Endless Void Background:

The God Machine:

*“The world, the universe, in all its form and splendor, can only function because there is a higher principle governing it all.”*

In the idea of the Endless void there is a central point to the universe. Being that the universe operates. There are many scientific principles stating how everything does not simply fall in on itself. However to many it would seem that some form of will or regulatory entity keeps everything moving, regulates how the universe works and keeps everything together. The reason why time moves forward rather than backward how things move without coming apart even how worlds and suns were formed, an entity which governs and regulates the laws which governs the laws of the universe. For if there are laws it means that someone put those laws into place. The supposition of this universe functions on the idea that such a thing exists, a regulatory entity, similar to a computer, with its own programming language, which actively governs the principles and laws on which the universe runs and keeps them in check, after its discovery by humanity this entity is given the official designation of the God Machine. Keep this in mind, this entity is not a physical entity as we would understand it but is rather a sort of metaphysical entity which exists in many places at once and is outside the normal bounds of time and space. Also this is not a moral entity; this is not “god” as most religions posit such an existence. It assigns no value to life and does not care for individual beings, just as your computer would not care if you died. This being is only responsible for making sure the universe operates and that it functions properly.

Interstellar Travel:

With the existence of the God Machine comes the possibility of interstellar travel. This is because the God Machine has what are called “location protocols” as part of its general operations these are protocols which fix objects within a certain temporal/ spatial framework. I.e. they determine where and when things are located. What is past and what is present and where those things are located, at what rate they decay and how they reconstitute themselves later. By manipulating the programming code of these protocols it becomes possible to rewrite the point at which objects are located in space and time. This rewrite requires vast amounts of computational power and as such personal devices using such technology are virtually impossible. However locating such computer cores on space ships is entirely possible as the apparatus is usually big enough to support the extensive computer networks necessary, not only for communicating with the God Machine but also for rewriting the massive numbers of location protocols necessary for moving an object of any discernible size. This requires massive amounts of energy as well as programmers versed in the programming language of the God Machine. Remember that every single atom has its own location protocol, and moving a something like a large star ship requires that the location protocols of every atom, including those of the crew, must be rewritten at a different space and time simultaneously otherwise bad things can happen. In certain terms this functions similar to fold drives, in that there is a massive energy spike followed by the ship simply appearing in space however unlike fold God Machine “Engines” do not allow you to transport other ships with you.

* This system is listed as a jump engine on the SCS because its function is similar to that of jump engines, with certain differences. The first is that there is no jump point forming the ship simply “appears” in normal space having “jumped” from one point to another.
* The second is that God Machine jump engines do not allow for carrying other ship with you in that ships can go through normal jump points but not cannot travel with those using God Machine jump engines
* Certain “errors” in calculating the exact transfix points can lead to problems as such deviation roles are still necessary when placing where ships come in on the field. Follow normal deviation chart.

No intergalactic travel:

Unlike many other forms of FTL travel the principle of the God Machine organizes each galaxy into completely separate systems, like servers on a computer. Travel between these galaxies is impossible for the same reason that programs cannot travel between servers without intervention of the user. In other words travel between galaxies would require a literal act of god. So while interstellar travel is possible by manipulating the location protocols moving a ship or anything for that matter to another galaxy is quite simply impossible.

The Artaielli:

*“He will give his Angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways.”*

These beings are essentially the debuggers and antivirus programs of the God Machine. The “guardians” of the galaxy and the order it operates by. They repair breaks in the system and correct errors within the system in order to make sure the galaxy runs the way it is supposed to. They and they alone have access to the higher functions of the God Machine such as the creation and “delete” commands. “Lesser beings” such as humans are prohibited from accessing these functions this is because there is a large potential not only for abuse but also that, if used in the wrong way these commands could create errors within the system that could threaten the very existence of the galaxy itself. Lesser beings, with their limited life spans, limited perception, and egregious self-interest are incapable of properly perceiving these dangers and as such they are prohibited from accessing those higher functions. The prohibitions are in place to oversee the long term health of the galaxy and as such must be obeyed.

The Artaielli themselves appears as beings made up equally of light, fire, and crystal, they have no definitive shape but rather seem to shift and change depending on the angle from which they are viewed. As “superior beings” who can manipulate the God Machine as they please they do not simply exist at one fixed point in space and time but rather at several points simultaneously. It is not known whether or not Artaielli can be killed for no one has ever had the gall to try. This leads to the inconsistency of their form. There are only 47 of their kind within the galaxy however that amount is more than enough to keep order within the galaxy.

The Stellarium:

*“And I beheld a great fortress, shining, as if the light of the sun came from within. Towers and ramparts, each stone glistening like crystal in the sun. And I knew this for a holy place where the angels dwelled and sang.*

The home of the Artaielli, a massive star base which basically serves as a giant computer hub from which the Artaielli can perpetually scan the galaxy for errors to be repaired and dispatch themselves to fix those problems. This base also enhances the Artaielli’s natural abilities to manipulate the god machine to a near infinite degree. This allows them to use applications like the delete command on a massive scale. Destroying ships or creating fleets of their own with infinite ease can be done as long as they possess control of Stellarium. No one knows what the Stellarium looks like for no living being has ever seen it and lived to talk about it. The Artaielli do not permit “lesser beings” to violate their space. Any ship entering the space occupied by the Stellarium is destroyed automatically.

* In gameplay mechanics the Stellarium has an infinite point-value. Any fleet, no matter how big or technologically advanced is destroyed instantly upon entering the space of the Stellarium.

