

Stardate: 2445.09.19

(USS Illuminar- Deck 4 Transporter room 2 – Operations – Ensign Dieter Gregory - 0845)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 8, CSO's Office - ACSRD Ensign Stennin - 0859)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 8, CSO's Office - ACSO Lieutenant (jg) Jatón Ayl - 0901)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 8, CSO's Office - ACEO, Ens(sg) Vex'ahlia Jordaan - 0909)

(USS Illuminar- Deck 4 Transporter room 2 – Operations – the gang - 0910)

(USS Illuminar- Deck 4 Transporter room 2 – Operations – Ensign Dieter Gregory - 0930)

(USS Illuminar- Deck 4 Transporter room 2 – Operations – Ensign Dieter Gregory - 0945)

(USS Illuminar – Deck 1 – Bridge Ops Ensign Dieter Gregory - 10:00)

(USS Illuminar – Deck 1 – Bridge - CO, Lieutenant Commander Sekal- 10:01)

(USS Illuminar – Deck 1 – Bridge - Operations Ensign Dieter Gregory 1010)

(USS Illuminar – Deck 1 – Bridge - CO- Lieutenant Commander Sekal- 1011)

(USS Illuminar – Deck 1 – Bridge - Operations Ensign Dieter Gregory- 1012)

(USS Illuminar – Deck 3 - Officers Quarters- Operations Ensign Dieter Gregory- 1020)

(USS Illuminar – Deck 4 - Transporter Room 2- Operations Ensign Dieter Gregory- 1030)

(Bajor -- Temple -- Medical Technician Palmer-- 1035)

(Bajor -- Temple --CMO Quinna Solice -- 1045)

(Bajor -- Temple --Medical Technician Palmer-- 1048)

(Bajor -- Temple –CMO Quinna Solice -- 1101)

(Bajor – Tunnels – Security Ens. Penny Mc Taggard - 12:26)

(Bajor – Tunnels – Security PO3 Hercules Devers – 12:27)

(USS Illuminar – Deck 4 Officers Mess – 13:00)

(Bajor – Tunnels – Security PO3 Hercules Devers – 13:05)

(Bajor – Tunnels – Security PO3 Hercules Devers – 13:07)

(Bajor, Temple - Security PO3 Hercules Devers & Janus - 1310)

(Temple Hotel, Secure Room - Dean Vedek, Horavei Taelsi - 1331)

(Bajor – Tunnels – Security Penny Mc Taggard – 13:32)

(USS Illuminar- Deck 4 Transporter room 2 – Operations – Ensign Dieter Gregory - 1345)

Bajor -- Ashalla- Plaza of the Prophets-- aCSEC, Ensign (sg) Svend Saarsgard-- 1400)

(USS Illuminar -- Deck 14, CSEC office- aCSEC, Ensign (sg) Svend Saarsgard-- 1415)

(USS Illuminar -- Deck 14, CSEC office- Sec PO3 Hercules Devers-- 1416)

(USS Illuminar -- Deck 14, CSEC office- Sec PO3 Hercules Devers-- 1420)

(USS Illuminar -- Deck 14, CSEC office- aCSEC, Ensign (sg) Svend Saarsgard and Petty Officer (1st Class) Steven Hammons)-- 1425)

(USS Illuminar -- Deck 14, CSEC office- PO3 Hercules Devers -- 1426)

(USS Illuminar -- Deck 14, CSEC office- aSec -- Ensign (sg) Svend Saarsgard and PO (1st Class) Steven Hammons- 1428)

(USS Illuminar - Sickbay - ACOUNS ACMO ENS SG Ariel Trei - 14.35)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 1 - Bridge - FO, Lieutenant Sienna Williams-Verin - 1730)

(Shuttle Lucas - Security officer, Ensign Keung Lee - 1800)

(USS Illuminar - Hanger Deck. – Security Officer, Ensign Keung Lee & 2O Lt. Carson Peters - 1810)

(USS Illuminar- Deck 1 - Ready Room - FO, Lieutenant Sienna Williams-Verin & Sec Off, Ensign Keung Lee - 1830)

(USS Illuminar- Deck 5 – Holodeck – Ensign Keung Lee – 2200 hrs)

(USS Illuminar, 2O's Personal Quarters - 2O, Lieutenant Carson Peters - 2345)

(USS Illuminar- Deck 4 Transporter room 2 – Operations – Ensign Dieter Gregory - 0845)

Gregory crawled under the transporter controls and started taking off various access plates. With each plate, he hooked in a series of wires that were connected to the different devices on his cart. After completing that, he moved to the access panel by the transporter bank itself.

“We’re going to need to adjust the angular confinement between the 0.1 and 1.2 based on our simulations,” he said as he wired his probes to the cart. “We are also going to want to monitor the targeting scanner sensitivity. If it goes above 1000 coincident counts, we’re going to have a problem.”

=^= Computer, please increase the pattern buffer matrix capacity by 25%. Recommend taking Holodeck 2 off-line and divert capacity to Transporter room 2. ^=^=

Gregory stood behind his boxes of wires and started pulling out isolinear chips, placing them in the computer on the left side of his monitors.

"There we go, I think we're ready to start at least getting the scanners working on the area. Let's find an out of the way place to start our work."

(USS Illuminar - Deck 8, CSO's Office - ACSRD Ensign Stennin - 0859)

Stennin looked at the Ensign closely now, as Jatón explained the situation. "We have a working theory as to what's causing the disease in the temple, and now we need to prove or disprove it. And since energy fields are involved, we could use some help from an engineer like yourself." He said. Stennin nodded.

The ensign seemed on edge, quite possibly due to the events surrounding her department. Stennin had heard an Engineer had gone missing, but he knew little of what was happening now. "I'm all yours. Anything to keep my mind off what could be happening to Taya." she said. Stennin detected a slight tremor in the woman, and nodded softly.

(Reply Alyl)

"Security teams are already being assembled, ensign. She will be alright." Stennin said. He walked over to the other side of the console.

"I'm sure Security will find her, but until then, I'm.." she continued. Stennin saw she suppressed a yawn, visibly. He raised a brow, but said nothing of it. "down to keep myself busy. Especially if I can be of use resolving the quandary in front of us."

(Reply Alyl)

Stennin nodded at the Trill. "Acknowledged, lieutenant. Our readings of the Temple were most illogical indeed. And your experience with these 'Prophets'...most unsettling." he continued, raising his hand to his chin.

"So... break it down for me."

"That would be best explained by the one who experienced it. Lieutenant?"

(Reply Alyl, Vex)

Stennin rose his brows as Jatón spoke of his encounter.

"Fascinating, yet possibly dangerous." Stennin remarked softly

(USS Illuminar - Deck 8, CSO's Office - ACSO Lieutenant (jg) Jatón Alyl - 0901)

"I'm all yours. Anything to keep my mind off what could be happening to Taya." she said. Jatón saw a shiver of fear go through her.

"If you think you would be better off working rather than concentrating on Taya, we're glad to have you." Jatón gave her a reassuring smile. "I'm sure she'll be fine."

"Security teams are already being assembled, ensign. She will be alright." Stennin said. He walked over to the other side of the console.

"I'm sure Security will find her, but until then, I'm... down to keep myself busy. Especially if I can be of use resolving the quandary in front of us." Jatón noticed the suppressed yawn and gave a look of concern. He wanted to say something about it, but knew that it wasn't his place after what she had said.

"Understood ensign. And in the meantime you will be a great help to us. We have the scans that we took last night, but we need an engineer's expertise to interpret them and see what can be done if the orbs are in fact responsible for the disease at the temple. Stennin, as the one who compiled all the scans, why don't you explain further?"

Stennin nodded. "Acknowledged, lieutenant. Our readings of the Temple were most illogical indeed. And your experience with these 'Prophets'...most unsettling." he continued, raising his hand to his chin.

"So... break it down for me."

"That would be best explained by the one who experienced it. Lieutenant?"

"I want to preface that anything about my encounter with the Orb of Time and the Prophets last night does not leave this office. Is that understood?"

(Reply Vex, Stennin)

"Captain Sekal has given me express instructions that in our investigation we are not to touch or disturb the orbs because of the religious significance they have to the Bajorans. This tells me my encounter last night is not public knowledge and I would like to keep it that way. At least until I have told the captain."

(reply Vex, Stennin)

Assurances in hand, Jatón leaned back and adjusted his uniform. "In order to get a better scan of the orbs, I opened one and proceeded to scan it, not knowing the consequences of my actions. In a moment, I was somewhere else. Somewhere yet nowhere. And without a body. I spoke to a group of aliens that match the descriptions of the Prophets, according to the logs of Captain Sisko, first Federation CO of Deep Space 9. It was then that I was brought somewhere else-- no, they said that I brought them there. It was on Trill, 26 years ago. The day my sons were born. It was a feeling of pure elation. Something I thought I would never be able to experience. But bittersweet because I could not be there for the real event and knowing this was just a facsimile. And then as quickly as it began, it was over and I was back in the temple."

Stennin rose his brows as Jatón spoke of his encounter.

"Fascinating, yet possibly dangerous." Stennin remarked softly.

"You're not wrong. I've yet to fully grapple with what happened or what it means. But at least I got some good scans out of it I suppose. But knowing that there's no way to explain the detailed nature of the internal scans we have, I know I have no choice but to divulge what happened to the captain."

(USS Illuminar - Deck 8, CSO's Office - ACEO, Ens(sg) Vex'ahlia Jordaan - 0909)

"That would be best explained by the one who experienced it. Lieutenant?"

"I want to preface that anything about my encounter with the Orb of Time and the Prophets last night does not leave this office. Is that understood?"

Vex nodded, "Understood." she could agree for herself, but she knew Luma would learn of it via their connection. So they had a workaround if what the Lieutenant told her something that was so egregious that it needed to be past up the food-chain, Luma could do it without Vex breaking her oath.

(Reply Stennin)

"Captain Sekal has given me express instructions that in our investigation we are not to touch or disturb the orbs because of the religious significance they have to the Bajorans. This tells me my encounter last night is not public knowledge and I would like to keep it that way. At least until I have told the captain."

"I see where this is going," Vex said with a slight smile across her face.

