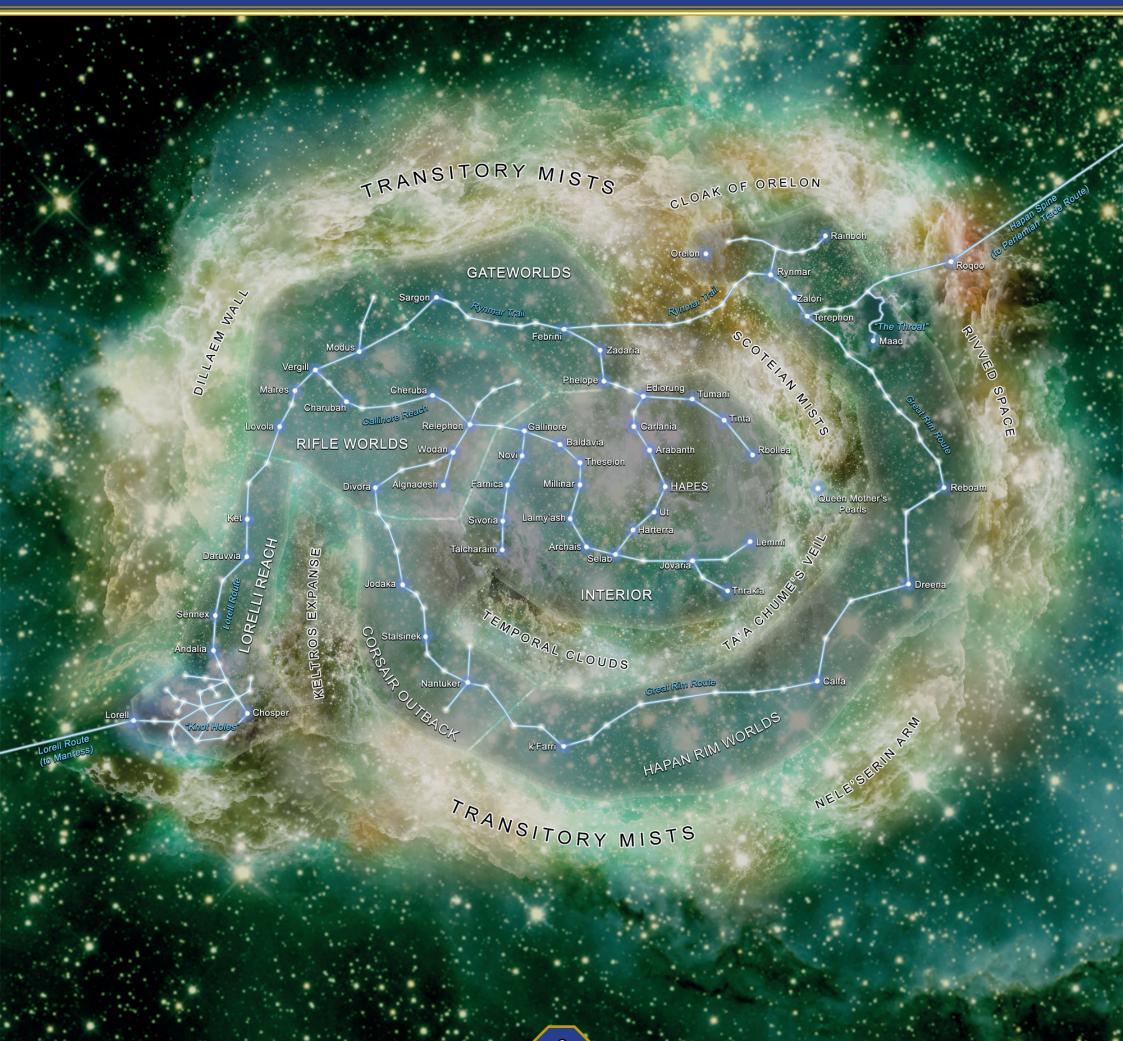
# ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE HAPES CLUSTER

# **ASTROGRAPHY**



# The Hapes Cluster

The Hapes Cluster is an expanse of space - typically regarded as a sector in its own right - situated in the Inner Rim region of the Galaxy. It is located north by east in the wedge-shaped section of the galactic disk known as "the Slice," and is in close proximity to the super-hyperroute known as the Perlemian Trade Route, as well as the minor Trellan Trade Route. The Hapes Cluster's border connect it with the Neshig and Japrael sectors, as well as the Ktilac Region.

