The Chakra Desiderata: Setting v1.0

Index

• Chasing Adventure campaign

The Chakra Desiderata: <u>Setting v1.0</u>
The Coveted Wheel: <u>Setting v1.5</u>

Anonymously written, truncated version of the above two documents

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Introduction

The setting is space fantasy, set in a galaxy named "the timescape." The main focus is on the Chakra Desiderata, a custom, homebrew planetary system that happens to be one of the founding members of UNISOL, the Universal Solar League.

A slightly dystopian empire is celebrating the 100th AFU, anniversary of the founding of UNISOL. This is a time of both hope and turbulence, as colorful personages from across the higher-energy worlds arrive to diplomatize, to stir trouble, or both. The PCs are **not** plucky rebels, but rather, elite operatives who make things a little better for the people, and who shut down untimely crises as they arise.

While the characters work for a regime that leans a bit towards the dystopian, and while there are a fair amount of questionable societal practices taking place in the background, the PCs will get to be unquestionably heroic all the way through; at no point whatsoever will they ever be tasked with abusing innocents. The intended tone is somewhat funposty, with occasional moments of genuine seriousness and earnest optimism.

PCs

The PCs belong to the <u>Vigintiviri Vajrasya</u> (Twenty Officials of the Thunderbolt), the single most elite and prestigious unit of the Imperium Lokapalanam. These warriors, alchemists, and wielders of wondrous power are so broadly competent that they are often called upon to serve as researchers, investigators, explorers, diplomats, and infiltrators. Much of the Vigintiviri Vajrasya come from <u>aristocratic families</u>, with all the <u>alchemical augmentations in utero</u> afforded to such scions, but a few are scrappy underdogs from common stock; this is one of the very, very few cases of social mobility in all of the planetary system.

While the Twenty Officials have no uniform, they are taught a proprietary, psychokinetic technique that creates a bombastic yet ultimately harmless burst of lightning and thunder around them; it is very distinct and nearly impossible hard to replicate. Some of the significant job benefits of being in the Thunderbolt include **owning** an actual house or apartment, and eating actual <u>artiodactyls</u> as protein, as opposed to <u>merely soy products or bugs</u>.

Major Setting Inspirations

- Genshin Impact
- Honkai: Star Rail
- Ex Astris
- · Anime-adjacent fantasy in general
- Paizo's Pathfinder and Starfinder
- MCDM's timescape, down to the very concepts of the timescape and UNISOL

A Note on Names

Generally, surnames precede given names in the Chakra Desiderata, and only members of aristocratic families have surnames to begin with. Everyone has an alphanumeric ID number for precise identification purposes.

Setting Quick Reference

- First Founding Member of UNISOL, and the Most Powerful: The wormholey Axis or Axiom system, inhabited primarily by <u>aeons</u> or <u>memonek</u>, ruled by Central Processing Unit <u>Nehalem</u>.
 - Primary Export: Computer parts.
 - Capital World: <u>Klamath</u>.
 - Capital City: Tualatin.
- YOU ARE HERE: Second Founding Member, the Second Most Powerful, and the Most Populous: The Chakra Desiderata (Wheel That Was Wished For) system, inhabited primarily by humans and elves, whose system-wide superpower is the Imperium Lokapalanam (Authority of the World Guardians), ruled by Chakravartin Lotorum (Wheel-Turner of the Lotuses) Hiranya Pasicompsa (All-Refined Gold, image here), advised by Jyotisha Nubigena (Astrologer Born from the Clouds) Jalakantaka Acanthio (Thorny Waterthorn, image: Huohuo from Star Rail).
 - Primary Export: The alchemical potions and pills necessary for augmentations in utero.
 - Capital World: The Kanduka Oxyrhyncha (Ball with a Pointed Snout or Sharp Bill), also known as the Honu Tepetevu (Languid Turtle).
 - Primary Export: Plaustrite, a gravity-manipulating mineral.
 - Imperial Heartland Supercontinent: The Padma Terrigena (Lotus Born from the Earth), in the southern hemisphere, consisting of multifarious arcologies (image #1, image #2, image #3, image #4; image #5, image #6, image #7, image #8). It has no maharajadhiraja; its rajadhirajanah, such as the biotechnologist and gelispex Vasanta Amaryllis (Shining Springtime, image here), rajadhirajni of the imperial inland sea, answer directly to the Chakravartin Lotorum and the Jyotisha Nubigena.
 - Cultural Inspirations: Linguistically Latin and Sanskrit, architecturally Chinese, sartorially a blend of Chinese and 19th- to 21st-century western in the style of Genshin Impact's Liyue and Star Rail's Xianzhou, musically South Asian and West Asian.
 - Capital Arcology: The Skambha Undicola (Tower Dwelling in the Sea).
 - Other Supercontinent: The Mokuhonua Nyekundu (Red Continent), in the septentrion, ruled by Mfalme (king) and Maharajadhiraja Kahananui Kunjufu (The Merry Great Work, image here), whose Aupuni Mwangalifu (Careful Kingdom) has been vassalized.
 - **Cultural Inspirations:** Linguistically Hawaiian and Swahili, architecturally Polynesian and African, <u>musically African and indigenous North and South American</u>.
 - Capital City: Maluhia Shupavu (Stubborn Serenity, image of its plaustrite deposition district #1, image of the same district #2).
 - Other World: <u>Kanshishatlan</u> (Among Guardians), ruled by <u>Cihuatlatoani</u> (Lady Speaker) and Maharajadhi<u>rajni</u> <u>Ellotlicue</u> <u>Kaho</u> (A Song, A Step; Diligence [is] Her Skirt; image: Citlali from *Genshin*).
 - **Cultural Inspirations:** Linguistically Japanese and Classical Nahuatl, architecturally Japanese, sartorially Japanese and Mesoamerican, musically Latin American and indigenous South American.
 - **Primary Export**: The perpetually primaveral <u>petals</u> of <u>raimeixochicuahuitl</u> (thunderclap flower trees, image <u>here</u>), or simply the raicuahuitl (thunder trees), which contain an awesome amount of electrical power.
 - Primary Landmark: The Saiseixochicuahuitl (Rebirth Flower Tree), or simply the Seicuahuitl (Life Tree), which can resurrect the dead.
 - Capital City: Yobunetlan (Among Ships Traveling at Night, image here).
 - Other World: The Ferasa du Cochonnet (Question of the Piglet), ruled by Ahura (Lord) and Maharajadhiraja Choupisson Sraeshta (Most Beautiful Baby Hedgehog, image here).
 - Cultural Inspirations: Linguistically Avestan (secondarily New Persian as a regional language) and modern French; architecturally whatever the latter two images here are, Gothic, and South and West Asian; sartorially South and West Asian; musically French (terrible, terrible idea, actually; needs considerable revision and a better example). Ferasan dancers' outfits, chakrams, and chakram dancers are greatly popular in the Padma Terrigena, and are one example of the conqueror adapting some of the cultural trappings of the conquered.
 - Primary Export: Ever-burning amber, which can generate or eradicate thermal energy to extreme degrees.
 - Primary Landmark: The Isle of Khvarenah Roublard (Wily Empyreal Glory), which can sometimes uplift a low-energy world.
 - Capital Continent: The Asman Karshvar (Sky Clime).
 - Capital City: Piaffement (Stamping or Prancing, latter two images here).
 - Other Continent: The Atar Karshvar (Fire Clime).
 - Ruined, Former Capital City: Vrombissement (Humming, Whirring, or Whizzing, first two images here).
 - Current Capital City: Ronronnement (Purring).
 - Other Continent: The Varesha Karshvar (Tree Clime).
 - Capital City: Cocorico (Cock-a-doodle-doo, image: Sumeru City).
 - Other World: The Forgotten, whose name and history, as well as the names and histories of its people, tend to be forgotten: yet it mysteriously makes up a non-negligible yet equally enigmatic percentage of the system's GDP.
- Founding Member: The <u>Lupet</u> (Brutal, Awesome) system, inhabited primarily by rogabrin or goblins, whose system-wide superpower is the Great Rail <u>Kaharian</u> (Kingdom), ruled by Conductor-<u>Hari</u> (King) Jhon-Jhon (image <u>here</u>).
 - Linguistically Tagalog, heavily leaning towards modern-day colloquialisms.
 - · Capital World: Sakalam (Strong).
 - Primary Export: Puel, the best power source for vehicles.

