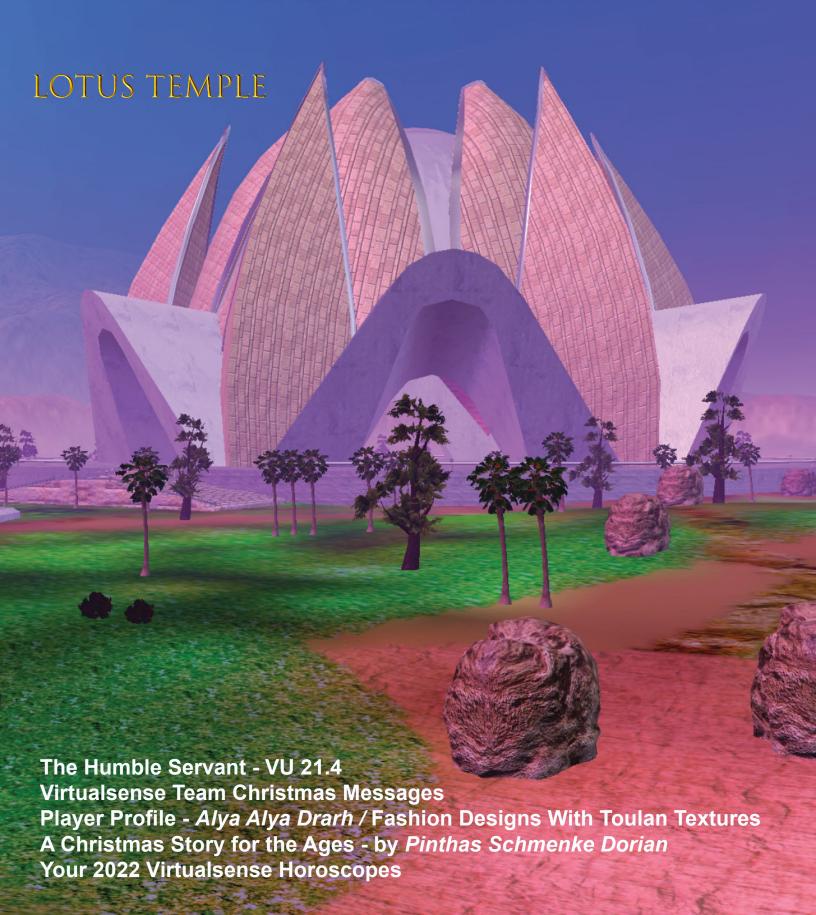
VIRTUALSENSE QUARTERLY DECEMBER 2021











As we get ready to begin a new year, we reflect upon a most productive 2021 that saw a major development boost for Toulan and Monria's expansion dimension DSEC-9 with the inclusion of the 2nd map section of Elara. The team has been incredibly busy, and I am told that in 2022 the road map will be a bit more intense. That doesn't surprise me given the team's attention to detail, but they also pay attention to the <u>Suggestions & Feedback</u> section at the forum to see if and how some of your ideas can be incorporated into the development. This is done with each VU release.

This latest VU release was jam packed with loads of stuff for Toulan and the introduction of Elara with the Lotus Temple. Many have been exploring the Lotus Temple Instances, and several have looted Unlimited pieces of the Lotus Armor. As of this writing, the Unlimited Lotus Plates haven't been discovered. We are still waiting on someone to gather all of the ingredients required to acquire the Nawa Flying Carpet. The community is having fun doing the Christmas Mission to get the 3 Christmas gifts available as shown in this issue, and the Festive Nawa Sleigh has become pretty popular. There was a parade of the Festive Nawa Sleighs in Guardian Village on Toulan, and was fun to watch.

This year also saw more community involvement with our <u>Community Initiative Programs (CIP)</u> that is taking us in a more defined direction. Promoting Eleni Von Estlla to management of our Virtualsense Space Travel & Repair Skilling Programs was one of the best things I did this year. She's organized and has put plans in place that have made major improvements overall. She has added new Yamato Crew Pilots not only for our warp schedules, but also for weekly repair runs out of Monria and Toulan.

One of the things I wanted to accomplish this year was being able to advance my skills with the new digital publishing software I'm now using. I'm making headway on this effort, but I still have a lot more to learn and apply. However, I have the most amazing media partner - ShadowDragonV - who jumps into the trenches with me during our media projects, and this year, she too has been learning a couple of new digital softwares for publishing, including the one I'm using. Her skills have grown as well, and together we are looking at a major elevation of our media projects, so stay tuned ... she ROCKS!!!

We are pleased with how our community has grown and how supportive they are, not only with us, but with each other as well. I wish everyone a fantastic Merry Christmas, and here's to 2022.

Virtualsense Official DME Community & Media Operations



Introduction

Queen Nara knew that the Lotus Temple at Elara was in danger, and the area would be overrun by invading creatures. She has always been in close contact with DEC at his Holoroom on DSEC-9, and after intense discussions, it was deemed necessary to open up Elara to those who have fought so courageously to protect Toulan and the Narian Temple, not to mention Guardian Village, and give them access to Elara to also help protect the sacred Lotus Temple.

One such brave warrior, as Queen Nara calls them, was Yog "Synial" Sothoth who was in relentless pursuit of The Silver Crown of Sahar. It was a long and arduous undertaking, but Synial was the first to complete a crossover mission between DSEC-9 and Toulan to achieve his goal. As such, Nara gave Synial a prominent role in the protection of the Lotus Temple at Elara.

Here is how the story unfolds.

The Humble Servant

As Synial approached the secluded tent, he sensed that his great quest was nearing its end. His months of toil were near completion and so was his quest. A quest of faith, a quest that took him to distant lands and challenged both his intellect and physical prowess.

Synial handed over the broken crown retrieved during his epic battle with the Otis Commander to the Mysterious Crafter who stood before him. Some words were said and The Crown of Sahar appeared on his person.

He felt a strange sensation as the crown sat atop his head, a fleeting moment of change passed and he felt different.

"Greetings brave warrior," Synial recognized his Queen as soon as she appeared and fell to his knees.

Queen Nara studied the warrior, he held the courage to stand before the strongest yet the humility to fall before his Queen. He will do, she mused, he will do just fine.

"Rise Lord Synial, First of the Order and Protector of the Golden Doors."

"My Queen?" He stammered as he slowly rose and met her gaze. "What order do you speak of?"

"The Lotus Guardians are an ancient order who give their life to the protection of the Lotus Temple and give their life they did, to a person, as Elara fell." The Queen continued, "You see my Lord, there are those that do not hold the love for Toulan that we do and seek to destroy it."

