

Glossary

adamant: Any of the various long-chain carbon materials used for starship hulls and body armor.

adorator: A member of any antique religious cult maintained by the Empire and tolerated by the Chantry.

aeta: A Cielcin prince-chieftain with ownership rights over its subjects and their property.

alchemist: A heavily regulated device used to transmute chemical elements using nuclear processes. Alternatively, a technician trained to use such a device.

alienage: In the Sollan Empire, a ghetto or reservation intended for the isolation of a xenobite population.

alumglass: A transparent ceramic form of aluminum, stronger than glass, commonly used in windows, particularly in starships.

anagnost: An initiate in the Chantry clergy.

androgyn: A homunculus exhibiting no sex characteristics or those of both males and females.

apatheia: The emotionless state pursued by the scholiasts to facilitate their computational function. Has roots in classical stoicism.

Arch-Builders: Extinct species of xenobite native to the planet Ozymandias. So called for the massive structures they built above the plains of their home.

archduke/archduchess: Highest rank of the palatine nobility. Rules over a planetary demesne. Title may be inherited.

archon: Lowest rank of the Imperial noble hierarchy, ruling over a planetary prefecture. Either a posted or inherited position.

Arma: A constellation visible in the night sky on Delos, shaped like a medieval shield.

Assumption of Earth: In the Chantry religion, the departure of Mother Earth following her destruction. It is said she will return when men are worthy.

Astranavis: A constellation visible in the night sky on Delos, shaped like a starship.

athenaeum: A research compound/monastery of the scholiastic orders.

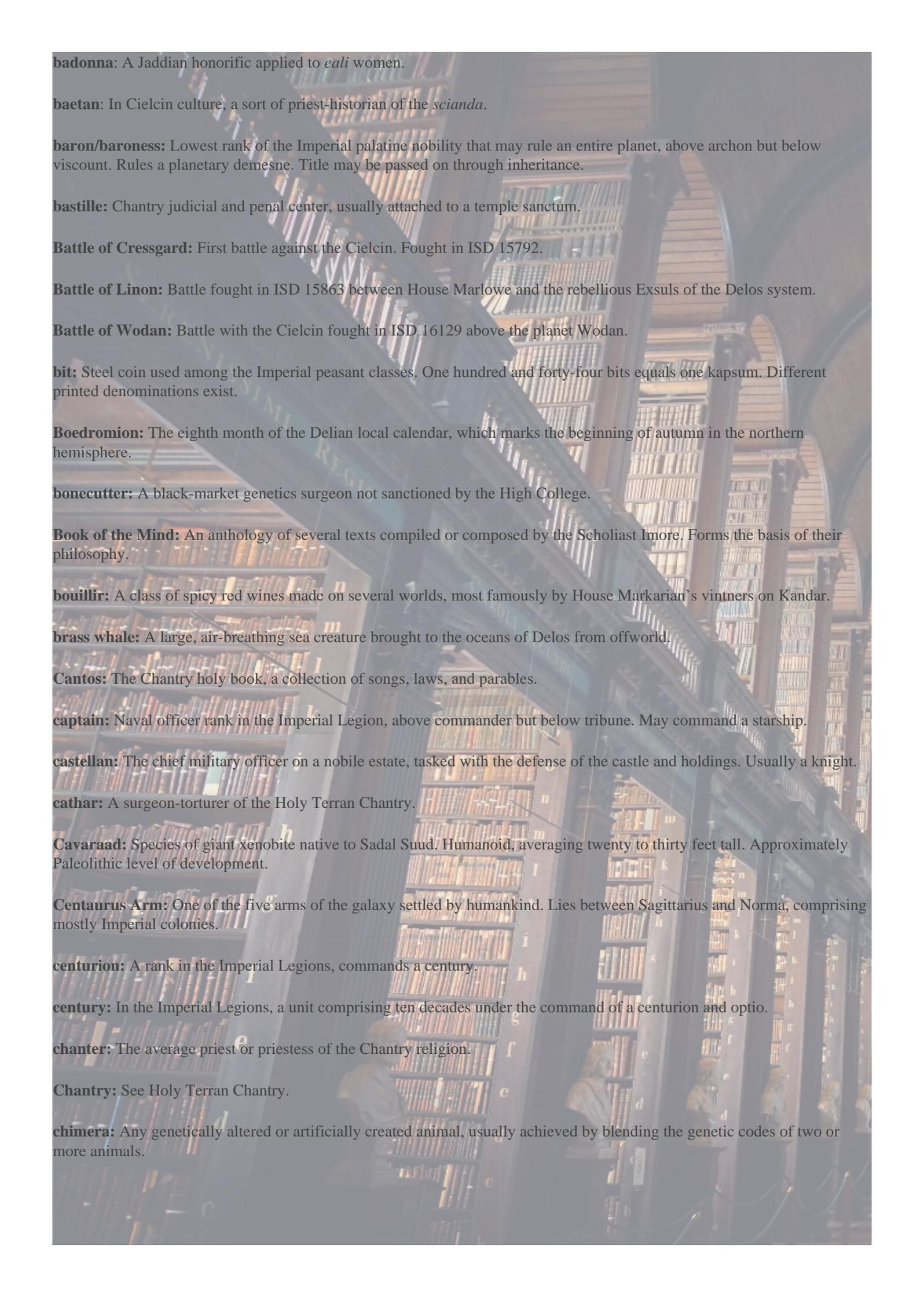
atomics: Atomic weapons. Legal for nobile houses to own under the Great Charters but illegal to use.

actor: Appointed by the Emperor to serve as his proxy when he cannot be present.

Autotrans: A machine that automatically translates between languages in real time. Illegal in the Imperium.

azhdarch: A xenobite predator common in the Colosso. Similar to a lizard with a long neck open from top to bottom in a fanged mouth.

backspace: Territory within Imperial space not formally colonized by the Empire. Often a refuge for the Extrasolarians.



badonna: A Jaddian honorific applied to *eali* women.

baetan: In Cielcin culture, a sort of priest-historian of the *scianda*.

baron/baroness: Lowest rank of the Imperial palatine nobility that may rule an entire planet, above archon but below viscount. Rules a planetary demesne. Title may be passed on through inheritance.

bastille: Chantry judicial and penal center, usually attached to a temple sanctum.

Battle of Cressgard: First battle against the Cielcin. Fought in ISD 15792.

Battle of Linon: Battle fought in ISD 15863 between House Marlowe and the rebellious Exsuls of the Delos system.

Battle of Wodan: Battle with the Cielcin fought in ISD 16129 above the planet Wodan.

bit: Steel coin used among the Imperial peasant classes. One hundred and forty-four bits equals one kapsum. Different printed denominations exist.

Boedromion: The eighth month of the Delian local calendar, which marks the beginning of autumn in the northern hemisphere.

bonecutter: A black-market genetics surgeon not sanctioned by the High College.

Book of the Mind: An anthology of several texts compiled or composed by the Scholiast Imore. Forms the basis of their philosophy.

bouillir: A class of spicy red wines made on several worlds, most famously by House Markarian's vintners on Kandar.

brass whale: A large, air-breathing sea creature brought to the oceans of Delos from offworld.

Cantos: The Chantry holy book, a collection of songs, laws, and parables.

captain: Naval officer rank in the Imperial Legion, above commander but below tribune. May command a starship.

castellan: The chief military officer on a nobile estate, tasked with the defense of the castle and holdings. Usually a knight.

cathar: A surgeon-torturer of the Holy Terran Chantry.

Cavaraad: Species of giant xenobite native to Sadal Suud. Humanoid, averaging twenty to thirty feet tall. Approximately Paleolithic level of development.

