STAR WARS

AGELLION

ECHOES OF THE JEDI





DAWN OF DEFIANCE SERIES
ADVENTURE #04
JEFF GREENING



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CREDITS

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STAR WARS: DAWN OF DEFIANCE

Episode IV ECHOES OF THE JEDI

It is a dark time in the galaxy. The Jedi Knights, peaceful guardians of the Old Republic, are all but extinct, exterminated by the Emperor's sinister agents.

But a few Jedi still survive, exiled from the galaxy they once protected and leaving echoes in the Force behind. The Emperor has sensed these remnants and seeks to control them, leaving no chance for future Jedi to arise from the ashes.

Most Jedi stay in hiding, some try to foil the Empire without revealing their existence, and others seek links to their former way of life, risking the wrath of the Emperor in hopes of re-igniting the flame of their ancient order . . .

Campaign Update

Echoes of the Jedi opens some months after the last adventure, The Queen of Air and Darkness. The few Jedi who managed to survive Order 66 are in hiding, hunted down by the Emperor's Inquisitors and stormtroopers—and by bounty hunters encouraged by the large sums offered. One Jedi was recently found inside Darga the Hutt's palace on Cato Neimoidia, but luckily it was by an organization opposed to the Emperor's tyrannical rule. Thus, Jedi Master Denia joined Senator Bail small Organa's rebellion, now headquartered in a secret fleet of ships spearheaded by the Nebulon-B cruiser Resurgence. The fleet's focus is the investigation of a top-secret Imperial military operation called the Sarlacc Project. The existence of the project has been revealed to Organa by an Imperial defector, Admiral Gilder Varth.

The heroes who rescued Master Denia have the months spent past investigating the Sarlacc Project and pursuing other ventures to further their individual careers, though they never lost contact with Senator Organa. However. Captain Okeefe, who transported the heroes aboard her ship the Banshee during their early adventures, has decided to part ways and take her chances with a more lucrative smuggling business. Left without a fast transport, the heroes

should have been able to purchase their own starship in recent months, either with credits they acquired or by getting a bank loan. (If necessary, Senator Organa used his influence to smooth out any difficulty the heroes might have had recommended a reputable banking institution. He might even have lent them the credits for a down payment, which could have unfolded as part of a side quest.)

For the heroes' new ship, you can use the stock YT-1300 or the Ghtroc 720 statistics in the Core Rulebook. Aside from furthering the training of Jedi heroes, Master Denia, now back to full health, has been meditating on the possibility of a link between the Sarlacc Project and the slaves rescued by the heroes (at the end of the last adventure). But her ability of farseeing through the Force is limited, and she has encountered road blocks where there should be answers. One possible solution has been revealed to her: If she were to obtain a rare Jedi holocron, she might be able to augment her Force abilities. By doing so, she could better assist Senator Organa and the heroes with their goal of foiling the Empire's nefarious plans. To accomplish this, she requests the heroes' help.

Unknown to the heroes, Inquisitor Valin Draco felt a strong tremor in the Force while they were all in close proximity over Bespin—a tremor the Inquisitor hasn't felt since in the presence of his old master. In the course of Echoes of the Jedi, the heroes will come face to face with the Inquisitor for the first time inside the ruins of the Jedi academy on Almas. Although the meeting appears to be one of pure chance, there might be a greater force at work.

Over the course of the campaign's second act, the heroes will learn a bit more about Denia's past, her tutelage of Inquisitor Draco, and the Sarlacc Project. Additionally, this campaign arc concludes much like The Empire Strikes Back, with a series of bad things happening to the heroes. The events of this act are darker in tone but shouldn't be a series of nothing but down notes. The heroes should reel from their battles, but they also should have a chance to succeed and make progress.

Echoes of the Jedi will give existing Jedi heroes a chance to use their abilities to the fullest and allow new Jedi trained by Master Denia to practice what they have learned. But the adventure is not designed for Jedi alone. Heroes of other classes will also contribute their unique talents and skills to resolve conflicts.



Adventure Background

Abandoned and half buried in the sands of Almas for more than a millennium, Darth Rivan's fortress has been recently invaded and pillaged by Jedi and Sith cultists. His tomes, amulets, and other artifacts have been stolen. Even the corrupt spirit of his failed apprentice Darsin, left behind as the stronghold's guardian, has been defeated. But Rivan's sarcophagus has been found empty.

In truth, the remnants of his dark influence has lingered for centuries in a diluted state in the cold, desert wastes surrounding the fortress, inching gradually toward the Force nexus over which the Jedi built their dark academy. This energy responsible for the death of the world's kaluthin plant—which Rivan himself engineered so long ago-as death and decay slowly spreads outward from his fortress. The recent destruction of the Almas Academy has strengthened this evil energy in this region. The spread of the dark side across Almas has left behind a blight of withered kaluthin that is visible from orbit. The power of the dark side in Almas has also attracted creatures that feed on the Force, and they have followed it to its source in the bowels of the ravaged Jedi academy.

The residents of the city of Forard, still reeling from the destruction of the academy at its center during Order 66, made an effort to go on with their lives, but they couldn't escape the impact of the dark side. Over a few short months, many local citizens inexplicably became violent, crime rose far beyond what local police could handle, and some people simply dropped dead. Fear and death quickly left the city deserted as residents relocated to other planets in the system with help from the now-independent Cularin Militia.

After months of interrogating Force sensitive prisoners, Inquisitor Draco learned of a holocron in the Cularin system that supposedly contained ancient Sith knowledge. He swept the system for Jedi who might have survived the Almas Academy bombardment but did not find refugees protected by Cularin's natives, the Tarasin. Draco arrived at the academy ruins and was immediately entranced by an intoxicating surge of the dark side. Attempting to locate the source of this power, Draco went into the sublevels of the Jedi academy, where he chanced upon a fortunate discovery.

Adventure Summary

Deep within the academy was the Sith holocron he sought, which once belonged to the Sith Lord Darth Rivan. Moreover, the growing dark side energy on Almas had suffused the Rivan holocron with a powerful evil. As a result, the holocron's gatekeeper took on a life of its own, believing itself to be the actual spirit of Darth Rivan, and it gained the power to activate itself and act of its own free will. Draco learned much from the faux Sith Lord spirit, and he remained in the academy to study the holocron further.

Master Vhiin'Thorla, a Twi'lek Jedi, who had been away on his homeworld when Order 66 took place, visited the Almas Academy with his Padawan in hopes of finding survivors. When Draco encountered them, a fierce lightsaber duel ensued, and Draco's protégé Raik Muun used trickery to induce Thorla's Padawan into a murderous rage directed at his own master. Thorla was forced to kill his own Padawan in selfdefense, and, wracked with grief, was easily captured. Draco imprisoned the Jedi Master in a Force annulling Universal Energy Cage. For a week leading up to the heroes' arrival, Draco has conspired with the holocron gatekeeper to break Thorla and turn him to the dark side.

Echoes of the Jedi opens with the heroes being sent to the planet Almas, in the Cularin system, to retrieve an ancient holocron from the ruins of the Jedi academy that once stood there. En route they are attacked by pirates, eventually they make their way down to the surface of the planet. Delving deep into the ruined academy, they fight off evil dark side creatures, zealous followers of an ancient Sith lord, monstrous beasts, and the crumbling ruins of the academy itself. Finally they encounter Inquisitor Draco, who has fallen strongly under the sway of an evil Sith holocron gatekeeper. After doing battle with Draco, the heroes should recover the holocron and escape the collapsing academy, returning with the artifact to the Resurgence.

Episode I Mission to Almas

Before starting the adventure, you should bring the players up to speed about what their characters have been doing since the end of The Queen of Air and Darkness. Afterward, read the following text aloud to them. It takes place in a briefing room aboard the Resurgence, where Master Denia briefs the heroes on a new mission.

"Your help to our cause in the last few months has been invaluable and your dedication exemplary. During my recovery, I had time to reflect on our goal—to discover the purpose of the Sarlacc Project.

"While studying at the Jedi Temple on Coruscant, I learned about holocrons — recording devices into which Jedi stored their wisdom to pass on to future generations. Some holocrons, such as the prized Tedryn Holocron of Jedi Master Ashka Boda, were tailored toward helping Jedi Masters penetrate the secrets of the Force. Even beings already trained in the Jedi ways, like myself, greatly benefit from such a source of learning.

"I summoned you because the Force has pulled together threads of knowledge to reveal the location of a holocron similar to the Tedryn. Some time before I traveled to Cato Neimoidia, Master Ashka Boda contacted me with news that he had joined the former Almas Academy student Halagad Ventor in trying to form a network between scattered Jedi survivors of the destruction of the academy. During the Clone Wars, an orbital bombardment decimated the academy in the Cularin system, and if any artifacts have survived, common sense suggests that they have since been stolen. But the Force tells me that the holocron we require is there.

"I've never been to the planet Almas in person, but I knew the headmaster there, a serene Jedi Master named Lanius Qel-Bertuk. I have no current information on the planet, but I can provide you with coordinates and a path through the treacherous comet cloud that surrounds the Cularin system. These were obtained at great expense thanks to Senator Organa's vast connections.

"I feel this is crucial to our cause, because I have sensed a link between the Sarlacc Project and the slaves that you rescued above Bespin. But I have probed the Force tirelessly and at last reached my limits. With this Jedi holocron, however, I might expand my ability to see through the Force and find the answers we seek. Furthermore, I will be able to pass on the lessons it contains to a future generation of Jedi, thus coming one step closer to restoring peace and justice to the galaxy."

The coordinates Cularin to are programmed into the nav computer of the heroes' ship, which should be consulted for additional information about the system. If the heroes have more questions before the mission starts, you should clarify or repeat only what Master Denia already told them. Don't reveal too much, aside from what the heroes' Knowledge checks entitle them to know about Almas (see the sidebar on page 7). The trip takes approximately one day. When they drop out of hyperspace near the Cularin system, the heroes can use the coordinates supplied by Master Denia to navigate the evershifting comet cloud that blocks the entire system.

Several hours after leaving the Corellian Run, your starship exits hyperspace at the calculated point just outside the Cularin system. Exactly as you were warned by Master Denia, you notice innumerable comets of all shapes and sizes occasionally colliding with each other, forming an enormous cloud around the system. Fortunately, you were supplied with a sensor package that analyzes their erratic patterns and calculates a safe path through the cloud. Once past that danger, another jump must be calculated to avoid flying for weeks at sublight speeds. However, this time the calculations are trickier due to large, overlapping gravity wells created by the system's dense planet cores. But you know people who've made the Kessel Run, and this can't be worse than skirting the Maw cluster. An hour later, you again emerge from hyperspace and the planet farthest from Cularin's twin suns comes into view, lambent and mysterious: Almas.

The first thing you notice from orbit is the strange luminescence that emanates from the planet itself. The twin suns are too distant to illuminate the planet, and you are approaching from the side facing away from them. Yet most of the surface emits a faint glow, except for one dark spot where the Jedi academy happens to be located according to your nav computer.

Almas

Astronavigiational Data:

Expansion Region

Orbital: Metrics:

5,547 days per year / 38 hours per day

Government:

None

Population:

66% Human, 14% Tarasin, 20% Other

Terrain:

Deolate wasteland, temperate kaluthin

grasslands (high oxygen)

Major Cities:

Forard (abandoned)

Major Exports:

None.

Major Imports:

None

Background:

An anomaly in itself, Almas was a molten, terrestrial planet orbiting beyond the usual range for its kind, and due to this it received little sunlight. Despite its hot core, Almas was not very geologically active. It had only two small mountain ranges. The planet's atmosphere was initially filled with poisonous gases like phosphorus and methane, until Sith Lord Dart Rivan, aiming to settle there. developed the kaluthin grass to help alter the atmosphere. Almas had no surface but there water, were underground lakes upon which the kaluthin drew and to which settlers would later built wells. The kaluthin was a success, given that all Almas' water was located underground, and



continued to thrive there for centuries. On the leaves of the kaluthin were phosphorus deposits that glowed with a faint light. Due to these deposits, when the kaluthin covered the planet, the planet itself radiated an "aura".

Over the centuries, the kaluthin spread across the planet and created a highly oxygen-rich atmosphere. However, trace elements of phosphorus and methane could still have detrimental effects on those who spent extended periods of time outside without a breath mask. The plants' kilometers-deep taproots also brought up heat from the planet's core, warming the surface. In addition, the purple-green grass gave the planet a distinct aural glow, mainly from the phosphorus it consumed. This living growth was unusually countered by the dark side energy on the planet, which originated in the desert region and slowly spread. The Jedi measured the spread to be one meter per year.

Darth Rivan built there his Sith fortress, at some point before 1250 BBY. The castle was located on the desert side of the planet. It was built on this planet in hope to gather dark side energy from the Force-dense Cularin system. It was here that Darth Rivan tried to create an corps of Sith battlelords, but he was betrayed by his apprentice before he could do so.

After decades of living there, Darth Rivan was expelled by the Jedi Knights during the New Sith Wars in the Battle of Almas. Parts of the fortress were destroyed, but its core resisted blaster fire. The Jedi left the planet, ignoring the remains of the building. A Believers camp erected around the Almas Sith fortress.

The kaluthin, thriving even without Rivan, kept Almas from being worth mining. It grew everywhere besides near the Sith fortress, and its roots delved deep. What little mineral worth the planet had was not worth the added expense of removing the kaluthin from a mining site. However, the planet became a gardenlike site instead of the nightmare it had been except around the Sith Fortress, where no life could thrive. The kaluthin also phosphorus processed the generated a glow that illuminated the planet from itself instead of from the sky.

After Reidi Artom re-discovered the system in 232 BBY, two Jedi, master Qornah and his Padawan Kibh Jeen, came to Almas to research Rivan's fortress. The Sith fortress corrupted Jeen, who slew his master, took over the asteroid belt pirates, and started the Dark Jedi Conflict (188-181 BBY). After the Conflict ended, a Jedi school was founded which grew into the Almas Academy, the headmaster of which was Jedi Master Nerra Ziveri, and then his former apprentice, Master Lanius Qel-Bertuk.

The town of Forard grew up around the Academy. The Academy and Forard were built directly upon the kaluthin, which did not seem to affect the plant at all. There was also a kaluthin Forard research station near the town, where possible transplants of kaluthin to other planets were analyzed. Almas was the only planet in the system not occupied by clone troopers during the Clone Wars.

In circa 19 BBY, the Dark Jedi Garth Ezzar attacked Almas and destroyed the Almas Academy, killing most of the Jedi there. The ruins and surrounding area were also home to the Dark Lizards of the Sith; a species of Hssiss dragon that was thoroughly permeated with the dark side of the Force.

