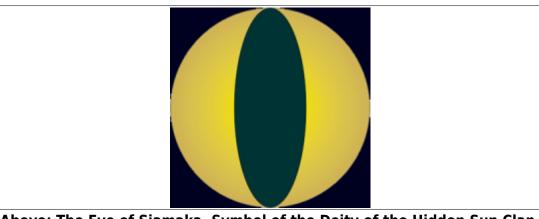
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Siama Kâur (Divine way)



Above: The Eye of Siamaka, Symbol of the Deity of the Hidden Sun Clan.

Overview

The dominant religion of the Poku Saeruo Degonjo is called the Siama Kâur, pronounced sēămă kāūr, meaning 'divine path' or 'divine way'. The core belief of the faith is that the universe is a thinking consciousness which can intercede or interfere according to its grand design.

Siamaka, the Great Divine

The term that believers use to describe this consciousness is Siamaka, or the Great Divine. Siamaka is often represented visually with a large eye that has a green feline iris and yellow sclera. The symbol of Siamaka appears in the Poku Afirmu (Clan Crest).

History

The Siama Kâur traces its origins to the early history of the Otâgolisoy (Birth world). roots reaching back to before the *Norka (The Exodus)*.

Death, Afterlife and Reincarnation

The Poku'vonai believe in an afterlife where the the universal consciousness, Siamaka, judges their lives. This judgment determines how soon a soul can be reborn, and where it will be sent. The Poku'vonai revere their ancestors, and often ask their ancestors to intercede on their behalf with the Great Divine.

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Sou (Death)

Sou (death) is not something that Poku'vonai fear. They accept that death is inevitable, but that does not mean that they do not want to postpone it as long as possible. Most Poku'vonai accept that they may have to die for House or Clan, though it is preferred to make ones enemy die for theirs instead.

Poku'vonai classify deaths into two categories.

Souibâ

The *Souibâ*, or 'bright death'. A bright death means that the individual 'died well' and with a purpose. Individuals who have been killed in battle while fighting bravely or while sacrificing themselves in combat for the good of the people are considered to have died a bright death. Poku'vonai who die of old age after a successful career of service also fall into this category. Lastly, persons who perform the *Sou Fofi* (*Cleansing Death*) ritual are considered to have died well.

Souâbi

The *Souâbi*, or 'dark death'. This refers to dying badly. It could mean that the person's death had no meaning, or that the individual died in cowardice or disgrace. Individuals who have experienced a *Souâbi* are seldom spoken of by members outside of the family. Family members typically will go to the temple to intercede on the person's behalf in the afterlife.

Learning the Religion

While all Poku'vonai are schooled in the teachings regarding Siamaka (sēā-mā-kā); this does not mean that every one of them are devout. However, because rituals like the Devotopai (Rituals) and the Ousaenori (Festivity Days) are an important facet of the society, those who do not believe often still follow the Devotopai (Rituals) in public.

Religiosity of the Clan

The break down for believers is roughly 75% devout, 20% casual, and 5% non-believers. It is not illegal to be a non-believer. The faith is taught in the Ruohui Giba'te (Academies).

Ministers of the Faith

The *Detis Goa'ai Jael (Faith Walkers Sect)* teach and minister to the people. Most Clan starships have a Faith Walker on board as part of their crew.

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Sae Fuâmy'ai (Star Watchers)

When they arrived at their new home in the *Degonjo Saeruo* (*Hidden Sun System*), the area was immediately considered a direct conduit to the universal consciousness because the light of the destruction of one of the system's binary stars had led the Clan to its new home. It is believed by some of the clergy of the faith that the universal consciousness, Siamaka, communicates to the *Poku'vonai* by emissions from the surviving star, *Ida Siamaka* (Eye of God). These believers, called Sae Fuâmy'ai (Star Watchers), comprise a small sub-sect in the religion of the Clan. They count among their number several *Detis Goa'ai Jael* who devote their lives to deciphering the messages from the Eye of God, which take the form of flares and other solar activities.

The Star Watchers believe that the Eye of God's messages prophesied a number of events which later occurred, such as the disappearance of the body of Kotoz Mui, or the Weakening.

Temples

Every *Ruoka (House)* will have a large temple for use by the members. Detis Goa'ai tend to the operation of the temple. If thre are no Detis Goa'ai within the *Ruoka* the *Detis Goa'ai Jael* will proved one for that House's rituals and events.

Most Poku'vonai *Punla (Family)* homes have a temple for meditation, and daily *Devotopai (Rituals)* in the main house. These, unlike the formal temples, are maintained by the *Punla*.

All Poku Saeruo Degonjo vessels, regardless of size, will have some sort of temple on board. See *Siama Ruo'sa (Divine Room)*.

OOC Notes

• Article and art created by Nashoba.

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