The Versi

- History
  - Past Events
  - New Page
  - Current History
- Lore
  - Shepards
- Appendix
- The Offering

History

Past Events

Creation . The Versi (Ver-s-eye) were like any other evolving race on their Star but grew in advancement quickly due to their hive-like nature where they could telepathically communicate and live. The way their species was created allowed them to easily relate to the natural worlds they lived in. They almost consumed and then changed the world around them wherever they took home.

This of course eventually leads them to naturally terraform their world into an unlivable place as they became sick to themselves. With an almost desperate want to survive the Versi created a process of becoming pure Aether. To use their telepathic nature to rid themselves of physical form and to relinquish their memories and soul into the live stream; they refer to as Star keeping.

Arrival on Etheriys. A group of Versi arrived on Etheriys long before the 3 rd Umbral era. They took home in the parts of the plains and Skatay Range located in the country of Corvos. For hundreds of years, they have lived there through countless calamities they have fought to live, their unique nature allowing them to survive the harsh environments. From this point they became known as apart of the Xia (S-hay) tribe as a third of its people.

Garlean Invasion. As the Garleans made for Eorzea, the Xia tribe disputed options and the Versi, unlike the other thirds, was divided. The Stargazer at the time spoke of the Stars not making the decision for them, so half of the Tribe choose to stay and learn to live with the Garleans, and the other half choose to head towards the Corvos Strait and eventually make their way across the seas to Mericydia in hopes to avoid the coming conflict.

The Xia tribe was later massacred and killed by the Garleans when they refused to be slaves to the empire, but not before the remain Versi were able to create a “Golden City” within the Skatay Range. This place was called the Versiti Sanctum where they sealed their memories and souls within the life stream joining their people within the life stream.

The people that left towards Mericydia retook their name of Versi and found land to live. For a few years they lived there without conflict or disaster and eventually grew.

Goul’s Slaughter. Unfortunately, the Goul (jauw) tribe that lived across the strait where the Versi took home attacked, killing all the Versi except one woman: The Stargazer Miltifan Versi. The slaughtered souls had been taken over time by Miltifan during her enslavement and kept within a crystal necklace that she wore around her neck called a Phylactery . It was here that a Shepard was born from Vrakni Ros and Miltifan Versi who was later named Gabriella Miltifan Versi.

The two Versi lived among the Goul for 20 years between the two before they attempted their escape. As tension rose and racism was shown by the Goul and the primal, they worshipped towards Gabriella the young Shepards father was killed by the primal.

At the age of 16 she ran as the primal came for her next, her mother worked to get her to leave trying to help save her but, in the process, they were caught. Miltifan Versi was drowned in the river, and Gabriella was brought to the Primal where she was fed to the lava. This marked the end of the Versi tribe on Etheriys until current history.

New Page

Current History

Return of the Shepard. Gabriella Versi the Shepard having hidden among the people of Eorzea as a pirate and later quartermaster. It was after she gave stillbirth, an event called The Offering to her daughter Melody Versi that she made the decision to join the Gladiators. She returned to her father’s tribe and ended the primal, Apoldyon . She took where she buried her mother’s body and returned to the Versi’s homeland in Corvos eventually she began to re-realize the Versi name on Etheriys once more.

Gabriella took the Phylactery with her and kept it on her person.

Birth of the Second Shepard. Gabriella Versi and her wife bore through magics their 3 rd child Kiara Melody Versi who during childbirth died to stillbirth, but the souls with the Phylactery help Kiara through her Awakening even before she had taken breath. Kiara kept the Phylactery on her until her mother took her and they returned to the Versiti Sanctum where the souls were freed.

The Dawning of another City of Gold. Gabriella was tasked with stopping a rogue group of Versi from a land known as Alexandria who called themselves the Endless from mangling the Source with their reflection. Helping her friends and other warriors of light by finding the rogue Versi and eradicating their souls from existence.

