

A turncoat becoming a turncoat

Augur Xantros

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The knowledge is the key to your victory. It opens many, many doors. And if you know your enemies, you will be able to defeat them with ease. As an assassin or a spy, you will be able to kill your target or to infiltrate hostile base. As a commander, you will be able to lead your subordinates in a precise attack on enemy forces. As a soldier, you will know where to aim to easily remove enemy artillery out of battle. As a hacker, you will be able to turn security systems off. The knowledge about your enemy, the way they operate in, their behaviour, technology they use. Every piece of the knowledge is important and may help you win against your enemy. Every tiny bit of the knowledge may be useful. It is just not always beneficial, to get it all as it may cost you and your allies just a little bit too much of your resources and, in the end, make you fail in your quest against your enemy.

Xantros, „The Art of War”

36 ABY, Sinagra Villa, Ulr Uvi, Ulress, Caperion System

Xantros was sitting in a room that served as the intelligence center of House Excidium. Despite the fact that the Excidiacs had been on Ulress for just a bit more than a year, they had managed to establish a network of valuable contacts and spies, as well as to deploy a wide range of spying equipment in the most crucial locations all over the Ulress. Thousands of messages, records and reports were streamlined to the small room in Sinagra Villa, while members of House Excidium analysed them, in order to plan their next moves in their quest to obtain and to maintain full control over the moon.

The Augur was carefully studying the intel data about key figures of the underground society of Ulress. He wished to use the time between battles against the Collective to further the agenda of House Excidium by eliminating the most dangerous criminals, so that the House forces could conquer the moon more easily in the future. He carefully read every tiny bit of information that he was able to find in the vast resources of the Excidium intelligence libraries. Suddenly, he noticed a message broadcasted through one of semi-secret communication channels that was utilized by the House to contact its operatives on Ulress and in other areas of the Galaxy. More importantly, it came from the Voice, who was the leader of Inquisitorius, formerly a secret, but also widely feared organization of assassins and spies that served the Iron Throne directly.

The message stated the the Inquisitorius were no longer to remain just another task force, but they were going to take much more active part in the struggle against the Collective, increasing their efforts in intelligence operations against their enemy. It was not widely known, but Xantros was a member of the Inquisitorius as well, even though his loyalty to the society was virtually inexistent due to its affiliation to the Grand Master himself.

You will need allies. Powerful ones. Every person that you may recruit to support your cause will help you achieve your goal. Get rid of the enemies that pose a threat to the Unity. Unite all people accepting the Unity under one banner. Eradicate all, who dare to oppose the Unity. You will never successfully complete your quest, if remain passive and avoid reaching out for people. Many will betray you. Many will consider you as a traitor. However, many more will join your campaign to bring the Unity to this Galaxy and you will succeed.

Though the Augur initially hesitated, the Unity made him shake any doubts off. As Clan Scholae

Palatinae had encountered operatives of the Collective supporting the Meraxis Empire during the initial stages of the campaign against that country, it was highly possible that they would continue their support to the Meraxis Empire in later phases of the war and that their operatives had already infiltrated the criminal underground of Ulress. He might share any intel about Collective's operations in Caperion System that he would obtain for House Excidium and Clan Scholae Palatinae with the Inquisitorius and the other way round, he would share any information about the Collective obtained through the means of the Inquisitorius with his House and Clan. That way, every side would benefit from his actions, earning him allies both among the Inquisitorius and the Imperial Clan, what would help him recruit more followers of the Unity.

Certainly, it was also going to get him new enemies, but it was the price of being an extraordinary person in the loyal service to the a higher cause – converting people to the faithful disciples of the Unity. People, who wished to keep the power over others just for them, did not like other people, who had strong vision that collide with their own agenda. Others would not be happy with his betrayal, either in ranks of Inquisitorius or among members of Clan Scholae Palatinae. They all would love to see him dead, but he did not care about them. He got used to the image of traitor and distrust from others – first, when he had decided to joim Clan Odan Urr, he had been distrusted as a former Krath and follower of the dark side of the Force. Second time, he had been considered as a potential traitor by his own companions from the Imperial Clan, when he had returned from his service as a Jedi and his self-imposed exile to study the Force. Though he had been working hard to regain their trust since then, he got used to the fact that there still were people, who did not like seeing his presence in the ranks of the Empire. Even more importantly, he had a mission to complete and while he was aware that it was probably going to take more timethan he had left before his death, he had to establish strong foundations for the future generations to build on.

The Augur quickly returned to his quarters and found a small communication device thah had not used for a very long time.He looked around grinned evilly as he sent an encrypted message stating that operative Z5F-221B was back in the game and that he was going to send a report as soon as it would be only possible.