

RASHALTA

"DRAGON FIRE BOTH CREATES AND TAKES"

Portfolios: Humanity, Dragons, Stories, History

General Symbol: A purple lizard scale or shield

Titles: Radiant Flame, The Immortal Empress

Status: Unknown

Location: Unknown

Mortal Life

A Chrono of Loch Mirren, Rashalta was raised on a small family farm, but she always dreamed of something bigger. Eventually she set out on the road and learned the ways of a travelling minstrel. Moving from town to town to earn a modest wage she began to collect stories and compose ballads. As the years passed, Rashalta found herself travelling around the world of Caltur, and with every town and city her fame increased. One day she was hired as the personal bard of Sasha Romira "The Golden Commander," named for her gold scaled armour and serpent styled helm she wore. She held the position as leader of a mercenary group known as the Company of Scale.

She took up squire duties for Sasha and every night she would write down what she could remember from the day. As they moved from campaign to campaign the stories started to arrive before they did and the fame of the Company only grew. Eventually a friendship blossomed between the two and Sasha started to teach Rashalta the way of sword-play, tactics and strategy. She even made Rashalta a suit of beautiful purple scaled armour. Over the years the love they held for one another grew and the two were inseparable. Rashalta also grew in favour with the 11 generals and they saw her as one of their own.

It was the eve of her 13th year with the Company of Scale when tragedy struck. The Company was protecting a small Chrono village against attack from the Spawn, when a stray arrow took Sasha in the throat and brought her down. Rashalta immediately took command and with no time to mourn pushed back the attack. The village was safe, but Sasha, her love had fallen. Consumed with anger, Rashalta rallied the Company and began a crusade the very next day deep into the Spawn kingdom. This war raged for many years, with soldiers flocking to her purple scaled banners. Rashalta's ever loyal generals supported her and together they joined in the need to make the Spawn suffer – they were a family. The Company expanded the Chrono border to a greater degree than any others that came after them. If it hadn't been for Zarah and her wicked interference they may have succeeded in reclaiming all the lands of the ancient Chrono. Zarah, worried that her precious Spawn were being defeated, cast a spell upon the generals one night, melding their armour and bodies into a single unit and turning them

into large scaled serpents with a ravenous hunger and a need to feed on sapient flesh. Rashalta and her remaining men were able to kill her former generals, though she was gravely injured in the battle.

A Thurn who had joined with the Company not two days prior to the serpent onslaught carried Rashalta from the battlefield. Her body hot and drenched in a feverish sweat, the Thurn carried her deep into the forest for three days and three nights. The Thurn used herbs and a foul liquid concoction to keep the serpent's poison at bay. On the third night they passed a large tree, its bark dark like the night sky and the leaves slightly glowing and shaped as stars, there were large cocoons hanging from the tree. Inside the cave was a middle aged woman who sat behind a cauldron. The Thurn set Rashalta on the ground before it, bowed and took his leave. The woman, creator of the first world was called Hyla. Hyla congratulated Rashalta on the passion and fire she had shown in life. Hyla made Rashalta an offer to hang from the tree of stars that night, to one day awaken with the power of a god and get the chance to live a second life, to experience an infinite number of stories. The mortal life of Rashalta ended that night, she was placed in a cocoon with her great sword and purple scaled armour, her serpent helm rested at her feet.

Divine Life

During her divine life (or second life) Rashalta didn't stray far from her mortal ideals. She still values history and stories. She also regained the companionship of the Generals that were turned into evil serpents. She raised their bodies and imbued them with the power of divinity, thus was the 11 true dragons created. Later when she gained her place on the second world of Caltur Rashalta built herself a paradise for her and her Dragons called Scale Home, a world full of the ideal prey. Here the Dragon Generals were happy and Rashalta could watch over them and the new world from the castle of her highest peak.

Watching her fellow gods stumble about creation on the second world of Caltur was amusing at first for Rashalta, who was content to exist in her own domain and leave the realm to them, but one day she realized that the serious and philosophical Zeph, the Industrious Hrothgrin, and even the brutal Orcs all missed one very important quality – curiosity. Rashalta saw a world dedicated to the practical, one without the love of song and stories, one without the divine fire of creativity. She couldn't let such a drab world exist and so she called together her generals, their scales glistening in the sun. They talked for years about how to create the perfect entity for the world of Caltur.

