# Estraude side 101!!

## <u>Delverne summary</u> - <u>Estraude summary</u> - <u>Reluir summary</u> - <u>Song-Lu summary</u>

AKA Estrans fourth wall gaze at the Consuls wondering what they are doing half the time while also just vibing. What are you doing

Use Outline to jump to different Headers Last updated: April 1, 2025

# Important Links for Estraude blazin

Estraude | Society | Religions | Estran Church | Notable Estrans [old] | [dA] Estran Citizens [roster]

## Guild: Circle of the Wreath

The Circle is Alva's preeminent healer guild. Based in Estraude, where they conduct healing and research, their interests however span much further - the Circle will come to the aid of any nation suffering through war, disaster, or disease. With branches in many cities, anyone can join if they are willing to dedicate their time to travel and help those in need - without prejudice.

## 2015

8291 Estraude was VIBIN. (idr what the muns were doing).

- High Treason: Who are you knifing here, Consul Akiela? How sussy
- post-Mutiny: But what are you talking about with the Relan Queen, Akiela? What're you doing, Ayaylok?

# 8291 August - Reign of Fools

"In peaceful Estraude, local councils are hives of activity as the city gears up for the periodic dissolution their government. In memory of an insurgency by the lower classes many years ago, the government disbands and renews after a week lovingly called the Reign of Fools..."

- Lots of happy charity and overfeeding each other going on!
- But Akiela is quietly arrested by the Songluan Peacekeepers, and she goes willingly...

# 2016

# 8292 January - Emerald Masquerade

- With Consul Akiela's alarming disappearance last year, <u>Aalok Dalal</u> is appointed the new Consul to oversee the government's REVAMP v2.4576. Laws & treaties are revised & voided, Estraude becoming Neutral.
- Estraude hosted a **masquerade ball** for all political leaders to discuss matters in a temporary ceasefire. Kingdom, Empire, and even Delverne and Reluir show up!
  - So politics
  - Look at all these politics
  - How many politics are there ohhh ma gaw
  - There was even a politicky game, these guys never rest
  - Aalok is vour memory ok?????

Meanwhile Sigmund shoko adventures to meet relan princess Lorna

- By the end, Estraude State as a nation remains Neutral, and no peace treaties were cemented.

# April - Seventh Yazgur

- Things aren't looking too hot over in Tusa for Yazgur Nasrin Paria... uh oh!

# July - Midsummer

- Tusa decides to have a REVOLUTION. Nasrin is stripped of her title and thrown in prison, and **Shirin Khilen**, the face of the revolution, takes hold to make a new government. Bye Koben!!

## 8292 October - New Enemies

- **Estraude lends naval aid to ladiain** to protect its borders and shores from both Relans and aggravated Wispwood spookies, after Reluir's attack [Possession] upon the human region. We're such bros, right?

# 8292 December - Daggers in the Dark, And Night Did Fall

- The Songluan Peacekeepers' investigation of a year before, has finally led to a confession...
  - Consul Akiela murdered Koben's Crown Prince, Fabian, before the 8290 peace talks in Song-Lu.
  - 'a deliberate move she made in order to end the peace talks that could have allowed dark elves into the Kingdom'?



Without consulting Estraude, **Koben executes Akiela**, and all over Koben and even in the kingdom, wood elves face violence and attacks upon their churches by empire patriots. Happy New Year...

## 2017

- January Aalok goes to Koben to retrieve Akiela's body.....
  - Estraude will continue to protect ladlain's shores from Reluir (also hi runaway princess Lorna)
- February The Alden Accord is signed at Schiltenbrandt estate, aka peace treaty with the Empire. Cool.
  - You know what's cooler (at night) but also HOTTER? TUSA BUSINESS.

## 8293 Mar - Southern Federation

- **Estraude** was like F YOU! Koben (in spirit–jk. im jk) And **Tusa** had been F YOU! Koben for a long time, so they decided to hold hands together and that is how the **Southern Federation** came to be.
- With joint leadership, but also retaining each country's autonomy, they're like the hot, humid new world power of fabulous textiles and HELLA culture. Yeah booming trade all the way!!! Party hardy!

- Nasrin, as part of the federation agreement, is released and transferred to be Heneral of the Estran Army.
   Good thing she showed to the masquerade all dripped out in subtle messaging, right!
- The Circle of the Wreath isn't particularly fond of the Chamber of Aediles' military stuff tho. alas.

# 8293 April-May - Reefsong, Deadlock

- The Whistling Reef around these parts of Linhythe have been doing some spoopy singing lately...



- Weird. Anyway! poor little <u>Whelcliffe</u> by the reef - known in Tusa by its original name, **Orgos** – was suffering under economic pressures (aka taxes), disease, famine, and geographic isolation in these times.



- With Orgos being a former Tusar province 200ish years ago, the Southern Federation requested to send aid because Linhythe and the Empire were neglectful babysitters
- So they **DO** and Koben's like **WHAT** at the SF armed forces coming alongside, but eventually relents!!
- Fast forward a short time, and the Southern Federation folks were so efficient in their relief effort and governmental managing of Whelcliffe, that it resembled... a **takeover?** are we actually suspect. I'd believe it



"Move!" "No, you move!!"

- The Empire contingent sent to relieve the SFers & investigate the corrupt Linhian governing here are shooketh, and neither side budges on letting go of Whelcliffe to the other, for their own reasons!
- As expected, CONFLICT ensues; the peace treaty between the Empire and the Southern Federation is broken. That only took like, 2 months or something. Koben you're not very good at making & keeping friends are u.

# 8293 May - Deal with Devils

"In the wake of the Whelcliffe debacle, Alva is buzzing with rumours and fear. The world order is rapidly changing.

The Federation has broken its peace with Koben for reasons it deems moral. Their annexation of southern Linhythe is seen as an act of liberation, and they hold to their commitment to help those in need at any cost. (...)"

