Culture

Architecture & Community

Even before it became a republic, the people of the undergrowth preferred to live in close-knit communities, both socially and politically.

Preferred Architecture

With their stretch of the forest being populated by enormous trees and many cliffs, their buildings had been almost exclusively built in their shade, close to the ground. They preferred to build wide instead of tall, but would not shy away from taller buildings if the area they could use for building was too small.

Close-knit Communities

Multiple families lived in large buildings, often even building complexes, with villages with smaller populations sometimes even sharing only a single building complex. That meant that you could always run errands quickly and visit whoever you liked without problem, and that also meant that children could roam around the village without fear or direct supervision by their parents. After all, there was always someone there to watch over them.

Escape from Civilization for Privacy

That safety and security unfortunately had a drawback, as privacy was often lacking. With so many people living in a single area, you were never truly far from someone else. This led to the occasional person deciding to move away and live completely on their own, but few succeeded. Most returned after a while, unprepared to brave the dangers of the forest alone, and those even less prepared died. But every so often, people managed to not just survive alone, but also thrive.

Politics

And politically, despite being a monarchy, many of the royal court’s decisions were made by popular vote, or at least with the agreement of a few chosen representatives from amongst the populace. The final decision lay with the current monarch of course, but no monarchs in recent history had overturned decision made by the populace (largely because they were clever enough to led them decide on things they knew would lead to a result in the monarch’s favor).

Now with the last queen dead, and the monarchy abolished, the council ruled largely the same, but with far less decisiveness. Too many conflicting opinions often led to a decrease in efficiency.

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