

ALTERNITY "THE LIGHTHOUSE" SESSION SUMMARY

2/22/2010

Georgina gleefully shows everyone all her vintage loot from her father's estate. She tells us that she broke up with her new hot, young, rich boyfriend because he wouldn't come see the Evil Dead trilogy with us. We all nod understandingly. Bruce manages to make it from his new digs in Dallas, and tries to pawn off more of his old leavings on us – in this case Dune, Jyhad, and Shadowfist cards. They go fast! Patrick calls in sick, which panics Paul since his characters were going to play a heavy role in today's adventure.

The Characters

A Team

- Captain Ken Takashi, the Concord Star Force commander of the Lighthouse - Ernest
- Taveer, the mechalus engineer - Bruce
- Haggernak, the weren (Wookiee) Concord Administrator (cop) – Tim
- Rokk Tressor, station greeter and CIB agent - Chris

B Team

- Gerard Pepin, Borealin ambassador (liberal professor) – Tim
- Markus Oroszlan, warlion bartender of the Corner and former shock trooper – Ernest
- Lambert Fulson, Rigunmor trader
- Ten-zil Kem – Void*Corp (Microsoft) ambassador - Chris

The *Lighthouse* is preparing to starfall from the Tychus system.

Law and Order

Darius White, an infamous pirate who has been plaguing the Verge, is standing trial here on the Lighthouse during its time in the Tychus system. Partway through the proceedings, there's a power failure to the building and Darius escapes! *Administrator Haggernak* and the station security forces are hot on his trail. Haggernak trails him through the station and is closing in when Darius pops out from behind a building with a piece and pops a (laser) cap in one of Haggernak's comrades.

Haggernak activates his tri-staff and lurches forward like an enraged Muppet at the fugitive. The pirate shoots at him in reply. "What's your defense against ranged attacks?" asks the GM. "Uh, a couple millimeters of skin and fur."

White zaps Haggernak to little effect and flees, ducking into a Thuldan restaurant called “His Emperor’s Delight.”

Yelp Didn’t Mention This

Rokk Tressor, CIB agent, is meeting with a suspected Alitarian arms runner in “His Emperor’s Delight,” trying to bring a stop to the arms smuggling in the Algemron system. Algemron is in an intractable war between the Alitarians and the Galvinites. *Obri Rosario* was supposed to meet with *Alyssa Klein* and get some data crystal about a deal; Rokk is posing as the contact in order to conduct some kind of sting. He goes into the restaurant and signals Obri via prearranged protocol to come to his table. Just then Haggernak runs on the front door with a glowing tri-staff. Darius was trying to walk swiftly but unobtrusively towards the restrooms in back, but breaks into a run as the weren charges through the dining room, flipping tables as he goes.

Darius aims to shoot his laser pistol at a support wire of the false decorative hanging ceiling but Haggernak throws a chair at him, knocking the gun from his hand. The pirate runs into the bathroom. Haggernak considers investigating the restaurant for possible malfeasance. The sentient slime in the ice machine spontaneously declares, “I know my rights!”

Haggernak pushes his way through the bathroom door. Darius is waiting, and attacks the weren with a jump kick. “ARE YOU SHITTING ME?!?” bellows the big alien, who lays Darius out with a massive blow from his tri-staff. He tosses the limp body over his shoulder and wanders out through the restaurant. The angry maitre’d gibbers at him, but he dismisses him with a “We’ll talk about your establishment harboring fugitives later!”

Obri scuttles out of the restaurant. Rokk follows, trying to talk him into continuing their business. “I don’t know who you are, strange person, leave me alone!” Rokk considers stunning him, but lets him leave.

Aliens vs. Nazis – Why Hasn’t SyFy Jumped On This Yet?

Consulate-Minister Thayn calls *Captain Ken Takashi* to discuss the situation in the Vieron system, the Lighthouse’s next stop. It is under siege by the kroath. Several months ago in Space May, satellites outside Corazon del Fuego (the only inhabited planet in the system) detected seven vessels far out in the system moving towards the inner planets. The force consisted of a cruiser, two destroyers, two frigates, and two corvettes. It destroyed any ship that came too close, including a Thuldan ambassador ship, and refused all communications. Once it arrived at the planet, it destroyed all its satellites, letting fleeing ships escape, but destroying anything that resisted. But then, the ships just disappeared! The colonists thought they were safe, until fifteen kroath drop spheres fell into their main city and 200 kroath warriors emerged, killing everyone there. Rather than take on the other two smaller settlements, the alien forces then entrenched – unprecedented behavior on their part.

