

Ovesrum, the reluctant ruler

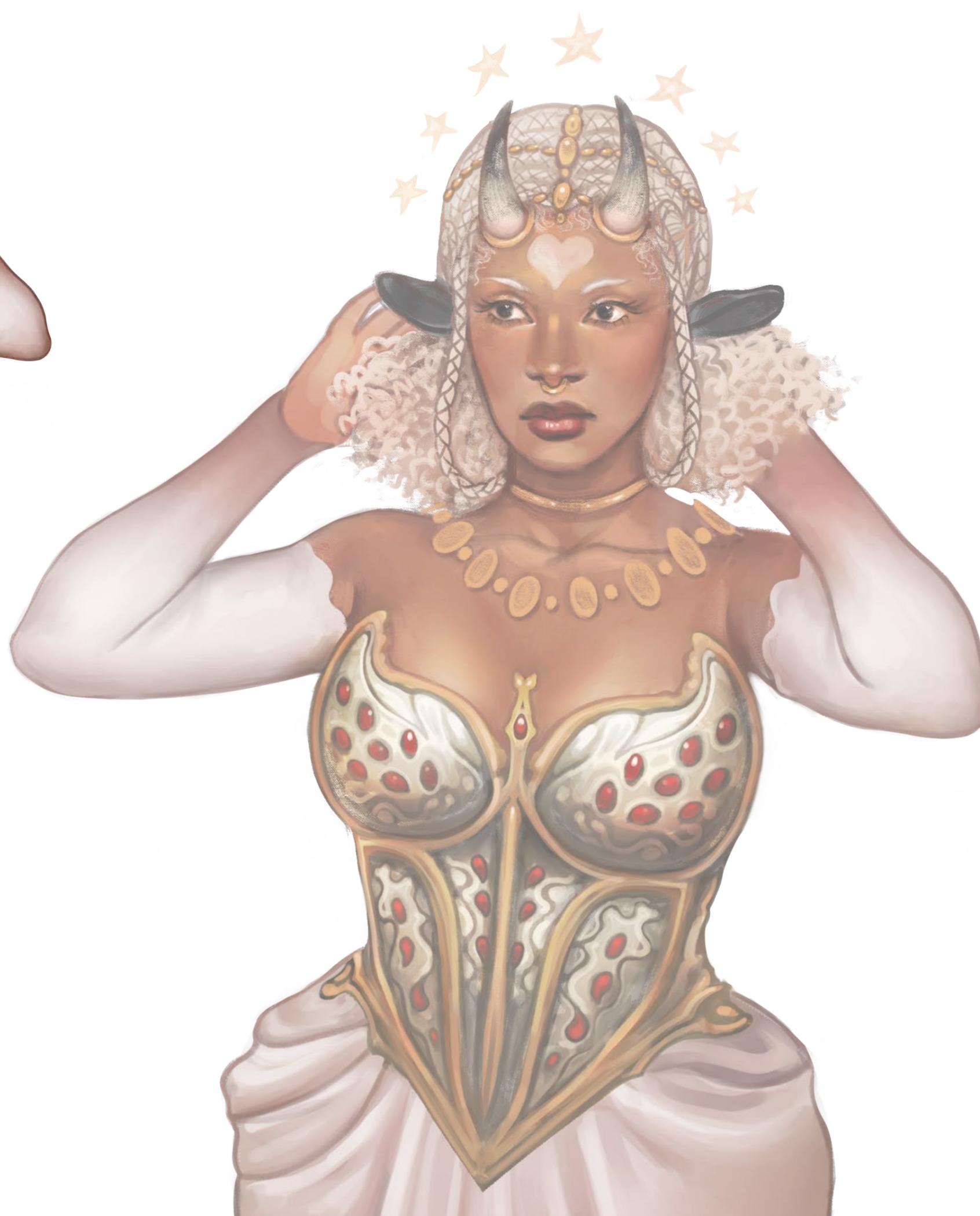
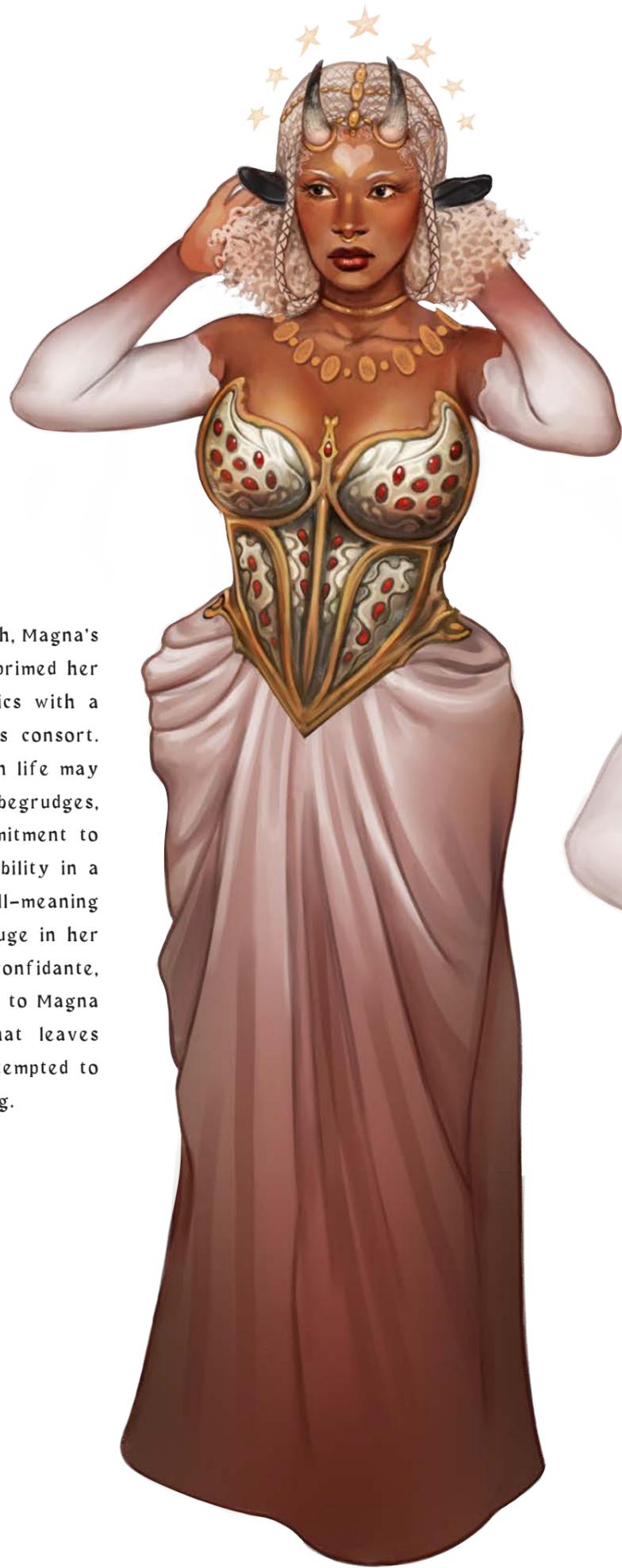
An empire needs an emperor, and Ovesrum has possessed the title for only a short time. Inheriting the imperial mantle after his revered father's untimely passing, Ovesrum reluctantly ascended to power, a role he feels most ill-suited for. Renowned for his volatility, many within the empire doubt his suitability for the throne – a sentiment Ovesrum himself shares. Preferring the camaraderie of sparring with soldiers and making merry with commonfolk, he finds solace in the rough and tumble of worldly pursuits. Yet, duty calls, forcing him to pull at the strings of governance despite his longing for a carefree existence.





