

UTHRIEM ROLIRI 1



thriem Roliri, “Brotherhood of the Forest” in the Sindarin tongue, is a covert brotherhood of human woodsmen intent on protecting the wilderness and its wildlife. The group was founded by followers of Siem in the foothills of the Sorkin Mountains in the 2nd century TR as a reaction to the depredations committed by gargun.

The Uthriem Roliri exists only on Hârn. The Brotherhood prefers to remain a small and elite group and rarely has more than 200 members. Although still concentrated in eastern Hârn, the Brothers can be found in most frontier or wilderness areas, especially where gargun live near human settlements.

A second focus of the Uthriem Roliri is to protect the wilderness from their fellow humans. The expansion of agricultural land, deforestation due to mining operations, and similar aspects of civilized life are concerning to the Uthriem Roliri. The extent to which they should oppose these activities is a controversial issue among the Brotherhood. Although most Brothers view the spread of civilization as inevitable, there are some who see any harm to the wilderness as desecration and oppose it vigorously.

The secretive nature and impressive wilderness skills of the Uthriem Roliri have caused them to become figures of folklore. Most people have heard legends of the “wood-shadows,” and they are sometimes thought of as supernatural beings. They are frequently credited with defending villages from gargun, caring for sick and injured wild animals, and protecting and returning livestock or people lost in the wilds.

The Brotherhood takes pains to maintain this mysterious reputation. Some of their goals and actions are at odds with local laws, social customs, or religious doctrine. Their beliefs and practices are little understood by outsiders and they are likely to be viewed with suspicion by most authorities, some of whom consider them little better than outlaws.



The Uthriem Roliri use an acorn and arrow motif in their symbols of membership. There is no official badge registered with the College of Heraldry.

Devotion to Siem

Siemist beliefs are an integral part of life in the Uthriem Roliri. Through contemplation and mastery of the Natural Mysteries (ancient secrets about the ordering of life), the Siemist adherent comes to understand the natural order and how to protect it. Although the Uthriem Roliri is a lay organization, this attunement to nature leads some Brothers to become enlightened holy men, or Inthiar. These Brothers are given special responsibilities, such as tending to the forest groves that are sacred to Siem.

There is no central church of Siem. Siemism is a matter of the heart and soul, not of doctrine. In this sense, there are no worshipers of Siem, only those who worship the beauty with which the deity is associated. The sincere adherent is a moral entity, compassionate and trustworthy, and one who strives towards greater wisdom and patience.

Siemist belief varies among adherents. For example, there is disagreement within the Brotherhood about to what extent they should oppose mining and agriculture. Although all Brothers abhor cruelty towards animals, they see hunting as the natural way. They kill only what they need for food and offer a prayer to Siem over their fallen prey. Trapping animals solely for furs or entertainment is considered repugnant.

CREDITS

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