

# Theaceae

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# CONTENTS

<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>3</b>	2.2.5 Saddle Gap Inn .....	8
<b>Chapter 1: Theaceae .....</b>	<b>4</b>	2.2.6 Alehouse .....	8
1.1. Areas of Theaceae .....	4	2.2.7 General Store.....	8
1.2. Theaceaeen History .....	4	2.2.8 Apothecary .....	8
1.3. Deities.....	4	2.2.9 Blacksmith .....	9
1.3.1 She.....	4	2.2.10 Mage's Tower.....	9
1.3.2 Nature .....	5	2.2.11 Elvish Soup Kitchen .....	9
1.3.3 Tempest .....	5	2.3. Croatoa .....	9
1.3.4 Knowledge.....	5	2.3.1 Lighthouse.....	9
1.3.5 Forge .....	5	2.3.2 Docks .....	9
1.3.6 Trickery .....	5	<b>Chapter 3: White Spine Mountains ...</b>	<b>10</b>
1.4. Local Agriculture .....	5	3.1. Elvish Ruins .....	10
1.5. Random Encounters .....	5	3.2. Dwarves .....	10
1.5.1 Dry Side.....	5	3.3. Dragon Rumors.....	10
1.5.2 Mountains .....	6	<b>Chapter 4: Dry Side.....</b>	<b>11</b>
1.5.3 Costal Region.....	6	4.1. Wolff Point .....	11
<b>Chapter 2: East Side .....</b>	<b>7</b>	4.1.1 Wolff Trading Post.....	11
2.1. Douro .....	7	4.1.2 Majestic Badger .....	11
2.1.1 Docks .....	7	4.1.3 Shrine .....	11
2.1.2 Navy .....	7	4.1.4 Bauer Ranch .....	11
2.2. Camellia.....	7	4.2. Adventuring Academy .....	11
2.2.1 City Watch .....	7	4.3. Sisters .....	11
2.2.2 Governor's Mansion.....	7	4.3.1 San Leor .....	12
2.2.3 Plantations .....	8	4.3.2 Verses .....	12
2.2.4 Camellia Teahouse .....	8	4.4. The Farm .....	12

# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Theaceae, the land of tea, treasure, and adventure. Most people come here to escape civilization and strike out into a new world. From the pirate infested seas and dangerous jungles to the tea plantations, the east side is full of opportunity for those willing to work for the tea families to risk defying them. For more independent adventurers, the dry side of the mountains offers rewards if they can endure the harsh conditions and strange folk. Separating the region, the White Spine mountains are rumored to hold the ruins of an ancient elvish civilization that was destroyed long ago, but the dangers that brought down this mighty civilization may still lurk throughout Theaceae.

# CHAPTER 1: THEACEAE

Theaceae is an isolated frontier region known for exporting luxury high altitude teas. The White Spine mountains divide the region. The foothills city of Camellia on the east side is nominally the capital, though settlers on the west side of the mountains tend to ignore this claim. The east side has plenty of precipitation and rich tea plantations, but is plagued by Gnolls and other dangers in the jungles at lower altitudes. The west side, or dry side, is generally safer, but the living conditions are harsher and the high altitude plains are ill suited for agriculture.

## AREAS OF THEACEAE

The three principal regions of Theaceae are the east side, the dry side, and the White Spine mountains.

The plantations on the east side account for the majority of the wealth in the region, but gnoll raids are frequent throughout the east side, even against large groups. The city of Camilla in the foothills protects the largest tea plantations and provides the majority of the income for the region. Most Camillan citizens feel relatively safe inside protection of the iconic white watchtowers known as The Teeth. The only other city in the east side is the port of Duro, but there are small, isolated groups scattered throughout the jungles trying to survive and evade the gnolls and other threats.

The most well known feature of the White Spine mountains is the ruins of the ancient city of Sinensis. The city sits high in the mountain pass which serves as the main artery between the east side and the dry side. It is unclear what exactly led to the destruction of Sinensis, but there are rumors of additional ruined elvish locations throughout the region.

