

INTRODUCTION

to

TALES OF THE AMULET

An account taken from scrolls written almost a thousand years ago by one of the greatest elves to walk the face of Kalda, a distant world and the birthplace of dragonkind. Much of the terms used have been translated into our language for easier understanding. It is an abridgement of many of the defining events of Kalda.

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“Men and Elves of Kalda, hearken to my words and open your minds to the truths that have laid hidden for generations; the beings which have been ascribed as legend and myth do exist in reality. Creatures that are far more intelligent and powerful than any of us have claimed this world their own for thousands of generations. These extolled and exalted beings are called in their own tongue, ‘*sha*’, but we know them in our languages as ‘*draco*’ and ‘*dragon*’. Much is uncertain of their origin, for as long as men and elves have lived, the *sha* have existed and ruled over Kalda.

“For tens of millennia the *sha’kalda*, the Dragons of Kalda, roamed over much of our world. Thousands of these majestic beings soared through the skies freely and nested upon the mountaintops without disturbance.

“They were arrayed in a variety of breeds; having a vast diversity of color and luster. The dragons divided themselves into two families; *Mi’na*, or metallic and *Cru’na*, or chromatic. Within each of these families were specific breeds, each exhibiting their own unique traits and characteristics. The foremost of each of these families were the *Pla’sha* and the *Lish’sha*.

“*Pla’sha*, or the platinum dragons were the most intelligent, wise and charismatic of any. *Lish’sha* or the red dragons exhibited the greatest physical strength and were the most cunning and sometimes deceptive of their kind.

“The entirety of these families were governed by a body called, the *Ril’Sha*; dragons of the highest order of each breed. At their head was the mightiest of all their kind, a position that had always been awarded to a platinum dragon.

“When elves appeared and men began to grow in their posterity, the wise platinum dragons forged alliances with each of our kind. They represented the entirety of dragonkind and freely gave of the low plains

of our world. Over time, the humans were drawn to affection with the platinum dragons and a bond of great friendship sprouted between them. However, this led many of the other breeds onto jealously and caused a schism within draconic society. Others, such as the red dragons detested the alliance and friendship with, what they deemed, lowly beings.

“Eventually the platinum dragons enlightened both men and elves of a great unseen power, known in our tongues as *magya* or magic.

“Seven channels, or groupings of power, were shared among the humans and elves; *Xa* or arcane, *Au* or destruction, *Ke* or barsion, *Tn* or elemental, *Om* or restoration, *Zs* or manipulation, *Sh* or conjuration. Through spoken word, sharp sounding syllables of the draconic language, these powers were made manifest.

“However, the means of channeling these forms of magic were beyond the comprehension of the elves and humans, and thus the platinum dragons endeavored to develop a simpler means of mastering this unseen power.

“Elvenkind were the first to harness these channels of magic; our kind have always possessed an affinity for these unseen forces but never by the power of spoken word.

“The humans on the other hand struggled greatly with the incantations created by the platinum dragons for generations. For many it took years upon years of training the mind and tongue to produce the desired effects of focused magic.

“About this same time, the tension within the two draconic families erupted within the Ril’Sha. A battle ensued and the leader of that council was slain by the red dragon who represented his breed. He took his claim of the Ril’Sha and banished those who were against him that survived the bloody encounter.

“As the new head of the Ril’Sha, the red dragon called Cheserith, asserted his right to dominion of Kalda and all beings that inhabited her. In the minds of those who consisted of this revolutionized Ril’Sha the abominable notion arose; Lesser beings need not tread upon her face, for only those who soar through her breath are worthy of her bosom.

“Soon after, those who had been exiled from Cheserith’s Ril’Sha rallied their breeds in an attempt to restore the affairs of their highest order. This first skirmish led to all out war, and dragonkind was split asunder forever.

“For just over one thousand years the dragons battled in the skies of Kalda. It was a war which was known throughout the ages as the Thousand Year War, but among the humans of the day and those thereafter they called it the Dragon Wars; for dragon fought against dragon. But they were not the only ones affected by this conflict.

“Upon learning of Cheserith’s deceit and usurpation of the Ril’Sha, elvenkind and those humans who had been instructed in and mastered the magical arts allied themselves with the metallic dragons who opposed the dominating council. For much of the beginning of the war, human and elf fought side by side their draconic comrades.

“For a short time, the alliance of men, elves and dragons prevailed against Cheserith’s Ril’Sha and their collective breeds, but the red dragons in all their cunning and guile were able to turn the tide of the war. They enticed those men who had been aloof in the matters of war and within a few years, much of the human realm was organized against what was now called, the Kaldean Alliance.

