

## The Praetorians

### Overview

For a very long time it was thought that Earth was the center of the universe. Then, in the 16th Century, Copernicus discovered that the Solar System was actually Heliocentric. Our earth is the center of a universe though, the center of a dimensional universe. Primal Earth, as it is called by the researchers at Portal Corporation is right in the center of a vast array of dimensions. Only a fraction of them have even been detected, let alone explored. One of those worlds is Praetorian Earth, ruled by a group that is the dark mirror of the Freedom Phalanx. In their world, they are the pinnacle of paranormal power. They have recruited and organized paranormals into a force that has conquered and enslaved almost everyone in their world. A resistance formed by a few paranormals who escaped the Praetorians grasp is fighting a losing battle. With their own world firmly under their thumb the Praetorians began to grow restless. Tyrant was having more and more insubordination, and then he received a gift. Statesman was on an exploratory mission for Portal Corporation and ran directly into Marauder, who he mistook for Back Alley Brawler. The ensuing battle drew the attention of several other members of the Praetorians. Statesman would almost certainly have been able to make his escape until the sight of his Sidekick Ms. Liberty, twisted into Dominatrix, critically distracted him. The Praetorians struck in that moment and were able to capture him. Even after a great deal of torture, including tremendous mental anguish inflicted by Dominatrix, after she realized his vulnerability to her, Statesman revealed little about Primal Earth. It was enough for Tyrant to set Neuron on a path to duplicate the Portal technology. Now Tyrant holds Statesman for the time he will be ready to strike against Primal Earth.

### Organization

The Praetorians represent all the ideals of the Freedom Phalanx, twisted and corrupted. They value conquering and subjugation.

#### Tyrant (Arch-villain)

This power hungry version of Statesman believes firmly that Might Makes Right. He has conquered his world and like a modern day Alexander he is now turning his eye to ours. Tyrant rules with heavy hand, and it is only through the fanatical loyalty of Neuron and his creations that Tyrant retains his throne so easily.

Visuals: Statesman with darker colors. Perhaps a spikier, more ominous helmet

Powers: Leadership, Invulnerability, Super Strength, Flight, Regeneration

#### Infernal (Magic Arch-villain)

On Praetorian Earth Infernal never had Numina's guidance to temper his drive to control more and more demons. When he first arrived on Praetorian Earth, Diabolique encouraged him to bind more and more demons into his armor until they corrupted his spirit. With the darkness came power and soon Infernal had become stronger than his guide. He is extremely power hungry and is happy to cross over to Primal Earth, where there may be more demons for him to use.

Visuals: Infernal with no changes

Powers: Axe, Invulnerability, Fire attacks

Minions:

Demon (Minion, Lt.) – These vicious creatures serve Infernal only because he forces them too. By subverting their will through the use of ancient mystic rituals he creates permanent servants. If his control begins to wane over a particular demon, he performs another ceremony and binds

it permanently into his weapons or armor to increase their strength.

Demon Lord (Boss) – Occasionally Infernal is able to find a more powerful demon to subjugate. It takes a much greater effort to control them so he cannot use them as frequently but he still has a significant number under his sway. One of the greatest dangers Infernal faces is losing control of one of his Demon Lords.

#### Diabolique (Magic Arch-Villain)

Tammy Arcanus was born with great Magical powers on Praetorian Earth, just like she was on Primal Earth. Unfortunately they manifested very differently. As she reached adolescence she began exploring her powers before she was trained. She used astral projection to cast her spirit forth. So intoxicated was she by the new wonders that she was discovering she returned to her body too late to link with it. She watched helplessly as it withered and died without a spirit. Tammy's father tried to save her but he was too late to manage anything other than keeping her spirit bound to earth. For his trouble Tammy blasted her father and turned him into her first spirit minion.

Visuals: Numina with dark purple. Insubstantial like Ancestor spirits if possible.

Powers: Mind control, Kinetic Boost/Force Field, Flight

Minions:

Ghost (Minion) - These incorporeal spirits have been caught before they could travel across the veil by Diabolique's dark magic. In binding them to this world she also forces them to do her bidding. They are tormented and distraught but are forced to serve the twisted mystic.

Wraith (Lt.) – After being in Diabolique's service for some time Ghosts are imbued with some of her potent mystical energy. Combined with their tortured existence this makes her Wraiths fearsome foes indeed.

Poltergeist (Boss) – Bound to the earth for so long and subjected to Diabolique's corrupt power, eventually each of her minions snap. When they do their powers increase proportionally. They no longer care if they can ever escape; they simply want to destroy the living.