A ship that escaped got word to Thuldan *Commodore Thea Pfender* and she came on back with her flagship and a batch of fighters, landed on the planet with her legionnaires, and assaulted the positions. The kroath vessels showed up (as in “poof”, not as in normal starfall) and there was a fierce space battle

ending with the flagship and kroath cruiser being destroyed in a collision. We don't have much intel on the status of the system since then.

"So why are we going there?" asks the Captain. "Seems like a war zone. We have a lot of civilians on board the Lighthouse."

Thayn tells him, "Well, so far the kroath haven't attacked anyone who hasn't attacked them – so going there to offer humanitarian aid is maybe safe. "

"Instead of 'aid,' maybe we should evac everyone left on that colony. It's only about a thousand people and it's not like anyone else is coming to help them."

Thayn reveals that Commodore Pfender is still there on the planet and alive; she wants to destroy all the kroath and doesn't seem like she's going to go anywhere anytime soon.

The Captain says, "Thuldans are sneaky in that Roman/Nazi kind of way. I bet she'll try to provoke a conflict between us and the kroath to get us in the fight."

Captain Takashi reviews the intel on the system. The kroath motivations are unknown. The Commodore took down 50 legionnaires and that's all her ground forces consist(ed) of. The kroath are holding the small city that used to house about a thousand people with 200 troops. "So scale wise it's like a crappy Wild West town being held by banditos," he concludes. He announces to the station populace that we're headed to Vieron and many of them decide it's time to take a holiday. Then the station starfalls. We should arrive in system on 11/25/2502.

Takashi calls his command staff together to brief them – *Chief Engineer Taveer, Martin St. John, Rokk Tressor, and Security Chief Haggernak*. They decide that to control the Thuldans they should set up a "quarantine" Parris Island kind of thing. Rokk and Haggernak are tasked with that, along with leaning on the local arms dealers to provide weapons useful to the Thuldans. Takashi asks Taveer to recap if they've learned anything technical that could help in battle against the kroath. "Those kroath really can take a shot to the face!" he proclaims. "They don't go down like normal guys do." The rest of the command staff look at each other uncomfortably.

After some discussion they determine that they should at least arrange to get a bunch of arms to the Thuldans at cost. The Captain is unsure about risking all the civilian lives aboard the *Lighthouse* on an attack, however.

Time To Go

VoidCorp Ambassador Ten-zil Kem's torrid affair with the Yellowsky tour guide, *Tara Desotel*, comes to an end as the station leaves. He bids her an at least apparently fond farewell.

Free Trader Lambert Fulson is busy trying to smuggle anatomically correct Seshy the Happy Sesheyan dolls onto the station for carnal purposes. Rokk Tressor approaches him and "convinces" him to ferry weapons from the Lighthouse to the surface once we hit Vieron.

Orlamist firebrand *Reisman Quayle* has been working hard to get in good with the head station Administrator, *Mr. Wakefield*, and get the station Orlamists on his side. As a result, soothing meditative music is being played and other lame Orlamu-friendly measures are being enacted. At Haggernak's

urging, Takashi tells Wakefield to play up that the new weren head of security is a staunch Orlamist, and that helps.

Markus Oroszlan the warlion has been very depressed since the trip to the ruins on Yellowsky. He refuses even to take calls from his Thuldan engineer semi-girlfriend, *Kiera Armitage*. *Tanya Taneer* has been stepping up and making the Corner run even in Markus' absence. He gets better slowly, and when Kiera makes station security break down his door to verify he hasn't died, he comes out

Haggernak leans on the Austrin-Ontis arms dealers, Self Reliance Goods, whose weapons were used in the assassination of the Bishop on Yellowsky. He tells them that though certain parties want them shut down and run off the station on a rail, if they were to supply the Thuldans with some of their materiel, they could keep in business.