The dry side is generally safer than the rest of the region, but these high altitude plains are less suited to agriculture. Settlers in this region are glad for the independence and relative isolation the area requires. Small farms and villages dot the area, with only a handful of large organized groups.

## THEACEAEN HISTORY

Theaceae was a haven for elves thousands of years ago, but only traces of this civilization remain. Art and artifacts from the elves of this era are highly prized among the wealthy around the world. The details of the disaster that ended the elvish civilization are not clear, but there are rumors of a large disaster that destroyed the elvish capital city of Sinensis coinciding with a dragon appearing in the region and hunting down elves for their

treasure.

Rumors of precious metals in the White Spine mountains brought a clan of dwarves to Theaceae. While they did not find the riches they were looking for, the clan found pure ore and minerals and control the mining in the mountains to the present day.

Legends of rich, lush plant growth during the height of the elvish civilization brought humans to the region approximately 500 years ago. Rather than a bountiful region filled with plenty, these early settlers found an austere region filled with danger. Some of the settlers carved an area of safety out above the gnoll infested jungles and began growing tea for trade, while others embraced the rugged environment on the far side of the mountains and struck out on their own.

## DEITIES

The stories of deities in the region are an amalgamation of old elvish lore and the beliefs of the early human and dwarven settlers. Variations exist between the various cultures in the region, but all groups seem to share stories or beliefs in these six deities.

### SHE

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In the oldest elvish myths, She Who Creates created the world and the first gods. She saw the world and wanted it to grow, so She created Nature. However, realizing that growth unchecked created suffering, She created Tempest to balance the world. Out of the chaos of Nature and Tempest came creatures craving order, so eventually She created Knowledge and Forge to help them learn and create.

She is seen as a benevolent and objective force of life and death. Life and grave domain clerics often follow Her; however, they do not necessarily hope for direct intervention from Her. Instead, they try to emulate Her and maintain balance between life and death in the world.

Culturally, this sense of balance is seen throughout the region. Life is celebrated and death is mourned, but death is seen as a necessity for life. "Life cycles as She wills" is a common expression for this perpetual cycle of life and death.

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## NATURE

Nature has always been erratic, but in the time since the cataclysm that destroyed the elvish civilization the dominion of Nature has been even more unpredictable in Theaceae.

Druids typically have the closest affinity for and devotion to Nature, and clerics of Nature tend to have an affinity for the Nature domain.

Devotees of nature are split over the nature of the chaos in Theaceae. Some believe that Nature was damaged by the elvish civilization and mortals need to aid Nature or convince Her to help Nature. Others believe that Knowledge and Forge need to be used to temper the chaos of Nature and establish a new balance. Most of the population however, seems to accept that this is the Nature of the world and they need to adapt to the chaos.

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## TEMPEST

Tempest is Nature's twin sibling in chaos. Where Nature is a force of creation and growth, Tempest is a force that brings destruction.

There are some clerics that worship Tempest, but largely Tempest is more feared and respected than worshiped. Some sorcerers also feel an affinity towards the Tempest and the unpredictable changes it brings forth.

Some believe that the chaos in the region is due to conflict between the two sibling gods and bringing these forces to a truce will bring peace back to the region. However, most people believe that, as with Nature, the chaos that Tempest brings is something to be weathered and endured.

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## KNOWLEDGE

One of the two younger twins, Knowledge is seen as a guide for those who seek to understand the world as it is. Unlike the siblings of chaos, the siblings of order are seen as aiding civilization.

Sometimes wizards can be seen muttering a prayer to Knowledge under their breath as they try to work through a particularly difficult puzzle. Clerics of Knowledge tend to have an affinity for the Light and Knowledge domains.

Followers of Knowledge tend to believe that she wants them to observe and understand the world so that they can better adapt themselves to chaos and survive.

