

A story moment by Ludo

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A Sense
Of Humour

Sense of Humour

All humans and most living creatures possess four types of humour. Individual nature comes from the flow and balance of those bloods, and harmony and health are entwined to having a humoural composition that fits you.

Dragon Blood is enriched by the lungs and is hot and dry, associated with focus and dominance, essential for the sense of self and to recognize one's position in the world.

Elven Blood is produced by the brain and is hot and wet, associated with intense and passionate expression known to manifest in moments of inspiration.

Dwarf Blood is secreted by kidneys and is cold and dry, associated with awkwardness and cautious withdraw, a powerful regulator of flight response and other survival mechanisms.

Triton Blood is diffused through the heart and is cold and dry, associated with cooperative behavior and social bonding. It is believed that the strength of one's heart helps one shoulder the burdens of another.

Worldly Humours

All humans have the four blood organs, and the balance of these and their own form are responsible for all the vast possibilities of diversity of the human form: to a lesser degree, minor gradients

define what one is more comfortable with and what behaviours and pursuits bring one joy and fulfillment.

Most living creatures have these organs and are influenced by these humours — even when not able to produce them, they come in contact with them from contact with other creatures. The humours and their organs can vary wildly, from elongated body-sized compartments or even small bright gems. It is accepted that beings that creatures that can regulate their own humours rather than rely on the environment have an edge over other creatures and have come to dominate creation.

There are also humoural entities, tied to one or more bloods; these are called spirits, and handle phenomena by influencing the balance of the living. They are dangerous and feared, but one can benefit if they understand and respect them. There are countless spirits, but the most impactful and known are the great spirits of the seasons.

Ancestral Humours

Ancestors sit somewhere beyond spirits and creatures, and are deeply tied to the various shapes of humanity. It is accepted that all creatures descend from the ancestors, as they reproduced and formed symbiotic organisms between each other. It is impossible to know what the ancestors and their world looked like: they created the humours that made this world but in the process created a place beyond them where they could not exist — as single blooded beings, they will be quickly overtaken in any environment their descendants thrive on.

Dragons are often depicted as massive winged creatures with exaggerated expressions and kingly bearing. It is believed that whatever Dragons were, they still linger in the skies above creation, where the air is so thin that only their specialized lungs allow them to survive.

Elves are believed to have been some kind of hyper-intelligent, non-sentient plant predator or creatures at the border between the mineral and animal world. Debate is ceaseless, but stories abound about opinionated geological features or locations that seem to have a personality of sorts, which locals believe to indicate the presence of an elf nearby.

Dwarves take never-ending forms in art, but more often than not as some sort of massive creature encrusted with many jewel-kidneys. The creature always varies, but is often presented as hiding in the deepest, darkest reaches of creation — where nothing else could ever threaten them.

Tritons are seen as the source of all cooperation, which is homaged by presenting them as amalgamations of known creatures or as colonies of beings working as a single entity. The heart is essential for buoyancy but also keeps them to the water. Seaborne humans talk about creatures moving deep underneath the waves: some sages have suggested that all remaining tritons live there, as a world-wide dark-school where they all work as one, struggling against the tide of time.

Cults to the ancestors of creation are some of the most common and spread rituals across humanity, even if it has been centuries ever since it was any kind of formal system of belief. However, it is so ubiquitous that every people have their own festivals to honor them

and displays some reverence for them. When it is believed a place is one of the few sites where the ancestors linger on, humanity tries its best to keep them untouched. Some of the most impressive sanctuaries and shrines of the ages are built near these sites.

Harmonizing Humours

Acknowledging the diversity of people, their needs and how they relate to humours becomes an essential part of life. This can manifest in small and big ways; adjusting the seasonal diet to one's needs, treating illness, consult astrological almanacs for favored approach, pick what to dress to meet the temperament of the weather humours, find out the compatibility between would-be lovers, find the harmonious way to repair debts to those you wronged, etc...

What follows is one way you can represent the chaotic consultation of interactions beyond mortal keen, acknowledge them and try to steer yourself through them.

Grab some of the clutter around you, an assorted handful or so — dice sets, pencil stubs, rubber bands, erasers, tokens, etc. Shake it, just to transmit it some energy. Safely but confidently spread them around. Take it all in and go with your first impression.

If it clustered together, then the Triton Blood is strong.

If it has spread out in lonely groupings, then the Dwarf Blood calls to you.

If you can recognize a pattern, such as numbered pairings or a familiar shape, the Dragon Blood has some insights to offer.

If everything stands out by how arbitrary and unbounded it seems, unique with no repeated arrangements, the Elf Blood hints.

When you act on this revelation, either by taking an approach favored by a dominant humour and/or countering its domineering presence by balancing the other humours, you receive an advantage or boon appropriate to this endeavor. However, interpreting and harmonizing these interactions is fraught: should you fail at what you seek to accomplish, you will also be afflicted by imbalance — manifesting as illness, the wrath of a spirit or a reversal of relationships.