

STAR*DRIVE SESSION SUMMARY 08/09/2009

Attendance

Chris (Ten-Zil Kem and Rokk Tressor) looks around, “Where’d Bruce go? Normally he’s here to keep track of all our interesting personal eccentricities.”

Paul offers, “I don’t know how wise that is. After all, some of our eccentricities are pretty personal. By the way, have I told you my latest tale of bar-hopping?”

Ernest (Markus Oroszlan and Captain Ken Takashi) quickly jumps in to save the situation, offering, “Have you been checking out what’s been going on in the Italian government lately? They’ve been known to elect porn stars and socialists to their Parliament.”

Peco (Adun Zelnaga and General Ivan Stukov) suggests, “Enough with the Italians! Their dysfunctional government keeps the world from noticing what the rest of the European governments are up to. You cannot underestimate the importance of that role!”

Bruce (Lambert Fulson and Taveer) wanders in and proclaims, “Free gaming stuff for all! Share and enjoy!”

Patrick (Lenny and Martin St. John) cheers. Now he has a copy of the rules to this foolish game!

<i>Character</i>	<i>Player</i>	<i>Spec / Level</i>	<i>Description</i>
Lambert Fulson	Bruce	FA 1	Rigunmor Trader
Taveer	Bruce	TO 1	Lighthouse Chief Engineer
Martin St. John	Patrick	TO 1	Lighthouse Head Pilot
Lenny	Patrick	FA 1	T’sa Ambassador
Ten-zil Kem	Chris	D 1	VoidCorp Ambassador, dressed like a 1980’s Space Pimp
Rokk Tressor	Chris	FA 1	Concord Intelligence Officer
Markus Oroszlan	Ernest	CS 1	Thuldan Warlion
Ken Takashi	Ernest	D (TO) 1	Star Force Captain

<i>Character</i>	<i>Player</i>	<i>Spec / Level</i>	<i>Description</i>
Ivan Stukov	Peco	D (CS) 1	Thuldan Diplomat and Retired General
Adun Zelnaga	Peco	MW 1	Fraal Mindwalker Doctor Guy

We Need Some Quality Medical Care

The session opens with *Adun Zelnaga* rather desperately trying to administer medical care to the horribly-injured warlion *Markus Oroszlan*. He complains, “This place is in horrible shape, and it’s totally intended for sesheyans. I can’t find any bandages, but there are cabinets full of eyelid wax and leaf-water.”

It is at this point that the ongoing particle-beam bombardment is interrupted by a huge explosion. The whole station shakes and debris flies in from the corridor. Adun asks Markus, “Should we go look for the others, or stay here and live?” Markus does not answer. He is, after all, unconscious from his wounds.

It is at this point that the rest of the group comes in. They report that a VoidCorp bomb has just destroyed the last functional ship in the hangar bay. They are accompanied by their prisoner *Ramos Edoudrin*, a VoidCorp functionary who seems strangely willing to die for the cause. In particular, he has managed to achieve a level of resigned comfort with the impossibility of escape that the others find truly disconcerting. Along the way, he explains that the characters’ various attempts to send outgoing messages have failed because the VoidCorp battlecruiser *Poison* is broadcasting a wide-spectrum jamming field across the station.

To complicate the situation, both *Lambert Fulson* and *Rokk Tressor* are both unconscious from wounds sustained during the earlier firefight in the hangar bay. To complicate the situation *more*, the characters have the entire Grith Sesheyan Council in tow.

Even though he is still dripping mutant blood from multiple gunshot wounds, Markus Oroszlan scavenges up some trauma packs and commences work upon Rokk Tressor’s injuries.

The Situation Gets More Complicated

It is at this point that the *Poison* scores four critical hits on the asteroid base. Once the shuddering and asteroid-quakes have subsided the characters are cheered to recognize that the base was not completely destroyed by the barrage. Rokk Tressor suggests, "Let's find some space-suits..."

Lambert Fulson suggests, "Or learn to breathe vacuum."

Adun Zelnaga offers, "I like the idea of finding spacesuits better. And we only need enough for ourselves, because sesheyans can breathe vacuum."

Lenny mentions, "I don't think that's actually true."

Lambert Fulson answers him, "We may get a practical chance to find out soon."

Just as he speaks the base's computer core fails and the lights dim to nearly black. Rokk Tressor mentions, "Hey look! There's a fire out in the corridor, so we have light!"

Ramos Edoudrin is willing to admit that there might be some way to contact the VoidCorp battlecruiser, at least for him. He is, after all, a high-ranking VoidCorp official. The other characters agree to let him try.

