

A silent hunter

Seer Xantros

11518

35 ABY, IMS Tipoca II

Alarm sirens went off suddenly. Xantros was present on the bridge of IMS Tipoca II, because he was discussing an urgent matter with one of the officers there, so he immediately realized what was happening. A small group of pirates attacked the medical station and a few ships of the Imperial Armada. Assessing the number and types of hostile ships, the pirates hoped to go aboard the medical station, steal any valuable supplies and run away.

The issue was that most of members of Clan Scholae Palatinae were away from the temporary headquarters of the Imperial Clan, as they set off on a mission to find new home for the Empire. Xantros was one of very few, who were present on the station, and the most senior one available apart from the Clan leaders themselves. Knowing that they held a top secret meeting in the Emperor's quarters, he decided to give out basic orders before the leaders could reach the bridge.

„Battle stations!” commanded the Duros. „Prepare our defences to fend off the attack with minimal casualties on our side. Keep the fighters away, but let the transport ship dock. Send the available troopers and security stuff to the close proximity of the hangar bays. They are to hold the pirates off as long as they can. I will personally make sure that none of our enemies leaves this station alive as no one ever dares to attack the Empire without severe punishment for their crimes.”

The Seer immediately left the bridge immediately after giving the orders and passing the command to the most senior officer present tasking him with informing the Emperor about the situation. He quickly moved towards the hangar bay of the medical station. He run quickly towards it and managed to get there just a minute or two before the pirates' transport docked in there. He focused and used the Force to cloak himself from the eyes of the pirates. He hoped that even if they noticed him on ship's scanners, which he also hoped not to happen, they would treat it as a kind of malfunctioning caused by an inexistent jamming system.

Not very much time after the Duros reached the hangar bay, the pirates arrived there too and quickly disembarked from their transport. They definitely expected that it would be a quick in and out raid as they moved through the hangar bay without paying attention to the surroundings. Their sole aim was to steal as much things as it was only possible and as quickly as it was only possible. Xantros looked around and grinned evilly. Their rush would be a direct way to their death.

The Gray Jedi patiently waited for all the pirates to leave the hangar bay and then he slowly moved towards their transport. He embarked it and searched it for the remaining members of the crew. There were just two people inside and when they noticed him, they were too shocked to react properly before the Seer decapitated both of them with the purple blade of his lightsaber. He did not damage the ship itself, as he decided that it might become a useful addition to the Imperial Navy, if the Emperor would approve it.

With the area secured, Xantros moved after the pirates. As he got closer to their current location, he could hear the sounds of tense firefight that were slowly moving away from him. The security forces and the troopers of the Empire were probably too few to pin the hostile group down in one place, but they managed to slow them down anyway. It was nothing more than the Duros had expected in such a situation.

He cloaked himself with the Force again and followed the sounds of the battle through the corridors

of the medical station. As he covered the ground, he noticed multiple bodies of pirates and few bodies of the security guards. Despite greater casualties, the attackers still had an advantage in numbers, but Xantros was going to change that. Half a minute later, he looked from behind the corner of the wall and noticed the pirates exchanging blaster fire with the defenders just few meters away from him. He decloaked himself and detached his blaster pistol from the belt. Aiming carefully, he sent several blaster bolts towards the pirates instantly killing six of them and wounding three more before they realized that someone was shooting at them from behind.

Xantros hid himself behind the wall and cloaked again. Few seconds later, three pirates ran into the corridor and stopped at once. The Duros observed a grimace of surprise and anger on their faces, when they realized that he vanished in the thin air. Finally, they slowly moved forward, but it was a mistake that he was waiting for. As they made few steps away from him he pierced the closest pirate with just ignited lightsaber and shot the remaining two pirates with his blaster pistol.

Xantros moved back to the wall and started firing at the remaining pirates. The time of subtlety ended as he wished to finish the battle as soon as it was only possible, because he was aware that no one else would get fooled by his trick with becoming invisible. Instead, he utilized his high marksmanship skills to eliminate as many pirates as they could, while hiding behind the wall to make it more difficult to hit him. Despite the fact that he was just one, the pirates started to panic when attacked from both sides, as they realized that he killed so many of them. Being fired at from two sides made the pirates morale drop significantly as some of them made an attempt to surrender. However, per Xantros' order there were no prisoners taken during that battle.

The Duros ordered also to throw out the bodies of pirates through the airlocks so that their companions still fighting with the Imperial Navy would learn the fate of their comrades. That time, he would accept their surrender to save their remaining starfighters and to impress them into the fleet of the Empire as their sole career got destroyed in the initial phase of the battle thanks to quick attack of the recently acquired Venator-class star destroyer ICN Vader. Unfortunately, they panicked too and attacked the medical station in a suicidal attempt to cause as much damage as it was only possible, because their fighters did not have hyperdrive engines that would allow them to escape. Fortunately, most of the enemy starfighters got destroyed before they could ram into the medical station and cause any significant damage to it.

Few days after the battle, the minimal damage caused during the fight got repaired. Wreckages of the carrier and the fighters that it was carrying still floating in the cosmic space were left there as a warning to anyone, who would be fool or brave enough to dare to attack the Empire.