



FAITH  
GUIDEBOOK

VASSAL LARP LLC  
v03.26

: VASSAL LARP LLC PRESENTS :

# FAITH GUIDEBOOK



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# INTRODUCTION

THIS BOOK WILL COVER THE SYMBOL,  
SUMMARY, TENETS AND HISTORY OF EACH  
ORGANIZED FAITH THAT EXISTS IN  
THE KNOWN WORLD SO FAR.

THIS GUIDE EXISTS TO HELP SHED LIGHT  
ON THE BELIEF STRUCTURES OF THE FICTIONAL  
PEOPLES OF THE KNOWN WORLD VIA THE  
HISTORY AND TENETS THAT MAY INSPIRE  
THEIR WILL AND WONDER.

# DISCLAIMER

THE AIM OF INTRODUCING BELIEF INTO VASSAL  
IS TO ADD ANOTHER LAYER OF LORE AND  
INSPIRATION FOR PLAYERS AS THEY ROLEPLAY.

IT IS NOT INTENDED TO BE USED AS A VESSEL  
FOR REHASHING OR EMULATING PREJUDICE,  
DISCRIMINATION, OR ANY HATE RELATED SPEECH  
OR BEHAVIOR VIA EXAMPLES IN HISTORY OR CLOSE  
MINDED IDEALS THAT STILL FIND WAYS TO EXIST  
IN OUR MODERN WORLD.

THIS SPECIFIC BEHAVIOR IS PROHIBITED AND WILL  
RESULT IN IMMEDIATE DISCIPLINARY ACTION VIA  
THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN THE PLAYER HANDBOOK.  
THIS DISCLAIMER IS A FIRST AND FINAL WARNING  
AND WILL BE PURSUED WITH ZERO TOLERANCE.

CONTENT OF THIS BOOK IS A WORK OF FICTION  
AND IS NOT BASED ON REAL WORLD BELIEFS.



SVITHLAND

ALBIONNE

NORDENMARK

LYONNAIS

KURZENSTRAD

VENOA

SARAGON

OBROVOSKA

STRYVANIA

KONSTANTIA

ISKARA

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FAITH OF ROLAND  
FAITH OF THE FATHER  
THE SOLAR SCRIPT  
LUCIANNA'S GIFT  
STRAVOSI  
FAITH OF THORUNN  
EZIR'S WINGS  
LIBERTY OF WILL

# FAITH OF ROLAND



THE IMPERIAL FAITH IS THE MOST WIDE SPREAD RELIGION IN THE ENTIRETY OF THE KNOWN WORLD, A BYPRODUCT OF LYONNAIS' ONCE FIRM DOMINION OVER THE LANDS OF THE WEST, BUT ALSO IN PART BECAUSE IT WAS A FAITH WILLING TO CHANGE AND INCORPORATE LOCAL TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS.

THAT FLEXIBILITY ALLOWED THE IMPERIAL FAITH TO ADAPT WHEREVER IT WAS BROUGHT AND MANY LOCALS WOULD BE SWAYED TO RECONTEXTUALIZE THEIR NATIVE BELIEFS WITH THE NEWLY ARRIVED BELIEF.

# TENETS

I. ROLAND UNITES ALL. UNITY IS ACHIEVED BY THE FAITH. IF ALL PEOPLES CAN BE UNITED UNDER THE HEAVENLY LORDSHIP OF ROLAND, THEN HIS GUIDANCE CAN PREVENT WORLDLY CONFLICT.

II. MERCY IS WISDOM. TO SHOW MERCY IS WISDOM UNTO ITSELF. THE PEOPLES WHO ARE TREATED WITH MERCY ARE THOSE WHO WILL BECOME LOYAL TO THE FAITH'S IDEALS.

III. CONQUEST IS ABSOLUTE. VIOLENCE IS THE LAST RESORT, BUT SHOULD CONQUEST OCCUR, IT MUST BE ABSOLUTE. THOSE WHO DISSENT MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE SOIL SO THAT PEACE CAN TAKE ROOT.

IV. THE EMPIRE ENDURES. UPON THESE TENETS, THE EMPIRE AND THE FAITH WILL ENDURE. ALL WILL BE UNIFIED AND LASTING PEACE WILL BE ACHIEVED. IF THE EMPIRE STANDS, THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE.

## HISTORY

THE EMPIRE DE LYONNAIS CITES THE BEGINNINGS OF THEIR EMPIRE WITH A FIGURE NAMED ROLAND THE UNITER.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT ROLAND CAME FROM AN UNKNOWN LOCATION IN THE EAST, WHEN THE WORLD'S CLANS AND TRIBES HAD ONLY JUST BEGUN TO BIRTH BORDERS.

