

WELCOME TO THE ARCHIVES

WELCOME TO THE STARFALL ACADEMY ARCHIVES, STUDENTS AND VISITORS. I AM MASTER KHO, THE CHIEF ARCHIVIST HERE AT STARFALL ACADEMY.

AS THE SCHOOL'S CHIEF ARCHIVIST, IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE TO THE PRESERVATION — AND, IN THIS CASE, RESTORATION — OF THE SCHOOL'S HISTORICAL RECORD. THE ARCHIVES TOOK A TREMENDOUS HIT DURING THE DOMINARI REBELLION, YOU KNOW. EVEN NOW, THERE ARE INCOMPLETE AND MISSING ENTRIES THAT I HOPE TO REMEDY IN THE YEAR AHEAD. NO DOUBT THAT BY THE TIME YOU RETURN TO THE ACADEMY, THE ARCHIVES WILL BE IN TOP SHAPE.

FEEL FREE TO PERUSE THE ENTRIES FOUND HERE. MANY OF THEM CONTAIN MY OWN PERSONAL ERRATA AND OPINIONS; YOU CAN ENJOY OR IGNORE THOSE AT YOUR LEISURE. KEEP IN MIND THAT THESE DOCUMENTS ARE OF MY OWN CREATION, BUT IF YOU SEE ANY ERRORS, I CAN ALMOST CERTAINLY ASSURE YOU IT WAS BECAUSE MASTER CENDARRO WAS TRYING TO EDIT MY ENTRIES.

ANYWAY, ENJOY.

BYE.

THE HONORABLE MASTER KHO

CHIEF ARCHIVIST OF STARFALL ACADEMY
ORDO VINDORI



THE FOUNDING OF THE ORDER



THE AGE OF DARKNESS

For the people and star systems that now compose the Sellonian Empire, legends and stories from the Age of Darkness are as varied as the people who tell them. Though still debated within academia, it is generally agreed that of the nine sentient species of the known galaxy, the Solanar were the first to reach the stars. Desperate to escape a star that was rapidly expanding to consume their original homeworld, the Solanar found safe haven on a new planet lightyears away. Early contact between the Solanar and the humans is heavily documented, heralding a long history of cooperation between the two cultures. Humans soon became prolific in their colonization, quickly occupying and cultivating numerous worlds.

THE SOLANAR VERSUS HUMANITY

"WHO DISCOVERED INTERSTELLAR TRAVEL FIRST? HONESTLY, IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER, DOES IT (UNLESS YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE "HUMANITY FIRST" BASTARDS WHO THINK HUMANS SHOULD TAKE OVER THE EMPIRE)? POINT IS, WE ALL GOT UP IN SPACE, RIGHT? REALLY, IF WE'RE BEING HONEST, ALL DECENT EVIDENCE SUPPORTS THE SOLANAR, BUT LET'S LEAVE THAT ONE ALONE FOR NOW..."

As each race arrived on the galactic stage, new conflicts arose. Skirmishes over expansion, religion, and cultural differences grew increasingly common until war had become the common language of the galaxy. Long, horrific conflicts punctuated by brief respites of peace dominate the records that have survived the ravages of war and time. Records suggest the first interspecies war developed between the humans and Nara over control of the Sarga system, ultimately ending in a stalemate between the two civilizations. The Rikkan warred against the Solanar in a centuries-long conflict beginning thereafter, nearly forcing the Solanar into a second exodus away from their new homeworld of Nevi Prime.

A new era of warfare dawned when the Nara gifted

the Yaru species the technologies of interstellar travel. A militant civilization driven ever-forward by a belief in a bloodthirsty deity, the Yaru almost immediately turned against their benefactors. A sudden campaign of genocide initiated against the Nara left a lasting mark on the species, as biological weapons permanently altered their DNA.