Jatón leaned back and adjusted his uniform. "In order to get a better scan of the orbs, I opened one and proceeded to scan it, not knowing the consequences of my actions. In a moment, I was somewhere else. Somewhere yet nowhere. And without a body. I spoke to a group of aliens that match the descriptions of the Prophets, according to the logs of Captain Sisko, first Federation CO of Deep Space 9. It was then that I was brought somewhere else-- no, they said that I brought them there. It was on Trill, 26 years ago. The day my sons were born. It was a feeling of pure elation. Something I thought I would never be able to experience. But

bittersweet because I could not be there for the real event and knowing this was just a facsimile. And then as quickly as it began, it was over and I was back in the temple."

"Fascinating, yet possibly dangerous." Stennin remarked softly.

"You're not wrong. I've yet to fully grapple with what happened or what it means. But at least I got some good scans out of it I suppose. But knowing that there's no way to explain the detailed nature of the internal scans we have, I know I have no choice but to divulge what happened to the captain."

"Possibly.. let's see the scans though, there's always the possibility that *if* we discover anything, we did so without you breaking the rules." Vex said, "Anyway, good investigative work, breaks most of the rules anyway..." she was about to say, ~Only the Vulcan's seem to be adverse to this~ when she remembered Stennin was standing right there.

(Reply Jatón/Stennin)

As the Lieutenant brought the information to life on the screens in front of them, "What is it you needed me to look at?"

(Reply Jatón/Stennin)

A good ten minutes passed as they all individually looked through the information the Science Bros' had brought back from the Temple and compiled, Vex could understand why they'd called her in. They were looking for verification on what seemed to be the most logical conclusion to the issues within the Temple. The issue looked like it was directly linked with the orbs, and not some medical emergency as it had once been thought.

"So to be clear, these scans here are from when you opened the orb?"

(Reply Jatón)

"Hm. Well it seems that we have a container issue. I'm assuming that's what you're alluding to?" She did a quick search on the Starfleet database for the container specifications. "The *prophets* orbs emit high levels of Omicron radiation. The Bajorans built the containers to contain that and it seems that the protective fields built into those are failing. Why though I'm not sure, there's no obvious reason here as to..." she trailed off in thought.

(Reply Jatón/Stennin)

"I suppose there's no chance of us getting one of the orbs and it's container onboard the ship?"

(USS Illuminar- Deck 4 Transporter room 2 – Operations – the gang - 0910)

Cadet Pria Valar, the dark skinned brown haired and emerald green eyed exotic looking Trill from Engineering walked calmly into the Transporter Room. She carried a test kit with her, and looked around for a moment. With a nod to the Chief, she frowned as she peered, "Hi? I'm Cadet Valar, newly assigned. I was told to report here by the duty supervisor in Engineering." The very young seeming woman stood there shyly, but in her eyes he could see the wealth of memories that came from being joined. "Are you Ensign Gregory? I have been instructed to be your right hand, the Ensign said." Not familiar with human expressions she seemed a little confused by the saying. "What may I do to assist you?"

Gregory looked up at the Trill who entered. "Ah... Welcome Ms. Valar to the madhouse. A third pair of hands will definitely be helpful. Did you have any specialties at the academy?"

Luma was watching Gregory in interest. He had called upon the computer, which she was and was not. That sense that many of the crew had when she was turning her attention to a particular area seemed to fill the space. =^= Yes what is the Dieter doing? =^= Luma asked, causing Pria to jump a bit at the voice that came from nowhere and everywhere. She had been introduced to Luma but didn't understand what she was.

Gregory looked up. ~I forgot about Luma~

"Hello Luma. Thanks for stopping by. Your help will be appreciated as well," he said. "There is this area on Bajor, around the temple area, that is preventing us from transporting our people. We can still scan the area and see what is going on, but there is some sort of scatting field in place that is impacting the transportation signal."

"We discovered it last night, and while I was at the Operations station yesterday, I did as much probing of the field as I could. With Science off on another mission, I sent the data to my mate on DS9, Murdok and we set up a series of simulations to try to model the scatter and see if we could punch our way through it. I've been setting up the initial monitors," he waved his hand to the cart next to the transportation console, with wires connecting to various parts of the transporter controls and the transporter matrix on the side of the pad.

"So that's what we're doing here. Our model has some ranges that we want to test to see if they help and punch through the field. I've got a hookup to Murdok on the station and he'll be adding the data we generate to see if we can refine and understand what is going on. "

“So then Luma, Ms. Valar, that is the mission. We figure out the way to punch through the field, be able to move our people in and out, and as we say ‘Bob’s your uncle.’”

Chief S’Kakz listened with interest. “Fascinating. Do you believe this will work Ensign?”

“Chief, I’m an empirical kinda guy. I like data and with the data we can solve almost anything. I would be chuffed if I don’t cock up my first real assignment.”

“Any other questions?”

“Luma, can you take holodeck 2 offline so we can use it as an extra pattern buffer?”

Gregory looked around, “Ms. Valar, why don’t you come and monitor the Heisenberg compensator relays. We’re focused on angular confinement field strength first, but there is some speculation that the scattering field is impacting the Heisenberg compensators as well.”

With Pria in place, Gregory and S’Kakz lifted the first of the transportation test probes onto the Pad.

(USS Illuminar- Deck 4 Transporter room 2 – Operations – Ensign Dieter Gregory - 0930)

=^= Gregory to Deep Space Nine, I need Ensign Murdok. ^=

=^= DS 9 acknowledged. Patching you to his station. ^=

=^= Friend Gregory, how are the tests proceeding? ^=

=^= I am sending data to you now. First test was a disaster. And we’re noticing a decaying Omicron field as well. However, there is no indication on our sensors of Omicron particles in the area. ^=

=^= This is curious. Can you send another probe that is calibrated to Omicron Particles.
^=

“Chief, let’s get the second probe up there.” Gregory said. “Cadet, can you calibrate the probes sensors to detect Omicron Radiation. Also setup matter and antimatter detectors. Have the data monitored constantly. We’ll have to adjust the Heisenberg compensators to make sure we get reading through transport.”

After the Saurian and Gregory got the probe on the pad, they stepped back to let the Cadent Valar work. In the meantime, Gregory started working on the scanners while S’Kakz tuned the Heisenberg compensators.

=^= Ops, this is Gregory, I need control of lateral scanner array 2 to work on the transporter issue. ^=

=^= Ops Acknowledged. Sifting control to your station ^=

“The probe is calibrated Sir,” Cadet Valar said.

“Excellent. Thank you. I’m glad you were sent up here. Many hands make light work.”

Running through his checklist. “Probe is set. Compensators are adjusted. Scanners are ready.”

“Chief, energize.”

The familiar sound of the transporter cycling filled the room as the probe disappeared from view. Gregory watched the scanners closely.

“There,” he said as the scanners started popping up readings. “There it is.”

S’Kakz looked at the readings. “That is impossible.”

“We have a few more things to eliminate, but it looks like our transporter field is affecting the scattering field around the temple. And in so doing, causing a matter-antimatter reaction that is producing Omicron radiation.”

“When we first encountered the Vissian’s, a species that is resistant to Omicron

radiation, an inoculation was developed to provide protection against the radiation that their warp cores emitted. I wonder if medical can synthesize that compound.”

(USS Illuminar- Deck 4 Transporter room 2 – Operations – Ensign Dieter Gregory - 0945)

“Let's bring the probe back, Chief, and see what we learn.”

“Energizing,” said the chief.

As the probe started to materialize, the alarm klaxon started to sound. “There is a buildup of energy in the transporter field,” S’Kakz called out, “It’s destabilizing the probe matrix.”

As the probe materialized on the transporter pad there was a loud screeching. Suddenly, the probe started to turn red and exploded. The emergency safety protocols snapped a force shield down, but not before the concussive wave knocked the three Crew to the ground.

=^= Medical to Transporter room 2 ^= S’Kakz called out on his comm badge. ^= Engineering to Transporter room 2 ^=

Gregory helped Cadet Valar to her feet before turning to the controls and looking at the data. “This is not good, not good at all.”

=^= Gregory to Murdok, I’m sending data now. We lost probe two, which exploded upon rematerization in the transporter chamber. ^=

=^= I am receiving the data now and will begin to analyze it. Murdok out. ^=

“Cadet, please stay and help Chief S’Kakz, I need to see the Commander.”

With that Gregory took off out of the transporter room and down the hall to the turbolift.

(USS Illuminar – Deck 1 – Bridge Ops Ensign Dieter Gregory - 10:00)

Gregory bust onto the bridge, looking around till his eyes spied the Commander. Coming to attention, he started speaking before getting permission

"Commander Sekal, I think I have the solution to the transporter problem. Modulating the fields will help, but it's causing a burst of Omicron radiation, which would possibly kill the crew. However, I remember a report from the Academy on our encounter with the Vissians. Their warp cores, you see, put out Omicron radiation, but they are immune to its effects. The Doctor of NX-01 was able to create an inoculation that protected one of the crew who visited the ship."

"Oh, there was a small accident in Transporter Room 2."

(USS Illuminar – Deck 1 – Bridge - CO, Lieutenant Commander Sekal- 10:01)

The status quo was not logically satisfying. The Vedek Council had not backed down from the edict and the Kai was still in the temple. At the moment this was an unsavory roadblock since many of the Bajorans who had been removed had already reawakened and at least one by the name of Gele Jisel were clamoring to be allowed to leave.

If Sekal could prove malfeasance he had been given license to remove her despite the Council's maneuverings but there was as yet nothing he could use to do so.

"Commander Sekal, I think I have the solution to the transporter problem. Modulating the fields will help, but it's causing a burst of Omicron radiation, which would possibly kill the crew. However, I remember a report from the Academy on our encounter with the Vissians. Their warp cores, you see, put out Omicron radiation, but they are immune to its effects. The Doctor of NX-01 was able to create an inoculation that protected one of the crew who visited the ship."

"Oh, there was a small accident in Transporter Room 2."

Sekal looked at the Operations officer who had walked up and blurted out the report breathlessly and quirked an eyebrow as he digested the information then nodded and tapped the comm button.

"Ensign Trei there is an entry in the database about an inoculation developed on the NX01 Enterprise for protection against Omicron radiation, please set up a series of shots for everyone using the transporters and anyone we might beam aboard."

