

The Ascension

A report by Skalgrim Skyfather, High Priest of The Wardens

This is a report of a great event that we were privileged to both influence and witness, namely the Ascendance of the Good Sphere after a 36 year wait, and the Ascension of Pradot Mar to become an aspect of the Good Sphere. The report necessarily glosses over the complex discussions around faith and worship, and the many acts of heroism, that took place during five intense days, and presents the matters that occurred in chronological order, to the best of this authors recollection.

Our party gathered at Shadows Rest to meet with Sir Clavados and the Shadowsrise in the early evening of Earth Day, Fools Moon. The party comprised.

- Lord Quicksilver – party leader
- Baron Silas von Greenback
- Lord Khandis Greyspider
- Delta - Oracle of the Master of Time
- Drieden - Oracle of the Scholar.
- Michael
- Hak
- My Lord Wulfric Baneguard
- Cerridwen
- Dayleth
- Cirith
- Silverheart
- Lady Rihanna
- And I, Skalgrim Skyfather

To achieve the Ascension of the Good sphere we learnt that it was necessary that Good greatly dominated over Evil on the plane – to this effect we needed to move the evil nodes off

plane, and ensure the good nodes remained. This was our primary objective. Our secondary objective was to influence which person ascended to the sphere to become an Aspect of Good – the personality of that individual would then have influence over the plane. We became aware of three candidates, Sir Ruff – leading his crusade against all evil, Sir Clavados, and Pradot Mar of the Saldorians. We spent much time over the course of our mission discussing the merits of these options.

To assist us in this endeavour Shadows Rest had within it a magical Map, that showed the location of all the good and evil nodes, as well as the major forces gathered across the land. Our observation that evening showed that the Grey Man had absorbed the Node of Lolth and Sir Ruff the Node of Purity. This left five good and four evil nodes available to be claimed (the node of death was believed to be destroyed at this point).

Our Sector Lords confirmed that a letter had been sent out, stating to all that the Valley did not support Sir Ruff's crusade, and demanding that all Valley members involved return back to their current home location. Those that did not do so were to be exiled and treated as an enemy.

Sir Volminor was confirmed to be a member of the Crusade and hence no longer part of the Valley.

We met with Sir Clavados to discuss the Ascension. He told us that he would put himself forward as the person to Ascend if that was our wish, and that Pradot Mar of Saldor was the only other credible candidate, if we did not wish Sir Ruff to Ascend. He instructed us that to Ascend you needed to be the pre-eminent caster of their sphere on the plane (i.e. to absorb the most good nodes), to have sufficient worshipers, and to complete a ritual on conjunction day.

That evening we set out to meet Pradot Mar. We fought spiders on the way and then met a group of Saldorians. We first chatted with Pradot Krell until Pradot Mar finished his meditations.

Pradot Krell told us he supported a Neutral ascension and he did not appear friendly in manner. Pradot Mar then arrived, and we discussed his values. He told us; he believed everyone had a spark of good inside them; that he would ascend if we asked, but that he did not know the requirements; that Pradot Krell would take over Saldor if he ascended, and that he could not guarantee which body his soul would inhabit next, for example Pradot Vey had been reborn as a child (note - Pradot Mar had never met him as was under direct "tutelage and care" from Pradot Krell; that under his leadership Saldor's anti non-human bigotry had been much reduced; and that he already had enough worshipers as he was a nation leader

We then set out to meet Sir Ruff, but were assailed by a group who attacked on sight of our evil party members calling themselves the “followers of light”. We easily dispatched them.

We then met Sir Ruff and the Adamancer accompanying him, and had a largely convivial discussion. The key points were; Sir Ruff had a number of valley members with him, fortunately all left his Crusade after our discussion and by the order of the Sector Lords; Bill Jingle was present and on leaving renounced his association with Hospitallers and Micheliners; we were not able to sway Sir Ruff from his crusade; Sir Ruff was not fully aware of the reality of the situation (e.g. forgetting he had absorbed a node that day, the Node of Purity); Sir Ruff told us the “followers of light” were not from the Crusade; the Adamancer told us evil nodes would be placed inside the gem he held, to be released when “appropriate”. This discussion reinforced our view that Sir Ruff was not our choice of person to Ascend, though all agreed that the most important thing was for the Good Sphere to Ascend.

We returned to Shadows Rest. Judge Flam and Lady Kiara arrived. Lady Kiara told us that she was going to claim the Node of War (evil) the next day and take it to the Central Isle to be taken off plane before the Conjunction. The discussion affirmed our two main aims:

- To try to ensure our choice of candidate ascended, though not at the risk of preventing the Good Sphere Ascension.
- These 3 pillars were originally Sir Clavados, The Dreadlord Arakis, and Lazarus Steel.
- Lazarus Steel planned to leave shortly.
- That he would leave the remaining good nodes to us - knowledge and peace (if we could recover them).
- That he would investigate the missing Node of Set

- No connection to the Good sphere was possible within the node – though fortunately it transpired that several members of our group were still able to access the good sphere. I however was not, but was able to call on neutral and evil instead.
- The Prince of Ashes departed and we returned to Shadows Rest

That evening we all went to the meeting of evil folk, which proved to be called by the Grey Man to discuss his Ascension. Many individuals were present, with representatives of the Khalid, Lancorin (representing Kevralyn Soulfire), Lady Kiara, Prince of Ashes, Lensil Blackbone, Circle Aflame, King Bane Ironhand, Whisper of the house of the weaver, Kagar high priest of the eye, and Puke Scumgrief, amongst others.

