

## **Caperion System.**

### **Caelestis City, Ragnath.**

#### **40 ABY (The morning after the destruction of Adoniram Tower)**

"Friends, countrymen, Palatinaeans," Lord Kamjin Lap'lamiz grandly stated as he stood in the rays of the morning sun, surrounded by the shattered remains of the Adoniram Tower. As he began to speak, Lord Kamjin looked upon the faces of the crowd. Many of the faces were familiar and stood out against the masses, while others shrouded themselves in the anonymity of the throngs of people and were unseen by all but the most perceptive eye.

As Xendar threaded his way through the crowd listening to Lord Kamjin's speech, he passed several of the lower-level force users and the newer members of the clan in the crowds; they seemed to take some comfort in Lord Kamjin's words of solidarity and reassurance. While Xendar did listen to what Lord Kamjin was saying, the speech was not for him; it was for the new clan members and civilians to show them that Lord Kamjin was not going to take this lying down, and the crowd seemed to appreciate that sentiment as well. Slowly moving through the masses, Xendar wove his way through the crowd; stopping at the edge of the crowd, out of sight of the hovering cam droids and other sets of prying eyes.

"Shadow Walker to Command, reporting in and awaiting orders," Xendar whispered, tapping his comlink earpiece.

Raleien Sonavarret squinted at his datapad as the viewscreen displayed the crowds from his own holocam droid as it mixed in with the other countless droids; it would operate freely and scan for clan members, foreign objects, weapons, and explosives.

As he scanned the masses, some of the more prominent clan members could be seen; mixed in with the crowd, their faces were instantly recognizable.

Near the front of the crowd, closest to the piece of twisted metal that Lord Kamjin was using as a platform, Raleien could see some of the lower-level force users and some of the newer members of the clan.

"Prantom, Emile Saber, and Eilana Kilaeon," Raleien said as he mentally checked the names off his list. Noting that there were still three members who were still unaccounted for, as the three were Shadows, and interestingly enough, all three seemed to display a deep reluctance to reveal themselves in public.

*Ah, there we go,* he thought to himself as the screen on the datapad began to display information from the three errant individuals. *Rasilvenaira, Horus, and Xendar, reporting in, excellent.* He thought as his fingers danced across the datapad as he began to give orders. Raleien had just

finished when a large shadow stood in front of him. Looking up, he found himself face to face with Aldaric and Archangel, neither of which looked to be in the mood to exchange pleasantries.

"Command to Shadow Walker, authentication confirmed; you are to report to the *Palpatine* where you will be briefed on your next mission," An automated monotone voice stated.

"Understood Command, will leave immediately," Xendar stated as he started to walk toward the spaceport.

## **Caperion System.**

### **ISN *Palpatine* in orbit**

#### **over Ragnath**

#### **40 ABY (The evening after the destruction of Adoniram Tower)**

"Time is of the utmost essence, and I, for one, will not waste it with useless talk." Lord Kamjin stated as he leaned forward over the tabletop holoprojector as he swung his gaze around the room, staring at each person in the eyes. "Last night, Shadow Nighthunter was forcibly abducted from her home. We have reason to believe that this same group has captured Dek Iron'yikut as well. Your mission is simple, find Shadow and Dek before whoever abducted them finds a way to possess the secrets of the clan that those two have hidden in their minds." Then pausing for a moment, "Raleien." Lord Kamjin said as he turned his head toward his viceroy.

Raleien slowly rose up from his place on the side of the holoprojector table.

"Our information on hand is limited, but whoever planned this out was a very patient and methodical individual; they took their time, infiltrated our ranks, and hit us when we least expected it." Raleien paused a moment before continuing.

"Commander Sonavarret, sir," said a small voice from the back of the room. "Shouldn't any information we have received be sent through the intelligence analysts first?"

"Under normal circumstances, yes, we would have done that. But this situation is not a normal one. As the events of the last eighteen hours have shown us, there is some information and analysis that we cannot just trust to anyone."

"Raleien, a moment," Lord Kamjin quietly stated as he moved to the center of the room. He stood there for a moment before he spoke again. "We need eyes on the ground, both here and on Seraph. We also need people to analyze what information we have." Lord Kamjin then nodded at Raleien to continue.

