

THE ISILIANS

CUSTODIANS OF THE RECLAIMED KINGDOM



"FROM THRALLDOM TO DOMINANCE"



Veiled in the shadows of a tormented history, the Isilians emerge, their spirits scarred by the chains binding their once-enslaved Sarconian forebears. With foundations deeply rooted in egalitarianism, democracy, and knowledge, they tread a path carved by their unyielding will.

Guided by the enigmatic doctrines of the Holy Triad, the Isilians navigate a treacherous balance between ancient religious vestiges and their hard-earned freedom. Amid the complexities of tightly-knit family bonds, unyielding martial prowess, and a vivid fusion of tradition and innovation, the Isilians thrive in the face of adversity and darkness.

Within each Isilian beats the resolute heart of their ancestors, forging a legacy that shall echo through the ages as a testament to their courage, resilience, and undying determination to rise above the specters that haunt their past.



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VALUES & ATTITUDES



In the diverse landscape of Isilian society, the majority of its people boasted various shades of brown and light-skinned complexions.

While their shared culture arose from the remnants of servitude, it fostered a unique openness to new ideas and an accepting nature towards other groups. For the Isilians, divisions of creed and ethnicity held no significance; all were simply Human.

🌿 Champions of Imperialistic Ideals 🌿



The Isilians' vehement opposition to slavery often led to fierce conflicts with neighboring states still clinging to the abhorrent practice. This anti-slavery sentiment intertwined with their imperialistic tendencies, as they believed their way of life was superior and were unafraid to use force to impose it upon others.

Consequently, Isilians proved challenging neighbors, particularly when they deemed another culture's practices repugnant or backward. Preferring to congregate amongst themselves, they were slow to adopt foreign ideas, even when demonstrably superior.

🏛️ A Journey to Egalitarianism 🏛️

Isilian society was a crucible of democracy born in the shadows of bondage. Their ancestors, the enslaved, had formed clandestine unions, subtly shielding themselves from their masters' unchecked brutality.

Though these courageous acts of rebellion sometimes resulted in death, they often managed to prevent the most egregious abuses through veiled threats and passive disobedience. The notion that an individual held value as part of a greater whole gradually took root, blossoming into the modern Isilian political ethos: the moral imperative to vocally engage in debates and promote egalitarianism.

In the grim, unforgiving world they inhabited, this political fervor led many destitute Isilians to become tireless orators, weaving intricate spells of rhetoric that few could decipher.

Within the sprawling cities and secluded enclaves of Isil, their voices rang out like the peals of a thunderstorm, echoing through the narrow streets and looming towers.



Amidst the intricate web of politics, religion, and power, the Isilians navigated a precarious balance, their society teetering on the edge of darkness.

In this morally complex landscape, unforgettable characters emerged, engaging in witty, razor-sharp exchanges that revealed the depth of their convictions and the shadows lurking in their souls. Each of them, shaped by the unforgiving crucible of their shared history, fought to preserve their unique way of life, even as the specter of past horrors threatened to engulf them once more.

FAITH & BELIEFS

THE HOLY TRIAD - THE SNAKE, THE BULL, & THE GOLLTRAP



After the days of Regas Isilpatrus, the remnants of the Isillian empire kept to the religion of the Giants.

Though in the days of Attalus the Reclaimer, a great council of the Old Faith was called.

There Attalus II spoke of the gods belonging to the low-folk of early Isillia and that which the Giants had crushed in their malevolence. Of the gods of old, only three were ever given a name in their tongue.

METAUS - THE SNAKE



Metaus, the immovable mover, uttered the first word into the darkness and established himself as the true God of truth. From his celestial throne, he observes the mortal realm through the eyes of his two sons. Often depicted in art as a resplendent king, he bestowed upon his ancient people their true purpose — knowledge lost during the sacking of Ancient Isildith. As both creator and destroyer, Metaus grants his children wisdom and reason, for they are born of his divine intellect.

ANGELOS - THE BULL

Angelos, though beautiful in his name, is the harbinger of many dooms. It is he who reigns over justice and vengeance. Those who are wronged pray to the silver winged son of Metaus, and those who must find peace through revenge seek for his guidance. It is said that when someone thinks of a transgression, his shadow looms over their head in waiting to be their judge. It is also said that when seen in dreams and visions, he dons a mask of bright silver, outshining his wings, the mask is horrible to look upon and is an expression of sorrow and woe.

ASVOS - THE GOLLTRAP

Asvos is the keeper of peace, and the messenger of deliverance. He rules over the compassion and forgiveness of his people. Ever coming to the mind of the pious to remind them of their humanity, and to give with their hands freely. It is he also who delivers absolution for the ages of sin his people have endured and committed. For though it is believed that justice will come to all, so also is it said that forgiveness must be given with it. He is the golden son of Metaus, bearing his gilded mask and wings, and is so beautiful his visage can rarely be looked upon for long.



MUSIC & ART



When it comes to the instruments of the Isilians, one cannot help but admire the beauty in simplicity. Lutes, mandolins, and other string-based instruments form the base of their musical talents, followed by a love for drums and other percussion instruments. When you combine their soulful anthems that were sung in the mines to lift their spirits with the dexterity of their fingers when playing the lute you'll be in for a joyous tune with a somber story of bittersweetness at its finest.

