

# E24 - My Friend

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**[00:07] Trunicht**

The dissidents who threatened the principles  
of the Free Planets Alliance are gone!

**[00:13] Trunicht**

But there is no time for mourning.

**[00:17] Trunicht**

Our holy war to overthrow the  
Galactic Empire still continues.

**[00:22] Trunicht**

We are here thanks to the sacrifices of  
the brave heroes who gave their lives

**[00:27] Trunicht**

to defend our Alliance.

**[00:30] Trunicht**

We must follow in their footsteps.

**[00:32] Trunicht**

In order to pledge even greater freedom and  
prosperity to the Alliance of the future,

**[00:36] Trunicht**

let us offer up our present!

**[00:41] Trunicht**

That is the greatest honor we  
can offer to our fallen heroes!

**SIGN** Legend of the Galactic Heroes

**[02:32] Yang**

Why the hell do I have to shake  
that bastard Trunicht's hand?

**[02:39] Julian**

It comes with your position.

**[02:42] Julian**

Just bear with it.

**[02:43] Yang**

If I knew I'd have to do this,

**[02:45] Yang**

I might've reconsidered winning that battle.

**[02:48] Yang**

There will only be more occasions like this.

**[02:52] Julian**

Of course, that doesn't mean  
you can lose on purpose.

**[02:56] Yang**

No, I'll lose.

**[02:58] Yang**

I'll get my ass kicked.

**[03:00] Yang**

Then my reputation will plummet

**[03:02] Yang**

and no one will stop me  
from leaving this job.

**[03:05] Yang**

I'll be free of the hell  
that is court service

**[03:08] Yang**

and finally get to retire.

**[03:10] Julian**

Do you mean that?

**[03:13] Yang**

I do.

**[03:15] Yang**

I'm going to retire and live quietly  
in a little house in the country.

**[03:20] Yang**

On cold nights, I'll listen to the  
wind while enjoying some brandy.

**[03:25] Yang**

On rainy days, I'll spare a thought for those  
raindrops' epic journey through the atmosphere

**[03:30] Yang**

and sip on some wine.

**[03:36] Julian**

You might find your own salvation  
in doing so, Admiral,

**[03:41] Julian**

but many millions of others would go unsaved.

**[03:45] Julian**

That isn't what you want, is it?

**[03:52] Yang**

You're right.

**[03:56] Frederica**

Admiral, Julian.

**[03:58] Frederica**

It's time.

**[04:01] Julian**

Let's go.

**[04:03] Yang**

Sure.

**[04:16] Yang**

*All people die.*

**[04:18] Yang**

*Stars don't live forever.*

**[04:21] Yang**

*Even the universe itself  
will cease to exist someday.*

**[04:25] Yang**

*There's no way a country can live eternally.*

**[04:29] Yang**

*And a country that can't survive  
without making massive sacrifices*

**[04:32] Yang**

*might as well die and get it  
over with. No one would miss it.*

**[04:37] Trunicht**

What's the matter? Why the troubled face?

**[04:42] Trunicht**

This is a joyous day for our homeland.

**[04:45] Trunicht**

We should both keep smiling

**[04:47] Trunicht**

to ensure we show our gratitude to  
the citizens, the true sovereigns.

**[04:54] Doumec**

Now, Mr. Yang, representing our military,

**[04:57] Doumec**

and Mr. Trunicht, representing our civilians,

**[04:59] Doumec**

will share a handshake before all of you!

**[05:05] Trunicht**

Well, shall we?

**[05:08] Doumec**

Admiral Yang, please step forward.

**SIGN** Episode 24

**SIGN** My Friend

**SIGN** Free Planets Alliance Navy Space Pier

**[05:33] Julian**

Why don't you just forget about it already?

**[05:35] Yang**

Believe me, I wish I could.

**[05:39] Yang**

Still... I never thought I'd

have to shake Trunicht's hand.

**[05:45] Julian**

Allow me to commend you on your service.

**[05:49] Yang**

Seeing all those people from up on  
that ceremonial stage made me think...

**[05:55] Yang**

Just what is a democracy that gives a man  
like Trunicht the legitimate right to rule?

**[06:01] Yang**

What kind of citizenry would continue  
to support a man like that?