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## FORGE

Forge is seen as a guide for those who seek to create order in the world. Forge aids those who wish to organize and reorder the elements of chaos into new creations.

Artisans, bards, artificers, and other creators thank Forge for their ability to create and invent. Clerics of Forge tend to have an affinity for the Forge domain.

In contrast to the nonintervention stance of devotees of Knowledge, followers of Forge tend to believe that he wants them to establish order in the world to protect themselves from the chaos.

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## TRICKERY

Nobody knows where Trickery came from, what He wants, or how He even became a god.

Trickery ensures that even the best plans are disrupted. Children like to blame Trickery for the broken pot and bandits like to say that they are agents of Trickery keeping everyone on their toes.

While Trickery does not solicit worshipers, He will reward those whose shenanigans amuse him with more ways to cause havoc and pull pranks.

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## LOCAL AGRICULTURE

The high altitudes in Theaceae make agriculture very difficult, resulting in food scarcity and limited options. The produce on the dry side and foothills of the east side is exclusively leafy greens, root vegetables, and herbs. The food available in the jungles of the east side is more varied, but often adventurers are on the menu.

The limited agriculture effects the local beverages as well; wine is limited, ale is different, and tea is common. Hopps are difficult to grow at altitude, so ale is flavored with local herbs instead. Even throughout the dry side, tea is a staple of the Theacean culture due to its prolific growth in the region.

As a result of these restrictions, food and beverages cost twice the prices listed in the Player's Handbook on the Food and Drink table.

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## RANDOM ENCOUNTERS

These tables provide random encounters for the regions of Theaceae. The encounters can be adjusted as desired.

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## DRY SIDE

For random encounters on the dry side of the mountains, roll 1d8 and 1d12.



Result	Encounter
2	Dryad
3	1d4 Eagles
4	1d4 Elk
5	1d4+1 Elf Commoners
6	1d4+2 Goats
7	Small Farm
8	1d6+2 Human Commoners
9	Elven Ruins
10	1d6 Vine Blights
11	Trinket
12	Brown Bear
13	[CULTISTS] Party
14	2d6 Bandits and Captain
15	Manticore
16	1d4 Awakened Trees
17	Dangerous Storm
18	2d6 Wolves
19	1 Oni
20	1 Roc

## MOUNTAINS

For random encounters in the mountains, roll 1d8 and 1d12.

Result	Encounter
2	Pseudodragon
3	1d4 Eagles
4	1d4+2 Yaks
5	1d4+1 Elf Commoners
6	1d4+2 Goats
7	Small Copse of Trees
8	1d6+2 Human Commoners
9	Elven Ruins
10	1 Grick
11	Rockslide
12	Trinket
13	[CULTISTS] Party
14	2d6 Bandits and Captain
15	Dangerous Storm
16	2d6 Wolves
17	1 Air Elemental
18	1 Galeb Duhr
19	1 Roc
20	1 Ancient Red Dragon

## COSTAL REGION

For random encounters on the dry side of the mountains, roll 1d8 and 1d12.

Result	Encounter
2	Centaur
3	1d6+2 Human Convoy
4	1d4 Eagles
5	1d4 Needle Blights
6	1d4+1 Giant Poisonous Snakes
7	1d4+2 Goats
8	Small Outpost
9	Elven Ruins
10	1d6 Vine Blights
11	Trinket
12	1d4 Harpies
13	2d6 Gnolls and Pack Lord
14	2d6 Bandits and Captain
15	Manticore
16	1d4 Awakened Trees
17	Dangerous Storm
18	1 Water Elemental
19	1 Cyclops
20	1 Roc

## CHAPTER 2: EAST SIDE

The east side of the White Spine mountains is much more fertile, but the thick jungles have many dangers, such as gnolls and jungle creatures. Most people have banded together into a pair of cities. The capital city Camellia is the largest city in the region and the home of huge tea plantations that provide the region's chief export. Duro is the port city that acts at the gateway between Theaceae and the rest of the world.

