

A detailed digital illustration of a mountain village in a snowy landscape. In the foreground, a group of five people in winter gear walks through deep snow. Several wooden huts with snow-laden roofs are scattered across the middle ground, some with warm orange light glowing from their windows. The background features majestic, snow-covered mountain peaks under a twilight sky with soft clouds and a few stars. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

Gethenian Society

Terrens engagement with Gethenians

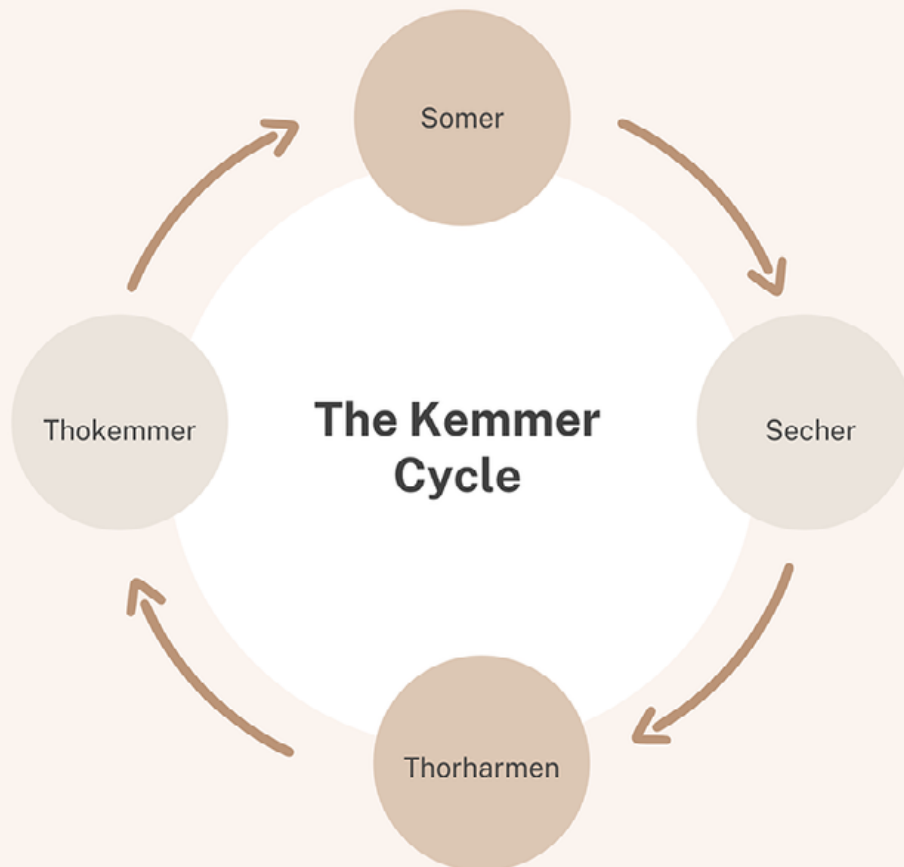
Reports from Genly Ai

Military Forays

Differences between Karhiders and Orgata

Gethenian Faith

Fish Cakes!



Somer

The somer stage is characterized by sexual inactivity and an androgynous physical state. Lasting approximately 21 to 22 days of the typical 26 to 28-day cycle, it represents the longest phase in their reproductive lives. In contrast

to kemmer which is the estrus-like period when Gethenians develop distinct male or female sex organs and become sexually active, somer is a time of neutrality.

Gethenians return to the somer after kemmer if pregnancy occurred, resuming their genderless form until the next kemmer phase begins.

Secher

As Gethenians transition from their sexually neutral, latent "somer" state into kemmer, they enter the sechor stage, the initial phase marked by the emergence of sexual polarity. This begins on the 18th day and during this period, an individual begins to develop secondary sex characteristics, either male or female, and experiences an intensification of sexual desire in anticipation of mating. This affects their personality and both individuals have to be in kemmer in this phase in order to continue to kemmer. Once they find someone to kemmer with their hormones are stimulated by touch and scent until one of their hormones becomes dominant.