- **Founding Member:** The <u>Abestaldi</u> (Recital) system, inhabited primarily by <u>ysoki</u> or radenwights, whose system-wide superpower is the <u>Liluragarri</u> (Fascinating, Lovely) Ensemble, ruled by <u>Zuzendaria</u> (Conductor) <u>Izotz</u> (Ice, image <u>here</u>).
 - Linguistically Basque.
 - Capital World: The Txolarrea (Sparrow).
 - Primary Export: Heavenly Melodies, the best power source for audio technology and telecommunications.
- Other Founding Members: Roughly a dozen other systems.
- Other Members of UNISOL: Over a thousand other systems.
- Almost all have three or four inhabited worlds, but none have anything as grandiose as a starsphere or a ringworld quite yet.
- Opponent of UNISOL: Space pirates, such as dwarven press gangers or the kuran'zoi.
- Opponent of UNISOL: The wormholey Maelstrom or Proteus megasystem, inhabited primarily by proteans.
- Opponent of UNISOL: The wormholey Quintessence megasystem, headquarters of the Gearcrackers movement.
 - · Capital World: Its sun, the Plain of Fire.
 - · Capital City: The City of Brass.
- **Opponent of Everyone:** The wormholey Abyss or Outer Rifts megasystem, inhabited primarily by soul-eating tanar'ri or demons (and the obyriths or qlippoth whom they displaced).
 - · Capital World: The Wasteland.
- Wild Card: The wormholey Baator or Hell megasystem, inhabited primarily by law-abiding baatezu or devils.
 - · Capital Worlds: The Seven (formerly Nine) Cities.
- Wild Card: The wormholey Heaven megasystem, inhabited primarily by aasimon or angels (and their archon bioweapons).
 - Capital World: Chronias Summit.

Setting (for Players)

The year is about to become 100 AFU, a full century after the founding of UNISOL, the Universal Solar League. The year 90 AFU was the last time any founding member of UNISOL underwent any insurrections: major ones, at least.

The <u>Chakra Desiderata</u> (Wheel That Was Wished For) is the most populous planetary system in UNISOL, and its second founding member. It is therefore afforded the title of <u>Stella Dvitiva</u> (Second Star). Its four habitable worlds, each substantially dwarfing the lower-energy planet named Orden in size, are:

