



Highlights!

The internet is so hard these days without tl;drs.

- The Sages Ascension. Halo, Kitty, and Rigel retire as Sages of Karma. Fuzzbuckets recounts their journey.
- Taki writes a thank you Letter to our outgoing Sages. (Constellations by Fresh, representations by Vilv).
- Introducing: Karma Fun Night! Fresh fills us in on our new game night.
- New Thot Police on Duty! Congrats to Fresh and Nova!
- The Lizard People Are Invading Karma! Welcome your new chameleon overlords.
- Sages vs. The Clutterbugs. We've GOT to declutter Karma!
- Tako Tuesday. It's 3 Bean Soup night.

The Augurs

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The Sages Ascension

Fuzzbuckets

When a Sage is on the verge of retirement, it is said the Heavens somehow know, even before the Sages themselves do. One can see it in the way Karma views them.

They are not so much viewed as leaders of Karma, but more as remote pillars of wisdom, their legacy of good deeds, leadership and merit lauded by word of mouth and viewed as something to aspire to, their wonderful traits immortalizing them into the collective Karman consciousness.

In Halo, bravery, kindness, and a just hand.

In Rigel, inspiration, creation, and manifestation

In Kitty, adaptability, strength, and persistence

And with that embodiment of Sagely wisdom, comes the realization that in a meritocracy, wisdom isn't enough. In a meritocracy, leadership is given to those who are actively involved and who have made Karma their home.

They helped birth the beginning of a region known throughout NS for its meritocratic ways, its wholesomeness, and of course its snarky side.

But now they know they are needed elsewhere. Karma is stable, active and growing in ways they did not expect. Talent abounds and the three Sages know the future is bright. It is now their time to transcend their limitations as Sages of Karma and move forward.

The Heavens speak and the stars in the night sky begin shifting, twinkling with increasing irregularity. The soon to be retired Sages feel the pull of the Heavens drawing them close, whispering to them about their next journeys to which they can best utilize their Sagely experiences.

For Rigel, a born leader and beacon of light and order, the Pharaoh's seat in Osiris has become vacant, and calls for her expertise

For Halo, after all the years spent perfecting and honing the ability of self-mastery and diplomacy in foreign affairs, comes the time to teach future aspiring leaders at the UTWP as their Chancellor

For Kitty, the tireless behind the scenes worker who has given her all to Karma, which included spearheading an incredible welcoming committee known as the Chameleons, the Party Planning Committee as well as a Roomba of many talents--much needed rest and recuperation.

They confer with the other Sages, who approve. The Heavens smile.

An ancient ceremony comes to mind then, appearing in the minds of the Sages as if it had always been there. The day comes when the Heavens' pull is at its peak, all of Karma's citizens come together to help set up the ceremony.

The infinity symbol, a key element of Karma's flag, must be drawn on the grass, with an additional petal to accommodate all retiring Sages. The petals must loop into each other, indicating their unity in helping create the beautiful region of Karma. In the center must be the Founder, Alti in front of the offering bowl made of tektite to give the blessing. Karmans must wear cloaks of either red, gold, or green. The Sages retiring are to wear cloaks of all three colors, and they must be iridescent, to catch the light of the stars beginning to appear.

Red, for the passion and power towards Karma within their being

Green, for the stable, nourishing environment they provided all Karmans

And Gold, to immortalize their commitment to Karma in divine grace

In each of the retiring Sages' hands, lies an amethyst bowl, holding a single tea light. Surrounded by the amethyst bowl, the candle gives off a purple hue, the Violet Flame of transmutation, bridging the old and the new. In single file, with Rigel at the head, followed by Halo, and then Kitty, they take their places inside one of the three loops. They turn to face the offering bowl in the center where all three loops intersect, to the tektite crystal that bridges the physical reality and the spiritual one.

The moon is approaching its highest peak as Karmans come to place their gifts of gratitude, of appreciation, in the tektite bowl. Someone starts singing Karma Chameleon as the rest of Karma joins in. Energy surges around the three retiring Sages and ascends towards the night sky. A loud clap of thunder startles them all, and they look up to the sky.

The stars are finally out, but there are new ones being formed by the three Sages' energy as the region of Karma sings.

