

(USS Illuminar - Deck 3 - Officers' Quarters - CEO Tegian Pex & ACEO Ensign Ssvresh - 2120)
(USS Illuminar – Captain's Ready Room – CO, Captain Sekal – 2200)
(USS Illuminar – Captain's Ready Room – SPA LT JG Ariel Trei - 2202)
(USS Illuminar – Captain's Ready Room – CO, Captain Sekal - 2203)
(USS Illuminar – Captain's Ready Room SPA LT JG Ariel Trei - 2204)

Tegian looked out across the Engineering team, hoping for volunteers. The silence had gone on for a few seconds and then started to stretch and Tegian was getting concerned. He let his gaze roam around the room, when he heard a voice he hadn't expected to hear. "I'll go, Lieutenant," said Ensign Charlie Waffles, raising his hand and stepping forward. Tegian smiled and nodded. "Thank you, Ensign."

As he was about to ask if anyone else, he heard a voice from behind "I'll go too, Lieutenant." Without turning, Tegian let out a sigh of relief. "And thank you, Ensign Yevan zh'Firre. I greatly appreciate you both volunteering. Commander Dieter will notify us when the drills for using the respirators are scheduled."

(Reply None)

(Reply Here)
(Posted by Keith)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 6 - Science Lab 1 - The Esteemed Dr. Teller - 1654)

Teller watched the exchange between his long-term research partner and this new child.

"As far as your snarky comment about how my research is progressing, you have no right to disrespect an officer like that. Please leave so I can get back to work," the woman said in a decidedly annoyed tone.

Teller looked at his partner. "Janet, her nipple uncovered. Darmok on the ocean. Chenza at court, the court of science. Kiteo, his eyes closed. Kadir beneath Mo Moteh. Zima at Anzo. Shaka, when the walls fell," he shook his head slowly.

"Trapper and Hawkeye in Seoul. Henry, returning from Seoul. Colombo, the questions he asks. Radar in the officers club. Mirab with sails unfurled."

He turns around, again shaking his head, "Higgins. Henry Higgins on Eliza Doolittle's Marriage."

With that, he leaves.

(Replay any)

(Posted by Tim)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 6 - Science Lab 1 - Dr. Gailus Penn - 1655)

Penn was astounded by his partners reaction. His level of disappointment was clear to anyone that knew him. With a heavy sigh he looked over at Khatri, who looked a little bewildered, and said, "Well, I can't make it any clearer than that."

He turned to leave and as the lab door opened her turned back around, "You think we were being rude to offer help? In our world, it is ruder to not offer. And the offer was a genuine one. Perhaps with an ulterior motive, but genuine nonetheless. Have a good day, Ensign Khatri."

He stepped out of the room and the door closed. All Penn could do was shake his head. In the world of academia, he had met many who wanted to keep what they had to themselves or were unwilling to give or take assistance. Shrugging his shoulders her moved quickly to catch up to Teller.

(reply Khatri, if you want)

(posted by Al Muir)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 6 - Science Lab 1 - Science Ensign jc Zara Khatri - 1656)

Zara listened to Teller speak, again understanding only the Tamarian metaphors the UT could translate. When he finished, he walked out.

~One down, one to go.~ thought Zara.

"Well, I can't make it any clearer than that," said Penn, referring to Teller.

Zara chuckled.

"You think we were being rude to offer help?" said Penn.

Zara didn't think the two scientists were rude in offering to help. She felt they were presumptuous thinking she needed it without knowing what her work was.

"In our world, it is ruder to not offer. And the offer was a genuine one. Perhaps with an ulterior motive, but genuine nonetheless," said Penn.

Zara remained stern in her posture. She was winning the battle.

"Have a good day, Ensign Khatri," said Penn. He turned and left.

"आखिरकार!" said Zara, sitting back in her chair. In her short time in academia, she had met some that wanted to butt in on what others were working on or researching. Maybe it was genuine interest, but there could also be competitive jealousy. No matter. The important thing was they were gone and she could get back to her task. Hoping for no more interruptions, she thought of something.

"Computer, lock the door to science lab 1."

(reply none)

(posted by Mary Lou)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 6 - CSO Office - CO, Captain Sekal- 1900)

Sekal stepped through the door and nodded to the young officer he had summoned then moved to the replicator.

"Ensign Khatri."

(Reply: Zara)

He removed the glass of water and took a sip before turning to her. "I just left Lieutenant Tha'lanista in Astrometrics, she is overseeing the accumulation of data from scans in the area. You said you believe you have a workaround for the ionizing interference in the planet's atmosphere?"

(Reply: Zara)

"Please elaborate."

He took another drink then gave her his full attention.

(Reply: Zara)

(Posted by Charles Gatling)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 6 - CSO's Office - Science Ensign jg Zara Khatri - 1901)

"Ensign Khatri."

At the site of Captain Sekal, Zara stood straight, her hands behind her back. "Sir!"

"I just left Lieutenant Tha'lanista in Astrometrics," said Sekal. "She is overseeing the accumulation of data from scans in the area. You said you believe you have a workaround for the ionizing interference in the planet's atmosphere?"

