

Traveller: Into the Dark

Episode 2 (008-1105)

Prior History

Regina/Spinward Marches (1910-A788899-C)

002-1105

Baron Mark Columbo received the a phone call from his uncle, Vlen Beckett. He was doing work for a local hospital, Credo General, when they got a strange case. A woman came gave birth to a baby that grew old and died of old age within a day. Furthermore the women claimed she wasn't pregnant the day before.

The group was briefed by Dr Amanda and was hired on by the hospital for Cr100,000 and expenses to keep the incident quiet and find out what happened. The women was identified as Melinda Sanchez who was working in Avarar district, (low income district next to the starport) as a prostitute. The hospital also gave the group 24 hours to resolve the issue before they were legally obligated to report it.

Baron Columbo and his compatriots, Sir Victor Greyson (a retired scout), William Quin (a belter), and Micheal Hunt (computer scientest) investigated the mystery. Sorting through surveillance footage the group found out that the women was dropped off at the hospital by disguised male. Michael Hunt used his skill in computers to search and hack his way through Regina's police network until he found the individual's identity, Javar Valenti.

Javar Valenti is a independent computer consultant living in the mid-scale Barstow District. In recent years his primary contracts were for system work at Telarus Genetics. Telerus Genetic was a biotech corporation specializing in formulating vaccines for distribution around the Spinward Marches. It was also found that while Javar had a medical file within Regina's Health Net, there was no record of him visiting a doctor or being hospitalized

During the search a connection was found between Telearus Genetics and Dr. Pavel Ashram, a medical researcher that worked anonymously with Baron Colombo on testing sample found at the Ancient site at XR-1408. Currently Dr. Ashram is working at Imperial Research Station on Yori.

The group when to Javar's home in the Barstow District and waited for him to come home. As surveillance stretched into late in the evening, the monitor programs that Michael Hunt planted within the security system at Telarus Genetics flagged Javar as arriving at the facility.

The group went to Telarus' offices. As it was night there was only some security guards, one custodial staff, and a pair of researchers working late at night. Michael Hunt used his control of the building's system to isolate everybody including Javar Valenti.

The led by Sir Victor Greyson and William Quin, the group appended Javar and transported him to the secure wing of Credo General. There under questioning and further investigation it was found that Javar was Doctor Pavel Ashram's son, and what a product of illegal genetic experimentation. His genome was altered to heal and regenerate at an accelerated rate. The cost was an extreme aging rate unless checked by drug that Javar was able to synthesize with his father's help and supplies at Telarus. Telarus Genetic appears to be an unwitting accomplice in all this. Javar is also only six years old, his accelerated growth was arrested at the equivalent at the late twenties in a normal human. Also was learned that many of the personnel in Doctor Ashram's lab were transferred under the authority of Grand Admiral Frederick Santanocheev, the admiral shut down XR-1408 seven years ago.

The incident that prompted this was brought on by Javar's habit of paying for sex. Apparently any child conceived by him will also experience accelerated growth both during the pregnancy and after birth. The growth acceleration also results in the mother's death. Apparently what Javar used for protection failed resulting in Melinda Sanchez's pregnancy and death of mother and child.

Afterward it was decided to place Javar in hibernation using a medical low berth and report everything to his Grace Norris Subsector Duke of Regina. Duke Norris approved the party's actions and was annoyed at not being informed about what happen with XR-1408 by Admiral Santanocheev. The Duke then chartered all three of the group's ships for a year and charged them to investigate Santanocheev's actions and find out what happened at XR-1408 that led to its cancellation.

Jewell/Spinward Marches (1106-A777999-C)**352-1104**

The chaos caused by the Zhodani Consulate restricting all trade to vessels of 1,000 ton or less continues to grow. The backlog of shipping awaiting transport at Jewell's starport is now reached 500% of available capacity. As news spread through the financial markets of the Spinward Marches, the prices of shares in Tukera, Oberlindes, Far Horizons, and other major shipping lines has plummeted to 2/3rd of what they were two weeks ago.

Ruie/Spinward Marches (1809-C776977-7)**364-1104**

Segei hault-Oberlindes has just arrived at the Republic of Jingarlus on the independent world of Ruie. He is currently in talks with the Jingarlus Commeric Council grant his father's company Oberlinds Lines landing rights.

Forboldn/Spinward Marches(1808 E893614-4)**363-1104**

There been a furry of claim applications for various planetoids in the Trojan Points of the inner gas giant of Forboldn. Speculation that some rich lodes have been discovered and are now being exploited.

Forboldn/Spinward Marches(1808 E893614-4)**006-1105**

From A Step further Out, a documentary streaming on the Ad Astra channel on Regina

Primary colonization project within the Regina subsector. Originally conceived in 987 to utilize the resources of Forboldn, the project began its execution phase in 1089. Large numbers of colonists were recruited and shipped in cold sleep from the Imperial core, with arrival times set from 1110 to 1120. Simultaneous preparations on Forboldn began, with detailed planetary surveys to pinpoint resources and initial building projects to prepare industry and quarters for the arrival of colonists.

An interesting aspect of such colonization projects is the recruitment methods used to supply personnel. Since virtually no amount of money will entice an individual to leave his home and livelihood for the bleak desolation of a colony world, the Ministry of Colonization has established several programs to produce colonists. Most obvious is to colonize in lieu of prison term program. However, several other programs have also shown signs of success. In the unemployment insurance program, high population worlds have successfully used the colonization project as a means of reducing unemployment over the long term. In a similar medical insurance program, indigents unable to obtain medical treatment are provided with their needs in exchange for signing on to a colony. A colony's needs for skills are met through the anagathics program; qualified (and aged) individuals can be provided with anagathics to extend their lifespans in return for their providing such skills as administration, mechanical and electronic, and medical. Finally, a land grant program has provided a cadre of retiring veterans to supplement the new colony's military and police forces.

Djinni/Spinward Marches(1808 X559000-0) (Red Zone)**006-1105**

Found on the darknet while researching belt prospecting.

Devil Dancer: (a handle)

Yeah, fuck that reserve world shit. I jumped at 1,000 AUs, went all black with the hold stuffed with hotpies and zip (*slang for a popular brand of energy drink Zippy Zonk!*), I coast through and pulled some beautiful rainbows (*a slang for the spectrographs scans produce*). We talking 90 pure untouched stretching two orbits wide. This is despite being so in the C-Zone. Just gotta figure out how unlock (*mine*) without the Ponis (*derogatory slang for scouts*) sweeping (*getting detected by scans*) me.

Regina/Spinward Marches (1910-A788899-C)**002-1105**

Overheard as an argument at the starport tavern eating lunch during the outfitting the starships

One man (a scout) insists that there really was a Twilight's Peak, and the epic was true; the other (a navy starman) has taken the opposite view, and says that it was all the rantings of a drug-crazed scout. After several minutes, the two spontaneously decide that while logic may not convince the other, perhaps fists might. The tavern's bouncer ejects the two, and the room is not quite as loud as it was.