

Physical Description

Average Life Span: Presumed indefinite, but mortal

Wylde Elves are one of the more noticeably robust races of Elves, as, before the Age of Fire, many spent much of their time hunting, fiercely protecting their lands, and practicing combat techniques. Even so, they have retained the poise and pride that is a common among all Elves.

Heavily influenced by their close-knit, isolated communities, Wylde Elves adorn themselves with markings, known as woads, on their faces and bodies. See “Additional Information” for more detailed info on woads.



Clothing choices vary, but often are representative of the naturally gathered things Wylde Elves can acquire from the plants and animals that flourish in nature. The most common materials include wood, leather, fur, bone, and cloth. Although they tend to only carry items that serve a purpose, Wylde Elves take every opportunity to decorate and embellish these to the fullest.

Whatever a thing is chosen, all items are delicately crafted into well-finished armors, clothes, and weapons. In contrast with the simple and raw style of K'ojin craftsmanship, Wylde Elven dress reflects their Elven heritage, with intricately worked designs, braiding, and neatly finished edges and seams. It is obvious that Wylde Elves take extreme pride in the way they can re-work nature into art.

TEMPERAMENT

If you asked anyone but a Wylde Elf to describe one, they would most likely highlight a Wylde Elf's secluded nature and territoriality. Quick to defend themselves, and often before giving an opponent a chance to demonstrate intent, Wylde Elves will fiercely protect their lands and kin. Although the traditional borders no longer exist, due to the Burning of their homelands, Wylde Elves can still be extremely territorial when it concerns their space, possessions, and companions.

Wylde elves are heavily clannish, and deeply value effort contributed towards survival from everyone in their social group. Before the Age of Fire, Wylde Elves often fought with neighboring Wylde Elf enclaves, mostly to reinforce borders, but also for

the thrill of battle.

However, after becoming refugees to the Exiled Lands, Wylde elves will almost surely greet another Wylde Elf with open arms, unless past conflicts dictate otherwise. Many Wylde Elves lost families, and even entire bloodlines, in the burning of their homelands, and wish to rekindle that spirit of camaraderie and trust with their kin.

Wylde Elves live mainly by the codes set by their communities, which varied from region to region. Now, as refugees to the Exiled Lands, they keep to these codes as much as possible, sometimes attempting to enforce them upon the settlements they have taken residence within. If a Wylde Elf becomes integrated enough into their refugee group, they will invest themselves heavily, and uphold the mandates of this new “enclave” with the same fervor as if it were their own.

Much to the surprise of other races, who’ve only heard tales of their territorial natures, when you are in the company of a relaxed Wylde Elf, they are cheery and high spirited. Getting to know a Wylde Elf can be difficult, but they are on par with Halflings when it comes to the robust enjoyment of living. Wylde Elves enjoy existence to its fullest, and strongly believe in celebrating their long life and all its riches.

Unlike High Elves, a long life does not usually create boredom in a Wylde Elf. They see each day as an opportunity to gain new experiences. To a Wylde elf, a flower or tree is never the same as it was yesterday, and they celebrate the natural changes which a healthy land brings them. They are driven to explore their surroundings, and no matter what age, all Wylde Elves still have that young twinkle of excitement in their eye.

CURRENT & PRESSING CONCERNS

After the Third War, Wylde Elves benefitted greatly by signing the treaties. They were allowed to claim their own lands, almost without limitation, due to their significant military contributions. In the decades that followed, Wylde Elf culture developed in relative peace, until the first Dragons were sighted. Of the races that suffered the most, Wylde Elf communities are at the top of the list. Having never known anything but the strength and safety of their territorial groups, being fractured, decimated, and scattered so abruptly was one of the most spirit-crushing events in known Wylde Elf history. Many Wylde Elves who were able to escape to the Exiled Lands are desperately trying to find a new community to cling to, and struggle to maintain the cultural practices to which they hold dear.

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

For as long as they have existed, Wylde Elves traditionally had very separate clan-like groups, segregated strongly on their associated territories. After the Third War, borders were redrawn. Wylde Elves were very selective in choosing their territories, with little concern for what other Wylde Elf groups may desire. Throughout the period of peace following the Third War, there were skirmishes and sometimes full-scale battles between Wylde Elf groups, in an effort to gain or protect territory.

The traditional separation of communities emphasized population isolation, which gave rise to many different ways of self-governing; there is no consistent internal social structure that is shared by all Wylde Elves. Some societies are lead by males, some are matriarchal, some are lead by guilds, or not led at all. Some value strength, where others promote wisdom.

Because Wylde Elves are usually isolationist, solid documentation on their social regulations and structures is rare, and only available for a few clans due to the work of travelling scribes.

