



INSTITUTE FOR XENOARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES: THE XENOARCHAEOLOGIST

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Andorian gender, mate bonding, and naming convention

The Andorian species presents us with a unique study of "gender" and reproductive potency and capability as a driver of social and political norms. The Andorians are somewhat unique among humanoid species, depending on a complex gender/reproductive cycle for both perpetuation of their species and in the development of a 'biological' caste system well-known to other Federation member races.

We will study (briefly) the relationship between gender, reproductive role, and naming convention among Andorians. This brief overview is neither meant to serve as a dictionary of Andorian language nor an all-encompassing list of all Andorian names; it simply serves to provide a broad overview of one particular aspect of naming convention and culture.

General social grouping

Andorian social structure begins with three broad categories of social 'grouping' ranging from most broad to least broad:

kethni (singular *keth*)

The 'keth' represents the broadest grouping or 'clan' structure of Andorian people within the Empire and on the Andorian home world (i.e. Andor/Fesoan/Procyon VIII). *Keth* are by far the largest social structures of Andorian culture (some 300 *keth* or clans represent the general governing or ruling social structure, with the remaining clans making up the majority of Andorians on and off the Andorian home world)

Each *keth* is 'ruled' by an *atlolla* or 'chieftain' (as we will see, the word *atlolla* bears a female linguistic gender, suggesting a matriarchal clan structure, which is consistent with the relative importance of the female or reproductive gender among Andorians)

hethni (singular *heth*)

Also known as 'lodges' these groups of Andorians are the result of increasing interaction of Andorians with other species and cultures, which has led to a number of large communities of Andorians living off world (including those Andorians serving aboard starships and other vessels).

Unlike larger clans, these *hethni* do not have a designated *atlolla* but rather form loose conglomerations of social and caste structure (caste will be discussed below) and serve as social, philosophical, and spiritual outlets for Andorians living abroad

qavni (singular *qav*)

Qavni or 'quads' are in fact the single most important and smallest of Andorian social structures. These are, in fact, the reproductive groupings of Andorian culture and society, made ultimately important due to the complex and fragile reproductive stream among the species.

Reproductive quads are found almost exclusively on the Andorian home world (the difficulties of developing physical and emotional quad-binding among Andorians has led to a society whose norms look poorly on quad members leaving either the quad or the home world and reproductive quads are in some sense sequestered for years to allow for the development of the physical and emotional bonds needed for the difficult Andorian reproductive cycle); as a result, *hethni* and *qavni* are in some sense mutually exclusive groupings (and we will see that *hethni* are made almost entirely of non-fertile or non-reproductive 'castes')

Hyperfamily structure

Within the larger *kethni* (which contain within the *hethni* and *qavni* social groupings) are the basic groupings of social structure, which are determined by the reproductive capability of the members within:

khiiba (singular *khiib*) are those family structures composed of fertile hyperfamilies, i.e. those groupings composed of reproductive quads or *qavni* and which may also be served by infertile family members (which will be described below as *hebaa*) - each individual *khiib* is composed of varying numbers of reproductive quads, consisting of:

- a *zhave* or birth mother (a female gender form which carries the offspring for the reproductive quad)
- a *shave* or seed mother (a female gender which carries and provides the egg to the quad)
- a *chave* or donor father (a male gender which provides the sperm to the quad)
- a *thave* or seed father (a male gender which provides the maturing site and delivers the sperm to the *zhave* within the quad)

This complex gender group and reproductive 'quad' has resulted in a relatively small birth rate among Andorians and as a result has led to the development of the tight social and caste structure.

Those non-fertile Andorians that do not contribute to the reproductive quads make up the majority of Andorian society and form the *hebaa* or infertile/nurturing hyperfamilies. It is these *hebaa* that are further subdivided into the social caste system of Andorian culture:

- A noble/warrior caste of infertile Andorians who serve within the general governing body and military
- A philosopher caste of infertile Andorians who serve as educators, philosophers, scientists, etc.
- a tradesman caste of infertile Andorians who serve as the engineers, builders, and 'infrastructure'

This certainly does not imply, however, that the caste system places one caste (possibly with the exception of the reproductive quads) at any higher level than another - one must remember that many fertile quads are, in fact, closely related to their infertile counterparts. What it does suggest, however, is that closely related Andorians (even those within small portions of a clan) may in fact be born or grow into different caste groupings based on their reproductive capability.

