

Ilmater

Portfolio and Names

His core portfolio was endurance, suffering, martyrdom, and perseverance, and the relief of the oppressed. His faithful treated pain not as a curse to be glorified, but as something to be carried for the sake of others. He was known by many titles in the old lore, including the Crying God, the Broken God, the Lord on the Rack, and the One Who Endures. In some traditions he was also called Ayuruk among the peoples of the Great Glacier.

Who Prayed

Ilmater was chiefly prayed to by the lame, the poor, the oppressed, the persecuted, monks, paladins, serfs, slaves, healers, and those living under unjust hardship. He was also especially honored by people who worked to lessen suffering directly, including those who cared for the sick, the wounded, and the homeless. His worshippers often saw him as the god who helped them endure, while also teaching others to shoulder suffering on behalf of the helpless.

When They Prayed

Clerics of Ilmater prayed for their spells in the morning. Older devotional practice described ritual prayer repeated many times through the day, sometimes six times or more. That made his worship feel steady and rhythmic rather than centered on a single dramatic hour.

Holy Day and Devotion

One common tradition recorded that Ilmater had no annual holy days, which fit the idea that his faith was expressed more through continual service than calendar festivals. In practice, that meant acts of mercy, vigils, healing, and self-denial often mattered more than public celebration. If a local tradition needed a formal observance, it usually took the shape of a day of fasting, alms, healing, or remembrance rather than revelry.

Ways of Praying

One well-known prayer form asked Ilmater to look upon the speaker's weakness, accept their fault, and grant them endurance to carry what must be borne. Another common devotional pattern was simpler and more practical: a cleric prayed while binding wounds, feeding the hungry, or sheltering the sick, treating the work itself as prayer. The faith's emphasis on service meant that prayer and action were rarely separated.

Shrines and Temples

Shrines and temples of Ilmater were often found where suffering was greatest, especially among the poor, the sick, and the displaced. His houses of worship commonly served as hospices, shelters, healing centers, and places of refuge, with clerics distributing food, drink, firewood, medicine, and comfort to those in need. In larger cities, his worship spaces could also be embedded in more formal temple complexes and charitable institutions.

Clergy and Organization

His clergy were commonly called the **Adorned**, or more formally the **Adorned Sufferers**. Within that clergy, some traditions distinguished healers, painbearers, and sanctars, with sanctars serving as the highest and most secretive rank, acting as judges, investigators, and protectors of the faith. The wider church also included monastic orders and knightly orders, such as the Broken Ones, the Order of the Golden Cup, the Companions of the Noble Heart, and the Weeping Friars, among others.

Church Character

The Church of Ilmater was described as a broad religious organization dedicated to service, mercy, and the reduction of suffering. Its clergy were known for charity, discipline, and self-sacrifice, and its internal structure mixed monastic life with organized orders of healers and warriors. In some regions, especially in major urban centers, the clergy formed a highly organized and influential network that could shelter the poor, oppose slavers, and defend those who could not defend themselves.

In Summary

Ilmater was the god invoked when pain could not be avoided, but meaning still had to be found in it. His faithful did not merely pray to survive; they prayed to endure, to heal, and to become shelter for others.

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