

Assistant Professor Kilm Bizzx stared at the flickering blue hologram of Justinios Drake and wondered just what kind of trouble the overly curious Aleen had gotten himself into now. As Drake's cerulean avatar began speaking it interrupted Bizzik's thoughts.

"Kilm I know what you're thinking but I did make it to the coordinates I was given and I found some friendly locals who are helping me with my research."

Bizzx was shocked, his colleague in the Physics department had sent him half a dozen similar holograms over the years, all begging for some sort of help out of the predicament the diminutive professor got himself into.

"However there was a... lab accident," Drake's pause gave away his obvious deception but seeing as this was a recording Bizzx didn't bother trying to refute the point. "My new partners and I just need a little assistance from the University because I lost everything in the accident."

The recording continued . "This is more than worth the Dean's attention, I have access to resources here that no amount of grant money or endowment could pay for. I can only hope that the Dean will agree when he reads my proposal that I have included on this datatape."

As Drake's hologram continued to drone on in the background, Bizzx pulled up the proposal on his own datapad. The Ithorian noticed immediately a distinct lack of details. Especially lacking was any kind of detail of whom these new "research partners" were as well as even a hint as to the Aleena's location. However, it was when Bizzx's eyes came to the actual request that a string of Ithorian expletives left his mouths.

"Yes Bizzx, I am asking the Dean for one million credits. Maybe if you had listened to my message instead of reading the proposal you would understand a bit more but since this message is set to delete itself permanently you will just have to wait until I can return and tell you all the juicy details in person."

Assistant Professor Bizzx wanted to be mad at Drake but like usual that blue reptilians grin piqued his curiosity. "I will give your proposal to the Dean," the Ithorian said to the now deactivated hologram, "but I am going to make sure I get named as an author on your paper if this scheme of yours actually works."