

The Galaxiad

Voice-Over:

“Tell us again the story of the few against the many, the weak against the strong; of reason against chaos, of the dreaded Black Fleets, of greed and compassion, ambition, duty, and of the power of friendship to save the universe.” (the *Galaxiad*, circa 1800)

At the start of Season Two, the beginning was restated “Tell us another story of...”, but after three episodes, returned to the original text.

In most episodes, the Imploration was a voice over, in each case a different person and a different voice. In Season One, a variety of ages, genders, and even species were used. Starting in Season Two, significant personalities were enlisted to read the text and the data networks were filled with speculation as individuals competed to be the first to identify the voice.

The screen image during the voice over is the **Dakhaseri**: a variant of the Greek Chorus. Literally, *Audience of Stars*. [Vilani]. [presented as a shifting starfield with hints of human, and other, forms]. There is an ancient Vilani story of meritorious souls allowed to watch the events of the world. Their discussions (and often futile attempts to intervene) are the basis of many Vilani myths and legends.

“Look up there! Each of those lights is a soul! Some are your ancestors, rewarded for their virtue and allowed to watch us down here. Some are your unborn children, watching us and learning how to live. Make your ancestors proud; teach well your children-to-be. They watch us constantly and regret the errors they made [or will make] in life.”

Dakhaseri, Traditional translation

The Galaxiad is an epic story cycle popular in Human, Vargr, and Aslan society in the pastoral era circa 1600-1800. Set in the Imperial Golden Age, it tells of the legendary and perhaps apocryphal Siblings as they progressively encounter and unravel clues to a threat to the very existence of the universe, and then travel the length and breadth of the Galaxies to stop it.

The Galaxiad originally appeared as a multi-episode telenovela on the FFE entertainment network on Regina, and soon spread to neighboring worlds and sectors. Its key characters, drawn from the major sophonts of the region, worked as more than allies: as friends, and their actions struck a responsive chord in most audiences.

Based on a true story. The Galaxiad

The original producers claimed that the series was based the diaries, logs, and records of the Siblings. The events portrayed mesh completely with the historical time period, but of the events themselves, there is no independent record.

The epic is divided into at least ten seasons.

Season One encounters the Hydrogens.

Season Two encounters the Abyssals (originally called the Horde until their identity was revealed in the season finale).

Season Three explored the Barren Worlds.

Season Four encountered the Essaray as the cause of the Barren Worlds, building to a season finale in which the Siblings faced almost certain destruction.

Season Five continues the interaction with the Essaray and ultimately divines their secret.

Season Six begins in search of Dashus Khurisi - refugees fleeing from the original upheaval at the end of

the Nth Interstellar War. The story dramatically diverges mid-season with encounters with the Wisps of the Core.

Season Seven ultimately encounters the Dashus Khurisi and their newly-won empire on the far side of the Galaxy.

Season Eight reveals the identity and mission of the insane Solomani Scout who has dogged their explorations since Season Two.

Season Nine explores the origins of the Khursae and resolves the puzzles encountered in previous visits to their worlds.

Season Ten, the finale to end all finales, resolves all of the threads of the previous encounters to finally defeat the Black Fleets, although the ending was left tantalizingly ambiguous.

In the years since, attempts have been made to interpose additional Seasons to the schedule, some with more success than others. The Empress Wave Season and its encounters with Grandfather's Son 17 are generally praised; the End of Time Season is generally rejected as trite. Some other Season subjects included The Goos, The Secret of the Unfinished Ringworld, and The War Against the Darknesses.

This synopsis leaves out far too many details that recur in each season:

The clues to the Black Fleets and their origins scattered across every season; the holiday-oriented episodes that taught life lessons about charity, forgiveness, gratitude, ambition, tolerance, and more; the cast changes as key characters dropped out only to return after a season, often with new and startling information.

