There was an ancient empire that had unified the galaxy, and the Fallen Empires were originally puppets of this empire. Having discovered the concept of the Universe Bubble, the empire did not try to expand on an intergalactic scale, but instead wanted to manipulate the Realspace Universe Bubble to halt Realspace’s expansion and to make the universe more amenable to travel and control.

Due to their advanced technology, the Fallen Empires and other vassals were kept content with post-scarcity hedonism. Such prosperity and progress also began to gradually corrupt the ancient empire, with their hubris overcoming their consciousness. Their attempt went wrong, and instead of manipulating the Realspace Universe Bubble, it seriously destabilized the Bubble and the disruptions were detectable across the Bubble Cluster.

The resulting backblast caused a massive Shroud Incursion across the originating galaxy. All psionic users were affected, with the more powerful users suffering more. This psionic and physical backlash snuffed out the ancient empire with only fragments remaining. The Fallen Empires were turned away from progress, and they began to become fanatically committed to their internal ethos. This, plus their original hedonism, ensured that they would not rise to try to take control of the galaxy. The Unbidden, previously consumed in hunting throughout their home Bubble, took note of the shockwave and investigated ways to traverse Bubbles, as other Bubbles could hold worthwhile prey.