"Aldaric and Archangel," Raleien said, looking at them. The two of you are tasked with analyzing data from Ragnath and Seraph. Kodais, Lucyeth, Dakari, Ulfark, and all force users who have not undergone their trials attaining the Knight rank will assist you." The rest of you will pull assignments on Raganth and Seraph. The pertinent information on your assigned location has been sent to your datapad."

As Xendar was reading on his assignment, the hushed tone of whispered voices caught his attention.

"Well, Huttpit! If we didn't just get the lousy end of this deal." One of the newer clan members whispered to another.

"Yeah, I know, and look at Lord Archangel and Lord Aldaric; they look mad enough to bite through a piece of durasteel!" Another replied.

"Talk about getting the shaft! Look who's getting the better end of things! It's those Hammers, Books, and Daggers!" A third retorted.

"The what?" The first asked.

"The high-level force users," The third replied, "Marauders and Juggernauts are the Hammers, the Seekers and Technoweavers are the Books, and the Shadows are the Daggers."

"That is an irony, but it does fit; I remember during the trial of Lord Hunter, there was a force user named Thendaris, or something like that, who was on one of the investigation teams. I think that he was a Shadow. At least I think he was one; he looked like one. But do you see him on our team? Nope."

*Apparently, someone thinks that they don't need to earn their stripes.* Xendar thought to himself. Pulling up the hood of his cloak, He stood up and turned around to see three very young clan members who looked like they had just graduated from the Shadow Academy.

"I could hear the three of you voicing your thoughts on the situation," Xendar said in a cold, lifeless voice.

"So what? There is no..." The leader of the group started to say as he turned toward Xendar. The cocky look of indignance on his face quickly disappeared and was replaced by a look of fear, as the sight of a faceless, black-cloaked, and armored apparition standing before them was a bit unnerving.

"Perhaps you think that you are being treated unfairly?"

Xendar asked as he brought up and flexed his left hand, letting the light glint off the talons and the blood-red claws.

"No," the leader squeaked.

"Good," Xendar replied. "Then you will make yourself indispensable to both; Lord Aldaric and Lord Archangel."

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## **Caperion System**

### **Huisan, Nayama Dynasty**

#### **Seraph, 40 ABY (60 hrs. after the destruction of Adoniram Tower)**

As Xendar walked down the main streets of Huisan, he paid no attention to his surroundings. If the situation had not been so dire, he would have been tempted to bring along Oriyanna and Daesha, who would have loved to see the elegant calligraphy and engravings and gazed in awe as the sunlight glinting off the burnished gold and polished wood of the buildings lining the street. As he continued forward, his eyes were on the street in front of him, his mind focused on the meeting with a character named Glitch, who was supposed to provide him with information regarding the strange happenings around Nayama as of the last several weeks.

It was these rumors of the strange happenings and recent events that led Xendar to stray from his original assignment in the Tokare City area and took him to the Nayama Dynasty's capital of Huisan.

As he came to an alley intersection, Xendar turned to his right and headed down the alleyway.

"Well, aren't you the punctual one," A voice called out from beside a pile of containers. A moment later, a figure stepped away from the containers.

"You got my money?" Glitch inquired.

"Do you have my information?" Xendar countered.

"Yes, I do. But, you see, I made some new friends," Glitch said as several armored troopers appeared around him with their weapons drawn. "And they think that it would be better for me to work with them instead. Which I think is an excellent idea. Though it does entail your death, but I can live with that."

"So, that is your choice," Xendar said as he looked at Glitch. His gaze was that of casual indifference.

Glitch gave a hearty laugh. "You've got guts. I'll give you that. But what you haven't got is brains. You may be dressed like a local. Kriff, you even look like one. But that doesn't make you one. And no one here will care if another outsider disappears and is found dead."

Xendar smiled at the group in front of him. It was not a combative, angry, or even a nasty smile. The only way that Glitch could describe it was, frightening.

"You have chosen poorly," Xendar said as he vanished from sight.

"What the!" one of the troopers yelled as the pile of containers came crashing down on top of them, catching and crushing two of the troopers. Another gave a strangled cry as he fell to the floor. A force amplified thrown shuriken blossomed at his throat and lodged itself deep, nearly decapitating the trooper.

