

Shelyn

Fill your heart, eyes, and mind with the beauty in the world.

THE ETERNAL ROSE

Goddess of beauty, art, love, and music

Alignment NG

Domains Air, Charm, Good, Luck, Protection

Favored Weapon Glaive

Centers of Worship Absalom, Galt, Sargava, Taldor

Nationality Taldan

An ancient story tells of how Shelyn stole the glaive of her half-brother Zon-Kuthon in an attempt to redeem him from the alien influence possessing his mind. This attempt failed, but she has not given up hope, and out of love for him she retains the so-called Whisperer of Souls as her favored weapon despite its malign influence. Her story of love and devotion despite sorrow inspires mortal friends and lovers to persevere in adverse circumstances, bards to craft epic songs and tragedies, and artists to create works that touch the soul. All depictions of Shelyn, regardless of race or ethnicity, show her as a young woman barely out of her youth, with eyes of blue or silver (or sometimes heterochromatic, with both colors). Shelyn's ankle-length chestnut hair bears several strands colored bright red, green, and gold. She always wears tasteful clothing and jewelry that accentuates her beauty without revealing too much of it.

Shelyn has a loving and kind heart, and would move mountains or take extreme risks for those she loves (evidence of this is her devotion to her possessed and hostile half-brother). She is a passionate and creative artist both in matters of the heart and works of beauty and tries to make the world a better place by her actions. She preaches and practices that true beauty comes from within, and she favors relationships not based solely on carnal desires, which often puts her at odds with Calistria. She does not oppose such relationships among mortals, but only hopes they blossom into something more meaningful.

Shelyn sometimes sends messages to her faithful directly by means of a short but precise whispered message in the ear. Songbirds are sacred to the sect; their presence is considered good luck. Her displeasure can manifest in a number of ways, and a brief glimpse of a repellent reflection in a mirror, a lover's quarrel, a drably-colored bird or one singing off-key, and wilted rose beds are all common signs of her disappointment.

Among her worshipers are artists, young lovers, old couples still very much in love, musicians, those awaiting arranged marriages, the broken-hearted, and romantics of all stripes. Star-crossed lovers pray to be united, young men to catch the eye of a beautiful girl, and young women to find a handsome and loving husband. A husband in a politically-motivated marriage prays that his wife never meets his beloved mistress, while his wife asks that her husband never suspect the peasant boy who makes her heart ache with longing.

Her avatar is an embodiment of passion, energy, and devotion; though she appears to be just a woman of resounding beauty as she is shown in art, nearby objects and even the air and light itself bends toward her as if her very proximity brings bliss. Her herald is the Spirit of Adoration, a winged human (or sometimes an elf) whose eyes burn with the fire of true love threatened, her face the stern mask of the artist lost in the moment of finishing his masterpiece, her hands dancing like they move to the very music of creation; rarely does she enter battle, but it is said that there is nothing she cannot bend or break in pursuit of her goal. Shelyn's most popular assistants in the mortal world are Harmonia (a cloud-like being with dozens of winking eyes and singing mouths), Phoenix Tail (a brilliantly-plumed avoral bard), and Dancing Petal (an euphoric air elemental).

Shelyn is in a unique position among the deities in that everyone loves her and wishes to please her (though they may not acknowledge this when she is not around); she cannot help this, as it is merely her nature. However, the other gods and goddesses all have different ideas about what it is to love someone, and far too many of the evil ones equate love with ownership (and treat their "property" horribly). She is the only deity who has any regular contact with Zon-Kuthon, as they have reached an agreement and he never attacks her, though she remains wary that the evil force that controls him might one day change its mind.

Priests, Temples, and the Church

Most of her clergy is composed of clerics or bards, though she has a few paladins, druids, and rangers of status in her church. Their duty is to promote and protect beauty, art, and love so that these things may flourish and inspire others to joy and enlightenment. Though all priests have access to charm magic, they do not use it recklessly or to seduce, as this is a violation of the goddess's teachings and unfair to those who might honestly be searching for love. Her clergy has been known to use magic such as *calm emotions* to ease the hurt of a broken heart. Most priests eventually get married.

Typically, non-adventuring priests support themselves through some kind of art, which means they tend to