# 8293 Aug - <u>Unravelling</u>, after <u>Ambition</u>

- Aftermath of Tharoneos' demise, and Reluir's summoned colossus. **virether magic stuffs goes crazy** and forests and plants Go Nuts, supersizing or overripening etc. in the west, while **hibernating or chilling out** on the east.
  - A gigantic white tree towers from Soloros and the leywoods. Woh...
  - Meanwhile, from Mr. Spooks, icy wraiths continue crawling out of the Reluir-ladlain ravine. Wah...
  - Estraude continues to get chummier with the Miras Kingdom!

# 8293 Oct~Dec - Shatter, Cut and Cauterise

- Miras has a civil split! Estraude remains allied to King Silvan of West Miras.
- **Prince Sigmund is kidnapped** by pirates in the Empire... but with joint efforts and anime plans of Empire and East Miras, the royal heirs are rescued and perpetrators caught.
- The **Schiltenbrandts' treason** against the Crown comes to light; with it, the confession that the <u>Marquess</u>
  of Alden also facilitated **Fabian's assassination in Song-Lu at Akiela's hand.**

# 2017 Estran Magical Trinkets [thread]

"A vast trove of <u>magical gems</u> known as **vierne** has been unearthed in Estran lands and a trade deal for them is successfully secured with West Miras, opening shipping lines and business opportunities between the two nations."



[jump to Vierne Crystals uncovered lore at bottom]

2018

## 8294 - Year of Coins

"Estraude enters a cautious period of preparation, while the Consul and the Chamber of Aediles continue to argue over whether Estraude should reign its actions and remain true to its pacifist ideals, or prepare for what may be troubling waters. (...)

Outside of politics, Estraude enjoys an influx of wealth due to its trade agreement with West Miras, allowing its merchants and artisans flourish with the new international clientele. A new fund bolsters the the Circle of the Wreath's Central quarters and the Church College, allowing their research efforts to grow and dive deeper than they were ever able to before. (...)"

## 8294 March - Pera'Lan

- Wahoo festival dedicated to Mareus!! South Feds party hardy in both Estran and Tusar manners.
- It ends upon the **Day of Mourning**, so of course member arts honed in on the angsty bit of the prompt

## Distress Call

• In the Crescent Shield mountain range, a landslide rescue that Karan was on has uncovered a deep cave system housing a strange symbol upon its walls, and mysterious weakening airs...

# 8294 April - World's Wrath; May-June Waking Spirits

- Between kingdom and empire coasts, a **new landform suddenly rises up from the sea** the <u>Citadel</u> of <u>Crowns</u>! Meanwhile, **Nisalvini** decides to become Atlantis. Oh no
  - Estraude, wanting a piece of that action too, rushes to **lend aid to Nisalvini** because they are **bros with West Miras**. And that's what bros do.
  - A few islands of the new Citadel landform also fall into the Southern Federation's hands.
  - What are u discussing with Tor'ang, Aalok? can you share with the class



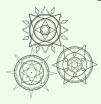
- Afterwards, a mist descends upon all alva, and...The <u>race</u> of <u>Oriads</u> appears on Alva. Why? Who knows. Their bodies are made of stuff like trees, water, sunsets, etc. they have no memories, but are receptive and quick to learn. Many integrate into society if not ded'ed. But ppl in Estraude wouldn't ded'd these lovely nature people!!

#### First Oriad-wise.

- Estraude has its own totally cool little coconut man, ORYAD. I hope he has learned some ABC's by now
- Tusa has a fabulous person-shaped sunset, Adhara Atria Nashira! Hope she's still winning her name game

## **Scattered Scriptures**

- **Kamlai** joins a search party for a scholar named **Herman** who'd gone missing that morning swept away by rainy rivers! Apparently, his research is invaluable to the college & government.
- As it turns out, <u>said research</u>, <u>penned by an **Inq**. **Vide**, spoke of that concerning the mysterious caves discovered several months earlier [Distress Call].</u>
- With sigils, seals, and translations, the notes detail on dangerous experimental rituals and mythical figures...



"The dominant theory is that the symbol is for worship, and indicates a <u>lost sixth god</u> called **Irana**. It is thought that Irana may be connected to local legends of a traitor god sealed within the **God's Coffin Trench**. Alternate readings for the symbol connect it to an **unknown 'silent one'** and the mythical **pauper queen** character, a tragic figure who was struck down by enemy gods and their warriors of 'dawn' and 'dusk'."

# 8294 July-Aug - Playing Gods

- Delverne and Reluir are having fun with the whole Aurea blaze it awakening on west continent, And Red Torc REVOLUTION!!! led by Princess Lorna against Queen Momster on east continent.
- The Southern Federation agrees to support the Torc rebellion! All of Lorna's Politics talk paid off for her, eh
- With dark elven troops from Tusa, and the Estran navy along the shores, (& <u>Aalok's meddling alongside Aurea's Apostle?</u>) ladlain's **Count Cassair** is (<u>iointly</u> and <u>underhandedly</u>) <u>deposed</u>, and the <u>new Count</u> opens ladlain up for the Federation.
- And then politics was thrown out of the window when dearest Queen Momster & co. summoned **Mr. Spooks** again, stepped on Reluir like egg, & stirred up the Wispwood monsters like lil kids on a sugar high frenzy. Hi Not-Cass



- South Fed hightails it out of monster-massacred ladlain because whoa nelly . not our division
- Aalok & co. skedaddle back to safer shores, but with... a present?



Fig. 2A. The Consul hands the ladlish-made Earasath poison to a trigger happy King Silvan.



# 8294 Oct-Dec - War of Ancients

- On either ends of Alva, the coalescing forms of Aurea and Atros consolidate...



- Strange changes come over the world, like <u>Blossoming</u> for elves. Woodies gain earthy green patches
- a bunch of folk have **weird dreams** . god-favoured stuff!

- those with light or dark blood hear their mama/papa god ! Anyone that heeds the divine call and touches mam/pap can Ascend and forget everything, to become your angle or your devil
- the twin gods take their armies and kids to duke it out at the **Citadel of Crowns...**Other parts of Alva agree together to seek a way to stop the destructive warring gods. **What better than another god?**
- So Meanwhile for South Federation,
- airships and flight units are sent to search their airspaces and the sky above Orgos for traces of Iridus.

