

# WINTERSTEEL



<b>Name</b>	Wintersteel
<b>Allegiance</b>	Frostspear
<b>Colors</b>	Blue, Silver, Pale Gold
<b>Banner</b>	On a bright blue background, 8 elongated silver diamonds forming a snowflake shape with wisps of gold flame between each snowflake point
<b>Element</b>	Ice, Fire
<b>Trade</b>	Blacksmiths/Jewelers, Scholars
<b>Location</b>	Ice Citadel, Warfang City
<b>Atriarch</b>	Istellana
<b>Heir</b>	Froziris

<b>Founder</b>	Master Frozallis
<b>Founding Year</b>	Year 2989
<b>Living Members</b>	~30

Wintersteel is a small artisan clan maintaining a modest residence in Warfang City with a primary estate located in the Ice Citadel. Wintersteel specializes in the creation of boutique alloys using a proprietary recipe that requires the elements of ice and fire, as well as magic.

## History

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### Siblings and the Mine

Wintersteel's history humbly began in Cloudchill, and centered on two siblings who had recently come into possession of the deed for a local mine. Igniris had made an ill-advised decision to purchase the mine despite his sister Istella urging her brother to reconsider. Ignirus had experience as a blacksmith, apprenticing in his family's forge for decades, and had been tasked with taking over and ensuring the forge's continuation for yet another generation. Ignirus was determined to not only see the family business continue, but grow ever larger, and intended to do so using raw materials from the mine. He had deduced that controlling the source of their forging materials would allow them greater flexibility and a stronger bottom line, however his sister attempted to dissuade him from taking such a gamble to no avail.

Istella had not been very involved in the family forge, as an ice element she was not seen as useful, unlike her fire element brother, however they did allow her to pursue her dreams of magical education. After completing her education Istella had taken up work as a scholar, and was continuing to do so when Ignirus's gamble on the mine backfired. Things had seemed normal at the start, usable ore was mined and used in the forge, however after the initial veins ran dry the workers had to dig deeper. It was

soon discovered that there was no more desirable ore in the mine, instead brittle, hard to work, and ultimately undesirable ore was all that was left to be found.

As no ore was usable from the mine Ignirus had to bring in materials to keep the forge running, and for years they barely scraped by as their looming debts from the mine hung over their heads. Istella had shifted her focus to studying the useless ore from the mine, desperately hoping to find a solution to their family's woes, and had ultimately seen some success using magic to prepare the ore before it could be worked. Istella's studies were abruptly cut short however as Ignirus declared that she would be taking up work as a servant to help pay their growing debts, her protests fell on deaf ears as her brother informed her he was well within his right to do so as the head of the family.

Although work as a servant slowed down Istella's research she persevered in her off time, desperately praying that finding a solution would see her return to her life as a scholar. It would be years, as the family teetered on the brink of ruin, before Istella finally found the solution in the most unlikely of places, her 'useless' element. After magic preparation the ore required heating, shaping, and finally needed to be quickly frozen using a dragon's ice element leaving a final product that wasn't too brittle to be considered useful.

Bringing the news to her brother Istella agreed to share her knowledge and see the investment in the mine finally pay off, however it would come at a price. Ignirus would agree to name her the new head of the family after he led them astray with the ill advised purchase of the mine. With the terms accepted Istella had her brother help forge the first item using the newly named wintersteel, a collar, as a reminder of his new position.

### **Their First Master**

With a satisfactory solution discovered the family forge went on to see much more desirable margins, allowing them to pay off their debt before the end of the generation. Istella used her new position to ensure her most promising child was educated as she had been so she could pass on her knowledge about wintersteel to the next generation. The family continued on for multiple generations slowly improving their craft, until Istella's great granddaughter made an astonishing breakthrough in her

studies. For years the metals produced by the family had been too brittle to use for many applications, however that would change when Istellis discovered a new refinement to the forging process and was left with an output that was much more malleable and flexible. For her work Istellis was honored as a Master of Metallurgy, the first master for the family.