### DOURO

The port city of Douro is the primary conduit for trade and travel in and out of Theaceae. As the second largest city in region, Douro is home to 5,000 people.

Caravans between Douro and Camilla are limited, as most people only brave the jungles of the east side in the relative safety of numbers. Individuals traveling to Camilla or the dry side may have to wait several weeks for the next trade caravan bringing trade goods to exchange for tea from the mountains. More impatient individuals can find local guides through the jungles if they have enough gold and bravery.

### DOCKS

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Most of Douro is on the water, trying to find safety from the occasional raids that get past the patrols and defenses. Half of the city is an amalgamation of docks and floating buildings.

The docks for the trade ships are the largest and most recognizable feature of Douro. Carefully maintained and well guarded, there are often a couple of ships waiting here to unload trade goods or load up more tea. Adventurers may find themselves waiting here for several weeks, but there is always work to be found in the docks while adventurers wait.

### NAVY

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Although the ships of the Theacean navy are older, they are well maintained and well staffed. Given the high value of tea, pirate raids on trading vessels are common but they are rarely successful when the navy is nearby.

### CAMELLIA

The city of Camellia sits high in the foothills of the White Spine mountains. Providing refuge from the Gnoll infested jungles that line the coast, Camellia is devoted to

growing and processing tea. Palisade walls protect the city while tea plantations dominate the land outside of the city, ringed by a set of ancient white stone watchtowers known as the Dragon's Teeth.

This city of 10,000 is confined to two square miles. The population is predominately human and the most common occupation is working in the tea plantations. Given the percentage of the safe farmland that is dedicated to tea production, food is twice as expensive as people from other parts of the world expect.

### CITY WATCH

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Members of the city watch can be immediately recognized by their plain dark green livery, chain mail shirts, and wooden buckler shields. Watch sergeants are recognizable by the bronze filigree on their helmets. The rank and file members of the city watch are guards, while the sergeants are veterans. While the city watch serves the city, they know to instantly follow the orders of the families that own the plantations.

### GOVERNOR'S MANSION

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The governor's mansion and city watch headquarters, high in the foothills, are built upon what remains of an old elvish temple. The mansion and foreboding fortification walls are made of dark rock that used to form the walls of the temple.

Governor Edmund Schulz (human man, noble) is dismissive and aloof. While he nominally runs the city, it is an open secret that the governorship only exists because the families that own the largest plantations do not want to be bothered with administering the city. Any decision he makes is understood to come from the richest plantations.

Commander Natalie Werner (human woman, champion) is friendly and professional. As Governor Chapman's lieutenant and commander of the city watch, Yvonne has the best interests of Theaceae at heart. She is friendly and jovial with members of the city watch and

citizens of Camellia, but she is suspicious of outsiders until they demonstrate they are not a threat to those she protects.

## PLANTATIONS

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The families that own the plantations are the nobility of Theaceae. While they largely abdicate governance of Camellia to the Governor, very little in the city happens without their approval. There are five major families that hold sway, but there are a handful of smaller plantations that change hands every few generations.

During the growing season, the demand for labor is intense, and most of the town works for the plantations. However, work on the plantations is limited in the winter, with only particularly skilled workers retained to process the high value and aged teas.

## CAMELLIA TEAHOUSE

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This tall greenhouse stands out as one of the only new buildings in Camellia. The Camellia Teahouse is the main attraction for guests to the region. Inside, the temperature is warm year round and flowering green plants fill every possible corner. All business meetings and agreements taking place in the many meeting rooms inside its maze of hedges and plants.

The teahouse can host catered business meetings for 10 gp. The cost includes Aristocratic meals, tea service, and three notarized copies of all contracts and agreements signed in the meeting. One copy of the paperwork is kept in a secure vault at the teahouse.