Red Fury Brotherhood

Since the destruction of the Almas Academy, the pirates of the Red Fury Brotherhood emerged as the dominant corsairs in the Cularin system. Inquisitor Draco cut a deal to have them patrol the orbit of Almas while he investigates the darkness saturating the planet. Policing duties have fallen to one of the Red Fury's most hardhearted and arrogant swash-bucklers, the pirate Reddjak.

His menacing scarlet vessel, the Blood Brother, tries to ensnare and board the heroes' ship within moments of its arrival. The encounter might turn into a space battle, but the pirates prefer boarding the heroes' ship and fighting them in person. Either way, the heroes should land (or crash) in or near the city of Forard and make their way toward the Almas Academy ruins (see the map of Forard on page 16).

Seeing Red

The fight starts with the heroes on one side and the pirates on the other. If the heroes' ship has been boarded, combat takes place in an interior portion of the ship. Otherwise, it takes place as a space battle between the Blood Brother and any ships possessed by the heroes. As soon as the heroes spot the pirate vessel in orbit, their ship's subspace transceiver pings, and an image appears on their viewscreen:

As the ruby-dipped consular-class cruiser fills the viewport, suddenly on your ship's viewscreen, in all his preposterous glory, is a pointyeared, male near-Human with thick, flaring eyebrows, a patch of fur on his jutting chin, and a razor-thin mustache that would be the envy of any holodrama villain. He's wearing an open crimson blouse, strapped down at the waist by a gold sash, and he brandishes a menacing vibrorapier. His gloating smile says it all.

"Let's not waste time, you starforsaken spawns of space slugs," the man says. "By the authority of the Red Fury Brotherhood, you're now Captain Reddjak's prisoners. Cut all power to your weapons and shields, and the Blood Brother won't blow you out of the stars. Prepare for the pleasure of being boarded."

Blood Brother

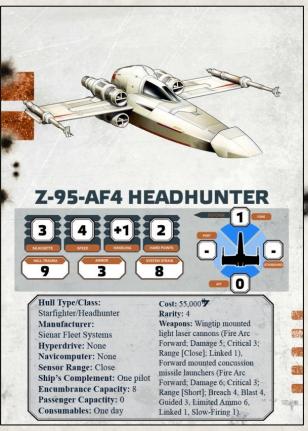
The Red Fury Brotherhood is currently the most potent buccaneer organization operating out of the Cularin system. Reddjak's cut a deal with Inquisitor Draco to guard the space above Almas while the Imperials investigate the Jedi academy ruins.

The Blood Brother's paint job may seem like a natural eccentricity of its captain, but the ship came that way. It was formerly the Dura-Khan III, a Republic diplomatic vessel coated stem to stern in crimson to denote its status of neutrality. After Reddjak claimed the ship as booty, he kept it for himself, modifying it for piracy.

Reddjak would like to be able to claim the heroes' cargo as booty by boarding their ship, and if the heroes are caught by the Blood Brother's tractor beam they may have no choice. However, he's already receiving a handsome compensation from Inquisitor Draco, so Reddjak will not hesitate to blast the heroes' ship into smithereens if they struggle.

A ship is only as effective as its captain, and Reddjak is both overconfident and anxious to make a name for himself, making the Blood Brother vulnerable to hero ingenuity. The first thing Reddjak does is try to get a tractor beam lock on the heroes. If they try to escape, he aims to disable their engines. If the heroes flee, a pair of the Blood Brother's Z-95 headhunters gives chase to the planet below, again taking aim at the heroes' engines and trying to force them to land.





Echoes of the Jedi



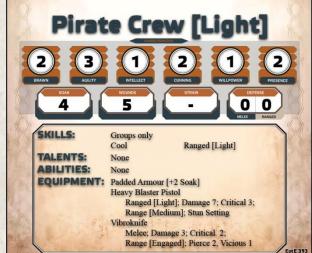
Red Fury Pirates

These are pirates from straight out of the holodramas. Dressed in red and swinging vibrorapiers, they stink of Corellian ale and other unknown substances. The only thing missing is a cry of "Ahoy, mateys!" This motley collection of individuals flash their stained teeth as they start shooting at you.

The Red Fury Brotherhood is as cutthroat as they come. Reddjak has taken on many violent outcasts and turned the alien pariahs into stone-hearted killers. These corsairs are trained to board in space with space suits or force their victims onto a planet surface where they can fight in the open. Complete with cybernetic eye patches, vibrorapiers, blasters, and a stench that could bowl over a bantha, these pirates are seasoned pros, anxious to loot their first catch of the day.

Unless the heroes voluntarily open the cargo door for the boarders, the pirates make their own entrance with a fusioncutter or similar device. They initially try to stun the heroes, hoping to capture them and sell them as slaves, but the boarders switch tactics to shoot to kill as soon as anyone in their party gets injured.











Landing

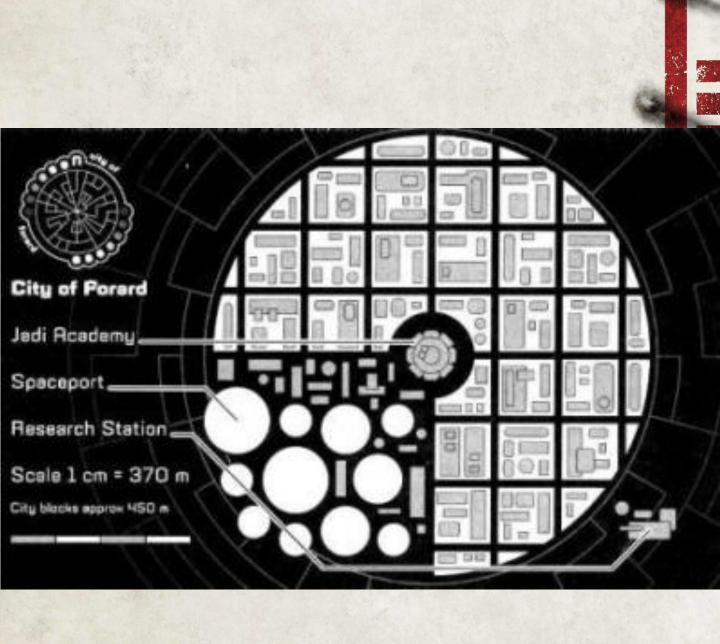
The nav computer instructs the heroes to land near the abandoned cluster of buildings formerly comprising the city of Forard. There is no spaceport control to direct them—the landing beacons have been extinguished for close to two years. Landing the ship is not difficult, since the terrain around the town is flat for hundreds of kilometers. However, if the ship was damaged during the "Seeing Red" encounter, the heroes need to make a few Piloting checks to land without incident.

The ship's sensors detect only a few life forms in the vicinity. The planet's atmosphere is cold and has a very high oxygen concentration. The air contains traces of toxins (such as methane and phosphorus), and a Hard [•••] Survival check reveals that the heroes should wear breath masks, at least while outside the ruins, to avoid being affected.

TOXIC ATMOSPHERE

In addition, due to the large amounts of oxygen, heroes may heal wounds after each encounter here. While "catching their breath" heroes heal one would per 🛠 and one strain per 🗘.

The academy ruins are located in the city center, and since kaluthin doesn't grow in the immediate vicinity, the heroes must use glowrods (or ignited lightsabers) to light the way. Heroes who have a Force Rating of one or more automatically detect a strong presence of the dark side as soon as they get within 1 kilometer of the ruins (no check required). Anyone attempting the Sense Force power while at this range or closer takes one conflict due to the heavy influence of the Dark side in this area.



Squibs ... Why did it have to be Squibs

The nearly circular city of Forard escaped the fate of the Jedi academy around which it was built. Citizens of the urban sprawl watched in horror and awe as fire rained down from the sky with remarkable pinpoint accuracy, utterly annihilating the academy. But if the people thought they were safe after this precision strike, they were dead wrong. With the destruction of the academy, a series of mysterious calamities befell the city, and now it remains all but lifeless.

Whether the heroes land in this area as part of the encounter with the Red Fury Brotherhood or come to it afterward, read the following:

As you walk through the discarded remnants of old lives, you notice the empty twin buildings housing the local children's school. To your left, you see faded graffiti on the wall, below sign that reads "Remembrance Hall." A collective chill runs down your spines as you make out suspiciously red letters that say, "DEATH TO THE UNFAITHFUL." When you get within a hundred meters of the academy ruins, you realize that all the kaluthin inside this radius has died off. This area is as dead as the entire planet was millennia ago.

The city is empty of men, women, and children. Hostile winds whip through the lifeless streets and between the alleyways of abandoned buildings. Unlike most of the planet, here the unchecked kaluthin has taken over, growing up to 2 meters tall in some parts of the city. And yet, the plant fails to mask strewn debris and the occasional decomposing body—the calling cards of looters and bandits who plundered the city after the unexpected attack almost two years ago.

If a hero makes a successful Average [• •] Perception check (inflict due to distance), he notices that they are being watched, though he can't determine who or what is spying on them. He catches only shadows or overhears noises of jostled metal and debris. These are Sith worshippers and their Dark Lizard pets that, up until the bombardment, had relegated themselves to Almas' Sith fortress and its immediate vicinity, where the lingering presence of the dark side used to be strongest. The heroes will encounter a pack of Dark Lizards before entering the Almas Academy.

As the heroes make their way to the city center, they reach the outer buildings that surround the Almas Academy—or what used to be the academy (see the map of the academy area on page 16). Extrapolated from the Coruscant Jedi Temple's original design, only a few crumbling walls of the Jedi learning center are still visible.

As the heroes near what might have been the entrance to the academy grounds, a cacophony of barely intelligible voices assails their ears. When the heroes get even closer, they spot three rotund beings in space suits towering over five aliens that look like rabid canines with blue fur. A member of each group is engaged in a tug of war over what looks like the upper half of a tarnished silver protocol droid.

"Ged your unholy pseudopoda off dis Holy Artifact, Zquib-thing," the big one says. The little guy retorts, "From our dead, cold paws, ugly Ugor fiendbeing! We did the location finding of this silver-ish, prettisome treasure pre-secondary!"

"It is unfortunate," the half-droid says, "that Jedi Master Lanius never programmed me for a denouement of this particular design."

"Hey, byu!" One of larger ones yells, popping off its helmet and turning part of its flabby amoebic body into an arm to wave you over "Hey byu, tell Zquib zinners we find dis Holy Artifact infinitely dimes infinitely before dem. Blease!"





Scavengers

Given the scum that usually shows up in the wake of a battle or planetary catastrophe, these foragers seem relatively harmless. This should be evident to the heroes based on the exchanges they overhear. Based on the droid's reference to his relationship with Jedi Master Lanius (whom Master Denia mentioned to the heroes), they should realize that the droid might have information that can help them with their mission. If the heroes do not catch on immediately, feel free to offer them other incentives to recover the droid for themselves, such as having the droid mention knowledge of the academy's ruins ("This never would have happened if I'd stayed in the ruins!") and so forth. When the heroes approach, all parties react with a degree of restrained but visible hope, each trying to share its side of the story before the others.

SplrMuck, the unicellular Ugor holding the droid's left arm, explains that his group found the droid first, fair and square, dragging it out from the Almas Academy ruins. SplrMuck set the droid down in front of the academy entrance for just a second when he saw the heroes' ship set down nearby. SplrMuck's story, if true, seems to be news to Jiminaldomabbramsti (or Jimi)—the feisty Squib with a death grip on the droid's right arm—and his

furry compatriots. They work for the Squib salvager Squeerie, and Jimi insists that no Ugors were around at the time he found this "treasure" near the temple entrance. Possession is nine hundred-and-ninety nine one-thousandths of High Squibbian Law, so if SplrMuck set the droid down, for whatever reason, it's fair game. By contrast, Ugors have turned garbage gathering into a religion, and Ugorian Divine Law decrees that the first being to find a piece of junk consecrates it with his slime on contact, a mark of ownership instantly identifiable and respected by any other Ugor.

As for the half-droid himself, he explains respectfully that he is 7- A39, or SevenAy, a former protocol droid for the Almas Academy. The heroes should not only feel inclined toward helping the hapless droid, but also recognize that SevenAy might have crucial information about the academy's sublevels and perhaps the holocron they're after.

The heroes have multiple challenges in their interactions with the scavengers, but only acquiring SevenAy or a special data cube is critical to the success of their mission. The heroes must negotiate with the Squib and Ugor parties for the droid. The following challenges show how the heroes can affect the outcome of the encounter.

The heroes must either save 7-A39 so that they can question the protocol droid or obtain a data cube that will grant access to the computer inside the academy's control room. Although the scavengers begin the encounter hostile toward each other, each group begins with an attitude of indifferent toward the heroes, whom they hope can solve their dilemma. As both groups are really less interested in SevenAy than in getting as many credits as they can, they are receptive to any deal the heroes try to spin in exchange for the droid. If pressed, SplrMuck will give up his claim to SevenAy for 2,000 credits, and Jimi will settle for any spare breath masks the heroes might have (the Squibs didn't realize that the Almas atmosphere was technically poisonous). Once the heroes have acquired SevenAy, the Squibs throw in a net, free of charge, so that one of the heroes can carry the half-droid on his or her back.

If the characters don't barter for SevenAy, the data cube can be used instead to splice into the academy's computer. However, the data cube won't offer the same advice that SevenAy can. The droid has intimate knowledge of the inner workings of the academy, even after the attacks, and can provide directions and explanations of how some systems inside the academy work—for example, that the backup generator can power only one sublevel at a time.

If the heroes' ship is in need of repairs after the encounter with the Blood Brother, either the Squibs or Ugors have the necessary components among their junk. An Average [] Mechanics check reveals that some of the parts can be used to repair the heroes' ship, ()() could be used to reveal the exact parts. Any hero who has the Knowledge (Warfare) skill realizes that the spare parts were taken from the remains of the Cularin militia ship that crashed into one of the outer surrounding the academy. buildings Obtaining those parts grants any heroes when repairing their ship.

In addition to obtaining components for their ship, the heroes can haggle with the scavengers for other items.

The Squibs have the following:

- a battering ram
- a box of eight glowrods
- a beat-up children's holobook of Busteromuchmacho and the Vermillion Shadow (Vol. 3 in the Squib Jedi series)
- a broken lightsaber that belonged to Dorv'Tilsta, the Padawan of Master Vhiin'Thorla, which will be of use to the heroes later.

Meanwhile, the Ugors have these items:

- a clone trooper utility belt (with a medpac and syntherope)
- a "holy holocron"

If the heroes show excitement over the holocron, the Ugors demand, in exchange, either a sizeable sum (5,000 credits) or something precious to the heroes.

If the characters acquire the holocron, they quickly realize that it's a "holocron" in name only—a cheap marketing ploy used to boost the appeal of everyday data cubes. If the Ugors allow the heroes to inspect the "holocron" before sealing the deal, a Formidable [• • • •] Knowledge Lore check reveals that it is fake.