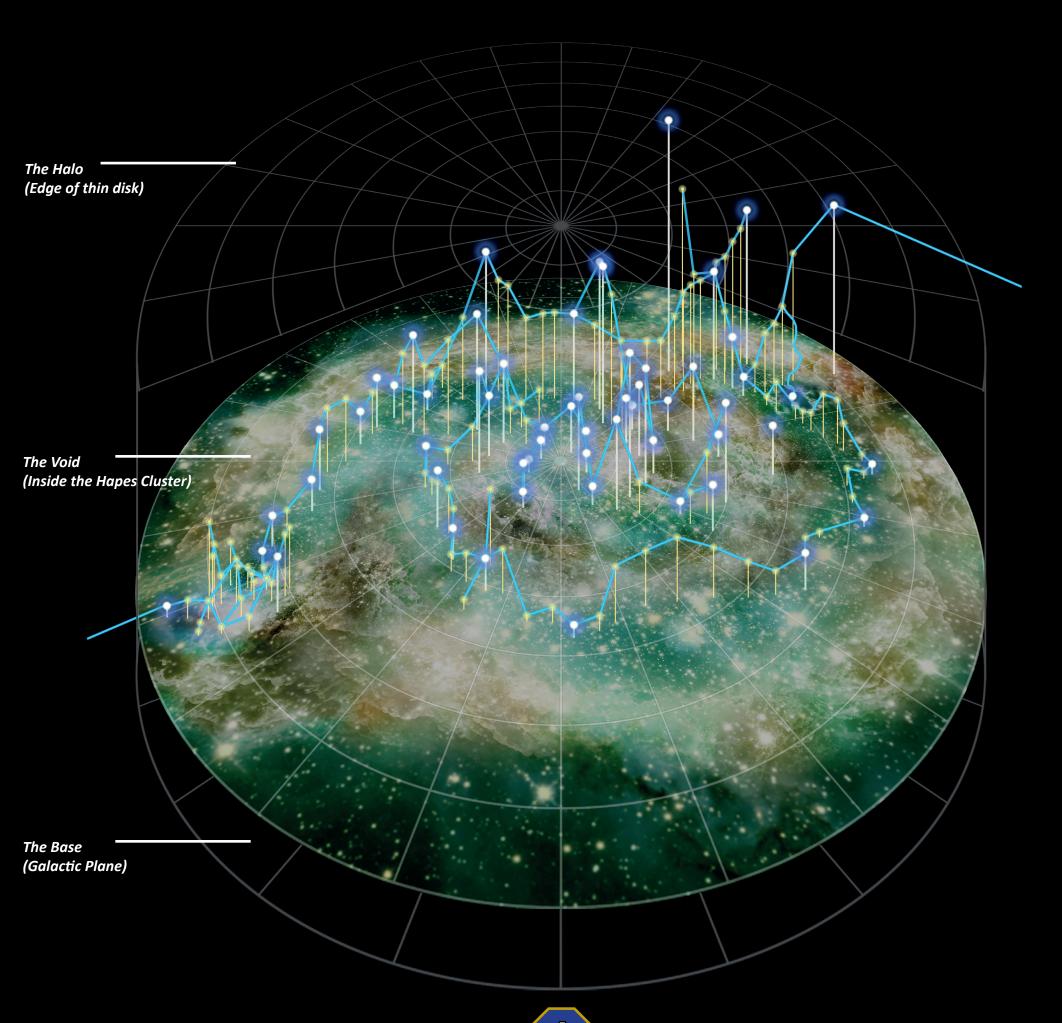
# **CHARACTERISTICS & GENERAL OVERVIEW**

The Hapes Cluster is approximately 3,200 light years (981 parsecs) across from east to west, and 2,500 light years (766 parsecs) from north to south (defined by the extreme points, not taking in to account the irregular borders.) Additionally, it extends approximately 2,000 light years (613 parsecs) up from the galactic plane. The expanse's exact astrophysical definition varies, but it is is traditionally acknowledged to be similar to an open star cluster wrapped in a dark nebula. The nebula is named the Transitory Mists, and surrounds the interior star systems like a bubble, called the "Exterior Veil." Various parts of the outer Transitory Mists are individually named for their distinct colours or individual characteristics - for example Rivved Space and the Dillaem Wall. Some minor parts of the nebula extend from the bottom Base to the top Halo, creating barriers between some of the Hapans' astrographic regions. These areas of the Transitory Mists include the Keltros Expanse, Temporal Clouds, Ta'a Chume's Veil, and Scoteian Mists, all defined as the "Interior Belt".