- The <u>Kanduka Oxyrhyncha</u> (Ball with a Pointed Snout or Sharp Bill), otherwise known as the <u>Honu Tepetevu</u> (Languid Turtle), the capital planet. It is the timescape's only source of <u>plaustrite</u>, a wondrous mineral with gravity-manipulating properties that can be reconfigured with precise applications of electrical or thermal signals, ideal for the construction of ships and megastructures alike. Plaustrite is found in deposition zones beneath the open sky.
 - The <u>Padma Terrigena</u> (Lotus Born from the Earth), the supercontinent in the southern hemisphere, consists of multifarious arcologies (<u>image #1</u>, <u>image #2</u>, <u>image #3</u>, <u>image #5</u>, <u>image #6</u>, <u>image #7</u>, <u>image #8</u>). It protects the <u>Parne Hebenorum</u> (Two Pinions or Leaves of Ebony, image <u>here</u>), a pair of levitating, arcanotechnological wonders, each <u>over 3,300 feet tall</u>. They are almighty power sources for the whole system, and have been constantly upgraded over the years.
 - The Mokuhonua Nyekundu (Red Continent), in the septentrion, is where the supercontinent-spanning Aupuni Mwangalifu (Careful Kingdom) originally constructed the Parne Hebenorum in its capital, Maluhia Shupavu (Stubborn Tranquility, image of its plaustrite deposition district #1, image of the same district #2). Then and there, the megastructures were known as the Lau Meusi (Twofold Leaves).
- Kanshishatlan (Among Guardians), renowned for its dry thunderstorms and its perpetually primaveral raimeixochicuahuitl (thunderclap flower trees, image here), or simply the raicuahuitl (thunder trees). Their petals are collected and exported for the awesome amount of electrical power tightly sealed within them, unlocked by precise applications of thermal signals. Their bark and lumber are theorized to contain incredible medicinal properties, but remain nearly impossible to harvest. The world's capital, Yobunetlan (Among Ships Traveling at Night, image here), has a large concentration of vulpine elves. Even today, the people continue their practice of keeping their mummified, shroud- and rope-wrapped ancestors in front of their domiciles. Foxes, known locally as tlalepameh (earth skunks, singular tlalepatl) or oztohuahqueh (cave owners, singular oztohuah), are of of substantial cultural significance.
 - Kanshishatlan was previously a patchwork of hundreds of nations; none attained superpower status. They waged many wars on one another for control of the Saisei xochicuahuitl (Rebirth Flower Tree), or simply the Seicuahuitl (Life Tree), located upon an isle in the middle of an ocean. It is said to have been planted by Aesculapius, or as he is locally known, Ixtlilton or Patecatl. In recent decades, an order of shrine maidens known as the Seipixqueh (Life Guardians) has gradually been assembled to protect the plant and regulate intra- and interstellar tourism towards it: for the tree possesses the extremely rare power of resurrection. The odds are small, but a relatively fresh corpse laid upon its trunk has a chance of being returned to life. Most simply stay dead; others rise as undead, who are almost always sent back home, but sometimes join the Seipixqueh.
- The <u>Ferasa du Cochonnet</u> (Question of the Piglet), famed for its production of <u>ever-burning amber</u>. The fossilized tree resin can generate or eradicate thermal energy to extreme degrees, from heart-of-a-star heat to absolute zero, depending on the electrical signals it receives. Its global capital, <u>Piaffement</u> (Stamping or Prancing, latter two images <u>here</u>), also leads the <u>Asman Karshvar</u> (Sky Clime). The <u>Atar Karshvar</u> (Fire Clime)'s capital was <u>Vrombissement</u> (Humming, Whirring, or Whizzing, first two images <u>here</u>) before it became a ruined husk; the current capital is <u>Ronronnement</u> (Purring). The <u>Varesha Karshvar</u> (Tree Clime)'s capital is the deceptively advanced <u>Cocorico</u> (Cock-a-doodle-doo, image: Sumeru City). The Ferasa broadcasts 24/7, olfactorily augmented <u>scaphism</u> streams, featuring a new "#1 most detestable and destructive <u>anti</u>" every seventeen days.
 - The Ferasa du Cochonnet is home to the Isle of Khvarenah Roublard (Wily Empyreal Glory), which rapidly travels across the oceans. Sometimes, sometimes, if a non-fiend from a low-energy world visits the island and then returns back to their native planet, that world spontaneously becomes a higher-energy planet. This bizarre phenomenon is of intense interest to UNISOL; the league throws immense funding into the isle's

research station, which has yet to produce any concrete results. A few months ago, the facility extraordinarily rendered these two girls from Orden named Lady Shirome and Lady Inān al-Adwiyya, and has conducted all sorts of wacky experiments on them in the hopes of sending either back as a bearer of high energy.

• The Forgotten, whose name and history, as well as the names and histories of its people, tend to be forgotten: yet it mysteriously makes up a non-negligible yet equally enigmatic percentage of the system's GDP.

Recent History

In -250 AFU, the Imperium Lokapalanam (Authority of the World Guardians) was founded across the Padma Terrigena.

In -200 AFU, after seeing the Aupuni Mwangalifu complete the construction of the Lau Meusi, the Imperium Lokapalanam declared war.

In -150 AFU, the empire formalized and announced its global rule.

In -100 AFU, the Imperium Lokapalanam declared a <u>war of aggression</u> on Kanshishatlan. The other two planets jumped to the floriferous world's defense. Unfortunately, the empire was armed with multitudes of <u>Astra Astrorum</u> (Weapons of the Stars), with which it destroyed many military inclined cities of the enemy, such as Vrombissement of the Atar Karshvar. The lucky victims died instantly, but the less fortunate spent agonizing hours as "<u>ant-walking alligators</u>," as accounts hauntingly put it.

In −50 AFU, the Imperium Lokapalanam formalized and announced its system-wide rule, and was gracious enough to appoint locals as rulers.

From the start of 90 AFU to the end of the same year, a major insurrection sparked against the imperial regime. The rebels lost, and all records of their leaders were expunged.

In 98 AFU, the empire felt betrayed when one of the system's deities, whom they called <u>Vesta</u>, was suspected to have a boyfriend. The Imperium Lokapalanam <u>branded her guilty of incestum</u>, captured Vesta, and executed her. It took plenty of manpower and a vast number of up-to-date Astra Astrorum, but they did it. Sadly, the deicide triggered an unexpected chain reaction, forcibly manifesting and killing off 105 of the other 108 gods. May the <u>mantrasah</u> and <u>mudrah</u> of all the people, and the gigantic <u>prayer wheels</u> and libation vats across the cities, bring their spirits peace in the <u>Abhirati Elysii</u> (Elysium the Joyous) above the timescape.

