

Korroth  
Jedi Ranger  
Disciples of Baas  
House Satele Shan  
Clan Odan-Urr  
#8488

## [Homecoming] Scouting the System Voraskel Palace

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{{City
|image=[[File:Voraskel_palace.jpg|250px]]
|name=Voraskel Palace
|constructed=927 BBY
|destroyed=
|builder=Ranorm Anasaye
|planet=[[Kias (Planet)|Kias]]
|continent=
|location=Stratosphere
<br />Essadan region
|climate=Temperate, controlled
|interest=
|population=573,000
|era=* [[Republic era]]
* [[Imperial era]]
* [[Rise of the Brotherhood era]]
* [[Exodus era]]
* [[New Order era]]
|affiliation=* [[Vatali Empire]]
* [[Clan Odan-Urr]]
}}}
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The Voraskel Palace is the capital of the Vatali Empire and Kias's main financial center. The floating city is located in the planet's stratosphere, approximately 34 km above the Essadan skyhooks. It plays a central role in the culture and identity of the Sephi of Kias, and it is the residence of much of the planet's aristocracy. Nicknamed the "Steel Star," Voraskel is a city of magnificent and contrasting sights—from the radiance of the Palace

Building itself to the hectic glamour of the cone's commercial district to the quiet opulence of the residential neighbourhoods on the Concourse.

== History ==

The Essadan region was first surveyed in the early tenth century BBY by Sephi pioneers, who found large deposits of metals and tibanna as yet untouched by Gand settlers. The discovery prompted the Sephi homeworld to initiate a colonization effort on the planet, with a view to exploiting its rich resources.

Lord Ranorm Anasaye was the Sephi dominion's subject king for this new colony. His investments in industry, infrastructure and innovation made Kiast commercially attractive for many Sephi nobles, who gave backing to the venture. The culmination of the colony's development came with the construction of the Voraskel Palace in 927 BBY. This floating city brought the refineries, processing centres and starship ports up from the noxious and unstable planet surface, thereby reducing production costs and making Kiast a competitive power on the market.

The burgeoning wealth of the kingdom on Kiast did not go unnoticed on the Sephi homeworld. The dominion feared that economic power would signal greater autonomy and demands for self-rule. During the reign of Tanisad, the homeworld imposed heavy tariffs and export quotas on Kiast. The Tibanna & Ores Customs House was established in the Voraskel Palace to enforce these duties, alongside a garrison of navy squadrons.

Unintentionally, this heavy-handed approach compelled the local Sephi nobles and the Quorahi to support Tanisad and his successor, who were therefore able to create their own power centre in the Voraskel Palace. The situation came to a head in 495 BBY, when Quorahi protesters gathered outside the Customs House were massacred by Sephi dominion troops.

Vatal used this event as "casus belli", claiming that the homeworld was trying to impose direct rule through violent military means. Throughout the War for Independence the Voraskel Palace remained in the hands of the Sephi dominion. A contributing factor for the outcome of the war was the dominion's refusal to leave the city in spite of civil disobedience and subversion by the locals. The war ended in 486 BBY when mobs stormed the Customs House and killed everyone inside.

After the war the Voraskel Palace became the seat of the new Vatali Empire. Sephi nobles flocked to the city like bugs to a lamp, drawn to this unadulterated fulcrum of imperial authority. The situation was not so favourable for the Quorahi. Left destitute by the war, masses of unemployed immigrated to Voraskel. Vatal and Darsayi put them to

work on a new Imperial Palace Building, and they were powerless to leave when they found themselves in serf-like conditions.

Though it was not the Voraskel Quorahi who started the First Quorahi War, it was certainly them who ended it. Their occupation of the Imperial residence in 196 BBY forced Empress Darsayi to sign a peace treaty. The Quorahi earned the right to leave the city, to own property and to be paid a minimum wage.

The victors of the First Quorahi War soon discovered that these freedoms meant little if they were still destitute. The poor of Voraskel couldn't afford to leave the city. Their only option for survival was to continue slaving away at the Palace Building. During the Second Quorahi War, as overt fighting took place all over Kias, Taselm organized covert actions in Voraskel itself. Sabotage, riots and illegal strikes by the enslaved workers all played their part in the conflict. In 75 BBY, with Quorahi airships drawing near, Taselm's supporters in Voraskel caught Darsayi's Imperial convoy as it attempted to flee the city. Only Taselm's personal intervention prevented a lynching, and the deposed monarch was instead executed on the steps of the Palace Building.