“United under an imperial charge, the humans of Kalda blindly followed and to a point, worshiped the dragons which consisted of the Ril’Sha. Deified, Cheserith and his fellow Ril’Sha easily commanded armies of men which would fulfill their every beck and whim. A certain few they choose to manifest their will among humanity. These humans had their minds and bodies twisted with vile magic, turning mere men into power, supernatural and immortal beings; abominable creatures known as *Ma’lisha* in the draconic tongue or *Abalimyr* in Elvish. These abalimyr were instrumental in pushing back the armies of human, elven and draconic warriors who fought for Kalda’s freedom.

“Blood and carnage veiled Kalda for several years in the form of fierce battles across the sprawling plains of our world.

“With the aid of the platinum and golden dragons, the human and elven warriors were protected and armed with weapons and armor which were produced through a blend of magic and metallurgy. One such draconic-crafted weapon was based upon an ancient elven mythos, the fanisar; a bladed staff which can be broken down into three pieces and linked by a woven chain. However these weapons were bound together by channeled magic, and their blades composed of the finest destructive magical energies.

“Despite all their efforts, those who had fought Cheserith were failing. The numbers of the newly established empire’s armies continued to swell years after its establishment. This next generation of men had only known life within the Cheserithean Empire, and believed in their false deity’s cause blindly.

“Eventually the Kaldean Alliance was forced to pull back to a single place, the newly constructed capital city, Kardorth. Many of the great elven cities had been destroyed at the onset and throughout the early years of the war; Melar, Kildath, Torgath, Merath and Milarn.

“Through various means of barsionary magic, Kardorth remained unscathed for hundreds of years. Throughout that time the alliance of dragons, elves and humans sought various means to triumph over their adversaries; many attempts failed. Some produced a desired effect

which lasted for a time but was eventually countered, one of which was a transformative curse that caused great internal turmoil within the Empire.

“However, the corrupt Ril’Sha were not satisfied with this level of victory. The war had made many of those dragons bitter, and they desired all that opposed them be eradicated and their blood used as an offering to their living deity. The blinded armies of men encamped Kardorth upon the great river which surrounded the home of the Kaldean Alliance.

“It wasn’t until nine hundred and twenty three years after the first skirmish that a decisive power was completed; Shiz’nak or the tethering stone. Its power is capable of sending one to many of the vast stars that illuminate the night sky of our world.

“The tethering stone is a sphere of pure rogulim which has been infused with magic through a rigorous ritual by the *Irum’mak’sha*; draconic sages who possessed the highest knowledge of each form of magic. Through their combined power they created a means for the stone to bind worlds together by opening a spherical-breach between the two realms. They were the first to traverse this gateway-of-sorts and discover realms suitable for their intentions of triumph in what seemed to them as an endless war.

“It had been nearly three hundred years since the dragons, human and elves left the protection of Kardorth’s barsion. They ventured forth to once again do battle with the army that besieged their home. At their head was a platinum dragon who held the tethering stone in his grasp. He single handedly plunged himself into the heart of the besieging army and uttered the incantation to bring the tethering stone’s effects to life.

“In an instant a flash of brilliant light engulfed the battlefield and within the sky above the ground floated the breach to a distant barren world. Through the power of the stone, all those within a close vicinity to the breach were pulled toward it, including the dragon in possession of the tethering stone.

“It was said that hundreds of dragons and thousands of men were pulled into the breach. On the other side those that had been drawn through were thrust from the breach. Many of the dragons loyal to the corrupted Ril’Sha attempted to pass back through, but were barred by a form of barsionary magic on that side of the breach. Only the platinum dragon that had tethered the worlds returned, for in his possession was a shard of orange rock, *Tel’k’shak* or Key of the Stars; simply put, it allowed the dragon to return through the barsion magic barring the others.

“That battle lasted many days before the besieging army retreated. It was a great day for the Kaldean Alliance, and although many had died upon the vast battlefield there was hope that the war would end.

“Many battles followed soon after and when the tethering stone was seen it struck fear into the enemies of freedom.

“Despite the Kaldean Alliance’s victories, there were some in the Empire that did not fear the powerful stone. However there were many within the various draconic breeds that sued for peace out of the dread of being exiled to a barren world for the rest of their long lives. They were given the choice to fight alongside the human and elven counterparts or be sent to other lush realms where they could exercise their compulsory desires of domination. These realms were devoid of men and elves, a trait the leaders of the Kaldean Alliance thought necessary so that the last thousand years would not repeat themselves in a different theater.