Centaurus Arm: One of the five arms of the galaxy settled by humankind. Lies between Sagittarius and Norma, comprising mostly Imperial colonies.

centurion: A rank in the Imperial Legions, commands a century.

century: In the Imperial Legions, a unit comprising ten decades under the command of a centurion and optio.

chanter: The average priest or priestess of the Chantry religion.

Chantry: See Holy Terran Chantry.

chimera: Any genetically altered or artificially created animal, usually achieved by blending the genetic codes of two or more animals.

Cielcin: Spacefaring alien species. Humanoid and carnivorous. The principal enemy of humankind during the Crusade.

cingulum: A belt worn by legionnaires and other soldiers in the Sollan Empire.

clan: In Tavrosi culture, all members of a kin group drawing their genes from the same gene bank. Analogous to an Imperial constellation.

Classical English: The ancient language of both the Mericanii and the early Imperial settlers on Avalon, still used by the scholiasts.

cloister: A scholiast's living quarters, kept clean of all technological devices.

coloni: Intelligent, preindustrial races of xenobites on human-occupied worlds, particularly in the Sollan Empire.

Colosso: A series of sporting events held in a coliseum involving professional gladiators, slave myrmidons, animals, races, and more.

commander: Naval officer rank in the Legion, beneath captain but above lieutenant. Assists in the command and management of a starship.

congrid: An eel-like creature native to Emesh, considered a delicacy.

constellation: Among the palatine, a supergroup of interrelated families, usually possessed of certain signifying features and traits.

corrective: Medical device used to treat physical trauma from accidents or combat.

count/countess: A title in the Imperial palatine nobility. Rules a planetary demesne. Title may be inherited.

crèche: A cryonic storage pod for transporting people on long interstellar journeys.

Criminal Response Division: The subdivision of law enforcement in each local prefecture tasked with responding to and investigating crimes.

Crusade: The Imperial war against the Cielcin.

cryoburn: A burn incurred from improper cryonic freezing.

Cult of Earth: See Holy Terran Chantry.

daimon: An artificial intelligence. Sometimes erroneously applied to non-intelligent computer systems.

Dark/Outer Dark: Space. In the Chantry religion, a place of desolation and torment.

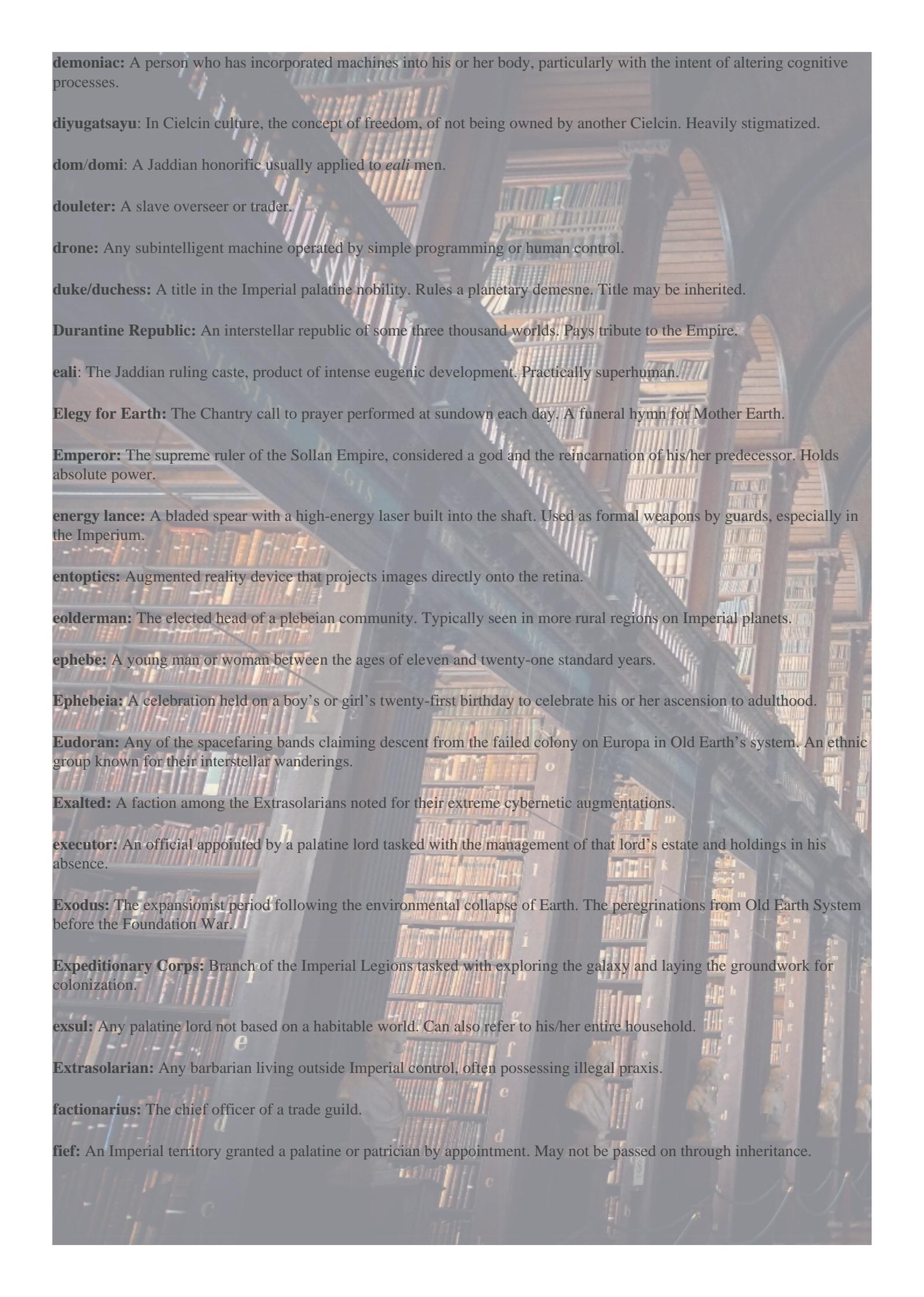
datasphere: Any planetary data network. In the Empire, access is strictly restricted to the patrician and palatine castes.

decade: In the Imperial Legions, a unit of ten soldiers comprising three groups of three and their decurion.

decurion: A rank in the Imperial Legions. Commands a decade.

Demarchy of Tavros: A small interstellar polity found in the Wisp. Radically open to technology. The people vote on all measures using neural lace implants.

demesne: An Imperial territory held by a palatine. May be passed on at the ruler's discretion.



demoniac: A person who has incorporated machines into his or her body, particularly with the intent of altering cognitive processes.

diyugatsayu: In Cielcin culture, the concept of freedom, of not being owned by another Cielcin. Heavily stigmatized.

dom/domi: A Jaddian honorific usually applied to *eali* men.

douleter: A slave overseer or trader.

drone: Any subintelligent machine operated by simple programming or human control.

duke/duchess: A title in the Imperial palatine nobility. Rules a planetary demesne. Title may be inherited.

Durantine Republic: An interstellar republic of some three thousand worlds. Pays tribute to the Empire.

eali: The Jaddian ruling caste, product of intense eugenic development. Practically superhuman.

Elegy for Earth: The Chantry call to prayer performed at sundown each day. A funeral hymn for Mother Earth.

Emperor: The supreme ruler of the Sollan Empire, considered a god and the reincarnation of his/her predecessor. Holds absolute power.

energy lance: A bladed spear with a high-energy laser built into the shaft. Used as formal weapons by guards, especially in the Imperium.

entoptics: Augmented reality device that projects images directly onto the retina.

eolderman: The elected head of a plebeian community. Typically seen in more rural regions on Imperial planets.

ephebe: A young man or woman between the ages of eleven and twenty-one standard years.

Ephebeia: A celebration held on a boy's or girl's twenty-first birthday to celebrate his or her ascension to adulthood.