ROLAND, YEARNING FOR A WORLD OF ONE, HAD FORESIGHT WHICH REVEALED TO HIM THAT SUCH A DESTINY COULD ONLY FIND ITS BEGINNINGS IN THE WEST. AFTER MANY STORIED JOURNEYS, ROLAND AT LAST CAME TO THE LOCATION HE WOULD SETTLE AND FOUNDED THE CITY OF LYONNE.

ROLAND'S MANY CHILDREN AND RELATIVES JOINED HIM IN HIS MISSION AND SET OUT FAR AND WIDE TO HELP BRING THE PEOPLES OF THE KNOWN WORLD TOGETHER.

IN THE EMPIRE'S EXPANSION AND CONQUEST, THIS PROVIDED THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE ABSORPTION OF LOCAL BELIEFS; MANY HAD THEIR CENTRAL DEITIES ADOPTED INTO THE FAITH AS HAVING SOME CONNECTION TO ROLAND AND HIS MISSION.

## THE HOUSE OF ROLAND

ROLAND, THE UNITER, FOUNDER OF LYONNE, AND FOREFATHER OF THE EMPIRE.

GISELE, WIFE OF ROLAND. PATRON SAINT OF PARYON, SAID TO HAVE BEEN VISITED FREQUENTLY AND BLESSED BY HER TO ALWAYS HAVE BOUNTIFUL FIELDS.

ADELAIDE, ELDEST DAUGHTER OF ROLAND. PATRON SAINT OF CARDEAUX. LIVED WITH HER HUSBAND AND CHILDREN IN CARDEAUX.

ROBERT MAGNUS, ELDEST SON OF ROLAND, HIS SUCCESSOR. LOTHAIR, THE FIRST KING OF LYONNE, IS SAID TO DESCEND FROM THE LINE OF ROBERT MAGNUS.

BERENGER THE BOLD, SON OF ROLAND, IS KNOWN TO HAVE RETURNED TO NORDENMARK AND FATHERED MANY CHILDREN, WHO SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND ITS CANTONS.

DESPITE HIS CONNECTIONS TO NORDENMARK, NORDENERS TEND TO OVERLOOK BERENGER FOR DIRECT WORSHIP OF ROLAND AND THERE IS LITTLE-TO-NO REGARD FOR HIM IN TERMS OF RELIGIOUS PRACTICE.

## THE HOUSE OF ROLAND

CONSTANCIA, THE LADY OF SARAGON - PATRON SAINT OF SARAGON, DAUGHTER OF ROLAND, WHO LEFT HER HOMETLAND TO LIVE WITH THE SARAGONESE AND DEVOTED HERSELF ENTIRELY TO THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE.

RHENAULT, SON OF ROLAND. PATRON SAINT OF RHENAULT. FOUNDED A CITY ON THE LAKE DE SAPHIR, WHICH IN TIME BORE HIS NAME.

LORANT, YOUNGEST SON OF ROLAND. PATRON SAINT OF VERLEANS. FOUNDED VERLEANS.

GODFREY, ELDEST SON OF ROBERT MAGNUS, TWIN OF GIRARD. PATRON SAINT OF TROYIS. FOUNDED TROYIS.

GIRARD, SON OF ROBERT MAGNUS, TWIN OF GODFREY. PATRON SAINT OF TREMONT. FOUNDED TREMONT.

LUCREZIA, PATRON SAINT OF VENOVA, GRANDDAUGHTER OF ROLAND, DAUGHTER OF LORANT. WHILE VENOVA WAS NEVER CONQUERED BY THE EMPIRE, CENTURIES OF ATTEMPTED ANNEXATION BIRTHED A MINOR FAITH KNOWN AS THE CULT OF LUCREZIA, FOLLOWED BY IMPERIAL SYMPATHIZERS.

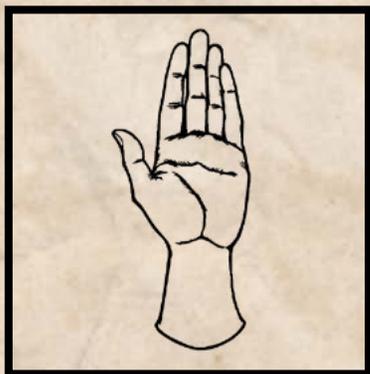
## FIGURES UNRELATED TO THE HOUSE OF ROLAND

GEDWYR, OR GEDIVERE - PATRON SAINT OF ALBIONNE, ROLAND'S MOST TRUSTED AND CHIVALROUS KNIGHT, WHO HIDES AWAY ROLAND'S SWORD IN ALBIONNE UPON ROLAND'S DEATH. GEDWYR WAS A NATIVE TO ALBIONNE, AND AFTER ROLAND'S DEATH, LIVED OUT THE REMAINDER OF HIS LIFE IN HIS HOMETLAND. GEDWYR'S LOYAL SERVICE TO ROLAND REPRESENTS ALBIONNE'S LONGSTANDING VASSALAGE TO LYONNAIS.