Finally, the heroes should try to resolve the scavengers' dispute peacefully, with creative uses of the Negotiation skill and the Influence Force power. This should involve getting the Squib and Ugor parties to understand each other's sacred laws, resulting in apologies from both sides for the misunderstanding. If the heroes anger one or both sides, they fail the challenge.







Dark Lizards of the Sith

Immediately after the heroes resolve the conflict between the Squibs and the Ugors, all are besieged by dark side reptiles that emerge from behind the broken chunks of the academy tower. The heroes' only warning before the assault is a spine-chilling snarl and SplrMuck's gurgling vociferation, "Holy irrebducible garbágina!" See "The Believers' Pets" for more information on running this encounter.

If the heroes successfully brokered a peace between the scavengers, they consider the heroes comrades now that they have shed dark side blood together. After killing the Dark Lizards, if the heroes had not already secured the items they wanted from the scavengers, the Squibs and Ugors turn them over with glee—at a meagre 50 credits each. There's nothing they wouldn't do for a friend, after all.

Once the heroes have secured their prize (either the half-droid or the data cube), they can head directly into the Almas Academy ruins. (See the map of the academy ground floor on page 16.)

The Believers Pets

The heroes are likely to be more or less facing away from what's left of the Jedi academy entrance, while the Squibs and Ugors face in the opposite direction. Large and small chunks of the academy ruins are scattered around all three groups. When the encounter begins, the Dark Lizards come rampaging out of the debris directly behind the heroes. When the Squibs and Ugors spot the onrushing horde of Dark Lizards, read the following:

Your only warning is the gurgling exclamation, "Holy irrebducible garbágina!" from one of the Ugors, followed by a loud, inhuman growl. As you turn around, there, in broad daylight, appear horrors wrenched from the realm of darkness. Giant reptilian, slavering monsters, black as the void and just as soulless, burst from the concealment of the academy ruins, galloping toward you!



Dark Lizard

The Dark Lizards' hungry, inky tongues from unfurl gullets that seem bottomless, thanks to the 10 centimeter ebon teeth lining their mouths, which dribble tarlike drool. These beasts resemble living shadows, and only their ivory claws indicate that their origin is not supernatural. Their obsidian hides radiate incalculably vile energy. There is no sign of intelligence in their primeval gazes, only the brand of distilled evil-their eyes smolder with the orange-red glow of the dark side.

The Dark Lizard is a species of reptilian hssiss drenched in the dark side to such to a degree that its eyes shine coral like those of a Dark Lord, and the ebony beast literally glows with darkness. Even its drool is black. Encased in its bony skull is a mouth filled with black stiletto teeth and a charcoal prehensile tongue (earning

the beast its alternative sobriquet, "Dark Tongue"). Along the back of the creature's 3-meter-long body run two rows of sharp spikes, and its four appendages end in huge ivory claws.

Popular as exotic pets among crimelords and other beings insane with power, Dark Lizards on Almas have found their masters in the Sith cultist Believers.





Dark Lizard Alpha

The Dark Lizards might not be sentient, but they know a thing or two about hunting. They quickly try to corral the heroes and scavengers between them, making an effort to capture them with their prehensile tongues. This attack is a grapple action, and if it succeeds, the lizards reel their victims in to attack them with claws and bite. Alternatively, the lizards try to trample their victims and pin them to the ground, lashing at them with bite attacks.







Entering the Ruins

If the heroes do some reconnaissance outside, they can see that the ruins of eight rectangular buildings surround the tower like ragged teeth. The grounds between them and the main building used to be gardens, but are now littered with ferrocrete hunks of blasted wall and the remains of a military ship that crashed into the north side of the tower. Read the following text aloud:

Soon, you pass the outer buildings and grounds that surround the academy proper. The remains of the circular structure are immediately identifiable as Coruscani in design. The majestic white marble tower lies toppled on the ground.

Once you pass the yawning entrance, where the 5-meter-high double doors were ripped from their hinges by someone who valued only their material worth, you find yourselves in the entry hall. Even with all the surrounding devastation, the wonder of this place remains palpable. The few interior walls still standing are also made of white Selonian marble, lined with thick veins of silver that form into knots where wall and floor meet. Inlaid cases carved into the entry hall walls are set at about a meter off the floor. Dust-free spots inside them show that their contents were stolen rather recently.

Only some sections of the ground floor remain accessible. Most of the corridors were blocked when the upper floors caved in during the bombardment. You must make your way over or under a row of oncedazzling columns at the hall center, now shattered into pathetic fragments. At the other end, past the cracked bust of a venerable Twi'lek Jedi, the only unobstructed path leads to the fountain chamber.

Once there, you find yourselves in a large, circular room, half of which is completely caved in. There are five marble benches lined up along the curving wall on the left and an exit at the other end, which leads to another dark corridor. While the farthest half is filled with debris, in the middle of the room sits a magnificent fountain. From its center extends an impressive sculpture of a large humanoid hand, palm out in a welcoming gesture. The work of art is cracked from the impacts it suffered during the attack. The fountain waters stopped bubbling a long time ago, and at the bottom of the dried-up pool is a dark, viscous substance that seems to slightly alter its shape. Must be a trick of the light. There seems to be nothing of interest this former contemplation chamber.

Cave in

If the heroes go directly to the exit, skip to the next encounter. If at least one hero tries to touch the black substance, add the following:

As you approach the black substance that lies at the center of the fountain, a tendril of ooze lashes out faster than the eye can see, and a profound cold engulfs you for a second. Before anyone realizes what has happened, the puddle of ooze disappears down the fountain water shaft.

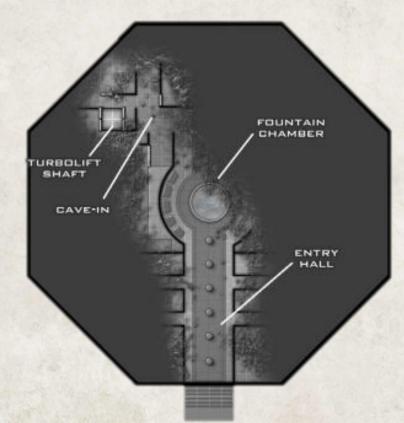
Each hero in a square that is adjacent to the ooze is attacked by one tendril. The attack is considered a surprise, so the heroes are flat-footed (no Dexterity bonus to Reflex defense) and cannot act in the surprise round. Each tendril attacks at +10 and deals 1d8 points of damage. The creature is a t'salak and will be encountered in the lower levels of the academy. It has been lying in wait as a sort of sentry, but it doesn't use its powers on the heroes just yet.

The right path on the ground floor is pretty clear-cut. The holomap contained within SevenAy or the data cube is useful only once the heroes reach the sublevels. Still, if the heroes ask, the droid reveals that the inaccessible rooms on the ground floor used to be offices and classrooms, the lightsaber training room, and the grand lecture hall. The only way downstairs is via an empty turbolift shaft located past the fountain chamber and to the left. But before they reach it, the heroes' passing causes a wall to cave in—a wall that was sustaining the ceiling by a hairpin.

ALMAS ACADEMY AREA



GROUND FLOOR



Episode II: Domain of Evil

While the ruined ground floor above had at least some reflected light streaming in, the underground level is pitch black. As the heroes scurry down the empty shaft, they must rely on their glowrods to light the way. You should keep in mind the effects of blindness for any area that is not illuminated (see Darkness, page 213 of the EotE Core Rulebook). Beneath the heroes is a rubble pile that fell inside the shaft, blocking the path north to the vehicle hangar, but the south exit out of the turbolift is clear.

Once outside the lift shaft, the heroes find themselves at the intersection of two corridors that form an "L" shape (see the map of sublevel 1 on page 19). A thin coat of dust covers the floor, disturbed in places where several beings have recently traveled. The walls are constructed of reinforced white duraplast. The corridor going east leads to several small study chambers and the remains of a control room, before being blocked by a cave in (see "Control Room," below). The corridor going straight (south) has two blast doors (see "Generator Room," below) and turns left about 30 meters down (see "Library," below).

Control Room

The blast door yields, and you find yourselves in a dark, dank room about 4 meters by 12 meters. On the opposite wall is a large, cracked transparisteel window with a view blocked by enormous boulders and slag. The far side of the room is also filled from floor to ceiling with rubble where the wall and window were not strong enough to hold back the collapsing academy structure. Below the window is a bank of consoles and computers; some have been damaged, with broken screens and severed wires hanging from underneath. But one console seems intact. It has a standard input for datapads and astromech droids.

The heroes might have turned on the power to this level (see "Generator Room," below). If not, they can power up the console with an external source on successful Hard Mechanics check. If 7-A39 is with them, the droid suggests it to the heroes. If a failed check generates ⑤ Ø / ♥, the console short circuits and requires extensive repairs. If the check succeeds, the computer turns on. Computers checks made against it

However, the Jedi had locked down the system with restricted access, so the heroes have to plug in either SevenAy (at his suggestion) or the data cube they obtained from the Ugors. The information that can be accessed includes a map of sublevel 1, descriptions of functions for each room (the most important of which is the library), and a dated log showing what vehicles were borrowed from the hangar (located behind the debrisblocked window) and by whom.

Access to the map shows a stairway leading down at the end of the corridor outside the control room, but the heroes noticed earlier that this route is blocked. They must circle the perimeter of the meditation rooms

and arrive at the other side of the blocked passageway to access these stairs (unknown to the heroes, that stairway is also blocked by debris; see "Storage Rooms," page 14). The last log entry, dated around the same time as the attack on the Almas Academy, shows that all vehicles were evacuated from the hangar due to an emergency.

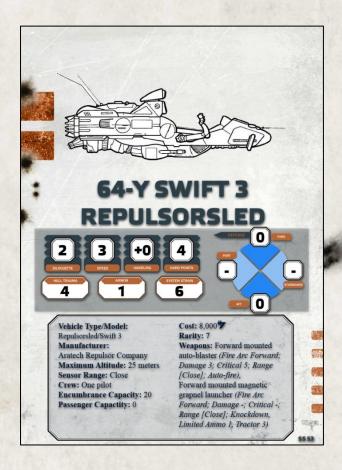
The heroes can issue routine commands, such as turning on the power and opening unlocked blast doors, for either sublevel, but they can do so for only one sublevel at a time. If they turn on the power, the ceiling lights flicker on in the corridor outside. However, the lights are very dim and strobe unpredictably. Be sure to describe this phenomenon to unnerve the heroes as they move about the sublevel.

Generator Room

Halfway across the corridor, on the west side wall, are two blast doors. If the heroes turned on the power in the control room, the doors whisk open with the push of a button. If not, they need to be powered up using an external source or forced (see "Control Room," above). Behind both doors, the rooms are of equal size, roughly 12 meters by 20 meters. The first room used to be a repair and maintenance area. Salvagers have picked it clean, but some pieces of junk are still lying including empty around. fuel containers, damaged repair tools, and all kinds of nuts, bolts, and hull plates.

The second room houses the academy's power generator, a huge cylindrical turbine. Close inspection reveals that it is damaged beyond salvation. A smaller turbine nearby is the backup generator, and it is mostly intact. It can be powered on from the computer in the control room or by connecting a datapad directly to it and issuing the activation commands. The backup generator has only enough juice to power one level of the academy at a time, and since the top floors no longer exist, the heroes can use it to power one of the two sublevels.

Once activated, the backup generator will run for six hours before shutting down for a recharge. But the heroes won't know this, so you can surprise them with this fact once the approximate time has lapsed (or at any particularly dramatic moment). The largely empty room also has a functioning repulsor sled, which the heroes can use to haul their gear around or as a battering ram to beat down doors (requiring an Average [Piloting Planetary check).



Library

The southern corridor parallels the one to the north, where the control room is located, except that it is not blocked by debris. This corridor is 42 meters long. Along its left (north) wall are numerous doors that lead to more meditation rooms, and in the center of the opposite (south) wall is a single door. The heroes can ignore the doors, swing left around the outside of the meditation chambers, and go directly toward the stairwell (see "Storage Rooms," page 34). Each meditation room is 4 meters by 10 meters and totally empty aside from a few personal effects, now caked with dust, that were left behind in a hurry. These inexpensive items (not worth more than 5 credits) might include a personal groomer. a planetary landscape holo-mag, and a recording rod loaded with relaxing music sound slugs.

The most important area of sublevel 1 is the library, located directly across from the southern meditation rooms. The blast door to the library is locked, but it must be forced or powered on (see "Control Room," page 28) before a Daunting [• • • •] Mechanics or Skulduggery check can bypass the lock.

The library is 24 meters by 20 meters. If the heroes expect to find hints about the holocron that Master Denia sent them to retrieve, they will be greatly disappointed. Half the library has been blown away by blaster fire, while the rest has fallen victim to looters, Sith cultists, Almasians, and, finally, Inquisitor Valin Draco. Draco learned the specific hidden location of the Qornah Holocron from Darth Rivan's holocron gatekeeper and took the ancient teaching apparatus down to the deepest sublevel.

When the heroes enter the Jedi library, read the following:

This library isn't as large as its austere counterpart on Coruscant, but the ruination that greets you is no less dismaying. Even in dim light, you can make out a room that once was filled from floor to ceiling with shelves that housed hundreds of holobooks overflowing with Jedi wisdom. Now, the repository has been pulverized into dust by blaster fire, and the shelves rest toppled at precarious angles throughout the chamber, shattered against research stations and the marble floor. The shelves are kept company by overturned chairs and damaged computers spitting sparks.

About 2.5 meters above you is an open second floor, where even more despoiled shelves, holobooks, and datacards lie. More bloodscrawled graffiti again attests to cultist desecration. The second floor has a catwalk that cannot be reached without a hoversled.

Beneath the walkway ledge, at the eastern wall, a wooden door has been splintered open. Framing it are two bronzium busts, presumably of noble Jedi, one of them decapitated. A small plaque identifies the bust as Jedi Master Qornah. The head lies on the floor, severed in half. Oddly, the inside of the sculpture appears to have sheltered something cubical.

If the heroes inspect the bust of Master Qornah, they notice a hidden com-partment that is in the shape of a cube 9 centimetres to a side—just the right size for a Jedi holocron, as described by Master Denia. At the time of the attack on the academy, the Jedi librarian was studying the Qornah Holocron and quickly tucked it away at the first sign of danger. The Sith holocron gatekeeper told Draco exactly where to find the Qornah Holocron, and the Inquisitor cleaved the bust and claimed it.

The splintered east door leads into a study where older documents were held. Unlike datacards, flimsiplast burns easily (even more so in Almas' oxygen-rich atmosphere), so the destruction here is worse. The study also served as the analysis room, and destroyed computers sit on collapsed desks.

