

Frosc

The Fuwoho are an amphibian race of frog people. They are a prominent intelligent race.

Etymology

The high tongue word Foho means strange water race. They are most commonly referred to as Frosc, which is both singular and plural. They are also simply called Frogs, but this is either very casual or derisive.

Characteristics

Frosc are not Seadran, but they share a common ancestor, much as humans are related to primates. This is evident in some aspects of their physiology and culture, which shares many similarities to Seadran legends. Frosc legends actually say they are descended from Seadran, as the first Frosc was the first Seadran who walked on land.

Unlike Koho, who believe they are reincarnations of lower cats, Frosc actually think that lower frogs are physical manifests of their ancestors. They treat lower frogs, and any amphibians or sea creatures, as spirits. Many Frosc folk tales are about their ancestors coming to them in the form of a frog to tell them something. Many Frosc children, and even adults, chase after frogs to see where they lead, thinking their ancestors are telling them something. Frosc society is actually based around where they found frogs. If the lower frogs leave, the Frosc are sure to follow.

Frosc don't like when harm goes to lower frogs but don't get enraged like Koho do. They actually don't like harm coming to any creature except for survival so they aren't bothered by humans that hunt frogs. It helps that frog hunting is more of a nonlethal child's pastime than a serious sport. Frosc and human children often catch frogs together.

Behavior

Frosc are humanoid frogs, so they are obviously amphibious. Their ancestral territory is the swampy lands east of Osoa, but they have spread out and live in many islands or boggy areas. Frosc need their skin to be moist, so they do not live in arid regions. However many Frosc can and do exist among human cultures. They are sure to live somewhere close to water however, whether that be a riverside home, or close to a fountain. Most Frosc houses above ground have a pool or at least a large bath. They also feel more at ease around water because they operate faster under water.

Frosc aren't born warriors. They prefer diplomacy over war. This is probably why they have never been enemies with humans. They are easy to deal with and don't like arguing. They are always up for lively debates though. A Frosc with a fervent view is prepared to change their opinion if given a more compelling argument unlike a koho or even humans.

Frosc are a whimsical people. They like to take it easy and just float in the water or lay on the beach. It takes a lot to upset a Frosc. They are very creative and curious. Frosc are great entertainers and craftsmen since they are so open to experimenting and trying things.

Physiology

Frosc are humanoid frogs, devoid of any hair on any part of their body. They are bipedal, but their arms and legs are bent like a frog. This gives them a great jumping ability. A frog squat is their natural sitting position. Their skin is slippery and rubbery and must be kept moist. Because of their elastic skin, they can shrug off minor cuts and bruises. It is common for a Frosc to have a bleeding gash and not even notice it. Their skins also help regulate their body temperature so they have natural resistances to high or low temperatures, but cannot survive extremes. In addition, their skin has to stay moist or they'll desiccate and die. Their skin also excretes slime. Most Frosc are capable of controlling this, and slime is usually an indicator they need more water. They love squirting out a bunch of slime for defense or grossing humans out for fun.

Their fingers and toes are webbed and large compared to human hands. This makes it difficult for them to use precise human tools, but they can overcome this or just use tools built for Frosc. They have opposable thumbs, but prefer to use their tongue whenever possible for grabbing and manipulating. Their tongue is sticky and long, about twice their body length when extended. Other races tend to look down on them for using their tongue though so they don't use it in public. Any high quality artifact made by a Frosc was undoubtedly handled with their tongue.

Frosc have large eyes that give them exceptional eyesight when underwater, much clearer and higher range than humans above ground. They can see even better than a Koho can see at night. Their eyes are adapted for underwater use though, so they don't see as well on land. An average Frosc's eyesight is about equivalent to a near-sighted human. Almost every Frosc wears spectacles when on land, which were invented by Frosc.

They are capable of human speech but they have their own language which consists of deep croaking and rumbling. Humans can hear the sounds, but have trouble distinguishing between them. A Frosc can easily pick out which Frosc is making which noise from a crowd of them, but a human would just hear a cacophony of croaks.