Eudoran: Any of the spacefaring bands claiming descent from the failed colony on Europa in Old Earth's system. An ethnic group known for their interstellar wanderings.

Exalted: A faction among the Extrasolarians noted for their extreme cybernetic augmentations.

executor: An official appointed by a palatine lord tasked with the management of that lord's estate and holdings in his absence.

Exodus: The expansionist period following the environmental collapse of Earth. The peregrinations from Old Earth System before the Foundation War.

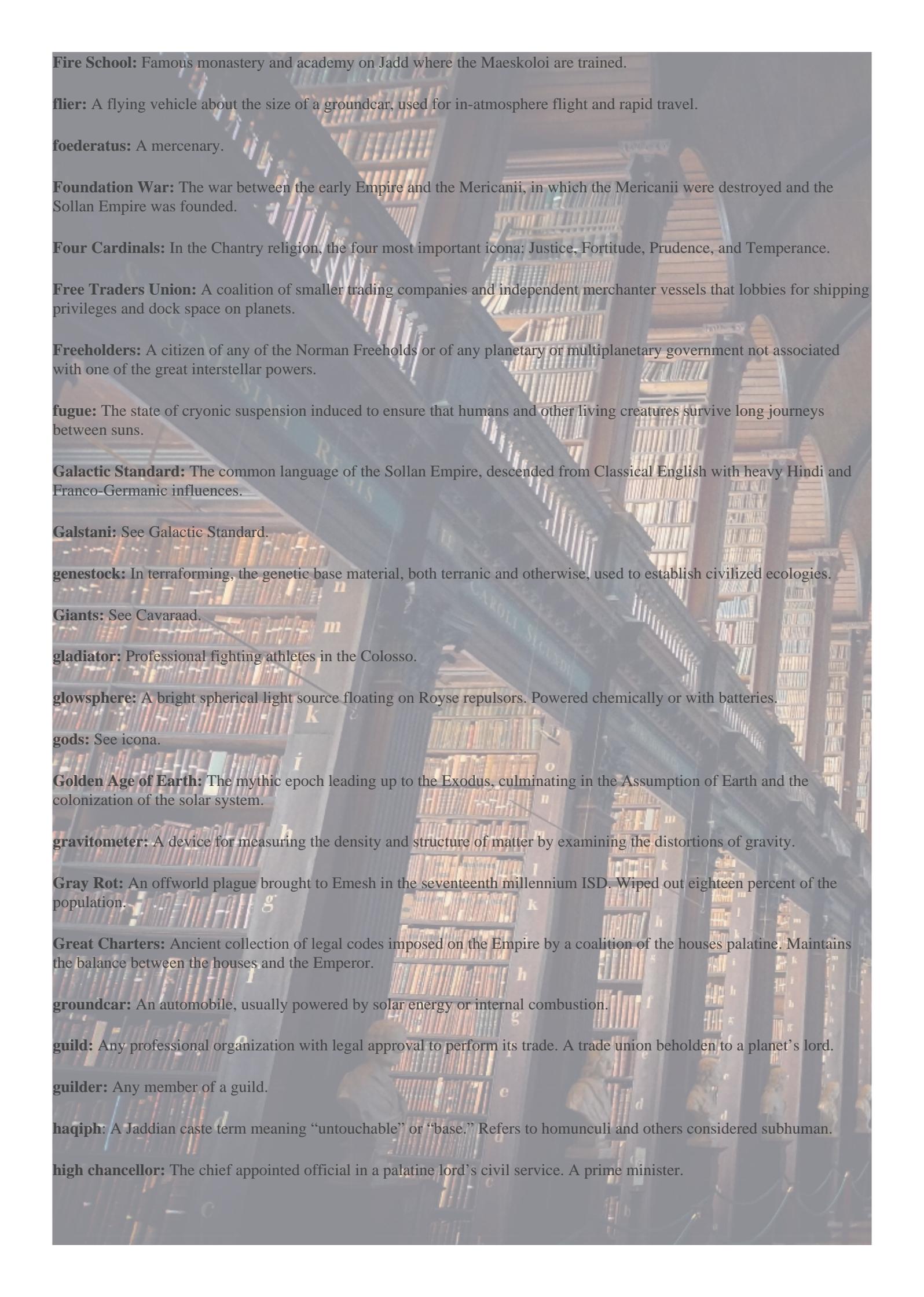
Expeditionary Corps: Branch of the Imperial Legions tasked with exploring the galaxy and laying the groundwork for colonization.

exsul: Any palatine lord not based on a habitable world. Can also refer to his/her entire household.

Extrasolarian: Any barbarian living outside Imperial control, often possessing illegal praxis.

factionarius: The chief officer of a trade guild.

fief: An Imperial territory granted a palatine or patrician by appointment. May not be passed on through inheritance.



Fire School: Famous monastery and academy on Jadd where the Maeskoloï are trained.

flier: A flying vehicle about the size of a groundcar, used for in-atmosphere flight and rapid travel.

foederatus: A mercenary.

Foundation War: The war between the early Empire and the Mericanii, in which the Mericanii were destroyed and the Sollan Empire was founded.

Four Cardinals: In the Chantry religion, the four most important icona: Justice, Fortitude, Prudence, and Temperance.

Free Traders Union: A coalition of smaller trading companies and independent merchant vessels that lobbies for shipping privileges and dock space on planets.

Freeholders: A citizen of any of the Norman Freeholds or of any planetary or multiplanetary government not associated with one of the great interstellar powers.

fugue: The state of cryonic suspension induced to ensure that humans and other living creatures survive long journeys between suns.

Galactic Standard: The common language of the Sollan Empire, descended from Classical English with heavy Hindi and Franco-Germanic influences.

Galstani: See Galactic Standard.

genestock: In terraforming, the genetic base material, both terranic and otherwise, used to establish civilized ecologies.

Giants: See Cavaraad.

gladiator: Professional fighting athletes in the Colosso.

glowsphere: A bright spherical light source floating on Royse repulsors. Powered chemically or with batteries.

gods: See icona.

Golden Age of Earth: The mythic epoch leading up to the Exodus, culminating in the Assumption of Earth and the colonization of the solar system.

gravitometer: A device for measuring the density and structure of matter by examining the distortions of gravity.

Gray Rot: An offworld plague brought to Emesh in the seventeenth millennium ISD. Wiped out eighteen percent of the population.

Great Charters: Ancient collection of legal codes imposed on the Empire by a coalition of the houses palatine. Maintains the balance between the houses and the Emperor.