"I do, sir." Zara didn't know if presenting only to the captain made her more or less nervous. Her insides were doing gymnastics anyway, so she supposed it didn't matter.

"Please elaborate."

Zara had the information on a PADD she was holding, but she didn't really need it, as she had every detail memorized. She had also done four mock presentations while alone in the lab. She was as ready as she could be.

Zara realized seconds were ticking by.

"Sir, in the year 2369, the science ship *Yosemite* was in the Igo sector studying plasma streamers between stars in a binary system. Starfleet lost contact with them for two days, so the Enterprise-D,

under Captain Jean-Luc Picard, was sent to investigate. They found the Yosemite inside a streamer. Hails went unanswered, and because of ionic interference, the ship couldn't be tractored out and transporters couldn't guarantee safe passage there and back. It was also deemed too dangerous to send a shuttle. The engineering department resolved this problem by linking the two transporters. Personnel could beam over only one person at a time and the sequence took twice as long, but it worked."

Zara loved talking science, so giving the captain her report was calming her.

"I propose that we land a runabout on the planet and link its transporter to the Illuminar. If the distance between both ships is too great, we might need to have a second runabout hover halfway between. We could still transport only one person at a time, but all my computer simulations say this will work. Of course, we could test it first with inorganic material."

Zara wasn't nervous anymore.

"As far as the sensors, in the 2260s, Constitution-class starships were equipped with a sensory component called an ion pod. It was used when encountering an ion storm and could take detailed readings conventional sensors could not. The plans are still in the engineering database. We could build one, and with our much more advanced technology, put it in a runabout. I'm confident this will work, but we'll also need to test it when we arrive."

At this point, Zara wanted to smile. She wasn't sure if she should continue, so she waited to see if the captain had anything to say.

(reply Sekal)

(posted by Mary Lou)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 6 - CSO's Office - CO, Captain Sekal - 1903)

Sekal listened with interest as the Ensign discussed an incident over seven decades prior, she had quite obviously 'done her homework' as Terrans were fond of saying..

"As far as the sensors, in the 2260s, Constitution-class starships were equipped with a sensory component called an ion pod. It was used when encountering an ion storm and could take detailed readings conventional sensors could not. The plans are still in the engineering database. We could build one, and with our much more advanced technology, put it in a runabout. I'm confident this will work, but we'll also need to test it when we arrive."

He considered the suggestion for a moment as she waited breathlessly then moved to a wall and leaned against it followed by turning his head toward her. The appearance of the posture was of someone who had been caught off guard but with Vulcans often meant curiosity.

"A logical suggestion. What was the strength of the ionic interference?"

(Reply: Khatri)

He cradled the glass in his left hand as he considered it. "Plans are for the Edmund Hillary to make planetfall. The Hillary which is classified as Captain's Yacht is based upon the older runabout, in addition it is a simple matter to link the vessel to Illuminar's systems so it could very well be used as a link or transporter relay. It is also the most advanced shuttle type aboard, the type nines which we have in abundance would have to undergo a significant upgrade." Her thought process was sound but he

waited to see how far she might take it, problem solving was a prerequisite for considering future advancement.

(Reply: Khatri)

He stirred a bit, straightening at her answer. "

"As for the ionic pod, its function can easily be duplicated by rerouting and recalibration auxiliary sensor function in concert with the use of the deflector dish. I assume you wish to enlist assistance from the Engineering department on these three tasks?"

(Reply: Khatri)

(Posted by Charles Gatling)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 6 - CSO's Office - Science Ensign jg Zara Khatri - 1904)

"A logical suggestion. What was the strength of the ionic interference?" said Sekal.

"Initial readings from the Zertos system indicate we can expect more than just routine interference. Scans have shown up to force-5 ionic winds, similar to a small ion storm," said Zara. "The shuttles and runabouts going down won't be knocked out of the sky, but the crew will know they had a bumpy ride."

"The type nines, which we have in abundance, would have to undergo a significant upgrade," said Sekal.

"I'll study the specs and see what I come up with," said Zara.

The captain had an alternate idea on the ion pod. "I assume you wish to enlist assistance from the engineering department on these three tasks?"

"This is engineering's area of expertise, so I should be assisting them, sir." After her short meeting with Doctors Penn and Teller, Zara realized she needed to be better at working with others. It was something taught at the academy, but growing up, she was always the smartest person in the room, so she still needed to learn.

"We'll do our best, Captain."

(reply Sekal?)
(posted by Mary Lou)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 6 - CSO's Office - CO, Captain Sekal- 1906)

"This is engineering's area of expertise, so I should be assisting them, sir. We'll do our best, Captain."

"An astute observation." He noted. "I expect you will find Lieutenant Pex to be more than ample to the task and there are plentiful other personnel assets on the ship to assist in that regard. Should you require other resources than what is available do not hesitate to note it. The Hillary will be leaving the ship in approximately 10 hours. "

(Reply: Khatri)

"Understood, I will take my leave so that you may begin your projects expeditiously." He set the glass back in the replicator and recycled it then left the office.

