

Marathon & Halo: Are they similar?

by Chipper173

Marathon and Halo sometimes seem like two very similar games. After all, between the whole “MJOLNIR” cyborg thing and an AI ordering you around, you might not be surprised to learn that they were both made by the same developer. The similarities of the two universes, however, are more than skin deep. In fact, one might even venture far enough to say that they both take place in the same universe...

One thing that this writer immediately noticed about Marathon was the S’pht. They seemed so foreign, and yet so familiar to my Halo-hardened eyes. Reading into the terminals, however, led me to an interesting conclusion: They aren’t intelligent without their cybernetic implants. Gasp! I had a thought! The S’pht always reminded me of the Flood from Halo. Maybe without the enhancements, the S’pht take on a certain parasitic tendency, if you know what I’m saying. This can be supported by the existence of the Gravemind. The Gravemind acts like a hive mind to the entire Flood. I wonder if there are more of them. If so, could it be that they have a relationship with the S’pht’Kr, the master race of S’pht who would lead all other tribes against any enemy?

Next up in the hot seat are the Jjaro. Their story sounded almost clichéd to me: ancient race leaves behind advanced technology. That was until I realized where I had heard it before: coming from the Forerunners. The Forerunners were (supposedly) driven to suicide so that the Flood wouldn’t get the chance to consume them. Perhaps this happened before they came into the means to become sentient. However, according to Pathways into Darkness, the Jjaro made themselves apparent to us in the mid-’90s. And the Pffhor wouldn’t have enslaved the S’pht without their valuable computer-hacking skills, and the Pffhor slavery empire would surely have been around for hundreds of years. That means that there was about a 600-year period between where the Jjaro were last accounted for and we encounter the S’pht in slavery. The S’pht had, most likely, been in slavery throughout that period. However, we know that there were slave revolts in the past. Perhaps the Jjaro were assaulted by a revolting, escaped batch of parasitic S’pht, built the Halos as a last-ditch weapon, then, for some reason, killed themselves instead of activating them. The S’pht are put back under control, the Jjaro are dead, and the S’pht are found by the Marathon player in slavery. We know that the Jjaro were a kind and caring race, so maybe they figured that the Pffhor could get the revolt under control quickly enough that all life wouldn’t have to be wiped out.

My final presentation involves the Covenant. The Covenant are a religious coalition between a group of races based around Forerunner lore and technology. The Pffhor stole tech from the Jjaro. Coincidence? Here’s what I think happened: After Durandal and the player won on Lh’owon, it pretty much put the Pffhor in their place. Forerunner lore and technology was wiped out and forgotten. Some Pffhor species went extinct. Others just remained hidden for a long time. At any rate, the races were reduced to a more simplistic state. New races rose. Two of those fought a war. One finds the Forerunner technology again, and the rest is history. One race was a part of both the Pffhor and the Covenant: the

Hunter, or Lekgolo. Perhaps the Hunters know more secrets than the Prophets do.

In conclusion, Marathon's storyline is massive, extensive, and still under analysis. Hopefully I am interpreting this correctly, but we may never know until Bungie releases that next game, that extra clue, that new thing that will raise more questions than answers. But we will be satisfied, we will be happy, and we will always, always, search for the tru7h.