Behind the west wall is another room, hidden behind a bookshelf, with no visible entrance. The heroes can determine the existence of the secret room by comparing the map (which combines the three rooms of the library into one large room with no walls or doors) to the size and shape of the actual room. The heroes might also notice the distance between the library door and either end of the corridor outside. A reveals that a hidden room exists behind the west wall, but not how to gain entrance. A successful Sense force power check reveals the entrance. Otherwise, a to search the wallcoupled with a lot of patience reveals the mechanism that activates the shelf.

The door has to be powered on or forced (see "Control Room," page 28). If the door is powered on, a successful **Daunting** [◆◆◆◆] **Mechanics or Skulduggery check** allows the heroes to bypass the lock. 〈②〈②〉 or ② on the check triggers a silent alarm, which alerts Inquisitor Draco on sublevel 2. Forcing the door automatically triggers the alarm.

Echoes of the Jedi



Quoth the Rivan

When the heroes find a way inside the secret archive room, they stumble upon a grisly scene. Approximately a dozen corpses of different species, all in various states of decomposition, lie scattered about the room. A descending stairway is in plain view at the other end. When the heroes juryrig the secret door, read the following:

As the blast door whooshes open, the unmistakable odor hits you like a punch from a Barabel shockboxer: decaying flesh. Strewn before you are about twenty cadavers representing the gamut of alien anatomy and osteology, from Besalisk to Dug to Pinurquian. Judging from the death grip that the deceased have on their weapons, you surmise that two different parties met here a while ago, possibly to cut a deal or as rivals of some sort, and wound up wiping each other out.

You spot the descending stairway on the other side.

This stairway leads to the archives level below and was reserved exclusively for Jedi Masters. (There was a backup stairway access farther north that was sealed up like a bunker, but it is now blocked to the heroes, anyway). To reach it, the heroes must traverse the

While tiptoeing through the archive room, if the heroes make a successful **Average** [] Perception check—perhaps to see what valuables or weapons the dead bodies possess—they notice a scrap of durasheet at the center of the north wall. If they try to get a closer look, read the following:

A cold breeze from the opened blast door behind you whips into the repository, sweeping up the burnt ashes of ancient Jedi texts. One item stands out, however. At a cursory glance, it appears to be nothing more than a scrap of durasheet, except that it seems to glow eerily. You head over to inspect it and find that it contains a solitary passage, written in a language you don't understand. You lift the unexpectedly heavy fragment, and among the only laser-pen burned words written in a recognizable tongue are two defiled parts of a name: DA-TH R-V-N.

Storage Rooms

The scrap is all that's left of a tome that belonged to the Sith Lord Darth Rivan. If the heroes have SevenAy with them, the droid can translate the text. It was referred to by Rivan as "the creed of ruin" and is written in Sith. SevenAy translates as follows:

"This appears to be a dead language. Yes, definitely—the Sith tongue is such a peculiar one. The passage appears to . . . oh my. Quite a bleak extract. It reads:

'There is no passion
There is solely obsession.

There is no knowledge
There is solely conviction.

There is no purpose.

There is solely will.

There is nothing . . . Only me.'"

If SevenAy translates this text, a deafening rumble, like that of a giant waking from its slumber, thunders through surviving academy the structure before a violent quake throws everything into chaos. In the library outside, shelves that were still standing shatter as they crash to the floor. The archive room's blast doors slam closed, casting the room into utter darkness. If the heroes do not trip the sensors or read the text, proceed to sublevel 2, below.

At the end of the corridor, past the meditation rooms and library, the heroes can turn left. At the other (north) end of this corridor, another cave-in blocks the utility staircase leading down, which the heroes might have seen on the map or learned about from SevenAy. The heroes might give up or look for another way down (see "Library," page 31).

Along the corridor, halfway to the utility stairway, are two blast doors. They are unlocked but need to be powered on (see "Control Room," page 28). The first room was a storage space for supplies—anything other than food that was needed by a small, self-contained community such as the Almas Academy. This room was heavily pillaged by thieves and salvagers, who left little behind but empty containers. Describe various containers of soap and torn articles of clothing.

If the heroes make a successful Hard [Perception check, they also notice two surprisingly light strongboxes, each 30 cubic centimeters in size, that are made of smooth, black iron. A successful [Education] check reveals that the containers are made of Mandalorian iron, which was believed to be impenetrable by the Force. If the check generates (?)(?), the heroes also realize that the claim is false— the iron cannot stop the Force, but the strong alloy is resistant to many types of energy. The boxes have a very strong lock, equivalent to an ultrahigh security lock.

Army of Darkness

If the heroes are inside the archive room when the doors shut, they participate in the following encounter. If any heroes are elsewhere at the time, they will not be able to get inside until the encounter is over.

The heroes have triggered a trap involving powerful parasites that animate the corpses of the dead in this room. See "Jacen and the Stalfonauts" for more information on running this encounter.

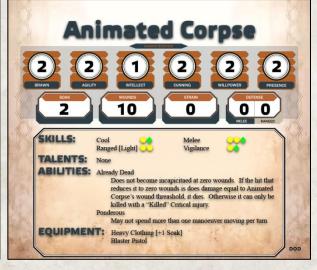
After the heroes neutralize the infected corpses, they can proceed down the staircase. If some heroes were trapped outside the archive room during the encounter, the blast door becomes unlocked 10 minutes after the sensors were tripped. The stairway leads to the second sublevel of the Almas Academy. Once the heroes descend the stairs, proceed to sublevel 2, below.

Jacen and the Stalfonauts

Darth Rivan's holocron gatekeeper convinced Draco to release a two Forcesensitive parasites in the library archive room, where their telekinetic powers seemingly bring the corpses to undead life. If any of the heroes fails an **Average** [• •] **Perception check**, the animated corpses stand up from their prone positions as an incidental at the start of combat. Once the heroes enter the area, read the following:

An unexpected chill runs through your spine, and you hear moans coming from somewhere behind you. Impossibly, the cadavers that were littering the floor earlier are now shambling toward your group. One of them vaguely resembles a Kel Dor. Many of the corpses hold blaster pistols in bony hands that are blemished with chunks of spoiled flesh. You have to go through them to reach the stairs.





Guardian Spirit

You're surrounded by the approaching corpses. Along with their putrefied organic remains, the dark side drips from the reanimated cadavers like saliva from a predatory nexu. Dancing light fills the cavernous eye sockets of their decomposing general as the Kel Dor corpse levels its blaster pistol at you. The undead horde charges.

Called guardian spirits due to primitive cultures' belief that they were the spirits of the dead come back to life, these creatures are actually parasites with telekinetic abilities. Each parasite can inhabit one corpse at a time (top right statistics block), giving the body a semblance of undead animation. Simultaneously, each parasite can also reanimate other corpses without actually being in their bodies (bottom right statistics block), but they do so less efficiently, and only to help kill the heroes.

The parasites cannot live outside of a host body for long. If the heroes kill a host body, its parasite inhabits one of the remaining animated corpses, turning it into a guardian spirit. If there are no animated corpses close enough to inhabit, the parasite has nowhere to go and is destroyed.

These cadavers are actually made up of two distinct groups: the salvagers known as the Stalfonauts and bounty hunters led by the Kel Dor Jacen Yar, who had been out to capture Jedi survivors of the orbital bombardment. The two parties ran into each other in the academy library and wound up killing each other in the archive room. Now, controlled by the parasites like string puppets, their skeletal remains remember nothing of their former lives.

Guardian spirits are very slow, so they use their numbers to their advantage. They will flank the heroes, assisting each other if necessary. They keep attacking until they no longer have the limbs to do so.

Once the corpses are eliminated (or dismembered), the heroes see small clouds of parasitic organisms rise out of them, searching for other host bodies nearby. If there are none within 10 meters, the parasites dissipate with a dying howl. Heroes need only wait a moment until the blast doors open to have easy access to the stairway leading down to sublevel 2.

Sublevel 2

This sublevel can be reached only via the staircase in the library's secret archive room. The other staircase down is blocked (see "Storage Rooms," above). Upon reaching this area, the heroes immediately feel a deep unease that tempts them to turn back. Force sensitive heroes must take a Hard [Discipline check. Failure lowers their Force rating by 1. The effect lasts as long as they are on this sublevel. Spending a Destiny Point can negate this dark side influence. Also, the Sense Force power cannot be used while within range of the dark side nexus that has developed here due to influence. Rivan's lasting (This restriction applies to Draco as well.)

This sublevel is bigger than the floors above, so the map must be consulted as the heroes progress. Encounters are labeled on the map but don't have to be followed in the sequence presented. The encounters marked "Crazed Believers" and "Dreambeast" can happen in any number of rooms at your discretion. You can decide that all unused rooms are empty permanently locked, or you can detail them as you wish (see the sidebar below for suggestions).

Unless the heroes patch power through to sublevel 2 from the control room, the sublevel is completely dark. The heroes start in the room labeled "stairs up" on the map. From this point, at the end of the corridor on the right, they can access the weapons room (see below). If they go to the left, they pass the refresher (see page 38), travel down a corridor, and finally come to an arch that leads into the underground park (see page 42).

Weapons Room

This room was visited recently, but the blast door controls were destroyed. Opening the door requires spending 1 hour performing a major repair with the proper tools, followed by a successful **Daunting** [• • • •] **Mechanics check**.

If the heroes take the time to repair the door and open it, they find something surprising: a blaster shooting range. After all, lightsaber wielding Jedi have to practice their shooting skills, too. If the sublevel has power, several holographic targets appear when the heroes enter the room, startling them. There are representations of Gungans, Jawas, Squibs, and various small beasts.

Another blast door leads to a back room. If the heroes have not restored power and unlocked the doors to sublevel 2, they must open the blast door manually (see "Control Room," page 28). If they do so, they find that the back room is an armory. Transparent plexi on the ground shields a small stream that runs along just under floor level. This room has several usable blaster pistols (7) and power packs (20). Everything else has either been stolen or rusted beyond use.

Refresher

This is a fairly standard washroom for both men and women. It contains effluvial rinsers as well as refreshers. Along the floor runs a narrow natural stream, covered by transparent plexi.



Crazed Believers

As the heroes approach the west arch leading to the underground park, they are attacked by the first of many crazed Humans who wander this level, looking for blood. Feel free to run this encounter more than once in any of the labeled rooms.

The heroes must defeat the Believers cultists, who have fallen under the influence of the nearby t'salak. Most cultists have killed each other already, but the few remaining groups (as many as needed, in your judgment) wander about and attack the heroes on sight. They have been exposed to the t'salak's touch so many times that the rage it induces is almost permanent (see the "Oozing Madness" encounter, page 45, for the effects of the t'salak's ability to induce raging madness).

The heroes might try to subdue one or more Believers without killing them. They can accomplish this by grappling them and tying them up, stunning them with blasters, or rendering them unconscious. However, this doesn't cure their madness, and as soon as they recover, the Believers will attack again. They must be alleviated of their delirium to be of any use. To do this, the heroes must make a successful Persuasion check against a Believer's Dicipline. Treat the enraged

Believers as hostile targets that cannot understand speech and must be converted to a friendly state to break out of their rage. Some very convincing roleplaying by the players might substitute for a skill check (by offering food, for example). A successful influence Force power check also works.

Alleviating the raging madness in one or more Believers provides the heroes with some information. The grateful victims negotiate their release by giving up details on the t'salak. They know where it is and what it does, but they do not know how to defeat it.

This encounter can be repeated several times throughout sublevel 2, but each time, only one group of Believers attacks the heroes. Use as many times as appropriate.

When the heroes enter a room labelled "Crazed Believers," read the following:

As you turn the corner, you hear a cry of incoherent rage and see several beings lunge at you. They have demented looks in their eyes and are foaming at the mouth.

The Believers cult is a group of Sith worshippers that got its start in the Cularin system. They are males and females of different humanoid species, and they come from all walks of life. Some are even trained in the Force. They were aided in their organization by the Sith scholar Murk Lundi, and they had grown into a formidable force by the time of the Clone Wars.

The ones encountered on this sublevel have been driven mad by repeated attacks from the t'salak. They are encountered in small groups, though, since two large groups of Believers in the same room would kill each other. Many Believers have fallen victim to their crazed companions.

Believers zealots attack with little strategy. They simply charge at the nearest target in their line of sight and engage in melee. They begin their attack with a Powerful Charge, first flying into a rage to boost their effectiveness. Believers cultists and their leader use more straightforward tactics, but try to swarm individual heroes with melee attacks.











Underground Park

All water on Almas is underground, so academy's Jedi custodians the reasoned that building an underground park with a running stream would be in tune with the will of the Force. The stream was discovered while digging the academy foundations. Instead of diverting it, the Jedi requested that the architects integrate the stream into the design—it was they who had intruded on the water's natural course, after all. The Jedi then planted local trees and kaluthin and created a garden around the stream. Occasionally, they took blind coboko fish out of the pond that formed in the park center, adding them to the academy menu.

Of course, all the park vegetation is now dead, blackened by the intense presence of the dark side. The park also contains several bodies Believers who managed to find the secret stairwell in the library and turned viciously on one another after encountering the t'salak. At the center of the room, beside the pool, is a large pump used to force water to the levels above. It looks like it hasn't functioned in a long time. The heroes don't have much time to admire the scenery, however. When they reach the park center, read the following text:

You walk into the impressive chamber, crossing a bridge than runs over a clear and soothing stream. To your left is a large pond, beyond which is an artistic elevation made of simple mud and rock. Disharmoniously, dead vegetation and dead bodies surround it all.

As you take in your surroundings, your companions suddenly disappear from view, and you are alone. Solid walls seem to have materialized out of nowhere and separated all of you, at the same time blocking the entrance from which you came. You feel a deep sense of dread when a cruel figure from your past appears right in front of you—someone you never imagined you would see again. You look around for a way out, but your feet don't respond. You try to cry out, but the attempt yields no sound. As if in slow motion, the heartless figure prepares to attack.

This encounter is similar to Luke's experience inside the cave on Dagobah. Each hero finds him- or herself face to face with his or her worst nightmare. The heroes are caught in a combination of mind trick (which makes them believe that they cannot walk away or speak out) and a Force illusion (which makes them believe that they are facing an old enemy).

For each hero, choose a character or creature that poses a threat and has some significance to that hero. It could be an enemy, living or dead, from a previous adventure or even from the current adventure. It could also be someone from the hero's past (for instance, an unlikable former employer or a cruel family member). Determine the appropriate encounter for each hero in advance, without worrying about statistics.

The effects of the dark side nexus permeating this place, in combination with the influence of the t'salak (which feeds on the heroes' feelings of hate and fear), create this Force illusion. Heroes who make a successful Hard [••] Perception check realize that their enemy is an illusion, but this knowledge does not dispel the illusion. The twist is that behind each "illusion" hides one of the other heroes. The trap is designed to cause the heroes to fight each other unknowingly.