**[06:06] Julian**

Did you find an answer?

**[06:10] Yang**

Even I was stunned by the things  
that came to my mind then.

**[06:14] Yang**

Rudolf von Goldenbaum, in the past,

**[06:17] Yang**

as well as the National Salvation Military  
Council guys behind the coup d'état,

**[06:22] Yang**

must have been convinced that their actions  
were the only way to save the people.

**[06:27] Yang**

Frankly, it's a complete paradox,

**[06:30] Yang**

but what made Rudolf a treacherous despot

**[06:33] Yang**

was his sense of responsibility and  
obligation toward all humanity.

**[06:40] Julian**

Do you think Chairman Trunicht feels  
such responsibility or obligation?

**[06:46] Yang**

I couldn't say.

**[06:48] Yang**

It doesn't seem like it, though.

**[06:51] Yang**

Anyway, I'm too tired to think  
about him any more today.

**[06:56] Julian**

Of course. You should go to bed early.

**[07:00] Julian**

I'll take care of the remaining paperwork.

**[07:03] Yang**

Thanks.

**[07:05] Julian**

Not at all.

**[07:11] Yang**

*Trunicht might be like a malignant cancer to our society.*

**[07:17] Yang**

*He devours healthy cells and keeps multiplying*

**[07:20] Yang**

*until society, his host, ultimately dies.*

**[07:25] Yang**

*If that's the case, it's truly a nightmare.*

**[07:31] Julian**

Yes?

**[07:32] Julian**

What? Really?!

**[07:34] Julian**

Understood! I'll inform him at once!

**[07:36] Julian**

Admiral!

**[07:38] Yang**

Why all the excitement?

**[07:40] Yang**

There's nothing in this world worth getting excited or yelling about.

**[07:45] Julian**

But...

**[07:47] Julian**

You know Admiral Merkatz, don't you?

**[07:50] Yang**

He's a well-known Imperial Navy admiral.

**[07:52] Yang**

He's not as grand or glamorous as Marquis Lohengramm,

**[07:56] Yang**

but he's experienced and shows no weakness.

**[07:58] Yang**

I hear he's quite popular, too.

**[08:00] Yang**

So, what about him?

**[08:03] Julian**

Well, that well-known Imperial Navy admiral has defected!

**[08:07] Julian**

Admiral Yang, he has requested your help!

**[08:10] Yang**

What?!

**SIGN** Iserlohn Fortress

**[08:19] Alex**

First of all, we'll need you  
to leave your weapons here.

**[08:22] Schneider**

What?! Insolence!

**[08:25] Schneider**

Admiral Merkatz is not a war prisoner!

**[08:27] Schneider**

He has defected here of his own free will!

**[08:30] Schneider**

And you demand he give up his weapons?

**[08:34] Schneider**

Is it not proper etiquette  
to treat him as a guest?!

**[08:37] Schneider**

Or does nothing resembling etiquette  
exist in the Free Planets Alliance?!

**[08:45] Alex**

My apologies.

**[08:47] Alex**

Please forgive my rudeness.

**[08:52] Murai**

And now he's being treated  
as a guest of honor, I hear.

**[08:57] Murai**

I find it all a bit hard to believe.

**[09:01] Yang**

Did Admiral Merkatz flee  
along with his family?

**[09:04] Murai**

No, his family remains in the Empire.

**[09:09] Yang**

I see. That's fine, then.

**[09:11] Murai**

No, it is not.

**[09:13] Murai**

The fact that his family  
remains in the Empire

**[09:16] Murai**

essentially means that he's  
left potential hostages behind.

**[09:19] Murai**

Is it not natural to believe that he came  
here with some unsavory goal in mind?

**[09:25] Yang**

No, I don't think it is.

**[09:27] Yang**

If he wanted to deceive me from the start,

**[09:29] Yang**

he wouldn't have admitted to  
leaving his family behind.

**[09:32] Yang**

It's more likely he'd bring a fake  
family who could act as observers.

**[09:37] Yang**

Am I right, Commander Baghdash?

**[09:41] Baghdash**

Well, that sounds about right.

**[09:44] Baghdash**

Admiral Merkatz is a true military man.