Magna Urus, the empress consort

Cradled in the lap of affluence from birth, Magna's upbringing as the daughter of a Duke primed her for a life of navigating courtly politics with a grace befitting her station as Empress consort. Her appreciation for the finer things in life may paint her as materialistic, a label she begrudges, yet beneath this lies a profound commitment to her subjects. She yearns to foster stability in a realm challenged by her husband's well-meaning yet tumultuous reign. Magna finds refuge in her faith and the counsel of her trusted confidante, Hypeia, whose careful orchestration led to Magna and Ovesrum's marriage – a fact that leaves her grateful but, at times, infuriated, tempted to throttle her dear friend for her meddling.





Hypeia, the Moon Maven

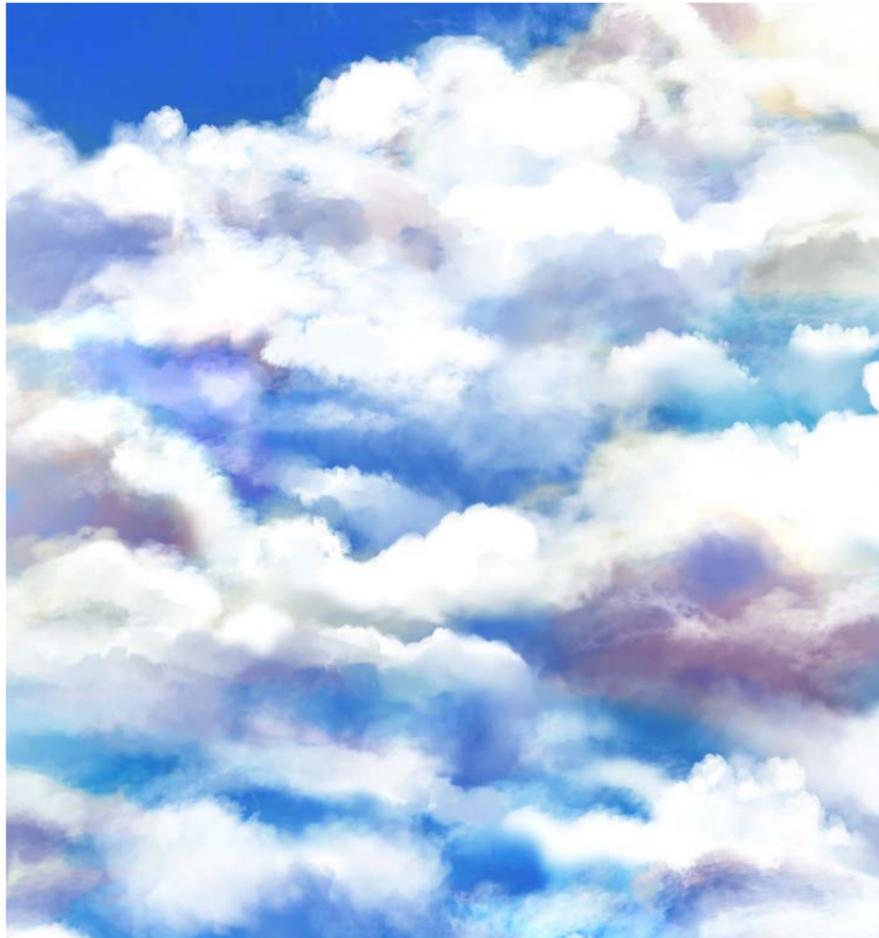
As high priestess of The Luminary Order, Hypeia led the burgeoning faith dedicated to worshipping the sun and moon until she relinquished her position to serve as the emperor's oracle and advisor. Her knack for prophecy means many believe she is omniscient, and her transfiguration and illusory magic is unmatched. Therefore, Hypeia is held in polarising regards by the populace – adored by the faithful, feared by everyone else. Her abdication from the Order elicited mixed reactions, earning her the informal moniker "Moon Maven," often used derisively. Despite the vitriol, Hypeia embraced the appellation with a hint of amusement. Rarely found alone, she is perpetually shadowed by loyal Luminary Knights, ready to execute her will without hesitation.





Ganyulum, the fool

Rejecting the weighty expectations tied to his family's wealth and status, Ganyulum bucked convention and paved his path as an itinerant bard. His off-colour humour and bold ridicule of the aristocracy intrigued the future emperor, Ovesrum, who shared his disdain for the elites, leading to Ganyulum's conflict upon being offered the role of court jester. After much convincing – and many drinks later – he accepted, seeing it as a platform to advocate for change. Now, as the court jester, Ganyulum entertains and advises the emperor, torn between his principles and assimilating back into royal life. His past and familial legacy weigh on his conscience, sparking fear of losing himself amidst the court's pomp.







Ser Achlys Cain, the necromantic knight

In life, Achlys epitomized the Luminary Order's model knight, chosen by the Moon Maven herself as her protector. Yet beneath his stalwart exterior laid a heart consumed by the stinging thorns of unrequited love for his charge. He met an untimely end in a rigged jousting tournament, but even death could not sever his ties to the Moon Maven. Determined to retain his service, she reanimated his decayed form. However, in her pride, Hypeia failed to foresee how the undead make for disobedient servants.

