

## AASIMAR

Legends tell of valiant heroes whose bravery and courage won the affections of a champion of Heaven, Nirvana or Elysium. Such glorious unions are seen as a blessing on a family, community or nation, and the resultant half-celestial offspring are beacons of hope and righteousness in the mortal world. Through the generations, celestial blood can continue to manifest for centuries following the union of the mortal and the sublime, giving rise to aasimars, the heirs of glory.

### AASIMAR HERITAGE

Aasimar are born with the blessing of the outer planes, but the source of their otherworldly blood varies from individual to individual. Some may be born directly to a half-celestial and human coupling. Others are born to pairs of humans so far removed from the glorious days of their ancestors that the tales of celestial exploits have been all but forgotten. Yet others have a parent who is a less powerful good-aligned outsider such as a triton or lesser celestial, whose seed has not the power to spawn a half-celestial.

The surest way to create an aasimar child is through the union of a human and a half-celestial. In fact, it is nearly unheard of for such a union to not create an aasimar, and such an outcome is generally seen as an extremely bad omen. The only known cause for this (other than direct divine intervention) is if the human parent has a fiendish taint, the sort of corruption of the blood that could result in a tiefling child. Under such circumstances, the pure and corrupt outsider bloods effectively nullify each other.

The majority of aasimar are born to seemingly normal human parents, at least one of whom has celestial blood flowing through his or her veins. These families may or may not even know that celestial blood hides in their bloodline, waiting for a moment of need or a happenstance convergence of the stars to trigger the birth of an aasimar. Though the odds of an aasimar being born to such a family are relatively slim, there are countless mortal bloodlines that have, at some point in history, crossed paths with the celestial.

Yet other aasimar are born directly of a human and a good-aligned outsider whose blood is not strong enough to result in a true half-celestial. Human dalliances with native outsiders such as tritons and (occasionally) couatls sometimes directly result in an aasimar child, as do unions between humans and the celestial ranks of lantern archons, cassisian angels and lyrakien azata. These later couplings are most often the result of a human spellcaster becoming intimate with her or his familiar, a practice typically frowned upon by the forces of good and seldom allowed to continue for long.

### PHYSIOLOGY AND APPEARANCE

The vast majority of aasimar appear essentially human, though they all develop some identifying trait that marks them as special (page 14). Some aasimar are born with this sign; others remain indistinguishable from their human peers through childhood and even into puberty. However, all adult aasimars manifest some form of identifying trait, be it metallic hair, inhumanly coloured eyes or even a glowing halo.

The time at which such a sign develops is not arbitrary. The subtle, intangible forces of good permeating the world often guard the vulnerable, and use the otherwise powerless to instill hope and faith. An orphaned child in the care of a cruel workhouse master might not manifest a sign until adulthood, if doing so would draw undue attention to his heritage and result in increased exclusion and suffering. Such a youth might even start to manifest such a sign first only at night, or when alone, granting a preview of things to come and a warning to flee.

On the other hand, a baby born to a serf of a cruel despot might appear with her eyes glowing golden from the first time they open. Such a birth could inspire the people of the land to hope for their ultimate deliverance from tyranny, even before the baby is old enough to speak.

#### AGE, HEIGHT & WEIGHT

##### AASIMAR RANDOM HEIGHT AND WEIGHT

TITLE	BASE HEIGHT	BASE WEIGHT	MODIFIER	WEIGHT MODIFIER
Male	4 ft. 10 in.	120 lbs.	2d10	x5 lbs.
Female	4 ft. 5 in.	85 lbs.	2d10	x5 lbs.

##### AASIMAR STARTING AGE

ADULTHOOD	BARBARIAN, ROGUE, SORCERER	BARD, FIGHTER, PALADIN, RANGER	CLERIC, DRUID, MONK, WIZARD
15	+1d6	+1d8	+2d8

##### AASIMAR AGING EFFECTS

MIDDLE AGE <sup>1</sup>	OLD <sup>2</sup>	VENERABLE <sup>3</sup>	MAX. AGE
45 years	63 years	90 years	+3d20 years

