

Wrexima,

Here's what I dug up. It's pretty obvious these are the ones we're looking for. See attachment.

Regards,

The Nothing Man

[Attachment]

Relevant Excerpts from The Sentient Fauna of Alima by Professor Exellen Diodomos

Chapters

1. Introduction and Acknowledgements
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Introduction

Upon my graduation from the Academy of Universal Knowledge on Bal Toneth, I visited many of the planets I had long dreamed of exploring. I dove with the Leviathons on planet Chithon, examined the ancient sentient plants of Kal Dronogh and listened to the hypnotic song of the ancient singing moss of Venu.

After decades spent knee-deep in the rigorous pursuits of species history, I thought myself jaded, immune to the new beauty of discovery.

It was the rediscovery of the planet Alima that finally sparked a quickening in my soul, a renewal of my love for knowledge. I realized then that it was my love of the mysterious, my awe of the unknown, my excitement about the vastness of space that was missing from my current endeavors.

Straightaway I booked passage on the nearest scientific vessel, the *Meriwether*, and joined a crew of like-minded, adventurous, knowledge seekers.

I will never forget the moment we cleared Inter-Space, and saw the blue and green orb swirling before us in the light of its glowing red star.

This, my contribution to the full catalogue of the planet of Alima, focuses on the sentient fauna of the planet. For more information on Alima and theories regarding its creation and abandonment, I highly recommend Virtugo Dariumun's *From Whence They Came*,

an excellent dissection of all the gathered information on the fascinating Cthuman species.

For a full measure of scientific procedure and a detailed explanation of the steps we took to remain undetected and to in no way interfere with the ecosystem of the planet, please see Appendix XIV.

A special thank you to fellow Professor Lindmere Arunous for loaning me *Theories of Genetic Paradises* by T.L. Arinaut, a work I cite heavily in this book.

May this, my most joy-filled work, inspire future and fellow explorers to dive deeper into the mysteries of space. Our universe is vast, and there is still much mystery left to uncover.

The Planet Alima

The planet of Alima is fourth from her star, Dracon, and is located in the upper left quadrant of the Callimorphus Ursae Majoris galaxy.

Dracon's system includes no other inhabited planets, though the many planetary satellites are still being catalogued. Alima has three spectacular moons. Though at the time of publishing no official names have been accepted for these moons, herein I refer to them by the name the Alima inhabitants give to them: Briteas, Skarab and Anaco.

Briteas is the brightest of the moons and is visible even during the daytime sky. It is the closest of the moons to the planet, and is in tidal lock with Alima. The planet facing side is a startling off-white color, unusual in a naturally occurring planetary satellite. Standing on the surface, the moon rises like a great lantern, feeling close enough to touch.

Skarab and Anaco rise at night, and both are barely approaching tidal lock, suggesting they are a more recent addition, though theories still abound at this stage of discovery.

Skarab is a strong golden-brown color, with wide bands of brighter yellow dirt striping the surface. The result looks like a precious stone in the night sky.

Anaco is a color that can only be described as jade green, and, indeed, may actually be a moon made of jade. More on this in chapter six.

Alima has four continents and many smaller islands. The inhabitants name these continents Icehold, Stormhold, Playa and Vorken. Icehold and Stormhold are important only to nautical travelers, as they are both too cold for habitation. The oceans have no distinct names, being referred to overall as The Brine, though features of interest are named.

As this book focuses on the sentient fauna, I will not describe the weather patterns, flora or non-sentient fauna on the planet. Nor will this book focus on the geology or oceanography of Alima. For more information on the habitat of the planet as a whole, I recommend the works of Arunous, Dariumun, Archan Atius and Lunala Etrium.

[...]

The Species

There are five sentient species on the planet's surface, and one sentient species in the oceans.

The land species refer to themselves as Flen, Ziik, Thailen, Keffre and Amphians. The name for the ocean dwelling species is impossible to write phonetically, but we have nicknamed them Sirens for ease of use.

[....]

What is most exciting about these races is that they appear to be genetic modifications of well-known *homo sapien* encountered species. Nowhere else in the universe, except in known cases of genetic modification, have we run across bipedal, naturally occurring creatures of this type.

To put it crudely, the races appear to be: Bug People, Bird People, Lizard People, Cat People and Deer People. The ocean dwellers would be categorized as Fish People, but they appear to be based on ocean dwelling mammals. The Cthuman's were known for their love of creating pleasure planets, and Alima has many of their tell-tale signs, though if proven to be accurate, Alima will be the oldest discovered Cthuman pleasure planet in our universe.

[...]

On this first mission, we conducted no genetic testing, as we were concerned about interfering with the natural habitat of the creatures. A second team was sent after we reported our findings, with specialists trained in exo-species contact, though they have yet to publish their findings.

