
THE THREE SISTERS

Banyan is a shard of wildness and mystery. Within its eaves and glades reside some of the most unusual creatures to be found anywhere. Giant beasts that lumber amidst walking trees. Great, avian things with plumage so mad they seem as though made entirely of flowers. Stranger things still walk the remote and misty peaks of the Stonefog Mountains and hide deep within the shard itself. Despite its people's energetic devotion to the virtue of Compassion, Banyan's wilderness can eat you alive.

So what small mercies are there for those who explore the green shard? Whatever they may be, the Three Sisters are certainly among them. Born to different tribes, the Three Sisters are ancient Banyari women who have been in a strange dialogue with the shard itself for as long as any living member of any tribe can remember. Their guidance and insight have helped generations of Banyari hone their survival skills, while sometimes providing invaluable counsel to tribal leaders or even more personalized wisdom to the occasional individual who seeks them out in the pursuit of some deeper spiritual mystery. The sisters are not especially interested in most tribal matters and rarely attend all but the most essential festivals. When they do attend, it is often in disguise (or in some other hidden fashion) allowing them to observe without interfering.

The Sisters are sometimes called "The Three Faces of Compassion", "The Ladies of the Eaves", or "The Hopeful Crones". It is rare to encounter them in the company of each other, as they each have different driving passions. Bara Belgi seeks to spread joy through her music and storytelling.

Siga Lagu is learned in the healing arts and is a protective force throughout the Great Forest. Mildretha is indomitable in her capacity for foraging, hunting and the cultivation of fire.

Bara Belgi is easily the most extroverted member of the Nitansien tribe to ever grace the face of Banyan. She knows every story that has ever been put to music and she has a voice like countless birdsongs. She plays a peculiar curly flute and can often be found smiling between patches of dappled Overlight. It is during times of great turmoil and upheaval that Bara Belgi serendipitously arrives on the scene with the most appropriate fable set to an inspiring and uplifting tune. Although Bara Belgi is easily dismissed as a frivolous troubadour, those who have known her personally say that she walks the line between madness and enlightenment—on rare occasion, she has been the bearer of prophetic visions.

The Worulthing are known to be a sad and broken folk who often bear a bitterness that eternally deprives them of even basic happiness. Siga Lagu is not such a sapling from that tree. The matriarch of her kind has looked deeply into the pain of her people. In her words, she has come from the ashes of that tragic history as a salve to the suffering of Banyan itself. She believes that the Worulthing all carry a fragment of the Hearthwood tree within their Spirit, and that each one of those pieces is a means to heal themselves and others. Her teachings are well known and often quoted by teachers of the Green Heart.

Mildretha is an enormous Verthodm, even by Rootlord standards. She is like a giant box of hedge, made of wood and flowering ivy,

towering over even some of the largest Pyroi. If pressed, Mildreetha is capable of enormous feats of strength and violence, but will only resort to such physical measures if no other path forward presents itself. If Mildreetha is hungry, the trees will give of their fruit, and animals will lay down their lives at her gigantic feet (which, oddly, leave no prints or path in her wake). Her voice is the rolling sound of the most patient stream playing beneath the sound

of falling leaves. In times of great hardship, Mildreetha will deliver food and other supplies from the forest and leave them in front of needful Banyari's home. It is not known if the sisters are Skyborn, but their strange attunement to Banyan's hidden places and creatures are evidence of wondrous powers. Nonetheless, any good soul who travels the green wilds of Banyan could meet the Three Sisters. The greater the need, the more likely they'll arrive.