THE NARAN CONTAMINATION

"NO ONE REALLY UNDERSTANDS HOW THE YARU — WHO APPEARED, AT FIRST, TO BE A BACKWARDS CIVILIZATION — CAME TO SO EASILY MANIPULATE THE NARAN GENETIC CODE AND EXPORT THEIR BIOLOGICAL MENACE ON A GALACTIC SCALE. IT APPEARS AS THOUGH THEIR SCIENTIFIC PROWESS WAS SIGNIFICANTLY UNDERESTIMATED... AND, REGRETTABLY, THE NARA PAID THE PRICE..."

Responding to Naran calls for aid, a tenuous and short-lived alliance of Human, Vyxian, and Rikkan warships answered this atrocity with their own. While it is unknown what diplomatic efforts were attempted, the Yaru refused to back down. Hoping for a speedy — and permanent — solution to the conflict, the combined battle fleets launched a devastating bombardment against the planet of Yarut. When the weapons finally ceased, Yarut was left as a charred and inhospitable wasteland with an utterly extinguished population. The first galactic genocide was complete.

THE FATE OF THE YARU

"WHAT HAPPENED TO THE NARA WAS (AND IS) TRAGIC, BUT THAT SHOULD NOT DIMINISH THE TRAGEDY OF WHAT HAPPENED TO YARUT. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PLANET AND THE EXTERMINATION OF THE YARU WILL ALWAYS BE AN ATROCITY IN AND OF ITSELF. AS GUARDIANS, WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT ALL OF LIFE IS SACRED AND WORTH PROTECTING..."



THE WARSHIPS OF THE HUMAN, VYXIAN, AND RIKKAN ARMADAS ASSEMBLE OVER YARUT BEFORE BEGINNING THE FAMED ORBITAL BOMBARDMENT THAT WOULD ELIMINATE AN ENTIRE SPECIES.

In the wake of such wanton destruction, an enclave of Khi'Hinnese monks retreated into a period of H'ar, a sacred time of physical withdrawal for research and reflection. Hoping to avoid the terrors of the past, the monks cried out to the universe for a path to peace and enlightenment. The response would forever change the fate of the galaxy.

THE DISCOVERY OF THE LIGHT

Throughout recorded history, members of every sentient species had noticed strange and supernatural abilities within a select few among them. Though exceedingly rare, such individuals typically exhibited heightened senses and physical capabilities or precognition, empathy, or influence at supernatural levels. Some cultures ostracized these beings as sorcerers or demons while others saw them as prophets, gifted leaders, or valuable oddities. Others failed to notice the manifestation at all, ascribing their powers simply to individual luck.

As the Khi'Hinnese enclave met in H'ar, the discussion of such gifted individuals quickly took center stage. For more than four decades, they probed the mystery through meditation, inquiry, and debate, isolated from

the conflicts and chaos of the greater galaxy. A common thread seemed to weave its way through these gifted beings and on to the galaxy at large. Such an energy empowered those it touched, yet manifested itself in all life and on every planet to some extent.

THE KHI'HINNESE NOTION OF H'AR

"H'AR IS LESS OF AN EVENT AND MORE OF A FRAME OF MIND — A RETREAT FROM THE WORLD TO FOCUS ON THINGS OTHER THAN THE SELF. MOST OF THE TIME, H'AR DOESN'T YIELD SUCH DRAMATIC RESULTS, OF COURSE. I SPENT OVER TWO YEARS ON MY FIRST H'AR AS A YOUTH AND DIDN'T GAIN MUCH MORE THAN A FEW PAPER CUTS AND A DIS-TRUST OF THAT 'I BEFORE E' RULE..."

The revelation of such a mysterious presence was the fruit of the Khi'Hinn's labor. When the H'ar finally broke, the monks emerged exhausted but empowered. They jubilantly announced the discovery of "Xik'khi'an" — The Great Light — a powerful and permeating energy that manifested with life itself. A select few — now labeled as "Radiants" — were able to harness The Light's power into miraculous abilities. Most of the original discoverers soon joined a swell of Radiant Khi'Hinn in additional H'ar to

further unlock the secrets of The Light and allow this new knowledge to blossom.

It was not long before members of other species would join the Khi'Hinn in the "*Rifak H'ar Xik'khi'hi*," the Order of The Light.