"I heard tales of Elara and the Lotus Temple in my youth but what threat do they hold to Toulan?"

"They are not tales my sweet child, but fragments of a history seldom told. A history of our shared origins and the role we Safians play in the protection of this realm.

Queen Nara regaled him with her account of the history of Elara and its invasion by the evil corporation. How her disciple known as DEC had helped her to escape and then sealed Elara for its protection.

"But why me? Why now?" Humble in his confidence yet courageous in his character, thought Nara.

"The Lotus Temple, while being the spiritual home of our ancestors, also serves another purpose." Through inter-dimensional doors that draw on the power of Nawa we have imprisoned the most dangerous of creatures from Toulan. We serve as protector and enslave the evil lest they return."

The Queen continued, "As to why now, well many moons ago I became aware that the temple had somehow been infiltrated and the imprisoned freed. This poses a great threat to our realm and I fear the attacks may one day be too much if we do not act now."

"But my Queen, why me?" Asked Synial.

"It became clear that the Lotus Guardians were needed once more, and so we devised a scheme to find the most worthy among my subjects to lead the Great Order. You completed this quest of might, intelligence and great courage. You were also the first. There will be those that follow, of that I am sure. They will seek glory and fame but yours was a selfless act in the service of others."

"The Great Lord Sahar was the first of the Guardians, and by retrieving his crown, an enchantment of sorts has been bestowed upon you. You see only a Lotus Guardian can retrieve the key parts needed to construct the Gold Key required to enter the Gold Chambers alone. It is only you and those that follow who are worthy of deciding who can enter as a solo warrior."

"Do you Lord Synial accept this great burden and vow to protect the Lotus Temple and clear its chambers of the enslaved and repel the invaders?"

"Yes my Queen, I am and forever will be your humble servant."

And Thus ...

Lord Synial takes his rightful place in the Order of the Lotus Guardians to continue protecting the Lotus Temple against the invaders who would do damage and uproot its sacred history.

However, Synial is not alone in his mission to protect the Lotus Temple. Several other warriors have come behind him to secure The Silver Crown of Sahar to take their rightful place as Lotus Guardians.

ZeroKewl84 Zero Kewl Penethol Junkman Bloodsteel Harry Hally Alliandes Wangxiang WangXiang Tuxing Lone LoneEagle Eagle Vizzanu VIZZ Nie

Many more are working toward achieving their place as a Lotus Guardian because only a Lotus Guardian can acquire the Guardian Loot from the Lotus Temple Instances toward being able to enter the Solo Gold Instance.

Let's be clear though, Elara is open to all who want to battle against these Lotus Invaders:



Flara

DEC has unsealed Elara and provided access via a teleportation device located at the North wall of DSEC-9 to allow the people of Toulan and elsewhere to come to the aid of the Lotus Temple. Lotus Invaders have been sighted and have found a way to infiltrate the temple. Access to Elara is only at DSEC-9 through the teleportation device and not from Toulan.



A new Mob with a new Codex entry has been added and the Lotus Invaders have been sighted on Elara.

Crafting has been enabled and Toulan Blueprints can be looted from the crafting Terminals at the outpost and the Lotus Temple.

Wahesh Hatchlings and Caboria Ancients have infested the waters.



Wahesh Hatchlings [DSEC - 9, 34027, 22370, 105, Waypoint]



Caboria Ancients [DSEC - 9, 35563, 23479, 118, Waypoint]

The Lotus Temple

The Lotus Temple located in the center of Elara holds imprisoned mobs from Toulan for the realm's safety. The chambers are accessible via gates on the second level with keys acquired by refining molten from hunting loot.



Lotus Solo Instances (Black, Blue, Brown)

There are no chests, Loot is received as mobs are killed. Imprisoned mob varieties of Toulan Mobs inhabit the Lotus Temple Instances. Lotus Guardians have the possibility to Loot Gold Key parts. (see Guardian Loot) Black, Blue and Brown keys are created by refining Molten of the appropriate color acquired in hunting loot from the Lotus Invader mobs surrounding the Lotus Temple area.



Lotus Team Instances (Red, Green, Silver)

Team Instances have containers to open once they are completed.

Imprisoned mob varieties of Toulan Mobs inhabit the Lotus Temple Instances.

Red, Green, Silver keys are created by refining Molten of the appropriate color acquired in hunting. Green and Silver key Molten is only found in the Lotus Temple Instances.

Mirsal Tokens can be looted in Team Instances from the containers.

Lotus Gold Instances (Solo and Team)

Both Solo and Team Instances have containers to open once completed.

Lotus Gold Solo Master Key is created by refining the key parts looted by Lotus Guardians in the Solo Black, Blue and Brown Instances

Lotus Gold Team Master Key is created by refining Gold Key Molten acquired from containers in the Lotus Team Silver Instance.

Mirsal Tokens can be looted in Lotus Gold Instances.

Lotus Armor (UL) can be looted from the containers in Lotus Gold Instances.

Lotus Armor Plates (UL) can be looted from the containers in Lotus Gold Instances.

Anhithe's Clarification of the Gold Instances

There are two Gold Instances, one is Solo and one is Team. For the Team Gold Instance you can refine the Team Key from Gold Molten you get from the Silver Team Instance, and the Solo Gold Key can only be refined from the parts that are looted (the ones that Hally discovered).

The main differences between the Team and Solo Instances are:

The TT of the Key, for example the Gold Solo Master Key is 50 PED TT and the Gold Solo Team Master Key is 250 PED TT.

The amount of creatures in the Instance: the Team Instances have around twice the amount of creatures to kill

Solo Keys:

Black Solo Key (1 PED TT) - Refined from Black Molten Blue Solo Key (2 PED TT) - Refined from Blue Molten Brown Solo Key (3 PED TT) - Refined from Brown Molten Gold Solo Master Key (50 PED TT) - Refined from Lotus Key Parts looted only by a Lotus Guardian in any of the above Solo instances.

Team Keys:

Red Team Key (10 PED TT) Refined from Red Molten Green Team Key (15 PED TT) Refined from Green Molten from above instance (Red) Silver Team Key (20 PED TT) Refined from Silver Molten from above instance (Green) Gold Team Master Key (250 PED TT) Refined from Gold Molten from the above instance (Silver)



Lotus Key Parts:

Lotus Bit Key

Lotus Bow Key

Lotus Collar Key

Lotus Head Key

Lotus Post Key

Lotus Wards Key

Lotus Guardian Loot

Players who have completed the DSEC Emissary mission and retrieved the final Crown of Sahar have the exclusive ability to loot Gold Key Parts from the Lotus Solo Instances. These key parts are refined to create the Lotus Gold Solo Master Key used to enter the Lotus Gold Solo Instance.