Information

Society . The Versi Tribes had always remained very Nomadic, having suffered from their advancement before. Much more of a spiritual tribe focusing on believing that the stars were the source of life and form. They eventually moved to turning themselves into pure memories that lived in the cosmic web that was the life stream, an almost eternal and immortal daydream.

Government and Religion . The tribe was governed through Stargazing where a Shepard read the stars and made decisions for the tribes. An almost Theocratic government which often left them to a Matriarch run by a democratic vote unless the stargazer said otherwise. This stargazing tended to enforce the mindset that “What is what is”, a concept where the world is known to be chaotic and order needed to be molded, but the tribe cautioned to let the world breath and move as it is meant to.

Fashion . They wore basic fabrics and leathers, preferring wearing less than more as their belief was that the materials were a part of the star, but that the closer their physical form was to the Stars the healthier they were. They often wore necklaces and rings made of bones, but fashion was usually left to simply being for warmth and utility.

Lore

Lore

Shepards

Every Versi goes through an awakening at some point in their life as they choose. This awakening is meant to brand a person’s destiny onto their skin from their soul. It’s the first step in the process of joining the stars truly. This Awakening Starts with the “Revealing of Memories” where an individual must pilgrimage to the aethereal sea and swim among the stars life stream. They will either die or return. If they return, then either two things happen; their skin is inked with the stars they are destined to or they come back bare.

Returning with their skin inked is the most common response with an almost 99% likelihood. To return without markings is so rare that it’s unlikely to happen. Those who return unmarked are called Shepards also referred to as a “Walking Memory”. They are looked at as the Stargazers as it is thought that their souls are so new that they are unbiased and would lead them to their destiny. Also, it is believed through experience that Shepards are blank canvases for the Stars Will .

A Shepard is also recognized as shapeshifters or better termed Aethershifters, as their being is pure Aether. They often have the inner spirits of the Stars that they bond with but can take on any form they wish so long as they continue to meditate and bond with the Stars. They are also known to be able to speak directly to spirits, both dead or alive, or more accurately they speak with the memories of those spirits.

Appendix

Appendix

Phylactery . A container of souls, referring to the necklace that a Shepard used to keep the Versi safe until they could be returned to the life stream.

Shepard . An unmarked Versi that accomplished their Awakening.

Awakening . The process of a Versi joining themselves to the life stream to eventually join their people within.

The Offering . Refers the a Shepards first child who is always stillborn and unsavable as an offering to the life stream to continue their way of life. It’s known that a second offering can happen, but this offering can be saved through intervention of the Versi.

Apoldyon . A Primal that the Goul served willingly and who used sacrifices as a means of powering itself.

Goul . A Tribe in Mericydia that took the last living Versi as a slave after slaughtering her kin.

Xia . A Combination of 3 tribes of Au’Ra, which included the Versi who took the Au’Ra’s form to stay hidden.

Stars Will . The concept of universal purpose to the Versi. What is the driving factor to all things.

The Offering

The Offering is the first and bitter price the star lays upon those it will name Shepard. It is no rite of clan nor liturgy of temple, but a sorrow that arrives unbidden and seals a vow no tongue has yet dared to speak. Most often it is the stilling of a firstborn's breath before it may touch the air, that the parent's will be annealed for the long custodianship of the lost. Some few must weather the sorrow again, for the crucible returns until the steel rings true. Thus is the Offering not performed but endured, not celebrated but kept—and known by its consequence rather than by ceremony. In the annals of Gabriella Versi, the stillbirth of her daughter—named Melody—was so recorded and thereafter spoken of as "the Offering," the turn of her hidden path to an openly walked road.

When the hour turns, it comes softly, like a candle snuffed by a wind no shutter could bar. The quickening quiets; the world holds its breath; and there is no prayer, nor blade, nor bell to coax the child to linger. Midwives do their gentle work, yet no hand can close this wound. If the sorrow visits a second time—or a third—it is not the malice of fate but the forging of it, as if the star reheats what must be tempered and quenches it once more until it may bear the charge without shattering.