Exo-Species Contact is a form of contact that leaves no trace and works to minimize possible contamination. For a detailed look at Exo-Species Contact work in general I recommend *They Will Never Know* by Dmetri Alfez.

The samples the Exo Team recovered are currently being studied carefully to determine if these species are indeed the playthings of ancient Chtumans. Though if the results return

negative, Alima will be remembered in history as one of the strangest coincidences in our universe.

[...]

The Flen

The Flen are a species that appears to be based on bugs found on planet Earth in the Milky Way Galaxy during the Quaternary Period of the Cenozoic Era. The self-identified sub-species include Flutah, Flik, Flar and Fenintal, though I suspect genetic testing will return many more sub-species.

All of the species share a few common traits. For example, each community centers around a queen, the only fertile female in the village, town, quadrant, etc. Each queen has one to several males serving as concubines, depending on the sub-species. The community queen gives birth to the sterile males and females who serve various capacities within the community, from warrior to worker, crafter to cook. The societal hierarchy is discussed further in chapter four.

Sterile Flen do not engage in sexual activity of any kind, though comforting physical contact, including hugs, hand holding and the like are very common.

All Flen bleed a viscous green fluid, and each has fascinating, multi-faceted eyes. All sub-species are capable of growing hair, though that hair appears more 'wiry' than our hair.

Flutah

The Flutah have much in common with Earth moths and butterflies. They are capable of flight and tend to live in isolated forest communities. They subsist on a diet of flower and pollen-based products.

The Flutah range in height from 1 to 1.52 meters. They have two arms and two legs, and walk upright as bipedals.

The iconic Flutah wings grow from just below the scapula, and the span ranges from 1 to 2 meters from wingtip to wingtip. Though there are slight personal variations, Flutah wings on average rise about 0.15 meters above the top of their head.

The patterns on the wings include circles, swirls and other curved shapes. Some are fantastically colorful while others are grey or brown. Their purpose is unclear, as it is not known if they are meant to help the Flutah blend in or to mimic other animals. The Flutah appear to have no natural predators, so the patterning on the wings may simply be vestigial, as they seem to have no modern use.

Both male and female Flutah have narrow, sharp, humonoid faces. Their multi-faceted eyes come in three colors: green, red and purple.

Flutah have the least skin-color variations of any of the Flen, as they are all mid-range shades of green. Extremely dark green or extremely light green Flutah are rare as it appears this variable is treated as a birth defect, and these unfortunate Flutah are culled by their queens.

Perhaps the most arresting feature of the Flutah, second only to the wings, are their distinct, seashell-like ears. They resemble Earth's *tibia curta* shells in particular.

[....]

Finally, Flutah have extremely long, clawed toes. Upon observance it was noted that these serve the same purpose as bird talons, helping the Flutah to land safely on branches and the like.

[....]

Flik

The Flik have much in common with beetles, found the universe over, though they are a flightless sub-species of Flen.

They are one of only two sub-species of Flen with more than two legs. Though they walk upright and have only two arms, they are quadrupeds with two pairs of legs.

[...]

Flar

Flar are the main farmers of The Flen, and most resemble ants, including their distinctive antennae, used for communication and organization.

[...]

Fenintal

With perhaps the most fascinating culture within the Flen, The Fenintal resemble spiders and other arachnids, though they lack a cephalothorax.

Fenintal have two pairs of arms and two pairs of legs, and range in color from black to bright red. Extremely rare, striped Fenintal are believed to serve a divine purpose, and are sent away to the priesthood.

There is no variation in eye color among the Fenintal, as they all possess ruby-red eyes.

Female Fenintal are larger than males, at 2 meters. Males range from 1.1 to 1.52 meters in height.

[...]

The Fenintal, like some Earth spiders, produce a substance from their spinnerets, which is used as a material in everything from building to weaving to the arts.

[...]

The Ziik

The Ziik species strongly resembles birds, an animal found on many Cthuman visited planets. Although there are many distinctive features that call into question the true number of sub-species, I have chosen to divide them by their self-identified peoples until the genetic results are confirmed.

These peoples include the Chik, Kraw, Preet, Hooit, Tuca, Tchure and Soosoo, which roughly align with parakeets, birds of prey, aquatic birds, owls, parrots, exotic birds and crows.

According to their history, at one time Ziik were the only sentient species on the entire continent of Vorken, which may account for their incredibly diverse sub-species. Another theory is that the geneticists who created this planet had an extreme fondness for birds.

Regardless of how these sub-species came to be, they each share a few features.

All Ziik are bipedal, with two arms, two legs and two wings, though some Preet lack the power of flight. Ziik do not have hair, but are instead covered in feathers. Their legs, though humanoid, end in three toed talons.

