

The Nature of Arcanum

Arcanum is not just a tool, but a natural resource that those born with the ability to manipulate it can tap into. It is a living current that flows through Aetheria in something called leylines. These are not visible to the naked eye, but if you could see them, it would look like veins of arcanum connecting the world.

Humans: Silent to Arcanum. It does not answer them.

Elves: Born fluent, but singular. Elves that are born with the ability to manipulate arcanum do so in just one school. One voice, mastered.

Half-Elves: Fractured harmony. Many voices, rarely in tune... Except in rare cases when an Arcanum Chimaera is born, such as the Thorne and Valis bloodlines.

There is no such thing as 'learning magic' from nothing. Only awakening to what your blood already knows.

Racial Affinity & Expression

Elves - Singular Expertise

Born aligned to one Arcanum school, and that bond is absolute. The school is often related to the ancient kingdoms that ruled Aetheria. For example, Elves with a Pyrelion bloodline are born with a natural affinity for the Ignis school of Arcanum.

It is important to note that not all Elves are born with the ability to manipulate Arcanum. But those who are—find that it comes to them as naturally as breathing.

Half-Elves - Adaptable

Over the thousands of years, bloodlines have mixed not just between Humans and Elves, but also among the ancient Elven houses. Where the most dominant bloodline takes priority in Arcanum manipulation for Elves, Half-Elves that are born with the ability to manipulate Arcanum can tap into schools that relate to each bloodline ancestry they have.

However, Half-Elves do not exhibit the same level of proficiency and skill as Elves. Their manipulation rarely surpasses a basic level, and intense practice and training are required. Magic is less stable and more instinctive; most remain generalists and are adaptable, but rarely ever exceptional.

Arcanum Chimaeras - Contradictions made flesh

On rare occasions, typically when a powerful ancient Elven bloodline is mixed with a Human, an Arcanum Chimaera is born. These are Half-Elves who are born with the ability to access Arcanum in ways not seen before. An example is the Thorne bloodline, who's Elvish ancestry is a mixture of both royal Pyrelion and Sylvaran. A high natural proficiency in both Ignis and Terra

Arcanum resulted in the Thorne bloodline being able to communicate, befriend and control dragons.

Another example is the Valis bloodline, who's Elvish ancestry is direct to the Noctyra royal bloodline. Their proficiency for Umbra Arcanum mixed with human blood birthed Blood Magic. A powerful but dangerous school of Arcanum.

The Seven Schools of Arcanum

Each school is just an element, but an ancient philosophy of existence. It controlled the ancient Elven kingdoms, and that divide and power is what led to it's destruction.

Ignis - Fire (answers those who refuse to yield)

- Destruction, passion, willpower
- Fast, aggressive, difficult to restrain
- Favoured in war

Aqua - Water (adaptable, bends but always returns)

- Healing, Control, Adaptability
- Shift between offence and restoration
- Essential in survival and support roles

Terra - Earth (voices of nature and earth)

- Stability, Defense, Endurance
- Slow, but overwhelming when anchored
- Used in fortification and protection

Ventus - Wind (Never where you expect it to be)

- Speed, precision, freedom
- Often underestimated, rarely outmatched
- Masters of mobility and battlefield control

Lux - Light (Lost, some texts suggest that it was taken)

- Truth, clarity, revelation
- Not seen in centuries

Umbra - Shadow (Not inherently evil, but has access to darker forms of magic)

- Decay, secrecy, transformation
- Bound to Noctyra
- Exists only in:
 - Ancient Noctyra crypts & vaults
 - The Necrawood
 - Valis bloodline

Aether - Divine Air (Modern healing magic is merely an echo of what Aether used to be)

- Breath between worlds
- Healing, elevation, unseen forces
- Once dominant under the Aetheris House
- Now diluted, faded and fragmented

Harmonic Vanguard

The Valis family rule is not maintained by blood magic alone. Elves have a natural resistance to the influence of Arcanum, which means blood magic has a diluted effect on their minds. This is why the Valis family have forced them into servitude or hiding, by stripping their will and identity, it stops them from fighting back.

The Arcanis Vanguard are Half-Elves with the ability to manipulate Arcanum. Those who are found to have this ability are enlisted into the Vanguard to be trained and weaponised. The Vanguard patrols all of Aetheria without question. They enforce the Valis regime and strike down any resistance.

Users of Ignis, Aqua, Terra and Ventus; trained, refined and loyal to the crown.

Core Rules of the Arcanum of Aetheria

1. Magic is inherited, not learned
2. Humans cannot use Arcanum
3. Elves = one school, high mastery
4. Half Elves = many schools, low mastery (with rare anomalies)
5. Arcanum Chimaeras = New forms of magic, such as those seen in the Thorne and Valis bloodlines
6. Each Arcanum reflects a philosophy and ancient culture, not just an element
7. Umbra magic can only be manipulated by those in the Valis bloodline
8. Aether is weakened due to historical collapse
9. Lux is missing, not extinct
10. Half-Elven magic users are politically controlled by the Valis regime