

\_PROPHECY\_ALIEN\_NAME\_

scary

militaristic

pronounceable

Does it refer to their history, religion, or purpose?

\_BIG\_ALIEN\_NAME\_

pronounceable

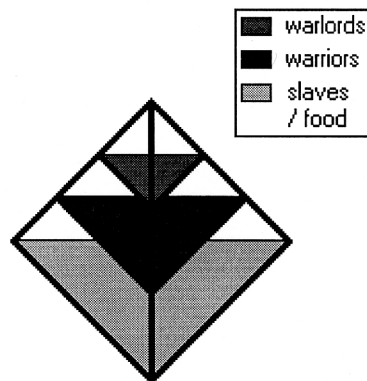
militaristic?

signifying their roles as organizers of the Great Pyramid of the universe

### The \_BIG\_ALIEN\_NAME\_

For a century or more, the \_BIG\_ALIEN\_NAME\_ have been monitoring the progress of all known sentient species in the galaxy, searching for the fourth race of conquerors to join their alliance. Only the most powerful warriors are suited to their purpose, however, for all other races are to be subjugated – or destroyed.

The \_BIG\_ALIEN\_NAME\_ see the universe as a vast pyramid. At its apex sit the \_BIG\_ALIEN\_NAME\_, organizers and conquerors of the vastness of the universe. Only these have the technology to create the wormhole gates, and they use this technology sparingly and only when it furthers their needs. Any race which seems able to reproduce the wormhole technology is quickly and summarily destroyed by the vast arsenal of the \_BIG\_ALIEN\_NAME\_. To establish what they see as the mathematically appropriate order of things, the \_BIG\_ALIEN\_NAME\_ seeks three sentient races capable of being their *Warlords* – commanding smaller fleets which do the bidding of the \_BIG\_ALIEN\_NAME\_, exploring even further the vast reaches of space, and conquering or destroying those who merit such treatment. The Warlords sit at the three corners of the second level of the pyramidal hierarchy.



The next level of the pyramid contains the warriors – those races who have achieved the technology (and the state of mind) to engage in galactic and/or planetary warfare. The warrior races are constantly monitored by the \_BIG\_ALIEN\_NAME\_. Where it is possible, they carefully nudge warrior civilizations closer to war, pitting the smaller races against one another to cull out the weaker warriors. Those who prove themselves in battle repeatedly, demonstrating their approbation of the policy of conflict and conquest to the \_BIG\_ALIEN\_NAME\_, are invited to ascend further up the Great Pyramid to the position of Warlord. Those who fail descend the pyramid to be listed among the remaining, weaker races – who are seen as fit only to be food or slaves to the \_BIG\_ALIEN\_NAME\_.

No ally's position is inviolate, however, and the Warlord races are frequently sent forth to "test" themselves against the other races who attain the status of warrior in the \_BIG\_ALIEN\_NAME\_ pyramid.

### **The Warlords**

Currently, only two races have been granted Warlord status. One, the \_PROPHECY\_ALIEN\_NAME\_, has been assigned the task of testing the humans and eliminating the Kilrathi (so their worlds can be harvested for the \_BIG\_ALIEN\_NAME\_). The second Warlord race, the \_THIRD\_ALIEN\_NAME\_, is a smaller race which has achieved its position only through its savagery in combat. The \_THIRD\_ALIEN\_NAME\_ are situated on the opposite side of the alien universe from the \_PROPHECY\_ALIEN\_NAME\_, however, and will probably not figure prominently in the first two games of the trilogy.

Until recently, there was a third Warlord race, which dared to attempt wormhole travel. The seven worlds of their home system were systematically harvested, their fleets annihilated by the vast armada of the \_BIG\_ALIEN\_NAME\_. The conjunction of these events with the destruction of Kilrah has lead the \_BIG\_ALIEN\_NAME\_ to investigate the human race for possible promotion to Warlord status.

### **The \_PROPHECY\_ALIEN\_NAME\_**

The \_PROPHECY\_ALIEN\_NAME\_ are a race who have proven themselves sufficiently to be invited into the triumvirate of Warlords serving the \_BIG\_ALIEN\_NAME\_. Being closest to the Human/Kilrathi war, they have been granted a single wormhole in order to "test" the Humans for possible ascension into the vacant third position on the Great Pyramid, and to punish the Kilrathi – who, as losers, are fit only for slavery or food status – for their defeat.

There is a division amongst the \_PROPHECY\_ALIEN\_NAME\_, however. Some fear that the humans, being closest to their position in the universe, may encroach upon their territories (especially given their quick rate of reproduction) – even though the \_BIG\_ALIEN\_NAME\_ would frown on such infighting. Others feel that a third ally is essential, although their reasons are unclear. Still, they accept their own position in the Great Pyramid, and they embrace this time of their testing.

### **Sample Alien Comms**

#### **To Humans:**

Brother of the World Devourer, your Test is at hand.

Your race will end.

Newborn, your Testing shall devour you.

You are unfit to ascend the pyramid.

#### **To Kilrathi (or humans):**

Die, food species.

Your life is forfeit, slave creature.