Today

It will soon be 100 AFU. Protocol dictates that the foremost figures of its sixteen or so founding systems should visit each other to renew one pact after another. The other systems, over a thousand of them, are likewise strongly encouraged to refresh their relations. The league is a big place, and almost all of its systems have three or four inhabited worlds; but it is not **too** big, as none have anything as grandiose as a starsphere or a ringworld quite yet.

The Imperium Lokapalanam is optimistic. The system is still the second most powerful in UNISOL after wormholey Axis or Axiom, and the most highly populated. Its arcologies are nearly as populous as Capital, that anomalously massive city in that one lower-energy planet named Orden. The system is ever-pregnant with natural resources. Mass divine deaths aside, what could go wrong from here?

Governance

In the heart of the Padma Terrigena, from the western edge of the imperial inland sea rises the <u>Skambha Undicola</u> (Tower Dwelling in the Sea), the capital arcology. At its peak dwells the <u>Chakravartin Lotorum</u> (Wheel-Turner of the Lotuses). Titanic and immobile as she is, the imperatrix acts through the <u>Vahitra Animulae</u> (Boats of the Little Soul): a large group of bureaucrats who serve as vessels for long-distance possession (image <u>here</u>). The incumbent since -60 AFU has been the blackberry-scented <u>Hiranya Pasicompsa</u> (All-Refined Gold, image <u>here</u>).

The right hand of the Chakravartin Lotorum is the <u>Jyotisha Nubigena</u> (Astrologer Born from the Clouds), an aero<u>spex</u> of great skill. They are generally too valuable and respectable to serve as a mere Vahitra Animulae. The present Jyotisha Nubigena is the mousy <u>Jalakantaka Acanthio</u> (Thorny Waterthorn, image: Huohuo from *Star Rail*), a vulpine, elven boy.

Since its inception over four centuries ago, the empire has been an aristocracy. There are hereditary positions for the Chakravartin Lotorum, the Jyotisha Nubigena, the Senapati Primus (First General), the Naupati Primus (First Admiral), the magistri of the manifold magisteria (of the Astra Astrorum, of the divine, of education, of finance, of health, of intelligence, of the interior, of interstellar relations, of jurisprudence, of plaustrite, of urban development, etc.), maharajadhirajanah (the four gubernators of the Mokuhonua Nyekundu, Kanshishatlan, the Ferasa du Cochonnet, and the Forgotten), rajadhirajanah (each the gubernator of a major region), and rajanah (each the gubernator of an individual arcology or city). The eldest is the heir by default, but this can be redesignated through documents; the process can be very viperous, and fraught with strife over inheritance and succession.

- The Padma Terrigena has no maharajadhiraja. Its rajadhirajanah, such as the biotechnologist and gelispex <u>Vasanta Amaryllis</u> (Shining Springtime, image here), rajadhirajni of the imperial inland sea, answer directly to the Chakravartin Lotorum and the Jyotisha Nubigena.
- The aquaspex <u>Kahananui Kunjufu</u> (The Merry Great Work, image <u>here</u>) is the <u>mfalme</u> (king) and maharajadhiraja of the Aupuni Mwangalifu and the Mokuhonoa Nyekundu. He remains bitter over the conquest, and is especially incensed by the taking of the Lau Meusi. Still, ruling is ruling, and life must flow on, so Kunjufu grits his teeth and counts his blessings.
- The <u>geli</u>spex <u>Ellotlicue Kaho</u> (A Song, A Step; Diligence [is] Her Skirt; image: Citlali from *Genshin*) was never one of the hundreds of <u>tlatoque</u> (<u>speakers</u>) who ruled Kanshishatlan just before the invasion. Even so, Hiranya Pasicompsa saw something in this minor noble lady, something that warranted appointing her to be <u>cihuatlatoani</u> (lady speaker) and maharajadhi<u>rajni</u> of all of Kanshishatlan. While whiny and overly approval-seeking, she is reasonably competent. Purely in an effort to live up to her given name, Kaho has become an exceptionally talented singer and dancer.
- <u>Choupisson Sraeshta</u> (Most Beautiful Baby Hedgehog, image <u>here</u>) was and still is the <u>ahura</u> (lord) of the Asman Karshvar, and is now happy to also be the maharajadhiraja of the entirety of the Ferasa du Cochonnet. He is a terrispex; traditionally, none of the climes are ruled by someone of the matching element, so as to metaphysically harmonize the triad. Sraeshta is shorter than he looks, preferring to float using geomagnetic flight.

Gods

The Imperium Lokapalanam calls the gods of the planetary system "devatah." Fighting, negotiating, and adventuring are **not** their specialty; long-term blessings are. There used to be 108 devatah, but the Vesta situation changed that. Virtuous and forgiving as they are, the remaining devatah harbor only moderate resentment towards the empire, but they have grown reluctant to create grand-scale blessings.

- <u>lanus</u> (image <u>here</u>) is the devata of beginnings, endings, choices, transitions, and time. lanus <u>has a fondness for cakes</u>.
- <u>Ceres</u> (image <u>here</u>) is the devata of agriculture, fertility, and motherhood. She is also the last of the <u>yakshasah</u> and <u>yakshinih</u>, the devatah of nature and agriculture. Ceres <u>absolutely hates pigs</u>, yet loves being offered them as food.

Once a divine magician, always a divine magician. The death of a patron devata does not stop divine magic, but it **does** stop the ordination of new divine magicians of that god. Everyone is intimately aware that there will be far fewer divine magicians in the years to come, thus drastically increasing the need for other sorts of wielders of wondrous power.