Lotus Armor

Unlimited Lotus Armor can be looted from the containers in the Gold Instances as rare loot.

Buffs

3 part – 5% Increased Evade, 5% Decreased Critical Damage

5 part – 10% Increased Evade, 10% Decreased Critical Damage

7 part - 20% Increased Evade, 20% Decreased Critical Damage



Lotus Armor Plates

Unlimited Armor Plates can be looted from the containers in the Gold Instances as rare loot.



New Vehicles

Two new vehicles have been added.

Due to restrictions placed on these vehicles, they can only be spawned and used on Toulan Territories (Toulan and DSEC-9).

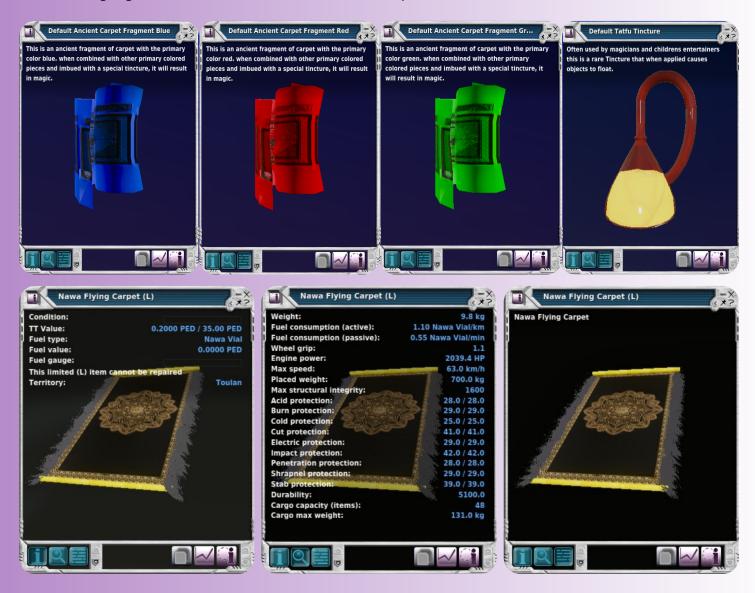
Both vehicles use Nawa Vials as their power source.

Nawa Flying Carpet (L) is a one person flying vehicle that can be obtained via "The Magic Within the Caves" mission - see NPC Lord Synial at the Lotus Temple Gold Instance gates at Elara on DSEC-9, and NPC Yasmina at the CUHOF Caves on Toulan.

Festive Nawa Sleigh (L) is a three person flying vehicle that can be obtained as part of the 3-part Christmas Gifts Mission during the month of December - see NPC Valeria at the main DSEC-9 teleporter, and NPC Thana at the Citadel by the Information Booth on Toulan.

Nawa Flying Carpet

As of this writing, the Nawa Flying Carpet had not been achieved or discovered by anyone. It takes the following ingredients found in either the Lotus Temple or CUHOF Cave Instances.



For a very long time, our Toulan community members were asking for a Flying Carpet because it would go well with the Toulan Arabian theme.

We never reveal what is in a VU until VU day and posting the release notes at the forum, so this was a complete surprise for our community. Some things just take time.

This vehicle too, as with the Nawa Festive Sleigh, has some nice stats and it can also be used to store up to 48 items.



Festive Nawa Sleigh

This 3-seat vehicle is the 3rd gift in our Christmas Gifts mission. Each of the 3 stages of the mission requires a certain amount of Christmas Crackers, and with each stage, the counter starts at 0 again. Any leftover Christmas Crackers acquired in hunting from a previous stage won't count toward the next one. This mission is only available during the month of December.

Here is a Christmas Cracker photo, and the 3 Christmas Gifts from the Virtualsense Team.



Yes, that's a Turkey Mask and a play on Mr Bean. Ant may have been living in Ireland with his family for many years, but he's originally from the UK - that should explain it.

The Christmas Tree has a Toulan theme and is animated with Arabic lettering.

The Festive Nawa Sleigh isn't just a fun vehicle for you and a couple of friends to fly around Toulan and DSEC-9 with, it has some nice stats, and it functions as storage for up to 48 items.



Word is that this vehicle is fast and has some nice maneuverability - can you hear the Jingle Bells.

Crafting

New furniture blueprints (L) are now waiting to be discovered. There has been a particular focus on items we feel may be of interest to our dedicated Shop Owners.

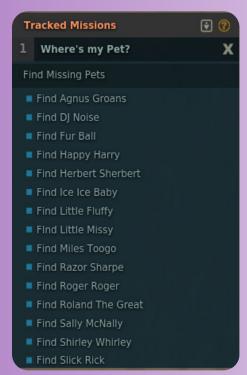
Where's my Pet? (Planet Toulan)

No sooner had a Lost and Found Department been added on Floor 6 of the Nahar Towers when a frantic person appeared claiming she had lost her pets.

This mission was designed to encourage players to check out the Toulan Shops at Nahar Towers and Wang's Toulan Pet Stable with both a Booth and a Shop.

If Shop Owners happen to see one of these wandering pets in their shop, please take the time to alert the community.

A 10 Mirsal Token reward is offered for any player that can find all 15 pets! Speak to the Frantic Lady on Floor 6 by the Information Booth for more details.



We wanted to bring more attention to our Booth and Shop Owners and get the community more familiar with where they are. This includes Wang's Toulan Pet Stable with Booth and Shop.

A mission was designed to have 15 rogue TabTab pets pop up in any Shop (active or otherwise), and near Booths and areas of the mall on the 6th and 7th floors at Nahar Towers.

This turned out to be quite popular, and you could read in chat that groups were working together to let each other know when a pet would show up and where.

You can't tame the pet, but when you click on it you will get a very cute rhymey phrase describing the pet. Also, it was discovered by some in the groups that you can actually sweat these pets, but when you engage with the pets, they will attack you.

These rogue pets are fun to hunt down, but once you are done collecting all 15 of the pets, this mission does not repeat.







Fire DBug Fly

JJ - Vonny - Dea

Sweat Circle at the Mall

It was Fire DBug Fly who brought to light the detail in the vertical fish tank at the Lost & Found with the Wahesh and Caboria creatures. Let it not be said we don't have a sense of humor. The Khaffash Statue is also a nice touch. Seems the Frantic Lady has other pets.









She can be a bit testy though since she claims she's been standing around all day and no one has helped her.

She even gives you that evil look when you approach her, especially when you tell her that you don't work there.

She's quite attached to her TabTab pets, which is why she's so frantic because they are missing.

