



# THE SCARLET SISTERHOOD

(A Reliquarium Eldoria Update)



FOE



by Keith Done







## The History of the Scarlet Sisterhood

The Scarlet Sisterhood is a religious Order that has been reinstated after having been disbanded in 1963R. The new version of the Order is based in the Imperial City of Jasper and is mainly composed of clerics devoted to the Lady Esmia, Goddess of Healing. However the Order is dedicated to relieving pain and suffering upon the battlefield and will quickly mobilise in times of war, to join with elements of the old Sardellan army. Although the Scarlet Sisters share most of the same beliefs as the regular Esmian Church, they do differ in some from their core fundamental practices. For example, Scarlet Sisters receive basic martial training, sufficient to defend themselves in battle, and while they will do all that they can for those wounded that they tend to, if someone is beyond their help, they will not hesitate to give them last rites and dispatch them swiftly and mercifully.

### The Imperial Angels

The original Order was sponsored by the Empress Taranae in 1548R. In the last years of her reign over the Sardellan Empire, Taranae was troubled by the death and hardship suffered by many of the men who had fought under her flag to expand her domain. At this time, relations between the Churches of the Holy Trinity were at their worst and the Esmian Church had withdrawn its clergy from the Sardellan Homelands to its sanctuary in Odressi, City of Temples.

Taranae petitioned the Esmian Fyrecia, Salendra Arven, to reconnect with the Empire and create an Order that would actively serve with the Sardellan army in times of conflict. In return the Empress promised to build the Esmians a series of extensive Healing Halls across the Homelands and to finance hospices across all of its territories. After many Marches of negotiation, the Fyrecia agreed to Taranae's request and the first acolytes of an Order called the Imperial Angels began their training in the Imperial capitol of Jasper.

Taranae passed away in 1555R but over the seven years after its inception, the Imperial Angels were involved in several major conflicts, including the Sacred Triangle Rebellion in Y'sira and the Battle of Haden's Gap on the Llanish border. Also, the great Healing Halls were completed, being Swordrest in the capitol and Esmaar and Silverbough, in the east. In battle, the Sisters distinguished themselves with few casualties, partly through their own skills in battle but mainly because it is widely thought that the Gods bring down a curse upon anyone who brings harm to an Esmian priestess.



### ESMIA

#### Goddess of Healing

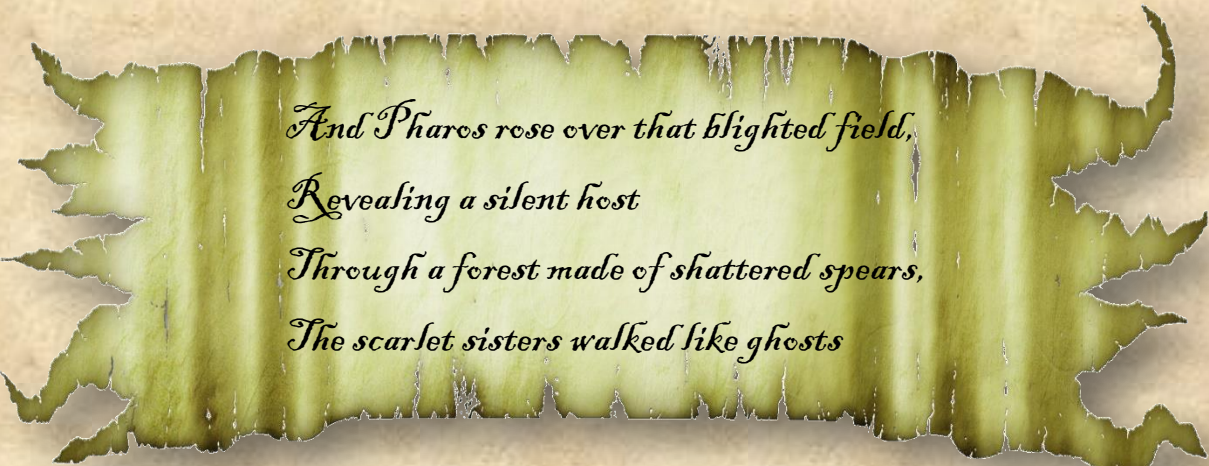
The Esmian faith found its rebirth in the eastern regions of Elkia some twenty years prior to the discovery of the Books of Law by the Prophet Samroth. The religion first emerged amongst the Nelandai people dwelling in the east Elgian region called Vhellithron, a land bounded by the Passage of Thungar in the east and the Eaglesroost Mountains in the west.