#### Shadowhunter (Magic Arch-Villain)

Infused with the fury of the Wild Hunt, Shadowhunter roams with his Pack, cutting down everything in his path. He loathes humanity for the most part and his alliance with Tyrant is an uneasy one at best. It is held together by the fact that Tyrant cares nothing for the wilderness and is happy to give it over to Shadowhunter. If Tyrant ever begins to strip the land for resources, things will quickly unravel.

Visuals: The Woodsman with darker earthy colors. He should have a wild and primal feel

Powers: Earth Powers

Minions:

Omega (Minion) – These creatures are the bottom of the food chain in the Pack. They are humans that have been recently turned by the Pack and are not yet fully accepted. They are forced to prove themselves every day. If they are not accepted as Pack, then they are torn apart.

Beta (Lt.) – When the Pack has approved of an Omega, they are immediately protected and treated well. It is an instant transition with no going back. Once someone is Pack, death is the only thing that will break that.

Alpha (Boss) – These minions stand boldly at the pinnacle of the Pack. They are leaders by right of combat and dominance. They will fight to the last because they know defeat might mean a fall from the top.

#### Marauder (Natural Arch-villain)

Bred for battle, Marauder loves nothing more than fighting and destroying his enemies. Most perceive that he serves Tyrant like a vicious dog but he only follows the leader of the Praetorians for the slaughter.

Visuals: Back Alley Brawler with scars/tattoos.

Powers: Martial Arts, Invulnerability

Minions:

Rampager (Minion) – Marauder recruits only the most hungry and violent men into his ranks. He trains them hard enough to either turn them into rock or kill them. Those that graduate from this regimen are disciplined and deadly.

Wrecker (Lt.) – Marauder is extremely adept at spotting leadership potential and tactical aptitude. When he sees these qualities in one of his men he gives them the chance to lead small groups and operations as a test. There is only one price for failure.

Destroyer (Boss) – If a Wrecker shows a high success rate, Marauder gives them one final test: pick a Destroyer and defeat him in single combat. The fight is to the death. If the Wrecker wins, he has a new title and greater responsibilities. This test is typical of the Darwinian approach that Marauder is committed to.

#### Dominatrix (Arch-villain)

Being the daughter of a famous and universally loved super heroine never sat well with Dominatrix. She rebelled from a very young age and when she hit puberty and her powers kicked in she decided enough was enough. After killing her mother, the infamous Miss Liberty, she started making a name for herself. She caught Tyrant's attention and has been serving him loyally, in all capacities, ever since.

Visuals: Ms. Liberty in leather

Powers: Invulnerability, Regeneration, Hold, Immobilize

Minions:

Servant (Minion) – To be bound to Dominatrix is an honor that must be earned. Going without sleep and other trials of endurance are given to candidates to prove their worth. Passing means a term of servitude where complete obedience is expected.

Trainer (Lt.) - Trainers are very important to Dominatrix's organization. They teach the new Servants to fight effectively and work as a unit. They also fill the position of tactical leader in combat quite often.

Lady (Boss) - The Lady is the mistress of all she surveys. She is responsible for a number of Trainers and Servants. There is a strong bond of fealty that goes both ways in these relationships. With power comes responsibility.

#### Chimera (Arch-villain)

When his parents were killed by the villain Doppleganger, Chimera was given the opportunity of a lifetime. Doppleganger took the boy under his wing and trained him to be the world's premiere silent killer.

Visuals: Manticore

Powers: Stealth, Crossbow, Katana, Superleap

Minions:

Cockatrice (Minion) - These low rank servants of Chimera have only the most rudimentary skills with poison. They can create a toxin that will slowly damage their target but is almost never fatal unless combined with other attacks.

Basilisk (Lt.) - As Chimera's servants advance through the ranks they continue their mastery of weapons and poisons. The Basilisk coat their weapons with a poison that will dull their enemies reflexes and make them easier to finish off.

Gorgon (Boss) - These combatants are among the most feared that the Praetorians can field. Their weapons are coated with a poison that will paralyze their opponents. This allows them to easily capture or defeat them at their leisure.

Siege (Tech Arch-villain)

The masterpiece of Neuron, Bastion is the most advanced android ever created on Praetorian Earth. Neuron used Tyrants DNA patterns to create him, making him virtually indestructible and extremely loyal.