(Reply: Khatri)
(Posted by Charles G)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 6 - CSO's Office - Science Ensign jg Zara Khatri - 1907)

"An astute observation," said Sekal.

Zara smiled at the compliment. As he was Vulcan, she knew he was simply stating a fact, but it still felt good that he said it. ~~फूँफ्टे~~ on Doctor Penn implying impressing her captain was a bad thing.

"The Hillary will be leaving the ship in approximately 10 hours," said Sekal.

"Yes, sir." Zara wanted to be part of the away mission, but word hadn't been given yet on who would represent the science department. She would need to find a way to put herself on that roster.

When the captain left, Zara looked around the room. "This is going to be my office one day." Smiling again, she hurried off to work.

NRPG: फूँक़ is Hindi for phooey.

(reply none)
(posted by Mary Lou)

(USS Illuminar - Bridge - ACSO Ensign jg Zara Khatri - 1912)

Zara was on the clock. Ten hours until away mission launch and some sensor reconfigurations had to be done. Checking with the computer to find CEO Pex, who was on the bridge, she rushed out of the CSO's office.

Zara had been on the bridge only once since coming on board the Illuminar, the time she formally met the captain. This second time would be different. This was duty and her ideas to cut through the ionic interference in the planet atmosphere would be implemented. This was her first contribution and the feeling she had inside was warm and thrilling. Going forward, she imagined it only getting better.

Stepping out of the turbolift, the bridge was a flurry of activity. Seeing Pex at the engineering station, she moved quickly to join him. If anyone was eyeing why a new, young ensign was there, she didn't notice. Zara wouldn't have cared anyway.

Lieutenant *jk* Tegian Pex was a male, joined Trill. He was tall and slender, with brown hair. When Zara was next to him and he looked up at her, she saw two orbs so blue, they reminded her of being home on Lorica, swimming in the Great Southern Ocean on a hot, summer day.

Zara inwardly shook herself

"Excuse me, sir, I'm Ensign Zara Khatri from science. I've been working on the ionic interference problem and Captain Sekal wanted us to implement them." She offered Pex her PADD.

(reply Pex)
(posted by Mary Lou)

USS Illuminar - Bridge - CEO - Lieutenant Tegian Pex - 1914)

Tegian was at his station on the bridge reading the preliminary data from the probes and anything he could glean from the sensors on the planet and the system and feeding it all back to Engineering. He had a team back there making adjustments to how they were going to deal with the ionic interference in the atmosphere.

Deep in thought over the latest readings, he heard a voice say, "Excuse me, sir, I'm Ensign Zara Khatri from science. I've been working on the ionic interference problem and Captain Sekal wanted us to implement them." She extended a PADD to him which he took, just looking at her hand.

"Thank you, Ensign Khatri. You're one of the new members of the crew, correct?" He gave her a friendly smile. "It's nice to meet you." Then he took a look at her face and he momentarily lost his train of thought. Pex took over while Tegian stared into one of the prettiest human faces he'd ever seen.

Pex focused the body's attention back to the PADD where they both read the two ideas. Both were intriguing, but he wanted to talk them over with Bohb.

Tegian summoned an engineer from Main Engineering to come take his station and then walked over to Commander Gregory. "Commander, Ensign Khatri has brought me some interesting possibilities on how to deal with the atmospheric disturbance. With your permission, she and I are going to find Lieutenant Bohb and discuss how to test these possibilities before we make planetfall."

(Reply Gregory)
(posted by Keith)

(USS Illuminar - Bridge - CEO - Lieutenant Lg Tegian Pex - 1916)

Tegian, having received permission to leave the bridge, waited patiently for another few moments for someone from Engineering to make it to the bridge. Cadet Ocano slid into the seat with a smile and then Tegian nodded to Ensign Khatri.

"Okay, time to go visit Lieutenant Bohb. Ensign. Coming along?"

(Reply Zara. ivw)

(USS *Illuminar* - Bridge - ACSO - Ensign iq Zara Khatri - 1917)

"Thank you, Ensign Khatri. You're one of the new members of the crew, correct? It's nice to meet you."

"Yes, sir, I'm new," said Zara, thinking she noticed an odd pause, but shook it off as Pex being involved in his work. Instead, she waited for him to read the PADD.

"Okay, time to go visit Lieutenant Bohb, Ensign. Coming along?" said Pex after getting clearance to leave the bridge.

"Yes, sir." Zara wondered why he asked. The proposals were her ideas, after all.

(USS Illuminar - Deck 11 - R&D Lab (Bohb's Workshop)- CSRD - Lt. Bohb and Engineering Cadet Wednesday Addams- 1920)

Bohb had been leaning over the delicate device for twenty minutes, trying to make minor adjustments with his large fingers. He shocked himself again with the transphasic soldering tool and pulled his hand back quickly.

“Ow, Grozit,” he growled.

With a deep sigh, he lifted the tool again and prepared to attack the device one more time. It was at this time he wished he had someone with smaller and more nimble fingers than his. As if on cue the door chime rang and he sat back, removing the magnifying goggles and tossing them on the table.

“Saved by the bell,” he said to himself. “Enter.”