At least she's willing to give a reward of 10 Mirsal Tokens for bringing back all 15 of her TabTab pets. You can spend your Mirsal Tokens with the Mirsal Token Broker, and there are other missions available to collect Mirsal Tokens too.

Woodcutters Helper Mission

A new repeatable mission has been added to the <u>Toulan Event Area</u> that involves sweating, hunting and harvesting. Speak to NPC Khalil by the event area marker for more information.

The event area is an island located off the coast of Sandy Shores that has a very nice spawn density of 6 different Toulan creatures.

You can find this NPC at the waypoint below:

[Planet Toulan, 131686, 91927, 101, Waypoint]



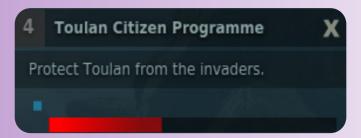


Toulan Citizenship Comes With Benefits

After constant and excessive petitioning to the Office of Her Majesty Queen Nara, it has been decided that Toulan Citizenship will be granted to those who risk their lives in defense of the realm.

This is not a mission that can be achieved during one Toulan Monthly Event, but over time, although one dedicated community member was hell bent on achieving that this month - Harry Hally Alliandes.

There is a progression bar when taking this mission that moves to the right in red as you engage with the Toulan event mobs during the monthly Toulan Event, which is the only way to complete this mission and achieve Toulan Citizenship. Hally tried to do it in one fell swoop, a valiant effort.



Every month, Queen Nara hosts a weekend-long event with 22 modified mobs that invade across Toulan. There are 4 areas of Jeef Zajer Hosts outside of Guardian Village, 4 areas with Enhanced Duhol outside of the Snowy Mountains teleporter and 3 areas of Evolved Wahesh outside of the Sandy Shores teleporter. However, when Queen Nara kicks off the event at 19:00 game time on Friday night outside the West Gate of Guardian Village, there are waves of these mobs, including bosses, and other Toulan mobs that all charge at once when a player enters their aggro range.



The aggro range of these wave mobs is quite large, as some have learned the hard way, but many gather each month (that Queen Nara dubs as her Toulan Warriors) to defend the realm and work together as a group to take down these mobs and protect the village. Sometimes a boss or two, ok maybe more, are able to breach the village West gate and enter the village causing pure chaos. It takes quite the effort with many deaths to regain control again.

As only the 3 event mobs count toward the Toulan Citizenship, the question was raised as to whether the other mobs that the Queen unleashes at the beginning of the event outside Guardian Village also count. The easy answer is yes, but only during that beginning part of the event. During the rest of the weekend untill the event ends on Sunday night at midnight or after, just the 3 modified mobs count.

Those granted Toulan Citizenship will receive the Toulan Born Shirt and Pants and be eligible for any community benefits afforded such citizen.



This would include the free space travel benefit on the Yamato when it flies its Yamato Warp Schedule on Fridays and Sundays, except during the Toulan monthly event, and then it is Thursdays and Mondays as the Toulan event is weekend-long.

Once Toulan Citizenship is awarded, the avatar will be marked as Toulan Born for the purpose of eligibility to also complete present and future Toulan Born missions.

Currently, there is a **Toulan Born Beginners Mission Chain with 20** steps that give items and ammo. This is only available to Toulan Born and Monrian Born right now, but would be open to anyone completing the Toulan Citizenship mission.

Speak to NPC Haneen at the Citadel Information Desk for more details.

You must have a Nawa Core MK3 in order to take the mission.

QUWA Challenge (Planet Toulan)

Khaffash, Dahhar, Sunjog and Wahesh figurines have been added to the QUWA challenge quests. Return to Moftah to receive your reward if you have already completed them.

The Quwa Challenges were replaced by Codex, but there were some who completed Quwa quests who did not receive their figurines, these were added for those players to now collect them.

Mirsal Token Trader

New Items have been added to the Mirsal Token Trader in the Information Booths at the Citadel in the Landing Zone, and on the 6th & 7th floors at the Nahar Towers.

The Items are things that may be of interest to Shop Owners!

The counters are useful for showcasing multiple items, and the signs are neon and will illuminate where specific items can be found in your shop, booth, or wherever you sell from.



The Lost Otis Toy



Many have asked for an Otis Plushie. Otis is a mob that can be found at DSEC-9 and our version of the Star Wars R2D2 robot. To trigger the mission, you must first go to Monria and take any teleporter using the dropdown menu to get to DSEC-9. Then go to the other teleporter at DSEC-9 called Terminus to get to the mission trigger point.

There isn't an NPC to take the mission from, but an area in the Terminus Junkyard where you need to go to trigger a pop-up message that starts the mission.

Have a look at the photos below to have an idea of where this area might be that triggers the mission.

Also, when you are asked "what's that over there" ... you don't get a waypoint, but I have added waypoints below.

Deatz was the one who first discovered the Otis Toy.



THE LOST OTIS PLUSHIE I'm sure they'd want to get it back

[DSEC - 9 , 36266, 19868, 106, Waypoint]

[DSEC - 9, 36253, 19839, 106, Waypoint]

New Music

Community member NoBion has once again collaborated with the Virtualsense Team and brought his latest atmospheric music to Elara. Thank you!

With the June VU release, we added originally composed music by NoBion to DSEC-9's first section on the map across the entire area. Pusherman (VS Team Member & Ant's Brother) is our Tech and Sound Engineer and also composed original music for the 3 waves at DSEC-9.

It's exciting for us to work with such talent from our community, and we will continue to reach out to those who might have something special to add in the future. For now, NoBion is our go-to guy for unique music that enhances the experience at our DSEC-9 location. I'll be searching for other talent who might be able to make contributions in other ways as well.





Eugenio "Anhithe" Wilde

Virtualsense Owner, Content Creator

As I reflect upon 2021, it has been quite a big year for us from a development perspective. We're a very small team with myself and Kendra developing all the gameplay content. This is why we don't get a chance to interact with the community as much as we would like to. We do read everything on the forums and take all feedback on board. It may not always be possible to implement what's suggested but one of my hopes this year is that the community has noticed the efforts we have made to implement what we can.

DSEC-9 was probably our biggest achievement of the year, and took a lot of blood, sweat and tears. It was important to me to create a location that is accessible from Monria, not only so that I can directly create content for the Monria community but because it also gives us opportunities to create crossover missions with Toulan. I'm delighted that we have a base to further develop going into 2022 and that it didn't come at the expense of my marriage.

Which leads onto 2022! It's been a physically draining year, and my immediate plans are to be extremely lazy and enjoy some excess over the next couple of weeks. We have started to plan for next year though, and some development has already started.