(spoiler alert. Orgos got wind-blasted when Iridus was found. Bye.....)

- In Estraude, a small expedition team is formed to explore Irana's Caves (aka Viyanaru Caves).
- Is finding this mysterious fire god necessary? Maybe not, but folks are trying anything to stop an impending apocalypse, right?



#### Quest for the Sixth

"The quest for The Sixth, the supposedly lost fire god, begins on the 16th Rains in Song-Lu and Estraude.

New information from Telurea suggests the existence of a fire god (...) In Estraude the news from Silvan brings attention to newly discovered Irana, and her tantalising connection to Hiresh."



- Explorers descend into **Viyanaru** with a variety of remedies & protective charms to stave off the dizzying aura, with frequent trips back to the surface as physically necessary. Inside, they find a room network...
  - Coming across a **locked room** among them, the explorers manage to **open the seal** only to be **instantly KO**'d as overwhelming, nauseating magic poured out from the door. Whoopsies!
- atros bitchslapped aurea as the citadel battle began and caused a worldwide timeskip

# [in-verse divine time skip from october 8294 to april, 8295]

Irl hiatus for 2019, and alvan dates no longer align with IRL TIMELINE of events post-skip for sanity



# 8295 April/May - Beginning of the End (2020)

- Living people aren't affected by timeskip aside from a bit of HUH?!



and occasional blacking out



- Except with Irana explorers already KO'd from magic, they kinda were just

instead as moss grew on em

- They don't rouse in the waking world— but in dreams, they wake in a mystery mangrove after <u>funky</u> <u>visions!</u>
  - <u>Archaic Machinations</u> (for non-wood elves, probably)
  - Ancient Whispers (for those with wood elf blud, probably)
  - Echoes Within (for coconut dad Oryad)



- Spending days in this strange, otherworldly mirror of a mangrove, the explorers are unable to use magic, & are followed by slenderman presences in the trees. They find ruins like Olde Tablets and Tools, faded crystals, a language they can't read, etc. so much to nerd over but also help scoob we dyin
- They met some Lost Strangers as well... who were starting to look like the scenery, & could use a touch of magic!

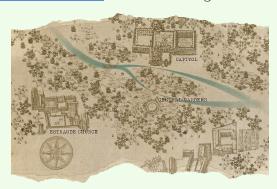


- And then <u>Aalok saves the day</u> via koolaid busting in thru the walls of his **own summoning plane**, as the mysterious mangrove turned out to be with the aid of **Vierne crystals** and a lot of GUTS. ty aalok u da best
- The lost explorers' **physical bodies** had been recovered from the Irana Caves, which are now flooded with the weird ether and vanishes those who come too close in **blue flames**...
- Aalok couldn't retrieve the strangers the team had met, though, as their bodies weren't present like the explorers'.

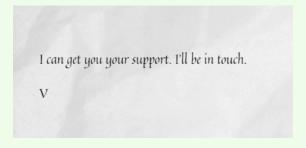
And now this becomes a **Missing Persons case**, including the **Apostle of Therras, Lupuna,** herself.

- Also <u>Aalok your memory is definitely Not ok</u> er??? What has **Triss** done to you!! :concern:
- Meanwhile, deep in the Sirmante rainforest, Aurea ascended <u>Carine</u> searches for <u>a part of her goddess that fell here...</u>

# 8295 May - Sin and Sacrifice (2021-22) Part 6, Missing Pieces



- No fire god was found, but lots of stuff to sort out in overgrown Estraude!
  - folks are stationed to watch the mysterious ether pouring out from the Viyanaru Caves,
  - study the other realm artefacts the explorers brought back with the Noitheque resources,
  - and investigate the noted disappearances of Alana and Faris, the lost strangers encountered,
    - o as well as Lupuna, the missing Therras Apostle.



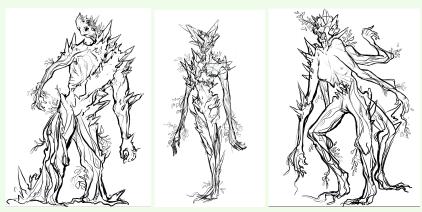
- Turns out it is Murder Mystery (and Politics). Some folks rly didn't want Aalok as Consul ...
  - his own bodyguard Rakhani had personal motives to be swayed...
  - his rival Kasem Lamar didn't seem to know or be able to handle what he'd gotten into with this Vide...
  - the mysterious Inquisitor Vide (not actually an inquisitor, more Ishaan the eyepatched barkeep-), who'd
    continued taboo experimenting in sekret, led unknowing Alana & Faris into his rituals (to tragic results).
  - Lupuna was murdered as a witness by chance, when she sought to investigate the screams.

# Yikes!

- Doubly yikes when searching for a now-missing **Aalok** and **Seo** runs folks into the **battered depths of the Noitheque**, to see **Vide/Ishaan** waiting for them with a <u>freaky crystally humanoid monster</u>!
  - What happened to your face sir
  - Triply yikes when in the ensuing battle, he's taken out like, super hard (is he dead. Is h
  - Seo and Aalok are recovered, if injured...

But in true layered villain plan, stuff gets worse anyway, and **portals open all over Estraude in any reflective surface**... for zombie apocalypse possessing flavour, feat. plants and crystals!

- And mildly less zombie, because some ensuing possessions & transformations can be reversed. Whew



How did we get here from parties and politics in the early years (sticks fingers in pie too deep) oh I see

- Estrans have a safehold in the Church College, and must embark on sealing said portals!
- The portals are powered by the other-ether now prevalent in Estraude, and on artefacts brought back from the other realm.
- Luckily they have Jenni's® nullifying doodad (AKA an arcane interlocked ether suppressor)
  - A tool to seal the ether that those who can't perform sagecraft or summoning can use!
  - All you need to do is place them around the artefact or portal and trigger it.