Isabella Roth (human woman, spy) is the ambitious and scrupulous matron of this teahouse. Isabella maintains strict confidentiality and is extremely polite, making a point to know the customs and manners for the various guests to Camellia. Isabella is very proud of the work she has put into the Camellia Teahouse. She knows all of the important people in the region and personally notarizes all contracts.

## SADDLE GAP INN

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The Saddle Gap Inn is one of the most popular inns in Camellia. It is simple but clean and well cared for. Rooms can be difficult to find when the trade convoys are in town but are otherwise plentiful. The high altitude limits the available food, which consists largely of leafy greens and root vegetables. The local ale are based on herbs in place of hops. Food and beverages are sold at double the prices listed in the Player's Handbook on the Food and Drink table, with the exception of wine, which is largely unavailable.

Adelar Biermann (human man, commoner) is boisterous and friendly. He is extremely nosy, and will constantly question the everyone about everything. Vincent is also

a notorious gossip, making him a great source of rumors, albeit with dubious reliability.

## ALEHOUSE

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There area variety of cramped alehouses that serve the day laborers on the plantations. The most well know one among those seeking underground contacts is simply known as Alehouse.

Dirt and grime cover every surface, but Alehouse is warm and comfortable. The local ale are based on herbs in place of hops. Customers expect the ale to be watered down, but at least it is cheap. Beverages are sold at half the prices listed in the Player's Handbook on the Food and Drink table, with the exception of wine, which is unavailable.

Brigitte Rott (human woman, commoner) is curt and uninterested in her job. She ignores customers until she sees the gold and will do anything to avoid work and cut corners.

## GENERAL STORE

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One of the older warehouses has been repurposed for the largest general goods store in Camellia. This wood structure smells strongly of dust and animal hair. The shelves are overflowing when the biannual trade caravans visit town but can be quite bare just before these convoys arrive. The general store stocks the gear found on the Adventuring Gear table in the Player's Handbook, at the listed prices. Food and rations cost double the listed price.

The purveyor, Louis Kramer (human man, commoner) is calm and polite. His spouse enjoys making weaving, so many of the supplies available will be made from yak or goat. Purchases will be wrapped with goat hair twine or packaged in woven yak hair baskets.

## APOTHECARY

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The most well known apothecary in Camellia is on the edge of the elvish quarter. Like most buildings in this area, the style tries to emulate the ruined elvish structures that can be found throughout Theaceae. The cramped shop has jars and bottles neatly labeled in elvish containing spell components and potions. Common potions are likely available, and more complex potions may be requested, though Valana may require the players to acquire ingredients for these potions.

Valana Yaeldrin (elf woman, druid) is disorganized and distractable, except when it comes to her potions. She doesn't quite fit in with the humans, but she has steady business as the most capable apothecary in Camellia.

## BLACKSMITH



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Camellia's only Dwarf trained smith can be found in an all stone building stained black with soot from the forge. The players can find all non-magical weapons and armor from the Armor and Weapons tables in the Player's Handbook, at the listed prices.

Eckart Schmidt (human man, berserker) is careful and conniving. He believes that everything has its price and he will do anything for a profit. Everyone in town knows that he is willing make anything and sell to anyone, for the right price.

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## MAGE'S TOWER

The only seller of magical goods and components can be found in this ramshackle tower that seems to be barely standing up. It looks as though the tower was formed by stacking ruined buildings atop one another. Locals report strange lights coming from the tower at night and bizarre sounds at all hours of the day.

Gauss (human man, archmage) is suspicious and paranoid. He is willing to sell spell components and scrolls; however, he is unwilling to sell spell scrolls above the fourth level to anyone for fear of them becoming too powerful.

Gauss is reluctant to let anyone inside the tower unless they are willing to pay for his services. Once inside, books, scrolls, and arcane apparatuses fill every available surface. Spell services, spell scrolls, arcane supplies, and spell-casting focuses are available. Note that rarer supplies are less likely to be available and more expensive.

Gauss apprentices locals that demonstrate arcane talent. There are currently two apprentices in the tower.

