Here's a vignette I wrote for one of the early Core Expeditions, at a deep space fueling point.

Deep Space jump fuel dump

“What can I do for the Tavr'chedl?”

'There have been reports of organized chanting, I'm here to make sure we aren't getting a superstition outbreak.\*'

“[shrugs] Just folk music styles, I try not to interfere.”

'Your duty as a noble is to monitor and supervise all such activity!'

“In my copious free time? With resources I don't have?

“Look at what I've got on my plate: I've got a complex of tanks as long as Manhattan (or other relevant point of reference), with a tiny village instead of Central Park.

“I'm doing the best I can. I don't have the resources to maintain proper behavior.

“I have forty-seven proles, half-a-dozen intendants, and one noble, your truly.\*\*

“At any time, four proles and one intendant are out herding comets or digging in asteroids.

“Eight of the proles and one of the intendants are children. Two proles and one intendant are assigned to ride herd on the “school”, though exactly who is doing that this month varies.

“One of the prole children probably should be adopted upward, if I had\*\*\* a school counselor\*\*\*\* to certify them. Not that I'd know who to adopt them to.

“Thank God two of the proles are trained practical nurses. They do all the medical care, when there isn't a ship in port so I can shanghai their medic.

“We usually get two ships a month, except when we get a dozen all at once. Half the ships don't even bother with shore leave, given how little shore there is to leave on. The rest just gas and go.

“If this was a ship we'd rotate out every few months. If this was a world there'd be more infrastructure and population. But we're neither fish nor fowl.

“So the proles run a lot of day to day things the should have more control and oversight. And I've found swooping in and issuing decrees at rare intervals is counterproductive, it just multiplies problems.”

\* A term for religion, which isn't supposed to be a thing in the Consulate. > Viepchaklashtie, ‘superstitious’ – referring to the ancient moon-worshippers of the Viepchaklashtie Empire <

\*\* Would a noble say “I had” or “We had”?) > emphasis on the group, not the individual <

\*\*\* Do Zhodani usually list populations in descending social order, or ascending? > I would assume ascending, from the zhant’ad up <

\*\*\*\* I assume that any Zhodani school has a school counselor who is a strong telepath and specially trained in evaluating mental development, etc. > tlamachedl, ‘guardian of knowledge’ <