# 8295 July - October - Happily Ever After; Path of Beasts

## April - Good News Story

- Empress Renata of Koben, recently crowned in wake of Prince Sigmund's 'suicide' (Coronation), addresses the recent apocalyptic events as a result of Artur's and Reluir's machiavellian machinations.
- She and the South Federation have totally cleaned that mess up now, though! Yay!! We're great friends!

# October - Path of Beasts Festival

- The recent events about the crystal monsters, portals, and politics have now been quickly and discreetly **silenced**, so normality returns to Estraude. An auspicious festival and pilgrimage that happens once every ten years is celebrated.
  - Estraude's sacred animals
  - discord rp: <u>Boat race</u>

Meanwhile, <u>Guen</u> and her crew, searching for the missing princess <u>Marise</u>, find themselves in Estraude.

- Their search brings them to discover the shadow of one of **Atros' Generals** — <u>Luter</u> — left deep within the Sirmante rainforest after its battle with Aurea ascended <u>Carine</u>.

8295 July - December - <u>Enigma</u>		

# Viyanaru Lore

# The Lost and the Found: Noitheque Office | Assets

pepes in one braincell . wheeze

## Precursor Nation: Viernir

From one historian's research.

- the precursors were the unified nations of Viernir, the founding nation of Estraude
- Viernir was older than the Golden Age, and the Dark Era preceding
- Perhaps it had even risen and fallen **before the Faldor Empire** ever began!

Viernir was a complex nation of magic and commerce, held together by a strong (yet occasionally strained) promise of unity in the nation quartet, & **strictly elven**.

- But it is widely accepted history that Estraude was long first settled by humans, while wood elves were nomadic...

[ chants in fae era fae era. maybe ]



Old map with words [ Artefact 2 ]

The map found in the other realm resembles that of Estraude [alva map], but dated to an ancient past.

- 1. [Quatrefoil] Ula'iko People of Unity, first nation settled in Estraude, of the Central River
  - A vital **central** piece for the Viernir nation, as lifeblood of trade, artisans, diplomats and peacekeepers.
- 2. [Crescents] Isrentei People of Dusk, second settlers of Viernir from the West continent
- 3. [Star] Viyanaru People of Dreams(?), third settlers in the Northern mountains
  - The 'diamond' may be more like a star, to match the other celestial symbols
    - "She recalls the stories the explorers had shared, their dreams of starlight whilst in the former lands of Viyanaru. Maybe... Viyanaru were the people of dreams?"
- 4. [Sun] Asthari People of Dawn, fourth settlers from the East continent
  - This is all rather flipped from our understanding of where light elves (sun) and dark elves (moon) hail from in current times (but aligns with sun rising east, etc.). Whether isrentei & asthari might've represented those same races' ancestors... idk!

# Viyanaru

The symbol found in Irana's Caves (Viyanaru Caves) is the same as Artefact 1 coin's symbol for Viyanaru.

- It seems to be the northern nation's symbol as a whole.
- Which is probably obvious but yknow, being called Irana's symbol previously and all



Possible translations from [Scattered Scriptures]

Viyanaru

Crypt of the Silent One,
or Throne of the Queen

Viyirana Guardians of Irana

- The name of the city

Religious guardians of a divine figure, or a queen, etc.?

- There is little historical information written about Viyanaru itself, but Viyanaru (and **only Viyanaru**, of the precursors) seems to creep up again and again with eons of silence between mentions.
  - Explorers have ventured into the caves before, and exhibited similar twisted, crystal growths as what is currently happening in Estraude's portal apocalypse.

In the twilight years of the precursor nations,

- **Viyanaru** slowly encroached on **Ula'iko** through political manoeuvres, favourable trade agreements and eventual marriage of ruling families at a rapid crescendo of politics.

The ruler of Viyanaru merged the two nations together, consolidating her power in the heart of Viyanaru.

- However, tensions grew between the remaining nations, due to the shifts in power.
- 'With **Ula'iko** no longer playing peacemaker, war consumed **Viyanaru, Isrentei and Asthari**, ravaging the land to such a degree that the precursor nations succumbed and slipped from the records.'

# Language [from artefact 3]

A book penned by scholar Lysannir refers to an old forgotten language used by **a nation of prophets and inventors**, scholar Lysannir refers to it as the 'language of prophets'.

The author describes the language's characters and semantics similar to the writing found in the other realm.

- The nation used **two languages**:
  - **Lingua franca** (day-to-day, communication with surrounding nations)
  - Language of prophets (spiritual & legal matters, carved into permanent, enduring materials)
- Language of prophets reads top to bottom (the lingua franca opposite?), and easier to figure out due to its records.
  - **Viyanaru** uses the language of prophets

# Vierne crystals

**Vierne crystals** were <u>discovered and commodified</u> several years ago in Estraude.

- Vierne in its unrefined state is incredibly **powerful but unstable**.
- Only through a long, intense refinement process and careful quality checking were they deemed safe for public use.
- The otherworld crystals perhaps came from the same source as the Vierne gems.
- Using the **estran spyglass** of vierne on the artefacts from the **other realm** tend to have a peculiar, enrapturing effect with how intense the ether seems to swathe the artefacts.

#### Meanwhile,

- The **ether** that emanates from the Viyanaru caves and similar rituals starts to **stabilise and become similar to that of the background energy around Estraude**.
- Whatever this ether is, it leaves an impression of itself on whatever is in close contact with it.
- These spikes of ether must come from purposeful magic use or a high concentration of the source.
- The otherworld crystal and the vierne sharing many qualities seems like Estraude may have accidentally manufactured the influx of strange ether.
  - The crystally-planty monsties from the portals seem particular keen on the artefacts because of this ether...

# Ether sealing and the portals

- With the ambient ether from the other realm becoming prevalent in Estraude, this **other-ether powers the portals to the other realm** that were torn open by (possessed) Aalok.
- The viyanaru artefacts carried over also carry the other-ether signatures, due to the time they've spent in that other realm. They, too, act as ether sources for the portals. **Sealing** the artefacts solves this.
- Closing the portals in Estraude requires summoning magic and sealing artefacts.