Prior to the adventure, ask the players for their character sheets, and record their attack skills and weapons stats. Then, when each hero faces an illusion, describe what weapons or items the opponent carries—in other words, the weapons or items used by the other hero. There is no need for an illusion to wield the same exact weapon as the hero behind it, but the

weapon should resemble something in the same class (such as a vibrosword, blaster, lightsaber, and so on). If the number of heroes is uneven, one of the heroes is met by a crazed Believer instead of by another hero (for statistics, see "Crazed Believers," page 39). In this case, the Believer hides behind the illusion of a friend, such as Senator Organa, Master Denia, or even one of the other heroes.

Explain to the heroes that they are all inexplicably isolated from one another. Ask for initiative rolls, and record the results beside each hero's name. As soon as an attack occurs, use the attacker's opposing defense bonus as a target. If damage is dealt, record the number. Pretend that the next initiative turn belongs to the opponent of the hero just attacked, describe the attack, and reveal the damage dealt. If one hero is fighting a Believer, this fight can be incorporated with the others in order of initiative but treated as regular combat.

Allow each character a Hard [• • •]

Perception or check at the beginning of their turn to realize that something is not right. Success indicates that the hero can tell that what he sees before him is not real, though it looks as if it could become real at any moment. If a matched pair of heroes goes for 3 consecutive rounds without attacking each other, the entire illusion is dispelled for the whole group, and the angry t'salak attacks. See "Oozing Madness" (page 45) for more information on running this encounter.

ENCOUNTER EXAMPLE

Here's an example of how this encounter could be run. Assume that the party contains five heroes, so four of the heroes fight each other, while the fifth fights a Believer.

- Vor'en the Soldier (Init #3) versus Arani the noble (Init #5)
- Kelko the Scout (Init #4) versus Sia-Lan the Jedi (Init #1)
- Deel the Smuggler (Init #2) versus a Believer (Init #6)

Sia-Lan is up first, and she's face to face with Count Dooku. But Sia-Lan makes her Perception check and knows that Dooku is dead, so she realizes that the encounter must be a trick. She decides not to attack.

Next, Deel finds himself facing one of his friends, Kelko, who runs madly toward him. Deel asks him what is going on, but his voice is mysteriously soundless. He fails his Perception check and doesn't realize that it's a trick.

Next, Vor'en fails his Perception check and thinks that he's run into a stormtrooper. He pulls out a blaster and fires at the enemy, striking Arani and dealing 8 points of damage.

(From Arani's perspective, she's shot by an old friend, who wields a hold out blaster that she gave him long ago.)

Next, Kelko (who also failed his Perception check) takes out his two vibrodaggers to attack a green, tentacled alien that he encountered on Zlarby IV. He slashes at it, dealing 12 points of damage to Sia-Lan. (From Sia-Lan's perspective, Count Dooku attacks her with two lightsabers. The Jedi doesn't understand what's happening—she was sure that the appearance of Dooku was some kind of trick!)

Next, Arani succeeds on her Perception check and tries to convince the phantom that she is no threat, but he doesn't seem to hear her. She has to defend herself, so she pulls out her own blaster and shoots him, dealing 12 points of damage. (From Vor'en's perspective, he's shot by the stormtrooper.)

Finally, the Believer acts, rushing Deel and pummeling him to the ground, dealing 15 points of damage. (From Deel's perspective, he's being attacked by his friend Kelko. Has he gone crazy? Regardless, Deel decides that he must defend himself.)

Oozing Madness

The heroes can enter the underground park via one of two arches. The T'salak is hiding behind the pond on an elevated slope at the room's northern side. The heroes must cross the pond to get to the creature, or shoot it from a distance (which is a much wiser option)

Evil. That's the first word that comes to mind as you look at the featureless pool of black ooze. Suddenly, a tendril snaps at you, attacking from the creature's central mass, almost too fast to see. You barely avoid it, but as you dodge, the creature tracks you move for move. It seems filled with hate and bent on pure destruction.

You've seen the effects of this creature's touch, and you certainly don't want to suffer the same fate as those poor souls that you encountered earlier. It seems wiser to skirt around the beast and hope that it doesn't follow.

The T'salak cannot be killed by solid objects, but it can be wounded and is highly susceptible to cold and vacuum. Unless the T'salak is trapped within a container imbued by the Force or in a cold vacuum while it is inert (0 hit points), it regenerates itself and attacks anew.

T'salak Spawn

T'salak spawn appear to be small pieces that have broken away from the main body. They are weaker and more easily destroyed, but they still impart some madness on their targets.





T'salak

A Force-sensitive creature of unknown origin, the T'salak is an oozing, black mound of evil. A specimen was first encountered in the jungles of Cularin and subsequently imprisoned inside a Force-imbued urn. The urn was buried inside a cave and guarded by a Tarasin village for generations, until recently stolen by the Dark Jedi Raik Muun. With the help of scientists, Raik discovered a way to divide the T'salak into independent entities of equal power. It is unknown how many more specimens remain in existence.

The T'salak has no sensory organs but leaves no question as to its strength and cunning; it lashes out with sticky tendrils that have surprising accuracy and power. Filled with chaotic thoughts born of malignity, the T'salak can induce a blinding rage in its targets just by touching them, permeating their souls with darkness.

The T'salak moves toward the heroes and tries to hit them with its tendrils to induce rage in them. The creature hopes that the heroes will be too distracted by killing each other to attack it, so that it can go back to its hiding place.

If the heroes took a lot of damage during the illusion fight, the weakened T'salak does not use its Induce Raging Madness ability. Once the T'salak is reduced to 0 hit points, it stays inert until it regenerates. The heroes don't know this, so if they linger, the creature soon attacks them again.

The only way to contain the Y'salak is to imprison it in a Mandalorian iron box (found in one of the storage rooms on sublevel 1) while it is inert. If the heroes leave the underground park while the T'salak is motionless, it won't pursue them, not knowing where they went.





There's Something Familiar About this Place

When the heroes enter one of the rooms labeled "Dreambeast" (your choice), an extreme cold envelops them. The heroes immediately fall into a profound sleep without realizing it. Read the following text:

As you enter the room, your vision fogs momentarily. You shake your head vigorously and feel slightly dizzy. You blink your eyes in rapid succession, then scour your surroundings suspiciously, looking for anything amiss. But everything seems normal. Your friends are all here, and you feel fine now.

Still, there is something familiar about this place . . .

The room is an illusion, a trap devised by the Sith holocron gatekeeper and created by Inquisitor Draco. As the heroes proceed through the sublevel toward the nexus of evil, they are unwittingly immersing themselves more and more fully within Rivan's aura of influence. This is doubly true now that the holocron gatekeeper of the Dark Lord has found a cohort in the Inquisitor, augmenting Draco's powers significantly.

Wherever this encounter plays out, the sleeping heroes discover that the room looks identical to one they've previously visited. If they attempt to exit the room, they stumble into another familiar area of the academy, but not one normally connected to the room they are leaving, creating a disorienting effect. You should try to create the claustrophobia of a recurring nightmare from which the heroes cannot seem to wake. To drive the point home, you can repeat descriptions of academy chambers that the heroes have visited already. Each time, preface the description with one of the following three phrases (preferably in this order):

- There's something's not right here
- There's something familiar about this place
- You've got a very bad feeling about this

The longer their minds remain under Draco's power, the more despair eats away at their confidence and motivation. For every encounter that the heroes relive in the dreamscape, their "dream persona", their strain threshold lowers by two. However, the heroes can have a maximum of three encounters in the dreamscape. During each encounter, the heroes have a chance to break free of the illusion. With their minds playing tricks on them, they need to overcome their own senses; each hero can make a Perception check against his or her own Discipline once per faux encounter. If they succeed, they wake up, preventing Draco from further sapping their moral strength. Otherwise, after the third encounter, the heroes awaken regardless, however they will recover their original strain threshold until they finally defeat Draco later in this adventure.

If any hero avoids Draco's trap entirely—that is, if a hero does not enter the room at all—she does not enter the dreamscape. Instead, she realizes that she nearly fell to a dark side trick and can see her friends lying unconscious in the room. Heroes caught in the dreamscape take note of the "missing" party members, and their interaction with them is limited.

Any hero who avoided Draco's trap sees her sleeping friends writhe and groan in mental anguish. She can't shake them awake, but once per dreamscape encounter, she can try to communicate with them. However, her words will be distorted. The dreamer should be baffled by the gibberish, but a successful Hard [\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \] Knowledge Education check deciphers the words.

Regardless of the manner by which the heroes awaken, immediately thereafter, they must battle a fearsome k'kayeh dreambeast that has anchored itself to the heroes and pursued them into the waking world.

Though the heroes have snapped out of their dream daze, they are still under Draco's influence and come face to face with an enormous dark side apparition. This semi-incorporeal creature has chased them into the physical world, and the heroes find themselves under assault almost immediately. As soon as the heroes revive from their collective nightmare, read the following:

No sooner have you gathered your wits from your feverish collective dream than a huge monster spawned from nightmare slithers in through the entryway. Double the size of even the biggest bull rancor, the reptilian colossus drags its golden body into the chamber, scales shifting along its hide like impenetrable plates of anvilstone. As it lets rip an ear splitting roar, double rows of goring fangs leave little to the imagination.

When the heroes defeat the k'kayeh dreambeast and its spawn, it disappears as if it never existed. A true k'kayeh will make a stunning appearance at the end of the adventure, but for now, heroes can continue exploring the area.

This creature is horrific in its visage, yet looks as though it is only partially in our world. Its form continually shifts from one monstrous appearance to another, and it drifts through the air as though it has no mass of its own.

Living nightmares are manifestations of Force energy that appear in shifting, horrific forms. They usually take on the forms of monstrous beings from their targets' memories and attack the minds of their opponents. The k'kayeh dreambeast creates these nightmares from the dark energy suffusing the remains of the Almas Academy.

Given their semi-corporeal nature, living nightmares tend to focus their attacks on opponents without energy weapons.

Living Nightmare







K'kayeh Dreambeast

The most disturbing thing about the beast is its snout. Sure, you've read the fairy tales about fire-breathing monsters. You may even have fought a dragon-slug on Corulag. But as you watch dark side lightning dance wickedly from one of the creature's mammoth nostrils to the other, you know only one thing for certain . . . you're in trouble.

The k'kayeh dragon is the greatest product of Darth Rivan's dark arts. A Force-sensitive abomination. this Sithspawn's sandy scales match the color of Almas' desert wasteland and are as tough as armor plating. The serpentine creature is also amphibious, as comfortable in open air as swimming in the planet's hidden underground lakes. The k'kayeh's maw is a steely-toothed deathtrap, and its claws are eviscerating razors. As if that weren't enough, instead of breathing fire, this dark side abomination can shoot Force lightning from each nostril of its monstrous snout.

This "dreambeast" is only a tenth the size of the truly gigantic k'kayeh that lurks in the depths of the Almas Academy, but it is still enormous. Similar to Sith dopplegangers, this k'kayeh dreambeast is an illusory clone of the actual living entity, spawned by Inquisitor Draco under the guidance of Darth Rivan's holocron gatekeeper. Despite its partially insubstantial state, the dreambeast can still hurt its targets.







Draco's Best Friend

At some point, the heroes reach the room where Master Vhiin'Thorla is held. If they pass the room without entering it, they are attacked by the nighthunter that guards Thorla. The blast door is open, and the Twi'lek Jedi Master's powers are kept in check inside a Universal Energy Cage designed to contain Force-users.

The heroes are attacked in the corridors outside the prison room. The nighthunter lunges directly at them and runs away when hurt, only to attack again from another direction. When the heroes near the room where Master Thorla is held prisoner, read the following:

There is a burnt-red blur, like the flash of a lightsaber, and the face of the friend nearest you nearly winds up sliced off and on the floor. But your attacker is no Sith. Crouched in front of you are 2 hulking meters of quadrupedal, ravenous instinct. The crimson predator is a nighthunter, believed to be as extinct as the Jedi. You consider that the creature might be a good omen in a way—that is, until it bellows a spine-tingling howl.

Nighthunter

The creature's hide looks blaster resistant. Its huge anterior claws rake at the floor in tandem with those of its hind paws, grinding out a symphony that hurts your ears and chills your blood. Five immense fangs jut out and over both of its lips, almost concealing its face, except for its two tiny, hungry eyes. As you watch its whiplike tail dancing like a vine snake about to strike, you realize that in this confined space, the beast has a good chance of ripping you into bite-sized chunks.

it's the blood-red. Perhaps blaster resistant hide. Maybe it's the claws, which are nearly as long as the fangs protruding up to its eyes and down to its chin. Or maybe it's the fact that these creatures ambush their prey using the Force. Whatever it is, nighthunters give even Jedi Xenobiologists believe that pause. nighthunters are a mutant offshoot of another species, with Myrkr's vornskrs ranking high on the list due to their whiplike tails, Force-sensitivity, and variety of subspecies. Some contend that nighthunters inspired the hellhounds of Corellian myth. No one really knows.

The Force-using predators have been hunted almost to extinction, but the one guarding Master Thorla shares a peculiar history with Inquisitor Draco. The creature hunted an injured Draco in the aftermath of the Battle of Parein II 4, and they nearly killed each other. However, after wounding the night-hunter, Draco nurtured it back to health, and the beast bonded to its savior. Draco kept the animal and gave it the name - Crant.

The nighthunter runs at the heroes, makes a bite or claw attack, and runs away before they retaliate. The beast circles around and stealthily comes back from another direction, perhaps several rounds later. You can create tension by having the heroes

make Perception checks if they are not searching for the nighthunter. They might think it's gone and proceed with their exploration, only to be attacked in a different area.

After defeating the beast, the heroes can enter the room it guarded.





Jedi Prisoner

Once the heroes dispatch the guardian beast, read the following:

The door is completely open. In fact, burn damage all along the 4 meter wide entrance appears to have enlarged it. A pulsating glow within lights up the darkened room. Inside, you find a spherical energy cage floating on repulsorlifts. The glow comes from a force field that surrounds the portable prison, and behind the bars lies a crumpled humanoid form.

The man, a Twi'lek, meets your gaze with a look of utter despair. Instead of exhibiting hope at the sight of potential rescuers, he quickly looks away, as if to say, "Leave me alone."

This room also contains a thick plasteel table, with traces of a black substance on it and a Jedi robe sprawled across it. Master Thorla is in very bad shape, both physically and mentally. His body is emaciated, and he sports several burns and cuts. To run this dramatic encounter, you must understand the Jedi's backstory (see the sidebar on page 55). The heroes might suspect that the prisoner is a Jedi and decide to free him. If they interrogate him, Thorla tells them to leave him alone and that he is beyond redemption.