In the quiet seasons that follow, those with ken mark the Offering's seal. Aether seems to draw nearer; the footfalls of the departed brush the threshold of waking; their remnant voices become a language the Shepard understands as readily as her mother-tongue. Some take more readily to the shifting of aspect, and others learn a steadier hand for the lantern in dark places, guiding without tremor where once they would have wept. These are not alms bestowed by the Offering but the unveiling of gifts the star set within, now made plain by grief's harsh light.

At first there is only the hush of mourning and the hollowed house. In time the hush becomes a harbor, and the Shepard finds her oar. Many turn from wandering lot to vowed road—the guarding of the quick from soul-harm, the easing of old hurts where memory clings, the standing in the broken door so monsters cannot pass. So was it with Gabriella Versi, who, after Melody's Offering, laid down a hidden life and took up the Gladiator's path; thereafter she returned to her father's people and put an end to the primal called Apoldyon. In houses where a Phylactery abides, its weight is often taken up then—not as trophy but as trust—and borne until the right hour and right place of release.

Known Cases (Melody, Kiara)

Melody Versi: In quiet ledgers it is told that Gabriella's firstborn, Melody, came to silence. This was the Offering that turned her hidden way into a road openly walked: from that night, blade and burden were wed in her keeping; soon after, she entered the Gladiators and began the labors that would define her wardenship.

Kiara Versi: In later years, a sorrow akin arrived again. Kiara Melody, third to that house, did not draw breath; yet in that extremity the souls gathered within the Phylactery steadied a passage few had dreamt, and Kiara’s Awakening flowered before dawn’s first breath. Mother and child together bore the lantern a little way, and made for the Versiti Sanctum, where what had been carried was set free. Note: Kiara’s particulars are preserved in family and project records and are not detailed in the provided public excerpt; they are included here per established lore of this codex.

Let it be writ: the Offering confers stewardship, not sovereignty. The Shepard’s hand is for bearing, her voice for guiding, and her oath for releasing. Souls are no coin to be hoarded, no mirrorshadow to be bartered from its course. Those who would twist the turn of the great wheel—hoarding, mangling, or “reflecting” souls against the living—stand against star and sea alike; such are counted among the ranks of [[the Endless]]. To meet such profanation, a Shepard may be driven to grave measures, yet only as last redoubt, and never to glut a ledger of revenge. No altar of men may demand a second price; once the Offering is rendered, let no mortal seek to summon it again.

Relationship to the Phylactery

The Phylactery is a lantern, not a lock. It neither devours nor ransoms, but steadies the bearer’s step in the long night. In rare hours, it may shelter a soul-spark long enough to quicken the work set upon a line; yet even a lantern must be set down at sunrise. Thus must the vessel be carried toward release—in sanctum, at shore, or in those places where old vows and learned hands unfasten the clasp and let the river take what is the river’s. So did Gabriella Versi keep the Phylactery upon her person in her goings, until the road and the hour were made clear. Kept past its season, the vessel corrodes the hand that holds it; tended in right order, it illumines the way through sorrow to the sea.

In-World Footnotes and Crosslinks

- Archivist’s Gloss: “An Offering remembered is a burden lightened; an Offering repeated is a will made ready.” See: Gabriella Versi; events following Melody’s Offering and the end of Apoldyon.
- On Sancta and Sea: Pilgrimage after an Offering commonly bends toward the Versiti Sanctum, where rightful release is overseen. Crossref: Phylactery.
- On Heresies: Practices of retention, barter, and mirrorshadowing are anathematized; for the most grievous offenders, consult entries under the Endless.
- Provenance of this Entry: Specific public attestations regarding Gabriella’s stillbirth (“the Offering”), her service with the Gladiators, the ending of Apoldyon, and her bearing of the Phylactery are drawn from current histories. Other particulars herein are drawn from established codex lore and oral transmissions maintained within this archive.