Meanwhile on the Basilisk

The VoidCorp Ambassador *Ten-Zil Kem*, seated safely at his console on board the Concord destroyer *Basilisk*, is monitoring some high-security VoidCorp channels. "I'm still bwarking down here! Stop shooting!"

The commander's response is not that sympathetic, "I'm so sorry, but your security privileges have been revoked on the authority of Mayassa Ombe."

Ten-Zil Kem puts his screen on a fifteen-second repeat, then walks over to the mechalus engineer *Taveer*, fresh back from repairing the plasma battery. He tells the engineer, "I need to go to the bathroom. Could you watch this for a second?"

Taveer wastes no time in alerting *Captain Ken Takashi* that there are still friendly agents on board the base. The Captain sends a demand to the *Poison* that they cease fire upon the asteroid base. He also quietly orders pilot *Martin St. John* to develop a firing solution on the *Poison*. Martin St. John is a bit confused by the Captain's urging that he should use his slide rule, but for some reason this advice improves the quality of his sensor readings.

A faceless communications officer chirps up, “I’m detecting a communications stream between the *Poison* and the local VoidCorp headquarters on *Iphus*.”

Ten-Zil Kem strolls back from the bathroom, observing, “It’s too bad we don’t have anyone capable of intercepting those communications.” Everyone ignores him.

It is at this point that the VoidCorp headquarters starts making demands of Captain Takashi. The Captain responds by sending shuttles from the *Basilisk* and the *Bang* down to the asteroid base, on the notion that if VoidCorp wants to fire on Concord vessels that will be on their heads.

My Hands Are Clean!

Meanwhile back on the asteroid base, Ramos Edoudrin presents the characters with a document freeing him from any legal jeopardy as a result of his actions on the station. He seems to think that they would be willing to agree to this in exchange for his testimony in the Concord’s upcoming lawsuit against VoidCorp. The characters are confused: the group he is talking to is predominantly not associated with the Concord and in fact is heavily involved in arms trafficking.

Markus Oroszlan goes so far as to say, “I don’t see anybody who’s part of the Concord around here.” The Concord security officer Rokk Tressor coughs into his space-coffee.

The characters discuss the problem. They eventually conclude that the exposure of VoidCorp’s plot to assassinate the sesheyan Council would weaken VoidCorp’s local operations (mostly mining operations) and improve the characters’ ability to trade with the Concord and the sesheyans. And if the characters were able to bring Edoudrin’s evidence to the Concord, then they’d have both the Concord and the sesheyans owing them. And as Markus says, “Politics and business are all about doing favors for people.”

By the end of the conversation, Ramos Edoudrin has formally requested asylum from the Thuldan Empire. *Ambassador Ivan Stukov* grants his request and arranges for him to take on the identity of a dead Thuldan marine from a couple of sessions back.

One Final Detail

Ten-Zil Kem is confused: ever since he connected his handcomp to the mechalus Taveer’s internal network one corner of the screen displays nothing but advertising for

mechalus fiberoptic hair care products. Kem is baffled by the fact that the mechalus is willing to put up with spyware running in his brain.

The Sesheyan High Council

Captain Takashi is somewhat taken aback by the presence of the entire Sesheyan High Council on his hangar deck, but as an experienced diplomat he doesn't take long to arrange a sufficiently-formal reception for them. The Sesheyan Elders demand to know what the Concord expects to do with VoidCorp. They claim that VoidCorp representatives lured them to the asteroid base under promises of safe conduct and negotiations, then sent their warship to kill them all.

Those characters who were on the asteroid base turn over the recording Rokk Tressor made to Captain Takashi, who indicates that the wounded sesheyans will be given medical care and that appropriate action will be taken against VoidCorp.

The Sesheyan Elders are promised safe transportation back to Grith once the *Basilisk* has returned to the *Lighthouse*. They are quite happy with this, in particular because several of them had feared that the Concord might want to prosecute them as pirates. Except for *Pe Terei*, who gets pulled aside at the customs check and is not heard from again.

The Diplomatic Denouement

In the end, the whole incident is handed over to the Concord Administrator on board the *Lighthouse*. All of the characters spend a lot of time in formal hearings as the poor Administrator tries to figure out exactly what happened. This turns out to be quite difficult, because most of the characters are none too sure what happened even though they were actually there.

