Darth Plagueis's Naboo Election Scheme [W.I.P]

What is left to do?

- I never really proofread it so there could be some mistakes, inaccuracies or unclear sentences. It should still be readable enough so meh.
- Expand the final two or three segments. I got a bit lazy at the end tbh.I could maybe add more depth on how he broke Sidious but this will probably be a matter for another doc.

Introduction

This is an overview of Plagueis's actions between Chapter 8 to Chapter 11 of *Darth Plagueis* by James Luceno. If you are interested in Star Wars Legends SCD or just Star Wars in general, I recommend reading the novel. (It is in my top 3 Star Wars novels). At the very least read the mentioned above chapters if you want to scale that feat because this is merely an overview of the events. There were also some minor stuff like reconciliation with the Trade Federation that are not included in the doc.

Who is Darth Plagueis?

Darth Plagueis is the secret Sith identity of Hego Damask II. He is the magister of the financial corporation Damask Holdings which is a powerful organization that has influence on a galactic scale. His main goal is to fulfil the Grand Plan. That is a plot by the Sith Order of eradicating the Jedi Order and taking over the galaxy. Plagueis's way to achieve this is to have the Republic descend into corruption and disorder. He will then get pawns of his in key positions and have them appear as the saviours of the Republic and rule from the shadows,

Learning of Naboo's untapped plasma reservoir

Plagueis kidnaps the leaders of Subtext Mining, a mining company which doublecrossed his master, Darth Tenebrous. Initially he wants to torture them in order to learn who hired to them to sabotage Tenebrous but he decides to leave it for another day because they tell him something of interest and Teneberous had many enemies anyway.
The leaders tell Plagueis about Naboo's untapped reservoir of plasma which is enough to provide energy to a thousand worlds. Plagueis asked who hired them to do the mining survey. They say they were hired by a faction in opposition to the current Monarch of Naboo. Plagueis would turn his attention to Naboo 2 years later in the heat of the elections for monarch (yes, Naboo's monarchs are chosen via elections). He initially wanted to wait a bit longer but he had other stuff happening around him so he wanted to be over with it. Also, he figured he could use Naboo as a type of operation, especially if he is in cahoots with king there.

Getting into Naboo's politics

The current candidates for monarch are Bon Topalo and an unnamed candidate who is in favor of Naboo's isolation in galactic politics. Each is supported by a cadre of royal houses. Damask sides with Topalo because Topalo is in favor of Naboo trading with other planets.

Hego offers Topalo financial and logistical help in his campaign but in return Damask Holdings will get exclusive rights to transport the plasma from the reservoir Subtext Mining had found beneath Theed.
The opposition learns of this and leaks the information to the public. They leak the mining surveys and shame Taplo for teaming up with Damask Holdings because the corporation is viewed as "a shady, extrasystem cartel of ruthless criminals." The opposition accuses them of selling Naboo to whoever pays the most. Also, the royal houses believe that the trade of plasma is something the royal houses should be fully in charge of. When Damask asks Veruna on call (basically Topalo's right-hand man) who was the leaker, Veruna said he had no idea. Damask muted his call and told the other leaders of Damask Holdings in the room that the leaker was likely someone close to their organization. (Damask later learns that Teem is behind the leaks but this is not relevant to the scheme, so i won't go into details about it.) Hego then tells Veruna to inform the royal houses that "Naboo will need funding, logistical support, and perhaps even Republic legislation, and it is precisely in those areas where Damask Holdings can serve as an intermediary."
There were also counter allegations leaked by someone from inside the opposition. Hego's men were able to trace the source of those allegations to Palpatine. Hego is intrigued by this information and decides to meet with and recruit Palpatine as spy and keep them informed on what the opposition is planning. Because of it Damask tells Veruna that he would like to discuss things further face-to-face, not telling him they know Palpatine was the one who leaked the counter allegations. Veruna adds that public meetings would refute any allegations of secret collusion.