PHASES of Kemmer

Thorharmen

During the thorharmen stage, which is the second phase of kemmer, a fascinating transformation occurs when two partners in sechor encounter one another.

This occurs during a timespan of 2-22 hours. Their bodies respond to each other's pheromones, triggering hormonal shifts. One partner develops hormonal dominance, transitioning into either a male or female role, while the other partner assumes the opposite sex role. This process of establishing a temporary sex and potency is the defining characteristic of the thorharmen stage.

Thokemmer

Thokemmer represents the climactic phase of kemmer, a period lasting two to five days during which a pair can engage in coitus, driven by their maximum sexual desire. Following the thokemmer phase, the outcomes diverge based on whether pregnancy occurs. In the absence of pregnancy, both partners revert to their neutral, androgynous somer state, awaiting the next kemmer cycle. Conversely, if pregnancy ensues, the partner assuming the female role remains in that state throughout the duration of the pregnancy which is 8.4 months and subsequent lactation for 6-8 months. Only after giving birth and weaning the child does this individual return to the somer state, completing the cycle.

GETHENIAN PHYSIOLOGY

1

ANDROGYNY

One of the most striking features of Gethenian physiology is their ambisexuality. Gethenians possess both male and female reproductive organs, allowing them to embody either gender during their mating cycle. This process, known as "kemmer," occurs periodically and is influenced by various social and environmental factors. During kemmer, Gethenians can become either male or female, showcasing a remarkable fluidity in gender that contrasts sharply with traditional binary gender systems.

3

PHYSICAL ADAPTIONS

Gethen's harsh, cold climate has also shaped the physiological characteristics of its inhabitants. Gethenians are typically robust and well-adapted to withstand extreme temperatures. They possess a layer of subcutaneous fat that provides insulation, along with a highly efficient circulatory system designed to maintain body heat in the frigid environment. These adaptations not only ensure survival but also influence the lifestyle and activities of the Gethenians.

"KEMMER" CYCLE

The kemmer cycle is a crucial aspect of Gethenian biology, enabling individuals to shift between male and female reproductive roles. This cycle occurs under specific social and environmental conditions, often influenced by potential partners and emotional states. Kemmer usually lasts for a few days each month. Gethenians experience heightened sexual receptivity, facilitating mating and reproduction. Gethenians natural state is somer and from there follow 3 other stages Secher, Thorharmen, and Thokemmer, which track the degree of sexual polarity an individual has reached.

2

CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS

The unique physiology of Gethenians shapes their cultural practices and societal structures. Relationships in Gethen are characterized by a distinct lack of gender-based hierarchies, leading to a more egalitarian approach to companionship and family. The ability to shift gender roles allows for diverse expressions of love and partnership, prompting a re-examination of the norms surrounding relationships in our own world.