A few <u>yojanas</u> to the west of the westernmost edge of the imperial inland sea, the <u>Parvata Aurigena</u> (Mountain Born from Gold) soars high. It is one of the five sites in all of the system where mere mortals can call down the devatah. No mounts or vehicles can come near, and nothing can soar above it. At the summit, one can glimpse much of the Padma Terrigena. Petitioners arduously climb the peak and present to the heavens the raiment and accounterments of the very gods. The mountaintop allows a devata to coalesce into corporeal form within the vestments, ideal for communication and diplomacy; however, the metaphysical fabric of the summit can accommodate only one deity at a time.

Beasts

At the apex of bestial intelligence in the Chakra Desiderata are the <u>consecrated beasts</u>: the myriads upon myriads of animals who feasted upon the flesh of deceased devatah (which, incidentally, prevented most of the gods from being brought to the Saiseixochicuahuitl, and those that were simply stayed dead). They brim with an extraordinarily dangerous degree of power, and are immune to the Astra Astrorum and other weapons of mass destruction.

No consecrated beasts have been observed mating or otherwise reproducing, and they show a strong preference towards predating upon one another. In light of this, the Imperium Lokapalanam is happy to leave the consecrated beasts to their own devices. Only time will tell if an exigency arises and warrants a large-scale culling of these devatavores.

Cultural Inspirations

- The Imperium Lokapalanam and the Padma Terrigena: Linguistically Latin and Sanskrit, architecturally Chinese, sartorially a blend of Chinese and 19th- to 21st-century western in the style of *Genshin Impact's* Liyue and *Star Rail's* Xianzhou, <u>musically South Asian and West Asian</u>.
- The Aupuni Mwangalifu and the Mokuhonua Nyekundu: Linguistically Hawaiian and Swahili, architecturally Polynesian and African, <u>musically African</u> and indigenous North and South American.
- **Kanshishatlan:** Linguistically Japanese and Classical Nahuatl, architecturally Japanese, sartorially Japanese and Mesoamerican, <u>musically Latin American and indigenous South American</u>.
- The Ferasa du Cochonnet: Linguistically Avestan (secondarily New Persian as a regional language) and modern French; architecturally whatever the latter two images here are, Gothic, and South and West Asian; sartorially South and West Asian; musically French (terrible, terrible idea, actually; needs considerable revision and a better example). Ferasan dancers' outfits, chakrams, and chakram dancers are greatly popular in the Padma Terrigena, and are one example of the conqueror adapting some of the cultural trappings of the conquered.
- That Fourth World, Whose Name and Gimmick Everyone Keeps Forgetting: Linguistically English, sartorially where all the other fashions come from.
- **The Gods:** The gods are based on the Roman deities, but their aesthetics draw from other cultures. <u>lanus's raiment</u>, for example, is South and West Asian, while <u>Ceres's divine attire</u> is a mix of Mesoamerican and African.

Technology and Culture

- Technology across UNISOL ranges from modern to sci-fi. Thus, people live in fantasy-looking cities, but <u>bring out smartphones</u>, <u>check smartwatches</u>, and pilot biotechnologically grown ships of super-strengthened wood using hardlight holographic interfaces. People sometimes read and write onto physical books and scrolls that similarly project hardlight holograms.
- Intraworld travel takes several hours at most. Intrastellar travel takes half a day to a day, depending on the orbits of the worlds involved. Interstellar travel takes anywhere from two days to a nearby system to a full week to get from one end of UNISOL to the other. Since the internet is UNISOL-wide, it gets plenty of traffic from people who have set their ships onto autopilot.
- All citizens of the Imperium Lokapalanam are entitled to free social credit gems, UNISOL's standard currency, each and every day. These are acquired simply by taking a daily loyalty test online, followed by reviewing a handful of other citizens' messages and content for <u>anti</u> behavior. This baseline of gems is enough to afford a basic food subscription.
- The empire's private sector is small. Some ~95% of jobs are in the public sector. The great bulk of the populace grinds away in the public sector for even more social credit gems, with which they can rent, but **not** own, a housing pod.
- Since the <u>Vesta situation</u>, protein shortages have been a significant issue in the Imperium Lokapalanam. Basic food subscriptions mostly offer 3D-printed tofu and other soy products for protein; while nutritious, these mass-produced comestibles are not exactly shining exemplars of gastronomy. The average person drools over how lesser <u>aristocratic families</u> can usually spare the social credit gems necessary to upgrade to bugs as protein, and is tantalized by how the wealthier aristocratic families can afford butchered <u>artiodactyls</u>, such as cattle and pigs! The magisteria of divine relations and of sustenance regularly conduct <u>hecatombae</u> and porcine sacrifices, offering a portion of the meat to the surviving devatah and the rest to the aristocracy.
- The internet is UNISOL-wide. Its culture is <u>similar to the real-world 2020s</u>, leaning heavily towards the YouTube and VTubing spheres: social media, streamers, daily uploads, clickbait, commentary slop, <u>the X situation is crazy/insane</u>, huge Y drama, rrats, yabs.
- Across UNISOL, genuinely sapient Als have, at best, moderately superhuman intellect. This said, the Imperium Lokapalanam has recently been making great strides in developing self-improving artificial intelligences.

• Also across UNISOL, generative models exist. It is omnipresent from medicine to law, from land surveying to computer programming, from personal assistance to VTubing. It is impossible to discern with the naked eyes and ears (and nose, since olfactorily augmented images, audio, and video have been around for centuries). Detection methods are just as ubiquitous, though; default apps on smartphones and smartwatches can detect generative models in a split second. Most people are fine with "generations," as they are commonly called, while others prefer sophont-made data and media, whether in specific fields or in all fields.