Clavius (human man, apprentice wizard) is quiet and arrogant. He resents and distrusts anyone who is not a wizard.

Pagel (human woman, apprentice wizard) is inquisitive and unpredictable. She is always looking for ways to experiment and learn.

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## ELVISH SOUP KITCHEN

Elves in town use the soup kitchen as a community center. Situated in the middle of the elvish quarter, this structure is one of the most beautiful in town, with elegant relief carvings on its exterior.

Elves are welcome to stay here free of charge, and elves who take advantage of this offer are often invited to join the frequent caravans to the principal elvish settlement on the dry side, known colloquially as The Farm.

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## CROATOA

Croatoa is the first settlement founded by humans in the region. The town was abandoned, and all subsequent attempts to resettle the town have failed.

The town remains untouched and looks identical to the day the first settlers disappeared. Local legends tell that anyone who visits Croatoa is cursed if they touch anything or, worse yet, take anything from the settlement.

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## LIGHTHOUSE

A few kilometers down the coast, a tall lighthouse marks the edge of the cove where the sea transitions into a rocky reef. On foggy nights, a light can be seen in the top of the lighthouse and voices can be heard drifting out over the coast.

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## DOCKS

The docks are perfectly intact and serviceable for any ship brave enough to use them. Local smugglers occasionally send ships through these docks, following their own series of traditions and superstitions to stay safe. Even with these precautions, sometimes entire smuggler ships disappear nearby or their welcoming parties and trade goods are not to be found when the ships come in to port.

## CHAPTER 3: WHITE SPINE MOUNTAINS

The White Spine mountains split Theaceae into the plentiful but dangerous east side and the safer but resource poor dry side. With the exception of the trail between Camellia and Wolff Point, travel through the White Spine mountains is treacherous but profitable for those willing to explore. Travelers should beware though, as the dwarves in the region are fiercely protective of the location and contents of their mines.

### ELVISH RUINS

High in the mountain pass between the east side and dry side lies the ruins of the ancient elvish capital city of Sinensis. The city has been covered by a massive ancient rockslide, and the mountain peak above the crater has a large crater, weathered but still recognizable. It's unclear exactly why the elves abandoned the city, but legends tell of a great monster that burst out of the mountain, destroyed Sinensis, and disappeared back underground.

Over the centuries, various groups have mounted expeditions into the ruins to recover art and artifacts. Unfortunately, this work is highly dangerous and there are rumors of a wide variety of dangers in the subterranean remnants of Sinensis, to include ghosts of the previous citizens.

### DWARVES

A small clan of dwarves came to Theaceae roughly 1,000 years ago looking for gold and gems. Instead of treasures, these dwarves found remarkably pure ore and mineral deposits. Begrudgingly, the dwarves accepted this turn of fortune and became the most talented smiths in the re-

gion. The ore is the key to their success, and they will fiercely guard their mines and drive off anyone who tries to mine in the White Spine mountains.

Small expeditions of dwarves can be found in the mountains, locating new veins of ore and starting small mines. They are more than willing to trade with explorers that find their small mines, but they fiercely guard knowledge of the locations of their most valuable mines.

### DRAGON RUMORS

One of the most popular theories about the downfall of the elvish civilization in the region is that without the protection offered by Sinensis a massive red dragon came to the region and began hunting the elves for their art, magic, and treasure. The evidence in the mountains and elvish ruins is inconclusive, but the theory remains popular, especially among young Elves.

Small bands of kobolds sometimes attack explorers in the mountains, and if they are captured they often threaten to bring the wrath of the "Great Dragon" down upon their captors. It's unclear if these encounters provide tentative support for this theory or if the kobolds are merely full of bluster.

## CHAPTER 4: DRY SIDE

The dry side of the White Spine mountains is wild and sparsely populated. While there are a handful of groups, such as the Adventuring Academy and Sisterhood in this region, most settlers here are fiercely independent. Life on the dry side is hard, but the people find the harsh conditions worth the space and freedom.

