

Howling Dark

Book summary from [Goodreads](#):

The second novel of the galaxy-spanning Sun Eater series merges the best of space opera and epic fantasy, as Hadrian Marlowe continues down a path that can only end in fire.

Hadrian Marlowe is lost.

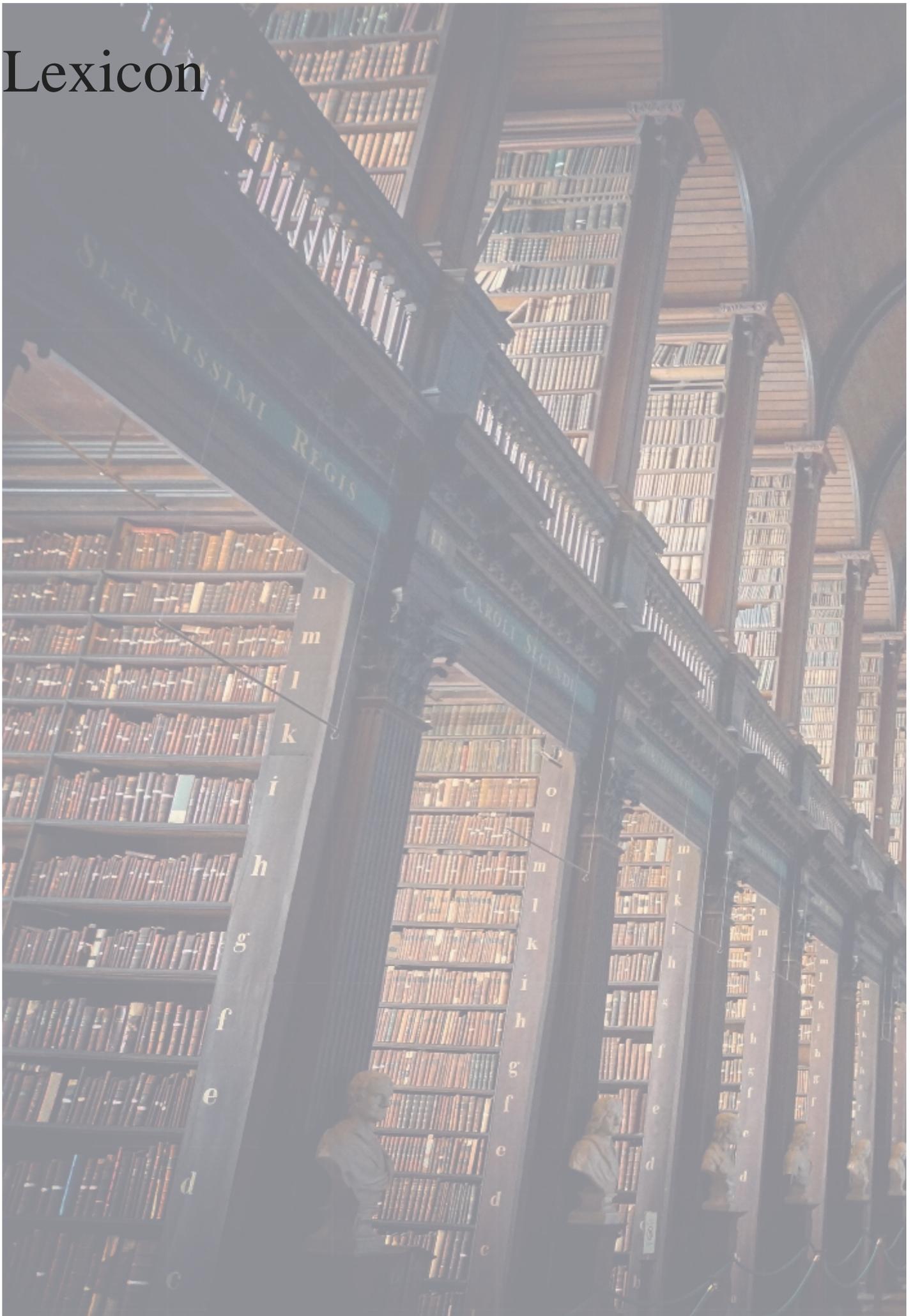
For half a century, he has searched the farther suns for the lost planet of Vorgossos, hoping to find a way to contact the elusive alien Cielcin. He has not succeeded, and for years has wandered among the barbarian Normans as captain of a band of mercenaries.

Determined to make peace and bring an end to nearly four hundred years of war, Hadrian must venture beyond the security of the Sollan Empire and among the Extrasolarians who dwell between the stars. There, he will face not only the aliens he has come to offer peace, but contend with creatures that once were human, with traitors in his midst, and with a meeting that will bring him face to face with no less than the oldest enemy of mankind.

If he succeeds, he will usher in a peace unlike any in recorded history. If he fails...the galaxy will burn.

