

Mana Elves (Sanctum City Elves)

Summary



Legend holds that all Elves are direct descendants of the Fae. Despite their tumultuous past, Mana Elves (also known as Sanctum City Elves, or Sanctum Elves) tend to retain their cold, neutral politeness. The more mature Mana Elves tend to be calculating and observant, not often showing emotion. Due to their focus on acquiring and preserving knowledge, the most majestic and extensive libraries in the plane have historically been found in the archives of Mana Elves. Mana Elves generally strive for peace so that all may pursue life and knowledge, and played a part in all three historical wars, including the banishment of the Exiled races.

The first Mana Elves were the predecessors to Sanctum Elves and lived in a time before recorded history. They had a deep connection to magic and the mystical functions of the world that surrounded them. While other races had to train to harness the chaotic energy of high magic, proficiency came easily to Mana Elves. It is speculated among scholars that Mana Elves are the reason high magic became inaccessible to mortals, but few records and fewer individuals remain who could confirm this.

The sudden return of Mana Elves is a recent development, and new Mana Elf characters would have previously been Sanctum Elves who underwent the Manifestation overnight in 5 A.F. It is currently not possible to have been born a Mana Elf. The transformation into Mana Elves frequently caused a sudden change of both interests and expertise. Former warriors might find themselves suddenly capable of understanding magic on an instinctive level.

The history referenced in this document was written before the return of Mana Elves and the culture these elves belong to had taken shape before the Manifestation occurred. For ease of reading, these elves are always referenced as Mana Elves, but much of this information refers to the era of Sanctum Elves.

Costume Requirements

Note: In order to play a Mana Elf, a player at Lands of Exile must follow a few costuming requirements. Optional costuming is NOT required to play the race, but rather a suggestion based on how Mana Elves look in this world. Contact a Kit Help Facilitator if you need ideas or need help.

Required Costuming:

- ♦ **Long Colored Ears:** 5 inch or longer Elven ears painted to match the Manifestation (Earth, Air, Water, or Fire). We suggest buying the anime elf ears for all of our elven races from this company – [Aradani Costumes](#)
- ♦ **Manifestation:** All Mana Elves have glowing coloring on highlights, contour, and around their eyes. The colors around their eyes, and their general highlighting and contouring is associated with one of the four elements - Earth, Water, Fire, Air. It should be obvious which Manifestation a Mana Elf is. Some examples of these:
 - ♦ Orange-reddish contouring and highlights: A Mana Elf based on the element of Fire
 - ♦ Swirls of grey and purple around the eyes, greyish and/or purple highlight, and contour: A Mana Elf based on the element of Air
 - ♦ Green contouring and highlights: A Mana Elf based on the element of Earth.
 - ♦ Blue contouring and highlights: A Mana Elf based on the element of Water.

Optional Costuming and Aesthetic:

- ♦ **Unusual Eye Color:** Due to the magical nature of Mana Elves, many have brightly colored eyes that match their Manifestation (colored contacts are optional).
- ♦ **Shimmery skin:** Mana Elves that are highly disciplined, trained or predispositioned to magic tend to have a shimmer to their skin that's exposed to sunlight (iridescent makeup).
- ♦ **Clothing:** Mana Elves tend to wear brightly colored robes and garments in colors reflecting their Manifestation. (i.e., red and gold for fire element, blue and silver for water element, purples and greys for air, greens for earth, etc.)
- ♦ **White hair:** Some Mana Elves retain their white hair regardless of their Manifestation.
- ♦ **Peppermint Scent:** Mana Elves themselves smell faintly of peppermint scent, but the cause is currently unknown.

Physical Description

Average Life Span: Presumed indefinite, but mortal

Mana Elves are tied to a certain element which is shown in the highlights and contours (known as their Manifestation) and garments. Historically, Mana Elves were born with silver and grey coloring in their highlights until they complete their Manifestation. Manifestation is the term they use for the coloration of their highlights and eyes and represents a spiritual journey to find their elemental affinity. Once an affinity is found, their Manifestation permanently changes to represent the colors of their element. After this occurs, they tend to wear garments that honor the color of their Manifestation to proudly display their affinity.

Some Manifestations can be more complicated concepts, such as Sunlight or Lava (but they would both be obvious in their appearance to indicate a Fire Manifestation, even if different from each other). A Manifestation concept must always fall within one of the Four Elements – Fire, Water, Earth, or Air.