**[09:47] Baghdash**

I doubt he'd have anything to do  
with things like spying or sabotage.

**[09:51] Baghdash**

I think you can trust him.

**SIGN** Sounds like we'll trust him a lot faster than we trusted you.

**[09:58] Baghdash**

Hey, that's harsh, Commodore Schönkopf.

**[10:04] Yang**

Well, at any rate, I'm choosing  
to trust Admiral Merkatz.

**[10:09] Yang**

And I will protect his rights  
to the best of my ability.

**[10:14] Yang**

A veteran admiral of the Empire has  
turned to me for help, after all.

**[10:20] Yang**

I have to reciprocate his favor.

**[10:23] Murai**

You're absolutely certain  
you want to do this?

**[10:26] Yang**

Yes. I'm weak against flattery, you know.

**[10:29] Yang**

Lieutenant, put me through  
to Iserlohn immediately.

**[10:33] Frederica**

Yes, sir.

**[10:40] Yang**

*You are Admiral Merkatz, correct?*

**[10:42] Merkatz**

I am.

**[10:44] Yang**

*I am Yang Wen-li.*

**[10:46] Yang**

*It's truly a pleasure to meet you.*

**[10:48] Merkatz**

Likewise.

**[10:50] Merkatz**

This fallen admiral is  
hereby in your service.

**[10:53] Merkatz**

I only ask that you show  
leniency to my subordinates.

**[10:59] Yang**

*Very well.*

**[11:01] Yang**

*It seems you have some  
fine men working for you.*

**[11:03] Yang**

*In any case, I will be happy to accept them.*

**[11:07] Yang**

*You needn't worry.*

**[11:08] Merkatz**

I thank you for your kindness.

**[11:11] Yang**

Well, that will be all.

**[11:13] Merkatz**

Yes, sir.

**[11:18] Merkatz**

Your advice was not in error.

**[11:21] Merkatz**

Admiral Yang seems to be a trustworthy man.

**[11:25] Schneider**

Yes, sir.

**[11:26] Na**

Yang kept his promise

**[11:28] Na**

and did all he could to protect  
the rights of Merkatz and his men.

**[11:32] Na**

In response, the Alliance  
government gave Merkatz

**[11:36] Na**

the status of "guest admiral"

**[11:39] Na**

and appointed him as advisor to  
the Iserlohn Fortress commander.

**[11:46] Doumec**

The matter of Admiral Merkatz  
has been settled,

**[11:49] Doumec**

but the problem is Yang Wen-li.

**[11:52] Doumec**

This was a civil war, so we  
can just give him a medal,

**[11:57] Doumec**

but the next time he accomplishes  
some heroic deed,

**SIGN** Council Member Doumec

**SIGN** Council Member Bonet

**[11:59] Doumec**

we'll have no choice but to promote him.

**[12:01] Irons**

Barely 30 years old, and reaching  
the rank of fleet admiral?

**SIGN** Council Member Irons

**SIGN** Council Member Kaplan

**[12:04] Irons**

An undefeated hero, and a  
young bachelor to boot...

**[12:09] Irons**

If he retired and went into politics,

**[12:11] Irons**

he's almost guaranteed to earn  
enough votes to win any election.

**[12:15] Negroponte**

Just because he's a hero on the battlefield

**SIGN** Council Member Negroponte

**[12:17] Negroponte**

doesn't mean he has the talent  
to succeed in politics.

**[12:22] Doumec**

Still, many people would  
be drawn to his reputation.

**[12:27] Doumec**

If that happened,  
regardless of his capability,

**[12:30] Doumec**

he would be a force too potent to ignore.

**[12:33] Negroponte**

Before the Battle of the Doria Starzone,

**[12:35] Negroponte**

he stood before every officer  
and soldier in his navy and said

**[12:39] Negroponte**

that the rise and fall of a nation was trivial in comparison

**[12:43] Negroponte**

to the people's rights and freedoms.

**[12:45] Negroponte**

That's dangerous ideology.

**[12:47] Negroponte**

He's basically saying that as long as individual rights and freedoms are protected,

**[12:51] Negroponte**

it wouldn't matter if the Alliance was replaced by the Empire.

