



Legends of the Old Republic: The God of Hyperspace Episode 1

Last Saturday was the first day of regulation gaming in our new Star Wars campaign, "Legends of the Old Republic: The God of Hyperspace".

The game began with Mok Rebus (played by Kevin Ianocca), Republic Security Homicide Investigator on Coruscant, reporting to the scene of a crime. A body has been found alone in the undercity. His air taxi descends through the many layers of Coruscant to the dark damp stone foundations where he finds a cadre of LE-VO droids cordoning off the area and performing standard forensic investigations and hovering holo-recording bots to document the scene. Normally in cases like this, Rebus just comes down, does a cursory inspection, and signs off for the droids to bag the body and clean the scene. This time is different. The body is that of Dyet Nayal, a powerful Sales Executive for the Incom Corporation, naked and dead for 9 days. The cause of death is unknown, there are no visible wounds, other than those made by scavengers and decay, and the face is frozen in fear. Obviously Dyet saw it coming. There are



no signs of a scuffle or resistance, but there are some drops of dried blood near the body. A Medical Scanner reveals something more insidious: Nayal's heart is missing, cleanly removed without incision or trauma.

Rebus has the body sent to HQ for a forensic autopsy but stays to investigate some more. A few hours later, he is called by his superior, Lt. Drax, to report for a briefing regarding the body. Rebus returns to HQ and is led into the autopsy lab to hear the QN-C autopsy droid's report. QN-C reports that the heart was cleanly removed from the body, but is at a loss to explain how it was removed with incision or trauma. Drax pulls Rebus aside and fills in some other details about the case.

The victim, Nayal, was recorded booking passage to the Allooine system and even passed a genetic ID check to board, that was 7 days ago. Concerned about the possibility of either the Sith or a fallen Jedi, Drax has asked the Jedi Council to assign a Jedi consultant to the case. They assign young Kira Chan, a Twi'Lek Padawn apprentice (played by Paul Fields), to be his partner in this investigation. Upon hearing the details of the case, Kira recognizes some of the details and checks the Jedi records computer and makes a connection. Several years ago, a Jedi Healer named Sone, who could remove tumors without breaking the skin, abandoned the Jedi when they refused to allow him to conduct less-than-ethical experiments. He has not been seen since, and the Jedi would like to apprehend him for rehabilitation on Daine.



After some follow-up investigation (questioning coworkers, searching apartment, etc.), Rebus requests a transport to Allooine. To his surprise, 4 hours later, they are assigned an entire ship, the Republic Cruiser "Rara Avis", to take them to Allooine. They meet

the captain, Commander Milos Pentu, and crew at the Coruscant planetside space-port, where they are introduced to young co-pilot Ensign Crona Gock, a human male (played by Neal Baumgardner). Apparently, an influential Senator named Kalok Donaes, requested that the ship be assigned to them and that it be outfitted with a DP-9 Defense Pod.

The journey lasts 2 days, time spent getting to know the crew, and for meditation for the Jedi. During the trip, Rebus attracts the attention of the Zeltron Navigator, Ens. Talla Mita, much to the disdain of her former paramour, Corellian Comm Officer Ens. Halo Boygan. Gock finds it difficult to make friends. This is his first assignment out of the Academy, and he shows great promise as a pilot and an Astrogator. The Senior Officers, used to seeing good ensigns come and go, climbing the advancement fast-track, are stand-offish and treat the junior officers rather patronistically.

They arrive in the Allooine system and prepare to dock with the orbiting installation (planetside starports are unwanted by the natives, the religiously fanatic anti-hyperspace cult, the Doloun), but are met instead by a barrage of Concussion Missiles! Rebus, at the helm, manages to evade the attacks long enough to get the vessel out of range.

They receive a broadcast from the station, it is a masked man claiming to be "Dolok, leader of the Doloun" who declares that the orbiting station has been taken over by his forces and that everyone on board will be executed unless the following demands are met in 20 hours: 1) That all Hyperdrives be dismantled. 2) That all hyperdrive manufacturing facilities and capability be destroyed and 3) That all hyperspace communication cease. To further complicate matters, Dolok reveals that one of the hostages is Senator Donaes himself.

Captain Pentu decides to play it safe and request advice from Naval Command on Coruscant, a communication with a lag-time of 2 hours (1 hour there, 1 hour back). During that time, Halo manages to access the station's logs to determine who is on board (all personnel traffic is

recorded on and off the station). Senator Donaes is on board, as is Dyet Nayal. Also of interest is the fact that 200 entries are classified "Top Secret".

The response from Naval Command is to resolve the situation as quickly as possible, no other ships can be diverted there within 20 hours. Pentu asks his passengers and crew for ideas.

