

Gut Reactions

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Teaser:

The episode opens in an open market section during morning rush hour. Businesses are just opening, people are buying morning drinks and food. Zack stops at a pastry shop for coffee and observes SAPANO BINCIN raising a fuss, complaining that his pastry tastes bad and is stale and being generally obnoxious. Zack steps in as the crowd gets impatient, deems the pastry both tasty and fresh and tells Sapano to leave or Zack'll run him in for disorderly conduct. Sapano leaves, warning that Zack will soon be groveling to him and polishing his boots with his tongue.

Vir has entered on the tale end of the exchange and when Zack wonders who the heck that guy thinks he is, Vir informs him that Sapano is Londo's replacement. Since Sapano can't replace Londo since Londo didn't leave due to his ship exploding, Sapano's been making a nuisance of himself.

Meanwhile, in deep space a Brakiri vessel is under attack and, despite pleas and surrender, is destroyed.

Act One:

Sheridan is putting his shirt back on after being examined by Dr. Franklin. He tries to reassure Delenn that all he's got is a little heartburn but Franklin disagrees and diagnoses a gastric ulcer. All Sheridan needs to do is take his medicine and reduce his stress levels and he'll be fine in a few weeks. Sheridan tries to explain that with budget problems, resource problems etc., he doesn't foresee his stress levels going down.

Outside of Londo's quarters Garibaldi wants Londo to say something but Londo doesn't understand why. Eventually he gives in and says "Moose and squirrel" for Garibaldi and enters his quarters. There he finds Sapano sprawled out on Londo's couch, apparently passed out.

A little bit later Garibaldi is meeting with Sheridan who complains about the two dozen dignitaries waiting to see him to ask for favors from the Alliance. Garibaldi reminds him to look at the big picture, not to get bogged down with petty irritations. Sheridan can see the sense in that and figures that the next since the next item is to mediate a border dispute, that's a large enough item to merit his attention. Trouble is, it's a dispute between neighbors arguing about a two meter difference of opinion. Sheridan's stomach hurts.

Back in Londo's quarters an obviously hung over Sapano is claiming that, despite having made some enemies during his week on the station so far, he's also made some useful allies. Londo replies that when he leaves to become emperor, he doesn't want Sapano undoing all of the good Londo's done. Sapano argues that it's hard for somebody as important as he and his family is to deal with such inferiors. Londo and Vir decide to explain to Sapano the meanings of the words 'Ambassador' and 'Diplomat'.

Meanwhile, in Sheridan's office, the Drazi are needing guidance as to what color flag they should use this year; green or purple and what shade of each? Sheridan suggests that they use white since it encompasses all colors of the spectrum and the Drazi Ambassador is thrilled with the idea and rushes off. Garibaldi observes that every time the Drazi go to war they'll do it waving a white flag, which should make for nice short wars. Sheridan complains about all of the pettiness and rubs his stomach.

The next appointment is from the Abbai ambassador who wants Sheridan to officiate at a state dinner as 'Figurehead', which involves standing quietly for 5 ½ hours then making a speech consisting of four words "Peace be with you". Sheridan declines and asks Michael to reschedule the rest of his appointments.

Sheridan leaves his office but is accosted by a Brakiri magistrate, KENON, who asks for Sheridan's help. Sheridan tells him that unless it's a matter of life or death, he won't help and the Brakiri explains that many have already died, including his son, due to recent acts of terrorism.

Act Two:

In the Zocalo, Sapano is ending a meeting with BISTOOI, an Abbai. Bistooi is obviously impressed with Sapano and vice versa. As Sapano leaves, he meets G'Kar who observes that Sapano is more qualified to be a smuggler and terrorist than a diplomat. Vir arrives and wants everybody to get along, and Sapano promises to treat G'Kar with the respect he deserves, that of a traitorous treacherous Narn. Some Narns in the background hear this and a scuffle ensues.

Sheridan meets with Kenon and tells him that he's having Garibaldi assign at least two white stars to patrol the area where the terrorist attacks have taken place. Hopefully that will keep the attackers frightened off.

In Security, Sapano is in custody and being abusive toward Zack when Londo and Vir come to take him. Sapano goes on about how the Centauri need to reclaim their greatness while Vir apologizes and Zack just wants him out of there.

Sheridan meets Delenn in the Zen garden and she tries to persuade him to be the Figurehead for the Abbai, offering to teach him some meditation techniques to get through it. John promises to at least try to stop by the banquet.

In Brakiri space, White Star 6 radios a Brakiri ship that there're no raiders in the area and the captain is sure they won't be back. As the White Star leaves via a jump point, a small probe comes from behind it to follow the Brakiri ship.

Garibaldi meets Zack in a corridor, responding to a fight that broke out at the Abbai dinner party. Five are injured and the Abbai ambassador is dead.

Act Three:

In Medlab, Sheridan, Delenn, G'Kar, Londo and Sapano are meeting with an Abbai representative. The Abbai rep blames the whole thing on Sheridan not being at the dinner as Figurehead to keep the peace. Sapano breaks into the discussion to assure the Abbai rep that the Centauri would ensure that the murderer would be caught and punished severely.

