

# THE WOODLAND REPUBLIC

SABLETHORN: AN ENDLESS WILDERNESS WHERE THE LOOMING TREES AND TOWERING MOUNTAINS CAST AN ETERNAL TWILIGHT, SMOTHERING THE WORLD BELOW IN GLOOM. IT IS BETWEEN THESE TWISTING BOUGHS AND KNOTTED ROOTS THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC MAKE THEIR HOME.

## LOYALTY AND FAMILY

THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC SHARE AN UNBREAKABLE LOYALTY TO THEIR COMMUNITIES AND KIN, SEEING THEIR RELATIONSHIPS AS BOTH ANCHOR AND LIFELINE. HARDSHIP AND SURVIVAL ARE PART OF DAILY LIFE IN THIS UNTAMED WILDERNESS, AND THE PEOPLE TAKE FIERCE PRIDE IN KNOWING THAT THEIR ANCESTRAL KINFOLK FOUGHT TO PRESERVE THIS WAY OF LIFE, WITH EACH GENERATION DOING THE SAME. THEY GUARD THEIR HOMES, TRADITIONS AND FAMILIES WITH A TENACITY THAT FEW OUTSIDERS CAN TRULY UNDERSTAND. THROUGH LOYALTY AND COOPERATION, THE REPUBLIC CONTINUES TO THRIVE, FOR THEY KNOW THAT THE LONE WOLF DOES NOT SURVIVE LONG WITHOUT THE PACK.

## LIFE WITHIN THE REPUBLIC

LIFE WITHIN SABLETHORN IS BUILT UPON INTERDEPENDENCE. FORAGERS, HUNTERS, HEALERS, AND CRAFTERS ARE ALL VALUED EQUALLY AND RESPECTED FOR THE PART THAT THEY PLAY IN SUSTAINING THE COMMUNITY. HERE IT IS NOT WEALTH AND STATUS THAT IS RESPECTED BUT RATHER SKILL AND CONTRIBUTION. THE ELECTED WISEFOLK GUIDE THE REPUBLIC, ENSURING THAT THE CUSTOMS AND OLD WAYS ARE HONORED, BUT EVERY COMMUNITY MEMBER HAS A VOICE AND IS HEARD WHEN THEY HAVE WORDS TO SPEAK: CREATING A DEEP RESPECT FOR DEMOCRACY.

## TRADITION AND BELIEF

TRADITION HOLDS A PIVOTAL ROLE WITHIN THE REPUBLIC, WITH KNOWLEDGE PASSED THROUGH GENERATIONS BY WAY OF STORIES, SONGS, AND RITUALS. GENERATIONAL ELDERERS ARE REVERED AS WISEFOLK: THEIR WORDS AND OPINIONS RESPECTED AND VALUED FOR THE LIFETIME OF EXPERIENCE THEY CONTAIN. AS WITH ALL THINGS IN THE REPUBLIC - EVEN STORIES ARE USED AS A FORM OF SURVIVAL - RECOUNTED TIME AND AGAIN TO IMPART THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE DANGERS OF THE FOREST UPON THE YOUNG. POEMS AND BALLADS ARE RECITED NIGHTLY AROUND THE CAMPFIRE; TELLING THE TALES OF STRUGGLES PAST, MYSTERIOUS FOREST BEASTS, AND KINSFOLK LONG GONE. LIKE THE MOUNTAINS AND FORESTS THEY RESIDE WITHIN, CHANGE COMES SLOWLY TO THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC. EVERY IMPORTANT DECISION IS GIVEN THE GRAVITY AND DILIGENCE IT DESERVES BEFORE A PATH FORWARD IS CHOSEN.

## FASHION AND STYLE

EXISTENCE WITHIN SABLETHORN IS SIMPLE, WITH THE BEAUTY FOUND IN PRACTICALITY RATHER THAN EXTRAVAGANCE. CLOTHING IS DESIGNED FOR FUNCTION; LAYERS FOR PROTECTION AGAINST THE UNDERGROWTH, HOODS TO SHIELD FROM THE RAIN, AND CLOAKS FOR THE COLD. ALL CRAFTED IN DURABLE EARTHY MATERIALS; SUCH AS WOVEN FIBER, LEATHER, AND FUR. SUBTLE DECORATIONS, SUCH AS HAND STITCHED PATTERNS, OR NATURAL DYES, AND OCCASIONALLY ADDED. CHARMS AND TOKENS FROM ANCESTRAL KINSFOLK ARE USUALLY WORN ABOUT THE BODY TO KEEP THEIR FAMILIAL CONNECTION ALIVE.

**INSPIRATIONS:** APPALACHIAN FOLKLORE,  
WOODLAND FANTASY, RUSTIC ELEGANCE