VATRICHT - PATRON SAINT OF KURZENSTRAD, A CONQUEROR OF UNCERTAIN ORIGIN. VATRICHT UNIFIED KURZENSTRAD THROUGH CONQUEST AND WAS A JUST RULER. MANY IN LYONNAIS CLAIM VATRICHT WAS A GRANDSON OF ROLAND, BUT KURZENFOLK ATTEST HE HAS NO RELATION WHATSOEVER.

LUCIANNA - PATRON SAINT OF OBROVOSKA, WHO UNITED THE OBLASTS AFTER A GREAT CIVIL WAR. WHILE OBROVOSKANS DENY ANY RELATION TO ROLAND, THE MOST DEVOUT OF IMPERIAL BELIEVERS SAY THAT SHE IS CONNECTED TO ROLAND BY MEANS OF A RELATED BLOODLINE THAT REMAINED IN THE EAST WHEN ROLAND DEPARTED FOR THE WEST, AS EVIDENCED BY HER ABILITY TO END A CATAclysmic BATTLE AND UNITE A COUNTRY WITH ONLY HER WORDS.

# FAITH OF THE FATHER



LIKE MANY NATIVE FAITHS OF IMPERIAL TERRITORIES, KURZENSTRAD'S OWN WAS INTEGRATED INTO THE IMPERIAL FAITH FOR CENTURIES.

WHILE A CULT OF TRUE BELIEF EXISTED THROUGHOUT THAT TIME, MANY HAD ACCEPTED THE EMPIRE'S REIMAGINING IN EXCHANGE FOR PEACE. WITH THE COLLAPSE OF THE EMPIRE, MANY IN KURZENSTRAD RETURNED TO THE ORIGINAL BELIEF, THOUGH SOME IN KURZENSTRAD STILL BELIEVE IN ROLAND AND HIS BLOODLINE AND FACE LITTLE SCRUTINY FOR DOING SO.

# TENETS

I. FAIR JUSTICE - ABOVE ALL, VATRICHT AND THE KURZEN VALUE FAIR JUSTICE. CHOSE WHO COMMIT WRONGDOINGS SHOULD FACE APPROPRIATE CONSEQUENCES; SMALL CRIMES SHOULD NOT BE OVER PUNISHED AND GREAT CRIMES SHOULD NOT BE TREATED LENIENTLY.

II. COURAGE AND WISDOM - AS WERE THE GREATEST VALUES OF VATRICHT, ONE SHOULD BE BOTH COURAGEOUS AND WISE TO PROTECT AND BETTER THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

III. WITNESS - KURZENFOLK OFTEN INVOKE VATRICHT TO WITNESS THEIR TRIBULATIONS AND GUIDE THEM THROUGH HARDSHIP, JUST AS A FATHER AIDS HIS CHILDREN.

## HISTORY

IN AGES PAST, THE KURZEN WERE A COLLECTION OF BARBARIC TRIBES WHO FREQUENTLY WARRED AMIDST THEMSELVES, WITH FEW LAWS AND NO ENDEAVORS TO CREATE A GREATER SOCIETY. THEN CAME VATRICHT, A TRIBAL LEADER WHO SAW A FUTURE NONE BEFORE HIM HAD.

HE SHARED HIS VISION OF UNITY WITH THOSE WHO WOULD COOPERATE AND THOSE WHO REFUSED HIM WERE CONQUERED BY HIS GROWING KINGDOM. ONCE ALL THE LANDS OF WOULD-BE KURZENSTRAD HAD COME UNDER HIS RULE, HE WAS CROWNED AS KING OF THE REALM.

VATRICHT, WITH A REPUTATION AS A CONQUEROR, THEN SET HIS SIGHTS ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF SOCIETY AND LAID DOWN THE SWORD FOR THE PLOW, THE HAMMER, AND THE QUILL.

NO LONGER A LAND TROUBLED BY ENDLESS SHORT-SIGHTED WARS, KURZENSTRAD WAS ABLE TO FLOURISH AND ITS PEOPLES CAME TO KNOW PROSPERITY.

AFTER VATRICHT'S PASSING, HIS DEVOTION TO FAIR JUSTICE, COURAGE, AND WISDOM WERE SEEN AS THE PILLARS OF HIS SUCCESS IN CREATING A KINGDOM OF PEACE AND PLENTY.

ALL KURZEN, BOTH NOBLE AND PEASANT ALIKE, SEEK TO MAKE THESE VALUES THEIR OWN TO CONTINUE THE PATH WHICH VATRICHT LAID BEFORE THEM.

THOUGH TIMES OF TROUBLE HAVE SINCE PLAGUED KURZENSTRAD, THE VISION OF A UNIFIED REALM INHERITED FROM VATRICHT INSPIRES HOPE IN THE DARKEST OF TIMES.

