



Thalassian

Alone in the darkness of a ruined temple, Aramis swam his way through its submerged passageways. He struggled forward with a wide smile, and his arms overflowing with ancient golden treasures. A faint light appeared above him as he swam upward towards the surface of a dark pool. His teal and steel blue skin appeared black in the gloom, but the light reflected faintly off the long silver stripe that ran down the side of his face, body, and limbs.

As Aramis broke the surface, his smile vanished. Unexpectedly, at the edge of the pool stood his old rival and several henchmen. Seeing their weapons, Aramis quickly regained his composure and gently asserted claim to the treasure, “Day late and a copper short, friends.

You wont believe how much of this is down there.” With a convincing smile, and seeing the disarmed look on the humans’ faces he added, “If we work together we can haul it all out. Lets make a deal.”

In the emerald light beneath shallow seas, sunken metropolises reach toward the surface. Their walls rise from the waves like a great plateau, and offer safe harbor against the crashing surf. In these towering cites live the Thalassian people. They thrive in mountain lakes and shallow seas, or on islands and shorelines. Theirs is a culture torn between two worlds. Above water, it is a bustling cosmopolitan society, energetically engaged with the outside world. Below water, their submerged civilization lies unreachable to most, and hums with mystery.



Shimmering Complexions

Thalassians are immediately identifiable by their vibrant multicolored skin. Their skin can have almost any pigmentation with bright tropical colors being common. Most Thalassians also have dramatic stripes, spots, ripples, or other patterns. Some thalassian's patterns are especially striking such as dazzling iridescence, shining metallics, or colors so luminous they seem to have a fluorescent glow.

Instead of hair on their heads, thalassians have long feathery fins or crests. Their long ears are also finlike, which can twitch in response to sound or emotion. Fins also extend from the side of their forearms and calves, and their fingers and toes are webbed. Instead of lungs, Thalassians have specially adapted gills that allow them to breathe both air and water. They breathe in through their nose and mouth, and out through soft gill slits on the side of their torso. Water pressure prevents them from diving much deeper than 600 feet.

Thalassians usually stand from barely 5 feet to well over 6 feet tall, and they weigh between 100 and 220 pounds. Males are significantly taller and heavier than females. They age at the same rate as humans, but live a little over 100 years. Rather than give live birth,

Charismatic and Cunning

Thalassians have extensive experience living and working with other races. Their natural attractiveness and extroverted personalities usually make relations easy, and to their benefit.

Humans: “Their ambitious lives make humans strong allies, challenging competitors, and fierce enemies. Which one describes any individual or kingdom? You’ll have to find out for yourself. Ignoring humans during your endeavors would be a serious mistake, both in terms of reward and consequence.”

Elves: “They think they are better than everyone else, and foolishly live in isolation from the rest of the world. Still, they have valuable knowledge in many subjects. Their pride is hard to break, but elf friendship is worth the effort, and long lasting.”

Dwarves: “They have an impressive work ethic and are very tough, but are stubborn traditionalists. They can be solid allies if you earn their trust, and they are very wealthy. Hilariously, they are afraid of water, but don’t tell them I said that.”

Thalassians lay a single large soft egg which must be kept in well circulated water at all times. For this reason, Thalassian communities are rarely seen far from large bodies of water.

Exuberance and Enterprise

The Thalassians are an optimistic people, who approach life with vigorous gusto. Most are individualistic, confident, and unbound by traditions. They are open to new ideas and constantly on lookout for opportunities. Most are gregarious and charismatic, and thus freely

discuss all manner of topics with strangers. However, thalassians view themselves as somewhat distinct from other races, and this causes them to be protective of their underwater homes. Consequently, they hesitate to speak about domestic affairs to people they do not trust.

Thalassians are the gatekeepers to the waterways, and this gives them a position at the center of commerce. They have contact with all manner of people who wish to use rivers, lakes, and oceans for trade or transport. Their society has consequently evolved a heavy emphasis on maritime trade and shipping. Through their daily experience of bargaining and negotiating, Thalassians have become renowned for their silver tongued and eloquent expression.

