

Dark Ascent

Grand Master's Throne Room

Arx

"You have put up a valiant fight, Nyrrire." Deputy Grand Master Evant Taelyan expressed with a sense of pride in his voice. He sincerely meant this, and Teebu knew that. "Even though you are not a force user like me, I honestly did not expect you to make it this far. However."

Evant raised his hand into the air, and the dozens of Hive Mind Marines behind him all raised their blasters and aimed them at Teebu. The Ewok knew he was in trouble, his energy reserves were nearly depleted and the blood he had lost during the ascent up to the Throne Room was far too much. Though he had managed to survive the encounters with the Marines and Evant up to this point, he questioned if he even had enough to survive this ordeal had he made it away from the Deputy Grand Master somehow. But his duty to the throne prevented him fleeing. He would stand his ground, somehow.

"I am afraid, this is where we part ways, my furry little friend." Evant finished and dropped his hand. Before it dropped all the way however, he paused. His blue eyes bore into Teebu's as he suddenly realizes where he is laying, and what is in his hand. Silver and cylindrical.

"...How did you get that?" Evant questioned, clearly identifying the object in his hand as a Royal Guard code cylinder. Before Teebu could answer however, Taelyan realized exactly that answer. "You - You're the little pet that he always mentioned that lurked in the shadows. Never showing yourself, but existing in darkness above. Why did I not realize that given how easily you progressed through the Dark Ascent, causing me nothing but trouble. You had the cylinder which let you travel around."

Teebu grinned and closed his eyes, smiling as he placed the cylinder into a small recess in the column. Ports opened one after the other on each column and from them came numerous blaster cannons that immediately trained on the Marines and Evant, opening fire.

The Marines fell one after the other to the dozens of blaster cannons, unable to even respond or coordinate. Evant is forced to pull his lightsaber, batting away bolt after bolt, returning several back from whence they came destroying the turret.

In the chaos, he suddenly notices a pair of glowing yellow eyes emanating from the Throne. Taelyan's attention shifted immediately to them as he began to push forward, continuing to deflect every shot the cannons threw his way. The last of the Marines fell to the floor, dead, and every cannon that remained fired exclusively on the Deputy Grand Master.

"So you were there the entire time." Taelyan hissed as he advanced towards the throne, roughly half of the blaster cannons disabled from the ricochets off of his lightsaber. "The first time an enemy has ever penetrated this deep into *our* sanctum. Proof that your ineptitude and inadequacies would bring us to ruins like I told you. But no, you never listened!"

Taelyan hurled his lightsaber forward in an arc as he somersaulted into the air, the lightsaber taking out the remaining cannons. He landed in front of the final stairs before the throne, eyes closed as the lightsaber returned to his outstretched right arm.

"Now, having brought the fight straight before you, will you finally listen to me?" Evant spat out with anger in his voice as he lowered his lightsaber to his side, his left hand smacking onto his chest. "Will you finally acknowledge the weakness within the Dark Brotherhood and try to fix it!? Or will I have to do it myself?"

Grand Master Mav did not speak. The yellow eyes dimmed and a shiver ran down Taelyan's spine as shadows began to envelop the throne. From behind the pillars, red robed members of the Royal Guard appeared and stood directly in front of each pillar with four flanking the throne, twenty in all. The threat had clearly been made, and without even a word uttered it had been responded to.

But where he thought his death was imminent, it did not come. Where a large battle would potentially take place, nothing occurred. The eyes continued to stare at him, all knowing yet unspeaking. Evant closed his eyes and slowly shook his head.

"So be it. I just wished you would have listened to m-" Taelyan had started, but suddenly was unable to finish. He opened his mouth to speak further, only for blood to rush from it and no voice. He looked down and saw Teebu standing in front of him with his back facing him, a blood covered dagger returning to its sheathe.

"What? What just?" Taelyan thought to himself as he dropped his lightsaber and brought both hands to his blood covered throat. *"No..but he was dead.."*

Then he realized it, and at the same moment the guards all faded from sight. Only the glowing eyes remained on the throne, along with Teebu who dropped to his knees and fell forward onto the floor in a pile of his own blood. Mav had masked Teebu's presence long enough to let his most miniature of Royal Guards land a deathblow from behind. Mav had given him the opportunity to fulfill his role and finish his task. And where Evant had extended his attention to the then newly arrived guards and the Grand Master, he had all but forgotten the most important part of all that he dismissed as deceased. And that had cost him.

The glowing eyes started to close and fade away as Evant fell to his own knees, unable to stop the expulsion of blood from his body. His vision began to turn dark on the exterior edges, slowly working its way inward.

"So - this is how my attempt to help the brotherhood ends." Evant thought to himself as he collapsed next to Teebu's bloodied body. His eyes began to glaze over and vision faded away. "In bloody applause."

As his eyes closed, support forces from the various clans entered the Throne Room with weapons raised. They look around at the carnage, as well as the fallen Deputy Grand Master. They slowly lower their weapons as they enter once it was realized the threat was gone, one of them kneeling at his side while others call for medics to assist Teebu.

The war had finally come to a close, and the Dark Brotherhood had lost it's Deputy Grand Master. But the Brotherhood would survive to see another day. Albeit things would be far different.