Karmans, in delight, notice the pattern of a beautiful pentagram, a lion, and what could only be a type of catmeleon, a cross between a chameleon and a cat as the song hits its peak.

In time, the music slowly dies and the energy dissipates, the newly formed constellations shine in the night sky bright and twinkling, reassuring all in the region that their energy and wisdom would always be available to those who seek it.

The ceremony comes to a close, the stars still and a gust of wind wipes out all three candles in one go. The wise words of a certain owl's slogan floats through the atmosphere as they end their journey and prepare to begin anew.

"Be excellent to each other, and party on!"

A Message from Taki

We're taking this time now to give our thanks to three of our Sages who have been cornerstones of our region for a very long while. Rigel, Halo, and Kitty are all stepping down from the Zenith. They have helped form and create our region in major ways. All three of them provided important foundations to our region, creating departments and providing guidance that we will carry with us. I know we will all miss them as they turn their focus to other priorities.

Marcarius “Halo” Halahin

Pyo Sage

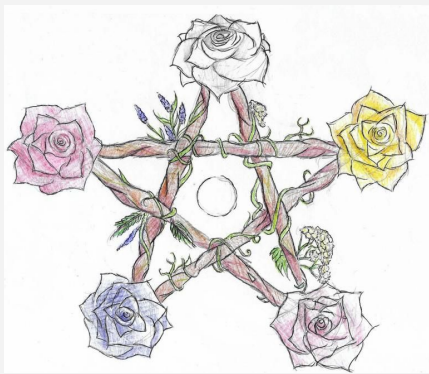


Halo was our first head of diplomacy, taking charge of that department with skill and grace. He offered his wisdom to Karma's first diplomats, guiding them in the skills necessary to represent the region in a good light. Under his hand, Karma's diplomats flourished and demonstrated the good of Karma to the rest of Nationstates. He worked closely with the region to begin and keep the community active and thriving. With Rigel, he developed Karma's lore, building Karma into the galactically vibey place it is today. He would leave pastries for the RMB each day, helping keep the residents involved and engaged with the region. His tireless efforts recruiting nations to the region kept Karma up and running when the other Sages were busy. Halo ensured also that those players who chose to undertake their path of enlightenment were not forgotten, keeping the Bodhis filled with questions for the applicants to answer. Through his efforts to build up the community and create good relations with other regions, Karma has grown into the wonderful region it is today.

Thank you, Halo.

Rigel Astearra

Retsu Sage



Rigel has been our sage since the very beginning. She helped create the framework of Karma, establishing our culture department, lore, and moderation team. It was her creative genius that designed the original aesthetics of Karma, developing symbols for our sages, and then remaking them a second time when it became necessary to do so, and creating our first regional flag. It was her passion that enabled her to collect and recruit the first Sages to the Zenith, something that has shaped the path of Karma's development immeasurably. She began the department of culture, working closely with Halo to develop Karma's lore and mythos. She also started Karma's moderation team, working tirelessly to ensure that the community was safe and welcoming. She recruited and appointed moderators, but was unafraid to put in the leg work necessary to see things done, keeping up with both onsite and offsite activities to ensure the safety of the community. Through her tireless dedication to the region, Karma flourished into the safe, welcoming, and vibey place it is today.

Thank you, Rigel.

Kitty Calxur

Rin Sage



Kitty was our first sage from Karma, and she has proved her skill many times over. She founded the chameleons department, one of the most visible departments in Karma. It was her passion and inspiration that created the department and shaped it into the unsettlingly wholesome force it is today. Her kind and approachable demeanor encouraged many to get involved with Karma, and her dispatches were the wonder of all. She worked tirelessly to ensure that everything was running smoothly, keeping track of all of the goings on. It would be dizzying and excessive to list all of her contributions, for there were so many very few could ever keep track. She would willingly take on any duty or burden for the greater good of Karma, despite her own feelings toward the task she set herself. All of her efforts did not go unnoticed, as she kept the region running smoothly and efficiently. Her kind and approachable nature enabled her also to find those Jiva who were particularly talented and could serve the region well, encouraging them toward positions of influence for the region. Because of all her unnoticed work, and amazing guidance she helped make Karma the bright and wonderful place it is today.

