They call this the Cygnus Tide.

With nothing left to say, General Cadman bids him good luck on his journey towards Cygnus.

*The Cygnus Tide can be restored
To a cosmic state
Before man perverted it
Before we staked our claim
Ultimate sacrifice
To revive the flux
Turning back a shrinking world
Too small for us*

*Ultimate sacrifice
To revive the flux
Turning back a shrinking world
Too small for us*

[Hamlin]

*Illuminate what remains
From a time when all sanctions were hallowed
And our freedoms sucked straight from our marrow
To bleed after refrain*

*All we knew was the suffering
Away, all of the shame and the sorrow
Only hoping for endless tomorrows
We look to cold, shimmering skies*

*Feel the light passing by
There's no light that reflects from our gallows
Planets stricken to live in the shadows
Of cold, shimmering skies*

*All we ask is our story be told
To young, beckoning, yearning worlds
Who are struggling to be as one
We are the light from a dying sun
In darkness we will remain*

[General Cadman]

*Feel the light
Piercing your eyes
Open the skies
To the Cygnus Tide*

As his military forces deplete, General Cadman can feel the end coming. As the ships move further away from the solar system, the military makes one final push to give them the greatest chance of escaping undetected.

*Countdown to the end
The Terminal descends
Into Alshain's cloud
To be kept under shroud
Rulers of life
We've seen the limits of our minds
Our foresight is blinded by our bias
To which we cannot hide*

[Hamlin and General Cadman]

*(Cygnus is calling)
Bound to our graves
All in stellar remains
(The pillars are falling)*

*(Cygnus is calling)
Bound to our graves*

Finally, with the interstellar ships now a safe distance away, General Cadman knows that it is time. He gives the order, and the Terminal - the largest collection of Pillars that had so far been kept unused - is set to self-destruct. The energy from this will cause the sun to supernova. Those left in the system are doomed no matter what; at least this will take the invaders with them.

As the Terminal begins exploding, General Anders Cadman closes his eyes and embraces humanity's final act of defiance in the solar system.

[General Cadman]

From beyond the grave

It rises once again

With balance staved, we make amends

A ruler without plots or schemes

Of cosmic law, we could

Only dream

I heed the Cygnus call

A symbol for life and death's resolve

Our fate implodes upon our crux

The Terminal is set to self-destruct

Relic Alshain

Oh, Shahin-i tarazu

I return my flesh to

You