

# Shathahn

*Deity*

- Domain:** None (demon lord; not part of any divine court)  
**Pantheon:** None (Other Powers)  
**Alignment:** Chaotic Evil  
**Symbol:** An open eye with a vertical slash through the iris

## Worshippers

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The Velkhrun exclusively. No other surface culture worships Shathahn in any organized form, though his name appears in demonological texts as a catalogued entity.

Shathahn is not a god. This is a distinction the Velkhrun do not make and that theologians of the Settled Lands make carefully, because the practical implications differ depending on context. Shathahn grants power to his followers. He hears prayers. He sends what the Velkhrun call his Hollow -- servitor entities that are not quite demons and not quite divine messengers but something that functions like both. He is, by any functional definition, a patron power worthy of organized worship. He is simply not a god in the sense that Solgarde, Malachar, or even the Fey Courts are powers with portfolio, court, and place in the divine order of Kyrell.

What Shathahn is, precisely, is a matter of demonological debate that has never been fully resolved because the scholars best positioned to investigate the question are not willing to get close enough to do so. The Settled Lands' demonological tradition catalogs him as an Abyssal lord of the upper registers -- more powerful than the common classifications of demon, less coherent in purpose than a true deity, with a specific sphere of interest rather than a portfolio. The sphere, across all sources that mention him, is consistently the same: those who belong to neither one world nor another.

The Velkhrun call themselves shadow walkers -- those who belong to neither the underground world nor the surface world. They have worshipped Shathahn since before they came to the surface. Whether Shathahn found them because they were already his kind of people, or whether generations of his influence shaped them into the culture they became, is the kind of question Velkhrun elders find uninteresting and Settled Lands theologians find central.

## Nature and Influence

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Shathahn does not communicate in ways that translate cleanly into Common theological frameworks. He does not issue doctrine. He does not demand specific conduct. What the Velkhrun describe, in their own terms, is a presence -- an awareness that extends toward those who occupy threshold spaces, margins, the places between things. His attention is experienced as recognition rather than command: the feeling of being seen by something that understands, precisely, what it means to fit nowhere.

This is not comfortable patronage. Shathahn's recognition does not carry warmth. It carries the cold clarity of a mirror that shows only what is true. The Velkhrun who serve him most deeply tend toward a particular kind of fatalism -- not hopelessness exactly, but a settled certainty that the world does not want them and never will, and that this knowledge is a form of freedom. They operate from that certainty with a focus that outsiders find unsettling.

The power he grants is real. Velkhrun with genuine devotion to Shathahn demonstrate abilities that exceed what their physical constitution should allow -- particularly in darkness, in threshold spaces (doorways, tunnels, the edges of settlements), and in situations involving deception or movement between defined territories. Whether this is divine grant, infernal compact, or something with no clean category in Kyrell's theological framework is disputed.

## **The Hollow**

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The Hollow are Shathahn's sent entities -- what other religions would call divine messengers or demonic servants. They appear in the marginal spaces Shathahn favors: the threshold between sleep and waking, the moment between stepping into a room and being seen. They do not speak. They observe, and then they are gone, and afterward the person they observed finds that something has changed in how they move through the world. The Velkhrun consider a visit from the Hollow as significant as any formal religious experience. Most Settled Lands demonologists who have documented the Hollow secondhand consider the Velkhrun descriptions to be consistent with a class of low-Abyssal entity that uses passive influence rather than direct action.

There are no documented cases of the Hollow causing direct harm. There are a significant number of documented cases of people who were visited by the Hollow subsequently making choices that caused harm to others -- without, as far as can be determined, any external compulsion. This is either because the Hollow's influence is subtle enough to evade detection or because the correlation is coincidental. Demonologists record both possibilities without resolving between them.

## **Relationship to the Settled Lands**

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Shathahn has no formal relationship with any Settled Lands institution. The Orders of Wizardry catalog him as a known entity and have no specific policy on his worship, partly because his worship is confined to a population the Orders have largely written off as ungovernable anyway, and partly because his influence does not involve arcane magic in any form the Orders can regulate. The Courts of the gods regard him as they regard any Abyssal entity with organized followers: with the particular wariness reserved for powers that operate outside the divine order without openly challenging it.

Whether Shathahn is aware of or interested in the events of the present age -- Charoth's release, the Nexus, the absence of a unified eastern ruler -- is not known. His attention, historically, has been focused on his people rather than on the broader world. Whether that remains true is a question no one outside the Velkhrun is positioned to answer, and the Velkhrun are not forthcoming.