We learnt that many of those present did not support the ascension of evil sphere. Our main argument was that the Grey Man's action would weaken the void prison. We persuaded the Dymwan to withdraw their support for the Grey Man. We learnt that the Prince of Ashes was trapped on this plane by the Grey Man – he had clear enmity to the Grey Man. My Lord Wulfric showed the presence of mind to secure aid from the Prince of Ashes, which was subsequently used to get him to lift the eternal curse.

We returned to Shadows Rest where we met with Jananos and two others of the misfits - ring bearers Dame Layla Mayfield and Roesis. We learnt that we needed to disrupt the three evil Nexus he had created, and that these needed to be assaulted at same time as an assault on the Grey Man himself. It was decided that ring bearers would accompany forces to each nexus.

Southern nexus – Kellorin and Drake

NW nexus – Igor and Dame Layla

NE nexus – Davros and Anatharion

We agreed that the combined assault would begin at noon on Moon day as the evil sphere ascension would need to occur that afternoon (bringing darkness to light). The good sphere ascension would be in the late evening (bringing light to darkness).

When fighting the Grey Man we would need to use the four rings present in our party in a set order to be able to kill him- first neutrality (Haks ring), then Evil (Michaels ring), then Chaos = magic (Roesis ring), then finally necromancy (Rihannas ring). Each ring made him vulnerable to damage from that given source.

Lady Kiara advised us that the Grey Man had now also prevented anyone leaving the plane – which meant that none of the evil nodes could be removed. It was clear that the only way to prevent an ascension of the evil sphere was to destroy the Grey Man.

Pradot Mar informed us that Pradot Krell had taken the evil Node of Knowledge into his own personal sanctuary and that he could not intervene directly. He gave us his permission to act as we needed to retrieve this node. We asked him to wait at the previous location of the Node of Peace, in anticipation of us destroying the Grey Man and the node returning there.

We made our plans for the final day of our mission. In the morning we would retrieve the evil node from the Saldorians (Pradot Krell). In the afternoon we would destroy the Grey Man (!). In the evening we would meet with Sir Ruff and Pradot Mar and then ensure the Ascension of the Good Sphere.

Moon day

We travelled towards Pradot Krell sanctuary. We met forces of the light being led by the Purifier. We defeated her forces and finally persuaded her to leave – she set off to consult her leader Ullon Tek.

We met the Saldorian forces of Pradot Krell. We tried to discuss with them but in the end

combat ensued. We were forced to slay them.

We then met a second Saldorian force. We learnt that Pradot Krell was using the evil Node of Knowledge node to gain information. They opposed us as they did not believe we needed to remove the node from the plane. We slew them all, other than their monk leader who yielded to us.

We met and defeated more evil forces (Followers of the dark). They had a number of blank hosts with them that could contain a number of undead spirits, each time you destroyed the spirit they would rise again with the next – a burial spell from our Humakti proved effective in stopping this from happening.

We found the evil node inside a monk with Pradot Krell communing with it via some form of spirit link. The Hand of Vengeance was also present. We killed all present and withdrew with the node.

We returned to Shadows Rest and handed over the evil node to lady Kiara.

We observed that attacks had now begun on the three nexus point, and we moved to be close to the Grey Man's ritual site.

We headed as swiftly as we could for the ritual site, meeting forces of spiders before waves of House of the Weaver assaulted us, preventing us from invoking. We fought our way through to the ritual area where a fierce fight ensued against the Grey Man and his creatures, duergar and other followers. The ring bearers did their work, and we worked through his defences. Finally Rihanna embodied all of us who were willing with undead, and we struck the Grey Man down. All our Good high priests then cast a high level good invocation into the evil ritual site to destroy it.

We returned to Shadows Rest.

The Adamancer sent Lord Quicksilver a gem containing the Node of Ushaz to be taken off plane, which was done, along with all the other evil nodes. We then travelled with Pradot Mar to meet with Sir Ruff as the time for the Ascension of the Good Sphere drew near. For those of us with connections to the evil sphere, such as myself, lady Kiara severed our connection for a time, as otherwise we risked death as the Good sphere ascended.

Cerridwen led us in song, accompanied by Dame Layla, as we approached the Ascension site. And when asked by Sir Ruff why he should let Pradot Mar ascend, it was Cerridwens gifted and heartfelt words that persuaded him. He passed on the good nodes to Cerridwen, and she in turn to Pradot Mar, and he left this realm and before our eyes Ascended to the Good Sphere. A quiet descended us all, as we reflected on what we had seen.

We returned to Shadows Rest. There we started a discussion around over where the Valley people should relocate – a decision that will continue on I suspect.

So that ended our mission. Suffice it so say that it was spiritual journey as well as a hard fought one, and one that I will never forget. I was fortunate to be given the Grey Mans robes to wear at the end, a powerful momento of a mighty quest.

Skalgrim Skyfather, High Priest of the Wardens.