

clothing into combat – proving that he can get through a fight without a single slash in his expensive shirt, or repairing it flawlessly if he fails, shows that he has the skills needed to keep a family safe and prosperous on the road.

Despite their affinity for piercings, the vast majority of Sijara scorn tattoos, viewing them as a symbol of permanency. Sijara prefer platinum jewelry as the most efficient means of transporting wealth, but will stoop to gold, silver, or even bronze if that is all they can afford. A quick glance at a Sijara's many earrings is usually enough to determine his or her current monetary situation.

Hierarchy

Sijara use brightly colored sashes to show status. These can be broad or narrow, and are worn over the shoulders or the hips, depending on personal preference.

Chartreuse: Young child. This sash is donned when the child learns to speak, and is worn until the child is old enough to assume some responsibilities. A child is not named until they don the chartreuse sash.

Jade: Underage adolescent. The wearer of this sash contributes to the family, but has not yet come of age.

Scarlet: Single young adult. Shortly after donning this sash, a Sijara will leave their original family to seek their fortune. This is the status of most adventurers.

Burgundy: Young adult with a lifemate, but no family. This status typically does not last long, and usually applies only to freshly bonded couples.

Violet: Adult with a family. This includes not just parents, but aunts and uncles or even cousins; any member of a traveling family who has responsibility for children. Most Sijara wear this sash.

Indigo: Family leader. This is equally likely to be a male or a female, and might even change on a daily basis. The wearer of an indigo sash must be obeyed without question in a crisis; at all other times, decisions are made by the group.

Sapphire: Clan leader. This is used only in large extended families traveling together, and plays a similar role to the indigo sash in individual families. Clan leaders also officiate at important ceremonies.

Sky blue: Elder. A Sijara who is too old to hold the mantle of leadership, but is nonetheless respected. No Sijara is ever considered too old to travel.

Silver: Hero. This sash is awarded to Sijara whose exploits rank among those of legend. Only a handful per generation wear it, and most of those first don it at their death rites.

Sashes and Dyes

The Sijara love adorning themselves brightly-colored clothes, but in some settings, pricy dyes might make this an expensive affectation.

In such settings, even the poorest Sijara will still scrape up some dye for a properly colored sash. The least well off might not have more than a vertical stripe of color on the front of the sash, while better off families would flaunt their wealth with large, brilliantly dyed sashes.

In most real-world cultures where dye was valued, red and violet dyes were the most costly. This makes their place in the hierarchy even more meaningful. Young Sijara who wish to set out must first be able to afford the dye for their scarlet sash, while adults planning to start a family have to prove they can support it by obtaining some of the rarest dye in the world. And what would make a better wedding gift than an incredibly expensive, rare, burgundy sash?