



Terran Alliance

A Xenology Appraisal By Dr. Sonya Kerensky

I have prepared this report for the benefit of the Stockholm Commission. Enclosed is a brief description of each of the races that make up the Enaran Empire, and a brief xenological evaluation. Attached to this xenology report is an intelligence addendum by General Lance Lord of Terran Alliance Space Command, on the significance of each race as part of a greater scheme for improvement in the current position of humanity within this new hegemony. It is to be understood that this report is not complete. One race of the Empire, the "Ma-laraq", was either not present among the delegates presented to me by the Emperor's Handmaiden, or was deliberately kept from my investigations.

My immediate recommendations to the Commission are as follows:

- Utilize the unique tastes and fashions of the Empire and its component races for commercial gain.
- Avoid overt resistance until technological parity or supremacy is established.
- Exploit the sectionalist tendencies of the non-Enaran races, combined with human nationalism, to split the Empire politically.
- At all costs, prevent a strong leader from attaining either the throne or the Praetorship. Praetor-General Var'lus seems to be weak-willed and controllable; his power should be maintained until a human position can be fortified.

I recognize that the Stockholm Commission has many opinions to consider in order to determine our course of action in this new political dynamic, but I feel that my experience with the other races in similar straits should prove more insightful than the isolationists and radicals within the Alliance. We must face the fact that we cannot turn our back on this new power, nor can we oppose it militarily. This middle road must be taken to have any reasonable hope of sovereignty or self-determination.



The Enarans

While at first it appeared that the Empire was composed completely of this species, it appears that this is clearly not the case. Most of their political and military leaders are of this species, so it is logical that they are the ones with whom we have the most contact. They have green skin, blue blood, and a bipedal stance. As a matter of fact, they seem eerily similar to us in both appearance and motivation, especially when compared to the other species. Also, despite appearances, they have at least two sexes. The males are the ones who (almost exclusively, it appears), are involved in the affairs of the Empire. Still, there are female Enarans, who lay jelly-like eggs, usually in clutches of 6-12. Only one or two nymphs survive from these clutches, who eventually grow to a full adult height of 1 meter. Their homeworld is wet and has a higher gravity than Earth; there is apparently either aquatic or reptilian ancestry in their evolutionary tree. There are offshoots of this genetic line on the lower-g worlds, who have paler skin and taller heights. These low-g Enarans also appear to live longer than the racial average of 175 years. There is some tension between "normal" and "low-g" Enarans, but this seems politically motivated rather than racially (the outer, lower gravity worlds are also more politically liberal). Which leads me to my sociological conclusions: The Enarans are a politically savvy, alternatively honorable and amoral species. Their technology seems far in advance of our own, and so they are not to be underestimated. They are also very good hosts, but

are possessed of a terrible taste in liquor; there seems to be a digestive difficulty associated with it. Must investigate further.



The Y'baru

The Y'baru are a fascinating associate species of the Empire. They seem to be accorded almost the status of equals with the founding Enaran race. They possess a great deal of technical knowledge as well as impressive business skills. It seems that their focus is on economic rather than military pursuits, which is why they are allowed to operate in peace. As near as I can determine from my brief contact with a representative of the species, they hail from a desert world, and their early history has all the roles of priest and warrior filled by an odd combination of philosopher-merchant. They are at heart a commercial empire, but that does not render them helpless. They enjoy the favor of the Empire, and produce some of its deadliest weapons. They also manufacture large numbers of sizeable vessels that seem to incorporate some biological technology. As to their physiology, they are a tall, scaly, tripod species that lays hard-shelled eggs and possess long, flowing hair that apparently also acts as a sort of radiator, in much the same way that jackrabbits circulate blood through their ears to keep cooler in the desert. While the species may have arisen from a harsh climate, they seem no stranger to creature comforts and material possessions. To call them traders at the core is a mistake; they have their share of dilettantes and researchers. It is simply a societal goal to be a merchant, not a societal imperative.



