

## ASCENSION

# Origins

# The Rise of Poliate, Part I

### A Brief Account by Master Historian Jahrahr Tuhlkeen

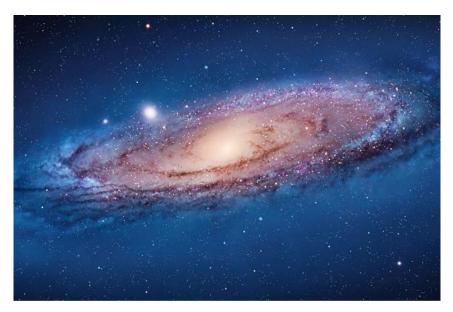
### **TARSEUS PRIME**

During the 1st century of the 9th millennium of what became known as the Talderon Era (TE), and at the peak of the Ethnopecuniary Wars, Tarseus Prime, a mid-size planet in the Parathakan system, came into prominence as a result of the singular actions of two beings, Daalakaal Shawnde and Moderlan Flath—transmutants with extensive mental superiority.

They possessed the ability to enter and influence the minds of most species in the universe, and had sensed the existence of many more beings with metamorphoses analogous to their own, although with varying degrees of proficiency. Once they had identified and classified these distinctive transformations, they declared a new species that would best describe the entire grouping of superior mental mutations—Minders.

In time, Daalakaal and Moderlan formed a cadre of five transmutants of equal mental powers who became known as the Clerics of The Fellowship.

They resolved to use their extraordinary abilities to bring an end to universal chaos, but acknowledged that a strong military force would be needed if their strategies to bring peace were to have any chance of everlasting success. To accomplish the creation of said army, they required a Minder with impeccable credentials to assume the mantel of secular and military leader.



The Clerics strove to end universal chaos.

### COMMANDER OF THE PLANETARY UNION

Calthan Milbek, a young, successful warrior gifted with highly evolved mental proficiency, as well as an uncanny ability to understand and design military strategies, stood above all other Minders. Born on Dionysus, the moon of Dawnzehya Gleva, Calthan had risen to prominence through his military accomplishments, and for having authored a comprehensive manual of military stratagems based on information gleaned from his in-depth research into the minds of a myriad of raiders.

His notoriety was further enhanced when he uncovered a scheme for a coordinated invasion of Tarseus Prime, and proposed to the Clerics of the Fellowship a military stratagem to foil such a multi-faceted attack. It was a simple plan that relied on ambushing the invaders, who believed that their intentions remained undiscovered. Calthan Milbek's strategy was to cloak his forces by concealing them in key locations, pursuant to the intelligence he had obtained. He intended to launch multiple surprise attacks, with synchronized coordination from each strike team. By exercising self-discipline, and waiting for the precise moment to spring their attack, his forces

would vastly increase their chances of defeating the aggressors. He termed his stratagem "channeled aggression".

With the Fellowship's sanction, he successfully implemented his plan, and Tarseus Prime remained free of invaders.

The Fellowship thus appointed Calthan Milbek as Commander of the newly formed Planetary Union, with the specific mandate of identifying and preventing all imminent threats. Milbek was authorized to employ any means necessary to neutralize aggressors, and was given a directive to persuade all those he conquered to join his forces in the struggle for universal peace.

©2authors

\*Images from spacetelescope.org ESA/Hubble