The door opened and Cadet Wednesday Addams stepped into the room, looking a bit nervous. Bohb's eyes narrowed as he remembered his conversation with Tegian the other day. He had done his best to avoid the girl, if possible, to avoid her being any more embarrassed than she might already have been. He stood up and turned off the jungle sounds that he used to calm his nerves and make himself more at home.

There were several plants, overgrowing their pots and shelves around the room, giving it an almost living feel... and smell. Typically he had used the holoemitters to provide a more homelike setting. But this task required more concentration, and he was not really paying attention to his surroundings.

"Miss Addams," Bobb said, standing up. "To what do I owe the pleasure?"

"Hi Bohb," Wednesday replied almost shyly, "I hope you're not busy but I had a question for you. If you're not too busy."

Bob grinned a big grin, "Never too busy for one of my favorite cadets. What do you got?"

“Well...” she began, then paused, “it’s kind of personal.”

Bohb began to shift, beginning to share the discomfort Wednesday brought with her. This had to come out sooner or later.

"Proceed," Bohb said, a little more coolly than before. He was genuinely glad to see her, but needed to dispel any sense of a... relationship.

"I just need to know," she started again, "why you've been avoiding me."

Bohb's simian face made several movements at the same time to show his surprise at the question, "What do you mean, child."

Now it was Wednesday's turn to make a face, between surprise, hurt, and disappointment, "Don't tell me that you've been avoiding me, Lieutenant. You've been to engineering several times and haven't even acknowledged my existence. I know you're busy, but you usually, at least, say hi. I don't know why it's bothering me, but it does. I'm used to people being my friend one minute then not another. I just didn't expect it from you. I thought we... understood one another.

Bohb sat back down on his stool and pulled the office chair over for Wednesday to sit on. "You are right, Wednesday. It's just, well, I heard that people were of a mind that you and I were... in a relationship. I was trying to avoid any embarrassment to you with your compatriots."

"Well, we are in a relationship, Bohb," Wednesday said. "We're friends. Isn't that a relationship?"

"Of course, of course," Bohb said. "Bohb people were thinking that perhaps it was... more."

Wednesday scowled, "More?" Then she realized what he was saying and began to giggle. "Ohhh.. more.... . You mean..."

"You don't have to spell it out child," Bohb said, stopping her before finishing the statement. "But yes. I just didn't want to send the wrong message... to anyone."

Wednesday raised an eyebrow in a most Vulcan-like manner, "Anyone? You mean to me. Lt. Bohb, if I wanted that kind of a relationship with you, I would have said something. I may only be nineteen, but I am not without my... womanly wiles. And who cares what others think? If we were doing, whatever they thought we were doing, then that's on them. I've never changed who I am because of what someone else thought. I don't care about them."

Bohb felt a weight lift off his chest in relief, "Of course, you don't. Nor should you. It just... I thought that you might... I apologize Wednesday. I should have talked to you. Call it being an old Magillan. I value our friendship and did not want to jeopardize it, and in doing so I did. I am sorry."

Wednesday sighed as well, "I'm glad that's cleared up, and we can get back to normal around here."

"Whatever that means," Bohb chuckled. As Wednesday stood up to leave Bohb made a guttural sound. "Can I ask you something?"

“Anything,” Wednesday replied.

"Will you help me with what I'm doing here? This requires a delicate touch with someone with much greater dexterity in their fingers than I have. Would you?"

He held out the transphasic soldering tool to her, "Please."

Wednesday laughed, "Of course. I'd be glad to." She threw her arms around the Magillan's neck in a hug.

Suddenly the door to the lab opened.

(reply Tegian, Khatri)

(posted by Al Muir)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 11 - R&D Lab (Bohb's Workshop) - ACSO - Ensign jg Zara Khatri and CEO - Lieutenant Lg Tegian Pex - 1921)

The lab door opened to find Wednesday and Bobb in an embrace. Tegian's response was immediate. He paused and backed out, gently pulling Zara with him by her shoulders, however the doors made their standard whooshing noise.

(Reply Bohb, Adams, Khatri)
(posted by Keith)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 11 - R&D Lab - ACSO Ensign jg Zara Khatri - 1922)

The door to the lab slid open, but before Zara could see around the taller Lieutenant Pex, he was quickly backing out, pulling her with him.

Glaring at the Chief Engineer, her eyes silently asked why he did that.

(reply Pex, Bohb, Addams)

(posted by Mary Lou)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 11 - R&D Lab - CEO - Lieutenant jg Tegian Pex - 1923)

Tegian cleared his throat and passed his hand over the door chime. "My apologies, Ensign. I exhibited very poor manners just walking into Lieutenant Bohb's lab without first asking for permission. I should know better."

"And my sincere apologies for touching you without first asking, Ensign. If I can make amends in any way, please let me know." Tegian looked down at her from his 6' 3" height, clearly upset.

(reply Khatri, Bohb, Addams)
(posted by Keith)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 11 - R&D Lab (Bohb's Workshop)- CSRD - Lt. Bohb and Engineering Cadet Wednesday Addams- 1924)

The shush of the door caught Bohb's attention and he looked over to see Tegian ushering another girl back out of the room. Bohb looked at Wednesday with a look that clearly showed he did not understand. Wednesday shrugged as well.