The transition from Sanctum Elf to Mana Elf is the result of ancestral Mana Elf essence finding them through the leylines. Mana Elves are largely viewed as the closest descendants of the Fae, and there are many mysteries around their return – not only in themselves, but the world around them.

TEMPERAMENT

Impulsivity is not traditionally a trait of mature Mana Elves. Their every-day actions often spring from extensive research and intellectual pursuits. Mana Elves are isolationists when compared to other mortal races, largely due to their calm and calculated habits. The Age of Fire has forced more interactions with non-elves. They usually exude a calm, neutral demeanor.

Mana Elves insist on using their millennium of collected cultural wisdom in all things. To Mana Elves, problems can remain in endless study and debate until they pose an imminent threat, and even then, their debates may continue. Mana Elves traditionally have an aloof outlook on the world and choose not to disturb the world unless it threatens their lives. Other races and historians have noted that their dedication to neutrality has contributed to many problems of the Homelands, and may even have led to the start of the three great wars. Despite millennia of rich history, Mana Elves have been forced to abandon their familiar luxury of careful decision-making. The Age of Fire sometimes demands swift, decisive choices to survive, something that Mana Elves find unfamiliar and difficult.

CURRENT & PRESSING CONCERNS

For unknown reasons, many Mana Elves experienced dread visions and premonitions before the appearance of the dragons. Unsure of exactly what these premonitions referred to, Mana Elves began preparing for a variety of impending disasters. Despite these preparations, the task of protecting against dragons was beyond mortal means. Though ultimately the doom brought on by the dragons was not prevented, some of its damage was reduced by these preparations. Many Mana Elves survived the burning of the Homelands, but their relatively small population means that they are still an uncommon sight in the world today.

Seen as one of the greatest intellectual tragedies in history, the burning and abandonment of many libraries has shocked and shaken many academics among the Mana Elves. Some Mana Elves have taken this opportunity to catalog a new set of experiences, which they hope to then add to any still-standing libraries or to create new libraries in the Exiled Lands.

Another major concern of many Mana Elves now is to discover how they can reconnect with the Fae in this new land, restore the Homelands, and allow the Allied Races to return to the Homelands.

Lastly, the most recent concern of all Mana Elves is the Manifestation itself and why exactly it occurred. While the Manifestation brought physical changes to the Mana Elves that were noticeable overnight, there are also lingering changes in the world itself. Many Mana Elves are set on studying and identifying these changes within the world.

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

Mana Elves predominantly lived in cities and areas of isolation, and as such were self-governing for the most part. Mana Elf society was incredibly scholastic and spiritual - investing large amounts of their time, energy, and coin into building and collecting for great libraries. Because the Mana Elf populations and cities are small, they are mostly comprised of Mana Elves, and as a result there was not much crime.

Mana Elves' religion is tied deeply with their government. They are generally governed by a religious figure called the Great Sage that makes decisions for their people - because of their long lifespans, there have only been a handful of Great Sages that live in secrecy at the Sanctum Castle and have never been seen by the public. Individual Mana Elves' settlements were governed by councils of the smartest and wisest and they placed a great importance on magical aptitude, as their greatest mages were common members of these councils.

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

Due to their close spiritual ties to the Eldest and the Fae, many Mana Elves feel that they live alongside these entities and consider their presence in everything they do. On special occasions and feast days, there are events and offerings sent to the respective Eldest or Fae of focus, but they are treated more as festivals than solemn religious ceremonies.

Ancient Mana Elf stories, now mostly lost, depicted the duality of I'nil and Sho'thar as a pair (as lovers or as siblings), who shared the responsibility to care and love for all living beings. Most scholarly Mana Elves know that Sho'thar was not always seen with such animosity, and often relate the historical perspective to promote empathy and understanding.

When their Manifestations returned, many Mana Elves felt something awaken and unlock within them. There is still much mystery around this event. It is widely believed that Mana Elves that have undergone their Manifestation have access to their ancestral knowledge and abilities, as some found that they had gained new skills or abilities overnight. The Manifestation is as much a physical change as much as it is a metaphysical one.

