A New Sith Empire

 Etah stood on the deck of the Bothan Assault Cruiser Darkest Night, starring down at the frozen rock that is Ziost. He imagined the planet dotted with forests and dense jungles like he knew it once was, long ago when the planet was the seat of the Sith Empire. The Equite felt the dark power emanating from the planet below and resolved that it must be conquered in the name of the Clan Arcona.

 The Sith Equite had fought for Arcona in every iteration of the Dark Crusade. During that fighting he had felt a range of emotions, from the despair of defeat to the elation of triumph. He had grown as a Dark Jedi and maybe even as a man. He was just going about his tasks, but nothing he had ever been a part of had been as big as the Dark Crusade in terms of size or importance.

 ‘It was a brilliant strategy’ Etah thought to himself.

In ages past, Sith and Dark Jedi movements were controlled by a dominance hierarchy. But instead of sheer brawn, like dominance hierarchies in nature tend to favor, it was a dominance hierarchy that operated on treachery. So a Sith Master could always expect his closest students to literally stab them in the back.

But in the painfully reoccurring history of the Sith, that led to powerful Sith dying and Sith Empires being defeated internally or externally, amidst civil war. Not once had the Apprentice been truly smarter or more capable than their master, not once had the Apprentice expanded Sith holdings from what his master had before.

The Dark Jedi Brotherhood, differentiating themselves from the unsuccessful path of their Dark Jedi forbearers; created groups within the Brotherhood. To these Clans and houses, each Dark Jedi owed their allegiance and obedience. For this reason, a Master would not be stabbed in the back by their apprentice and every generation built on the generation before.

But the genius of the Dark Jedi Brotherhood design is that there was a dominance hierarchy. This dominance hierarchy was based on guile, skill, strength, treachery and wit. The competition was between the Houses and Clan. It was not individual dominance hierarchy, which was based on selfishness and greed; it was a dominance hierarchy that encourages selflessness and service, but only rewarded the Clan or House that produced the most powerful and effective Dark Jedi.

Clan Taldryan was originally the dominant Clan within the Brotherhood. Their members won competitions, served on the Dark Council and made up the majority of the elders. Eventually they became weak and the Clan Arcona ascended to dominance. Now the Dark Jedi of the Clan Arcona win competitions, serve on the Dark Council and someday will become the most numerous among the elders.

 ‘Why does this matter?’ Etah queried himself. ‘Because the Dark Crusade is the truest expression of this new dominance hierarchy’ he thought again, answering his question.

No longer will the Dark Jedi Brotherhood be A group of Dark Side force users. By conquering the home worlds of the ancient Sith, the Dark Jedi Brotherhood itself ascends. It becomes THE group of Dark Side force users. No longer will the Grand Master be a powerful force user, in Etah’s estimation, after conquering and holding the sacred places of the ancient Sith the Grand Master will be the Grand Master of the Dark Side.

The genius of the Dark Crusade playing out like a Vendetta is that the most powerful Unit would conquer the most planets. Meaning that after the Dark Crusade comes to a close and the Dark Jedi Brotherhood hold the worlds of ancient power, the Dark Jedi Brotherhood becomes the most powerful and dominant Dark Jedi or Sith organization in the galaxy. The most victorious unit would become the driving force behind the true Dark Force power in the galaxy.

Deimos walked across the deck of the House Qel-Dromas flag ship, his boots tap tap tapping as he approached his Master and Battle Team Leader. “Shadow Gate is assembled and prepared to depart,” the enthusiastic Dark Jedi informed his long time mentor and friend.

“Erno, Valt” Etah said, looking across the bridge to his supervisors. “Shadow Gate requests permission to head toward planet fall and conduct preauthorized operations?” the Sith Equite asked of his Quaestor and Aedile in a formal manner. Erno’s response was only a nod, but a gesture was all that Etah needed.

The Battle Team Commander turned to his Sergeant and said “Let’s get some” before winking and heading toward the fighter hanger where he would depart to the planet below with Deimos and the rest of Shadow Gate.

~ (#8075) SBM Etah d'Tana (Sith) / BTL / Battle Team Shadow Gate of House Qel-Droma of Clan Arcona [ACC: II]