The Universal Energy Cage was designed specifically to contain a Force-user's powers. Prisoners in the cage can, however, use the Force at very low levels, such as to heal themselves. The cage's functions are controlled by a handheld remote that is currently in Draco's possession. The cage has no visible controls, and the only way to open it is to destroy it, which endangers the life of the prisoner within. Each reinforced durasteel bar has a soak of 5 and 50 hit points. The cage is also built with a contact shock field, and every time it receives an automatic miss or a blow that deals 15 points of damage or more, the Jedi inside receives a shock of stun damage. When this happens, Thorla yelps in pain, but does not otherwise react.

Once the Jedi is free, whether he is conscious or not, the heroes notice that his skin is charred in multiple places, showing that he has suffered many shocks. He has suffered a number of critical injuries which can only be removed by receiving extensive, long-term medical and psychological care. If Thorla is conscious, he does not run away or try to escape, but he won't answer the heroes' questions, either, wanting only to be left alone. He's been fighting off Draco's attempts at turning him to the dark side and has fallen into despair. Since the loss of his Padawan, Thorla has become disconsolate, and any mention of Jedi or Imperials angers him. In game terms, he has an attitude of unfriendly. If the heroes physically push or restrain him, he becomes violent and attacks.

This encounter is a chance for heroes with the Charm and Negotiation skills to be very useful. With some good roleplaying, Thorla might be coaxed into revealing that he was a Jedi, but that he no longer has the will to go on. If the heroes befriend him (one or more successful Charm checks), Thorla answers questions about his captors. Showing Thorla his Padawan's broken lightsaber (if the heroes obtained it from the Squibs) automatically makes Thorla friendly to the Heroes and willing to answer their questions.

Thorla can provide the following information:

- He knows Inquisitor Draco and Raik Muun, and he suspects that they are inside the archives room in the southwest corner of the sublevel.
- If asked about a holocron, he reveals that indeed the Inquisitor has one in his possession.

Thorla refuses to accompany the heroes willingly. He says that all the Jedi are dead and there is no reason to go on—not with sadistic torturers like Draco running the galaxy. If told of Master Denia, the Twi'lek says he's never heard of her, and besides, one more Jedi won't make any difference. In any case, when the heroes realize that the broken Jedi will not budge, they should move on. As long as the heroes leave Thorla alive, he might appear again later in the adventure.



Echoes of the Jedi



VHIIN'THORLA: SURVIVOR OF ORDER 66

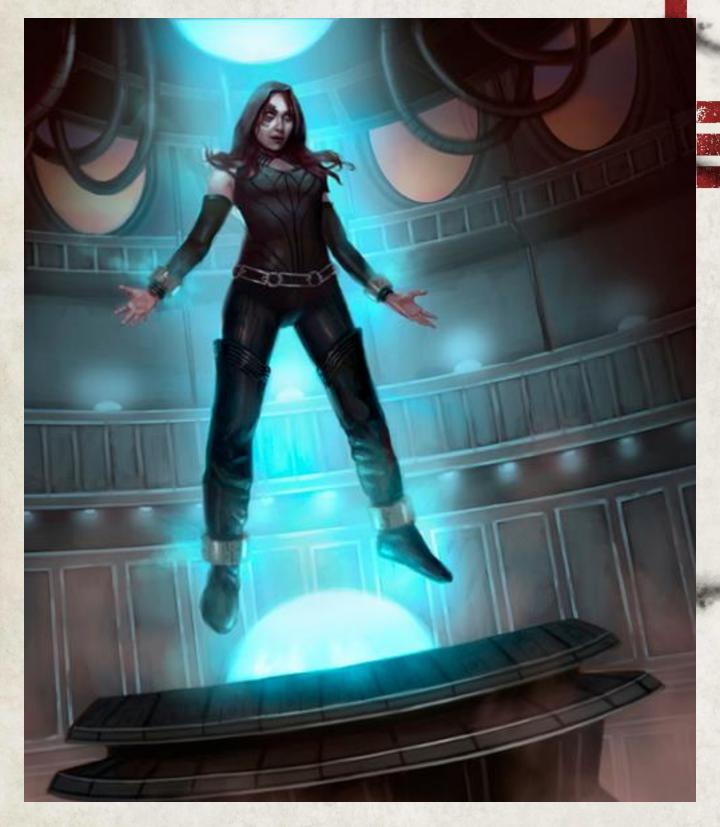
A green-skinned Twi'lek, Vhiin Thorla studied at the Jedi Temple on Coruscant, where he befriended fellow student Devan For'deschel. Thorla eventually became a Jedi Master and a skilled duelist, participating in many missions. One of these missions changed his life.

About a year before the Clone Wars sparked, he and his Padawan Kritz Drassarb were sent to investigate a band of pirates in the Mid Rim. After two months, the ruthless organ-ization was dismantled, but at the cost of Kritz's life. Thorla blamed himself for his student's death and exiled himself to his homeworld of Ryloth. He sought solitude in the planet's badlands but soon found a new purpose.

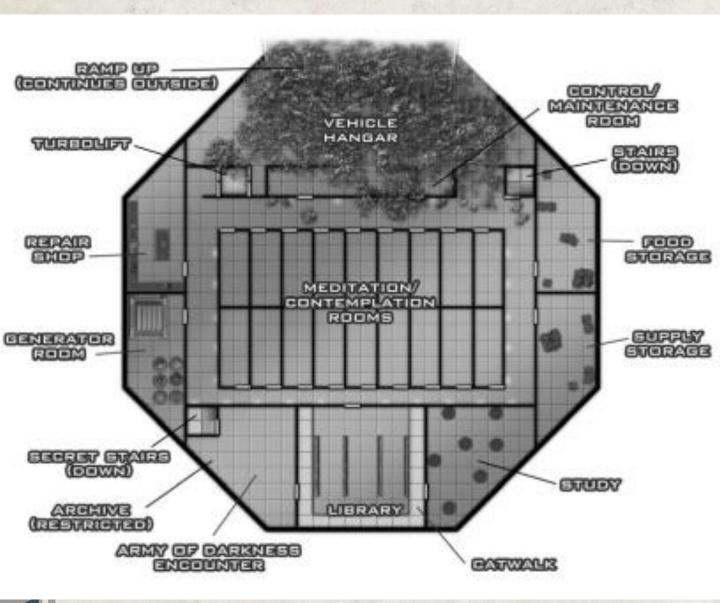
A few months into the Clone Wars. Master Devan sent envoys to Ryloth to invite her old friend to join her at the Almas Academy as the new Master of Lightsabers. When the envoys finally found Thorla, they discovered that he had spent the last year rescuing Twi'lek prisoners from slavers and had formed a community called the Enclave. Thorla had also taken on a new Padawan, a Lethan Twi'lek Dorv'Tilsta. Witnessing all the good that Master Thorla was accomplishing, the envoys respected his decision to decline Master Devan's offer.

Increasing slaver attacks forced Thorla to delay a visit to the Almas Academy. Then Order 66 came. Thorla felt the death of his fellow Jedi through the Force and moved the Enclave to a more secure location, but after two long years, he risked exposure to learn more about the current state of the galaxy. Repulsed by what he discovered, he decided to investigate the fate of his old friend Devan on Almas, taking his 10-vear-old Padawan with him. What he found was a demolished academy at the heart of a ghost town. He probed the ruins, winding his way down to the deepest sublevel, where he knew the secured archives were located.

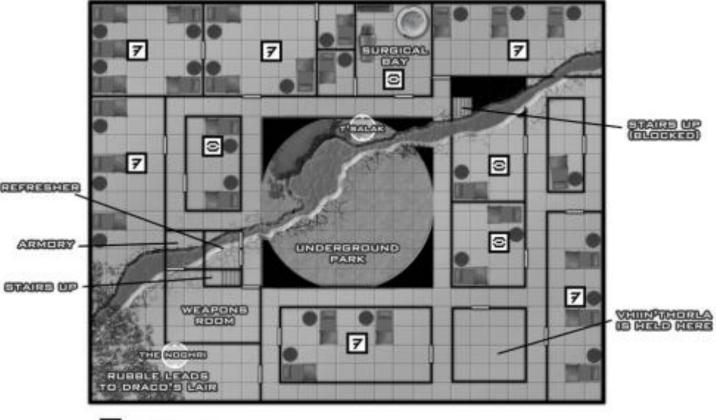
Fate was not on Thorla's side. Inquisitor Draco and his retinue arrived shortly thereafter, and a fierce lightsaber duel ensued. However, Draco's Dark Jedi lapdog Raik Muun held Thorla's inexperienced Padawan hostage and induced a murderous rage into young Dorv with her evil t'salak, forcing him to attack his own master. A tortured Thorla fended off his Padawan, while Draco threatened to turn the boy to the dark side if Thorla refused to fight. Remorse-fully, Thorla finally severed Dorv from life and misery. At that moment, the Twi'lek master snapped and fell to the dark side, racked with guilt over losing another Padawan. He desired to die, but the Imperials denied him this wish. He's been held in a Universal Energy Cage ever since, meditating on how he lost his way as a Jedi.



Sublevel 1







DREAMBEAST

GRAZED BELIEVERS

Episode III: Draco's Lair Achieves Room

When the heroes reach the archives room (whether they found it themselves or were informed by SevenAy or Master Thorla), they find the door tightly shut. They can open the door by following the procedures described in "Control Room" (page 12). If the heroes enter the archives room, read the following:

You find yourselves in a long room, 12 meters wide by 36 meters long, with the chamber forking to the right about 20 meters in. Leaning against the smooth walls are cases containing fascinating and rare artifacts and weapons that were of interest to the Jedi. It is surprising that most of them seem untouched.

The most glaring features of the room are the far wall and floor, which have crumbled away to reveal a cavernous opening that leads into a dark tunnel. This obviously wasn't part of the room's original design and seems to be a consequence of the orbital bombardment.

This chamber was forbidden to Padawans. It was where the Jedi Masters kept their most precious Force artifacts, including the holocron the heroes seek (until it was hidden in the bust of Master Qornah). It also contains the entrance to the underground caves where Draco is consulting with the holocron gatekeeper of Darth Rivan. To keep intruders from interrupting his studies, Draco left behind some of the deadliest henchbeings in the galaxy to guard the cave entrance. Several creatures await the heroes here, as motionless as statues in their hiding places among the shadows. Masters of stealth, these steely, grayskinned warriors are all but undetectable in the dim light.

As the heroes enter the archives room, have them roll Perception checks against the creatures' Stealth checks, with a penalty for concealment. If the heroes succeed, one of their glowrods illuminates what appears to be a meter-high statue resembling a gargoyle in one of the corners. This is enough warning for the heroes to avoid being ambushed, and a second later, six repulsive "statues" pounce on them from all sides. If the heroes fail their roll, the creatures take them by surprise.

make If the heroes a successful Formidable Knowledge (Xenology) check, they can identify the species of their attackers. These squat killing machines are called Noghri, aliens seldom seen away from their home planet. If there is no appropriate light source, heroes without low-light vision or darkvision suffer on attacks against the Noghri.

Death Commandoes

The archive room has no light sources. Even if the heroes restored power to the sublevel, only the faint light from the corridor comes through the open door. The various shelves and cases do not offer cover. The Noghri are perched on marble columns in the far corner of the room. When the heroes arrive in this area, read the following text aloud:

It's darker here than in any of the other areas you've visited so far. A chill breeze hits you from directly in front. How can there be a draft in an underground level? On the map, this room shows as an "L" shape, but you can't see anything at all around the bend. As you advance, you have the sneaking suspicion that you're being watched.

In a flash, you are assaulted by aliens that look like gargoyles. They are short and blindingly fast. As the chaos of combat ensues, you can't be sure, but the frightening faces of these warriors look like they might have been inspired by the armored mask of a certain Sith Lord—or vice-versa.

Noghri Warriors

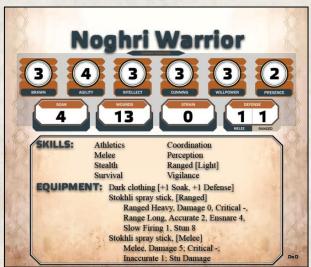
The gray-skinned and compact Noghri are among the most recent and deadly additions to the Imperial ranks. Though an acute xenophobia has begun to manifest within the Galactic Empire, Darth Vader readily recognized the value of the species during a visit to their homeworld Honoghr. When the meter-tall warriors proved a match for his 501st Legion stormtrooper escort, the Dark Lord immediately found a way to enslave the species. Destiny arguably brought the two together, for the Noghri's frightful faces so resemble the masked visage of their new master, the likeness seems uncanny.

Dubbed "Death Commandos," the Noghri are perfectly evolved killing machines quick, quiet and deceptively strong. In unarmed combat, they excel at stava, their martial art named after a ferocious native predator, and they wield Stokhli spray sticks or simple knives with deadly efficiency. Vader bestowed Draco with this squad of Noghri assassins in gratitude for the Inquisitor's assistance in torturing the captured Jedi Knight Halagad Ventor.

Noghri Tactics

The Noghri use the darkness to their advantage. First, they try to capture the heroes in a net from their Stokhli spray sticks. If they stun or incapacitate the heroes, they bring the prisoners before Draco. Otherwise, the Noghri fight fiercely to prevent intruders from interrupting Draco, but they will be reasonable if they see that they are outmatched. They prefer to fight in melee, using their stealth and martial arts to devastating effect. If the heroes try to escape by entering the tunnel, the Noghri give chase.





Noghri Assassin



Noghri Team Leader







Nearing the Nexus

When the heroes investigate the opening in the far wall, they see that the crumbled floor and wall have revealed a tunnel. It slopes downward into utter darkness, and the rocky ground is made slippery by the natural spring that runs across the second sublevel of the academy. The slope is 1.5 meters wide and 18 long. The heroes must make a **Daunting** down. If the heroes have no light source, they must move even more cautiously and make two Athletics checks.

The heroes might try to use a rope to descend the tunnel.

EXPLORING THE NEXUS

As the heroes descend into the depths of the Jedi academy, they draw closer to the nexus of dark power surrounding Inquisitor Draco. You should emphasize the growing sense of dread the heroes feel, including a strong sense of danger for any Force Sensitive heroes who use a Sense (or similar) Force Power.

Enter the Dragon

When the heroes arrive at the bottom, Valin Draco is waiting for them, literally surrounded by darkness. He has the controls to Thorla's Universal Energy Cage in his possession and is studying the Qornah Holocron with the Rivan holocron gatekeeper. As the heroes approach, read the following:

You make out a figure in a flowing scarlet robe of septsilk. You recognize him from the message you received many months ago after your adventure on Bespin: Inquisitor Valin Draco. He is flanked on one side by a stern-looking female whose lightsaber gives a red tint to their surroundings. There is a glint in Draco's eye and a chilling smile on his lips, as if he already knows more about you than you know about yourselves. Just behind Draco, an incandescent object floats in the air, seeming to grow out of a small cube strapped to Draco's forearm.

