

## Vampyre Identity Discussion Notes

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(Note: All caps sections are written as such to denote times in which a broad topic is summarized or input from the text chat is referenced. I hope that their inclusion will be helpful in following the flow of the live discussion, though at times they are an imperfect truncation of a much broader discussion that was impossible to fully capture.)

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### INTRODUCTIONS ARE HAD

This is not the first time this discussion has been had, however due to recent high-influx of new users and particularly newly awakened vampyres, it seemed prudent to go over things again. Questions are always appreciated, as these are discussions, be they over voice or text!

So firstly I'd like to ask, what identity labels do everyone here go by?

THERE IS A MIX OF SANG // PSI // EROS IN THE TEXT CHAT, ALONG WITH A RESPONSE OF BLACK SWAN AND ANOTHER OF QUESTIONING.

Questioning – the nice thing about it, it was a time in which everything was new, and I got to learn all of the “secrets,” and just play around.

NEW STAFF MEMBER IS MENTIONED – DONOR. ENCOURAGING DISCUSSIONS ABOUT DONORSHIPS, SAFETY, ETC. EMPHASIS ON THE VARIETY OF IDENTITIES WE SEEM TO ATTRACT AT PROJECT V

Reminder – WE HAVE A WEBSITE! <https://www.projectvampyre.org/>

The way I identify labels within the VC may be a bit different than others do. This does not mean my categorization is better!

### Core Identities + Sub-type Identities

#### Vampyre

- Sanguinarian (blood)
  - Medical Sanguinarian
- Psychic Vampyre (energy)
  - Eros
  - Emotional Vampyre
- Hybrid (both)

- Living Vampyre (life-styler)
  - Real Living Vampyres (Vampyre + Life-styler, combination of the two, distinct)

The main reason for this categorization, placement of labels, etc. It has been evolving within the community. Some people identify as an astral vampyre, or eros, or an emotional vampyre – it seems to make sense to lump similar things under the umbrella of “Psychic Vampyre,” same with other sub-categories.

Within these labels, a lot of people in the VC tend to question before they join, and then immediately pick up a label. I don't necessarily encourage this. People should take the time to question, especially if they have symptoms. If you're suffering from symptoms, try to go to a doctor. Go through more mundane routes before you start to think you are feeling things because you are a Vampyre. I feel this can cause a lot more issues than it leads to anything good. We've had people who assume these things and then later realized they had a heart condition. This doesn't mean that you're NOT a vampyre if you do have an underlying condition, but it's still good to rule out these medical things when you're experiencing them.

#### IS THERE A TYPE THAT ISN'T MEDICAL OR METAPHYSICAL?

It's hard within the community to not fall into a specific archetype. This is an interesting question. People say psychic vampyres cannot be more mundane or medical, but this is far from the truth. There are archetypes that have connections to your identity, but aren't specifically born through the identity. You can have your own perspectives and ideology that were created before you joined the VC. When it comes to Sangs, you could be both spiritual and medical, or you could just fall on one side. It's a spectrum. With my identity, you can very much tell that I fall in the middle. This isn't just because of my upbringing in the VC space, it's also how I grew up, my culture, what country I'm from. A lot of these biases influence your VC identity.

There's already people who make resources on the two. A lot of people are “one foot in the door and one foot out.” I feel like the hybrid labels are not talked about enough. It's so vast that I feel it could encompass this topic. But nobody really talks about that. A lot of Sangs drink blood for ENERGY, but some do it purely for medical purposes. By hybrid definition, consuming blood and energy, well some Sangs consume blood FOR energy—I feel like that could encompass the hybrid definition. A lot of these labels are hazy, and could be far less cookie-cutter. The VC has always had issues with this. I feel we could benefit from rethinking some of these bounds. There isn't a definitive, fully comprehensive definition because everyone's experiences are different.

I have a section where you can pick your role here because identity is just so complex, such a spectrum. Some other VC spaces you have to request to have a role. Here you can switch out of them, let's say you were a Sang, but now you think there's a spiritual archetype to it, you could put yourself in Questioning. People will be so certain on a specific label and they'll immediately select it. For some people they do it because they think it's cool, but for many others they genuinely think that's who they are. Then they end up finding out that maybe they're

a hybrid, or a combination of different identities. I've been seeing that a lot lately. I've noticed Eros and Sanguinarian have been mixing up a bit lately.

#### RESPONSE TO CHAT – LABELS EVOLVE AND YOU DEFINE YOURSELF OVER TIME

There is an article written by BRS (Black Rose Society) that talks about the idea of not sitting with spirituality or medical perspectives on the issue.

