

# Forgotten Realms Style Guide

The following guidelines are true for the Forgotten Realms, the world in which most products are set.

## Tone

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The Forgotten Realms is a **hopeful** setting. The good guys will eventually win. This hopeful tone sets the Forgotten Realms apart from settings like Greyhawk (which is cynical) and Dragonlance (which is a setting of romance and tragedy). While not every moment of a story or image in art should be hopeful (the villains need their time in the spotlight, and bad things do happen), keep this tone in mind.

## Replace Your Divots

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Stories should leave the Forgotten Realms as they found them. (Pack it in. Pack it out.) Stories set in the Forgotten Realms should not definitively destroy or irrevocably change locations, people, gods, planes, races as a whole, or other established elements of the setting or brand without special dispensation. That doesn't mean that stories can't have high stakes with important things in jeopardy. Players of a D&D game have the option of failure or of causing the death or destruction of important elements of the IP, but there must always be the option of things being restored to order.

## Don't Whitewash the Realms

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It's easy to fall into the trap of making every character have white skin. Most models for fantasy have done so. Lord of the Rings didn't have anyone with anything other than white skin, and besides, elves, dwarves, halflings, and gnomes are white, right?

No. That's not right.

In fact, quite the opposite has been true for a long time in the Forgotten Realms but art has failed to consistently and appropriately represent the people of the Forgotten Realms.

**Sun Elves.** Sun elves have bronze skin. They look well-tanned all the time. Some have blond hair. Many have black hair.

**Wood Elves.** These people have coppery skin tinged with green. Their hair is brown or black.

**Wild Elves.** Their skin is dark brown, and their hair ranges from black to light brown.

**Gold Dwarves.** Gold dwarves have black hair and brown skin.

**Rock Gnomes.** Their skin ranges from a light brown through white to a very light gray.

**Strongheart Halflings.** Strongheart halflings are dusky skinned with brown or black hair (think people from India for tone and color ranges).

**Humans.** The Forgotten Realms is a huge world with many earth analogs. Turmish, Tashluta, and Chult provide sources of humans with black skin and features. Kara-Tur provides all the Asian ethnicities (people from Wa and Kozakura look like folk from Japan, Koryo has folk who look like Koreans, and so on). Calimshan, Zakara, and Anauroch give us various Arab ethnicities. People from Amn and Tethyr look like Spaniards. There are even people who look like Eskimos and Mayans. Basically, any human race or ethnicity on earth has a home in the Forgotten Realms. Thayans and Mulhorandi of the upper classes have yellow/sallow skin (not Asian but actually yellow, like people who are extremely jaundiced).

It's important to note that such folk shouldn't be relegated to their home regions either. When you set something in Waterdeep, the most cosmopolitan city in the world, there absolutely should be humans from all over the Realms and various ethnicities in Waterdavian dress. Places that might seem less cosmopolitan might actually have more reason for folk of other skin colors. Cormyr

seems like a Camelot analog, but it's very near Turmish, and the Old Empires (analogues of Egypt, ancient Greece, and Sumer) are a boat ride away.

Lastly, although someone who is not white might come from a culture different from the area where your project is set, that does not mean that the person must seem like a foreigner. For instance, black people from Turmish, Tashluta, and Chult have lived in Waterdeep and the North for decades (if not centuries) and thus they can dress and speak as natives.

## Gender Roles

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As a rule, males and females should be depicted in equal measure and doing all the same jobs in equal status regardless of the race or culture. The woman of the house is just as likely to go to war as the man. Avoid clichés that reinforce sexist stereotypes about women: the damsel in distress, the sexy barmaid, the hooker with the heart of gold, the slinky Catwoman-like thief, the woman who uses enticement to sex as “empowerment,” and so on.

There are two exceptions: orcs and Northlanders (the Viking types, not just people who live in the North).

**Orcs:** Orc females remain behind with the young when orcs go to war or raiding. It's a misogynistic culture.

**Northlanders:** Northlanders expect their women and children to remain at home and not be seen by outsiders (meaning anyone not of their clan). In the home, men and women do all the same work—both men and women weave, cook, brew, and tend to animals—but women are expected to stay home when men go fishing or raiding.

## Sex and Sexuality

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Depictions of sex and romance between characters should be rare in D&D stories. Novels aside, D&D tends to be like an action movie without any love interests. If sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity does need to be portrayed, here are the guidelines:

- Keep it PG. Avoid topics such as rape and molestation.
- Homosexuality and bisexuality are just as valid as heterosexuality and should not be depicted as negative, for humor, or using stereotypes.
- People can have gender identities other than their physical gender, but this should not be depicted as negative, for humor, or using stereotypes.

## Violence and Gore

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Dungeons & Dragons has violence at its core, and blood and gore will often be appropriate. As a rule of thumb, keep it PG. Occasionally more gore will be called for by the subject matter (gnolls decorate conquered places with slaughtered remains), but ask before you take gore into the R-rated range.

## Technology

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While often described as Medieval fantasy, D&D has a mix of technologies from various eras. In the Forgotten Realms, different locations and cultures have access to different technologies, but large cities in the North generally have access to the technologies of the Renaissance and before: printing presses, movable type, hourglasses (called “sandglasses”), magnifying glasses, clocks (large ones), telescopes, spectacles, paper, windmills, watermills, water screws, sewers, running water (mostly in nobles' houses), fountains, and viaducts.

## Gears, Gadgets, Clockwork, and Automatons

The islands of Lantan, worshipers of Gond (god of technology), and certain rock gnomes create more advanced items of technology. When depicting these things, think more in terms of wood and canvass than metal and bolts. These items should be more like something Leonardo Da Vinci would make, not Victorian-era steampunk.

## Guns and Explosives

The Forgotten Realms has smokepowder, which is basically like gunpowder. Its creation is a secret known to only a few, and it is primarily used for fireworks. People do not use guns or cannons. Smokepowder is not used as an explosive except in extremely rare circumstances when justified by a story link to a smokepowder source.

## Magic Items

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Unlike past editions, magic items of all kinds have specific appearances that do not change. A potion of healing or a vorpal sword always looks the same regardless of who made it. Watch for magic item descriptions and check them against the item's appearance in the *Dungeon Master's Guide*. If the item is not in that book, request a description from us.

## Races

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Below are some important facts to keep in mind about the D&D races. There's much more to know about them in order to depict them properly, but these facts are often overlooked.

### Elves

Elves live for centuries and any elf in a story is likely a couple centuries old at least. That means the elf has lived through The Retreat, when elves largely left their traditional lands for Evermeet. Ergo the elf in the story either elected to stay or came back to the world for some reason. Every elf should have some gravitas and a history.

There are several distinct subraces of elves that are different from those described in the *Player's Handbook* and *Monster Manual*.

**Moon.** Moon elves are neither as woodsy as wood elves, nor as magically inclined as sun elves. They are generally less aloof than sun elves and more willing to engage with other races than both sun and wood elves. Moon elves are the most impulsive of the elf subraces, with a strong distaste for complacency and isolation.

**Sun.** Sun elves are the most magically inclined of the elf subraces. Their wizards have been performing mighty feats of arcane magic for millennia. Sun elves are also the least inclined toward nature and the wilderness. Although more inclined to protect and live with the natural world than the typical human or dwarf, they have built great cities of stone in the past, and they commonly shape and tame nature to suit their needs.

**Wood.** Long ago, different types of elves were forced out of their homelands and became wanderers, living together amid nature as they moved rather than building new cities. These peoples blended, communicated, and created their own culture, becoming wood elves over the generations. As various elven empires fell—and especially with the advent of the Retreat—wood elves have resettled the lands abandoned by their cousins. They see themselves as protectors of these ancient elven homelands, but they are protective of elven right to the place, not the buildings of the past. They have lost the urge to build and replace nature with walls and palaces; even the cities built by their elven kin seem to be foolish to the wood elves. The forest is the true home of the elves, and those forests are what need protecting.

Wood elves aren't as winsome and flighty as their description in the Monster Manual and Player's Handbook describes. They are calm, serene, and difficult to surprise. Their patience is legendary. As a people wood elves are largely seen as level-headed and somewhat grim. Arousing strong emotions in wood elves is not something that is easily done, although many do have a strong aversion for large cities.

Wood elves have a notable disinterest in the arcane arts. To a wood elf, the wizard's spells are little different from the mason's castle walls or the tiller's plow—a means of controlling the natural world, which is contrary to the common ethic of living in harmony with nature rather than trying to dominate it that so many wood elves espouse. They do however, take a great interest in the nature magic of druids and thus have more druids among them than any other elves except perhaps the wild elves.

**Drow:** Drow largely map to the material in the Monster Manual but the reason for their descent into the Underdark is more complex (sun elves made a genocidal attack that destroyed an entire dark elf empire, thus provoking the dark elves to ally with demons). They are also very matriarchal, with males subordinate and downtrodden.

**Wild.** Wild elves are almost never seen outside their forest homes in the hot south-central areas of Faerûn (Chondalwood, the Forest of Amtar, the Shaar). Like the wood elves, wild elves lost their empires millennia ago, but unlike the wood elves, the wild elves severed connections from their elven cousins, becoming insular and savage. The wild elves were always close to nature, even more so than other elves, but they have forgotten many of the high arts and lore of their people, choosing stealth and survival over building and book learning. Wild elves are a quiet, withdrawn people who neither like outsiders nor tolerate any offense to their person. They are quick to violence if provoked.

**Avarel.** Avarel are winged elves and extremely small in number, coming from just one settlement in the world that is far to the north of the center of Faerûn (near Sossal). They should not be used in stories.

## Dwarves

There are two subraces of dwarves and the duergar (or gray dwarves).

**Shield.** Like the elves, the shield dwarves lost their great empires and kingdoms, many having fallen long ago. Now they live in the remnants of those grand empires or seek to discover and rebuild old glories. They tend to be irascible and boisterous when happy, and dour when not.

**Gold.** Gold dwarves never lost their greatness. Their mighty empire in the Great Rift has weathered many dangers and endured. They come mainly from south-central Faerûn and thus are often foreigners to the North drawn by the opportunity to claim great wealth. Gold dwarves are typically flush with cash, privilege, and pride.

## Halflings

There are two halfling subraces in the Forgotten Realms.

**Lightfoot:** The folk of Faerûn are more familiar with the lightfoot halflings than with the stronghearts, primarily because the lightfoots are the most numerous and widely traveled of all the halflings. Nearly every human community of any size larger than a village has at least a few halfling residents. When most Faerûnians think of halflings, the lightfoots are the people that most often leap to mind.

Lightfoots are a naturally curious people, always wondering what might lie around the next bend or what stories a new person might be able to tell them. While lightfoot halflings can be as dour or sad as any other race, they certainly prefer to be happy and often bounce back from emotional setbacks with surprising alacrity.

Members of the lightfoot subrace wander out of an innate desire. It is not unknown for individual lightfoot halflings or even entire families to decide that, after living in the same place for decades, they want to move on to someplace else. They seem to experience a habitual need to see many different places and enjoy a variety of experiences.

**Strongheart:** Strongheart halflings have a culture unique in the world—a semi-nomadic lifestyle, in which businesses, families, and even entire clans move freely and independently from place to place. They have homes, farms, and towns that they have lived in for decades and even centuries, but as a people they migrate around them according to time-honored schedules, treating them as shared space. This fusion of wanderlust and stability is a source of wonderment and confusion for visitors, who find it difficult to comprehend how a society can enjoy such seemingly whimsical mobility while retaining any viable structure. For their part, most of the stronghearts cannot understand why anyone would want to tie themselves permanently to any one community or structure for their entire lives.