#### Jenni's® nullifying doodad (officially known as an arcane interlocked ether suppressor)

- A tool to seal the ether that those who can't perform sagecraft or summoning can use!
- All you need to do is place them around the artefact or portal and trigger it.

# Irana Visions

Centermost differing parts, perhaps referring to a similar case of the Pauper Queen extracts? **Oryad**'s **Echoes Within** obviously has the most differences throughout all of his entire visions!

Pepes a little but Is Risha one of the children in his visions? Is Risha's story about the other realm business?

#### **Archaic Machinations**

The world blinks into darkness before a muffled roar of thunder startles you. The raging storm outside is so loud for being so distant, and for once you welcome being so far underground. You turn to look across the familiar golden courtyard, the paint still fresh on the walls and all six statues unbroken. Figures caped in starlight rush in a panic between rooms, their voices straining over the noise, each carrying boxes filled with food and supplies. You step between the flurry of people towards the grand doors that now stand wide open, flooding intense blue light into the room. But your path is blocked by the crowd piling out with books, scrolls and other strange gadgets.

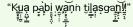
So you stand to the side as the room empties, until only six cloaked figures are left at its entrance. Radiant shards of crystal hang from their necks. They close the door and a low, resonating chant echoes through the courtyard. You watch as blood is spilled to draw elaborate seals across the ground and door, and magic glimmers intricately with every stroke and word. A deep thud abruptly silences the room. The seals carve themselves into the rock as the magic takes effect, closing the door to all.

Encroaching shouts and screams eventually break the stillness and you turn to look towards the cave entrance. Firelight glints as a mass of people charge through the cavern towards you. The six look at each other and nod, casting one last glance at the door before drawing their weapons and sluggishly taking a defensive stance. Within moments you are surrounded by people woven from light and greenery, leaves and branches twisted into their limbs. They fight to get to the cloaked six, roaring and slashing as if their entire beings depend on this. You lose yourself within the mass of bodies, dodging between enraged fighters and desperate defenders, and clamp your eyes shut as the cacophony of screams rises unbearably.

#### **Ancient Whispers**

The world blinks into darkness. You hear the sound now of running through thick underbrush, the splatter of mud and puddles, the laboured breaths of effort and desperation. A flash of lightning dances across the air, granting you sight. You are the runner, sprinting through familiar rainforests; the trees tower over you, ferns and vines tangle your feet, the scent of ozone and earth fills your nose. Moments later the roaring crash of thunder rings through your skull. The hair on the back of your neck stands on end, your stomach twisting in knots. You've learnt of something horrifying. Something that should never have happened. A truth that must be eradicated, to protect your people - to protect life itself.

Your pace slows as the trees part to reveal the entrance to a large cave, one that you had ventured into in another life with other friends. However in this life you see carved columns, arches and buildings that crowd the centre of the entrance, soaked cloth flapping sluggishly in the storm winds, oil lamps struggling to keep themselves alight in the rain. In the quiet moments between thunder crashes, you hear the tense and concerned shouts of people, a crowd of people made up of stars and nature surrounding a figure caped in pure startight. The shouting continues to grow as thunder rolls overhead, weapons are drawn as a fervour spreads, and the caped one calls out before turning towards the dark depths below.



# **Echoes Within**

The world blinks into darkness. You hear the sound now of running through thick underbrush, the splatter of mud and puddles, the laboured breaths of effort and desperation. A flash of lightning dances across the air, granting you sight. You see a being made of stars and vines sprinting through familiar rainforests, the trees towering over them, ferns and vines tangling at their feet, the scent of ozone and earth filling the air. Moments later the roaring crash of thunder rings through the canopy. The fear painted across their face causes the hair on the back of your neck to stand on end, and your stomach twists into knots. You realise they've learnt of

something horrifying. Something that should never have happened. A truth that must be eradicated, to protect their people - to protect life itself.

Their pace slows as the trees part to reveal the entrance to a large cave, one that you had ventured into in another life with other friends. However in this life you see carved columns, arches and buildings that crowd the centre of the entrance, soaked cloth flapping sluggishly in the storm winds, oil lamps struggling to keep themselves alight in the rain. In the quiet moments between thunder crashes, you find yourself in front of a crowd of tense and angry people, all made up of stars and nature just like the runner before. The shouting continues to grow as thunder rolls overhead, weapons are drawn as a fervour spreads through the crowd, and just before it feels like it will boil over you finally call out and turn towards the dark depths below.

"The	evil	must	end!"

## Oryad's Memory Shards [dA app]

#### From the War of Ancients event [link]

Of all the things people have taught him so far, one sticks in Oryad's mind like nothing else - the story of <u>Eyren and her adventures</u>. Along with the fascination, a seed of dissatisfaction lodges in the back of his mind - for some reason, he's sure this is not how the story is supposed to be told.

When word reaches him of mysterious caves and a fire god tied to one of Eyren's treasures, an idea takes root in him. Perhaps if he embarks on his own adventure to find her treasures, he can uncover the true story.

#### Memory Shard 1 [link]

His skill in accidentally setting things on fire quickly banishes Oryad from the library and thus all the mysteries within it. While his friends chase questions and knowledge, he is left to wander in the least flammable places - one being, naturally, the kitchen. Soon enough he is roped into helping street vendors and charity kitchens with their roasting needs, and it feels almost as if he has found his calling... until one day, as he is watching a new cook prepare a dish very wrongly, he is struck with an overwhelming urge to correct her.

Before he knows it, he's helpfully recited every single measurement in the proper recipe, and when she reacts with an indignant 'well, let's see *you* do it then', he does exactly that - he prepares the dish with perfect precision. His hands are nimble on the ingredients and he remembers every step with crystal clarity. Oryad isn't just good at stoking ovens - he is a master of cooking and recipes.