(Reply: Trei)

"Thank you. Report to myself or Lieutenant Verin when you have completed the task. Sekal out."

He then turned his attention back to Ensign Gregory.

"Now Ensign what is the manner of this 'accident' you are reporting for transporter room 2?"

(Reply: Gregory)

"And what is the estimated duration for repairs?"

(Reply: Gregory)

He cocked his head. "Then I suggest you assign a repair detail immediately Ensign."

(USS Illuminar – Deck 1 – Bridge - Operations Ensign Dieter Gregory 1010)

After the commander called down to Medical about the inoculation, the Vulcan turned his stare to Gregory

"Now Ensign," he said in that cool calm manner Vulcans have, "What is the manner of this 'accident' you are reporting for transporter room 2?"

"Um, Sir. A probe blew up upon materialization. The safety features, you will be happy to know, worked perfectly and none of the crew were injured."

"And what is the estimated duration for repairs?"

"Sir, I have not had a chance to do a full assessment yet, as I came straight here with the news how to use the transporters for our people. I would estimate it will take less than 7 days to complete," Gregory reported. "It would go quicker at space dock," he added as an afterthought.

Wilting under the Commanders stare, Gregory watched as the man cocked his head, "Then I suggest you assign a repair detail immediately Ensign."

"Aye, aye Sir. Right away." he said. "Permission to be dismissed?"

(USS Illuminar – Deck 1 – Bridge - CO- Lieutenant Commander Sekal- 1011)

"Aye, aye Sir. Permission to be dismissed?"

"In a moment." Sekal's gaze never wavered.

"In the future I expect experiments with a piece of equipment aboard this vessel be done with any unnecessary power cells or electronic devices removed or disabled so that there is not a repeat of this incident."

(Reply: Gregory)

The Vulcan nodded. "You are dismissed Ensign."

(Reply: Gregory)

As he walked off Sekal tapped a button which caused the viewer to rise from the chair arm and began going over the preliminary report on the 'accident' in transporter room 2 which as of yet had only the listing of the power surge and surface diagnostics.

He shook his head slightly at the gaffe knowing that as the crew matured and became more accustomed to their roles such incidents would be rare but the 'human factor' would always be present.

Mistakes by any species be they vulcan or non vulcan were unavoidable though they could be mitigated to a great extent which was the reason for regulations and safety directives. Such things existed because at some point they had been learned as a result of the loss of life in many cases, in others disaster had been narrowly averted.

He blanked the viewer after perusing and memorizing it.

(USS Illuminar – Deck 1 – Bridge - Operations Ensign Dieter Gregory- 1012)

Gregory stood there, waiting to be dismissed when the Captain said.

"In a moment."

Gregory melted a bit under the unwavering gaze of his commanding officer

"In the future I expect experiments with a piece of equipment aboard this vessel be done with any unnecessary power cells or electronic devices removed or disabled so that there is not a repeat of this incident."

Gregory suppressed his desire to defend his actions, "Yes Sir, I understand Sir."

The Commander nodded, accepting, he hoped, his response. "You are dismissed Ensign."

"Aye, Aye, Sir." he replied. Executing an about face, he left the bridge as fast as was polite.

(USS Illuminar – Deck 3 - Officers Quarters- Operations Ensign Dieter Gregory- 1020)

Gregory entered his quarters and grabbed a worker jumper. The every popular jumper that was designed to help protect someone doing demolition and repairs like was going to be his life when he wasn't on station on the bridge, assuming the Captain would ever let him on the bridge again.

Transferring his badge to the jumper, he grabbed a PADD and headed out back to the scene of the crime, as it were.

(USS Illuminar – Deck 4 - Transporter Room 2- Operations Ensign Dieter Gregory- 1030)

Gregory arrived back at the scene of the crime. ~Not so bad~ he thought to himself, he'd seen worse.

Already the engineering crew was starting to clean up and assess the damage.

Logging into the operations systems, he took Transporter room 2 off listing it down for repairs. Next, he checked the industrial replicators and reclamation systems were ready for the repair. Hopefully they had enough material in stock to ensure a speedy repair to the system. Turning to Chief S'Kakz, "Chief, I am assigning you to lead this repair. Send all requests through me when I am not here helping out."

"Yes, Sir," the Saurian replied, "I have dismissed Cadet Valar as she was faultless in this and her education is better spent elsewhere."

Gregory typed a few quick notes on the PADD, including a request that the Cadet file a report as to the nature of the accident.

"Time to get to work," he said, moving to where his devices were still plugged into the transporter controls.

(Bajor -- Temple -- Medical Technician Palmer-- 1035)

The samples had been quickly gained and studied, indeed most of what they needed had

already been available, it was just a matter of going back through recent scans and rechecking them. The last few they needed had been gathered during the interim.

Palmer straightened back up from the monitor with a grim look on his face, his gut feeling had been correct. What better way to get rid of a religious leader than to slip her a poison cocktail in the midst of a supposed epidemic?

He turned quickly from the equipment and nearly ran from the place to the Kai's room where the CMO had stationed herself..

She was looking down upon the unconscious woman with concern as one of her aides was adjusting the IV meds.

"Doctor Solice."

(Reply: Quinna)

He shook his head. "The tests are conclusive. No one else shows any trace of it. The Kai was the only one poisoned."

(Reply: Quinna)

He nodded. "The Bajorans have dealt with this before and most likely know of the best way to flush the remaining traces from her system though that surely won't get her back on her feet."

(Bajor -- Temple --CMO Quinna Solice -- 1045)

"Alright let's rerun the test on another sample. We need to check if this is present in the others that share the same fate as the Kai."

"Excellent idea, I've already got someone collecting the samples. We should know in less than an hour. Since we know what we're looking for it won't take very long."

"Sounds good. I am going to check the Kai's vitals. I will work on samples with you when I get back."

Quinna went to the Kai's room. She grabbed the PADD and reviewed her status from a couple of hours ago. The Quiet was soon interrupted.

"Doctor Solice."

"That was fast, What do you have?" Quinna had turned to Palmer.

He shook his head. "The tests are conclusive. No one else shows any trace of it. The Kai was the only one poisoned."

"I was afraid you were going to say that." Quinna signed. It meant that there was still no idea what was happening to the Bajorians in the Hospital.

He nodded. "The Bajorans have dealt with this before and most likely know of the best way to flush the remaining traces from her system though that surely won't get her back on her feet."

"Yes. It could be both but we are jumping to conclusions. OK, this is what we know. The Kai is being poisoned with a Cardassian Bio Weapon. It will disipate from her system, however the Kai is weak and may not recover from it." Quinna paused, "Right so far."

(Palmer Reply)

"Cardassians were know for beng meticulous in record keeping. (Said in DS9 Season 1 Episode 18.) Surely they had not thrown those records out." Quinna said.

(Palmer Reply)

"The Captain needs to know." Quinna said.

(Bajor -- Temple --Medical Technician Palmer-- 1048)

"Yes. It could be both but we are jumping to conclusions. OK, this is what we know. The Kai is being poisoned with a Cardassian Bio Weapon. It will disipate from her system, however the Kai is weak and may not recover from i... Right so far?"

He nodded, words weren't necessary.

"Cardassians were know for beng meticulous in record keeping. Surely they had not thrown those records out."

"Yes it's a good bet the records are around somewhere, probably in the hands of the Bajoran government." He agreed. "As well as on DS9, that's where my father came across it. I would suggest that it is a matter for the security department to look into."

"The Captain needs to know." She intoned.

Palmer nodded his head. "Absolutely agreed. I'll send up all of the results from the testing so far."

He knew that of all of them the chief medical officer would be the right one to break the news to the CO. What the Vulcan would do after that wasn't his business, he was just a technician.

(Reply: Solice)

"If you'd like I will contact the Bajoran medical office and find out what they suggest for treatment for the toxin. If she's not too weak to take it." He added softly.

(Reply: Solice)

He shook his head. " In her condition it might finish her off but until we hear from them there's no way to know."

(Reply: Solice)

"I'll get right on it doctor. Any other instructions for me?"

(Bajor -- Temple --CMO Quinna Solice -- 1101)

Palmer nodded his head. "Absolutely agreed. I'll send up all of the results from the testing so far."

"Sounds good." Quinna replied.

"If you'd like I will contact the Bajoran medical office and find out what they suggest for treatment for the toxin. If she's not too weak to take it." He added softly.

Agreeing with Palmer, Quinna added. "She is very weak."

He shook his head. " In her condition it might finish her off but until we hear from them there's no way to know."

"She is a fighter. Go ahead and talk to the medical office. My only caution is that we are not sure who poisoned her. Tread carefully."

"I'll get right on it, doctor. Any other instructions for me?"

"Oh yeah. The science department thinks they can use the transport. Can we get some Bio samples of the Kai together so they can test their theories?" Quinna added.

(Reply Palmer)

"Alright, I am on my way back to the ship. Do you need anything from me?"

(Reply Palmer)

When the test results were Quinna started out of the Temple

(Bajor – Tunnels – Security Ens. Penny Mc Taggard - 12:26)

This was not good. The amount of blood that seemed to be splattered around. Was a little to much for Mc Taggards taste. She felt the end of this SAR mission would not end well. How much blood could an Andorran loose? Was it the same as a human? There had to be a point were the organs shut down. Through loss of blood to keep them running.

However something nudged at Penny's mind. As she examined the blood spatter.

"Something is wrong here?" She said

(Reply , SAR)

" I dinna know it's just something feels wrong here. We follow the blood trail. It leads us to this room which is booby trapped. Now we find another trail that leads goodness knows where. For all we know more booby traps or sassenach's waiting to cut our throats." Penny said peering into the darkness.

(Bajor – Tunnels – Security PO3 Hercules Devers – 12:27)

" I dinna know it's just something feels wrong here. We follow the blood trail. It leads us to this room which is booby trapped. Now we find another trail that leads goodness knows where. For all we know more booby traps or sassenach's waiting to cut our throats." Mc Taggard said.

"Ma'am, since the first explosion was not enough to bring the cavern down, it feels like it was more of an alarm system. Right now, our trail shows Andorian blood down this passageway. It's our best clue to find the Ensign Taya this way. Now that we have found three traps, we will be on the lookout for more," Devers replied.