THE FOUNDING OF THE ORDER

Under the tutelage of the Khi'Hinnese sages, the first generation of Radiant adherents began to ply their abilities in earnest. Infused with the traditional Khi'Hinnese principles of community, their teaching put the service of others over self at the height of its tenants. Many students returned to their own worlds after their training, seeking out other Radiants and establishing temples across the galaxy. The Order of The Light began to swell in numbers, establishing its formal Grand Temple on the human capital planet of Rho, where sensitivity to The Light's power proved exceptionally high.

THE EARLY YEARS OF THE ORDER

"LIKE ANY NEW SYSTEM OF BELIEF, THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE LIGHT WASN'T ALWAYS... SHALL WE SAY... 'APPRECIATED' BY NON-RADIANT INDIVIDUALS. PERSECUTION OF THE EARLY ORDER WAS COMMON ON SOME WORLDS. ON A SELECT FEW, IT WAS DOWNRIGHT AWFUL. STILL, OVER TIME, EVEN THE STAUCHEST OPPONENTS CAME TO SEE ITS POWER..."

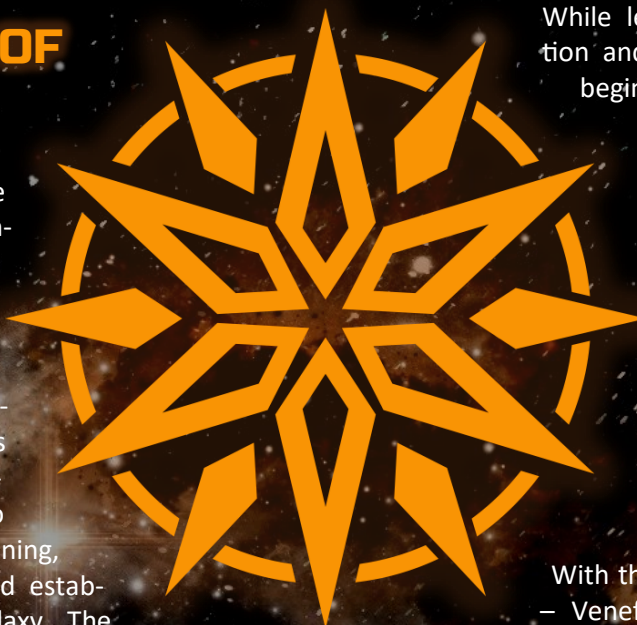
By the dawn of its second century, the Order began to establish a unified hierarchy of leadership. An elected Supreme Master acted as the executive head of the Order and was responsible only to the collective will of the Master Council. This Council was composed of every member of the order who had been granted the title of Grand Master, including the heads of temples and academies around the galaxy.

Below the Grand Masters were a host of Masters,

whose deeds had earned them notoriety and respect far beyond the typical adherents of The Light. The majority of the order's participants acted as seasoned Knights, with pages, novices, and initiates still in training beneath them.

While leadership homogenized, instruction and practice within the Order was beginning to specialize and expand into six distinct Sects, each reflective of an asset of The Light's influence. Early scholars had noticed that The Light's power represented a spectrum of abilities, each one influencing the world or the bearer in a unique way. Trained Radiant individuals could command all of the six facets to some degree, but always exhibited an aptitude for one over others.

With this in mind, the six different Sects – Venefari, Dominari, Ouiori, Medicari, Bellati, and Vindori – were established to explore, enhance, and express these aspects of The Light's power.



HIERARCHY OF THE ORDER

SUPREME MASTER

Exclusive executive leader of the Order; Elected by the Master Council.

GRAND MASTERS

Masters elevated into specific roles of leadership; Collectively compose the Master Council.

MASTER

Members of the Order honored for their skill and achievements on behalf of the Order.

KNIGHT

Individuals fully trained within the Order and able to operate outside of supervised training roles. The majority of Guardians fall into this role.

PAGE

Individuals with some training in The Light, often assigned a mentor.

NOVICE

Individuals just beginning their training within The Light.

INITIATE

Individuals found to be Radiant, but have not yet begun training.