**[12:56] Irons**

You have to be a bit suspicious of his loyalty toward his nation.

**[13:17] Negroponte**

Yang has made problematic statements at every turn.

**[13:22] Negroponte**

If prompted, I'm sure he would make many more.

**[13:25] Trunicht**

Admiral Yang's talents are a necessity to the Alliance.

**[13:29] Trunicht**

So long as the Empire is our enemy, that is.

**[13:33] Trunicht**

Unless it's something that could prove lethal,

**[13:35] Trunicht**

we may need to tolerate some of the things he says.

**[13:38] Trunicht**

Still, there's no need to panic.

**[13:42] Trunicht**

Let's just keep an eye on how things progress for now.

**[13:47] Konev**

I heard about Admiral Merkatz.

**[13:50] Dusty**

Yeah. Admiral Yang's really happy about it.

**[13:53] Dusty**

He's been named a vice admiral for now,

**[13:56] Dusty**

but he'll probably be formally named an admiral eventually.

**[13:59] Poplin**

The Alliance's head honchos sure are hospitable toward defectors.

**[14:04] Poplin**

Even after everything our fleet accomplished,

**[14:07] Poplin**

Admiral Yang is still stuck at the rank of admiral,

**[14:10] Poplin**

leaving basically no chance of his men being promoted, either.

**[14:13] Dusty**

Chief Dawson and Commander-in-Chief Bewcock are admirals, as well.

**[14:17] Dusty**

Admiral Yang is below them, so he can't be promoted to fleet admiral.

**[14:22] Poplin**

You think he's really satisfied with that?

**[14:25] Dusty**

Oh, please.

**[14:26] Dusty**

He was never interested in that sort of thing to begin with.

**SIGN** Oh, really? So you're a petty officer second class now, Julian?

**[14:35] Julian**

Congratulations on your promotion, as well, Rear Admiral Schönkopf.

**SIGN** Thanks.

**SIGN** But I heard a rumor that Admiral Dawson promoted only me

**SIGN** as part of a plot to put a crack in our fleet's unity.

**SIGN** But Chief Cubersly returned to his post,

**SIGN** so I suppose it'll be fine.

**[14:56] Julian**

Actually...

**[14:58] Julian**

I heard that my promotion resulted from a direct intervention by Chairman Trunicht...

**[15:04] Julian**

so I can't feel truly happy about it.

**SIGN** Listen, Julian.

**SIGN** The military is overrun with the agendas of many different people.

**SIGN** Those agendas have direct effects on us sometimes.

**SIGN** But you can't let every little thing like that get to you.

**SIGN** We just have to focus on the good that comes of it.

**SIGN** Understand?

**[15:29] Julian**

I understand. I'll try  
to think of it that way.

**[15:32] Yang**

Hey, Julian.

**[15:34] Yang**

I haven't recognized you as a soldier yet.

**SIGN** Your Excellency, what do you think Julian is holding?

**SIGN** Do you have the right to say that to someone who's been given all those?

**[15:51] Yang**

Julian.

**[15:52] Yang**

Toss those into your locker or wherever.

**[15:55] Julian**

Yes, sir...

**[15:56] Yang**

You can use the box as a  
soap dish or something.

**[15:59] Yang**

I'm going down to Heinessen for a bit.

**SIGN** Then I'll come as your guard.

**[16:04] Julian**

I'll accompany you, as well.

**[16:06] Yang**

No.

**[16:07] Yang**

I'll go by myself today.

**[16:10] Yang**

Look after things while I'm away.

**[16:12] Julian**

Please be careful.

**[16:16] Julian**

Where could he be going?

**SIGN** Who knows?

**SIGN** Galactic Empire Capital Planet Odin

**[16:47] Wolfgang**

We're finally here, in accordance  
with His Excellency's wishes.

**[16:52] Wolfgang**

The old ones are gone,

**[16:53] Wolfgang**

and a new order will be established today.

**[16:57] Wolfgang**

The people welcome the  
birth of this peaceful era.

**[17:01] Oskar**

Naturally, I welcome it, too.

**[17:04] Oskar**

It excites me to be here in this new age.

**[17:09] Wolfgang**

Well, let's go.

**[17:11] Oskar**

Right.

