

# The Front Lines

## **Nesolat Platform**

### **Arx Orbit**

Meleu Karthdo found himself back home, but home had moved. The Sith Battlemaster hadn't visited the Shadow Academy headquarters since it was located on the moon of Lyspair, before the destruction of Antei at the hands of Grand Master Muz Ashen. This time, Meleu had answered the call of the Taldryan bannermen and found himself defending the planet of Arx, and once again the home of the Shadow Academy on a space station within the planet's orbit. A perfect time to kill two birds with one stone.

The Nesolat Platform was obviously an important target for the Collective, they knew about the secrets of the Shadow Academy Society who had relics, scrolls and secrets locked away in vaults onboard the station. The true secret however was that the most important holocrons and artifacts were buried deep underground on the continent of Uskil on the planetary surface of Arx. All Meleu had to do was to sneak on board the detachable evacuation segment of the station that would eventually make its way down to the planetary surface for a safer haven. From here, he could move ahead with his plan; break into the master archives. This would be a massive gamble for the Sith however, as he had to rely on the fact that a five-year old passcode given to him during the great Shadow Academy audit would work. Failing that, there was always charm, something Meleu didn't exactly specialise in.

## **Master Archives**

### **Planetary Surface, Arx**

After having successfully made his way down with the evacuees off the Nesolat Platform, Meleu found himself in the perfect position. Not only was there no real security around due to the fact that the majority of capable fighters were elsewhere, but also a lot of the administrative staff were the exact same as those that he worked with many years before. Due to this, he didn't even need to use his non-existent charm to make his way through Shadow Academy library towards the stairwell down to the master archives.

The Sith Battlemaster ran down the stairs, floor after floor. He had to rush - the Collective could be landing at any time. As he reached the sign that was labelled 'Floor -32', he pondered whether he had accidentally glossed over a sign to an elevator; lo and behold it didn't matter. Only thirty seconds later he had reached the final staircase down to the vault. No signs on the wall, no 'trespassing' warnings to be seen. Instead, just two lightly armoured gentlemen standing in front of a single door frame. Before Meleu could even open his mouth, the Shadow Academy guard had already opened the door for him. It was obvious from the impression on the Sith's face that this was *definitely* not what he had expected.

The door opened. Behind was a towering, yet familiar face. The several millennia old Neti named Ood Bnar.

“It seems we both came here for the same reason, young one,” Ood directed towards Meleu in a soft voice, his black beady eyes dancing around in happiness as the two reunited after years away from one another.

“And what’s that, Master Praetor?” Meleu replied.

“Oh, don’t you try and sweet talk me. That was a long time ago now.” The Neti’s voice grew slightly more angry, “This is what we both came for”.

In his hand was a holodisc, and from what Meleu could make out, the bad handwriting - similar to a child’s- read: *Mine and Farrin’s Secret Tape*.

“This will *definitely* come in handy. Now let’s go watch it”. The Sith giggled for the first time in years as himself and his old Praetor ran off to find a holoprojector.