Travel to, from, and in the Hapes Cluster is dangerous by most standards. Between the Interior Belt and the Exterior Veil of the Transitory Mists, there are additional, smaller drifts of nebulous gas, massive rogue comets, vast asteroid fields, lone stars in close proximity, and other impediments that makes diverging from defined hyperspace routes extremely hazardous. In part, these types of obstructions is what made widespread settlement by the Hapes Consortium go slowly across the millennia. But it has also kept the rest of galactic civilisation out of Hapan affairs, as there are few gaps in the Exterior Veil that actually lead to the safe interior hyperroutes. On official charts, only the Lorell Route via Lorell and the Knot Holes and the Hapan Spine by Roqoo are listed as safe and sanctioned passages in the clouds of ionised gas and impeding hyperspace eddies.

Traditional educational star charts and astrographic maps give a somewhat distorted view of the Galaxy. The X-axis of maps defines a location along the east-west axis, while the Y-axis pinpoints the north-south location. But many fail to take in mind the depth of the galactic disk, where a system's location above or below the galactic plane (or alternatively Coruscant's location on this axis) is defined by positive or negative on a Z-axis. Compared to surrounding sectors, the Hapes Cluster is located somewhat further up on the positive scale of the Z-axis, closer to the outer edge of the thin disk that extends from the galactic plane.

The bottom part of the Hapes Cluster's nebulous regions is what connects it with the surrounding sectors and territories. No explored stars or settled worlds exist in this particular area, which is simply called the Base. But just above that, in the Void, one finds some stars like Lorell and other systems in the Lorelli Reach close to the Knot Holes. Furthermore, numerous other systems further east - k'Farri, Calfa, Dreena, Maad, and Reboam - are particularly close to the Base, but located in the Void of the Hapes Cluster. Because of these system's proximity to the galactic plane and the rest of ga-



lactic settlement, this region has been called the Hapan Rim Worlds. Orelon, besides being the northern-most Hapan system, is also the one that is located furthest out from the Base and galactic plane, defining the start of the Halo (outer edge of the Hapes Cluster closest to the galactic thick disk.)

# The Transitory Mists

As a result of the Jedi Knights' campaigns against the Lorell Raiders, Lorellian society became heavily skewed. Many of the civilisations male warriors had been killed in the conflict, and on most of the settled planets the females were now in majority. The women seized the momentum to stage a revolution across the Lorellian settlements. A conflict followed that spanned four years, with the revolt led by Ta'a Chume, a female Lorellian chieftain. She united with Enilithia Nele'serin of Lorell, the great-granddaughter of an Alsakan slave and the wife of a chieftain who had died in the conflict with the Jedi. She enjoyed great respect among the settlers on Hapes and Lorell, and had her late husband's remaining resources at her disposal, despite her gender. Together, the two drove the campaign for freedom, aided by Mairans and Morthorn warriors who were tired of paying tribute to their pirate overlords. Their efforts were eventually successful, with the women becoming dominant in Lorellian society. This led to Enilithia Nele'serin making herself Queen of Hapes after Ta'a Chume's death, and the founding of the Hapes Consortium in 4,027 BCGT. The initial member worlds were Hapes Prime, Lorell, Gallinore, Theselon, and Baldavia - all former Lorellian colonies - as well Maires and Vergill.

# Exterior Veil

# **DILLAEM WALL**

The reign of Enilithia Nele'serin and eventually her successors has become known as the Foundation Era, a time period where the Consortium was finding its stride.

## **RIVVED SPACE**

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# **CLOAK OF ORELON**

The Cloak of Orelon is a vast, bulbous nebular region that covers much of the Hapes Cluster's north-eastern end, as well as the Halo, from which it extends over the top and down to the Nele'serin Arm in the south and. The Roqoo system is the defined point of intersection between the Cloak of Orelon and Rivved Space nebular regions, where the blue giant's characteristics form a gap in the gasses which turn crimson, and is also the entry point of the Hapan Spine hyperlane.

