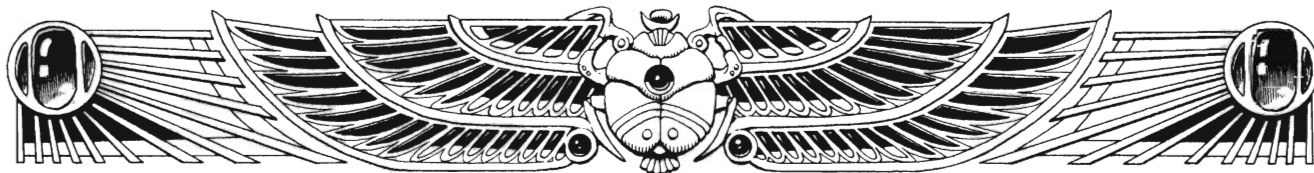


DENIZENS OF EARTHDOWN VOLUME ONE



FASA CORPORATION



CONTENTS

ON THE WRITING OF		On the T'skrang of the Serpent River	54
THE DENIZENS OF BARSAIVE	5	Of the Importance of the Niall	54
THE REMARKABLE HISTORY		On the Honor of Being the Lahala	54
OF THE ELVEN PEOPLE	6	Of the Miracle of New Life	55
To Live as an Elf Since the Corruption	6	On Growing Up T'skrang	56
Of the Elven Court and its Power	6	On the Complexities of Village Life	57
On the Choosing and Reign of the Queen	7	Of the T'Slahyin	58
The Calamitous Passing of Queen Dallia	7	Of Life on the Great River	59
The Coming of Queen Failla	8	On the Aropagoi	59
The Tumultuous Reign of Alachia	8	On Unique Items of Trade	62
What the Corruption Wrought Upon		Fish of Surpassing Delicacy	62
the Elven Court	10	Spices of Great Diversity	62
A Discourse on Elven Spiritual Beliefs	11	Rope of Incomparable Strength	62
Of the Journey and the Wheel	12	Basketry of Exceeding Cunning	63
On the Following of a Path	12	Fine Instruments of Writing	63
Of the Different Paths	12	Music of Joy and Profit	63
Of Elven Rituals	16	Pottery of Beauty and Use	64
Of the Elven Arts and Crafts	20	Art of Elemental Nature	64
Of Diverse Elven Arts	21	On the T'skrang Love for Art	64
A Discourse on Crafts	23	On the T'skrang Beyond the Serpent River	65
On the Unique Beauty of the Elven Language	25	On Those T'skrang Known as the Pale Ones	66
On the Telling of Stories and Legends	26	Of the T'skrang Who Fly	68
Where the Elves of Barsaive Dwell	28	Of the T'skrang Who Live in the Jungle	69
Of Elven Settlements	28	On the T'skrang Love for Language	71
Of Elves and Other Name-givers	29	On Customs Peculiar to the T'skrang	72
Of True Elves and Blood Elves	31	Of Living in Harmony With a Tail	72
AN ESSAY ON HUMANS	32	Of the Ways and Honors of Naming	73
On Being a Human in Barsaive	32	On the Reasons for Mating	73
On the Common Beginning of All Name-givers	32	Of the T'skrang Rituals at Death	74
On the Versatile Nature of Humans	33	A Discourse on the Subject of Haropas	75
On the General Nature and Ways of Humans	34	On the T'skrang and the Passions	77
On the Physical Nature of Humans	34	On the T'skrang Reverence for the Old Ways	78
On Marriage and Child Rearing	35	A TALE OF WINDLINGS	79
On Human Spiritual and Other Beliefs	36	On the Nature of Windlings	79
On the Places Where Humans Dwell	38	On Windling Appearance and Anatomy	81
On Human Architecture	38	On the Unique Nature of Windling Sight	81
On Diverse and Unique Human Cultures	39	Of Birth and Growth	81
Of the Cathan People	39	On How Flight Makes a Windling	82
A Discourse on the Dinganni	41	On the Ideals Dearest to Windlings	82
On the Strange Origins of the Galeb-Klek	44	Of the Value of Change	82
Of the Outlaw Riders of the Scorched Plain	45	Of the Windling Love of Freedom	83
On the Strange History of the Scavian People	47	On Living a Life of Feeling	83
On the Evils that Befell the Vorst	49	Of Diverse Windling Customs	83
A BRIEF TREATISE ON THE T'SKRANG	52	On Coming of Age	84
On the Nature of the T'skrang	53	Of Mating and Family Life	84





