

III. BIRTH OF NOVUS

“An ancient being – which can only be described as a god – witnessed a cosmos consumed by war, terror and hatred. He saved all life from extinction and crushed all aggressors. In his omniscient wisdom he shaped the universe. He established peace and prosperity then departed into the heavens. The most holy name of the ancient being was Creaos.”

– Chronicle of the Glorious Rebirth

“In the beginning, before life began, there was nothing. Before there was nothing, there was madness.” This is the opening sentence from the Book of Novus, an ancient and most holy tome describing the history of the cosmos shaped by Creaos. Only realms that survived the First WARSURGE would truly understand these words... for in truth, the Book of Novus spoke of this era of unceasing insanity and violence.

According to Novus legend, a god-entity known as Creaos created the Novus universe and put an end to a time of great suffering, halting many evils that had raged ceaselessly for aeons before the universe began. Soon after in a period that could've been seconds or centuries, Creaos shaped a universe, born into an image of his choosing. He named it Novus.

When the new universe of Novus was founded, only one planet had life. It was from this world that Creaos formed his people out of the elements. This was the very beginning of the Novus Empire, and it was from there that technology rapidly developed under Creaos' tuition and guidance. Before the first generation perished, deep space travel led to even greater development of the empire. In deep space many planets were discovered, most of which were unfit for survival. However, with terraforming technology most of these worlds could be modified into habitable worlds. Only a handful of planets couldn't be used in the Novus Empire, these were often referred to as 'dead worlds' by planetary exploration fleets.



Instead of fear and death in an Omniverse consumed by WARSURGE, this newly created society flourished. Technology and society rapidly developed under the guidance of Creaos, as he often helped his creations personally. He declared this divine civilisation to be the 'Novus Empire', a beacon of hope and reason in his universe.

Despite their advancement and almost crimeless society, not everyone conformed to civilisation, nor was it entirely perfect. During this early time Creaos founded the Peacekeepers, a small police militia to maintain his law. Shortly after, a Novarch was chosen as ruler of the empire, allowing Creaos to step back and watch his creations from afar. By this time his universe revered and worshipped him as a god; he neither confirmed nor denied this belief and his apparent absence only added to the mystery.

However, something Creaos did not expect happened. Over the centuries, some arose who would question the empire and its god-like founder. These citizens desired absolute truth, and they suspected the entire Novus Empire was built on nothing but a lie. They heard whispers from creatures beyond the veil of their reality... and slowly became aware of the Infinite Dark.

In time, the questioning citizens became a sect of mystics and knowledge seekers within Novus society. They practiced activities such as sorcery, occult studies, the art of alchemy and other acts that defied nature. Being descendants of those formed by Creaos, they contained a fragment of his power, making them aware of the darkness lurking just outside their perception.

These Novus citizens became mystics and learned how to tap into a shadowy energy source. By quieting their minds, they peered into the void and discovered the Infinite Dark... and from this Infinite Dark, something spoke to them. In this vast black ocean of space, the violent memories of WARSURGE somehow still lingered, now leeching out and tainting the new realm.

Regrettably, Creaos was not a completely omniscient being; he did not perceive the nascent threat in the midst of his creation. It would be this infectious echo of the past that would ruin a nigh-perfect genesis. The First WARSURGE had left a scar upon the Infinite Dark, and it was beginning to reverberate across the Omniverse, directing itself into his own Novus universe.

Due to their connections to the Infinite Dark, the mystics became known as 'Dark Artists'. However, it would not be their practices but their autonomy and rebellious beliefs that threatened the peace and stability of the galaxy. They would start a war; a raging wildfire that would devastate their galaxy.