On the plus side, *Captain Polivere* of the *Poison* ends up as the fall guy on the VoidCorp side: he is stripped of his rank and sent to a VoidCorp pollution mine for re-education. *Mayassa Ombe* QN10574MAC, the VoidCorp Verge Sector Security Chief based at Iphus, offers to cashier other officers from the *Poison* as appropriate. She is not willing to agree to hand over the damaged *Poison* as a Concord asset, but she does accede to Captain Takashi's demand that the ship depart from the Verge.

To The Victors Go the Spoils

This represents the end of an adventure, so all characters gain 10 XP. This is enough to take everyone to Level 2, and some characters to Level 3.

Terraforming at Argos

After several intermediate stops including an eleven day break at *Bluefalls*, the *Lighthouse* travels to the *Argos* systems and the planet *Meribel*. Meribel has been undergoing terraforming for almost a century. The *Lighthouse* mission is to pick up a Concord technology evaluation team that had been auditing the terraforming effort. The team also brought some advanced technology to the colony because Argos is an independent polity with a limited technological base (at least compared to the major powers). The Argos system was originally settled by residents of what was New Columbia. Their system is not greatly developed, but their worlds are considered to have a lot of promise. The Concord clearly wants Argos to join them, but would also like to develop their technology and infrastructure to make them more able to balance the Verge against the great powers. All of those powers have made overtures to the Argosian government, all of which have been rejected.

Markus Oroszlan is quite glad to visit this place: he considers it the ideal place for low-level arms sales. He regards it as a haven for contrarians of all stripes, and suspects that many of these folks are the sort who would like to howl like sandpeople as they brandish AK-47s above their heads. And he feels that he should be the one to sell the AK-47s.

Recently the terraforming project has entered a new stage. The atmospheric pressure is stable and the oceans are liquid water that is mostly free of heavy metal contamination. The terraforming authority is now releasing bacteria and micro-plant life into the oceans with hopes of converting the atmosphere into a breathable oxy-nitrogen mix. The project plan states that Meribel will be a Class I world within ten years.

Murder Most Foul!

The situation on Meribel is not all good. The characters get a recorded transmission from the *Vincenti Labs* station where the HCAT team was based showing the burned body of one of the team members. A shadow briefly falls across the body,

then the transmission cuts out. There has been no transmission from the outpost since then. All communications systems at the outpost appear to be completely down.

Vincenti Labs is a local company who had donated their facilities for the use of the HCAT team. The outpost is in an isolated location, and the local law enforcement regard the situation as in the Concord's jurisdiction anyway.

Captain Takashi wastes no time in assembling a crack team of Concord representatives to deal with the situation. Taveer exclaims, "Oh no! Doctor Loreep is on that team! I've known him since our days back in the Academy! And by admitting that I know him I have doomed him to a horrible death." Nobody else understands what he's talking about: there is no "Doctor Loreep" on the team roster.

The people at Vincenti Labs send *Mal Stevens* as their representative. The HCAT team included four scientists and one intern:

- *Doctor Ermene* is the leader of the team.
- *Jacob Darach* is the murder victim.
- *Doctor Justina Shukriya*, *Doctor Rafael Terah*, and *Doctor Simon Chibuzo* are the other team scientists.
- *Kaitlyn Anselma* is the Intern

When the characters touch down they make their introductions to Mal Stevens, who seems to be mostly concerned that some of the equipment might have been damaged. The characters ignore him and board a hovercar for the outpost.

The Destroyed Outpost

The hovercar journey takes an hour over a landscape of mud, rock and wasteland. The outpost is located upon an isthmus looking out over the new-formed sea. The characters speculate as to the quality of the seismic studies used to demonstrate that this stretch of land is in fact tectonically stable. But there is no question that all is not well: several large pieces of terraforming and core-sampling equipment near the station show visible signs of damage.

As soon as the hovercar stops Mal Stevens puts on a breather mask and runs to check the equipment. Taveer looks at the damage and concludes that the equipment was deliberately destroyed with a laser weapon. He reports that there is also no wireless network active.

After a quick search to verify that the station airlock is not booby-trapped, the characters enter. The outpost is dark and the air smells sulfurous. Adun Zelnaga reports that the air is breathable but recommends that everyone keep their breather masks on. There is an unusual amount of sulfur dioxide and sulfur trioxide in the station air.

Rokk Tressor predicts, "I think they uncovered an alien artifact that drove the crew insane so they're all eating each others' skins."

Taveer disagrees, "I think that one of the crew is a traitor, an agent provocateur who intends to make the terraforming effort fail to force Argus into the orbit of a major power."

Martin St. John says, "I'm going for straightforward space madness."