Stranger Danger

Martin St. John has been keeping Concord Inspector *Klaus Otterschmidt* off the Captain's back, but he has been interviewing everyone else. It's Taveer's turn! The Inspector inquires about the Red Queen incident. Taveer shows him his records of the brainstorm and fishbone diagram that went into the decision-making process regarding taking the VoidCorp ambassador on board. He babbles incoherently at the Inspector for some time. The Inspector finds fault with the initial handling of the Red Queen, the later blowing up of the Red Queen, the weak protection given Jaina the alien aboard the Lighthouse (leading to her murder), and more. Otterschmidt ends up trying to get Taveer to stop giving information and get out of his office. As he does this, a child wanders by from Bring an Orphan to Work Day. The Inspector objects, naturally. Taveer notices the kid has a Concord data crystal in his hand. He scuttles off to quietly intercept him, but the kid runs. The Inspector is following too, and yells "Stop that child!" Taveer runs after the lad, cornering him. The kid gives up the crystal but refuses to talk. "Small human, has the feline seized your tongue?" he inquires. The child stays silent. Taveer gets Mina to suggest alternative protocols. "Hey, my homie, let us rap about this. I know it seems that theft can seem 'bitchin', but really it is 'busted.'" Still no love. Station security and Haggernak show up. He offers the kid a juice box, while Taveer determines the data crystal came from the purser's office.

After some handling, the kid reveals that the guy who runs their orphanage, *Reverend Don*, asked for the data crystal. Donald Gaffin heads up the United Church of Entity Friendship, some group of alien-lovers. Haggernak quickly gets a restraining order saying Gaffin can't be within 100 feet of a child. His day job running the orphanage might suffer as a result. Haggernak sends some uniforms to bring him in but he rappels out of his window using bedsheets and escapes. "We're having a dramatic uptick in ninja related crimes on this station," muses Haggernak. Taveer uses the station security cameras to locate the fugitive and finds Reverend Don escaping into a maintenance robot hatch with a kid in tow.

Taveer calls and fills in the Captain, who institutes an Amber Alert. He asks Taveer to put the maintenance robots into "kill mode or something." He sets them to herd the Reverend towards the

waiting security forces. They realize the RFID-tagged dhros (space bunny/cat creatures) in the ducts may be moving away from invading humans, and Taveer cross-references dhros migration patterns in realtime. The Captain sends St. John down to the orphanage to take charge. Rokk and Haggernak get stutter pistols and head after the miscreant. Takashi comes out to show his grave concern for the community.

Reverend Don emerges from the ductwork with his gun to the girl's head. "Get back! They're all alien spawn! Aliens laid their eggs in her!"

Captain Takashi tries to convince him to put down his weapon. He demands a shuttle if we don't want the little egg-sac's death on our consciences. Takashi tells Taveer to "get Shuttle 2 ready." Taveer rigs the shuttle up like a 3D ride to play a recording of a normal launch sequence, with a steadily decreasing oxygen mix in the crew cabin. Rokk Tressor goes and gets the two Concord Marine sniper teams into the shuttle bay, then puts on a breather and stows away in the shuttle.

The Captain escorts Reverend Don to the shuttle bay. He shoves the girl down the steps as soon as he gets into the shuttle door. Captain Takashi grabs her and runs. The imaginary launch sequence runs and he sets a course straight out from the station. Takashi, starting to fear that he's going to get darklight teleported out or something, calls Rokk Tressor and says "Take him!"

The agent bursts from the equipment locker and stutters the good Reverend into a coma as he's trying to open the airlock. As the shuttle simulation program proceeds and begins to register a variety of problems, he panics, not having been briefed on that particular aspect of the operation – Taveer decided to liven up the simulation on his own initiative. "Critical Systems Failure!" proclaims the shuttle screens. Muffled shrieks are heard from within the craft.

"Wait for it..." says Captain Takashi. He opens the shuttle door just as the agent thinks all is lost.

"Aaaaiiiiiieeeee!!!!!"

"Rokk... Come into the light..."

"You guys are assholes."