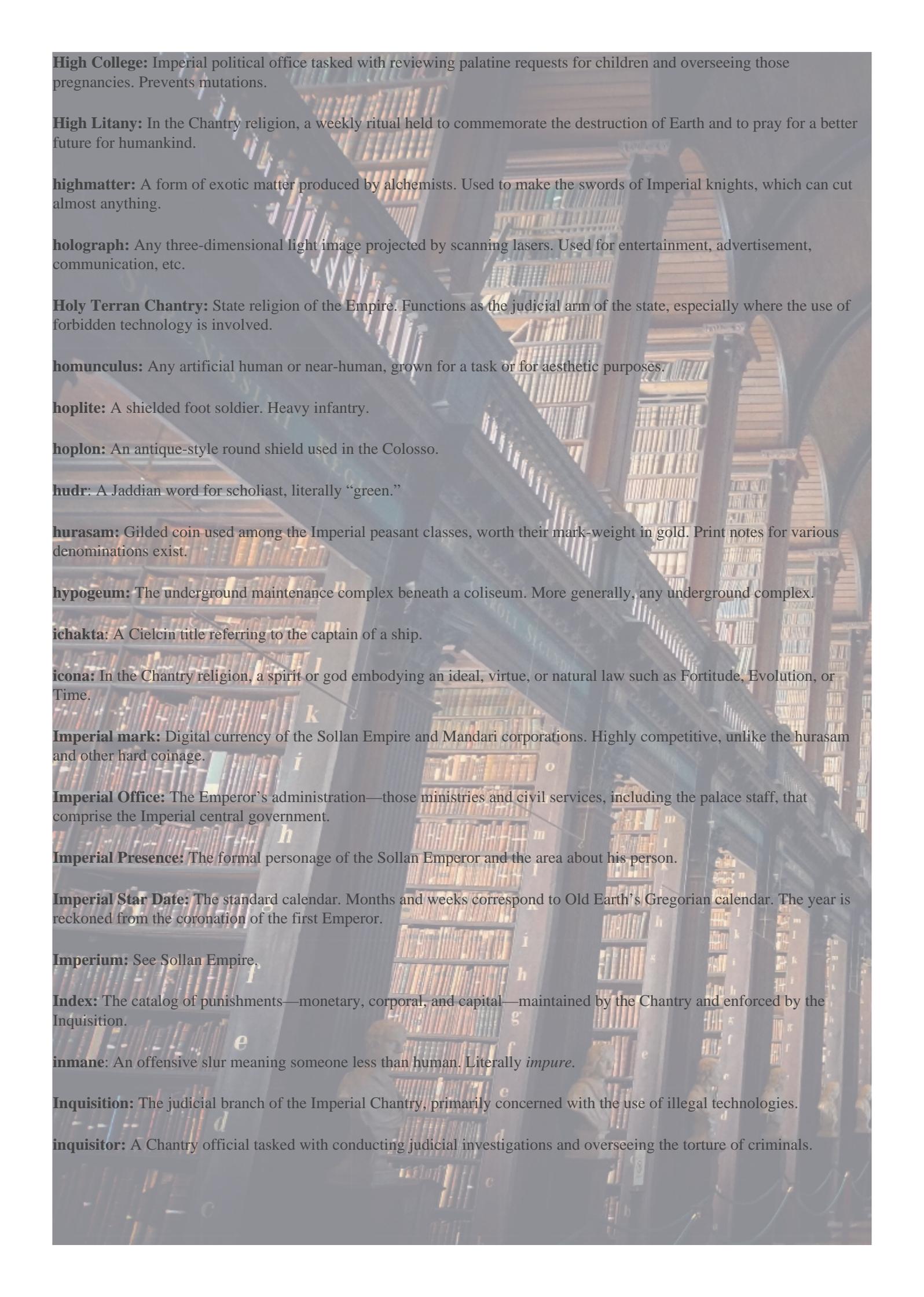
groundcar: An automobile, usually powered by solar energy or internal combustion.

guild: Any professional organization with legal approval to perform its trade. A trade union beholden to a planet's lord.

guilder: Any member of a guild.

haqiph: A Jaddian caste term meaning "untouchable" or "base." Refers to homunculi and others considered subhuman.

high chancellor: The chief appointed official in a palatine lord's civil service. A prime minister.



High College: Imperial political office tasked with reviewing palatine requests for children and overseeing those pregnancies. Prevents mutations.

High Litany: In the Chantry religion, a weekly ritual held to commemorate the destruction of Earth and to pray for a better future for humankind.

highmatter: A form of exotic matter produced by alchemists. Used to make the swords of Imperial knights, which can cut almost anything.

holograph: Any three-dimensional light image projected by scanning lasers. Used for entertainment, advertisement, communication, etc.

Holy Terran Chantry: State religion of the Empire. Functions as the judicial arm of the state, especially where the use of forbidden technology is involved.

homunculus: Any artificial human or near-human, grown for a task or for aesthetic purposes.

hoplite: A shielded foot soldier. Heavy infantry.

hoplon: An antique-style round shield used in the Colosso.

hudr: A Jaddian word for scholiast, literally “green.”

hurasam: Gilded coin used among the Imperial peasant classes, worth their mark-weight in gold. Print notes for various denominations exist.

hypogeum: The underground maintenance complex beneath a coliseum. More generally, any underground complex.

ichakta: A Cielcin title referring to the captain of a ship.

icona: In the Chantry religion, a spirit or god embodying an ideal, virtue, or natural law such as Fortitude, Evolution, or Time.

Imperial mark: Digital currency of the Sollan Empire and Mandari corporations. Highly competitive, unlike the hurasam and other hard coinage.

Imperial Office: The Emperor’s administration—those ministries and civil services, including the palace staff, that comprise the Imperial central government.

Imperial Presence: The formal personage of the Sollan Emperor and the area about his person.

Imperial Star Date: The standard calendar. Months and weeks correspond to Old Earth’s Gregorian calendar. The year is reckoned from the coronation of the first Emperor.

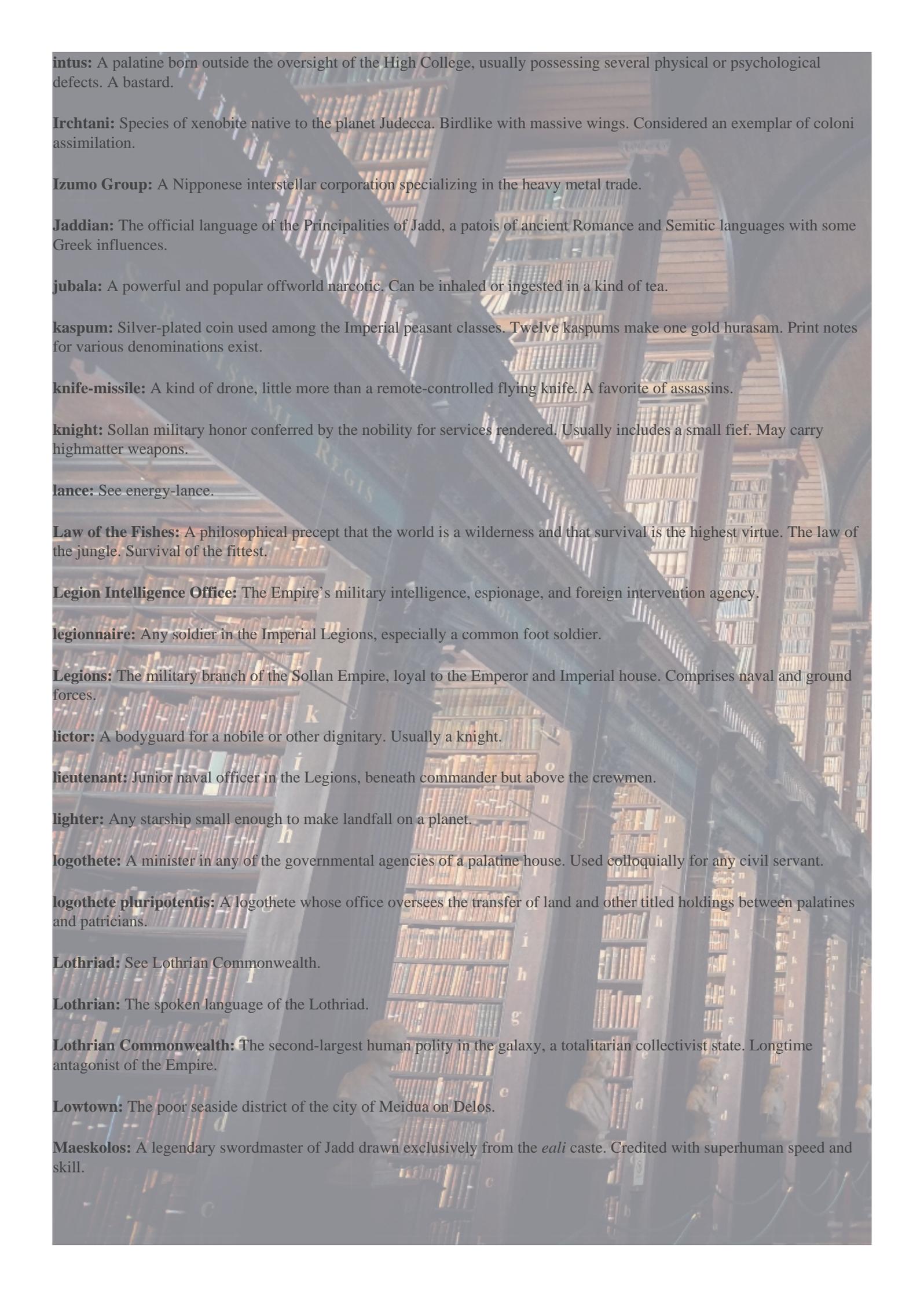
Imperium: See Sollan Empire.

