

Ethaya

The Ethayan (*ee-thy-an*) Sovereignty is a small, autocratic power which controls just under a dozen star systems on the spinward edge of the Alpha quadrant. First encountered by the Federation in the 2183, the Ethayans and Starfleet endured a three-day border war before a peace accord was signed.

Personality

Ethayan society reveres the hunter and the warrior, and much of their societal structure revolves around “Anthaya”- a semi-monastic religious code dedicated to martial virtues.

Personal honor, integrity, and clan loyalty are key concepts drilled into all Ethayans from an early age- though they exhibit as much variety of character as any other humanoid species.

As a rule, Ethaya come across as proud (almost *beyond* the point of arrogance), disciplined, and extraordinarily self-sufficient. Unlike other martial societies (such as the Capellans), Ethaya do not shun or dismiss medicine and medical science.

Physical Description

The Ethaya are humanoid, sharing height and weight standards with Terran humans, though they trend towards the tall and lithe. Considered a handsome people by terrestrial standards, they tend toward dark eyes (like the Betazoids) and towards mahogany or reddish-brown skin tones. Hair is generally dark, and often worn long. Their cultural emphasis on strength and fitness means that most Ethayans tend to be striking physical specimens.

Culture

Every Ethayan subject is sworn to obey the semi-divine Empress (a clan matriarch descended from the “First Tribe”, which united the clans over a thousand years ago)- those who can not or will not take this oath (or who later violate it) have no legal rights or standing.

The highest (and smallest) strata of Ethayan society are the Eleven Clans- the daughters (through direct descent) of the eleven semi-mythical tribes of Ethayan history, with the Empress first among them.

Each daughter of the Eleven Clans is trained as an “Anthaya” (warrior priestess) before beginning secondary training in other disciplines. The sons of the Eleven Clans have no particular special status, though they often either apportioned off to various lesser Houses to strengthen or create dynastic ties or as signs of Imperial favor.

In rare instances- usually involving heroic self-sacrifice on behalf of the Imperium, “Anthaya” from the “Lesser Clans” are awarded a husband from the bloodlines of the Eleven Clans- promoting her children into the highest elite of Ethayan society.

The next highest tier are the Matriarchs of the Lesser Clans- who wield legislative, executive and judicial power over clan members and territories. Although it is not legally required, the overwhelming majority of the Clan matriarchs are also warrior-priestesses of the “Ethaya”.

The next highest class consists of ordinary Ethayan men and women. Each man or woman is subject to their Clan laws and customs, though civil and property rights are guaranteed by Imperial decree. Women are given legal preference in property and custody disputes).

The lowest class in Ethayan society are the populations of worlds conquered by the Ethaya (there are currently four such worlds). These populations are considered subjects of the Sovereignty and are guaranteed basic civil and property rights, but have no say in its governance.

Government

Ethayan government is a controlled theocracy, headed by the Empress, whose word is (literally) law. She is aided in her duties by the bicameral Ethayan Senate, which debates and passes the laws and regulations in the Empress' name- although the Empress retains a rarely used veto authority.

The Senate has two houses: the Privy Council and the Magistrates. The Privy Council is composed of the Matriarchs of the Eleven Clans and the Matriarchs of the ten most populous

Ethaya

Lesser Clans.

The Magistrates are regional delegates elected by popular vote from their districts and may be dismissed by the Empress or recalled by simple majority of their electorate.

Homeworld

The Ethayan Sovereignty currently controls eight planets, four moons, and several large asteroid belts within their recognized borders, and conduct limited (but peaceful) trade with neighbors. Trespassers, pirates, smugglers, and looters are dealt with harshly.

The Ethaya are native to Delta Circonis VI, a lush Class M world. The Imperial capital (on the Ethayan homeworld) is divided into two regions: the Sacred City and the surrounding capital of Ethaya Regis.

The Sacred City is a massive walled and terraced enclave covering roughly 260 km², and dates to the First Imperium (roughly two and a half thousand years ago). The Sacred City (like the Chinese city of the same name) is reserved for the Eleven Clans, their descendants, and those in their immediate service. Trespass within the Sacred City is punishable by immediate execution. Even the Imperial Council (the Ethayan parliament or senate) meets outside the Sacred City.

The surrounding city of Ethaya Regis is a massive, modern metropolis some hundred and thirty kilometers across and boasting a population of eleven million.

Interstellar Relations

The Ethaya have limited trade relations with the Federation and a few of their smaller neighbors, but are largely insular and self-sufficient. Their insular nature (and the complex, ritualistic nature of their interpersonal relations) has served to keep most of their interactions limited.