Of Language and Windling Humor	85
On the Custom of Windling Vengeance	86
Of Windling Clans and Nobles	87
On Diverse Windling Arts and Crafts	89
Of Windling Dwellings	89
Of the Crafting of Weapons and Armor	90
Of the Working of Metal Into Jewelry	91
Of the Art of Tattooing	91
Of Windling Garb	91
Of the Art of Windling Dance	92
On the Unique Beauties of Windling Music	92
On the Making of Windling Wine	92
On the Nature of Windling Trade	93
On Windling Spiritual Beliefs	93
Of Windling Beliefs about Death	94
On the Manner of Windlings	
Toward Other Name-giver Races	94
How Windlings See the Theran Empire	98
GAME INFORMATION	100
Roleplaying Hints	102
Elves	102
Humans	103
T'skrang	103
Windlings	104
Disciplines	105
New Disciplines	105
Boatman	106
Journeyman	107
Wind-dancer	109
Windmaster	110
Windscout	111
Woodsmen	112
New Talents	113
Air Tracking	113
Armor Bypass	113
Cast Net	113
Dive Attack	113
Evaluate	113
Fast Grab	114
Insect Communication	114
Morphism	114
Pilot Boat	115
Read River	116
Scent Identifier	116
Wind Dance	116
Questors	117
Special Rules	117
Elves	117
Humans	119
T'skrang	121
Gliding	122
Swimming	123
Windlings	123

DENIZENS OF EARTHDAWN

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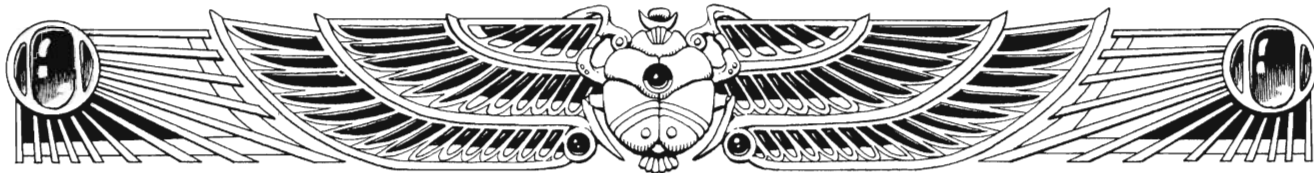
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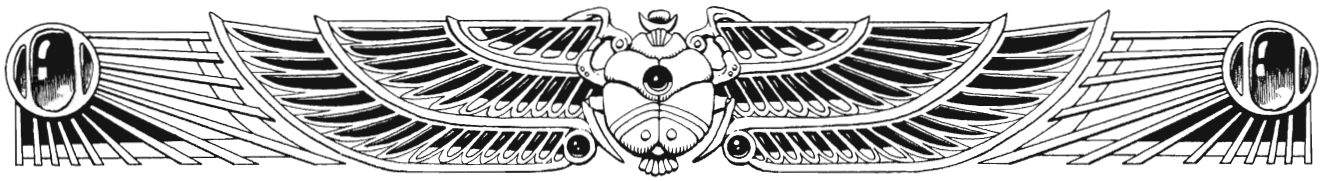
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ON THE WRITING OF THE DENIZENS OF BARSATIVE

How many of us can claim friends or acquaintances of every Name-giver race other than our own? Indeed, in the aftermath of the Scourge that isolated many of us in our own racial enclaves, how many of us have any knowledge of another race other than the superficial? Who but the t'skrang understand the true meaning of *haropas*? Do any folk but the elves truly feel the tragedy of Blood Wood's dreadful transformation? Do any but humans see the human race's worth? Who but a windling knows what it feels like to fly? Few Barsaivians can answer these questions, but all of us should have such knowledge. In order to give us a truer understanding of each other, I and my assistants have created this remarkable work, entitled *Denizens of Barsaive*.

During the compilation of *An Explorer's Guide to Barsaive*, my colleague Jerriv Forrim and I traveled extensively throughout the land and met many Name-givers of whose ways we knew little or nothing. It came to Jerriv and I that our ignorance of our fellow Name-givers was no less inexcusable than our former ignorance of the wonders and dangers of Barsaive, and so we determined to somehow correct that fault. Together, we conceived the idea of writing several volumes on the nature and ways of Barsaive's Name-giver races, each volume devoted to a particular people.

We presented our idea to Merrox, Master of the Hall of Records, who swiftly saw the wisdom of our proposal and graciously acceded to it. Undaunted by the magnitude of the task before us, we fell to with a will. To my great sorrow, poor Jerriv soon found the long hours and hard work too much for his frail constitution. Though he went to great lengths to deny the seriousness of his condition, often insisting on working almost as late as I did in an effort to prove his fitness, it became clear to me after only a few weeks that his health could not bear the strain. Indeed, it was not long after the last meal we shared that he collapsed—his health had become so precarious that even a simple meal of baked t'skrang fish did not agree with him. I took him at once to the healers, with whom he yet remains. He was so weak he could barely talk, but could not be induced to lie down quietly and take his medicine until he had extracted a promise from me that I would take on the burden of completing our great work.

