



## DOCUMENT TITLE: THE IMPORTANCE OF TIDES

---

### CYPHER SYSTEM: THE TIDES OF CHANGE

The Tides of Change campaign title is deliberate. From the beginning of the design process, the use of Tides, which are often synonymous with the word Philosophy, was planned to be a central theme of the story. Simply defined, the Tides are a force not unlike gravity or magnetism. They may be linked to the datasphere, or they may be a part of an energy transference system associated with the great network. They are invisible, powerful, and impossible to fully understand. The Tides are nuanced, but they are not subjective. They have their own set of rules and objective parameters. You do not choose a Tide because you think you do; but rather because the Tides have deemed that your actions fit with its philosophy and concept. They are not an alignment system and do not give you guidelines within which to make choices and take action. The Tides do not distinguish between good and evil. They judge a person by their words and actions, not their motivations. Within every Tide there are heroes and villains, saints and sinners, champions and rogues.

There are an extremely small number of people in the world that are 'attuned' to the Tides, which means they are both *aware* and *affected* by them. You are one of those rare people. Is this the reason you are gifted with the ability to translate to different recursions as well? No one knows. As much as is known about them, in many ways they are still a puzzling mystery.

### THE BLUE TIDE

Reason and Knowledge define the Blue Tide, but so also do Wisdom and Spiritual Insight. These might seem contradictory to some people, but to a character who personifies Blue, they are two sides of the same coin; an attempt to make something out of humanity that matters! It is the Tide of people whose goal is to expand the mind and the spirit. They seek knowledge, and consider death a loss when it means a person's knowledge is lost forever. Characters who embody the Blue Tide can include scientists, mystics, philosophers, technicians, and madmen. Attunement of the Blue Tide means going out of your way to seek the numenera or identifying their use; using reason or insight to talk your way out of a problem; and/or spending time learning or seeking spiritual wisdom and growth. (Victor Nova. Trevor Zee. Kane Holiday)

### THE INDIGO TIDE

Justice, compromise, and the greater good define the Indigo Tide. It is not just about law, but about a broader, more global perspective rather than an individual one. It is about seeking the greater good, finding compromises that maximize benefit across the largest group of people, and/or using the end to justify the means. The loss of life is considered tragic, but less so if it serves a better outcome. Characters who embody the Indigo Tide can include rulers, lawmakers, tyrants, vigilantes, and selfless soldiers. Attunement of the Indigo Tide means things like offering a compromise between two warring parties; convincing someone to risk their money or life for the sake of the greater good; and/or verbally justifying your actions by pointing at the results and seeing the positive outcome despite the surface cost. (Toros Nayl)

### THE SILVER TIDE

Admiration, power, and fame define the Silver Tide. It is the Tide of people who seek to influence the lives of others. It can easily be seen as a selfish Tide, but that is a question of motivation that the Tides do not ask. Whether a Silver character is selfish or not is an ethical question that depends monumentally on how they ultimately use their prestige. Silver characters desire influence, be it through personal interactions or the manipulation of the levers of power. They hold the concepts of immortality and being remembered as almost sacrosanct. Characters of the Silver Tide will be an influential and remembered personality, long after they are gone from the world. Attunement to the Silver Tide means lying so that people will respect or fear you; volunteering for tasks after hearing they are impossible; and/or using intimidation or reputation to bluff or deceive your way through a problem. (Whisper Darhk)