



The History of Dragonlance

Being the Notes, Journals, and Memorabilia of Krynn

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Compiled and Designed by Marlys Heeszel



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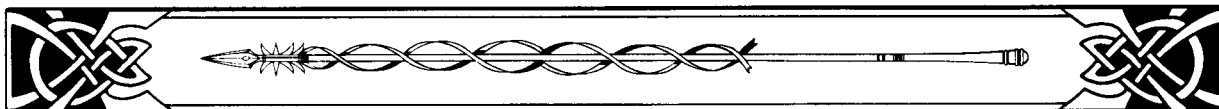
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CATALOGUE OF REFERENCE

Introduction	1
by Margaret Weis	

Five Hymns	2
by Quivalen Soth, the Bard of Ansalon	

The Adventurers' Guild	5
-------------------------------------	---

Douglas Niles	Keith Parkinson
Michael Williams	Clyde Caldwell
Roger Moore	Jeff Easley
Jeff Grubb	Larry Elmore

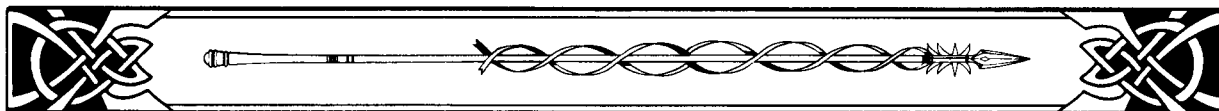
Lord Guntfar's Progress Report	34
---------------------------------------------	----

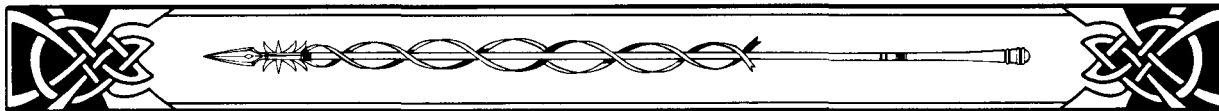
Legends and Lore

The Lost Tapestry	40
The Letters of Trayn Minaas	46
Lord of the Cats	55
Gnomes on the Net	62
Dragon Aerial Tactics	65
The Journal of Feldspar Oldstone	69

Artifacts, Weapons, and Spells

The Obsidian Chest	82
The Eagle Bow of Justin Hughes	87
Solamnic Heraldry	89
Runes of the Ancient Ogre	94
Landmarks of Ansalon	99





Translations of the Vallenwood Scrolls	100
<i>by Calmas Dalanthis</i>	

Wanderlust

A Woodhen Quest	140
A Guide to Holidays	163
Regional and Obscure Feastdays	169
The Brews of Krynn	178
A Meadmaker's Journal	183
The Vallenwoods	194
Rules of the Minotaur Circus	197

The Music of Krynn

compiled by Mirrashar the Elven Bard and Jorrus Locastus, Aesthetic

Fanfare for the Golden General	204
Elven Love Song	207
Kender Hum n' Whistle March	211
Hail Takhisis	213
Service to Thee	215
Song of Goldmoon	217
Grand Procession	221
Hush Baby, Sleep	223

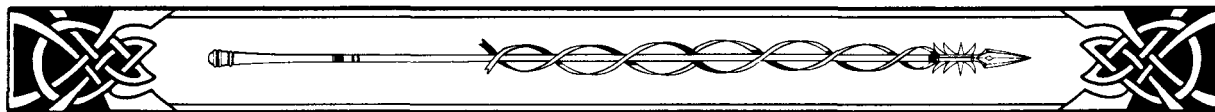
More Recipes from Tika's Cookbook	225
----------------------------------------------------	-----

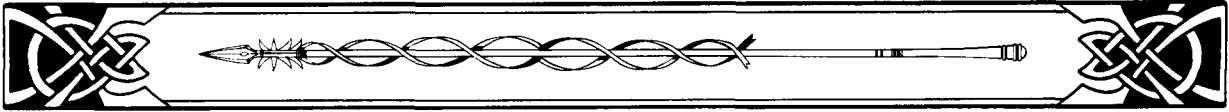
Ariakan's Notes on the Isle of the Brutes	235
------------------------------------------------------------	-----

Fizban and Me	241
<i>by Tracy Hickman</i>	

Appendices: A Legend in the Making	245
-----------------------------------------------------	-----

Acknowledgments	251
----------------------------------	-----





It has been many years since I have traveled the lands of Ansalon. I've journeyed much during that time and visited other beautiful places. But it is good to return to Krynn, for this is where I have my beginnings, this is where I met the wonderful people who became my friends. I will be introducing you, fellow traveler, to these people in this book, as well as sharing with you many other interesting, fascinating, funny, provocative, delicious, musical, and always entertaining bits of information that can be found in the Great Library of Palanthas.

