

## The Golden Trio and the Quest for Ladon

### Preview

*[The Ancient Dragons created the First Plane of existence and within this are the 13 realms of mankind. 12 of the realms were handed over to man while the last one was reserved for the Old Ones. Within each realm the Ancient Dragons created 4 kingdoms, set at each corner of the world. There are 7 Ancient Dragons, the first being Typhon the Great, the father of all Dragons. The other 6 are siblings, created in the lake of Mana.*

*The Ancient Dragon Lemuria oversees the Kingdom of Lemuria, the Ancient Dragon Kumara oversees the Kingdom of Kumari Nadu, the Ancient Dragon Sirius oversees the Kingdom of Hespera and the Ancient Dragon Ladon oversees the Kingdom of Atlantis.*

*Each Dragon created a signet of power for the rulers of these kingdoms to govern and oversee their people: The Twisted Embers of Fate, The Skull of the Innate Will, the Lever of Righteousness and the Seal of the Justice Bringer. Together as one, they are known as the signet of mankind, though the realm of Sosaria, in which this story takes place, has never seen this mighty relic created, so what it does is not quite clear.*

*When Kumara created the Seal of the Justice Bringer he cast this into the Eternal Void, so its whereabouts are also unknown, lost in time and so without a royal symbol of the line of kings, the people of Kumari Nadu wandered apart. Eventually over time, those tribes developed disciplines and as that time grew past the memories, through myths, legends and fables those disciplines eventually evolved into the 8 virtues of the realm of Sosaria.]*

### The Twisted Embers of Fate

The Twisted Embers of Fate is mighty staff that has the power of burn away all things untrue and only leave behind that which is true. Seldom used, however, as such powers usually result in death, but it is the royal symbol of the Kings of Hespera. The Staff is a golden hue with runic symbols on the side that read: "Signet of Fire", in an ancient dragon language.

The last King of Hespera, the realm of fire, was known as Tristan of Curtana and had three daughters, while no sons. His eldest daughter was named Joyeuse, the middle daughter was named Durendal and his youngest daughter was named Alania. Joyeuse was his most prized possession and his pride and joy, he loved her more than even his own signet of power, the Twisted Embers of Fate. It was his hope that she would be the first Queen of Hespera and rival that of the great queens of Lemuria for both love and affection of the entire realm of mankind.

Durendal was loyal to her father absolutely and without question as she constantly sought to seek his approval in all things. Alania on the other hand was quite the free spirit and long was she lost in daydreams. Although, Alania was not as beautiful as her sister Joyeuse her beauty was second only to

that of her sister in the entire kingdom and she often received advances from the princes of Hespera for her hand in marriage.

Alania longed to see the world and to leave Hespera as she cared not for such things. She felt a calling in her, not to be bound to one person or one place, but to be a part of the entire realm and experience the life of Sosaria. Eventually she did leave Hespera, but not as she would have hoped for.

When Sirius ordered the Kingdom of Hespera to wage war in his name, they did so, but reluctantly as they saw this as a civil war with no possible good outcome. During this time when news of the Queen of Lemuria's death reached Tristan, he knew that Sirius has gone too far and because of this he would not stop. No one's life was safe now, so he sent his daughter Joyeuse to Atlantis, as an emissary with Durendal in tow to consult with David the Architect. With her, he also entrusted the Twisted Embers of Fate as he knew David would know what to do.

When Sirius learned of Tristan's betrayal, he twisted the minds and bodies of the people of Hespera into that of demons and nightmares. He specifically bound all people with the blood ties to Hespera through the words of the ancient power of fire that he used to create the Twisted Embers of Fate and in doing so they became twisted and turned inside out. Their true intentions and selfishness manifested itself externally. Those that did not turn were killed by those that did, as the pure of heart convicted these new demons and nightmares by their very existence.

This was the second time he acted out in great rage against the inhabitants of this realm. He sent his new creations back to Lemuria and let them loose on those people there to put fear into them, so that they would relinquish the Skull of the Innate Will to him. As he watched the demons rip the bodies of the people of Lemuria apart viciously and without remorse, Sirius wept for he understood that what he created was well beyond even his own control. This was the third time that he acted out in great rage against the inhabitants of this realm and with this, the Old Ones put into motion their response.

Meanwhile, Sirius convinced himself that if he could assemble the signet of mankind, that somehow, he could undo what he did, but he would find this quite impossible.

When he came to the Kingdom of Atlantis, he had found this kingdom in ruins as the emissary from Hespera, that of Joyeuse and Durendal had been transformed into great demonic champions and they did much damage together as well. Sirius killed Joyeuse and badly injured Durendal. Through the carnage he found David the Architect and clutched in his hand was the Lever of Righteousness, but entombed in some kind of rock or crystal.

Sirius consumed this in hopes to retrieve the Lever of Righteousness and there sits, unaffected by his powers. Over time Sirius has withdrawn deep into the belly of the mountains and taken with him many of the demons and nightmares, though some did not go with him because they liked their new form.

There, Sirius has found an unlikely friend in that of his sister Venus. Venus instructed Sirius that his actions caused a reaction by the Old Ones themselves and she promised to help unravel the mess that he had created. Over time Sirius fell in love with his sister Venus and became resentful of the Old Ones. With her conversations with Sirius over the years, Venus has taken a liking to Alania and has specifically employed her for several minor tasks.

Durendal did not flee to the mountains with the rest of the Hesperian people and with Sirius, for she has lost her name over time and has become known as the Tyrant of the West. The King of Hespera sits in his chamber, brought to these mountains by his youngest daughter Alania. There he sits in his chair for all of eternity hoping to die, mourning the loss of his great love of his life, his daughter Joyeuse. As time goes on as time does, the King no more than moves from his chair then that of his life leaving his body. There he sits in his eternal torment and suffering without motion.

Kumara has returned to Sosaria looking for his brother Ladon (Imanewbie) and it would seem rather inevitable that Kumara and Sirius meet to determine the fate of this realm once and for all.

### **Playlist: Twisted Embers of Fate**

#### **11 Songs**

This is the story of Hespera and as it begins with the hope of a brighter future it also ends with that same hope, for as the clock of mankind does not rotate, the song does not play and the suffering prevails. If that clock was to start up again the hope for at least an ending to the torment might be possible.