

Before time there was only the Void, and the Eldari, who dwelt in the Void. The Eldari created the Outari to protect themselves from the Void, and there they dwelt. Inside the Outari they created the Elementali, which contains all that is physically possible. Using the matter of the Elementali they created the Sphere of Theldari, and to protect Theldari from the Elementali, they created the Sky. But the Sky brought darkness to Theldari, so they affixed in it the Sun, so that there could be day and night, and the two moons, Luna and Celesta, and a multitude of stars, so that there could be light even in the dark of night. They set the objects in the Sky in motion, in patterns designed to reflect the nature of the Universe. The Eldari then created the Sudari, in two groups, in numbers one score and one, and gave them Godari, that they could call it their own, to do with as they wish, so that the Sudari could help the Eldari create Life. But lo, their thoughts were clouded, and for while the Eldari created Life, the Sudari arose and overthrew the Eldari, destroying them, chaining them, and banishing them, leaving the Sudari to control Life in Theldari, for Outari was not theirs to do with as they wished.

--- Ancient Creation Myth of Theldrow ---

So it is written and passed down from generation to generation. This myth (or perhaps it is fact) is the oldest known bit of knowledge in Theldrow, though different terms are used in the present, and parts of the myth are still open to debate.

In the myth, what are called Eldari are usually now referred to as the Elder Gods, and nothing more is known about them, since the Godari overthrew them, destroying, banishing (back to the Void), and imprisoning them. No normal, sane mortal dares speculate what would happen if those imprisoned were freed, though some claim that they are chained deep below the surface of Theldrow.

Outari is now known as the Outer Sphere, even though the topology is actually a sphere, since two opposite sides are actually the same. There are beings that live on Outari,

some of which are called demons and devils by mortals, but not all are evil. They all appear to be immortal, from what is know of them, and they were created wholly by the Elder Gods. Mortals have been known to make deals with these beings.

Elementali refers to the Elemental Sphere, which lies between Theldrow and the Outer Sphere. It is, by the way, a sphere, and all possible physical matter can be found somewhere on it. The pure “essenses” of matter (Earth, Air, Fire, and Water) are found at “poles” on the sphere, and between them lie the combinations of this matter. Some beings are known to live on the Elemental Sphere, and these are usually refered to as Elementals, are are immortal, since they were wholly created by the Elder Gods.

Theldari, of course, refers to Theldrow, which is also a sphere. The sky then lies between Theldrow and the Elemental Sphere. This has the sun, stars and moons on it, which were created by the Elder Gods. Several of these bodies move, including the sun and moons, as well as twenty one stars, which stand for the twenty one gods (this has puzzled astrologers and other sages for ages since the stars were created before the gods were). The sun is special for Berabaku, since this is related to his primary power (though there is a special moving star that represents him as well). Likewise, Luna is special for Kiva, and Celesta is special for Karnth. These three bodies have simple motion that can be predicted by all but the least astrologers. The twenty one moving stars, on the other hand, can not be easily predicted as to their movement, if at all. It is these stars that the astrologer studies to learn secret truthes known only in the inner-most circle of the temples.

The Sudari are now what are called Gods and Goddesses, though the comment about two groups is still up for debate - some say that there are two ranks of gods, other say this simply refers to Gods and Goddesses. Godari is now called Godshome, or Godsland, a plane of existance that overlaps (and has entrances and exits on) all planes, from Theldrow to the Outer Sphere. For example, a gate to Berabaku can be found on the Sun, Kiva on the moon Luna (the larger of the two), Karnth on Celesta (the smaller, red moon), Poolipi both deep underwater and somewhere in the Elemental Plane near the pole of Water, and Waban near the Elemental pole of Fire. Udeju (and several other evil gods) are known to have gates on the Outer Sphere, near the lands of demons and devils. The gods can freely arrange their “section” of Godsland, and these sections only connect to other sections of other deities where they wish them to. The immortal spirit of a mortal is sometimes allowed to dwell in these sections, as payment for loyal service during life.

It should be noted that the last sentence of the myth relates that the gods only had a hand in creating beings of Theldrow, whereas all other forms of life were created directly by the Elder Gods, which gave them immortal spirits and bodies. The result of this is that most beings of Theldrow have immortal spirits, but mortal bodies. The gods

gain power from the worship of these spirits within a mortal, since this was created by the Elder Gods, the source of all power in the universe.

As mentioned above, there are gates between Theldrow and the Elemental Sphere, as well as between Godlands and everything else. Beings of great power, residing in any sphere of existence may be able to construct new gates between their sphere and any other, including Godland. There are also other techniques to travel directly from sphere to sphere without the use of a gate, but these are difficult and dangerous.

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Below is a list of the twenty one gods and goddesses in Theldrow, and one demigod. There are a number of other demigods, but they have relatively little power and influence. They are listed as their name and their holy symbol, followed by a brief description of their powers, allies and rivals.

#### Berabaku - Black Cross

Berabaku is the force of all that is good and right, but often taken to an extreme. He is not very tolerant of any who believe exactly as he does, but is rarely beligerent. His followers have a very large and highly structured church, centered in the city of Ceth.

#### Ipeke - Anhk

Ipeke is the goddess of wind and weather, but not storms. She is believes that goodness is more important than anything else.

#### Suzes - Lyre

Suzes is the the goddess of music and lightning, and as such, often puts here in direct conflict with Ipeke. She is also one of the few deities that gets along with Waban (as witnessed by lightning strikes starting fires).

#### Gefga - Omega

Gefga is the goddess of the organized militia, and as such, is quite popular, especially in the Great Empire. She and Waban greatly detest each other. She will lends her support to Berabaku if he asks her, though he rarely does.