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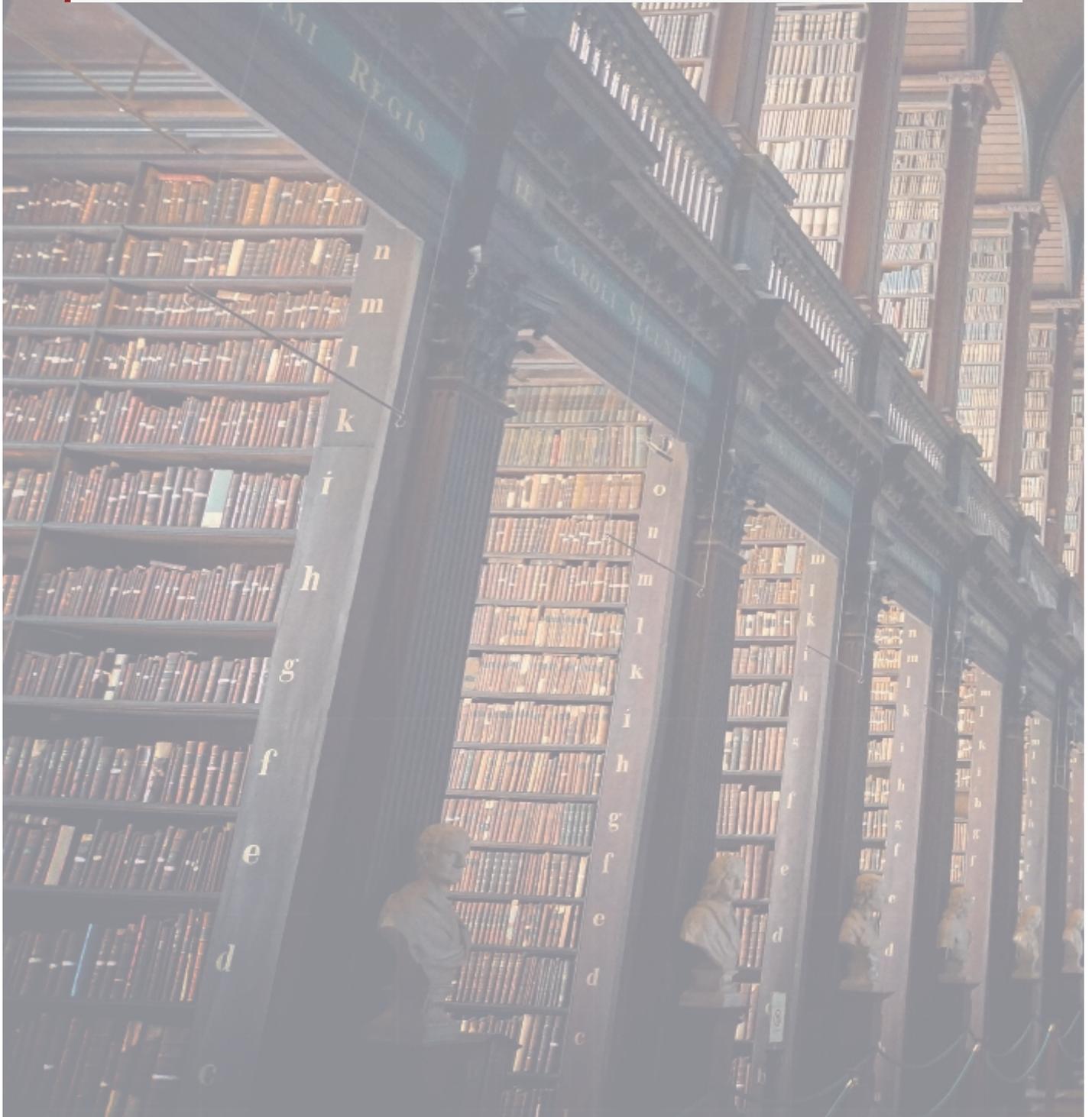
Lexicon



A Note on Translation

“ HEREIN IS INCLUDED AN index of those terms appearing in this second volume of Lord Marlowe’s manuscript which are not easily translated into the Classical English or which bear a specific cultural or technical definition. For a more complete explanation of the methodology I employed in devising these coinages in translating from the Galstani in which the original was written, please refer to the appendices in [volume one](#) of this translation.

—Tor Paulos of Nov Belgaer



Glossary

abstraction: The process by which members of the Exalted remove themselves from humanity through technological modification.

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

Advent: The destruction of Old Earth by humanity at the end of the Foundation War.

Aeta: A Cielcin prince-chieftain. Appears to have ownership rights over its subjects and their property.

akaranta: The dominant Cielcin sexual role.

aljanhi: A human Jaddian soldier, distinguished from the clone mamluks.

anagnost: An initiate in the Chantry clergy.

androgyn: A homunculus exhibiting neither or both male and female sex characteristics.

aquilarii: In the Legions, the pilot of a lighter craft.

azhdarch: A xenobite predator common in the Colosso, like 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.

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

baron/baroness: Lowest rank of the Imperial palatine nobility. Rules a planetary demesne. Title may be passed on through inheritance.

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

biofacture: The manufacture of living beings, organs, or tissues.

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.

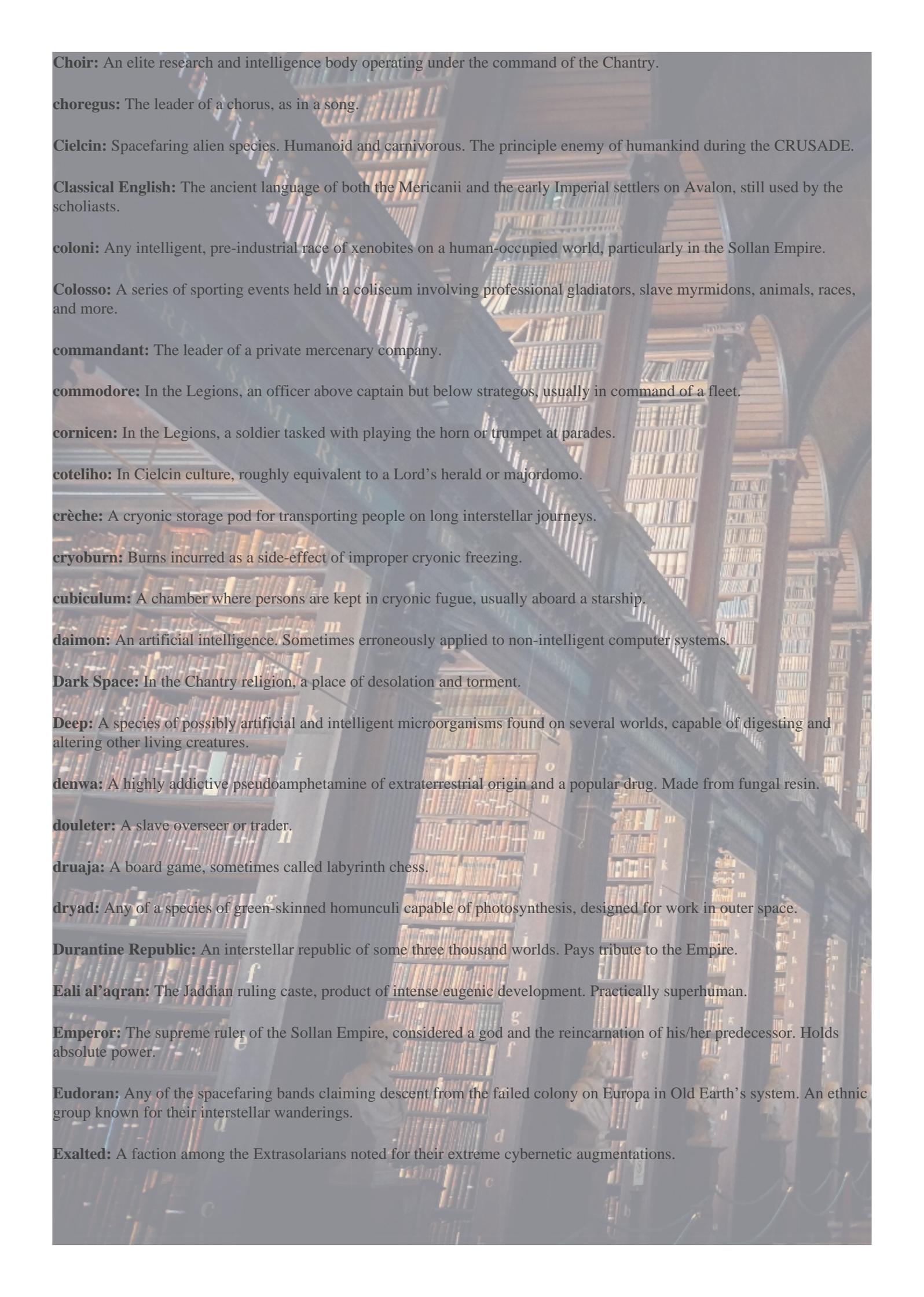
centurion: A rank in the Imperial Legions, commands a CENTURY.

