[ENG] The Path of Preservation

Introduction to the Path of Preservation

Before the Vortessence was wielded as a weapon, before sacrifice became a path to power, a sage opened another way.
*His name was **Teq’ki**.*

Teq’ki sought neither domination nor conquest.
He listened to the Flow.
He understood that the Vortessence was not a force to be consumed, but a bond to be preserved.

From this understanding was born the Path of Preservation, a way shaped around the protection of life, the balance of existences, and the defense of those who cannot defend themselves.

*The disciples of **Teq’ki** learned that killing is never a neutral act.*
Taking a life can only be justified when inaction would condemn other lives. Purification, education, and forgiveness must always be favored.
Violence is therefore not a choice, but a last resort.

The Path of Preservation teaches that every living being is a node within the great Flow.
Breaking a node weakens the whole.
To preserve life is to preserve the Vortessence itself.

*Thus spoke **Teq’ki** :*

> “ "To protect is not to be weak. To restrain one’s strength is the greatest proof of wisdom."

And since that ancient time, those who follow his path wield the Vortessence only to support, protect, and prevent needless extinction.

Before the Gleam

Before paths were named, before the Vortessence revealed its many faces, ***Teq'ki*** *and his tribe followed no defined way.*
They lived bound to the Flow like all Vortigaunts of their time, they used it, listened to it at times, but never truly explored its depths.

Then came exploration.

Driven by curiosity and the need to understand, ***Teq'ki*** *and several of his kind ventured deeper into the Vortessence than any tribe before them.*
They no longer settled for the surface of the Flow.
They sought its deep currents, its silences, its tensions.
They accepted the risk of becoming lost within it.

No one can say whether the Vortessence blessed the tribe…
Or tested it.

For something changed.

From that moment on, their actions were no longer without consequence upon the Flow.
The Vortessence no longer responded only to will or mastery, but to the moral intent of the one who called upon it.

Some discovered that exploiting the weak, using the suffering of others to strengthen themselves, caused them to descend into an unknown region of the Vortessence.
A powerful depth, unstable, voracious.
The more they took, the more this part of the Flow shaped them in its image.

Others, like ***Teq'ki****, chose an even more perilous path.*
They strove to remain just.
They willingly placed themselves in danger to protect others, without expectation of recognition or return.
And they too descended into a previously unexplored part of the Vortessence, different, silent, yet just as deep.

There were also those who remained pragmatic.
They sought above all to maintain balance within the tribe, neither domination nor total self-denial.
Their connection to the Vortessence evolved in a linear, stable manner… but never fully.

It was in this context that Teq'ki was the first to perceive what he would later call :

The Gleam of Preservation

He described it as a light within the Vortessence, a presence he believed to be just.
A gleam that offered neither domination nor destruction, but all the means necessary to protect one’s kin and preserve peace.

For the Vortigaunts, the Vortessence is a living entity.
According to Teq’ki, the Gleam of Preservation was as well.

He claimed that it was not merely a manifestation of the Flow, but a fragment of the Vortessence separated from the others.
An ancient fragment, reserved for those who choose to preserve rather than to take.
A fragment that answers only to the just.

Thus began Teq’ki’s philosophy.
Not as an imposed doctrine,
but as a revelation born from the bond between the soul, action, and the living Flow.

The Powers of the Path of Preservation

*The followers of **Teq’ki** adhere to the principle of protecting rather than attacking.*
Life is precious, and they are devoted to preserving it.
Killing is only justifiable if it serves to protect an innocent life or the common good.

Their philosophy allows them to summon shields that protect both themselves and others, provided they properly master this ability.

They are capable of healing minor physical injuries, and the most experienced among them can even heal mortal wounds.
The Flow also allows them to heal at a distance, like a directed beam of energy toward a target.

However, the Gleam of Preservation prevents them from delving into the Gleam of Balance and strengthening their natural Vortigaunt abilities.
*They also cannot use **the lethal powers of the Path of Voracity**.*

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