Adun Zelnaga's vote is, "Something in their food supply made them all sick, or insane."

Captain Takashi admonishes his crew, "Knock it off, guys! Let's go do our jobs."

The Command Center

Taveer immediately heads to the command center to bring the lights and the computers back on line. Captain Takashi sends Rokk Tressor with him to make sure he doesn't get himself killed. The Captain points out, "There may be friendlies still around here, so watch the uncontrolled gunfire and stick to the stutter guns."

They find that the control room has been thoroughly blasted as well. Nobody is in sight. Rokk Tressor reports, "Someone has thoroughly sabotaged the controls, which points strongly for alien artifacts or enemy agents. Space madness isn't looking too good." Captain Takashi shakes his head.

Taveer finds that the communications and life support systems have been destroyed, but the security monitors are still intact. He powers them up and finds that there are four individuals hiding in rooms around the control center. Rokk passes this information along to Captain Takeshi, who orders everyone into the control center.

Rokk investigates a door and finds a sick man behind it. The crewmember is dark-skinned, but sallow and sickly. He is visibly ill. He explains that he is Doctor Rafael Terah and that Doctor Ermene was responsible for the damage. He has been sick for about a week, and the autodoc in the station has been unable to help him.

Adun Zelnaga arrives at this point and examines Doctor Terah. He concludes that the sickness is breaking down his bodily structure, and that he is not in a good state.

The Other Survivors

Captain Takashi bellows out, “This is Captain Takashi of the Concord Star Force! Everyone else come out!” Doctor Justina Shukriya, Kaitlyn Anselma and Doctor Simon Chibuzo all emerge. Doctor Shukriya is a solidly-built woman who seems to be on the edge of a nervous breakdown. Kaitlyn Anselma is a young, pretty girl who is clearly scared. Doctor Chibuzo is in quite a bit more in control of himself. He reports that Doctor Ermene fled the building after destroying the communication and atmosphere controls. He also indicates that Doctor Ermene had been acting strange and withdrawn for days before he finally broke. Martin St. John whispers, “Sounds like space madness to me...”

Captain Takashi messages Mal Stevens, warning him that Doctor Ermene might be outside and asking him to come into the station. Taveer indicates that he has control of the security cameras and the airlock from the security station.

Adun Zelnaga examines the other survivors and reports that only Doctor Terah seems sick. The other survivors tell the characters that Doctor Darach was also showing symptoms before Doctor Ermene shot him with a laser pistol.

Stevens Is Shot in the Airlock!

Taveer cycles the outer airlock door. Everyone can hear the screaming from the microphones. Rokk Tressor runs for the main lock while Taveer overrides the inner door. Rokk sees someone in a heavy dive suit shooting Mal Stevens with a laser pistol. He takes cover and opens fire on the suited figure. The characters eventually deduce that Doctor Ermene is inside the suit.

Doctor Ermene yells at him, “No one can leave here alive! You don’t understand the danger! It’s not safe!” His shots go wide. His eyes are dilated and bloodshot and he doesn’t seem to be in much of a mood to discuss anything.

Rokk Tressor yells back, “Yes, we understand there is a situation. We need to discuss it with you so we can implement an appropriate containment procedure.” Blam!

Blam! He gets an amazing hit on Ermene with his maser pistol. Doctor Ermene's armor keeps him mostly unhurt.

In the command center, Doctor Terah starts to have some kind of attack. In spite of the sedatives Adun pumped into him he is still able to pull off his oxygen mask and starts breathing in huge lungfuls of contaminated air. Adun increases the sedative dose and waits for Terah to lose consciousness.

Doctor Ermene steps to the edge of the water and leaps in. Rokk Tressor watches him disappear and muses, "I hope someone managed to crack his armor."

We Have a New Life-Form Here!

Adun notes that Doctor Terah's skin is starting to rupture and strange green growths are emerging. Captain Takashi and Martin St. John enter the command center carrying a horribly-wounded Mal Stevens with them. They are horrified as Kaitlyn Anselm tries to assist Adun. She screams, "There's green goo all over him and now it's all over my hands!" They recoil in dismay.

Adun reports to the Captain, "The green infection is actively rejecting the drugs I am administering to him."

Captain Takashi tells him, "You need to quarantine that man right now. And you, St. John – I need you to hose off that intern!" Adun and St. John jump to comply. Taveer takes a break from repairing the atmospheric controls to arrange a security camera feed on the new-designated quarantine room while Captain Takashi and Adun improvise some restraints to keep Doctor Terah from thrashing around. All of them notice that his hands are turning into claws.

