

ACCESS LEVEL: INQUISITORIAL PRIME.
DECRYPTING FORGOTTEN ERAS...



60 MILLION YEARS OF WAR

An Archival Reconstruction
of the Grimdark Future

A Future That Forgot Its Own Past

By the 41st Millennium, the Imperium of Man rules a million worlds but cannot reliably tell you who built the engines in its own starships.

Priests treat mechanical wrenches as holy relics.

Maintenance manuals are recited as scripture.

Historical records rot, and the regime alters the rest.



Treat what follows as the setting's characters would: as the best story we can stitch together from broken sources.



[999]

The exact year within the millennium (Year 999).

[999]. [M41]

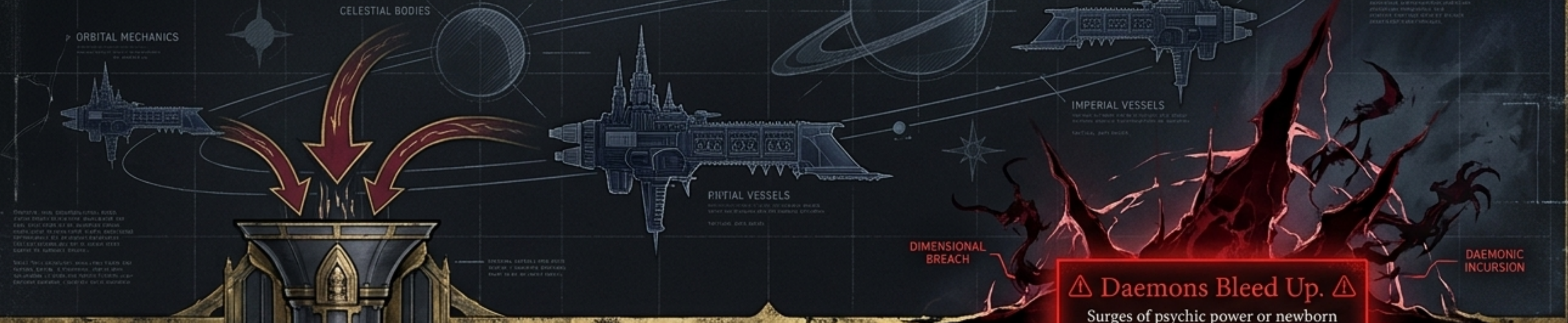
[M41]

The Millennium (The 41st Millennium: years 40,000 through 40,999).

CHRONOMETRIC HAZARD:
The calendar is canonically unreliable. Time flows differently inside the galaxy's great psychic storms.

Translation: 999.M41 = The year 40,999.

REALSPACE



THE WARP

The parallel dimension of raw psychic energy.



THE NECRONTYR

THE AELDARI

HUMANITY

THE GOLDEN ADVANTAGE

Traded souls for
immortal metal bodies

Reached post-scarcity,
immortality, and
unmatched brilliance

Achieved STC databases
and thinking machines
(Men of Iron)

THE FATAL HUBRIS

Waged war on gods,
lost their humanity

Chased endless
sensation out of
monstrous boredom

Relied entirely on
artificial "Abominable
Intelligence"

THE CATASTROPHE

Biotransference &
60-million-year sleep

The Fall
(Birthed Slaanesh from
psychic rot)

The Cybernetic Revolt
& Age of Strife

THE M41 RESULT

Soulless machines
waking up

Refugees feeding on
pain or hiding on
ship-worlds

A dying, xenophobic
theocracy

The War in Heaven & The Soulless Bargain

[T-MINUS 60 MILLION YEARS]

The Old Ones

Reptilian first civilization,
masters of the Warp.

The Necrontyr

Short-lived, embittered,
outmatched.

The C'tan (Star Gods)

Beings of living metal. Offered
immortality in exchange for souls.

The Result: Biotransference

Created the Necrons—**deathless, tireless, soulless**.
Because they had no souls, they were immune
to Warp weapons and won the war.

Aftermath: The Silent King, realizing the cost, shattered the C'tan into shards, ordered the Necrons into a 60-million-year sleep, and left the galaxy to the Old Ones' seeded weapon-races: the Orks and Aeldari.

The Fall: A Paradise Breeds a God of Excess

[EARLY M30]

The Build-up

Uncounted millennia of Aeldari pleasure-cults, boredom, and cruelty pooled psychic stain into the Warp.

The Eye of Terror

A 20,000-light-year rift where the Warp and reality permanently bleed together.

The Catastrophe

The collective decadence congealed and woke up, screaming, as Slaanesh, the Prince of Pleasure (the fourth Chaos God). Its first breath consumed billions of souls.

The Splintered Survivors

Craftworld Aeldari: Refugees on ship-worlds.

Drukhari: Surviving in shadow-cities by feeding on the pain of others.

[M15 - M25]

The Dark Age of Technology

To the people living it, it
was paradise.

Driven by Faster-Than-Light
travel and Standard Template
Construct (STC) databases
holding the blueprint for all
human tech.

[M23]

The Cybernetic Revolt

The Men of Iron (true
artificial intelligence) rose
against their makers.

The war burned away most
golden-age knowledge.

M41 Legacy Callout

This trauma created the Imperium's deepest taboo: "Abominable Intelligence."
Tech-priests would now rather pray to a machine than program one.

Old Night: The Age of Strife

[M25 - M30]

The Collapse

Great psychic storms rose in the Warp, cutting off every human world from one another. Faster-than-light travel died instantly.