Thank you, Kitty.

Introducing: Karma Family Fun Night!

FreshStep

If you haven't been on Discord over the past couple weekends, you've been missing out! Our Party Planning Committee has been hard at work establishing a fun new opportunity to mingle with your fellow Jiva, and we're calling it Game Night! Every weekend, we'll be hosting an event to participate in. Our first Game Night was Fresh Trivia hosted by myself, FreshStep! Did you know that the scientific name for the Stink Face cats make when they smell something funny is called the Flehmen response? Well, Vilv did. Nerd. But after seven categories of keyboard smashing nerdiness, Iroma was finally crowned the overall winner. Now what if you're thinking: "Gee, Fresh... I really don't like competition..." No problem! We'll also have passive events to participate in.

The second Game Night was Karaoke hosted by none other than the culture guru, Peter! We grabbed our headsets and listened to the fabulous singing talents of our fellow Jiva, Enlightened, and even one Sage! (Thank you, Rigel, your rendition of Build God, Then We'll Talk was phenomenal). Some of us sang together, some sang alone, some sang another language, and some did not sing at all! But it was an enjoyable time for everyone and that's our goal.

Both events were a smashing success and we want to continue providing Karma with fun new ways to socialize. Interested in helping plan our parties? Contact our guru, Peter and let him know you're available! Until our next game, stay fresh Karma!

New THOT Police on Duty!

Recently we said farewell to two very important people in our community. Iggy and Peebs have abdicated their positions on our moderation team, henceforth referred to as Thot Police. They have both been instrumental in supporting the friendly and welcoming environment that is the trademark of Karma. Their hard work is greatly appreciated as we celebrate their contributions. We also take this time to welcome our new Thot Police, Freshstep and Nova! Both of these people are capable and well suited to being our new mods, and I'm sure they'll be wonderful in the position, helping us weed out the bad to let the good flourish, as their predecessors did before them. So please, take this time to be glad for the hard work and effort put into our community by Iggy and Peebs, and welcome our newest mods:



Nova & Fresh!

The Lizard People are invading Karma!

Soup Calxur

I've been watching em show up now, everywhere. Them darned lizard people. I don't trust 'em. And neither should you... Now for all you non lizard folk, I've sprinkled this article in the paper with an anti lizard solution. So the lizards can't see this part of the paper. It's invisible to them. They can't see this, the final hope against their nefarious deeds.

Now I ask you this, should you ever trust a lizard? Lizard people are nefarious, they've been taking over the world for years. And now they're taking over Karma. They say "Oh but we just want to help you!" Nice try, you're trying to convert the newcomers to your cult!! Cult I tell you. A full blown cult that controls Karma, and they've been under our noses this whole time!! We have to act to stop these lizard people now before it's too late!! Before they take our region too!! It's vital you all know this as the future of this region hangs in the balance!!

Now I've joined the lizards, entered their cult under an alias, they don't even know I'm an imposter. And you bet your butt I'll get to the bottom of this cult if my life depends on it, because *all* of our lives depend on it. We have to stay ahead of them, join against them!! Or the lizards will take over Karma, and we'll never even notice...

Here's what I know about this cult so far. They call themselves "The chameleons" probably because they can blend in with our crowd. They consider themselves a welcoming committee "Always ready to help welcome new people" I mean come on we all know what that means. They act like nice little lizard friends... until they snatch the newcomers up!! They snatch them and make them join the cult!! I've seen it with my own two eyes.

I leave you all with some advice. Be wary... the lizards are dangerous. They'll always ask if they can "help", but I'll be six feet underground before I ever accept help from a cultist!!

Thot Police Scandal!

A Mini Michi Tabloid Tale

Recently, Karma had a change in its structure when former Thot Police members Iggy and Peebs stepped down and were replaced by members FreshStep and most notoriously Nova. I say "notoriously" on this because Nova is known throughout Karma for using puns as if they were going out of style, and one of the tasks of the Thot Police is putting pun-speakers in the stocks. So how was it that one of the heavier pun users was able to snag a spot and infiltrate the ranks of the PUNishers?

