

Holvadi

Excerpt from rulebook

A mystical race, the Holvadi are deeply interwoven into their traditions and beliefs. They are highly in tune with magic. Their eyes and horns are a symbol of lineage and can be viewed in several ways.

Quirks

Holvadi tend to have a thirst for knowledge and view the unwise and unintelligent with remorse and pity. They pride their horns as they are a symbol of age and status. They often will spend hours debating subjects of any intellectual merit, theories, history, etc.

Origins and culture

So little is known about the Holvadi's origins, even amongst the Holvadi itself, that each clutch carries their own, unique myths and legends. Some say that they are descendants of a greater being formed of pure magic, believing this makes them, more natural wizards than even that of the elven nation. Others claim to be outsiders not native to this realm, and that they fled here from a plane whose mana had been depleted by its inhabitants. Some stories refer to an ancient race that also birthed the Elves, while others say the Elves themselves evolved into the Holvadi, and still more (usually from those raised with the Vincuul) claim the race is the culmination of all the elements.

The stories are as diverse and varied as the Holvadi clutches that tell them from generation to generation, and no one is certain of the exact history. Despite numerous writings exploring many of the theories, a heated debate still rages amongst both the Holvadi themselves and the other cultures of the world.

Culturally, because of the Holvadi's lack of shared history, they tend to be nomadic. They often settle with other races and adapt their way of life to match that of their hosts. In the largest settlement of Holvadi, social class is vital, and a person's status is obvious to their neighbors. Their way of life is highly ritualized, both magically and culturally. Meals are always served at the same time, arranged in a precise and orderly fashion. Some of the most extreme will refuse to sit facing a certain direction as they believe it to be bad luck. Manners and mannerisms are always observed, and social standing hinges on a Holvadi's ability to follow them. These beliefs stretch all the way to a Holvadi's death, and many practice a ritual of passing so that the deceased's soul can rest.

Most Holvadi see the size and shape of their horns as a sign of power and prestige, of authority and experience, and of personal accomplishment. Some adorn their horns with jewelry, or paint them in times of war. The face of a Holvadi is marked with the names of their family. One marking for the father's side of the family, one for the mother's side of the family, and one personal mark for themselves. As a result, Holvadi can sometimes seem confused when people from outside their culture ask for their name.

One thing unifies all Holvadi: their trust and belief in magic. Whether a master of martial combat or a practitioner of the arcane, all Holvadi share a connection to magic. They respect its power, and feel its presence as if it flows through their veins. Regardless of their origin, they have a deep faith that they are tied to it, and respect the dedication and focus it takes to master the arcane arts. It's this devotion that drives them to be the best at whatever they try.