Hiding behind rocks on either side of the black-armoured Inquisitor are two Imperial shadow troopers (Requiring an opposed [Perception check to spot, with penalty due to the darkness). Draco has the Dark Jedi Raik Muun flanking him, red lightsaber ignited, and directly behind him hovers an indistinct blot resonating with evil. This is the holocron gatekeeper of Darth Rivan, which provides Draco with advanced knowledge of Sith techniques throughout the fight.

Draco is a methodical villain. His preferred method of dealing with his enemies is to convert them to his cause, a tactic that has worked equally well on Raik and the nighthunter, and that nearly succeeded on Jedi Master Vhiin'Thorla. Draco knows that to have reached this far, the heroes must have defeated challenges that would have sundered less formidable foes.

However, before Draco invites the heroes to join him, he greets them with a single word: "Crant?" This is the name of Draco's nighthunter. It's unlikely that the heroes will know this, so Draco elaborates:

"Crant—my companion. Have you come to tell me that my nighthunter is dead?"

The heroes can tell Draco whatever they wish. If they confirm that they have killed the beast, Draco betrays no emotion, though the glint in his eye dulls. However, he immediately gathers his composure and begins his entreaty as follows:

"I am Valin Draco, and, like you, I once thought myself a hero. During the Clone Wars, the brave men and women I commanded called me the 'Valiant Dragon' as we fought in epic conflicts for the corrupt Republic. But after I was left for dead on the battlefield of Parein II 4, flattering titles lost their meaning for me.

"These are dark times, and I know that you've suffered great losses, that you wrestle with the same concerns of virtue and compromise that I did as a Jedi, the same concerns that have plagued the conscientious since time immemorial. Surrender yourselves to the Empire. I promise your treatment will be gentler, and you might even be given the chance to serve me. Surrender yourselves—or face your destiny."

Draco's offer is sincere. Here are some possible answers to common questions that the heroes might have for the Inquisitor:

Why do you serve the Empire?

"Beware rash judgments. The difference between an enemy and a friend is not as obvious as we'd like to think. My allegiance to the Galactic Empire is born of necessity, and you will reap the benefits if you recognize that your destiny lies with me."

What is your view of the dark side of the Force?

"The dark side exists. Only the naïve and demented believe otherwise. It's found in each of us without exception—Sith, Jedi, soldier, smuggler, noble, rogue, and romantic. I will show you how to control it so that you needn't fear or deny it."

Why don't you join us?

"I have already found my true self. I embraced my destiny when I took this Inquisitor's garb. Now, quit this cowardly stalling, and reflect on my invitation, for this is the last time I extend it. Decide swiftly and without regret, for your choice and its effects were predetermined before these words ever obligated you to speak."

It's highly unlikely that any of the heroes will take Draco up on his offer. However, this could be an opportunity for some dramatic storytelling. Perhaps one of the players has grown bored with her character. If so, collaborate

with her in secret ahead of time so that her character joins Draco's retinue for a devastating twist, similar to Vader's revelation of Luke's parentage in The Empire Strikes Back.

In all likelihood, the heroes reject Draco's supplication or simply attack him. Once they do, the disquieting glint in his eye returns, as if he's foreseen their response. Draco ignites his lightsaber, Raik Muun takes up a protective position in front of him, and the shadow troopers prepare to snipe from their hiding spots. As soon as the heroes attack. Draco allows the holocron gatekeeper of Darth Rivan to instruct him, teaching him some of the Dark Lord's See powers. "Shadows of the Empire" (page 67) for information running more on this encounter.

Master Thorla

If the heroes managed to free Master Thorla earlier in the adventure, he arrives at the beginning of the encounter to assist the heroes in their fight. If no heroes discover the means of separating Darth Rivan's holocron gatekeeper from its connection to the holocron, Thorla uses the Force to grant the heroes a reprieve from the Sith holocron's influence over Draco.

When the heroes reduce Draco to half his hit points or fewer, Master Thorla uses the force against Darth Rivan's holocron gatekeeper, spending a Destiny Point to peel the gatekeeper from the holocron. The gatekeeper howls in rage as it is stripped from the holocron. As the faux Rivan dissipates, the holocron begins to overload, and Draco rips it from his arm and hurls it at Thorla. The holocron shatters, unbalancing Thorla and knocking him into the chasm below.

If the heroes did not free Master Thorla, he does not come to the rescue. However, he might contact Force-using heroes telepathically instead. A Force-using hero telepathic contact with Thorla can use the Jedi Master's Force powers as though thev were his own. Additionally, if the Force-using hero does not think to use a Destiny Point to destroy the holocron, the Jedi Master tells the hero to do so when Draco is below half of his hit points.

If Master Thorla is dead, the heroes receive none of the above benefits.







Shadows of the Empire

The heroes start on the east side of the map, at the exit from the tunnel that leads back to the sublevel 2. The opponents are near the opposite side, as indicated on the map, at the end of a ledge that is 8 squares by 2 squares. Raik Muun is in front of Draco, and the four shadow troopers are hiding behind rocks, aiming at the heroes. There is another, narrower ledge on the south side of the map, but if the heroes take that route, the shadow troopers shoot at them. In the center of the room are two cavernous pits, at the bottom of which lies a body of water.

If his invitation to join him is rebuffed, Inquisitor Draco undergoes a sinister transformation and attacks with his minions.

"As you die, rest assured that I reflected on you as on all enemies: despising that you must be wrong and I right, but reveling in the triumph of my convictions while whatever species of maggot indigenous to this world expedites the transition of your carcasses from this existence to the next."

Darth Rivan's Holocron Gatekeeper

While Draco speaks, the sinister blot hovering behind him seems to pulse and seethe with rage. Before your eyes, the wraith seems to transfer some of its dark energy into the Inquisitor, wreathing the Human in shadows. The evil holocron gatekeeper hovering in the room seems to writhe with malevolence, and there is clearly some vile connection between it and the Inquisitor. Draco's eyes acquire a sickening gold hue, and his voice plummets in pitch as he gives a command to the woman and soldiers at his side. "My brave companions kill them."

Darth Rivan is an enigma of the New Sith Wars. A Zelosian, he defied nearly every stereotype of his gregarious people except for his knowledge of plant biology, and his Sith moniker is believed to have been culled from a corrupted Sith text, possibly written by Darth Revan. As the reigning Dark Lord of the Sith sometime between 1,150 and 1,400 years ago, Rivan's story is intimately tied to an object he called the Darkstaff. Drawn to this dark side artifact, Rivan erected a stronghold on the poisonous planet Almas, using the Force and his biological knowledge to terraform the world into a paradise. At first, Rivan desired to possess the Darkstaff, but when he learned that it was a malevolent vacuum of power, he became bent on destroying it.

During the New Sith Wars, Darth Rivan consolidated many dark siders into an army. To circumvent the betrayals common among Sith, he pioneered the creation of Battlelords. This radical process bonded one of Rivan's Sith commanders the Battlelord—through the Force to his or her troops, such that if subordinates tried to injure or kill their superior, the alchemical bond insured that the traitors would instead be the recipients of the damage they intended to inflict.

During a pivotal battle, Rivan simply vanished from the combat zone in a catastrophic and violent way. Legend relates that Rivan at last obtained possession of the Darkstaff that he both craved and feared, and that it hyperspace wormhole, created a known as Force Storm, that a annihilated Rivan's Battlelord army. Caught in the eye of this unnatural tempest, Rivan was flung to a time and place far removed from Almas. He found himself on the planet Ruusan, caught in the War of Light and Dark between Lord Hoth's Army of Light and Lord Kaan's Brotherhood of Darkness. The Darkstaff left Rivan bereft of the Force, and when he encountered a Force-user of incon-sequential power, the Dark Lord was easily dispatched.

Under the influence of dark Force energies on Almas, the gatekeeper of Darth Rivan's holocron has been given the ability to function independently and of its own free will, acting as the real Rivan would.

GATEKEEPER ABILITIES

Aura of Malevolence

All heroes within short range of the gatekeeper take a penalty to discipline checks.

Dark Side Bond

The gatekeeper has been instructing Inquisitor Draco and can lend him the strength of his knowledge. As a standard action, Rivan can grant any one of the following benefits to Inquisitor Draco until the beginning of Rivan's next turn:

- +1 skill upgrade to attack rolls
- +2 bonus to ranged or melee Defence
- +3 ranks in reflect talent

As a Sith holocron gatekeeper, Darth Rivan cannot interact with the heroes the same way that normal opponents do. While the gatekeeper occupies a space on the battlefield, he cannot make physical attacks or use Force powers because he is merely a construct of the holocron. The gatekeeper takes no damage from attacks (weapons just pass through him), though he can be affected by mind-affecting abilities and skills.

The holocron gatekeeper can be disrupted by light-side Force-users. Whenever a character targets Inquisitor Draco with a successful application of the Suppress Force power, the gatekeeper loses the ability to use the Dark Side Bond special quality on his next turn. If a Force Sensitive character instead targets the gatekeeper with a suppress Force power Formidable [check (a Discipline check) the gatekeeper loses his standard action on his next turn. If a character spends a Destiny Point when attempting this check, the dark Force energies dissipate, destroying the gatekeeper and the holocron alike.

Inquisitor Valin Draco

Nearly 2 meters tall, with closely cropped hair and a lantern jaw, Valin Draco looks every bit the heroic Jedi he once was. The former Padawan of Master Denia, Jedi Draco, the "Valiant Dragon," embraced his role as a Republic commander in the Clone Wars wholeheartedly. However, at some point during the conflict, his heady determination to defeat the Separatist threat evolved into something pernicious, and he turned to the dark side.

Draco was thought lost in the chaotic Battle of Parein II 4, but he emerged after the Clone Wars as one of the new Empire's Jedi hunters. Left for dead and stranded on Parein II's fourth moon, a weakened Draco was stalked by a nighthunter. Ultimately, Draco subdued the beast in a vicious confrontation, but not before the creature bit off his left thumb and clamped its massive fangs down around his throat. Draco has since replaced the missing thumb with a cybernetic substitute, while masking the glaring scars around his neck with the high collar of his Inquisitor's tunic.

Draco arrived in the Cularin system in the Imperial I-class Star Destroyer Assiduous, accompanied by a Lictor class Imperial dungeon ship, Revelator. However, unable to traverse the comet field in the vessel, Draco and his entourage made the journey to Almas in a Thetaclass shuttle, tucked safely away at what's left of the Forard spaceport.





Shadow Troopers

The shadow troopers' scarlet T-visors give the impression of demonic silhouettes, but their coordination and synchronization of movement reminds you that that these clones are highly trained killers.

It's believed that when the curse "Emperor's black bones" was coined, it was at the sight of these ashen armored soldiers. Imperial shadow troopers might be mistaken for regular clone troopers, except that their stealth armor and red visors give them the appearance of demonic silhouettes. They are trained for reconnaissance and occasionally serve as guardians to vital facilities and personnel. Inquisitor Draco reasons that if they're good enough for the Emperor's secret Utapau storehouse, they're good enough for him.

Unlike that of other stormtroopers, shadow trooper armor retains its distinctive pre-Imperial appearance. There is talk of eventually streamlining shadow trooper armor, but for now, their scarlet T-visors remain a haunting reminder of Palpatine's bloody ascension to the rank of Emperor.

Shadow troopers use Stealth to hide and take their opponents by surprise, while aiming to maximise damage.

Their helmets grant them darkvision, so they have an advantage in the dark. Once detected, shadow troopers take move actions to get within short range of their target to maximise their attacks.



Raik Muun, Dark Jedi

The fire-haired woman stalks toward you, clad in a dark version of the Inquisitor's attire. She appears Human, but something about her otherwise. Then you see it. Draco's ruthlessness shows and calculation, but this Dark Jedi's entrancing, green-slitted pupils harbor only murder and dementia. With the flick of a thumb, the red blade of her streaks into existence, lightsaber casting her body into a bewitching vermillion glow. Each syllable of her death sentence tumbles like wisps of smoke from her lips.

"Come at me one at a time or all at once. All shall pass from this world."

A former Padawan at the Almas Academy, Human half-breed Raik Muunonce fell in love with a fellow Jedi student. When her affections were not reciprocated. love turned to obsession, and Master Kirlocca dismissed her from the academy. Angered at these rejections, Raik became bent on revenge. She attempted to undermine the Jedi by impersonating members of the Jedi Order while publicly performing acts of sabotage and chaos. Muun also learned of the existence of an evil creature called a t'salak, and by kidnapping and impersonating a Jedi, she gained possession of the beast.

Successfully fissioning the creature into multiple entities, she attempted to use two t'salaks to turn some Jedi into crazed killers during a peace conference. Her plan failed, but Master Kirlocca lost his life defeating the t'salaks, and Raik escaped.

When Raik returned to her base on the planet Tilnes, she learned about the decimation of Jedi throughout the galaxy as a result of Order 66. Her revenge was now denied, but she could still fuel the rumors of the "Jedi Rebellion." Raik went to Coruscant to confront those responsible for the destruction of the self-righteous Force-users, not sure if she should thank them or kill them. That's when she met Valin Draco. The Inquisitor saw enormous potential in the wild-eyed Dark Jedi and asked her to join him. Raik felt that she had finally found someone who would love her back.

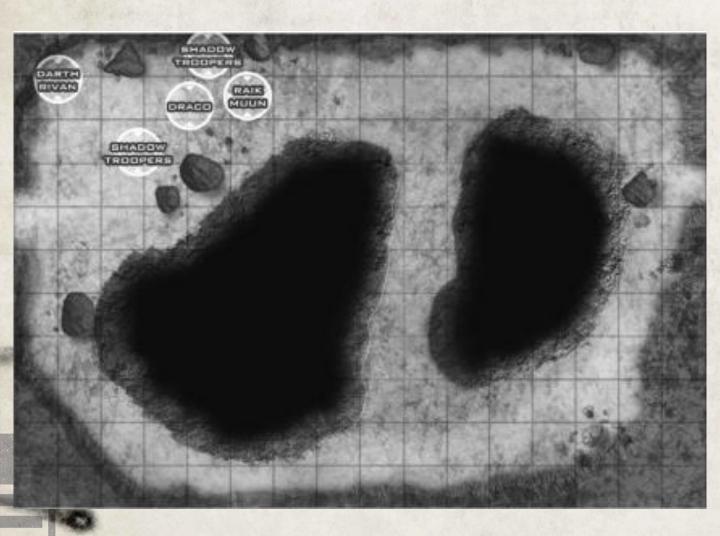
Raik has accompanied Draco on various assignments, indulging in the opportunity to hunt Jedi. When Draco travels to Almas, Raik's familiarity with the academy proves essential, as does the t'salak she brought along.