The complexity of Andorian names and relationship to family, caste, and reproduction

Generally, Andorian names are developed first and foremost though the social/reproductive structure and the location within a fertile/reproductive quad or a nonfertile caste 'location'

PEASANT NAME

The peasant or 'common' name is generally the name most well known to outsiders and is related to the gender of the individual and at the same time is independent of the reproductive capability of the individual. Though this seems counterintuitive to what we have said (since we have noted that Andorians fall into one of four genders) we must now expand on our concept of Andorian gender to describe 'male neuter' and 'female neuter' genders to describe those nonfertile Andorians who, despite their lack of reproductive capability, can still be described in general terms as either 'male' or 'female'

Generally, it has been well documented that these nonfertile male and females are, in fact, the *zhave* (female) and *thave* (male) quad genders who do not pair-bond (and so their infertility is the result of incompatibility with the remaining quad genders rather than the presence or absence of reproductive 'capability').

Since gender is therefore independent of reproductive capability, every Andorian can be said to have a 'peasant' or 'common' name which is gender-specific.

Gender of name is determined from the **last** letter(s) of the common name, according to the following scheme in which the name ends in the letter:

a/aa FEMALE

b/be MALE

c MALE

d/de MALE

e/ee MALE

f MALE

g MALE

h (preceded by a or i) FEMALE

h (preceded by a consonant or e, o, u, y) MALE

i/ii FEMALE

j MALE

k MALE

l MALE

m/me MALE

n/ne MALE

o MALE

p/pe MALE

r MALE

s/ss (or s preceded by a consonant) MALE

s (preceded by a or i) FEMALE

s (preceded by e, o, u, y) MALE

t/te MALE

u/uu [and 'uu' replaces 'oo'] MALE

v/ve MALE

y/yy MALE

z/zz MALE

NOTES:

1. Neither 'q' nor 'x' are found within Andorian common names and thus do not figure here
2. An end 'e' (such as following b, d, e, m, n, p, t, v) is SILENT
3. No 'oo' exists - this is replaced by a long-sounded 'u'

As we can see, a larger variety of Andorian names are in fact male in gender

Examples of male Andorian names:

Akeen, Akoval, Anichent, Cray, Ged, Geh, Jhen, Kentrav, Krave, Kreleth, Korudos, Kuuph, Liochl, Maan, Okud, Pip, Poob, Rakber, Rez, Rhofistan, Shess, Shran, Snell, Sorjei, Teb, Telegar, Telev, Thalev, Thelev, They, Thirishar, Tholos, Thuvat, Tolin, Topor, Tyriden, Usum, Uthulur, Zhaal

Examples of female Andorian names:

Charivethra, Dizhei, Imaru, Jaylas, Mako, Morsha, Po, Shathrissia, Tara, Thala, Tharia, Whis

KETH OR FAMILY NAME

The "second" name and Andorian will carry is based on both the *keth* (or family) and *khiib* (reproductive) or *heb* (or nurture caste):

A "prefix" describes the individual's relationship to either a reproductive quad or nurturing caste:

zh' denotes the *zhave* gender (birth mother)

sh' denotes the *shave* gender (seed mother)

th' denotes the *thave* gender (donor father)

ch' denotes the *chave* gender (seed father)

h' denotes the nonreproductive male or female (whose gender is thus determined by the common or peasant name)

The *keth* or family name follows the reproductive/caste gender

Examples:

Thirishar ch'Thane

Male of common name Thirishar of the family Thane, belonging to the reproductive quad as seed father

Thavanichent th'Dani

Male of common name Thavanichent of the family Dani, belonging to the reproductive quad as donor father

Vindizhei sh'Raazh

Female of common name Vindizhei of the family Raazh, belonging to the reproductive quad as seed mother

Shathrissia zh'Cheen

Female of common name Shathrissia of the family Cheen, belonging to the reproductive quad as birth mother

