

GM Notes

Analysing Erbert

- Erbert is in a state of permanent positronic lock and is irretrievable. It should be dismantled. It is currently in the laboratory as **Dr Roth** would wish to examine it.
- The laboratory also contains synthskin and other materials for cosmetically altering robots to appear human. This will be apparent to a casual observer.
- Such states are unusual in modern positronic architectures, but more common in older ones. They were frequently brought about by severe conflicts between laws, or by sudden and unexpected shocks to the positronic pathways. Such a shock could be caused by seeing a human severely harmed.
- Erbert's positronic states could be investigated with a positronic imager or probe. There is a probe in the laboratory, and an imager in **Vill Shall's** room.
- a positronic probe will allow truth state investigation identical to that used on the Hades.
- The imager can reveal what Erbert last saw: appeared to be talking to **Teri Kaivo**.

What did the serving robots see?

- Several people left the dinner, including **Anan Kora, Gal Anders, Kaj Millaw, Teri Kaivo**, and **Vill Shall**.
- **Millaw** behaved furtively and attempted to avoid being seen.
- **Anders** appeared angry.
- **Kaivo** does not like robots.
- **Vill Shall** asked the serving robots near **Dr Roth's** study to move a large and bulky positronic imager to their room. As a result, there was a period of time the study was not under observation.
- When the servants return, **Teri Kaivo** is near the study,
- **Dr Roth, R. Som Tano** and **R. Karo Vendi** entered Dr Roth's study. Shortly afterwards, **R. Karo Vendi** summons the servants, explains that **Dr Roth** has died, and asks them to store the body. R. Som Tano goes to the laboratory.

Investigating Dr Roth's corpse

- If anyone thinks to use the laboratory to investigate (or order a robot to do so), **Dr Roth** died of a rare and high-undetectable mycotoxin native to Echo.
- A robot could construct a toxin-sniffer to find the source of the poison. This will locate the poison vial in the recycling. While it has been wiped down and has no fingerprints, it will be found to have **Teri Kaivo's** DNA on it.

Disease and Echo

- There will always be some risk that the Perseponians will suffer an epidemic if they relocate, though it can be minimised to what humans think is an acceptable level.
- What's really going on is that **R. App Elby** is caught between a rock and a hard place and suffering as a result. The order of harm is relocation (significant risk of

mass death due to epidemic) > staying (significant risk of mass death due to life support failure) > relocation with strong precautions (risk of mass death due to epidemic) > relocation to other Spacer worlds (emotional trauma). But humans are effectively ruling out the best option. The harm is diffuse enough that they cannot be disobeyed, but enough to demand action.

- Philosophically, this is about human free will vs robotic imperatives to keep them safe.