It was Sal-Koom the devoted who said "What of our prey? They show curiosity, bravery, and skill with tools, plus they are intelligent and have been adapting to our hunting techniques." The others talked it over citing the prey's ability to adapt and use their imagination – in truth the Dragons had gained respect for the prey they hunted called Humans. In a mere moment Humanity went from being draconic prey to being the children of dragons. Rashalta gathered her children together and with her breath breathed even more divine fire into their souls and following behind their draconic leaders they left Scale Home and settled in the forests and plains of Caltur. Scale Home became something different that day, the Humans who followed their patrons and learned how to foster the divine fire within. Who

lived good strong lives, were welcome back to Scale Home once more, but not as human – but as dragons. The humans who proved unworthy also returned, but once more as the dragon’s prey.

There are many stories about the humans and the second world of Caltur, but the important part is when the Dark Wurm came and the shattering began it was Rashalta and her Dragons that caught onto the betrayal of the Dragon Raegar and the goddess Celestria and the hidden third world of Hyla. The Dragons and Humans crossed the Astral Sea, with powerful magic, and came to the Third world of TaSuil where the first war between Humans and Elves began. Most humans believe that they simply crossed from one continent to another and that the original Human homeland exists somewhere beyond the waves, but the truth is recorded in the Arcane University in Rashalta’s own personal historical documents.

Rashalta often takes the form of a woman in purple coloured clothing, or her purple scaled armour. She has a penchant for gold jewelry and enjoys a good story or song. She bears a large 2-handed sword, and often golden gauntlets that can ignite when she’s angered. When she slew Celestria much of her rage was satiated and replaced with sadness and regret, she seems to have adopted the Elven people as her children. Since that time she has extended an olive branch to many of the gods.

Enemies

Kytor: This diety has caused nothing but chaos for his entire existence, both as a mortal and as a member of the divine. He is cunning, ruthless, and without pity or remorse. A spreader of disease and destroyer of civilization, if he wasn’t such a good warrior against the Otherworld Spawn we would have banded together to destroy him a millennia ago.

Eva: Not necessarily enemies, but bitter friends. Eva blames me for the events of Caltur, she ordered me not to pursue Celestria, but to stay and fight against the Dark Worm. Ultimately she believes that it was my lack of support which caused us to lose the second world, and our homes. She accepted the olive branch which I extended her, but she does not trust I have our best intentions at heart. This anger flared up when the crusade began as she doesn’t want me to undertake it. Instead she would have us defend, but that didn’t work so well the first time.

Raegar: The fallen dragon and brother to Doruda. Raegar betrayed all of Caltur when he convinced Celestria to create the Skyfire. No one knew then that Raegar had become a minion of Zarah and worked with her to create a way for her power to leave the living prison. Raegar has since taken refuge on the first world, but is known to actively recruit for Zarah in the Underworld and also guards the fabled Tree of Stars, not only the heart of her prison, but also the source of Skyfire. His minions can be found everywhere, doing his and Zarah’s bidding, always looking for a way to get Zarah one step closer to the prisons exit.

Priesthood

- Creativity and Imagination must always be allowed to thrive; this is the ultimate way to ensure the dragon's fire does not burn out.
- Human's and Elves are always to be protected; they are the prey which cannot be caught, the children who can win any war.
- Bare your fangs only when you mean to kill
- Never bare your fangs to a friend or member of your family
- Anger ignites the fire, but rage allows it to consume you.
- Record your story so others may learn from it.
- Do not pass history as story and story as history, but record both as both are useful and needed.
- Be practical, but don't discount something due to perceived impossibility.
- Strive to achieve the impossible regardless of how long it may take, or difficult it may seem, but do not pursue it blindly.
- Give an enemy no quarter if their survival endangers the lives of humans or elves
- The Undead are abominations that must be returned to their rest, to do otherwise is to praise the Raegar the betrayer – the forgotten son.
- Never attempt to return to our former home, for there is only the Darkness of Zarah waiting.

