

The Beacon

The Beacon is more than just a city; it is a sanctuary for the displaced and a hub for scholars. As the largest city within the Domain of The Lost, The Beacon that dominates the surrounding landscape. Each district has its own cultural heartbeat, shaped by ancient traditions, emotional resonances, and the need to survive in a world that constantly reminds its people of what they left behind.

The city's districts are united by a core of rolling hills, vapor rivers, and plateaus, connected by ancient bridges, elevated walkways, and canals that allow for swift travel.

The city's heart is The Beacon University, an ancient institution built originally by scholars from another world long before the Domain of The Lost earned its name. It serves as the center of the metropolis and stands dozens of stories taller than the city.

"In The Beacon, hope flickers like a thousand lanterns, grief casts long shadows, and love bends even the walls that surround us."

Life In The City

Every person who lives here carries with them the weight of a world left behind, and the city itself reflects this burden in its architecture and atmosphere. Homes, shops, and streets shift subtly depending on the collective emotional state of their occupants—joy may cause a street to glow warmly, while sorrow can darken entire blocks.

The people of The Beacon come from many different origins, their cultures blending together in both harmony and conflict. From scholars who study Aether and its many forms to traders who specialize in artifacts, the city buzzes with activity, but it is also a place of reflection. Despite its constant motion, there is an undercurrent of longing in The Beacon—an emotional resonance tied to what was lost.

Most of the population is descended from those who originally escaped from Kyumull or traveled from other fragmented worlds in The Forest. As a result, while the city is unified in purpose, it is divided into districts that preserve ancient cultural practices, each bringing its own emotional and magical flair to the city.

Districts

Beacon University

Beacon University is a prestigious and ancient institution located at the heart of The Beacon. Founded by scholars who journeyed from across different realms and worlds, it stands as a symbol of unity, knowledge, and mastery of Aether. The University serves as the intellectual core of the city, where students come to learn the intricacies of Aether, emotional discipline, and the interconnectedness of the realms.

With its towering spires, grand libraries, and serene courtyards, the campus is designed to inspire both intellectual and emotional growth. At the university, students study everything from Aetheric theory and the history of The Beacon to the emotional arts and inter-realm travel.

The University also serves as a hub for research and experimentation, with scholars continuously pushing the boundaries of Aetheric knowledge. Its halls are filled with discussions on Aether manipulation, the Nexus phenomenon, and the nature of Recollections.

The Common Quarter

The Common Quarter is the heart of daily life in The Beacon and the only district not associated with any single culture or group of people. It serves as the central hub where people from all walks of life come together, sharing goods, ideas, and experiences.

While the other districts are more rooted in specific traditions and emotional practices, the Common Quarter is a place where the inhabitants of The Beacon coexist without strict ties to their ancestral ways. It serves as a melting pot where different customs meet, and new traditions are born. The quarter has grown into a bustling marketplace and residential area, where those who don't identify strongly with their original cultures or those who prefer a more cosmopolitan life come to live and work.

Life in the Common Quarter is vibrant and full of activity. Unlike the more ritualized and tradition-heavy districts, the Common Quarter is constantly evolving, reflecting the emotions and desires of the city's diverse inhabitants. The people here are a mix of traders, artisans, laborers, and free thinkers who often find themselves at the crossroads of The Beacon's larger cultural and emotional currents.

Festivals and events from all the districts often spill over into the Common Quarter, making it a lively place year-round.

Shinsei District

Situated near the vapor river, the Shinsei District is a serene and contemplative haven that embodies the balance between serenity and ambition. Its architecture is a blend of pagodas, curved rooftops, canals, and bridges, all illuminated by glowing lanterns that cast soft hues across the district. These lanterns are attuned to the emotional flow of the district, shifting color based on the prevailing emotions of its inhabitants.

The Shinsei District is known for its peaceful gardens, meditation sanctuaries, and walking paths that encourage introspection. Residents here value emotional discipline, striving for mastery over their inner states.

Yelistli District

Nestled on one of the city's plateaus, the Yelistli District is vibrant and full of life. The terraced stone buildings rise from the ground like ancient trees, covered in colorful murals that tell the district's story of connection to the natural world and the emotional realm.

Glowing vines cascade down the walls of the buildings, responding to the emotional state of the district's inhabitants. These vines pulsate with different shades and brightness depending on the collective mood, making the district a living organism connected to the emotions of its people.