( oriad memories doc )

## Pauper Queen

## Extract from 'The Tale of the Pauper Queen' [ Herman's notes ]

"Enemies surrounded her people, men and women of truth. She knew their fate was sealed. The Pauper Queen retreated further into the city of Stone, with their walls of ochre and golden light. It was the heart of

her kingdom and the very last piece that remained free. The banners of her foes drew closer, the followers of dawn and the zealots of dusk, driven to madness by their ever raging masters.

A silence lingered over the defenceless city. Each and every godly gift declined by the Pauper Queen, the vault lay empty and penniless. There was nothing to protect, and nothing to save them. Instead, all waited with bated breath. Finally, a prayer to their mother broke the stillness. One by one they stood proudly against the beasts that snorted and snapped. An end brought by the merciless weapons of the gods."

• The followers of Dusk and Dawn may be referring to the **Isrentei** and the **Asthari**.

[Second extract from Seo's recall]

'The news of the betrayal sent the pieces of her puzzle into unreachable depths. The pauper queen's reign was coming to an end with her crowned as the fool. Mourning the loss and betrayal of a friend, one she considered kin, a dreamer like her, the queen fled into the inner sanctum. The doors locked with a loud thud! She stood alone in the pale blue lights staring up towards her, their mother, and begged for clarity, for a way to serve her and overcome this treachery.

For three days and three nights, the pauper queen paced the most sacred shrine of her goddess, dappled by the azure flame that flickered within the goddess' hands. On the last night a sickness overcame the queen, an insanity, a vision, a dream.

She reached up towards the azure flames, reaching for the gift that the goddess held. Her fingertips reached into the ethereal flame and a sudden flash of gold spread like wildfire through the room. Crimson and gold flames snaked up both the goddess and the pauper queen, burning brighter and hotter than the stars and sun combined. The flames swallowed the room in red, bathing the queen in a fiery nightmare and sundering the goddess with a ravenous hunger.

The pauper queen woke with a start, her most humble servant by her side pouring water over her feverish head. A plan to save her people, and to serve her goddess, revealed itself to her as crystal clear as the cool waters that filled their cups.'

[Citadel Treasure that may resemble...?]

#### Sceptre of the Lost Queen

One was a crown of rust, and its room was full of ash. It held the shadows of past opulence but now was naught but scars and ghosts. In the centre stood a throne of bare sandstone, stripped of its adornments, and the crumbling figure of a lost queen sat within it.

Wrapped in her hands was a glittering sceptre with a fiery halo. Wherever it touched, the queen's skin shone again like newly forged gold. Eyren looked upon the Sceptre of the Lost Queen and all the past kingdoms it could return to her, and she said: "No."

<u>Delverne summary</u> - <u>Estraude summary</u> - Reluir summary <u>Song-Lu summary</u>

# Estran lore-digging

Copypasted posts mostly whole or relevant parts; elaborations to the summaries above & yet unexplored aspects (eg. Risha). Past this point is optional non-summarised (save for perhaps [Artefact 4]

#### Dark Era



from Lupuna's office fireplace

[Inis looking for mentions of an Ardrí, Tighearna Falyn, Viyanaru]

The book before them seems to be a personal account of a day at court, where one paragraph seems to catch attention.

Her gracious **Ardrí Cinnadhu** summoned her faithful servants this morning to witness the granting of the **previously stewardless lands of Viyanaru**, a mountainous region that spreads far to the east, to her most faithful confidant **Tighearna Ahkra Falyn**.

Of course, none of her faithful servants was surprised that her gracious Ardrí was once again granting boons to Tighearna Falyn. Oh, how blessed Falyn's luck be, a line of low noble blood elevated to stand at the side of her most gracious Ardrí.

"Cinnadhu was one of the later Ardrís of Estraude, she is most certainly the last Estran Dark elf to sit the throne. Historically known to be a bit of a difficult woman, but I think anyone who becomes an Ardrí is all inherently difficult, it comes with the crown." The inquisitors informed them with a nod of his head.

# Golden Era (post-dark era revolution)

#### [Seo looking for viyanaru mentions]

It seems to be a very very old draft of a newspaper article, dated to be in Estraude's golden age (post revolution), handwritten in scratchy black ink.

"Estraude's new era of freedom tarnished by disaster?

International and Estran investors and prospectors venture out in the hinterlands of Estraude in **search of mysterious magic gems discovered within the mountains**. Prepared with enough supplies to last them the entire journey and led by skilful local experts, six people entered the **mysterious cave system** and disappeared never to be the same again.

Recently leaked from the masters of law, a rescue team was sent a week after the initial team's lack of contact reports they have found mangled bodies with blue crystalline flecks across their skin. Is this what remains of those six explorers? What sort of monster must live deep within those caves?"

## Song-Lu Exodus, and Huozai?

#### [Divvan, perusing for info about the mysterious sixth god]

Aeons ago, when humans and elves lived in unity, sharing Estraude as home. The **elves taught the humans a secret that they had been protected for years and years, far beyond human memory**. Within the deepest reaches of the winding rivers, locked within a **river cave sat a glorious crystal**, **as bright and radiant as the sun**. And within that crystal lived a **guardian spirit** that watched over all of the lands, they warned if their home were ever threatened, the guardian would raise up and purge the land of all who stood against them.

As the relationship between the humans and elves soured to the point of an exodus, a team of clever humans found their way to the crystal's river cave, bundling the large crystal within their blankets, food sacks and other belongings, they disappeared off into the night.

Some say those **thieves eventually found their way to Song-lu**, and some believe, to this day, that that crystal remains within Song-lu.

#### Risha

#### [Savitri translating the tablets]

The two tablets are rather thin, fragile-looking, made out of some sort of clay mixture but surprisingly well preserved considering it had been pulled from a mangrove. The strokes of each character are elegantly done but the slight tilt of the sentences made her wonder about who had written this, it certainly wasn't up to the beautifully carved words of professional artisans. She imagined someone younger scrawling out these words, which she quite quickly realised the tablets were covered with the same sentence over and over again.

