
by **Ceolodor the Herald**

The past few days on Deception has seen the war between the **Alliance of Order** and **House Daenyr** on one hand, and the **Avatars of Flame** and **Darkenbane** on the other, increase in intensity. The turning point came when the Alliance took umbrage at the subgilding of **Darkenbane** by the **Avatars of Flame**, claiming **Darkenbane** were "brigands and murderers" who unjustly plagued the city of Khar Th'Sekt. In retaliation, the **Kingdom of Eleandor** attacked **Darkenbane's** home city, and after taking it over for a short time called in **House Daenyr** for assistance. The allies were eventually driven out by a superior force from **Avatars of Flame**, but not before a brutal and bloody battle that claimed many lives on both sides.

At this point, the **Alliance of Order** set a bane circle on Avatar's Torch in retaliation for the actions of **Darkenbane**. The alliance had this to say:

"Ancient texts recently recovered have pointed our sages to the holy Shrine of the Shield, a repository for the Shield of the All-Father from the War of the Scourge.

It was the deepest wish of Archbishop Ribald to make a pilgrimage to this holy shrine to lay his hands upon the relic and supplicate the All-Father for his guidance in these dark times. The Shrine however lies on the Island possessed by the Avatars of the Flame, and the train of pilgrims was turned back at their borders.

Saddened by the refusal to allow the entrance of our pilgrims to this shrine, the House Daenyr was further troubled by the news that the shrine had fallen into neglect and disrepair. Again our pilgrims sought to visit the shrine so as to restore the shrine to its proper glory, but again the Avatars of the Flame refused us.

That the Avatars of the Flame have showed such desire to expand their territories was unsettling enough. That they showed such disrespect to the Shrine of the Shield and to our pilgrims that sought to visit it in the name of the All-Father leaves House Daenyr with little choice but to oppose them and liberate this holy shrine.

Our faith brooks no compromise in this matter, and it is with great sadness that we must close our boarders to the Avatars of Flame as well as all those that give them aid. We regret that it has come to this, and we pray over the corpses of our slain enemies that they might recover their lost faith."

Commentary from the **Avatars of Flame** on the matter was unforthcoming to this herald, though one suspects they take a dim view of Daenyrite claims of "pilgrimage rights". Certainly this Herald will continue to endeavor to seek out their word on such matters in the future.

The initial siege of Avatar's Torch on Tuesday was wholly unsuccessful, but a much stauncher Allied attack was organized for Friday, the day their Banecircle went active. After a series of brutal, no-quarter battles at the runegate on the lesser island of Tyrranth Major, the Alliance forces at last gained a toehold on the island, and established a forward base called Final Haven.

Siege engines were constructed around Avatar's Torch, and the Alliance forces rallied on a hill by their banecircle, while the Avatars sallied forth repeatedly in an effort to drive the Alliance from their position. The battle seesawed many times, but at last the Alliance was dislodged and their bane destroyed.

Undaunted, the Alliance soon cast a Banecircle on the city of Medasa to the southeast of Avatar's Torch, and did not wait for it to become active before attacking the city in earnest. The Alliance destroyed several buildings and played havoc within the town, until a cunning Avatar general breached the wall of his own city to drive into the Alliance forces, killing many and driving them out of Medasa.

The final siege of Medasa will likely prove one of the largest battles yet witnessed by the Aerynthian College.

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