Friendly cross-group interactions were limited before the Age of Fire, and Wylde Elves from different territories that meet in the Exiled Lands are extremely surprised when they realize there were other ways of successfully running a society..

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

Consistent with their varied governmental structures, Wylde Elven spiritual beliefs exist along the Eldest spectrum, and you will find almost any religious structure in Wylde Elf society.

For example, nocturnal groups, spending much of their time by the light of the moon, are likely to revere Sho'thar, asking for the wisdom of the night forest, and protection from what lurks in the shadows.

Some Wylde Elf societies have been noted to closely follow the duality of Kierna and Noktal, which highlights life and death as a central belief. Those who hunt, pray to Kierna, asking for a blessing to take life in order to grant life to the community. The warriors and defenders of the people celebrate Noktal, and warmly request that this Eldest guide their fallen foes to their eternal slumber.

Memnis is pervasive throughout Wylde Elf culture, although at a more basic level than other Eldest. Wylde Elves often speak of Memnis as if this Eldest were a brother

or sister, rather than a spiritual guide, as from birth, they are taught to live alongside the comforts of the earth, as if it were a home built just for them.

LEGENDS & CULTURAL PRACTICES

Although territories are relatively isolated from each other governmentally, all Wylde Elves share a few cultural traits. Wylde Elves are known to hold a particular reverence for nature, and strive to live harmoniously within it. Unlike their often city-dwelling other Elven kin, Wylde elves prefer a much more natural habitat. Instead of cutting stone and wood to make their shelters, as Dwarves and K'ojin are known to do, Wylde Elves try to make use of naturally existing constructs. They prefer their homes nestled within the trees of grand forests, in natural caves on mountainsides near valleys, or, using well-crafted hides and tarps, they skillfully adorn existing trees and rocks to create surprisingly complex shelters.

With near-infinite lifespans, Wylde Elves revel in and respect life in all forms, wishing to never end a life before its time. Any life they take for sustenance is highly regarded, and they make full use of every part of an animal or creature they have slain, in honor of the creature's life. This reverence is also seen in their intricate craftwork using leather, bone, and fur. Due to the fact that hunting requires seeking out a life to end, meat is often, but not always, avoided. Fruits, nuts and plants are preferred foods.

These beliefs may seem to contrast with their renowned combative tendencies, but their value system is highly centered around the preservation of life, self, and other society members. Although it seems quick and unthinking, they do not take lightly to "shooting first and asking questions later", but act quickly to prevent harm to their allies. Often, ceremonies or small prayers are said for any life taken this way, including Exiled Races, such as the war-fueled orcs.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

To their High Elven kin, Wylde elves are considered to be rather unrefined, due to their "unusual" rejection of the more superfluous comforts of other Elven societies. The notorious Wylde Elven refusal to acclimate to the political activities and dense cities of their Elven brethren is part of the reason they are referred to as Wylde elves, preferring to stick to the "wyldes" and their territorial provinces.

Non-Elven races usually pay them no special mind, save for the extremely well-placed travel routes skirting Wylde Elven lands. Before the Age of Fire, travelers were

wary of passing through known Wylde Elf grounds, due to their fierce territorial nature. Unless you were granted passage, unwanted or unknown visitors were, at the very least, quickly met with blades at the chest, and surrounded by several bowmen - if not killed on sight. After the Age of Fire began, Wylde Elf territorial borders became moot.

Forced to flee the Burned Lands, many Wylde Elf groups were broken and scattered. In the Exiled Lands, it's much more common to see a Wylde Elf become close companions with members of other races, especially when it concerns keeping their small, refugee communities together. Anyone travelling with a Wylde Elf should be held in high regard, as they have proven their worth in some way, be it through battle prowess, diplomacy or other skill.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Woads:

Woads are one of the first noticeable characteristics of Wylde Elves. These are not tattoos, as the K'ojin have, but rather expertly applied natural makeups that last for many days at a time. This application method enables woads to change and develop during the long life of the Wylde Elf they adorn.

Although the meanings and intricacies are extremely personal to each elf, the main cultural significance of woads is to showcase the specific community to which a Wylde Elf belongs. Some Wylde Elf groups use color to signify their role within the community or military party, while others allow free choice in color, as long as a specific design criteria is met.

In the Exiled Lands, it is not uncommon to see two Wylde Elves from very different territories displaying similar looking woads, simply by chance. The closer two territories were on the mainland, the more they influenced each other to have extremely different designs, as it was easier to tell friend from foe this way. Now that all existing territories have been forced to intermix, Wylde Elves are realizing they may have more in common than they had believed.

Three Names and the Trianaie:

(pronunciation: tree-UH-nah-ee)

An important, yet secretive, cultural practice of Wylde Elves involves a naming system, where they gain the “Trianaie”. In common tongue, this refers to the second of the three names which Wylde Elves use.