# **NELE'SERIN ARM**

Named for the Hapes Consortium's first ruling dynasty, the Nele'Serin Arm extends around the entire southern and eastern end, and bottom part, of the Hapes Cluster, extending from Lorell in the west, to Roqoo in the north.

# Interior Belt

# **SCOTEIAN MISTS**

The Scoteian Mists extend from the Cloak of Orelon on the Exterior Veil and deep in to the Hapes Cluster where it connects with Ta'a Chume's Veil. It forms a barrier between the Gateworlds and Interior regions. Efforts to piece the Scoteian succeeded during the Second Expansion Era with the disco-



Above: The emblem of the Hapes Consortium during the Age of Queen Mothers. The fans originally symbolised the founding five Lorellian colonies Hapes Prime, Lorell, Baldavia, Gallinore, and Charubah. Eventually the emblem came to symbolise the five pillars of Hapan High Culture, a concept developed by the Tini'durans.

very of Rynmar and the establishment of the Rynmar Trail. The attempt was successful thanks to the gaps in the nebula closer to the Halo, which allowed for safer travel along a series of stars.

# TA'A CHUME'S VEIL

Named for the woman who helped bring down the patriarchy of Lorellian society and spearheading the way for the founding of the Hapes Consortium. This star-rich nebular region hugs the southern edge and bottom of the Interior region where it connects with the Scoteian Mists near Queen Mother's Pearls. In the south-west, Ta'a Chume Veil mixes with the Temporal Clouds. Overall the nebula forms a barrier between the Interior region and the Hapan Rim Worlds.

### **TEMPORAL CLOUDS**

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# **KELTROS EXPANSE**

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# **IRREA MIST**

Smaller than most of the other nebulous regions of the Interior Belt, the Irrea Mist is essentially a small pocket of dense, ionised gas that lies north of the Gallinore Reach hyperlane, seperating the Rifle Worlds and Gateworlds regions of the Hapes Cluster. The Rynmar Trail skirts the the Irrea Mist between the Modus and Sargorn systems, but other attempts to chart a proper route through this region have failed. See the Relephon Axis (Olanji's Folly.)

# Hapan Regions

As a result of the Jedi Knights' campaigns against the Lorell Raiders, Lorellian society became heavily skewed. Many of the civilisations male warriors had been killed in the conflict, and on most of the settled planets the females were now in majority. The women seized the momentum to stage a revolution across the Lorellian settlements. A conflict followed that spanned four years, with the revolt led by Ta'a Chume, a female Lorellian chieftain. She united with Enilithia Nele'serin of Lorell, the great-granddaughter of an Alsakan slave and the wife of a chieftain who had died in the conflict with the Jedi. She enjoyed great respect among the settlers on Hapes and Lorell, and had her late husband's remaining resources at her disposal, despite her gender. Together, the two drove the campaign for freedom, aided by Mairans and Morthorn warriors who were tired of paying tribute to their pirate overlords. Their efforts were eventually successful, with the women becoming dominant in Lorellian society. This led to Enilithia Nele'serin making herself Queen of Hapes after Ta'a Chume's death, and the founding of the Hapes Consortium in 4,027 BCGT. The initial member worlds were Hapes Prime, Lorell, Gallinore, Theselon, and Baldavia - all former Lorellian colonies - as well Maires and Vergill.

# **Astropolitical Regions**

# LORELLI REACH

Situated in the south-western portion of the Hapes Cluster, the Lorelli Reach forms a corridor between nebular regions of the Transitory Mists, allowing access to the rest of the sector. The Dillaem Wall lies to the west, the Nele'serin Arm to the south, and the Keltros Expanse runs along the regions

eastern border all the way to the Rifle Worlds in the north. Starting at a gap in the nebula formed around the Lorell system near the Base, the region's western and southern end is dominated by the Knot Holes hyperlane junctions where also the Chosper system is located. To the north, the Lorelli Reach extends gradually up the Z-axis and out of the Knot Holes with the Lorell Route hyperlane passing through the Andalia and Sennex systems, before eventually reaching Daruvvia and Ket. The hyperlane continues past Ket, but the region itself ends at the star called Schoi, which marks the beginning of the Rifle Worlds.