Thalassians' highly enterprising and individualistic personalities often make them competitive and prideful. This normally manifests as friendly rivalries, but sometimes escalates into antagonism or ruthlessness. Thalassians usually prefer diplomacy to resolve disputes, but some do not hesitate to resort to coercion or cunning.

Coastal Cosmopolitans

Thalassians live in and along the coast of lakes, islands and shallow seas where they farm aquatic plants and livestock. The natural bounty of the sea allows Thalassians to lead relatively labor free lives with plenty of free time for arts, athletics, magic, industry, and leisure. Many devote their extra hours to all manner of professions to complete for prestige, or simply for the enjoyment of them.

Their highly fertile aquatic ecosystems support very dense, towering cities that can reach from the sea floor all the way to above the surface. These hive like metropolises are influential enough to control the area around them for many miles, effectively forming a city-state. City-states are usually governed by coalitions of trade guilds and corporations, who are continually jockeying with each other for power. Many Thalassians join these



organizations for protection, representation, and status.

Thalassians' towering cities are built out of many of the same materials found on land. Instead of wood, however, they use unique underwater materials such as coral, whale bones, giant seashells, or even living giant sponges. Some houses are woven out of living kelp with different rooms suspended along the plant like a string of pearls. The walls of thalassian cities are very robust to provide refuge from waves and currents. They also provide piece of mind against the unknowable horrors of the abyss, whose haunting calls can sometimes be heard for hundreds of miles in the water.

Almost all Thalassian settlements have a large above water port district on the upper levels of the city, floating on barges, or on the shoreline. These areas are the most important part of the city as they serve as harbors and market places that connect it to the outside world. Here, terrestrial races of all kinds reside with thalassians where they live and do

business. Thus, thalassians learn to coexist with many other races and cultures.

Thalassians frequently venture far outside their own territories as merchants, explorers, and entertainers. They are often employed by other races as diplomats, negotiators, and managers.

Opportunity in the Great Unknown

More than the other races, Thalassians adventure for their own personal benefit. Their enterprising, individualistic, and competitive culture drives many to test themselves in a heroic life. Thalassian adventurers seek to bring home vast treasures and secrets, or to earn glory and power. Thalassian cities have a unique institutional motivation for adventuring; Merchant shipping companies offer contracts to any who will map frontiers and secure trade routes to foreign lands. Most importantly, Thalassian adventurers seek to satisfy a restless craving for exploration, discovery, and the great unknown.





Thalassian Names

Thalassian children are given a nickname by their parents. Once they reach adulthood, each thalassian chooses a new name according to his own personal taste.

Male Names: Aramis, Typhon, Salas, Avris, Sakrasis.

Female Names: Ishka, Felem, Ari, Amy, Vesta, Nami, Eka.

Family Names. Anosa, Corselle, Morea, Soreen, Sarvonian, Tharian, Nesoi, Asprah.

Thalassian Traits:

Your Thalassian character has many distinguishing traits. Some are from ancestry, while others are cultural.

Ability Score Increase. Your Charisma score increases by 2, and two other ability scores of your choice increase by 1.

Age. Thalassians reach maturity in their late teens and live about 100 years.

Alignment. Thalassian's individuality allows them follow any alignment, but their exuberance causes the neutral alignments to be a definite minority.

Size. Thalassians vary widely in height and build, from barely 5 feet to well over 6 feet tall. Regardless of your position in that range, your size is Medium.

Speed. Your base walking speed is 30 feet.

Darkvision. You have superior vision in dark and dim conditions. You can see in dim light within 60 feet of you as if it were bright light, and in darkness as if it were dim light.

You can't discern color in darkness, only shades of gray.

Aquatic Adaptation. You can breathe water as well as air. You have a swim speed of 30 feet.

Silver Tongue. You are proficient in the persuasion skill.

Skill Versatility. You gain Proficiency in one skill or tool of your choice.

Languages. You can speak, read, and write Thalassian, Common, and one extra language of your choice. Thalassian is a peculiar flowing language that uses whistles and clicks along with normal vowels and consonants. Native speakers use melodic changes in pitch and rhythm that almost make it seem sung rather than spoken.