Index: The catalog of punishments—monetary, corporal, and capital—maintained by the Chantry and enforced by the Inquisition.

inmane: An offensive slur meaning someone less than human. Literally *impure*.

Inquisition: The judicial branch of the Imperial Chantry, primarily concerned with the use of illegal technologies.

inquisitor: A Chantry official tasked with conducting judicial investigations and overseeing the torture of criminals.



intus: A palatine born outside the oversight of the High College, usually possessing several physical or psychological defects. A bastard.

Irchtani: Species of xenobite native to the planet Judecca. Birdlike with massive wings. Considered an exemplar of coloni assimilation.

Izumo Group: A Nipponese interstellar corporation specializing in the heavy metal trade.

Jaddian: The official language of the Principalities of Jadd, a patois of ancient Romance and Semitic languages with some Greek influences.

jubala: A powerful and popular offworld narcotic. Can be inhaled or ingested in a kind of tea.

kaspum: Silver-plated coin used among the Imperial peasant classes. Twelve kaspums make one gold hurasam. Print notes for various denominations exist.

knife-missile: A kind of drone, little more than a remote-controlled flying knife. A favorite of assassins.

knight: Sollan military honor conferred by the nobility for services rendered. Usually includes a small fief. May carry highmatter weapons.

lance: See energy-lance.

Law of the Fishes: A philosophical precept that the world is a wilderness and that survival is the highest virtue. The law of the jungle. Survival of the fittest.

Legion Intelligence Office: The Empire's military intelligence, espionage, and foreign intervention agency.

legionnaire: Any soldier in the Imperial Legions, especially a common foot soldier.

Legions: The military branch of the Sollan Empire, loyal to the Emperor and Imperial house. Comprises naval and ground forces.

liCTOR: A bodyguard for a nobile or other dignitary. Usually a knight.

lieutenant: Junior naval officer in the Legions, beneath commander but above the crewmen.

lighter: Any starship small enough to make landfall on a planet.

logothete: A minister in any of the governmental agencies of a palatine house. Used colloquially for any civil servant.

logothete pluripotentis: A logothete whose office oversees the transfer of land and other titled holdings between palatines and patricians.

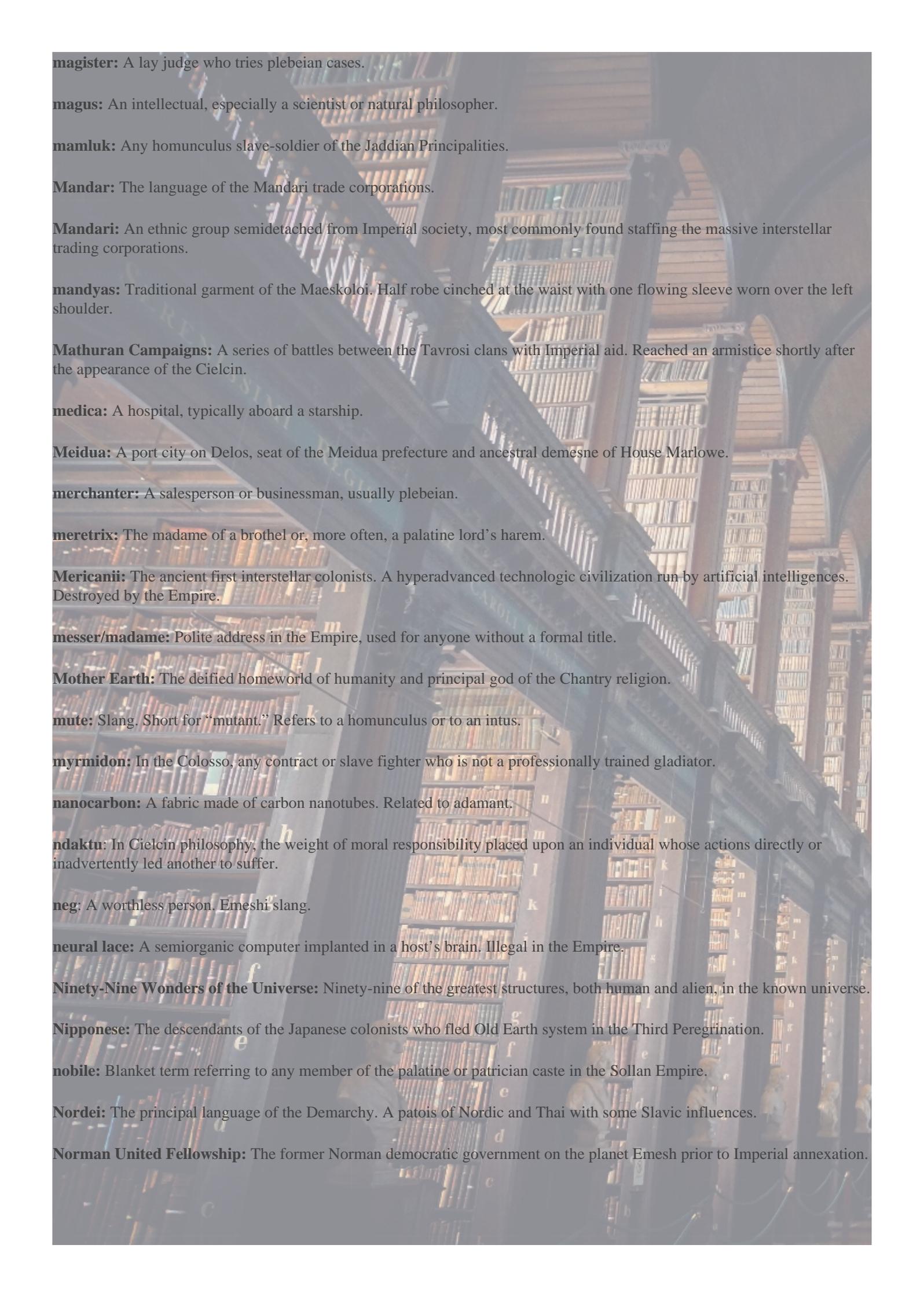
Lothriad: See Lothrian Commonwealth.

Lothrian: The spoken language of the Lothriad.

Lothrian Commonwealth: The second-largest human polity in the galaxy, a totalitarian collectivist state. Longtime antagonist of the Empire.

Lowtown: The poor seaside district of the city of Meidua on Delos.

Maeskolos: A legendary swordmaster of Jadd drawn exclusively from the *eali* caste. Credited with superhuman speed and skill.



magister: A lay judge who tries plebeian cases.

magus: An intellectual, especially a scientist or natural philosopher.

mamluk: Any homunculus slave-soldier of the Jaddian Principalities.

Mandar: The language of the Mandari trade corporations.

Mandari: An ethnic group semidetached from Imperial society, most commonly found staffing the massive interstellar trading corporations.

mandyas: Traditional garment of the Maeskoloi. Half robe cinched at the waist with one flowing sleeve worn over the left shoulder.