Chalcenterite: A fraternal order of the scholiasts, noted for their asceticism.

Chantry: See HOLY TERRAN CHANTRY.

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

chiromancer: See BONECUTTER.



Choir: An elite research and intelligence body operating under the command of the Chantry.

choregus: The leader of a chorus, as in a song.

Cielcin: Spacefaring alien species. Humanoid and carnivorous. The principle enemy of humankind during the CRUSADE.

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

coloni: Any intelligent, pre-industrial race of xenobites on a human-occupied world, particularly in the Sollan Empire.

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

commandant: The leader of a private mercenary company.

commodore: In the Legions, an officer above captain but below strategos, usually in command of a fleet.

cornicen: In the Legions, a soldier tasked with playing the horn or trumpet at parades.

coteliho: In Cielcin culture, roughly equivalent to a Lord's herald or majordomo.

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

cryoburn: Burns incurred as a side-effect of improper cryonic freezing.

cubiculum: A chamber where persons are kept in cryonic fugue, usually aboard a starship.

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

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

Deep: A species of possibly artificial and intelligent microorganisms found on several worlds, capable of digesting and altering other living creatures.

denwa: A highly addictive pseudoamphetamine of extraterrestrial origin and a popular drug. Made from fungal resin.

douleter: A slave overseer or trader.

druaja: A board game, sometimes called labyrinth chess.

dryad: Any of a species of green-skinned homunculi capable of photosynthesis, designed for work in outer space.

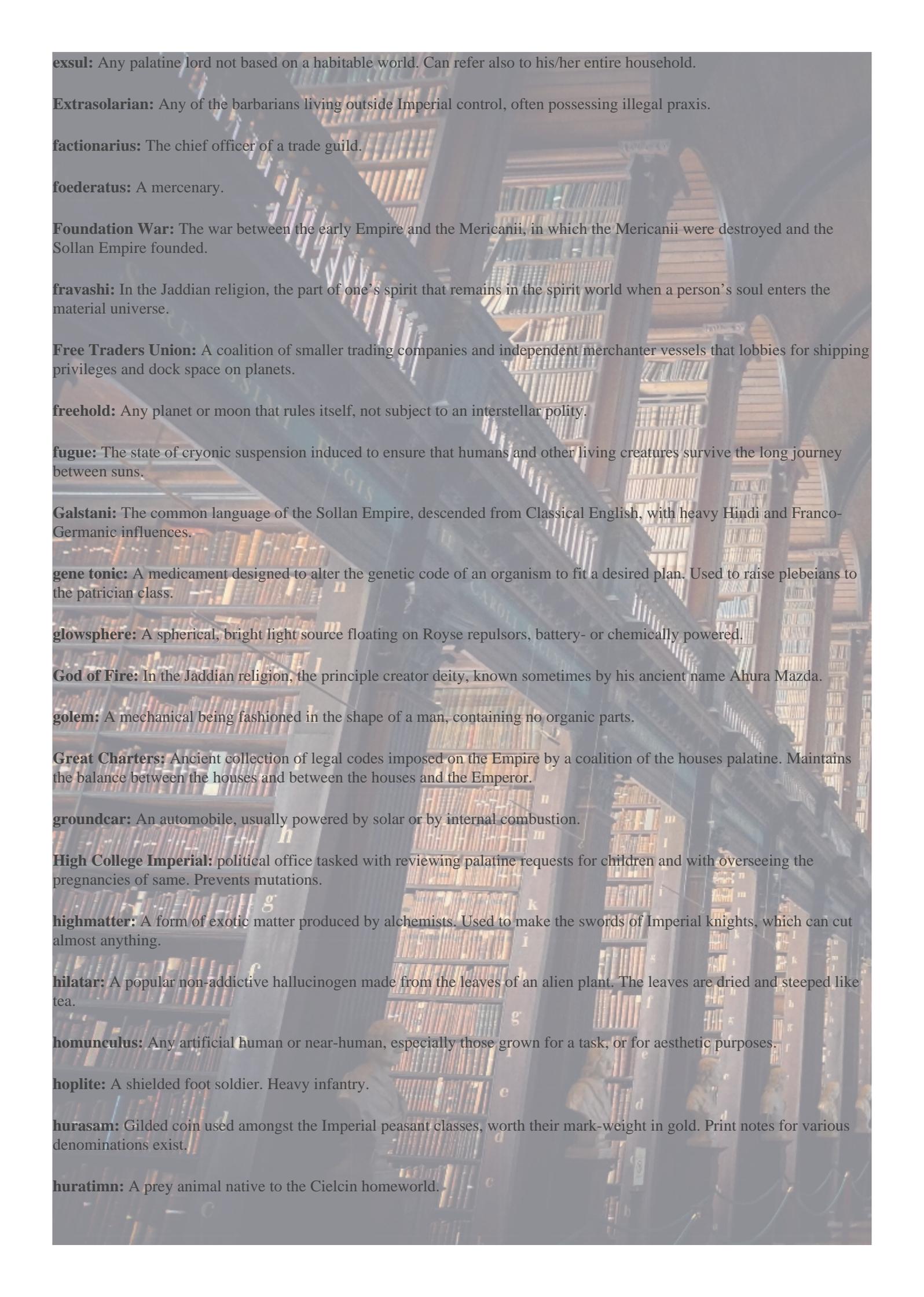
Durantine Republic: An interstellar republic of some three thousand worlds. Pays tribute to the Empire.