"They looked hastily set too," replied Lannis, "Suggesting that they were more of an afterthought. At least I hope so."

"With your permission Ma'am, I'll take point again," Devers said, looking at Hammerfield.

(Reply Hammerfield)

"Looking at this map, it shows the tunnel with Andorian blood leads to an exit somewhere inside the Temple," Devers said. "This can't be good."

(USS Illuminar – Deck 4 Officers Mess – 13:00)

Gregory looked at his report one more time. He'd captured all the data, showing how the field modulations were able to penetrate the strange field so that they could transport crew and material through the field. Unfortunately, the transport process was also inducing bursts of Omicron radiation.

Murdok has reported that the data was inconclusive and he needed more to make a firm hypothesis. Having worked with the Benzite during his stay on Deep Space Nine, he was used to this response. He made a note to track all transports and send the data back to Murdok so he could have more data for a hypothesis.

Putting some ham on a piece of country bread, he added some of the onion chutney before taking a bite. As he chewed, he looked out the windows to the planet. It still felt odd being on a ship that was landed on a planet.

Thinking back to the conversation on the bridge this morning, the Science Officer, Lieutenant Alyl had mentioned that there was some strange energy fields around the orbs. Could the two be connected? Pausing, he added the Lieutenant to his distribution list on the report, perhaps the data he collected during the transports would help him.

Sending the report, he was sure he'd be hearing more from the senior staff, especially since he did cause a bit of damage to the transporter pad. Fortunately, these were relatively modular design these days and the system should be back to normal within 48 to 72 hours.

He turned his attention to the report from the transporter chief, S'Kakz. He'd not work with a Saurians but the report was crisp and to the point. He highlighted the same issues that Gregory had noted. However, digging onto S'Kakz's report, he realized the Chief had made some additional observation that he had missed.

Gregory forwarded S'Kakz's report onto Murdok as well.

Checking the time, Gregory rushed to finish his lunch, gulping down his now luke-warm tea before heading back to the transporter room.

(Bajor – Tunnels – Security PO3 Hercules Devers – 13:05)

It had been slow going, following the tunnel, making sure there were no traps and checking the map. In front of Devers was a doorway, the map indicated it led into the Temple. The tricorders were working again, being near the surface.

A quick scan indicated Andorian life signs on the other side of the doorway. A careful scan of the door indicated no explosives or other traps.

“Ma’am, permission to breach?”

(Bajor – Tunnels – Security PO3 Hercules Devers – 13:07)

Getting the ok, Devers quickly checked his phaser one more time. “On my mark. Three ... Two ... One.”

Devers opened the door and moved into the space, taking the right wall. Lannis followed taking the left side as the two officers followed.

The doorway opened into a darkened corner of the walkway surrounding a marbled garden. Devers thought it looked much like the Roman style he studied in school. There was even a fountain in the center, A statue of a man with his arms wide, in a welcoming position. But that was not all.

He was horrified at what he saw. Ensign Taya was bound to this statue. She was nude, with some sort of carvings on her chest bleeding out. Her antennae were missing.

Some Bajorans had begun to gather in the area, looking at the figure. Devers looked around, and noticed a robed figure walking up the stairs, away from the scene.

“Lannis, get the Ensign,” he said as he took off after the robed figure leaving the scene.

(Bajor, Temple - Security PO3 Hercules Devers & Janus - 1310)

He couldn’t help himself, he’d stopped and turned, looked back one more time at the unconscious body of the Andorian. A moment passed and then there was a scream from the otherside of the courtyard as a few of the- he presumed- Kai’s personal team happened across the scene. Gathering around the fountain, none of them had seen him yet. Calculating in his head quickly, he decided there were too many of them to lure away. The cameras would have seen the body now and no doubt the footage would still be on a loop for the rest of the day on every news broadcast.

His message had been sent. Would the planet listen?

The door across on the opposite side of the square burst open and to his dismay the Starfleet officers had also gotten to the scene earlier than he'd anticipated. There was no time, he needed to move and quickly. As he turned back towards the enclosed staircase he noticed that one of the Security Officers had spotted him. ~Prophets help," he thought before diving through the door, slamming it shut and ramming the locking mechanism into the wall.

Setting off at pace, only time would tell whether his withering lungs would hold enough air within them to get to his final resting place before being caught.

Devers pushed a few people out of his way as he started pursuing the robed figure. ~Why would someone be leaving such a scene?~ he thought to himself.

Hurdling a bench, Devers looked up and the figure was gone. Disappeared. Taking the stairs two at a time, he reached the top of the staircase and looked around for a door. Pulling out his tricorder he started scanning for lifesigns. ~There~

Moving over to the hidden doorway, he started looking for a handle or something to grip. After a few moments searching he found it, as he tried to open the door, he discovered it was locked

Deciding it would take too long to try to cut through the door, Devers opted for brute force. Standing in front of the door, he centered his thoughts and with a quick motion he launched a front snap kick. He was rewarded by the sounds of breaking wood. A second kick and the door opened to reveal a passageway. Checking the tricorder again, he locked onto the moving figure and started down the passageway.

After launching himself up two more sets of stairs and the zig-zagging through several corridors, Janus took a moment to regain his breath. Dropping the hooded robe facade and throwing it into one of the side rooms so it was out of the way he then jumped back into action. Without the heavy fabric around him, he found it easier to move a little faster.

It was a calculated risk, there should be no-one this high up into the Temple. Everyone had been evacuated barring those trying to take care of the Kai or to figure out what was happening within the Temple itself. Darting through several corridors, he was beginning to slow down again, now sure that he would reach his target before being caught, when out of the blue an older man exited a room to the right and stood directly in his way.

He looked as shocked to see a topless man baring down on him as Janus was to see him here on this level. Not stopping to make a judgement on what to do, he barrelled past the man whilst reaching out and stabbing the ceremonial knife towards the neck as he did. He didn't stop or turn to see if he'd managed to make enough contact to neutralise this unsuspecting victim.

Devers headed down the passageway, coming across a set of stairs. The Tricorder indicated his target was in this direction, so he took the stairs two at a time to the

landing. Pausing, he checked the instrument again before continuing up the stairs. It was hard to determine if he was gaining on the figure or not.

It was a maze up here as Devers headed down a corridor, and then another. Ahead of him he heard a scream.

Devers kept checking the tricorder and following his quarry. Turning down another corridor, he saw a half-naked man running away. However, Devers spotted an older man, thrashing around on the floor, his hands at his neck.

Running up the man, he dropped to his knee and took off his SAR kit. "I'm Devers," he said to the man, "Let me help you."

Pulling out the medical kit from the pack, Devers pulled out a hypospray loaded with painkiller and slammed it into the man's thigh. Next he pulled out another canister. Gently moving the man's hands away from his neck, he started spraying the liquid which immediately began to seal the knife wound. After a minute the bleeding stopped. "I'm Security officer, not a doctor. This is the best I can do, but I'll get you help."

Devers took out a tracker from the SAR kit and placed it on the man's robes.

=^= Devers to Hammerfield, I have a Bajoran with a neck knife wound. Squawking Delta 59 on the tracker. I've treated him the best I can. Continuing my pursuit. ^=

Not waiting on a response, Devers pulled out the tricorder and started off again, he'd lost precious minutes, but he had to render aid. He hoped the others got to Taya in time.

Down another corridor he ran, following his signal.

Rounding the last corner Janus came to the door. It was locked, as he'd been told it would. Pulling out the keycard which would allow him entry, as he slid it into position he took a deep breath, turned his head to check behind him. No one. Maybe he'd lost his pursuer. He stood straight and then stepped into the Kai's personal office.

It was a large ornate room, gold and silver filigree adorned the walls and the pillars throughout it, a large desk sat in the middle with several areas around the room which had been portioned off with seating areas. As if in a trance his feet began moving him forward into the office. The door slid shut behind him, one of the most modern doors within the Temple, it was silent.

The smell of disinfectant got stronger the further into the room he got, clearly the overriding thought of the medical professionals had at some point that the issue within the Temple was an infectious disease of some sort. A smile broke out on his face as he turned towards the glass wall. He moved around the desk, letting his hand rest on it as he passed. Anything to deepen his connection with the Prophets. The connection which had been explained to him by his holy brother, the one that had taken him under his wing after his doctors discovered that he had F'relorn Disease.

An incurable disease handed down by the Prophets to those who had sinned, he coughed and as he did a spray of blood appeared on the glass in front of him. The end was near, he would soon learn whether the Prophets would show him mercy or not. Had he done enough to prove himself in their eyes?

The glass doors opened up to the Kai's balcony. Where she could look out on the city and speak with those gathered outside the Temple in the square where the protests had been taking place. He took another breath and stepped out onto the balcony, chest bare, head shaved and the same symbol that had been on the Andorians chest written on his. Climbing up to the edge of the Balcony, he stood with his arms out wide as if welcoming those who were in the Square into his house and he waited. Waited for a sign.

Devers rounded yet another corner and had to pull up as it ended abruptly in a door. His target was on the other side. Looking to the left, he noticed a keypad. This was going to be a metal door, no brute forcing it this time.

Kneeling next to the keypad, Devers took out an unassuming black box and placed it next to the keypad. Next he took out some wires and connected the black box to his tricorder. "Come on baby," he said, activating a program on the device.

The tricorder screen started flashing, seeking an override code for the door. As the time ticked by, Devers got impatient. Standing by the door, his phaser in hand, he was ready. At least now he could arrest the fleeing fellow for the assault of the Bajoran he patched up.

The tricorder beeped, indicating the door was ready to open. Devers pulled the device off the wall, shoving it in a pocket before pressing the keypad.

The door opened silently, and he found himself in a large ornate room with a large desk sat in the middle. As the door silently shut behind him, he was hit by the acrid smell of disinfectant, as if medical staff dumped buckets of the stuff in the room. Behind the desk was a glass wall that was open onto the balcony. Devers noticed flecks of something red on one the glass . Standing on the railing of the balcony was the man he had been chasing. He had ditched the cloak and it was clear he was bald. His arms were outstretched.