The Lorelli Reach was the first area of the Hapes Cluster explored by the Lorellians, sometimes called Lorell Raiders, who ventured in from the Lorell system. They successfully navigated the Knot Holes, but failed the discover the Chosper system, which was not found until centuries later. After the female uprising and the establishment of the Hapes Consortium, Lorell was still the only settled system in the region. Despite Lorell's status as an initial member world of the Consortium, the Lorelli Reach was defined as a seperate region from the Founding Worlds - which contained the seven other settled systems. This was partially because of some initial rivalry between Lorell and Hapes Prime over dominance in the Hapes Consortium's affairs, where the Lorelli Reach was the dominion of Lorell, and the Founding Worlds the dominion of Hapes Prime. But the seperation was also born out of the notion of keeping the region as a militarised bottleneck against the rest of the Galaxy.

During the Foundation Era, which spanned 238 years under the Nele'serin dynasty, Andalia, Daruvvia, and Ket were all settled and became member worlds of the Consortium. Sennex, however, was simply defined as Hapan territory due to its atmospheric conditions. Not until the Second

Expansion Era, many centuries later, were the remaining parts of the Lorelli Reach south-eastern end properly charted and the Chosper system discovered on the very edge of the Keltros Expanse.

### **INTERIOR**

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### RIFLE WORLDS

This populous region lies on the western end of the Hapes Cluster with many of its systems high up on the Z-axis in the Void. The region borders five of the other six Hapan regions: the Lorelli Reach to the south-west; the Corsair Outback to the south-east; the Interior region in the east; and the Gateworlds in the north. To the west, the region borders the Dillaem Wall, and between the Lorelli Reach and Corsair Outback, the Keltros Expanse extends some distance in to the Rifle Worlds. To the north, the Irrea Mist forms a barrier between the Rifle Worlds and Gateworlds. Several major hyperlanes converge in the region, with Vergill being the meeting point for the Lorell Route, the Rynmar Trail, and the Gallinore Reach.

After venturing beyond the Knot Holes and passing up the present day Lorelli Reach, Lorellian scouts made contact with both the Mairans, and consequently the Morthorn of Vergill. From these two races, they learned of other worlds deeper in the heart of the Hapes Cluster and travelled along the route now called the Gallinore Reach. Charubah, Cheruba, and Relephon were systems discovered in that time, but only Charubah system was settled and became part of the Lorellian colonies. After the overthrow of the Lorell Raider chieftains, Charubah, Maires and Vergill were among the initial member worlds of the Hapes Consortium, and the entire expanse was considered part of the Founding Worlds region, along with Gallinore, Baldavia, These-

lon, and Hapes Prime.

Cheruba and Relephon were settled and became member worlds during the Foundation Era, while Lovola was simply defined as Hapan territory. During the First Expansion Era and the Arxianic dynasty, the Wodan and Algnadesh systems were discovered on the southern end of the Relephon Axis, with Wodan becoming a member world. Maires and Vergill saw little human settlement, so Charubah was regarded as the dominant system in the western end of the Founding Worlds. Noble houses and corporations from Charubah's worlds oversaw the northern and southern expansion of Hapan territory from the Gallinore Reach, an effort that was aided by the arrival of immigrants from the outside Galaxy who were fleeing the Galactic Republic's instability and conflicts - both internal and against external parties.

The name Rifle Worlds came about during the Antiquity Era and the Tini'duran dynasty. The Queen Mother declared the intention to finally isolate the Hapes Consortium from the rest of the Galaxy. This move was resisted by several worlds along the Gallinore Reach and Lorell Route, with Jyll in Charubah, Relephon's moons, Wodan, and Cheruba revolting. The Queen Mother tasked House Olanji, a militaristic and wealthy ruling noble family from Charubah, with quelling the uprising which consequently was both bloody and short-lived. For rebelling against the wishes of the monarch, the Founding Worlds region was split in two and both renamed. The Interior in the east, and the Rifle Worlds in the west, the latter consisting of systems directly or indirectly involved in the failed secession and the name reflecting their mark of shame. House Olanji became a star in the eyes of the ruling dynasty, and their role in the Hapes Consortium was cemented for centuries to come.

House Olanji's dominance over Rifle World affairs was made clear in several distinct ways. The region became the center of the Hapes Consortium's industrial activities, focused in the Charubah system. Not only did they

produce starships and vehicles, but also weapons, droids, and other technological innovations were manufactured. In essence, the name of the region eventually came to refer to its extensive armaments production instead of the historical uprising. Systems near Charubah were essentially dependencies of the Grand Duchy of Charubah helmed by House Olanji, with worlds like Cheruba, Wodan, and Relephon's moons falling under their sway. The discovery of the Divora and Modus systems during the Second Expansion Era further extended House Olanji's influence, with the former also becoming a dependency.