Eali al'aqran: The Jaddian ruling caste, product of intense eugenic development. Practically superhuman.

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

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.



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

Extrasolarian: Any of the barbarians living outside Imperial control, often possessing illegal praxis.

factionarius: The chief officer of a trade guild.

foederatus: A mercenary.

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

fravashi: In the Jaddian religion, the part of one's spirit that remains in the spirit world when a person's soul enters the material universe.

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

freehold: Any planet or moon that rules itself, not subject to an interstellar polity.

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

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

gene tonic: A medicament designed to alter the genetic code of an organism to fit a desired plan. Used to raise plebeians to the patrician class.

glowsphere: A spherical, bright light source floating on Royse repulsors, battery- or chemically powered.

God of Fire: In the Jaddian religion, the principle creator deity, known sometimes by his ancient name Ahura Mazda.

golem: A mechanical being fashioned in the shape of a man, containing no organic parts.

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 between the houses and the Emperor.

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

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

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

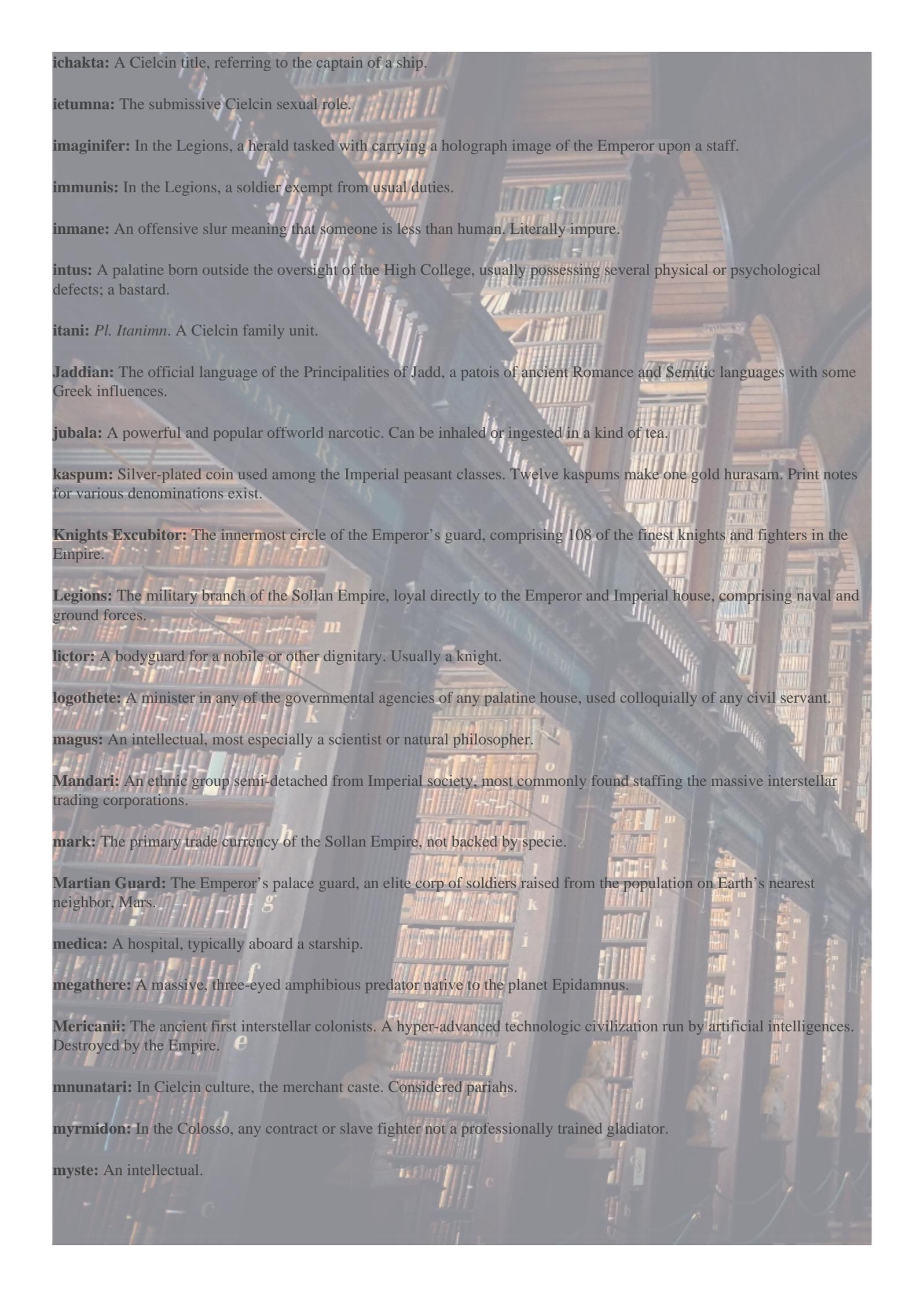
hilatar: A popular non-addictive hallucinogen made from the leaves of an alien plant. The leaves are dried and steeped like tea.

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

hoplite: A shielded foot soldier. Heavy infantry.

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

huratimn: A prey animal native to the Cielcin homeworld.



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

ietumna: The submissive Cielcin sexual role.

imaginifer: In the Legions, a herald tasked with carrying a holograph image of the Emperor upon a staff.

immunis: In the Legions, a soldier exempt from usual duties.

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

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

itani: *Pl. Itanimn.* A Cielcin family unit.

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.

Knights Excubitor: The innermost circle of the Emperor's guard, comprising 108 of the finest knights and fighters in the Empire.

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

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

logothete: A minister in any of the governmental agencies of any palatine house, used colloquially of any civil servant.

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

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

mark: The primary trade currency of the Sollan Empire, not backed by specie.

Martian Guard: The Emperor's palace guard, an elite corp of soldiers raised from the population on Earth's nearest neighbor, Mars.

medica: A hospital, typically aboard a starship.

