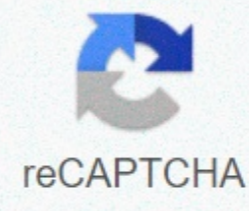




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Old gods of the forest

A god in the north, by Kim Pope © The ancient gods are unnamed deities[1] of stream, forest, and stone[2] worshipped in the Seven Kingdoms of Westeros and beyond the Wall. They are so called because the Faith of the Seven (the new gods) replaced them in all but north Of Westeros, where the worship of the ancient gods is still practiced by northern men, crannogmen, and free people. Westerosi of various beliefs commonly swear by the ancient gods and the new. [5] V60 [7] The ancient gods Sansa Stark sat in his style, by Josu Hernaiz © The ancient gods are nameless and numerous. [9] Free people living beyond the Wall believe that the gods are everywhere - on the rocks, streams, birds and beasts - and that they take the deceased to the land and trees. [10] The meisters teach that the dams are sacred to the ancient gods. [11] However, worshippers believe that the ancient gods observe through the trees. [13] It is said that the ancient gods only have power where the faces of the heart trees can see, and since the destruction of most heart trees in the south they have no power there. [13] It is said that the breath of the wind and the rustling of the leaves are the ancient gods speaking back to worshippers. [14] According to Jojen Reed, the children's singers believe that wooden trees are the gods, and that when they die, they become part of the deity. [11] Worshippers of the ancient gods believe that no man can tell a lie in front of a heart tree, as the ancient gods know when men are telling a lie. [15] Through the eyes of the woods, the ancient gods judge the people in front of them. [10] As such, an oath can be taken in front of a wooden tree,[16] or with a hand placed on the mouth of the dam's face. [17] It is said that the forest children carved faces into the trees during dawn, centuries before the arrival of the First Men across the narrow sea. [18] According to Maester Luwin, the faces were sculpted by the greens to watch the forest. [19] The First Men believed that the greens could see through the eyes of the woods. [20] The ancient gods were worshipped by the children of the forest, and eventually after the Covenant, by the First Men. [19] After the coming of the Andals, who brought the Faith of the Seven, the ancient gods were no longer dominantly worshipped in southern Westeros. [19] Only a few houses (e.g., House Blackwood)[21] still do so, while most noble houses follow the Faith of the Seven instead. In the north, however, most houses still worship the ancient gods. In the northern lands beyond the Wall, the free people continue to worship the ancient gods. Although some reports claim that there are clans that worship different gods (gods of darkness under the ground in the Frostfangs, gods of and the ice on the Frozen Coast, or crab gods at Storrol'd's Point), there is no reliable confirmation. [22] Practices Various actions, actions, such as incest,[23] slavery,[24] and kinslaying[25] are considered offensive to the ancient gods, although, with regard to relatives, the degree of relatives and circumstance of killing their relatives (e.g., in war) have significant influence. [26] The laws of hospitality are considered sacred. [27] It is believed that ancient gods can detect when men lie to heart trees. [15] Honor Worship Bound by Josu Hernaiz © Worshippers visit god's woods, woods

contained within castles throughout the Seven Kingdoms, where a heart tree can be found. These trees, which have faces carved in them, are considered sacred. The heart trees are usually weir wood, and the groves of God are often the only places where the living woods still remain[18] until they go north of the Wall. [12] Since all noble houses had a god with a heart tree at its center; However, the First Men, in their wars against the sons of the forest, cut down many of the trees, as did the Andals later, replacing the ancient gods with their own in the southern kingdoms. [19] Although lumberjacks can still be found in the south, they now serve as secular gardens. [18] Prayer[4] and weddings[28] are done in front of a heart tree. The woods and places they are are considered sacred. They should not be contaminated by bringing animals like horses to them. [12] There are no priests, sacred texts, no worship songs, and virtually no rite that goes with the worship of the ancient gods. [29] It is a popular religion, passed down from generation to generation. Worshipers believe that the ancient gods observe through the trees.