

AN OVERVIEW OF CULTURES

Here is a quick summary of the different cultures that constitute the travelers on the roads of the lotus. This summary is by definition a bit of a caricature, a mix of notoriety, prejudice and half-truths that at the same time highlights the salient points of a culture.

Anatolian : frugal and hard-working, Anatolians frequently roam the lotus roads to sell silks and teas produced in their villages. Anatolians are suspicious, silent and unfriendly with strangers. They are used to hardship

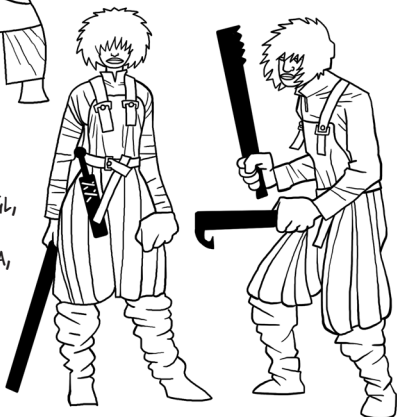
Caledonian : Caledonians are sailors, hunters and pillagers. They are fatalistic - their individual destiny is already written and all one can hope is to win a little time to spend with children and family. The world will be invaded by Astral Beasts or men will learn to exterminate them to the last; the Caledonian's role is to do his best and that's that.

Cimmerian : A Cimmerian is hard-headed and cantankerous. Life is a contest, and his duty, in his people's name, is to be the best at everything he undertakes. The weak must submit to the strong and the strong must protect them against all odds, to the point of sacrifice if necessary.



♂ ARSACES, DAAD, GEZER, NAMHUV,
NEBUCHAD, NINYAS, OBARES, ZABIUM
♀ ANIBA, DIDO, INANNA, NIDABA,
NINOCRIS, TEHI, YZEBEL, ZINNRIDI

♂ AEVAR, BENESING, EYVALD, FOGL,
GRISS, HORD, NATE, SKARPHEDIN
♀ ASNY, GEIRLAUG, HILD, MEDANA,
SOLVOR, THURA, TJOTTA, YLWA



♂ ANDRIS, DIDZI, EINAR,
LUKAS, ROJS, VARIS,
VADIM, ZIGI
♀ ASTRA, ERENE,
ILONA, JELENE, LIZINE,
MAWA, TOLIA, ZITA

Erebian : the Erebian possess one of the most beautiful civilisations in the world, refined and free. The Immortal caste reigns over servants and slaves; each one of them is the only master of his destiny, responsible for his actions in front of all other Immortals, and Seth ensures that they live forever.

Erisean : Eriseans are not all born equal. In fact, they are all subjects to the Sorcerer caste that rules Golconda. A few of the poorest cannot always quench the fire that burns in them and it is then better for them to flee their country and wander the roads of the lotus.

Ithaqui : Ithaqui men are violent despite their refined outlook. Deep believers, they only understand hierarchy and power games. Warlike, they live only through conflict and when they can no longer serve their city, they turn mercenary.

Sabateans : a Sabatean is a superstitious creature, hard and wild who likes nothing more than freedom on earth and life on the high seas. He understands non of the games of the civilised and will always prefer insult to hypocrisy. A famous proverb on the roads talks about curiosity and deceived Sabateans.



♂ BIZIMA, DEO, ELIKI, KITENGI,
 MAWAPANGA, NGBENDU, SESE, WA
 ♀ ABENA, ACHTA, IBOLA, KAHAMBU,
 MBALLA, NYOKA, TITI, YORA



♂ ACRONEOS, CHEIRON, FAENUS, IAKCHOS,
 MECISTES, PHANCIS, TEUKROS, XENOPHON
 ♀ ANTHEIA, CYRENE, DELIAS, EIDOTHEE,
 HEKALINE, HELIKE, MELANTHO, THETIS



♂ ABHUI, BAPU,
 (IDATMATA, GIRIRAJ,
 HITESH, JAJAL,
 RAGHU, YOG
 ♀ ABHISRI,
 ANUTAPTA, (CHANDRA,
 GEETA, INAKSI, PREIA,
 SEETHA, VASUNDARA



♂ BIRIR, HANGA, HIZDERO, HONDO,
 MATAN, MOYO, SODINDO, USHINDI
 ♀ HIWIRA, DORLETA, JAPER, KATURA,
 MASSASSI, NEHANDA, NENANDE, SEKAI



Sarmath : Sarmaths are nomads, sailors of the steppes; they ignore the concept of settling down, as if something pursued them their whole lives. They are open and direct, to the point of being perceived as needlessly violent and cruel. But silence is always better than lies.

Shamaritan : merchant, artisan, peasant and diplomat, the Shamaritan man is also warrior and soldier. Shamaritan women are erudite and beautiful, subjected in status but free in her thoughts. Patient and indolent, a Shamaritan takes life as it comes and always knows how to arrange things to suit his own interest.

Siamese : The Siamese wear clay, wood or metal masks and live under the yoke of bloody queens and their complex administration of Eunuch sorcerers. Their survival requires perfect composure and unsurpassed discretion. But they are masters of the lotus and cultivate many more secrets besides.

Thulean : tall and lanky, the clear-eyed Thulean is a paragon of rigor and obedience, a timid and secluded being. The Septentrion Gods protect him in his frozen lands. But one mistake is all it takes for him to be thrown out on the roads, exiled by his own people, his name forever erased and forgotten.



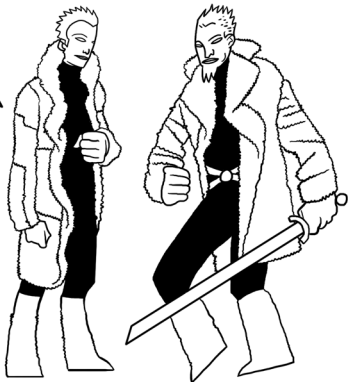
♂ & ♀ ARGHUN, ASLAN, BAICHU,
BOGOTAI, (HAGAN, (HEHEG, DELGER,
DOLOGHON, DOR), KIP(HAK, KUZHUK,
OT(HIGIN, QUTUGH, TOGHRUL,
ULAGAN, YUMJAGIYN

♂ ARAXIS, ARKTEUS, BAGOHI, (YAXARES,
MEHERDATES, PSAMMIS, TIGRANES, ZOPYRUS
♀ AMESTRIS, ARTYSTONE, BADIA, DAMASPIA,
PARMYS, PHAEDYME, SISYGAMBIS, TOMIRYS



♂ BANXAO, (HEH, DAOZI, FATANG,
FU, KWAN, LUSHAN, TAKWAI
♀ DAXIA, HSING, JING, LIAN, MEI,
PAOPAO, XIANG, YULING

♂ ARVO, JOUNI, KALEVA, OKKO,
OTSO, SEPPO, TARVO, VAIINO
♀ AANU, EINE, ILTA, KIELO,
MARJUT, PULMU, SOHVI, TALVIKKI



Voïvoch : the white-haired Voïvoch knows fear, for it is in his heart when he is born, and is a constant companion throughout his life. It is up to him to decide whether he will use it or abandon himself to it. In the meantime, nothing that is external to him can break him or submit him.



♂ AGRON, ASLLAN, BAJRAM, FATON,
HAXHI, KACUSA, PERPARIM, SOKOL
♀ HYRVE, MALIQE, MIRJAM, NJEZA,
SHAHIM, TIKJA, TRIXHA, ZABELA