Crouching down he started to move forward. If he used his phaser, odds were the man would fall forward, and that would not be good, so he holstered his phaser and took out his ASP. With the metal baton extended, he gained another 40 cm of reach. And if he could get it around the fellow, Devers was sure he could hold him and get him off the railing.

~That's right, keep looking the other way~ Devers thought as he approached the open doors.

He stepped out onto the Balcony, ready to move to remove the fellow from the railing.

Citizens, guards, Starfleet personnel had all noticed him standing high up on the Kai's balcony. There was pointing and shouting going on below him and it seemed that several Starfleet personnel had broken away from the gathering crowd and back into the Temple. Now he was here, breathing in the fresh air doubt had begun to creep into his mind. Had he done the right thing?

Watching the crowd grow larger and larger, no doubt because of the mostly dead Andorian woman appearing on their news feed. He clicked the button on the remote he'd picked up from the Kai's desk and then dropped it from the balcony. Two large screens to the left and right of the oversized balcony lit up, another second later and the screen was a glow with the back of his head. Taking one last look at the crowd below and privately calculating the huge distance to the ground, he spun on his heels to face the camera which was positioned just above the glass doors so that the Kai and other officials could stand on the balcony and be seen and heard by all when making an announcement.

"Oh... hello." Janus said as his eyes met with the Starfleet pursuer from earlier. He'd under-estimated the Security Officers willingness to apprehend him. "OH... HELLO." Rang out around the square through the speakers. The crowd had to be... confused? This can't have been what they were expecting and they wouldn't be able to see the Starfleet man on the screen, which now had Janus' face in full view.

Devers was surprised when the man turned around. ~So much for the element of surprise~ he thought as he looked him over. He had some sort of design carved in his chest.

"Hello, Sir," Devers said, followed by his voice ringing out through the speakers. He took a step forward. "I was wondering if you could step down from the railing? I'm sure whoever's office this is would prefer you not to stand up there."

A strange sensation, hearing the man speak and then hearing it again a second later through the speakers. A stranger sensation when you weren't expecting to hear another man's voice ever again. Unsure on what to say now that he had an audience of one, as well as an audience of thousands. "You should not be here, Starfleet." His voice surprised even him, choked with emotion and deeper than usual.

Devers took another step forward. "Everyone can hear us with that speaker on, so if you step down, we can talk. Like why did you stab that elderly vedek in the hallway?"

"He also shouldn't have been here. Once again the Vedek's of the council- trying to take more control in proceedings than they should have." His eyes went from the man from Starfleet Security to the cameras, "Without the Kai here to lead us, the Prophets have reached out to those of us who were willing to listen."

Looking back to the Security officer, "You are not a part of this Starfleet. Do not overSTEP your bounds."

Devers paused in midstep, “Of course, I’ll stand right here. Why don’t you tell me what you want?”

Janus nodded to the man, “You will do.” He was racked by another cough and it took everything to not plummet to his death right then. More blood splattered across the floor, some of it arcing towards the Security officer.

“Kai Hetel Krevi is dead. Or is nearing that fate.” He allowed his message to play out around the square as a tear began to make its way down his face, the crowd would be able to see this. He could hear the sound of shock and anger from them. “You have heard over the past day of her last visions delivered to her from the Prophets through the Orbs. That we need to cleanse our faith of the old way of thinking, PURGE what isn’t working and move forward with a more modern outlook.” Again he paused and waited for the message he knew he must deliver echoed out.

Devers shook his head, “Sir, what is your name?”

He debated saying his actual name, he knew his warnings would fall flat if they knew his name though. Janus’ information had been purged from all official databases, they’d never find it, unless he told them. “I am but a messenger.” He simply said as he looked briefly back to the officer.

“Ok. It’s clear you are not well and I’m not sure where you’re getting your information. Let me take you to my ship, where our doctors can treat you like they are treating the Kai. Before I left the ship, I heard that the Kai was doing better on the road to recovery.”

Starfleet was trying to confuse him. He was sure the Kai wouldn’t have been removed from the Temple and if she had then it was even more confusing as to why there was anyone within the Temple. “I’m sorry for you, I am.” He said to the man empathetically, “I have not led the most pure life. That is why the prophets through their true connection here on Bajor have chosen me to share their message and give them the sacrifices that are required. All but one has been made now.”

Devers reached out, “Sir, take my hand, we can heal you and then you and the Kai can talk about these visions more.”

“If I take your hand, you will lose what you hold most precious. Is that something you could handle? Saying goodbye to your life for a cause that is not your own?” He looked back at the camera, “This is the choice I was given many months ago. To perish as the scourge, to be laughed at and forgotten. Or to take up the Prophet’s message and warning and deliver it to you and so deliver myself from eternal doom.”

“Sir, you never told me your name. If you’re doing this for the Prophet’s, isn’t it fair that the people know your name so they can revere your sacrifice? Don’t you want the Kai to know when she is better, so she can say a prayer for you?”

Devers kept inching closer.

“The Kai knew as she closed her eyes that last time, it would be the last time. I am as sure of that as of what I have been told to do. There needs to be a new beginning, a transition from the old way into the new. The roots of the tree need to be culled.” He pulled out the large ceremonial knife from his pants. Hands shaking he raised it above his head and began shouting,

“Hear us. I am appointed, JANUS and this is the change we require of you. Look upon the face of evil and know that it has been stricken from this man and from this Temple. Have faith and you shall be repaid.”

Looking from the camera and back to the Security officer who had inched closer. He looked the man in the eye, smiled gently and simply tossed him the knife before stepping off the edge to meet with his captivated audience.

Devers started moving as Janus tossed the knife at him. Lunging forward he caught nothing but air as the man fell towards the ground, smiling contently as his mission was complete.

=^= Man down. Man down. By the Kai's balcony. ^=

Devers pulled off his SAR pack and took out the abseiling gear. Quickly securing the rope to the posts of the balcony, he slipped in the harness. Below people were gathering around the body.

Tossing the rope over the side, shouldering his pack, he climbed up on the rail and headed down. Three bounds later, he was on the ground, “Move aside, move aside,” he called as he moved toward Janus.

“You dumb bastard,” he said after checking his vitals.

“Please step away, this is a crime scene.” he said trying to control the crowd as Starfleet security came running towards him.

“Devers, what the hell are you doing?” called one of the men.

(Temple Hotel, Secure Room - Dean Vedek, Horavei Taelsi - 1331)

The image of the Starfleet Officer having been strung up, stripped and the Bajoran symbol for 'New Beginnings' carved viciously into her chest had made Horavei feel ill.

It affected him far more than he'd expected it too.

He and his security had followed the afternoons activities with interest via the news channels. His secretary had already rejected numerous requests for interviews. There would be time for that. But right now, the entire planet needed to be watching this particular performance.

And it was fascinating. He could see it in the faces of the crowd, the presenters and even in the security around him. Why would a man, who wasn't possessed by the spirit of the Prophets, gift his own life to them in such a way?

Captain Sekal and his Security teams had once again proved to be a thorn but it seemed that Janus had given them no opportunity to halt him.

Once it was over he turned the screen off, "Bless you Child." he said under his breath, before turning and saying, "So, where first?"

(Bajor – Tunnels – Security Penny Mc Taggard – 13:32)

Penny could not decide what to do. She should follow Devers or stay and help. McTaggard took a look at the gathering Bajorans. Anger flashed through her and she lashed out at them. Giving one a Glasgow kiss (head but). Then she walked over to Ensign Taya.

With help from others members of the team. They slowly freed her and slowly placed her on the ground. Penny checked her readings.

" Still a pulse but it's erratic. She has lost a lot of blood. If we could only find her antenna" Penny said

(Reply , SAR)

" I know but it's a religious thing with her people. If we can close these cuts. We may be able to stop her bleeding." Penny replied

Penny glanced over to where Devers had charged off. He should not of done that. First priority was to try and save Taya. Not run after some mad Bajoran , who will probably do away with themselves anyway.

Taya seemed only just conscious. Penny thought she said something. But it was to faint for Mc Taggard to hear. They continued to try and save the young Ensigns life.

(USS Illuminar- Deck 4 Transporter room 2 – Operations – Ensign Dieter Gregory - 1345)

Walking into the transporter room, he was pleased to see most of the damaged pieces, including both probes had been removed. The engineers were stripping that last of the primary energizing coils, which would allow for a more complete assessment of the rest of the damage to the system. Depending on that assessment would depend on how long to get the rest of the system repaired.

Checking the repair status, he saw that the manufacturing replicators were making the back paneling of the chamber, which took the brunt of the damage.

He watched, not wanting to interfere with the team doing the work, knowing that there was about 6 hours of circuitry testing left. Something that Chief S'Kakz would be intimately involved in.

Signing off on the current repair orders and status update, he set a reminder to check on the repairs every hour. With that, he left to resume his station on the bridge.

Bajor -- Ashalla- Plaza of the Prophets-- aCSEC, Ensign (sg) Svend Saarsgard-- 1400)

The snarl on his face only highlighted the garish scar that ran from hairline to beard down the left side of his face which was an angry red. The acting chief of security was looking at a pool of blue blood which hadn't yet been cleaned from the flagstones of the circular plaza. He looked up at the worked, stone statue with outstretched arms and spat.

"You didn't do a ****ing thing for one of my charges did you? A fat lot of good you are!"

He spun on his heel and snarled at one of the security contingent who had been ordered to accompany him.

"Don't stand there gawking! Can't you see the blood of one of our shipmates is on the ground? I want it gathered now! We aren't leaving a trace of her on this ****ing planet! Have it cleaned up... NOW!!!"

The officer gulped and called in for a bio cleaning kit as Svend stalked off. The rig Ensign Taya had been suspended on had been removed but her final fate was as yet undecided. From what he had heard it would be a miraculous recovery. IF her life could be saved. The officers involved in the SAR had better be filing their reports.

"If they aren't done yet they're going to have to explain WHY." He slapped his combadge.

"Transporter room one, one to beam aboard." He was cursing as the beam took him.

(USS Illuminar- Deck 1 – Operations Station – Operations – Ensign Dieter Gregory - 1401)

Gregory checked his uniform one more time as the turbolift doors opened. He walked quietly to the Operations station, relieving the Ensign there. Logging into the console, he took a quick look at the data on the ship, noting all was in the green, except for the transporter room. He was probably never going to live that down.

