

ARCHIVE DATAFILES:

THE NIGHT OF PEACE

The Night of Peace is one of the most widely-recognized holidays in the Sellonian Empire, practiced by members of every species and political faction. Along with Empire Day, the holiday stands as one of the most important days in the Sellonian calendar and speaks heavily to the Empire's important early history.

HISTORY

The Sellonae War (331-406 OL) was one of the longest and bloodiest interplanetary conflicts in galactic history. Beginning with a Riikan invasion of the Naran planet of Sellonae, the war soon escalated and engulfed much of the known galaxy. Conflict raged for seventy-five years, claiming billions of lives and entire planets in its wake.

Finally in 406, members of every Guardian sect – under the leadership of Supreme Master Navona Syntauri – came together to call out to The Light for a solution to the conflict that had consumed the galaxy. They met on Sellonae itself, whose surface had been entirely decimated by constant bombardment. Their meeting took place late one night on the battered planet's winter solstice. As the Guardians began to meditate, the ash and smog-saturated sky miraculously peeled back to reveal the star-studded night for the first time in decades.

What happened next is more myth than true history. Some legends claim that The Light manifested itself in a corporeal form, while others claim that The Light possessed the Supreme Master's body and spoke through her. Still further variations change based on planets and

species, but all agree that The Light made its will known among the gathered Guardians. It called for an immediate ceasefire to the conflict and the establishment of a new means of galactic government – the early beginnings of the Empire itself.

Within days, Navona began reaching out to Guardians across the galaxy, encouraging them to stop the conflict by any means necessary. Shortly thereafter the war ground to a halt and the galaxy began the process of establishing peace once more.

A NEW CELEBRATION

Since then, the so-called Night of Peace is observed widely throughout the galaxy. Held on Sellonae's winter solstice, it was declared a galactic holiday following the Empire's official founding in 407.

In modern times, the holiday is celebrated differently on different planets, but almost always involves sizeable and festive meals, the giving of gifts, and often-elaborate parades, fireworks, or vigils in the twilight hours. The day is seen as a widespread celebration of nonviolence and a great number of galactic conflicts have been brought to a conclusion (or at least a temporary ceasefire) in its name.

One of the most common symbols of the season is a glowing white bolan crystal wrapped in a ribbon, meant to signify the unifying of the galaxy through the power of The Light. Most galactic inhabitants cannot afford a true piece of bolan to display, so artificially-lit substitutes of ferrin crystal are commonplace. The color of the ribbon is meant to signify the displayer's wishes for the year ahead: Blue for peace, red for joy, green for wealth, silver for health, purple for strength, and gold for stability.

Galactic inhabitants will often greet each other with "A Night of Peace to you," on and around the holiday. The appropriate response is "The Light brings peace to us all."



SO WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?

"I WOULD ARGUE THAT THIS IS ONE OF THOSE MOMENTS WHERE WE DON'T NECESSARILY NEED TO KNOW THAT HAPPENED ON THE FIRST NIGHT OF PEACE. DID THE LIGHT TAKE A PHYSICAL FORM? WHO KNOWS, REALLY, AND WHO CARES? WHAT MATTERS IS THAT THE LIGHT HELPED TO CHANGE HISTORY FOR THE BETTER. THE REST IS JUST A MATTER OF FAITH..."