

Islanders

Description

Humans with gills on their neck and occasionally webbed feet and hands. Most Islanders have BLACK (No color but black) tattoos on all parts of their body except their faces. Only chieftains are allowed to mark their face (see government), Tribal/Islander style clothing. For cold weather look at Eskimo style additions. Islanders have stats as per Human, but are able to breath underwater as well as they can on land.

Society

Islanders view themselves as a part of the natural world. Islanders learn from birth that their actions affect the tribe and the world around them. The individual tribe member, the tribe as a whole and the world around them are all connected and dependent on each individual part.

“When you are a baby, you know your mother and father, as you grow, you become aware of your siblings, your aunts and uncles. When you are old enough to acknowledge your Aigi (extended family/tribe) and know your Alaka’i (tribal elders/guides/literally elder kin) you become part of society. When you grow enough to know your Ai’aiga (family of the world), then you view the world as an adult.”

The elder generation is responsible for making family decisions and teaching the children. Children are expected to learn on their own initiative without explanations from the elders. They in essence “watch and learn” from others in the family. At first, children perform tasks with supervision, perhaps working alongside an older brother or sister. Children are highly motivated in this race to observe the behavior being modeled and they spontaneously imitate the action, receiving corrective feedback if they do something wrong. They are never given an explanation of the nature of the wrong they did, but are expected to figure it out on their own. This may explain why there is little need for a legal system in this culture. Islanders must acquire knowledge of their people by observation, imitation and incremental participation. The rules or perceptual concepts shape their skills and experiences.

A child takes its place in adult society in their own time. As they feel ready, they test themselves against their elders to win status in the tribe and the right to assist the tribe with the skills learned from their elders.

Status is important to Islanders, skill, wisdom, honor, and brave deeds are all respected. Such things keep the communal cook pot filled, and give inspiration to others. Status determines how others interact with you. To bring strength and honor to the tribe is very important.

As an Islander takes on new skills and status in society, they may change their names to reflect their view of themselves. It is important to Islanders to respect an individual's view of themselves, thus correct usage of a name is important.

Government

The Islanders do not have a formalized government as most people would accept it. Each member of their society has the expectation that they will look after their fellows and their fellows will look after them. Breaking this bond is to declare oneself an inhuman abomination.

Each tribe is led by a chieftain, who is considered the wisest, most capable person in the tribe. The chieftain will speak for his tribe when outsiders are around, and has the last word when conflicts arise. He is assisted by the tribal elders, including the wizii who seeks the future in the paths of the stars.

When a chieftain is chosen, he gets the traditional marks of responsibility tattooed upon his face. At this point, he accepts responsibility for the tribe and will not leave the tribe until it is time to seek the tribal ancestors, to do so would be an act of inhuman abomination.