Their strange duality of nature, consisting of a desire to move about freely with a liking for permanent structures and settlements, has produced some unusual outlooks among the stronghearts. Their viewpoint stresses cooperation above all other traits, and the ability to work as a team is the most valued behavior in their lands. Cooperation transcends many boundaries, and even strangers of whom the locals are suspicious can earn themselves considerable credit and tolerance by demonstrating a willingness to cooperate

## Gnomes

There are two subraces of gnomes on the surface and then the subterranean svirfneblin (deep gnomes). Rock gnomes are tinkerers and alchemists (not steampunk scientists) as well as illusionists and tricksters. They're intellectuals with various quirks. Forest gnomes are reclusive and peaceful woodsmen and animal lovers who use illusions to hide. They're quiet and self-reflective.

Gnomes never play a large role in history. They have not founded nations, nor do they build great cities. They are not a numerous race, and indeed, they survive and thrive by keeping a low profile. Avoiding the notice of larger folk obsessed with empires and mighty magic, gnomes have quietly spread across the world in tiny settlements and hidden villages that often go completely unnoticed by their neighbors.

Gnomes sometimes play the role of intermediary between other races or peoples. Few count the gnomes as their friends, but even fewer consider the gnomes their enemies. Gnomes rarely become embroiled in war, remaining neutral in such things because wars are usually fought over goals about which the gnomes care little, such as rights of commerce and settlement, or the drive to achieve and wield power in the world at large.

**Rock Gnomes:** When most people think of gnomes, they think of rock gnomes. Unlike their reclusive cousins, the deep gnomes and the forest gnomes, rock gnomes are an inquisitive and loquacious people. They are renowned throughout the world as technicians, alchemists, and inventors. Yet most do not care much for living in larger cities, where their talents are in high demand, and prefer the rolling hills of the countryside. But anywhere they find themselves, they display an amazing zest for life and all the pleasures it holds.

Rock gnomes are far friendlier and more outgoing than the other gnome subraces. They are well known for their love of jokes and pranks, as well as their fondness for finely made things.

Rock gnomes are generally optimistic. They view the world as a puzzle that the gods—in their infinite wisdom—have laid out before them as the ultimate challenge, one that cannot ever be fully met. It is their greatest joy to be involved in the unraveling of the mysteries of creation, an act they feel brings them closer to the gods with each passing day.

In their adolescence, rock gnomes are encouraged to dabble in as many different things as possible. Eventually, each gnome finds something that truly intrigues him or her, fires the

imagination, and sets the gnome on the path of a career that may last the rest of the gnome's life. Almost every rock gnome had a passion for what she does for a living, which is one of the reasons that they have such positive dispositions.

While most gnomes are homebodies at heart, a number simply can't resist the urge to go out into the world to explore. Inquisitive by nature, gnomes often find themselves almost compelled to do everything they can to learn about anything they want.

**Forest Gnomes:** Forest gnomes are shy and elusive, shunning contact with other races except when dire emergencies threaten their beloved homes. They know the secret names and languages of the forest's creatures, and can pass through their woodlands without leaving a trace. They often befriend small animals, relying on them for information about threats that might infringe on their lands.

Forest gnomes are so reclusive that many times bigger people have "discovered" them, only to find that the forest gnomes have been living nearby for centuries. Forest gnomes are so quiet and painfully shy that they go to great lengths to avoid contact with others unless there is a great need to break their silence. Whereas the rock gnomes are friendly and loquacious and the deep gnomes are sullen and reserved, the forest gnomes are practically invisible, the wallflowers of the gnomes. They have a great love for nature, particularly deep and quiet forests far from civilization. For this reason, many people—including other kinds of gnomes—have never seen a forest gnome. Most forest gnomes are extremely private, preferring to simply be left alone by other peoples. When among their own kind, they are a bit less reserved.

Forest gnomes maintain a strong tradition of instruction in magic, particularly illusions. While not all forest gnomes have the knack for wizardry, generations of devotion to the craft has put magic in their blood and all forest gnomes can craft minor illusions. In private they use this ability to amuse one another with simple pranks and complicated games only possible with magic, but when danger threatens forest gnomes work together to make illusions that hide their homes or mislead enemies.

**Svirfneblin:** Svirfneblin, or deep gnomes, live amid the dangers of the Underdark deep beneath the surface of the world in twisting warrens and sculpted caverns. They survive by virtue of their stealth, watchfulness, and tenacity.

Deep gnomes are gnarled and callused folk, with little fat at all on their wiry bodies. Their skin is the color of the rocks among which they live, almost as if they sprang directly from the stones themselves. They have dark gray eyes, tending toward black. Their hair is of a similar color, although it's only seen on the women, as the men are entirely bald and beardless.

Svirfneblin keep to themselves out of fear of outsiders—a fear born from numerous poor experiences with such people. To a deep gnome, the only people you can trust are other deep gnomes from your village, and preferably from your family. All others are best avoided. With strangers, most deep gnomes are reserved and suspicious, almost to a fault. However, when they are alone with their own kind, they are friendly and respectful to each other. Few people from outside a svirfneblin community have ever seen this more pleasant side of the deep gnomes. For their part, the deep gnomes would be horrified to find themselves observed by outsiders, and they find such a person staring at them—or even looking directly at them—quite rude.

All gnomes pay homage to a pantheon of gnome deities led by the trickster-hero, Garl Glittergold, but svirfneblin are most devoted to the Deep Brother, Callarduran. Legend has it that Callarduran was the first to discover the beauty of gems, having picked up a rough stone and absentmindedly rubbed it to smooth brilliance in his pocket. He went into a cave in pursuit of more, and the gnomes who followed him became the svirfneblin. Deep gnomes still pursue gems of all types in their tunneling, having particular regard for large emeralds, which with the blessings of their priests they can enchant to summon earth elementals.

## Half-Elves

Half-elves aren't the diplomats described in the *Player's Handbook* and *Monster Manual*. They are instead individuals trapped between two worlds—human and elf—neither of which entirely welcomes them.

Except in a few places in Faerûn, half elves do not appear in great numbers. Each is the result of a union between elf and human, but such relationships often come to sad ends as an elf outlives the other parent or when cultural differences drive parents apart. Some half-elves are the result of briefer encounters between elf and human or between two half-elves, but this is extremely rare.

This means that although there might be similar themes of prejudice, tragedy, and of homes and friends left behind in youth, the upbringing of each half-elf is unique, and the way in which the half-elf emphasizes the qualities of one parent race or the other differ. One half-elf might think and act more like an elf due to being raised among them, while another might act more like a human, and still another might act more elven than an elf in order to separate himself from the humans he grew up with.

Half-elves have at least one elven parent or grandparent, or two half-elven parents. To put it another way, the child of a half-elf and a human will be human, unless the half-elf parent was the child of a full-blooded elf. Unless a half-elven line marries into other elven or half-elven families, their elf characteristics fade in a couple generations. On occasion elven traits can reappear in otherwise human children born several generations later, but half-elves of such remote descent are very rare.

While elves and half-elves are respected and admired in many parts of Faerûn, humans in lands where elves are not commonly encountered can be resentful of elven blood. Elves are graceful, attractive, long-lived, mysterious, and skilled with mighty magic, and humans who do not know them well can easily come to regard elves—and, by extension, half-elves—with envy and fear. In places such as Silverymoon or the Dalelands, a half-elf's race is nothing remarkable, and she faces little or no bigotry. In lands where there is a long history of elven-human conflict, such as Tethyr or Sembia, her elven blood marks her as different and dangerous, with all the fears and suspicions one might expect. On the other hand, half-elves born in elven communities almost always experience patronizing prejudice instead of fear. A half-elf will not live as long, nor be as nimble, and elves expect half-elves to be unwisely brash and impatient.

Most half-elves are a bit distant, used to being cast in the role of outsiders. Many half-elves respond to the suspicions and slights of their human neighbors by staying well away from human civilization, preferring a solitary life in the wildernesses of Faerûn. Others instead take up a life of travel, never staying in one spot long enough for racial prejudices to distance them from the folk around them.

## Half-Orcs

Half-orcs are originally the product of a union between orc and human, or more rarely orc and elf or half-elf. There are rare places where orcs and barbaric humans have lived in close association where such unions might occur through mutual respect, but most half-orcs have the tragedy of rape in their past. However, orc blood runs strong. It takes a few generations for orc blood to be so diluted that a child might be born looking fully human, and even then, a sibling might appear to be a half-orc.

Whether by nurture or nature, half-orcs tend to be sullen and quick-tempered. Half-orcs have uphill battles to fight when interacting with most other races. Among orcs they are considered weak and cowardly by nature. Among others they are feared as violent and thought to be stupid. Most half-orcs react this prejudice with anger. They make friends only with difficulty. Once trust is established, it is often a fleeting thing that can be fractured with one misinterpreted comment.

## Tieflings

Like half-orcs and half-elves, tieflings are quite rare. But unlike both those races, tiefling blood never thins. The child of any tiefling looks like a tiefling no matter how many generations ago an ancestor has congress with a devil. All tieflings are visibly touched by the evil of the Nine Hells. That's not easy to live down. The conflict their heritage causes—within themselves and with others—tends to define who they are.

## Dragonborn

Except for Tymander and the region around it, dragonborn are extremely rare.

## NPC Races

When choosing a race for an NPC consider the story impact of the races. Any exceptional character might be of any of the races noted above, but a shopkeeper, the local sage, or other inconsequential figures in a story should be from a race common to the setting, which in most cases is a human, a halfling, a dwarf, or a rock gnome. Elves, half-elves, half-orcs, forest gnomes, tieflings, and dragonborn all should have some story weight and not be simply a choice for the sake of variety.

## Classes

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There a lot more to know about the various classes of D&D, but below are some elements to keep in mind when depicting characters with a D&D class in the Forgotten Realms.

**Spellcasters in General:** Except for extremely unusual circumstances (such as a college of wizardry) spellcasters are individuals. They have personalities and personal stories and unique spell lists. You shouldn't encounter the same wizard stat block in an adventure used to represent different wizards, for instance.

**Barbarians.** The Forgotten Realms has cultures described as barbarians and D&D has the class called barbarian, but they are not synonymous. People with the barbarian class are special warriors even in barbarian tribes.

**Clerics.** Clerics are special individuals gifted with divine power by a deity, but they don't have the gods on speed dial nor are the gods constantly watching their every move. Clerics of a deity can go astray of a deity's ethos or even betray their deity. Judgment of such infractions might be immediate or saved until the afterlife, based upon the whim of the deity.

**Druids.** Druids are not clerics by another name and do not devote themselves to a single deity. (The only exception is druids of the Moonshaes, who worship the Great Mother, a deity embodied by their islands.) Instead, druids (regardless of race) pay homage to the "First Circle," which is a pantheon of human gods that represent the basic elements of the natural world (Shar for night and darkness, Selune for the moon, Silvanus for forests, Talos for storms, Kossuth for fire, and so on). Druids from non-human races often pay homage to nature-related deities of their own as well, but the power of druidic magic stems from the First Circle. Most druid characters should acknowledge a circle of druids from which they originate, the circle being a group of druids that serves all the druids that are part of it as a body of wisdom, lore, and news.

**Monks.** Monks are not monastic priests in the Christian sense, but meditative martial artists in the Eastern sense. Monks are rare in Faerûn and quite common in Kara-Tur. There are dozens if not hundreds of orders of monks in Kara-Tur, but Faerûn hosts only a few. Most monks of Faerûn are associated with a human religious order, acting as protectors of holy sites and sometimes as enforcers or assassins. Some of the few Faerûnian monastic orders are Dark Moon, Shining Hand, Yielding Way, Yellow Rose, and Sun Soul.

**Paladins.** Paladins are warriors of unusual virtue and piety rewarded by a good god with divine power. Paladins follow a common code of ethics but paladins of different deities emphasize different aspects. (A paladin of Sune would emphasize aspects of courtly love and courtesy,



whereas a paladin of Tyr would be more concerned with justice and fair treatment of foes.) As with clerics, paladins can go astray of their code, but paladins are typically judged more swiftly and harshly by their gods.