When it comes to raw artistic passion however, the Isilians have been hard-pressed to find themselves. Often they tend to stick to their predecessors' ways, painting large frescos in an authoritative and familiar style that harkens back to the days of the first Empire.

Some find it culturally appropriate to continue some of the legacies of the Giants, but a scant few have begun to revolt against the concept, forming a society of rebel-poets that craft witty spoken word rhymes and limericks to insult artistic authorities. Isilians have even begun to experiment with artistic vandalism- painting all manner of things on the sides of walls (though most often either lewd or vulgar.)

FAMILY STRUCTURE



The Isilian household is a large one, with a family consisting of parents, children, grandparents, and even aunts and uncles depending on the economic status of the family. From this, they are accustomed to either use less space or invest in larger estates to fit their massive family units.

From a young age, children are expected to do menial, non-essential chores before being allowed to leave the house. Children are also expected to find purpose on their own adventures, with the Isilian household acting as a sort of nest they can retreat to when things get rough. From this, Isilian children generally end up being more rough-and-tumble (and have a slightly higher mortality rate to boot).

Women in an Isilian household share the responsibilities and rights of the man, though they are prohibited from owning property directly in their name. They are however allowed to own bank-accounts, and many Isilian women exercise that right by creating large banking establishments that are entirely dominated by women. Men are usually not permitted to work in these establishments. When it comes to children, they usually are referred to as the main authority. A man can exercise his right to veto decisions on child-rearing, but it is done sparingly.

Upon any Isilian reaching 20 years of age, they are often pressed into military service either by an apparatus of the state or the social pressures of the family. Those who enter the military are regarded as proper Isilians of good standing in their culture, while those who decide not to for whatever reason are treated as taboo and frowned upon.

Wealthy Isilian families will train their sons and daughters in the art of martial combat, while poorer families who aren't able to afford such vigorous training do so through friends and family. Since armor is generally paid for by the families, standardization is very limited.



The wealthiest conscripts will don full plate and the standard of their choosing while adorned in yellow and purple.

The poorest of the poor may only be able to afford a single spear and helmet passed down through their family. This unequal wealth disparity is a source of much contention, with many opting to flee rather than face probable doom.

FASHION & BATTLEGARB



Throughout their history, the Isilians have worn raiments of every imaginable shade. Inheriting some of the opulence of their once overlords, the Isilian people found a sort of beauty in flamboyantly colored garments with conflicting patterns.

This fashion sense is believed to actually descend from how the Giants had dressed- their large forms required multiple sheets of fabric to create, and thus had multi-patterned clothing more often than not. They also fancy rings, chains, and earrings, frequently wearing them to flaunt wealth, power, or to denote their association with a prominent group or guild.

They are particularly fond of Dwarven gemstones, prizing them above locally sourced gems for their quality and foreign appeal. Some accounts tell stories of streets littered in the dust of diamonds in which the encrusted cloaks of the nobles dragged over the pavement.

Even in the military this sort of colorful attire is present. While obviously there is a difference between what the working poor and aristocratic elite can afford to wear, generally speaking the color red as well as designs of the snake and bull are donned whenever possible. A poor conscript may only have a necklace with a bull design, while a wealthy man would have his armor be ornately designed with the symbolism in mind.



WARMER WEATHER CLOTHING MALE

UPPER CLASS FASHION



MIDDLE & LOWER CLASS FASHION



WARMER WEATHER CLOTHING
FEMALE

UPPER CLASS FASHION



MIDDLE & LOWER CLASS FASHION



COLDER WEATHER CLOTHING
MALE

UPPER CLASS FASHION



MIDDLE & LOWER CLASS FASHION



*COLDER WEATHER CLOTHING
FEMALE*

UPPER CLASS FASHION



MIDDLE & LOWER CLASS FASHION



BATTLE GARB



NOTEWORTHY MEMBERS OF CULTURE



Seraphina the Enlightened, The Patroness of the Arts -

A skilled poet, artist, and musician, Seraphina the Enlightened was a shining beacon of Isilian culture during the early years of the Second Empire. Believing that the arts were essential to the healing and growth of her people, Seraphina championed the importance of self-expression and creativity, founding schools, libraries, and galleries to foster a new generation of artists.



Lucas of Lael, The Isilian Philosopher -

Considered by many to be the father of human philosophy, Lucas was born as one of the few slaves that held not only the ability to read, but was taught by his masters to understand and think for himself. While during his youth he was instrumental in the formation of the Second Empire, being a competent statesman and tactician, it was in his later years where he penned some of his most influential works.



Alaric the Bold, The Great Isilian Admiral -

In a time when the Second Isilian Empire sought to expand its influence and secure its borders, Alaric the Bold emerged as a naval tactician without equal. With a keen strategic mind and an unyielding determination, Alaric commanded a fleet that won numerous battles against pirates and rival nations, securing the seas for the Isilian people. His leadership and daring exploits earned him a place among the great heroes of Isilian history, his name a symbol of courage and adventure.



Valeria the Architect, Master of Reconstruction -

After the collapse of the First Isilian Empire, the task of rebuilding a shattered society fell upon the shoulders of Valeria the Architect. A visionary and a master builder, Valeria was instrumental in the design and construction of the Second Empire's infrastructure, creating a system of roads, bridges, and aqueducts that connected the diverse and disparate regions. Under Valeria's guidance, Isilian cities became renowned for their beauty and ingenuity, earning her a place in history as the Master of Reconstruction.

CREDITS

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