The Esmian faith believes that only by cleansing the body and the mind can one truly be at peace. They promote ceremonial washing and grooming as part of the ritual to honor Esmia and clerics are expected to bathe twice per day, after rising and at noon. Senior clergy of both sexes often shave all their hair off as a further gesture to the Goddess of their personal cleanliness.

The purification of the mind involves the casting out of all ill thoughts. An Esmian will spend an hour each day in silent meditation within the temple Salandrum (a special chamber that has been ritually purged of all evil). Contained within the Salandrum is the temple font. The Holy Water of the Esmian faith is an especially important medium, symbolizing the healing tears of the Goddess.

## *A Reliquarium Eldoria Update*

In each conflict, Imperial Angels provided healing aid to all of the soldiers that they found on the battlefield, regardless of rank. This caused some friction because commanders of the Sardellan Legions insisted that the Angels direct their attention to the wounded officers and noblemen in the first instance but first but Abbess Ghallian, the first Head of the Order, instructed her priestesses to treat the wounded and dying on a needs basis. The Trezkillian General Koran Greyhelm imprisoned a senior Angel after the Battle of Haden's Pass for her outright refusal to give preferential treatment to his wounded son. As a consequence Greyhelm was executed upon the orders of the Empress, sending a message to all commanders that they were to let the Esmians do their job without interference.



*And Pharos rose over that blighted field,  
Revealing a silent host  
Through a forest made of shattered spears,  
The scarlet sisters walked like ghosts*

*From the epic poem by Tarne Falkhonen 1568R*

### **The Kinstrife and Beyond**

Between 1556R and 1565R the Angels saw little action in battle, although a fair few of their Order were based in Llan where there were a series of small rebellions by local nobles against the occupying Sardellan forces. The Empress Taranae left to direct heir to her and in the years after her death, increasing rivalry between claimants to the throne saw the Sisterhood participate in small skirmishes. Without the protection of Taranae, the Angels came under renewed criticism, especially after members of the Order treated enemy Llanish troops during the Battle of Three Bridges in 1563R. The Angels defied their superiors, saying it was their doctrine that they followed and not the orders of their captains; anyone they found in need of help, friend or foe, would receive the blessings of Esmia.

However the Angels did not find support from the Fyrecia in Odressi. Their techniques were often at odds with the mainstream Orders. While an Esmian would never consider taking a life, the Scarlet Sisters carried a blessed *miser cordia* dagger upon them; those whom they deemed could not be saved and were in great pain, they dispatched after offering a brief prayer. Criticism from their own Church and from secular authorities began to cause a schism in the ranks of the Angels.

The civil war that became known as the Kinstrife is said to have really started when there was an attempt to seize the capitol of the Empire in 1567R. At the *Battle of Traitor's Field* in that year, the Order committed most of its remaining Angels to a horrific fight between the most powerful challengers for



the throne and the defending Trezkillian and Siritar Legions holding the city of Jasper. The battle was fought over four days and saw many of the leading priestesses of the Angels killed, both intentionally and by accidental arrow fire. The Angels were decimated and were never as effective again after that. Many of the survivors of Traitor's walked away from the battle with their white robes stained red with blood and were later renamed the Scarlet Sisterhood, after the famous Bard, Tarne Falkhonen published his epic poem based on his personal experience in fighting at Traitor's Field. They changed their clerical robes from a white smock to a robe of red and black – red for blood and black for mourning.

The Scarlet Sisterhood continued to serve various fractured military units during the civil war of the Kinstrife. Many of their numbers were killed during this protracted conflict and, as a result the Sisterhood became less of an organised Order and more a group of individuals with similar ideals. Most notable amongst the Scarlet Sisters over the remaining 100 years of the Kinstrife were Calayssa D' Drynn and the Bloodsong Sisters; Janna, Esmaranda and Breel. Between them they developed surgical procedures and introduced potions and drugs that are used in the healing arts by modern physicians across Eldoria.