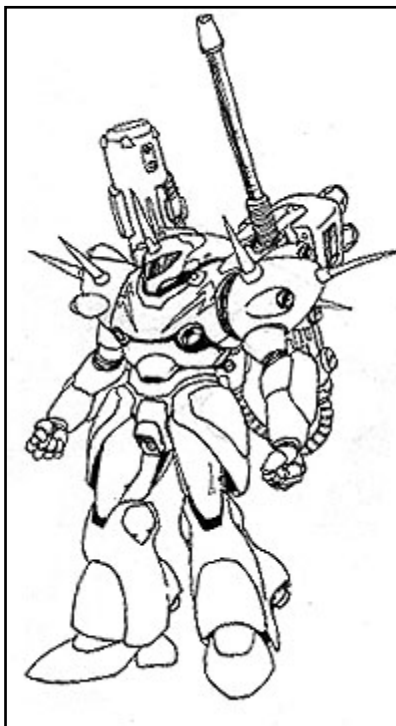
After some brainstorming and research, it is determined that there is a sensor-shadow below the station. If they can get below there, they can release the

ship's pinnace undetected and get a small boarding party on the station. The Rara Avis can jam all communications to ensure any witnesses are unable to report the attempt. Gock is assigned to pilot the pinnace, and Rebus and Chan are asked to be the boarding party (there is no one on the crew to be spared in a 10-man crew). They also take one of the ship's droids, R2-LX, for backup.



They approach the station in the sensor shadow according to plan, but upon release are attacked by 4 terrorists wearing top-of-the-line military powersuits: Nemesis-02 Space-Armor armed with a 1-shot Proton Torpedo launcher and an anti-starfighter Laser Cannon, not to mention a Medium Repeating Blaster backup anti-personnel weapon. A dogfight in tight the tight quarters of the sensor shadow, under protection of the comm jamming, results in the pinnace losing it's lasers and two powersuits, one with no weapons and another fully operational.

Desperate, the team comes up with a cunning plan. Donning emergency space-suits, Chan opens the rear boarding ramp on the Pinnace (imagine a cross between a Starfleet Shuttle from Star Trek and a Colonial Viper from Battlestar Galactica) while Gock heads right for the fully operational Power Suit. At the last minute, the Pinnace pulls away, drawing fire, while Kira Chan leaps from the ramp straight at the Powersuit, both Lightsabers ablaze! (imagine the attack of Lord Yopa against the air-pirates in Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind).



Chan spends a Force Point and lands on the surprised powersuit feet first. She then slashes with one lightsaber, cutting the powersuit in half at the waist, and stabs with the other, piercing the armor and killing the pilot. After a brief pose, the suit explodes, sending Kira hurtling backwards in a tumble. She rights herself using TK only to find a tear in her suit (which she quickly repairs with a makeshift tourniquette around her thigh made with her utility belt) and that she is under attack by the last remaining Powersuit using it's Med. Repeating Blaster. The Powersuit is out of range of Rebus on the Pinnace who wished to take a

potshot.

The powersuit opens fire but Kira uses her lightsabers to reflect it back, destroying the armor's last weapons system. The disgruntled Powersuit operator then makes a break for the station to get more help. Kira takes this last chance and throws one of her lightsabers at the fleeing Powersuit, rolling dramatically well and sticking it right in the pilot who collides and magnetically sticks the underside of the station.

Kira then TK's herself (effectively flying) over to the powersuit to retrieve her saber, just as the Pinnacle lands and attaches itself magnetically to the station nearby. Everyone disembarks and R2-LX is taken away from repairing the laser cannons to open the airlock.

The airlock door flips over (they were upside down on the bottom of the station) and rises through a short tunnel. The inner airlock door opens and they enter the station..

To be continued...

Post-Game Wrap-Up

I really had fun GM'ing this week. My new players, Paul, Kevin, and Neal, are all real good and I applaud their performances and character designs. It slowed down a bit during the assault plan stage, but that was mostly my fault. It was the weakest link of my story, and I had to revise the situation several times to provide a logical, yet challenging, opportunity to get to the station without killing the hostages.

I cheated a bit with the Powersuits because I misunderstood their damage rules, but that's okay because it made the fight more enjoyable and the players didn't notice nor seem to care. One of the funnest bits, that didn't quite fit into this retelling, was the flashback to Kira learning of her assignment from her master Roshi, a comical Jedi who likes to play practical jokes and is quite a lecherous old alien (he likes to view girlie-holos when people aren't looking). I was worried he would come off annoying, but the players thought he was funny and was a refreshing change from stuffy old Jedi Masters.

Next Week on "Legends of the Old Republic: The God of Hyperspace"

The team encounters the mysterious Dolok, with the power to bend Hyperspace to his will. There's a fight near a bottomless pit filled with dangerous power conduits (of course). There's also the mystery of why this murder is so important, who are the top-secret mystery personnel, what Sone is up to, and how did two-bit terrorists get multi-million-dactari Military Powersuits?