

## **Embra Wooded Places of Interest 5:**

### **Wistful Hollow Chapel**

Wistful Hollow is a sizeable, wooded dell, with paths from the southern and northwestern map edges leading to the Chapel itself. The area around the Chapel is separated from the woods by a broad, low, grassy dyke surmounted by a neatly-clipped, tall, thorny, hedge-line running along the centre-top of the dyke. The dyke is some 15 feet broad by 3 ft high at its middle (4.5 by 0.9 metres), while the hedges stand another 6 ft, 1.8m, above the dyke's top. Pathways through the Chapel's grounds include ones of both packed earth and simple grass. Some of the pathways have been enlarged around access-points into the main Chapel, the Side Chapel, the Shrine and both Gates. The grounds themselves superficially appear only marginally different to the woods beyond, except for four especially significant trees (all labelled), and the great many flowers all across the enclosed area.

Notes on the labelled map features follow. First though, some more general points.

The misty edge to the mapped area is because, like all the Embra Places maps, Wistful Hollow Chapel does not link directly to any other specific location in the city. Instead when leaving the mapped zone (or sometimes only when passing some form of threshold within it - GM's choice), the party can return either to the Wooded Places map, or the Embra Official Guide map, from where the GM can select a new location for the players to visit.

While scales are provided alongside the map, accurate to the features as drawn, and directions in these notes refer to the standard pattern of north being towards the map's top as viewed, east to its right-hand edge, and so on, none of these elements need be considered strongly fixed. Such things in the Faerie Realm can be quite fluid, to fit whatever the GM may prefer.

The featured text also beside the map is intended to be used to enhance the experience of using the Chapel area, with some features on the map reflecting this. It reads: "A bird-winged male Faerie with radiant-sun tattoos on both shoulders looks after the Chapel. Small magical accoutrements hang from ribbons in his wings and from his waist-belt. Green Faerie Will O' Wisps accompany him. Ibises are always nearby too. Tall lilies, orange and red roses abound in the grounds. The Chapel is of pale grey stone, carved inside and out with many flowingly-intricate, naked Faerie humanoid forms."

For greater clarity, note that the FCW file has a toggle to allow the on-map labels to be turned-off, if desired. Another toggle allows the internal layouts of the buildings to be shown.

## Aspects of Wistful Hollow Chapel

\* **Ancient Yew and Old Yew:** Two of the labelled great trees within the grounds, both situated south of the main Chapel. The Old Yew grows as a single, bushy, tree, but one which has numerous trunks clustering around its central zone. The Ancient Yew has several discrete main, knotty, trunks, roughly halfway between its mapped centre and the outer edge of its foliage, and innumerable smaller stems and minor trunks as well, almost forming an enclosed stockade of living vegetation beneath its canopy. It is though quite easy for even a tall-normal-sized humanoid creature to slip past these into the somewhat more open centre.

\* **Great Oak:** The other two great trees in the Chapel's grounds are each labelled separately, as one lies to the north of the Side Chapel & Chapter House, the other to the south. They are particularly impressive, ancient, oak trees.

\* **Oriental Dragon Chapel:** The main Wistful Hollow Chapel is so-named because of the Oriental Dragon that lives inside, providing wisdom and oracles to the deserving. The Chapel itself is completely open inside, with no internal walls, only supporting pillars, right up to the roof, including into the southern end's tower. Oriental Dragons are lithe, very sinuous creatures, forever coiling and twisting around on themselves, with a large head that has many long, sharp teeth and very perceptive eyes, a long, narrow body and tail, and four lithe, strongly-clawed, legs. They are highly magical, very intelligent and wise creatures. This one is predominantly golden in its scale colouring. It flies effortlessly, yet has no wings, and can hover, or stand on the ground, hang from the underside of the roof, or wrap itself around the pillars, just as it prefers at any given moment. It also carries a large, milky-white, sometimes sparkling, often shining, pearl, which may run along its body, or its head, or tail, and which can seem to disappear entirely, only to reappear elsewhere moments later.

\* **Shrine of Contemplation:** A domed grey stone shrine, open inside, with pillars supporting its central domed roof, north of the main Chapel. It is always very peaceful inside, and has several stone bench seats on which to sit and contemplate.

\* **Side Chapel & Chapter House:** A large building set on the northwest side of the main Chapel. The oval Chapter House is on the northwest corner of the Side Chapel building, and is the tallest part of the structure. The rectangular Side Chapel is attached to the main Chapel by a tiled-roof covered walkway, under which one of the packed-earth pathways through the grounds runs. Both parts of the building, like the main Chapel, are open inside up to their roofs. The Dragon sometimes ventures across here too, though it prefers the roomier main Chapel.

\* **Tower Gate:** The northwestern entrance to the Chapel's grounds. This is a broad, covered, wooden gateway set into the grassy earth dyke and hedge surrounding the grounds, with a wooden belltower on its top. The bell can be rung from inside the gateway, although it seems to have no real purpose.

\* **Wistful Hollow Woods:** The forest surrounding the Chapel on all sides, with denser and lighter areas of woodland in places.

\* **Yew Gate:** The south gate into the grounds, similar in form to the Tower Gate, but with a smaller gateway extension beyond the line of the dyke and hedge wall along the path from the south, and no belltower.