After many years alone, I have been asked to return to my home, Castle Tarentum. I chose to answer this call, and immediately discover that things are not well in Yridia. A plague is running though the natives, apparently starting from their dead warriors, being returned home after battle. The populace are blaming Clan Tarentum for this, and those that are not yet in open rebellion have delivered several of the plague victims to us- whether in hopes of infecting us, or in hopes that we become their saviors is unclear.

I went to examine one of the victims, recently deceased. For my own protection, I stay in the room next to the corpse, using telekinesis to manipulate the body, and using a transparisteel viewport and my force-augmented sight to make observations.

I can see clearly why the natives are blaming Tarentum for this, dark marks, almost as of flesh burned from the inside out are apparent on the victims exposed skin. The marks appear as circles with a cross within, or possibly a “T”…. it does not take one of my knowledge and experience to connect the dots from a plague that burns the symbol of Clan Tarentum into its victims, to the Clan itself.

More disturbing, I notice that even though the host is already dead, the marks seems to be writhing, as if they had life of their own. They almost appear to be straining to leap off of the body they currently inhabit.

I reach out now with sense other than sight, trying to “feel” if the marks have any presence in the force, or if their presence has changed the underlying host in any way. What I discover is unlike any sensation I have felt before. The marks HAVE changed the host, they have killed it, burning it from the inside, towards the surface slowly and painfully causing death.

I notice something hovering on the edge of awareness, it must be the plague! I attempt to focus on it, but suddenly there is nothing to focus on. As I wonder what could be going on, I notice that the pulsing has stopped, and the marks are starting to fade from black to brown. It as if attempting to use the force on the plague has suppressed its semi-consciousness.

Perhaps this is why none of Clan Tarentum have been infected, our force connections are strong enough to put the plague to sleep if it enters our systems. I am quite glad for that, I have heard that the living that get infected are wracked with horrible pains, as if their very blood were burning, and their bones and organs melting. Based on the evidence I see, the symptoms are indeed what is happening. This plague is burning its way to the surface, so it can create the characteristic marks I noticed. Perhaps this is how it spreads, burning its way to the surface, then “leaping” to another body. It must have sensed my manipulations of the body as a potential new host, until I turned my senses on it, and it shut down.

This must surely be some sort of crafted disease, designed to live in the dead bodies it creates, and spread from host to host through close contact with the original victim, either before or after death. This body has been deceased for several days, and yet the plague still lives. No natural disease would live so long on a dead host, no natural disease would “just happen” to look like Clan Tarentum’s mark, no natural disease would find a way to avoid force-users. Someone has clearly designed this; either in the hopes that Tarentum, with its past ties to necromancy, will be blamed or else that it will wipe out the native populace of Yridia, and leave Tarentum weakened on a dead world.

I do not know how we can fight this. Any attempt to locate and destroy it with force powers, only results in the plague shutting down. Even now I can see that the marks on the victim have blackened again, the plague has come back to life just moments after my attempts to find it failed. There are not enough in Tarentum for us to watch over the entire population of Yridia, stopping the plague every time it wakes up in someone, and there is no way we can use our powers at a distance to wipe it out, every attempt to contact it will just send it into hibernation. I doubt even burning the bodies of the fallen will help, as this plague seems to live on burnt and burning flesh and organs.

The only way to stop it will be to find out who created this, and hope they have a way to undo what they have done…..