Therusia, the broken believer

A contented young woman, Therusia had everything she ever wanted – a harmonious marriage, a peaceful home – yet her inability to bear a child weighed heavily on her heart. Desperate for the joy of motherhood, she prayed day and night that she might one day experience it, but her pleas seemed to fall on deaf ears. When all hope appeared lost, a mysterious entity approached who granted her wish, but at a cost. The bliss of her marriage twisted into turmoil, their once serene home consumed by flames. To her horror, she birthed conjoined twins, a haunting reminder of the sinister pact she made with the demon Enki, sacrificing all she held dear in her aspiration for motherhood.





Enki, the recidivist demon

Enki, a formidable and cunning demon with morals as murky as the waters in which he resides, once revelled in weaving traps into his contracts, ensnaring unsuspecting souls in their fine print. However, his antics were interrupted by the Archangel Astraeos, deciding enough was enough. Enki was stripped of his wings and cursed to endure an eternity as a sea-goat, bound to an estuary by enchanted manacles. These restraints not only confined him to the water but also nullified his demonic magic, leaving him powerless and trapped in his ignominious form. Enki now dedicates his days and nights to seeking someone naive enough to strike a deal with him, hoping to rectify his situation. Unfortunately, rumours of demons in the water drive most people away, but Enki has lived in the estuary for years now and has encountered nary a demon!







Astraeos, the disgraced guardian

In years bygone, Astraeos was an Archangel responsible for exorcising the most wily of demons. Among these demons was Enki, a league above most other foes Astraeos had faced. He united forces with the Moon Maven to overcome Enki. Through their combined efforts, the demon was served a fate worse than exorcism – his wings forcibly removed and driven into the sea. However, Astraeos' actions stirred concern among his superiors. His unconventional approach of joining forces with Hypeia, a figure considered unholy, and not permanently exorcising the demon resulted in Astraeos' demotion. Now tasked with safeguarding the cursed twins, Amnesty and Clemency, Astraeos wrestles with the repercussions of his past actions. Despite his stoic demeanour, he harbours a deep affection for them, akin to that of an overprotective parent, seeing ensuring their safety as a way to right his wrongs.





Amnesty and Clemency, sisters at odds

Raised in isolation from society, the twins' only companions were their guardian angel, Astraeos, and a scant few farm animals. As they grew, so did their resentment towards their guardian – not merely for denying them a conventional upbringing but for his staunch refusal to discuss the fates of their biological parents. This resentment intensified when the suspiciously helpful sea-goat Enki, a resident of the local estuary, hinted at hidden truths about Astraeos, leaving the young girls to question everything they thought they knew about their protector. A desire to defy Astraeos' strict guidance and seek the truth ignited within the twins, even if it meant braving the unknown dangers that lay beyond their secluded haven.







Erodite, the hopeless romantic

Through her longing for love, Erodite becomes enamoured by every sailor unfortunate enough to drift into her craggy domain, drawn into her embrace by an otherworldly siren song. As her serenade weaves its spell, it veils the sailor's senses, shrouding them in a blissful ignorance of the peril surrounding them. Only when her song falls silent do they awaken from their trance. Yet, Erodite, lost in her romantic fantasies, remains blind to the truth, convinced that every lost sailor desires to stay with her forever. Thus, she accumulates her unlucky admirers like precious treasures on the seabed floor, oblivious of the tragedy she perpetuates, forever seeking companionship amidst the fleeting tides of human mortality.



fletcher, the spirited wanderer

Raised in the woodlands without a formal education, Fletcher found that his travels became his most invaluable teacher, imbuing him with wisdom beyond his years. His insatiable wanderlust led him to the capital, seeking new experiences, where he had a chance encounter with the renowned oracle, Hypeia. She revealed his fortune: while Fletcher would live a short life, it would be rich with purpose. Where many may have succumbed to despair at the notion of dying so young, Fletcher felt inspired to live each moment to its fullest, determined to leave an indelible mark on the world in the time he had.





Reguleo, the pyromaniac despot

Despite attaining the coveted position of high priest within the Luminary Order, Reguleo finds himself eclipsed by the Moon Maven's lingering shadow. Nursing an ego both vast and delicate, he surrounds himself with a devoted party of sycophants to inflate his sense of importance. Reguleo staunchly advocates for proselytism and embraces all the less savoury aspects associated with the Luminary Order, garnering him more hate than love from the populace. Hypeia jokes that the excessive solar motifs Reguleo dons are to make up for the fact that he was never particularly bright. In truth, his gaudy apparel is to conceal the burn scars that litter his skin, the result of a self-immolation ritual to display his faith. Many speculate that it was, in fact, an attempt on his life by someone he wronged, which he is now trying to cover up.