The Great Edict:

This is the order delivered to every race as soon as they become aware of the God Machine and begin to explore space. This edict states that any research into the higher functions of the God Machine, anything beyond the location protocols, is strictly forbidden and that violation of this edict will result in strict consequences for the offending race. The more belligerent races who try to protest this are given a demonstration of the Artaielli’s power. Usually the disappearance of a planet or moon is enough to convince the less willing races to accede to demands of the Artaielli. This is what was done with earth when the Artaielli appeared here, they simply made the planet Neptune disappear in order to convince earth governments of the wisdom of following the rules set in place by the Artaielli.

This edict was not simply arrived at by the Artaielli but rather was put in place after significant conflict due to a previous event involving a group of races called the Creationists.

The Hierarch:

*“For He is the Lord, our God, our Savior. His word is law; it is light and reason given flesh and form. He is greater than in us in all things and moves in ways we cannot hope to fathom.”*

The leader of the Artaielli, no one of any known race has ever seen this mythical being. However he is said to be older than they are, indeed he may be as old as the universe itself. He is the creator of the Artaielli, the Stellarium, and also organized the universe into its separate galactic state in order to make processing easier on the God Machine. The Artaielli owe ultimate allegiance to this mysterious being and carry out his directives. The Artaielli, who were directly created by this being will speak of fulfilling “the will of the Hierarch.” The Artaielli do not question the will or authority of this being, it may be that they are incapable of doing so however whether or not this is true is not known. All that is known is that this being does not directly intercede in the affairs of the galaxy but merely seems invested in keeping the universe together. Those who defy the will of the Hierarch or his messengers and put part of the universe in danger will suffer for their transgressions.

The Creationists:

*“And they, in their arrogance, defied God and all of heaven, for indeed they considered themselves God’s equal, his superior in their achievements and as such they thought they were worthy of taking God’s place in the heavens. How wrong they were.”*

A massive alliance of different races which dominated the galaxy millions of years ago, this alliance was between dozens if not hundreds of races and was based around technology manipulating the God Machine. The Artaielli had not yet taken their stance against allowing races to manipulate the God Machine and, at this point, had a strict non-interventionist policy in galactic affairs. The Creationists had created a paradise for themselves by using the God Machine to create infinite supplies of food and control weather patterns on worlds and even to create whole new worlds for themselves out of nothing.

However this was not to last. The God Machine was not meant to be used in the manner that the Creationists were using it. Indeed they were abusing the programs in order to make the galaxy better suit their needs. This began to result in problems, more and more errors in the workings of the galaxy began to appear and with such a rate and frequency that the Artaielli could no longer keep up with them. The Artaielli made the decision to inform the Creationists of this and to ask that they stopped using the technology which relied on the use of the God Machines higher functions. The Creationists had built there entire civilization around the technologies developed from the God Machine and so they refused the request given to them. They believed that request was given out of jealousy for Artaielli had to look upon marvels they could never create themselves and wanted to keep the power of creation for themselves. Many and more requests were made to the Creationists by the Artaielli and all were refused. In desperation the Artaielli tried to force the issue by destroying one of the Creationist facilities. This resulted in an unprecedented event, the death of one of the Artaielli. It was after this that the Artaielli decided that they had tried peace for long enough, killing one of their number was not acceptable. The Artaielli decided that war was the only option in order to save the galaxy from being destroyed and thus the proclamation was delivered.

Note: there was one race which did heed the Artaielli and abandoned the use of God Machine technology and thus was spared the coming war. That race was the Arcaicians.

The Great Proclamation:

*“Resign yourselves. In every action, in every word, in every thought you betray the very foundations of our existence. You have disregarded every warning, every admonition has gone unheeded. You have proven that you will not listen, that you will not heed us and abandon your foolish course which will lead us all to destruction. In the many sins you have committed and continue to commit, you have done the unforgivable. You have destroyed one of our brothers, he who saw the creation of this galaxy and was given life by the Hierarch. For this we will not forgive you. You leave us no recourse, with this proclamation we declare war. We shall remove you, root and stem. Your entire existence shall be erased from the galaxy. There will be no trace, no evidence that you or your civilization ever existed. Your cities, your worlds, your children all shall burn, we will leave nothing behind. Perhaps those who follow you will be better suited to take your place. This is not a warning, it is a sentence. Resign yourselves.”*

The Creationist War:

*“Those who defy heaven risk provoking its wrath.”*

The Creationists would not go quietly into that good night; indeed they fought with everything they had against the Artaielli. They believed they could win the war with their advanced weaponry. However this was not to be their fate. The Artaielli had infinitely more experience manipulating the functions of the God Machine than the Creationist forces. Fleets were wiped out in waves, whole worlds simply ceased to exist, or were scorched to the ground leaving nothing behind but burnt wreckage and desolation. This was a war on a magnitude which to most people would be inconceivable, ships in the millions were created and destroyed the war raged across systems new and old, suns exploded, worlds imploded, the war raged for what many would consider an eternity. The sheer scale of this war is hard to convey in words for there is no proper way to conceive of the sheer magnitude of the destruction visited upon the Creationists. The Artaielli showed the true destructive potential of the God Machine to the Creationists, even so, the war was not easily won. Twenty of the Artaielli died in the conflict. However this simply hardened the resolve of the Artaielli to complete their task.

After millions of years of endless conflict the final true battle of the war took place in front of the Stellarium itself. A final desperate push was put together by the remaining Creationist forces in order to wipe out the source of the Artaielli’s power and perhaps challenge the seat of the Hierarch himself. A massive fleet comprised of over 1.5 million ships was assembled to move on the Stellarium and take it for the Creationists. But against the power of the Artaielli on their home ground no amount of force or need was enough. Their defeat was absolute. Not a single ship returned from the fight. Realizing that the battle was now essentially hopeless the Creationists tried to beg for their lives, for mercy. None was granted, their pleas fell on deaf ears the Artaielli continued with their destruction of all the remaining Creationist worlds and forces soon there was nothing left of the once great civilization but a fading memory.