Tijara District

Located near the heart of The Beacon, the Tijara District is a bustling hub of trade, and craftsmanship. The district's architecture is a testament to the people's ingenuity, with towering structures and intricate stonework that echo ancient traditions. Courtyards and bustling markets are the lifeblood of the district, where every corner hums with activity.

The people of Tijara live fast-paced, energetic lives, constantly moving from one trade deal or craft project to the next. Competition is fierce, but also considered a path to personal growth, as emotional strength is tested in the fires of ambition and trade.

Vellaney District

Situated in one of the quieter corners of The Beacon, the Vellaney District is a haven for creativity, emotional expression, and art. Its cobblestone streets wind between tall stone towers, where art and emotion are inseparable. Residents here channel their emotions into artistic endeavors, whether through painting, sculpture, poetry, or music.

The residents of Vellaney are artists at heart, seeing emotions as both an inspiration and a medium. Art and creativity are celebrated above all else, and the district is home to many of The

Beacon's greatest artists. Life here is slower, more introspective, and deeply focused on the emotional undercurrents that drive artistic expression.

Porviran District

Perched on the higher hills of The Beacon, the Porviran District is a place where warriors and scholars of emotional discipline reside. This district is dominated by military academies, sparring grounds, and training arenas where emotions are treated as both a weapon and a shield. The people here are known for their emotional resilience, strength, and mastery of emotional energy through combat.

Life in Porviran is one of discipline and rigor, where the emotional tides are constantly tested and controlled through the practice of martial arts and combat. Residents train daily in the art of emotional control, and many view emotion not as something to be suppressed, but rather as a force to be mastered.

Kai District

Situated on the edges of The Beacon near the vapor oceans, the Kai District is a vibrant community deeply connected to the emotional currents of the world. The residents of Kai are descendants of ancient seafarers and have maintained their connection to the seas of their ancestors, navigating the vapor oceans with ease.

Life in Kai is steeped in tradition and storytelling, with residents passing down the tales of their ancestors who once navigated the oceans of Kyumull. The people of Kai are trained from a young age to understand and navigate the emotional tides, and they serve as emotional guides and protectors for The Beacon.

Prominent Streets

The Lantern Path

A winding road of softly glowing lanterns that leads up to a quiet sanctuary where visitors can meditate and attune to their inner emotions. The lanterns shift in hue based on the emotions of those who walk beneath them.

The Painted Steps

A steep, terraced stairway that runs through the heart of Yelistli District, its walls adorned with colorful murals depicting ancient stories. The steps are alive with emotional energy, making each climb an exercise in emotional focus.

The Mirage Markets

A twisting network of markets where trade thrives. Stalls selling goods line the streets, and the air is filled with the hum of transactions.

The Crimson Avenue

A straight, disciplined road that leads to the Crimson Arena. Lined with flags, it serves as a rallying point for warriors and scholars preparing for combat or study.

Whisper Avenue

A narrow street where poets and artists gather, known for the faint whispers of past conversations carried on the currents. It is said that anyone who walks this street can feel the emotions of those who have passed through before.

Points of Interest

The Beacon University

The heart of the city and the original foundation upon which the rest of The Beacon was built. Scholars here study the nature of emotions and Aether, seeking to understand their influence across the Three Domains. The university also holds the most extensive archives of lost knowledge and ancient magic.

The Garden of Reflection

A serene, water-filled garden where residents and visitors alike come to meditate. It's known for its still pools that reflect not just one's image, but also their emotions, allowing for deep emotional insight.

The Sunken Bazaar

The Sunken Market is a vast bazaar where traders exchange rare artifacts, magical items, and emotionally charged goods. It's also a place where emotions themselves can be bartered, giving rise to rumors of powerful emotion-infused magic.

The Crimson Arena

A massive combat arena where warriors test their emotional and physical mettle in both solo and group battles. The arena is infused with Aether, amplifying the emotional stakes of every fight.

Kai Port

The launch point for expeditions into the unknown, Kai Port is often bustling with ships and adventurers preparing for journeys across the vapor seas.

Pour Decisions

A popular cafe located on the premises of The Beacon University.

Festivals

Festival of the Aether Lanterns

Held during the early spring, residents of the Shinsei district craft intricate paper lanterns infused with Aether and set them along canals and bridges. As the lanterns float, they reflect on personal intentions for the year. This festival is both celebratory and introspective, as people silently release worries, hopes, and ambitions.

Festival of Nature's Embrace

In mid-autumn, celebrating the harvest, the people of the Yelistili district honour their district's connection to nature and the flora of the Domain of Emotions. Residents create vibrant murals and decorate their homes with flowers and vines. Festival goers sing and dance around a grand Aether tree, which absorbs and amplifies the shared emotions, casting colourful, shifting hues.

