

It was, I must admit, a curious sensation to watch my only means of exit off a planet vanish into the atmosphere to head back into space. When I disobeyed the Ruling Families I knew and understood the possible punishment but somewhere deep inside I was never certain if they would carry out the drastic sentence attached to the crimes I had theoretically committed. Yet as I stood before the ruling council to hear the judgement and the sentence I understood that they had decided to make an example out of me. A warning to any and all who may dare to think outside of the proverbial box and consider other alternatives. We, as a people, have allowed ourselves to become insular and xenophobic, trusting that we have the appropriate fire power should we ever be attacked. Our military is formidable but even we have our limits. I hate to think that we could be invaded and perhaps even defeated by an enemy we knew was violent, that we knew was a possible threat but failed to neutralise simply because it is not our way to pre-emptively strike and eliminate a threat.

My first order of business was to build shelter and maintain a fire. This may be a planet uninhabited by other sentient beings it is by no means uninhabited at all and I am certain there are several species which would find me a rather tasty morsel. It was not difficult to set a rudimentary dwelling quickly. Basic survival training teaches all cadets this on a variety of planet types and a planet with a forest is by far one of the easiest to deal with. There are plenty of natural, raw building materials here and luckily for me I was left with a basic survival kit and some tools including an axe.

I have enough emergency rations to last for fourteen days exactly if I eat one meal a day but I am quite certain that food will also not be a problem here. There is an abundance of wildlife judging by the various calls and cries and I am quite sure I will find aquatic life in the nearby river. Fresh water will also not be an issue.

It has occurred to me that I may be here for quite a while until I can find a way to escape so I will have to find a way to keep my mind occupied. One of the worst things about this sort of exile is its solitary nature. Lesser men have been driven mad by it. We are social creatures by nature and solitude is not a natural state. I am quite certain that there will be moments where I will question my actions which have brought me here but I am also certain that this is not a permanent situation. My brief but enlightening contact with outsiders from the inner core worlds, especially the man who called himself Sideous, has let me know that there are other places where a man such as myself might put his talents to good use. If my people won't see reason through action then perhaps I shall have to find another way to serve them. If that means exile for a time then so be it. I am a patient man, I can wait.