



SUBMITTED IN ENTRY TO DB COMPETITION: AN
OBJECTIVE HISTORY

The Dragon's Tail

Author:

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AKA: Impetus M'Nar

Clan Scholae Palatinae

NOTE: All weapons mentioned in this fiction were officially approved for ACC use
during the relevant time period.

July 31, 2015

1 Origins: 5 - 23 ABY

Impetus' humble origins in the cantinas of Tatooine taught her many things: not only the soft skills in seduction and manipulation that would lead her to fame within the Dark Brotherhood, but also how to crack a whip. In her first day in Scholae Palatinae, the Apprentice Impetus, a nervous young twi'lek of sixteen, golden skinned, unblemished beauty, more dancer than warrior, walked into the ACC alongside the other new recruits. A vast array of weapons were at their perusal. The other apprentices chose the traditional, the swords, the spears, the blaster rifles... Impetus carefully selected a two metre long leather whip, sharp metal wires at the cracking end. The other apprentices let out a laugh at the twi'lek dancer choosing the whip. It was unapparent to them that the end of a cracking whip eclipses the speed of sound, or that they were looking at a teenager that would grow up to be one of the most lightning fast duellists the brotherhood would ever see. They ridiculed her. Then they bled. Then they died.

Impetus progressed through the ranks of the brotherhood under the era in which only knights were allowed a lightsaber. While she trained with the sword, trying to prepare for the eventual day she would gain her lightsaber, Impetus' signature weapon was the whip. However, as her stature grew, and she became an Aedile at the rank of Guardian, a common bullwhip would no longer be sufficient to suit her needs. She needed something more iconic, something with less connotations. Her Quaestor agreed, and a new weapon was built.

2 The Prototype: 24 - 26 ABY

The weapon created was a fine and fitting weapon for a young leader of the brotherhood. The six inch handle, ebon black with shining hold ornamentation, fit perfectly into her hand. Not a traditional lightwhip of the flexible lightsaber variety, Impetus' was a physical metal whip, two metres long, comprised of a series of razor sharp metal shards. Unable to slice objects in half, the sharpness of the whip caused severe lacerations with even a glancing blow. Furthermore, a low powered energy crystal was hidden within each shard. When powered, the lightwhip would glow a bright red, heating up to temperatures approaching hundreds of degrees, almost the melting point of the steel, and able to survive minor lightsaber exposure. In addition to the cuts, extreme burning was inevitable for any who came into contact with the blazing-hot whip. From then on, Impetus also wore thick heat-resistant gloves into combat.

From Guardian to Knight, Aedile to Quaestor, the lightwhip gained almost as many admirers as it did victims, beautiful and effective, especially in the hands of its user. Through her reign as Quaestor of Caliburnus, the lightwhip was blazing as Impetus led her house into battle, her lightsaber resting idly at her hilt as a sidearm. Two years passed since the creation of her signature weapon.

The march of politics stops for no-one, and eventually Caliburnus was plunged into war against its old steadfast ally, the historically stronger house Acclivis Draco. Scholae Palatinae against Scholae Palatinae, friends fought friends. Now a Krath Priestess, Impetus found herself in a vicious battle with her counterpart, her enemy Quaestor and a man she greatly respected, Krath Archpriest RevengeX Palpatine. As the duel raged, her whip became coiled around the lightsaber of her opponent. To her horror, the lightwhip shattered into its component shards, forcing her to switch to her secondary weapon, her lightsaber. Able to hold RevengeX off long enough for reinforcements to save her, the feud eventually ended in stalemate.

3 The Dragon's Tail: 26 - 28 ABY

The machinations of the Dark Jedi are always opaque, one looking ahead sees only dense black fog, and so it was following the feud. Impetus was forced out of her house, betrayed from within and by usurpers looking to use her weakened state for their own gain. She moved to the only place she could, Acclivis Draco, the House of the Dragon, still led by RevengeX. Upon her transfer, RevengeX founded a new elite unit of warriors; The Order of the Dragon. Impetus was chosen as the leader, to serve as Krath Tetrarch.

However, RevengeX knew that his new acquisition would not be as effective as she was in battle against him, and commissioned that a replacement for her whip be made, partly as an apology as it was he who broke her old one, and also as a symbol of her renewed loyalty to the dragon house. The result was a masterpiece, a union of engineering and alchemy. He laid the whip down in front of Impetus. The spotless steel shards shone in the spotlight, the handle rougher, the grip had been improved, along with a cosmetic change that caught her eye, the gold dragon of Acclivis Draco engraved onto the hilt.



“The Dragon’s Tail,” said the Quaestor. “For the leader of the Order of the Dragon. For the glory of our house, and the empire.”