Visuals: Bastion with Tyrants color scheme

Powers: Super Strength, Invulnerability, Flight

Minions:

RAM Series I (Minion) - This early prototype of the Robotic Attack Module was created very soon after Siege. It is fairly rudimentary and limited in its powers. It has none of Sieges intellect or creativity but can still pose a threat.

RAM Series II (Lt.) – The second series of Robotic Attack Modules was more successful than the first but still did not accomplish what Neuron had hoped. It became increasingly apparent that Siege was a once in a lifetime creation.

RAM Series III (Boss) – The most recent Robotic Attack Module poses the greatest threat. Neuron abandoned his old plans and concentrated on making these units powerful and durable. With that focus the Series III easily became the most successful of the RAM units.

Nightstar (Boss)

This android is the creation of Anti-Matter as a testament to his love for Dominatrix. Nightstar is patterned after her in the same way that Siege is patterned after Tyrant. Neuron considers it an inferior design but Anti-Matter knows that one day victory will be his.

Visuals: Luminary

Powers: Power Blast, Flight

Minions:

SPECTRA Series I (Minion) - Not to be out done by Neuron, Anti-matter created the SPECial Tactical Robot Army to serve Tyrant. The Series I was the prototype and is therefore the least efficient model.

SPECTRA Series II (Lt.) – When Neuron developed a new Robotic Attack Module series, Anti-matter did the same with the SPECTRA. Despite certain design differences the two models are comparable in practice.

SPECTRA Series III (Boss) – The SPECTRA Series III is the most advanced design that Anti-matter has created to date. Some of his other creations are more powerful but none have the efficiency of the Series III.

Battle Maiden (Arch-villain)

Drawn from War Earth, Battle Maiden uses high tech medieval weaponry.

Visuals: Valkyrie with more weapons

Powers: Medieval Weapons

Minions:

Champion of Mourning (Minion) - The first thing that is taught to the Champions of War Earth is that you must always respect those who fall in battle. It does not matter if they are your comrades or your enemy, all those who give their lives to combat must be remembered.

Champion of Battle (Lt.) – To defeat the enemy in front of you and take the battle is the second lesson of the Champions of War Earth. They believe that if you cannot hold your place in the line then not only will you fall, but so will your comrades around you.

Champion of War (Boss) – The final lesson of the Champions of War Earth is that you must consider each action in terms of the larger picture. If you sacrifice too much to win one battle then you may lose the war. The highest rank of the Champions is always filled with master strategists.

Neuron (Science Arch-villain)

Neuron is the creation of his own twisted scientific experiment. He gave himself complete control over his body's nervous system. Once he and Anti-Matter worked together as friends but of late a rift has formed between them. Neuron's creation of Siege and the favor that garnered him with Tyrant, is the primary cause of discord between them.

Visuals: Synapse with darker colors and possibly scars or a "stitched" look

Powers: Electrical Blast, Electrical Control, Superspeed

Minions:

Electrode (Minion) – The basic model of minion designed by Neuron was originally blueprinted to be a laboratory assistant. It is excellent at following simple commands and would have been well suited for tasks a scientist did not have the time or muscle for. Neuron quickly realized that the metallic minions could be used as attack drones and adapted his plans on the fly.

Circuit (Lt.) – A more powerful version of the Electrode unit, this minion can sometimes cause trouble for a single opponent. A group should be able to easily defeat it however due to its limited power supply. It has excellent offensive capabilities and should be dealt with carefully if more than one is present.

Inhibitor (Boss) – The Inhibitors are sometimes said to be the most difficult of Neurons creations to deal with. They are built to make it difficult for any opponent to do what they are good at. This ability to negate the strengths of their foe makes them a frustrating, and potentially deadly opponent.

Bobcat (Arch-villain)

Bobcat is a scientific hybrid between a woman and a feline predator. It took many painful operations to get her to the state she is now in, so her state of mind is violent and feral. Neuron is the only person she trusts, and her instincts even override that at times.

Visuals: Minx with more cat features

Powers: Claws, Super Reflexes

Minions:

Alley Cat (Minion) – The lowest rank of those who serve Bobcat is filled with strays. She searches the streets of the city for those who have nowhere else to go. She prefers those who have been injured in some way, mentally or physically and bear a grudge toward the ones that hurt them. Bobcat offers her Alley Cats something to fight for...and against.

Lynx (Lt.) - After an Alley Cat develops some skill he is moved to a leadership position. They have to be tough to attain this status but they must have compassion for their comrades as well. Bobcat will not tolerate cruelty among her group.

