

STARWARDEN

ADARA'S PROMISE

THE CSS- COLONIAL SPACE SERVICE, PATHFINDERS & PHOTIS SUIT

The CSS

The Colonial Space Service was created when the Fryael began to reach out to the stars in their system.

Once they rediscovered FTL travel they looked to colonize their system; discovering other habitable planets and pledging to protect and nurture these worlds and their bio-spheres.

The ancient credo of The Ratio was enshrined in the foundations of the CSS. The Fryael were committed to the exploration and conservation of the worlds they would discover and visit. They would strive to maintain a cosmic equilibrium as they left their homeworld and looked to colonise new planets.

PATHFINDER Unit

The Pathfinder Unit is an elite section of the CSS who act as advanced scouts, planetary scientists and guides. They were the first to embark into the vast regions of unexplored space of the Xaan system.

The Pathfinders act as an intergalactic conservation and protection agency that travels their system maintaining and safeguarding the planetary ecosystems. They enforce The Ratio through conservation, protection and management of planetary ecosystems, lifeforms and environments, ensuring balance and harmony throughout their planetary system.

Often work alone or in a small team and pilot compact space ships, called Kayaks, that are built to be agile and fast.

Their duties include accompanying scientists and settlers- acting as guides and protectors. Also, performing planetary surveys: cataloguing fauna flora, locating suitable settlement sites and safeguarding and establishing research bases in preparation for potential colonists.

In many ways, the Pathfinders are the Fyrael's version of the Starwarden Protectorate.

Starwardens were an intergalactic squadron of pathfinders and scouts who act as the advance guard exploring new regions of space beyond the Rubicon network. Starwardens escorted potential colonists and acted as guides and protectors for any deep space exploration.

As a response to the profligate waste and exploitation of their homeworld's resources, the Star Wardens operated by a strict code of conservation and protection. This code was the basis of the Ratio.

CSS Academy

The CSS Academy was formed to train, educate and develop recruits of the Fyrael's space service. The Academy's campus is built onto the remains of the Predecessor's Generation Ship and acts as both seat of learning plus research station.

The Academy's motto is *'From the stars, wisdom. From wisdom, harmony. With harmony, we reach the stars.'*

Adara is a trainee at the CSS Academy- Pathfinder Unit.

The Pathfinder Unit recruits from the top 1% of candidates to the Academy, an elite team who sign up for a life of dedication and commitment, travelling their appointed sector on a multi-year tour of duty- mission.

She has just begun her second year training, having finished top of her Freshman year.

PHOTIS Suit

The PHOTIS suit was developed millennia ago by the Predecessors as part of the Starwarden's personal equipment.

Photonic Transmorphic Interplanetary Survival suit- PhoTIS.

Photos suits were used exclusively by the Starwardens. Developed by the SWP, Starwarden Protectorate for its operatives who have to operate and survive the most inhospitable, remote and dangerous regions of deep space.

The suit was developed off-world and only partly utilized the Mosaic computing network - one of the reasons the technology became so pernicious to the AI.

The suit is poly-adaptable and employs hard light technology- photonic molecules that morph into different configurations reacting to the environmental conditions and phenomena.

It is powered by special Photis crystals, unique crystals that are found all over the galaxy that act like batteries, storing exotic dark matter energy.

The suit reconfigures into a variety of adaptive 'modes' responding to environmental hazards and factors.

For example:

Dash-mode: the ability to move at super fast speeds which is suited to planets with unstable and violent conditions where the need to swiftly navigate terrain is super useful.

Supersonic-mode: the creation of sonic blasts- used for clearing environments and breaking stones and boulders, particularly useful in low gravity environments prone to floating rocks and debris.

Other potential modes include 'Ghost-mode' for stealth, 'Carapace-mode' armoured for extreme physical assault, 'Shatter-mode'- the ability to perceive a target's vulnerable points and exploit them, 'Onslaught-mode', 'Shrike-mode', 'Hydra-mode', 'Vortex-mode', 'Magnetar-mode' etc.

As a unique form of security, the suit bonds to its user's genetic code and cannot be used by anyone else.

When she discovers the suit in the damaged Rubicon gate, Adara's mum is able to repair and restore it. Because the suit's original user is dead, she is able to use her own genetic code to bring it back online.

This is why Adara can bond with it, she shares her mother's dna.