LEGENDS & CULTURAL PRACTICES

Knowledge and learning are traditionally venerated among Mana Elves. Almost every Mana Elf has a chosen research path that they relentlessly pursue throughout their lives. Spellcasting, alchemy, herbalism, and strategy are some notable examples, but these interests can be as specialized as "Architecture and design of peripheral Grehlok settlements." Sometimes one will meet a Mana Elf who knows a little about a lot of different things, though these are seen as eccentrics within Mana Elf society. Some Mana Elves that have dedicated their lives to one research path, only to undergo significant transformation in their abilities during The Manifestation, find themselves pursuing a new path related to their Manifestation.

Magical aptitude is unusually high among Mana Elves. Due to their connection with magic, magically-predisposed Mana Elves can "feel" strong forces at work around them. Sometimes it comes to them as nothing more than a hunch; other times they can have vivid dreams of potential futures. This ability, when honed, allows them to become peerless mages and ritualists. Some of the most significant Mana Elf illnesses, however, are often magical in nature, and being in the presence of severe Corruption can cause them to become uncharacteristically frazzled and emotional.

Mana Elves enjoy nature, like their Wylde Elven kin, but prefer to live in a more manicured version, bringing it aesthetically into their high castles and elaborate cities. Exquisite gardens, potted trees, and flowering decorations adorned all their Homeland structures. Wild, cohabiting animals are even seen wandering the streets and Mana Elves frequently kept domesticated animals as pets. Gardening is a common pastime for many, especially after fleeing to the Exiled Lands, as it reminds them of home. Mana Elves who were more focused on Herbalism during their formative years often become skilled Alchemists.

Mana Elf society tends to adhere to a simple, effective social code of conflict resolution, calling for committees and public reviews. A few times throughout history, sects have split off from the main cities when agreements could not be made about various social behaviors. Notable splits have been based on an increased desire for hierarchical castes, and both less and more desire for contact with other races.

Education is extremely venerated among Mana Elves - its emphasis on wisdom, logic and compassion is a form of worship. As such, cultural practices which include stringent orders of 'justice' using hangings, pyres, and barbaric punishments are highly frowned upon and seen as obsolete. Instead, Mana Elves embraced a system of isolation, reflection, and reintegration into society. Part of this reintegration and correction sometimes involved such a transformation entirely that they would change their names - the practice of which some Mana Elves have adopted following the Manifestation.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

K'ojin often traveled to Mana Elf cities in search of education in various subjects. Sharing a mutual desire, nearly half the records within Mana Elf libraries are of K'ojin origin. The characteristic aloofness of Mana Elves makes them somewhat difficult to live with, and only the most determined - or desperate - would go directly to a Mana Elf city seeking work or education. Humans are the second most common outside race seen in Mana Elf cities (behind K'ojin), as they tend to be the least affected by the social detachment. Many Humans would travel to Mana Elf cities to receive magical training and education. Although the patience of a Mana Elf professor is exceptional, it is finite, and all but the most resolute Humans drop out before mastering the techniques of their teachers.

According to legend, not only were High Elves and Mana Elves created around the same time, but they are also traditionally close allies. They were the main political force driving the Allied resolution in all three wars. However, the peacetime comradery ends there, as the militaristic views of the High Elves tended to clash with the neutral policies

of the Mana Elves. Even so, there were always military ambassadors travelling between the High Elf and Mana Elf cities, in an attempt from the High Elves to keep both communities updated on potential issues regarding the Homelands.

Exiled races are almost always untrusted by Mana Elves, due to their allegiance with the Drow in the Third War.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

There are many secrets and questions about the return of Mana Elves – not only in themselves, but changes in the world around them related to their return.

In all plot documents that reference Mana Elves from the time of “White Elves” (from the point of history when the Mana Elves lost high magic, to the Manifestation in 5 A.F.), they will be referred to as “Sanctum City Elves,” referencing their original location on the Homelands. Essentially, anywhere that “White Elf” would be, “Sanctum Elf” or “Sanctum City Elf” now replaces.

Examples of Manifestations:

Fire



Model: Jennifer Pan. Photography credit to Chelsea Deaner.



Model: Jennifer Pan. Photography credit to Chelsea Deaner.

Earth



Model: Jordan Mullaney. Photography credit to Chelsea Deaner.



Model: Jordan Mullaney. Photography credit to Chelsea Deaner.