The Uul Co-operatives

The Uul have long struggled in their war against the Herders, but even before that their plight has never been easy as the very fact of their existence places other races in grave jeopardy. They are a race condemned to destruction whether they are willing or not for that is the nature of what they are. One can almost pity them but to do so would be a grave error.

Appearance:

The Uul are a bizarre race in just about every way. Their race is actually a form of hyper evolved virus. They evolved on a barren, hostile planet which meant that they had to live off of other life forms for survival and breeding. The structure of the Uul body resembles an inverted tiger lily coloured a dead black; they have no legs instead moving along the ground via thousands of tiny appendages along the bottom of their extended parts. A series of six tentacles is attached to either side of the main body. The tentacles each end in a diamond shaped protrusion similar to a squid. Each diamond is covered in curved spines which are used to inject a highly corrosive acid which cases the total melting of the victim usually within seconds. Small pipe-cleaner like protrusions extend outward from the top of the body. These are sensory organs which pick up on vibrations and translate into both sounds and images. Sort of like radar, this field of detection 360 degrees and usually extends for about 50 feet in all directions. An Uul’s body usually measure about 10 ft. in diameter and is usually around 7 ft. tall. Due to their lack of vocal chords they are incapable of human speech they communicate with each other via movements of their tentacles which are then picked up on by the sensory organs of others.

History:

The Uul’s evolution is something of an accident another race once lived on their home world. But they ended up destroying themselves using something similar to earth’s nuclear technology. The high levels of radiation ended mutating a strain of virus which gained the ability to modify and add to its RNA based on the abilities of the host subject. From this capability the virus quickly gained the ability to not only grow to large proportions via assimilating many different glands but also they gained sentience via assimilating the DNA from survivors of the previous race. This had the unfortunate side effect of wiping out the previous inhabitants of the planet that remained. The Uul quickly gathered up what little remained of the planet’s wild life and herded it underground in order to keep it alive. The Uul population grew at a remarkable rate within 1000 year they had become the dominant life form on their planet. They then began to organize themselves, unlike Earth’s history the Uul did not engage in many wars, they instead began to work together to share their limited resources and “breeders.” After some initial growing pains the Uul formed their first cooperative by making a council out of representatives from each underground colony as well as those living above. This form of government survives to this day.

Within 250 years the Uul had discovered the presence of the God Machine and had begun to fashion craft for their travel into space. The initial visit by the Artaielli was celebrated by the Uul who were highly interested to see that they were not the only intelligent live in the universe. Once the Uul began to explore space they found it to be largely empty. They did not encounter any other races for many centuries after their initial space flight.

Meetings:

As other races emerged on the scene the Uul initially began to capture and experiment on many of these races. Their method of breeding meant that fresh subjects would add to their races capabilities. This did not last however, as many of the other races did not like this and banded together to invade the Uul’s territory. This war resulted in a stalemate for while the other races had numbers on their side the Uul were vastly technologically superior to the new emergent races. The end of all of this resulted in a final peace treaty between the races. Over the centuries since the treaties have been signed the Uul have become close allies with many of the races including the Radeer and the Edhel.

Emergence of Earth:

The emergence of the ECSC was a strange thing for the Uul in that they did not ever have direct contact with them until long after they had become a large power and split. Their first initial contact with humans was with the Herder Theocracy. Even with earth’s vast territories they never had cause to get close to them. Most of earth’s expansion was into territory which had been claimed by other races or had simply gone unexplored as such they did not meet with the ECSC until after their initial war with the Herders was already over.

The Herder war:

The first meeting between the Uul and humans went well when a small exploratory fleet bumped into the large earth colony of Xian. The initial encounter went rather smoothly and the humans informed them that they were an independent colony of a much larger nation. The Uul invited delegates form this world to their territory and vice-versa, it was not long however until things went sour. After initial progress the Herders were emerging as the dominant force in that region of the galaxy, the colony of Xian was terrified it would be forcibly conquered and so their government petitioned to join the Uul cooperatives. This was shocking to the Uul for this was the first time an alien race asked to be part of their government. After much debate the Uul agreed and sent a fleet to secure their new territory. The Herder fleets showed up not long after the Uul had established their presence. The Herders were aggressive and belligerent and unwilling to listen to reason as such a major fight broke out which the Uul won handily. This was not to be the end however as much as the Herders did not understand reason they also did not understand quit. Over the centuries the war between the Uul and the herders has continued to onward hardly ever stopping except for brief cease-fires and armistices which can be broken at any time.

New History:

The emergence of the Creeping Darkness has gone unnoticed by the Uul since their systems remain unaffected. Since the election of their new Pope the Herders seem to have calmed down a bit. However the Uul put little faith in that and know that the peace could be broken at any time, for almost any reason. Should the Herders decide to break the current cease-fire they will be prepared.

Society and culture:

The Uul breed the same way viruses do, by implanting a section of their own RNA within a host it then divides and grows within the host until it emerges full grown. This process is almost always fatal to the host. Because of this process the Uul are a very cautious species, they are acutely aware of finite resources and their impact on environments because of how they affect the lives of other beings just by existing. As such the Uul tend to be very conservative and don’t make decisions rashly they usually take their time when deciding anything. Their society is structured along the lines of a gerontocracy, the eldest within their society hold the highest positions of power and respect and are usually the one who sit on councils and are trusted to make important decisions.

Side note: as part of the agreement for Xian joining the Uul a small percentage of the population volunteers to become hosts in order to breed new Uul.

Government:

The Uul government is structured around an elected body on their home world higher levels include members from each of the Uul’s colonies. These councils provide advice and opinions on the running of the government. A central council composed of the most senior of all the Uul within their territory. This central council kind of like a Cabinet makes all of the final decisions concerning overarching government policy and also governs the military. Smaller matters concerning individual colonies are left to their elected councils.

Uul technology:

Uul Carapace: this system is used on all Uul ships, it is an insect like exoskeleton which covers the outer hull of the ship, it has the following properties:

1. All systems/ structures on Uul ships have a minimum armour value 1 as such they ignore the properties of weapons which bypass armour. Versus such weapons the armour of all systems is considered to be 1.
2. Weapons which degrade armour cannot drop the armour value of a system/structure below 1.
3. All armour values on the ship are considered to be 1 above their listed value.

Bio-Energy Diffuser: this system is worked into the structure of the ship, it diffuses any energy based weapons which strike the ship, it proffers the following properties.

1. All plasma based weapons deal 1.5x there normal damage when fired on Uul ships.
2. All Matter, antimatter, and cased ballistic weapons deal damage as normal
3. All other weapons deal ½ damage when fired on Uul ships.