He moved over to the door and when it opened he leaned forward and peered out. When he saw Tegain. All he could hear was an apology for touching the young ensign. Now that was interesting indeed. He began to wonder if the Trill's attention to his own relationships was due to a subconscious desire of his own. However, the young woman did not look *that* upset.

"Tegian?" he said with a nod, then looked at the young woman, "and friend? Is everything alright?"

(reply Pex)

"No interruption at all," Bohb said, "I was just getting some help from Cadet Addams with Commander Gregory's project... and clearing the air... as you might say it. Come in, come in. And who is your new friend?"

(reply Pex, Khatri)

Bohb nodded to the woman and held his hand upside down in an offer of friendship and trust. "A pleasure to meet you. Might I present Cadet Wednesday Addams."

Wednesday gave a weak smile and stepped forward. Meeting new people was always awkward for her, but at least this one would not have any preconceived notions about her or her kind.

"Nice to meet you," Wednesday said. "Lt. Pex. You look a bit... peeked. Are you okay?"

(reply Pex)

Bohb looked at the pair and asked, "How can I help you?"

(reply Pex, Kahtri)

(posted by Al Muir)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 11 - R&D Lab (Bohb's Workshop) - CEO - Lieutenant jg Tegian Pex - 1926)

The doors opened. "Tegian?" Bohb said with a nod, then looked at the young woman, "and friend? Is everything alright?"

Tegian cleared his throat and smiled. "Yes, quite alright. I just entered without ringing the chime at first. An unpardonable sin, my apologies for interrupting."

"No interruption at all," Bohb said, "I was just getting some help from Cadet Addams with Commander Gregory's project... and clearing the air... as you might say it. Come in, come in. And who is your new friend?"

"This is Ensign Zara Khatri of the Science Department," said Tegian. "May I present Lieutenant Bohb the head of R&D."

Bohb nodded to the woman and held his hand upside down in an offer of friendship and trust. "A pleasure to meet you. Might I present Cadet Wednesday Addams."

Wednesday gave a weak smile and stepped forward. Meeting new people was always awkward for her, but at least this one would not have any preconceived notions about her or her kind.

"Nice to meet you," Wednesday said. "Lt. Pex. You look a bit... peaked. Are you okay?"

"Yes, Cadet. Just upset with myself for two lapses in manners," replied Tegian.

Bohb looked at the pair and asked, "How can I help you?"

"Ensign Khatri came up with two very interesting methods for transporting us to the surface through the ionic interference different from what we'd discussed. I wanted to have you review the possibilities to see if we can boost our chances from what Zara's outlined. I think there's a way we can boost the transporter signal, but beyond what we've already discussed. And you know the Illuminar better than I do."

Tegian was still holding Zara's PADD. He looked at her, realizing that he hadn't let her speak. "And my apologies, again, Ensign Khatri. These are your ideas. With your permission?" He motioned handing the PADD to Bohb.

(Reply Khatri, Bohb, Addams)

(posted by Keith)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 11 - R&D Lab - ACSO Ensign jg Zara Khatri - 1927)

"My apologies, Ensign," said Pex. "I exhibited very poor manners just walking into Lieutenant Bohb's lab without first asking for permission. I should know better."

Zara didn't know what to make of that. Based on what she experienced the last few days, it seemed walking into a person's work space was an open-door policy.

Pex apologized for touching her. Sensing his embarrassment, she thought it was sweet, but she was more curious about why he pulled her out of the lab. Her mind was spinning with possibilities, but the only thing that made sense, was someone doing something inappropriate.

"If I can make amends in any way, please let me know," said Pex.

"I'm okay, sir. Don't worry about it," said Zara.

The lab door opened, so Zara looked past Pex to see who it was. A simian face peered out: Lieutenant Bohb. She knew he was in charge of research and development, but they hadn't formally met.

“Tegian? And friend? Is everything all right?”

Zara stood impatiently as apologies and introductions were made. That was all well and good, but they were on a strict time limit, so work was more important than social pleasantries.

Pex told Bohb that Zara had ideas on how to transport through the heavy ionization. He also apologized again for touching her.

She almost started tapping her foot.

"And my apologies, again, Ensign Khatri," said Pex. "These are your ideas. With your permission?" He motioned handing the PADD to Bohb.

"Of course, sir," said Zara.

(Reply Pex, Bohb, Addams)
(posted by Mary Lou)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 11 - R&D Lab (Bohb's Workshop)- CSRD - Lt. Bohb - 1928)

Bohb looked at the ensign, almost surprised when she spoke. He smiled at her and said, "Ah, she does speak. Excellent. So many species don't and rely on body language to communicate subtle things like emotional states. Magillans are like that."

Realizing that he was belaboring an issue he continued, "Why don't you give me the long and short of it Ensign? So I don't have to decipher what's on here." He held up the PADD, and sat back down on his stool.

(reply Khatri)
(posted by Al Muir)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 11 - R&D Lab - ACSO Ensign jg Zara Khatri - 1929)

"Why don't you give me the long and short of it, Ensign? So I don't have to decipher what's on here," said Bobb.

