

WARHAMMER

40,000

ROLEPLAY

WRATH & GLORY™

CHURCH OF STEEL



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THE CULT MECHANICUS

**'LIFE IS THE MOVEMENT OF MECHANISMS.
SPIRIT DIRECTS LIFE'S MOTION.'**

— First and Second of the Sixteen Universal Laws as recorded in the Gilead System

Despite their dependence on it in the 41st Millennium, technology is poorly understood by most Imperial citizens, who treat it with a superstitious reverence. Technology is the exclusive province of the Cult Mechanicus, and those outside the faith are actively encouraged to maintain their ignorance to avoid heretical thoughts.

Rather than attempting to fully understand the inner workings of a piece of technology, worshippers pay respect to the Machine Spirit residing within. These animistic fragments of the Machine God, or Deus Mechanicus, grant animation and therefore life to every working object, from domestic radiation ovens to void ships. Care is taken to placate these spirits with litanies of maintenance, sacred oils, and rites of cleansing, to better ensure their smooth working.

THE MACHINE GOD

'Sentience is the response to stimulus.

Consciousness is the reflection upon stimulus.

Sentience is the prerequisite of Consciousness.'

— Third through Fifth of the Sixteen Universal Laws as recorded in the Gilead System

To its worshippers, the Machine God is the supreme and omnipotent divinity of the universe, responsible for all of Humanity's knowledge as well as for the vital spark that animates every living — and moving — thing. Its worship began on the planet Mars after a bloody period of civil war destroyed the terraformed ecosystem. Struggling to survive on a barren planet infested with savage cultists and hostile autonomous machines, the inhabitants of Mars developed a respect for the technology that kept them safe. Respect turned to reverence, and then to worship.

Once allied with the Imperium, the Tech-Priests of Mars formally recognised the God-Emperor as the long-prophesied Ommissiah — the divine physical manifestation of the Machine God — and partially aligned their faith with the Imperial Cult. In present times, worship of the Machine God is the province of the Adeptus Mechanicus, though it is not unheard of for Imperial citizens, particularly those who work alongside vehicles, ships, or other heavy machinery, to quietly revere the Emperor in His form as the Ommissiah.

THE MOTIVE FORCE

'Comprehension derives from the exercise of faith.'

— Sixth of the Sixteen Universal Laws
as recorded in the Gilead System

To understand the Motive Force, one must first understand the triune nature of the Machine God. In its primary form, it is the unknowable intelligence that both created and is the universe. The Ommissiah is the physical embodiment of the Machine God in the Emperor's mortal form. The Motive Force is the third member of the divine trinity: the aspect of the Machine God lent to all mechanisms that move of their own volition, granting them a tiny spark of divinity.

The true nature of the Motive Force and its relationship to other, more physical forces is the subject of much debate among the various sects of the Cult Mechanicus. For most citizens of the Imperium, however, it is akin to a soul or spirit, an animistic principle that can be applied to all life and all moving things.

THE TREATY OF MARS

'The Ommissiah is the seat of Comprehension.'

— Eighth of the Sixteen Universal
Laws as recorded in the Gilead System

The Treaty of Mars is the formally codified pact detailing the terms of the alliance between the Imperium of Man and the formerly independent Mechanicum of Mars. The treaty was signed on Olympus Mons shortly after the conclusion of Holy Terra's Unification Wars, with the Imperium promising political independence and the support of Navigators and Astropaths to the former Martian Empire.

In exchange, the Tech-Priests of Mars pledged to support the Emperor's Great Crusade with weaponry, ships, and raw materials, sharing the fruits of their wisdom, though not the wisdom itself. Perhaps most important of all, the signing of the Treaty of Mars (or the Treaty of Olympus Mons, as it is known to the Adeptus Mechanicus) unified the two empires of Terra and Mars, averting a costly war of subjugation and ensuring subsequent peace in the Terran Solar System. Following the treaty, the Imperium adopted the now-familiar two-headed Aquila as its symbol in recognition of the alliance.

The Imperium and the Cult Mechanicus are now so closely intertwined that separating them would be impossible. In an Empire at war, the Imperium's need for weaponry and transportation could hardly be more apparent. Similarly, the Adeptus Mechanicus rely on the Imperium for political legitimacy, unskilled labour, and the resources required to continue their Quest for Knowledge and search for the lost Forge Worlds of ancient antiquity. Wherever technology is found — whether on far-flung battlefields or peaceful Agri-Worlds — the Adeptus Mechanicus are there also, bound by ancient compact to support their Imperial allies.

THE QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE

'The knowledge of the ancients is beyond Comprehension.'

— Thirteenth of the Sixteen Universal
Laws as recorded in the Gilead System

The central tenet of faith in the Deus Mechanicus is that all knowable information already exists within the universe, and need only be discovered. The cult prizes discovering and learning from ancient information, but innovation, experimentation, and the study of xenos technology are heretical desires. Its ultimate goals are to understand the Ommissiah, to perfect Humanity by ascension to a fully mechanical form, and to recover the lost glories of Humanity's ancient past.

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