

Discussion

“So Andi, this Severian Principate, what do we know?” Scudi skipped straight to the point, not wanting to waste any time. She’d been contacted by someone who claimed to work for the government and needed information if she was to carry on dealing with them.

“They were originally an Imperial warlord state, though they don’t seem to bear much of a resemblance to other splinter groups. Rather than adopting a typical approach, they seem to prioritise trade and commerce.” The droid known to Scudi as Andi responded with a brief summary of the information she’d been sent from Scudi’s journalist friend Tess.

“I came across one of their citizens on the holonet. They seem to be quite adept at the game of memes. I quite admire that. Did you get anything from Tess about that? It could be something the powerful lot here on Aliso could use, since they’re so uptight.”

“According to the information I’ve come across, that would be someone from The Office of Mimēma, a group set up by junior members from the Department for International Diplomacy of the Severian Principate. They’re a highly divisive group within the government, with some of the elder members not being able to see the aims of using such easily digestible content on the holonet and in media to sway public opinion.”

“So they just meme on their ideological opposition? I could get behind that, maybe help them out if our interests align. Who do they seem to be roasting with their material? Anyone we don’t like?” Scudi was almost giddy at this point, belying her age with a youthful immaturity that she loved revelling in.

“They do seem to have a particular disdain for the First Order primarily, stemming from an ideological difference on the lessons to be learned from the Empire. The Principate prizes the efficiency of the Empire but disavows some of the more terrible actions taken, while the First Order appears to double down on the atrocities of the Empire. Of more

potential interest there appears to be tension between the Principate and the Collective. Tess didn't have a lot of information to go on but she does mention reports of an attempted coup by the Collective, seeking more members for its conflict with the Brotherhood and its clans." Andi reported dutifully to her friend.

"Ok, so they don't like the Collective, we can use that. Now, how are the other clans likely to feel about this Principate? I could see the Odanites trying to get in good with the Principate to turn them against everyone else. That said, they do have a fair number of their own Force Users which they may not like, given how the Empire's atrocities were all approved by one of them. This bunch we're working with, all their leader cares about is himself and his own enrichment, he might look to establish some kind of trade ties. Whether they'd go for it or not is anyone's guess. I think the Brotherhood's own Imperial remnant is likely to not get on well, given their pseudo-Palpatine worship. The Sadowans have a similar issue to the Palatinaeans in that their obsession with Sith won't endear them to the Principate. Taldryan seems too concerned with themselves to bother unless they try to manipulate the Principate. That may not turn out so well. The Arconans seem to be more pirates than anything these days, something the Principate might try to buy off." Scudi began typing as she spoke, looking to re-establish contact with the member of the Principate and see what the two of them could cook up to ensure the best results for both parties.

"It's definitely going to be interesting to see how they all decide to try and interact with the Principate," Andi added.