

Who is a Numenorean?

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Below is the “legal” definition of who is a Numenorean as defined by Numenor in the 2nd Age and as modified in the late 2nd Age/early 3d Age by the various Numenorean successor states. Before the fall of Numenor, the Numenoreans were adamant that only members of the Edain who fought Morgoth in Beleriand were Numenoreans. Most sailed to Numenor, but a few remained with the Eldar in Middle-earth, living in Lindon. The Edain on Numenor remained in contact with their kin in Lindon and considered them part of the people of Numenor.

As the Numenoreans increasingly interacted with the non-Numenorean peoples of Middle-earth during the 2nd Age, it was inevitable that liaisons would occur and children would be born with only one parent of Numenorean ancestry. Numenor did not consider these offspring of Numenoreans and non-Numenoreans to be full Numenoreans and denied them the right to sail to or live in Numenor. But as the “Children of Numenor”, they exhibited most or all of the characteristics of their Numenorean parent and little to none of their non-Numenorean parent. The Numenoreans gave them privileged status in the various Numenorean communities in Middle-earth.

As the years passed and the heritage of Numenor was spread more thinly. Numenor established various sub-groups within the “Children of Numenor”, always acknowledging their Numenorean ancestry. Privilege and responsibility were based on the legal definitions established to differentiate the amount of Numenorean ancestry and the actual expression of Numenorean archetypal traits and characteristics.

With the fall of Numenor and the devastating effects of the War of the Last Alliance on the Dunedain of Arnor and Gondor, all Numenoreans in Middle-earth were faced with the reality that they were too few in number. For a variety of reasons, nearly all surviving Numenorean societies co-opted the Perdunedain, acknowledging them as full Numenoreans. This was a legal definition implemented by governments. Individual Numenoreans were not necessarily as accepting (thus the basis for the Kin-strife). Due to the Perdunedain becoming Numenoreans, the Enededain became the Perdunedain and remaining Children of Numenor became Enededain.

One significant reason the pre-Akallabeth Perdunedain were co-opted into the ranks of the Numenoreans was that they appeared to be Numenoreans. They were taller than their non-Numenorean relatives, they were more farsighted, had greater strength and endurance, etc.... Another significant reason was that they lived nearly as long as a Numenoreans with no non-Numenorean ancestry.

Conversely, the post-Akallabeth Perdunedain took more traits and characteristics from their non-Numenorean ancestry. Most had greater longevity than their non-Numenorean relatives but significantly less than full Numenoreans or even the pre-Akallabeth Perdunedain. All other Numenorean traits and characteristics were more randomly expressed, though within limited family groups the same traits were generally expressed from generation to generation.

The post-Akallabeth Enededain were generally indistinguishable from their non-Numenorean ancestors. They generally look the same, live as long, and have all primary archetypal traits and characteristics. Occasionally, an archetypal Numenorean trait or characteristics will be expressed (far sight, increased height, etc....)

Genealogy is an essential part of Numenorean societies going back to the earliest days of Numenorean travels to Middle-earth in the 2nd Age. At that time, children born to Numenoreans in Middle-earth required proof that both parents were also Numenoreans if they wished to return to Numenor. Later, as privileges were provided based on the degree of Numenorean heritage, genealogical proof was required to gain (or keep) the status. For the 2nd and 3d Ages, genealogy and the keeping of genealogical records was an essential part of all Numenorean societies.

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Pre-Akallabeth/War of the Last Alliance

Numenorean

All ancestors from Numenor

- Ancestry must trace to Numenor even if immediate family (parents, grandparents, etc... were born in Middle-earth)

Exceptions:

- Any elven ancestry maintains Numenorean status
 - This is due to the half-elven status of Elros
 - All non-elven ancestry must trace to Numenor or to the Edain living in Lindon
 - Late in Numenor's history, this was not universally accepted due to anti-elven views in Numenor
- Ancestors from the Three Houses of Men who remained in Middle-earth and did not go to Numenor
 - All ancestry must trace to the Edain from Three Houses of Men who entered Beleriand and fought against Morgoth
 - Dwelled in Lindon during the 2nd Age

"Children of Numenor" – Andorhini (S.), Anadunehinim (Ad.)