"Shoot anything that moves!" One of the remaining three troopers shouted.

"Got it!" Another replied.

"Where in the galaxy did, he go?" The third demanded as he spun around in circles trying to look everywhere at once.

"Just keep looking! I'm certain; that this brain bolted chakaar has still got some dirty tricks up his sleeve!" The leader said.

As if to validate that statement, a loud creaking groan came from further down the alleyway. Whipping around, the three found a large container floating up in the air; after a few seconds, the container launched itself at the remaining three. It was at this moment that Xendar struck.

Appearing behind the trooper on the far left. His arms shot around that trooper's neck, and with a sickening snap, Xendar ended that trooper's life. Letting the trooper's body fall to the ground. Xendar lashed out with a vicious force amplified chop to the middle trooper's throat, which landed with a loud, meaty crack. The trooper dropped to the ground with a gasping croak. Then with a sweeping gesture, Xendar sent the last trooper flying into the nearby containers. The trooper gave off a low groan as they got on their feet. Xendar made a clenching gesture, and the trooper's hands flew up to their throat in a vain attempt to relieve the pressure.

"You should have left when you had the chance," Xendar said, just before he clenched his hand into a fist. The trooper gave off one last gasping choke before falling limp.

"As much as you may like dark holes," Xendar said, looking down at one of the piles of containers strewn about. "You might as well come out of there. No one is going to save you, Glitch."

"You want that information. I'll give it to you! No charge!" Glitch said as he crawled out from under a container leaning on another. "If you want anything I'll get it, no problem! Just let me go!"

"I'll take the information, but there is one small problem. You see, I don't trust you. Which means I don't trust the information you have. How do I know if I let you go and that the information you gave me ends up being fake; what am I to do then? It could get unpleasant for you."

"It's not! It's not! I swear it's not," Glitch squeaked.

"That's not good enough, Glitch," Xendar stated.

"So just to make sure, I am going to put you in a place where I can find you. Do you know where that is?"

"No," Glitch" squeaked.

"Prison," Xendar said with a malevolent chuckle. "By the time you wake up, I will have modified this place to make it look like you ambushed and murdered these troopers. But on the positive side, you can enjoy a nice long pleasant talk with the local authorities about your activities. Pleasant dreams, Glitch," Xendar said with an evil smile as he overloaded Glitch's nervous system.

## **Caperion System**

### **Huisan Palace Grounds, Nayama Dynasty**

#### **Seraph, 40 ABY (72 hrs. after the destruction of Adoniram Tower)**

As night fell across the palace, two shadowy figures stole across the palace grounds, blending into the shadows, unseen by anyone.

"Security around this place is sloppy. I could have gotten in here without having that slicer taking out the security systems," one of the figures whispered as they stopped near an entrance to the underground levels.

The other figure silently nodded as they tapped their earpiece comlink

"In position, open the doors, Slicer," Xendar whispered.

"Opening doors now," a female voice said over the comline as the doors in front of the two figures quietly hissed open.

"Cipher, status report," Xendar ordered.

"All clear, outer perimeter security cams are down, in a few moments, the interior security cams should be down, all comms are jammed, we have control of the palace computer, Slicer has the perimeter guards investigating a sensor ghost on the other side of the palace, and the Rancors are in position awaiting orders," a male voice replied.

"Affirmative Cipher, Ghost is going shadow; if there is no response from us in the next two hours, initiate plan Besh."

"Understood Ghost, Rancor states that they used enough explosive charges to send the palace into orbit," Cipher replied.

"Excellent, only one problem; if it comes to that, I want it sent to Ragnath," Xendar said with a smile.

A chorus of chuckles over the comline, followed by "Interior security cams are down, good luck, Ghost," was the response.

"You ready?" Xendar asked the figure behind him.

"Stop the chatter, and move!" The figure behind him hissed.

"After you," Xendar said, allowing the figure to go first.

The figure barreled past Xendar at an impressive speed, barely making a sound above a whisper as they ran down the stairs.

Navigating the castle's underground passageway took less time than Xendar had expected, as the passageways were designed as long, wide corridors intersecting other corridors. It was almost as if the entire underground floor itself was to have been built to facilitate the use of small transport craft.