After a short time the scientist lapses into a catatonic state. Adun Zelnaga starts analyzing blood samples from Doctor Terah and Kaitlyn Anselma. He finds that the station is well-equipped to deal with microbiological analysis.

The Dead Man Is Alive! Sort Of!

Martin St. John decides to go looking for Doctor Darach's body. He finds a log indicating that the crew put the body into a cold-storage chamber. He heads to the storeroom. He finds a series of cold-storage chambers, one of which has been torn open.

Shortly thereafter he locates a hulking green creature with wicked claws and massive armor plates. In seconds it is on him.

Captain Takashi runs to cold storage to find his bleeding pilot fleeing in the other direction howling, “Shut the door! Shut the door!” Captain Takashi pulls Martin to safety and obliges.

Taveer pulls up a live feed of the creature on the cold storage security camera and puts it on a video monitor. Captain Takashi orders him to send it to the *Lighthouse* for identification. He complies.

Doctor Adun Zelnaga reports, “The entity has infected Intern Anselm, in addition to Doctors Terah and Darach. It is more advanced than any bacteria I have ever seen – it is purposely evolving itself to parasitize the human body.” A moment later he confirms that Martin St. John remains uninfected in spite of his wounds.

Tell Us What Happened Here?

Rokk Tressor starts interrogating the surviving team members. He finds that Doctor Shukriya is on the edge of panic, desperate to know why the Captain hasn’t ordered everyone evacuated yet.

- *What did Jacob do that got him shot by Doctor Ermene?* I don’t know. He was sick first, but I don’t know why they were in the control room late at night.
- *Was Doctor Ermene sick?* I don’t know. We hardly ever saw him. He locked himself away and took medication for some disorder.
- *Do you mean a disease he had or a mental problem?* He was never all that stable.
- *Tell us anything out of your ordinary routine that happened?* Everything was really very ordinary. Doctor Ermene locked himself away shortly after our last supply shipment. Some of them were dropped off by the Concord.
- *How long ago?* A little over a week ago.
- *Do you have any supplies remaining?* All of the food we have is from that shipment.
- *Was anything unusual about the delivery?* The guy who dropped it off wasn’t our normal guy.
- *Could you describe him?* He was kind of... average.

- *What was Doctor Derach working on before he was shot?* There are organisms we were trying to introduce into the environment. He was trying to study the organism balance needed to establish a stable biosphere.

Taveer looks up the shipping manifest. It includes food, medical supplies, some bacterial samples, and so on. There is nothing in the routing or contents that distinguishes it from previous shipments.

Doctor Ermene's Quarters

Martin St. John checks out Doctor Ermene's quarters (after a bit of security camera verification that there are no monsters lurking). He finds that the Doctor does in fact use a lot of medications. He also has a datapad, plus a lot of notes written on actual paper, and a biological sample container. The paper notes convinces him that Doctor Ermene was a freak well before his laser-powered final breakdown.

Adun Zelnaga confirms that Doctor Ermene's medications are intended to control paranoia. Rokk Tressor is incensed, "Maybe now we'll be able to change Concord staffing practices! Or at least insure that we leave some notes when paranoids are assigned to lead science expeditions!"

Adun Zelnaga examines the biological sample container. The container itself is extremely high-tech, designed to provide conditions similar to those inside a living organism. It contains a green suspension gel with some microorganisms that do not closely resemble those found in Doctor Terah. However, the gel is similar to the slime covering him. The gel contains a high concentration of sulfur.

Adun Zelnaga, aided by Doctor Chibuzo, tries some tests on the organisms in the sample container. He finds that the organisms disintegrate into acid within seconds of being removed from the container.

Martin St. John and Rokk Tressor attempt to translate Doctor Ermene's notes. They find evidence that the Concord Intelligence Bureau sent him a special "sensitive" sample to investigate. His notes start to degrade soon after that as he starts to record disturbing dreams and the belief that the samples were talking to him. Shortly after that his notes verge into either code, or something that he thought was code.

The Croth Threat

The *Lighthouse* sends back some information on the creature the characters see. They get back a dossier on the *croth*, a hostile external species. All contact with them to date have ended in conflict. Some reports suggest that they are in league with the *niss*. Croth soldiers are completely encased in solid armor that serve to conceal the true shape of the creature entirely. They are heavily armored and heal quickly. All croth carry weapons that to date escape human understanding, though they seem to be similar to the biotech weapons carried by the *niss*. No human has ever seen an unarmored croth. Slain croth simply dissolve into acid. There has been one significant battle against croth forces in the Argos system, a battle that ended in victory for the Concord thanks to the intervention of a Concord cruiser. Croth ships include spheres (single crew fighters) and dropships (larger carrier vessels).

