

# Worldbuilding Research

## Fantasy Early European Fishing Village

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## Brief

The village must be a fantasy version of an isolated fishing village of a style from ancient Europe. The team would like you to research and detail two important structures for the player to explore.

Please research the issue and use actual historical references for the buildings but as this is a magical, fantasy world where some special people can cast spells, think about how this would combine with realism in a way that seems fitting and, more importantly, functional.

This research should include:

- What does the build look like and what is its function?
- What distinctive items can be found within?
- How the building is lit in the evening?

# The Village

## Overview

In this overview is explained the village worldbuilding view as a whole. Here are listed whats and whys the village is how it is and how its inhabitants live.

**Place and time:** The Village in the Sacred Tree's woods, inspired by Nord Ancient Europe (Medieval to the year 1100-1200).

**What timeline brought the village to be?** A small group of settlers settled on the big lake's rocky coasts near the sacred tree to sustain themselves with fish and irrigate their crops. The village grew to have Rorbu-style houses (Norwegian buildings) used by fishermen and a towering lighthouse. The houses are constructed on land, but with one end on poles in the water, allowing easy access to vessels.

**What past events shaped what it is now?** The lake's water receded leaving the village on a high rocky slope, depriving the village and the lighthouse of their main purpose. The village is now an important sacred site due to its vicinity to the Sacred Tree and evolved due to its magic influence. Houses, previously having poles in the water, now overlook the rocky lake coast. Deteriorated poles are swapped and repaired with overgrown roots and plants. The lighthouse now uses an intricate system of glasses and lenses to channel the Sacred Tree light and is a waypoint that leads the way to the Sacred Tree for pilgrims and devotees.

**What society's rules are in place in the village?** The village is inhabited by a few native people who are in strict communion with the Sacred Tree, bathing in its light, and benefiting from magic powers that the Tree infuse in them. The only existing rules in the village are about not harming living beings, collaboration, and kindness.

**!What's the government?** A group of 3 elders guide the village. These elders are both a religious guide and a role model for all village inhabitants, they know the Sacred Tree profoundly and their knowledge is shared from father to child.

**Who has the power and who doesn't?** There's no such concept as "power" in the village. Inhabitants see their incline to magic as a gift to share with others and be thankful for to the Sacred Tree. "Power" is an individualistic, shallow, and belligerent concept unfamiliar to those who were born in this village.

**What do people believe?** The Sacred Tree is like a god for the people in the Village. Nature, crops, and fauna thrive thanks to the light that the Sacred Tree emanates and its roots that fill the ground with magic. Villagers are profoundly faithful to the Sacred Tree.

**What does the village society value the most?** Age, knowledge, and kindness are the most valuable features in this village. Elders are the oldest, wisest, and kindest villagers and as such they are guides and authority for the village.

**What's the weather like?** The weather is mostly sunny but can change rapidly thanks to the Sacred Tree magic. More experienced magic users, if elders allow, can perform rituals to call rain on their crops or snow to preserve food. The Sacred Tree, the village, and the woods around them seem to live in a place out of time, where time stands still and weather changes when gently asked to.

**Where do inhabitants live, work, and go to school?** The village is a fully functioning little city where people live, work, and go to school. Houses on the rocky slope have a similar structure to the Norwegian traditional Rorbu and give a roof to many families. People in the village work to make life easier for other villagers. There is a fishing shop, a tailoring shop, a medical center, and a school.

**What do they eat?** Villagers' diets mainly consist of vegetables, fruits, and roots they grow themselves but they maintain a small quantity of fish in their diet although very limited. Fishing is done with respect for the fauna and in the most harmless way possible using small nets and baits. The village also has a secure source of water with the village well providing clear and tasty water.

**How do they play?** Young people and children can freely play in the village clearing considered a completely safe place. They often wander near ruins of ancient civilizations and engage in some dangerous games jumping around them faking to be heroes and adventurers.

**How do they treat young and old people?** Being a small village based on kindness and support, young people often provide the workforce for more harsh jobs like fishermen, farmers, builders, and other support figures. Old people provide their knowledge as teachers for the younger generation, doctors, tailors, and guides for the village. All inhabitants are treated with respect and kindness.

**What's their relationship with animals and plants?** Villagers are in communion with nature. The Sacred Tree hugs the land around them with its light and roots making the very soil sacred for villagers. Everything is Sacred and must be treated with respect. That's why villagers grow their food and refuse to eat wild plants and animals in the forest. The only exception is made for fish down in the lake. These types of fish live underwater, far away from the Sacred Tree light and roots, making them the only eatable meat still treated with great gratitude and respect.

**What do plants and animals look like?** Closer to the Sacred Tree, plants, mushrooms, and flowers get bigger and more flourishing. Animals thrive, are colorful, and have shining fur.

**What kind of technology exists (transportation, communication, information)?** Thanks to the communion with animals, and plants and the magic given to them by the Sacred Tree, villagers used animals as transportation and developed technology to channel their nature-related and weather-controlling magic.

**Is there magic in the world?** The village bathe in the Sacred Tree light and villagers are born under its influence. This causes inhabitants to grow special magic powers to interact with nature and weather.