Moving forward. The two figures quickly made their way past the various doors that lined the passageway.

After several moments, Xendar paused for a moment, then reaching into his cloak, he pulled out a scanner. Looking down at it, he began to make adjustments and fine-tune the readings being displayed on its screen.

At the same time, while Xendar was using the scanner, he noticed the other figure's impatient movements, stopping for a moment, he closed his eyes. *I would be just like that if our situations were reversed*, he thought to himself; he then exhaled and started to concentrate.

*We will find Shadow, Xendar said telepathically. Just give me a few seconds to get my scanner to relink with the palace computer.*

*We are wasting time!* The other figure shot back mentally.

*Running around wildly will not help either,* Xendar replied telepathically.

A persistent quiet beep from the scanner quickly cut off any further conversation on that subject.

*Found her! Two hundred meters ahead on the left. Let's go!* Xendar said mentally.

The other figure needed no prodding as they were already taking off at full speed. Two hundred meters later, the figure skidded to a halt as they looked for an access panel to open the door.

"It's a biometric access denial system which operates the scanners built into the door," Xendar whispered as he ran up to the door. "Hang on, just a second. I'm ordering the palace computer to override the standard protocol systems and open the door."

Several seconds later, the doors snapped open with a quiet hiss; What they found on the other side was not a pleasant sight; in the blackness of the room, save for a single light, in a crumpled heap on the floor, was Lady Nighthunter, wearing a simple garb to preserve her modesty.

From what Xendar could see, she was covered from head to toe with blood, slashes, rents, and bruises, while hooked chains covered in Shadow's blood swung lazily near her head as the droplets of her blood splashed on her face.

Both Xendar and the figure rushed over to Shadow and began to check for signs of life. Xendar ripped open the pack he was carrying and pulled out Bata patches, followed by various patches and stims.

"She's alive, but her life signs are weak; do you know how to use force healing? Xendar asked as he started to tend to Shadow's wounds.

The other figure simply nodded.

"Good, the quicker we can stabilize her, the sooner she can be moved."

Xendar said as he reached down and laid a hand on Shadow's shoulder while the other figure took Shadow's hand in their own.

Less than a moment later, the quiet trilling of the scanner's proximity alarms snapped Xendar back into the real world.

"Hide," Xendar said, getting up from the floor. "Someone is going to be coming through that door in just a couple of seconds."

Standing in the shadows near the door, Xendar cloaked himself from sight and shrouded himself from the perceptions of force users.

As the door hissed open, the sound of voices could be heard.

"Ah yes, I know, Vilnus. You would think that this one would be made of sterner stuff," one of the two figures said as they entered the room, shoving a thoroughly drugged Dek forward.

"Indeed. Ah, once again, I see that someone was tardy in preparations for our next guest. You know that really does leave someone with a poor impression of us," Vilnus replied.

"I can assure you that I already have a poor opinion of you, so that is not a problem," Xendar said.

"Who said that?" One of the two figures said as they whipped around and fumbled for their weapons

"Really? You are truly a sad, pathetic bunch," Xendar said as he clicked his tongue. "Don't bother looking for me because you won't find me."

"No, maybe not, but we could kill your empress here; how about that?" Vilnus said, moving toward Shadow.

"Yes, you could, but I would not recommend it," Xendar stated.

"Why not? Do you think you could take us both down? Or what? Are we getting a little too personal for you?" Vilnus retorted.



"Oh, I'm not the problem; though, I should probably thank you for making my mission a lot easier as you brought Dek Iron'yikut with you. But the person you should be worried about is behind you, and he is the one who is going to take it personally," Xendar said as a shadowy figure loomed behind the two.

"I'm going to step out in the hallway to establish contact with the rest of the team. These two, they are all yours," Xendar said as the door hissed open.

Still unseen by the naked eye, Xendar walked through the doorway then paused.

"Could you do me a favor? When you beat these two to a pulp, could you try and keep things tidy? I'm breaking in a new set of boots, and when I come back in here, I really don't want to step in what's left of these two," he added as the doors began to shut.

"Lock door," Xendar said to the scanner system.

