

## Plot Update- All Leagues

### The Vampires are Dieing

For centuries in Roekron, since the dawn of the Fourth Age, the land has been plagued by vampires. Their Dark Cities have sprung up again and again, first in Celendil, the city of the Elves, then in Krodigros capital city of the Dwarves, and lastly, in Serponton, the old seat of the Wizards Trade Order. Now at last, they have taken a mighty blow that has them on the brink of total destruction! It is said that in Roekron and Teriock alike, only one out of ten of the vampires survived this event, a destruction of a power that was at their core.

To understand how this kinds of devastation was possible, it is first important to understand the nature of vampires. Beings of darkness and shadow, they are powered by an inversion of their previous light and love. They are extremely powerful and able to control vast numbers of people due to their tapping into a chain of energy which starts with the first Elder Vampire and then branches down, sustaining each. This power structure however, is not

without it's flaws, because like one being, if the head is destroyed, the rest of the body will die. So it is, that Broden, the most ancient vampire of those plaguing the known world, and the creator of all the other known vampire Dark



Cities, has been destroyed, and with him, hosts of his spawn. It had been theorized that killing the source might destroy many of the vampires in the chain, but with the creation of new Elder Vampires, it was not known if this was still true. It is now confirmed that indeed the power of the central lord still holds a great sway over the vampire legions as the shrouds over the Dark

City and Roekron faltered during the last week of Seventhmoon and has now vanished all together. People are now investigating what this means for the remaining vampires and what their powers still are.

Investigation of how Broden was killed are still being made, but setting much of the gossip aside, there are a few confirmed event that seem to have been central to his demise. Most evidence points to members of the Shadow Order, a secret group of vampire hunters, battling Broden somewhere in Illionass. The exact details of the battle have not been confirmed but a few reports state that Broden was summoned by magic to into a duel and a Dark Angel guarded him, and that an old women battled him, and that a Angel of Light guarded her. Some reports state that the Illionass Knights, an ancient order of defenders of Roekron were also on the scene and battled as well. Though the details of how and where are not clear, it is very clear that Broden was destroyed by a powerful Exorcism spell and that this is what released his power over the vampires across the world and is currently causing them to die rapidly. Who this mysterious woman was and where she might strike next is unknown but the presence of such a powerful and deadly force has many more hopeful and emboldened in their battles against the darkness.



### **The Beacon is Lit**

Perhaps as a sign of support, or as a warning to others, there are reports that a large tower of stones stands just north of Menonass now, constructed by the ancient Red Dragon that calls the ruins it's home, and that the top of the tower burns

with a fierce dragon fire that can be seen all the way into the Andionion valley. The beacon is lit, and a war to win back territory from the now reeling Dark Cities is underway.

In the past week, Sinthrea has mobilized what little troops she still has and has begun heavy attacks on the Grim. Pinicle also appears to have mobilized a large number of soldiers, but mostly mages from their school to assist with magic attacks and protection of the troops that are going into battle. Amir has moved many of it's troops up the river and is staging them for an attack through Dsesnor to Serponton et Necrenef. The dwarves in Svoduln seem to be helping in their own way, with rumors that an agreement has been reached between Sinthrea and Queen Thresa Svod that the dwarves will keep Dagdoeth from pushing any advantage in the north while the vampires are dealt with in the south. There are rumors of some of the great mages, such as Laura Whitelocks and Celani Newform, formerly of the Wizards Trade Order, as well as many of the Pinicle mages, planning to attack the Elder Vampire Wall directly in a battle that will certainly be the stuff of legend should it come to pass.

Some troubling news appears to be Temnor becoming more active, suffering a great many cases of "sudden illness" in their high courts, it appears Temnor was greatly infiltrated by vampires. They do not appear to be planning on idly standing by during this war, but look to be making moves to either support the Dark City. Whether they will do so directly or indirectly by battling against Dsesnor and Amir, or by taking territory from the Grim for their own, is unknown. The powerful Litch Rhysic, who returned to Stormwatcher Tower almost

thirty years ago is now more complete, and what he will do with complete control of Temnor is anyone's guess.

Similarly, Blackspire has been perhaps the quickest to react to the crisis. Leaping on the sudden break usual focused discipline of the Grim, horde of Blackspire troops swept down the mountains and into Grim territory,





and battles are being waged all across regions previously deep behind enemy lines.

Dagdeath is strangely silent. There are no reports of any changes in their activities with this sudden upset. It has been theorized that Dagdeath, with its powerful undead controlling minions could likely step in as an alternate power source for the vampires, much as Olicust did during the Bone Breaker Rebellion, wresting control of the Dark Guard Sky Knights from the circle of Litches known as the Bone Machine. Why Olicust and the Dark Council choose not to assist the vampires is unknown, but many historians recall a time when there was civil war between Broden's Dark City, and Dagdeath. Watching Dagdeaths now, with its calculated inaction has many thinking there is no love lost between these two groups, and that Dagdeath wishes to watch the vampires die knowing they could have saved them, out of some cruel sense of justice or revenge.

### **The State of Vampire's Now**

Little is known about what powers vampires have retained during this great collapse, but a few pieces of information have escaped that are indeed encouraging if they are to be believed. All of the Sired by Vampires, the lowest order of the vampire chain, appear to have died en mass! Many passed on to their gods but the few that did not are being recovered and returned to their families. There is a great deal more Beast Vampires about, as it would appear that the remaining vampire legions are having trouble staying at their full power level during this crisis. Those that have survived seem to have undergone general reduction of status in the vampire hierarchy. Another change appears to be a wild hunger which has many officials warning adventurers to use extreme caution if confronting suspected vampires. Those that have survived are desperate to stay alive and thus far more likely to be ruthless, deadly, and thorough in their dealings with those who have already attempted to challenge them. At least one small troop of elite Rangers



from Amir have lost their lives, Morganti, to one enraged vampire, who left only half a dozen survivors, those who counted themselves fortunate to have been mana drained to death early in the fight. The remaining eighteen of their comrades were not so lucky.

Further speculation has been made on the state of the Elder Vampires themselves. At first there were no accounts at all of their presence and some theorized that they were dead as well, but recently reports have come back from the front lines that both of the known Elder Vampires (one in Roekron and the other in Teriock) have been seen directing troops and battle plans from the ethereal plane. These sightings are not attributed to chance, as it seems the Elders wish to make it clear that they remain in control even with their great losses and that they will not be deterred. Many still hope, that this still points to some insecurity within the Elders, suggesting that if they feel the need to make their presence known, then they must



indeed be needed to boost the moral of their troops directly, having lost the ability to do this from the safety of their fortress.

When asked about the events, the High Queen Sinthrea replied in her characteristically odd form of address;

*There is no shadow cast that does not predict the position of the light.*

*There is no movement made that does not reveal the dance.*

*We now stand on the cliffs before the sea*

*And the horizon is bathed in light.*

*Is it the dawn that be see before us?*

*Ah, to know what direction we face!*

*It may be we merely observe the last embers of the day disappearing heralding the coming of the fullness of night.*

*Do we cast ourselves now into the golden morning?*

*Or tumble into a deeper unseen darkness of doubt?*

*Alas, it is all in where we stand*

*And moreover, whether one is want to fear the night at all.*