Mixed Numenorean and non-Numenorean ancestry

- At least one ancestor was not Numenorean and was not Elven

Three sub-groups based on amount of Numenorean ancestry

- <100% to 12.5% Numenorean ancestry
 - Perdunedain (Half Numenorean – Half Men of the West)
 - Commonly used by non-King's Men Numenoreans
 - Perseregath (Half blooded folk/people)
 - Commonly used by King's Men Numenoreans
 - This group commonly exhibits all the archetypal characteristics of the Numenoreans, to a greater and lesser degree
 - No expression to limited expression of non-Numenorean ancestry archetypal characteristics
- <12.5% to 5% Numenorean ancestry
 - Enededain (Middlemen)
 - This group generally exhibits some, but not all, archetypal characteristics of the Numenoreans, usually to a lesser degree than most Perdunedain
 - Most express non-Numenorean ancestry archetypal characteristics
- <5% Numenorean ancestry
 - This group is generally undistinguishable from the dominant ancestral group

- Occasionally may manifest one or two archetypal Numenorean characteristics to a minor degree
- All express non-Numenorean ancestry archetypal characteristics

Post-Akallabeth/War of the Last Alliance

Numenorean

All ancestors from Numenor

- Ancestry must trace to Numenor even if immediate family (parents, grandparents, etc... were born in Middle-earth)

Mixed Numenorean and non-Numenorean ancestry

- 12.5% or greater Numenorean ancestry
- This group commonly exhibits all the archetypal characteristics of the Numenoreans, to a greater and lesser degree
- No expression to limited expression of non-Numenorean ancestry archetypal characteristics

Exceptions:

- Any elven ancestry maintains Numenorean status
 - This is due to the half-elven status of Elros
 - This is not universally accepted by all Numenoreans in Middle-earth
- Ancestors from the Three Houses of Men who entered Beleriand and fought against Morgoth and who remained in Middle-earth and did not go to Numenor
 - "Numenorean" ancestry must be 12.5% or greater
 - Ancestors from the Three Houses who entered Beleriand and fought Morgoth are considered Numenoreans
 - Ancestors from the Three Houses who did not enter Beleriand and fight Morgoth are NOT considered to be Numenoreans
 - Dwelled in Lindon during the 2nd Age
 - Became the core of Arnor's Dunedain population after the arrival of Elendil

"Children of Numenor" - Andorhini (S.), Anadunehinim (Ad.)

Mixed Numenorean and non-Numenorean ancestry

Two sub-groups based on amount of Numenorean ancestry

- <12.5% to 5% Numenorean ancestry
 - Perdunedain (Half Numenorean – Half Men of the West)
 - Commonly used by non-King's Men Numenoreans
 - Perseregath (Half blooded folk/people)
 - Commonly used by King's Men Numenoreans
 - This group generally exhibits some, but not all, archetypal characteristics of the Numenoreans, usually to a lesser degree than most pre-Akallabeth Perdunedain
 - Most express non-Numenorean ancestry archetypal characteristics
- <5% Numenorean ancestry

- Eenededain (Middlemen
- This group is generally undistinguishable from the dominant ancestral group
- Occassionally may manifest one or two archetypal Numenorean characteristics to a minor degree
- All express non-Numenorean ancestry archetypal characteristics

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Note: The above definition of "Who is a Numenorean" has developed over the years, starting with my own work on the unpublished 2nd Edition of *Umbar* and the input I provided to *Southern Gondor* and other MERP publications from ICE. It has evolved significantly since the end of the MERP license as I have pondered Tolkien's limited discussion of Eldacar and the Kin-strife, as well as ICE's "lesser Dunedain", "Black Numenoreans", "Mixed-Men", etc....