The captain takes the little girl to safety. The rest of the PCs present notice that there's a beeping coming from a strange metal wrist device locked onto the Reverend's arm. Rokk and Haggernak panic and cut off his arm and throw the bracelet out the airlock. There's a small bang. Reverend Don wakes up in sickbay, missing a hand and being the proud recipient of a chemical castration injection. Captain Takashi grills him, but he refuses to say anything, and appears to be suicidal. Pepin is brought in to mindscan him and determines that his real name is *Marcel Jondahl*. He put a bunch of stolen datacrystals into his bomb bracelet thing. He's a VoidCorp employee with a clean record up until becoming a "detached asset" 20 years ago. Captain Takashi tells Rokk to have some goons rough up Ten-Zil Kem and bring him to his office.

After chewing out Kem, Rokk and Takashi come up with a scheme where the CIB "pulls rank" and issues a cover story that the Rev has died; in reality he's kept in a CIB secret holding facility. He'll be given a new identity and send to minimum security prison for 10 years for larceny at the next civilized port.

He reveals that he was on board to investigate Ten-Zil Kem, especially after his shenanigans in Corrivale

(the anti-piracy operation where the Lighthouse prevented VoidCorp from killing everyone they wanted to). *Mayasa Ombe*, VoidCorp head of operations from the Verge, sent him. He gives up his contacts. He says that he discovered Ten-Zil Kem is really an Insight mole, but he hasn't been able to inform his corporate masters yet.

Captain Takashi has a new story run that "Father Don, in deep shame from his (alleged) pedophilia, committed suicide while in custody after his attempt to escape using one of his orphan children as a hostage..." He keeps the Insight info to himself to hold over Ten-Zil Kem at some later time.

He also asks Ambassador Pepin to talk to Lady Deutschmark about taking over the orphanage. She's into charitable causes. She balks a little at first, but when he clarifies that a grad student would be doing all the work while she hobnobs with the elite and holds parties, she readily agrees.

Captain Takashi commends Rokk and Haggernak for their work and brainstorms how to prevent this kind of thing in the future. "I'm of a mind to let Taveer have MINA turn on those enhanced surveillance routines." Rokk and Haggernak object on the grounds that Taveer's current surveillance keeps not giving good results. For example, when his cameras showed a cykoteck kidnapping people for experimentation, it didn't show up in any actionable format to the command staff. They brainstorm some new things to get going:

- Background checks
- Terror watch list
- Regular medical checkups for station staff (looking for teln mind-control heart worms).

Indian Country

Administrator Wakefield calls a meeting of the ambassadors before starrise in Vieron.

- Ivan Stukoff, Thuldan Empire
- Ten-Zil Kem, Void*Corp
- Lenny, T'Sa
- Sebastian Valist, Austrin-Ontis
- Richard Klendo, Galactic Concord
- Gerard Pepin, Borealins
- Malcolm Hochsmoor, Hatire
- Gregor Shapin, Nariac Domain
- Reisman Quayle, Orlamu
- Antoine Mwinye, Rigunmor Star Consortium
- Penelope Cochran, Starmech
- Norio Morita, Sol

Bent Circuit of Insight doesn't show, and neither do the Orions. Captain Takashi isn't invited but he shows up anyway, much to Reisman Quayle's disappointment.

The Lighthouse starrises in the system. A full scan detects some Thuldans ships – five small warships. The Lighthouse hails them and gets an immediate response from Commodore Pfender. She has a mild mutation – only three fingers and a thumb on each hand.

The ambassadors introduce themselves, but the Commodore isn't really interested in small talk. The Captain says "Well, if that'll be all, I'll talk to the Commodore about logistics in my ready room." Quayle apparently had higher hopes for the meet-and-greet than that. He glowers as the Captain heads out. The Commodore says that the kroath "ghost ships" leave ships alone if they don't participate in the ground battle. "The kroath seem to be multiplying." They captured one and found human DNA in it. We confirm that the kroath can create kroath from captured humans. So some of the thousand colonists may have been converted over. The Thuldans have 200 legionnaires and have pressed their thousand other colonists into service. The Captain starts ships going to Tavira from the station. He recommends some evacuation "so that the arms shipments have some cover." The Commodore likes that. Next time, fun with Thuldans!

XP Award: 4 for everyone!