"Order received and complying," the automated voice replied.

Letting the cloak drop, Xendar initiated communication with his team.

"Ghost to Cipher, come in Cipher," Xendar said as he tapped his earpiece comlink.

"Cipher to Ghost, I read you five by five; we have got you on the palace security cams," Cipher replied.

"Found the little lost bantha cubs; they were roughed up pretty bad by the Weequay; I am moving the rendezvous point to the Entry Point Aurek; the banthas will need the Tusken Raiders to look after them," Xendar said.

Xendar did not hear Cipher's response as a loud thumping sound was heard as something was smashed against the door from the other side; Xendar shot a flat look at the door and shook his head.

"Could you repeat that Cipher; I didn't quite catch all of it."

"Affirmative Ghost, will meet you at the entrance."

"Confirmed Cipher, Ghost, out." Turning around, Xendar faced the locked door.

"Unlock and open the door," Xendar said.

"Order received and complying," the automated voice replied.

Stepping back into the room, now with all the lights on, Xendar was surprised; apart from a few blood smears on the floors, the room was surprisingly clean.

"You did say that you didn't want to step in their remains," the other figure stated holding Lady Nighthunter's hand. He apparently was using force healing on her.

"Yes, I did, and thank you for that," Xendar said as he walked over to Shadow and began to check her vitals.

"She is still weak but stable; we can move her."

Xendar watched as the other figure gently and carefully reached down and picked up Shadow.

"Right, seeing that you have Lady Nighthunter, I'll get Dek," Xendar said as he reached down and used the force to pick up Dek. "And the rendezvous point has moved to the entrance where these two will get some real help from someone who knows their job better than us."

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After reaching the entrance, Xendar found the medical team ready and waiting to treat Shadow and Dek. It came as no surprise that Shadow's bodyguard refused to leave her side even while the medics, both force users and regular, were trying to treat her wounds.

"Ghost to Rancor, situation report," Xendar said, tapping his earpiece comlink.

"Rancor to Ghost, proceeding as scheduled, the place has been evacuated, and the party poppers are in place around the underground, the admin sections, and the nonessential sections of the palace, and it's all set to go off in fifteen minutes."

"Excellent, I will meet you at the departure point...", Xendar started to say when he was interrupted by a loud commotion.

"Where is he?" Someone shouted.

"He's not here!" Another yelled.

"Prince Liefde, where are you?" The first person yelled.

Xendar watched as a petite young woman in a servant's outfit came rushing up to him.

"Sir, have you seen a small boy dressed in really finely tailored clothes and resembles Queen Hui Jia?" The woman asked frantically.

"Relana, did you find him?" Another woman asked, who looked almost identical to Relana, as she rushed up to her.

"No, he isn't around here," Relana said, the panic rising in her voice.

"He must still be inside!" The second woman said as a look of horror shot across her face.

"Did you ask security or anyone else that came out with us?" Relana asked.

"Yes, I did. They told me to go look for Prince Liefde myself. And Security was the worst; they threatened to shoot me if I did not leave. How can they be that way? Prince Liefde is just a little boy!" The second woman said, nearly bursting into tears.

"Teja, we will find him," Relana said, hugging Teja.

"Perhaps I can be of assistance," Xendar said, looking at the two women.

Both women looked over at Xendar with a frightened expression.

"Who are you?" Teja asked, trying to keep her voice sounding normal.

"Let's just say that I don't want to see a child hurt or harmed either and wish for this one to be found," Xendar stated.

"We don't trust you," both women stated firmly.

"I understand, I am not asking for your trust. I am only offering to help," Xendar said, as he turned toward the palace.

"Wait, please; we just want the prince to be safe. There are so many people in the castle who do not see him as a person, but as something to advance their own ambitions. So, please help us," Teja said in a pleading voice.

"I had planned to from the beginning," Xendar said as he raced off at full speed for the palace.

"Rancor, disable those charges; we still have people inside!" Xendar said as he charged into the palace, breaking down and splintering the wooden doors of the main entryway.

What?" Rancor asked incredulously. "No, we can't; once those charges are set, there is no defusing them!"

"Great, now where?" Xendar said, looking around. "Slicer, bring back up the security cams and scanners; be on the lookout for a small boy, then once you find him, I need you to guide me to him."