We'll be sifting through the suggestions and seeing what we can incorporate into future releases. The intention is to further develop DSEC-9, and at some point open up the rest of the map. We also have some ideas for Planet Toulan, and I would like to continue to add mission content and different gameplay options.

Finally I want to thank everyone for their continued support. Those that choose to spend their PED with us, support our new players, donate to events, stream EU, staff our space travel program, run events, operate shops, post feedback on the forum, share information, help each other and genuinely make all the effort worth it! We market Monria/Toulan and get a steady stream of new signups. We get a lot of feedback about how welcoming the community is, and you are all a big reason as to why players who start on Monria or Toulan are more likely to stick around. You are all a credit to yourselves and your families.

Merry Christmas and have a great New Year! Ant

Juanita "Kendra" Wilde

Virtualsense Development & Marketing

Happy Christmas to all you wonderful people on Monria and Toulan.

As a player, I was never uber, and I wasn't much of a forum contributor, so I had quite a low profile, which is the way I like it. But when Ant bought Saba Camp and made me run it, I had to start interacting with people by running little events which at the time was nerve wracking. This wasn't a great fit as I proved to be not a great land owner and he sacked me. He now only owns Club Sweat on Calypso.

Then he bought a moon and made me start contributing to our new Monria forum and doing online marketing on our new Facebook page, which I sucked at, so he sacked me again. Then he bought into Planet Toulan and got me to learn how to develop missions among other things and I found my happy place.

I love what I do and I am constantly learning. I spend a lot of my time looking at the bugs and suggestions part of the forum to see how we can improve on things, and I love that you as a community give so much feedback in this section. You have been so supportive and very patient with mistakes I have made, which has made me more confident in my job. There are so many good ideas, and as you can see, we try to implement a lot of them, or at least steal the ideas and mash them in with our own. Together we can achieve so much more.

So I think my Christmas message for everyone is - Thanks for the support and help in making Monria and Toulan the best places to be in the Entropia Universe. And I hope your Real world experience is as special as it can be too.

Lots of Love, Kendra





Dark Moon Enigma

Virtualsense Official DME
Community & Media Operations

Yup, that's me as your 2021 Christmas Angel complete with a star like a real tree topper, but don't expect extra loot under your Christmas Tree because MindArk doesn't hand out an Official Magic Wand to accommodate those requests.

We prefer to reward you through our development process when we're able to take some of your ideas and implement them. I think over the past 6 years we have shown that we do pay attention to your <u>Suggestions & Feedback</u>, but then there's also this special <u>Christmas Wishes</u> thread that Eleni started at the forum inviting everyone to post their wishes.

I think they were trying to get extras, but I told everyone that they had already been writing their Dear Santa letters all year long, and the VU releases showed we listened. However, I am a fan of how Eleni pulls her threads together with such creativeness and humor, and I'm glad that there are those who get on board for the fun.

By the way ... ignore the Horns of Z'agol, they help to keep my purple matter in place when I'm in overload phase.

I want to thank Alya Drarh for my new Christmas Angel look at the last minute, she is amazing, and you will see a full-on avatar profile in this issue, she's quite the fashionista.

The texture in the dress is Sweet Glow.

2021 REFLECTIONS

As Ant mentioned, 2021 was quite a big year for us, but also a year quite busy and engaging to say the least. The more we evolve with our virtual locations, the more it requires extra attention on my part, but that is only expected, and I have no complaints. I always invite the opportunity to get more involved, and this year saw an increase in activity with our <u>Community Initiative Programs (CIP)</u>.

Virtualsense Space Travel Programs

Eleni Von Estlla is now managing both the Space Travel & Repair Skilling Programs and doing an amazing job of getting everything more organized and running smoothly. We have Yamato pilots who have their own schedule with regard to doing repair runs out of both Monria and Toulan, but also piloting our warp schedule on Fridays and Sundays, except the weekend of the monthly Toulan event when we do the schedule on Thursday and Monday. Eleni has written the protocols for crew to follow, and guides for those joining the crew on repair runs.

Virtualsense Yamato Mothership

Just to give clarification and to set the record straight, the Yamato is owned by Anhithe and was purchased back when MindArk first put the new warp ships at auction. In early 2016, after Ant had bought Monria, he created a staff avatar specifically to manage guest list maintenance and summon people during the warp schedules, and this was arranged with MindArk. The Monria Fleet Manager never leaves the ship. Warp schedules and repair runs are managed by Eleni and Yamato Crew.

Also, we only run our warp schedules twice a week, and if we have any paying passengers, the fees go directly to the pilot on duty, Virtualsense takes nothing. The only thing we do is provide the warp drives for the schedules only, which Ant crafts himself. Eleni and the Yamato Crew pool together their resources for Eleni to craft their own warp drives which are used for the repair runs and any needed warping that the crew deems necessary for more efficient operations.

Addressing the Recent Space Drama Incident

I am always in auto-help mode, which has been my position for 16+ yrs in this universe, so I didn't give it a second thought when I teleported to the Normandie during one of Bonnie's streams to assist her in repairing it since she was alone, which I actually should have given thought to first, even though after the fact it was said in private chat by an MA Official that "it's not forbidden" but would have been best not to do it ... I get that, and I would have to agree ... not my best moment for sure.

As Bonnie and JBK, along with others who have said over and over again, the Mandie was stationary at the SS and it was hours after that they engaged with the pirates with the help of the Victory. I used an RK-0 because my VSE skill level is about 16, so wasn't doing much help overall given the SI level of the Mandie, and ... I left immediately after the repairing was done. The only official items I have are the Official Medical Kit and the Official Regeneration Chip XI, and they can't be traded.

Many things that have been said in the thread at the Caly forum are false, and it's a shame that some can take an incident out of context and use it to further twist their agenda with more than what my action was in helping to repair the Mandie with Bonnie. Rest assured this won't happen again. And also, just to be clear, I did not insta-port anyone onto the Mandie or elsewhere in the universe as I was accused of doing, or was speculated ... it's just a shame that some will go to such lengths to distort the truth to fit their narrative, and it's not appreciated. I can't post at the Caly forum, and didn't want to start a thread at our Virtualsense forum because that would only have escalated into something it didn't need to be, so here is my message going forward.

I often forget that I'm an official and act on instinct, but I will work on a stop-gap measure to prevent this sort of thing from happening again. Nothing I did gave anyone an advantage because Bonnie and JBK and the Victory didn't go after the pirates until hours after I was gone, but I get what the perception was and I apologize that I put myself in that position for it to happen.

