



Hidden deep in the canyons of the southern deserts is the peculiar nation of [durkadurka]. It is a city-state of mermaids and merrows living in the middle of a parched wasteland. Their strategy for surviving in this landscape has produced a unique and wondrous city. Pueblo houses, stacked one on top of another, climb the canyon walls for dozens of stories. A twisting, layered network of aqueducts, dams, and waterfalls feeds the pueblos with life giving water, turning each dwelling into a tiny pool. Mermaids swim along these aqueducts dozens of feet in the air as they go about their daily business, and primitive water powered basket elevators, lift citizens to the upper layers of the city.





## HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

Exactly how aquatic monsters found themselves isolated in the middle of the desert is lost to legend. Regardless, the mermaids of the city have managed to gradually build a thriving city-state out of their limited resources. The canyon's river is fed by several natural springs that merge from many twisting branches.

## ECONOMY

The city is an important resting and replenishment area for major trade routes across the desert. As a result, hospitality is a major part of the economy and many inns, taverns, and cafes line the waterways and aqueducts. The canyons and rivers of the city contain many precious metals that support a significant number of jewelers' workshops. As a result of this industry, the city has developed a distinct style of jewelry that is a great source of national pride and identity. Another major source of commerce is the cottage industry of alchemy and potions. Mermaids naturally produce alchemical substances that can be used in valuable potions, and the city is the only source of mermaid potions in the desert.

The city produces most of its own food, and its combination of desert and aquatic foods has given it a unique culinary style. The mermaids have cleared any open space they can find for aquatic agriculture and have even built terraced aquatic farms on uneven ground. They farm rice, fish, clam,

shellfish, and other aquatic plants. In dry areas, orchards of cactus, palms, agaves and other desert plants produce delicious fruits and nectar.

## **SOCIETY & CULTURE**

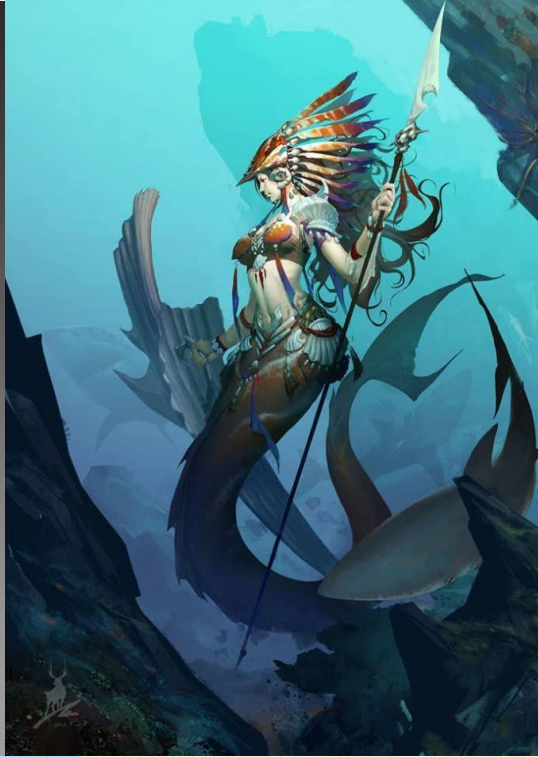
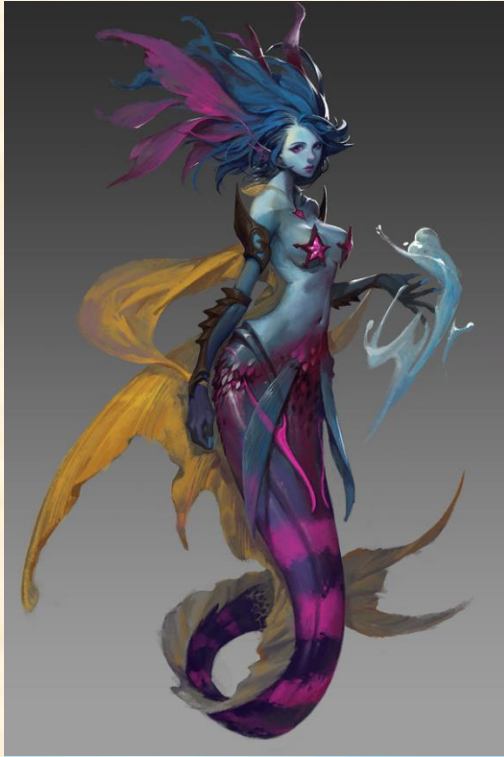
The population of the city consists mostly of monsters from the mermaid family, including merrows, seabishops, unagi, and of course mermaids. 10% is other monsters of varying types. Only about 15% of the city is human. Families usually consist of 3-6 monster sisters who share a household with a human.

The city is governed by a republic with limited franchise for middle and upper class citizens. Several major factions in the

The population of [durkadurka] has an intense love for extravagant and elaborate jewelry. It has become a central cultural enterprise, and for most of them jewelry has completely replaced normal clothing in the warm climate. Instead they cover themselves with large necklaces, armlets and bracelets, pasties, piercings, and other decorations. Coronets, wreaths, masks, makeup, and other ornate headwear are also very popular.







## ANTAGONISTS & RIVALS

Apophis









