*Andrelious technically never went to the Shadow Academy, but trained the early ranks with the EHDB. This story will therefore refer to his time there.*

**SSD Avenger**

**Emperor’s Hammer Space**

Andrelious J. Inahj had responded well to the training. He had excelled in the early theory work, and had continued to impress with the more practical side of his training. It had helped that he was sponsored by the TIE Corps Battlegroups, where he served as Commander of Nu Squadron. Soon he would be able to return there, a Novice of the Brotherhood.

Inahj’s main rival was a young Corellian native by the name of Jackjed. He usually served in the Aggressor Strike Force, a Battlegroup that had lately become very sure of itself, despite field exercises showing that the TIE Corps Battlegroups and Aggressor Strike Force were roughly of equal strength. The competition between these two had been fierce; they had easily eclipsed the other hopefuls. With one final task to go, there was little between them in the race to be top of their class. That honour would guarantee the best house assignments, as well as potential financial bonuses.

The final task would soon be assigned. The Avenger, the Brotherhood’s flagship was now used for the final part of the Sith order training. Part of the ship that had been unused for some time had been converted to allow this, although the final mission was still space borne. The task varied a little to prevent savvy candidates from preparing. Sometimes it was a regular mission, other times it would be training. But it was always fairly tough – one in three candidates would be killed, and even more would fail. Around four out of ten of each class would pass first time, with an additional three in ten managing on the second or third attempt.

Things had become quite tense in the ready room. Jackjed and Andrelious were glaring angrily at each other. The other candidates were avoiding the pair, sensing a great deal of hatred despite only being Apprentices themselves. Many of them suspected that it was not long before things would turn violent.

Finally, an agent of the Sith High Warrior entered the room. He marched past the candidates, not regarding any of them, and turned to face them, placing some documents on a small table. He then pushed a button to activate the room’s briefing map.

“This is your final test. You will work in pairs to eliminate a small mine field in TIE Interceptors. You will be assessed on your teamwork, as well as how you use the Force to enhance your abilities as a pilot. And remember, the TIE Interceptor has no shields. You will only be able to survive about three hits.”

Several of the pilots looked worried. Andrelious and Jackjed, however, continued to simply stare at each other.

“We have paired you up according to your ability. Inahj and Jackjed, you will go first. We are expecting both of you to show the rest how it is done.”

Andrelious was delighted. He had a chance now to directly beat Jackjed. He was the first to the hangar and had already launched by the time his rival was suiting up for flight.

After Jackjed launched, the instructor launched in his own ship – a TIE Defender. He flew the pair of aspiring Sith over to a small minefield, which appeared to consist of around two dozen mines.

“You may start. Your mission performance is being carefully scrutinised.”

Immediately both pilots started to vaporise mines, ignoring each other completely. Andrelious had a slight advantage as the twelfth mine exploded.

It was at that point that Inahj noticed a red light on his CMD. Jackjed was targeting him! He barely evaded a burst of laser fire that had his name on it.

“So you’re going to play like that are you, Jackjed? Very well!” Inahj hissed into his comm, targeting Jackjed and ignoring the warning that he was targeting a ‘friendly’ ship. Its pilot certainly wasn’t friendly.

The two TIEs now began to try to kill each other, ignoring the last few mines. Jackjed managed to score one hit on his opponent, but Andrelious was relentless in continuing. The battle continued for some time with little actual fire exchanged, but then finally a mistake was made. Jackjed turned his vessel the wrong way. Inahj knew this was his big chance; he quickly eliminated his enemy with a well-timed burst of laser fire. As an encore, he removed the last mines too.

“Jackjed tried to turn on you. It is the way of the Sith. And you fought back admirably. You will be a great asset to the Sith Order, Inahj. Welcome to our ranks.”

Andrelious had done it. He was now a Sith.