Mathuran Campaigns: A series of battles between the Tavrosi clans with Imperial aid. Reached an armistice shortly after the appearance of the Cielcin.

medica: A hospital, typically aboard a starship.

Meidua: A port city on Delos, seat of the Meidua prefecture and ancestral demesne of House Marlowe.

merchanter: A salesperson or businessman, usually plebeian.

meretrix: The madame of a brothel or, more often, a palatine lord's harem.

Mericanii: The ancient first interstellar colonists. A hyperadvanced technologic civilization run by artificial intelligences. Destroyed by the Empire.

messer/madame: Polite address in the Empire, used for anyone without a formal title.

Mother Earth: The deified homeworld of humanity and principal god of the Chantry religion.

mute: Slang. Short for "mutant." Refers to a homunculus or to an intus.

myrmidon: In the Colosso, any contract or slave fighter who is not a professionally trained gladiator.

nanocarbon: A fabric made of carbon nanotubes. Related to adamant.

ndaktu: In Cielcin philosophy, the weight of moral responsibility placed upon an individual whose actions directly or inadvertently led another to suffer.

neg: A worthless person. Emeshi slang.

neural lace: A semiorganic computer implanted in a host's brain. Illegal in the Empire.

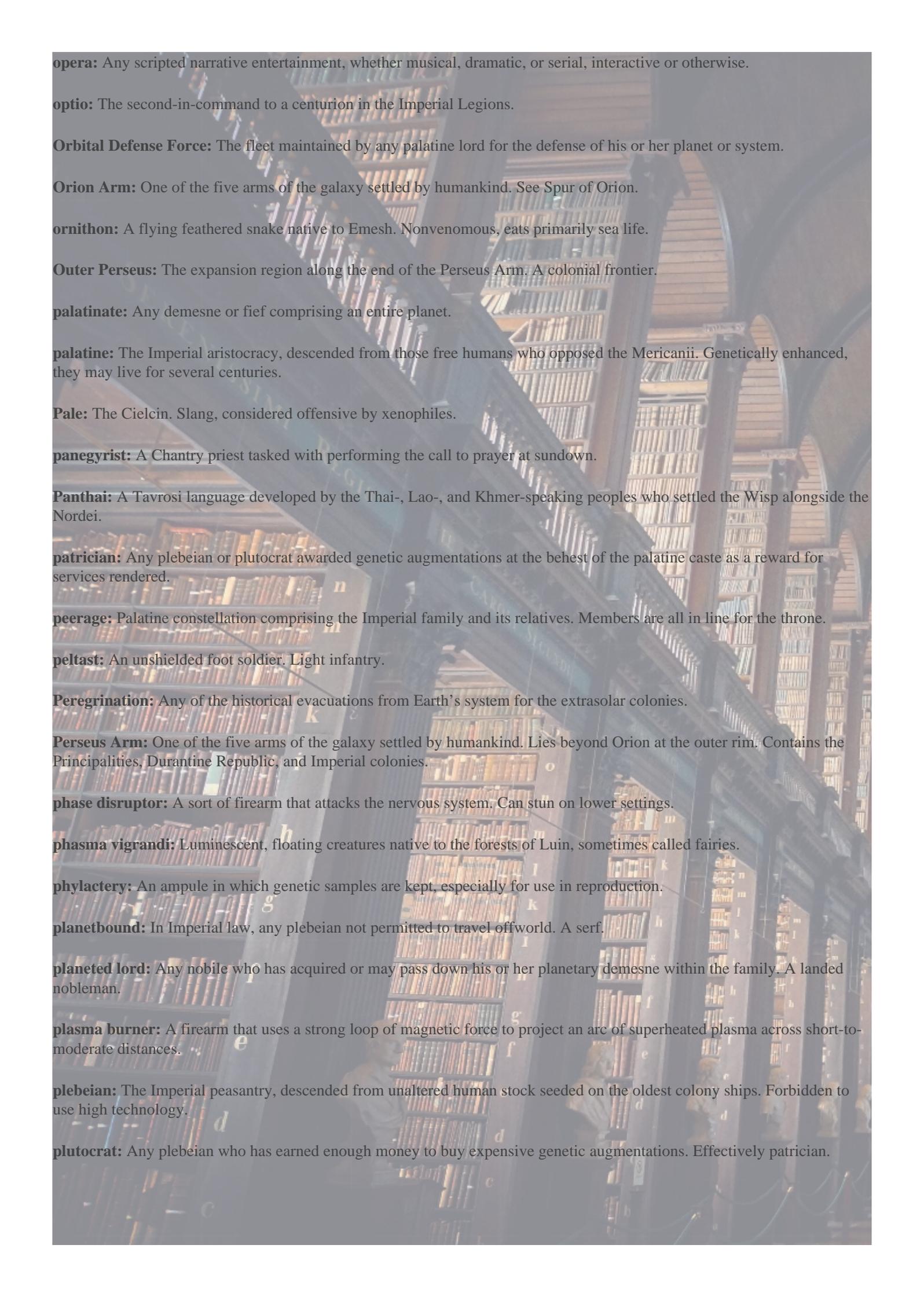
Ninety-Nine Wonders of the Universe: Ninety-nine of the greatest structures, both human and alien, in the known universe.

Nipponese: The descendants of the Japanese colonists who fled Old Earth system in the Third Peregrination.

nobile: Blanket term referring to any member of the palatine or patrician caste in the Sollan Empire.

Nordei: The principal language of the Demarchy. A patois of Nordic and Thai with some Slavic influences.

Norman United Fellowship: The former Norman democratic government on the planet Emesh prior to Imperial annexation.



opera: Any scripted narrative entertainment, whether musical, dramatic, or serial, interactive or otherwise.

optio: The second-in-command to a centurion in the Imperial Legions.

Orbital Defense Force: The fleet maintained by any palatine lord for the defense of his or her planet or system.

Orion Arm: One of the five arms of the galaxy settled by humankind. See Spur of Orion.

ornithon: A flying feathered snake native to Emesh. Nonvenomous, eats primarily sea life.

Outer Perseus: The expansion region along the end of the Perseus Arm. A colonial frontier.

palatinate: Any demesne or fief comprising an entire planet.

palatine: The Imperial aristocracy, descended from those free humans who opposed the Mericanii. Genetically enhanced, they may live for several centuries.

Pale: The Cielcin. Slang, considered offensive by xenophiles.

panegyrist: A Chantry priest tasked with performing the call to prayer at sundown.

Panthai: A Tavrosi language developed by the Thai-, Lao-, and Khmer-speaking peoples who settled the Wisp alongside the Nordei.

patrician: Any plebeian or plutocrat awarded genetic augmentations at the behest of the palatine caste as a reward for services rendered.

peerage: Palatine constellation comprising the Imperial family and its relatives. Members are all in line for the throne.

peltast: An unshielded foot soldier. Light infantry.

Peregrination: Any of the historical evacuations from Earth's system for the extrasolar colonies.

Perseus Arm: One of the five arms of the galaxy settled by humankind. Lies beyond Orion at the outer rim. Contains the Principalities, Durantine Republic, and Imperial colonies.

phase disruptor: A sort of firearm that attacks the nervous system. Can stun on lower settings.

phasma vigrandi: Luminescent, floating creatures native to the forests of Luin, sometimes called fairies.

phylactery: An ampule in which genetic samples are kept, especially for use in reproduction.

planetbound: In Imperial law, any plebeian not permitted to travel offworld. A serf.

planeted lord: Any noble who has acquired or may pass down his or her planetary demesne within the family. A landed nobleman.

plasma burner: A firearm that uses a strong loop of magnetic force to project an arc of superheated plasma across short-to-moderate distances.

plebeian: The Imperial peasantry, descended from unaltered human stock seeded on the oldest colony ships. Forbidden to use high technology.

plutocrat: Any plebeian who has earned enough money to buy expensive genetic augmentations. Effectively patrician.

poine: A structured, small-scale war between imperial palatine houses. Subject to the scrutiny of the Inquisition.