# THE SOLAR SCRIPT



ISKARANS BELIEVE THAT THE PATH TO GREATNESS IS TO ALWAYS BE SEEKING KNOWLEDGE FOR THE BETTERMENT OF SOCIETY AND SELF.

SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENT HAS PROVEN OVER CENTURIES TO BE THE KEY TO ISKARAN EXCELLENCE AND GIVEN RISE TO THEIR MAGNIFICENT EMPIRE.

AS SUCH, THEIR FAITH EVOLVED AS WELL, TRANSFORMING FROM A CLASSIC THEOLOGY TO ONE WHICH ENCOURAGES THEIR ENLIGHTENMENT.

# TENETS

I. ILLUMINATION - THE ENDEAVOR TO STUDY THE STARS, TO BECOME ILLUMINATED, IS AS WORTHY AS ANY OTHER PURSUIT IN LIFE, AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE WITH ONE ANOTHER IS THE GREATEST GIFT ONE CAN GIVE.

II. FORTIFICATION - THE ILLUMINATED BELIEVE THAT ONE SHOULD TRAVEL AND LEARN THROUGHOUT ONE'S LIFE. THE MIND BEGINS TO DIM IF IT IS NOT PRESENTED WITH NEW INFORMATION OR IDEAS. THE LIBRARIES OF ISKARA ARE RENOWNED FOR THEIR EXTENSIVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE KNOWN WORLD AND ITS OCCUPANTS.

III. BATHED IN STARLIGHT - TO ACCEPT THE FULL STREAM OF KNOWLEDGE FROM THE THE SOLAR SCRIPT, ONE MUST REMAIN UNHINDERED AND FREE FROM THE SNARE OF DOGMATIC BELIEFS AND IDEAS. NEVER ALLOW ONESELF TO BECOME ECLIPSED.

## HISTORY

LONG AGO, AS A FINAL GIFT TO HUMANITY, THE ILLUMINATOR REVEALED THE STARS IN THE NIGHT SKY. WITH THAT, THEY TOOK THEIR LEAVE OF THIS WORLD, NOW FURNISHED FOR HUMANITY TO THRIVE.

THE SPIRIT YEARNS TO KNOW THE SECRETS OF EXISTENCE, AND THE STARS ARE THE ANSWER. THE SOLAR SCRIPT IS THE CATALYST FOR INSPIRATION AND THE CURIOSITY IT SPARKED BEGAN ALL GREAT DISCOVERIES AND INNOVATIONS

ISKARAN SCHOLARS OF THIS FAITH TIRELESSLY STUDY THE STARS - THEIR ALIGNMENTS, HOW BRIGHTLY THEY SHINE, WHICH CONSTELLATIONS GUIDE THEM AT NIGHT.

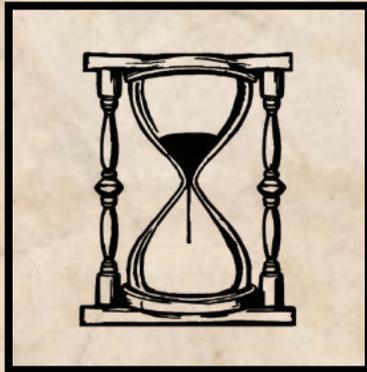
IT IS BELIEVED THAT UNLOCKING THE MESSAGES IN THE SOLAR SCRIPT ARE THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING LIFE AND ETERNITY, JUST AS THE PURPOSE OF LIFE IS TO ALWAYS BE GROWING AND TO THRIVE.

WHEN THE ILLUMINATED ENCOUNTER THOSE WHO DO NOT STUDY THE SOLAR SCRIPT, THEY REFER TO THAT BEHAVIOR AS "ECLIPSED" OR NOT BEING TOUCHED BY THE GUIDANCE OF THE STARS.

EXAMPLES OF THIS ARE OTHER FAITHS OR IDEAS THAT STAND IN THE WAY OF ILLUMINATION DUE TO INHERENT BIAS, EGO, CORRUPTION OR CONTRADICTION OF TRUTH. IN ORDER TO KNOW AND LEARN THE WORLD AROUND THEM, SCHOLARS OF THE SOLAR SCRIPT STUDY THE DOCTRINES AND CULTURES OF THE KNOWN WORLD EXTENSIVELY.

THOSE WHO ARE ILLUMINATED ALSO DO NOT FOLLOW ANY SET OF DOGMA, IN REGARDS TO THE ILLUMINATOR OR OTHERWISE. THEY ARE GUIDED SOLELY BY THE BELIEF THAT THE STARS HOLD THE ANSWERS TO NOURISHING THE HUMAN SPIRIT, AND THAT THE PURSUIT AND GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE IS IN ITSELF FULFILLING.