The first name is their given name, which is a singular elven name, such as Saethe or Loriell.

Their second name is their “Trianaie”, often given to them in their youth, after they have had some time to develop and identify themselves within the enclave. Trianaie represent something special about that individual, or their unique skill set. When granting a Wylde Elf this name, there is a ceremony, followed by a celebration. Examples of Trianaie include: Nightstrider, Hawkeye, Swiftarrow, Forseerer, Nobletongue.

The last and third name is the Wylde Elf’s “enclave” (clan) name, such as Elmwood or Riverwake. A Wylde Elf’s full name could then be: Saethe Nightstrider of Elmwood, or Loriell Hawkeye of Riverwake. When speaking with non-Wylde Elves, it’s common for a Wylde Elf to introduce themselves as “of” their clan name (Saethe Nightstrider of the Elmwood Enclave), in order to properly showcase their community pride to outsiders.

Enclaves:

There are as many Wylde Elf enclaves as there are forests, deserts, lakes, oceans, and mountains. They learn to live among all terrains and biomes and thrive wherever they claim their territory.

Forest

What most would think of when they think of a Wylde Elf, but they are only a fraction of the known enclaves of Wylde Elves. Living among the trees and living in harmony with the forest fauna and flora, they thrive on the forest floor as well as above in the canopy.

Examples of Forest Wylde Elf enclaves in the Exiled lands:

Pine Elves - Once a forest dwelling enclave on the Homelands, since arriving in the

Exiled lands they have opened their enclaves to welcome all races who are willing to take the Pine Elf name and work towards their goals. This enclave is an exception to most Wylde elf enclaves. This enclave is joinable in game.

Moon Elves - This enclave once dwelled in the deepest shadows of the forests, but now dwell among the stars and their beloved moon at night. Extreme pacifists, they have sworn to never attack another being and have special glowing woads to signify their oath. Gentle and curious, they are unfamiliar with most societal norms and love to learn whatever they can from their newest companions. This enclave is joinable in game.

Desert

Desert Wylde Elves live near oases or whatever form of water they can find in the unforgiving, harsh environment of the desert. They are skilled at locating water, identifying threats at long distances and using the unique features of the desert such as mirages and dunes to confuse and weaken interlopers before “rescuing” them. Their clothing both protects them from the harsh sun as well as keeps them cool. Lightly colored linens as well as additional fabric to protect their faces from sand and the sun are worn for comfort and practicality.

Example of Desert Wylde Elf enclave in the Exiled lands:

Endless Sands - This enclave lives on a very small desert. There are a few sands there. While the land surrounding is still hot and unforgiving, their name was created to keep other enclaves from wanting to take their lands.

Coastal

Coastal Wylde Elves live on the shores of large lakes and oceans and other bodies of water. They primarily rely on fishing for sustenance and have developed means of purifying water from any source for drinking. Coastal Wylde Elves typically wear netting and shells rather than hide and bones to accent their appearance. Some styles of their woads are more free flowing to represent the water they rely on to live.

Example of Coastal Wylde Elf enclave in the Exiled lands:

Silent Brook - An enclave settled across the delta of a small river north of Aldemar in the Wyldelands. They believe their voices should never overshadow that of the

waves or the rushing rapids. They incorporate driftwood into their homes as well as their attire.

Mountains

Mountain wylde elves make their dwellings on and use the natural features on the side of cliffs. They utilize the forest, streams, caves, and the numerous other areas their kin inhabit in the lands below but find joy in the freedom of the wind rushing by their cliffside abodes. Their homes are made of vines and clay or mud shaped into forms that mimic the natural features of the cliffs. Their additional strengths lie in their adjustment to altitude and tolerance of the cold. Furs and wool are largely incorporated to keep them warm as well as honor all parts of the animals they work with. Feathers are often incorporated into their outfits as special offerings left by birds.

Example of Mountain Wylde Elf enclave in the Exiled lands:

Singing Boulders - An enclave that uses the echoing nature of the mountains to communicate over long distances through special songs and tones.

Bee Fanged Enclave - An enclave whose homes intentionally resemble beehives with long vines hanging beneath which some mistake as large serpents.

Plains and Foothills

Plains and Foothills Wylde Elves hold less importance over the boundaries of their land, but care more for the livestock they tend over. While they would never themselves call their animals as such, they live in harmony and consider them more as family. Wool and horns are common features of their attire and are often passed down from generation to generation.

Example of Plains Wylde Elf enclave in the Exiled lands:

Whispering Hills - This enclave lives in the foothills and tends goats. Once from the mountains, they followed their herds to the plains and follow the direction of their flock. Wherever their goats are grazing, this is the land they claim until it is time to move again.