

# ***Our Wondrous Universe*** [magazine masthead]

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## **The Physiologically Aslan Daryen** [article title]

(year, issue) [some point in the past, when Zhodani and Darrian relations were expanding]

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### **Introduction**

As a Vargr Zhodani intendant in graduate school, I was guided into studies of nonhuman sophonts. The [Zhodani] Scout Service had long studied the Daryen, both openly and covertly. But physiologically Aslan Daryen ("PAD" hereafter) had not been specifically studied. I was given that assignment. I have written numerous reports within the Scout Service and academia, but given recent increases in interactions with the Daryen, I am now writing for a general audience.

### **Mainstream Aslan**

In general, we know of Aslan (Fteirle in their own common language, Trokh) as nonhuman sophonts quite unlike ourselves, whether human, Vargr, Addaxur, or others. Their males are primarily concerned with matters such as fighting, command, honor, and their famous obsession with land ownership. Their more numerous females manage other aspects of their society: trade, industry, services, academic pursuits, and everything else.

### **Physiologically Aslan Daryen**

Aslan in Daryen society are very different. In most respects, they're similar to Daryen humans: peaceful, academically adept, fascinated by technology, and fond of the arts. Mainstream Aslan regard them -- and Daryen humans -- as "female", regardless of physical gender. One significant similarity to mainstream Aslan is that PAD are quite conscious of honor. An important point of PAD honor is that they identify as "physiologically Aslan Daryen", as opposed to "culturally Daryen Aslan". This is quite unlike most Zhodani sophonts, who are little concerned for labels so long as we are treated as equals to Zhodani humans.

### **Daryen and psionics**

In Daryen legal jurisdiction, use of psionics requires consent of a local authority: individual consent for telepathy, hosts for other disciplines on private property, and officials in public property. Psionic potential among Daryen humans is similar to other humans, but less often developed than among Zhodani. Psionics are considerably less common among Aslan than among humans, Vargr, Addaxur, and other familiar sophonts.

### **Aslan are alien**

Aslan, particularly mainstream Aslan, are very alien to Zhodani sophonts. As a telepath, I find Aslan minds very different from those of humans and Vargr, though PAD are less

alien. Although Addaxur are just as different, familiarity with Addaxur offers few insights into the Aslan mind.

As a Vargr, I can read Vargr and human scents and body language without hesitation. Aslan scents are largely incomprehensible even with experience. Aslan body language is difficult, but can be learned over time, particularly with PAD. My human colleagues have reported less difficulty with PAD body language, but also find mainstream Aslan difficult to read.

### **Summary**

Physiologically Aslan Daryen are a fascinating case study of a nonhuman sophont in a majority-human society. They offer an interesting contrast with Vargr and Addaxur in our own society.

### **Further reading**

- > More by Konshiepr
- > More about Aslan
- > More about Daryen
- > About physiologically human Aslan

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