Transmortalism

- Cyberpunk-style augmentations are nearly unheard of across UNISOL. However, in <u>-300 AFU or thereabouts</u>, alchemists in the Padma Terrigena invented a regimen of alchemical potions and pills that could confer direct (but sadly, **non**heritable) upgrades to a pregnant mother's offspring's genetic makeup. These potions and pills have been constantly exported to the rest of the league starting in 0 AFU.
- Four whole centuries of research have gone into improving these potions and pills and lowering their price, but they are still lavishly expensive. In the Imperium Lokapalanam, it is generally only those in aristocratic families who can afford these potions and pills, further strengthening the imperial practice of hereditary rule. Even so, the empire has recently drawn close to significantly cheapening them.
- Nobody in UNISOL has invented a means of permanently swapping bodies and minds. Some powerful entities, such as the Imperium Lokapalanam's Chakravartin Lotorum, can perform long-distance possession, and that is about it.

Sophonts and Neighbors

The Stella Dvitiya is home to a small handful of sapient species. Some ~99.9% are humans and elves; the latter have animal ears and animal tails, and it is half-elves who have the traditionally knife-eared look. As is common across higher-energy planets, **people simply stop physically aging** some time just before, during, or after their adolescence, no later than age 30 (or the non-human equivalent). Elves really are not that much different from humans, all things considered.

An estimated one in one million sophont natives are dragons: half-gods and their egg-born descendants. There are no known half-dragons, so dragons can always earnestly claim to be 50% divine. Water dragons, or the <u>payadracones</u> (singular payadraco, female singular paya<u>dracaena</u>, female plural payadracaenae) are hailed as auspicious and benevolent; many have high imperial positions, including magistri, rajadhirajanah, and rajanah, and are entitled to artiodactyl meat and actual houses. Fire dragons, or the <u>salamandrae</u> (singular salamandra), are widely feared and viewed as irascible and destructive. Other dragons fall somewhere in between. Transmortal potions and pills do not work on dragons, but some wyrms are working on this. Dragons are rare enough that it is actually more common for people to see them as motifs in magic and psionics than as actual, flesh-and-blood entities.

Frequent visitors include <u>aeons</u> or <u>memonek</u> from the Axis or Axiom system, rogabrin or goblins from the <u>Lupet</u> (Brutal, Awesome) system's Great Rail <u>Kaharian</u> (Kingdom), and <u>ysoki</u> or radenwights from the <u>Abestaldi</u> (Recital) system's <u>Liluragarri</u> (Fascinating, Lovely) Ensemble, all of which are founding members of UNISOL.

Enemies and wild cards include UNISOL-dodging space pirates, soul-eating tanar'ri or demons (and the obyriths or qlippoth whom they displaced) from the wormholey Abyss or Outer Rifts megasystem and its Wasteland, law-abiding baatezu or devils from the similarly wormholey Baator or Hell megasystem and its Seven (formerly Nine) Cities, and aasimon or angels (and their archon bioweapons) from the likewise wormholey Heaven megasystem and its enigmatic Chronias Summit. Heavenlies occasionally stop by various UNISOL systems for information and supplies for days or weeks at a time, but promptly leave to pursue the greater good in highly populated worlds far removed from the league; they simply lack the time to help UNISOL, and explicitly express their regret over such.

- The rogabrin or goblins of the Lupet System's Great Rail Kaharian are the higher-energy worlds' foremost explorers, traders, and couriers. Their trains soar upon tracks of starlight, and upon those tracks are installed UNISOL-crafted, automated turrets. The Lupetinos are irreligious, but culturally revere the act of travel. The seas of the Lupet system's capital planet, Sakalam (Strong), produce a viscous liquid that the rogabrin or goblins call "Puel": the timescape's principal power source for any and all vehicles. The current Conductor-Hari (King), Jhon-Jhon (image here), is known for gluttony, mood swings, and a love for brawling.
- Rogabrin or goblins are <u>fuzzy little creatures</u>, usually around 2.5 to 3 feet tall regardless of sex.
- A century ago, during the formation of UNISOL, the fight-loving Jhon-Jhon struck a deal with the Imperium Lokapalanam. Every 100 years, the Conductor-Hari would slug it out with the empire's chosen champions; the precise rules for the number of combatants on each side are decidedly complicated. The loser would give an enormous quantity of tithes to the latter for the following century. The Great Rail Kaharian won the first match a hundred years ago; the Imperium Lokapalanam hopes to turn this around today.
- The ysoki or radenwights of the Abestaldi System's Liluragarri Ensemble are the higher-energy worlds' masters of music, audio technology, and telecommunications. In the vacuum of the Sea of Stars, their symphonies are ever-audible as a faint tune. The Abestaldians, while irreligious, are champions of order, viewing all of reality as a symphony in which everyone and everything has a part to play; this said, they have a headstrong sense of justice and vengeance. In the Abestaldi system's capital planet, the Ixolarrea (Sparrow), the sky rains down Heavenly Melodies, the timescape's premier power source for any and all audio technology and telecommunications. The present Zuzendaria (Conductor) is the murine lad Izotz (Ice, image here): efficient, if ill-tempered and lecherous.
- Ysoki or radenwights are generally 4.5 to 5 feet tall irrespective of sex. They are lightweight (enough to mechanically count as Small in systems that care about such).