The Grand Bazaar Festival

The Tijara district transforms in the early summer into a vast marketplace where traders from all over gather. The streets are lined with colourful stalls, tapestries, and artisanal goods. This

festival celebrates the district's rich culture of trade and craftsmanship. Festival-goers can witness parades with dancers and musicians, storytellers, and nightly lantern lit markets. At the peak, an auction of rare goods and relics takes place.

The Resonance Festival

Celebrating the art of emotional expression, residents of the Vellaney district celebrate the Resonance Festival in late spring. The district is filled with live performances, sculptures, and vibrant art displays, making it one of the most colourful, energetic, and emotional festivals in The Beacon. Outdoor art exhibitions, street musicians, poetry readings and dance performances can all be witnessed, before the festival closes with a large concert at the central fountain.

Festival of Flames

In mid winter, the Festival of Flames is held in the Porviran district. Honouring warriors and martial artists, this festival features feats of strength, displays of courage, and sparring competitions. Residents can participate or cheer on champions in public tournaments while flame-lit processions occur in the streets. The festival ends with a large bonfire.

Sea Spirits Festival

In late summer, this festival celebrates the Kai district's ancestral connection to the sea. Residents decorate boats and send them out into the vapor oceans, honouring their connection to the sea and their ancestral heritage. Throughout the day, there will be boat races, water-based games. The day ends with floating lanterns off into the vapor oceans.

Unity Festival

In mid summer, this city-wide celebration honours The Beacon's unity in diversity. Each district decorates a section of The Common Quarter in their own style, creating a mosaic of cultures and traditions. There are parades, dances, and food from each district. The day ends in a large feast where representatives from each district exchange gifts and stories.

Day of Stillness

In the mid-summer, this day is dedicated to emotional discipline. Residents refrain from speaking and partake in activities promoting inner peace and self reflection. Gardens, sanctuaries, and pagodas are filled with people in silent contemplation.

Day of the Ancestors

This solemn day in late winter, people of the Yelistli district honour their ancestors and reconnect with their heritage. Incense and flowers are placed on household altars and shrines, while ancestral stories are shared, culminating in a large communal feast.

Day of Resolve

On what would be the winter solstice in the Domain of Action, this holiday is one of introspection and setting goals. This day in the Tijara district is dedicated to self improvement and ambition. Workshops on Aether crafting are held in the main square. The community gathers to support each other's goals. Intentions are written on paper and then burned to release them to the Domain.

Day of Reflection

A solemn day where residents look back at their growth and accomplishments. The evening ends with a silent hour where everyone reflects on the past year and sets intentions for the new one.

Day of Discipline

In late summer, the people of the Porviran district spend the day honing their skills. Residents undergo physical challenges, spiritual practices, and mental exercises to strengthen themselves. It concludes with a communal meal where participants share stories of their personal growth.

Navigator's Day

In early spring, the people of the Kai district honour the navigators of past and present. Residents participate in navigational activities and learn the basics of emotional current reading.

Day of Remembrance

In winter, this solemn holiday is one where all districts come together to remember their ancestral exodus from Kyumull to the Domain of The Lost and their flight from the Slauch. On this day there are processions to the vapor rivers where residents release flowers or lanterns to honour those that lost their lives.

Notable People

Mori

Mori is the mysterious leader of The Beacon. She is wise but elusive, often retreating to the deeper parts of The Beacon University to meditate. Mori is both feared and revered, and few know the full extent of her powers or her history.

Elder Kintsura

A wise elder who guides the spiritual and emotional health of Shinsei District. Kintsura is an expert in the flow of Aether and has helped many residents find peace through their connection with the Domain of Emotions

Amir Alazar

Amir controls much of the trade that flows through Tijara, especially the sale of Aether-infused goods.

Alyx Valtaine

A celebrated artist whose work captures the essence of emotions. Her sculptures and paintings are infused with Aether, making them almost alive with emotional energy. She is known for her melancholic but powerful creations.

General Amaro

The general who oversees the training of warriors in Porviran District, Amaro is a master of emotional discipline. He is a strong, stoic figure who believes that emotions, when controlled, can be the greatest weapon of all.

History of The Beacon

Founding of Beacon University

The Beacon was originally established as a university by a group of scholars who ventured from other worlds through the Domain of Emotions. These scholars sought to study the flow of Aether and its relative ease of access on Kyumull. At the time, the university was an isolated institution—a place of learning and contemplation, free from the interference of societies beyond.