Vir and G'Kar meet in a corridor and discuss the fact that Sapano is even worse than Londo used to be. They have the air of being on the same side in something.

Garibaldi and Zack discuss the fact that Sheridan really doesn't need this stress and Zack complains that he's got dozens of conflicting stories and lots of missing Abbai who were afraid that they'd be accused, so disappeared. Franklin links in with Zack to let him know that the dead Abbai ambassador had a small piece of fabric under his fingernails. There was enough to get a full DNA workup so they'll at least find out the species of the murderer and then they can check the DNA of the guests who could have that DNA.

A transport tube opens to reveal a seedy looking Drazi who is accosted by a couple of Narns who hustle him away. Vir, looking on, looks satisfied that this happened.

In the Zocalo, Sapano seems to be waiting for somebody but G'Kar comes and tells him that his black market buddy won't be coming. He taunts Sapano that his presence has encouraged the Narns to clean up the area of shady characters, which angers Sapano.

As the Brakiri cargo vessel continues on it's way, a ship like that seen earlier moves in for an attack.

In Sheridan's office, Garibaldi reports that genetic records are slow in coming from the Abbai due to their paranoia, but once they have them, the cross-match on the DNA sample can proceed. Sheridan takes his ulcer medicine as he listens, then laments that he should have been at the banquet and might have

been able to prevent the whole thing. Garibaldi tries to comfort him, saying that there probably wasn't anything Sheridan could have done anyway, then leaves. Sheridan turns to Franklin and requests a copy of the genetic readout on the killer but refuses to tell Franklin why he wants it.

Act Four:

Sapano is on the viewscreen talking to PINTAR, getting dressed down for losing his contacts to the Narns and for not having worked out a treaty with the Abbai ambassador to move certain cargo through their space. Sapano protests that he still has Bistooi as a contact and that he might still fix things. Pintar reminds him that they require completely unrestricted passage through Abbai space.

In hyperspace, the captain of White Star 6 watches the probe watching over the Brakiri cargo vessel as the attack ship approaches it. The White Star comes out of hyperspace.

Zack goes to see Sheridan and tells him that he's pretty sure Sheridan wants to do something stupid due to his guilt about not attending the Abbai dinner party. He convinces Sheridan to give him the data crystal with the DNA information on it. After Zack leaves, the Brakiri Magistrate comes to see Sheridan who wants a favor. He produces a duplicate data crystal.

The White Star intercepts the attacking ship and blows it into space dust. As they leave, another jump point opens and another, larger attack vessel emerges. On board that vessel, a Brakiri prisoner is being interrogated by other two interrogators who comment that it's a shame they had to sacrifice the other ship.

In downbelow, Sapano is waiting for Bistooi who arrives late. Bistooi demands that Sapano get him off the station immediately. Sapano argues that, even though he never wanted the Abbai ambassador dead, why shouldn't they use the fact to their advantage. Bistooi admits to being the one who killed the ambassador during an argument where Bistooi was trying to get the ambassador to do what Sapano wanted. Sapano wants him to stay but Bistooi threatens to expose all of Sapano's shady dealings. Sapano draws a knife on Bistooi but suddenly Bistooi is enveloped in a red light. They turn to see the Brakiri Magistrate, Kenon, whose staff is emitting the light. Kenon pronounces Bistooi under arrest but Sapano and Bistooi bolt in opposite directions. Sheridan accosts Bistooi and they fight. Bistooi ends the fight by kicking Sheridan in the stomach but Garibaldi arrives as Bistooi tries to run again. Meanwhile, Zack catches Sapano and disarms him without having to use his PPG. Zack wanted the satisfaction of seeing Sapano packed off in disgrace. Garibaldi is proud of Zack for realizing that Sheridan needed to be followed. Sheridan complains that the kick will probably keep him on medicine for at least an extra week.

Tag:

At the Zocalo, Londo and Vir are talking about how Vir helped G'Kar's Narns in getting rid of Sapano's shady contacts. Vir is amazed that Londo even knew since Londo wasn't inclined to do much of anything about Sapano. Londo replies that he knew Vir would take care of it, which is why Londo will be nominating Vir to replace him as ambassador.

Sheridan, Delenn and Garibaldi join them after seeing off Kenon, the Brakiri Magistrate. Sheridan wishes they could have done more than just scaring off the attackers. Garibaldi comforts him, saying that now the raiders will lay low or move on.

On the larger raider ship, the Brakiri prisoner threatens the interrogators, telling them that his father is a Magistrate and that he'll find them. The interrogators come into the light and are revealed to be Centauri, one of them being Pintar who spoke to Sapano earlier. Pintar plants evidence that another race is who had the Brakiri prisoner, then kills him and has him dumped in space. He comments that that should start friction between the Brakiri and the other race and they can move on to do the same again, causing the Alliance to be fractured.

The End