

SLEEPING GODS LIE



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The Encyclopaedia Tessera

Creation

There are very few athiests in Tessera, and when we look around us this does not seem surprising. Common to all faiths is the tenet that the world was created approximately 7,000 years ago by a group of gods and goddesses who then left, seeking new challenges. Approximately half the surviving religions also believe that one God or Goddess remained behind and lies sleeping somewhere beneath the surface of one of the kingdoms. This variation is not accepted, however, by the most popular faith currently being practised — that of Pha. “Sleeper” faiths have lost followers because something that used to be a strong attraction — the universal belief among such religions that the Sleeper would wake in time of direst need to save the world. Many see the present as such a time, and as more time passes without the God (or Goddess) appearing, worshippers lose heart and convert to non-Sleeper faiths. Indeed, many see this as the main cause for the rise of the priests of Pha. This has been strongly

WHO was the first Emperor to appoint a Tree to public office?

WHAT animal rears its young in its mouth?

HOW do you operate an ebocarding hammer?

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Delandan Culture

Delanda, having the smallest population of the Eight Kingdoms, as a very close-knit community — or rather, several close-knit communities, since each island has slightly different customs and folkways. Common to all is a reverence for the foundation of all their lives, the sea. Everyone in some way owes their livelihood to the sea, one of the most respected professions being, of course, that of Ferryman. These hardy folk have a strong sense of business and a reputation for never abandoning their work, no matter what hardships are entailed. Some people in other kingdoms have belittled their efforts because of the calmness of the Delandan sea — but these criticisms neglect the other hardships such as the sea creatures who need to be carefully avoided, and few non-Delandans would volunteer for the post.

Religion is weak in Delanda, due largely to the Delandans' worldly outlook, but the Druidic Old Faith still exists on the largest island, that of Amarr. The vast stones of

Arboreal Intelligence

The subject of much scientific debate in past generations, the intelligence of trees is now accepted as fact by nearly everyone. Though communication between tree and human is frequently barred by the tree's need to "root", which involves sinking into itself and in the process abandoning speech, the Foresters appointed by the court of Emperor Clavius III conducted tests which proved once and for all that at least the Great Trees do possess human-like intelligence. A wide range of intelligence is displayed by the trees tested, though the accuracy of these measurements cannot be guaranteed due to the "rooting" of many subjects during testing.

See also: FORESTRY: INTELLIGENCE, COMPARATIVE.

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Arboreal Rights

The mere fact of treeoid intelligence has raised many questions not previously considered. One of the most important of these is the question of trees' civil rights. During the reign of Clavius III and his successor, Johan, trees were granted almost equal rights with humans, to the distress of many who lost their livelihood when the cutting down of trees was made illegal. Following severe riots, especially in the heavily-forested Sylvar, the laws were repealed, and recent Emperors have taken a considerably less strict stance on the killing of trees. One sad outcome of the affair has been the "revenge deforestation" of Sylvar, and the resulting tension between human and tree. There are still many supporters of Arboreal freedom, including our Emperor's youngest daughter, the Princess Lucia, who is

The Imperial Watch have issued this warning:

Beware of a grey-bearded man, approx. 70, height 5'8", who walks with a limp. He is armed with illegal sorcerous abilities and is **EXTREMELY DANGEROUS**. If you see him, do **NOT** approach him but contact the nearest Watch representative.

Court Physician Stanis has issued the following statement concerning the widespread rumours of a strange disease spreading from the Coratinian States:

"While a few people have been reporting problems such as loss of hair and skin troubles, there have been very few deaths outside of Coratine, and matters are now being brought under control by Imperial physicians. There is no cause for alarm."

*Classified Advertisements

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*Footnote: This advertisement has been passed fit for publication by the Royal Committee for the Prevention of Terrorism.