[12][13] and prayers are made in silence. [29] Blood sacrifice was performed in the past. [30] For example, the bowels and bodies of criminals and traitors could be hung on the branches of weirwoods after their executions. [31] Marriage customs A wedding ceremony takes place in front of a tree of the heart. [32] The bride's father, or the person in her place (usually relative or who else is closest to living relatives), will escort the bride to her future husband and those who preside over the marriage. So far, all the wedding dresses that have been described so far to a follower of the ancient gods have been a shade of white. [N 1] Wedding ceremonies are short and do not contain priests. The bride is escorted to her groom, who waits in front of the wooden tree in the woods of the gods, and a ceremonial conversation ensues, where the identity of the bride, groom and person giving the bride are established. The bride is invited to accept her husband, and after her agreement (I take this man) the bride and groom unite, kneel before the tree of the heart, and lower their heads as a sign of When they get up after a moment of silent prayer, the groom removes the maiden's robe, and places the bride's robe around her shoulders, after which he will take her to the party in her The wedding ceremony is followed by a party, which in turn is followed by the bed. [33] The matrimonial vows said at the sword point are not considered valid, but even if the marriage took place under force, a lord may claim that marriage will be legal if, for example, the land is at stake. [34] Lords in Westeros once had the right to the first night, the custom of sleeping with newlymarried women before their husbands. Queen Alysanne convinced King Jaehaerys I to abolish it,[35][36] but it is still illegally practiced in some parts of the north, such as where the ancient gods rule, old customs remain. [37] Customs funeral customs specific funeral funerary are not known. However, noble houses seem to bury deceased family members in crypts beneath their castles. The Starks of Winterfell, traditionally worshipers of the ancient gods.[13][38][39][39] bury deceased family members in the crypts below Winterfell. [41] According to Roose Bolton, another worshiper of the ancient gods, the bones of his late son Dmeric are under the Dreadfort with the bones of his brothers, suggesting that it is a custom (at least of the nobility). Ancient History The ancient gods were originally worshipped by the forest children in most of Westeros in the Dawn Age, thousands of years before the arrival of the First Men of Essos through the Arm of Dorne. The First Men were at war with the children and, believing that the children's greens could see through the eyes of the dams, cut the woods where they found them. [19] The children of Moat Cailin are said to have called their nameless gods to use the hammer of the waters.[42] and other tales say they performed blood sacrifices on The Island of Faces. [43] Over time, however, the First Men made peace with the children on the Isle of Faces within the Eye of the Gods, agreeing to the Covenant. Over time, they adopted the children's gods as their own. [19] Other Religions of the First Men included the Lady of the Waves and the Lord of Heaven, worshipped in the Three Sisters.[44] and the Drowned God, who is still worshipped in the Iron Islands. [45] When Corlos spared lion cubs inside Casterly Rock, they say the ancient gods rewarded him by revealing gold at Casterly Rock. [46] According to archmaester Eyron, the crannogmen often thought that their marsh kings were touched by the ancient gods. [47] Arrival of the Andals Worship of the ancient gods remained strong in Westeros until the coming of the Andals, with the Andals bringing their Faith of the Seven with them from Andalos. The Andals gradually conquered southern Westeros. [19] Seeing the ancient gods as little more than demons, the Andals destroyed the great white trees wherever they found them. [48] Almost all the southern timbers were cut, and the of the ancient gods was supplanted with the gods of the Andals. [19] The Blackwood House on the river grounds serves as an exception. [49] [49] Ancient gods are still worshipped in the north, however, and by the free people who live beyond the Wall. [33] Some clans of the free people are said to worship different deities of the ancient gods, however. [22] Recent History Humfrey I Teague, King of rivers and hills, attempted to suppress the worship of the ancient gods on the river lands, resulting in the fall of The Teague House and control of the riverlands by House Durrandon. [48] After Wolf Hour many northern men stayed in the south. Hundreds of married widows who lost husbands in the Dance of Dragons, returning the worship of the ancient gods to many places. During the tournament in Harrenhal, a crannogman prayed to the old gods of the north and neck. During the tournament, the Laughing Tree Knight used a shield decorated with a heart tree of the ancient gods. [24] Recent Events A Game of Thrones Winterfell godswood in Game of Thrones Lord Eddard Stark visits the godswood of Winterfell after Gared's