That's why I'm thinking, these labels are very much good for the community but they can also be unproductive. That's why I'm always pushing the questioning phase. Take your time. I encourage journaling and shadow work over your experiences. Bring up the stuff that you don't want to talk about. Really hard questions that challenge what you believe in with your identity.

I think this is a good segment to go into how these labels have assisted the community vs. caused issues.

#### COMMENT ON OLDER PRACTICE WITHIN THERIAN SPACES OF GRILLING A NEW MEMBER ON THEIR IDENTITY

I feel nowadays people may take it as invalidation if we do that. Like that may drive them to not wish to listen to us. That happens a lot. That's happened here even recently. We mentioned that they should look into medical stuff with a doctor and it caused issues, immediate offense. These are the kind of questions you're going to ask often. People didn't mean any offense by it, of course. We don't want people getting hurt because something was being neglected. The questioning period is very delicate—especially for minors. People fall into the wrong spaces and they get more harmful advice. Back in the day we had people pulling into the space and they would hear they weren't vampyres unless they had very specific symptoms on a list. That mostly died off during the pandemic. I think the pandemic was chaotic for the VC, but I think we matured a little bit.

Part of identity is seeking validation from your peers. I feel a lot of people seek community to find mutuals but also to look for others to say "yeah, you're one of us." It can be quite harmful. I don't think the VC is exactly that united on labels for people to be coming in seeking validation—we're so scattered. I don't exactly believe that there is one true specific vampyric philosophy. We're so scattered on what we even want as a community. Each community can have its own philosophy, but on the whole? No. I think it's very important in our spaces to have lobbies, to ask people how they found the VC, why they identify how they do, what inspired them to work towards this identity.

#### LADY NOVA HAS TO LEAVE BRIEFLY DUE TO ISSUES WITH DISCORD

#### ANSWERING A QUESTION ABOUT THE EROS LABEL CHANGING OVER COVID

Eros identity, the label specifically, was originally called Tantric/Tantra. The VC moved away from that because the word itself comes from a specific culture and our use of it was being very misappropriated, so we switched from that label to Eros.

With these labels, I think it's pretty easy once you've gotten into the VC and understand what they mean, to look up resources.

#### WHAT HELPFUL OR HARMFUL BEHAVIOURS HAVE YOU SEEN IN YOUR TIME IN THE VC

That is a huge topic right there. So, where do I even start? There's a lot of harmful things I've seen. One of the more famous ones I like to talk about—people who are new to the VC see fellow vampyres, think they're knowledgeable, and start talking privately. Isolation, someone trying to get you to privately speak to them, get you away from public spaces, a lot of misinformation is spread that way. That's why we recommend people ask questions on the server rather than in private. All perspectives are different. One of the harmful bits of advice I had to report on, an individual went to another vampyre's DMs questioning them about their identity and really discriminating against them. Then they said "if you truly are a vampyre, do not eat anything for a whole week, only drink water, and drink three cups of blood a day. If you survive, you are a vampyre." That is one of the craziest, most harmful things I've seen.

I've also had somebody very interested in ankhs—we had done a discussion at the time—they were interested in jewelry and tattoos, but the way they went about it; they took a house's designed ankh and got it tattooed on themselves knowing that they weren't actually a part of that house. They did that because they wanted to feel more vampyric. That crossed a lot of boundaries, especially with that specific community, as they weren't a part of that house. This person got a lot of education on ankhs within Project V, and looked at VtM (Vampire: the Masquerade) ankhs thinking they were all VC ankhs. We had to explain the difference, really getting into it. They ignored all that advice and went and stole a house's ankh. So that's another example of someone who wanted to figure out themselves and just used it to abuse others in the community. This is nothing new.

I wouldn't say it's always that extreme, for some it's better, others worse. All identities can act like this. Donors as well, some people are new to being a Donor but immediately adopt the label to fit in. But they don't have the proper education so they approach vamps in a very unsolicited way—usually sexually. And they were doing that to figure out if they were into being a Donor. So it can come from anywhere.

So yes, there is a proper way to go about it. Sometimes figuring yourself out can lead you to being disrespectful to the space and to others. Being respectful is the bare minimum.

These labels have been engrained in the community. You can easily search them on google. With psychic vampires you get a lot of psychology articles—I'll explain why in a bit. We're getting to the interesting part of the discussion were we cross over with media perspectives on these identities.

But we'll get to that. Med Sangs! It's important because places like TRC (The Red Cellar) would kind of not exist if we didn't specify in this way, being sort of a part of the vampyre community but still distinct, and for good reason. They are still in the VC, not all Sangs know that they're medical based, but I think that's very cool that just by looking up Sanguinarian, Med Sangs and other Sangs can mingle, even if they don't necessarily align. That's the benefit of being able to search these things. Think of a lot of VC terms as a search tool. Creating these terms and language have really brought the VC full circle, and brought us together (despite the many challenges to this that we face today). We are still united by the VC umbrella terms, and we all benefit from this.