Meet with Topalo

The leaders of Damask Holding meet Topalo, Veruna and several other advisors to discuss to their plan on how they will change Naboo:
"Funding by the IBC would be allocated to tapping the plasma reservoir beneath the plateau. At the same time, Outer Rim Construction and Assembly—one of Cabra's companies—would build an enormous refinery on the site of what was currently parkland, overlooking the Verdugo Plunge, housing the technology inside a triple-domed structure of Neo-Classical design. The Muuns detailed how the cliff walls could be stabilized and the tributaries of the Solleu River rerouted without disturbing the existing architecture or Theed's network of underground tunnels. Below the cliffs, the Trade Federation would enlarge Theed's spaceport, constructing a massive landing platform that would follow the natural curve of the escarpment, and open a second commercial port at Spinnaker."
Topalo asks if there are no plans for any firms. Damask has decided against it because it could be viewed as signs of foreign occupation. They say that their plan is only to cooperate with Naboo's own Plasma Energy Engineering and the Theed Space Vessel Engineering Corporation and all once they complete the refineries and spaceport they will be under Naboo's complete control. Topalo informs that Naboo will forever be indebted to the Banking Clan and Trade Federation. Hego says that will only be the case until the plasma begins being exported. Hego understands Topalo's worries and reminds him that he cannot win without Damask's support (well it was more of Damask making Topalo question himself if he can

win without their support but you get the idea.) Topalo says that it might be better to risk defeat than winning dishonorably. That nearly started an argument but Veruna intervenes and calms both sides saying they should seize their chances- make the public believe that Topalo's faction has made arrangements with the Banaking clan that will lead to a prosperous future for Naboo rather than having bowed to them. Because of this Damask decided to make Veruna King of Naboo in the future.

Palpatine

Before meeting Palpatine, Plagueis ordered his men to do a background check on Palpatine
What they could find was:

- Palpatine was part of a noble house
- Cosigna (Palpatine's father) was known was a wealthy, influential royal, with a reputation for advocating for Naboo's continued independence and isolation
- He and Cosigna do not get along
- He has committed crimes and caused an accident that took the lives of two people. Cosigna covers it so the family does not get shamed

Hego goes to look for Palpatine in Theed's university. He finds him in the headquarters of the Legislative Youth Program, walking with another man. Palpatine at first did not want to talk to Damask Perhaps the reason was because he did not want to be associated with the likes of him since Palpatine's family supports Toplao's opponent. Also, the man he was walking with before he met Damask was Vidar Kim who was his mentor in the program and was opposed to Topalo. It probably was because of the counter allegations because Palpatine was certain he left no traces behind.
When Palpatine tells him that he knows who Damask is and how he helps Topalo, Damask asks if Cosigna had warned him of Damask looking for him. Palpatine asked why he would. Perhaps Damask asked this question to know how cautious Cosigna is of him. Damask then tries to get Palpatine's attention telling him that they might have more in common. Palpatine doubts and really does not want to continue this conversation (lol). Damask make small talk asking him who he was (and also probably to get to know what type of people Palpatine hangs out with(?)). Then Damask asks if Palpatine has interest in politics outside the program. Damask is trying to learn more about him. Also, it is important to know how willing Palpatine is to participate in politics if Plagueis wants him to be a political spy. As far as Plagueis knows Palpatine might be in the Legislative Youth Program because of his father's wishes and how active he is in politics. Palpatine says that he does not know yet what he wants to do in the future. (That obviously is not a promising answer lol)
Damask wants to continue interrogating him further so he asks Palpatine to show him around Theed because he does not know the place. Palpatine wanted to reject him but Damask said "just a short tour" and Palpatine probably knew there was no winning with Damask so he agreed.
Damask comments on Theed's beauty (kiss-assing probably). Palpatine responds only if you like museums. Hego questions if Palpatine has no interest in art. Palpatine says that he enjoys art but is a minimalist. Hego then asks if he is a minimalist about everything. Palpatine