During Taselm's reign the demographics of the Voraskel Palace changed substantially. Construction on the Palace Building, never truly completed since Vatal's time, ceased entirely. The Kias system's widespread economic boom lured low-paid workers away from the city. The nobles too, having lost their ability to directly influence the Astral Throne, drew away from Voraskel. Instead, the city became a center of innovation and technological development. The Flight Academy, established during this period, was the source of many of the airship and starship classes still in use today, both military and commercial. Also during this time Voraskel's old Ranorm-era tibanna refineries were refurbished with almost entirely automated systems—a model eventually followed by the rest of Kias's skyhooks.

Not all spheres of Kias society were happy with the pace of change of Taselm's golden age. Vauzem's faction of seditious nobles gained the loyalty of several veteran Palace Guard commanders, who were resentful of Taselm's downsizing of the military. With their support, Vauzem was eventually able to storm the Palace Building and assassinate his brother Essadan.

Though Vauzem might have had the backing of the Palace Guard, the Flight Academy-trained navy commanders all supported Kaltani. Vauzem's pro-Vatal rhetoric also alienated the Quorahi. The usurper attempted to make a stand in Voraskel, but he was bombed out of the Palace Building and was forced to flee. Kaltani's forces took back control of the city and expelled from it all the nobles who had been involved in the

original coup. Another direct consequence was the abolition of the Palace Guard, which was then replaced by rotating regiments of the Royal Guard.

Kaltani's reign saw a continuation of the trends established by Taselm. The construction of a new Imperial Palace Building was the opportunity for collaboration between Sephi architects and Quorahi engineers. The city continued to develop into a center of culture and sophistication. Sephi nobles divided their time between their estates in the Kiast system and their duties in the High Court on Voraskel. The luxury goods, arts and leisure market of Voraskel, led by Quorahi entrepreneurship, developed to satisfy the needs of these wealthy Sephi patrons.

== Tiers ==

=== Palace Building ===

The Palace proper is the seat of government in the Vatali Empire and the residence of the Anasaye monarch. The edifice comprises about a quarter of the city's total size, and it rises up from the Concourse with its central spire and three winged towers. It contains the two most important political institutions of the Empire—the Astral Throne and the Vatali Conclave, as well as all the other administrative, judicial and military offices that make up the government.

The first Palace was built by King Ranorm in the tenth century BBY. This structure was later torn down by Emperor Vatal, who made designs for a colossal fortified citadel that would have surpassed even today's building. However, Vatal's Palace was never entirely completed due to the Quorahi Wars, and in 4 BBY it was destroyed during the last stages of the war of succession.

Today's Palace, commissioned by Empress Kaltani, is an amalgam of Sephi architecture and Quorahi engineering. Its graceful soaring spires and pinnacles belie a solidity of structure that allows it to withstand the winds of the stratosphere. The arching towers, vaulted interiors and high windows are cleverly designed to catch the light of the binary suns, creating spectacles of color and form.

The throne room, where the Empress holds audiences, ceremonies and receptions, lies at the base of the central spire. Also in the spire is the High Court, the gathering place of the Vatali Conclave. Above these two great halls are the numberless offices and departments of the civil service, where the minutiae of legislative decisions become enacted. The ministries of government, from health to industry to foreign affairs, reside in the West Wing, while the East Wing houses the offices of the Vatali Navy and Guard. The South Wing serves as the residence of the Imperial family and any visiting guests of state.

### === Concourse ===

The Concourse comprises all the structures that rise from the widest circle of the city, excluding the Palace Building itself. Here the nobles of Kiast make their residence, as well as the larger companies and financial institutions. The borough is also renowned for its atmosphere of culture, learning and sophistication, housing museums, theaters and the Minnad Flight Academy.

The northern district of the Concourse is occupied by the starship landing platforms. These connect to the airship docks, themselves a tourist attraction for being made entirely of reinforced transparisteel. From the landing platforms the Taselm Causeway traverses the center of the Concourse. This is the financial district, where many of Kiast's corporations, banks and commercial institutions have their headquarters.