### WOLFF POINT

Wolff Point is sometimes called the "gateway to the frontier", though not by anyone that lives there. This small town of 2,000 is situated in the foothills of the White Spine mountains, near the pass that leads to Camellia and the East side.

#### WOLFF TRADING POST

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At the heart of town is the Wolff Trading Post, the nexus of trade between the dry side and the East side. The trading post stocks the gear found on the Adventuring Gear table in the Player's Handbook, at the listed prices. Food and rations cost double the listed price.

Tirza Wolff (human woman, commoner) is the latest member of the Wolff family to operate the Wolff Trading Post. She is friendly but businesslike, always happy to help new travelers who are preparing to head into the dry side for the first time. Tirza always has some work available for friendly faces that she trusts.

#### MAJESTIC BADGER

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A large, 6 foot tall carved badger standing rampant guards the entrance of the rough-hewn log and stone building that is Wolff Point's only inn. Accommodations are basic and food is expensive, but the Majestic Badger is comfortable and there is often a traveling bard or a tinker visiting. Food and rations cost double the prices listed in the Player's Handbook.

Balris Grirlei (elf man, bard) is heavyset and old enough that his hair has gone grey. He is friendly but a man of few words, and he will only discuss the elves in the region with elven characters.

#### SHRINE

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One shrine serves all of the religious needs for people in Wolff Point and the surrounding area. In the center of the shrine sits a stone altar, one side carefully maintained

and covered in intricate runes while the other is weathered and overgrown with plants. Seating surrounds the altar, offering views of both sides.

Sister Amelia (human woman, priest) is a retired member of the Sisterhood who recently moved to Wolff Point to manage the shrine. While Sister Amelia worships Knowledge, through her studies she knows how to worship any of the six deities and will provide rites for any of them.

#### BAUER RANCH

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Bauer Ranch sits on the outskirts of Wolff Point. The ranch extends into the foothills of the White Spine mountains and has the largest herd of goats on the Dry Side. Goats are the best suited pack animals in the region and can be purchased for the price of a pony.

Lukas Bauer (human man, commoner) runs the ranch with his children. He will sell his goats, but he requires some assurances that the purchasers are capable of properly taking care of the goats.

### ADVENTURING ACADEMY

The Adventurers Academy is famous throughout Theaceae. Young children throughout the dry side dream of being accepted into the Adventurers Academy and apprenticing with one of the senior adventurers. Graduates are expected to embrace this spirit of generosity, charging fair rates for their services and giving back to the Adventurers Academy to support new apprentices.

### SISTERS

The Sisterhood is an isolated religious order of scholars and warriors that generally worships the siblings of order. This all woman order trains girls from birth to take a place in their order.

### SAN LEOR

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San Leor is the stronghold of the Sisters, and all new Sisters are trained here. Several nearby villages trade food and supplies for protection, but the citadel strives to one day become self sufficient.

The Sisters only require dedication to good, but most of the Sisters worship the siblings of order. Adherents of Knowledge tend to look after the expansive libraries and medical facilities of the Sisters, while adherents of Forge tend to join the more militant organizations of the Sisters. There are extensive facilities in San Leor supporting both the charitable and combative aims of the Sisters.

## VERSES

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Groups of the Sisters called Verses patrol the dry side, seeking threats and looking for orphaned girls. While

people on the dry side know that the Sisterhood will always complete any dangerous job, their high prices and strict adherence to their religion often dissuade people from hiring them. The Sisters have been known to show up, remove a threat, and expect some payment or tithing to help keep their traveling Verses fed and armed.

## THE FARM

The largest elvish enclave on the dry side is known colloquially as The Farm. While they are willing to trade and interact with anyone, only elves are allowed inside this enclave. This privacy does lead to wild rumors about just what these elves are doing in secrecy, but most people in the dry side are content to trade with the elves and let them have their privacy.