### **Expanding Their Operations**

Now capable of selling a much more vast array of items the family saw its profits soar, and after another generation of building their wealth they purchased a second, larger mine near the Ice Citadel after having nearly run the first dry. The composition of the ore from the new mine was a distinct improvement over the first, and the quality of the family's work also saw subsequent improvement. It was around this time that the family began to pair up fire and ice elements to make artisan teams with the intent of increasing efficiency and throughput. This was accompanied by a new family tradition: Forging collars for the fire members, just as their ancestors had years prior. A newfound emphasis was also placed on the artistic quality of each team's output, as the family began to reinforce its image as a purveyor of luxury goods. Corresponding with this change the family began to focus heavily on beautiful ceremonial armor as one of its primary products. As the size of the operation increased the family moved its primary forging operations to the ice citadel, closer to their new mine, and hired a sizable contingent to work said mines. Over the next few generations, the family was able to boast more titles of Master bestowed among their ranks for their knowledge, ability, and advancements with working metal.

### **Gaining Clanhood**

As another generation took over the business it was decided to try and market the wintersteel armor to members of the guard as a lighter, more luxurious option for the discerning dragon. Before this could be accomplished however improvements needed to be made to the forging process. The current ceremonial armor was unfit for use by the guard, it was not near robust enough, and increased durability of wintersteel was made a research priority. A young dragon by the name of Frozallis took on the task and dedicated every moment she wasn't working in the forge to the study of wintersteel, as well as experimentation with new techniques. After multiple decades she discovered a

breakthrough and increased the armor's durability without adding much additional weight.

With the new guard armor concepts in tow the family set out to further their goals. Each of the family members in the guard were outfitted with lighter wintersteel armor (within the limits of the guards regulations) as a form of advertising. The core of this new tactic hinged on the participation of Master Frozallis' sister, a commander in the guard, who sported a custom set of wintersteel armor. This new sales tactic was rather successful, and soon the family had more coin to reinvest into their research allowing for incremental improvements to be made to the designs over the following decades. To meet the new higher demand for wintersteel products the family expanded its mining and smithing operations yet again, building what would eventually become their modern forge. With the rising popularity of wintersteel armor in the guard contributing to wealth and reputation, the creation of boutique ceremonial armor and jewelry, countless jobs in their mines, and the many scholarly contributions of its past and present members, the family was granted clanhood alongside Frozallis attaining the title of Master of Metallurgy. The family took the name Wintersteel and Master Frozallis became the first Matriarch.

### **Post Clanhood**

As the clans first matriarch Master Frozallis had a daunting task in front of her, she needed to secure Wintersteels' place in clan society and continue to innovate their business or risk falling into obsolescence. One of her first initiatives as matriarch involved purifying the clan by creating separate pure fire and ice lines, and being selective about contract partners and unities. Frozallis' reasoning was two fold; First two purified lines would lend Wintersteel more legitimacy in their social circles as they had not aligned themselves with Scions Aether, secondly more pure elements led to better output thus improving wintersteel production and quality progressively over time. In the matriarchs eyes this act would address both needs at the same time.

The rest of the matriarch's time was largely dedicated to forming new alliances amongst the clans, training the next generation of artisans, and preparing the clan's heir, her daughter Istellana, to take her place as the next matriarch of Wintersteel. This would happen sooner than anyone could have anticipated as Master Frozallis began to

show signs of illness in 3010. She slowly declined over the following years before eventually passing away in 3014. She left the clan in the paws of its young heir, who was only 71 at the time.

As the new matriarch Istellana understood exactly what her mother had intended for Wintersteel, and has strived to carry her legacy forward. Her first decree as matriarch consigned new aqua and deep blue ice wielders to a life of servitude within the clan, their impurities deemed detrimental towards their goals, and barred current members with these elements from reproducing under most circumstances.

This move set the stage for the current events unfolding within Wintersteel, Matriarch Istellana finds herself struggling to establish her footing inside, and outside, of the clan due to her young age. Her decrees have created tension within the elders, one in particular feeling personally disrespected due to their element being declared unworthy within Wintersteel.

