

Yi Gu, Repairer of Reputations

Yi was a mid level marketing manager for the Four Winds Asteroid Prospecting Consortium at 5075 Goryachev when the Fall occurred. Having grown increasingly disaffected with his life, the sudden need to make desperate survival decisions made him wake up and take charge. Together with some friends he defected to the extropians, bringing with him a few industrial modules and ships from Four Winds. He changed name to Yi, sold off his stake in the newly formed Yanjiang Transport to live comfortably and began reinventing himself.

He found the open extropian society endlessly fascinating, and soon realized that his skills of managing remote teams and his curiosity pulled him towards journalist management. He became a blogmaster, running a stable of people digging through crowdsources, investigative journalists and writers, making sure they got the support and information needed. Yuuwaku Media was mildly successful - not by any means a competitor to SMASS or the Binzel Gruppe, but active across the Belt and gaining a solid rep for investigative journalism.

In 5 AF Francois H. Vilas, an extropian design entrepreneur, was disgraced when surveillance footage showed him dealing with Xiphos Ultimates, trading for services of the indentured infugees. This was anathema to many autonomists and his reputation plummeted despite his claims of innocence. Yuuwaku journalists managed to find exonerating evidence, proving that a rival had subverted the crowdsourcing on Ceres. The resurgence of Vilas also led to a major boost for Yuuwaku. It was at that point Yi had an insight: in a reputation economy there is a great need for repairing tarnished reputations. Journalists discover and announce the truth; reputation repair is journalism applied to protecting reputations.

Yi set up a new company, Phantom of Truth, together with some influential economic and reputation guarantors. People who think they are subject to libel, forged evidence or framing contact the company and are interviewed by Yi and his associates. If they choose to take on the case they will investigate, placing the evidence they gather into the public domain using secure-tamper-proof servers on Extropia. Phantom of Truth takes pain to point out they are not a PR firm: they may act on the assumption of the innocence of their client, but they *will* dig to find out the true state of affairs and report it. The company is itself under constant surveillance by trusted third parties to insure its neutrality and proper behaviour - without strong assurances that the company is trustworthy it would be worthless.

So far Phantom of Truth has been very successful. In many cases it simply steps in as an arbiter, reporting on conflicts and digging up supporting information to allow the reputation networks to make up their mind. A few cases have involved extensive investigations, revealing the back-story of current events. Recently the company, together with Kaguya Bank of Luna, exposed a major case of rep-fraud due to a subsidiary of Nine Lives.

Yi loves challenges, the harder the better. He fears growing complacent in his comfortable lifestyle and high rep: who knows when the next ultra-disaster or grand transformation is going to happen? But when it happens he plans to know about it improvise his way to the top. Adventure possibilities: Yi or his companies might want to subcontract investigative characters to look into something near their current location: it may be relevant to one of their projects. If

subcontracting for Phantom of Truth they will have to run a pretty powerful ubiquitous surveillance sending their experiences back to trusted third party servers to ensure proper documentation.

Firewall would like to use Yi's solid credibility to really hurt a powerful autonomist network they are investigating for tinkering with the exurgent virus. Unfortunately Phantom of Truth does not take that kind of cases. But what if one of the player sentinels is set up to be attacked by the network, and then compelled to ask for Yi's help? Firewall have more than enough material (including ego backup copies) to do tricky things behind the sentinel's back, making the character "know too much" – a fact that is then leaked to the network, causing a massive rep attack. A helpful proxy helps the character get to Phantom of Truth, unleashing a joint investigation.

Yi is a secret supporter of Firewall, and very valuable. Unfortunately the recent annoyance of the Night Cartel got them riled up enough to decide to get rid of him – mainly rep-wise, although a few subjective centuries of ego torture might be an added bonus. Firewall doesn't want to lose him and send the characters to protect him and his reputation. To make things more complicated, some former members of Four Winds are now triad members and also eager to punish the 'traitor'.

A Factor colony has approached Yi, asking for help against a "pungent smear campaign from Gatekeeper Corp". While a bit uncertain about their motivations and understanding of what Phantom of Truth really is about, the chance to get investigators close to the Factors is too good to pass up. But why does another colony seem so bent on interfering?