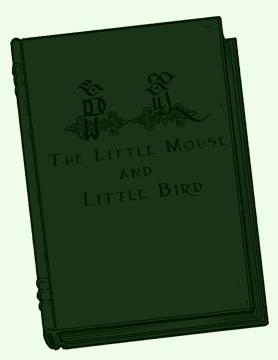
Finally, it was done. Savitri looked at the two grimy tablets, whatever she was expecting it to be, it was probably not this.

I will not hide a forest elephant in the laundry. I will not hide a forest elephant in the laundry. I will not hide a forest elephant in the laundry. I will not hide a forest elephant in the laundry. I will not hide a forest elephant in the laundry. I will not hide a forest elephant in the laundry. I will not hide a forest elephant in the laundry. I will not hide a forest elephant in the laundry. - Risha

I will not lie about my name to avoid punishment. I will not lie about my name to avoid punishment. I will not lie about my name to avoid punishment. I will not lie about my name to avoid punishment. I will not lie about my name to avoid punishment. I will not lie about my name to avoid punishment.

- Not Risha

It's a tablet of lines? Punishment for a naughty child? Where on earth did they get these tablets from, a school?? Savitri looks over the notes she's compiled, at least she can take comfort in knowing she had made considerable headway in translating the strange writing, making translation easier for the future.



Aalok has this <u>cute book</u> from Akiela... the animal pictograms in ['Telurean script'] possibly say, '**Risha'** (the bird) and **'Klao**' (the mouse) (ty kishi)

"The story is a familiar one, a little mouse and a little bird live together with the rest of their animal family in a verdant grove, happy as can be. One day, a tragic forest fire rips through the peaceful grove, taking all from the little mouse and little bird.

Sad and alone, but alive together they dreamt under the stars of a place of peace and paradise where their family, and their mother called them to. The two promised each other that they'd travel to the end of the world to find this wonderful new home.

The little bird was brave and fast, confidently overcoming any obstacle in their way. Soaring high above the canopy, dancing among the clouds, the little bird lead the little mouse across strange and foreign lands.

The little mouse was cautious and smart, planning their route with their upmost care. Hiding away in the undergrowth, dashing through the foliage, the little mouse helped the little bird through tangled vines and puzzling caves.

The story has twists and turns - arguments between the little bird and little mouse, trickery from a grinning raven, and lies from a cold snake. But the two struggle through until they find the valley of their promised home. The tale ends with the jungle trees curling around to open a path for them, with the voice of their mother calls their names, welcoming them home finally."

# Vierne & ether

## [Kamlai (looking at crystals from other realm)]

As Kamlai peers into the crystal, a gasp escapes her lips as the torrent of patterns washes over her. Evershifting and endless. She couldn't seem to pull herself away from the confusing patterns, she felt like driftwood being tossed through an angry churning sea, an endless deep that could consume her in any second. It seemed to draw her in deeper and deeper, almost believing if she just peered just a touch deeper, stared for a moment longer, the mysteries of the ether would reveal itself to her.

Kamlai's head buzzed with the flickers of ether patterns, ever-changing faster and faster, one second she could understand the pattern to be growing before it would fold upon itself and change yet again, it was dizzying, intoxicating. Finally, at the call of her

name by a concerned researcher, she was able to tear her gaze away from the crystal when she noticed something weird, the box the crystal was sitting in was showing a faint erratic pattern too.

Pouring over some arcane books she studies an in-depth exploration of mana crystals and magic cores. She hovers on the section about Vierne, the magical gems that were unearthed a few years ago from within Estraude.

She reads that the Vierne in its unrefined state is incredibly powerful but unstable. Only through a very long and intense refinement process and careful quality checking were the crystals deemed safe for public use. She stares at the otherworld crystal and then at the eyeglass that was made out of Vierne, the **blue glimmer in the two materials seemed very similar, perhaps they came from the same source.** 

Thinking about her sessions with Aalok, she notes that he rarely speaks in-depth about his realm. He would always drive it back to Kamlai's, using her realm as an example when they talked about the deeper theories of summoning magic. She had previously brushed it off of Aalok trying to help her understand her own realm by focusing on it. But in recent light, perhaps he was just reluctant to share information.

#### Seo at the Old Shrine where the ether was used

Battling through the weariness that came from the everchanging infinity - Seoras was able to detect that indeed the ether was stronger at this location than what she had felt from before. However, she and a few other researchers return over the following days they notice that the **ether starts to stabilise and become similar to that of the background energy around Estraude.** 

For a while, through the use of a vierne eyeglass, they are able to see the ever shifting patterns across the old shrine, the ageing wood glimmers faintly, the old metal bells shift slightly. Even her own fingertips dance before her eyes after handling the blue dust laid in the seal. Whatever this ether is, it seems to leave an impression of itself on whatever is in close contact with it.

Together they theorise that these spikes of ether must come from purposeful magic use or a high concentration of the source. A researcher asks out of curiosity, where was the closest vierne refinery? Where was Vierne mined? The otherworld crystal and the vierne sharing many qualities makes them wonder, had Estraude accidentally manufactured the influx of strange ether.

#### **Fall of Viernir**

## [Inis & Avel looking for old records of the precursor nations]

With the help of Avel, the pair piece together different pages of books, scraps of essays and other tidbits of information. Any surviving documentation that discusses the precursor nations' relationship with other nations seems to be limited, as most had been written in the other language that was prevalent at the time, and still to this day hasn't been deciphered.

So they focus on the Viyanaru's records, given its use of language of the prophets.

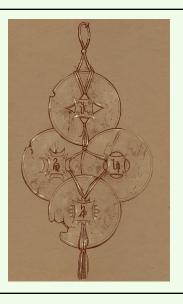
Inis dives into the **twilight years** of the precursor nations, revealing how **Viyanaru slowly encroached on Ula'iko** through political manoeuvres, favourable trade agreements and eventual marriage of ruling families at a rapid crescendo of politics.

