

Oelyte

The origin of the Oelyte people has been an enigma to theologians, scientists, and mystics alike. Their appearance on this world has been very recent in the scale of geologic time, and as a race they possess almost no prehistory. It seems that almost from their creation, the Oelyte possessed the abilities of higher communication. Such mental abilities have only grown with the quick development of their race. Now, the Oelyte people have disseminated throughout the other cultures and have gained prominent positions in many areas through their abilities. The Oelytes have no land they call their own. Rather, they have chosen to spread out amongst the other races so as to gather as much knowledge as possible. For knowledge is the one true craving of all Oelytes. Their natural abilities of reading and writing help them to quench this hunger. With training, Oelyte sages can become so mentally attuned that they are capable of feats of telepathy and masterful recollection. Do not assume that their physical capacities have withered due to emphasis on the mind. Such an assumption would be in error. When compelled, the Oelytes can mobilize effective fighting forces. Those Oelytes that have chosen to master the art of war are often great strategists and leaders.

Physically, Oelytes have avian characteristics. Patches of feathers are found on their bodies, most often on the face, around the eye orbits, shoulders, and around the joints of the appendages. Many males have a crest of feathers extending backwards from the crown. The hue of these feathers varies greatly. Most, but not all, have a residual beak like structure near the mouth that varies in prominence. Aside from these features, Oelytes have the usual hominoid build and stature, including prehensile digits and 4 distinct limbs. Their young, which are reared from eggs, mature quickly, attaining adulthood at the age of 10. However, accelerated aging accompanies this accelerated development. Precious few Oelytes live to see their 40th year. Their lives are short, even compared to that of the humans. These avian people strive to make the best out of every hour they are given. You will not find them loitering around in bars, or passing the day in idle. Any intellectual discourse is considered to be time well spent in the eyes of an Oelyte. They can spend hours conversing on matters of fact and intellect. Due to this, there is a common saying that goes “Don’t speak to the bird unless you’ve a week.”

The Oelytes attempt to approach every matter with an analytical mind. This trait sometimes causes them to over-analyze a situation to the point of preventing action. They also tend to over-emphasize trivial details. Most Oelytes are perfectionists by nature, and discount work that does not meet their standards. Most are also strict empiricists that demand evidence to substantiate claims. While these traits may sometimes be hindrances, any academic knows the importance of evidence and substantiation to the pursuit of knowledge.

The Oelyte historians have delved heavily into the past to determine the origin of their peoples and what they have learned so far is this: The primitive avian ancestors of the Oelytes would winter in the waters of the South Rim. For an unknown reason, a group of these birds underwent a glorious

and rapid transformation, evolving into primitive Oelytes over several decades. While these predecessors did not have the mental attunement Oelytes now possess, they quickly learned to use tools to compensate for the loss of their natural abilities. Within a few more generations, these proto-Oelytes began to communicate verbally. Driven by some latent, archaic instinct, the population began a migration north on foot. It was during this migration that the Oelyte evolution was completed. Within a century, the Oelyte people entered the Human kingdoms, where they were benevolently received. When they set foot onto the main land, they carried bows for hunting, and had mastered the art of pottery. The humans first believed the Oelytes to be primitive, but quickly changed their minds as their qualities became visible. Intimidated by the presence of the Oelytes, the leaders of the human kingdoms sent messengers to the Oelytes, ordering them to disband into small settlements. However, these messengers arrived to find the encampment of these curious avians abandoned. They had already chosen to spread throughout the other races. It was apparent to the Oelytes, however, that they would need a centralized point to gather their collected information. Thus, a great library was established for that purpose. In the library of Acedemos is stored the history and knowledge of the ages as it is collected, and found there are wondrous laboratories where scores of alchemists, mages, and craftsmen unlock the secrets of matter and energy. While no person or race is specifically barred from Acedemos, permission is required for entrance. And the library guard is not a force to be trifled with. Those who attempt to sneak in or steal from Acedemos are dealt with severely. The library is the jewel of their race, and the Oelytes protect it dearly.

Under the leadership of Margiel Sagarius, the construction of the great library was completed five decades ago. Oelyte diplomats were able to obtain a small parcel of land near the meeting point of the RIVER and RIVER waters. Margiel holds the title of the Unsurpassed Architect for his designing of the Acedemos. The structure is truly an awesome sight to behold. Its delicate appearance is offset by its sheer size. The vaulted ceilings of its chambers are built out of materials that will resist the elements for ages to come. Many other heroes are associated with its creation, such as Alchior, Superior Metallurgist, and Harvelka, Grandmaster Sculpter. Oelytes use a complex system of titles to honor their heroes. However, no such titles are given to living members of the race. The masters of their field have not the time to deal with such pompous ceremonies while they are alive.