**How does the magic work?** The ecological magic that villagers can use is a gift from the Sacred Tree and as such doesn't provide "powers" it instead provides a way to communicate with nature as the Sacred Tree does, allowing plants to grow in size or changing the weather in small zones. Every interaction they do must follow the laws of nature and can't on any occasion harm or cause damage to other beings.

**What is the source of the magic?** The naturalistic source of magic is the Sacred Tree light that tans villagers from their first settlement. The Sacred Tree is like the sun and villagers can reflect its light in a small part like the moon does, giving them magic powers.

**What are the pathways to achieve the use of magic?** The ritualistic innate magic and how it can be used is passed from father to child, it's a birthright for those who are born under the Sacred Tree light. With age, knowledge, communion with the Sacred Tree, and kindness, villagers can achieve greater results in the use of magic, becoming able to better channel the Sacred Tree's magic.

**Who has access to magic?** Everyone who is born under the Sacred Tree light can use and is capable of understanding the laws of kindness and channeling behind it can use magic. Is an exclusive type of magic reserved for villagers.

**What's the impact of magic on the world?** The Sacred Tree magic has a low impact on the world, being able to increase or decrease soil fertility, grow plant dimensions, and create small atmospheric events like rain or a little snow. effects strictly related to the woods around the Sacred Tree, where its light is stronger.

**Is the magic ethical?** This magic cannot be used to hurt or damage any other being, it's a fundamental law. To channel the Sacred Tree magic, users must pursue growth and wealth for their neighbors.

**How do inhabitants live with magic?** Inhabitants evolved to obtain the best from this magic. Buildings are built around roots and big plants and often have pipes alongside roofs to collect rain coming from rain rituals. Crops also have this kind of pipes to distribute water equally and don't waste even a drop of water. People in the village don't need to warm themselves thanks to the constant influence of the Sacred Tree light. Most nets for fishing and clothes are made of plants that villager grow with their magic. Damaged buildings from the first settlement are repaired using dirt, clay, natural formations, or big tree trunks that they grow with magic. The village is completely symbiotic with nature.

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## Building 1: The House (Rorbu)

Village households resemble typical Norwegian-style buildings called Rorbu. These small rectangular wooden buildings are constructed on land with one end on poles in the water to allow easy access to boats for fishermen.



These small buildings usually have one floor and a simple floor plan. They are fabricated with simple materials like wood and painted using cheap paint made using a miscellaneous of flowers powder and fish oil. Most households date back to the first village settlement and display traces of the use of the Sacred Tree's natural magic to repair damaged parts:

- Poles now out of the water are reinforced with vines and roots and broken ones are replaced with more resilient roots
- Broken roofs are repaired with nets of branches and leaves
- Some more damaged households look completely blended in trees that spawned near broken parts to embrace the building and reinforce it

Households also show structures and tools to take advantage of the weather magic like big funnels, buckets and pipes to collect and distribute water to crops.



Internally houses are humble decorated with just beds and tables to eat. Villagers spend most of their time outside in close contact with nature and it shows from the poor attention to household interns. These buildings also don't present any precautions against cold like fireplaces or heavy blankets since the climate is temperate all the time thanks to the Sacred Tree light. All windows have thick black curtains to isolate the Sacred Tree light during the night.

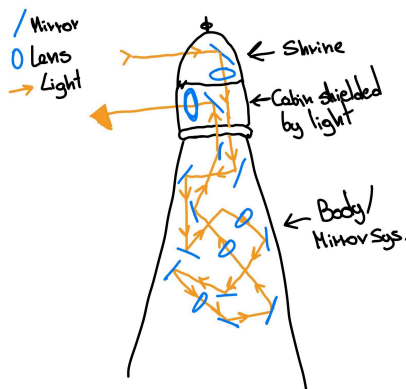
Inside these households can be also found fishermen's tools due to the origins of the village. Some of the obsolete ones have been converted to better uses like fishing nets as bags and old boats as beds.

## Building 2: The Lighthouse

The lighthouse is an ancient structure that, differently from every other building in the village, is made of lake stones. Finding the way back home was never a problem for fishermen that's why in the past, the building served many purposes other than guiding fishermen. Thanks to an intricate mirror system, the lighthouse can concentrate the Sacred Tree light in a ray to:

- Communicate in Morse language with faraway fishermen
- Light up entire water areas to reveal and attract fish thanks to the Sacred Tree's alluring power
- Concentrate the light on spots to amplify the Sacred Tree magic power and cure diseases, regenerate plants, and perform more powerful rituals

Today the lighthouse is also a guide to pilgrims who want to homage the Sacred Tree. The lighthouse is a tall building entirely made of stones collected from the lake beside the village. At the top, there's a shrine filled with flourishing and glowing vegetation with a set of converging mirrors and lenses to channel the Sacred Tree's light. Underneath there's a cabin shielded by the light containing the lens and mirror that outputs the Sacred Tree's light. When unused, the shrine and the cabin are isolated with black curtains and mirrors don't face the Sacred Tree.



Inside the lighthouse, between thriving flowers and plants, there's a straight ladder to reach the machinery that moves the mirror system and an intricate mirror and lens net that bounces the Sacred Tree's light based on the system settings.

When activated the mirrors on the top shrine orient towards the Sacred Tree at an angle that allows the light to converge on the lens. The light is channeled inside the lighthouse, bounces between mirrors, and passes through lenses based on how concentrated the ray of light has to be. The ray is then expelled toward the desired direction.