"1400 hours, operations report all systems nominal," he said by way of report.

(USS Illuminar -- Deck 14, CSEC office- aCSEC, Ensign (sg) Svend Saarsgard-- 1415)

He had stopped to deliver a preliminary report to the CO. Even though the Vulcan was emotionless as always Svend had felt like a squirming adolescent under his gaze.

If Vulcans could be unhappy then Sekal surely was though Saarsgard knew it was only in his imagination. One of THEIR charges, one they were supposed to be safeguarding had been

ambushed, tortured and humiliated and would quite possibly die. His department had a black eye, a stain that couldn't be removed.

His fist slammed down on the desk before he hit the comm button. "All security officers involved in the search and rescue report to my office NOW!"

(USS Illuminar -- Deck 14, CSEC office- Sec PO3 Hercules Devers-- 1416)

After returning to the ship, Devers checked his gear back into the armory before heading to the crew quarters for a shower and new uniform.

As he stepped into his uniform, his comm badge chirped, "All security officers involved in the search and rescue report to my office NOW!"

~Sounds like someone is upset. Officers always like to second guess a mission, especially one that goes sideways~

(USS Illuminar -- Deck 14, CSEC office- Sec PO3 Hercules Devers-- 1420)

Five minutes later, he ran into Lannis outside of the Chiefs office. Entering together, they both came to attention.

"Petty Officer Hercules Devers, reporting as ordered." he said

(USS Illuminar -- Deck 14, CSEC office- aCSEC, Ensign (sg) Svend Saarsgard and Petty Officer (1st Class) Steven Hammons)-- 1425)

Svend nodded silently as Devers and Lannis reported in then waited for the others to arrive. He was about to speak when the door opened unexpectedly and another Petty Officer strutted in necessitating Saarsgard turn his attention from the SAR team.

"Hammons what the hell are you doing here? You're off duty!"

Petty Officer Steven Hammons grinned as he stepped inside. "I'm here for the debrief Chief."

Saarsgard gritted his teeth as the cocksure security officer made no move to retreat. "You were not on the Search and Rescue Hammons. This debrief is department business and you are NOT included."

Hammons' grin implausibly got wider. "On target Chief, this is important department business which makes it my business sir. I can learn more about what happened during the debrief than from a report. I'll stand in the corner and utter not a peep." Which he then did.

Saarsgard could feel his face go red. Hammons you've got more guts than brains!"

"You aren't the first person to tell me that." Steven settled into the corner with no intention of leaving. He had gotten back to the ship after the search and rescue team had been sent out. The security contingent had been severely culled after the danger had passed with six left on duty, four inside the temple and two inside the gate while Bajoran security manned the plaza checkpoints and patrolled the plaza itself.

Steven had napped until Alaya had been called to duty and had no intention of remaining in the cabin while his shipmates were involved in an explosive situation. Saarsgard be damned he was going to keep his finger on the pulse of the situation.

Svend clenched his fists as he wondered idly why he hadn't already shot the mouthy PO then decided it would be better to ignore his presence instead so he turned to the gathered members of the search and rescue team and snapped.

"Let's take it from the top. I want to know what happened down there starting the moment you entered the tunnels."

(USS Illuminar -- Deck 14, CSEC office- PO3 Hercules Devers -- 1426)

Devers turned to the two Ensigns, "Miss Hammerfield, shall I run down the mission activities on the Search and Rescue of Ensign Taya?"

(Reply Hammerfield)

"Thank you Ma'am," he replied.

Turning back to Saarsgard, Devers stood board straight as he recited the salient points of the mission.

"Sir, we entered the tunnels at 10:35, at the point closest to where Ensign Taya's comm badge had been found. As you know the tunnels are damp with a tight squeeze. Additionally, something about the tunnels wreaked havoc on both communication and tricorders, other than at very close quarters."

"We were able to follow a trail of blood that was identified as Andorian through the tunnels. At around 1155 we discovered an opening in the tunnels the entrance of which was trapped, something as scout, I missed. Fortunately, it was non-lethal, and Lannis was able to get me back on my feet quickly."

"In the meanwhile, Miss Hammerfield, Miss Mc Taggard and Lannis identified and removed three more explosive devices. In this cavern, we found a table which had more Andorian blood, along with a map of the tunnel system. There was also a scroll."

"Checking the room further, we found a path with more Andorian blood, so followed that trail. This lead us to a door, which when we opened, we found ourselves in the edge of the Temple gardens. At that point, we noticed Ensign Taya was attached to a statute. There were many Bajoran's coming toward the statute and fountain, when I saw a hooded figure moving away from the scene."

"Knowing that there were three others, and remembering your orders, I began pursuit of this person, with the full knowledge that Ensigns Hammerfield, McTaggard and Petty Officer Lannis, had the skill and expertise to secure Ensign Taya."

"My pursuit led me through the temple, where the person I was pursuing, whom we later learned was named Janus, cut the neck of an elderly Vedik. I paused my pursuit to render aid, administering painkillers and sealing the wound. I placed a transponder on him, let Ensign Hammerfield know and continued my pursuit."

"I entered an office where Janus was starting to make a statement. I tried to talk him down and secure him, but just before he jumped, he threw a knife at me, so my lunge was just short. He fell to his death. I abseiled from the balcony, and secured the scene as best I could, turning over jurisdiction to the Star Fleet contingent that arrived on scene."

Devers continued to stand at attention, waiting for Saarsgard's questions and the rest of the team to add to the narrative as needed.

(USS Illuminar -- Deck 14, CSEC office- aSec -- Ensign (sg) Svend Saarsgard and PO (1st Class) Steven Hammons- 1428)

"Sir, we entered the tunnels at 10:35, at the point closest to where Ensign Taya's comm badge had been found. As you know the tunnels are damp with a tight squeeze. Additionally, something about the tunnels wreaked havoc on both communication and tricorders, other than at very close quarters."

Svend nodded, that much was well known

"We were able to follow a trail of blood that was identified as Andorian through the tunnels. At around 1155 we discovered an opening in the tunnels the entrance of which was trapped, something as scout, I missed. Fortunately, it was non-lethal, and Lannis was able to get me back on my feet quickly."

~How much blood could she possibly have left after that ordeal?~ Svend was frankly surprised the Andorian was still clinging to life. Should she somehow make it there were bound to be long-term ramifications.

"In the meanwhile, Miss Hammerfield, Miss Mc Taggard and Lannis identified and removed three more explosive devices. In this cavern, we found a table which had more Andorian blood, along with a map of the tunnel system. There was also a scroll."

Svend suppressed a sigh at that while keeping a stern look. ~It's frankly a godsend I didn't lose more personnel from this fiasco.~ It also explained their late arrival to the plaza since the traps would have slowed them to a crawl.

"Checking the room further, we found a path with more Andorian blood, so followed that trail. This led us to a door, which when we opened, we found ourselves in the edge of the Temple gardens. At that point, we noticed Ensign Taya was attached to a statute. There were many Bajorans coming toward the statute and fountain, when I saw a hooded figure moving away from the scene."

Svend gave a slight nod. ~Good observation skills.~

"Knowing that there were three others, and remembering your orders, I began pursuit of this person, with the full knowledge that Ensigns Hammerfield, McTaggard and Petty Officer Lannis, had the skill and expertise to secure Ensign Taya."

Saarsgard bristled at that but kept silent at the gaffe for now not wanting to interrupt the report.

"My pursuit led me through the temple, where the person I was pursuing, whom we later learned was named Janus, cut the neck of an elderly Vedik. I paused my pursuit to render aid, administering painkillers and sealing the wound. I placed a transponder on him, let Ensign Hammerfield know and continued my pursuit."

Saarsgard remained silent as the dominoes set in motion at the plaza began causing others to fall. His eyes were slits and he could feel a vein in his temple start to throb which was the precursor to a headache. Heretofore Hammons had been the lone catalyst for such tension reactions but now he could add this PO to the list as well. ~Damn it!~

"I entered an office where Janus was starting to make a statement. I tried to talk him down and secure him, but just before he jumped, he threw a knife at me, so my lunge was just short. He fell to his death. I abseiled from the balcony, and secured the scene as best I could, turning over jurisdiction to the Star Fleet contingent that arrived on scene."

In the corner Hammons winced., he had been around Saarsgard long enough to know how he thought. And if that wasn't the case his body language and facial expression were dead giveaways. An explosion was coming as sure as dark clouds forebode a storm.

Svend's voice was almost quiet in the room, far too quiet.

"Does anyone have anything else to add?"

Saarsgard's gaze traveled over the three women who had been silent during the report.

(Reply: McTaggard iyw)

"All right you're all dismissed." His gaze fixed on Hercules. "Not you Devers, stay right where you are."

(Reply: Devers)

Svend then looked over at Steven. "Do I need to say it Hammons?"

"No sir! I'm out of here."

Hammons gave a sympathetic look at Dever's stiff back when Svend turned away but didn't loiter, he slipped out behind the ladies..

Svend waited until the door closed behind them then stood to his feet and growled.

"Of all people you should have known better Devers. Why the hell did you go solo?"

(Reply: Devers)

"Bloody hell! Do I need to walk you down every catastrophic possibility that could have and DID occur because of the half-witted decision you made?" His voice wasn't quite loud enough to make the walls shake.

""First of all you could have died in the tunnel but you survived only to put yourself at risk again by not having your partner at your back."

"Secondly it caused a delay while you tended to the man in the temple and gave Janus time to set up. He could have been waiting for you with a phaser, you're lucky he only had a knife on him."

"Thirdly the delay allowed him to slip your grasp."

Saarsgards voice dropped in volume. "While his death doesn't exactly fill me with remorse he almost certainly wasn't working alone due to his elaborate preparations and whatever he could have told us is now gone."

Saarsgard planted his knuckles on the desktop and growled. "What have you got to say for yourself that isn't already obvious before I lay the hammer down on your sorry arse? You broke regulations with that act and you're going to have to answer for it!"

