



COMMUN IV

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JCC:

APALION

**BACKGROUND
GUIDE**

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Apalion Crisis

Chair's Letter

Welcome to the Apalion Crisis Committee! My name is Sid Simon, and I am a senior here at the Commonwealth School. This crisis is loosely based on James Cameron's *Avatar*. There will be two rooms in this crisis: one for the two alien tribes and another for the human mining corporation. Members of this committee will have to navigate complicated alliances, in order to achieve the best outcome for their group, despite conflicting goals. Though this situation is steeped in fun science fiction, this type of crisis has often occurred throughout history, from the Pilgrims settling New England to more recent incidents such as the Dakota Access Pipeline. With that being said, we will make sure to throw situations at you that few historians could predict, so buckle up!

If any questions or concerns arise about the topic, the crisis, or MUN in general, feel free to email me at ssimon@commschool.org. I'd be more than happy to help.

Introduction

Two warring tribes on the beautifully exotic planet of Apalion are faced with an even more critical issue that could mean the end of their existence as the human Global Colonization Corporation attempts to strip the planet of its Malonian, a key element to its ecosystem, stopping at nothing to wipe out everything on their way to galactic domination. Though Malonian is known to be extremely useful for powering Earth's technologies as a superconductor, many of its properties have not been fully researched.

The most pressing issue the intergalactic community needs to address is the encroachment of the planet Apalion by the GCC and the subsequent people living on the planet. Furthermore, the treatment of the Apalioneses people, as the GCC colonizes them, needs to be addressed as well. Finally, another important problem to focus on is the relationship between the Karmahi and Rataman tribes of Apalion: they have often warred with each other, and their fragile peace might be at stake with the arrival of the GCC..

History

The only history of Apalion has been passed down from generation to generation only by word of mouth. And through the ages, fact has become mixed with fiction to a point where neither are recognizable.

The stories start with a great monster named Ahn: the last member of his race. He was able to survive only through eating small creatures named Ehnari. He killed thousands to sate his hunger. And when they tried to rise up, he would kill thousands more. But two Ehnari decided the centuries of bloodshed needed to stop and they worked towards uniting the previously divided race.

After years of work, they were able to gather all of the Ehnari and trap Ahn in a prison made of Malonian at the center of the planet with two keys. The only way to undo the prison would be to use both of them at the same time. To make sure this would never happen, they split into two tribes – The Karmahi and The Rataman – and moved far away from one another each with one key to protect. Karmahi lived on

the sea, while the Rataman stayed on land. And this was how it was for centuries – the two tribes coexisted without interaction.

Eventually, though, for many Ahn became a distant memory, and the Ehnari began to move around the planet and mix. Some Karmahi came inland to trade goods. But because of the differences their cultures had developed over such a long period of separation, these meetings were not always peaceful. The Karmahi were a nomadic and very religious tribe (many of their tribal elders still believed in the old stories of Ahn) that depended upon trade for their survival, while the Rataman were a developed nation that was headed by an isolationist government - they didn't want any trade coming in. But the Karmahi kept illegally bringing trade onto Rataman land. Eventually, the Rataman government ordered that any Karmahi who were found trading would be arrested and held custody. War eventually broke out between the two tribes.

Because the Rataman were a more developed nation, they had the infrastructure, technology and organization needed to decisively win every land battle. But the Karmahi had far more experience with the sea, which helped them dominate most sea battles. And on top of that, they had a numbers advantage. The land-dwelling Rataman had 400 million clan members, while the Karmahi had 800.

The war went back and forth - with the Rataman's organization bringing them victories, and the Karmahi's numbers and seafaring experience bringing them many victories. But with every battle came tens of thousands of lives lost. In the battle of hanging rock (4937 CE), 20,000 Rataman and 50,000 Karmani died. In the battle of Grumman's cove (4998 CE), 60,000 Rataman and 30,000 Karmahi were all wiped out.