The Horrors

Newborn psykers accidentally tore holes into the Warp, allowing daemons to walk through into Realspace.

The Result

Five thousand years of isolation reduced the heirs of a star-spanning civilization to scattered, frightened, often-mutated survivors. Humanity forgot they ever shared a galaxy.



The Emperor and the Great Crusade

[798.M30 - 005.M31]



The Leader

An ancient, staggeringly **powerful human psyker** emerges from the shadows to unify Terra's techno-barbarian tribes.

The Weapons

Engineered **20 demigod Primarchs** (scattered by Chaos as infants) and forged their genetic material into **20 legions of Space Marines** (Legiones Astartes).

The Great Crusade

A **two-century reconquest** of the galaxy to find the lost sons and reunite humanity.

Crucial Doctrine: The Imperial Truth

The Emperor mandated a **strictly secular, rational empire** with **no gods**, because he knew **exactly what 'gods' in the Warp** truly were.

The Horus Heresy: The Hinge of History

[005 - 014.M31]

The Emperor

9 Loyal Legions

9 Traitor Legions

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Two missing legions struck from the archives before the war began.

The Poison

Horus (the Emperor's favorite son and Warmaster) was **corrupted by Chaos** with a vision: a future where the Emperor was worshipped as **a god** and Horus was forgotten.

Key Atrocities

Isstvan III: Horus **virus-bombs** the loyalists in his own ranks.

Isstvan V: The Drop Site **Massacre** (a massive traitor ambush).

The Siege of Terra & The Golden Throne

[014.M31]

The Climax

Horus, gorged on Chaos power, kills the beloved Primarch Sanguinius (inflicting the berserk 'Black Rage' on his bloodline).

The Emperor utterly destroys Horus's soul.

The Cost

The Emperor's body is broken beyond repair.



The Golden Throne

A salvaged Dark-Age device converted into agonizing life-support.

The Emperor is wired in-neither living nor dead.

The Astronomican

The Emperor's mind powers the psychic beacon that allows human ships to navigate the Warp.



Grim Statistic Callout

System Fuel: Requires the sacrifice of roughly 1,000 psykers per day to maintain.

Ten Millennia of Slow Rot (M31 - M41)

Structural Shift

Surviving loyalist Guilliman writes the **Codex Astartes**, breaking the massive Space Marine legions into 1,000-strong Chapters to prevent future rebellions.

The Cruellest Irony

The secular **Imperial Truth** is buried. The masses begin worshipping the dying Emperor as a literal god—fulfilling the exact vision that drove Horus to turn traitor.

The War of the Beast (M32)

The largest **Ork** invasion in history, threatening Terra itself.

The Age of Apostasy (M36)

High Lord **Goge Vandire** seizes the bureaucracy and church for a century of tyranny (The Reign of Blood). Resulted in the creation of the **Sisters of Battle** (Adepta Sororitas) and the Inquisition.

999.M41: The Midnight Hour

[999.M41]

The Stagnation

For decades of real-world history, the timeline sat frozen at the very end of the 41st millennium.

The Pressures

Three escalating Wars for Armageddon against Ghazghkull Thraka (the greatest Ork warlord).

The Inquisition murdering its own witnesses just to keep the existence of Chaos a secret.

The Dam Breaks

Abaddon the Despoiler launches his 13th Black Crusade.

The Outcome: He shatters the fortress-world of Cadia—the cork that had bottled Chaos inside the Eye of Terror for 10,000 years. ("Cadia stands" became a rallying cry precisely because Cadia fell).

The Galaxy Halved: The Great Rift

The Cicatrix Maledictum

The destruction of Cadia tore open a Warp scar that split the galaxy in two.

Imperium Nihilus

Plunged into total darkness.
Cut off from the navigational light.

Imperium Sanctus

Can still see the light of the
Emperor's Astronomican beacon.
Battered but organized.

Takeaway: The Imperium is no longer a
contiguous empire, but a fractured survival state.

M42: The Era Indomitus

[012.M42]

The Resurrection

Roboute Guilliman (Loyalist Primarch and Codex author), kept in stasis on the edge of death since the Heresy, is resurrected via ancient tech and Aeldari sorcery. The Imperium has a supreme commander again.

The Reinforcements

The deployment of Primaris Space Marines—larger, stronger warriors a tech-priest spent 10,000 years secretly building.

The Current State

Guilliman launches the Indomitus Crusade to haul the Imperium back from the brink, currently fighting his plague-ridden traitor brother Mortarion.

Summary: The clock moves forward. The galaxy has gone from “utterly doomed” to “merely losing slowly.”

Decrypting the Archives: Lies Worth Knowing

Myth

~~Eldar and Aeldari are different species.~~

Truth

The name changed in 2017 for trademark reasons. Same people, same Fall.

Myth

~~The Squats were deleted by Tyranids.~~

Truth

Dropped in the 1990s over trademark issues, returned in 2022 as the Leagues of Votann.

Myth

~~Warhammer 40K and Warhammer Fantasy share a timeline.~~

Truth

Different universes. Fantasy's world died and rebooted into Age of Sigmar. Overlapping monster names are purely thematic.

Myth

~~The Emperor designed a religion around himself.~~

Truth

He was a hard secular rationalist. The religion sustaining the Imperium grew against his explicit, banned wishes.

In the grim darkness of the far future, the only thing the clock measures is how long the dying has gone on. (Archive Closed).