"On it, Ghost, I'll guide you to him," Slicer stated.

"Cipher, give me a countdown on that timer, one-minute increments," Xendar yelled as he ran down one of the palace's many halls.

As Xendar drew closer to the room that Prince Liefde was occupying, he began to sense the presence of another force user, which grew stronger the closer he got to Liefde's location.

Stopping in the hall outside of his intended destination, Xendar paused and took a deep breath, then closed his eyes, allowing the force to flow through him, and in the blink of an eye, he disappeared both from sight and from the perceptions of force users.

The door quietly slid open, revealing the blackness of the interior room; *Hello, darkness, my old friend*, Xendar thought as he quietly slipped into the room. A quiet chirp from his earpiece comlink was a constant reminder that he needed to stay focused on the task at hand.

"Cipher to Ghost, nine minutes remaining," Cipher said over the comline.

"Acknowledged Cipher," Xendar whispered.

As Xendar's eyes adjusted to the dark, he could make out a form sleeping on the couch across from him.

And as Xendar took his fourth step into the room, his earpiece again crackled to life.

"Slicer to Ghost, you have got incoming; just stepped out of one of the nearby rooms; looks like a force user," Slicer stated.

"Are you sure about that?" Xendar whispered.

"Affirmative, a modest brown cloak, simple tan robes, and a shiny lightsaber hanging from their belt; the whole ensemble screams old holo style Jedi,"

"I understand, and thank you for the update, Slicer," Xendar whispered.

*I have to get them out into the hall; I can dispose of them there without waking up prince Liefde without adding in further complications,* Xendar thought to himself as he backed himself against a wall near the door.

As the door hissed open, a broad shaft of light appeared on the floor, and with it, a single shadow of a figure.

Xendar slowly moved closer to the door as the figure stepped into the room, flexing his hands as he waited for the figure to step fully into the room.

What happened next; was a mistake that nearly cost Xendar the mission.

The figure stood in the hall for several seconds before coming in, and when they did, Xendar was taken aback in shock.

"Lord Kamjin?" Xendar whispered in surprise.

Indeed, the figure in front of Xendar bore an uncanny resemblance to Lord Kamjim Lap'lamiz.

The figure slowly turned toward Xendar's approximate direction.

"I know you're there, so why don't we end this game now," the figure said quietly.

"Cipher to Ghost, eight minutes remaining," Cipher stated.

"You just called me Lord Kamjin, which means you know who my father is, and that tells me that you are a member of his clan; while it is not surprising that you don't know who I am, let me be clear on one point, I am not my father!"

*Blast it!* Xendar thought to himself. *How could I have made such a stupid mistake!*

"So, whatever you are, you can show yourself, and we can work it out,"

*Sorry kid, that's not going to happen; you may look like your father, but from what I can see, that's about all you inherited from him.* Xendar thought to himself as he slowly removed his claws and talons from his right hand.

"Hey!" Xendar loudly called out, and as the figure turned toward Xendar. Xendar lashed out with a wicked right cross to the figure's jaw, spinning him around and dropping him to the floor.

"Ghost to Slicer," Xendar whispered. "You have got my location marked, correct?"

"Slicer to Ghost, affirmative."

"Good, get that transport moving to my location as fast as you can,

and there are two servant girls named Teja and Relana, pick them up and tell them that Prince Liefde is safe and that their friend is bringing him to them,"

"Copy that Ghost," Slicer said in a questioning tone.

Xendar reached down and wrapped the sleeping Liefde up in the surrounding blankets. Xendar then gently picked him up, and Liefde gave a small moan as he shifted around to make himself comfortable.

Then using the force, Xendar raised the now unconscious figure off the floor and made his way over to the window; using the force, Xendar forcibly ripped the window off its mountings, giving him an express exit out of the castle.

"Prince Liefde!" Both Relana and Teja cried out as they took Liefde from Xendar and wrapped his sleeping frame up in some extra blankets that they had found before each woman hugged the young prince.

"Thank you," Both women said gratefully to Xendar.

"He's safe now," Xendar said.

"Yes, he is," Relana said, brushing a stray hair off Liefde's forehead.