Long before the Domain of The Lost was stabilized, the scholars of the university dedicated themselves to understanding the unique connection between the abundance of Aether on Kyumull and how emotions and ideas could shape reality. They explored how Aether could be harnessed, molded, and used to influence thought, behaviour, and the very fabric of the Three Domains. Most of all they attempted to change the Aetheric Association to be used by any system of magic rather than particular systems.

The Fleeing of Kyumull's Survivors

Centuries later, as the Old Continent of Kyumull fell into ruin due to the rise of Darkness—a corrupting, entropic force known locally as The Slaugh—survivors fled across the planet, desperately seeking refuge. Some managed to escape into the Domain of Emotions, where the chaos of emotions made survival a challenge in itself. However, in their flight, these survivors unwittingly stabilized the wild, turbulent energies of the Domain of Emotions.

Their collective emotions—hope, fear, despair, and determination—created a resonance that coalesced into what is now known as the Domain of the Lost, or at one point, the Verdant Echo. This stabilized region of the Domain of Emotions allowed order and structure to emerge from the previous chaos. It allowed The Beacon to transform from an old university into the foundation for a new society.

The Transformation into a City

As the survivors from Kyumull settled around Beacon University, they began to bring their cultures, histories, and traditions into the city. The once-isolated institution became a hub of life,

expanding into a multi-district city that reflected the vast diversity of the Old Continents. Streets and districts grew out of necessity, with the groups of refugees contributing to the city's emotional and architectural landscape.

Overtime, the university expanded its role, becoming both an academic center and the heart of the growing city. It provided not just education, but a source of stability and guidance for the new inhabitants, many of whom had lost everything. The scholars of the university played a key role in helping the survivors adjust to life in the Domain of Emotions, teaching them how to master their own emotions to survive in this strange, new world.

The Beacon's transformation was marked by the blending of cultures from across Kyumull. Districts formed, each representing different facets of the lost world's people, from warriors to artists, merchants to spiritual leaders. The city's emotional and cultural diversity became its strength, and The Beacon emerged as a sanctuary for those who had fled the Slauch.

The Nexus of Stars and The Umbral Sovereign

The Nexus of Stars has long been under the control of the Umbral Sovereign, a mysterious and dangerous entity tied to the Slauch. Many wonder why the people of The Beacon, with their rich history and varied resources, have not risen up to reclaim the Nexus and potentially return to their homeworld of Kyumull. Several key factors contribute to this decision, each rooted in the history, emotions, and nature of the Domain of Emotions itself.

Trauma and Fear of the Slauch

The refugees who fled Kyumull carry deep trauma from their encounters with the Slauch, a relentless and malevolent force that has devastated their world. The mere thought of controlling the Umbral Sovereign, who is believed to be a powerful Slauch, brings back the terror of those dark times. This collective fear, heightened by the influence of the Domain of Emotions, paralyzes many with anxiety and dread, making a direct confrontation seem impossible.

The Domain of Emotion's Influence

The Domain of Emotions amplifies the emotional states of its inhabitants. The fear, uncertainty, and grief that the refugees brought with them are often heightened, causing hesitation and inaction. Though they stabilize the chaos of the Domain when they first arrived, the domain subtly warps their perceptions, making the idea of challenging the Umbral Sovereign seem far more daunting and impossible than it may truly be.

The Beacon's Isolationist Mindset

Over the centuries, the people of The Beacon have grown accustomed to their new lives. For many, the horrors of Kyumull are a distant memory, and their priorities have shifted to survival and prosperity within their current world. A strong isolationist sentiment has taken root, with many believing that the Nexus should remain untouched, a dangerous relic of their past.

The Umbral Sovereign's Manipulation

The Umbral Sovereign is not a passive ruler of the Nexus; it actively manipulates the emotional currents of the Domain of the Lost. By influencing the inhabitants and amplifying the fears of the people, the Sovereign ensures that no united front against it is formed. The Sovereign's ability to subtly bend the will of the people has kept the Nexus securely in its grasp, with only a few ever daring to openly challenge its rule.

The Role of the Nexus of Stars

The Nexus of stars is a delicate bridge between domains. Any attempt to wrest control from the Umbral Sovereign could destabilize the Nexus, potentially causing untold effects on the very fabric of the Domain of Emotions. Many fear that losing the Nexus could undo the hard-earned stability of the Domain of the Lost, plunging them back into a chaotic and dangerous existence. The risk of losing their home is simply too great.