There is no "true vampyre," or true way to do it. The VC used to have an issue with this. Believe it or not, there was a time when both Sangs and Psis came at one-another with the idea that one was truer or better. These labels are something that you resonate with, they're not used to pick a side, that's not what this is for. It was immature internet drama. Unnecessary. People not choosing to be the bigger person. A vampyric dick-sizing competition. Thankfully we're nowhere near that time in the VC now. Things became more relaxed. It's okay to coexist in the same space and talk about our ideals even if our beliefs really do not align. We have people here from different generations, Sangs, Psis, donors, etc.

#### QUESTIONS FROM THE CHAT // BRIEF DISCUSSION

Some people new to the VC might find it overwhelming. A lot of people get exposed to the community by influencers and sometimes that's not always the greatest entry. Especially if it's less educational and more of a gimmick. They usually do a brief overview of the VC but they're always dressed up. It's the aesthetic. New people very much want to connect with that and then realize that the history goes back to 1965, there's more than just the influencers, all these identities, etc. It can be very difficult and overwhelming. We always encourage people to take their time, or to suggest discussions. We're alright to go over it again (you would be surprised how often I recycle these discussions—we get a lot of new people). Sometimes going back to the basics, even if you've been in the community for a while, can be helpful.

#### LABELS ARE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, LABELS ARE IMPORTANT INDIVIDUALLY BUT THE SERIOUSNESS IS SKEWED

Yes, absolutely. I think depending on what spaces you go to, people take things a little too serious at times. I understand if people don't even want to use labels. That's why I have a singular label in here that just says Vampyre. I love it when I see people use that.

#### AS LONG AS THE LABELS MAINTAIN SOME CONSISTENCY

Yes, I also agree with that. Especially with Project V, we tag these things. Believe it or not, people find us through social media. These labels are a good tool. We specify core identities

and broader things, but also subidentities. Usually these specify type of practice, your specialty, type of feeding.

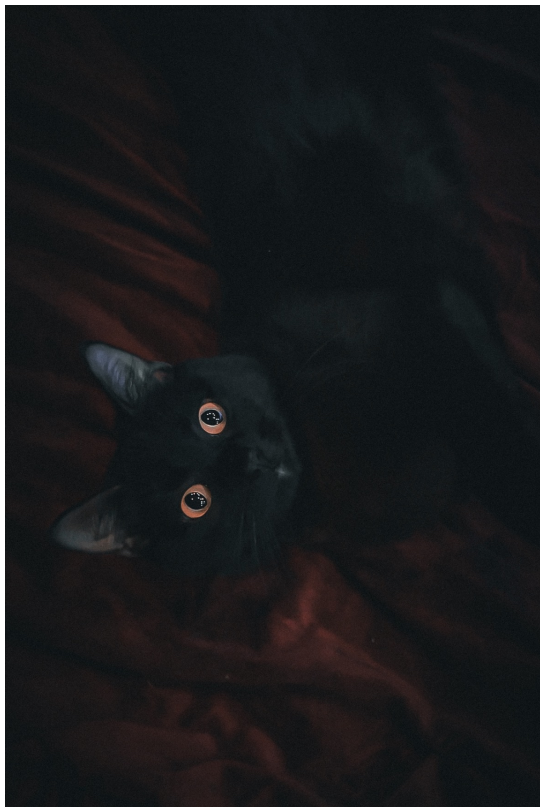
I will forever preach about this. There are spaces that are like—we are only Psi specific/Sang specific.

CHAT DISCUSSES THEIR STANCES ON THE MATTER, AGREEMENT, IT'S FINE/NO OPINION PROVIDED THOSE SPACES AREN'T ACTIVELY ANTI-OTHER SPACES

I'm pleasantly surprised to see this. Usually people blow it out of proportion. Let's give an example. TRC, they say they are med-Sang specific. They don't want to have spiritual talks within their space because they're a med-Sang space. That is not wrong of them. They have a specialty in that, they have a right to conduct their community around that. There are plenty of other spaces for Psi that are curated for those kind of resources. And vice versa. If a Psi space doesn't want to talk about Sang topics, they don't have to. That's their community. Then you have spaces like us that curate our platform for everybody and encourage those discussions from all angles. It's not an attack on another identity just to have a space that is meant for a different one. You will always have your own spaces and spaces that are a one-stop shop.

It goes back to the labels. Just because you identify differently does not mean that you hate the other. You would be pretty surprised back in the day, what the perspectives on this would be. It was very different.