(USS Illuminar - Sickbay - ACOUNS ACO ENS SG Ariel Trei - 14.35)

After she had a rest on an empty bio bed in anticipation of activity to come. She needed to get rest when she can. She tended to Mr. Jisel. She still didn't have an update on the Kai's condition so she had nothing to report to him. She was informed of a fellow officer Taya and her situation was most grave. She needed to prepare to receive her in Sickbay. Her medical skills were not suited to healing her but she will do what she can to save her life. She felt a sense of grave concern for Taya. She remembered the roller derby program Taya introduced her to. She saw how Taya flew around the track in that brightly colored uniform. When Ariel put her uniform on, she felt weird for a bit and had trouble working the skates without falling on her butt. After a few tries, she was able to skate pretty well. Taya set up the program for her to take a run around the track with the various challengers trying to knock her down to the track floor. She figured the challenges out on the fly and did a pretty good job for a first timer. She would like to do that again with Taya. Maybe that could be the motivation she could use with Taya to get her to recover. She tried to send healing and soothing thoughts to her.

::Be strong for me honey. I will be with you soon.::

(USS Illuminar - Deck 1 - Bridge - FO, Lieutenant Sienna Williams-Verin - 1730)

The lovely communications officer, a gentle woman from Rissa, was sitting in her seat, when she turned towards the place that Sienna was sitting. She was on Bridge duty, which was rather dull as they were parked on the planet. Each day they spent there was a day that the alien that lived inside the ship's hull and computer, Luma'lana, grew grumpier. Lumia did not approve of being stuck on a planet when spaceships were

meant to be in space.

"Lt, there is incoming signal from DS9, there is a new officer coming aboard. His name is Ensign Keung Lee and he is a security officer. Burst orders from Starfleet are included."

(Shuttle Lucas - Security officer, Ensign Keung Lee - 1800)

Ensign Keung Lee sat in a seat surrounded by wooden packing crates and his kitbag in the cramped little space of the shuttle that was delivering him, along with supplies, to the USS Illuminar

"Sorry for the less than comfortable seating arrangements. I don't normally carry live cargo on these runs." The pilot at the helm called over his shoulder whose name Keung remembered as Harry

"Quite alright, I have been in worse situations." Keung replied . Although, after much thought, he couldn't remember ever having a more cramped shuttle ride.

"If it makes you feel any better, we are about an hour from the Illuminar The pilot said with a chuckle.

Not seeing the humour in his comment, Keung decided to take that time for some much needed reflection.

After graduating from the Academy three years ago, Keung had been assigned to various assignments including teaching 20th Century military strategies; Because of his previous experience as a special forces operative, he was occasionally assigned on Starfleet's Hazard off the book, black operations.. His last post until four weeks ago was serving as a training instructor. It was overseeing Cadets on their survivor skills in the Brecon Beacons of the Welsh mountains that he was given new orders to report to the USS Illuminar as a security officer. It would be his first posting upon a Starship.

As the shuttle craft flew through space, Keung looked out of the main view port as they draw nearer to the planet. He recalled from what he learnt that Bajor is a Class M planet with five moons and it was the homeworld to the Bajorans. He could see the oceans which looked green than blue...which was slightly confusing but then he remembered that the atmosphere has a greenish tint. Still it was beautiful. He wondered where in orbit was the USS Illuminar/

"We will be entering Bajor's atmosphere in a few minutes" the shuttle pilot called over his shoulder interrupting Keung's thoughts.

"is the Illuminar not in orbit" Keung said in surprise

"Nah! It's on the planet and that's where we heading" chuckled the pilot

Now that was a new one on Keung. A starship on a planet surface. For some reason, he always thought that starships were either in orbit around a planet or moored on a space station like Deep Space 9. Another thought occurred to him, he was in a shuttle craft that was going to make an entry through the atmosphere. That made Keung suddenly feel nervous and he tightened the seatbelt around him. He could hear Harry chuckling again.

Suddenly Keung could feel himself leaning slightly forward and if he was wearing a seatbelt, he would find himself on the deck. He braced himself by leaning back into his seat ready for the inevitable buffeting of going through Bajor's atmosphere. He breathed in and closed his eyes but the buffeting never happened. Apart from feeling slightly heavy, it was a smooth ride and Keung breathed out. Harry was an excellent pilot!

As he looked out of the view port, Harry was piloting the shuttlecraft towards the USS Illuminar which was on the surface. Keung sucked in his breath as he took in the incredible size of the ship. This ship implied speed and power. From the disk shaped primary hull to the cigar shaped warp cell's in back, there was a sense awe about her.

It would take time, but he would acclimate to his new home. With that thought in mind, He would put on his best professional face and dusted the seat of his uniform as the shuttle came alongside the starship and entered the hanger deck of the starship. It came to a standstill.

(USS Illuminar - Hanger Deck. – Security Officer, Ensign Keung Lee & 2O Lt. Carson Peters - 1810)

"Here we are, all safe and sound." The man threw one last comment over his shoulder.

"Thank you for a very... interesting... ride," Keung said as he waited for the shuttle door

to open and he picked up his kitbag. The shuttle door opened, and Keung stepped out onto the busy deck. The first thing he noticed that there were other shuttle crafts of various sizes stacked in their docks. Before Keung could take it all in, he was greeted by a security officer.

"Ensign Keung?" said the stern looking security officer. A Vulcan!

"Permission to come aboard?" said Keung, as he placed his kitbag on the deck. He then noticed another security officer, a human one, carrying a tricorder and was now scanning his kitbag.

"Granted. Your order papers please." Asked the Vulcan. Keung took from his pocket his order papers and handed it over to the Vulcan who glanced at the papers then at Keung. "Welcome aboard."

"I have to report to...er Lieutenant Sienna Williams-Venn. Can you direct me to where she is" asked Keung of his new colleagues.

He was told to go to Deck 1. He picked up his kitbag as he went in search of turbo lift.

"Hold it," Carson called out towards the newest Security recruit to the Illuminar. Either command felt that the Illuminar was under-staffed Security wise for this mission, or something more demanding was coming up next. Carson carried a duffel bag which had been delivered via the shuttle from DS9 for his eye's only. The bag was heavier than he'd expected, but he could only hope that it's contents would take Vex's mind off what had been happening on the planet.

Keung looked towards Carson walking towards him and noticed the pips of a Lieutenant. "Sir!" said Keung, stopping and put down his kitbag.

"Thanks," Carson replied as he caught up. He looked over the Ensign and decided to answer his unspoken question, "Lieutenant Carson Peters, ship's second officer. Welcome to the Illuminar. Ensign Lee I believe?"

"Yes Sir. Ensign Keung Lee. Security Officer. Reporting as ordered" saluted Keung. Might as well as be formal about it though and he was not surprise that the Lieutenant was appraising him and taking an interest in his kitbag. Keung suspect that the second officer might have been a security officer at one time. He had that look and demomour of a security officer. "It's a pleasure to be aboard the Illuminar."

Smiling, "At ease, Ensign." he said as he stepped into the Turbolift. "You coming?" he asked as he waited for the man to join him in the lift.

Keung picked up his kitbag and followed Lt Carson into the turbolift.

"Deck 1." Carson said clearly to the computer. He may as well drop the Ensign off with Sienna before dropping the duffel bag at his quarters. Could check-up on the Bridge whilst there too. "Where were you stationed before joining us here?" he said conversationally as the lights began to move, signalling that the lift was now moving.

"I was a lecturer in history and a training instructor at the Academy. I was supervising a survivor exercise for cadets in the Brecon Beacons in the Welsh Mountains." Explained Keung who was looking at the reaction of Lt Carson. "Infact that's when I received new orders to report to Illuminar." Explained Keung. Mentioning the Brecon Beacons to the Lt and seeing his reaction would confirm to Keung that this officer was a former Security Officer as he would have gone through the tough mountain terrain selection course especially for cadets who want to be selected for Security and Marines divisions. To reassure the Lt that he was not just a teacher and instructor..but someone who had been in the field as well, he said as an afterthought. "Oh yes, I've also been on one or two Hazard operations."

Carson nodded at the mention of the Brecon Beacons, it was a well-used course for those going through the academy as a Security cadet. "Good to know," he replied swiftly when the Ensign mentioned he'd already been a part of several Hazard Ops. "Ever been stationed on a ship this size before? If not, I suggest one of your first jobs once settled in is beginning to walk it and learn the deck plans. Invaluable as a Security officer to be able to respond quickly if there is anything happening." He thought back to first reporting into Mars and then spending his mornings jogging different routes to help himself memorise them.

"Not on a starship of this size" nodded Keung. "Mostly on cruisers and adapted shuttle crafts. I have already seen the deck plans on the way here. Lot of decks to cover. There something else I haven't mentioned. I used to be on the close protection team to Federation President at Federation headquarters. Now that was a place you could get lost in..all the nooks and cranies. It took me two months to find my way round!!" Keung chuckled at the thought then looked at the seriousness of the Lt's face. "Guess I don't have two months! I am open to suggestions on..er..jogging the best routes. Perhaps starting from wherever my quarters are..Sir?"

Carson looked at the Ensign curiously, he wondered whether the man had some telepathic skills he wasn't telling people about. He corrected the look on his face and then responded, "Start from the Security section and then branch out. Though I suspect Ensign Saarsgard will have some ideas on how to get you up-to-speed, so I'll leave that to him."

At that moment the lift door opened and before them stood the ships Bridge, "This is where we part for now Ensign. The First Officer will be waiting for you in the Ready Room." He nodded towards the door across from the Bridge.

"Thank you, Sir." Said Keung. He watched Lt Carson as he strided towards one of the consoles on the bridge. As he waited by the door to the Ready Room, Keung took a glance around the gleaming bridge with a number of personnel being busy at their various stations. 'I'm actually here!' as Keung exclaimed to himself. He pressed the entry panel of the door to the Ready Room.

(USS Illuminar- Deck 1 - Ready Room - FO, Lieutenant Sienna Williams-Verin & Sec Off, Ensign Keung Lee - 1830)

Sienna looked up when she heard the sound of the door chime. She had moved to sit behind Sekal's desk, taking the time to read Lee's file before he reported in. She smiled inwardly, they didn't really NEED another Security Officer, they had several very good ones, but more were always welcome. Maybe she could pair the new one, Penny with this guy and make a fine team between them. She would run it past Saarsgard later.