**Rangers.** Low-level rangers can be depicted like mountain men and wilderness guides. Once a ranger has spellcasting, that ranger has been chosen by a nature deity and granted power. Rangers with spellcasting should show devotion to a specific nature deity depending on the ranger's alignment (Malar, Shaundakul, Gwaeron Windstrom, Milikki, Silvanus, Eldath, Shialia).

**Sorcerer.** The source of a sorcerer's power should be a significant element of the character's story.

**Warlocks.** Warlocks always have a patron and a bargain. Those things should be a huge part of such a character and that character's part in any plot. Ask for appropriate options for a patron and details. Note that not all the Great Old One patrons mentioned in the *Player's Handbook* are appropriate to the Forgotten Realms. Of the ones mentioned, Ghaunadar, called That Which Lurks; Kezef, the Chaos Hound, and Dendar, the Night Serpent, exist in Faerûn.

**Wizards.** In addition to a spellbook, a wizard in the Forgotten Realms crafts a sigil that is the wizard's symbol and is used in various spells and rituals to represent the wizard. Also, it is extremely rare for a wizard to have a familiar.

## Game Terms in the World

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Most game terms like "saving throw," "level," and so on are obviously not something people in the world use. Below are some special notes about terminology where the distinction is less clear.

**Adventurer.** "Adventurer" is a word that describes people of a certain occupation or lifestyle, that being people who brave dangers to make their fortunes. It's a broad term, not a specific one: Just as a bodyguard or assassin is a type of mercenary, tomb robber and explorer are types of adventurer.

**Barbarian.** "Barbarian" is used for anyone thought to be barbaric, not just people who have the class. Individuals who have the class and can therefore enter a battle rage are often referred to by another name that sets them apart (berserker, dwarven battlerager, and so on).

**Bard.** This word is reserved for people who have the bard class. They have magical powers that regular minstrels, musicians, and singers lack.

**Class.** "Class" is not a term anyone would use to refer to people that have a class in the game sense.

**Cleric.** A cleric is anyone who devotes themselves to the service of a deity and/or the maintenance of a shrine or temple (to one or more deities). A "cleric" is someone who is granted spells by a particular deity. People in the world would call a cleric a priest, but they would not call a priest without powers a cleric.

**Druid.** A druid is always a member of the class. People do use the word "druid" to refer to them.

**Fighter.** People in the world use the word "fighter" like we do. It's a word for someone who fights; a boxer is a fighter. An adventurer who has the fighter class would likely refer to himself as a warrior.

**Forgotten Realms.** "Forgotten Realms" or "the Realms" is not a term people in the world know or use.

**Mage.** "Mage" is nonspecific a term used in the world to for arcane spellcasters. It most often refers to wizards, but it can be used for sorcerers and warlocks.

**Monk.** "Monk" is a term used like we use it. It refers both to people trained in a martial art at a monastery setting (and therefore a member of the monk class), and it refers to members of a religious order that have a European-style monastic lifestyle.

**Paladin.** Paladins are all members of the paladin class. They are recognized as individuals imbued with special powers.

**Ranger.** Rangers are members of the ranger class, not merely woodsmen, mountaineers, or survivalists. They are imbued with special powers.

**Sorcerer, Warlock, and Wizard.** These terms are distinct and have separate meanings, referring to members of the respective classes. However, to many people in the world they are synonymous. Anyone with knowledge of the arcane arts knows the distinguishing elements, but to common people, any of these terms might be ascribed to an arcane spellcaster. That said, the terms should be used accurately when confusion might arise: An NPC's dialog should not say "sorcerer" when in fact the person to which the NPC refers is a warlock unless the intent is to confuse the audience.

## Religion

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Below are a few notes to keep in mind for depictions of religion in the Forgotten Realms.

**Polytheism.** People in the Forgotten Realms are polytheistic. They worship and acknowledge many gods for a variety of reasons. Various races and cultures favor some sets of gods over others, but all acknowledge the existence of other deities than those they favor.

**Temples and Shrines.** The temples of deities in the Forgotten Realms do not look like Christian churches. They do not have pews. People do not attend Sunday service. The appearance of the worship place of a deity or a number of deities will depend on the deities involved. Many deities do not even have structures built for worshipers to go to (Eldath is honored at sacred ponds. Talos, god of storms and natural disasters, does not typically have temples built in his honor.)

**Priests vs. Clerics.** A priest is anyone who decides to dedicate themselves to honoring a deity and maintaining the rites and traditions of the religion. Most temples and shrines are attended by priests, not clerics. Clerics are holy warriors specially gifted by a god (or gods) with divine power. That power has a purpose, and it's rare that the purpose would be to tend to a building.

**Distant Gods.** Although gods have walked the world in the past, they are now more distant and unknowable. Stories can focus on the activities of the faithful of the deities and what they do in their names, but should not focus on what the gods themselves are doing or what the gods want.

### Formerly Dead Deities: Temples and the Faithful

With the Sundering ending in roughly the fall of 1487, it doesn't give the faithful of the returned deities a lot of time to reassert themselves. So if there's a priest of Jergal or a paladin of Tyr in a story, that person is on the vanguard of the faithful who return to the worship of the god. The person either felt the touch of the deity personally, met someone who had who converted them, or heard stories of the Chosen of that deity during the Sundering.

Similarly, if there's a temple in a location that is dedicated to one of the newly returned deities, think about its origin. It's unlikely a group "kept the faith" for more than a century. If it is from a 3E or 2E source, then it might still be abandoned, taken over by some other inhabitants, or used for the worship of other similar deities in the interim. If it's a new creation for the setting, then the faithful might have taken over an old structure or it might be a new building.

Always check if a god was dead before the Sundering. Gods known to be alive at the start of the Sundering are listed in the 4th Edition Forgotten Realms Campaign Setting, but that list doesn't contain all deities that could be alive (monster deities being the most obvious exception). Please ask if you're not certain.

## Time and the Calendar

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The Faerûnian year is 365 days long. The year is divided into twelve months of thirty days—loosely coinciding with the waxing and waning of Selune, the moon of Toril—and five annual holidays. In lieu of weeks, each month is divided into three tendays, also known as rides. Once every four years,

Shieldmeet is added to the Calendar of Harptos as a “leap day” immediately following Midsummer night.

Particular days of the tenday have no special names. Instead, days of the tenday are denoted by counting from the beginning of the tenday. For example, “first day,” “second day,” “third day,” and so on (or alternatively “one-day,” “two-day” etc.). There is no concept of the weekend as a special time when businesses close or people stop work.

Days of the month are noted as numbers followed by the month name. For example, sages might record a date as occurring on “1 Mirtul” or “27 Uktar” or “Midsummer.”

Days are 24 hours long.

**Keeping Time.** Most people do not keep track of time. The sun does that for them. They are typically not aware of the concept of hours or minutes. People are accustomed to loose times like “mid morning” or “nigh sunset.” If two people plan to meet at a particular time, they expect it to be hazy and that someone might be waiting or arrive early.

The concept of “hours” and “minutes” exists in places where wealthy people use clocks, but mechanical clocks are often unreliable and they are rarely set for exactly the same time. If a local temple or civic structure has a clock, people refer to hours as “bells,” as in “I’ll meet you at seven bells.”

## The Calendar of Harptos

Earth Month	Faerûn Month	Common Name
December	Hammer	Deepwinter (new year starts Hammer 1)
	Annual Holiday: Midwinter (Winter Solstice)	
January	Alturiak	The Claw of Winter
February	Ches	The Claw of Sunsets
March	Tarsahk	The Claw of Storms
	Annual Holiday: Greengrass (Spring Equinox)	
April	Mirtul	The Melting
May	Kythorn	The Time of Flowers
June	Flamerule	Summertide
	Annual Holiday: Midsummer (Summer Solstice)	
	Quadrannual Holiday: Shieldmeet	
July	Eleasis	Highsun
August	Elient	The Fading
	Annual Holiday: Highharvestide	
September	Marpenoth	Leaffall
October	Uktar (Autumn Equinox, 1st day)	The Rotting
	Annual Holiday: The Feast of the Moon	
November	Nightal	The Drawing Down

## Flora

All the normal earthly plants can be found on Toril, but there are some plants unique to the setting.

**Blueleaf.** Recognizable by the eerie, gleaming blue color of their many-pointed leaves, blueleafs (not “blueleaves”) bend in winds or under ice rather than breaking, often forming snow tunnels that shelter winter travelers. Blueleafs grow close together in thick stands, reaching 40 feet in height but rarely attaining thick trunks.

Blueleaf wood is durable, and the sap and crushed leaves yield a vivid blue dye much favored in cloak making in the North. When burned, it yields beautiful leaping blue flames (prized in inns and taverns as “mood” illumination for tale-tellers and minstrels). Cut blueleaf has a blue hue when “green” and a gray-blue color when dried.

Blueleaf is found all over the north.

**Duskwood.** Duskwood trees grow straight and tall, reaching 60' feet in height. Their trunks are dark, smooth, and bare; all of their tiny branches are in a crown at the top of each tree. They have slim silvery leaves. Their name comes from the dark, eerie appearance of stands of duskwoods. Under their black bark is smoky grey wood that is as hard as iron, and resistant to fire (smoldering rather than blazing, so that they survive many forest fires and the axes of woodcutters seeking firewood). It could be found growing all over Faerûn. They grow in densely packed groves which ended up looking a bit eerie.

**Chuichu.** Chuichu trees are found mainly in the forests of the Dalelands. They resemble miniature hickories, about three feet tall. Chuichu trees produce cone-shaped yellow berries that dissolve in water to make a delicious, cinnamon-flavored beverage.

**Helmthorn.** A vinelike ground shrub that sometimes cloaks other bushes and dead trees, helmthorn has dark, waxy green leaves and bristling black thorns. As long as human hands, these sharp, durable thorns are often used as crude needles or dart points. Helmthorn berries are indigo in hue, edible (tart in flavor), and often harvested even when frozen or withered for use in winemaking. Helmthorn is very hardy and grows throughout Faerûn, providing food for many.

**Shadowtop.** The soaring giants of Faerûnian forests, shadowtops can grow 2 feet a year and top out at 90 feet. A full-grown shadowtop flares out to a diameter of 10 feet or more at its base, its trunk surrounded by many pleatlike ridges. Shadowtops are named for the dense clusters of feathery leaves at the tops of their trunks. Shadowtop leaves are irregular in shape and have copper undersides and deep green upper surfaces.

Shadow-wood is fibrous and tough, but unsuitable for carving or structural work because under stress it splits down its length into splayed fibers. These fibers are valued in rope making (a few added to the twist improves the strength and durability of a completed coil) and burns slowly but cleanly, generating a very hot fire with little smoke. This makes it ideal for cooking.

Shadow-wood is much used in the making of magical staffs, rods, and wands. Shadowtops are found in all humid areas across Faerûn.

**Silverbark.** Silverbark trees flourish in wet ground and deep shadowy ravines. They have thin trunks three to four inches in diameter, are straight, and seldom grow more than a dozen feet tall—serving the poor as poles, staves, and (with whittled points hardened in a slow fire) spears or battle-stakes. Silverbark is plentiful and grows in thickets. Its silvery bark crumbles and pulls loose easily; an exposed tree dries out thoroughly, becoming brittle and weak, unsuitable for lance shafts, fence rails, or building work, within a year. Its large, oval, pointed-tipped leaves are deep red (purple at the roots), waxy, and durable; they are sometimes used to wrap small game, or to carry twigs.

**Suth.** Suth are graybark trees with olive-green leaves. They grow almost horizontally and then double back to angle in another direction. If a few suth trees grow together, their branches intertwine until they are inextricably entangled, forming a screen or wall barring passage to all things that can't fly over the tangled trees or scuttle under their lowest branches. Suth leaves are long, soft, and fluffy, but spike-ended.