4

Distant But Aware: Gethenian Folktale

Brochure

Survival on Ice

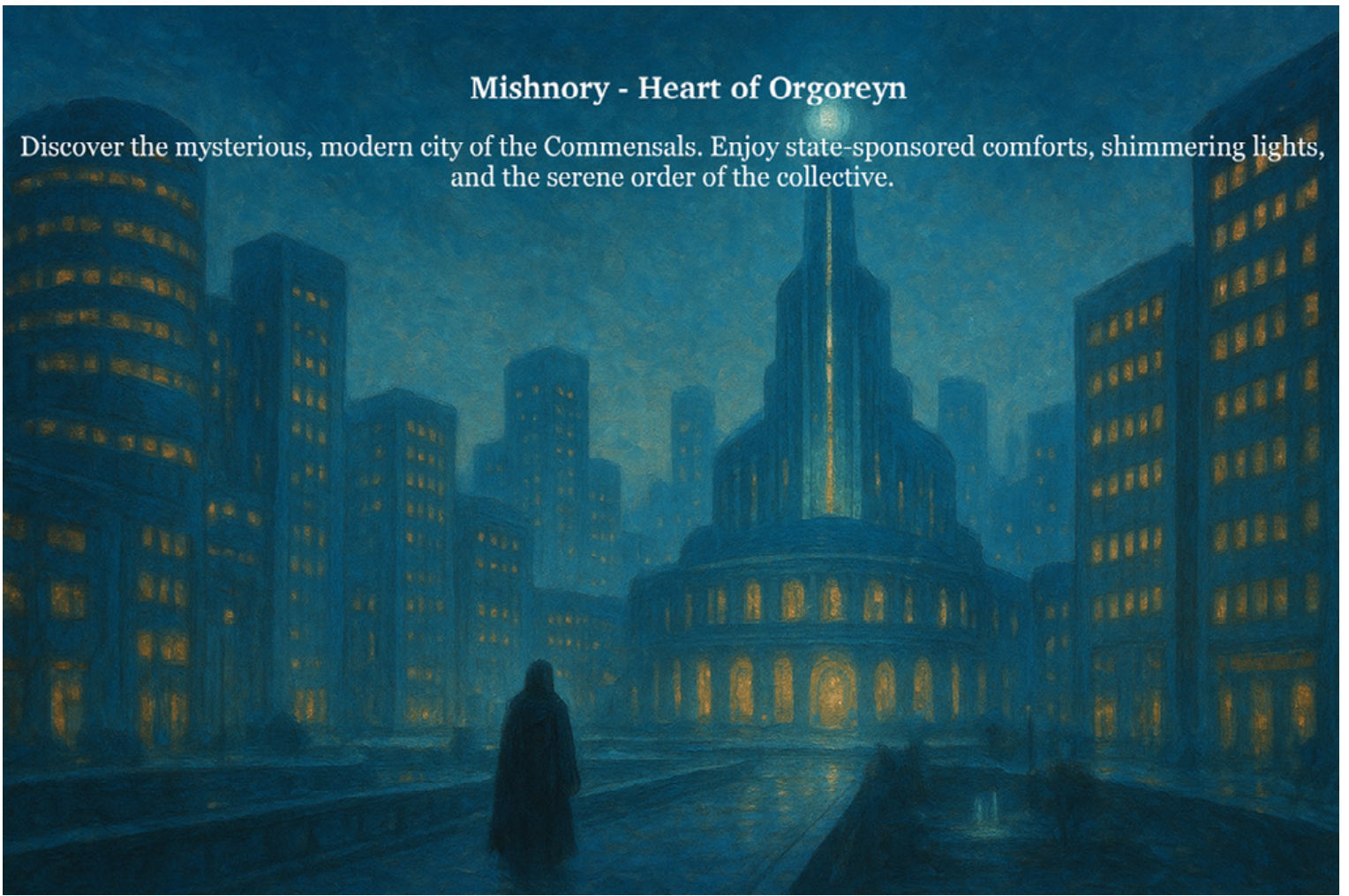
Erhenrang - The Jewel of Karhide

Explore the glittering capital built into a mountainside! Marvel at its ice-carved palaces, bustling marketplaces, and the grand King's Keep of Argaven XV.



Mishnory - Heart of Orgoreyn

Discover the mysterious, modern city of the Commensals. Enjoy state-sponsored comforts, shimmering lights, and the serene order of the collective.



Gobrin Ice - The Endless White Venture across the vast frozen desert where the wind speaks and survival becomes a test of spirit. Follow in the footsteps of Genly Ai and Estraven's legendary crossing.



Sinoth Valley - Border of Adventure

Journey to the contested valley between Karhide and Orgoreyn! Experience the breathtaking Storm Border and witness the ancient tension that shapes Gethen's history.



Stay with local Gethenians, share a bowl of orsh soup, and experience shifgrethor - the art of subtle honor. + Travel Tips: • Average temperature: -60°F (pack your heaviest furs!) • Kemmer houses available year-round • Respect local customs — gender is fluid on Gethen!