The governments of Maries and Vergill were largely unaffected by Charubah's machinations. Their status as loyal founder worlds meant the Royal Family on Hapes Prime would defend their interest, preventing Charubah from forcing its will on the two non-human races. The Morthorn of Vergill despised the industrial activities of the Rifle Worlds region, but adored technological innovations that served their needs, and used their status with the Royal Family to ensure fair prices when importing goods from Charubah. The Mairans were more industrial in nature, but undoubtedly the most skeptical of House Olanji. As Maires maintained a monopoly on production and export of medical supplies within the Hapes Consortium, it was in the best interest of their economy to keep a firm grip on the kolto, lest Charubah should target it for buyups.

### **GATEWORLDS**

Blah blah

During the First Expansion Era, the Hapes Consortium extended its borders in to parts of the present day Gateworlds region. Phelope and Zadaria were the first to be discovered, but advances were made north to Febrini not long after. There the Hapan scouts made contact with the Belgorians, descendants of a Mothorn warrior tribe that had set out from Vergill with sleeper ships in a long distant past, and had since been cut off from their

ancestral homeworld. Because of the Belgorians aggressive nature, Febrini was not included among the Consortium member systems for centuries to come, but would eventually be won over by reunification efforts by Mothorn diplomats. During the First Expansion Era and the royal dynasties that succeeded the Arxianic family, this area of the Hapes Cluster was simply designated the Frontier.

The Frontier name endured until the end of the Second Expansion Era. By this time, the Belgorians had joined the Consortium as a member race, and the Febrini system was included in the Hapan territories. From Febrini, Hapan scouts blazed the Belgorians' ancient trail westward, reaching Sargorn, and eventually connecting with Modus in the Rifle Worlds. Eastward expansion was also made, reaching the Rynmar system in what would become the northern end of the Hapan Rim Worlds region, establishing the Rynmar Trail hyperlane. Because of Sargon, Febrini, Zadaria and Phelope's strategic location as a gateway to the new frontier in the Hapan Rim Worlds, as well as being a northern path to the Interior region, the systems received their present day collective name, the Gateworlds.

## **CORSAIR OUTBACK**

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# **HAPAN RIM WORLDS**

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# Hyperlanes & Travel Routes

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# Major Hyperlanes

# **LORELL ROUTE**

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# **HAPAN SPINE**

The Hapes Consortium was initially formed as a loose union of member worlds under the reign of Nele'serin as the Queen of Hapes.

## **GREAT RIM ROUTE**

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## **RYNMAR TRAIL**

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## **GALLINORE REACH**

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# RYNMAR TRAIL

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# **INTERIOR CURVE**

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# **Local Routes**

# **KNOT HOLES**

A travellers first meeting with the Hapes Cluster past Lorell is the jumbled maze of hyperlanes, stars, and beacons known as the Knot Holes, which lies at the southern end of the Lorelli Reach region where there is an opening

in the Exterior Veil of the Transitory Mists. Truly, the Andalia system to the north can be said to be the proper entrance to the Hapes Cluster. While the Lorell Route comes from the exterior of the Hapes Cluster and continues towards the Rifle Worlds through the Knot Holes, correctly navigating this junction can be a major issue for travellers unfamiliar with this part of space. There are many false beacons placed to capture vessels circumnavigating security checkpoints or to perform random customs checkups, and more beacons are simply placed to mark dead ends that culminate in outskirts of the Transitory Mists. Some of the routes in the Knot Holes were navigated by the Lorellians prior to the founding of the Hapes Consortium, but it was not until the Second Expansion Era that southern section containing Chosper was charted by the Hapans.

### THE THROAT

The route called the Throat is an anonymous path that extends down from the fourth star on the Hapan Spine towards the bottom the Base, near the Void. The route gets its name from its irregular shape and narrow passages along beacons through extentions of the Transitory Mists' so called Rivved Space, cluttered with dangerous debris and hyperspace eddies. It ends in Maad, one of the most remote and isolated star systems of the Hapes Cluster, where the black-purple protostar Maad has cleared a pocket in the surrounding nebula. Adding to the navigational difficulties, entrance to the system is only possible through a final, narrow maw littered with planetoid-sized ice crystals that formed out of the remnants of a collapsed gas giant.