## Culture & Traditions

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Ice members learn/focus magic, fire members focus element and do not learn any magic

### Elemental Partners

For several generations now, there has been heavy importance placed upon the partnership between fire and ice partners within the family when it comes to the creation of wintersteel products. Such is the importance of this partnership that partners even breed at the same time so that their children will become each others' partners, and members who are unlucky enough to be born without a promised partner are given limited options for their future, which includes servitude if none of the other options suit them. Servants are treated well and still considered family, if not Clan members, they simply serve the family in other ways.

Partners should be born within a year of each other at best, though two years is permissible. Fire and ice children are chosen to become each others' partners from the time they hatch. From that moment they are raised together as close as siblings, with the ice partner being encouraged to take the lead and the fire partner taught to obey their ice partner. Only ice children are sent to the Temple for their education, but the ice partner is therefore expected to assist in tutoring their fire partner. Fire children are taught to tap into their creative sides, however, whereas their ice partners tend to focus more on practicality. Partners are raised to be two halves of a balanced whole, required to produce the best results in crafting wintersteel items. Indeed, without the partnership of ice and fire, wintersteel cannot be crafted at all.

Fire children who have no available ice partner in the required age range most often become servants, taking care of the domestic duties of the family, becoming caretakers, and often becoming household guards. They can, however, choose to pursue a career in the guard or the army if none of the servant roles suit them. They *may* be allowed to pursue the path of a scholar if they showed incredible aptitude during their homeschooling, but this is very rare for fire members. Choosing any other career path is not acceptable and is met with disownment.

Likewise for ice children who have no available fire partner in the correct age range, there are limited alternatives for careers. A common, if somewhat dismal sounding, saying within the Clan in such situations is 'scholar or collar'. Ice members without a partner are encouraged to pursue the path of the scholar, particularly surrounding magic, metallurgy, or element. If the path of the scholar is not for them, the most common secondary option is servitude, in which they will see to the domestic needs of the family, become caretakers, and sometimes personal assistants to other Clan members, especially those without a proper partner. Ice members without a partner may also choose to remain in the guard after their mandatory service.

### **Clan Elders & Atriarch**

Currently Wintersteel has only three elders, but each plays an important role of representation within the Clan. The first elder is a talented maker of wintersteel, the second is a partnerless ice dragon, giving the partnerless a voice in Clan matters, and the third is generally either the current or former Atriarch's fire partner, giving fire

members a voice in Clan matters, as the Atriarch's fire partner is one of the few fire members given a deeper education around politics. If the Clan manages to grow larger, it is expected that any further elders would be chosen from among the ice members who produce wintersteel.

The Clan favors Matriarchy in honor of Istella, though it would not be entirely out of the question for a male to inherit the position under the right circumstances. The Atriarch must always have a fire partner and work in the Clan's primary craft producing wintersteel.

### **Wintersteel Alloy Secrets**

While partners know much of the process required to make wintersteel, there are a few key secrets only known by a select few members of the Clan in order to ensure those secrets are not compromised. The current Atriarch of course knows every detail of the process, as does the wintersteel producing Clan elder. The secrets may be shared with the other two elders as well, depending upon their insistence to know. They have the right to know, should they wish. Besides these four members, there are a rare scattering of others who may be told under certain circumstances. The heir, after reaching at least 50 years of age and proving themselves worthy of the Atriarchy, will be told of these secrets. Any Masters of metallurgy may also be told, if the elders deem it proper to do so, particularly as one of them will likely become a Clan elder in time. It is unlikely any other members would ever be told.

## **Clan Traits & Features**

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**Elemental Markings:** Snow/hail markings for Ice members and lava/magma markings for fire members are common in the Clan, however these are not considered part of the Clan's traits and any sort of markings are possible.

**Frills:** Members are well known for their frills which mimic fur, which extend from the brow, down the back of the neck, and split above the wings, forming a 'fur collar' that



reaches the chest, causing the belly plates to split as well. The frills generally begin again behind the wings, following the spine down the tail, where they split again to form a fur-like plume at the end of the tail. Frills are often found on the wings, but are not considered a 'defect' if not present. Notably, both male and female fire members commonly sport frill 'beards', but the ice members generally lack this trait.