**[17:30] Na**

In October of the year IC 488,

**[17:34] Na**

Reinhard von Lohengramm was promoted to the status of duke.

**[17:39] Na**

And in addition to the title of Supreme Commander of the Imperial Navy,

**[17:44] Na**

he was also named the Imperial Prime Minister,

**[17:46] Na**

giving him complete supremacy in both politics and the military.

**[17:52] Na**

Thus the dictatorship of Duke Lohengramm began.

**[18:17] Reinhard**

I'll be fine from here.

**[18:19] Guy**

Yes, sir.

**[19:22] Na**

The late Siegfried Kircheis

**[19:25] Na**

was granted the title of Imperial Fleet Admiral

**[19:28] Na**

and was posthumously named Minister of Military Affairs,

**[19:32] Na**

Supreme Command Headquarters Chief, Space Fleet Commander,

**[19:36] Na**

Acting Supreme Commander of the Imperial Navy,

**[19:40] Na**

and Acting Imperial Prime Minister.

**[19:44] Na**

Still, no matter what worldly glory he possessed,

**[19:48] Na**

he could never repay his red-haired friend's devotion.

**[19:52] Na**

With this in mind,

**[19:54] Na**

the inscription Reinhard chose for  
Kircheis's gravestone was simple and concise:

**[19:59] Na**

just two words,  
"My Friend," and nothing more.

**[20:25] Na**

The year UC 797,

**[20:28] Na**

or the 488th year of the Imperial Calendar,

**[20:30] Na**

was an unusual year for a  
long-divided human society

**[20:34] Na**

in that the two nations did  
not meet each other in battle.

**[20:38] Na**

But whether the winners of the internal  
disputes that occurred in each nation

**[20:42] Na**

were satisfied with their victories  
or not is another story.

**[20:48] Na**

One of them made great gains,  
but also lost something precious.

**[20:54] Na**

The other gained new allies,  
but felt new dangers at his back.

**[21:01] Na**

In this year, Reinhard von  
Lohengramm was 21 years old,

**[21:05] Na**

and Yang Wen-li was 30.

**[21:09] Na**

Both were at an age where the future  
held more for them than the past.

**SIGN** Third Planet in the Solar System Earth

**[23:02] Bishop**

Rubinsky's performance in this  
battle was not at all satisfactory.

**[23:09] Bishop**

That much is certain.

**[23:11] De Villie**

It is worse than that, Your Lordship.

**[23:14] De Villie**

In fact, I sense a lack of enthusiasm in him.

**[23:17] De Villie**

I believe he has forgotten our cause  
to seek his own self-interests.

**SIGN** Archbishop De Villie

**[23:21] De Villie**

If this continues for another  
two years, or three...

**[23:25] Bishop**

Be calm.

**[23:27] Bishop**

Look.

**[23:31] Bishop**

Even now, the sun rejoices in life.

**[23:35] Bishop**

But what of its child, our Earth?

**[23:39] Bishop**

The trees wither, the soil loses its nutrients,

**[23:42] Bishop**

and birds are long gone from the  
skies, as are fish from the seas.

**[23:47] Bishop**

The human race has abandoned  
its mother planet

**[23:51] Bishop**

to race among the stars like fools,  
battling itself to the death.

**[23:56] Bishop**

But this will not last much longer.

**[23:59] Bishop**

The homeland of mankind will return,

**[24:02] Bishop**

and history will once more  
begin here, with our Earth.

**[24:06] Bishop**

We have already waited for eight centuries.

**[24:10] Bishop**

What is another two or three years?

**[24:14] Bishop**

For now, let us give  
Rubinsky a bit more time.

**[24:18] Bishop**

If he should abandon his  
mother planet, Earth,

**[24:22] Bishop**

he will depart on a journey to  
another dimension known as death.

**[24:26] De Villie**

Indeed.

**[24:28] Bishop**

It is not as if no progress has been made.

**SIGN** Earth Cult Grand Bishop

**[24:31] Bishop**

One of the men in power has  
already fallen into our hands.

**[24:36] Bishop**

The other will soon do the same.

**[24:40] Bishop**

It will not belong before the ideals  
of the Earth Cult are realized.

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