



The Interstellar Chessboard (1 of 2)

Manipulation

Previously

2 weeks ago the universe was rattled as the mad titan Thanos unleashed a massive wave of energy that released all the prisoners from every prison in the universe. Thanos was defeated, but the cost was high, the Avengers were stranded in places unknown and many criminals remain on the run, including Arron's enemy Galivagar, who now has copied Thanos' powers.

For the past few weeks, major players in the criminal underworld have received mysterious invitations, now Phillip Coulson: loyal Agent of SHIELD has found a copy of the invitation, and the dangerous words it contains.

Scene 1

Royal Palace, Alaunus, October 1st 2018 10:00 BST

Queen Erina sits as her throne, with Raven as her consort as Agent Coulson enters, escorted by the palace guards

Agent Coulson: (Bows to her) thank you for agreeing to this meeting

Queen Erina: I find bowing such an old fashioned notion, rise (Coulson rises) you said you'd found something that concerns us

Agent Coulson: Yes, an invitation sent to the Serpent Society, we recovered it when we ran a raid on their headquarters after the breakout (he hands Raven the invitation) we got them, but we have no-where to put them, they're under SHIELD guard until we can arrange something

Raven: Alaunus will fall in fire, the pieces will be available for you to pick up; will you refuse this enticing offer? It gives a date and a map, the date is tomorrow

Agent Coulson: Normally, I'd offer S.H.I.E.L.D. assistance, but we're spread thin across the world, trying to round up who we can, to be honest, it's a losing battle.

Queen Erina: Thank you agent Coulson, we'll take care of this matter ourselves (Agent Coulson turns around and leaves) Gather your warriors, Raven, we have a lot of work to do

Scene 2

Ephemeris-Omega, 10:00 UTC

Anarax: Still no sign of him

Arron: Not surprising, he's probably already onto any way we can track him, he won't fall for that trick twice.

Galivagar: You don't need to keep looking, I found you

Arron: What do you want?

Galivagar: You were so easy to play, I only had to tell you what was happening, and plant a tracer on you, undetectable of course, your own design. Time travel makes things so easy, the moment I escaped that cell you trapped me in, I saw your tracking signal, no idea how it got there, didn't care, I followed you, and copied Thanos' powers, then I knew what I had to do, I travelled back in time to create my future, I warned you of Thanos, I told Thanos of the infinity Gauntlet, all to gain this glorious power.

Arron: I ask again, what do you want?

Galivagar: You didn't think I'd just come to gloat?

Arron: Not really

Galivagar: You're quite correct. You see this space station is impressive, you will surrender it to me, or I will destroy it using the bombs I've planted. You have 30 seconds to decide. (He waits) 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0 (nothing happens, what?)

Arron: I jammed your signal.

Galivagar: Well played (he teleports away)

Anarax: You'd think with the combined powers of Captain Atom and the infinity gauntlet he could destroy the satellite without resorting to bombs

Arron: He always had a flare for being too overdramatic for his own good, but I suspect he has a different revenge in mind.

Anarax: You get a tracer on him?

Arron: Yeah, but he'll have it off in seconds. And if he does have the power of 5 infinity gems, we won't be able to take him alone

Scene 3

GDF HQ, 10:33 UTC

Siliseas: Been a while since you've come here Arron

Arron: Galivagar's copied the powers of Thanos a few moments before we defeated him. He has to be stopped

Siliseas: We have far bigger concerns right now. Troop deployment is at 98% as planets beg for protection from the escapees, which leaves us with 2% to bring peace to the wars that have erupted.

Arron: What?

Siliseas: The planet Tamaran declared war against the Kree, Rann declared war against Thanagar, Mileta declared war against Milwan; there are at least another dozen different cases like this.

Arron: What? I haven't heard any news about this; I've been keeping an eye on news channels for days

Siliseas: We've been trying to keep it under wraps, there's enough of a panic as it is

Arron: Yeah, because that always works, doesn't it?