It can be assumed that, like the Flutah sub-species of Flen, Ziik bones must be made of an unknown material in order to support the power of flight.

And finally, all Ziik possess beaks where mouths and nose would lie on a human face. They also lack ears.

[...]

Chik

The Chik sub-species resemble budgerigar, and thus have the long tail feathers associated with parakeets.

Like the budgerigar, the Chik have beaks that appear to lay flat against the puffed cheek feathers of the birds. They also have the distinctive speckled jowl feathers of budgerigars.

Unlike the budgerigar, the Chik males are covered in yellow and blue feathers. Also unlike parakeets, the females of the species have brown and grey coloration, more like the relationship between male and female birds of paradise.

[...]

The Thailen

The Thailen resemble Charonic lizards, with one very noticeable exception: they are mono-gendered.

Thailen do not consider themselves male or female, and they lack the humonoid representation of both genders that occurs in all of the other sentient species on Alima.

All Thailen have smooth chests and narrow hips. All Thailen seem capable of laying eggs, though how they are fertilized is currently a mystery.

[...]

Balin

The Balinese Thailen have pebbled grey to greyish-brown skin. Their eyes are vertical slits, and they possess double-eyelids. Though they stand upright with two legs and two arms, they also possess a large, thick tail that starts right above their buttocks. This tail appears to be vestigial, as we could discern no use for it.

The Balinese are a tall race, with the average species standing two meters high.

[...]

The Keffre

The Keffre are the only sentient Alima species lacking any sort of declared sub-species. Though they can vary widely in appearance, the Keffre do not make any distinction other than social ones, which will be discussed in chapter four.

Keffre resemble cats, an animal that is commonly found aboard space ships. Like cats, they are peerless hunters.

They vary widely in height from 1 to 2.5 meters. They stand on two legs, and most possess tails, though the length and width vary.

The Keffre face is very catlike, with a cat's muzzle, whiskers and oversized, vertical pupilled eyes. Large, pointed ears sit at the top of each Keffre's head, though again, their shapes and size varies greatly.

[...]

The Amphians

The delicate-faced Amphians resemble the extinct deer of various Earth colonies.

[...]

Societietal Organization

The many different social organizations in effect on Alima indicate that the various sentient species have been around for many of their generations, and were perhaps once more isolated than they are now.

Despite their differences, it appears that the five land-dwelling speicies live in relative peace, with various treaties preventing outright warfare. From initial clues, it does appear that there was once a large-scale war between the Keffre and the Ziik, which most animal enthusiasts will find interesting.

It appears that when the Ziik first expanded out of their home continent of Vorken, it was Keffre lands they invaded. Although my team could not get an exact number, the Exo Team did share with me that the battle took place around 150 years ago, and lasted twenty years.

In modern times, The Keffre and Ziik have a strong trade relationship. As both species have an average lifespan of 50 years, it is reasonable to assume that no one currently alive would know of anyone who died in the conflict, thus negating the revenge cycle and allowing for real peace.

None of the land species appear to have a relationship with Sirens. Indeed, the Sirens are treated as old sailor's tales, much the way my home planet, Begeta, has myths about the Borgos living deep within our oceans.

Suffice to say, studying Alima has left me more open to the myth of the Borgos, and much less interested in swimming in deep water.

Queens of the Flen

The Flen area matriarchal society ruled by a council of queens representing each of the sub-species, along with one High Queen to pass judgement in times of a stalemate. Though I have not seen the High Queen with my own eyes, as she does not leave her seat

of power in a mountain palace, she is depicted often in art, on currency and on more than a few public buildings.

If we judge these pictures to be accurate representations of the High Queen, then one can deduce that she is not of any of the sub-species of Flen. She is enormously rotund, with a red body covered in large black spots. She is also sometimes depicted with multiple sets of wings, though these images may be more symbolic than anatomically correct.

[...]

The Flutah build their villages in forests among the treetops. The towns are beautiful to behold at night, like stars shining in the treetops. They leave very few impressions on the land besides this homes, which almost appear to grow from the giant trees they are perched on. They build no monuments of stone, nor do they pave roads.

Among the Flutah, the bonds of friendship and family are incredibly important. Every member of the village, with the exception of the Male Consorts, are all brothers and sisters. Inter-Flutah conflict appears to be non-existent as a result.

The Male Consorts of each Queen come from other Flutah towns, meaning that even Flutah in other villages are treated as family, since they may be relatives on the patrilineal line.

[...]

The Fenintal have the most fascinating society of all the Flen species. Using the silk produced from their bodies, they've built huge monuments, giant pyramids, and, of course, large webs. Made rich from the export of their beautiful silk and silk-based products, their society is very advanced.

[...]