Praetorian: Any member of the Sollan Emperor's Praetorian Guard, drawn from the best of the Imperial Legion.

praxis: High technology, usually of the sort forbidden by Chantry law.

prefect: A law enforcement officer.

prefecture: In the Empire, any administrative district ruled by an archon.

primarch: The chief Imperial viceroy in each arm of the galaxy: Orion, Sagittarius, Perseus, and Centaurus. Essentially co-Emperors.

primarchate: Region of the Empire ruled by a primarch, comprising several provinces.

primate: The highest administrative office of a scholiasts' athenaeum, akin to a university chancellor.

Principalities of Jadd: Nation of eighty former Imperial provinces in Perseus that revolted over palatine reproductive rights. Heavily militaristic and caste-driven.

prior: In the Chantry clergy, the chief cleric in a prefecture.

prudence shield: A form of Royse field used for security, especially in coliseums and starship hangars. Traps air and fast-moving objects.

QET/quantum telegraph: A device that uses entangled quantum particles to communicate instantly over vast distances.

Quiet: The hypothetical first civilization in the galaxy, allegedly responsible for several ancient sites including those on Emesh, Judecca, Sadal Suud, and Ozymandias.

repulsor: A device that makes use of the Royse Effect to allow objects to float without disturbing the air or environment.

Rothsbank: An ancient, privately owned banking house tracing its roots back to the Golden Age of Earth.

Royse Effect: A method discovered by Caelan Royse for manipulating the electroweak force. Allows for the existence of force fields and repulsors.

Royse field: Any force field making use of the Royse Effect to stop high-velocity objects from penetrating an energy curtain.

rus: A young man. Emeshi slang.

Sagittarius Arm: One of the five arms of the galaxy settled by humankind. Lies between Orion and Centaurus, comprises the bulk of Imperial colonies as well as the Lothriad.

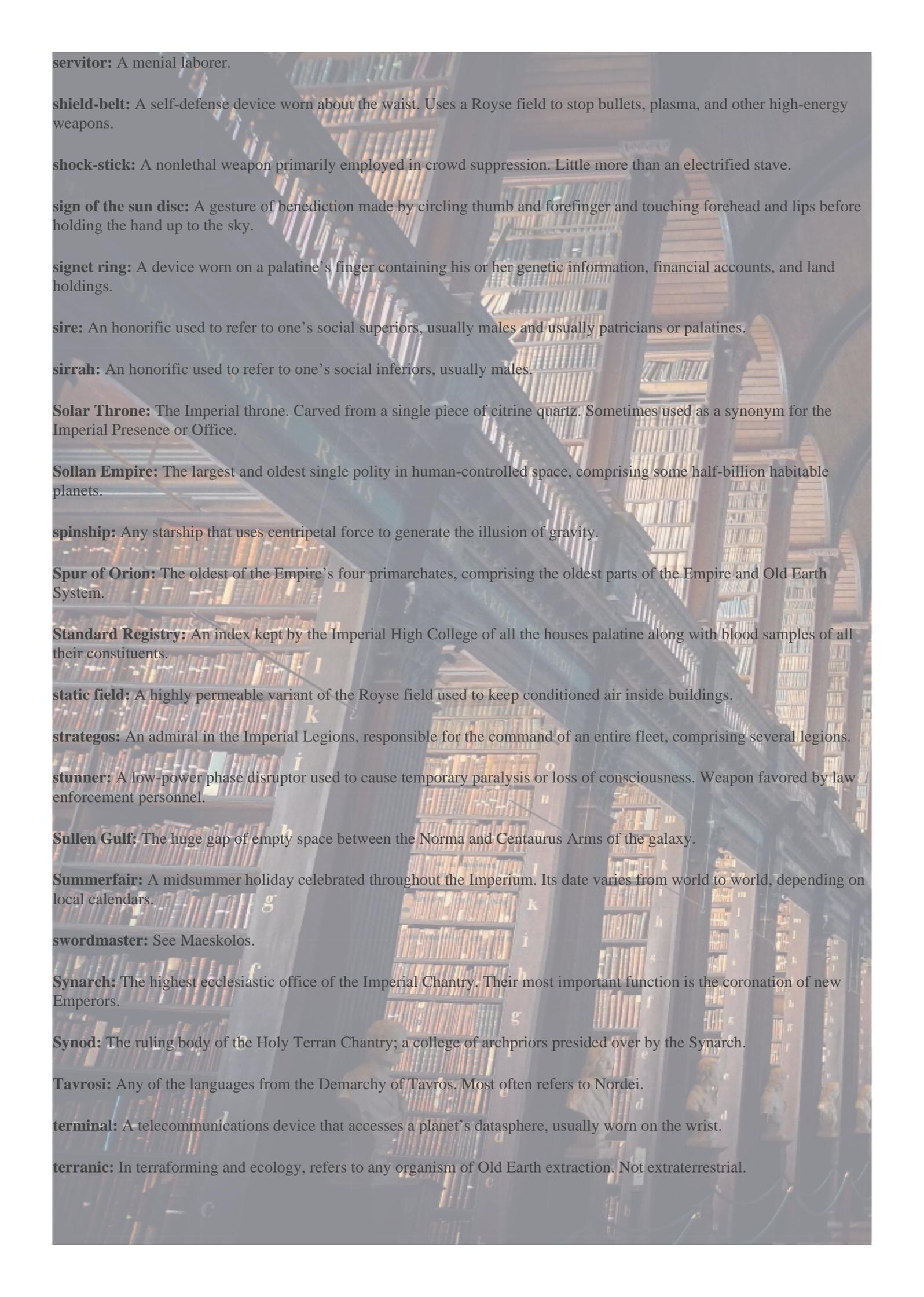
satrap: A planetary governor in the Principalities of Jadd, subordinate to one of the regional princes.

scholiast: Any member of the monastic order of researchers, academics, and theoreticians tracing their origins to the Mericanii scientists captured at the end of the Foundation War.

scianda: The Cielcin term for one of their migratory starship clusters. A fleet.

seed stock: See genestock.

serf: Any Imperial plebeian forbidden by birth to travel away from the planet of his or her birth except in the case of Legion military service.



servitor: A menial laborer.

shield-belt: A self-defense device worn about the waist. Uses a Royse field to stop bullets, plasma, and other high-energy weapons.

shock-stick: A nonlethal weapon primarily employed in crowd suppression. Little more than an electrified stave.

sign of the sun disc: A gesture of benediction made by circling thumb and forefinger and touching forehead and lips before holding the hand up to the sky.

signet ring: A device worn on a palatine's finger containing his or her genetic information, financial accounts, and land holdings.

sire: An honorific used to refer to one's social superiors, usually males and usually patricians or palatines.

sirrah: An honorific used to refer to one's social inferiors, usually males.

Solar Throne: The Imperial throne. Carved from a single piece of citrine quartz. Sometimes used as a synonym for the Imperial Presence or Office.

Sollan Empire: The largest and oldest single polity in human-controlled space, comprising some half-billion habitable planets.

spinship: Any starship that uses centripetal force to generate the illusion of gravity.

Spur of Orion: The oldest of the Empire's four primarchates, comprising the oldest parts of the Empire and Old Earth System.

