



FREE PLANET

SITTERSON
CANNON
ASTONE
ESPOSITO

**EXPANSION
PROTOCOLS
PART 2 OF 2**



The Interplanetary Development Alliance, in perpetual need of both workers to produce goods and markets in which to sell them, typically developed its universal expansion around the accession of planets already successfully inhabited by humanity.

By way of contrast, the Orouran approach was markedly less discerning, proceeding irrespective of human presence; the Empire's primary objectives comprised the extraction of exploitable resources and the settlement of its teeming population.

Upon discovery of a habitable planet, the Empire deployed its Apostles, elite special forces personnel tasked with reconnaissance and advance operations.

APOSTLE
NIKETAS:
AWAKEN!

GUH--!

LALOUX MISSION
APOSTLE #78-734022
NIKETAS
DAY 001

CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR FIRST
MISSION.

An Apostle was always aided by their Witness, in-orbit support personnel providing guidance via cerebral implant.

WHEN
THE GREAT
SUN CALLS, IT IS
OURS BUT TO
ANSWER.

No expense is spared on the Apostle's Glaive; diamond-like carbon coating provides enhanced durability and resistance to its high-carbon stainless steel head.

At seven years of age, the most independent and capable Orouans are selected, given wide-ranging training and permitted to wear the Apostolic Escutcheon.

Sign of office, reliable melee weapon and, most importantly, telemetry unit, providing a continuous feed of planet-side data to the Apostle's in-orbit Witness.

MY NAME IS LAINA; I AM YOUR WITNESS. TO SPEAK WITH ME, SIMPLY THINK IT.

I REMEMBER MY TRAINING. THANK YOU, WITNESS LAINA.

NO. THANK YOU. YOU HAVE SACRIFICED SO MUCH, WORKED SO HARD, FOR SO LONG...

IT IS AN HONOR TO SERVE YOU, APOSTLE NIKETAS.

THE HONOR IS MINE. TO SHINE THE GREAT SUN'S LIGHT UPON A NEW WORLD IS A PRIVILEGE BEYOND WORDS.

AND YET YOU PHRASE IT SO ELEGANTLY.

YOUR GLAIVE HAS BEEN CALIBRATED; WOULD YOU LIKE A MOMENT TO REFLECT? TO TAKE IN LALOUX?



NO. I AM HERE TO EVANGELIZE.