Siliseas: You always try to be the smartest guy in the room

Arron: Only if I'm in a room full of idiots (The base is blown open, troopers rush to combat the threat)

A001: We've got a Jungo attack (Arron puts his hand over his forehead as Siliseas runs to join the battle)

Arron: Cripes (he receives an incoming call alert)

Anarax: Just to let you know, I think Harnatica is in the area

Arron: Yeah, I know, her Jungos are everywhere (without even looking he punches one of the Jungos unconscious)

Anarax: I didn't know she was still hiring those

Arron: Harnatica must want something; can you pinpoint her exact location?

Anarax: Let me see (short pause) she's in the centre of the building

Arron: Of course she is (he runs through the building, easily knocking out all the Jungos in his way, he enters the map centre)

Harnatica: Maps maps, maps maps maps maps maps; maps maps, maps (she has a load of them in her hands, she tries to move but slips up and drops her maps) maps maps maps

Arron: Let me help you (he picks up one of the maps and hands it to Harnatica, Harnatica takes the map)

Harnatica: Maps?

Arron: You're welcome, now why don't you take a nap (he sprays knock out gas into her face, knocking her unconscious, troopers enter the map room)

A001: Nice work, we've taken care of the last of the Jungos, never really understood why she chose them for hired help

Arron: Because she's insane (takes one of the maps and scans through it) wait a minute. Computer, bring up current universal map (a holographic map of the universe appears) now, overlay with scans from this map (he inserts the map into the computer, and the image is overlaid on top of the original map) there are discrepancies here

A001: Planets have been moved, they're occupying other orbits, interrupting solar channels, causing massive tidal shifts, probably destroying moons and satellites, no wonder the planets are at war with each other. But who could possibly move those planets?

Arron: I can name you two people. Thanos and Galivagar

A001: What should we do with her? The holding cells are all broken, and I don't think any prison is operational yet

Arron: No, they're not, at least not any of the big 50 I'm in contact with, and I doubt local authorities would hold her. (Ollie Jackson teleports into the map room) Ollie, how's Milwan?

Ollie: It's bad, Mileta have begun bombardment of 7 major locations, shields are holding but they won't hold out forever, Milwan is preparing a response fleet, a big one; Mileta doesn't have the strength to combat it.

Arron: If we can find a way of getting these planets back in their proper orbits, it might help end these wars without further bloodshed

Ollie: Yeah, well we'd need someone capable of moving several giga-tonnes of mass; even Superman isn't capable of that. (He looks at Arron) He isn't, is he?

Arron: No, he's strong, but he's not that strong.

Galivagar: But I am. (He blows up the map computer and destroys A001 with a lightning blast, he slows down time and tries to snap Harnatica's neck but Arron uses his reflex and punches him backwards, Galivagar tries to blast Arron with an amplified radiation blast, but Arron shields it, but he also has control of Ollie's mind, he uses Ollie to attack Arron, Arron easily evades Oliver's moves, Galivagar returns to Harnatica's unconscious body) your usefulness is over (he kills Harnatica by blasting her with lightning, turning her to dust)

Arron: (Punching Ollie away with his left fist while he was distracted) you didn't have to kill her!

Galivagar: And what would you have done with her? Lock her up? Prisons don't exist anymore. And even if they did no-one will trust prisons again after what has happened. Execution is now the only way to punish criminals, whatever the crime.

Arron: She was mentally ill, highly unstable and until recently she was taking medication! She needed help, not punishment

Galivagar: If that's what you believe you've grown softer than I ever realised (he levitates Arron into the air, Arron activates his psionic pulse, but nothing happens) you were hoping that little mind-probing signal would work on me. I have robotic parts, remember. I added a firewall to cancel it out.

Arron: What do you want, Galivagar?

Galivagar: To deliver this final message. The Galactic Defence Force will fall, so will all your super-powered champions; chaos will overwhelm the universe until there is nothing left but ashes and dust. Your only hope of salvation is to put

your trust in me. Only I can save the Universe from what comes next. (He laughs maniacally)

Scene 4

Muspelheim, 1st October 12:00 UTC

The Fire God Surtur watches the happenings at the Galactic defence force, he summons Amora the Enchantress

Surtur: This man is a problem; with his power he could undo the fate that awaits the realm of Midgard. Stop him

Enchantress: Of course, my Lord