# **RELEPHON AXIS (OLANJI'S FOLLY)**

Centered on the Relephon system in the Rifle Worlds region, the Relephon Axis is a route that runs south through Wodan to Algnadesh, and north towards the Irrea Mist along three stars. While both extentions were mapped during the First Expansion Era, the northern trail was charted first. It

was an attempt by the Olanji family to find a safe route from Relephon to Phelope, but the intersecting Irrea Mist prevented their success, hence the name Olanji's Folly. However, the later discovery of the Wodan and Algnadesh systems to the south meant Olanji efforts had overall not been in vein, but the unofficial name Olanji's Folly has stuck with the northern part of the Relephon Axis.

### **ALSACE TRAIL**

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### **MATHONORE BIDENT**

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# SION REACH

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# NANTUKER FORK (QEN'S FOLLY)

After the blazing of the Great Rim Route during the Third Expansion Era, explorers made two attempts to link the Corsair Outback to other parts of the Hapes Cluster from the Nantuker system. As a result, the Nantuker Fork was established, with one route extending north in to the Temporal Clouds - an abandoned attempt to chart a path to the Talcharaim system on the Alsace trail in the Interior region. The south-western path was originally the final leg of a route used by pirates to gain access to the Corsair Outback from the exterior of the Hapes Cluster. While it was no longer accessible due to nebular drifts, explorers hoped to use sections of this path to chart a new

route across the Keltros Expanse to the Chosper system in the Lorelli Reach. Efforts were partially successful, but the route was hazardous due to the ionic storms surrounding the pivotal beacon near the star called Eye of Rel'amma. The name Qen's Folly for this section of the Nantuker Fork comes from the Hapan Civil War. Draconian noblewoman Talia Qen entered the Keltros Expanse along this path with the Tractica Heavy Cruiser *Fist of Ci'hani*, which was subsequently lost in a trap set by the Phoenix Movement.

# **DILLAEM PATH**

Extending north from the Modus system, the Dillaem Path runs along two stars and culminates close to the nebular region called the Dillaem Wall. The path was charted in an attempt to find new star systems and reach the Sargon system during the Second Expansion Era. With the charting and establishment of the Rynmar Trail, efforts to extend the Dillaem Path were abandoned.

dent and Rbollea on the Sion Sling, both systems in the Hapes Cluster's Interior region. These two routes met at a star in close proximity to the nebular region called Ta'a Chume's Veil, and from there ran through Queen Mother's Pearl. It extended on to the Reboam system in the Hapan Rim Worlds, where it connected with the Great Rim Route.

Significant for Cazin'turin Path was the fact that the route connected the Interior region and Hapan Rim Worlds directly, foregoing the need to pass through the Rifle Worlds and Corsair Outback, or the Gateworlds. However, the long and complicated passage by dozens of stars and beacons in Ta'a Chume's Veil meant that the route saw very little traffic. Ships travelling along Cazin'turin Path were primarily military in nature, and established Queen Mother's Pearls as a notable border-point during the Hapan Civil War. Because of the deployment of pulsemass mines during that conflict, along with unpredictable and uncharted debris now cluttering the area, it sees practically no use.