Suth wood is very hard and durable, so hard that it's difficult to work without the finest tools. Thin sheets of this wood retain astonishing strength for decades, and thus are favored for use in book covers. Suth is also the preferred wood for shields since it never shatters and doesn't catch fire if soaked in water before battle. A crushing blow might crack a suth-wood shield but won't cause it to fly apart. Suth wood is naturally a reddish brown.

The name of this tree may be a corruption of the word "south." Suth are found along the edges of the Shaar, in the woods of Chondath, and farther south in Faerûn.

**Weirwood.** Weir trees resemble oaks but have leaves that are brown (with a silver sheen) on their uppers and velvety black beneath. If undisturbed, weir trees grow into huge, many-branched forest giants. Weirwood won't ignite in normal (non-magical) fire and is resilient and durable. It's

avored in the making of musical instruments because of the unmistakable warm, clear tone it imparts. Weirwood is a dark brown when dried.

Weirwood can be used as a replacement for oak or holly in any spell. It grows throughout Faerûn but is very rare. Most trees are now found deep in large forests and actively protected by dryads, treants, druids, and rangers.

**Zalantar.** Often called blackwood in the North because of its jet-black wood and bark, the zalantar tree has a central root and eight or more trunks that branch out from the root at ground level like the splayed fingers of a hand. The trees may reach 60 feet in height, but are usually half that. Their leaves are white through beige.

Zalantar wood is strong yet easily worked and sees much use in southern buildings and the making of wagons, litters, and wheels. Southern wizards and sorcerers use durable and handsome zalantar wood almost exclusively in the making of rods, staffs, and wands.

This subtropical species is rarely seen north of the Shaar. It is plentiful along the shores of Chult and the southern coasts of Faerûn and seems to grow in any terrain short of mountainous.

## Human Languages

There are easily over two dozen human languages and various human dialects. But because pretty much everyone speaks Common, and to make consuming a Forgotten Realms product easier, it's likely best that an electronic game, film, novel, and even D&D RPG product ignores that another language is spoken unless it is using the idea to inform a spoken accent, or a language barrier is for some reason desirable.

Below is a sampling of the various human languages and where you can find them spoken.

LANGUAGE	AREA OR PEOPLE		
Aglarondan	Aglarond	Lantanese	Lantan
Akûrian	Samarach, Thindol, Tashluta, the Black and Mhair Jungles, Nanubel, Mhairhetel	Laothan	Malatra
		Midani	Zakhara, Bedine nomads of Anauroch
Alzhedo	Calimshan	Mulhorandi	Mulhorand
Bothii	Uthgardt barbarians, Hartsvale	Nexalan	Maztica
Chessentan	Chessenta	Rashemi	Rashemen
Chondathan	Central Faerûn from the Sword Coast to the Sea of Fallen Stars (Cormyr, Dalelands, Waterdeep, Sembia, and so on)	Reghedjic	Reghedmen (Icewind Dale Barbarians)
		Shaaran	The Shaar
Chultan	Chult	Shou	Shou Lung, T'u Lung, Ra-Khati, Tabot
Damaran	Damara, Vaasa	Tashalan	Tashalar
Dambrathan	Dambrath	Thayan	Thay
Durpari	Durpar	Thorasta	Western Heartlands, Baldur's Gate
Halruaan	Halruaa	Tuigan	Hordelands
Illuskan	The North (The Savage Frontier)	Turmic	Turmish
		Uluik	Ice Hunters, Ulutium
Koryo	Koryo	Untheric	Unther
Kozakuran	Kozakura	Wa-an	Wa
		Waelan	Moonshae Isles

### The Common Tongue

All speaking peoples, including the humans of various lands, possess a native tongue. In addition, all humans and many nonhumans speak Common as a second language. Common grew from a kind of pidgin Chondathan and is

most closely related to that language, but it is far simpler and less expressive. Nuances of speech, naming, and phrasing are better conveyed in the older, more mature languages, since Common is little more than a trade language.

The great advantage of Common, of course, is its prevalence. Everybody in the Heartlands speaks Chondathan, and thus speaks Common well enough to get by in any but the most esoteric conversations. Even in remote areas, just about everybody knows enough Common to speak it badly.

For the purposes of electronic games and film, it's simplest to assume that Common is English, and that everyone uses it as their everyday language. Other languages might be used to inform an accent or provide a necessary language barrier.

## Alphabets

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The language symbology of earth—be it the Roman letters of English, the hieroglyphs of Egypt, or kanji—does not exist in the Forgotten Realms. There are analogous written languages of symbol for many cultures (Egyptian, Chinese, Mayan, and so on), but they are not the same. Even though that is true, for electronic games and other products where consumers must be able to read elements, you should probably use English. In any event, none of the fantasy languages have been developed into true languages (although we do have some words and phrases worked out for many of them).

**Thorass:** Thorass is the direct ancestor of today's Common tongue as a spoken language. Though no one speaks Thorass anymore, its alphabet survives as the alphabet of Common and many other tongues.

**Espruar:** Espruar is the moon elven alphabet. It was adopted by sun elves, drow, and the other elven peoples thousands of years ago.

**Dethek:** Dethek is the dwarven runic script. Dwarves seldom write on that which can perish easily. They inscribe runes on metal sheets or carve in stone. The lines in all Dethek characters are straight to facilitate their being carved in stone. Aside from spaces between words and slashes between sentences, punctuation is ignored. If any part of the script is painted for contrast or emphasis, names of beings and places are picked out in red while the rest of the text is colored black or left as unadorned grooves.

**Others:** There are also scripts for Draconic, Celestial, and Infernal.

## Forgotten Realms Phrases

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Below are some phrases common to speak in the Forgotten Realms.

**Well met.** The most often used greeting, particularly between strangers of a different race or those of whom one is unsure.

**Well again.** Between business associates or acquaintances, (i.e. we've greeted before—hence the “again”—and you look well) is usually used; if one is annoyed, curt, or sarcastic, one usually just says, “Again” (i.e. “we meet again” or “you again!”).

**Olore.** (Oh-LOR-ay) Well met/Good day, as travelers in the Inner Sea lands say; “Olore to you, my friends.”

**Until swords part.** Warriors' farewell throughout the Realms.

**Until next, may your sword be ever wet, and your bottom dry.** Parting of the pirates of the Inner Sea.

**Alavairthae!** (Al-ah-VARE-thay, or “May your skill prevail”) the Red Wizards of Thay, in giving their farewells.

**Amarast!** (Ah-mah-RAST) Meaning “fare well until next we meet,” a saying of the sailors of the Shining South.

**Sweet water and light laughter until next.** A farewell used by elves.

**Aluve** (Ah-LOO-veh) “I/we leave you” in Drow.

**Axe high, friend. I go.** Dwarven farewell.

**Forges warm, friend.** Gnomish farewell.

**Good morning, and good day after that! Don't let anything curl your hair!** (to which is sometimes added) **"Ware that Big Folk, and mind the goblins too!"** as the Halflings speak to each other. To others, they usually say, **"Gods smile! (upon you)."**

**Braeunk vhos trolkh!** (If you die while I'm gone, do it quietly) Hobgoblin, with the unspoken addendum "because I wouldn't want to miss the fun."

## Faerûnian Names

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Faerûn is vast. Among humans alone, its inhabitants bear literally thousands upon thousands of names. Some folk have no surnames, others have a common clan name, and others have a "son/daughter of" appellation.

In Tharsult, Tashalar, and the Border Kingdoms, the word "sar" is much used. It means "of the blood of," and denotes a famous ancestor—or falsely claimed ancestor—so that a farmer might be "Baer sar Thardizar," after the famous warlord of centuries ago.

Older usages such as "of the" and the name of a trade or place (such as Ruthrar o' the Forge and Sammert o' the Hollow) are falling out of favor and are now rarely heard. Only wizards and the most haughty adventurers use personal achievements in their names, such as Dastrin of the Three Thunders or Belgaert of the Deadly Stand, and this, too, is dying out.

Occupations can be seen within names, however: Tel is an old word for "works at" or "works with," forar once meant traveler or peddler, helder was a guard or warrior on patrol, turnskull was a digger, and turnstone a miller. All are used as last names among, primarily among Chondathans and Illuskans.

The names given here are by language, since areas sharing a common tongue tend to use the same names.

**Aglarondan:** *Male:* Aelthas, Courynn, Folcoerr, Gaedynn, Mourgram, Sealmyd, Yuiredd. *Female:* Blaera, Courynna, Lyn- neth, Maera, Mourn, Wydda. *Surnames:* Aengrilor, Dulsær, Gel- ebraes, Jacerryl, Telstaerr, Uthelienn.

**Alzhedo:** *Male:* Aseir, Bardeid, Haseid, Khemed, Mehmen, Sudeiman, Zasheir. *Female:* Atala, Ceidil, Hama, Jasmal, Meilil, Seipora, Yasheira, Zasheida. *Surnames:* Basha, Dumein, Jassan, Khalid, Mostana, Pashar, Rein.

**Chessentan:** *Male:* Aeron, Daelric, Eurid, Nicos, Oriseus, Pharaxes, Thersos, Xandos. *Female:* Ariadne, Cylla, Eriale, Halonya, Idriane, Mera, Numestra, Sinylla. *Surnames:* Aporos, Corynian, Heldeion, Morieth, Nathos, Sphaerideion, Zora.

**Chondathan:** *Male:* Darvin, Dorn, Evendur, Gorstag, Grim, Helm, Malark, Morn, Randal, Stedd. *Female:* Arveene, Esvele, Jhessail, Kerri, Lureene, Miri, Rowan, Shandri, Tessele. *Sur- names:* Amblecrown, Buckman, Dundragon, Evenwood, Greycas- tle, Tallstag.

**Chultan:** *Male:* Atuar, Kwalu, Losi, Mezoar, Nsi, Osaw, Selu, Weshtek. *Female:* Azuil, Chuil, Fipya, Isi, Lorit, Mainu, Sana, Tefnek. *Surnames:* None.

**Damaran:** *Male:* Bor, Fodel, Glar, Grigor, Igan, Ivor, Kosef, Mival, Orel, Pavel, Sergor. *Female:* Alethra, Kara, Katernin, Mara, Natali, Olma, Tana, Zora. *Surnames:* Bersk, Chernin, Dotsk, Kulenov, Marsk, Nemetsk, Shemov, Starag.

**Dambrathan:** *Male:* Aethelmed, Houn, Rhivaun, Umbril, Waervyn, Xaemar, Zeltaebar. *Female:* Chourm, Glouris, Maeve, Hayaera, Sevaera, Xaemarra, Zraela. *Surnames:* Calaumystar, Lharaendo, Mristar, Talaudrym, Wyndael

**Durpari:** *Male:* Charva, Duma, Hukir, Jama, Kilimut, Oskut, Pradir, Rajaput, Sikhil. *Female:* Apret, Bask, Erilet, Fanul, Hist, Mokat, Nismet, Ril, Tiket. *Surnames:* Beszrizma, Datharathi, Melpurvatta, Nalambar, Saqarastar, Tiliputakas.

**Dwarven:** *Male:* Barundar, Dorn, Joyin, Khondar, Roryn, Storn, Thorik, Wulgar. *Female:* Belmara, Dorna, Joylin, Kiira, Sambril, Tace, Umil. *Surnames:* Bladebite, Crownshield, Gor-drivver, Horn, Skulldark, Stoneshield.

**Elven:** *Male:* Aravilar, Faelar, Mourn, Nym, Orpar, Saevel, Respen, Rhistel, Taeghen. *Female:* Amra, Hacathra, Imizael, Jastr, Jhaumrithe, Quamara, Talindra, Vestele. *Surnames:* Amalith, Braegen, Calaudra, Eveningfall, Laelithar, Moondown, Tarnruth.

