

Hearth Licker

Image

Kissing the glass of the star hearth is a common pious practice among Wayfarers. For yinrih, "kissing" means gently touching the wet part of the nose to a surface and quickly exhaling. Star hearths in more devout corners of Focus are covered in nose prints. This custom gives rise to the common anti-Wayfarer slur "hearth licker".

Such hallowed objects as the star hearth, icons, the bones of deceased loved ones are given the lowest level of religious devotion, known in Commonthroat as <qhjh>, literally "care" or "reverence". Some abstract abstract concepts are also so revered, such as the noosphere. The other two levels are <nLqg> "honor" given to saints and martyrs, and <kgg> "praise" given only to the Uncreated Light.

The difference between these degrees is how much agency is ascribed to the entity in question. Things that are given <qhjh> have no inherent power (to believe otherwise is regarded as superstition), and are merely physical objects or concepts that represent higher realities. Saints and Martyrs reflect the Uncreated Light through their lives of holiness and virtue, but they merely *reflect* it. To claim otherwise is, again, condemned as superstition. The Uncreated Light itself is regarded as the only proper object of worship.

This is in contrast to most flavors of Neoshamanism, which ascribes animistic power to living things and natural phenomena.

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