responds that he wishes Theed was less crowded, had milder winders and the King had less advisors. Damask notes that this the first political statement Palpatine had made so far.
Palpatine decides to be straightforward and asks what Hego wants from him. Hego tells him that he knows Palpatine was the leaker and remarks that this is something his father, mentor and other nobles would not approve of. Palpatine asks if he plans on telling his father. Palpatine tells Damask that if his father learns of this he would be disowned. Damask confirms that it is true that he and his father are on opposite sides for the election. Palpatine says that it is more common for them to disagree than agree on something. Palpatine mentions that he wants Naboo to have a greater role in the Republic's history. Then they have a small exchange about governments and difference in life expectancy of their respective races, Palpatine envying how long Plagueis's race can live for which should give Damask the impression of how ambitious Palpatine can be.
Plagueis tries to use the Force to read Palpatine's mind but does not get much information because of how strong emotion current, self-interest and conflict in Palpatine's mind.
They walk to Palpatine's speeder. Palpatine tells Damask about him competing in and winning races. Damask gives him an antique aurodium coin to adorn your rearview mirror. Damask then says that Palpatine might get into banking one day. Palpatine laughs and responds that it is unlikely. Damask says that there are other ways to get credits. Palpatine says that he is not interested in credits which makes Damask question what even Palpatine interests.
Damask decides to stop beating it around the bush and offers Palpatine to work for him and Damask Holdings as a spy. Damask admits that unlike Palpatine, Damask and his group do not care about Naboo or its government, only the plasma. That works because Palpatine accepts and says that he would have rejected the offer had Damask said anything else. However, Palpatine has one demand- reporting directly to Hego, which Damask accepts. Palpatine then suggests taking Damask for a ride tomorrow and show him the outskirts of Theed.
They meet the next day. Damask says the ride was exhilarating and Palpatine says he might become a professional racer one day. Damask responds that this is not something expected from the eldest son of a noble house. This is Damask stirring up the conversation towards Palpatine's family. Palpatine says that he ignores the expectations of others. Damask then asks if the speeder was a gift from his father. Palpatine says it was more of a bribe. Then he asks if Cosigna approves of Palpatine racing. Palpatine says they have not ridden together in years. Hego says that he does not know what he is missing, acting supportive towards Palpatine. Palpatine says that the issue stems from Palpatine having killed 2 pedestrians in an accident because of which Cosigna forbade Palpatine from flying. Palpatine "wore" his father down, making him lift the ban. Damask apologises and says he did not know. That is a lie though. As said earlier, he knew of it. He wanted to see how Palpatine would talk about those events. To Damask Palpatine's "transgressions were only further indication of his exceptionality" and understands that Palpatine is a "youth who had already risen above common morality and had judged himself unique enough to create an individual code of ethics." As of now, it seems that Damask is considering to make Palpatine a permanent ally and not just for the elections.

Palpatine then shows Damask ruins belonging to the Gungans. Damask asks Palpatine what he thinks of them. Palpatine answers that he does not mind them as long as they stay in their cities. Damask interprets it as politely saying not get in the way. Palpatine says exactly and that humans deserve to have the upper hand here. Damask likes hearing such stuff from Palpatine and says that there are many worlds where such matters are in dispute. Palpatine says it is because most beings are afraid to take charge and wants Damask to imagine what the Republic would accomplish if it had a strong leadership. Palpatine criticises the Senate for dispatching the Jedi to deal with every crisis and restore order then moves on without addressing the root of the problem.

Hego finds Palpatine's youthful ignorance amusing and says that Jedi could have ruled the Republic if they wished and they should be grateful that the Jedi do not force their will. This is Damask wanting to hear Palpatine's opinion of the Jedi Order. Palpatine says that he does not view it that way and the Jedi have dedicated themselves to limiting changes and wait for the Senate to tell them when to intervene. Palpatine would have had more respect for them if they imposed their will on the galaxy.

Palpatine makes an analogy with his father imposing his will on Palpatine and saying if he respects his father. Palpatine says that this is different and that Palpatine does not respect his father because he is not half as intelligent as he thinks. If he could admit that, Palpatine could have at least pitted him. Palpatine tells Damask how his house is wealthy but there are wealthier more influential houses. His father has tried to elevate their house but lacks the political acumen according to Palpatine. Damask then asks about his mother's views. Palpatine says she has no real views and just goes with whatever Cosigna says, same with his siblings and because of that and their good behaviour to their father they represent everything Palpatine is not.