Standard Registry: An index kept by the Imperial High College of all the houses palatine along with blood samples of all their constituents.

static field: A highly permeable variant of the Royse field used to keep conditioned air inside buildings.

strategos: An admiral in the Imperial Legions, responsible for the command of an entire fleet, comprising several legions.

stunner: A low-power phase disruptor used to cause temporary paralysis or loss of consciousness. Weapon favored by law enforcement personnel.

Sullen Gulf: The huge gap of empty space between the Norma and Centaurus Arms of the galaxy.

Summerfair: A midsummer holiday celebrated throughout the Imperium. Its date varies from world to world, depending on local calendars.

swordmaster: See Maeskolos.

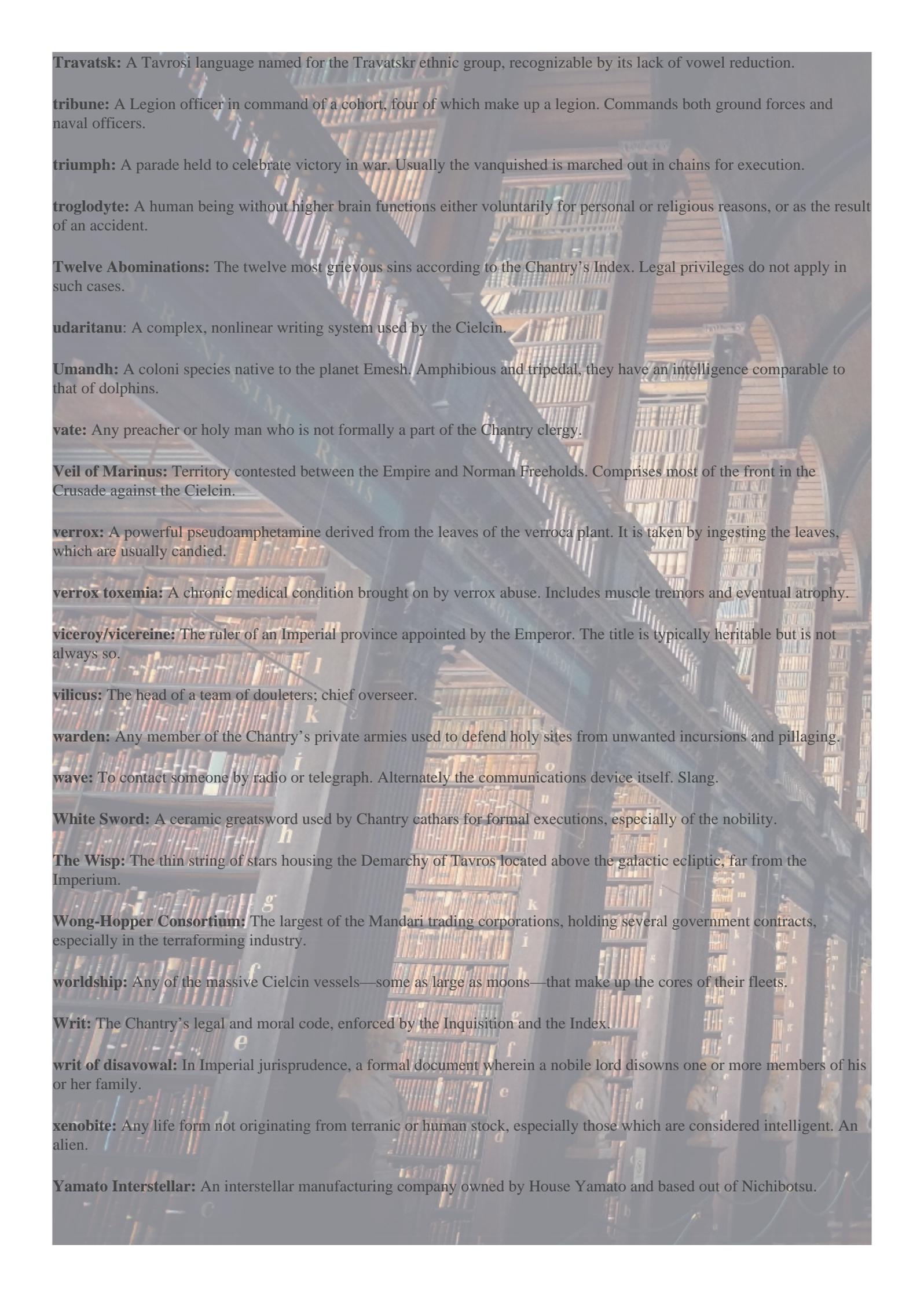
Synarch: The highest ecclesiastic office of the Imperial Chantry. Their most important function is the coronation of new Emperors.

Synod: The ruling body of the Holy Terran Chantry; a college of archpriors presided over by the Synarch.

Tavrosi: Any of the languages from the Demarchy of Tavros. Most often refers to Nordei.

terminal: A telecommunications device that accesses a planet's datasphere, usually worn on the wrist.

terrantic: In terraforming and ecology, refers to any organism of Old Earth extraction. Not extraterrestrial.



Travatsk: A Tavrosi language named for the Travatskr ethnic group, recognizable by its lack of vowel reduction.

tribune: A Legion officer in command of a cohort, four of which make up a legion. Commands both ground forces and naval officers.

triumph: A parade held to celebrate victory in war. Usually the vanquished is marched out in chains for execution.

troglodyte: A human being without higher brain functions either voluntarily for personal or religious reasons, or as the result of an accident.

Twelve Abominations: The twelve most grievous sins according to the Chantry's Index. Legal privileges do not apply in such cases.

udaritanu: A complex, nonlinear writing system used by the Cielcin.

Umandh: A coloni species native to the planet Emesh. Amphibious and tripedal, they have an intelligence comparable to that of dolphins.

vate: Any preacher or holy man who is not formally a part of the Chantry clergy.

Veil of Marinus: Territory contested between the Empire and Norman Freeholds. Comprises most of the front in the Crusade against the Cielcin.

verrox: A powerful pseudoamphetamine derived from the leaves of the verroca plant. It is taken by ingesting the leaves, which are usually candied.

verrox toxemia: A chronic medical condition brought on by verrox abuse. Includes muscle tremors and eventual atrophy.

viceroys/vicereine: The ruler of an Imperial province appointed by the Emperor. The title is typically heritable but is not always so.

vilicus: The head of a team of douleters; chief overseer.

warden: Any member of the Chantry's private armies used to defend holy sites from unwanted incursions and pillaging.

wave: To contact someone by radio or telegraph. Alternately the communications device itself. Slang.

White Sword: A ceramic greatsword used by Chantry cathars for formal executions, especially of the nobility.

The Wisp: The thin string of stars housing the Demarchy of Tavros located above the galactic ecliptic, far from the Imperium.

Wong-Hopper Consortium: The largest of the Mandari trading corporations, holding several government contracts, especially in the terraforming industry.

worldship: Any of the massive Cielcin vessels—some as large as moons—that make up the cores of their fleets.

Writ: The Chantry's legal and moral code, enforced by the Inquisition and the Index.

writ of disavowal: In Imperial jurisprudence, a formal document wherein a nobile lord disowns one or more members of his or her family.

xenobite: Any life form not originating from terranic or human stock, especially those which are considered intelligent. An alien.

Yamato Interstellar: An interstellar manufacturing company owned by House Yamato and based out of Nichibotsu.

Your Excellency: Form of polite address used for ruling nobles above the rank of archon.

Your Grace: Form of polite address used for viceroys, vicereines, and primarchs of the Sollan Empire.

Your Radiance: Form of polite address reserved exclusively for the Emperor.

Your Reverence: Form of polite address for members of the Chantry clergy, particularly priors.

yukajjimm: The Cielcin word for humanity. Shares etymological connections to their word for *vermin*.

zvanya: A cinnamon-flavored distilled alcohol popular in Jadd.

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