In 5,000 CE, a foreign organization named the Global Colonization Corporation organization came to Apalion and changed the dynamic. It was founded 1000 years earlier to save its home planet's failing economy. It's job was to mine foreign planets for metals that it could sell and then bring the money back. Fast-forward to 5,000 CE: the GCC caught word of an enormous supply of Malonian - a rare and very expensive superconductor - near Apalion's core. And they came with the intent to take it. When they arrived, they decided to use the tribes' feud to distract the Ehnari. Pretending to be interested in trade, the Corporation approached the Karmahi and Rataman separately and gave both powerful weapons in exchange for plots of land. Each tribe was so convinced that they had the better side of the deal, and so happy that they would get a leg-up in their war that they turned a blind eye to the effects of the GCC's drilling. More and more earthquakes were happening, and ecosystems were being destroyed. Rataman noticed that their plants were dying, and Karmahi noticed large populations of fish - one of their only non-trade based food sources - were dying out.

The religious leaders of each tribe were conflicted as to how they should respond. Should they leave the GCC alone and risk destruction of the planet? Should they fight the GCC individually and risk losing? Or should they fight the GCC together and risk 1.) rebellion from their people - after centuries of warfare, it might be impossible to get the two sides to work together and even worse, 2.) the possibility of releasing Ahn because the two tribes would no longer be separate, and the keys would both be in the same place. That is, if the old stories are true.

Timeline

~1000 CE: Legends claim that the monster Ahn arrives on Apalion and terrorizes the native Ehnari, killing thousands.

~1500 CE: The Ehnari trap Ahn in a prison of Malonian in Apalion's core, according to tradition.

2000 CE: The Ehnari split into two distinct tribes: the Karmahi and the Rataman.

2408 CE: After centuries of drifting away from each other, the Rataman ban trading with the Karmahi as a part of their isolationist policies.

2659 CE: When hundreds of traders get imprisoned by the Rataman, war breaks about between the two tribes.

2659 - 3212 CE: Hatred of the other tribe spreads to all Ehnari as they fight each other, during what was later named "The First Great War." The fighting only stopped after the population of each tribe had dropped to well under 1,000 people.

3789 CE: After centuries of development and regrowth, the population of each tribe reaches to what it was before the war.

4008 CE: The Global Colonization Corporation is founded on Earth, in an attempt to save the global economy and the planet's ecosystem.

5007 CE: After nearly 1,000 years of colonizing, the GCC arrives on Apalion for its boldest mission to date.

Delegations

Global Colonization Corporation

The Global Colonization Corporation must struggle with complicated internal dynamics, along with the natives of Apalion. The GCC can be divided into two camps: those who prioritize profiting off of Malonian mining and those who prioritize their direct safety, which entails maintaining peace with the planet's form of intelligent life.

When the GCC first arrived on Apalion, the species they met were surprisingly cognizant of its own existence, though it is seemingly much more primitive than humanity. This dynamic has left a key question open for many on the GCC Executive Board: are the Apalionese entitled to have the same rights as humans?

For some members of the Board, their concerns are less focused on the native aliens and more fixated on profiting from their voyage, as well as maintaining a strong relationship with those on Earth. The expedition left promising investors, which included the governments of multiple countries, that they would be successful: if they are not, many fear not being welcomed back to Earth, or for their expensive supply drops to stop coming...

For the Executive Board as a whole, members need to balance their direct situation with the Ehnari and their relationship to Earth, in order to return home.

Rataman

The Rataman, one of the two Apalionese tribes, reside mostly in-land. In the past, they have had clashes with the Karmahi, the planet's other tribe, causing a lot of tension between the Ratamanis and Karmahians. For months before the arrival of the mysterious new species, the Head Priest has been vehemently warning of a great danger, though many are divided on what this means. Though trade does continue between this new non-blue race and the Rataman, many are wary, while others call for war.

The powers of the Ratamani people are mysterious to outsiders and are kept purposefully secret. They are also strongly connected to Apalion's ecosystem and have become aware of increasing amounts of Malonian missing from their planet's core: this substance is key to keeping the planet healthy and the survival of their group.

Karmahi

The Karmahi, one of the two Apalionese tribes, are a coastal tribe, with approximately 70% of Apalion being covered by oceans. Throughout their history, they have warred with the Rataman, though they have now achieved a fragile peace with their adversaries. Recently, there have been frustrations, due to a lack of food: usually, the tribe relies heavily on fishing, but on the day that the new visitors arrived, all significant marine life swam to the depths... Though trade does continue between this new non-blue race and the Karmahi, many are wary, while others call for war. Similar to the Rataman, the powers of the Karmahi people are mysterious to outsiders. They are also strongly connected to the ecosystem of Apalion's oceans and have begun to wonder if the missing marine life is connected to the arrival of the Earthlings.