Many priests of Rashalta have given up their faith when the power stopped flowing. These priests are often despised by those knights and priests that retained their faith. Most believers now congregate at the Arcane University in Rashalta city and from here continue to fill her shrine with the many books of history and story created and collected over the millennia, some even written in Rashalta's hand. They do this to continue honouring the scaled mother of all humanity. Holidays tend to be whenever a new book is published by the temple, or true works of beauty are completed in Taldroon. The day of Celestria's death is honoured by both her faithful and those of Rashalta, Finally the day that began the new Calendar is celebrated by all in Taldroon, regardless of which god they follow.

Divine Servants

KRUKAL

Violence is often the answer that Krukak gives. This warrior dragon is blunt and straightforward and believes that any enemy needs to be put down fast and hard. In human guise he is a large bald man, often dressed in black and red and wields a large 2-handed axe into battle. In dragon form he is the largest of all the dragons, his steel grey scales polished and razor sharp. Humans who tend to follow the path of Krukak wisdom tend to mark their faces with 3 blue or black scars to announce to the world that they would gleefully meet Krukak in battle without fear in their hearts. The heart of a Krukak follower is ignited with joy in battle.

SAL-KOOM

The devoted general Sal-koom is the most pious of the group. To him faith is the most important attribute. As the high priest of Rashalta, Sal-koom leads the priests of Taldroon in worship of the goddess. A master of channeling Rashalta's power in ways that even the highest mortal priest have yet to achieve, Sal-Koom is a formidable opponent. He teaches those that follow him that hope and faith should always be kept even in the darkest of times. It is also said that the servants of Sal-Koom were tasked with assisting Hyla in ensuring the safety of the Thurn when they came to the third world. Those who follow this dragon wear a tattoo of a blue ring on their forehead. In human form Sal-koom is seen as wise man in robes of silver. In dragon form he has brilliant silver scales and a horned halo of blazing flame.

HEXTAL

Like Krukak, Hextal knows that sometimes violence is the only answer, but while Krukak is an idiot who charges straight at any problem. Hextal tackles her problems from the shadows, stealth, poison and cunning are her main tools. Those who follow the path of Hextal know the price of each word whispered from their lips, they know the power of silence and the deadliness of surprise. They tattoo black Xes over their lips to show their discipline while on this path. Hextal is a smooth black dragon with 4 wings that beat the air in near silence. In human form the accounts of what she looks like varies. Near invisible in the shadows only the truly devote ever see more than the flicker of movement.

RYELICTUS

A dragon with cobalt scales and upswept silver horns, Ryelictus is also known as the Justicar, the bringer of truth. Most of his followers are seen as blunt and straightforward, but they always speak the truth. They praise courage and bravery, and follow a strict code of honour. They do their utmost to protect humanity and by extension the Elven people. Ryelictus is also a master of enchantment and trusted his most devote followers with the secrets of this noble art-form. Followers of Ryelictus tattoo a V on their forehead to represent his brilliant silver horns, and the knowledge and strength that resides between them.

UMBAH

When you trust another, be sure to know the dangers and rewards that can come from it. Never enter into a decision of trust without first knowing everything you can. In the old days Umbah would teach members of her clan in the art of sword, spear, and shield and those who lived through the training became some of the fiercest warriors the world had ever seen. Disciplined while those of Krukak were savage, these warriors created schools for all to come and learn as long as they abided by Umbah's stalwart code of doing all one could before resorting to violence. Those that follow Umbah often fully tattoo one side of their face blue to show the dual nature of her teachings. Umbah in dragon form has copper coloured scales.

ECCATUS

A wizard of great power Eccatus was fascinated with the power of fire. Rumour has it she found a channel to the realm of fire and in her early days learned the teachings of fire wielding from the Thurn. This fascination slowly became an addiction and it was only through the help of her fellow generals and the guidance of Rashalta that she was able to get her desire to see the destruction caused by fire under control. She passed these teachings on to her tribe long ago, but when the humans crossed into this new world her methods were rendered obsolete by the rules Hyla put in place to govern this new world. Her followers now experiment to try and adapt the teachings of Eccatus to the world of TaSuil and once again allow wizard to control the element of fire. Eccatus in dragon form has wings of flame and scales of hot iron, and when in mortal form her hair is bright orange as a fire and part of her face and arm are scarred from where she allowed the flames to kiss her flesh. Those who follow Eccatus choose to brand an E somewhere on their body instead of adopting the standard tattooing of the other dragons.

