

CUSTOMS

What are the acceptable limits to honor and/or honesty in this society?

Honor and honesty are both held in high respect. No one duels publicly over offended honor—but they come close. Oaths are considered sacrosanct. Lying is frowned upon in any situation that does not involve inherent danger to an innocent party.

What are the most controversial subjects in this culture?

Touchy subjects include: the Cherazii, the last war, the king's handling of both, the Searcher, and Nateros. In fact, Lael's in such a turbulent state at the moment that it'd be pretty easy to start an argument over just about anything. The city streets are crawling with insurgents and malcontents preaching in the squares and on the corners. The atmosphere is pretty darn touchy.

What kind of ideal life do people aspire to?

Being the owner of a high country estate is the most popular ideal. But the high country estates are almost exclusively owned by hereditary land grants. It's very hard to buy land in the high country.

Who are the rebels and outcasts of this society? How does society deal with them?

Convicts who escape punishment dwell primarily in the mountains. But this new brand of revolutionary that has been springing up ever since the last war is stirring up trouble right under people's

noses. The biggest faction, known as Nateros (a Cherazii word for “separation”), maintains headquarters in Réon Couteau. A broken mirror is their symbol (or a 0 with a crooked line through the center). They believe the Searcher is a witch, and they want her destroyed. They want to affect complete separation from the “other” world. They want a new system, free of the Searcher, free of a king and his judges.