# LUCIANNA'S GIFT



THE FOUR GREAT OBLASTS COMPRISE THE COUNTRY OF OBROVOSKA AND LUCIANNA'S GIFT IS THE BOND WHICH HOLDS THEM TOGETHER.

EACH OF THE OBLASTS RELIES GREATLY ON THE OTHERS FOR RESOURCES AND THEIR COOPERATION IS WHAT ENSURES THEIR MUTUAL SUCCESS. THIS FACT IS NOT FORGOTTEN AND IS WHAT KEEPS THE WORDS OF LUCIANNA ALIVE AND WELL IN AN EVER-CHANGING WORLD.

IN MODERN OBROVOSKA, THIS IDEOLOGY FILLS OBROVOSKANS WITH A SENSE OF HUMILITY AND STEADFAST SERVICE TO THE OLD PRINCIPLES.

# TENETS

I. MAY HER PATIENCE ENDURE - OBROVOSKANS STRIVE TO BE THE PEOPLE THAT LUCIANNA DESCRIBED WITH HER FINAL WORDS. THE EXPRESSION IS A PLEA TO ONE ANOTHER THAT LUCIANNA'S PATIENCE ENDURES DURING THEIR PERSONAL STRUGGLE TO ACHIEVE HER LEVEL OF PERSONHOOD.

II. DEFEND THE LAND - HONORING THE OLD PRINCIPLES THAT LUCIANNA DEFENDED, THE PEOPLE OF OBROVOSKA PROMOTE COOPERATION AND DEFENSE OVER CONQUEST. AS CONQUEST MAY VERY WELL HAVE DESTROYED OBROVOSKA BEFORE IT WAS FORMED.

III. SIGN OF THE HOURGLASS - THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE OLD PRINCIPLES MAY RETURN. THE SYMBOL OF LUCIANNA'S GIFT IS AN HOURGLASS FILLED WITH BLOOD. IT POURS BUT DOES NOT FILL AT THE BOTTOM. THIS REPRESENTS HOW QUICKLY ONE MAY LOSE THEIR WAY. OBROVOSKANS TRACE THE SIGN OF THE HOURGLASS OVER THEIR CHEST AS A SIGN OF REMEMBRANCE AND DEVOTION.

## HISTORY

AT THE END OF THE ANCIENT ERA, WHEN THE PEOPLE OF THE STEPPE BEGAN TO FORM INTO WHAT IS NOW KNOWN AS OBROVOSKA, THE TRIBES FROM THAT TIME WERE AT ODDS AND SUFFERED GREATLY DUE TO DISPUTES OVER THE RULING POWER STRUCTURE.

PRIOR TO THESE STRUGGLES, EARLY PEOPLES SURVIVED SOLELY ON THE OLD PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION AND CONSOLIDATION OF RESOURCES DUE TO THE HARSHNESS OF THE STEPPE. HOWEVER, THIS COOPERATION WOULD SOON FALTER FOR AN ERA OF GREAT TROUBLE AND WAR DESCENDED UPON THE ANCIENT PEOPLES OF OBROVOSKA.

DURING A DECISIVE BATTLE OF CATAclySMIC PROPORTIONS, ALL REMAINING TRIBES CLASHED IN WHAT WAS TO BE A FINAL CONFLICT FOR CONTROL. GREED AND DOMINATION THREATENED THE BALANCE AND MANY TRIBES SOUGHT TO CLAIM TOTAL POWER. ONE FIGUREHEAD KNOWN AS LUCIANNA LEAD HER TRIBE IN FAVOR OF THE OLD PRINCIPLES.

AMIDST THE BLOODY CONFLICT, LUCIANNA WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED. SENSING HER IMPENDING DEATH, HER VOICE RANG OUT AND ECHOED WITH CONVICTION FROM ATOP THE CLIFF ON WHICH SHE STOOD. THE BATTLE STOPPED AND THERE WAS SILENCE.

WITH A POWERFUL, PAINED VOICE SHE SPOKE OF FELLOWSHIP, GOOD WILL AND OF THE OBROVOSKAN SPIRIT. SHE INSISTED THAT THE OLD PRINCIPLES MUST ENDURE AND THAT WITHOUT THEM, STRIFE WOULD OVERTAKE AND DESTROY THEM ALL.

IN HER FINAL MOMENT AS SHE BLED, HER WORDS WERE NOT USED TO PLEAD FOR HERSELF, BUT FOR THE FUTURE OF OBROVOSKA AND HER PEOPLE.

IT IS SAID, THAT ALL IN ATTENDANCE WERE CHANGED BY THE UNDENIABLE CONVICTION OF LUCIANNA'S GIFT. THE ERA OF GREAT TROUBLE WAS OVER.

# STRAVOSI



STRAVOSI IS A GUARDED FAITH KEPT ALIVE ONLY BY THE WORDS OF ITS SHAMANS. THE STRAVOSI HOLY PLACE, THE SACRED GROVE, LIES ON A SMALL ISLAND WHERE THE RIVERS DANOMA AND SOVNIA MEET, NEAR THE CAPITAL OF POSNOVAR.

