

Specuceps

Specuceps is a world of science, a world of logic, a world of magic, and a world of mirrors. In Specuceps, there are wonders and technology that far outpaces what the humans know. In Specuceps, everyone follows rules and principles to ensure that society functions efficiently for everyone. Speculoid technology and magic ensures that everyone in Specuceps enjoys a comfortable standard of living.

Specuceps values knowledge above all, and thus scientists, researchers, and librarians are the most prestigious roles. People study for years at universities in hopes to be impressive enough to be accepted as an apprentice to a leading researcher.

Since research in many other fields has been exhausted, one of the leading fields among the Speculoids is the creation and manipulation of parallel universes. Speculoid researchers observe other universes from artificial pocket realms and perform controlled tests on them, seeing how societies evolve differently when given corn instead of wheat, or given fire magic instead of ice magic.

Speculoids themselves undergo a life cycle that may seem strange to humans. When they are born, Speculoids are akin to tadpoles, confined to water. As they develop, they grow legs and arms and become humanoid, able to move easily out of water, use tools, and interact much as humans do. However, unlike humans they do not die of old age. When a Speculoid grows old, they instead take root and progress into a tree-like form, still able to talk and to manipulate objects with prehensile branches but no longer able to walk around. Since transplanting a rooted Speculoid is a delicate and risky operation, Speculoids choose where to root with great care. Tree-form Speculoids are immortal if not killed as long as they have access to the magic of Specuceps for nourishment. Elder treeform Speculoids can be important sources of knowledge and history.

There are various forms of magic that have been declared forbidden for the betterment of Speculoid society. These include:

- Magic that would allow non-Speculoids to move between universes
- Magic that would allow tree-form Speculoids to return to being able to walk around

This Library was one observation realm, designed to monitor two mirrored parallel worlds full of humans, one of which received the Power of Shadows and one of which received the Divination of Dreams. Normally, it has a small connection to each of the mirrored worlds enough to allow some travel between them and the Library. The Library's low magic levels seem to have made these connections stop functioning.

In addition, the Library was once connected to Specuceps. However, the connection of this observation realm to Specuceps has been severed, both preventing physical travel between it and Specuceps and cutting off its power source. Thus the Library's store of Specuceps magic has been running out, which seems likely to cause it to entirely collapse into the void between universes. This collapse has been repeatedly stalled with the Renewal ritual, but now it seems imminent.