Enjoying sharing what she learned, Zara told the story from 2369 when the Yosemite was trapped in a plasma streamer.

"It was a simple matter for the Enterprise-D engineering team to link the two transporter systems. With our more advanced technology, we should be able as well."

Zara continued, reporting on the ionic pods Constitution-class starships had nearly 200 years ago.

"Instead of building our own pod and putting it in a runabout, Captain Sekal suggested we reroute and recalibrate auxiliary sensor function in concert with the use of the deflector dish. In theory, that could work, but though the ion pods are old tech, they were specifically designed to cut through heavy ionic interference."

Zara shrugged.

"Both are viable options, but since our time is limited before mission launch, I recommend the one that takes the least time." She allowed herself a quick smile before Lieutenant Bohb replied.

(reply Bohb, Pex, Addams)
(posted by Mary Lou)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 11 - R&D Lab (Bohb's Workshop)- CSRD - Lt. Bohb - 1930)

Bohb began to look at the PADD as Ensign Khatri spoke. The idea of building an ion pod was intriguing if not antiquated. But it would be time consuming and require testing before using. The use of the Illuminar's deflector array and the auxiliary sensors would be more time efficient but they would still need something on the planet to calibrate with.

"Interesting," the Magillan said, absentmindedly stroking his chin. "If you're looking for my input on which was be most time efficient for the moment, I would go with sensor and deflector idea. It would require a team effort of three people. One in the auxiliary sensor station, one at the deflector array controls and someone on the planet to coordinate the confinement beam. Perhaps using modified pattern enhancement buffers."

(reply Khatri,Pex)

“I’d be happy to render assistance,” Bohb offered.

(reply Khatri, Pex)

(posted by Al Muir)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 11 - R&D Lab - CEO - Lieutenant Jg Tegian Pex - 1932)

"Both are viable options, but since our time is limited before mission launch, I recommend the one that takes the least time," Zara suggested.

Tegian listened with growing admiration. He was starting to like the Ensign's attitude. "Except that I have an entire Engineering department that we can throw at both options. And, if I'm not mistaken, you and I are both heading to the planet tomorrow, so we both should get some sleep and not stay up all night trying these options."

Tegian looked over at Bohb. "Lieutenant, would you object to running Engineering in my absence and not only finishing that prototype, but attempting to make these two options viable using the Engineering Department's resources? We'll still go through with our current plan of setting up the beacons that can be used to calibrate the sensors and adjust the transporter signal based on that data. But, if we make either of Ensign Khatri's suggestions viable, then we can make the likelihood of transporting through the interference more of a certainty."

(reply Bohb)

Talking of the transporters reminded Tegian of something. "Ensign Khatri, does the Illuminar have a copy of your pattern in our transporter? If not, please stop by one of the transporter rooms to have it uploaded, just in case."

(reply Khatri, Bohb, Addams)

(posted by Keith)

(USS Illuminer, Deck 11, R&D Lab (Bobby's Workshop), CEO, Lieutenant Ig Togian Bay, 1933)

"Interesting," Lieutenant Bohb said, absentmindedly stroking his chin. "If you're looking for my input on which was be most time efficient for the moment, I would go with sensor and deflector idea. It would require a team effort of three people. One in the auxiliary sensor station, one at the deflector array controls and someone on the planet to coordinate the confinement beam. Perhaps using modified pattern enhancement buffers."

Tegian nodded. "Okay, I will yield to your experience, Lieutenant. I have to admit that I've never worked with Ion pods and probably not many in Engineering have done so. I can coordinate from the planet."

(reply Khatri,Bhb)

“I’d be happy to render assistance,” Bohb offered.

"Thank you. Ensign zh'Firre, who's the Alpha Shift lead, is heading to the planet with me and I'd be more comfortable with you covering Engineering. I don't know that I have anyone else who's as knowledge and has the leadership skills, as of yet, to lead the department, although Ensign T'lan is very promising."

(reply Khatri, Bohb, iyw)

(posted by Keith)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 11 - R&D Lab (Bohb's Workshop)- CSRD - Lieutenant Bohb - 1934)

Bohb's own experience with ion pods is a lifetime ago. Working with the equipment that everyone was used to was definitely the right option.

Pex expressed his concern over the lack of experience of the engineering crew they had. Bohb suspected that his real concern was Tegian's own inexperience was the concern. A much tougher pill to swallow. And Tegian was the type who blamed everyone else's failures on himself.

"I don't know that I have anyone else who's as knowledgeable and has the leadership skills as of yet," Pex said, referring to Bohb's offer to help out with the project, "to lead the department, although Ensign T'lan is very promising."

Bohb grunted, "Indeed, then perhaps it's time to test T'lan's metal. You also have a new assistant from the academy, I understand. I'll give him a look over for you as well."

Bohb reached out and placed the back of his hand in the middle of Pex's chest. "I can do no less for a friend."

Then he looked at Khatri, leaned forward and sniffed at her, "And a new friend, with new ideas. I'm excited to see what you have for us, Ensign Khatri. Good luck to both of you on the mission."

