

Aethis

Deity

- Domain:** None -- see variant features below
Pantheon: Court of Shadows
Alignment: N
Symbol: An unadorned circle

Worshippers

Aethis has more followers than any deity in the Court of Shadows and fewer priests than almost any deity in the pantheon. Sages, wandering scholars, monks without monasteries, and people who have decided to understand themselves before they understand anything else. She does not require formal worship and does not seem to prefer it.

Aethis is the god of self-knowledge, and she is remarkable among the divine powers in that she asks almost nothing of those who follow her. No temple attendance. No prayers on a schedule. No tithing. She allows those who have walked far enough along the path of honest self-examination to draw power from her, but she does not instruct them on what to do with it. She does not send visions. She does not speak through priests. She does not explain herself.

Her symbol is an unadorned circle -- no image inside it, no decoration around it. This is either a statement about completeness or about emptiness, and her followers have been arguing about which interpretation is correct for as long as there have been followers. Aethis has not weighed in. What is known: she notices. Those who pursue genuine self-knowledge with genuine honesty find, occasionally, that things go slightly better than they should. A conversation that could have gone badly does not. A road that should have been dangerous is merely inconvenient. Whether this is Aethis intervening or simply the natural consequence of clear-eyed judgment is, her followers would say, exactly the kind of question she wants you to sit with.