Damask remarks that despite that Palpatine still honors the house's name by going by its name. Palpatine says that had considered using the name of the distaff line but decided to reject the name given to him rather than the dynasty but not for some grandiose reasons as others think. Palpatine then says that Damask of all people should understand.

Damask then evaluates Palpatine in his mind: "the deceptive cadence; the use of flattery, charm, and self-effacement as if rapier feints in a duel. The need to be seen as guileless, unassuming, empathetic. A youth with no desire to enter politics, and yet born for it" and would think of Palpatine having a cunning, secretive nature. He questions if Palpatine is the person Damask needs for the Grand Plan.

Damask tries to read Palpatine's mind again with the Force but to no avail again. That made him wonder if Palpatine had a gift for the Force and was concealing his thoughts subconsciously. Something Plagueis did in his youth before getting formal training too. It is not impossible for a non-sensitive to do it too but this was still a possibility Plagueis had to explore.

Palpatine asks when he was young if he ever questioned his motivations especially if they would contradict those of others. Hego says that he never asked himself "why this or why that, what if this or what if that." and simply responded to his own determination. He adds "Some of us are required to do what others cannot." Those words are the exact type Palpatine wanted to hear, as it seemed "as if a great weight had been lifted from him." It is said that their conversations have opened emotional floodgates in Palpatine.

For the next two days Palpatine would send Damask holomessages about the opposition's plans but Palpatine would struggle to find much useful information because Palpatine's father had meetings behind closed doors, although it would help being one step ahead of the opposition. Plagueis could tell by the frequency and urgency of Palpatine's voice in the holos that Palpatine had grown attached to him and views him as an adviser. In Damask Palpatine sees the wealth and power he sought for House Palpatine which Damask allows because he views Palpatine as useful. He has considered the idea of making him Supreme Chancellor.

Birth of Sidious

Damask returns about a month later to Naboo. Cosigna has his guards take Damask to his place. I won't bother going over the whole conversation since it is not of much importance. Here is some key stuff- Cosigna says that Topalo and Veruna should not win due to the past and associates them to nothing more than thugs looking for wealth and power only, wants Damask to leave and most importantly for the doc not to approach his son again and if Damask does, Damask will place Palpatine out of his reach.

Hego makes a surprise visit to Palpatine on the planet Chandrila or at least it should have been a surprise. Palpatine tells Damask that he knew he would come somehow. Damask asks how often such predictions of his are true, Palpatine says almost always. (If Plagueis still doubted if Palpatine had Force powers, this should clear the doubts more lol.)

Damask says this meeting will be brief because his father may have sent people to watch over Palpatine. Palpatine objects to the idea admitting that his father tracks his offworld communiques but would not send people to watch. Damask told Palpatine not to underestimate his father and tells Palpatine about their talk and how he threatened Damask not to talk to Palpatine. Palpatine is so angered by the news that through his hidden Force power he affected insects and Plagueis's droid. Hego reaches the conclusion that Palpatine's connection to the Force was so strong it could hide itself.

Palpatine asks Damask for advice. Damask tells Palpatine that he should emancipate himself to which Palpatine says is not a Naboo does not practice such traditions and that Palpatine is his father's until he is 21. Damask says that he does not mean legally and just to free himself from his father's control. He encourages Palpatine more saying uncertainty is the first step towards self-determination and that courage comes next. He tells Palpatine that the choice is his and his only. Palpatine says that he does not want to live the life of an ordinary being. Damask asks if Palpatine views himself as an extraordinary being. Palpatine gets embarrassed and says he meant he wanted to live an extraordinary life. Hego tells him that he should not apologize for having such desires and to dream big. He should not hold himself back and live the extraordinary life he wants.