**Elven (Drow):** *Male:* Alak, Drizzt, Ilmryn, Merinid, Pharaun, Rizzen, Tebryn, Zaknafein. *Female:* Akordia, Chalithra, Eclavdra, Jhaelrnya, Nedylene, Qilué, SiNafay, Vlondril. *Surnames:* Abaeir, Coloara, Glannath, Illistyn, Pharn, Seerear, Vrin, Xiltyn.

**Gnome:** *Male:* Burgell, Colmarr, Dorgan, Falrinn, Halbrinn, Orlamm, Rondell, Storig. *Female:* Calanddra, Eriss, Iviss, Jaree, Lissa, Mere, Nathee, Zelazadda. *Surnames:* Blackrock, Blimth, Greatorm, Rivenstone, Tavartarr, Uvarkk, Whitehorn.

**Halfling:** *Male:* Blazanar, Corkaury, Dalabrac, Halandar, Ombert, Roberc, Thiraury, Wilimac. *Female:* Aloniira, Calathra, Deldiira, Melinden, Olpara, Rosinden, Tara, Weninda. *Surnames:* Aumble, Bramblefoot, Dardragon, Hardingdale, Merrymar, Starnhap.

**Halruaan:** *Male:* Aldym, Chand, Hostegym, Meleghost, Presmer, Sandrue, Tethost, Uregaunt. *Female:* Aithe, Alaethe, Chalan, Oloma, Phaele, Sarade, Vosthyl. *Surnames:* Avhoste, Darants, Gedreghost, Maurmeril, Stamaraster, Zorastryl.

**Lantanese:** *Male:* Eberc, Fodoric, Koger, Lambrac, Midoc, Norbert, Samber, Tibidoc. *Female:* Avilda, Bersace, Charissa, Mel-sany, Phaerilda, Ravace, Umbrasy. *Surnames:* Angalstrand, Decirc, Lamstrand, SeKorc, SeLangstra, SeMilderic.

**Illuskan:** *Male:* Ander, Blath, Bran, Frath, Geth, Lander, Luth, Malcer, Stor, Taman, Urth. *Female:* Amafrey, Betha, Cefrey, Kethra, Mara, Olga, Silifrey, Westra. *Surnames:* Brightwood, Helder, Hornraven, Lackman, Stonar, Stormwind, Windrivver.

**Midani:** *Male:* Ajaman, Alif, Assam, Bhadla, Dahalzel, Dawasir, Didaji, Farim, Haushi, Kabina, Kadumi, Musalim, Nata, Rahid, Rashad, Sa'ar, Sabkhat, Utaiba, Yatagan, Zarud. *Female:* Abal, Aglavia, Alethra, Bujauna, Dajala, Dizsa, Duthrala, Fiirria, Ilyouma, Kalastiira, Lajarama, Nathla, Qoha'dar, Rahalat, Ruha, Saalariira, Shalira, Tuibaila, Vayess, Yamala. *Surnames:* Surnames are not used. Instead a Midani appellation is used or a matronymic or patronymic: "abd" (slave of), "al" (the), "bint" (daughter of), "ibn" or "bin" (son of), the suffix "i" added to a location and preceded by "al" (Rashad Al-Karji would translate into "the Rashad from Karj.")

**Mulhorandi:** *Male:* Aoth, Bareris, Ehput-Ki, Kethoth, Mumed, Ramas, So-Kehur, Thazar-De, Urhur. *Female:* Arizima, Chathi, Nephis, Nulara, Murithi, Sefris, Thola, Umara, Zolis. *Surnames:* Ankhalab, Anskuld, Fezim, Hahpet, Nathandem, Sepret, Uuthrakt.

**Orc:** *Male:* Besk, Durth, Fang, Gothog, Harl, Kesk, Orrusk, Tharag, Thog, Ugurth. *Female:* Betharra, Creske, Edarreske, Duvaega, Neske, Orvaega, Varra, Yeskarra. *Surnames:* Dummik, Horthor, Lammar, Sormuzhik, Turnskull, Ulkrunnar, Zorgar.

**Rashemi:** *Male:* Borivik, Faurgar, Jandar, Kanithar, Madis-lak, Ralmevik, Shaumar, Vladislak. *Female:* Fyevarra, Hulmar-ra, Immith, Imzel, Navarra, Shevarra, Tammith, Yuldra. *Surnames:* Chergoba, Dyernina, Iltazyara, Murnyethara, Stayanoga, Ulmokina.

**Shaaran:** *Male:* Awar, Cohis, Damota, Gewar, Hapaw, Laskaw, Moktar, Senesaw, Tokhis. *Female:* Anet, Bes, Dahvet, Faqem, Idim, Lenet, Moqem, Neghet, Sihvet. *Surnames:* Cor Marak, Hiaw Harr, Laumee Harr, Moq Qo Harr, Taw Harr, Woraw Tarak.

**Tashalan:** *Male:* Angwe, Dumai, Gharbei, Indo, Masambe, Morife, Ngongwe, Sepoto. *Female:* Ayesha, Bhula, Lashela, Intin-gi, Mashai, Shevaya, Shesara, Ushula. *Surnames:* Damarthe, Ghomposo, Ishivin, Jalamba, Konge, Maingwe, Wasatho.

**Turmic:** *Male:* Anton, Diero, Marcon, Pieron, Rimardo, Romero, Salazar, Umbero. *Female:* Balama, Dona, Faila, Jalana, Luisa, Marta, Quara, Selise, Vonda. *Surnames:* Agosto, Astorio, Calabria, Domine, Falone, Marivaldi, Pisacar, Ramondo.



**Uluik:** *Male:* Aklar, Hilur, Liruk, Namiir, Selmik, Uknar, Tirmuk, Wariik. *Female:* Chamuk, Iirkik, Kagiik, Lelchik, Nirval, Talchuk, Valiir, Wenvik. *Surnames:* None.

**Untheric:** *Male:* Azzedar, Chadrezzan, Gibbur, Horat, Kassur, Numer, Samar, Ungred. *Female:* Chadra, Ilzza, Jezzara, Marune, Saldashune, Xuthra, Zeldara. *Surnames:* Seldom used, patronymics preferred.

## Fantasy Arabia and Arabic

The Forgotten Realms has three distinct areas that act as fantastical Arabian settings: Anauroch, Calimshan, and Zakhara. Anauroch is a sandy land of desert nomads. Calimshan is a vast land of distinct city-states that has elements of the Ottoman Turks as well as fantasy Arabia. Zakhara is a continent's worth of Arabian Nights fantasy.

Both the people of Anauroch and Zakhara speak Midani, a language that is virtually identical to Arabic. They do not use surnames; they use follow-on descriptions to clarify differences between people with the same name. Thus they have names that include Arabic-like structures such as “bint” (daughter of), “ibn” (“son of”), and “al” (the). Bayzed Ibn Kull Al-Fallah would therefore mean “Bayzed, son of Kull the Fortunate.”

Calishites speak Alzhedo. This is a language related to Auran, the tongue of djinn and other creatures of elemental air that blends elements of Arabic, Turkish, and fantasy. It does not use Arabic structures. People have surnames.

## Fantasy Asia and Asian Languages

The Forgotten Realms has multiple fantasy versions of various locations and cultures in Asia at various points in world history. There are two places like China, two like Japan, two like Korea. There's a Tibet, an India, and more.

When drawing from a real-world Asian culture, be sure you're ascribing the right cultural and language trappings to the right place. T'u Lung does not produce samurai. A person from Koryo would not have a Japanese name.

## Location Adjectives

The adjective used for the citizens (and products) of various locations often has a unique formulation as described below.

Aglarond	Aglarondan	Daerlun	Daerlunian
Amn	Amnian	The Dalelands	Dalesman/Dalesmen (male), Dalesfolk (male or female)
Anauroch	Anaurian		
Arabel	Arabellan		
Archendale	Arkhen	Damara	Damaran
Arrabar	Arrabarran	Dwarf	Dwarvish (the language), Dwarven (stuff)
Aryvandaar	Aryvandaaran	Elf	Elvish (the language), Elven (stuff)
Athkatla	Athkatlan	Elturel	Elturian
Baldur's Gate	Baldurian	Elversult	Elversian
Berdusk	Berduskan	Eryndlyn	Eryndlyrr
Calaunt	Calauntan	Eveningstar	Evenor
Calimshan	Calishite	Evermeet	Evermeetian
Carradoon	Carradden	Faerûn	Faerûnian
Ched Nasad	Ched Nasadan	Hillsfar	Hillsfarian
Chondath	Chondathan	Hulburg	Hulburgan
Chult	Chultan	Imaskar	Imaskaran (stuff), Imaskari (people)
Citadel Adbar	Adbarrim		
Citadel Felbarr	Felbarran	Immersea	Immersean
Citadel of the Raven	Ravenar	Impiltur	Impilturian
Cormanthor	Cormanthorian	Innarlith	Innarlan
Cormanthyr	Cormanthyran		
Cormyr	Cormyrean		

Iriaebor	Iriaeben	Selgaunt	Selgite (stuff), Selgauntan (people)
Kozakura	Kozakuran		
Lantan	Lantanna	Sembia	Sembian
Lorosfyr	Lorosfyran	Shaar	Shaaran (stuff and language), Shaaryan (tribes and people)
Luskan	Luskar		
Marsember	Marsembian		
Maztica	Maztican	Shade Enclave	Shadovar
Melvaunt	Melvauntian	Shadowdale	Grimmar (people), Grimmen (stuff)
Menzoberranzan	Menzoberranyr		
Mintarn	Tarnian	Shou Lung	Shou
Mirabar	Mirabarran	Sildéyuir	Sildéyuiren
Mulhorand	Mulhorandi	Sossal	Sossar (stuff), Sossrim (people)
Mulmaster	Mulman (stuff), Mulmasterite (people)	Sundabar	Sundabarian
Myth Drannor	Myth Drannan	Suzail	Suzailan
Narfell	Nar	Tantras	Tantran
Nesmé	Nesmian	Tashluta	Tashlutar
Neverwinter	Neveren (stuff), Neverwintan (people)	Tethyr	Tethyrian
Nimbral	Nimbrian (stuff), Nimbran (people)	Thay	Thayan T
Ordulin	Ordulan (stuff), Ordulian (people)	hesk	Theskian
Palishchuck	Palishchukian(s)	Tilverton	Tilverian
Phlan	Phlanite	Turmish	Turmishan
Procampur	Procampan	Unther	Untherite
Proskur	Proskurian	Urmlaspyr	Urmlassan
Rashemen	Rashemi	Vaasa	Vaasan
Raumathar	Raumatharii	Waterdeep	Waterdhavian
Ruathym	Ruathan	Yhaunn	Yhauntan
Saerloon	Searloonian	Yûlash	Yûlashi
Scornubel	Scornubian	Zhentil Keep	Zhent (people), Zhentish (stuff)
		Zentarim	Zhentarian (stuff), Zhentilar (people; soldiers)

Help us add to this list! If you find a reference to place nomenclature in any of the source material, or find yourself making one up, please let us know.

## Coin

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Barter and coinage of all sorts are common in the Realms, and most countries and city-states mint their own money. Thus coins from different places have different shapes and decoration. For most purposes, a coin is worth the same regardless of its point of origin.

Note that people don't use the word "money" in the Forgotten Realms. They say "coin" instead.

Coinage throughout the realms is customarily valued as follows:

10 copper pieces = 1 silver piece

10 silver pieces = 1 gold piece

10 gold pieces = 1 platinum piece

Some places have minted electrum coins but they are uncommon (like encountering dollar coins in the U.S.).