Well, we have reason to believe that Nova in fact blackmailed the Sages with pictures, explosions of puns, and other such offensive material that we can't even speak of them on here...though we can tell you that they may include watermelons and clowns named Jacob (Why Jacob, we don't know because it's honestly a terrible clown name).

While we outwardly welcome FreshStep and Nova to the Thot Police, we here at the Tabloid branch of the Augury can't help but wonder and worry about the terrifying rule of Nova the Punster and whether or not those who fear such despicably terrible jokes will truly be safe from them.



Sages vs. the Clutterbugs!

Fuzzbuckets

It was a beautiful summer day in Karma. Karmans were all indoors talking on their computers and enjoying the camaraderie--the real reason why summer felt so beautiful to them. Who needed to be outside among the mosquitos, eating burnt marshmallows and feeling the slime of lake weed between their toes?

Alti sighed heavily, scrolling through what seemed hundreds of channels, a faint bead of sweat on the side of her face as a strange looking yet familiar bug seemed to crawl out of one of the channels and onto her computer screen before heading into the #path-of-lizards channel.

She knew there was only one person she could call upon on such short notice.

"Peter!" she typed on the keyboard.

"Yes?" Text popped back up at her.

"We have too many channels! And there's a weird, camouflage colored bug in the #path-of-lizards channel, wait no there's another in the #venting channel. Gosh, I miss kitty! She'd know what these things are!"

"It's a Clutterbug." said Lev, sending his text from seemingly out of nowhere. "They are attracted to clutter."

"Should I know why you know about this clutterbug?" typed Peter, his words as usual carrying the snark that made Karma famous.

"No. But clean servers are its bane. We need to de-clutter. Alti has mentioned the government ought to be moved to forums, so now would be a good time." Lev posted a broom icon by one of the clutterbugs, sending it skittering to #diplomats.

"To the ideas channel we go!" said Alti, nearly clicking on one by accident. "They're everywhere!"

With the cleaning underway, the first thing the Sages did was merge the #cute-spam with the #wholesomeness channel. Secondly, several unnecessary roles like the Chameleon Queen role and the Chief World Builder role were removed, as well as the green color associated with the Chameleons. Several custom bot commands were deleted. Clutterbugs vanished and CTE'd as virtual brooms, buckets and mops were tossed at the them, sending a good deal of them vanishing into tiny puffs of smoke.

"We got rid of a good chunk of them. Nice work, Sages!" said Alti.

"Hate to bring you back down to Earth, but there are still a bunch in the government areas. And they're laying eggs in all the regional channels." said Peter.

"Oh noes!" said Alti. "What else can we do to de-clutter Karma?"

The suspense continues! Will the Sages ever truly win against the clutterbugs? What will happen to all the government stuff? Will the Clutterbugs eat it all before they can move it somewhere safe? Stay tuned next time for Sages vs. the Clutterbugs!

Tako Tuesday

Takura Calxur



3 Bean Stew

Some days we want comfort food. And some days we just don't have the time or energy for a nice rich dish. This bean stew seeks to offer a quick and easy alternative to your comfort food woes. It's nice and thick and wonderfully filling. I do advise serving it with a side of a crusty bread like ciabatta so that you can sop it up at the end. It's absolutely a fall or winter meal, but It's not going to leave you hanging in the summertime either.

Ingredients:

- 2 TBSP (30 mL) - oil
- 1 - chopped onion
- 1 - chopped green bell pepper
- 1 - chopped yellow bell pepper
- 3½ cups (840 mL) - chicken broth
- 1¼ cups (250 g) - diced tomato
- 1 TBSP (10 g) - chopped green chile pepper
- 3¾ cups (230 g) - black beans
- 2 cups (125 g) - pinto beans
- 3 ¾ cups (230 g) - kidney beans
- 1 cup (200 g) - rice

Directions:

1. cook your rice and beans. If you get canned beans that's fine too. But you want those cooked.
2. in a large soup pot put your oil, onions, and peppers. heat until the vegetables are softened.
3. add the broth, tomatoes, chile pepper, and the beans, stirring occasionally until heated through.
4. add the rice and let simmer until thickened slightly
5. dish into bowls and serve

Results of The Cook-Off Vote!

Congrats to Taki and Gale!

(Emi was robbed ok)

