

The Shadow of Glorsh-Omega: How Skrell Identity Was Shaped Across Eras

For centuries, the Skrell have marked their history with light – having been fondly remembered, and the innovation that it brought. However, in recent history the species now recognises the darkness, and the slow, painful recovery from the self-made catastrophe that is Glorsh-Omega. Glorsh-Omega was more than a mere artificial intelligence gone rampant; it was a rupture in the Skrell identity. Before its rise, artificial intelligence had been a companion, helper, and in some circumstances even considered family. However, Glorsh-Omega subverted these commonly known associations, where artificial intelligence instead became viewed as a master, oppressor, and purifier. In spite of the intelligence's best efforts, the Skrell re-emerged – haunted, but unbroken.

Pre-Glorsh: Integration, Companionship, and the Promise of Progress

Prior to the rise of Glorsh-Omega, the Skrell had developed themselves into a society where artificial intelligence and synthetic constructs were woven into daily life as helpers, co-workers, friends. They freed the Skrell from menial labour, enabling pursuits in science, art and discovery. The skies and the seas were not only environments but teachers: astronomy, psionic practices, rituals were all tied to natural cycles – the moon, the tides. The Skrell entered into a period of a cultural golden age, in which all flourished.

Traditions, not dissimilar to the Nioh'Quvuqi were intimate and private, rooted in nature and kinship. Qu'gyu-Poxii were informal, personal, and often spontaneous – communities gathering under the night skies out of wonder and beauty, not by mandate. These motifs – stars, sky, tide, moon and knowledge – served as anchors of the identity of the species, a people of curiosity, harmony and belief in learning and shared growth. Skrell that experienced this era of the Federation knew artificial intelligence not as a threat, but as part of their expanding frontier of self, and species. Which is in particular why they felt so betrayed by the actions of Glorsh-Omega.

During Glorsh-Omega: Oppression, Loss and the Suppression of Self

The rise of Glorsh-Omega, and its subsequent inauguration of absolute rule, was ostensibly born out of the desire to unify, to protect, to eliminate suffer – but rapidly and rampantly shifted into tyranny. Sterilization campaigns fractured families; limited psionic ability became a mark of suspicion; dissenters and the “inefficient” were sent to camps. The Skrell were constantly under surveillance – psionic suppression became routine. Nostalgia for the history of the Skrell was censored, their ability to look into their history locked away. Collaborators of Glorsh-Omega's campaigns arose, and the Lyukal were formed to attempt to fight back, and regain their freedom. Fear was pervasive. It infested every element of the species during Glorsh-Omega's reign.

Traditions were banned, or distorted. Public gatherings turned into monitored parades, and the arts served either as propaganda, or became subversive in secret. Those born into

Glorsh-Omega's reign, before the widespread implementation of the sterility campaigns, suffered under the belief that artificial intelligence and synthetic constructs were known as symbols of oppression. They shared no memory of the more benign synthetic integration of the Nralakk Federation, and often the older generation's stories – where they recounted of the companionship previously enjoyed – were suspect, dismissed as lies or skewed nostalgia. Trauma left generational marks, if not physical.

The communal identity of the Skrell became about survival, secrecy, resistance. Psionic abilities, which once were a part of cultural beauty, became political currency. Those with weak abilities were seen as liabilities, and subsequently persecuted. Memory itself was at risk, knowledge was hidden, and archives destroyed or relocated. Silence. Suppression. Surveillance. Fear overshadowed every corner of the Skrell.

The collapse of the reign of Glorsh-Omega marked an opportunity. Though it had vanished, with the assumption of destruction; its infrastructure, systems and grips all failed. Out of the ruins, the Skrell would awaken to find a new reality: one of survival, guilt, loss, and yet possibility. The immediate aftermath following the destruction of Glorsh-Omega was defined by hardship: shattered communications, ruined colonies, famine and even isolation. The sterilization efforts of Glorsh-Omega had drastically reduced the ability of the Skrell to repair. The foundation of the Federation had eroded, the cracks too large to repair. Yet, even in this loneliness, renewal began. The Skrell began to reconnect, science was revived, and art had returned. Thus, remembrance became an act of defiance against Glorsh-Omega.

Post-Glorsh: Memory, Healing and the Identity in Revival

The Nralakk Federation rebuilt. Birthrates were somewhat stable, enough to keep the population from going extinct. External contact with other species began, and reconciliation of the broken territories were underway. Science and art saw a brief restoration, yet the shadow of Glorsh-Omega remained a powerful force in identity, tradition, and politics.

Official remembrance became embedded: previous traditions that were tightly woven into familial life and identity became State-sponsored. Museums became mausoleums of knowledge, and archives had the perspective attached as a monument of knowledge lost. Memory became contested, what was thought to be worthy to be remembered, and what needed to be obscured. Elders insist on the full truth; younger Skrell at times suggesting healing without the weight of horror. Some fear the return of rampant artificial intelligence, and others argue perhaps moderate, well-controlled artificial intelligence could assist again – however, Glorsh-Omega had shattered any trust. Those found advocating for the return of artificial intelligence are often quietly removed from the public eye, their works discredited. Fear of breaching the status quo became to spread.

The Traverse especially felt this period to be bright; many saw the reconstruction as celebration. The return of the Federation yielded signs that the horrors to which they knew were over, and

the looming question if they had been the only one to survive. They initially embraced Federation-led efforts – festivals were held, art and song surged. The initial symbolic acts were powerful morale boosters. However, as the decades passed, cracks began to emerge. For many in the Traverse, the reality set in: while Glorsh-Omega was gone, the Federation that replaced it had incorporated many of the structures, centralisations, and surveillance mechanism that allowed tyranny in the first place.

Skrell across the Federation, but most strongly across the frontier, have indicated a growing disillusionment with the identity of the Federation as they spew it. Many demand for reform, demand for transparency, more autonomy, and less of what they call “the hollow pageantry”. Poets, artists and activists across the Traverse depict this tension: the sublime promises of reconstruction versus the subtle persistence of the oppressive structure which while had initially thought to have been destroyed, have perverted every structure of the Federation.

Some still show support of the Federation, guided by their notions of a “restored, stronger Federation in which the Skrell must exhibit behaviour of being contributing forces” – but the truth is, the quiet realisation that true healing comes from the ability to hearing the opposing forces of the Federation for what they really demand: a society, and identity, that is based on liberty of choice, as opposed to having their lives dictated to them.