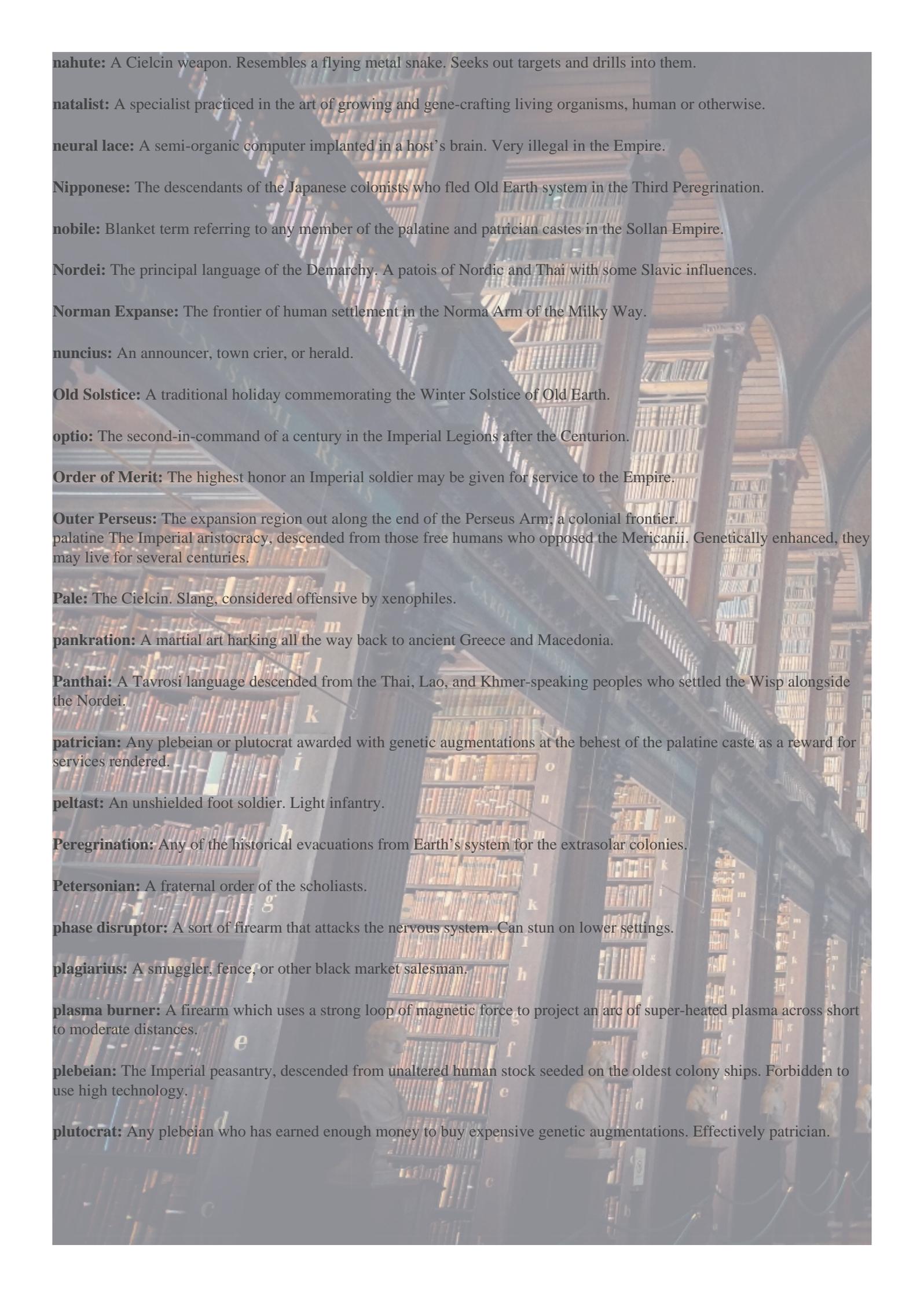
megathere: A massive, three-eyed amphibious predator native to the planet Epidamnus.

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

mnunatari: In Cielcin culture, the merchant caste. Considered pariahs.

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

myste: An intellectual.



nahute: A Cielcin weapon. Resembles a flying metal snake. Seeks out targets and drills into them.

natalist: A specialist practiced in the art of growing and gene-crafting living organisms, human or otherwise.

neural lace: A semi-organic computer implanted in a host's brain. Very illegal in the Empire.

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 and patrician castes in the Sollan Empire.

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

Norman Expanse: The frontier of human settlement in the Norma Arm of the Milky Way.

nuncius: An announcer, town crier, or herald.

Old Solstice: A traditional holiday commemorating the Winter Solstice of Old Earth.

optio: The second-in-command of a century in the Imperial Legions after the Centurion.

Order of Merit: The highest honor an Imperial soldier may be given for service to the Empire.

Outer Perseus: The expansion region out along the end of the Perseus Arm; a colonial frontier.

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.

pankraton: A martial art harking all the way back to ancient Greece and Macedonia.

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

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

peltast: An unshielded foot soldier. Light infantry.

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

Petersonian: A fraternal order of the scholiasts.

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

plagiarius: A smuggler, fence, or other black market salesman.

plasma burner: A firearm which uses a strong loop of magnetic force to project an arc of super-heated 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.

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

giati: In Cielcin culture, an individual's usefulness or worth to its owner.

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

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

Royal Victorian Knights: A fraternal order of knights owing allegiance to the Imperial House Avent.

satrap: A planetary governor in the Principalities of Jadd, subordinate to one of the regional princes.
sahari In Cielcin culture, the warrior caste.

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: *Pl. Sciandane.* A Cielcin migratory fleet, comprising several itanimn and presided over by a single Aeta.

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.

signifer: In the Legions, a soldier tasked with carrying the banner bearing the symbols of the individual legion or subgroup.

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

solifer: In the Legions, a soldier tasked with carrying the banner bearing the symbol of the Imperial sunburst on its flag.

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

SOM: Surrogate Operating Medium. The lobotomized shell of a human being animated by machines, used for slave labor and as soldiers by the Extrasolarians.

Sparrowhawk: A lighter craft commonly used by the Legions, a one-manned rapid attack ship used in ship-to-ship fighting.

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

strojeva: A golem, specifically a golem of Durantine manufacture. Typically designed to closely mimic a human being in appearance.

sulan: An ancient predator native to the Cielcin homeworld.

suppression field: A Royse Effect field designed to simulate gravity.

