

A Lesson in Torture

ALISO SYSTEM THE PINNACLE SECOND FLOOR

“Darkness can be overwhelming at times,” a loud voice boomed, filling the air with echoes. The attendants shuddered in place, even a few of the younger Force-users had not been able to foresee the start of the lesson. *“But you must use this darkness against your subject to conceal your movements, and your intent. You must learn to be unpredictable in order to provoke the true fears of the subject.”*

The lights came on, and Gaius stood with his backpack in his hand, gripping his shock stick in the other. In front of him sat three slaves, sentenced to torture for their lack of actions to support the Clan in the recent war. Around their necks were powerful shock collars, custom made for the Commander by the Lords. Since his return, word had gotten around the Clan about his extraordinary abilities in the science of torture. His unique approach to interrogation was surprising for someone who lacked Force prowess. Eventually, he was deemed to be an asset, and had been instructed by the Consul to instruct a course dedicated to his craft.

A knife whipped through the air and directly into the upper chest of one of the seated slaves, arising a gasp out of a few of those in the room. *“Very good, my Lord!”* Exclaimed Caesar, noticing that the blade came from the hands of Savant Dralin Fortea. *“However, I would suggest aiming...”* the shock stick dropped, and a dagger flew out of the hands of the old man, thrown forcefully into the kneecap of the slave, *“towards a specific appendage. You want to render the subject unable to focus on escaping the physical restraints. Instead, make them focus on the...”* another dagger entered the thigh of the seated slave, *“physical pain that they are enduring.”*

Gaius nodded to the side of the room, indicating to his team that he was finished with this slave. A pair of Warriors stepped forward and used their lightsabers to end his pathetic life, and drag his lifeless body to the back of the room where they threw him against the wall.

“However, one of the most important points, is to know when your subject has nothing left to give, except his life. You must take care to study your facts before entering into the interrogation room. Your ability to extract answers is a direct result of your knowledge and expectations. Ask the questions, but know the answer you are expecting the subject to respond with. Develop your expectations and preconceptions prior to the asking the question. The first answer that seems genuine will most likely be a lie. A weak subject will tell you anything you want to hear in order to stop the pain.”

The Commander walked over to the second slave, grabbing a handful of powder from his pocket and throwing it into the eyes of the seated subject. *“Which brings me to the next important bit, that pain alone will not accomplish the task in most situations. In more adept Force users and experienced mercenaries, they expect to be physically tormented. It is your task as the interrogator to damage the mind just as much as the body. This can easily be*

achieved through sensory deprivation of weaker targets, such as those here. On more difficult subjects, you should take the time to seek three things: their biggest fear, their biggest flaw, and the single most important thing to them at the moment. Use these three bits of knowledge, in order, and you will effectively end the session with whatever answers you need.” Gaius paused for any questions or comments.

“When you inflict the subject’s biggest fear, you open up their susceptibility to increased physical pain. The increased pain levels may cause the subject to lose consciousness, which can be an effective tool if you have the ability to keep them in and out of that state. For some, however, that feeling can be almost euphoric, so make sure that you can read their emotions properly.”

“Then move onto their biggest flaws. Make them feel useless, that no one cares about them. Insist that no one is coming to rescue them, insist that their life is meaningless. This will make them doubt their reason for withholding any truths. There are absolutely no such thing as secrets, only answers that are hidden by clouds of perceived usefulness. If you are successful in degrading your opponent enough, they will have no reason to conceal. The ultimate goal in this step is to take away their allegiance.”

“Finally, take away the single most important thing to them. Be wary, as this will change throughout the course of the interrogation. Take it upon yourself to know the direction that your subject’s thoughts are going. Let me be clear, at no point in time is the subject’s life the most important thing. While they may beg and plead for their life to be spared, this is not the most important thing. For example, a child may be the most important thing to the subject, so slaughtering that child could very well be the key to achieving success. This step will make your subject reach their total breaking point, and you can walk away knowing that whatever answers you obtained, were truthful.”

Gaius looked to the group for feedback. The old man stood tall as he imparted such knowledge on his Clanmates. He nodded to the side of the room once more and the lights disappeared once more. He gripped the handle of his weapon and quickly turned and took aim. *“Death is the only outcome of a perfect interrogation.”* Two flashes of green filled the void.