IN AN AGE OF ISKARAN DOMINATION, MANY BELIEVE THE SACRED GROVE IS WITHERING, AND IT IS NO COINCIDENCE THAT WITH EVERY PASSING YEAR THE FAITH BECOMES MORE OBSCURE AND UNKNOWN.

# TENETS

I. UNIVERSAL BALANCE - THE TWO RIVERS, THE TWO MOUNTAIN RANGES, THE TWO LAKES, AND AT THE HEART IS THE SACRED GROVE. THIS PHYSICAL REPRESENTATION REMINDS ALL STRYVANIANS THAT BALANCE IS SUPREMELY IMPORTANT IN ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE.

II. SPIRIT OF THE LAND - PRACTITIONERS OF STRAVOSI BELIEVE THAT THE LAND'S HEALTH IS A DIRECT RESULT OF THEIR BELIEF IN IT. IF THE FAITH IS STRONG, THE LAND WILL HAVE PLENTIFUL BOUNTY, AND IF IT IS WEAK, HARVESTS WILL SUFFER AND DISASTERS WILL STRIKE.

III. SONG OF THE GROVE - THE STRAVOSI HAVE A LONG HISTORY THAT IS INTERWOVEN WITH THE ART OF SONG. IT IS BELIEVED THAT MUCH IS COMMUNICATED AMONGST THE PEOPLE THROUGH SONG, WHETHER IT BE TALES OF THEIR HISTORY, OR MESSAGES THAT NEED TO BE PASSED ALONG WITHOUT A TRACE.

## HISTORY

THE STRAVOSI FAITH IS GUARDED FROM OUTSIDERS, PARTICULARLY IN AN AGE OF ISKARAN DOMINANCE AND THEIR FAITH WHICH SEEKS TO STUDY AND INTRUDE.

THERE ARE NO WRITINGS, NO SACRED BOOKS THAT EXPLAIN THE STRAVOSI TEACHINGS, NOT EVEN IN THE LIBRARIES OF ISKARA. ONLY THE WORD PASSED FROM SHAMAN TO SHAMAN, WHO TAKE UPON THE SACRED RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THE SPIRIT.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT WHEN THE SACRED GROVE IS FLOURISHING AND BOUNTIFUL, SO IS THE SPIRIT OF THE LAND. BUT IN RECENT YEARS, THE SHAMANS HAVE BEEN QUIET, AND MANY BELIEVE THE GROVE IS HURTING.

AS NEW FAITHS RISE AND MANY STRYVANIANS SEEK SOLACE IN OTHER POWERS, THE SAFE GUARDED KNOWLEDGE OF STRAVOSI FADES. YEARS OF ISKARAN OVERLORDSHIP HAVE SATURATED THE STRYVANIAN LANDSCAPE WITH FAITH IN THE SOLAR SCRIPT.

THERE ARE SOME WHO REMAIN TRULY FAITHFUL AND STRUGGLE FOR STRAVOSI PRESERVATION. IN DEFIANCE, THIS MOVEMENT HAS BECOME A RALLY POINT FOR DISSIDENTS UNDER ISKARAN RULE.

# FAITH OF THORUNN



AS SVITHLAND HAD NEVER BEEN AN IMPERIAL TERRITORY, THE FAITH OF ROLAND HAS HELD LITTLE SWAY.

SVITHLAND'S FAITH IS A REFLECTION OF THE HARSH CLIMATE AND THE PEOPLES' ROUTINE SUFFERING AND HARDSHIPS. THORUNN SERVES THEIR NEED FOR A DEITY WHO GUIDES AND WATCHES OVER THEM AS A MOTHER WOULD HER CHILD.

# TENETS

I. TEND THE LAND, TEND EACH OTHER - SVITHLANDERS BELIEVE IN A SHARED DUTY TO COOPERATE AND OVERCOME THE STRUGGLES OF THEIR HOMELAND TOGETHER.

II. HEARTH AND HOME - AS THORUNN AND FRIDA WATCH OVER SVITHLAND, SO TOO SHOULD THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND. SVITHLANDERS BELIEVE THAT WHILE THEY MAY TRAVEL ABROAD WITH THE BLESSINGS OF THEIR GODDESS, SHE DOES NOT GO WITH THEM, AND FARAWAY LANDS COULD PROVE TO BE DANGEROUS AND INHOSPITABLE.

III. RESPECT THE SEA - THE SEA CAN BE A DANGEROUS PLACE AND MUST ALWAYS BE RESPECTED FOR THE DANGER IT CAN PRESENT. WHILE MANY SVITHLANDERS FEEL AT HOME ON THE WATER, THEY ALSO SHARE A SUSPICION OF WATERBORNE SUPERNATURAL THREATS.