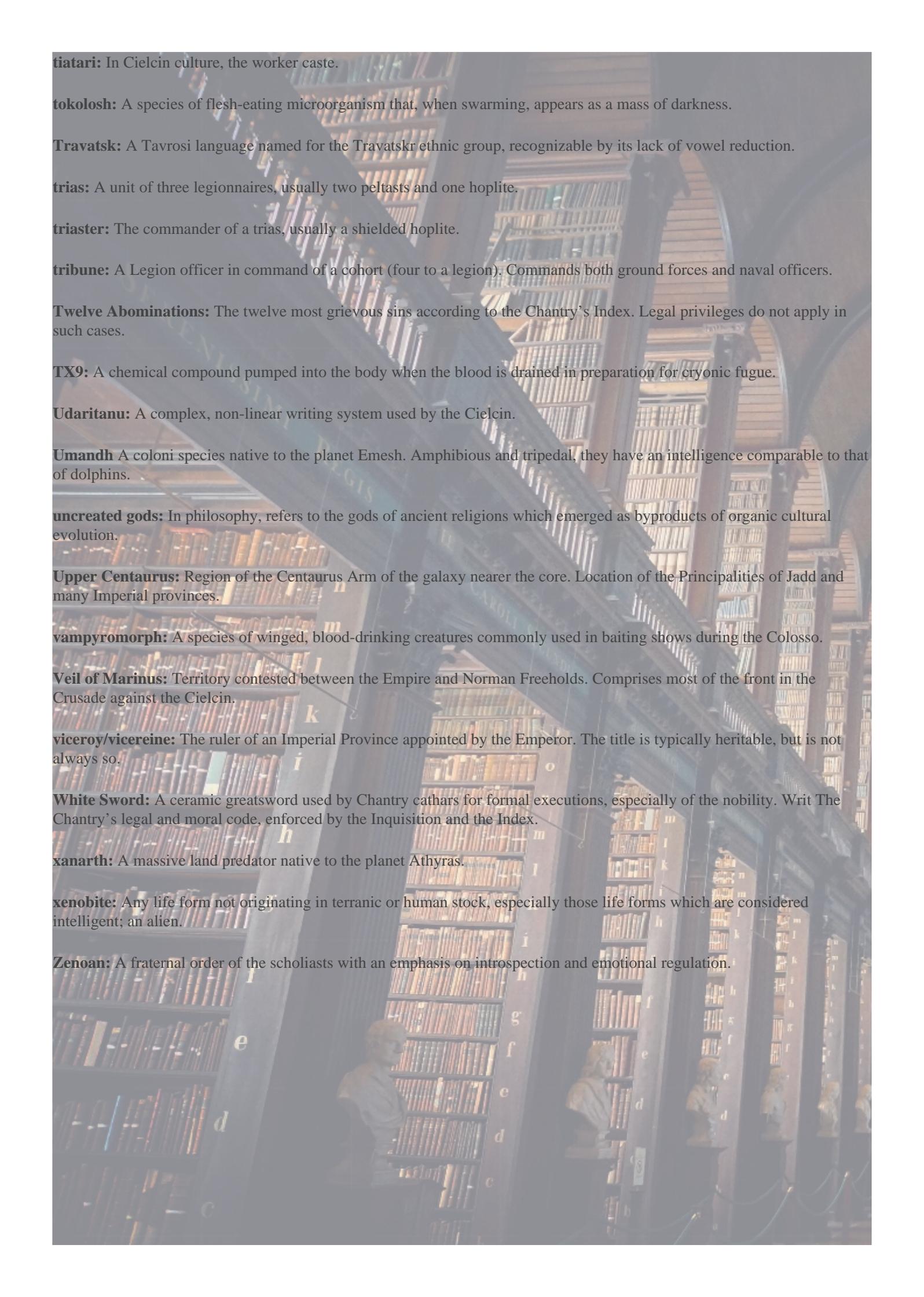
Tanager: A lighter craft commonly used by the Legions, a heavier, two-man fighter.

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

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

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

theologi: A priest or theologian.



tiatari: In Cielcin culture, the worker caste.

tokolosh: A species of flesh-eating microorganism that, when swarming, appears as a mass of darkness.

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

trias: A unit of three legionnaires, usually two peltasts and one hoplite.

triamster: The commander of a trias, usually a shielded hoplite.

tribune: A Legion officer in command of a cohort (four to a legion). Commands both ground forces and naval officers.

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

TX9: A chemical compound pumped into the body when the blood is drained in preparation for cryonic fugue.

Udaritanu: A complex, non-linear writing system used by the Cielcin.

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

uncreated gods: In philosophy, refers to the gods of ancient religions which emerged as byproducts of organic cultural evolution.

Upper Centaurus: Region of the Centaurus Arm of the galaxy nearer the core. Location of the Principalities of Jadd and many Imperial provinces.

vampyromorph: A species of winged, blood-drinking creatures commonly used in baiting shows during the Colosso.

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

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

White Sword: A ceramic greatsword used by Chantry cathars for formal executions, especially of the nobility. Writ The Chantry's legal and moral code, enforced by the Inquisition and the Index.

xanarth: A massive land predator native to the planet Athyras.

xenobite: Any life form not originating in terranic or human stock, especially those life forms which are considered intelligent; an alien.

Zenoan: A fraternal order of the scholiasts with an emphasis on introspection and emotional regulation.

