

## Deception: Many a Battle

### GUEST SUBMISSION

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Many a battle has been fought since the last time when the Heralds reported on the events of Deception. With **Morloch**'s forces involved in other fragments of the world, the Deception shard continued the strife between rival nations. Almost the entire world was involved in the war between the nation of **Legion of Steel** (LOS), and their allies **The Ancient Order** (TAO) and **Kill Cult**(KC), versus the **Northern Alliance** (NA) and **The Alliance of Order** (AOO). As reported earlier, the NA capital of **House Daenyr** had fallen. Also quickly falling were the capitals of two other NA guilds, **Knights of the Alliance** (KOA) and **Knights of Eleador** (KOE). Significant blows to the spirits of the NA to be sure, not to mention the flow of gold through its coffers dwindled with each battle. The NA needed a hero to step forward. Someone to take the lead, rally the troops, and lead their forces to victory.

Unfortunately, that person did not show. Instead more bad news continued to pour down on the NA. **The Wanderers**, the fourth of four major guilds in the NA dissolved to cries that the Gods of the world wouldn't let them live their lives with free will, often sending everyone back to their bound Tree of Life or causing significant entropy during sieges. Finally, a neighbor to **The Knights of the Alliance**, **The Echelon**, who had spent many a day fighting the horrors of the world together with the **Knights**, proclaimed their intentions to ally with **LOS/TAO/KC**. Needless to say, KOA felt betrayed by people they had thought were friends. Members on both sides of the war openly questioned the timing of siding with the winning faction. **KOA** quickly baned **The Echelon**'s capital. With help from their friends in **AOO**, **KOA** took over **Echelon**'s capital city Tree of Life, due to their previous homeless status.

With most of the NA in shambles and their forces retreating to the **AOO** strongholds on Ice Isle, the **LOS/TAO/KC** alliance decided it was time to invade the Isle. For weeks both sides fought vicious battles, denting armor and nicking swords. Bane circles were placed on various cities on both sides, yet all were defeated. Even though **LOS** lost its leader in **Animar**, a strong and proud Warrior against the forces of Chaos, they succeeded in placing a bane on **Lion Pride**, home of the **Defenders of Order** (DOO) and their subguilds, backbone of the **AOO**. This was the moment that the **LOS/TAO/KC** alliance had been looking forward to. This city signified all that was **AOO**, and with its destruction, the long awaited celebrations would begin.

Things did not look good for **AOO**. The **KOA** guild had sued for peace, and left what remained of the NA. Most battles in the previous week had shown that the **LOS/TAO/KC** forces had the significant advantage of numbers. And so, when the bane was about to go live, A strong force of **LOS/TAO/KC** took hold of every Tree on the Ice Island and killed any and all **AOO** that attempted to take shape at those trees. **AOO** was not done, however. They rallied all the people they could on the mainland and stormed the runegate, using its ancient powers to travel to the Isle. Down the valley they ran, slaughtering any and all **LOS** that they saw. Who shall win this crucial battle? The final battle for **Lion's Pride** was at hand.

And then, it wasn't. Apparently the gods were not pleased at this fight, and all were sent back to their respective Trees of Life. With little opposition, **AOO** quickly took out the bane circle. Cries of the **LOS/TAO/KC** were heard across the land. Some threw down their swords, bows and spell books out of disgust. However, most decided that the Gods were not going to decide their fate for them. Once again a bane was brought against **Lion's Pride**.

This time, however, **Owyne**, leader of **DOO**, had a surprise for his enemies. He had contacted the neutral nations that lived on Khar and the mainland who felt the **LOS/TAO/KC** alliance would come after them once **Lion's Pride** fell and made arrangements for a new alliance to turn back the **LOS/TAO/KC** forces. And so it did.

Now with **Lion's Pride** still standing, and new allies such as **The DIE** nation, **The Defenders of Aleria**, **The Atomic Godz**, and **The Adumbral Empire** for the **AOO** and the remains of the **NA** to fight with, the second part of this world war begins.

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