The ruler of Viyanaru merged the two nations together, and consolidated her power within the heart of Viyanaru. However such **shifts in power did not go unnoticed by Astheri or Isrente**i, not wanting to be the next in line to bend the knee to Viyanaru, tension grew between the remaining nations. **With Ula'iko no longer playing peacemaker, war consumed them**, ravaging the land to such a degree that the precursor nations succumbed and slipped from the records.

Inis' search for any scrap of Asthari and Isrentei in more recent history fails to bring anything substantial. Only Viyanaru seems to creep up again and again with eons of silence between mentions.

# Viyanaru Artefacts

# Artefact 1



# **Artefact 1 Thread**

This <u>tarnish item</u> is composed of four gold metal disks with symbols and decorations stamped into the metal. It is tied together by a very fragile once bright blue but now very faded string. If it weren't in danger of falling apart, it would sit quite comfortably in your hand.

**Boloma:** A traveler's charm, coins from each nation for assurance **Inis:** These artefacts have a crazy, enrapturing ether pattern...

**Kamlai:** A symbol is the estran ancestors' name for Ula'iko river (river of unity)

#### Divyan:

Minted coins from different countries, standardised and unified, tied in a map Precursor nations: Diamond north, sun in east, quatrefoil south, crescents west

## Artefact 2





## **Artefact Two thread**

Pried from a ruined wall deep within the mangrove, this <u>paper is</u> <u>falling apart and extremely filthy</u>. But through the grime, a map can just about be made out.

## [ Restored version ]

#### **Nathaniel NPC:**

Precursor nations - unified nations of Viernir, founding nation of Estraude

- Older than golden age, and the dark era
- Vienir had risen and fallen before Faldor even began?
- Complex nation of magic and commerce, held together by strong (occasionally strained) promise of unity in the quartet, & strictly elven
- But it was widely accepted Estraude was long first settled by humans, while wood elves were nomadic. What is the truth?

#### Inis & Avel:

Ula'iko, People of Unity, first nation settled in Estraude

 A vital central piece for the Vienir nation, as lifeblood of trade, artisans, diplomats and peacekeepers

#### Kamlai:

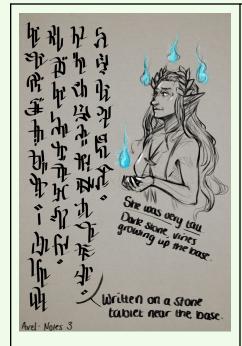
Asthari associated with the moon.. Isrentei represented by the sun

- Pauper queen tales, followers of dawn and dusk (asthari, isrentei)
- Isrentei were the people of Dusk, second settlers of Viernir from west continent
- Asthari, people of Dawn, fourth settlers of Viernir, from the east?

#### Pepper NPC:

- Ula'iko center first, Isrentei west second, Asthari east fourth;
- Viyanaru had to have come from the north mountains, and the third settlers
- Viyanaru mark may be more star than diamond (like other celestial symbols)
  - "She recalls the stories the explorers had shared, their dreams of starlight whilst in the former lands of Viyanaru. Maybe... Viyanaru were the people of dreams?"

## Artefact 3



# **Artefact Three thread**

Taken from Avel's notebook, the elf presents a page of writing that he found on a stone plaque, which he thinks might be located in the ruins of a shrine or church.

Near the plaque stood a blue flecked, lichen covered statue of a woman with her hands cupped in front of her. Within her hands float a blue light, flickering like a candle, similarly there are three lights float above her head.

'O Celestial Mother, the brightest light in these blessed skies. I ask of thee in my burdened hour, guide my weary hands so I may shepherd the lost unto you and your eternal love. In your holy light, empower me with your divine flame, so that I may return purified.'

#### Savitri. Hassan:

- Found a book penned by a scholar named Lysannir.

Discusses an old forgotten language used by a nation of prophets and inventors, Lysannir refers to it as the 'language of prophets' and describes the language's characters and semantics to be similar to the writing found in the other realm.

Discusses the nations' use of two languages, a lingua franca (day-to-day, communication with surrounding nations) and the language of prophets (spiritual & legal matters, carved into permanent materials.

Language of prophets read top to bottom (lingua franca opposite)

"Through out the book Lysannir biasedly elevates the language of prophets over the lingua franca - Hassan suspects because the author preferred writing top to bottom over bottom to top, but honestly both styles allowed ink to smudge."

#### Seo:

- statues in viyanaru depicting all the gods, including a headless unknown sixth
- Perhaps a depiction of Irana? The drawing bears closer resemblance to the headless goddess than that of the Irana cave depictions of Aurea.
  - Pauper queen story snippet

# Artefact 4

After days of deciphering, the water damaged and tattered papers with its neat translations are carefully released to the research team after a tense discussion among the inquisitors. A few inquisitors suggested what was translated was not relevant to the search and could cause panic among the uninitiated scholars. Others stood against the obscuring of information while Alva was in a critical situation. So the pages remained uncensored and presented with very attentive watch dogs.

## **Report #1224**

The situation is incredibly dire, by my estimates the entire western wing of the lower floors has crashed into the other realm. At the time of the incident, approximately 20 personnel and 5 subjects were within this wing. I haven't received all the information as of yet, communications with the arch herald have been impossible. We have two vanguards with us who cannot reach their arch either. We are trying our best to reconnect with Alva but magic is impossible, must we simply wait. Until communications have been restored with the higher-ups, I will continue to document the current situation within these pages.

#### **Report #1226**

It was her. **She** ripped through the realms and damned us in this limbo. Why would she scorn us like that? After all that we have dedicated to her, she raised her hand against us with such indifference and crushed us like ants beneath her might. Are we so insignificant to her that our devotion is meaningless? Damn her betrayal. Damn the divine.

The situation remains dire, we have managed to salvage all we can and pull everyone from the rubble. There are multiple people who are supposedly fatally injured but have yet not passed on. I'm not sure how to help them, they seem to be barely clinging to life but are not deteriorating. I worry if they're stuck like this - if I tried to put them out of their misery, would things get even worse for them?

#### Report

I want to go home. I want to go home.