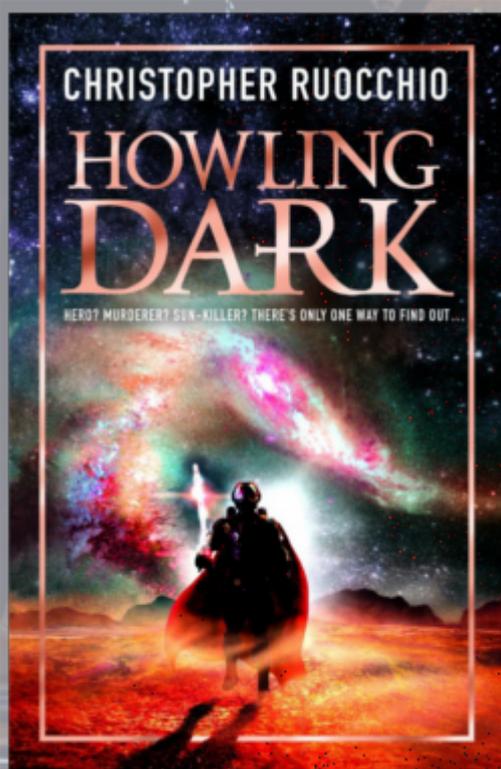
Publications (Howling Dark)

Howling Dark, US Edition (AD 2019)



- ISBNs:
 - 9870756413057 (US HC ISBN-13)
 - 0756413052 (US HC ISBN-10)
- Publisher: DAW Books
- Publication Date: July 16, 2019
- Cover Artist: Kieran Yanner <https://www.kieranyanner.com/>
- Word Count: 260,000 words
- Notes:
 - 1st editions will feature a full number line, i.e. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 - 1st edition, 2nd printings (1st/2nd) issued AD 2024
 - Changes to this edition include revised pricing to interior dust jacket flap and revisions to the spine; spine art now matches the format of *Empire of Silence*

Howling Dark, UK Edition (AD 2019)



- ISBNs:
 - 978147329488 (UK HC ISBN-13)
 - 1473229480 (UK HC ISBN-10)
- Publisher: Gollancz
- Cover Artist: Patrick Knowles <https://reedsy.com/patrick-knowles>
- Notes:
 - 1st editions will feature a full number line, i.e. 1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2
 - Limited print run of 300 signed editions, scarce
 - No hardcover reprints of this edition as of AD 2024
 - Some trade paperback printings lack the square border on the cover

Die Finsternis zwischen den Sternen, German Edition (AD 2021)



- Translation by Kirsten Borchardt
- ISBNs:
 - 9783453318298 (German PB ISBN-13)
 - 3453318293 (German PB ISBN-10)
- Publisher: Wilhelm Heyne Verlag, München
- Cover Artist: uncredited

Bezkraina ciemno??, Polish Edition (AD 2022)





- Translation by Jerzy Moderski
- ISBNs:
 - 9788381884037 (Polish PB ISBN-13)
 - 8381884039 (Polish PB ISBN-10)
- Publisher: Dom Wydawniczy Rebis
- Cover Artist: uncredited

Howling Dark, Broken Binding Edition (AD 2024)





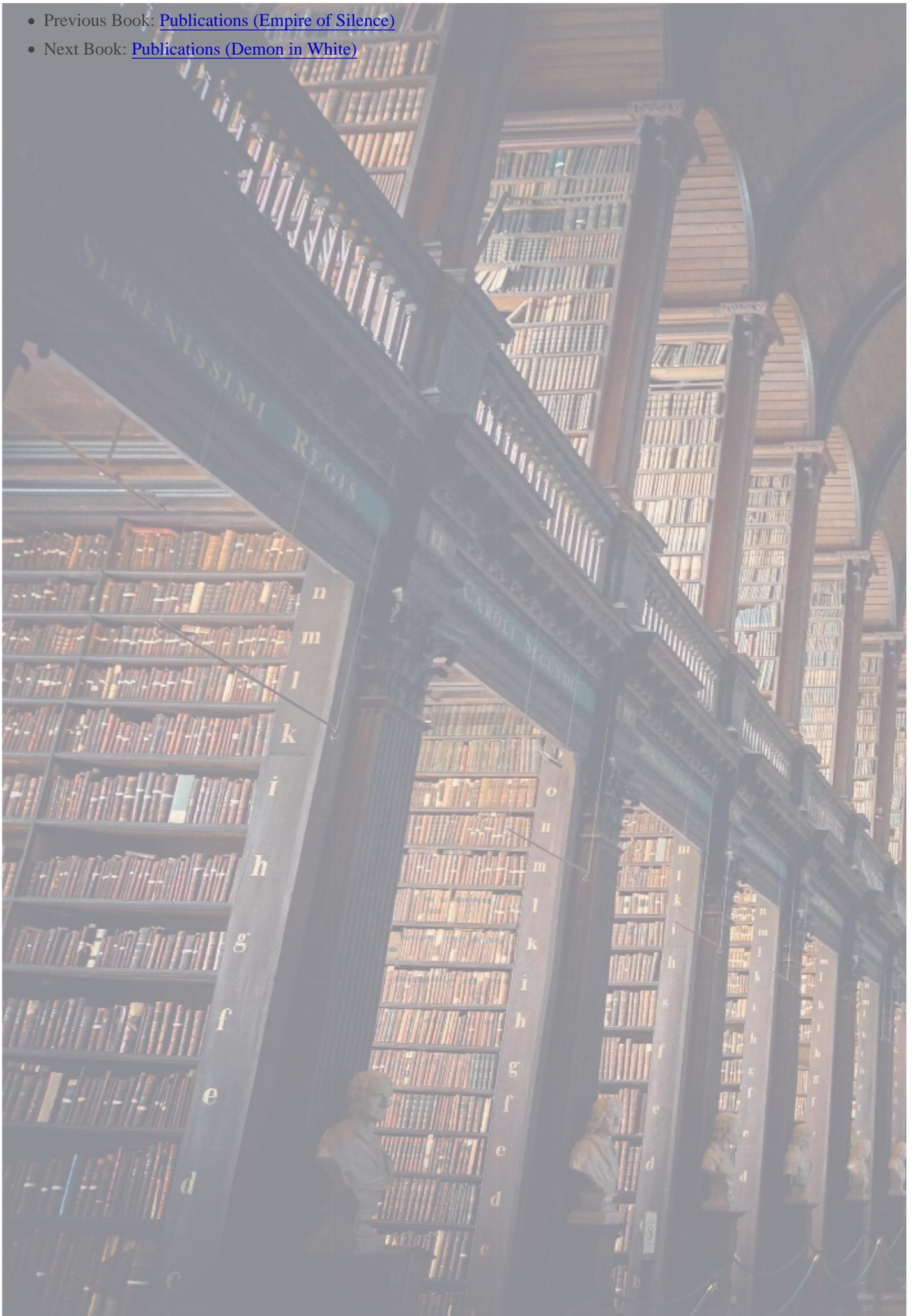
- ISBNs:
 - TBD (HC ISBN-13)
- Publisher: The Broken Binding in Assc. w/ Gollancz
- Cover Artist: Rene Aigner <https://www.artstation.com/reneaigner>
- Reversible Cover Artist: Peng Lu <https://www.artstation.com/lu-peng>
- Endpaper Artist: Rene Aigner
- PLC Board Artist: Peng Lu
- Notes:
 - Limited Numbered Edition, First Print 3,000 Signed Copies
 - Features include: Wraparound dust jacket art, reversible dust jacket art, illustrated PLC boards, illustrated endpapers, sprayed edges with thematic motif, cover typography by Jeff Brown <https://www.jeffbrowngraphics.com/>
 - Potential for a second print run via Broken Binding

