



The Valsharesses Tournament

In honour of our new Valsharess a tournament was held during the recent Moot. Contenders were invited to compete in a number of trials including:

- Duel Wield
- Sword & Shield
- Pole Weapons
- Magic & Dagger

The tournament naturally drew in some of the very best combatants of the Underdark, but in the end there could be only one Champion.

We are pleased to announce the name of the final victor!

The Val'sharesses Champion

Vael

Whilst tournament champion is of course the only title that matters, it would be remiss of us not to mention the people he crushed so completely to claim to his prize.

Winner of the Dual Wield

Zan'ass Vrinn of House Rea'Morda

Winner of the Sword & Shield

Elkrin of The Wolverines

Winner of the Pole Weapon

Vael

Winner of the Magic & Dagger

Karma of House Karrash Morr

The path to all these victories was of course entertaining for all the bystanders, including our honoured guests from the other nations of the Underdark.

Highlights included Skrolk of House Khe'raine being taken out by his own tail, and the enthusiastic clash of Generals as General Culfich went up against the Lord Marshal Tz'arkan, yet both fell short against Elkrin.

With the success of the tournament this year, rumours have already begun suggesting it may be repeated in years to come. These same rumours are also hinting at the possibility of seeing new contests and competitions that will test the competitor's mettle, as well as the skill in arms.

Underdark at War

During the previous meeting of nations, an enemy of the Tarantulas took advantage of our most notable leaders being absent from their homes and initiated an offensive against several major Underdark holdings.

The most notable of these assaults, was made against The Altar of Lolth and the Cave of Whispers. It was at this time that Lolth struck out against those that would defile her most sacred altar. Collapsing the cavern around the ritual circle, she destroyed all the forces inside. The circle is now isolated, however re-opening the cavern could potentially take years.

Other cities of the Underdark were less fortunate.

The first to come under attack was Sunder Falls, home to Clan Kage, and their notable crafters Clan Kage-Kitsune. It is believed the circle at Sunder Falls is inaccessible and the city is under siege. At this time we have no further information regarding the attack on Sunder Falls.

Next to come under attack was Rivenrock, home of House Maelthra. It is believed the circle at Rivenrock is inaccessible and the city is under siege. At this time we have no further information regarding Rivenrock.

Eye on the Underdark

New Faction Appointments

War Commander

Ryder of the Wolverines

High War Scout

Castiel of the Cult

With the ascension of the new Valsharess, Lord Marshal Tz'arkan has passed command of the armies to the newly appointed War Commander Ryder, whilst he himself manages the larger military efforts.

The position of War Scout has been issued to Castiel, giving him charge over the factions information gathering efforts against our enemies. Both between the surface nations, and our foes within the Underdark.

On behalf of the editors at The Web and our readership across the Underdark, we wish to congratulate them both on the honours of their new roles.

Ancestors of the Illythiiri, Miyeritari & Aquillari

Lloth – (Lothiriel, Aurashnee, Lareth, Zinzerena, Moandiir, Zanassu, Megwandiir, Lolth)

Matriarch of the dark elven pantheon and first ancestor brought back from death by the dragon itself is, amongst all of the dark elven people, the Drow are her people.

Lloth began in life as Lothiriel, but after her death she was tricked and betrayed by Satuun several times. This led to her many changing aspects (*Lothiriel, Aurashnee, Lareth, Zinzerena, Moandiir, Zanassu, Megwandiir, Lolth*). Each aspect was a manifestation of the pain and desires she was experiencing, the culmination of these was known as Lolth.

Lloth constantly challenges her followers often and these tests increase in difficulty as her followers gain in power, often you will not know you are been tested or what is required to pass the test. Thus is the nature of Lolth.

Ineluki / Dracos – The Unbeing

Dracos was an unforgiving ancestor that believed the world had reached such a point that only through total destruction could peace be obtained.

However, in 1115 a ritual was performed that killed Dracos. Destroyed his ancestral form completely.

Following that tragedy, great rites were performed in memory of Ineluki, the Elf that Dracos had been in life, before rage had consumed him, as well as the memory of Dracos. Ineluki and Dracos has been reborn as one ancestor, one being with all the memories of both. What he now stands for, is a mystery to all.

Skiasca – the lady of the moon

Skiasca is the Illythiiri ancestor of the moon and elemental magics, Skiasca prizes knowledge of spellcrafting above all else and rewards her followers with dreams that impart further knowledge of magic. Skiasca appears to her follows as a dream, and in those dreams appears as an Elven woman with silver hair that sparkles as if under the moon. She loves her children, but can be quick to anger if knowledge is not passed on to others who are worthy.

Ergosal – The bloodied hand

Ergosal is the twin brother of Skiasca and is her almost exact opposite. He is the embodiment of Elven passion unleashed into conflict and rewards those who fight unhindered by thought and reason with increased agility and strength. For this reason many of the other clans are weary of followers of Ergosal. In times of peace, Ergosal teaches his followers to study martial forms and pass these on within his followers. To this end he is similar to his sister Skiasca.