2 electrum pieces = 1 gold piece

## Coinage in Cormyr

The favored manner of currency in Cormyr is the royal coinage of the Court, stamped with a dragon on one side, and a treasury date mark on the other (the penalty for counterfeiting in Cormyr, and most other similar nations, is death). There is no paper currency save for I.O.U.s which are known as “blood-notes,” as they must be signed in blood by both (or all, if more than two) parties involved, and taken to the local Lord for the affixing of the royal seal.

In Cormyr, coinage terminology is as follows:

copper pieces = copper thumbs

silver pieces = silver falcons

electrum pieces = blue eyes

gold pieces = golden lions

platinum pieces = tricrown

## Other Currency

Many nations and people use forms of money unique to their locality. Often these forms of money have less real value in gold than they represent (just as the value of the paper in a dollar is not great). They are typically backed by a local government or accepted as valuable by local custom, and often they have no value outside their localities.

**Bela.** A word for paper money that refers both to bills used in the lands of Kara-Tur and more recent script issued by the over-chief or khan of the tribes of the Horde. In the western Realms, it is worthless, and occasionally offered as an insult.

**Blood Notes.** Scrolls, letters, or other carvings representing IOUs and promissory notes from the listed person to the holder of the note. Blood notes can be made by individuals, companies, or countries and cities to cover debts, and should the debtor still be around, they are legally obligated to pay when it is presented. Blood notes from individuals who are no longer alive are not binding.

**Trade Bar, Mirabar.** Coming from the wild country north of Waterdeep, these trade bars are made of black iron and shaped like rectangular spindels. They are worth 10 gp in Mirabar itself, 5 gp in the rest of the Realms.

**Trade Bar, Merchant's.** A thin, silver bar worth either 10, 20, or 50 gp each. The bar is marked at one end with its value, at the other with the symbol of the trading institution or caster which created it. Broken trade bars are valueless, though most merchants will continue to honor the trade bars of defunct institutions.

The trade bars of the Iron Throne trading group are not honored by other trading organizations, as this group is considered disreputable. Merchants' trade bars can be manufactured anywhere, but an increasing number of them bear the mint mark of Baldur's Gate.

**Trade Bar, Sembian.** Ingot-shaped bars of silver dotted with copper and marked with the symbol of Sembia, these trade bars are considered face value and backed up by the money of the Merchant Kingdom. They are most often made in 10, 25, and 50 gp values.

**Trade Bar, Lantan.** A flat, envelope-shaped bar of worked steel marked with the great wheel of Gond, such bars are worth 20 gp each and are used primarily along the Sword Coast and in other regions where the Lantanese normally trade.

**Toal, Waterdeep.** A square brass coin with a hole bored in the center, commonly used in the City of Splendors. In Waterdeep, it has a value similar to one electrum piece, but is considered nearly worthless in places distant from the city.

**Harbor Moon, Waterdeep.** A special Waterdhavian coin in the shape of a crescent, made of platinum and inset with electrum. It is used in bulk purchases in Waterdeep, where it is worth 50 gp each. In lands distant from Waterdeep, its value drops to 2 gp per harbor moon.

**Steelpense, Sembian.** A coin introduced by the Sembian government to replace silver (which the government could then hoard) the coin was overproduced and dropped in value until its present

value is 1 steelpense = 1 copper piece. The Sembian nobles have disavowed the coin's value, but still honor it grudgingly throughout the country.

**Shou Lung Trade Bars.** A slender bar of silver, definitely Kara-Turran in origin, which has made its way to the West with the occasional trader. Shou Lung trade bars are worth about 40 gp each.

**Tharsult Statues.** Far to the south, the nation of Tharsult uses small art objects in trade. These statues of ivory, jade, and serpentine are used as coinage in that region, and have reached the heartlands of the Realms as curios. Typical statues are worth 15 gp each in the North, but only 5 gp each in their native land.

**Shaar Rings.** The plainsmen of the Shaar use rings made of sliced and bored ivory, hung on long strings. Rings will be found in bundles, and each ring will be worth 3 gp each.

**Gond Bells.** An odd form of money introduced by the Lantanese and used in areas of the North, in particular in trade between worshippers of Gond. The small Gond bells are made of brass and almost totally enclose a loose ornamental stone which causes it to clatter. Gond bells are worth 10 gp on the open market, 20 gp if traded to a church of Gond.

## Adamantite and Mithral

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There are two special metals in the Forgotten Realms.

**Adamantite.** If you want a super hard metal, use adamantite. Adamantite is a jet-black alloy of Adamant and other metals. Usually black in color, adamantite will have a green sheen when viewed by candlelight or a purple-white sheen when viewed by magical light. Adamantite is incredibly strong and hard. Weapons made from it can cut through weaker metals. Armor made from it is nigh impenetrable.

**Mithral.** If you want a super light metal, use mithral. Mithral is a silvery-white metal. Items made out of mithral weight half as much as similar items made of steel. Pieces of armor made mostly out of mithral are very light, therefore they allow the wearer to make better use of their natural agility and are less restrictive on the spellcasting.

## Gems of the Realms

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Faerûn has all the ornamental stones and precious and semi-precious gems you'd find on Earth with the addition of the following special types.

**Rogue Stone.** Rogue stone is a small magical gemstone whose rainbow colors shift as if in liquid, slowly swirling iridescently, when exposed to sunlight. They are extremely rare and repel each other like magnets.

**King's Tears.** King's Tears are sometimes called frozen tears, or lich weepings. They are transparent teardrop-shaped stones with a smooth surface and are seemingly unbreakable by physical force. Folklore suggests these stones are the crystallized tears of long-dead necromancer kings. In each jewel can be seen that which the weeping king loved ages ago.

**Beljuril.** Beljuril is a deep seawater green and all known specimens are roughly the size of a human fist and not quite spherical. About once every hour (rates vary from stone to stone) a beljuril will absorb an undetectable amount of energy from within a thirty foot radius and re-emit that energy as a flash of sparkling light without heat, sound, or electrical discharge. The light produced is easily noticeable when the ambient light is dim (candlelight or lantern light) and in the dark it is dazzling to the eye. Beljurils are very difficult to cut with metal tools and the stone is very durable. They are sometimes claw-mounted to shoulder-plates or worn in a pectoral, or used as decorative lighting or beacons by the wealthy.

**Amartha.** Amaratha is also known as shieldstone. Found as small lumps or nodules in deep rock strata, amaratha is soft and yields greenish white to pale green gemstones that can be set into body jewelry or any setting where it is protected from damage or wear. Shieldstone attracts and absorbs

electricity in a ten foot radius, protecting all within this area until it vaporizes. A large quantity of amaratha could absorb a natural or magical lightning bolt.

**Jasml.** Jasml is a durable, very hard gemstone found in the form of small veins or (very rarely) larger seam deposits in the Thunder Peaks and the Spine of the World. It is so hard that it can hold a cutting edge and can even be worked into small nonmetallic weapons. When polished, jasmals catch sunlight or torchlight and, although themselves remaining transparent and colorless, give off halos of amber light.

**Bloodstone.** Bloodstones in the Realms come from the Vaasa/Damara area, and are the chief export of this region, hence their being known as the Bloodstone Lands.

**Laeral's Tears.** The Realms name for beryllonite. Named after the sorceress Laeral Silverhand.

**Star Metal.** The name in the Realms for a meteorite; forged with common metals to make durable weapons of great strength.

## Celestial Bodies

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The Sun is called the Sun. The Moon is called Selûne and the Moon. The night sky is known as the Sea of Night and instead of one Milky Way, there are several "rivers of stars." The aurora borealis is called Selune's Veil or the Tearfall Veil (a reference to Selune's Tears).

### Selûne and Selûne's Tears

Toril's moon is known as Selûne. While Selûne in the sky appears no larger than a human hand held at arm's length, it is a world in its own right, easily two thousand miles across. Selûne is bright enough to cast pale shadows when full. It is accompanied in the sky by the Tears of Selûne, a number of smaller luminaries that spread across the sky in a great arc trailing the moon.

Selûne is of course associated with the goddess of the moon, Selûne, worshipped as a goddess of light, stars, and navigation. Whether the moon is named for her or vice versa is unknown. She is thought by some to reside in the moon or that the moon itself is the goddess.

**Eclipses.** Selûne's orbit around Toril is almost in the same plane as Toril's orbit around its sun, so solar and lunar eclipses are frequent. Solar eclipses are never annular (the sun's edge cannot be seen during totality) and almost never partial, because Selûne's shadow on Toril and Toril's shadow on Selûne are quite large. Eclipses are thus spectacular but rather commonplace. Inhabitants of any particular land do not always notice such eclipses, since the rising and setting times for Selûne wander across the calendar. Solar eclipses might briefly cause nocturnal beings to awaken, but they quickly return to sleep once daylight returns.

**Selûne's Phases.** Selûne is full at exactly midnight, the first of Hammer, 1372 DR, and every thirty days, ten hours, and thirty minutes thereafter. The time between successive full moons is, technically speaking, one synodic month, the time from one Sun-Toril-Selûne conjunction to the next. Selûne makes exactly forty-eight synodic revolutions every four calendar years on Toril. Thus, Selûne is full at exactly midnight on the first day of every leap year, and has the same phase on any calendar day four years forward or backward in time.

One Faerûnian holiday, the Feast of the Moon, is held during a full moon that obligingly shows up on or about that day. Because Selûne's synodic period is so close to the actual length of the calendar month, Selûne is full around the first day of each month or on festival days, give or take a day or so. The annual festival days serve to correct discrepancies between the synodic and calendar months, with Shieldmeet providing a necessary correction every fourth year to keep the full moon from sliding deep into each month.

**Tears of Selûne.** The Tears of Selûne are a collection of hundreds of very small but bright celestial bodies (asteroids) that orbit Toril in Selûne's wake. The Tears act like any such bodies in a Trojan point, meaning that they do not stay in place but actually orbit around a common center in

whirlpool fashion. The Tears are visible as points of light like stars, too small for viewers to discern their actual shapes.

The individual orbits of the Tears are not exactly coplanar with the orbit of Toril and Selûne, but they are close. As a result, their appearance in the night sky of Toril is that of a flattened ellipse of bright “stars,” trailing Selûne by sixty degrees across the sky, along the ecliptic. Typically, an average human can cover Selûne’s image with his clenched fist at arm’s length; the Tears, however, appear to span an area of the night sky almost three handspans wide and about three fingers deep at arm’s length. The relative positions of individual Tears change from night to night as they orbit their common center.

The Tears are not bright enough to be seen during the day, though Selûne often is. Though the Tears are bright even when Selûne is new, they are not always visible in the night sky, since they too have rising and setting times, and thus might not be up at night. The first Tear rises or sets about four hours after Selûne does. Because it is so long, the full set of Tears takes about three hours to rise or set, from first Tear to last. The combined effect of the Tears is not enough to cast shadows at night.

## Important Stars

For centuries, astrologers have observed the appearance of one or two particularly bright stars close to sunrise and right after sunset. **Anadia** and **Coliar** are sometimes known as the Dawn Heralds, although they might just as easily be called the Evening Heralds too.

Deeper in the Sea of Night roam the **Five Wanderers**, inconstant stars that do not follow a yearly path across the sky as the other stars do. These Wanderers are markedly different from the star-rivers through which they roam; they tend to be larger, brighter, and show wondrous colors.

**Karpri**, the nearest, is a sapphire orb with great whitecaps at top and bottom. **Chandos**, the next, is a brown-green smudge whose markings change oddly over a few nights’ watching. **Glyth** is a dull gray, but surrounded by a spectacular ring and three lesser bodies, visible only with magical aid. **Garden** is a tiny green sparkle, rarely seen. The last, **H’Catha** is a gleam of diamond white.

The **King-Killer Star** is a red star (a comet) that provokes dragons to rage when it appears in the sky due to ancient elven magic.