"And now he can't be used as leverage by anyone again," Teja said.

"What did you mean by the prince being used as leverage?"

"The Queen, we know that they forced her to kill herself and the Republic of Elaya politicians. She never would have done that. She never would have left Liefde alone; she loved him too much to do that to him," Relana stated.

"That, and they also had two Jedi-looking characters watching him from time to time," Teja added.

"Do you have someplace safe to take him?" Xendar asked the sisters.

"No, but we will find a place to hide him where they can't find him," Relana said emphatically.

"I have a place that you could take him, a place where he would be safe until it is time for him to come back," Xendar said.

"Where?" Teja asked.

"Not on this planet, I am going to ask that the both of you just trust me," Xendar replied.

Both women looked at each other, then at Liefde, and nodded to Xendar.

"Okay, let's go; because, in about four minutes, it's going to get chaotic around here,"

## **Caperion System**

### **Sharnelle landmass.**

#### **Ragnath, 40 ABY (82 hrs. after the destruction of Adoniram Tower)**

"All right, Operative Thendaris. Would you care to explain why you were not working in your operation zone and why you needed sixty thousand credits, a clan transport, an intelligence operative, a special operations team complete with force user and non-force user medics?" Commander Sonavarret stated in a quiet voice.

Lord Kamjin, and Lord Aldaric were there as well and all three were in one of the conference rooms in Lord Kamjin's estate, questioning Xendar.

"As I stated in my report, twenty thousand credits were used to bribe a UEC official for landing permits, ten thousand credits were for the purchase of unregistered transport vehicles. The intelligence operative had the contacts within the UEC, which is why things progressed as quickly as they did. I would like to point out that I returned the unused thirty thousand credits," Xendar replied. "The medics and the special operations team; both proved their worth on this mission.

So, where are Dek, Shadow, and Prince Liefde now?" Aldaric asked, trying to head off the confrontation that he could feel building.

"Dek Iron'yikut is recuperating at the Greater Caelestis City Medical Facility, where the best security teams in Scholea Palatinae protect him.

As for the location of Lady Nighthunter and Prince Liefde, I cannot reveal that information," Xendar stated.

"Why not?"

"I was ordered not to,"

"By whose authority?"

"At the behest of Lady Nighthunter herself,"

That seemed to kill any more questions about the location of Lady Nighthunter.

"If I may, I would like to make a request," Xendar asked.

"What? After all that you have done, you want to make a request?" Raleien asked incredulously.

"What is your request?" Aldaric asked.

I'm sorry, but I cannot say, as it is a private matter for Lord Kamjin alone,"

"If you would, please excuse us," Lord Kamjin said to Aldaric and Raleien.

"Very well, Thendaris. What is it?" Lord Kamjin said after the other two had left the room.

"Lord Kamjin," Xendar said as he took out and handed a holoprojector to Lord Kamjin. Turning it on, Kamjin watched as a tall figure who looked like him, walk out of one room, and then down the hall to another door a short distance away.

"Where did you get this?" Lord Kamjin demanded.

"Last night, at the Huisan Palace in the Administrative Section, " Xendar replied.

"Wasn't the Administrative Section destroyed?" Lord Kamjin asked.

"It was," Xendar stated.

"And did he?"

"No, he did not."

"How do you know that?"

"Because Lord Kamjin, I carried his unconscious body out of the building before it was destroyed," Xendar replied.

Lord Kamjin stopped and looked up at Xendar; the expression on his face was somewhere between anger, relief, disgust, and gratitude.

"Why are you showing me this?" Kamjin said in a guarded tone.

"Because he is your son, Lord Kamjin. I thought that you might have wanted to know that he was still alive," Xendar quietly stated.

"You may leave, Thendaris; you do realize that you may have caused the clan to suffer greatly because of your choice," Kamjin said, looking at Xendar.

"Yes, Lord Kamjin, I do realize that; as it stands, it was my choice to make.

And if it turns out to have been a grave mistake, then I will accept the consequences of my actions," Xendar said as he turned and walked out of the room.

Lord Kamjin looked at the holo for a few seconds before switching it off.

"Kai, what are you up to?" Lord Kamjin quietly stated as he turned and looked out the window.