

## **Draconic Echoes Lore Sample**

The following is a few selections from the History and Religion sections of the “Compendium” from my game, *Draconic Echoes: The Ardent War*. These selections are supplemental texts that players may read if they desire extra background information or wish to immerse themselves further into the world. This game uses a western fantasy setting.

### **History**

#### **Formation of The Kingdom of Draknus**

From what is known, Draknus was created around 1500 BL. However, this kingdom did not start under the peaceful rule of humans, but under the terrible rule of fourteen tyrannical dragons.

The fields and forests of Draknus were once mountains stretching from all corners of the country, but the dragons terraformed the land to form a cage out of natural features. It can be seen today, as the lands to the north and south are continuations of that mountain range, and oceans border Draknus to the east and west. After the lands were formed, the dragons brought a large number of humans from distant, uncivilized lands. They did this in order to work these humans as slaves. The ancestors of Draknus toiled to fulfill the desires of those dragons. At first, the slaves raised livestock for them, but soon the lust of treasure typical of dragons grew. They demanded treasures of gold, silver, and many precious gems. However, they were not satisfied there. The dragons taught their slaves, our ancestors, how to use magic to make stronger and more precious items. But then, the ability of humans to learn advanced magical practices quickly caused seven of the fourteen to think differently.

## **The War of Liberation**

"If the humans are intelligent enough to understand magic, and if they are strong enough to run all of these farms, who are we to deny them freedom?" Questions like this one turned about in the minds of the gold, silver, sapphire, ruby, emerald, amethyst, and amber dragons. These seven brought this idea to the others, the black, white, red, blue, green, purple, and orange dragons, whose hearts were not as kind. Civil war between the dragons soon followed. The side wishing to free the humans are now known as the "Hepteon," and those wishing to keep them enslaved, the "Malhepteon." It was not long before the Hepteon incited the humans to revolt and aided them in battle. The Golden Hero, Farros Thetis, emerged as the leader of the human forces. Scarlet, the ruby dragon, forged a powerful vivalite sword with her draconic fire for the Golden Hero. That weapon was named "Statheferrus, The Liberating Blade." With the combined might of the Hepteon, the humans, and Statheferrus, the Malhepteon was driven out of the country and fled to Chromia Malia, far south of the Dwarven Kingdom of Dehrben. The kingdom was then divided into seven provinces, one for each member of the Hepteon to watch over, and the Hepteon told to the humans of newly founded Draknus this: "We decided to free you because we believe that you are able to live according to your own will. If you cannot defend yourselves, then you cannot continue to live. We shall not be your comrades in arms again unless one of that hated Malhepteon makes a personal appearance. They will return, and they will seek vengeance, but an army organized by them is the same as any other." Satisfied by this, the ancient Draknians joined the world as a new kingdom with the Golden Hero, Farros Thetis, placed on the throne, in

anticipation of the Malhepton's wrath. Tyrheim, the largest prison settlement, was then repurposed as the capital city. This is the reason Tyrheim is all stone and very confined.

## **Religion**

### **Deities and Demons**

Soon after the War of Liberation, the seven of the Hepton were exalted as gods. The Hepton is a group of seven dragons, each with their own color and domain. Likewise, the seven of the Malhepton became feared as archdemons. An easy way to remember if a dragon is part of the Hepton or Malhepton is by its color. If it is colored like a precious metal or gem, it is in the Hepton. If not, it is in the Malhepton. Explore the lists of the Hepton and the Malhepton for specific details about each dragon. Additionally, it is important to note that, in their hate of the mortals, the archdemons reproduce much more frequently than the gods. The offspring of the archdemons include both chromatic dragons and dragonkin (half man or elf and half dragon). Both of these types of draconic offspring are considered demons. And so, the term "Malhepton" has slowly evolved to have a double meaning. Formally, it refers to the seven archdemons, but it has also come to be a catch-all term for the archdemons, their offspring, and any of their followers.

### **Draconic Union**

The draconic union is a ritual undergone by the nobles chosen to become high priests and royalty of Draknus who were born into their stations. Although the specifics of the ritual cannot be made public knowledge, it has been confirmed that the human drinks the blood of the patron dragon.

Nobility must drink a sip, while royalty must drink a full cup. It is also known that this process is very dangerous and can possibly kill the weak. It is tradition that one noble family member of each province of the same sex of their patron or matron dragon must have a draconic union. For example, a male noble in Aureum must hold a draconic union with the male dragon, Aureus, but a female noble cannot serve as high priestess for Aureus. Likewise, a female noble in Argenos must hold a draconic union with the female dragon, Argenta, but a male noble cannot serve as high priest for Argenta. This rule did not arise out of the desire to exclude, but as a safety precaution. Corrina Thetis, the Golden Hero's wife, also took union with Aureus and became extremely sick for much of her life as a result. It seems, however, the women born into the Thetis family are an exception to this paradigm. All Thetis women born to the family have survived drinking the blood of Aureus. The reason is unknown, but it is surmised that it is because the Thetis family is extremely strong of both body and will. Therefore, all born into the royal family must hold a draconic union with Aureus. Additionally, it would be prudent to make clear that the royal family is considered above, not equal to the high priest of Aureum, despite the fact that all of them hold draconic union with Aureus. Although effects of the draconic union have not been officially announced, it seems that those who have participated in this ritual have a supernatural sense to tell if dragons or dragonkin are nearby and have their lifespans extended by approximately two hundred years.