ISOOTH

Isoth was the guardian of the second world long ago. Rashalta always expected that Zarah would begin to break from her prison and it was Isoth that guarded the astral sea to ensure none of her minions made it to the world of Cultur. Unfortunately Isoth was poisoned and his clan nearly eradicated by the betrayer Raegar and his undead legion. Isoth never forgave himself for allowing the dark worm to come to Cultur, and upon TaSuil took a more active role than any of the other Dragons. He continued to train those that would follow his tutelage at Isoth keep, teaching the ways of combat and methods to battle beasts that attempted to cross the sea (both ocean and the astral sea). In human form Isoth has stark white hair, his scale armour tarnished (when he wears it), but his eyes sharp as if seeing beyond the mortal realm. In dragon form Isoth has scales of blue and white. Mortals that still follow Isoth tattoo a line across their face, just below the eyes to symbolize that they are always looking over the water to the threats beyond it.

DORUDA

She is the sister of Raegar the betrayer and has made it her lifes work to track him down and destroy him if possible. Training her clan in the ways to hunt down and destroy the undead and those that raise them. One famous rite of passage is an actual foray in to the Underworld to destroy a greater undead to achieve the highest rank of combat prowess in her training. Like a fired arrow those who followed these teachings were experts in tirelessly tracking down undead and ensuring they could cause as little trouble to this realm as possible. Doruda also allowed a few necromancers among her ranks as long as they swore never to create an undead abomination. Doruda is a hunter who often carries a bow and arrow, she is direct and often appears weary as she rarely sleeps knowing that her brother is still out there. She is also a master wood worker and enchantress herself so has developed many tools that can be used against the Undead. In dragon form Doruda has red scales like her brother. Those who follow Doruda tend to tattoo the outline of a skull on their face to show the undead that they are not afraid.

LILIWRENDI

Also known as the fire brand in her mortal days, Liliwrendi often disobeyed orders from Rashalta, but whether by luck or skill it always turned out for the better. Liliwrendi would never rub it in anyone's face and she seemed content as long as she wasn't as restrained as everyone else. She was also a student of Hyla's and the Thurn during her mortal years and developed a reverence for the natural world. She taught her clan this respect for the land and the methods to care for it in the old days. Liliwrendi had a special place in her heart for cats and as a general had a great sabretooth beast that fought with her. To honour her friend, when she took her dragon form she did so in his image. As a dragon she wears a mane of green fur flowing over scales of emerald, her long feather like wings rest easily on her back, and two large fangs protrude from her lion shaped head. In human form she has green hair usually tangled with twigs and leaves. She is often peaceful unless disturbed and does her best to actively oppose Kytor wherever he can be found, in Rashalta's honour. Those of her clan often revere cats and bear a tattoo of a single vertical green line through each eye to represent her large fangs.

AURORA

In the old days clan Aurora was the bravest and smallest of all the clans. They would step out onto the ice flows in the far north in order to hunt. They would bring home seal and ice bears and had a standing friendly relationship with a species known as the Podoro. The Podoro often hunted with and eventually joined the clan Aurora, adding a great deal of might to her tribe. These humanoid Ice bears still exist in the lands of Yuem and a few still adhere to these teachings. Those who follow Aurora's teachings are masters of the spear and survival, knowing which resources to put priority into first. They are also the most logical clan knowing that death waits for them with a single misstep so those that follow the way of Aurora take naturally to planning strategies and tactics, they also know when and how to shut down their emotions often seeing them as a sign of weakness. Aurora is a dragon that makes every decision based on logic first and emotions second, she loves cold weather and has snow white scales. In human form she is often a beautiful and cold looking woman with platinum blonde hair and radiant blue eyes. Aurora is often seen at Rashalta's side offering logical advice in potentially emotional situations.