CALLING ALL EWOKS

The Endor Holocaust supposes that the destruction of the second Death Star precipitated a rain of matter onto the surface of Endor's moon that destroyed the ecosystem and may have wiped out the Ewoks. In order to explain the celebration scene at the end of Return, this theory also supposes that the Rebel fleet is protecting that area of the moon.

(For more on this theory, see http://www.theforce.net/swtc/holocaust.html, http://starwars.wikia.com/wiki/Endor_Holocaust, and http://www.swrpgnetwork.com/files/endor/)

I reject this for several reasons. The bombardment of the moon would have begun almost immediately, before the fleet could deploy to protect Rebel personnel on the surface. Such a devastating explosion wold have produced fragments traveling at several miles a second. If they were going to hit the moon, they'd have started in the hours between the second Death Star's destruction and the cremation of Anakin Skywalker's remains and the start of the celebrations.

No one would stay on a doomed planet for a celebration. The emotions of Luke and the others are all wrong if an apocalypse is going on just a few hundred miles away. Would the Force ghosts of Yoda, Obi-wan, and Anakin be smiling if widespread devastation were taking place? They'd be unhappy, since such an occurrence would cause massive disruptions in the Force.

So what happened to the mass of the wreckage? From the expanded universe we know that a few bits and pieces did hit the planet, causing local cratering. Other small parts went into orbit, whether around the moon or its gas giant parent planet the literature doesn't say (Or maybe it does. I'm basing my analysis on what I saw in the movies and what I've read of this topic from proponents and detractors.). That's it. And maybe, maybe a small wormhole was opened at the site of the explosion. Also, maybe, there was a short-lived debris ring around the moon.

We know there was no bombardment of the planet or imminent ecological disaster from the behavior of Luke, his friends, Rebel pilots, and the Force ghosts celebrating on the surface. The effects would have been almost immediate. What constrained the blast and its wreckage? If an object of similar mass were to explode above the Earth, all hell would break loose within minutes, and hour at the outside.

No one involved in this debate has yet mentioned, except briefly, the advanced technologies of the Star Wars reality and how they might have impacted (heh) this subject. There has been a brief discussion of hypermatter and the possibility that when the DS2's hypermatter reactor blew, it punched a hole through realspace and hyperspace to form a black hole. That's where all the matter went. The original proponent of the Endor Holocaust rejects this based on one statement by Han Solo. It's in the first movie (this may be a paraphrase, since I'm too lazy to look it up): "Flying through hyperspace ain't like dusting crops, kid. You fly too close to a supernova or through the center of a star and that'll end your trip right quick." He assumes that this means hyperspace matter or vehicles in hyperspace will react with realspace matter. So, according to this interpretation, even if the wreckage gets sucked into hyperspace, it'll still hit the planet.

That ain't gonna play. Matter is everywhere in the galaxy. Even in supposedly empty interstellar space, there is a "gas" of one molecule per cubic centimeter (or is it cubic meter?). If material in hyperspace reacts with realspace matter, anyone attempting to travel in hyperspace would be killed within seconds of firing up the old hyperdrive. Imagine the kinetic energy of something traveling at multiple times the speed of light hitting even a single molecule of matter in normal space. Ka-boom! That doesn't happen in the Star Wars reality. So why steer clear of supernovae and stellar interiors? The gravity there (supernovae produce black holes and neutron stars) would warp spacetime so much, it might impinge on hyperspace. Since realspace and hyperspace are accessible to each other pretty much everywhere, there is a connection between the two, a kind of proximity, that is affected by extreme distortions in the spacetime of realspace. Luke survived multiple hyperspace jumps without exploding. So, other than

gravity wells, matter cast into hyperspace cannot interact with realspace matter.

This doesn't even begin to deal with the technologies in play aboard the DS2 (or any other large starship). Besides the hyperdrive, which may work by keeping a small bubble of hyperspace permanently in existence (Han's problems in Empire may have had to do with getting the bubble to expand enough to encompass the ship, just speculation), there are hypermatter reactors, which may also keep a permanent connection to hyperspace active. Perhaps hypermatter is in a containment field, to keep it from interacting with realspace matter or folding back into hyperspace. Then there is antigravity technology. I've read that it does not rely on hypermatter or hyperspace tech. It is a result of quantum manipulations of realspace matter. Maybe string manipulations. This technology would have been employed on a massive scale in the Death Star and the second Death Star. What would be the result of the incineration of these exotic materials?

They were firing the giant turbolaser in the last moments of DS2. That's an immense amount of energy to be shifting around, being converted from hypermatter to photons.

What does this stew produce when exploded? Not any conventional explosion, that's what. This would have been known to the Rebellion, to anyone involved in starflight at any time in the last 50,000 years or so of the Star Wars reality.

Anti-gravity technology may account for the slight damage done to Endor's moon by the impact of small fragments of the DS2 and at least one Star Destroyer (on an interesting side note, AG tech might have been absolutely necessary for starships, to lower their momentum, to allow them to reach realspace speeds approaching the speed of light, or to land on planets, even to keep their structural integrity during what would otherwise be ultra-high-G maneuvers). What exotic particles would be emitted when such exotic matter is incinerated? The interaction with the ordinary materials on the ship might be consumptive. The strange particle interactions might produce particles that would simply disappear, either into hyperspace or, because of their strange quantum

attributes, to literally vanish.

Let's add in hypermatter. Large amounts of hypermatter might literally fold themselves and any nearby objects back into hyperspace. An energetic explosion combined with this would probably open a wormhole, or at least an unstable hyperspace portal, sucking the majority of matter caught in the explosion into hyperspace. What small bits of the shell of the DS2 that didn't get whisked away in exotic particle interactions or the hyperspace portal (or wormhole) would have been decelerated enough to go into orbit around Endor's moon, forming a temporary ring that would slowly degrade over a year or two. A few larger bits would have posed no problem because of the AG materials they contained.

The Star Wars fictional reality is a science fiction reality, with extremely advanced technologies and materials that would radically affect normal matter and energy interactions, even in an explosion. I should re-phrase - especially in an explosion. The Ewoks and their home on the sentry moon were saved because of the exotic materials and spacetime manipulation technologies employed as an everyday thing in this reality. Scenarios leaving them out may tell us what would happen in our harsh realm (like the nasty things that might happen to us in a cometary impact of Earth), but tell us nothing of what might happen in a science fiction reality.

This was such fun. I thank Curtis Saxton ("Kill all Ewoks.") and Gary M. Sarli ("Save the little critters.") and Wookieepedia for all the pure pleasure this has given me. If only I could as easily convince you all to vote Democratic in the upcoming election.

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