Howling Dark, Diamond Edition (Est. AD 2025)

- ISBNs:
 - TBD (HC ISBN-13)
- Publisher: Steve Diamond
- Cover Artist: James L. Cook <https://www.jameslcookart.com/>
- Interior Artist: John Barry Ballaran <https://jballaran.com/>
- Notes:
 - Limited Kickstarter Edition, 1,000 Copies
 - 952 Numbered Copies
 - 48 Lettered Copies
 - Features include: faux leather with foil stamp by Kieran Yanner, wraparound cover art, illustrated endpapers, premium stock paper, sprayed edges, galaxy map, and more.*
 - *Details not yet determined

Publications Quick Links:

- Previous Book: [Publications \(Empire of Silence\)](#)
- Next Book: [Publications \(Demon in White\)](#)



Chapter Summaries (Howling Dark)

Spoilers ahead, proceed with caution

Chapter 1: The Red Company

Locations

Norma Arm > [Rustam](#) > Orbit > On Board the [Pharaoh](#)

Plot Summary

Chapter 2: Suspended and Undead

Locations

Norma Arm > [Rustam](#) > Orbit > On Board the [ISV Balmung](#)

Plot Summary

Chapter 3: The Sunken City

Locations

Norma Arm > [Rustam](#) > ??? (Norman Equivalent Prefecture) > Arslan > Jubala Den in the Grounded *Murakami* Starship

Plot Summary

Chapter 4: The Painted Man

Locations

Norma Arm > [Rustam](#) > ??? (Norman Equivalent Prefecture) > Arslan > Tea House Near the Grounded *Murakami* Starship

Plot Summary

Chapter 5: Eyes Like Stars

Locations

Norma Arm > [Rustam](#) > ??? (Norman Equivalent Prefecture) > Arslan > Tea House Near the Grounded *Murakami* Starship

Plot Summary

Chapter 6: The Road to Vorgossos

Locations

Norma Arm > [Rustam](#) > ??? (Norman Equivalent Prefecture) > Arslan > Railcar above the City

Plot Summary

Chapter 7: Things Unseen, Things Remembered

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Norma Arm > [Rustam](#) > ??? (Norman Equivalent Prefecture) > Arslan > City Streets

Plot Summary

Chapter 8: The Council of Captains

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Norma Arm > [Rustam](#) > Orbit > On Board the [Pharaoh](#)

Plot Summary

Chapter 9: Absent Friends

Locations

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Plot Summary

Chapter 10: Jinan

Locations

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Plot Summary

Chapter 11: Your Radiance

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Plot Summary

Chapter 12: A Journey's End

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Chapter 13: Obedience

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Plot Summary

Chapter 14: Conspiracy

Locations

Norma Arm > [Rustam](#) > Orbit > On Board the [Mistral](#)



Plot Summary

Chapter 15: The First Treason

Locations

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Plot Summary

Chapter 16: The Tomb

Locations

Norma Arm > [Rustam](#) > Orbit > On Board the [ISV Balmung](#)

Plot Summary

Chapter 17: The Breaking of the Company

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Plot Summary

Chapter 18: The Other Edge

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Plot Summary

Chapter 19: The Gates of Babylon

Locations

Norma Arm > [March Station](#) > Station City > City Streets

Plot Summary

Chapter 20: The Bonecutter

Locations

Norma Arm > [March Station](#) > Station City > Cento Biotechnic Clinic

Plot Summary

Chapter 21: A Matter of Price

Locations

Norma Arm > [March Station](#) > Station City > Brevon Imports Office at Freight Life 013

Plot Summary

Chapter 22: Blood and Water

Locations

Norma Arm > [March Station](#) > Orbit > On Board the [Mistral](#)

Plot Summary

Chapter 23: The Pilot

Locations

Norma Arm > Unknown > On Board the [Mistral](#)

Plot Summary

Chapter 24: The Enigma of Hours

Locations

Norma Arm > Unknown > On Board the [Enigma of Hours](#) > On Board the [Mistral](#)

Plot Summary

Chapter 25: Becalmed in Motion

Locations

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Plot Summary

Chapter 26: The Oracle

Locations

Norma Arm > Unknown > On Board the [Enigma of Hours](#) > Concourse Marketplace

Norma Arm > Unknown > On Board the [Enigma of Hours](#) > The Oracle's Chamber

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Chapter 27: Valka

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Norma Arm > Unknown > On Board the [Enigma of Hours](#) > Concourse Marketplace

Plot Summary

Chapter 28: The Dark World

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SPOILER > [Vorgossos](#) > Docking Station

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Chapter 29: The Profane City

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Plot Summary

Chapter 30: The Suppliants

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Chapter 31: Tartarus

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SPOILER > [Vorgossos](#) > The Installation > The Waiting Room

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Chapter 32: Saturn or Dis

Locations

SPOILER > [Vorgossos](#) > The Palace of the Undying > The Throne Room

Plot Summary

Chapter 33: Divide and Conquer

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SPOILER > [Vorgossos](#) > The Installation > Guest Suites

Plot Summary

Chapter 34: In the House of Kharn Sagara

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SPOILER > [Vorgossos](#) > The Palace of the Undying > The Orchid Stair

Plot Summary

Chapter 35: The Gorgon

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Chapter 36: The Devil and the Golem

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Plot Summary

Chapter 37: Tanaran

Locations

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SPOILER > [Vorgossos](#) > The Palace of the Undying > The Throne Room

Plot Summary

Chapter 38: The Face of Failure

Locations

SPOILER > [Vorgossos](#) > The Installation > Guest Suites

Plot Summary

Chapter 39: The Last Story

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Plot Summary

Chapter 40: The Garden of Everything

Locations

SPOILER > [Vorgossos](#) > The Palace of the Undying > The Garden of Everything

Plot Summary

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