hedony

The worldlings live in the collective unconscious, which was created alongside the universe itself, in symbiosis with all life. It is the world that exists in dreams and cogent fantasies, feeding from the thoughts, experiences and knowledge of all living things. It is the ocean of stories. It is the source of all myth, unknowing and law in the real world, where arguments and jealousies that can occur amongst worldlings often result in human bloodshed.

Hedony is a human woman who enters this world by way of cognisant dreaming. Two hounds that maintain vigil over her sleeping body and lead her into the other world accompany her at all times.

One of the worldlings, **Hiro**, of libation and lust, falls in love with Hedony upon sight and contrives to meet with her, upon which, in an act of sudden passion and anarchy, he seduces and ravishes Hedony, setting off a chain of unfortunate events.

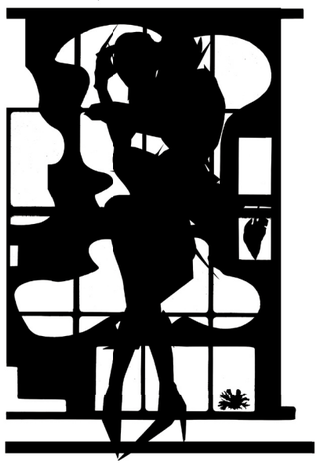
Lone, of wilderness, speaks harshly to Hiro. Such acts of fornication are frowned upon, as they often produce children, he advises. The children of these couplings present problems because they frequently possess powers of their own, as well as claims to worldling thrones. More often than not such situations result in threats, plots, and so on, in never-ending cycles and wasted, pointless energies.

Amygdala is the deification of Venus, the morning (eastways) and evening (westways) star. She is a key player in the drama of governance in the floating world, as gifted in dealing with matters of love as she is with politics, and considers Hiro's impudence as an assault on both courts. Stronger still than her sense of duty to the world is her personal impotence in the matter. Amygdala is furious to hear of Hiro's transgression, but dares not to show it. Her love for Hiro is strong, but she has yet to see any sign that he returns it, and refuses to reveal her weakness to him. As the relationship between Hiro and Hedony continues, Amygdala nevertheless finds herself driven against them at every turn.

Slo is the moon. She is usually kind, thoughtful and quiet, but at times is known to turn cold. She is easily spooked, but powerful when she needs to be. In a hidden part of her domain is the umbilical entrance to the real world – the source of all dreaming. Slo knows only too well the chaos she could rain on both worlds were she to wield her knowledge destructively, yet knows no desire to do so until now. Having been witness to the entire seduction she becomes inflamed, and subject to an abiding feeling of desire for the first time. As the relationship between Hiro and Hedony continues Slo feels increasingly frustrated and unfulfilled, which leads her also to speak against the lovers.

Sigh is the sun. He is a loathsome, furious creature, always speeding and seeking the pleasures of the day. He is friend to Hiro as a fellow devotee of libidinous indulgence, though Sigh's antics in this regard tend to be carried too far and often secretly disgust Hiro himself. Sigh is at first supportive of Hiro but gradually becomes jealous over the initial incident. He suspects that Hiro planned his meeting with Hedony during the night on purpose, in order to refuse Sigh the sight of it. In turn he becomes critical of the lovers' continuing relationship, and for once finds himself uncomfortably aligned with the majority of governing deities.

O is the over-ruler, parent of all subsequent worldlings, both mother and father, equivalent to heaven. O acts like an override switch but remains quiet and beatific much of the time. O's name means 'sky', in Worldling.



I is the giver of beneficence, ruler of earth and the deep freshwater. I is thought to be the source of all science, medicine and the arts. I often lies with O, and together they operate as king and queen of the worldlings, though no one's quite sure who plays which part.

I and O share no opinion on the subject of Hiro and Hedony at first, and rest above it all in harmony that is soon shattered by infighting between the worldlings that threatens to spill over into real life.