#### Lim - Scales

Lim is the god of the balance. He believes that every believe and behavior has its place, so long as no one believe becomes too strong. He has no real allies or rivals (though he

isn't extremely fond of Waban, and there is a minor deity that he clashes with occasionally), holding everyone equal. If any force or power becomes too great, he would ally himself with the underdog, but this is extremely rare. Because of his neutrality, he is often called upon to settle disputes between the gods. He gets along well with Lim, god of Death because of their similar powers.

#### Waban - Chaos Arrows

Waban has no church, and no hierarchy of worshippers, just individuals. He is a favorite god of rogues and thieves. While his actions and beliefs are not actually evil, they are not really good either. He has no love for Berabaku or Gefga (due to a certain trick that once got out of hand), or many of the other deities, though he is relatively friendly with Suzes (though he finds her flighty at times).

#### Xufabeli - Whip

Xufabeli is the god of domination, conquest, and repression, and considers torture and pain to be forms of worship. He rules over those under him with an iron fist, and no compassion, and would gladly rule all that exists in a similar manner. He has an uneasy truce with Udeju, and they will at times lend aid to each other. He despises Gefga, since she has spurned all attempts of his to join her forces with his. He also considers Kiva to be insane (although this is a common thought) and they have often thwarted each other's attempt at conquest.

#### Udeju - Black Circle

Udeju is the god of all that is vile, evil, and dark and would like nothing better than to have his reign extend over all creation. He considers Xufabeli and Kiva to be pawns to be manipulated as needed to achieve his ends, often playing them off against each other.

#### Kiva - Insane Face

Kiva is the goddess of madness, and is symbolized by the larger moon Luna. She enjoys Waban's sense of mischief, and will aid Udeju, so long as she gets something out of it for herself. She despises Berabaku, who represents everything that is opposite to her, and her power is greatest during an eclipse, when Luna covers the sun. She also considers Xufabeli to be a rival, being too inflexible for her needs.

#### Karnth - Yin-Yang

Karnth is the god representing the force of magic in Theldrow, with the second, lesser, red moon Celesta being his symbol. He holds all things in balance, though he holds both Kiva and Asari in high regards, since they represent the other celestial objects (Luna and the stars) at night. He holds Yezy in contempt, since Yezy was once his pupil but betrayed him, seeking power from the Void. He also does not get along well with Silvani,

since she considers magic to be alien to the nature she represents.

#### Poolipi - Four Waves

Poolipi, the goddess of the Sea, though she holds the same tenants as Waban, does not get along with him (since fire and water do not mix). She also dislikes Enuquy, since she would still her water into ice. She does, however, get along well with Silvani, since they both have a great deal in common regarding nature. All sailors revere her, since she controls their fate.

#### Mila - Crossed Arrows

Mila is the goddess of the harvest and hunt. She has similar beliefs as Silvani, but they are bitter rivals, since Mila represents the taming of nature. Since harvest is the formation for commerce, she gets along well with Scooge.

#### Scooge - Gem

Scooge is the god of merchants and commerce. Though he believes in more structure in life than Mila (since without rules, trade is nearly impossible), he still gets along well with her. Because of this relationship, he and Silvani are rivals. He also enjoys the company of Asari, since she represents the stars that merchants use to navigate at night.

#### Asari - Stars at Night

Asari is the goddess of the stars. Since stars are used for navigating, she is also the goddess of travel. She and Berabaku are the closest things that the gods have to husband and wife, and she holds the same beliefs as her “husband.”

#### Yezy - The Void

Yezy, once a mortal wizard of great power was made into a demigod by the powers of Karnth, however his quest for knowledge lead him to the powers of the Void, which caused a great fissure between them. He cares for nothing except the powers of the Void, and would gladly see all of the creations of the Elder gods destroyed and everything return to the Void.

#### Silvani - Tree

Silvani is the goddess of the forest and all of nature in general. She is the picture of “Mother Nature” and does not get along well with Mila, who represents the taming of nature. She gets along well with Ressel, but the exact reasons why are unknown, since both healing and decay, life and death are found in nature. She does get along well with Poolipi, goddess of the sea since they have similar spheres of influence.

#### Nar - Skull

Nar is the god of Death, and as such has few friends. All things must in time die,

regardless of how they live. Since death is the “great equalizer,” Nar gets along extremely well with Lim. Gods such as Yeqy and Aruder look up to Nar, thinking to influence him, but he cares little for them. He dislikes Lira, since she can use her powers of luck to “cheat death.”

#### Enuquy - Square Snowflake

Enuquy is the goddess of ice and cold. She is constantly at strife with Xufabeli, since they would both rule all that exists. She also dislikes Waban and Poolipi, since free moving water and fire are both contrary to herself. She often looks to Udeju for help with her feud against Xufabeli, but he rarely aids her.

#### Lira - Two cubes

Lira is the goddess of luck, and as such, is often at odds with Nar, since she can use her powers to “cheat death.” She is a kindred spirit of Suzes, and Waban will often look to her to provide luck to help him in his mischief, though she does not always heed request.

#### Homonxi - Mushroom

Homonxi is the god of sickness, rot and decay. He intensely dislikes Ressel, who represents a force of healing, and just plain does not like Berabaku. He does get along well with Aruder, since his strife and war provide material for rot and decay, though he sometimes considers Aruder a bit too reckless.

#### Ressel - Three concentric circles

Ressel is the god of healing, representing all that is good in life. As such, he dislikes Homonxi, and for unknown reasons gets along well with Silvani.

#### Aruder - Crossed Swords

Aruder is the force of war and strife. As such, he admires both Nar, for the death he brings, and Kiva, for her madness, though neither really return the feeling. He gets along well with Homonxi.