1 At middle age, -1 to Str, Dex and Con; +1 to Int, Wis and Cha.

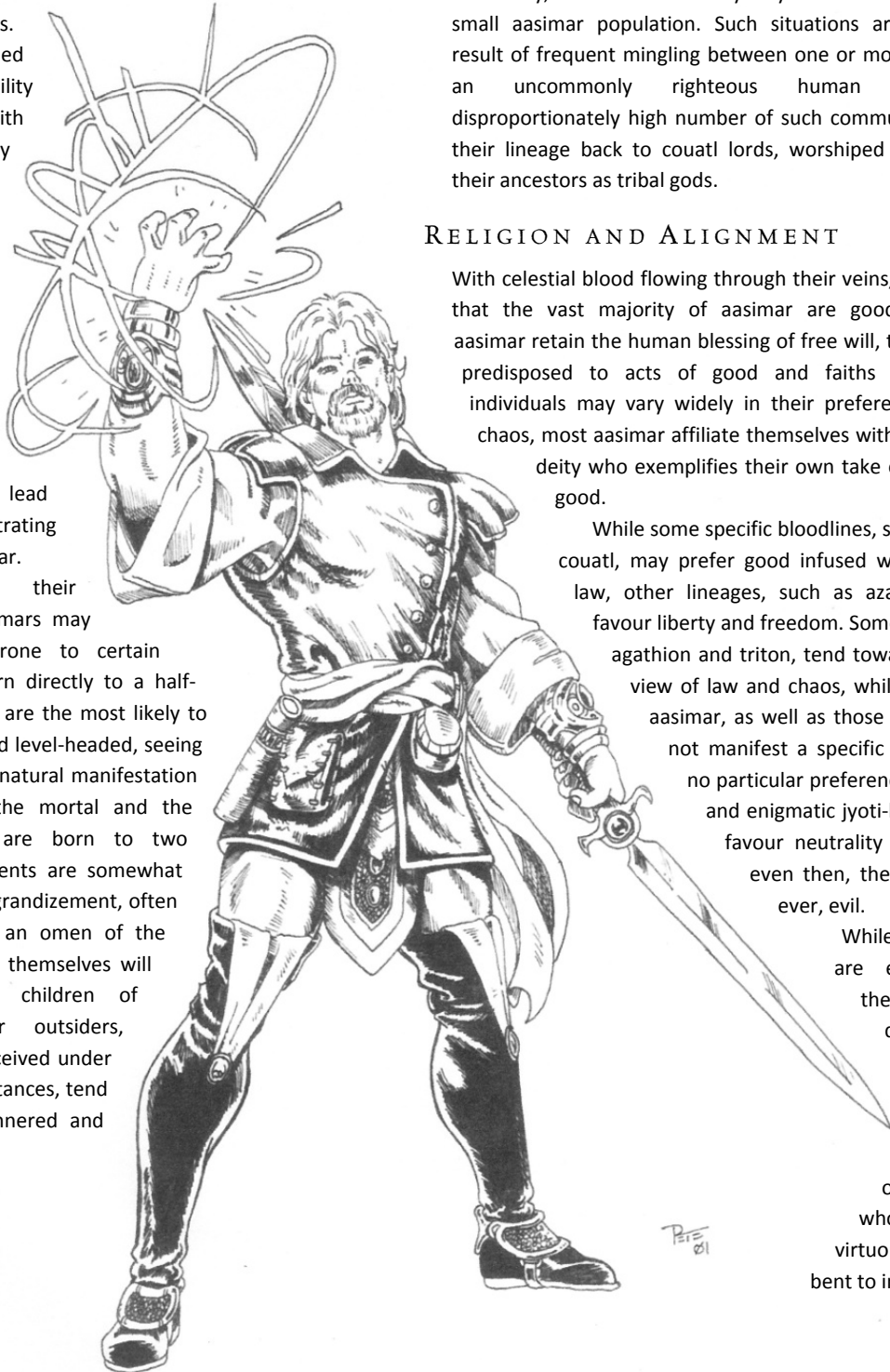
2 At old age, -2 to Str, Dex and Con; +1 to Int, Wis and Cha.

3 At venerable age, -3 to Str, Dex and Con; +1 to Int, Wis and Cha.

## PSYCHOLOGY AND PERSONALITY

Aasimars are, for the most part, graced with the clarity and benevolence of their celestial forebearers. As such, they tend to be kind and good-hearted, offering succour to those in need and comfort to the downtrodden. Pride is their most common vice, as it is easy for one to consider himself particularly blessed by fate, and therefore superior to his fellows. However, the added measure of humility commonly inherited with celestial blood typically serves as a buffer against such hubris. The heirs of glory span the gamut of goodness from humble altruists to crusading zealots, but are generally found in the pursuit of noble causes. When they lead, they lead by example, demonstrating the ideals they hold dear.

Depending on their heritage, specific aasimars may be more or less prone to certain behaviours. Those born directly to a half-celestial and a human are the most likely to be straight-forward and level-headed, seeing their own lives as the natural manifestation of the mingling of the mortal and the divine. Those who are born to two seemingly human parents are somewhat more prone to self-aggrandizement, often seeing their birth as an omen of the great deeds that they themselves will accomplish. Aasimar children of humans and other outsiders, particularly those conceived under less than pure circumstances, tend to be more mild-mannered and subtle.



## AASIMAR SOCIETY

Aasimar rarely form communities of their own, preferring to dwell within a human society. Occasionally, a small company of aasimar band together for a common cause, but such organizations rarely exist to exclude outsiders so much as to enhance the camaraderie of the like-minded members.

Rarely, a human community may come to be dominated by a small aasimar population. Such situations are generally the result of frequent mingling between one or more celestials and an uncommonly righteous human populace. A disproportionately high number of such communities can trace their lineage back to couatl lords, worshiped and revered by their ancestors as tribal gods.

## RELIGION AND ALIGNMENT

With celestial blood flowing through their veins, it is no surprise that the vast majority of aasimar are good-aligned. While aasimar retain the human blessing of free will, they are strongly predisposed to acts of good and faiths of light. While individuals may vary widely in their preferences for law or chaos, most aasimar affiliate themselves with the church of a deity who exemplifies their own take on the nature of good.

While some specific bloodlines, such as archon or couatl, may prefer good infused with the force of law, other lineages, such as azata and elysian, favour liberty and freedom. Some bloodlines, like agathion and triton, tend towards a moderate view of law and chaos, while angel-blooded aasimar, as well as those aasimar who do not manifest a specific bloodline, show no particular preference. Only the rare and enigmatic jyoti-blooded aasimar favour neutrality over good, and even then, they are seldom, if ever, evil.

While evil aasimar are extremely rare, the forces of darkness devote significant time and resources to the corruption of an aasimar whose otherwise virtuous nature can be bent to iniquity.