At this juncture, I would like to thank Astinus of Palanthas for graciously allowing us to spend time in his library, and Bertrem, Aesthetic, for his assistance in sorting through the myriad scrolls and books that record Krynn's history.

I was first introduced to Krynn by a group of fellow travelers, led by the redoubtable Tracy Hickman, who had visited before and had just returned from their journey. They told such marvelous tales that I longed to visit this realm and meet its people. These travelers, including Doug Niles, Jeff Grubb, Harold Johnson, and Michael Williams, had decided to share their adventures in Krynn by inviting other people to come journey through this land.

They devised a series of role-playing game modules that, using the player's imagination as the key, unlocks the door that leads to Ansalon. In doing research for this project, they traveled back and forth to Krynn on numerous occasions. It occurred to them that perhaps these adventures could be recorded in book form, and they proposed that I accompany them, in order to become more familiar with the land and its people.

I did so and immediately fell in love with Krynn. I met the Heroes of the Lance just prior to their setting out on their great adventure. I was also privileged to meet several of the artists, who traveled through Ansalon and painted the now-famous portraits of the heroes. I will be visiting with Larry Elmore, Keith Parkinson, Clyde Caldwell, and Jeff Easley in this volume as well.

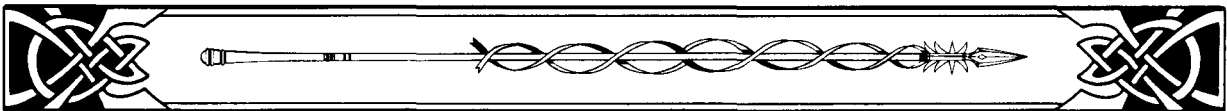
I ran also into Roger Moore, who had in tow a kender by the name of Tasslehoff Burrfoot, or perhaps the kender had Roger in tow. I was never quite certain.

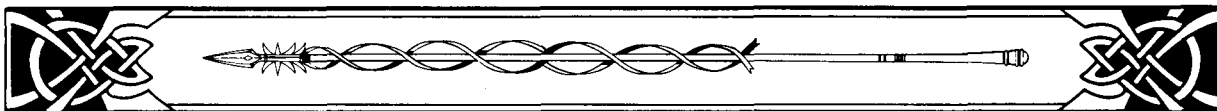
I spent many happy years in Krynn. I was pleased to be able to share the adventures of the heroes with you, fellow travelers, and look forward to telling you more stories in the future. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my intrepid guide, Jean Black, whose advice and wise counsel were extraordinarily beneficial to both Tracy and myself.

If you have your library card in hand, please prepare to accompany Bertrem and me into the Great Library of Palanthas.

Bertrem reminds you to keep silent. The Master is working.

Margaret Weis





Five Hymns

by Quivalen Soth, the Bard of Ansalon

Hymn to Water

Sing praise to the armies of water,
Sing praise to the dolphins
To the bright constellation
Of moonlight fractured on spindrift,
Sing praise to the hallowed
Current of blood.

We were born of the water,
Of the godhead glancing
On the face of the oceans like moonlight:
The youngest of elements,
Water, the blood of the gods,
Its first home the harbors
Of Ergoth and Balifor,
The splendid and featureless
Ice and marble
Of doomed and imperial Istar.
Water our source
And water our mother,
The warm, amniotic
swell of the tide,
The perpetual rain
Or seeming perpetual
As river and rivulet
Fade in the fire
Disappear in the stations of earth.

Praise to the element
Fluid and human,
To its sudden arisings
Cascadings and vanishings,
Praise above all
To the water's resurgence,
To the prospect of rain
In a desert country,
The faint and coppery
Hint of a river
In the cavern's depth
In the height of the mountains
The rumor of springs,

Oh as Istar falls
And Ergoth surrenders,
Palanthas and Balifor
Crumble and rise in our hands,
Praise to the water,
Exact and eternal,
The passion of cloud
And miraged horizons,
For the brief supple downpour
Of dolphin on dolphin,
The journey of humankind
Over the promise of seas.

Hymn to Fire

The constellations are a wheel of fire
Fire on fire interlinking
In all the great machineries of heaven,
The sun, the revolving moons,
And looking up into the work of hands,
Into the gods' contraption
Where night descends like clockwork, like the play
And tumult of devices,
Presents an intricate philosophy
A nature rapt by numbers.

Oh, do not tell us that the gods' first faces
Were simple and profound.
It is a fiction of the human year
A winter maintaining that
We strip away all glitter, all device
The intricate bells and whistles
And underneath them all, there lie the gods.
Divinity is intricate
The blue corona on the lip of flame
The jeweler's gear enmeshed
With instruments of joy, with steam and powder.

