

Lucy

Lucy is the human-pronounceable name of the high hearthkeeper in office at the time of the *Dewfall's* arrival on Earth. She is the successor to the High Hearthkeeper who tried to once again put a stop to interstellar mission work that caused Pascal to lapse out of scandal and Iris to go in with the traditionalists among the missionaries.

She was given the name Lucy at the first interspecies ecumenical conference in the City of Eternal Noon. Rather than risk offense or ridicule by picking a name herself, she asked one of the human attendees to name her. The name is likely a reference to Saint Lucy, given in honor of the Bright Way's affinity for light.

I have yet to decide on her personality and outlook. There are two contrasting options:

- A traditionalist who would rather lead a smaller, more faithful litter than an organization that's a mile wide and a foot deep. She sees her predecessor's attempt to suppress the missionaries as compromising the religion's identity for the sake of getting bellies on perches at the lighthouse. Ill-liked by the secular media and perhaps lacking in charisma.
- A reformer who, until the *Dewfall's* landing is all set to finish her predecessor's work of disbanding the missionaries in order to focus on more conventional philanthropic (philocynoidic?) endeavors. Treated much more positively in the non-Wayfarer press.

In either case, her priorities immediately shift to "holy crap we actually found someone!" after Earth is discovered, and, irrespective of her previous outlook, finds herself shepherding the Bright Way into a renaissance. She's the strongest advocate for humanity at Focus, and is responsible for opening Hearthside to human settlement. She's the first authority figure outside of Wayfarers' Haven that has any dealings with humans, and is the figure responsible for passing so-called *Ludd Laws** within both Hearthside and the Allied Worlds.

* laws that strictly limit the export of monkey fox technology to Earth, to be explained in a later post

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