[Pro Bowl V: Week One] Homeworld Locations

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The Scree

The sprawling port of Caelestis City services hundreds of vessels a day. Due to the lack of dock space, these vessels are lashed together often three deep to facilitate loading and offloading. This logistical nightmare needs as many porters, stevedore, and longshoremen as possible to facilitate a smooth, well-oiled machine. These are not highly respected or well-paid jobs, and often require backbreaking and dangerous work. Most of the workers who risk their lives daily to manage the flow of commerce and supplies live in the nearby neighborhoods.

Though officially known by other designations in years past, these neighborhoods are known as the Scree. Stacked on top of each other in a ramshackle mess of safety hazards and almost completely bereft of modern plumbing, this area is destitute, but incredibly proud. The structures seem to undulate with the foundational buildings they were constructed upon, dipping in places where streets had been, or rising high in the Caelestis City air above warehouses and apartment blocks.

Besides those working on the docks, many of the menial laborers for the city and the clan reside in the Scree. They travel by hover bus or foot to their places of employment, as maids, servants, valets, and cooks. To cater to all the denizens of the Scree, a small market has formed roughly in the center of one of the tallest parts of the arcology. Colloquially known as the Gap, it sits in a pillar of empty air, allowing some sunlight to filter down to the street level.

The buildings, though that description may be too high a praise, are built from discarded shipping containers, broken down space and water-going hulks, and whatever detritus that can be found in a dockyard. The neighborhood backs up against the highlands further in-land, with dozens of poorly lit pathways through to other areas in the city and beyond.

The density of the area is such that no true municipal sewer system could be readily established, and this has led to the need for outhouses through the Scree, often in unique locations. One such location, known as the Overlook, sits atop one of the ‘peaks’ of the Scree. On a clear night, a user of the Overlook could see for a dozen miles across the city.

The lack of a sewers system, and the density in the area, has caused many of the common areas and commercial establishments to appear to be dirty and smelling much like an ancient bag of feline sick. Some of the population like the ‘atmosphere’, as it keeps the higher-class citizens of the city out of their streets. There is a certain amount of pride in the area, with the people holding to their own, but also a form of protectiveness.

This pride is especially apparent in their use of lurid and clashing colors on their walls, doors, window frames, and even the planters hanging from many of the balconies. There is no standardization in the variety of colors used, with any single structure featuring several. The only significant ‘rule’ is that each area features just one color, creating a collage of blocks and geometric angles. Each location is painted to show off the pride of its occupants, as a way to show that even though they are not rich, they can keep their walls well-painted, and their doorways well-swept. Most of the paints are sourced from the shipyard and… other locations.

With the grueling hours and poor working conditions, the stevedores and porters of the City’s port need nourishment in copious amounts. Dozens of eating establishments have cropped out throughout the Scree, and all their menus feature significant amounts of starch, grease, salted and fatty meats and brown crunchy bits, as one might find in an old chip pan. Most famous of these venues is the Howling Mermaid, its entrance adorned with a remarkably scantily clad water nymph, sporting a large plate of fried tubers and a coy smile.

Food can be a constant struggle, as would many of the essentials of life, as they rely on both the shipping vessels and the small set of pathways to the rest of the city. There is a strong trade of entrepreneurs purchasing goods in another part of the city and transporting them in on pack animals or small speeders and reselling them with a huge markup. Fish and seaweed from the local waters supplement the eating habits of the populace. This has led to several local delicacies, such as Sea Pearls, a type of seaweed with large pustules on the side, from which a consumer would suck the contents.