Impetus picked it up, carefully running her hands along the whip. She lashed it through the air. The whip felt lighter, more responsive, an extension of her hand, and *impossibly* flexible. It was as if the shards themselves were able to bend. “A touch of alchemy,” explained RevengeX, aware of exactly what she was surprised about. “It will handle like your average whip.”

Everything he said was true. The Dragon’s Tail fit to her like she had used it for years. Many foes were vanquished at the hands of the weapon. Enemies of the dragon house had not just the dragon’s fire, teeth, and claws to deal with, but also The Dragon’s Tail. Through her promotion to archpriestess, Impetus’ power grew and grew, she became a veteran of many battles in the Antei Combat Centre. Her new lightsaber, Dragon Fang, served as a companion to her whip. Her abilities in unconventional combat, largely facilitated by her weapon, led her to become a deadly assassin in the Scholae military.

With the Eighth Great Jedi War came a new opponent, one unfamiliar and unprecedented: the Yuuzhan Vong. Lightsabers faltered, hardened Dark Jedi fell to the impenetrable crab armour, and amphistaffs designed to be used by warriors trained with a single purpose in mind: to defeat Jedi and Sith alike in single combat. However, the element of surprise was not exclusive to the invaders. Trained to counter lightsabers, none had ever faced a weapon like The Dragon’s Tail before. Impetus fared better than most in the ensuing war, eventually earning an Amethyst Kukri, which was destined to gather dust for eternity, and the highest honour the clan can bestow.

4 The Path of the Palpatine: 28-32 ABY

Following her exploits in the war against the Yuuzhan Vong, Impetus was officially named Impetus Palpatine in the year 28 ABY. The Dragon’s Tail had become synonymous with her, and she progressed to the rank of Krath Epis at a young age, while her body was still strong and fast. It was at this time she was one of the most lethal assassins in the

brotherhood.

The Scholae Palatinae military had been devastated at the hands of the invaders, forcing Consul Phoenix into a massive restructuring of the clan's legions. Impetus was then forced into her biggest military role, as commander and founder of Scholae Palatinae's intelligence division, a role she was perfectly suited to. The Imperial Scholae Intelligence, also responsible for black ops, went from strength to strength as The Dragon's Tail cut, burned and strangled its way to notoriety, racking up a body count surpassing the average lightsaber.

Almost half a decade passed. Impetus would become known as the mother of the special forces. Intelligence reports hinted at potential activity on Ryloth from a rival clan. Impetus knew the twi'leki homeworld, her homeworld, better than anyone. However, while there, a disaster struck that no-one could have predicted. The tidal locking of Ryloth causes a permanently scorching hot day side, and a freezing cold night side. The pressure gradients occasionally result in heat storms that destroy everything in their way. Impetus expeditionary team were caught right in the middle of one. 500 kilometre per hour winds of 300 degrees centigrade tore through Impetus and her team. Calling upon the Force as her ally, she tried with all her might to stop the storm, but her efforts were futile. Her body was never found, and she would go down in history as the Lost Daughter of Palpatine, a heroine who died to serve her clan, a legendary assassin.

5 Dr. Elincia Rei: 33 - 39 ABY

Truthfully, as revered as she was, Impetus began to become disillusioned with her life in the brotherhood. The games, schemes and plots of her fellows grew old. Even the fighting had lost its thrill. Her death expertly staged, Impetus dropped her identity and sought more academic pursuits, something she had always wanted to do, but not had time while an important clan figure. Disguised as a togruta by the name of Elincia Rei, she enrolled on a course in biochemistry at the University of Corellia.

As the years went by, the new personality of the quiet, unremarkable togruta academic became more and more natural to her. Even 5 years later, when she eventually decided to rejoin the clan, she did so under a fake name. Still looking to avoid the Dark Jedi games, but still wanting to serve the clan, she masked her identity and joined Scholae Palatinae as a scientific advisor. However, a sacrifice would have to be made.

She could hide her lightsaber in numerous places. The Dragon's Tail, however, was not only difficult to hide, it was iconic. The weapon was the victim of its own fame. Her cover would be compromised as soon as anyone in the Cocytus system recognised it. With a heavy heart, Impetus deposited her trademark weapon into a civilian vault on Corellia. The whip was part of her identity, a part of who she was when she was Impetus Palpatine. As she left The Dragon's Tail behind, it felt symbolic. Leaving it, and travelling back to brotherhood space without it, would forever be a meaningful moment for her. That was the moment she shed her past, and became Dr. Elinia Rei.

To this day, Dr. Elinia Rei is the lead scientist of Clan Scholae Palatinae.