Raik Muun deflects blaster shots if the heroes shoot at her, but she does not move from the spot where she is protecting Draco. If the heroes do not advance, at the end of 2 consecutive rounds, she moves to engage them along with her master.





ECHOES OF THE JEDI



CONCLUSION

If Draco is reduced to fewer than half of his hit points, or if all of his allies are dead, he retreats to another cavern for the final encounter. See "Behemoth From Below" (page 74) for more information on what happens next.

FEATURES OF THE ARENA

Aside from ignited lightsabers, this room has no light source. The shadow troopers have the advantage of darkvision. A few large rocks scattered about the cave can offer concealment, or they can be lifted with the Force and thrown at opponents. Anyone standing too close to the openings in the center of the area risks falling over the edge.

Behemoth From Below

At any point when Draco finds himself below half of his hit points, or if his apprentice and shadow troopers are dead, he retreats to a back entrance that opens into an immense cavern that is spectacularly lit by bioluminescent, multicolored lichen coating the walls. Draco retreats onto a natural rock overpass bridging a wide chasm that appears as bottomless as it is black. Even in flight, the Inquisitor still tries to push heroes off the ledge. But Draco is growing desperate, and his connection to Rivan weakens as his resolve does the same. He is prepared to make his last stand here as long as he deprives the heroes of the object they desire—the Qornah Holocron.

However, there is one factor Inquisitor Draco hasn't accounted for. Darth Rivan's holocron gatekeeper has not been completely forthcoming with him. If the gatekeeper couldn't retain control of Draco, he planned to summon the real k'kayeh dragon, which has grown to a massive 200 meters (as big as some space slugs) since the Dark Lord first created the monster more than a thousand years ago.

If the gatekeeper is stripped from the holocron, his final howl of rage awakens the k'kayeh and draws it upward. If the gatekeeper is not separated from the holocron, he chooses to summon the beast at this moment. Either way, the behemoth is unleashed.

When Draco flees onto the bridge formation, he threatens to destroy the Quornah Holocron, holding it out over the chasm as tendrils of Force lightning flash from his hands. Though the beast has been released, it is not completely uncontrolled. Still seething with the dark side of the Force from his tutelage under the Sith holocron gatekeeper, Draco is able to control the beast-at least enough to keep it from devouring him. Likewise, he bends the massive strikes of Force lightning to his will, causing them to lash out at the heroes while he nimbly steps between them. Draco plans to destroy the heroes here, and unless they can defeat him, they will lose the Qornah Holocron forever. See "Draco's Last Stand" (page 75) more information running on this encounter.



ECHOES OF THE JEDI

Draco's Last Stand

This encounter begins with Draco entering the room and moving to the middle of the large stone bridge that stretches across this canyon. After the events described in the boxed text below, the heroes should be at the entrance to the cavern, with Draco across the bridge, waiting for them. When the first heroes enter the cavern where this encounter takes place, read the following text aloud:

Draco makes a stand midway on the overpass traversing the black gulf. A red lightsaber hisses in his right hand, angled down and away from him, while he extends the precious holocron over the abyss in his left. Then a sound like rolling thunder causes the caverns to shudder, as if the planet itself were growling in fury. Abruptly, as if the sky's been turned upside down, two blue bolts of lightning the size of starfighters explode toward you from below.

One of the seething electrical masses smashes into the ceiling high above, producing a shower of man sized boulders. The other mammoth blue bolt sideswipes the bridge, missing you by a mere meter.

On the heels of that familiar, unnatural lightning comes a monster straight out of your nightmares 200 meters of golden sinew and obscenity, led by a gaping maw lined with teeth bigger than the tallest Wookiee. It looks identical to the dreambeast you fought earlier, and for a heartbeat you hope that you're still dreaming. But this is real, and this leviathan makes the illusion you battled earlier look like a tame womp rat.

Draco, now without the aid of the Sith holocron gatekeeper, has gained some control over both the dreambeast and the Force lightning erupting from the abyss below. Before the encounter begins, Draco catches his second wind to regain some hit points, knowing that he'll need them in the coming fight.

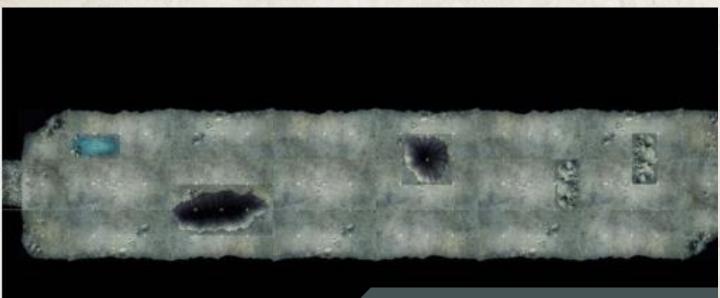
Draco knows that, alone, he could easily be overwhelmed by a group of heroes. As such, he takes a much more defensive position than he did in the previous encounter. He uses the ambient Force lightning to keep multiple enemies from getting too close to him each round. Similarly, he will use the Bind Force to shut down one hero, letting the k'kayeh dragon do the attacking for him (while still shooting an arc of Force lightning.







ECHOES OF THE JEDI



CONCLUSION

When the heroes deal the killing blow to Draco, he drops the Qornah Holocron at his feet. With a gasp, he goes wide-eyed and tumbles from the side of the bridge into the abyss. As Draco plummets into darkness, the Force lightning stops, and the k'kayeh dragon descends into the abyss once more, presumably after the body of the Inquisitor. With Draco defeated and the holocron recovered, the heroes need to escape from the collapsing academy with haste.

FEATURES OF THE ARENA

Two environmental features make this encounter challenging for the heroes. First, most of the combat will take place on a large stone bridge with no railings. Any heroes pushed off of the bridge must attempt to catch themselves or they will fall into the abyss.

Second, the K'kayeh dragon stretches up to menace the heroes. Though the dragon would normally be far too powerful for them to face, in this encounter, it acts more like an obstacle than a true opponent. The dragon has a Cool and Vigilance skill of ____. It has the adversary 4 ability. If successfully hit by a ranged attack, the beast takes a -1 penalty to its melee skill for each ranged attack that hits it. (You should make it clear to the heroes that their combined efforts are having a combined effect, giving ranged attackers a role in the encounter while melee combatants deal with Draco.) Once per round, the dragon snaps at any heroes in the chamber who are not engaged in melee with Draco. It has a melee skill of _____. Its claws have the following profile:

Melee; Damage 6; Pierce 5; Critical 2; Knockdown

Concluding the Adventure

When the heroes leave the Cularin system, they can reach the last known coordinates of the Resurgence. The trip back takes one day, giving the heroes time to rest, treat their wounds, and study the holocron. Any non-Force-sensitive heroes find the cube unresponsive, but a Jedi hero can conjure the holocron's gatekeeper, Master Qornah, who answers a few basic questions but insists on the presence of another Jedi Master.

When they finally approach the Nebulon-B frigate, the heroes receive a communication from Captain Verana asking if their mission was successful. He greets them as they dock underneath the large ship and walks them to their quarters. When the heroes are ready, they are instructed to go to the briefing room to meet with Master Denia.

Denia asks the heroes for the holocron and activates it. She then listens as the heroes recount their adventure. At the mention of Draco's name, Denia displays a brief look of shock and becomes very pensive thereafter, as if distracted by something far away. Gathering her composure, she states the following:

"This sounds like quite an ordeal you experienced, and whether you follow the Jedi ways or not, you have contributed greatly enlightenment of the Force. With this item, I will seek answers about the slaves that you rescued at Bespin, and hopefully some clues about the Empire's Sarlacc Project. I am also curious about the creatures and evil forces that you encountered in the academy, and if I find information about them, I will advise you. But now if you'll excuse me, I must meditate."

REWARDS & NEXT STEPS

Master Denia now offers training to all force sensitive heroes. Those that wish to can now purchase specialisms from the 'Jedi' career without xp penalty for out of career purchases. Master Denia is also willing to train specific force powers at the GMs discretion.

Non force sensitive heroes can now choose to purchase a universal tree that grants a force rating if they wish to do so.

Optional Adventure:

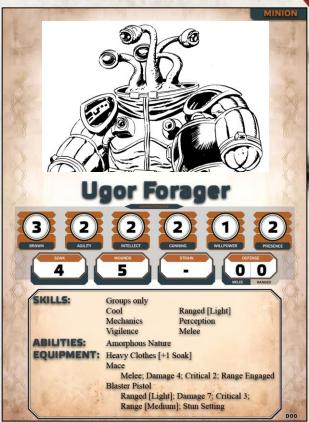
Denia discovers the holocron is incomplete and lacking some Kyber crystals. She asks the heroes to locate the crystals and complete the holocron. Proceed to the "Chronicles of the Gatekeeper" adventure by FFG, before continuing the campaign.









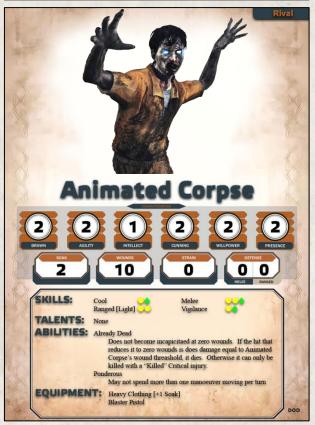






































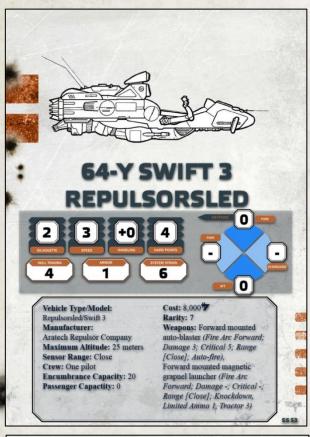




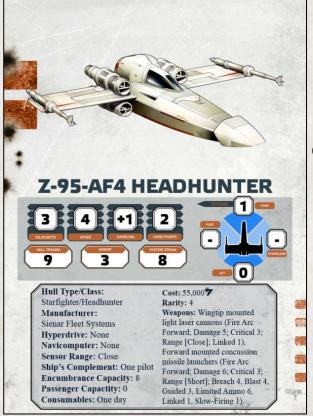


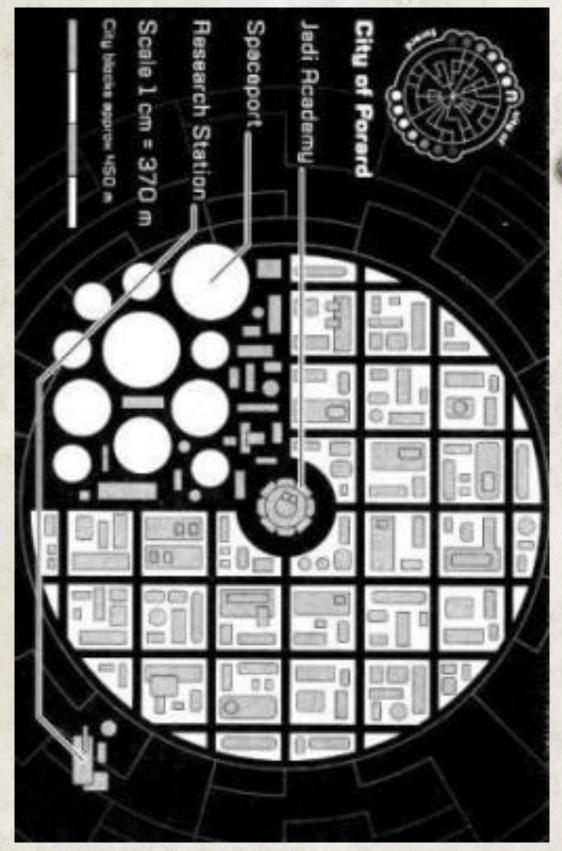




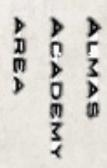






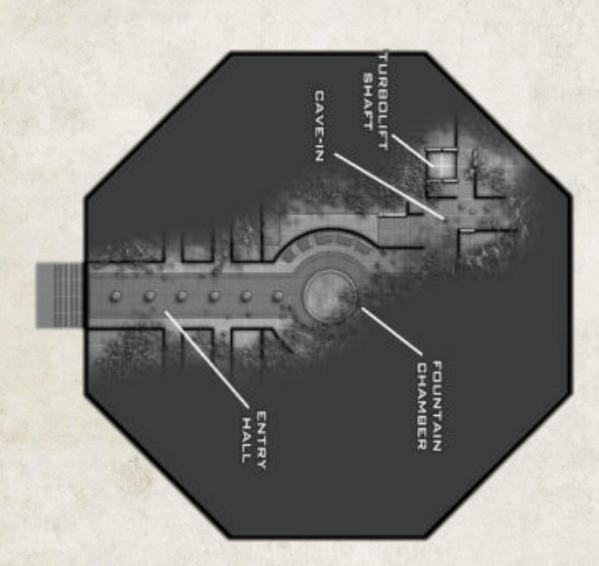




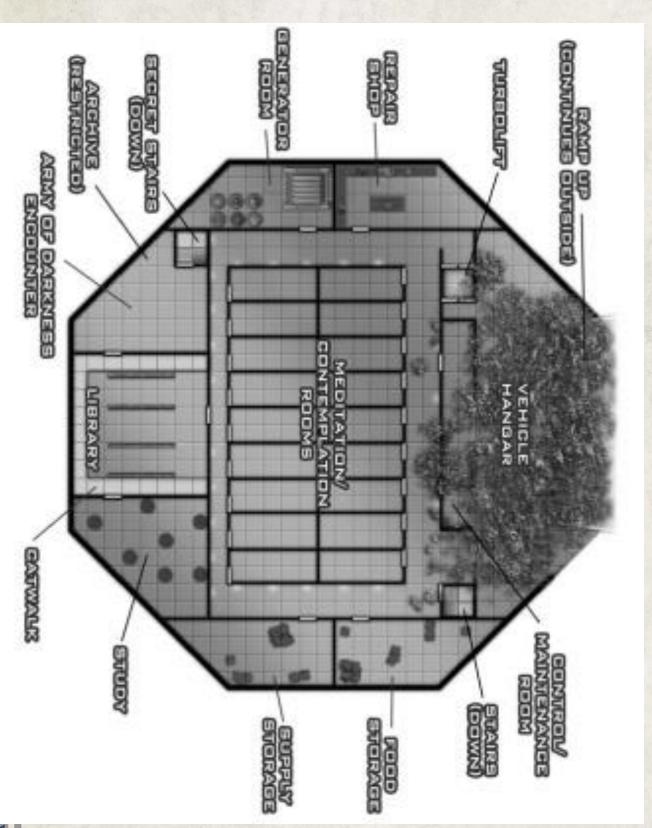




GROUND PLOOP







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Index 2: Maps