Captain Takahashi attempts to talk (by PA system) to the croth soldier that used to be Jacob Derach. The creature simply stands impassively. He tells Adun Zelnaga, “Okay, Doc. You’re on. Time to try the mind-contact trick” Then he turns to Rokk Tressor and Martin St. John, “You two keep a watch on the Doc with the stutter guns, just in case the croth wins the conversation.”

Adun Zelnaga reaches out and touches an incredibly alien mind, but at the same time one that is so simple as to be almost mindless. All it cares about is spreading itself to more hosts and killing as many people as possible.

Take Out the Sulfur!

At this point, Taveer has restored the environmental systems to the point that he can filter out the sulfur in the atmosphere. Captain Takashi orders him to eliminate the sulfur in the chamber occupied by the transforming Doctor Terah. They determine that this seems to slow or stop the advance of the transformation. He proceeds to pull the sulfur content out of the air in the entire station, hoping that this will help both Kaitlyn Anselma and the now-transformed Doctor Darach.

Doctor Chibuzo explains that sulfur dioxide- and sulfur trioxide-bearing atmospheres are part of the profile of a Type IV organism. In theory, such organisms would evolve under conditions inimical to human life: -50° C and liquid sulfur seas.

Capturing the Crazy Doctor

The plan: electrocute the suit. Taveer jury-rigs an apparatus to do it, with some clamps on the business end. Rokk Tressor will apply the clamps, then Taveer will pour on the juice and hope that it is enough to zap him. St. John and Captain Takashi will draw his fire. And Adun Zelnaga will warm him up with pyrokinesis.

Martin St. John and Captain Takashi start the plan by acting like they're going to bring in the hover car to leave the site. They expect that this will draw Doctor Ermene in like a junkie to needles. To ensure that this works, Martin St. John waves around the car controller and proclaims loudly, "We need to get out of here quickly! To bad we are all infected with that green ooze disease! I cannot wait to get back into space so I can hug my space-wife!"

It is at this point that Doctor Ermene surges out of the water in his dive suit. He isn't fast, but he is very impressive. He takes a shot at St. John, but doesn't manage to pierce his armor. Captain Takashi shoots at Doctor Ermene's laser pistol, disarming him.

Doctor Ermene bends over to pick up his pistol, offering an excellent opportunity for Rokk Tressor to sneak up behind him and attach the electric clamps. Taveer throws the huge switch to send electricity coursing through the dive suit, only to find that the suit is built too well: it smokes, but does not suffer any permanent damage.

Captain Takashi suddenly runs directly at Doctor Ermene. The others watch in horror as he first bounces off the chestplate of the dive suit, and then manages to trip Doctor Ermene with a body-slam. Taveer hopes that the Captain is no longer in contact with the suit, then sends another jolt through the suit. The suit shudders and seizes up.

The other characters crack open the suit with claw-crackers and crab forks while Taveer anxiously keeps his hand on the switch. Doctor Ermene proves to be unshaven, unwashed, and shriekingly insane. Adun Zelnaga sedates him, then feeds him some antipsychotic medication.

The characters return to the outpost. They set up some perimeter guards and resolve to stay the night, until Doctor Ermene regains consciousness and can perhaps be interrogated.

The Thuldan General Comes Calling

Back on board the *Lighthouse*, General Ivan Stukov gets a call from his old rival, Thuldan General Alex Racin. General Racin tells him that he is tracking a thief. A sensitive biological sample was stolen from a Thuldan research installation. He has reason to believe that the thief might be hiding on board the *Lighthouse*. He orders General Stukov to help, but to help quietly.

General Stukov objects, on the basis that the last time he worked for General Racin it cost him his career. General Racin notes that the *Lighthouse* is his territory, and that he hasn't reached bottom yet: he still has some distance to fall.

General Stukov decides that his next step will be to talk with *Commander Alfred Posada*, nominally in charge of the security services on board the *Lighthouse*. He answers both to the Captain and to one of the Concord Administrators. *Concord First Officer Mara Hudson* features in here somehow.

The End of the Session

The session ends with half of the characters trapped on Meribel with gruesome croth monsters and alien plagues closing in. Meanwhile, General Stukov is preparing to launch his investigation back on the *Lighthouse*.