Despite these academic and technological feats, the Fenintal practice a crude form of ritual sacrifice. The sacrifice victim is always male, and it appears to have something to do with a Goddess they worship. The Priestesses are treated with fear and respect, and their word is law. It is possible that they worship a "living god," someone who they believe to be divine.

[...]

Kings of the Ziik

The Ziik are a patriarchal society, with a feudal social structure. Peasants each serve a Lord, who in turn serves a Duke, who in turn serves a King. The Kings serve the High

King of Vorken, who is chosen every forty years by a trial of combat. Only Ziiks of noble blood may enter the competition.

Kings, Lords and Dukes often take multiple wives, but the common Ziik usually only has one mate, if he is lucky. Since female Ziik are incredibly demanding mates, it is reasonable that only those with great wealth could afford the upkeep of more than one.

Though it is a patriarchal society, women are treated as equals in many ways, having the right to divorce, own land and fight in armies, though female warrior Ziik are expected to retire when they are ready to have children.

The societal dance between male and female power amongst the Ziik is fascinating. Though men hold all of the titles, women hold much of the power. Though women are expected to become mothers, they may also spend their maidenhood enjoying activities that most modern, strongly patriarchal societies would deem too masculine.

[...]

Queen of the Keffre

Unlike the Ziik, Keffre do not mate for life. To the Keffre, mating is a way to experience pleasure and to have offspring.

When they are born, Keffre children are put through a series of tests to determine their aptitudes. A matchmaker then assigns them to a learning track which will lead to their adult career.

As adults, Keffre will go through another series of tests to join the specific Guild they have trained for, whether it be a Mason's Guild, Banker's Guild or even an Assassin or Prostitute Guild.

Once they pass the exam, they work for three years before being bred to a suitable mate. Keffre are bred for abilities such as fighting prowess and mathematical knowledge, as well as for attributes such as beauty.

The Keffre are ruled by a hereditary Queen, who breeds with males with high intelligence and other skills needed for ruling a queendom. An heir is chosen from among the Queen's litters by The Council of Blood, a council made up of the foremost 'geneticists' for lack of a better term.

Male and female Keffre hold equal positions in society, with both sexes expected to breed at least one litter in their lifetime. The children are not raised by either parent, instead they are raised communally, within an excellent public education system.

[...]

Belief Systems

Like the ancient societies of the planet Dwellin IV, the species of Alima accept that each people has their own god and own creation myth. It is probably a bit easier to believe in different gods when your neighbors look so drastically different from you. Although many of the species and sub-species allow their own kind to worship outside gods, the biggest exceptions are the Fliik and the Flen Fenintal.

[...]

In the common language shared between the species, the days of the week are Balunday, Scaraday, Thokday, Brieday and Bastday. Each day was named by one of the species.

Balunday is named after Balun, the great, jade, sun-lizard. The Thailen believe that Anaco, the jade colored moon, is actually a large, fat lizard who climbed into the atmosphere to soak up the rays of the sun. In fact, most Thailen call the moon Balun, not Anaco, though Thailen scholars refer to it by the accepted name.

Scaraday is the name chosen by the Flen in honor of Skarab, the giant Flik in the sky. They claim that Skarab is the mother of all Flen, and the direct ancestor of the High Queen in an unbroken line of queens. In their end-of-days myths, the Flen always mention Skarab cracking open and releasing its poisonous eggs onto the planet.

Thokday is named for Thok the phoenix. The giant primordial bird is said to have sacrificed his life to become the sun, and his first hatchlings eggshells are said to have formed Vorken. Thok is highly venerated by the Fliik, and they believe all other sun gods are just different, and wrong, names for Thok.

Brieday is named for Briteas, which the Amphians believe is their trickster goddess, hiding from her lover by standing in light too bright for him to look upon directly. They claim she must stand perfectly still for eternity, or her lover will find her and force her to become a good wife and mother. Because he thinks the light is suspicious, her lover, the planet Alima, always faces towards her, never turning his back to Briteas. In this way, she can never escape his grasp while he isn't looking.

Finally, Bastday is named after the Keffre mother goddess, Bast. If you are an ancient Earth scholar, you will find it an interesting coincidence that a strange, cat-like species just happens to worship an ancient Earth diety that resembles them. Although in the vastness of the universe it is entirely possible it is a coincidence, the name is currently one of the strongest clues suggesting that this planet was not naturally seeded.

[...]

Conclusions

[...]

Who could have guessed that such an unassuming planet would hide such a fascinating mystery? Through continued research, we hope to answer these timeless questions and to learn even more about the mysterious Cthumans. But the only way we will be able to continue these studies is through generous grants funded by people like you. Click this box to make a donation now. For knowledge. For the mysteries of space. For science!