

# Otherheartedness, Synpaths and Hearthomes – A Quick Rundown

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## Content Warnings:

- N/A

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We've seen some posts around like this for other subsections of the community, so we figured we'd make a 'heartedness one. This isn't extensive, nor does it cover the entirety of the hearted experience—but it should serve as a general rundown of the community.

## Terminology

**Otherhearted:** – *Synonyms: "Otherkith"*

A person with a strong connection to a species, character or other entity, usually defined by identifying "with", but not "as". More on what exactly this means later.

- **Concepthearted:**  
A person whose otherhearted identity relates to concepts. (Emotionhearted, songhearted, timehearted, etc).
- **Facthearted:**  
A person whose otherhearted identity relates to real, this-world people, places or individual animals. (Hearttypes including specific oceans, public figures/celebrities, specific animals, etc).
- **Fictionhearted:**  
A person whose otherhearted identity relates to fictional characters, species or places. (Nightfuryhearted, Mariohearted, etc).
- **Planthearted:**  
A person whose otherhearted identity relates to plants. (Treehearted, sunflowerhearted, etc).

- **Theriohearted:** – *Synonyms: “Animalhearted”*  
A person whose otherhearted identity relates to animals. (Wolfhearted, bearhearted, etc).

**Hearttype:** – *Synonyms: “Kithtype”, debatably “Synpath”*  
The entity that an otherhearted individual identifies with.

**–hearted:**  
A suffix used to denote your specific hearttype. For example, a person whose hearttype is wolves would be wolfhearted.

**Hearthome:**  
A hearthome is a place—be it real or fictional—that a person has a deep connection with, often to the point of considering it a “home” regardless of if they’ve never been there in their current life/body.

**Synpath:**  
A thing someone identifies with and not as, used similarly to “hearttype”, though there’s nuances separating the two terms depending on who you ask.

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## Symbols

The otherhearted symbol or diamond heart was proposed by [tumblr user aestherians in 2017](#), [chosen by the community using a poll](#). The design features a ring interlocking with a heart, which converges into a diamond shape in the middle.



# What Does It Really Mean?

## “Identifying With”

“Identifying with” is a broad category that’s understandably, quite confusing. This explanation aims to make it a little more understandable, but this absolutely doesn’t cover the entirety of what “identifying with” can mean. “It” in the following points refers to a hearttype or potential hearttype, whatever that may be.

- You feel like you “should have” been it, but you aren’t.
- You feel like you “could have” been it, but you aren’t.
- It is a part of you even if it’s not entirely “you”.
- You feel like you will be it in a future life.
- You believe that in another life, you are/have been it, but right now you’re not.
- Your sense of self wouldn’t be the same without it as a part of your life.
- It’s your ideal self, or a representation of it.
- You feel at home around it or imagining being around it.
- It’s the form of your daemon.
- You believe it’s a parallel life of yours, but you’re not it right now.
- It influences your identity in some way.
- It’s a special interest or hyperfixation that feels tied to your sense of self.
- You feel like it is a part of the same family as you.
- You feel like it is, in a way, kind of almost you, but a little “to the left”--too distinct to *be* you in a literal sense.
- You feel like you belong with it, but you’re not literally one of them.
- It is a part of your identity in some way other than you being literally them.

A lot of the above points relate in similar ways to hearthome identities, but reworded to incorporate “it” as a place instead. Additional points for hearthomes include:

- Feeling like you should be there.
  - Feeling like you were there once, and it’s left a mark on your identity.
  - That place holding a special place within your identity.
  - Feeling a “pull” toward that place.
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# FAQ:

## How is this different from otherkin/therians?

A therian/otherkin identifies as their kintype, whereas an otherhearted person doesn't, and will have a different type of connection to them. Think of the difference as "I am [kintype]" vs "[hearttype] is a part of my identity". However, there's plenty of nuance, grey areas between them, and these identities can even shift and become each other over time, so this is a general statement not accounting for those nuances.

Both things are still alterhuman, and no identity is "lesser" than the other-hearttypes can have just as much influence over a person's identity as kintypes can.

## Can hearttypes be chosen/voluntary?

Yes! There's a divide between otherkin and otherlinkers in this way, but this hasn't ever really been a need for the 'hearted community to define or draw a line between.

## What things can be a hearttype?

Anything! Generally, if you are currently experiencing it, the rule is that it can happen. You're experiencing it, after all!

Hearttypes can be (but aren't limited to):

- Animals, mythical creatures, plants, fungi
- Oceans, forests, off-planet locations, buildings, fictional locations, other natural formations like rivers and mountains
- People, real or fictional
- Emotions, colours, aesthetics, sounds, seasons, songs
- Objects, robots, machines, artworks
- Book series, tv shows, movies, games

## Do otherhearted people shift?

Otherhearted people absolutely can experience shifts, as can any other alterhuman and even non-alterhumans. Shifting isn't a thing exclusive to otherkin/therians.

## Is this different from a special interest or hyperfixation?

For some people, yes! We've seen many people (including ourselves) who experience these things with a lot of overlap. For others, no—they're distinct things even if there might be some similarities.

Hearttypes can be the same thing as your special interest/hyperfixation, or they might not be. Sometimes hearttypes form spins/hyperfixes and sometimes it's the other way around! It's really up to the individual to decide whether these things are hearttypes or not—there's no set default for this.

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## Further Reading:

### **Alterhuman Archive's Otherhearted Section:**

<https://www.zotero.org/groups/4956615/altarchive/collections/R9URWR67>

A compilation of heartedness related writings from across the community.

### **Otherhearted-Culture-Is:**

<https://otherhearted-culture-is.tumblr.com/>

A culture-is blog for otherhearteds that's turned into more of a general purpose otherheartedness blog.

### **A Short Guide for Questioning a Hearttype:**

<https://otherhearted-culture-is.tumblr.com/post/717226958368489473/further-fields-a-short-guide-for-questioning-a>

A questioning guide to otherhearted identity.