

Vinduran Studies

During basic training, Carter and his comrades not only learned about the allied alien races. They also learned more about other species, including the mysterious Vindurans. Since they revealed little of themselves, this information was particularly exciting for the recruits.

One Thursday they sat in class with Commander Annie Dalton, and since they were done with the Krodaa, they wondered what topic would come next. They had all investigated the peoples of the Initiative by now. When Gina addressed the question to the commander, she reacted surprised.

»Are you saying that knowing your allies is enough for you? There are also other species in the known galaxy. Partly neutral, partly hostile. One of the oldest pearls of wisdom in times of crisis is: ›Know your enemy‹.«

She called up the map and zoomed in on the Dark Sea. Despite its size, this sector of the galaxy had only two systems. One of them was now enlarged. It looked different than all previous areas. The star was not bright, but dark. It radiated a dark violet light but hardly provided any light. »Oh, no ... this is the wrong system. I actually wanted the other ...«, Annie muttered and called up the second system. The star was viridian and radiated a cold, dark, greenish light. The largest planet was marked.

»What you see here is the Sikar-System and the homeworld of the Vindurans, Nunak. Nunak is ... let's say it's a very special world. Very few visitors of other species have been tolerated there so far. The planet has a massive, radioactive core whose radiation is so strong that the soil

crust is torn open in many places. That's why you often see green glowing trenches. The whole world is absolutely dry and there are neither plants nor water, therefore there are no animal species. The Vindurans have synthesized all their food in paste form and import water from a nearby ice world called Vikar. They build their cities either in old craters or on rocks, but never on flat plains. Probably because both places have a lower risk of the ground ripping open. The Vindurans use the radiation ditches as a source of energy, which gives them an almost unlimited supply.«

»How in the world can a species develop on such an empty planet?«, Henry asked without understanding.

Annie nodded: »Yes, many scientists ask themselves this question. There are various theories on the subject. Some believe that Nunak once had an abundant fauna and that radioactivity became so strong either by the Vindurans or by external influences that it destroyed all life. Others claim that the Vindurans were never from Nunak, but fled there from a dying world thousands of years ago.«

Carter said: »The two theories are not mutually exclusive. Maybe they destroyed their homeland and then went on to Nunak.«

»We will probably never find out because the Vindurans guard their culture and their knowledge very egoistically. So I can't tell you much more about Nunak ...«, Annie had to admit. She showed the portrayal of a male Vinduran.

They looked as if a person had been elongated on a stretching bench and thus made narrower. They all grew up to at least two and a half meters in size. Their skinny bodies and thin limbs indicated that they were not particularly strong. Their long heads looked strange and they

had no ears, only small holes. Their skin was light gray and their eyes green.

»That's a Vinduran. Very few of you might have seen one before. There are hardly any outside their own colonies. As you can see, they are characterized by their low physical strength, which is why they usually wear clothes with integrated servo motors on their joints on other worlds. Nunak has noticeably lower gravity than most other planets with atmosphere. What they lack in physical strength, they make up by immensely higher cognitive abilities. They are the most intelligent species in the known galaxy.

The uniqueness of their people is that there are only male Vindurans. Offspring are bred in Nunak's breeding facilities. Again, the question arises as to how this is possible.«

Kelly interjected: »If they were only men by nature, then they should be able to reproduce among each other. Since they apparently don't, however, there must have been female Vindurans at some point.«

»What happened to the women then?«, Jane asked.

Urma said: »They could also have simply replaced their biological reproduction with a synthetic variant.«

»Why would you do that, please? Who would trade sex for a test tube?«, Roderick asked.

»Do you really want to talk about homosexual sex, Rod?«, Billy asked with a grin.

Nambur said: »There can be several reasons for scientifically controlling the procreation of new children. Maybe there was a high mortality rate or they wanted to correct genetic defects. Maybe it's just more efficient. If Vindurans are really so rational and intelligent, they may

have thought that the technical implementation of their people's survival was the best solution.«

Annie raised her hands: »Take it easy! This question should be answered by wiser minds. The fact is that there are no female Vindurans. The why is not relevant for us at this point. However, it helps to make it clear to you why over ninety percent of them are scientists. The rest is responsible for the necessary tasks. Physical work, as with the T'zun, is rather done by machines. They also like to hire other species as pilots or traders.«

»Are they allied with the Lorgans?«, Leena asked.

»No, not at all. The Lorgans hate the Vindurans the most of all races. Even more, than they hate us. Nobody knows why, and they don't tell us. The whole issue is even more controversial because it was the Vindurans who proposed the founding of the Initiative. They brought the idea to the Salvani and they turned to the T'zun to realize it. However, the Vindurans themselves did not join the Initiative, but only act as neutral advisers.«

Carter said: » This whole race seems to be a mystery.«

Roderick replied: »Clever people like to wrap themselves in secrets because it makes them feel great and superior. But in the end, it's nothing special.«

Carter ignored the thousandth side blow and asked: »How did we get in touch with them?«

Annie sat down and said: »Not at all. They never communicated directly with us. They always went through the Salvani or the T'zun. Only a few people have had direct contact with a Vinduran. Only a few of them who decide to live outside their territory can be found.«

They learned that information about this people was sparse and Carter often wondered what this distant species was all about.