My Real Christmas Message

It is my hope that we all treat each other with more dignity and respect and remember that we have an opportunity to do great things together in our beloved universe. Taking every opportunity to tear someone down serves no real purpose. We have an amazing community that is friendly, welcoming and very helpful to all, especially to those who are new or visiting our locations for the first time. I want to thank the many who support our efforts and make tremendous contributions to make things better.





There are quite a few who tailor and texture clothes, but one such player has a focus on Toulan textures, which is why Alya is in the spotlight. She likes to push her creative efforts to explore what's possible, and during our photo shoots I experienced first hand how she does this.

As is usual whenever I do a player profile, there is a series of questions that they answer to give us some insight into their life in our virtual world and what their path has been to any one profession. Following are the responses to those questions.

When did you create your EU avatar, and what is your home planet?

I created my avatar in 2016. I was born on Calypso because I didn't realize we could be born elsewhere. As for a home planet now? That is hard. NI is my vacation home. I think my main home has changed over time, but with so much to do, Toulan has become my home. I came here a month ago and was just stopping for a few hours. 24 hours later I went and got all my stuff (save for what I have in some estates) and settled in. I've always loved Toulan and I'm excited by the recent development. Plus I am just plain having fun. There are things I need to periodically do on other planets but for the foreseeable future I suspect Toulan is my home.

What society are you a member of (if any) and for how long?

I've been a member of Jaguar Spirit since August of 2016. The society was created in 2008. My mentor, who is a good friend and relative in real life was a member. Another real life friend was a member of JS for many years though he had left the society by the time I joined. It's a society meant to help people enjoy Entropia and I've enjoyed the camaraderie over the years. Part of me stays of course because I have family in it but I also like the laid back approach and the desire to be helpful to other players. That being said, if I ever move to another society it will be one that works with a mothership.

How did you hear about Entropia Universe and what was the motivating factor to give it a try?

I am a researcher/professor in real life. Watching my mentor play, talking with others, I was interested in the social psychology and avatar aspect in MMOs. To be honest, at that time, I'd never played an MMO and that is odd for someone of my age. After a student was talking about research in this area, I decided to explore an MMO, and because my friend and family member played EU, I chose EU and never looked back. Haven't done any research yet - playing was just too much fun. I've since played other MMOs but EU remains my primary game, my other "life."

Did you choose any particular profession in the beginning to focus on?

My mentor encouraged me to try them all and I'm glad. I never really thought I'd specialize in anything, though I will say mining is what I have done the least of. I started my first shopkeeper on Next Island with guns and tools. I enjoyed hunting and probably did that the most with some basic crafting. I still enjoy hunting, but I also mine and craft many different things. Early on I started taming for the sake of it and have really enjoyed going around and taming all of the EU mobs, though a couple of Kongs, Boxer, and Dhamypr (have access but haven't tried it) on Rocktropia, a few rares on Calypso and Aleef here on Toulan still to go. In real life, I once gave an introductory speech meant to be an autobiography entitled "Jack of All Trades, Master of None" and that sums up my EU life too.

What profession do you mostly focus on now, and what drew you to it?

Despite the fact I was encouraged to watch my PED, I wanted out of the jumpsuit pretty fast. I bought a shirt that I thought looked cool with its "desert camo." It took me a couple of months to realize that it was what shirts looked like when not repaired and it was Limited. I found a coat on the Auction House that I thought was cool and had someone texture basic pants and a shirt to match. It was my first attempt at an outfit and I looked like I was wearing pajamas in basic leather. Not long after I got that shirt, I found a Sweet Glow textured Labibah coat and was smitten. I found pants and shoes and ran around in that outfit for a long time. The debacle with the original pants and top got me interested in playing more with textures. I got a texturer and began to design ideas.

At that time I could not apply much so I sought out others to apply textures. Once I had the Smuggler outfit I had to design many things to match it. The creativity of designing the clothes was similar to painting and photography and I found myself designing outfit after outfit just to create the piece (and I've hardly painted or engaged in photography since). When Medusa on Calypso offered opportunities to rent, I saw it as a chance to reduce some of the inventory I had collected. I opened up my first clothing shop and was able to fill all slots including multiple shopkeepers without an issue and had plenty left over. I now own my Medusa shop and have a clothing shop on Monria and Next Island with shopkeepers on Toulan (used to be on Arkadia and I'll likely place some back there).

I tend to design my clothing related to what I want to wear. It is kind of a grown up paper dolls mixed with the art of finding the right textures/colors for the clothing. I still have a collection of favorites that fill some 30 containers - ones I struggle to sell. It may be that it has become more of an addiction than an artform but it is still one of my favorite things to do.

I still hunt and sometimes mine. I craft furniture (particularly if I can texture and color it) as well as other items. I enjoy being able to pilot motherships and privateers but haven't had a lot of opportunity lately. I'm a L33 tamer and still want to tame all of the remaining tamable mobs someday. However, my mind is always picturing new possibilities with clothes.

What has been the most interesting aspect of EU for you?

That is such a challenging question. The researcher in me is fascinated by the way people engage from all over the world, how people relate to and use their avatars, etc. The artist in me cannot get enough of the clothes, the child in me (and I'm a lifetime away from childhood) loves imagining myself in another universe. I grew up reading, and science fiction and fantasy were some of my favorites. Some of the most interesting aspects of my experience in this game have been exploring and "being in" the game, treating it as an immersive type of experience.

What has been the least interesting aspect of EU for you?

I get bored when I am grinding a mob. I have to keep my goal in mind to keep me motivated. The old iron style missions were really challenging at times. The Codex helps with what seem like more bite-sized chunks. Going for a particular item helps, or grinding for a particular material can be motivating. The Toulan Citizenship mission is exciting, so I did not mind grinding nearly as much during the event. I try to do dailies but find it gets tedious just to do them for the sake of doing them. I really admire people who grind and grind for hours. I set goals to continue growing my combat skills just so I will get out there and do what needs to be done.

What has been the most challenging of your experiences with EU?

Not being tempted to depo when I see something really cool. I have had to not only have a budget but I have a business plan for my shops. This is particularly challenging because I find I want to play with a color or texture and I have to be careful not to be wasteful.

What has been the most rewarding of your experiences with EU?

I have found I would log in just to say hello to some of the people I have met and to play around with texture ideas even if I don't actually apply them. It's both a social and artistic outlet when real life is driving me insane.

Share what draws you to Toulan and what your experiences have been like.

I loved Toulan the moment I came. It touches on that love of fantasy and it was one of the most beautiful planets. There is a mystique to Toulan that I really enjoy. Toulan has always been one of my happy places.

Being able to craft Toulan clothes kept bringing me back here, as did the hides and ores/enmatter for textures. I also love using swords and knives and Toulan has always had interesting melee options.