With that Bohb sat on his stool.

(reply Pex, Khatri)

(posted by Al Muir)

(USS Illuminar – Captain's Ready Room – CO, Captain Sekal – 2101)

Sekal looked up from the desk as the door chimed. "Come."

The portal opened and the Selay stepped inside. His reptilian features were highlighted by the cobra-like fringe of bony skin that flared out from his head and neck and framed his head. Lacking a humans instinctive reaction he waved the officer inside.

"Please take a seat Mr. Ssvresh."

(Reply: Ssvresh)

The Vulcan waited until he was seated before continuing.

"Lieutenant Pex has been reporting your progress from the time we left Earth and I have made the decision to elevate you to the duties of assistant to the Chief Engineering Officer. From this point forward you will be filling that post."

(Reply: Ssvresh)

The Captain sat back in his chair. "I admit to being curious as to current relations between the Selay and the Anticans."

(Reply: Ssvresh)

(Posted by Charles Gatling)

(USS Illuminar, Ready Room – ACEO Ensign Ssvresh – 2102)

Beckoned, Ssvresh walked into the Captain's Ready Room. "Please take a seat Mr. Ssvresh." He took a moment to survey the room as he sat, feeling it right for the CO to lead whatever conversation had led to his summons.

"Lieutenant Pex has been reporting your progress from the time we left Earth and I have made the decision to elevate you to the duties of assistant to the Chief Engineering Officer. From this point forward you will be filling that post."

Ssvresh blinked. Though coming to this meeting he'd had no idea what it was about, this was not a possibility he had even considered. Conscious he'd left too long a pause he stammered, "Thank you, sssir."

"I admit to being curious as to current relations between the Selay and the Anticans."

At the mention his people's ancient enemy, Ssvresh couldn't repress a sharp hiss of disdain, though there was no ire in it. "The galaxy is a large and often crowded party, Captain. There is much space to avoid and to mingle with the other guests – assuming both parties act accordingly." Unsure whether the metaphor had been interpreted correctly, Ssvresh added, "Our separate ventures into space have allowed greater distance and other points of focus. We avoid them, excepting the most extreme of their provocations."

(Reply Sekal)

(Posted by MCD)

(USS Illuminar, Ready Room – CO, Captain Sekal – 2104)

The reaction of the Selay was not unexpected as his eyes narrowed and head swayed slightly as he hissed.

"The galaxy is a large and often crowded party, Captain. There is much space to avoid and to mingle with the other guests – assuming both parties act accordingly. Our separate ventures into space have

allowed greater distance and other points of focus. We avoid them, excepting the most extreme of their provocations."

"Understandable." The Vulcan replied. "Report to Lieutenant Pex for your assignment, he has a number of projects which need attention."

(Reply: Ssvresh)

"Good day Ensign," he spoke as the Delay left his office then turned his attention to the monitor which rose from the desk and began displaying results from scans of the system.

(Reply: Ssvresh)

(Posted by Charles Gatling)

(USS Illuminar, Ready Room - ACEO Ensign Ssvresh - 2105)

"Report to Lieutenant Pex for your assignment, he has a number of projects which need attention."

"Aye, sir."

"Good day Ensign."

The Captain's attention shifted to whatever information was being displayed at his workstation. Ssvresh stood and walked out of the ready room, heading for engineering and his new position. Smiling, he thought that it had indeed been a good day.

(Reply none)

(Posted by MCD)

(USS Illuminar - Main Engineering - ACEO Ensign Ssvresh - 2111)

Ssvresh walked into Main Engineering and looked around for Lieutenant Pex. He worked his way deeper into the engine room, closer to the double-height chamber housing the main warp core. The looming height of the core cast a cool glow as the Selay approached a uniformed officer.

“Excuse me..”

A Bajoran Ensign was working at a console, intently. She hadn't noticed his approach until he said something. "Hello Ensign. How may I help you?"

"I'm looking for Lieutenant Pex. The Captain's just assigned me to the Engineering Department."

The Bajoran officer didn't quite roll her eyes, but her manner made it clear that she was unimpressed.
"Computer, locate Lieutenant Pex."

[Lieutenant Pex is in his quarters.]

Ssvresh felt the rush of blood to his hood as embarrassment spread through him. "Thank you, Ensign. I believe I shall find the way."

(USS Illuminar - Deck 3 - Officers' Quarters - CEO Tegian Pex & ACEO Ensign Ssvresh - 2120)

Tegian had just finished a shower and was brushing his teeth when he heard the chime for his door. "Come in," he called. He was not surprised to see Ssvresh. He'd been informed about the assignment, but he'd been so busy with the away mission that he hadn't been able to find the time to locate the Ensign.

“The Captain has just appointed me as Assistant Chief Engineer.”

"Congratulations, Ensign. I'm glad to have you aboard and for your assistance," replied Tegian, looking the Ensign over.

“Perhaps we should discuss the ship’s current mission.”

"You were at the briefing I gave the Engineering department, weren't you?" asked Tegian. "At this point, Ensign Waffles, Ensign zh'Firre and myself will be leaving for the planet tomorrow morning. We will be working to break through the ionic interference so that we can use the transporters. We have several working theories on how to do so."