execution. [18] Although raised in the Faith of the Seven, Samwell Tarly decides to swear the Vows of the Night's Night In a wooden grove north of the Wall, rather than in the Sept. of Castle Black. [12] Bran Stark prays in the godswood of Winterfell for the success of his brother Robb in southern Westeros, but Osha warns that the ancient gods now only have power in the north. [13] Inside the Red Fortress, Sansa Stark prays to the ancient gods in the godwood of the castle and to the new gods of the Seven in the Sept. [38] A Clash of Kings According to Lord Jon Umber, the red comet is a sign of revenge from the ancient gods for the execution of Lord Eddard. [51] Great Jon also believes that the ancient gods sent terrible wolves to Ned's children. [52] Survivors of the Battle of Oxcross claim that Robb is marching with the support of the ancient gods of the north. [53] Arya Stark prays to the ancient gods inside harrenhal's wood. [17] A Storm of Spades During the retreat toward Craster's Keep after the fist fight, Samwell prays to any god who hears. [54] After the riot at Craster's Keep, Sam prays in front of a weir wood in a wild abandoned village. [55] When the flagless brotherhood visits the ghost of the High Heart, the dwarf woman states that the restless old gods will not let her sleep. [56] Stannis Baratheon offers to legitimize Jon Snow after the battle under the Wall and to name him Lord of Winterfell. Jon decides to refuse, however, as Melisandre would require the burning of the godwood of the castle. [57] Because Ghost's white skin and red eyes resemble weir wood, Jon thinks his terrible wolf also belongs to the ancient gods. [57] A Feast for Crows Arya refuses to get rid of Needle in Braavos, believing that the ancient gods want her to keep Jon's gift. [58] A Dance with Melisandre Dragons requires that the submission of of free folk wood to symbolize his acceptance of R'hllor. [59] Some of the wild savages to carve faces into trees south of the Wall, however. [60] Ser Bartimus admits that although he is a knight, he still follows the ancient gods. [30] Bran learns from the three-eyed crow and children of the forest in a cave beyond the Wall. The Greenseers rest inside the roots of the woods. [61] Lord Roose Bolton announces to his knights at Winterfell that the old gods will destroy Stannis with a blizzard for his worship of R'hllor. [62] The Queen's men in Stannis' army want to burn sacrifices for R'hllor to end the storm. [63] Theon Greyjoy prays to the ancient gods in the god of Winterfell. [64] Quotes Because of her, Ned built a small septum where she could sing to the seven faces of God, but the blood of the First Men still flowed into the starks' veins, and their own gods were the old, nameless, faceless gods of the forest who shared with the missing children of the forest. [18]- Thoughts of Catelyn Stark Castle Black had no godfire, only a small septum and a drunken septum, but Jon could not find it in him to pray to any god, old or new. If they were real, he thought, they were as cruel and ruthless as winter. [65]- Jon Snow Slight's thoughts as they were, the children were quick and graceful. Male and female hunted together, with wooden arches and flying traps. Their gods were the gods of the forest, stream and stone, the ancient gods whose names are secret. [19]- Luwin to Bran Stark I see you talking to the heart tree. Maybe the gods are trying to answer. [66]-Osha to Bran Stark The Mother was merciful, all septons agreed, but the Seven had no power beyond the Wall. This is where the ancient gods ruled, the nameless gods of trees, wolves and snows. [54]-thoughts of Samwell Tarly Tyrion: I confess, I know little of the ancient gods. Maybe one day you can enlighten me. I could even join you. Sansa: No. You... You're kind enough to offer, but... There are no devotions, my lord. No priests, no songs, no candles. Only trees, and silent prayer. [29]-- Tyrion Lannister and Sansa Stark The meisters will say that King Jaehaerys abolished the Lord's right on the first night to appease his heard queen, but where the ancient gods rule, old customs remain. [67]-Roose Bolton to Theon Greyjoy Bran: What do trees remember? Jojen: The secrets of the ancient gods. Truths the First Men knew, forgotten now in Winterfell... but not in wet nature. We live closer to the green in our marshes and crannogs, and we remember. Earth and water, soil and stone, oaks and elms and willows, they were here before all of us and will still remain when we are gone. [11]-- Bran Stark and Jojen Reed Backstage According to George R. R. Martin, the ancients are based on the animism and traditional pagan beliefs of Wicca and various other Celtic systems and Nordic systems, merged into a building. [68] Martin also stated that druidism and primitive primitive are influences. 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