## ESMIA

### Church Structure

The head of the Esmian faith is given the title of the "Fyrecia" (in honor of the religion's founder). The Fyrecia is the high priestess of the temple in Odressi and determines the doctrine of the entire church on their own; there are no councils that provide supportive input to the decisions of the Fyrecia.

The Fyrecia is head of the Esmian faith for a period of approximately 20 years or unless illness or death requires the election of a new Fyrecia. Election of a Fyrecia takes place to coincide with the next Congress in Odressi (which occurs every 4 years).

Novices of the faith join one of the many convents that exist across Eldoria and work to assist their local community for a minimum of five years. Their daily life consists of attending early morning prayers and rituals and then visiting people in the immediate region to offer whatever aid they can in the form of medical assistance, food, clothing and labor.

Once ordained, the clergy are assigned responsibilities in the Healing Hall, a sanatorium that is usually part of an Esmian convent.



*Danarra Brindle, the Abbess of the new Order of the Scarlet Sisterhood dressed in a red quasi-military clerical costume*

### **The Resurrection of the Order**

The Kinstrife came to an end the Treaty of Four swords in 1677R and the remaining Scarlet Sisters were united again by Breel Bloodsong who established a new temple in Zaramoor, but in a much diminished capacity. The Sisterhood were an Order that existed because of war and the centuries of peace that followed the Kinstrife saw their numbers further decline. They last saw active service in 1962R, when they supported Elkian companies which went to Leezeria to aid the Elves in the Third War of Tears. Their Order only numbered fifty at this stage and they participated in the epic *Battle of a Thousand Arrows* at the end of which only two Sisters survived. In 1963R, having returned to Zaramoor, they called it a day and formally disbanded the Order.

The modern Order of the Scarlet Sisters was founded in 2149R by Danarra Brindle, a relatively unknown Esmian from Western Sard. It is rumoured that she was descendant from one of the surviving Sisters of the Battle of a Thousand Arrows. She had listened to the rhetoric being put about by the Grand Chancellor of Sard and perceived that war was coming to the region again. Danarra convinced the members of her small Esmian hospice to adopt the dogma of the Scarlet

Sisters of old and follow her into the east in preparation for war. A contingent of forty Scarlet Sisters has recently been dispatched to the Protectorate of Darkmoor and has offered their service to the Esmian Temple in the city Darringmoor.

The doctrine of the new Sisterhood is based on articles of faith that were written by the first Abbess of the Order, Haleen Ghallian, however they have also adopted several practices of the Bloodsong Sisters, including a quasi-military clerical costume that was favoured by Esmaranda Bloodsong and made famous by the painting , *"The Red Sister at Linton Bridge"*, by Adreen Kye.

The painting, which hangs in the Falkhonen bardic Conservatory in Jasper, depicts Esmaranda helping a badly wounded soldier across a bridge, while a rear-guard tries to hold back enemy troops trying to seize the river crossing. The story goes that Esmaranda had been helping the wounded at the *Battle of Linton Bridge*, a skirmish between two rival noble factions. At the height of the battle Esmaranda is said to have used her normal clerical robe to make bandages after her supplies ran short. A man-at-arms clothed her in his blood-stained surcoat and after this, Esmaranda continued to wear a red military uniform in honour of the men who died at Linton Bridge, even adding greaves and arm-guards to the ensemble.