Damask asks Palpatine if he really has no interest in politics. Palpatine says not entirely. Damask asks how far his ambitions go; if he wants to be a Senator, King or even the Supreme Chancellor of the Republic. Damask insists that he will support him in whatever he chooses. Palpatine asks what he would want in return. Damasks answers that he commits to his intent to be free, do whatever he needs to achieve his ambitions with no regard even if harming his well-being or thinking of consequence.

Damask tells Palpatine the story of how to get to be the Magister. Plagueis was a son of his father's second wife. His siblings hated him and the fact that he would get an equal amount of inheritance from their father and would have to work harder than anyone. When his father was on his deathbed due to a heart illness, Damask asked him for advice on how to deal with the hostility when he was gone. Damask's father would tell him that he needed to do whatever necessary to survive. He told his son that lesser minds sometimes needed guidance and punishment, and that he should never hesitate to defend his interests. It was later revealed that a rare genetic abnormality that affected the tertiary heart was what killed his father. Furthermore, every member of Damask's family had it, except for Damask himself because he had a different mother. His siblings panicked and looked for the "finest geneticists" that credits could buy and found one "claiming knowledge of a curative procedure." Little did they know that guy was hired by Damask and was not even a real geneticist and the treatment the fake geneticist had them go under was phony. So, Damask was the only member of his family that survived and got the entire inheritance for himself.
Damask says that Palpatine must view him as a monster after the story but Palpatine says that Damask underestimates him.
Damask leaves and Palpatine's father has a guard take him to a ship. Palpatine and his father get into a fight. I won't go into details about it. The take away is that Palpatine tells his father how much he admires Damask and knows he is being used by Damask but allows it because it is a necessary step for Naboo. Their fight escalates- Palpatine fully releases his powers, channeled by his lifetime long rage, and kills his family and everyone else on the ship.
Palpatine calls Damask and tells him that he killed his family and needs help. Damask is delighted because he knows Naboo and Palpatine will be fully his now. He tells Palpatine that he will cover for Palpatine. He made it so it looked like pirates had attacked Palpatine's family ship and killed everyone on board. Also, no one would question why Palpatine survived because nobody else knew that Palpatine had boarded the ship and he could use the excuse that he was on Chommel at the time (which is a confirmed fact).
A week later Palpatine and Damask meet. Damask notes how much Palpatine has changed over the week. Palpatine tells him that he knows Damask had planned for all of this to happen and reveals his connection to the Force to him. Damask then tells him about the Sith- how they are destined to overthrow the Jedi, reveals a fraction of his greater power to Palpatine and convinces him to join the Sith.

Conclusion/Short summary

Hego Damask II is a Sith Lord who wants to conquer the galaxy. His method is a subtle one; gaining enough influence to cause corruption and disorder in the Galaxy and get his pawns in control and make them look like they saved the Republic.
He learns about untapped reservoirs of plasma under Theed, Naboo which could be very profitable. Because of Naboo's isolist policies Damask, in the elections he teams up with Bon Topalo, a candidate wanting to open Naboo to galactic trade. Though after getting to talk with Topalo and his adviser Veruna he gets to favor Veruna more and plans to make him the next king.

Damask learns of Palpatine who is a supporter of Topalo despite his family supporting Topalo's opposition. Damask grows interested in him and meets him. Damask gets familiar with Palpatine and would probe him for different information: getting to know his interests, what Palpatine's personality is like and what traumas Palpatine has so he can know how to use him and if he will be of any use in the future. Plagueis found Palpatine fascinating because of how ambitious, cunning he can be and his potential for cruelty. He also figured out that Palpatine is Force sensitive and a powerful one in fact.

Plagueis wanted to take Palpatine as his apprentice and have him achieve the Grand Plan. The only problems were Palpatine's uncertainty and how he held himself back. Plagueis acts as a fatherly figure/mentor to Palpatine and gets Palpatine to idolize him and see him as a saviour of Naboo. Plaguies would constantly encourage Palpatine to embrace who he truly is and get to live the extraordinary life that he wants.

Plagueis ends up engineering a situation where Palpatine would end up killing his family and have him embrace the Dark Side and join the Sith.

Source

Luceno, J. (2012). *Star Wars: Darth Plagueis*. Del Rey.