

Calistria

Savor the three stings of passion, guile, and vengeance.

THE SAVORED STING

Goddess of trickery, lust, and revenge

Alignment CN

Domains Chaos, Charm, Knowledge, Luck, Trickery

Favored Weapon Whip

Centers of Worship Absalom, Galt, Kyonin, Nex, River Kingdoms, Shackles, Taldor, Varisia

Nationality Elf

Although the elves worship a great many deities, they hold none so highly as Calistria. The Savored Sting speaks to the mercurial, detached nature that makes elves elves. Some favor her as a trickster goddess, while others appreciate her lustful, audacious spirit. Ever scheming and planning her next conquest, Calistria is always maneuvering to a more advantageous position. Iconography of the faith depicts her as the ideal of elven beauty, dressed in revealing gowns with long graceful ears, slender limbs, and a suggestive smile playing across her lips. She is commonly shown with giant wasps; unlike bees, wasps can sting again and again without dying, just as sex and revenge can be experienced time and again.

Calistria is fickle, changing loyalties as her needs and whims suit her. She doesn't do this to be hurtful, she just never lets her interest become too strong or too emotional and thinks that anyone who does otherwise is a fool; former partners and allies who are smart know to accept this and move on. Those who compromise her interests suffer her barbs, and she feels no guilt for taking an eye for an eye, or even more. She has no interest in love and sees it only as a weakness and needless byproduct of physical pleasures. Forgiveness is the domain of fools and weaklings unwilling to protect and avenge their interests. Though she is a goddess of trickery and enjoys a good joke (or even cruel jokes), she thinks of common pranks and physical comedy as beneath her.

Spies, prostitutes, narcissists, hedonists, thrill seekers, enchanters, and illusionists are often followers of Calistria. Those who carry a grudge pray for her favor, as do the rare non-evil assassins pursuing a justified blood debt. The bastard offspring of racial mixing (such as half-elves and tieflings) are attracted to the faith, using their exotic appearances as an advantage among "normal" folk, especially as most owe their very existence to unusual lusts. Most of her worshipers are elves, not because of an excessive prurient interest in flesh but because she

represents freedom from commitment and the freedom to pursue what one desire.

Calistria shows her favor among the faithful with sudden runs of luck among attempts to find companionship, heightening of physical pleasures, and finding easy marks for schemes or acts of vengeance. Those who displease her often find themselves plagued by impotence, inability to achieve sexual satisfaction, schemes failing disastrously, or angry wasps with an unerring ability to sting in sensitive places.

Calistria's avatar is a beautiful elven woman wearing a slinky yellow and black dress. Her eyes are dark and mysterious, sometimes flashing gold with passion or anger. Her herald is the Menotherian, a bear-sized, wasplike creature with a double stinger and powerful scent glands that can control minds; the Menotherian can take a humanoid form resembling an exotic caricature of a beautiful elf, with long ears, narrow cheekbones, and graceful limbs. Notable servants include Velvet Wing (an elven succubus-like creature), Tordurbar (a hypersexualized chaos beast), and Thyev (a frog-like, shapechanging sorcerer obsessed with vengeance).

Calistria's interactions with other gods are complex and strewn with contradictions and fabrications. Some paint her as a good god's lover, others as an enemy. Some even suggest the creation or destruction of certain deities (for example, one says that she rebuffed Cayden Cailean, saying no mortal could enjoy her charms and survive, so he took the Test of the *Starstone* for the chance to be with her as a god).

Priests, Temples, and the Church

Priests of Calistria are usually bards or clerics, though in some places more exotic spellcasters are the norm for clergy. As a group they are a reactive force more than a proactive one, content to let the world progress at its own pace until something provokes them. Most people see the priests of Calistria as providers of comfort to those in need of solace, whether physical or emotional. They open their doors to those brimming over with lust, needing advice on embarrassing a rival, or seeking aid to strike back at those who have hurt them.

Many priests work as or with prostitutes, always in a manner that assures the safety of those in that profession; the church does not make its priests into victims, as they are people with power who greatly enjoy what they do for a living. Even the most ugly or disagreeable priest knows how to turn on the charm at the right time, surprising those who witness the change (Diplomacy or Gather Information are essential skills). Others may work as spies, investigators (for individuals or the government), or smugglers of exotic materials for those with singular interests.