

Pilgrimage Pt 2

As they walked through the entrance, the decay of the structure was even more relevant. The central lobby was a reminder of how busy The Pyramid once was. Rows of dust covered chairs lined room on either side of the lobby. Strask looked around, and sighed.

“Master, are you alright?” Sul Inquired.

Strask continuing to scan replied “Yes, Apprentice, it’s just strange how familiar yet unknown this place feels, as if it is still The Pyramid I once knew, but somehow corrupted by time.”

Sul replied with nothing but a nod as he tried to find a lesson in Strask’s words.

“Come, we must continue on.” Strask dictated.

They ventured forward, further into The Pyramid, ascending to the second level only to discover if communications were still possible. It was surprising to see power still flowing through the communications equipment that the second floor was dedicated to. However, the decay and lack of maintenance was clear. The equipment was covered heavily in dust and had loose wires hanging about. The wires would spark when electricity managed to pulse through them, snapping and fizzing while the hot orbs fell to the floor. Many of the lights that once were brightly light up on the equipment were now dim or out completely.

Sul Ip’s voice snarkily broke the still air, “Let’s hope we don’t need to contact anyone.”

Strask, displeased with Sul’s lack of composure, reprimanded, “Silence boy, you will need to gain competence before I no longer see you as a child. You break my concentration and fail to see what will happen if that remark turns to irony.”

Sul swallowed, “My apologies, Master, please forgive my ignorance.”

Strask stayed silent and carried on, heading back to the first floor. He approached the lift tube that would take them to floor B2. Sul tried to call the lift. The response was a metallic grinding of gears and a loud clunk signifying the lift's failure.

Sul punched the button on the wall. "Calm." He heard Strask's voice in his conscience. Sul looked to his left where his Master had been standing to find nothing there. He peered inside the tube to see Strask at the lower level, a rope at his feet.

"What? You couldn't leave the rope tied up here so I could rappel too?" Sul questioned

"Quiet!" Strask snapped before continuing, "Use the force, and use the tube... to reach me."

Sul understood, he meditated for a brief moment before leaping into the tube, leaping from wall to wall, using them to slow his momentum until he reached his Master. Strask nodded before walking forward with Sul. They moved across the empty hanger to the emergency elevator. Surprisingly, the elevator worked when called. Strask and Sul stepped inside a descended to floor B3.

The elevator doors opened and two Fallen turned towards Strask and Sul. The dark jedi drew their lightsabers. Both Fallen were quickly dispatched of, as Strask diagonally cut one in half and Sul decapitated the other.

"Damnit, what were those things?" Sul inquired as he stared at the bodies.

"Those, My apprentice, were Fallen, welcome to necromancy. Now, stay quiet and focus, if there is anything else here, it will be much worse." Strask replied.

Further into the floor they ventured. The new floor was not a positive change of scenery. Marks made by blaster fire spotted the walls. On further inspection one could see claw marks dug in as well. Blood lined the rooms and bodies of Yridian Surface Command Troops, and undead alike were strewn across the floor.

"This my apprentice, is the aftermath of battle. The Yridian Surface Command was sent to destroy the last remains of the necromancy. Clearly, those practicing the craft didn't want that to happen. Many abominations were left here, we should take care, they last much longer than the living do without nourishment." Strask explained

Sul Ip stayed silent and just looked at his Master. They understood one another and moved forward. A right turn into the conference chamber was made. On top of a large table, leaning over grunting was another undead. It was covered in armor and in its right hand held a large vibroblade. The Favored looked up at the Dark Jedi and smiled. It lunged off the table at Sul. Sul, with his precognition, sensed the attack and leapt up to meet the Favored in the air, slicing down at the Favored with his lightsaber. This knocked the favored onto his back as Sul landed on his feet a yard away.

Strask watched calmly as Sul once again charged the Favored. Sul in a fit of rage sloppily slashed over and over trying to break the Favored's defence. "Think" Strask's voice once again broke into his apprentices thoughts. "Slow... Calm... Control." Strask continued to issue one word commands directly to Sul's conscience. Sul finally started to compose himself, and quickly struck the Favored, shredding a piece of its armor. Then Sul quickly struck the undead once again with all of his strength, cutting the creature in half at its waist.

"Good, my apprentice, see how thought and control leads to success in battle. You must use your rage to your advantage, but learn to harness it, not let it blind you." Strask lectured

"Yes Master. Thank you." Sul replied.

Finally the duo reached the Laboratories. Once again the figure of Ronovi appeared, visible to only to Strask.

"There is a holocron, a black pyramid with purple markings, find it, it holds what we seek." Ronovi ordered.

She quickly faded out of view.

"We are looking for a holocron, a black pyramid, with purple markings, find it." Strask commanded Sul

"Yes Master." replied the apprentice.

They scavenged the room.

"This it?" Sul asked lifting the holocron to show his Master

Strask looked and just replied with a nod. The Dark Jedi turned towards the door. When they stepped out into the hall a loud screech came from behind them. The two turned to see a very large undead standing in the hallway, covered in armor from head to toe.

“No... it can't be.” Strask whispered

“What?” Asked Sul

“A Euthanatos, Sul... use caution.”

“A What-os?”

“A Euthanatos, boy, the most powerful of the risen undead.”

“Oh whatever, I can take take this thing.”

“You arrogant idiot!” Strask yelled as Sul lept to take on the legend. Sul swung his lightsaber. Before he could hit the Euthanatos, it swatted Sul out of the air, sending him sliding on his back past Strask. The Euthanatos charged Strask's position. Strask struck it with a Telekinetic punch and then Slowed the undead.

“Run.” Strask's voice rang in Sul's mind.

“Way ahead of you!” Sul yelled.

The two sprinted down the hall. cutting back through the conference room, the Euthanatos close behind. As the duo jumped over the table Strask lifted it and threw it at the undead using the force. This slowed the creature down long enough for the Dark Jedi to make it into the elevator in time. The emergency elevator ascended to the hangar. Strask and Sul started to make their way across the hanger. As they crossed, there was a loud banging coming from the elevator shaft.

“You've got to be kidding me.” Sul commented

“I'm not.” Strask replied

The Euthanatos bursted through the elevator shaft after throwing the elevator out into the hangar. The chase once again began. The two arrived at the lift.

“Jump back up.” Strask ordered

“I can’t, I have to meditate first!” Sul snapped back
Strask looked around.

“Damn it!” Sul exclaimed as the Euthanatos drew closer.
Strask then drew as much strength as he could to pull the lift up from under them
up to the first floor.

Strask and Sul ran to the entrance of The Pyramid.

“Are we safe?” Sul questioned

“I am learning we never are apprentice, however, if it is the Euthanatos you are
speaking of, yes, it will be a while before it ever reaches the first floor.” Strask replied.

“What now?”

“We take the holocron to Bloodfyre.”