

Please Note: This is by no means a “general religion” for The Deathless, These traditions are practiced almost exclusively by the Antonovich family as well as a few of the other original Deathless families that still remain. Some few newer Deathless get brought into the faith but the vast majority spurn it as hokum and nonsense

Basics: The worship of Koschei revolves exclusively around the worship of a figure, unsurprisingly named Koschei the Deathless. Believers have many other titles for him, but the majority are some way of signifying the figures immortality. Koschei is somewhere between a folkloric hero and a true god. He is an amalgamation of the original antagonist from Slavic legend [Koschei The Deathless](#), and a man with the same name (maybe monicker) who is considered by most to be the founding member of the Deathless. It is unclear and rather muddled whether or not believers think that their god is the actual sitting president of The Deathless, or if they believe that he granted the leader the authority of his name in order to wander the sector.

Traditions: The core aspects of practicing the faith lie in traditional acts. In the family homes of members of the religion you might find a sanctuary of sorts that would contain a young green oak (One of Koschei's symbols). Worshippers would gather in the sanctuary to sing songs and tell stories (usually in Russian, French, or the Koscheian combined dialect). The subject of most of these are either Deathless history combined with folklore, or simple stories about the wanderings of Koschei through the sector. In the stories Koschei either travels alone, or with his handpicked crew of the honored Deathless. It is common for an elder of the faith to explain the lessons from the stories and songs. It is also very common for the group to discuss and argue these lessons and the proper interpretations of the stories. The most heated arguments tend to be in regards to what Koschei would want for the modern Deathless PMC. Some few in the older generations still believe that turning the Deathless into a proper company was a grave mistake, as well as blasphemous.

[example song](#) to the tune of [this](#)

Service: Unsurprisingly the faithful of Koschei believe in worship through service to The Deathless. Training and preparing for war as well as executing it without failure is believed to be a charter from Koschei if not necessarily an intrinsically holy act. The faithful Deathless tend to pass their names on to worthy children, this does not always follow any sort of birth order but it is more usual for the name to be passed to the first born (the irony that the faithful Deathless families act a bit like nobles amongst themselves is completely lost on them).

Rituals (examples below): Many of the faithful Deathless follow pre-battle rituals. These tend to be the thing most commonly taken up by non faithful deathless, and as such are much more pervasive in the ranks. The faithful believe that doing the rituals grants the Deathless their edge in battle. A boon granted by Koschei's will and his magics.

Example Rituals for the Antonovich family marines:

The Song and The Shot:

Before each battle the faithful sing one of the folk songs. At the end of the song the marines let a drop of blood fall into a shot of Dvodka, raise their glasses and drink. This ritual is meant to represent that only The Deathless can shed the blood of The Deathless.

Burial at Sea: When one of the Antonovich family dies they do a short ceremony, tell stories about the fallen, then send them out into space wearing their armor. When possible done before leaving the site of the battle. The faithful believe that if you served Koschei well enough in life he will find you out in the void. Making you one of his crew to roam the sector forever, truly Deathless.