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## History and Structure of Atlantican Society

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### History of the War:

The war with Pacifica began several generations ago. No one remembers why Pacifica attacked on that fateful day, but the aftermath is well remembered. Many thousands of Atlanticans have died in the war. While the balance of power has tipped back and forth over the decades, the two kingdoms seem fairly evenly matched. Although Atlantica has appealed to the other major power, India, for aid, India has remained resolutely neutral in the conflict. Relatively recently, Atlantica has won a string of strategic victories. From this position of power, King Triton has generously chosen to extend the olive branch to Pacifica.

King Triton opened negotiation talks with the Pacificans nine years ago. Negotiations have been rocky. In the first eight years, several cease fires were issued and broken, and despite every effort, no meaningful progress was made in that time. However, in the past two years or so, Princess Adriana has joined her father in negotiations and it seems that progress is finally being made. King Triton has invited a delegation of Pacificans to attend this year's Neptune Ball to sign the treaty that has been half a year in the making.

### History of the Royal Family:

King Triton is the current ruler of Atlantica. He has ruled for almost 35 years and it is generally accepted that he is a good and benevolent ruler despite the terrible misfortunes that have defined his rule.

His reign began in blood, when almost the entire royal family were killed by Pacifican assassins; only Triton and his younger brother Osiris survived. It is still a mystery how the strike force got into the palace. Triton took up The Trident, and rallied the kingdom to repel the ensuing invasion.

King Triton took a wife soon after assuming the throne. Queen Athena was beautiful, gracious, and well loved by the people. They had two beautiful children. Princess Adriana, the younger daughter, has recently blossomed into a persuasive diplomat. The older Princess was named Ariel; Ariel spent almost all of her time with the Explorer's Guild and often neglected her royal duties.

However, all is not well in Atlantica's royal family. Prince Osiris has become paranoid and delusional as the years have gone by. He publicly and loudly claims all kinds of conspiracies are afoot. 21 years ago, Queen Athena was killed by Pacifican assassins. Princess Ariel ran away from her royal duties and married a human prince. The whole affair was hushed up by the royal family, so little is known about how she managed it. But, since Triton dissolved the The Magician's Guild almost immediately after, rumor has it that she used magic to become human. In the years since these tragedies, Triton has become reclusive and erratic, and some believe he may no longer be fit to be King.

### Religion:

Most Atlanticans subscribe to the Church of the Tides. The church worships the Moon Goddess for her power to control the tides. The church preaches love, forgiveness, and the salvation of the weak. It is believed that your soul will be reincarnated again and again until you live a life pure enough to earn you a place among the stars. The care of your eternal soul is particularly important, because there are spirits that dwell in the center of the earth, who if given the opportunity would imprison your soul for eternity.

The Moon Goddess requires religious rituals to be performed regularly on her behalf, or she can get...tetchy. At the Ball, the dance event organized by Princess Adriana is dedicated to the Moon Goddess' worship.

While the Goddess can be benevolent and grant powerful boons, the Church of the Tides also believes that some individuals are cursed by the moon to be shape shifters (merfolk who can change between merfolk, human, and sharks), forever without a

true form or identity. Shape shifters are unable to control their transformations, and when they do transform, they are a menace to everyone. The priests of the church have therefore taken it upon themselves to protect the citizens of Atlantica from shape shifters, hunting them down wherever they appear to terrorize an innocent community.

### **Guilds:**

The economy and government of Atlantica center around the guilds. As far back as anyone can remember, Atlantica has had four guilds that provide a division of tasks to help Atlantica run smoothly. They each elect one official for a two year term that make up a council that advises the King. Members of the royal family may belong to guilds but may not be elected to the council (they are not barred from holding high ranks in the Guilds, and the representative to the council is not necessarily the most powerful Guild member). The guilds are:

- **Explorer's Guild:** Composed of explorers, cartographers, archaeologists, historians, librarians etc. They handle the acquiring and storing of data (of all kinds) for Atlantica.
- **Merchant's Guild:** Composed of traders, economists etc. They claim that despite the recent lull in the war, Atlantica is still on the brink of economic collapse.
- **Guardian's Guild:** In charge of the military and police force of Atlantica. Their most prestigious role is to guard the royal family.
- **Magician's Guild:** Formally dissolved 14 years ago, but reinstated recently. Their seat on the council has not been reinstated.

Despite the dissolution of the Guild, Sybil retained her position as the court Magician. Since the reinstatement, Triton has tasked Sybil with strictly regulating magic in Atlantica, and Sybil takes her job very seriously. Sybil has an aggressive program that requires all magicians to register in a national registry, and submit all intended projects for review. As one of the most powerful magicians in Atlantica, even before the dissolution of the Magician's Guild, none wish to incur her wrath. However, there are unconfirmed rumors that a few, very powerful, magicians refused to register. If they exist, they are considered criminals.

**A note about tarot readings:** Tarot readings, despite their mystical origins, are not considered magic and are therefore not subject to the same regulations. Tarot readings are common in Atlantica, and readers are often highly respected members of society.

**The Neptune Ball:** The attendee list for the King's private party includes:

- The European representative, Queen Ariel. It has been 14 years since Ariel forsook Atlantis, so there is great speculation as to why she has chosen to attend this year.
- The Pacifican representative, Prince Jared and a small delegation of diplomats.
- The Explorer's Guild representative, Mercury.
- The Merchant's Guild representative, Pandora.
- The Guardian's Guild representative, General Gladia.