## HISTORY

IT IS BELIEVED THAT THORUNN WAS A DAUGHTER OF THE MIGHTY ONES, A PANTHEON OF BEINGS BEYOND THE REACH OF MORTALS. AS A GODDESS IN HER OWN RIGHT, THORUNN SLEW A GREAT SERPENT CALLED SORVENGAUNDR, WHICH SWAM ALONG THE COAST OF SVITHLAND AND PREVENTED SHIPS FROM EVER VENTURING ABROAD.

WHEN THORUNN SLEW THE SERPENT, SHE BURIED IT IN THE CENTER OF SVITHLAND, AND THE SORVEN MOUNTAINS GREW OVER ITS CORPSE TO ENSURE NO MAGIC COULD EVER RETURN IT TO LIFE.

FOR COUNTLESS CENTURIES, THORUNN SAFEGUARDED SVITHLAND AND GAVE STRENGTH TO ITS WARRIORS AS THEY SAILED THE SEAS OF THE KNOWN WORLD, NO LONGER RESTRICTED BY THE SERPENT.

THERE ARE MANY STORIES OF THORUNN, BUT ONE OF SIGNIFICANCE INVOLVES FRIDA, THE ICE WITCH OF THE NORTH.

NEAR A LAKE AT THE CENTER OF THE SORVEN MOUNTAINS, THE COMMON FOLK WHO DWELL THERE TELL LEGENDS OF AN ICE WITCH NAMED FRIDA. SHE WAS A RESPECTED FIGURE WITH SIGNIFICANT RENOWN AS A MEDIATOR AND HEALER.

WHEN A GREAT BATTLE OCCURRED NEARBY, BOTH SIDES INVOKED THORUNN'S NAME AND BEGAN TO MARCH TOWARDS ONE ANOTHER. FRIDA APPEARED AND WAS ABLE TO STOP THE BLOODSHED WITH HER MAGICAL VOICE.

THORUNN SAW THIS, A POWER WHICH REQUIRED NO SPEAR OR SHIELD, AND WAS AMAZED. IT IS SAID THAT SOON AFTER, THEY GREW A LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER AND WERE MARRIED.

TOGETHER, AS THE MOTHERS OF SVITHLAND, THORUNN AND FRIDA WATCH OVER THEIR PEOPLE TO EASE THEIR SUFFERINGS AND GIVE THEM STRENGTH, IN WHICHEVER FORM NEEDED TO OVERCOME WHAT LIES AHEAD.

# EZIR'S WINGS



THE STEPPE FAITH OF EZIR MAY BE ONE OF THE OLDEST SURVIVING FAITHS IN THE KNOWN WORLD. THE ANIMISTIC BELIEFS OF EZIRISTS HAVE CREATED A CULTURE OF SINCERE RESPECT FOR THE LAND AND ITS CREATURES.

EZIR'S WINGS, OR EZIRISM, IS A POLYTHEISTIC FAITH, FEATURING THEMES OF ANIMISM, SHAMANISM, AND ANCESTOR WORSHIP.

EZIR, THE EAGLE GOD, IS SEEN AS CHIEF OVER ALL.

# TENETS

I. EVER GIVING AND EVER TAKING - LIFE AND DEATH ARE INTERTWINED IN A SACRED FLOW. LIFE CANNOT FLOURISH WITHOUT DEATH AND IT IS DUE TO THIS FACT THAT EZIRISTS DO NOT SHY FROM BLOODSHED. TO DENY DEATH IS TO DENY LIFE.

II. FEATHERS FALL - NEW THOUGHTS OR IDEAS ARE GIFTS BROUGHT BY NEWLY FALLEN FEATHERS, HOWEVER, THOSE WHO ARE DEEMED TOO GREEDY ARE UNABLE TO RECEIVE EZIR'S BLESSINGS. EZIR ALLOWS FOR HUMANS TO LEARN AND GROW, BUT SIMILAR TO THE FLOW OF LIFE AND DEATH, TOO MUCH AT ONCE MAY UPSET THE BALANCE.

III. SPEAK TRUTH - EZIRIST SHAMANS ARE VIEWED WITH REVERENCE. A SHAMAN OF EZIR CAN ONLY SPEAK TRUTH, OTHERWISE IT IS BELIEVED AN EAGLE WILL COME TO REMOVE THEIR TONGUE.

## HISTORY

IN THE BEGINNING, THE GREAT CREATOR, EZIR, FORMED THE WORLD. IT WAS THEN THAT EZIR SEPARATED THE LAND FROM THE SKY AND TOOK FLIGHT IN THE FORM OF AN EAGLE.