The T'lek'ma

The one example of a T'lek'ma with which I was presented seemed to be a jolly fellow; the hor d'ourves he (she?) served me were delicious. That being said, my Enaran host had little good to say about the species; it seems they have had a falling out in recent years. She called them "violent, anarchic terrorists", which seemed unfair. All the same, they are given the position of distrusted servant in the Empire at large; for this reason they tend to cluster around their home stars. They are tall, insectoid quadrupeds with three eyes, of which the central one focuses on interpreting movement. The others are compound and capable of interpreting colors and shapes. Their hands were marvelous; they are familiar four fingered hands, but projecting from their lower arms are thin chitinous protrusions that seem to have a cutting edge. The T'lek'ma sharpen these protrusions, and as well sport artificial "arm blades" that are both decorative and useful in self-defense. They have two sets of fangs, one for grasping or spearing food, and a smaller set for manipulating it into the mouth. Their reproduction is a curious subject. At some point in their evolution they existed in a hive society, i.e. a small group of controlling females and a plethora of nearly mindless male drones. After sentience was attained, both sexes began to approach something like parity in intelligence, but male births still outnumber female births by a factor of 5. As such, females are accorded higher positions in society, while the males tend

to the larvae. This is perhaps stereotypical, as the occasional egalitarian mood strikes the populace once every generation or so. They apparently had a nearly theocratic government before the Empire took over. It seems that stamping out the component religion has been the current Emperor's main task over the last century.

The Ma-laraq

There is no accompanying sketch for this species, because the Emperor's Handmaiden did not present me with a sample. From what I could gather, I believe the Ma-laraq are an ancient race that is accorded near-autonomy in the Empire. I could see no examples of the species even in the spaceport in the capital, so I believe they like their privacy. I may be in error, however, as the Emperor has said much about the "meddlesome Ma-laraq", so perhaps they hold some high political offices that prevent them from meeting with us *hoi polloi*. Their ships and technology are described in awestruck tones, but there was no evidence of it on hand. Also unavailable were any sort of figures on reproduction, political beliefs, or societal structure. I requested a visit to Ma-laraq home space, and was denied a permit. Something seems amiss, but it appears to threaten neither the Empire nor our race.

**A Military Assessment
By General Lance Lord
TA Space Command**

My colleague Dr. Kerensky presented you with her studies on the species of the Empire. It is my purpose to offer a brief strategic assessment of what these races *mean* to the eventual resurgence of human hegemony in space. We can only hope to fall into a useful role in the Empire while we rebuild and strengthen our forces.

- As to the Y'baru: The Enarans seem to be less capable than ourselves at economic affairs, as their women (who are involved with industry and agriculture) have little control over the affairs of state, internally or externally. If we move as a whole society, we should be able to supplant the Y'baru in key areas of production, and challenge their dominance in shipbuilding and import-export. Their gravitational technology seems intriguing; I have heard tell of a device that is said to "rip the stars from their sockets and leave not even screams." We should acquire this device at all costs.
- As to the T'lek'ma: This is a key example of what can go wrong. If we move too quickly or too aggressively, we risk the full wrath of the Empire. Their one virtue when considering our plans is the lack of cultural decay when confronted with an interstellar superpower. Focus on human nationalism will prevent our race from being assimilated in the brunt of an entire confederation of competing cultural paradigms. The T'lek'ma are unstable and violent, and willing to fight the Empire. When the time comes to move openly, they should be easy to manipulate.
- As to the Enarans: Theirs is a society where decadence is possible and likely. Presumably the Empire will collapse under its own weight given too many problems. Their past stability comes from a status quo; we, as an adaptive race, can change this status quo and so leave the conservative government at a loss to react. Their Byzantine plots are to be comprehended but for the most part ignored; it seems too saturated a playing field to make infiltration or subversion risk-free.
- As to the Ma-laraq: Theirs seems the ideal position. Nominally of the Empire, but given free rein. Unfortunately, they are enigmas, and unless we are to understand how they received their unique position in the Empire, we are likely going to be unable to emulate them. If the Enarans can be wheedled or bribed into allowing a diplomatic envoy to the Ma-laraq, perhaps some of our questions can be answered.

If there are any further questions about our conclusions or our facts, feel free to stop by our offices on Syria Planum, or contact me through military channels. More important than my conclusions is the necessity for this Commission to act with deliberation and wisdom. At stake is the future of humanity.



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