What are your main activities on Toulan and Monria?

Hunting on both and of course crafting clothing, textures, furniture and more. I try to do the daily on Monria and I'm trying to get the Horns of Z'agol.

On Toulan I try to work on whatever current hunting goal I have. I also mine on Toulan. Lately, my main activity has been circling the shops on a pet hunt.

What is your relationship with the community?

I am not entirely sure how to answer this. I loved Monria's community from the moment I visited. I appreciate the close knit and supportive environment. I have tried to be a useful member though I haven't always had the time. I hope to be able to rectify that.

What are your future plans, specifically as it relates to crafting and fashion or other items?

I want to see more opportunities for fashion shows. Monria is the only one that faithfully has them. I want to see what I can do to encourage interest in EU fashion.

Of course I will be working hard on Toulan Citizenship this coming year. I would eventually like to have a shop for fashion here on Toulan too.

What advice would you give to a new player?

Find what you enjoy and have fun.

Toulan Textures

One of the things we wanted to do with our development for Toulan was to create unique and fun textures that could be applied not only to clothing, but furniture and other things.

The other thing we started doing was adding the name of the player who discovered the texture, as well as items, along with the date.

Ant has also gone back and applied names to discoveries that happened prior to the VU that we introduced this process, and hopefully over time he will catch up.

Alya really took a liking to the Toulan textures and has created quite a number of fashions using them. When I did the photo shoots with her I was surprised at how vast her wardrobe was, as well as the variety of textures and expanse of clothing they were used on.

Following is a showcase of many of the fashions she has created using the Toulan textures. The name of the Toulan texture is written above each fashion. There's even a collection of Christmas Sweet Glow.







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A Christmas Story for the Ages

by Pinthas Schmenke Dorian

The photo to the left is an 1881 illustration by Thomas Nast who, along with Clement Clarke Moore's poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas," helped to create the modern image of Santa Claus.

Saint Nicholas, whose name was changed over the years to Santa Claus, was involved in the church in the fourth century. Born in Patara (Asia Minor), he later moved to Myra (Demre in modern Turkey), where he was elected Bishop. He died on Dec 6th sometime between A.D. 326 and 341. His actual age is unknown.

It is said, that Saint Nicholas wanted to help a poor nobleman who had three daughters that were going to be sold into slavery or prostitution, but he wanted to do it anonymously. He didn't want to be praised for his generosity. He gave for the joy of giving. So, three bags of gold were thrown through the nobleman's window. However, the nobleman found out who had given the gold for his daughters' dowries. After that, anonymous gifts of charity often were attributed to Saint Nicholas.

The stories of Saint Nicholas came to America through the Dutch settlers in the state of New York.

The name Santa Claus evolved from Nick's Dutch nickname, Sinter Klaas, a shortened form of Saint Nikolaas (Dutch for Saint Nicholas). In 1804, John Pintard, a member of the New York Historical Society, distributed woodcuts of St. Nicholas at the society's annual meeting. The background of the engraving contains now-familiar Santa images including stockings filled with toys and fruit hung over a fireplace.

In 1809, Washington Irving helped to popularize the Sinter Klaas stories when he referred to St. Nicholas as the Patron Saint of New York in his book, The History of New York. As his prominence grew, Sinter Klaas was described as everything from a "rascal" with a blue three-cornered hat, red waistcoat, and yellow stockings, to a man wearing a broad-brimmed hat and a "huge pair of Flemish" trunk hose."

In 1874, the American cartoonist Thomas Nast drew him in a brown suit with brown fur trim. His cartoon appeared in Harper's Weekly.

In the early 1890s, the Salvation Army needed money to pay for the free Christmas meals they provided to needy families. They began dressing up unemployed men in Santa Claus suits and sending them into the streets of New York to solicit donations. Those familiar Salvation Army Santas have been ringing bells on the street corners of American cities ever since.

Perhaps the most iconic department store Santa is Kris Kringle in the 1947 classic Santa Claus movie "Miracle on 34th Street."

Santa Claus keeps a "naughty list" and a "nice list" to determine who deserves gifts on Christmas morning, and parents often invoke these lists as a way to ensure their children are on their best behavior. The lists are immortalized in the 1934 Christmas song "Santa Claus is coming to Town":

"He's making a list,
And checking it twice;
Gonna find out Who's naughty and nice,
Santa Claus is coming to town.

He sees you when you're sleeping, He knows when you're awake; He knows if you've been bad or good, So be good for goodness sake!"

Reindeer were once viewed as mysterious creatures linked to lands in the northern part of the world. Their population was widespread in Scandinavian and Eastern European countries where, during the 18th century, they were domesticated. They were often used in transportation, pulling sleds and sleighs, and are still an important aspect of some indigenous northern European cultures.

The first known written account of reindeer in association with the legend of Santa Claus occurred in 1821. That year, New York printer William Gilley published a sixteen page booklet titled A New Year's Present, to the Little Ones from Five to Twelve Number III: The Children's Friend by an anonymous author. In the book, reindeer are introduced into the Santa Claus narrative:

Old Santa Claus with much delight, His reindeer drives this frosty night; O'er chimney tops, and tracks of snow, To bring his yearly gifts to you.

Dr. Clement C. Moore, a professor of Greek and Biblical Studies at the General Theological Seminary of New York, wrote "A Visit from St. Nicholas" (more commonly known as "Twas the Night Before Christmas") in 1822 -23.

"When what to my wondering eyes should appear, But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer, With a little old driver, so lively and quick I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came, And he whistled and shouted and called them by name; "Now Dasher! Now Dancer! Now Prancer and Vixen! On Comet! On Cupid! On Dunder and Blixem! To the top of the porch, to the top of the wall! Now dash away, dash away, dash away all!"



Only eight reindeer pulled Santa's sleigh until the song "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" was written in 1939 by Robert L. May, a copywriter at the Montgomery Ward department store.

May wrote the Christmas-themed story-poem to help bring holiday traffic into his store. Using a similar rhyme pattern to Moore's "'Twas the Night Before Christmas," May told the story of Rudolph, a young reindeer who was teased by the other deer because of his large, glowing, red nose.

But when Christmas Eve turned foggy and Santa worried that he wouldn't be able to deliver gifts that night, the former outcast saved Christmas by leading the sleigh by the light of his red nose. Rudolph's message—that given the opportunity, a liability can be turned into an asset—proved popular.