Contact with the Ferengi and the Orions apparently went badly, and relations with the Klingons have been strained. According to legend, the last Klingon ambassador (apparently deep in his cups) was expelled (head-first) after making a derisive comment about a society ruled by women.

Ethayan contact with the Federation has been sporadic, at best, largely limited to either a handful of informal trade events or to major diplomatic events. Infrequent information and technological exchanges have taken place- but those have been limited to navigational, agricultural, and some medical data. The Ethayans seem to be especially interested in Federation inoculation regimes.

The Ethayans have consistently refused offers of membership and alliance from the Federation, and seem content to “go their own way”. A major exception to this rule took place during the late Dominion War, when a combined Federation/Ethayan task force destroyed several Jem'Hadar and Breen staging bases being built near the Ethayan border.

The Ethaya have conducted limited trade with the Romulans and Cardassians, but this appears to have left a bad taste in the mouths of all concerned).

Aliens and outworlders are generally treated with suspicion by the Ethayan Sovereignty, and “uninvited guests” or lawbreakers are usually given one chance to explain themselves and then executed out of hand.

Technological Summary

Ethayan spaceflight technology is late-Level 7 or perhaps early Level 8 (roughly comparable to the Federation around the launch of the *Enterprise-B*). Ethayan starships are equipped with advanced beam and torpedo weaponry and powerful defensive shields. Little information is available about their computers or command-and-control systems, but they had little difficulty interfacing with Federation systems during the Dominion War.

Species Adjustment

+1 Control, Fitness, and Reason

Ethaya

Trait: Ethayan. A member of a martial, matriarchal society with strong feudal elements. Ethayans are proud, self-reliant, and territorial, prize personal honor, self-sufficiency, integrity, and strength (both physical and strength of character).

Talents:

Proud and Honorable: Ethayans are honor-driven and single-minded. They will not willingly break their given word or otherwise disgrace themselves. Whenever you attempt a Task to resist being coerced into breaking a promise, betraying your allies, or otherwise acting dishonorably, you reduce the Difficulty by one.

Warrior-Priestess: (Female Ethaya only). An member of the Anthaya, you are an exemplar of what it means to be an Ethaya. Specially trained from a young age, you are adept at defending yourself or others. When you make (or are targeted by) an attack, and buy one or more d20s by adding to Threat, you may re-roll the dice pool for the task.

Anthaya: Warrior Priestesses

The “Anthaya” or “warrior priesthood” is a semi-monastic order which transcends and unifies the clan structure. Their strict religious and martial code grants them special status and moral authority within Ethayan society, and emphasizes self-discipline, duty, justice, and compassion. Ethayans in general value personal honor and integrity- but the Anthaya are expected to rigorously exemplify these virtues.

Anthaya Priestesses dedicate themselves to the service of others, eschewing personal wealth and power in the name of the common good. They live simply, but (generally) are not expected to live extreme asceticism. abstinence.

Candidates to the order are accepted from all levels of Ethayan society and are (generally) inducted at age five. Once accepted, Candidates are then trained for eleven years (at their Clan's expense) in a variety of martial disciplines.

Candidates may drop out of the Order and return to their Clan without prejudice at any time until age thirteen, after which they are designated “Acolytes”. Acolytes receive secondary training in various other disciplines based upon interest and aptitude. Although all Anthaya are “warriors”, they are not only “warriors”.

Upon completing her training and taking the required religious vows, the young woman receives the honorific “Priestess” and returns to her clan to serve as both defender and adviser.

Most Anthaya serve as law enforcement, peace officers, and adjudicators within clan territories. Many choose to serve on active duty as commissioned officers in the Sovereign Guard (though all are “reserve” officers in case of war or other emergency).

Acolytes who do not complete their training or who cannot or will not take the requisite religious vows are dealt with on a case-by-case basis. The most common result is that the acolyte is quietly returned to her clan to live out her days in private ignominy.

Gross misconduct may result in an Acolyte or Priestess being stripped of all legal rights and status- becoming a non-person (often turning to beggary or crime to survive). The most heinous crimes are punishable by death.

There are rare instances (in legend) in which a disgraced Acolyte or Priestess has triumphed against all odds, and redeemed her honor. Conversely, there are also legends in which the failed outcast becomes a “shadow” - an assassin, spy, or thief who misuses her training for personal profit or vengeance.

Anthaya serve for life, but may (after at least ten years of active service) petition the order for permission to court and marry. Anthaya do not “retire” *per se*, but may become less active with age and infirmity.

Notes

The Ethaya are not recommended for use as Player Characters without express Gamemaster approval and a suitable background story/explanation. Stats by Roger Taylor.