Lualyrr – The eternal judge

Lualyrr is the embodiment of law and punishment. He teaches his followers to know the facts before acting, and then act in the most appropriate way. He values reasoned judgements over snap decisions. A patient Ancestor, he will always look at all sides before making a decision. Many of the other clans employ his followers as provosts because of this attention to detail and ability to carry out a swift and decisive justice.

Kiransalee – The Vengeful child

Kiransalee is the dark elf Ancestor of both vengeance and the undead. She is called upon by those seeking retribution, the dark arts, or to prolong life. The Lady of the Dead has historically demonstrated relatively little interest in the lands of Erdreja or the Underdark beneath it.

Kiransalee prefers the mindless company of the undead, whom she can manipulate at will, to sentient beings capable of independent thought. She prefers to solve problems herself rather than trust someone else to do justice to her vision. Kiransalee never appears in person; she possesses a weak drow female and then tries to sow discord within the Drow.

J'Imasro – The master of excess

J'Imasro teaches followers to seek pleasure in every experience. By exploring all aspects of ourselves, we can grow and become strong. He demands that his followers complete every task with fever, seeking to try new ways to reach their goals. He encourages the use of potions and other substances to break free from reason to achieve a wider view of the world, and as such his followers are often looked upon as sick or mad, that said, they are an invaluable resource when presented with a problem, as they are able to see angles others cannot.

Ancestors of the Miyeritari

Elistraee – The Bard

Elistraee, the "Dark Maiden," is the ancestor of the good Drow - those rare dark elves who yearn for a return to life in the surface Realms, an existence akin to that enjoyed by elves of the woodlands, left behind by the Drow long ago. She is also most importantly the sister of what is now known as Lolth, and most hated by her.

Elistraee sees the divide in her people, and wants nothing more than the destruction of the corrupted |Lolth and the rebirth of her sister, Lothiriel. She believes that if Lothiriel is restored, the elves will unite once more and their song will be heard through the heartlands once more. Elistraee is an ancestor of song and beauty, worshipped through song and dance - preferably in the surface world, under the stars of a moonlit night.

Elistraee aids her faithful in hunting and sword craft, and worship of her is usually accompanied by feasting. Elistraee has worshippers of human, elven, and in particular half-elven stock. She is usually seen only from afar, but her song (of unearthly beauty, driving many to tears) is heard whenever she appears.

Selvetarm – The Champion

Selvetarm is the champion of Araushnee and the patron of Drow warriors. Seen as the embodiment of unequaled fighting prowess, Selvetarm is worshiped by a few Drow in the northern and western reaches of the Underdark beneath Erdreja, particularly Deep Drow House Ki'Net'Innis and House D'Brassik.

Cruel and malicious by nature, Selvetarm cares only for battle and destruction. The Champion of Lolth harbors a deep hatred for all living things, including his dominating mistress, and the only

beauty he can appreciate is a well-honed and deadly fighting style. Selvetarm can exhibit a great deal of patience while waiting for prey to fall into an ambush he has set, but he prefers the wild abandon of battle frenzy to a careful and deliberate attack.

Neeloc Raye – The Rememberancer

Neeloc Raye teaches that without knowing who we are, we cannot know what we will become. He teaches his followers to record the Elven history and to ensure the survival of the Elven way of life. He will reward his followers for uncovering lost artefacts or recording an event of great value, and will punish any who loses san item of great value or fails to record what is happening around them.

Schandalun – The Crafter

Schandalun is a lawful ancestor who believes that there is a process and structure to all things. He encourages his followers to hone their craft skills and to complete every task to perfection. He will reward great acts of craftsmanship, and will punish laziness in craftsmanship.

Vhaerun - Thievery, Territory, Drow males

Vhaerun is the ancestor of thievery and the furthering of Drow power on the surface world. He is also the patron deity of Drow males, teaching a heresy (according to Lolth) that Drow males are the equals of Drow females. He favors underhanded means and treachery to achieve his goals. His priesthood is exclusively male, and priests usually hide their true vocation in Drow communities. Vhaerun is passively opposed to Lolth. He knows he is not powerful enough to oppose her directly... yet. Vhaerun wishes to reunite the elven people and to this end sometimes his followers work alongside Elistraee's.

He considers all elves to be superior to all other races, however, and wishes only to have elves dominate all other races. Vhaerun's loyalty is to all elves, but unlike Elistraee, he primarily wants the Drow to be the dominant race. He would like to see the surface elves serving as the enforcers of the "true masters", the Drow, who would rule from the depths of the earth.

Ancestors of the Aquillari

Forbeo – The Traveller

Forbeo teaches that in order to know yourself, you must also know the world. His wanderlust is prevalent in his followers, who often do not stay in one place to long. Always on the move, and never satisfied, The worshippers of Forbeo are prized rangers, scouts and navigators. Forbeo punishes those who give become stagnant in their thoughts and actions, and prizes new discovery above all else.

Ma'Azbiir - The Waterborn

Ma'Azbiir is the dark Elven ancestor of the seas, and preaches that the Elves who restrict themselves to the land, cannot know the full wonder of the kingdoms of the sea. Followers of Ma'Azbiir often take long trips on beautiful long ships, and are expert swimmers and divers. To this end, the followers of Ma'Azbiir are heavily sort after for their expertise upon and under the ocean.