THE GREAT CREATOR FLEW THROUGH ALL OF THE REALMS BUT WAS UNSATISFIED, FOR THEY WERE EMPTY. EZIR, SPREADING GREAT WINGS, BEGAN TO SHAKE THE WORLD. THE SACRED WIND GUSTS SCATTERED FEATHERS THROUGH EVERY REALM.

WHERE THE FIRST FEATHERS LANDED, THE MOUNTAINS ROSE, THE RIVERS BURST FORTH, AND THE TREES GREW. AS MORE FELL, WILDLIFE POPULATED THE REALMS AND FROM THE LAST FEATHERS CAME HUMANITY.

EZIR WAS PLEASED AND STARTED TO REGROW THE FEATHERS OF THEIR GREAT WINGS BUT WITH EVERY FEATHER CAME A PRICE. AS ONE FEATHER WAS REGROWN, ONE CREATION WOULD PERISH.

AND SO, LIFE WOULD COME TO CREATION BUT SO WOULD DEATH.

NOW EZIR WATCHES; EVER GIVING AND EVER TAKING.

THE STORY OF EZIR WAS TOLD TO ALL PEOPLES AND PLACES BY EAGLES. THEY ARE THE SACRED SERVANTS OF EZIR FOR THEY DWELL IN THE DOMAIN OF SKY AND WIND THAT LIES BEYOND THE REACH OF MAN.

# LIBERTY OF WILL



LIBERTY OF WILL IS A SECULAR WAY OF LIFE. VENOA'S LIMITLESS MERCANTILISM SAW ITS PORTS DRAW PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE KNOWN WORLD TO ITS SHORES AND WITH IT, THEIR OWN FAITHS.

UNABLE TO TAKE ROOT AND GROW IN SUCH A DIVERSE ENVIRONMENT, NO NATIVE VENOESE BELIEF HAS LASTED THROUGH THE CENTURIES.

THIS UNIQUE WAY OF LIFE DRAWS AWE AS WELL AS CRITICISM FROM ALL OVER THE KNOWN WORLD.

# TENETS

I. PURSUIT OF WILL - EVERY PERSON IS FREE TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN BELIEFS WITHOUT CONDEMNATION.

II. ALL FOR ALL - WITH THE MAGNIFICENT DIVERSITY OF ITS PEOPLE COMES A PROMISE TO DEFEND VENOA IN UNISON. ALL SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY OPERATE IN HARMONY TO ENSURE QUALITY OF LIFE IS PROTECTED AND TO KEEP THE POWERS OF DEFENSE FINELY OILED AND READY.

III. MARITIME MARKET - IMPORTS AND EXPORTS FLOW IN ABUNDANCE FROM THE PORTS OF VENOA. THE BANKS OF VENOA ARE RENOWNED IN THE KNOWN WORLD FOR THEIR WEALTH BUT ALSO FOR THEIR SECURITY. SOME MIGHT SAY THAT THE VENOESE WORSHIP GOLD, HOWEVER THE VENOESE BELIEVE THAT GOLD IS ONLY NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE PREVAILS.

## HISTORY

IN THIS MAELSTROM OF IDEAS, NO FAITH NATIVE TO THE VENOESE STILL EXISTS.

THAT IS NOT TO SAY THAT VENOESE PEOPLES DO NOT HAVE FAITH, BUT THEY INSTEAD FOLLOW THE FAITHS WHICH WERE BROUGHT TO THE LAND BY ITS MANY INHABITANTS, OR, AS LIBERTY OF WILL MAY HAVE IT, THEY FOLLOW NO FAITH AT ALL. THIS FACT IS CELEBRATED BY ALL.

TO ALL WHO PRACTICE THE LIBERTY OF WILL, SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY PREVAIL IN A SYSTEM WHERE MANY CAN BE HEARD, REPRESENTED AND BE FREE TO LIVE AS THEY CHOOSE.

VENOA HAS A LONG HISTORY OF REPELLING FOREIGN ARMIES THAT DO NOT SHARE THEIR POINT OF VIEW AND WITH EACH VICTORY, SO TOO IS REPELLED THE IDEA OF DOMINATION OF ONE TRUE FAITH OR GOD. THE VENOESE ARE CONVICTED THAT THEIR SUCCESS IS DUE TO THE IRON-CLAD CIVIL AGREEMENT OF THE PEOPLE.

FOR AS LONG AS ANYONE CAN REMEMBER, IT HAS BEEN THIS WAY AND CURIOSITY BEYOND THAT IS NOT A POPULAR PASTIME FOR THE VENOESE.

ALL LEADERS AND LAWS ARE CHOSEN BY THE PUBLIC. PUBLIC SERVANTS EXIST TO DO WELL BY THE PEOPLE AND IF THIS IS NOT THE CASE, THEY ARE REPLACED VIA ELECTIONS. THIS IS WHERE THE VENOESE SHINE, AS GOLD DOES NOT CORRUPT OR IMPEDE THE CIVIC PROCESS.



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