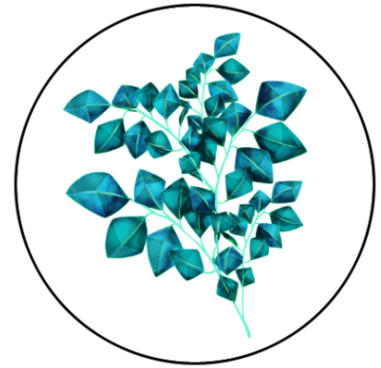


ALMAVIVA

- ▶ **Height:** 3m
- ▶ **Classification:** Eccentric
- ▶ **Life expectancy:** 90 years



A tree with spiritual associations stemming from its tendency to attract other life in the rainforest. The 'living gem' tree, which gets its name from the Arabic word for 'diamond' - almas - and the Latin word for 'alive' - vivus. This refers to the living nature of the diamond-shaped leaves.



Physiology



A small, thin-stemmed tree with succulent, translucent leaves. The aesthetically inclined may describe them as looking like octahedral gems. Most are blue, although yellow variations exist.

Its branches spread wide - around 2 metres - and almavivas are known to cover a lot of ground this way. This showers the ground with light (usually blue, as per the usual leaf colour). This blue light benefits other plants, so almavivas usually grow with other, shorter plants.

Reproduction

As these trees thrive in or at the edge of the jungle, they are less likely to benefit from the breeze in dispersing their spores. Instead, they rely on the jungle's biodiversity. When any animal larger than an insect crawls on the stem of an almaviva, the stem bends, effectively shaking the leaves. This is enough for the spores to drift at least a short distance away before landing and germinating.



Geographical Distribution



Almaviva tend to grow close together with other almaviva and other species of plant, so they form part of some jungles. They thrive at the edges of jungles where they can catch most of the direct sun.

Settlements

These trees can be found in great numbers in the southern Oplayn forests.

Bluelight Tribe

The kasulam bluelight tribe live in an area particularly dense in almaviva. The blue-tinted light shed on the forest floor by this plant gives blue kasulam much-needed camouflage.

[I'll need to add something to the Kasulam Lore Bible about this!]

Position in Ecosystem

The almaviva's highly unusual leaves create an equally-unusual habitat for other plants and animals.

Plants

Many plants grow well underneath almaviva, as their translucent leaves let through a quantity of the sunlight from above, giving them the energy they need to grow. In addition, the almaviva's leaves filter the light so that the light they let through is blue-tinged. Blue light is rich in energy and helps plants grow bushier, so the companion plants that grow beneath almavivas are usually short and bushy.

[I don't have many plants yet that are suitable for living with the almaviva so I'll add more here another time.]

Limallia

This ground-covering rugplant thrives under the semi-protection of the almaviva. When rain falls, the almaviva is drenched and releases big drips of water long after the rain has finished, which fall on the limallia and allow it to spread its spores.

Herbivores

Just like many trees, the almaviva is a hub for animals looking for shelter, food, and a drink.

Athmook

Several species of athmook can be found foraging underneath almavivas. They are related to the spade-footed mukash, one of Kaleida's dominant species (see *Mukash Lore Bible* for more details). They are often on the redder end of the scale so can be easily seen in the blue glow, but have light-sensitive organs on the backs of their heads which allow them to spot predators and make a quick exit if needed. Often conspicuous but hard to catch.

Fairy Jawagora

These tiny jawagora sometimes run into the forest in search of food. Their rosy-red colour makes them stand out clearly against the foliage and lead-mould below.

Kasulam

Other species of kasulam, related to the frilled kasulam but non-sapient (see *Kasulam Lore Bible* for further details) dig burrows and forage underneath, or along the stems of, almavivas.

Non-Apex Predators / Omnivores

The prey animals that come to the almaviva attract a number of small predators.

Khoricru

Khoricru are at an advantage under the blue glow of an almaviva, as some have blue feathers and are therefore well adapted for this environment. Other hunters do well to spot these to avoid getting bitten.

Legged khoricru are likely to wander along the branches, but the stems and trunk are too thick for most species, legged or legless, to curl around without being seen. Instead, species that hunt around almaviva wait in ambush under its light.

As almavivas provide rich hunting, non-blue khoricru sometimes feed here. These sometimes become prey for larger predators and the kasulam.

Tummerwen

Another group of animals that evolved to hunt underneath almavivas. Some are blue, while others sport feathers of other colours. They often blend in well with the forest floor, but they can panic easily and venture into the blue, where warmer-coloured individuals may be picked off by higher-tier predators.

Technology

Almavivas add little to the world of technology, but they harness light in a way that many offworlders find fascinating.

Agriculture

The main appeal of an almaviva, as far as most of Kalieida's mesolithics are concerned, is their tendency to both attract and highlight small prey animals. They have not taken to growing this plant in an organised fashion, but almost every omnivorous sapient knows where their local almavivas are, and use them to find a protein-rich snack.

Energy Usage

Almavivas tint the sunlight before it reaches the forest floor to a blue colour, which provides energy-rich light to any plants growing underneath.

History

The existence of the almaviva tree changed the course of kasulam history for the better.

Changes in Standards of Living

The discovery of a relatively dense population of almavivas represented a huge change in quality of life for the blue kasulam. Several moved there and have remained there since.

Nations Founded

See the information given about the foundation of the Bluelight Tribe above. While the kasulam tribes don't constitute nations, the almaviva was instrumental in allowing the blues to settle in the forest.



The almaviva has a way of capturing the imaginations of those who see it, including Kaleida's natives. It is seen as somewhere between sacred and a good luck tree.

Art

The aesthetics of this plant are not lost on the kasulam and mukash, who are both known to take home a small branch of this plant to decorate their homes or amaze their offspring.

Religion and Spirituality

Shamans occasionally refer to the almaviva as a sacred plant, as it attracts and promotes other life.

Prey caught underneath such a tree is considered good luck.

Special Events

As almavivas provide such a good hunting opportunity, perhaps it is unsurprising that they feature in special events.

Hatching / Birthing Celebrations

When a community of an omnivorous species has a new mother in their midst, after she gives birth or hatches her young she is often presented with small animals to eat, usually caught under an almaviva tree. The spiritual association with life (see above) is an element of this tradition, as eating such a prey item is said to imbue the mother with the luck, wisdom, or strength to raise her young successfully.

Politics

There is no commentary to be made on the almagiva's contribution to politics. It impacts a few aspects of life that may conceivably influence politics: spiritualism, support of a marginalised group of mesolithics, and provision of food, but none of this amounts to any commentary substantial enough to include here.

Economy

The almaviva plant is an important part of the Oplayn sapients' ecosystem, but its benefit is mostly in its capacity as a catalyst.

Finance

The main value offered by this tree is the life it supports and attracts. Almavivas aren't valuable in and of themselves.

Education

The day that any carnivore or omnivore introduces their offspring to the almaviva plant and the joys of hunting and gathering around it is a satisfying day for both teacher and student. Most Kaleidan parents look forward to this particular day, and many save it as a refreshingly rewarding day after tougher hunter-gathering lessons.

Credits

Almaviva is © [The Character Consultancy](#)

Kaleida is © [The Character Consultancy](#)

Artwork by [Taleea](#)

Wording by [The Character Consultancy](#)



Want to upgrade to an Infographic or video, or expand your setting into a worldbuilding project? Email me on hello@thecharacterconsultancy.co.uk and I will be happy to help you!

~Hayley, The Character Consultancy