“After a hundred years there were very few of the other draconic breeds left on Kalda; nevertheless, the red dragons remained in abundance. Throughout this passage of time, the crimson tyrants had carefully stayed away from the battlefields and theaters of war. They had controlled their campaign of domination from their secrets places, however this would soon change

“Without the aid of their draconic masters in battle, the armies of the Empire were slowly weakening. The abalimyr were almost equally matched with the Masters of Twenty and the Cess’nal in battle. This left the humans of the Empire to futilely fend off the onslaught from the rest of the Alliance’s forces.

“Eventually the Kaldean Alliance was able to take back the continent which Kardorth resides upon. They then turned their attention to reclaiming the continent immediately to the southwest, Selgas. The battles for that land were fierce and bloody; the warriors of the Empire fought with a unconquerable zeal. Many fell on each side but not before the more capital parts of the continent were taken by the Alliance. However this victory was short lived.

“Unknown to the Kaldean Alliance, the red dragons had willingly allowed those possessions to fall into their hands. The day after their victory the continent was destroyed by a powerful magic; it dissolved everything in its path and within a few moments the entire continent was erased from the face of Kalda. It was this deception and devastation that provoked the Kaldean Alliance to create the *Au’misha’k*.

“The red dragons had proved to be very cunning in their confrontations with the tethering stone. Through their magic they were able to escape the pull of the breech and avoid exile. This coupled with the devastation of Selgas made it apparent to the leaders of the Alliance that control, unwavering control, of the crimson tyrants would be the only way to achieve peace for Kalda.

“In a short amount of time, the draconic sages created the *Au’misha’k* or otherwise known as the Amulet of Draconic Control. The

amulet consisted of three parts; the metallic housing, the ruby of lish and the activating scroll. At the bottom of the amulet were three claw-like prongs that clutched the tethering stone.

“Immediately after the creation of the Au’misha’k a battle was wrought over an island directly to the west of the ruins of Merath. As the forces of the Alliance and the Empire clashed, both in the air and upon the ground, the platinum dragon who had wielded the tethering stone in the past unleashed the power of the amulet. Rays of crimson light burst forth and engulfed the island plain and the red dragons in the air all stopped in mid-motion. They plummeted to the ground, unable to act. Using the amulet, the platinum dragon commanded his draconic foes to come to him, and the red dragons were acted upon in such a way which had never been seen. With their wills stripped from them, the red dragons were compelled to come to their platinum dragon master who immediately opened a breach to a distant realm.

“For the next couple of years the war was filled with blood and carnage but many of the red dragons were caught in the power of the amulet and exiled to Kalish, the name the Kaldean Alliance called the realm where they disposed of the red dragons. During the creation of the amulet the leaders of the Alliance decided upon finding a remote world to send those who had instigated the war, a place which would be far from the others they had exiled.

“In the space of three years the Kaldean Alliance had finally triumphed; Cheserith had been sealed away by the draconic sages and the last of the chromatic brutes were banished to Kalish, or so the leaders of the Alliance believed.

“Five millennia have passed since the end of that dreadful war. Peace has filled much of that time but as of late the world has gradually become tainted with ways that once abounded in Cheserith’s Empire. In the last two hundred and some odd years I have seen the hearts of men change; slowly turning to base desires of lust, greed and malice. Men have become degenerate, to the point of killing their own brother for the sake of gain. They treat life as if it’s an autumn leaf in the wind. It is this growing evil among humanity that has me concerned.

“Thus the reason for this address; I fear that perhaps not all of those crimson tyrants were exiled to Kalish and that some are furtively influencing the humans of our world. How many there are I know not, but through my long life I have seen subtle changes that have brought an unnatural sundering of the ancient Kaldean Alliance; Elves watch from their towering citadels and passively observe their human neighbors. The dragons of Kalda have disappeared for almost ninety years, secluding themselves in the far reaches of our world from the evils of humanity. But there are some that watch and hope that one day men will return

to their former ways and to see if there is more to this changing of heart than what it seems.

“I am Inari, a Cess’nal and former supreme commander of the elven armies of Kardorth.

“I have told you of the Au’misha’k and its power, and now I will tell you how to retrieve it so that it may be re-forged.

“For if a remnant of the Lish’sha exists upon the face of Kalda then I implore you, believe my words and seek the Au’misha’k. It is our only hope for peace.”