# Story of the Universe

## The Beginning

In the beginning, the universe was vast and full of life. There were no individual astral bodies, just one large gathering in the center where everything would reside. Life was abundant and thriving with limitless resources. The universe kept growing and growing, bringing new life and experiences along with it. It had seemed like there was no stopping it. Essence was rich in the air, the ground, through every little thing.

## The Collapse

While the growth of the universe seemed to be unwavering, it eventually reached a point where it could not grow any further. The weight of the universe was immense, and cracks began to form. Massive earthquakes and fissures became a common occurrence, stability was a blessing. Eventually, the weight became so massive that the universe couldn’t hold it up anymore. It collapsed and folded in upon itself, leaving small weak points inside the folds.

There was a long stillness for a while, until specks of essence began bursting out, filling the empty void. A majority of these bursts flickered rapidly through the sky, appearing as bright white lights. However, some of them collided with each other, expanding into large masses (astral bodies) imbued with the essence. These large masses now float through space, hosting various forms of life, some thriving, others stuck in intense cold or heat.

As life evolved on astral bodies, some creatures began to speculate about the universe. Eventually, through the help of the *folded*, many civilizations gained a deep understanding of the folds of the universe. These folds often expel specific clusters of the same essence. The civilization of interest in this game sees these clusters as “signatures” of sorts from various *gods*.

### The Folded

The folds expel essence indiscriminately in any direction, at any time. Sometimes these bursts line up at critical moments in and object or creature’s life (such as birth or a near death experience). The extreme emotion mixed with the high concentration of essence creates somewhat of a connection between that entity and the universe. When this happens, the entity is deemed “*folded*”.

The *folded* are highly sought after as they have a much deeper connection to the essences of the universe. They often contain a more innate understanding of magic, and can sometimes “communicate” with the folds through whispers and visions. However, this comes at a cost. These constant whispers from the universe can make the *folded* become insane or unstable. Many break mentally long before they reach old age.

Expanded upon later is one of the most important *folded ones* in the story. A *folded* that was able to locate *The Entity* when exploring the various folds in the universe. They were able to see what it really was, and what it really desired.

## Essence

Essence is the most fundamental resource in the universe. It comes in many forms, but has been split into 9 groups: heat, electricity, nature, moisture, cold, air, earth, light, and dark. It also appears in a more natural form, not associated with any of the other groups. When essences collide with great force, they can combine to create new life or masses. This process is how all of the life and terrain of the universe was created.

# Threats

## The Entity

The overarching threat for this game is an unknown entity hidden within the folds of the universe. It knows nothing but destruction, attempting to absorb everything that brings life. It will not cease its actions until either it is destroyed, or the universe is.

Until the player nears the end of the game, it is assumed that this *Entity* is the “*God of Uniformity*”. It is hinted in some places but primarily surrounds a fold-walker who peered somewhere they shouldn’t have. They hide in fear for most of their time, eventually captured by the remaining members of the *Cult of Uniformity*. The cult pushes them to tell them what they know, and they eventually say “You worship a false god. There is something out there, but it is not divine. It wishes to consume all, and it does not discriminate”.

## The Cult of Uniformity

A large cult, the *Cult of Uniformity*, worships this false god and attempts to aid in the goal of “uniformity” – making everything the same, snuffing out creativity. They attack art shows and pieces of art in general to fight against the bright “dangerous” colors. They are unofficially broken up into different groups or factions based on their beliefs and actions

### The Betrayal

At some point in the story, a large portion of the *Cult of Uniformity* get attacked by *The Entity*. A large majority of the members are killed and most of those who survive end up turning away from the cult and attempt to rejoin society (although most are unsuccessful). The most extremist groups remain loyal and claim that those who left the cult were weak to begin with.

### The Robins

They call themselves the robins after robin hood, although they don’t accurately follow the legend. They claim that everyone is rich and the only one who is poor is the *God of Uniformity* since a majority of those across the universe don’t believe in his teachings. So they steal indiscriminately and often burn the money or use it to support the cult in the goal of growing the support for their god.

### The Watchers

The Watchers faction takes over a small town in order to bring uniformity to its residents. They watch closely, listening to what everyone says or does, making sure no one is overly emotional in order to maintain a good work force. They believe emotion is inherently bad and unproductive, so anyone who brings it into the town needs to be punished. They capture anyone who breaks the rules and turns them into emotionless drones.

Following the betrayal, they maintain the hold they have over the town, although many are a little shaken (although they can’t express it very much).