



Drus'hav'nik'ta'dold'ir – The Bronze Helix Observatory

Little is known about the ancient history of Seraph. Among the many mysteries shrouded by the fog of time is the origins of the ancient ruin known as Drus'hav'nik'ta'dold'ir. Taken from an old Seraphian word meaning “bronze path to the Heavens”. Originally believed to have served as a massive tomb complex, archeological researchers at the Imperial University have discovered a more complex purpose for this massive and ancient landmark. Archaeologists have estimated the age of the structure to be more than fifteen thousand years old, long before Seraph had been colonized.

Drus'hav'nik'ta'dold'ir consists of rather plain, circular building, made of roughed sandstone. The stone, sourced from local quarries, exhibits clearly layered and colorful striations. The bricks which make up the surface building range display colors ranging from reds, purples, tans and yellows. The builders of the complex took special care to lay out the stones so that each colorful ring is contiguous and unbroken around the circumference of the building. Small openings, wide enough for a single person to enter the inner complex, sit at the four cardinal directions.

Once inside the walls of the surface complex, visitors to Drus'hav'nik'ta'dold'ir are shown the full depth of its mysterious purpose. At the core of the building, a massive vertical pit one hundred meters across and four thousand meters deep. The mouth of the pit, known as *The Operculum*, has a singular helical path which leads down into the depths. The helical path descends the full length of a pit at a near perfect one percent grade. The walls of the pit were once clad in polished bronze mirrors, each of which are held at a distinct angle to focus light from the sky above. Many of these mirrors have fallen or otherwise been removed. Those that remain have long since been tarnished beyond any reflective capability. Along the path to the bottom, resting at each of the cardinal directions, are four platforms known as *The Respites*. Each respite is exactly eight hundred meters below the one above it.

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<sup>1</sup> Artwork is not the writers. Taken from <https://i.pinimg.com/564x/58/0b/b5/580bb587896050b7e6edf70a4f23c85d.jpg> Credit to the original artist.

At the base of the pit, the floor is made of finely polished obsidian. At the center of the landing, what appears to be a ritual station sits perfectly centered. A complex star chart has been carved into the walls of the large landing chamber. Astrophysicists have indicated its accuracy within one ten-thousandth of an arc minute. Branching off from the main pit, there is a massive underground complex of corridors and galleries carved into the stone. Some of the galleries serve as tombs, others serve unknown purposes. The complex as a whole could have supported a city of nearly twenty thousand people. The lower sections of the complex are often filled with ground water and are inaccessible without proper equipment. During rainy seasons, large waterfalls cascade from the surface into the dark depths below.

Imperial researchers have determined that Drus'hav'nik'ta'dold'ir served as an ancient observatory. Further study of the complex is underway, but it is unmistakable that this location served both scientific and spiritual functions. An extraordinary amount of manpower and unknown technologies would have been required to maintain the complex. Due to the dangers within the complex and ongoing research, access to Drus'hav'nik'ta'dold'ir has been restricted to members of the Imperial University and Clan Scholae Palatinae.