Ice: Bristle Frills

Fire: Fur Frills

**Horns:** Horns are generally smooth and shiny, giving them a metallic sort of look.

When it comes to color, Ice members have pale silver (can be green, blue or purple tinted and may rarely be white) and fire members can have bronze, copper, or gold (but can be very pale or lean into a rose gold color). There is a single horn that splits into two prongs near the base with each prong angled toward each other, with a frill connecting the two, giving the illusion of large ears.

Ice: Curved, Branched, Smooth

Fire: Curved, Branched, Semi-Smooth

**Plates:** Match the horns in color.

**Other:** Ice members are known to be quite short in stature, with an average height between 4.6 and 5 meters, and the tallest members rarely getting past 5.5 meters. Meanwhile fire members tend to be larger than average as they are bred for strength, and generally range between 5.5 to 6 meters. Wintersteel members are most commonly duochrome, with monochrome being fairly common on ice members and yellow and orange fire members, and trichrome dragons being rare overall.



## Elements & Variants

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Wintersteel is an ice-centric Clan, ice led and ice dominant, however due to their traditions they also have fire members. Since becoming a Clan, they are determined to take a path of purity,

Only blue, white, and purple ice variants are considered members of the Clan with a recent decision being made for any deep blue or aqua variants to be made servants. Only orange and blue fire are desirable, with most red and yellow fires being made into servants unless there is no better option to pair with an ice child. Ice variants are valued by their coldness factor, the colder the variant, the more desirable it is. Similarly, fire variants are valued for their heat factor.

They maintain a nearly equal ratio between ice and fire dragons, but consider themselves largely an ice Clan regardless, remaining firmly allied to Frostspear rather than switching their allegiance to Scions Aether.

## Trade

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Wintersteel became a Clan for their exceptional blacksmith work with their closely guarded proprietary cryogenic tempering technique which leads to their metal products having increased hardness and durability, making it extremely popular as armor. The process has a side effect of reducing the heat conductivity of the metal, making it cooler to the touch than other metals, and is how it got its nickname: Wintersteel, which the family took for its own name upon earning Clan status. Nearly all members of the Clan serve in the Guard for their mandatory service.

While heavy emphasis is placed on continuing the family trade, fire members who fail to perform to the Clan's standards are stripped of their Clan status and made into servants instead, with their Ice partner forced to find a new way to serve the Clan and prove their worth or risk joining their fire partner as a servant. These 'fallen' Ice members generally turn to being Scholars. Returning to service in the Guard with the intent to gain rank is also acceptable.

## **Reproduction & Eggs**

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Although the Wintersteel family began with elemental mixing, it has begun to seek to purify the family lines in recent generations. As such, the family will only do contracts with pure ice and pure fire families with at least five generations of documented purity. Since they cannot claim such purity themselves yet, this generally leads to Wintersteel keeping all eggs and paying for the service, and is one of several reasons they tend not to have many children. They will do contracts with mixed Clans if the other party keeps all eggs.

Since Wintersteel's preferred traits cannot be seen on their eggs, they wait until hatching day to claim children from contracts, should there be an agreement to split clutches. Wintersteel will claim children with their ear-like horns and their 'fur collar'.

## **Notable Members**

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## Family Tree

### Family Tree Key:

**M/P/A** before name - (M/P)Atriarch (current or former)

**H** before name - current Heir

**E** before name - current Clan Elder

**(number)** after name - clutch they were born from

Black lined child - considered part of the Clan

Gray lined child - not considered part of the Clan

Bold lined mate - unified

Dash lined mate - reproductive contract

**Scholar Istella** (former family head, *deceased*)

**Master Istellis** (great granddaughter of Istella, *deceased*)

**Master Frozallis** (first Matriarch, *deceased*)

**Istellana** (current Matriarch)

**Froziris** (current Heir)

**Marallis** (Heir's clutchmate)

## Status

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*This clan is invite only.*

## Trivia

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- “Scholar or Collar” is a threat to ice members who have failed to guide their fire partner properly, to where their partner is made a servant and the ice member must prove their worth to the Clan as a notable scholar or risk losing Clan status as well

## **Credit**

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Clan by Poppy & Zen  
Banner by Zen

## **Gallery**

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