

The Eight Races of The Realm of the Setting Sun

This describes the eight races of the world in which [From Gods to Gold](#) takes place. There are three races of men that dominate the land at this point, though one is fading away and blending with the other races. The remaining five are more fantastic, and each is connected directly to some part of land.

The question of heritage and blood compatibility is something very important in this world, so the question of which race can have children with others is addressed here explicitly.

The High Mountain Men

The High Mountain Men were the first men to arrive in what is now known as O'Kasus. They came from another place in the time before time, and then in the Paklish, took the mountain from the first ones. All but a few of these first ones then left, and the others are the fore bearers of the five fantastic races listed below.

The High Mountain Man is tall and strong, pale, and quite hairy though not quite furred. They appear quite brutish, but are actually quite intelligent, though they are not generally quick of mind. Their intelligence is a slow and thoughtful type. The women of this race are small, delicate, and stunning. However, they appear less and less.

In the time of change, the High Mountain Men give birth to a girl rarely. The ratio of births has fallen each generation and now there is less than one girl for every twenty boys born. This has led to a serious decrease in High Mountain Men, and they are driven to cross-breed with other races. When a High Mountain Man has offspring with any other race, they get only a few qualities of their heritage and appear as the other race does. Women of the High Mountain Men can only have children with High Mountain Men.

The Valley Men

No one is quite sure when the Valley Men became noticeable. Some of the Mountain Men moved down from the sacred mountain and into the fertile valleys, living in cooperation with the Wood Masters and Farm Keepers. Over the course of generations they became the Valley Men.

The Valley Man is tall and slender, with little body hair and somewhat golden skin. They appear quite weak but have strength that belies their appearance. These men are the thinkers of the men, and are always inventing new devices and contraptions. Most of the technology of the realm has been introduced by the Valley Men. The women of this race are similar to the men in height and build, with a great range of looks.

Unlike the mountain men they have no problems with their offspring and the ratio of girls to boys is nearly 1:1. Both genders can breed with any other race except the Forest Champions, and many half valley men and women are to be found all over the realm.

The Island Men

In the time before time, it is known that many Mountain Men were driven off by a great king for crimes against the realm. Many ages later their descendants have returned to the realm, having lived for ages on islands far to the east of O'Kasus. While for some time there were skirmishes and social unrest with these new men, now all but the deepest grudges have faded and the men are part of the realm once more.

The Island Man is medium height and build, with some body hair and bronze skin. They appear hearty and often at the height of physical perfection, and their abilities usually match this impression. However they place little value on intellect, and would rather toil the day away and party all night, sparing time for only naps. The women of this race tend to be strong and fierce, but lovely all the same.

There are clearly more women than men in this species, with a birth ratio of 2:1 in favor of girls. The women have a powerful standing with the Island Men, and are usually the ones in position of power (This is not to say that women in the other species are without rights or power, for the record).

Island Men and Women can breed with any other race of man, and with the Farm Keepers and the Wise Ones. Only the Island Women can breed with the Wood Masters.

The Stone Hands

The Stone Hands have been in contact with the High Mountain Men since all recorded history. These people are short and tough looking people, and could almost pass for dwarfs or men if it was not for their red eyes that glow mildly in dim or less light. This isn't their only obvious physical characteristic though, in addition their hands are particularly grey and are covered with a tough and thick skin. It is in this way that they got their name, as their hands can handle immense heat and aren't cut by even sharp blades. One of their arts is crystal shaping, which they do by melting a red crystal and shaping it with their bare hands. The crystal also glows in dim or less light, and most believe it is the same material that makes their eyes so special.

It is unknown what races the Stone Hands will breed with, as they are quite closed-minded about such matters and keep to themselves. However, some Stone Hand women have had children with High Mountain Men, and these result in offspring that appear as Stone Hands except they lack the red eyes (but have the hands).

The Wood Masters

The Wood Masters appear almost exactly like the Valley Men, except for the following: their skin is cast with an olive hue, their ears are a bit longer and pointier at the top, and they weigh almost half what they appear to weigh. They have lived in the trees of the forests of the realm since as long as all can remember. As their name suggests they are experts at both growing and crafting wood. The pinnacle of their achievement in this craft is the creation of the Skylarks, which are ships that sail in the sky.

The Wood Masters are the most secret of the races, and few ever get to enter their kingdom in the trees. While they are friendly and easy to deal with, they are most determined to keep outsiders out and will resort to force. To better facilitate their dealing with others, they have small towns on the ground at the edges of their lands.

These people can breed with all the five fantastic races, and with the Women of the Island Men.

The Farm Keepers

The Forest Champions

The Wise Ones

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