The Causeway bisects the residential districts of the Sephi nobles. The Empire's aristocracy lives in luxury apartments and mansions, at least when they are not managing their estates through the Kiast system. Also in these districts are the Old Commerce Chambers and Raston Hall, two of the most famous theaters where the notoriously long and convoluted operas of Sephi tradition are performed.

The "Age of Reason" is anchored in the western district, while the Flight Academy can be found between the East and South Wings of the Palace Building. The Imperial botanic gardens span the whole southern district.

### === Cone ===

Below the Concourse the city tapers into a cone structure that contains many of Voraskel's amenities and necessities, as well as being a suburban residential area. The repulsorlift engines, the Royal Guard, local businesses and most of the city's workforce are located within the cone.

The repulsorlift arrays that keep the skyhook aloft sit directly below the rim of the Concourse. These huge anti-gravity engines have functioned unceasingly for almost a thousand years, through peace, wars, coups and sieges. Their design has remained essentially unchanged since the time of King Ranorm, though they were expanded in the reign of Vatal to account for the new Palace Building, and in Taselm's reign their operation became mostly automated.

Intermingled with the structure of the repulsorlifts are the tibanna refineries. In the early days of Voraskel, production and export of tibanna gas was the city's principal purpose. Now they supply the substantial energy requirements of the city itself, including the

repulsorlifts. Some of the older refineries have been converted to art galleries, showing the works of modern artists as well as reinterpretations of traditional Sephi art.

The Royal Guard barracks and hangars are located below the Palace Building, within easy reach of all parts of the Skyhook. Since the last war of succession Voraskel has been withdrawing many of its turbolaser emplacements, to reduce the value of the city as a military target. Instead, it is increasingly relying on the Royal Guard's elite starfighter squadrons.

Further down is the commercial district, with upscale restaurants, markets and theaters. The luxury goods sourced here from all over the Galaxy are much in demand by the Sephi nobility. The cuisine is also an eclectic mix of Outer Rim and Kiasti flavors. The local Sephi dishes are mainly derived from avian creatures and focus more on texture than taste.

Below the commercial district are the suburban neighbourhoods, radiating around the central Statuary Park. This residential area is mainly occupied by Sephi and Quorahi who work in government offices, the service industry, entertainment or the many businesses of the commercial district.

== Places of Interest ==

=== Flight Academy ===

The Minnad Flight Academy is the cadet training and educational establishment of the Vatali Royal Navy. It is also one of the preeminent institutes of aeronautical, astronautical and astrophysical research in the Kiast system.

Originally the building was the Tibanna & Ores Customs House. Under Vatal it became a prison and correctional facility, and it was only during Taselm's reign that the Academy was founded and located here. Since then it has pioneered travel in the Kiast system. It was here that the first winged starfighters were developed, and the academy is still the main source for travel charts through the Palioxis Cloud nebula.

=== "Age of Reason" ===

The "Age of Reason" is a decommissioned airship, now a museum, tethered to the Concourse. Originally a galleon in Emperor Vatal's navy, the ship was pulled from service in Taselm's downsizing of the military. It now houses a large number of historical artifacts, from ancient Gand breathing masks to Vatal's throne to Ranorm's original mining charter, stamped by the Sephi homeworld.

The museum often hosts temporary exhibitions about Kiasti history and culture. The current exhibition is titled "Propaganda in the Second Quorahi War" and it explores the contrasting information campaigns led by Darsayi and Taselm. The government portrayed the rebels as subverters of the natural order of Sephi dominance, destroyers of the Empire's social structure, while the Quorahi thought of the Empire as betrayers and oppressors.

=== Statuary Park ===

The Statuary Park is a multi-storey green space centered in the lower part of the city's cone. It was initially built by Taselm at the end of the Second Quorahi War as a war memorial. The park gradually grew to hold statues and monuments to many more famous and honored individuals of Vatali history. Some of the most prominent individuals represented:

- \* Herpune Minnad: inventor of the sleek winged starfighters that are unique to Kiast.
- \* Lonnar Gaspol: architect who adapted and designed the repulsorlift engines for the Varaskel Palace in Ranorm's reign.
- \* Bic Chiddy: a Quorahi boy who is said to have cast the first stone in the storming of the Palace Building during the First Quorahi War.

[[Category:Odan-Urr Locations]]