WE TOOK A CAT BREAK, SEE ATTACHED PICTURE



You would be surprised how outrageous some people would be about these shared spaces. Bottom line—the VC has matured a lot, but still has growing room and problematic people that may disrupt the productivity that we have worked so hard to foster when it comes to labels within the VC. Much like any community ever, this is not only a VC issue. What we can do is look to the past, understand our mistakes, see what works, and then work together to create a better future for the VC.

I've noticed we've gotten a lot of people from otherkin spaces that have been promoting Project V, without even knowing exactly what these spaces are or why people are coming in from there. We get promotion from TRC as well. It's that kind of coexistence that is good. We shouldn't erase that cooperation, that diversity. We can have our own communities AND we can coexist. We don't all have to conglomerate into a single identity, but we can be mature about this. Our differences are just as beautiful as the way we come together.

You definitely should not be talking shit about another space within your community just because you don't agree with what they do. That causes division. That's why I had a Sang vs Psi discussion. I was seeing a certain vamp influencer getting into people's heads and spreading misinformation and I saw the discourse starting up again. It was very harmful for a lot of people for a couple of months. So we decided to bridge that gap to put a stop to it here. When you see conflicts like that, point it out right away. Don't let it fester. That just causes unnecessary conflicts that brew over time.

FROM HERE THE DISCUSSION TRAILS INTO TALKING ABOUT MISINFORMATION, AND SHUTTING IT DOWN. A BIT OF A BACK AND FORTH ON THAT AND HOW SOME FEED OFF OF DISCORD WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. LADY NOVA GIVES TIME FOR PEOPLE TO TYPE IN CHAT – FURTHER DISCUSSION ABOUT THE NATURE OF PROJECT V IS HAD, SPECIFICALLY ABOUT ITS FOUNDING AND SOME OF THE ISSUES IT'S FACED

See how just us talking about identity labels gets us into such an interesting conversation? That shows you how serious this discussion can be—serious and not serious at the same time. They can cause harm, but they're also how we find people who are much like us.

Moving on! Controversy in media. I'll start with Psis. Often times when you look up energy vampyre, psychic vampyre, etc, the psychology term pops up (Lady Nova's cat suddenly attacks her, derailing the discussion temporarily). People roughly define this as a narcissist. Someone who is extremely exhausting or makes you feel drained after talking to them. So that term pops up. And then that fluctuated into witchy communities, people thought to push out anyone they saw as draining. It stumbled down into the vampyre paradox—anti-psychic vampyre sprays and other things were sold, people started marketing around it on tiktok and etsy. A lot of these people probably saw the psychology term and how that was evolved into the VC one way or another, and now that baggage has been shoved on the entirety of Psis, whether it applies or not. People confuse the two. That's why I can usually tell where people are coming from if they use the term “energy vampire” instead of psychic vampire. But eventually the stigma stretched across all Psi types.

People claim being a Psi vamp in that context may actually be Psis who are not conscious of it. A lot of these witchy people believe they're protecting themselves against that. And I get it! But demonizing the whole community is crazy.

People have their thoughts on VC exposure to the public, especially through traditionalists. If you look into those posts, especially in the 80s or 90s, they had codes of conduct. But they were very secretive about things, vetting everyone, living in the shadows, etc. But then these people went onto live television and did interviews despite this code. And these interviews really affected how people viewed this community for a very long time.

We can't go back into hiding of course. Things have been let out of the box. So in that case, being very traditionalist about it sometimes doesn't make sense. We can't really go back. Sometimes it feels like chasing nostalgia. Some people want to bring elements of that back, of course, the best case should be a synthesis of the old and the new, I think. We can learn from each other and grow. I actually have a blog on this exact topic.

<https://www.projectvampyre.org/post/old-blood-vs-new-blood-the-divide-between-the-generations>

I don't condone hate of the old or the new. It's unproductive. It doesn't solve anything. I've noticed a lot of new people in the VC see what someone else says and don't look at the other side of the story. They hear about the behaviour of others and go off of that. Sometimes I wonder if this would happen in person as much as it does online. Vampyres are dramatic by nature.

#### WHAT DO THESE LABELS HAVE IN COMMON – PROMPTING CHAT

A lot of us might have been outcasts. I would say for a lot of people there's a need, for energy, or blood, or community. We all came here one way or another—from an influencer or a comedy show or some other thing—but one way or another we found each other and we are sharing experiences and growing together. We all crave community, all of our needs are different. Donors may feel the need to donate, Black Swans feel the need to be in the community for support, Vampyres may have a need to feed. Identity is such a spectrum and we should celebrate these diversities.