"Lieutenant Bohb, from Research and Development, will be leading Engineering in my absence and following through on those possibilities. I will message him and let him know that you will assist him in the morning. You can help lead the efforts from the Illuminar."

“Any questions, Ensign?” asked Tegian.

While listening to everything the Lieutenant said, Ssvresh's mind wandered slightly to go over everything he'd learned of the Illuminar's mission - though, truth be told, he was also still a little stung over his gaffe in Engineering. Perhaps not the most auspicious first action in his new role.

“No, sir. No questions.”

Tegian nodded. "Very good, Ensign. The shuttle leaves at 0600. Please report to Main Engineering."

(Reply none)

(Posted by MCD & Keith)

(USS Illuminar – Captain's Ready Room – CO, Captain Sekal – 2200)

Sekal looked up from the monitor and paused in contemplation for a moment over what had recently transpired. Star Fleet had a record of the ship's logs which had sealed the last mission but events were still unfolding and there had been some additional items which required updating. His eyes swept over the office, touching the sideboard and its contents along with the plaque above it.

"Computer, Captain's log, stardate twenty four, forty six, zero six, zero three."

"The ship is one hour from the targeted solar system that the Ixtal was surveying, due to the classified nature of the mission there will be no discussion of it in this log, all data uncovered will be reported directly to StarFleet Command."

"I have received reports from Lieutenant Galk who has taken over the Klingon Imperial House that he is consolidating assets and exerting control, an uprising within his ranks having been quelled. While his actions, which were internal to the Klingon Empire were not sanctioned by the Federation the result of this factional struggle would appear to be in our favor. Lieutenant Trei, having been presented the

remnants of the House of Mogh is also aboard. I have requested a ruling from the diplomatic corps on how to proceed on that front. I have also received a dispatch from Command on the promotion request for Lieutenant Trei and will deal with that matter directly. The diplomatic mission to Qo'nos was an unparalleled success which was greatly assisted by the actions of the two officers."

He took a drink from the glass near at hand before continuing.

"Ambassador Mias and his wife Michaella Kirien left the ship while at Earth and one of my officers failed to return to the ship from Romulan space, his dereliction of duty has been noted and duly reported."

That one was an enigma.

"I have promoted Ensigns Khatri and Ssvresh to assistant to their department heads due to their diligence and exemplary performance. The ship was fully repaired at Starbase one and there are no issues of note. Commander Verin has returned to light duty. End log."

He set the glass back in its place before activating the comm.

"Lieutenant Trei report to the Ready Room."

(Reply: Trei)

(Posted by Charles Gatling)

(USS Illuminar – Captain's Ready Room – SPA LT JG Ariel Trei - 2202)

She walked up to the ready room door thinking of what Captain Sekal wanted for. It could be anything. She did not like surprises but will have to see what he wants. She pressed the door chime.

"SPA LT JG Ariel Trei reporting as ordered sir."

(Reply Sekal)

(Posted by Edward)

(USS Illuminar – Captain's Ready Room – CO, Captain Sekal - 2203)

He rose to his feet as the chime sounded. "Come."

In walked Lieutenant Trei as summoned. "SPA LT JG Ariel Trei reporting as ordered sir."

"Have a seat Lieutenant." The Vulcan waited until she had complied before beginning.

"Command has asked me to present to you their official congratulations on your office within the Klingon Empire and hopes that its alliance with the Empire continues to improve and expand."

(Reply: Trei)

He walked to the sideboard and turned to face her, unconsciously framed by the ship's plaque behind him and cupped his hands behind his back.. "Understand Lieutenant that this is an unprecedented event to my knowledge, I am not aware of a member of another governing body being represented within StarFleet and with one fell stroke the Illuminar now will have two if Lieutenant Galk returns after his leave as he expressed interest. I can not enforce you or he remaining on this ship under the

circumstances. I have also expressed my ... concern..." he paused on the word to emphasize it. Vulcan did not use the word lightly, "... that your presence might be misused by the diplomatic corps in an attempt to influence internal Klingon policy."

(Reply: Trei)

He walked back to the desk. "And there is another matter, Command has accepted my recommendation." He opened the desk drawer and removed a small, black box. "Please stand to your feet. For your dedication to this ship and crew and for distinguished service you are hereby promoted to full Lieutenant with the rights and privileges thereof, your security clearance has also been advanced."

He removed the gold pip from the box and replaced the blank pip on her collar with it then placed both on the desk followed by offering his hand. "Congratulations Lieutenant Trei."

(Reply: Trei)

(Posted by Charles Gatling)

(USS Illuminar – Captain's Ready Room SPA LT JG Ariel Trei - 2204)

She heard his concerns and had a very simple answer.

"I hear your concerns but you need to talk to Lanista for the House of Mogh business. She will handle all of that while I am on the Illuminar and anything I don't want to deal with. When I am on the Illuminar, I am mission present sir."

She was presented with the full LT Gold Pip and was very appreciative of it.

"Thank you sir."

(Reply Sekal any)

(Posted by Edward)