**Color Spray** is a pinkish star visible primarily during the spring and early summer. When seen with the naked eye, but a telescope allows one to see it as a rainbow triangle, hence it being named after the spell. Similarly, **the Galleon** is a bluish star that under magnification looks something like ship. It is visible during the autumn and early winter and thus is called by many Auril’s Ship.

## Constellations

There are a number of constellations of note in the northern hemisphere. Their names differ by culture. The constellations’ most common names are given below. Not all of the constellations are visible all year round. Note that the constellations visible from the southern hemisphere are, of course, different.

**Mystra’s Star Circle (all year).** North is marked by an awesome circle of large, bright stars with utter darkness between them, which is known to most folk today as Mystra’s Star Circle (her floating Castle of Night, in childrens’ fairytales, is said to float in the center of the darkness). Due north is marked by the brightest “Brow Star,” called Alagairtha by the Bedine, after a proud Bedine sorceress who is said to have challenged the gods long, long ago, and been imprisoned in the heavens as a punishment: to preserve her breathtaking beauty, but keep her forever from men). Other folk in the Realms call this constellation the Crown of the North, or just the “Cold Crown.”

People born under these stars (those who fall in the gaps between the other constellations) are said to be inquisitive, with a strong ability to learn. Those who pursue the academics, arts, and magic are said to be linked to these stars.

**Auroth (Winter).** Down low, running horizontal close to the horizon, is a zigzag line of seventeen stars that join two larger, brighter star clusters, the Head or Jaws (to the west) and the Tailknot or Knotted Tail (to the east). This is Auroth, the Ice Snake of Auril, or “Old Icefangs,” also called White Dragon by the elves. Said to be a beloved and faithful steed of the goddess who sacrificed himself to shield Auril in a long-ago battle among the gods. From particular twinkling stars of Auroth’s body come Auril’s messages, to clergy of Auril who pray to those specific stars.

People born under these stars are said to have a cold, calm demeanor, but are capable in erupting in a fierce anger. Some wizards and people who live a mercenary life find themselves linked to these stars.

**Elfmaid’s Tears (Winter).** The Elfmaid’s tears are visible near Mystra’s Star Circle in the northern hemisphere but are considered a winter constellation when they are “up.” Formed of two vertical lines of blue-white stars, of unequal length, they are said to be the tears of Sehanine Moonbow, wept when Lolth and the drow turned upon the rest of elfkind.

People born under these stars are said to be sensitive souls who must build up walls around their hearts or remain open to many emotional wounds.

**The Frostqueen’s Throne (Winter).** In the depths of winter in the North the Frostqueen’s Throne (also called the Seat of Winter or simply Auril Frostqueen) rises. This constellation of bright white stars presents the profile of a chair. Although holy to those devoted to Auril, they dare not beseech Auril herself so long as Auroth remains in the sky to answer their prayers. People in more southerly lands see the shape not as a chair but as a profile of a crown and know it instead as the King’s Crown, with legends ascribing it to various rulers with heroic or tragic stories.

People born under this star are thought to be intelligent and incisive but distant and absorbed by their own thoughts most of the time.

**Jassa’s Dagger (Winter).** Jassa’s Dagger (said to have been hurled into the heavens by the dying Queen Jassa of the city of Lirremar, long ago, after she was impaled on a spear at the Battle of Biting Serpents) is a dagger-shaped constellation: a line of six stars whose highest star (the Pommel) is large and pink, and that is crossed two stars lower by a cross-line of four fainter stars (the Guards). It hangs in the sky below and east of the Sleepless Knights, hilt uppermost and blade forming a diagonal line pointing southwest, down and away from the Watchful Knights.

People born under these stars are said to have pride, whether it be in their positions, possessions, or accomplishments. They are also known to hold a grudge. Ambitious people and those who set out on personal vendettas can be linked to these stars.

**Sleepless Knights (Spring).** Not far south of Mystra’s Star Circle, there’s a distinctive cluster of middling-brightness stars arranged just like the five pips on the “5” side of a d6. These are the Sleepless Knights, also known as the Watchful Knights. They are thought to be five knights oathbound to keep watch on the landscape of the North for approaching armies of foes, on behalf of a long-dead king. It’s said they “rode into the sky” (off a cliff on a perilous mountain trail, in a blinding, late-season blizzard) but somehow never fell.

People born under these stars are said to be extremely reliable and loyal to their friends and duty. Some knights and paladins can find themselves linked to these stars.

**The Arrows of the Gods (Spring).** The Arrows of the Gods are formed of three converging lines of stars, each with a cluster of stars at its outward end, or “point.” Where the three lines come together points east. To folk elsewhere in the Realms, these stars are called the Atar’s Arrows, the Sun’s Signpost, or the Caltrop.

People who are born under these stars are said to have a very blunt personality for better or worse. They tend to be driven and tackle their goals and obstacles as directly as possible. Independent and headstrong people tend to be linked to these stars.

**Lavarandar's Lantern (Spring).** Lavarandar's Lantern (also known as "the Lamp") is an upright rectangle of stars enclosing four very bright blue-white stars, in the northern sky far south of Mystra's Star Circle and West of the Watchful Knights. Along the Sword Coast, they are thought to be four sisters, who were regretfully imprisoned by the king their father when they became lycanthropes. Later, an evil nephew plunged the cage into the sea to drown them, and so inherit the crown, but this enraged Umberlee, and the goddess hurled the cage up out of the watery depths, but too far, so it soared up into the Sea of Night and stayed there, as it does to this day.

People born under these stars are said to be compassionate of others, but keep a stalwart demeanor when facing their own problems. Some clerics and people who put others ahead of themselves can be linked to these stars.

**The Scimitar (Summer).** Roughly opposite in the sky from Auroth, the Scimitar is a bright starry cluster followed by a curving tail of stars. The scimitar cuts its way across the sky throughout summer. It is said by many in the North to be the sword fallen from Amaunator's Belt, a constellation to the north and later in the season.

To the Bedine, this is the Serpent of the Sands, Urwath, "The Swallower." The desert nomads believe that this creature is wild and amoral, older than the gods, and that it swallows mountains, trees, and grasses to create the desert, leaving only sand in its wake. Its presence in the southern sky, most Bedine believe, means that the desert will continually expand southward, as it eats its way across the world. In Tunland, Cormyr, Iriaebor, and Westgate, however, it is recognized respectively as Faeraula, the Sword of the South, the Southfires, and the "Dangers of the Desert."

People born under this star are thought to be ruled by their passions, particularly lust and anger.

**Amaunator's Belt (Summer).** This line of six yellow-white stars appears high in the sky in the far north during summer. When Amaunator was thought dead, it was said to be the sword belt he failed to buckle in his haste to go to the battle in which he died.

People born under these stars are said to be brave but rash.

**Eyes of the Watching Woman (Summer).** The Eyes are two "fuzzy" clusters of blue-white stars, which appear as two side-by-side crescents or arcs in the sky, points downward. To most, these are Eyes of the Watching Woman, while to the Bedine they are the Two Jambiyas.

People born under these stars are said to be highly sociable and the most adaptable to change. Those who have a very charismatic aura about them and people who survive great events are said to be linked to these stars.

**The Unicorn (Autumn).** This constellation marks the end of summer. It is made of a number of bright stars and thought to make a horse head with a point for the tip of a unicorn's horn. It has many different names. The elves call it Correlion and think of it as Correlon Larethian's mount. Many humans of the North call it Mielikki and see it as a symbol of that goddess. Others name it Eachthighern, the mysterious lord of unicorns and pegasi.

Folk born under this constellation are said to possess quiet strength and to be good at sensing people's emotions and changes in the weather.

**The Gate (Autumn).** Called Esetar by the elves, this constellation is thought by many to be the celestial gate from which Dendar, the Night Serpent, with someday emerge to devour the world. The people of Chult believe Dendar will emerge from beneath mountain in their jungle land and they instead call it the Cage and think of it as a prison in which the gods hurl the most evil souls. It appears as a rectangle formed from lines of dim stars.

People born under this constellation are thought to be patient, deep thinkers who are able to have prescient dreams.

**Shard of Selûne (Autumn).** This diamond-shaped constellation of many stars is highest toward autumn's end. It's thought to be a part of Selûne cut from her in the ancient battle between Selûne and her divine sister, Shar. The wound was so great it made a bright scar upon Shar as well. Some say it was this wound that made the Tears of Selûne.



People born when this constellation is high are said to be mercurial and have conflicting and conflicted natures. It's considered an ominous omen when twins are born under these stars because it is thought that the siblings will become bitter rivals.

## Forgotten Realms Terms

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### Banned Words

a.m.

coffee (should be "kaeth" or "kaethae")

money (should be "coin")

restaurant (should be "feasting hall," or more formally as "skaethar")

week (should be "tenday")

high elf (refer to the Forgotten Realms subraces)

hill dwarf (should be "shield dwarf")

hourglass (should be "sandglass")

mountain dwarf (should be "gold dwarf")

o'clock (should be "bells" but most people don't reference time so specifically)

p.m.

aba (a loose, long shirt or tunic, which often has long sleeves; worn by the Bedine)

Abeir

Abeir-Toril

Abyss, the

Academy, the (in Menzoberranzan)

aearee

afterdaze

Aillesel Seldarie. ("Sledarine preserve us." In Elvish.)

alaé (Elvish greeting)

alu Tel'Quessir ("water elf" in Elvish)

alu'dala ("water battle" in Elvish)

ar Tel'Quessir ("gold or sun elf" in Elvish)

arael ("heart" in Elvish)

arael'lia ("heart oak" in Elvish)

arael'sha ("heart friend" in Elvish)

arael'vae ("heart son" in Elvish)

Araumycos

archdevil

arms-captain

arms-major

arselu'tel'quess ("high magic" in Elvish)

Art, the (magic, spellcasting)

Astral Sea, the

audience chamber (pref. over throne room)

authokh (coin)

bae'qeshel telphraezzar (aka the bae'qeshel, or the Whisperers of the Dark. Drow bards.)

baneblade

barrow gold

barrow spirit

batrachi

battle-mistress

battlerager

beast-men: ogres (formerly used only by humans, now by gnomes and halflings, too)

belbolt (coin)

beljuril (gemstone)

Binding, the

birdpipe (a set of pan pipes)

blacklung fever (disease)

blackroot (poison)

blacktongue (disease)

bladedance

bloodbeak (bird)

bloodfly (pl. bloodflies)

bloodpurge (medicine)

bloodstaunch (medicine)

bloodwood (tree)

blueleaf (a drug; also a tree)

brainworm

Bregan D'aerthe

broodmate

brittle bones: humans (used only by orcs)

broken bones: wounded, defeated, slaves or those too weak to defend themselves or to be worthy of attention. (Used of all races, including their own, but only by orcs)

burlbush(es) (flower)

Castellan's Guard (Zhentil Keep)

cavefly (pl. caveflies)

Change, the

changelands (a piece of terrain that clearly doesn't fit in with the surrounding terrain, and therefore was likely caused by the Spellplague way back when)