Finding myself solely responsible for this great project, I spent many months sifting through countless historical records, travelers' journals, treatises, scholarly essays, and firsthand accounts, attempting to distill these diverse sources into accurate, interesting, and complete portrayals of each Name-giver race. I have labored to decipher and read a veritable mountain of documents, both in the Library of Throal and outside it. Though King Varulus III once again refused permission to visit the Eternal Library at Thera, I have managed to obtain one document from a Theran source that mysteriously found its way to our Great Library. Such a find is miraculous indeed and only serves to prove that the Passions truly love the work of the scholar above the petty considerations of politics. Though the task has been grueling, I can say with confidence that the information in these volumes constitutes an informative, complete, and fascinating record of the nature and ways of the Name-givers of our world. If anyone in Barsaive cares to know something of a race other than his own, I bid him come to the Great Library and peruse this great work—he will find no better source in all the land.

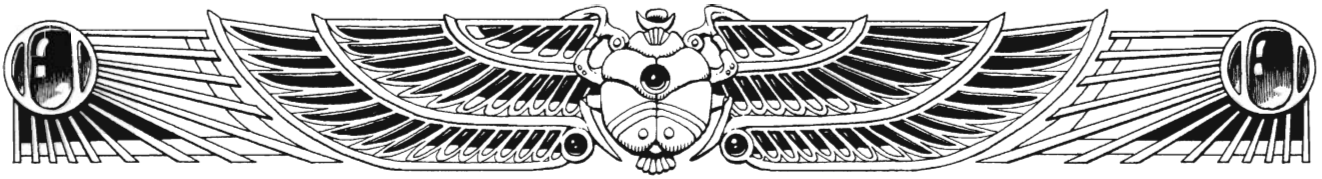
The eight volumes of *Denizens of Barsaive* describe the races of our land in alphabetical order: from Volumes 1 to 8, their subjects are dwarfs, elves, humans, obsidmen, orks, trolls, t'skrang, and windlings. I remind all readers of this work that every individual sees the world through his own eyes. Though I have tried to pass on only verifiable facts, the nature of the material is such that facts cannot be separated from the attitudes of the writers.

During the final stages of the compilation of this work, I was most ably assisted by many of the archivists and scribes who were my colleagues in the creation of *An Explorer's Guide to Barsaive*. It is with great gratitude that I acknowledge their contributions. As with the aforementioned work, myself and my colleagues—and occasionally other readers—have added marginal notes where appropriate to clarify points made in the text.

The greatest measure of my gratitude, of course, goes to my poor friend Jerriv Forrim, whom sad circumstance has relegated to a relatively minor role in the very work he helped bring to fruition. I believe that he will be more than happy with the final form of this work, and I wish him the good health in which to read it for many years to come.

—Thom Edrull, Archivist and Scribe of the Hall of Records, 1506 TH





THE REMARKABLE HISTORY OF THE ELVEN PEOPLE

The following excerpt from Volume II of Denizens of Barsaive comes from the writings of Liandra, an elven troubadour now dwelling in the city of Urupa, on the coast of the Aras Sea. This particular essay is unique in that its author is one of the few living Barsaivians born before the Scourge. Liandra was but a young child when he and his family took shelter from the coming of the Horrors in an underground kaer. Though many have wondered which kaer was Liandra's home for so many centuries, the troubadour himself has said no more of it than to ask why it matters. He far more often speaks of the time before the Scourge, attempting to give people an understanding of the scope of the tragedy that the Scourge has wrought on the elves of Barsaive.

—Presented for the edification of the reader by Thom Edrull, Archivist and Scribe of the Hall of Records, 1506 TH



As a traveler who has seen many sights and shared many stories with all manner of people, I have discovered among the Name-giver races a vast number of different and often conflicting beliefs regarding the elven people. As an elven scholar and troubadour, I feel it my duty to share the truth of the life of an elf in Barsaive.

TO LIVE AS AN ELF SINCE THE CORRUPTION

In the wake of the Scourge, to be elven is wonder and tragedy at the same time. In wonder we behold once more the beauties of nature so long denied us, as we help the world heal itself and restore our land to its former splendor. Our tragedy lies in what we have lost, for we have become a people without a soul. The Scourge-born Corruption of the Elven Court at Wyrn Wood has destroyed the very heart of the elven race, and not an elf in Barsaive truly feels whole. The Elven Court bound us together, and its loss has left us blinded children crying in the dark. For centuries, all elves knew undying faith and trust in the guidance and wisdom of the Elven Court. Now we have lost our way and must find anew our place in the world among our fellow Name-givers.

OF THE ELVEN COURT AND ITS POWER

To fully understand the elven people, the reader must know of the Elven Court and the vital place it once held in elven lives and hearts. Unlike a kingdom such as Throal or the city-state that became the Theran Empire, the Elven Court held no temporal power.