Ocelot (Boss) – The most important quality that Bobcat looks for when moving one of her people to the rank of Tiger is trustworthiness. If Bobcat cannot hold someone at their word, they will never succeed in her group. Woe to anyone who betrays her.

Anti-matter (Arch-villain)

Trapped within his powered armor, Anti-Matter used to be Tyrant's primary scientific consultant. He and Neuron were once the best of friends and created the Clockwork of Praetorian Earth together. Of late his theories have been more and more radical causing Tyrant to lean on Neuron for research and analysis. Unbeknownst to anyone Anti-Matter had cracked the Portal tech. He is waiting to reveal his breakthrough in order to garner favor from Tyrant and his true love, Dominatrix.

Visuals: Positron with more black in his armor

Powers: Radiation Powers, Flight

Minions:

Nuon (Minion) – Anti-matter equipped his creations with the ability to generate energy and channel it into attacks. Although they appear somewhat similar to Neuron's minions and to the Clockwork of Primal Earth, they are mechanical constructs and obey only the master of radiation.

Meson (Lt.) – Anti-Matter's constructs are designed to work together but occasionally there will be a specific task that he wants accomplished. The Meson unit is almost always assigned to these duties. They carry more logic circuits and can more easily follow complex instructions.

Baryon (Boss) – The Baryon are the most powerful of Anti-Matter's constructs. They generate an intense amount of radiation and must be carefully contained when fighting in area with a civilian presence.

Mother Mayhem (Mutant Arch-villain)

This twisted psion is Tyrant's closest advisor and possibly his biggest threat as well. She is organized and has large numbers of minions she has driven to her particular brand of insanity in her special asylums.

Visuals: Sister Psyche

Powers: Mental attack powers, Flight

Minions:

Child of Anger (Minion) – Mother Mayhem places promising patients in her special facilities and then stimulates their rage centers until they are primed killers. She then overlays clear and commands directly into their minds and turns them loose. They can't be bargained with, they can't be reasoned with and they absolutely will not stop...ever.

Child of Rage (Lt.) – Mother Mayhem continues to prod her minions, pushing them farther and farther down a very particular path of madness. Once they are to this level they no longer feel pity, or remorse, or fear...only rage.

Child of Hatred (Boss) – At this point Mother Mayhem has pushed her 'children' to the point that they can feel nothing but hatred for everything around them. They simply want everything around them to die.

Malaise (Arch-villain)

On Praetorian Earth the villain Malaise was never counseled by Sister Psyche, instead he was one of the 'patients' at one of Mother Mayhem's facilities. With the ability to control his madness and inflict it on others, he quickly rose to a position as her favorite.

Visuals: Malaise

Powers: Mind Control, Debuff, Slow, Sleep

Minions:

Crazy (Minion) – Malaise has the mutant ability to project his insanity into the minds of others. He has slowly adapted to his altered version of reality but the instantaneous placement of his skewed view upon others drives them mad.

Lunatic (Lt.) – Most of the people affected by Malaise never recover. They certainly don't without help. No one has been able to detect a pattern in those he infects, but once they enter the world that exists in his mind they are never the same.

Maniac (Boss) – Some of those affected by Malaise's insidious powers attain some modicum of control again. They also see the world the way he sees it. These poor creatures become his most trusted servants. Some believe that if enough of them are created the world might turn into the topsy-turvy madhouse that Malaise sees everyday.

Black Swan (Arch-villain)

Born with a connection to Shadow Earth in the Netherworld, Black Swan can channel energy from that dimension into attacks and defenses. She is served by minions that some say she draws from Shadow Earth and others say are created by stealing pieces from the shadows of her victims.

Visuals: Swan

Powers: Dark Melee, Dark Armor

Minions:

Minor Shadow (Minion) – These small shadowy beings serve Black Swan loyally. They seem to have no desires or motivations of their own. Some people say that after they encounter them they experience a chill for up to several weeks. They can channel dark energy into focused blasts.

Shadow (Lt.) - Although there are no clear visible differences between these minions and the Minor Shadows, it is obvious that they can draw on a greater reserve of power. Something about their essence makes them stronger. It is uncertain where that energy comes from but the most popular theory is that they are created with a more direct connection to Shadow Earth.

Master Shadow (Boss) – These servants, of Black Swan are obviously different in both size and power from their smaller counterparts. They have achieved a mastery of Shadow energy that can only be surpassed by the dark lady herself.