Frosc use their hands, feet, and tongues when talking as well, essentially using gestures to illustrate their words. There isn't much of a defined language for this, but over time certain gestures were codified. This gives them the benefit of being able to communicate without speaking.

Frosc reproduce in certain breeding spots. Some are permanent but others change year to year, and are usually found by following lower frogs. They do it when certain conditions are met, as they believe their ancestors are telling them when the right time is. Individual couples can mate in private but it's usually a communal activity. Whatever pairs want to have offspring will essentially have a giant orgy. They tend to keep in their pairs but they are good with swinging. They don't take much care in whose father is whose. The children are the female's and her mate is her partner. The female lays eggs outside of her body and they both nurture them until they hatch, and raise the children together. No matter who the biological father is, the male who is helped raise the egg is considered the father.

Outside of breeding times they can and do have sex for pleasure, but no children ever result from it, and they are often times more interested in following their artistic pursuits instead. They almost never have sex outside of their species, as their slippery skin makes it

difficult. Excreting slime and using their tongues is what helps two Frosc stay together to copulate. They are also considered revolting by other races. They cannot and do not attempt to have sex with lower frogs.

Frogs don't wear clothes in their natural environment but do when in another society or if protection is needed. Human clothes are a close enough approximation but Koho clothes sometimes fit better. Of course they prefer clothing designed for Frosc. If they need maneuverability they'd rather go naked than wear ill fitting clothing. They aren't the least bit concerned with nudity, either of Frosc or other species. Their lack of modesty often leads to embarrassing encounters with non-Frosc. In these situations whether they are nude or the other person, the Frosc is usually completely oblivious.

Because of their froggy-ness and sliminess, other races often unfairly consider them to be ugly. Luckily, Frosc are often oblivious to this, or don't care. Their open and friendly dispositions usually win out.

Professions

Frosc can hold many different jobs. Their webbed and bulky hands make them somewhat clumsy with precise instruments but this can be overcome or avoided with frosc tools. Many Frosc have a fascination with glass-blowing, perhaps owing to their invention of the craft, and near-ubiquitous use of spectacles, so glass artisans, as well as stone masonry and metallurgy, is a common profession.

Many Frogs are chefs, because their tongues are very sensitive to flavors and textures. Some of the most acclaimed chefs in history were Frosc. Prejudices often force them to hide their race from customers though.

However the most common profession for Frogs is scientists. Many scientific discoveries were made by Frosc or with their help. In fact legend says that a Frosc saw Maki fishing from the shore and taught him how to make a boats, giving ships to humanity. Frogs are also the ones who invented spectacles, and discovered many principles about reflection and refraction. At first this was necessary for them to see above water, but humans and even some Koho wear it for their own optical deficiencies.

Frogs are common intercontinental messengers, as a single Frog can out swim a giant ship. They also make up a fair portion of the capital mail system but operate exclusively in coastal regions.

The common thread for Frosc is that they prefer secluded professions away from the public, which discounts political positions or tradesmen, except in their own societies. The exception is entertainment. Most clowns are Frosc which compliment well with Piho acrobats. Prostitution is non-existent because of their lax views on monogamy and because they aren't seen as attractive by other races.

Some racism contributes to their behind the scenes jobs. Though Frosc were never enemies of humans like Koho once were, their amphibious appearance has earned them the unfair derogation of being ugly. Their skin is slimy, so they aren't appreciated in positions such as weavers, where slime can get into the product. They can go along way towards regulating the sliminess, but less slime means they have a higher demand for water. Even renowned Frog chefs face some racism, as entire parties have walked out of restaurants because the chef was a Frog,

no matter his prestige. A bonus reason why so many frogs are glass blowers is because they can clean slime off glass easily.

Frogs are decent enough warriors, but their usefulness is geared towards their aquatic mobility rather than fighting skills. They prefer to use smaller blade weapons like daggers or short swords, or ideally throwing weapons. Mages or clerics are the most common positions in armies though.

Magic Use

Frosc are prodigious magic users, and made many huge discoveries about Aether and sciences. Artisans use their magic in their craft too.