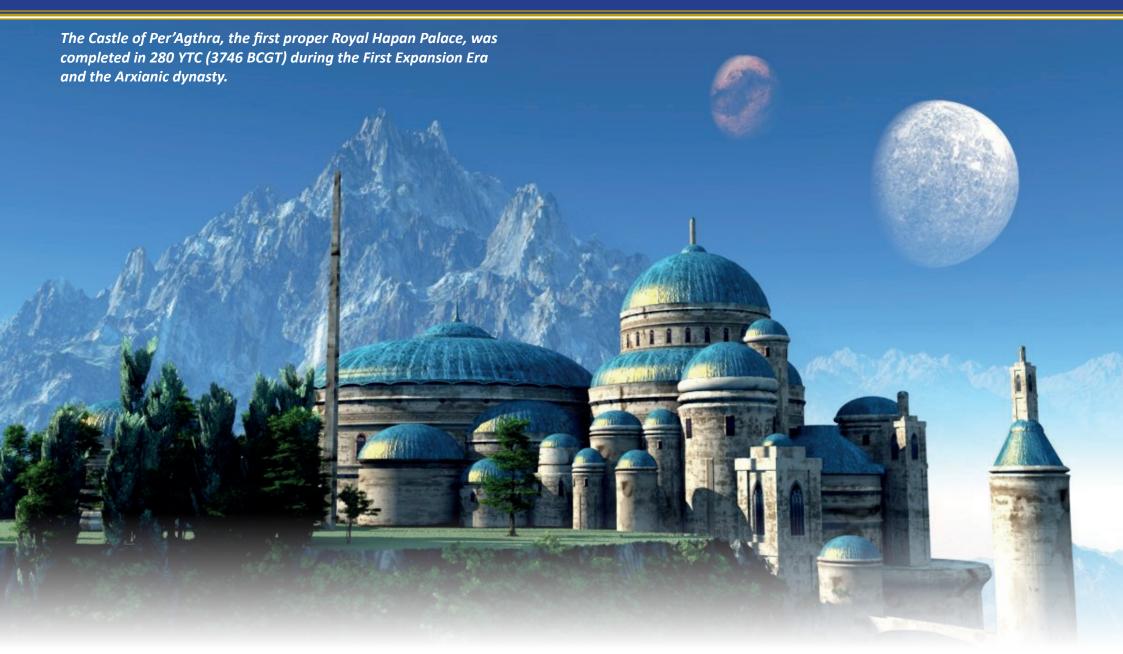
# **Defunct Routes**

# **LORELLIAN PATH**

The Lorellian Path was the route taken by the Lorellians to reach the depths of the Hapes Cluster's Interior region, and extended between Theselon and Hapes Prime along a series of lone stars. But was a dangerous and complicated route that left Hapes Prime somewhat isolated from the rest of the Lorellian colonies, and later the other Founding Worlds of the Hapes Consortium. During the First Expansion Era, the Lorellian Path was abandoned for the sake of the safer Interior Curve.

# **CAZIN'TURIN PATH**

A hyperroute that extended from the Lemmi system on the Mathonore Bi-



# **Antiquity Era**

# A TIME OF CULTURAL ADVANCEMENT

In 621 YTC (3405 BCGT) the Tini'duran family rose to power, heralding the onset of the Hapes Consortium's Antiquity Era. This time period that spanned five centuries was marked by increased militarism; a reaction to the complacency towards piracy on the fringes of Hapan space during the pre-

ceeding era. Regardless of advances in technology made during this peaceful period, no attempts were made at expanding the frontiers of the government's territory. The Tini'durans preferred to focus on building up the new colony worlds that had been discovered during the Arxianic dynasty, raising them up to be worthy member worlds of Consortium with compareable living standards and infrastructure to that of older planets under Hapan rule.

One concern the monarchs of this era had was the diversity amongst the colonies where cultural traditions flourished, but not always in sync with the throne world. Distinct differences arose on the planets, sometimes varying from city to city, or continent to continent. The greatest and lasting legacy of the Tini'durans has always been considered to be their devotion to the advancement of an overarching Hapan culture to provide unity and their preemptive stemming of what could have been a breeding ground for future division. One of the steps in this project was the establishment of more prestigious educational facilities, also in newer worlds. Selab and Ut, now revered centres of arts and education, are testament to this. Furthermore, the Royal Architectual Guild was established, solely devoted to ensuring the standards and prestige of architecture on newer worlds of the Consortium. Apart from the style of buildings, public squares and the like, great effort was made to maintain the balance between infrastructure and safeguarding the sanctity of nature, a concept the Queen Mothers held dear.

The introduction of the Hapes Consortium's nobility in 702 YTC (3324 BCGT) was also one of the major reforms of the era. The motivation for doing so had several distinct elements. While Hapes Prime ruled the Hapes Consortium and had a unifying culture, the individual worlds and in some cases regions of different worlds had various forms of internal governments, or none at all. The nobility was meant to oversee the systems and worlds under the Consortium's banner and ensure that they remained loyal vassals. In essence, the nobles became the Queen Mothers' stewards. The nobility also meant establishing firm and rigid levels within Hapan society, with potential

this region has been called the Hapan Rim Worlds. Orelon, besides being the northern-most Hapan system, is also the one that is located furthest out the Void and galactic plane, defining the start of the Halo (outer edge of the Hapes Cluster closest to the galactic thick disk.)

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