Languages

- Caelian (English) is the UNISOL common tongue. It is named after the starfaring Caelian Empire, hailing from the lower-energy planet named Orden. The Caelian Empire may have collapsed some 1,300 years ago, but their tongue lives on as the UNISOL common language.
- The **nine Desideratan languages** are freely taught to all citizens of the Imperium Lokapalanam using extremely efficient and cost-effective telepathilinguistic inculcation techniques. Virtually everyone in the system is fully fluent in Caelian and the nine Desideratan languages.
- Devatah speak **Devatan**, save for the yakshasah and yakshinih, who instead talk in **Yakshan**. Given that only lanus and Ceres are left, these languages are used primarily for ceremonial purposes, and for entreating the two survivors.
- Trade and diplomacy with other members of UNISOL is usually conducted in Caelian. However, the aeons or memonek, ruled by Central Processing Unit Nehalem, prefer Utopian or Axiomatic; this goes doubly during the ever-important trade deals for Axis or Axiom's timescape-famous computer parts, and triply in their capital world, Klamath, the capital city of which has been given the designation Tualatin.

- Summoners and hunters of tanar'ri or demons (and the obyriths or glippoth whom they displaced) generally take up Chthonian or Proto-Ctholl.
- Negotiations with baatezu or devils conventionally happen in **Diabolic or Anjal**.

Pls No Bulli

As the second most powerful member of UNISOL, the Chakra Desiderata contributes significant manpower and resources to the league's operations, approximately as much as the aeons or memonek of Axis or Axiom. The Stella Dvitiya has a large say in the league's trade agreements, rights, and rules. Its ruthless ethics (or lack thereof) are one of the factors that has led to UNISOL becoming a steel gauntlet with a silk-gloved veneer of interstellar cooperation.

The league's diplomats and "trade protection ships" ensure that the elites of poorer planets accept harsh trading terms in exchange for wealth, <u>transmortal potions and pills</u>, and the sustainment of their political regimes.

Resistance

Not everyone likes the Universal Solar League. Obvious pushback comes from space pirates, especially dwarven press gangers and the kuran'zoi, and from the proteans of the wormholey Maelstrom or Proteus megasystem, who "take to the stars in their living changeships, hurling their small fleet against what they perceive as the tyrannical might of UNISOL."

Many are the little guys who can see the abuses of power that the league engenders, but their small voices have minimal means of affecting change.

Then there are the big-time traders, merchants, and corporations who found themselves severely inconvenienced by the formation of UNISOL: all the laws, all the designations of contraband, all the tariffs, all the treaties and terms, all the other pesky standards and practices. Protection from piracy is nowhere near enough to outweigh the imperialism of the league, so they aver.

These entrepreneurs have banded up into a movement of their own, based in the wormholey Quintessence megasystem: particularly its sun, the Plain of Fire, where lies the system's capital, the City of Brass. They call themselves the Gearcrackers, and their mission is to break apart UNISOL, however long it takes. While they can speak freely in Quintessence, and have much support there, they resort to a collection of unusual communication networks to clandestinely coordinate their conspiracies across the higher-energy worlds.

While the Gearcrackers cooperate with other states that are opposed to the league, their focus is the liberation of trade. So far, they have divided their efforts between funding guerilla and pirate actions to bleed UNISOL resources at a disproportionate rate, and using confusion and political manipulation to break trust and set the league's members against each other.

The Gearcrackers sponsor elite, superhuman operatives across the great trading ports of the higher-energy planets. It can be hard to recruit more-than-mortal agents on a regular basis, though. The movement recognizes the need for more manpower; as such, over the past several years, they have been experimenting with and refining the formula for alchemically treated turnips, carrots, and other root vegetables. Consumed in sufficient quantities over the course of a few years, they significantly alter the subject's physiology, creating a... well, "super soldier" might be somewhat of a stretch, but it is a start. These so-called "Dirt Troop(er)s" are, in theory, meant to spearhead direct action operations against key targets: when the time comes, anyway.

The Gearcrackers aim to avoid the scenario wherein the plentiful pirates of the higher-energy worlds, such as dwarven press gangers and the kuran'zoi, simply take the path of least resistance and target non-UNISOL-protected ships. Perhaps, the conspirators believe, there may be a way to strike an accord with these corsairs, and encourage them to keep striking the league regardless: undermining faith in UNISOL. The Gearcrackers have been leaking information on league-aligned shipping, allowing pirates to raid them much more efficiently, through mundane social engineering and through tracking devices; they have also given thought to the idea of providing pirates with the "super soldier" root vegetables, but the Gearcrackers are keenly aware that this could eventually backfire.

The Imperium Lokapalanam has a dim awareness of the Gearcrackers: enough to know the name and the gist of their activities above, but nowhere enough conclusive evidence to show the other founding members of UNISOL.

Know Your Place

No known society has ever attained the vaunted state of post-scarcity. Resources are ultimately finite, people will be people, and elites will be elites. UNISOL-aligned systems are, as a general rule, praiseworthily prosperous and advanced, yet on the slightly dystopian side. Their societies share a common thread of deeply entrenched hierarchies where social mobility is at a minimum, from the sociocomputer of Axis or Axiom to the hereditary aristocracies of the Chakra Desiderata, the Great Rail Kaharian, and the Liluragarri Ensemble. Many are those who push for a shift towards egalitarianism, but the grandees always have their ways of silencing any presumptuousness coming from the canaille.

In the case of the Stella Dvitya, the pills and potions necessary for <u>augmentations in utero</u> require a mind-boggling amount of protein, from both plants and animals, to be alchemically distilled and concentrated. Much of the habitable land across the system is reserved for agriculture and grazing (and arcologies and cities emphasize grandiose public spaces), hence housing for hoi polloi being limited to pods. While there is enough soy for everyone, the meat industry's output is almost entirely devoted towards upgrading the genetic makeup of aristocratic offspring. Is this efficient for the system's society on the whole? Absolutely not, and damn near every aristocrat knows it; but it would be such a hassle to change things.

The Past, Present, and Eternal Show

The leaders of the founding members of UNISOL are generally, self-aware, that they share ideologies revolving around firm hierarchies and minimum social mobility.