Sienna was a rather lovely half Betazoid, with the typical Betazoid eyes and dark brown hair that bordered on black. She was short, curvy, and very direct. She was a brilliant scientist, a strong telepath and she wore silk gloves on her hands, something that was out of keeping with her Starfleet uniform. She rose from her seat and smiled. "Ensign Lee? Welcome aboard the Illuminar. Would you like some refreshment from the replicator before we talk?"

"Yes, please. A red bush tea with no milk or sugar, sir" said Keung as he laid down his kitbag and stood where he was. Suddenly realising was that an invitation for him to go to the replicator and order the tea himself. He was not sure and decided to play it safe. After all, this was not his domain. His eyes glanced at this attractive officer as she headed over to the replicator then noticed that she wore silk gloves for strange reason. He remembered something that he read about the illuminar officers. This one was a Betazoid...these species were telepaths or mind readers. Keung was suddenly cautious about what he was thinking and realised that he was thinking she was quite attractive!!

Sy blinked at him as he stood there and placed an order as if she were a servant of some sort. "You may call me Ma'am, and I was offering for you to order it your..." The replicator shimmered and the requested beverage appeared. "Ah, thank you Luma. Please take your beverage, Ensign and have a seat." She put a firm command into her tone before sitting down again in Sekal's seat. After the Ensign had taken his seat, Sienna folded her silk gloved hands and smiled. The Ensign's emotions had leaked to her for a moment and she was flattered that he found her attractive

Luma? The Lieutenant named her replicator! Keung suppressed a smile.

"You have an interesting history, Ensign. And Luma says that you met Lt. Peters already. He is our second officer and nominally in charge of security currently while we are parked her on Bajor. I'm not sure what you know of the current issues here, if anything, so I will start at the beginning.

"We were sent here originally to prove to Bajor and this quadrant of space that they are still a valued part of the Federation. However, when we reached here, there was a problem, one we are still attempting to solve. The Kai and most of those in the Temple have been stricken ill - and the Bajor government quarantined them within. Some of the worst afflicted were brought aboard the Illuminar in Isolation and quickly are recovering while those within the Temple do not. The Vedek's Dean will not allow us to remove the Kai from the Temple and barely have we averted a civil war, if we indeed have done so. However..." Sienna took a deep breath. "However, there was a terrorist attack on our people, we lost a security officer, and our Chief Engineer, an Andorian known as Ensign Taya has been kidnapped. Search and Rescue teams are currently trying to trace her on the planet, but due to the tunnels under Ashala that were used during the Occupation, well there is a sensor blackout and our people are effectively blind. Luma says that she can keep an eye on them, but that it's difficult because we do not have a telepath with them."

Sienna's head was beginning to ache as Luma filled it with chatter and she attempted to focus on the Ensign.

"You will need to report into Ensign Saarsgard, who is the acting chief of security currently. I have sent him a report that I would like to have you paired with our new Ensign McTaggard who is an eager, recent graduate from the Academy and just assigned to the ship. I believe that your experiences will balance her enthusiasm; and that she will help anchor you in this time. To that end I have asked Operations to assign you two to a two-room suite. Ensign Penny McTaggard is currently on the Search and Rescue team on the planet, so feel free to take the rest of the day to settle in."

"Thank you, Ma'am" said Keung as he drank his tea. His initial thought that he was going to be some sort of babysitter for the enthusiastic Ensign McTaggard but if she is on a mission then she probably capable of looking after herself!

"Next, Ensign, this is something that you need to know about the Illuminar but is not covered anywhere and is perhaps the most intriguing thing about the ship. The Illuminar is the host, the body if you will, to an alien telepathic entity named Luma of the Lenai. Luma'lenai is the last of her kind, and she is eons old. Her original bondmates were refugees that fled a dying system, and one of the generation ships from that race seeded Betazed. You will notice many odd things about the ship that make it quite different than any other Starfleet vessel. If at any time you feel lost, please call out and Luma will help you. Should you run into difficulties with her, Luma's bondmate is one of our engineers, Ensign Vex'ahlia Jordaen. Luma considers every one of the people aboard this ship to be 'hers' and is very proprietary of us. Do you have any questions for me?"

Questions began to swell through his mind, but he decided not to ask them as he will find out or sooner or later to his answers. He then noticed that Sienna's body language was one of tiredness and suspected that she wanted time to herself.

"Just one, Ma'am" asked Keung. "Where are these quarters I be sharing with Ensign McTaggard?"

Sienna smiled, but the smile did not reach her eyes and she was obviously tired, with a great deal on her mind.

"You are quartered in Section 11 Deck 11. Room 6." Said Sienna. "Like I said, you got the rest of the evening off" She glanced at the Chronometer "as well as tomorrow. This will give you time to acquaint yourself with the ship. You will be contacted as to the allocation of your duties at some point tomorrow. You are dismissed Ensign."

"Ma'am" saluted Keung, who then picked up his kitbag and left to find his quarters

(USS Illuminar- Deck 5 – Holodeck – Ensign Keung Lee – 2200 hrs)

Ensign Keung Lee stood outside the Holodeck on deck 5 and press the entry panel. "Computer. Access Keung Fitness Suite 1.",

The computer responded: "Enter when ready"

Keung entered the Holodeck which had been transformed into a fully equipped Fitness Suite with the state of the art cardiovascular and resistance equipment such as free weights areas, bikes and running machines. In another part of the Suite was a gym which had a clear floor covered with mats. He notices a female figure who was doing some stretching exercises. Her name was Linda Wallace, one of the Academy's training instructors. A former colleague of Keung who had programmed into the Fitness Suite. One of the best who had won awards!

He then stepped in behind her and tapped her shoulder Immediately an elbow strike caught him in the solar plexus, her barefoot came down hard on his instep, she caught his arm and flipped him. It wasn't until he was airborne that she realized that it was Keung

Keung literally flew and stretching his hands ahead of him, he landed on the mat using the arms to support him. He rolled over and looked up in amazement at Keung.

She sucked in a breath, bent over at the waist with her hands on her waist, and said, "Sorry." She ran a jacketed arm across her face to clear her eyes of sweat, and added, "I was so focused," breath, "...that...I just reacted. Are you okay?" She winced as he rolled again and climbed back to his feet.

"er..I'm fine" said Keung who thought about some moves that would be useful. ""Well...how about a one-on-one," challenged Keung "Right now!"

Linda looked at Garry with some surprise and replied, "It would be an honour, but I doubt you could meet up to my standards though.

"We see about that." Said Keung. He waved his hands towards the mat indicating Linda go first. Linda

walked ahead of Keung, She suddenly clasped his arm around her neck and brought him onto the mat on his back. As Keung lay breathless on the mat, Linda started her next move, sat on his stomach and held his arms against her chest! "Lesson number one... never take your eyes off your opponent. No such thing as common rituals."

"Ouch!" Keung said when he could get his breath back, and then added, "Go for it!" Her legs were pinning him and her arms had his over her head. Keung's face was close to Linda and she could feel his chest rising as he was trying to get some wind!! Linda released his arms and jumped up just as Keung swung one of his legs but missed Linda's own leg. Linda grabbed his leg with her hand and spread his other leg. She let go of both legs and waited for Keung to stand up

Keung's leg smarted where she'd blocked and grabbed. Keung was sweaty and tried for a low kick but didn't impact and she maintained her balance. He moved as she tried to grab a handful of hair to drag him in. They circled, looking for opportunities and Keung grabbed Linda with his hands, and brought Linda onto her back. There was a moment that Keung felt he achieved something until he felt pain in the side as Linda struck him with her bare feet. Keung rolled over to get into a better stance but had not anticipated Linda diving on him and pinned him on his stomach by sitting on him. Keung managed to get the palms of his hands flat on the floor and allowed the full weight of Linda to take advantage of the situation. Keung started breathing slowly. The stillness gave the impression to Linda that Keung had given up. Garry felt the pressure of her arms relaxing on his neck and that gave him the chance. With a shout, he pushed hard on his hands and lifted his body and lifted Linda off a foot before turning rapidly on his side.

With two movements, they reversed positions with him on top of her. Linda took his hands and threw his whole body over her head, but at the last second he reversed her grip and held on to her arm as she landed on her left shoulder and back. "Oomph," she grunted.

At that moment, Keung went into a killing stance with his fist aiming at her jugular.

"Lesson number two. Anticipate the unexpected. I win," smiled Keung.

Feeling extremely satisfied with his achievement, he said 'Saved Keung Fitness Suite 1 and end program. Nothing like a bit of tweaking, thought Keung.

(USS Illuminar, 20's Personal Quarters - 20, Lieutenant Carson Peters - 2345)

"Second Officers log, Twenty four, forty five, zero nine, one eight - Lieutenant Carson Peters reporting.

The Illuminar has been at Bajor for twenty-four hours and it has been an eventful time. The Captain has taken the decision to land the ship on the planet's surface and I am happy to report that there have been no issues with the technical aspects of doing so. Engineering reports green across the boards and are continuing to use the time on the surface to check on vital systems to make sure that our time within the subspace river didn't damage anything.

I have a few Security concerns around the ship being on the ground for so long and have shared them with Lieutenant Commander Sekal and Lieutenant Verin-Williams who don't seem to be as concerned.

Once we have finished our mission here on Bajor, I will be looking into requesting a higher amount of Security personnel so that if this happens again we have enough man-power to secure the ship fully.

Even though I am no longer a Security Officer I must use time in my log to commend the Security department on the Illuminar under the command of Ensign Saarsgard, Ensign Hammerfield & Ensign Talence. Within the last twenty-four hours they have been called upon several times as our position here on Bajor begins to grow untenable. I myself was involved in an attack which befell our most senior officers whilst on a diplomatic mission to meet with the Dean Vedek within the Temple Hotel.

I regret to report that we have had some officers killed whilst out on duty and an officer kidnapped. Ensign Taya, our acting Chief Engineering Officer is the officer who has gone missing. We have SAR teams searching for her and still hope to find and rescue her before she too is lost to us.

Science, Medical & Engineering teams continue to work within the Temple in an attempt to discover what is causing the illness which is spreading rapidly. Captain Sekal has negotiated with the Vedek Council that most all of the ill should be transported from within the Temple, but the Kai remains- a choice made by the council which has frustrated the Captain and the Dean Vedek.

We will continue to endeavor to find the solution over the coming days.

End log."
