

	<p>Leonidas Halfsnake, Salesman Artiste 16</p> <p>The Future, secular <i>Honest, polite</i> Values friendship</p> <p>Needs money to help Damaris At home in the imperial home city, swirl of politics, art, romance</p>		<p>Tecmessa Amazon Tribes, Councillor Bug Wizard 7</p> <p>Tribal paganism, savagery <i>Curious, nervous</i> Values heritage</p> <p>Needs money for Catilla, who is pregnant With Diorix at the island, good source of dubious cash</p>		<p>Ucmec Free Tribes, Caravaneer Bug Wizard 7</p> <p>The "old ways," fertility & the wild <i>Morose, rash</i> Values respect</p> <p>In danger from pursuers In near-hiding at the island, with crystal spear, seeking route to destination</p>
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Politics and controversy

- Leonidas' innovative policy position, expressed through his art
 - Must be anti-colonial, reasonable, resonant, non-trivial, whimsical, and not depressing (!)
- Relevant to Chloe's ambitions; Diorix holds a more radical version
- Tied to many-sided tribal crisis
- The crystal spear needs to be at the obelisk, relevant to this position

Tribal history

- Classic kin overlap between Amazon and Free Tribes
- Nialan was a key figure, killed vs. imperials, disgraced and smeared as scandalous; inheritance went to both cousins on either side of the "line"
- Total identity mix-up with Nialan and Ucmec, exacerbates scandal

The crystal spear: tribal relic

- Deeply significant for tribal policy regarding the empire
- Originally in Nialan's care, passed by him to Ucmec
- Ucmec has to bring it to the obelisk
- Aided by Leonidas' future self
- The pro-imperial Free Tribes faction wants to destroy it

Leonidas' future self

- Advised him to promote his art politically, effectively a teacher
- Instigates the song to influence him again
- Teaches Ucmec too in surrealistic ways, about the crystal spear

Diorix the outlaw, imperial

- Operates out of Bugfolk territory; dangerous enough to be feared
- Friends with Tecmessa, just did a caper that outlawed her as well
- Romantic rival with Leonidas for Chloe to the point of enmity, although agrees with him politically, mostly

Bug magic weirdness too

- Includes specific religious content shared by Tecmessa and Ucmec

Other somewhat related, possibly interactive stuff

- Young beggar artist Damaris (from imperial village); Leonidas is his friend and wants to politicize him
- Chloe, ambitious political player and halfsnake hottie; pursued romantically by both Leonidas and Diorix, which is turning dangerous
- Tecmessa's pregnant Bug wife Catilla (bit of a mystery there)
- Tecmessa's deranged missing sister Eriboa