

# Ophaesian Names

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## I. Introduction

Ophaesia is the fictional kingdom that serves as the setting for the fantasy interactive novel *The Seven Heirs of Ophaesia* by E. S. Fawkes. It is a kingdom of excess, of luxury and indulgence, intrigue and mystery. It is not surprising that its names bear the same air of extravagance as the rest of the realm.

While it was first being developed, Ophaesia had distinct Ancient Greek influences with hints of France and the Mediterranean but has since blossomed into its own unique world. The Ancient Greek influences can still be seen in the style of many of the names, though one should not expect every Greek name to suit the style of names in Ophaesia.

There are guidelines that are followed when creating an Ophaesian name. Some of them are based in lore — such as creating a new name based off an existing one — while others exist primarily for aesthetic reasons.

This guide will provide you with the who, what, and why of Ophaesian names so that you can create your own lore-friendly names.

## II. History

Before the founding of Ophaesia by Rithalus, the land was ruled by Corsciana, a once-wealthy nation to the east that was governed by the Nine Princes. Before that, it was conquered by the Dead Empress Ahuramex II of Dharsan. Before even that, it was inhabited by the Merathene people. Each group left their mark on the land, its people, and their language and helped shape the earliest aspects of Ophaesian culture, including its names.

The Merathenes remain the largest influence on current Ophaesian culture. Many aspects of Merathene naming conventions are still used today, which is evidenced by the names of the kingdom's own seven provinces. Each of the seven provinces are named for its capital city but converted into an adjective with the Merathene suffix of “-ene.” For instance, Naphia — a city named for the Monathalist Goddess Naphenia — became Naphene, hence the Naphene Province.

However, since the time of its founding, Ophaesia has developed its own naming conventions unique to it, the most prominent of which is rooted in the belief that

giving a child the name of a living relative or public figure is ill luck for both the child and their namesake. They believe that doing so divides the soul between the two and curses both individuals for the whole of their lives.

To get around this belief, Ophaesians who wish to honor a family member or a person from history will modify a name. For example, Iseriah Thyminae — a main character and potential love interest in the interactive novel — was named for Queen Seriah, who was the mother of the current King of Ophaesia. Similarly, Crown Prince Neraven — the player character's oldest sibling — was named for his father, King Eraven.

While a vast majority of Ophaesians hold this belief and name their children accordingly, not everyone follows this rule, most notably those of House Maeliah.

There are many members of House Maeliah's main branch alone who share a name with a relative, including the player character themselves, who is named for their grandfather or grandmother depending on their gender. The reason for the Maeliahs' unusual tradition of reusing names comes from their deeply-rooted Merathene origins and the insular nature of the House. While Ophaesia began to develop its own culture and traditions, the Maeliahs have remained nearly frozen in time from when their House was first founded, long before the Dharsani Conquest. House Maeliah is quite singular in this regard.

### III. Conventions

As with any other culture, there are rules, which are followed when naming a child. Breaking any of these rules can result in anything from raised brows to public outcry.

#### The Rules

1. Don't use the name of a relative from the last two or three generations. It is ill luck and could result in the child and their namesake — should they still live — being cursed.
2. Don't use the exact name of a public figure, be they historical or contemporary. It is far worse luck and the child will most certainly be cursed.
3. Don't use the name of any God from the Triad in any way, shape, or form. It is sacrilegious and the child's name will be changed by a Priest.
4. Don't use Rithalus' name or any possible variation of it. It is considered poor taste.

Rules 1 and 2 are strongly encouraged but may be broken without too much issue, whereas rules 3 and 4 are more likely to cause an uproar.

## Unused and Uncommon Letters and Combinations

There are certain letters and letter combinations which are not used in Ophaesian names. (Please note these combinations refer only to the arrangement of the letters, not necessarily their sounds.)

Letters not used	F, Q, W, X, Z
Letter combinations not used	Ch, Dh, Oh, Sh Any combinations with L (i.e. Bl-, Vl-, etc) -ius, -un

Some of these letters or combinations are replaced by others: "Ph-" is used in place of "F," while "-eus" is used in place of "-ius."

In other cases, there are letters and letter combinations which are only used in specific ways or specific circumstances.

C	Only ever used as a hard "C." May be used in the middle of the name. May only be used to start a name when combined with "R" ("Cr-"). Cannot be combined with any other consonant.
H, G, J, K, P	Only used as the first letter of a name.
O	Only used at the start or in the middle of a name. Never used as the last letter in a name.
Y	Only used as a vowel. Cannot be used as the last letter in a name. Never used twice in a name.
Er	Only used as a prefix or in the middle of a name. Never used as a suffix.

Additionally, some letters and combinations are uncommon, though still used.

Ae, Cr, D, G, H, O, P, Rh	Rarely used as prefixes.
-ll, -rr	Rarely used in names.
-ae, -eus, -in, -is	Rarely used as suffixes.

There is some overlap between the table above and the table before it with letters “H,” “G,” and “P” — they are only used at the beginnings of names and rarely then.

## Common and Popular Letters and Combinations

Other letters and combinations are featured more frequently in Ophaesian names.

-ae, -er, -th	Commonly used in names.
-an, -en, on, -ian, -ien, -ion, -ia*, -eth, -ith, -yth, ys	Popular suffixes.

\*The suffix “-ia” also has the variation “-iah,” though it’s not nearly as common.

Names can begin a wide variety of ways. Aside from the letters and combinations listed as uncommon in a previous table, there are no specific letters that are more popular to begin a name with.

## Feminine vs Masculine Names

For the most part, Ophaesian names are gender neutral, though there are certain types of names that are generally considered to be more masculine or feminine, usually due to their suffix.

Names that end with “-ia” are exclusively feminine. Names which end with “-ith” or any variation thereof are *typically* feminine, though not always, while the suffix “-ian” and its variants are generally considered more masculine.

Names that end with “-a” are almost always considered gender neutral; however, it is seen more often in feminine names. Similarly, “-ae” is more often used in feminine names than masculine, though it can be used in either.

## IV. Pronunciation

Ophaesian names follow a set of rules for pronunciation, but — like in English — some names are pronounced differently than the rules might suggest.

ae	“ay”
ar	“ahr”, “air”*
er	“air”
ir	“ear”
ia, iah	“EE-uh”, “yuh”*
ian, ien, ion	“EE-ihn”
is, ys	“ihs”
on	“ihn”
sia	“shuh”, “SEE-uh”*

\*These are the less common pronunciations. An example of each:

- The “-ar” in Alpharen and Varena is pronounced “air.”
- The “-ia” in Ysonia is pronounced “yuh.”
- The “-sia” in Ophaesia is pronounced “shuh.”

## Other Resources

While this should help you come up with your own lore-friendly Ophaesian name, there is also an Ophaesian Name Generator to help you if you are struggling or simply provide inspiration. It should be noted that the generator is not flawless, as it simply combines prefixes and suffixes at random and thus might create some weird combinations, but it will create plenty suitable names if you use it long enough.

### [Ophaesian Name Generator](#)

For more information about *The Seven Heirs of Ophaesia*, please visit its thread on the Choice of Games Forum or check out my social media, which includes posts about my other projects.

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Thank you for your support and interest in the *Seven Heirs* universe! It means so, so much to me!

E. S. Fawkes