

Investigating the future

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38 ABY, Tokare, Seraph, Caperion System

Death of Troykal Berckur, the leader of the Republic of the Force was a shocking experience to every citizen of the Republic. It was going to shift the balance of power on Seraph and in Caperion System. Whoever was behind the murder, they were powerful enough to kill a Jedi Master. It was not a case that could have been ignored. Xantros, as a high-ranked officer of the security force, was tasked with conducting the investigation. The best operatives of the security forces assisted him in discovering the truth.

However, the mystery turned out to be more difficult to solve than anyone had expected it to be. Long lasting traditions and culture of the Republic of the Force did not help during the investigation as people close to Troykal Berckur were reluctant to share any details about his private life and out-of-office activities. No one ever dared to question the leader of the Republic or to reveal his secrets. Xantros was sure that he could force the assistants of Berckur to talk, but his career as the security forces officer would be finished. It was highly probable that he would have been banished from the country as such actions would be treated as a violation of sacred tradition of the society that strongly believed in the Force. Force adepts were untouchable, but his status as a Force adept would not protect him from punishment, if he harmed another Force adept.

Finally, it was possible to solve the mystery behind the death of Troykal Berckur thanks to assistance of a relatively new power in Caperion system, Clan Scholae Palatinae, only. Those people displayed strong interest in death of the leader of the Republic of the Force. As an external group, they offered Xantros to help him in learning more about Berckur's secrets. They proved to be extremely resourceful in that matter. Their methods were quite brutal, but also very efficient as they managed to obtain additional details about the circumstances of Berckur's death that helped in solving the case.

Even more importantly, working with operatives of Clan Scholae Palatinae helped Xantros realizing how the traditional views of the Republic of the Forces society limited his ability to develop, to learn new things and to grow in power. His position was probably the peak of what he could have achieved in the Republic. He was unable to make anything more out of it due to restraints established by the society. It seemed that Scholae Palatinae did not enforce such strict philosophy regarding the Force. Everything Xantros could see suggested that members of the Clan were given much greater freedom than citizens of the Republic of the Force.

The Duros, whose parents immigrated to the Republic of the Force as refugees, saw joining Scholae Palatinae as a chance to get rid of chains that restrained him from achieving his full potential. It was an opportunity that he had been waiting his whole life, even if he had not realized that before. Though the Clan was distrusted by many inhabitants of the Republic of the Force as many of its members followed the teachings of the dark side and they interfered into internal matters of the Republic, Xantros did not share such sentiments. He desired more than the Republic could offer him and he felt that he could find that in ranks of Scholae Palatinae.

Also, accepting help from foreigners would not be welcome by his fellow citizens. He would be seen as a pariah, publically exposed as a potential traitor, even if his decision made it possible to learn the truth about death of the Republic's leader. He would be assigned to low priority cases and denied access to any information that would require a privileged status, at best. In the worst case scenario, he would be expelled from the security forces and imprisoned for his crime. He did not

want to choose any scenario that would not be beneficial for him and staying in the Republic of the Force would result in being forced into a situation that he did not agree with. Joining Clan Scholae Palatinae was the only way to avoid a miserable fate and to make his life better and more meaningful.

Soon, he was going to prove his worthiness to Scholae Palatinae and rise to the rank that was rightfully his.