## A Generic Scarlet Sister (Warpriest)

**Human Warpriest level 3** (GoodBlessing/Heal Blessing) **Init** +2; **Senses** **Alignment** LG

### DEFENSE

**AC** 12, **Touch** 12, **flat footed** 10 ( No Armour, Shield, none) (+2 **Dex**) **hp** 20 (0d8+3d8+3);

**Saves** **Fort** +3, **Ref** +3, **Will** +5

### OFFENSE

**Speed** 30 **Melee** Single Attack **Dagger** +5 (1d4+1/19-20) Full Attack **Dagger** +4 (1d4+1/19-20) +1 **Weapon**

**Focus** **Space** 5ft.; **Reach** 5

### Special Attacks

Sacred Weapon (Su) -

Weapon Focus (Dagger)

### Spells Known

*Warpriest Spells CL 3 Concentration 5*

Level 0 (4) DC 12

Detect Poison (Divination X 1

Light(Evocation X 1

Stabilize(Conjuration X 1

Vigor(Psionic X 1

Level 1 (4) DC 13

Cure Light Wounds(Conjuration)[Healing X 2

Sanctify Corpse(Evocation) X 1

Sanctuary(Abjuration) X 1

### STATISTICS

**Str** 12, **Dex** 15, **Con** 11, **Int** 10, **Wis** 14, **Cha** 12

**Base Attack** 2 **CMB** 3; **CMD** 16

**Feats** Defensive Combat Training, Armour Prof Heavy, Armour Prof Light, Armour Prof Medium, Brew Potion, Improved Unarmed Strike. Martial Weapon Prof, Shield Proficiency: Can use shields, Simple Weapon Proficiency, Skill Focus (Heal): +3 Heal, Weapon Focus: +1 to attack rolls

**Skills** **Climb** 1, **Craft** 0, **Craft Herbalism** 2, **Diplomacy** 6, **Handle Animal** 1, **Heal** 11, **Intimidate** 1, **Know Arch & Eng** 0, **Know Religion** 4, **Profession** 2, **Ride** 2, **Sense Motive** 2, **Spellcraft** 0, **Survival** 2, **Swim** 1  
**Languages** Sardellan (Common)

### SPECIAL ABILITIES

Aura of deity

Blessings (Su) Holy Strike and Powerful Healer

Improved Coup De Grace (requires no prerequisites)

**Equipment** Robes, Misericordea, holy symbol, healing satchel (contains bandages, splints, 4x CLW potions, 4x doses of Liacca, 4x doses of Bitterwort.



## VISIT ELDORIA ON PATREON

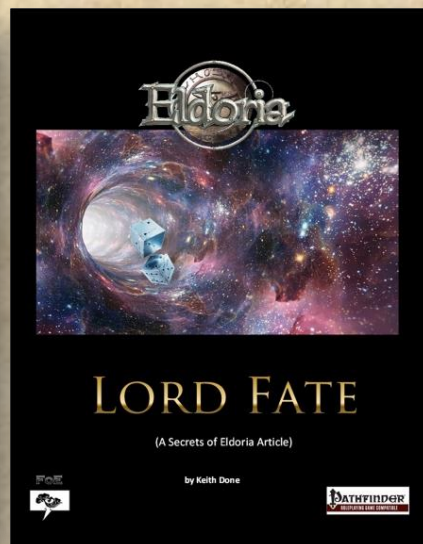
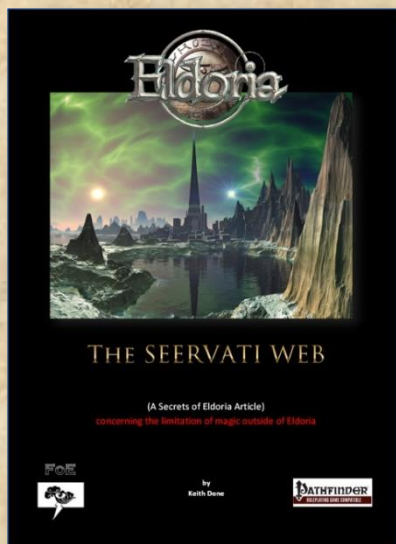
This version of the “Scarlet Sisterhood” is the short version. The full ‘Scarlet Sisterhood’ includes a plothook, magic items and potions and is available by subscribing to the Eldoria Patreon site

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*A Reliquarium Eldoria Update*



# The Scarlet Sisterhood



## An update for the Reliquarium Eldoria

The Scarlet Sisterhood are a special Order of the Esmian Church, founded at the height of the Sardellan Empire to act as medics on the battlefield. This product provides you with the history of the Order and an example of a Scarlet Sister *Warpriest* Pathfinder character.