The History of Christmas Trees

The history of Christmas trees goes back to the symbolic use of evergreens in ancient Egypt and Rome and continues with the German tradition of candlelit Christmas trees first brought to America in the 1800s. Long before the advent of Christianity, plants and trees that remained green all year had a special meaning for people in the winter. Just as people today decorate their homes during the festive season with pine, spruce, and fir trees, ancient people hung evergreen boughs over their doors and windows. In many countries it was believed that evergreens would keep away witches, ghosts, evil spirits, and illness.

In the Northern hemisphere, the shortest day and longest night of the year falls on December 21 or December 22 and is called the winter solstice. Many ancient people believed that the sun was a god and that winter came every year because the sun god had become sick and weak. They celebrated the solstice because it meant that at last the sun god would begin to get well. Evergreen boughs reminded them of all the green plants that would grow again when the sun god was strong and summer would return.

The ancient Egyptians worshipped a god called Ra, who had the head of a hawk and wore the sun as a blazing disk in his crown. At the solstice, when Ra began to recover from his illness, the Egyptians filled their homes with green palm rushes, which symbolized for them the triumph of life over death.

Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition as we now know it in the 16th century when devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes. Some built Christmas pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreens and candles if wood was scarce. It is a widely held belief that Martin Luther, the 16th-century Protestant reformer, first added lighted candles to a tree. Walking toward his home one winter evening, composing a sermon, he was awed by the brilliance of stars twinkling amidst evergreens. To recapture the scene for his family, he erected a tree in the main room and wired its branches with lighted candles.

Most 19th-century Americans found Christmas trees an oddity. The first record of one being on display was in the 1830s by the German settlers of Pennsylvania, although trees had been a tradition in many German homes much earlier. The Pennsylvania German settlements had community trees as early as 1747. But, as late as the 1840s Christmas trees were seen as pagan symbols and not accepted by most Americans.

It is not surprising that, like many other festive Christmas customs, the tree was adopted so late in America. To the New England Puritans, Christmas was sacred. The pilgrims's second governor, William Bradford, wrote that he tried hard to stamp out "pagan mockery" of the observance, penalizing any frivolity. The influential Oliver Cromwell preached against "the heathen traditions" of Christmas carols, decorated trees, and any joyful expression that desecrated "that sacred event." In 1659, the General Court of Massachusetts enacted a law making any observance of December 25 (other than a church service) a penal offense; people were fined for hanging decorations. That stern solemnity continued until the 19th century, when the influx of German and Irish immigrants undermined the Puritan legacy.

In 1846, the popular royals, Queen Victoria and her German Prince, Albert, were sketched in the Illustrated London News standing with their children around a Christmas tree. Unlike the previous royal family, Victoria was very popular with her subjects, and what was done at court immediately became fashionable—not only in Britain, but with fashion-conscious East Coast American Society. The Christmas tree had arrived.

By the 1890s Christmas ornaments were arriving from Germany and Christmas tree popularity was on the rise around the U.S. It was noted that Europeans used small trees about four feet in height, while Americans liked their Christmas trees to reach from floor to ceiling.

The early 20th century saw Americans decorating their trees mainly with homemade ornaments, while the German-American sect continued to use apples, nuts, and marzipan cookies. Popcorn joined in after being dyed bright colors and interlaced with berries and nuts. Electricity brought about Christmas lights, making it possible for Christmas trees to glow for days on end. With this, Christmas trees began to appear in town squares across the country and having a Christmas tree in the home became an American tradition.

The illustration at the right is from a December 1848 edition of the Illustrated London News showing Queen Victoria and her family surrounding a Christmas tree.





Capricorn | Dec 22 - Jan 19

Don't let the cookies fool you, Thawrs are disciplined, serious and tenacious, so don't be surprised if you see your own cookies become a part of the terrain in 2022.



Aquarius | Jan 20 - Feb 18

Bahris think they're smart with two heads, but it's not original. And while they are also imaginative, they are uncompromising and will imagine your ass dead over and over again in 2022.



Pisces | Feb 19 - Mar 20

While Caboria are empathetic and artistic, they are also wise and know when to clam up. Probably why Ant is so quiet most of the time, this is his birthday month.

(I had to put the wise part in there.)



Aries | Mar 21 - Apr 19

Drum roll please ... Otis if anything is eager, quick and competitive, but he also knows the value of flexibility which is why your experiences with him will be more dead than dynamic.



Taurus | Apr 20 - May 20

Khaffash are strong, creative and dependable, and you can depend on them for your daily recharging of whatever batteries you run on.

You're Welcome!!









KNOW YOUR FUTURE VIRTUALSENSE HOROSCOPES



Gemini | May 21 - Jun 20

Dahhars are versatile, curious and expressive, and they will express your ass to the revive with a wave of their handband. You know, the ones they are reluctant to give up.

Cancer | Jun 21 - Jul 22

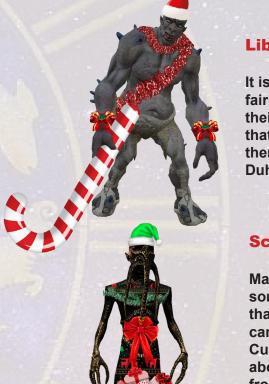
I can't imagine the Shoggoth being sentimental or compassionate, but their intuitiveness shines when they are about to get intuit and pull out all extensions to be protective of their domain. Ok, maybe they are a bit compassionate, they like to hug.

Leo | Jul 23 - Aug 22

To say that the Dunwich Horror is outgoing and dramatic is definitely an understatement. He's fiery and self-assured, and hums "Come on Baby, Light My Fire" while he sets your ass aflame. Gives new meaning to the word outgoing, because it is you on the way out.

Virgo | Aug 23 - Sep 22

The Shub is female for a reason, they can multi-task, and while they are known to be practical and quite analytical, they also respect loyalty. That's why they all swoon whenever John Black Knight (JBK) shows up. However, loyalty can be a double-edged sword. He has a knack for getting into their deep pockets.



Libra | Sep 23 - Oct 22

It is said that the Duhol can often be fair-minded, social and gracious, but their diplomacy leaves deep concern that if you engage with them in 2022, there's a likely chance that you won't Duhol right. Fair warning!!

Scorpio | Oct 23 - Nov 21

Make no mistake, the Cultist uses some sort of black magic voodoo juju that messes with your neurons -- you can find them between your ears. The Cultists are resourceful, passionate about their mission handed down from their boss Decca, but stubborn when it comes to generosity. Beneath those fake gifts are Kingu's Maladrite Elixir-laced cookies that will make you think that Timothy Leary is still alive.



You want to talk about generosity and humor, the Sunjoq has it in spades. Quite the extrovert, and so optimistic about the future. It's known that they sweat a lot though, and because they are so generous, they are often taken advantage of unfortunately. In 2022, be sure not to get caught up in a shell game.

