

# 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 merchanter 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 Nordic 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.



**qiati:** 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.  
**seahari** 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.

**triaster:** 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 tripedal, 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.

**viceroys/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.

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