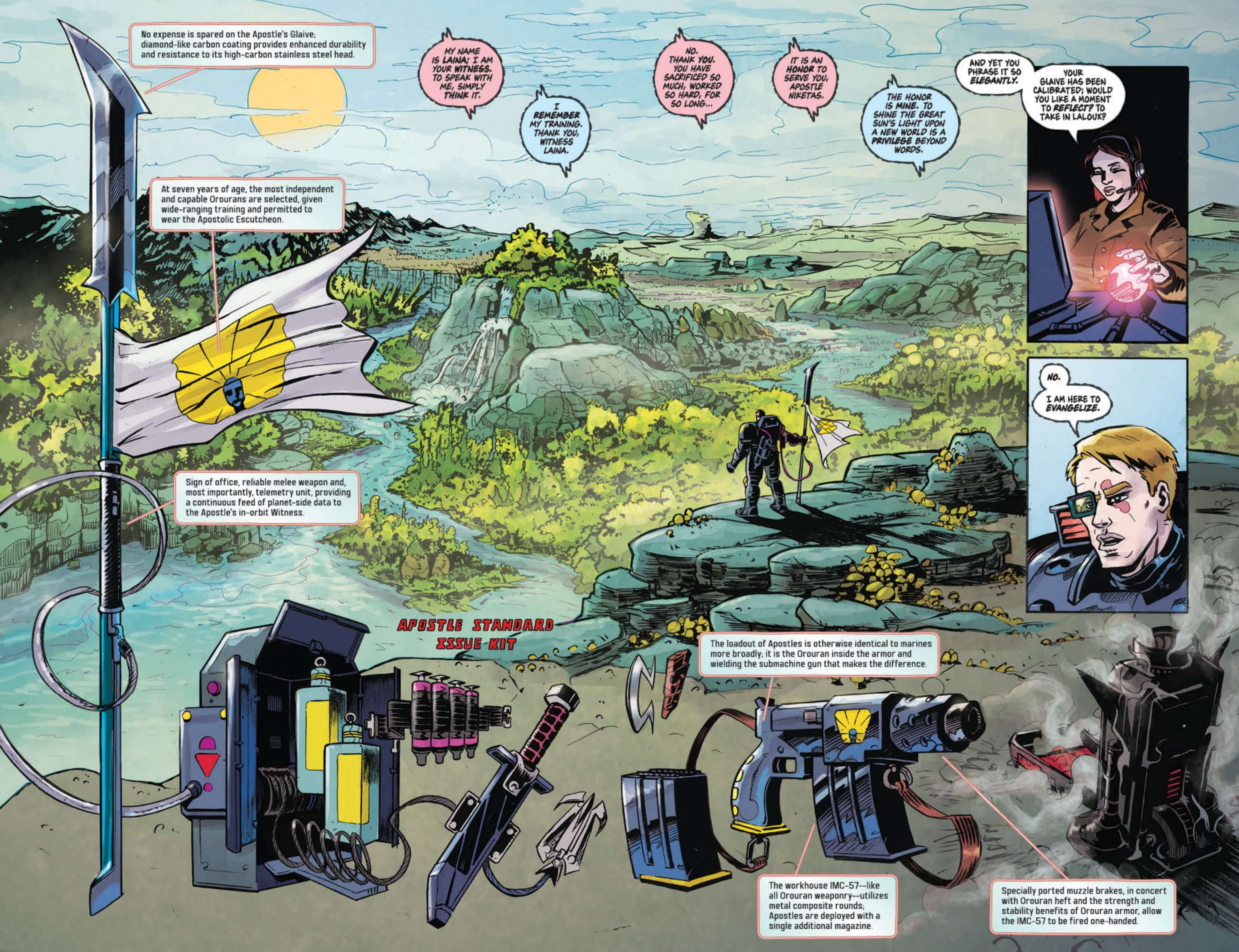


APOSTLE STANDARD ISSUE KIT

The loadout of Apostles is otherwise identical to marines more broadly; it is the Orouan inside the armor and wielding the submachine gun that makes the difference.

The workhouse IMC-57--like all Orouan weaponry--utilizes metal composite rounds; Apostles are deployed with a single additional magazine.

Specially ported muzzle brakes, in concert with Orouan heft and the strength and stability benefits of Orouan armor, allow the IMC-57 to be fired one-handed.



STHUNK

LALOUX MISSION
APOSTLE #78-734022
NIKETAS
DAY 006

YOU MUST
BE STARVING...I
REMAIN ASTOUNDED
BY YOUR
FORTITUDE.

NOT
FORTITUDE,
WITNESS
LAINA.
FAITH.

I CONSERVE MY
RATIONS, CONFIDENT
THAT THE GREAT SUN
WILL PROVIDE.

STHUNK

THE
FOLLOWING
APPEAR HIGHLY
REGENERABLE:
VINES, ROOTS, FLOWER
STALKS, TRAPS AND
CONSTITUENT
COMPONENTS.

Crown

Lobe

Cilia

Trigger hairs

Flower stalk

Hinge

EVEN WITH
LINGERING METABOLIC
SLOWDOWN AND YOUR
ARMOR'S CALORIC DRIP,
I GROW CONCERNED
ABOUT YOUR ENERGY
EXPENDITURE, APOSTLE
NIKETAS.

"THROUGH OUR
SACRIFICE, HIS
RULE ENDURES."

MAY IT
BE, APOSTLE
NIKETAS. I AM
AMAZED BY YOUR
WISDOM TWICE
OVER.

DESTROYING
THE CROWN
WILL SUCCESSFULLY
INHIBIT ADDITIONAL
GROWTH.

THE GREAT SUN ALWAYS
PROVIDES. WOULD HE SEND
HIS CHILDREN WHERE THERE
WAS NO SUSTENANCE?

OF COURSE
NOT. HOWEVER,
I DON'T HAVE
SUFFICIENT DATA
TO ASSESS
TOXICITY
LEVELS.

FRET
NOT, WITNESS
LAINA.

THE GREAT
SUN FREES US
FROM WORRY.



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CANNON
ASTONE
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\$3.99
US

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TC
2025