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# FALKIDHA WEDDING

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Considered by the colony to be an utmost holy act, the union of two Falkidha is seen as a sacred blessing which can last for eons, even after the death of their corporeal forms. These souls are united in an everlasting love which burns bright in the hearts of both members.

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## PROPOSALS

To propose to someone, is to offer yourself to an everlasting bond, which will last until the end of times. It is not taken lightly, and cannot be easily disregarded or canceled without a good reason, for a priestess or priest will have to judge the situation thoroughly. Usually, these proposals come bundled together with gifts or some form of soft music, whether it be a fine tune played on a flute, or a simple gem taken from the mountains of Falkidha. It is not uncommon to also see no gifts, as not everyone is expected to be able to find or get expensive gifts.

Should the proposal be accepted, the preparations then begin for the union by the acceptance of a chosen priestess or priest that will guide the couple towards starting their everlasting bond.

## ATTIRES

Although not necessarily required, both the bridegroom and the bride can wear more traditional outfits that date back to the old colony. These outfits are often long and made of a fine silk. They are best described as robes, with very intricate designs laced and painted onto them, these outfits have very significant value in the Falkidha culture, as the symbols on them represent very specific meanings of love, nature and spirit.

Also allowed by the ceremonies and the customs of Falkidha, flowers which are colored in the blue, white and gold of Falkidha, may be worn by both members during the entire process.

It is not uncommon to have the robes painted in the colors of personal choice, and such requests are to be asked with at least a week of notice, to give tailors time to work on the changes needed. These attires are also given to the members once the wedding is over.

## MARKS OF LOVE

A "Mark of Love" is the term given to a painted marking on the chest of both members. Usually of a Falkidha flower with two chosen colors, this mark will forever stay with the married couple up to their last days. Only disappearing should one of them die before the other one. This mark is usually painted by a priest onto them, and blessed by them with the use of Hikari. This mark can also vary in appearance, with some couples preferring to have different symbols to represent their love for one another, an example being that of a Tree or a Leaf. The mark is usually colored with blue and gold, but the couple can choose other colors, such as their fur, flowers or ores.

They are also infused with a priest's blessing, which connects the couple's soul together and allows them to know each other's true feelings through gentle and physical touch.

## THE CEREMONY

The ceremony begins at the earliest hours of the day, with the arrival of any invited members, friends and family to a "Wedding Temple" near the actual Temple of the priests, although weddings can be done outside these temples, it is often preferred to have them in such place. Once all invitees have arrived, the first stage of the ceremony commences, in which both the bride and the groom are taken into a private room, where they are to repeat their oath to Falkidha, before meditating for a short period of time. This is to ensure they are clear and healthy of mind and soul. As they finish and leave the private room, all attendees are then brought to the main hall of the temple, this area is open-top and has no roof with the edges being an exception. The sunlight is allowed into the temple and allowing it to bask the bride and groom in its warmth as they stand in the middle of a slightly big patch of grass.

It is here where the couple are to drink a sacred liquid called "Yaske", a sweet tasting but strong drink with a mild fruit aroma, this liquid is mostly kept for special occasions or parties. Both the bride and groom are to drink Yaske from a single cup, in which they will share.

Once this step is done, the couple will then recite vows which will be said by the priest, these vows will mostly stay the same, although they can be altered by the priest as they perform them, should he see a need for it. These vows ensure that the couple will never betray, lie to, ignore or abuse of their chosen partner. And should all these vows be broken, the guilty member will face harsh punishment. Although cases like those are rare.

As the vows are finished, the couple is to then do an act of love which is to be decided long before the wedding. This act can vary between customs and preferences, with simple locking of lips, hugs or even intercourse being a chosen act by many.

## THE FEAST

By the time the ceremony is properly finished, a feast is then made in the name of the newly-wed couple, though it is kept humble by the couple, the priests and the priestesses. This feast is done outside the temple at a chosen area, and involves a plethora of chosen foods. Most commonly eaten, and the easiest to do, is the abundance of "Taremaki". It is consistent for its base of Dried Lake Weeds, Luaki Grains and some form of Raw meat, most commonly aquatic creatures from the various lakes in Falkidha. It is prepared with spices, toppings and these vary a lot from each, giving the food a unique and oddly big variety of specific types of Taremaki.

Alongside Taremaki, a more soft version of Yaske is given to all attendees, it is easier to make and also retains a sweet taste while giving off a rather comfortable feeling to those who drink it.

As for the preparation of the feast beforehand, it is not uncommon for priests to prepare such items for the occasion, but there are also the occasions where they allow the guests and visitors to make their own Taremakis, giving them the ingredients and allowing them to piece the ingredients together, which can lead to less common variations, and possibly some funnier stories than what one would be used to.

It is also not uncommon for music to be part of the feast, whether it be through the use of Flutes or Special Lutes. The person playing these songs must be an attendee or a priest that knows how to play these instruments, and the melodies must be gentle as a soft breeze, with peace being the intended effect of the music on the guests.

Though there are cases where the attendees may choose to be more energetic, and they are allowed to take charge of how energetic or active the feast will be. As long as they do not break something or mess with things too much in this case.

## YARETZUMI'S INFLUENCE

Uniquely enough, Yaretzumi takes pride in each married couple under her. And she often tries to open her schedule to attend various weddings throughout her life. In these times, it is often done in semi-secrecy, where she only appears during the end of the ceremony. Though there have been cases where Yaretzumi takes a more direct approach, and grants some form of wish to the newly-wed couple. These can vary from just ordering more Yaske or even a blessing from her. If a blessing is given to the couple, then Yaretzumi will conjure two golden crystallized gems of sorts.

These gems are harder than any other material in Falkidha, but they are small, with them being attached to necklaces of white pearls. The couple is then gifted these necklaces, and it remains with them to their death. Yaretzumi's blessing for weddings is a rather interesting one. The gem seemingly allows the couple to feel each other's heart by simply touching the gem with their finger and holding it there.

In a way, it is a gem that ensures they know they are alive and well, and it also helps to know what may be happening to them should they feel the heart beat change erratically.

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