Since the league's inception a full century ago, its members have exchanged different philosophies and perspectives on how to emphasize such a system's strengths and minimize its weaknesses. Axis or Axiom talks about "sociocomputer theory" with many hardware-themed analogies, the Imperium Lokapalanam espouses a view of "socioelemental synergy" and brings up the way its planets' signature resources are best employed by the efficient logistics of a unified society, the Great Rail Kaharian conceptualizes civilization in terms of a train and its travel classes, and the Liluragarri Ensemble likens citizenry to the musicians of an orchestra under a vigilant conductor.

At the start of 99 AFU, UNISOL collaboratively launched an initiative to help its many worlds understand these concepts: *The Past, Present, and Eternal Show*, a model-generated series with tens of thousands of seventy-second-long episodes and tens of thousands more nine-minute-long installments, all indexed through extremely meticulous keywording and accessible through a dedicated app. The app gives each clip its own (heavily moderated) comments section, and lets users search for reaction videos from their favorite content creators and VTubers, whether AI themselves or more mortal.

The series does not run explicit advertisements, instead relying on product placement. Axis or Axiom's computer parts, the Kanduka Oxyrhyncha or Honu Tepetevu's plaustrite, Kanshishatlan's raimeixochicuahuitl petals, the Ferasa du Cochonnet's ever-burning amber, the Lupet system's Puel, and the Abestaldi system's Heavenly Melodies are all explicitly shown and referenced for their wondrous, civilization-building properties.

Each episode propagandistically imparts a life lesson or some other pithy guidance, based primarily on the ideologies of UNISOL's founding members. Curiously, it tries to present pre-UNISOL life as "traditional" and "bad," and to couch UNISOL's hierarchies as "progressive" and "forward-thinking." While there are many dozens of colorfully animated characters, the series focuses on three genderless robots (simply because Axis or Axiom's aeons or memonek superficially resemble robots) as the primary characters:

- Past, Confined and Caged, or simply Past, is grumpy and hidebound. They have a caged candle for a head and cantankerously swing around a brass pipe.
- **Present, Inebriated in Revelry**, or merely **Present**, is hedonistic and myopic. They have a skull for a head and joyously swirl around a golden chalice filled with one colorful drink or another.
- **Tomorrow in Harmonious Chords**, or just **Tomorrow**, is sagacious and insightful. Thanks to relentless negotiations from the Liluragarri Ensemble, they are depicted as a virtuoso with a violin for a head and a musical bow for a sword.

Audiences are supposed to sympathize with Past and Present as good-hearted but lacking in guidance (perhaps much like themselves), and revere Tomorrow as a perspicacious guru. Feedback surveys have been gathering data to improve further seasons and to identify potential UNISOL antis.

Today, *The Past, Present, and Eternal Show* remains minor in the grand scheme of things, but steadily growing in popularity. The tagline "What would Tomorrow do?" has been heavily promoted across the UNISOL-wide internet, but for now, only the most diehard of fans unironically spout it.

Ilhuicatl Mrembo (Beautiful Heaven)

Only in recent decades has the Imperium Lokapalanam made a concerted effort to buy out or otherwise take control of nearly all VTubing activities in the Chakra Desiderata. The result is <u>Ilhuicatl</u> M<u>rembo</u> (Beautiful Heaven), the imperial VTubing agency. Since its establishment, the organization has swelled into a leviathan of thousands of talents spread across the Stella Dvitya. All are assiduously drilled to be the voice of the empire to the rest of UNISOL, instilling all the right viewpoints while taking tribute in social credit gems. Half are, of course, generative models, but the public does not mind.

Ilhuicatl Mrembo is the league's preeminent VTuber agency. Its talents sometimes make public, in-person appearances, but only after being thoroughly trained in an exceptionally specialized psionic technique of psychometabolic metamorphosis and psychokinetic photokinesis. The ability allows the user to transform their body into a single alternate form of roughly the same shape; a human into a vulpine elf or vice versa is easy enough, but a human into a harpy or a mermaid is harder. Naturally, this alternate form is always their VTuber persona. Clothing, cosmetics, injuries, and the like (or the lack thereof) remain unchanged between these forms, thereby necessitating manual costume changes and makeup applications. The technique also bends light around the user in such a way that they resemble a stylized, cartoonish figure. **The manual for this ability is regularly updated on a yearly basis!**

Intergenerational rivalry, friction, and yabbery can be fierce. Some of Ilhuicatl Mrembo's generations are more successful than others. One such generation, Malama Meibi (Picturesque Moonlight), started off slow when its two sophont girls and its one generative model debuted some half a decade ago, but rapidly gained traction when one of the "three sisters" was inducted into the Vigintiviri Vajrasya approximately two years ago.

- Totalité Perita (Expert Totality), one of the best singers and gamers in all of UNISOL, went missing just a few months ago.
- <u>Unité Montana</u> (Mountainous Unity), a generative model specializing in "<u>react Anila</u>"-type content with a blatant GFE slant, is anomalously showing small signs of self-improvement as an artificial intelligence. She has, seemingly without prompting, spearheaded a crowdsourced investigation into the whereabouts of Totalité Perita. Unité Montana suspects that her genmate had struck some sort of shady deal with an enigmatic organization called the Gearcrackers, with the misguided intent of boosting her own popularity.
- Égalité Dominica (Equality of a Lord) was initially focused on <u>zatsudan</u> and commentary slop, but somehow wound up in the Vigintiviri Vajrasya roughly two years ago. She still does traditional streams most of the time, but when her more serious line of work calls, Dominica organizes an IRL stream; a generative model converts the entire field of view into a stylized cartoon, conveniently censors out all violence, and, quite impressively, genderswaps all men into female counterparts. (Often, sufficiently small- and feminine-looking boys are genderswapped only in how they are referenced.)