Chosen, the

circle, the (of high mages)

clearstone

cloudwrack

coin (not money)

coronal

Corpsehaven

crysstone

culler

dala ("battle" in Elvish)

daggerhedge (bush)

dark bolt

Dark Mother  
 darkblade (mercenary lacking principals)  
 darkblossom (bush)  
 darkenbeast  
 darkhall  
 darkrot (disease)  
 Darksong Knight  
 darkstone crystal(s)  
 darksword  
 dead-disk (phaerimm)  
 deadwall  
 Deep, the (or Shadow Deep, the)  
 deepbear  
 deepnight (midnight)  
 demon-boar  
 Disciples of Phelthong  
 Dome of the Stars, the (council chamber of Evermeet)  
 downland (southern Cormyr)  
 dracophoenix  
 dragon scales (protection spell)  
 dragon's-teeth (game)  
 durthan (the evil wychlaran)  
 duskwood (tree)  
 dragonbone (made of the bones of a dragon)  
 dragonkind  
 Dwarvish (the language)  
 earth node (also "nodes")  
 earthmote (not earthberg or earth-mote)  
 Eilistraeen (worshiper of Eilistraee)  
 Eldest (Evermeet)  
 el'tael (Elvish for a master of the bladesinging art, singular and plural)  
 Elemental Chaos,  
 the elfkin  
 elflord  
 elf maid  
 elfroad  
 elfsong  
 elven lodge  
 Elvish (the language)  
 Ereilir Vor (Plains of Soulfire, Demonweb Pits)  
 evenfeast (can replace "dinner")  
 eyehead (epithet for beholder) Faerie  
 evermead (a mead crafted only in Evermeet)  
 faerielight  
 Faerûn (continent, "everywhere in Faerûn", not "on Faerûn.")  
 Faerzress  
 Fair Folk, the: elves  
 fairlady  
 Fane of Shadow (temple on Shade Enclave)  
 Far Realm, the

featherlung (plague/disease)  
 featherwood (tree)  
 felsul (tree)  
 felthane  
 festhall (syn. Brothel and gambling place)  
 fey gates  
 fey mounds  
 fey sites  
 Feywild, the  
 fingertalk (sign language of thieves, not drow, see also "handcant")  
 fire-blast (n.)  
 First Hilt (leader of the bladesingers)  
 First-Speaker (leader of the Cult of the Dragon)  
 flakefungus  
 fleshmason  
 fleshwort (medicine)  
 forestmote freefolk  
 Free Folk, the: satyrs (a human term now used by all races, including satyrs)  
 Fringe, the (aka Shadow Fringe, the)  
 GatherStone (phaerimm term)  
 Gauntlgrym  
 gentlesir  
 ghazneth  
 Ghazneth Scourge  
 glaur (a short, flared, and curved horn which resembles a cornucopia, and is fitted with valves [those without valves are known as gloons])  
 gloryhouse  
 glowball  
 glowstone  
 godsforsaken (replaces Godforsaken)  
 gold (not money)  
 Goodman/Goodwoman (a title or form of address, usu. capped)  
 goodsir (a form of address, not capped)  
 grand mage (title, Evermeet)  
 graycloth guildhouse  
 Gutbuster Brigade  
 hamach (n.)  
 Hamarfae  
 hand drum (s double-headed drum)  
 handcant (thieves' sign language, see also "fingertalk")  
 Harper (member of organization)  
 Harpers, the (name of organization)  
 hathran (one of the leaders of the sisterhood of the wychlaran)  
 heartstop (use in place of "heart attack")  
 Hells (also, the Nine Hells)  
 hellsteed (aka nightmare)  
 Hidden One's Gift,

the high loregem  
 High Council,  
 the high mage  
 high magic  
 highsun (noon)  
 Hill Elder (Evermeet, Evereska)  
 hillmote  
 hiresword  
 hin: halflings (informal but polite; everyday usage among halflings)  
 homeagain (greeting: "Glad homeagain, Joe.")  
 honeyvine (flower)  
 House (i.e.: You are a member of a noble House.)  
 House Unnamed  
 Hulorn (Lord Mayor of Selgaunt)  
 hurbryn: humans (a satyr and dryad term meaning "heavy-footed ones," now used by halflings and creeping into usage by other races)  
 ildva (the bond between the wychlaran and the vremyonni)  
 Infernadox of Aesperus (book)  
 iqua Tel'Quessir  
 lanceboard (chess-like game)  
 kaer'vaelen ("First Hilt of the bladesingers" in Elvish)  
 Khazid'hea (Cattie-brie's former sword)  
 lady's promise (flower)  
 laspar (tree)  
 LastHome, the (aka Evereska)  
 Leaves of One Night, The (ancient religious text, Shar)  
 leShay  
 lia ("oak" in Elvish)  
 Lolth  
 Lolthite (derogatory)  
 Long Watch, the (Evereska guard)  
 longbarb (aged phaerimm)  
 longhorn (a Faerûn flute)  
 loregem  
 lorestone  
 mage rune  
 marchion  
 magecraft (noun)  
 magelight  
 magelord  
 magesight  
 Manyhanded, the: humans (derived from "The Manyhanded Curse," an old elf insult about humans)  
 marsh fever (disease)  
 Master of Melee-Magthere  
 Master of Sorcere  
 Melting, the  
 menhirs  
 meat: all intelligent prey (used only by orcs)

middark  
 mind mage  
 Mighty, the: orcs (used only by orcs, to speak of their race)  
 mindwine (narcotic wine)  
 mintwater  
 misthead (mistleaf addict)  
 mistleaf (drug)  
 morningfeast (in place of breakfast)  
 Most High, the  
 murdath  
 myrmidar (ancient Netherese warrior)  
 mythaalnirr darach (Elvish, spell of mythal-shaping)  
 mythal  
 mythalcraft  
 mythal force  
 mythal-shaping  
 mythal stone  
 mythal trap  
 mythal-weave  
 mythallar (Netheril)  
 n Tel'Quessir ("not People" in Elvish, meaning a non-elf)  
 Nine Hells  
 Nightshadow  
 Nightstar  
 noble fey, the  
 orc hold  
 orcling (young or small orc)  
 orcspawn (syn. half-orc)  
 orcswill (orc wine or beer, or a lie)  
 oroosh: humans (used by treants, this literally means "never-stopping talkers")  
 othlor (the elite among the hathran, othlor means "true one")  
 pack lizard  
 Palace Most High (on Shade Enclave)  
 paleblood  
 paleblooded  
 peeptalk (language of birds)  
 People, the: elves (used only by elves)  
 phaerimm (pl.: phaerimm, not phaerimms)  
 piwafwi  
 plaguechanged (someone who has been changed by spellplague to a monstrous extent)  
 plaguelands (lands that still hold pockets of spellplague)  
 Plaguewrought Land, the (a particular place on the map that is riddled with spellplague)  
 portal-stone  
 post-tower  
 prairiemote  
 probiter

Proud Peoples, the: dwarves and elves, collectively  
(used only by humans, and becoming archaic)  
Purple Dragons  
quarter-bench  
Queen's Guard (Evermeet)  
Queen's Spellguard (Evermeet)  
Rage, the (in re: dragons)  
Quiet Folk, the: gnomes  
Rage of Dragons  
rellana (wine)  
Red Wizards  
Returned Abeir  
Reverie, the  
ripplebark (fungus)  
Robes of the Archmage  
roofwrack  
rothé  
rothéhide  
runner-lizard  
sage probiter  
sallar (typhuslike disease)  
sarrukh  
saurial  
sava (chesslike game)  
scepstrana  
Scourged Legion  
the Seldarine, the (elf pantheon)  
selukiira (sing. or pl.)  
Selûne (the goddess and the Moon)  
Seraph  
Seven, the (the seven liches that created  
Crenshinibon)  
Seven Sisters  
sha ("friend" in Elvish)  
sha`ir  
Shade Enclave (what Shadovar call their city)  
Shadow Deep, the (or Deep, the)  
Shadowfell, the  
Shadow Fringe, the (or Fringe, the)  
Shadow Magic  
shadow net  
shadow self  
shadow shield  
shadowshell  
shadowwalk(ing)  
shadow blanket  
shadow crisis  
shadowsilk  
shadowstep  
shadowstuff  
shadowtop (tree)  
shadow-web  
Shadow Weave

Shaeradim, the  
shaking fever (disease), the  
Shaking Plague  
Sha'Quessir ("elf friend" in Elvish)  
Sharn Wall, the  
shawm (a double-reed instrument, the ancestor of  
the oboe and bassoon)  
sickstone  
silver fire  
sky mage  
slaugh (it is the word elves use for "pigs," but  
literally translates as "mud-wallowing-dogs")  
Sly Folk, the (halflings—mainly said by dwarves and  
humans)  
smallhold (modest family farm)  
smokethorn (tree)  
snortsnout (derogatory for orc)  
snowfinch(es) (bird)  
soapleaf (tree)  
songblast songspider  
songhorn (a recorder)  
sorn: drow (used only by eladrin, elves, and half-  
elves, and drow themselves)  
soulbinding  
soultheft s  
pellarcher  
spellblade  
spell-guard  
spell-major (Myth Drannor)  
Spellplague, the (the event itself)  
spellplague (pockets of the spellplague)  
spell-prison  
spellchain  
spellfire  
SpellGather (phaerimm)  
spellscar  
spellsinger  
spell-song  
spellscarred (someone who has been changed by  
spellplague, but not to a monstrous extent)  
spellwarped (derogatory term for someone with a  
spellscar)  
Spirit Soaring (not the Spirit Soaring)  
Splicing, the  
sporeflour bread (Underdark food staple)  
Spotted Plague (plague/disease)  
ssri Tel'Quessir  
standath  
starsphere  
Stone Guard (elite troops from Gracklstugh)  
stonefire bomb  
stonelore  
storehouse (pref. over warehouse)

Stout Folk, the: dwarves  
 stranglecord  
 swordmagic  
 swordmaster  
 swordwight  
 sy Tel'Quessir ("green or wild elf" in Elvish)  
 Syluné (one of the Seven Sisters)  
 tael (Elvish for a student of bladesinging in Elvish, singular and plural)  
 tallglass  
 tanarukk  
 taol (coin)  
 tantan (a tambourine)  
 Taumaril (Cattie-brie's bow)  
 Tears of Selûne, the  
 telkiira (sing. or pl.)  
 telmiirkara neshyrr (Elvish, "the rite of transformation.")  
 telthor (the nature-spirits the Rashemi worship)  
 telthukiilir (High Seeing Orb)  
 tenday (never week)  
 Ten-Towns  
 teu Tel'Quessir ("silver or moon elf" in Elvish)  
 thelarr (also called the whistlecane, this is a simple reed instrument)  
 theurglass  
 thinblade (elven rapier)  
 thornback (epithet for phaerimm)  
 thoughtspeech throatslake (drink)  
 thunderthrone  
 token (set of carved, oval, open-ended bells, played like a xylophone)  
 Tomb Guard (elves only)  
 Tower (Evermeet, but only in reference to the institution, not the building)  
 Tower Guard (Evermeet)  
 tradebar  
 trademeet  
 tradeyard  
 Undercity  
 Underdark, the  
 ugrukh: wounded, defeated, slaves or those too weak to defend themselves or to be worthy of attention. (Used of all races, including their own, but only by orcs)  
 Underhalls  
 undermages  
 underpriest

underpriestesses  
 va ("father" in Elvish)  
 vae ("son" in Elvish)  
 vigilant sister (priestess of Shar)  
 Vyshaanti battle-platform V  
 yvadnya (Rashemen witch-lore)  
 warchief  
 WarGather (phaerimm term)  
 wargong (also called a shieldgong, the wargong is often made of the shields of one's vanquished foes. It is played with mallets)  
 warmaster  
 warpriest  
 war-dog  
 war-golem  
 war-mage  
 war-mythal  
 war wizard  
 watch-wizard  
 watermote  
 weapons master (not weapon master)  
 weathercloak  
 Weave, the  
 web street  
 weirwood (tree)  
 whipblade (a sort of rapier)  
 whipdagger  
 whitewasting (leprosylike disease)  
 winterchill fever (pneumonialike disease)  
 witchfire  
 Witch-King (of Vaasa)  
 World Above (Underdark term in ref. to the surface world)  
 world-window  
 worms: goblins and small or puny orcs or other goblinlike (used only by orcs)  
 wristbow  
 wychlaran (Rashemi witches)  
 yaddleskwee  
 yarting (a guitar)  
 Yor'thae  
 zaen'sheaen ("all-seeing gaze" in Elvish)  
 zalanthar (tree)  
 zulkoon (a complex and semiportable pump-organ)  
 zulkoon (musical instrument)  
 zurkhwood (a rare hardwood)  
 zzar