Vhulis h'Aniri

Female of common name Vhulis, belonging to the family Aniri, belonging to a nonfertile *heb* hyperfamily

PERSONAL NAMES AND SURNAMES

Andorians have, in addition, less commonly used names based on association, occupation, nobility, or other secular attachment. Generally, these names are more commonly used among the *heb* (nonfertile or nurturing hyperfamilies) to help distinguish them from each other. They are generally *khiib* names (even among those majorities that belong to a nonfertile *heb* rather than a fertile *khiib* - the *khiib* names are retained, particularly among the tradesman caste, to denote fealty or loyalty to their close fertile relatives within the *khiib*).

Personal names are, in general, more descriptive, of varying length (ranging from short single-syllable names to denote an occupation such as "carpenter" to longer names that describe occupation, a link to the natural world, a philosophical attachment, etc)

True *khiib* members' personal names are generally derived from their base occupation. Examples include:

Thelev (blacksmith)

Theping (miller).

Within the *heb* hyperfamilies are the separate castes:

Nobility/warrior caste, whose personal names are derived from nobility or warrior traits. Examples include :

Theel'zhiin (guardian sword)

Ngaph khiil (mighty helmet)

Phuz'vaav (brave War of honor)

Vookh'veeb (flight of the bird of prey)

Thethaaz'aam'Andor (the governors of our world)

Razh'Khiib'Muzhig (the dark infared khiib from the north)

Thehukhuh'Hiikhaa (they who do not eat hiikh)

Philosopher caste, whose personal names tend to range from very short to the longest, derived from ideas, virtues of wisdom, honor, knowledge, etc., or describe the location of the originators of the Khiib. Examples include:

Animals such as Geh, Liph, Thaak, Vaath, Kiir

Voot'tuu'Deg'Veep (river by the pollinating insect field)

Pooth'Giph (Forest's end)

Gahoo'Uud'Zhuth (round island sea)

Other examples include:

Chirigun Ghee P'trell

and the most extreme:

Krymerik Guon Kaniaky she Zhukarak du Yutmakiat Shulkee na ah Huit (which might literally translate to "I sat by the oldest stones on the high south bluff while far desert lightning fell to set the red sands singing")

Note: philosopher caste nomenclature, in context of modern Andorian technological advances, could be in some sense considered passe' and many philosopher caste members will alternately use shorter names or corresponding trade names

Tradesman caste, whose personal names (like the true *khiib* families whom they serve) also tend to reflect their occupation. Examples include:

Taava Thelev (the-power-derived-from-coal metal-worker)

Ngaaz'Duuz Theping (red-grain miller)

Emveeba Therakh (will-fly arrow-maker)

Other examples include:

Sharas Vetra

Elen Miraitis

Milus Verata

A WORD ON LODGES

As we discussed, an increasing number of Andorians are living off world - these are predominantly nonfertile individuals who are members of the nobility, warrior, philosopher, or tradesman castes as 'lodges' of the *heb* hyperfamilies.

Lodges are denoted by the prefixes:

lar'
ler'
lir'
lor'
lur'
lyr'

which precede the PERSONAL (nobility, warrior, virtuous, or occupational) name and vary greatly according to social structure, size of the hyperfamily, and relative ties to fertile *khiib* family members. Examples:

lor'Vela
lyr'Pooth'Uud

It should be noted that fertile *khiib* families do not belong to lodges, and as a result will often not retain the PERSONAL *khiib* name (in those cases where they do, the lodge prefix is dropped)

FULL NOMENCLATURE

The full nomenclature, then of an Andorian name is:

PEASANT NAME + [quad]'[keth] + [lodge]'[PERSONAL *khiib* name]

Examples:

Charivethra zh'Thane Chechaaz'aar'Andor (a *khiib* matriarch name)
Shran h'Aniri lir'Razh'Khiib'Muzhig (a *heb* nobility/warrior name)

Source material:

Additional source material on the Andorian species (and some expanded information on naming convention) may be found at

<http://primedirective.tripod.com/andor.htm>

<http://www.freewebs.com/usspegasus/Races/Andorian.htm>

<http://anomaly.mushpark.com/race-andorian.html>