

Urizen

The Storm's Heart – The Buried Light – The Unbroken Spark – The One Who Stands

Urizen is a minor deity associated with Ilmater, storms, and the first steps back from despair. He is the patron of those who have fallen from a path but have not lost the will to return.

Ilmater teaches his faithful to accept suffering, give it meaning when it cannot be avoided, and carry it for those less able. Urizen reaches those who have the ability to serve Ilmater but who must carry themselves first. He speaks to the wounded, the angry, the ashamed, and the exhausted before their pain drives them toward cruelty or despair.

Urizen does not demand that his followers be clean before approaching him. He asks only that they be honest about how dirty they have become.

“You need not be clean to stand in the rain.”

Portfolio and Names

Urizen's portfolio includes survival, recovery, defiance, trauma, outcasts, fallen soldiers, failed heroes, and the preservation of hope during hardship. Storms are part of his symbolism, but he is not primarily a god of weather or destruction. He represents the inner storm that must be endured before a person can find peace. Despite this, many of his faithful still draw upon the power of Storm magic.

He is known as the Storm's Heart, the Buried Light, the Unbroken Spark, and the One Who Stands. Some of his followers call him the Storm-Born, the Scarred Guardian, or the Last Ember.

Thunder represents anger that must be acknowledged rather than denied. Lightning is sudden clarity. Rain is grief that can no longer remain hidden. The eye of the storm is the protected centre of the self.

Who Prayed

Urizen is prayed to by survivors, deserters, outcasts, disgraced soldiers, failed heroes, and those struggling beneath the weight of trauma. His followers may have lost faith, abandoned their duties, or done harm while trying to escape their own pain.

He is also honoured by people who have been expected to save everyone around them. When such people finally fail, Urizen reminds them that failure does not erase every good thing they have done.

Many of his followers are not yet ready to serve Ilmater directly. They may be angry, frightened, ashamed, or unwilling to accept help. Urizen welcomes them without pretending that their weaknesses are harmless.

Of note, Urizen does not exclusively bring his faithful closer to Ilmater. There have been times where clerics of other good-aligned faith have been brought back to their fold by a worshiper of Urizen.

When They Prayed

Urizen is prayed to during storms, dangerous journeys, battles, sleepless nights, and moments when despair feels stronger than hope. His followers may call upon him before confronting an enemy, resisting a vice, admitting a failure, or attempting something they once believed impossible.

He is especially invoked at dawn after a night of fear or grief. A brief prayer may be offered when someone rises from the ground, asks for help, returns to a duty, or chooses not to harm someone who has caused them pain.

Holy Day and Devotion

Urizen has no fixed annual holy day. His worship is personal rather than communal, and his followers generally observe the holy days of Ilmater when they are ready to approach his church.

Devotion to Urizen is shown through recovery and honest effort. A follower may resist a vice, seek help, repair harm they caused, or protect another person while still struggling with their own wounds.

Urizen does not demand perfection. He demands that his followers keep moving toward becoming better than their pain.

Tenets

Urizen teaches his followers to survive before they attempt to serve. They must acknowledge their wounds without allowing those wounds to rule them. They may fall, but they must not decide that falling is all they are capable of doing.

His faithful are expected to protect those less able to withstand the storm, use pain as knowledge rather than permission to inflict pain, and accept help without treating dependence as weakness.

They must not use suffering as an excuse for cruelty. Deliberately abusing the vulnerable, abandoning someone in immediate danger out of spite, or inflicting pain merely to feel powerful are serious violations of his faith.

Urizen does not forbid anger, recklessness, fear, vices, or failure. He understands that these may be symptoms of wounds rather than proof of wickedness. What he forbids is surrendering the self entirely to them.

His central teachings are:

“Do not mistake your wound for your nature.” and “You are not the first to fall from the path, and you will not be the last to rejoin it.”

Ways of Praying

Urizen’s prayers are often spoken in harsh weather or difficult places. His worshippers may stand in the rain, grip a weapon, light a candle against the wind, or place a hand over their heart while naming the thing they refuse to let destroy them.

Storms are a language through which his followers understand their struggles. Thunder gives voice to anger. Lightning reveals what has been hidden. Rain marks the beginning of renewal. Urizen does not promise to end the storm; he teaches people to find the eye within it.

Acts of recovery are also sacred. Asking for help, resisting an old vice, admitting fault, returning to a duty, or protecting someone while still afraid may all be offerings to Urizen.

A follower may pray simply by standing when they could remain on the ground.

Shrines and Temples

Urizen has no dedicated temples, and his followers do not maintain a separate church. His worship is carried by individuals who recognise the same patron and help one another endure. Some become mentors, sponsors, or trusted companions to those facing similar struggles.

These relationships are informal but meaningful. A person further along the path may guide another through recovery, help them resist destructive habits, or remind them that failure is not the same as final damnation.

Urizen's followers usually turn to Ilmater's temples for shelter, healing, food, and formal rites. They may hesitate to enter at first, believing themselves unworthy or unwilling to accept the obligations of Ilmater's fuller path. Ilmater's clergy generally welcome them regardless.

Clergy and Organization

Urizen has no clergy, hierarchy, or organised religious institution. He grants no formal ranks, and no individual can claim authority over all his followers.

Those who have weathered their own storms may become mentors to others. They offer practical guidance rather than doctrine, helping the wounded survive until they can make their own choices again. A mentor's authority comes from trust and experience, not office.

Some mentors eventually become members of Ilmater's clergy. Others remain independent, continuing to guide people who are not yet ready to cross that threshold. Others still join another church altogether.

In Summary

Urizen is the hand extended to those who have fallen from grace. He is the patron of survivors who are not yet healed, outcasts who are not yet reconciled, and failed heroes who still have the capacity to stand again.

Urizen does not ask his faithful to extinguish their light. He teaches them to protect it through the darkness until they are ready to carry it openly.

"First survive the storm. Then understand the wound. Finally, become shelter for someone else."

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