

2032-2055: The Bintari Expansion and the K'Thonn Rebellion

"The eyes of eternity stared joyously to the heavens the day the first of the great vessels thundered away from our world, center of life and hope. The creation of blood, power, and metal was the legacy of so many, and the dawn of a new age for all of Bintarus itself. None could but marvel at the elegance with which it held itself, a graceful miracle taken form. It has finally happened. We are reborn." -- Thilia Caefon, Philosophy Instructor, Astrahk School of Intuitive Arts, recalling the launch of the first Bintari interstellar exploration ship.

The interstellar age began with the Bintari, a race wise in their ways, calm in their actions, and curious in nature. When they exploded outward from their homeworld in the mid-2030's, nothing could stand in their way. Located in a fairly uninteresting system located on the outskirts of a vast nebula, the Bintari yearned for knowledge. Their impetuous adventurism sparked massive interplanetary expeditions and colonizations in their home system.

In the Bintari's zealous exploration of their home system, they came upon a serendipitous find: in their outer solar system, orbiting one of the system's smallest gas giants, was a long abandoned jump gate. The find amazed the Bintari scientists and through their untiring efforts the secrets of jump technology were revealed. Within only four years, over half a dozen scout ships had been launched to explore nearby stars.

The exploration bore much fruit, though as always there were some unfortunate mishaps. In 2045, the first Bintari scout ship entered the nearby nebula, exploring a neutron star just within the expanse. Things couldn't have been more routine--until they discovered the signal. Within the belts of planetesimal remnants that cluttered about the star, a single alien outpost remained. Built into an asteroid, the outpost was ancient. The Shantor Scout *Imphasti* dispatched a twelve member crew to the site, but just as the crew's shuttle neared the installation, the previously dormant defense systems sprang to life. The *Imphasti* barely survived to escape, but all twelve onboard the shuttle were killed in the first barrage. From that point on, the system known as Z10-197 was quarantined and all future nebula explorations were cancelled.

The Bintari's slow exploration efforts continued to push on outward uneventfully until 2052: the year the Bintari discovered the K'Thonn.

The K'Thonn weren't the first race that the Bintari had discovered in their travels; only the year before Bintari scouts had come upon the industrial-age Kanten on their picturesque homeworld and entered into preliminary diplomatic exchanges. The K'Thonn, however, shared one thing in common with the Bintari: space flight.

First contact with the K'Thonn occurred quite unexpectedly when a lone Bintari scout exited hyperspace within close proximity to a K'Thonn fleet.. The Bintari scout and her crew attempted for hours to make contact with the K'Thonn, but to no avail. After three hours of attempts, the scout was suddenly hit by a huge electromagnetic pulse, shutting almost all shipboard systems down and irrevocably damaging several electrical systems. This act of aggression left the scout drifting powerless in space, unable to defend itself from what was to follow.

Dozens of breaching pods attached to the scout's tiny hull, breaking through the hull and delivering their deadly cargo. Systematically the K'Thonn troops siezed the ship, taking the command and control center with little resistance. Interrogations ensued, with all crew members being subjected to heavy psychological testing and torture. This was the K'Thonn's first contact with alien life and they wished to learn as much as they could about these unknown visitors.

After their experiments were performed and their data was collected, the K'Thonn transferred a copy of scout's entire computer data banks for return to their homeworld for further study in hopes of learning more about the Bintari. The K'Thonn troops disembarked the craft and left... After several hours, the crew managed to get the jump engines back up on-line and escaped from the K'Thonn home system, thankful they had escaped with their lives.

When the ship's crew returned to Bintari space, bringing word of the gross actions of the K'Thonn, the world went mad. Never before had the Bintari considered the possibility of an active military threat so

close to their world. Almost overnight factories retooled from consumer goods to military hardware; the shipyards orbiting Bintarus worked around the clock to expand the Bintari defense forces. Over the course of several months over a dozen Bintari ships were constructed.

Once the new naval infrastructure was established, the Bintari began sending out reconnaissance expeditions to the region in and around K'Thonn gathering all the data they could on the threatening race. It was discovered that the K'Thonn did indeed have jump drive technology and had actually *followed* the Bintari back to Ka'Tok. It was decided by the Federation that Ka'Tok was the best place to try to begin formal negotiations with the K'Thonn. Under the direct command of First Citizen Calill, a flotilla of Shantors and their escorts launched for Ka'Tok.

Upon exiting hyperspace near the local jump gate in the Ka'Tok, the Bintari fleet was surprised to find a large gathering of K'Thonn ships relatively close in-system [Historical Note: It was later found that the K'Thonn had rekeyed the jump gate to lead to their homesystem]. The Bintari attempted for hours to obtain a peace agreement with the K'Thonn, but all hope of peace was destroyed when a gunner on the K'Thonn dreadnought *Kiljik* opened fire on the Bintari force. In the melee that followed the K'Thonn were routed at the expense of one Shantor and severe damage to the surviving ships.

Post War

With the war having drained their economy and disheartened their people, popular sentiment on the K'Thonn Homeworld was leaning further and further away from the warrior-dominated Hierarchy that had ruled them for over one hundred and fifty years. In February of 2053, a rebellion was launched by the plebians against the oppressive government regime. The aristocracy wrote off this insurrection, believing that the revolt would be put down in a matter of weeks. They were wrong. Within a month the rebellion had taken on a life of its own.

In April of 2053, representatives of the K'Thonn rebels met with delegates from the Bintari Federation and signed a treaty of alliance, with the Bintari pledging primarily naval support to the rebel cause.

Though the war was hard fought and there were many deaths on both sides, the rebels eventually won the war, assassinating the K'Thonn Emperor and brutally overthrowing the aristocracy. The chaos that followed would help and propel the Bintari Federation into the position of a super-power.