

Wyndess Faithbringer

History

When Aencar the Mantled King made his run at unifying the Dalelands in the 11th century DR, a sage by the name of Fesri'ez followed his life course, documenting his deeds and reading the signs in the earth and the heavens. The portents Fesri'ez uncovered revealed that Aencar's mission would eventually fail, and that Aencar would die as a result of his pursuit. Troubled by this omen, Aencar pleaded with the sage to find a way to avert the ill fate that the Humors had in store for him.

Aencar's campaign went on for some time before Fesri'ez reappeared to him with a plan to appease the forces that were intent upon the Mantled King's doom. The sage had uncovered a way to isolate and preserve a bit of Aencar's essence – his strength, spirit, and will. If it was stored carefully, Fesri'ez assured the king that when the spirit essence was introduced to the correct combination of cosmic and mystic forces it would manifest itself as his reincarnation, allowing him to continue to pursue his life's goal of uniting the dales and putting down their enemies.

Aencar secretly underwent the painful process of having a bit of his soul ripped away from him. Fesri'ez obediently placed the essence in a temporary, magical vessel and spirited it away to be stored safely until the time came for it to be reborn...

Another tale, seemingly unrelated, tells that about a hundred years after the great city of Myth Drannor was opened by the elves of Cormanthor – a time that was the epitome, some say, of elven and human union and the height of civilization in the West – elven and human wizards, working together, divined an ominous vision of the city's demise. Intent upon saving Myth Drannor from this fate, the wizards forged a number of rings imbued with great powers of abjuration. The rings were divided amongst several of the wisest of the human and elven mages, destined to be united again in Myth Drannor's time of peril. Until then, their great magical powers would lie dormant.

Sadly, some four hundred years later when Myth Drannor needed the power of the rings, not one of the ones entrusted to the human mages returned. It seemed to the elves that the shortsightedness of the humans had betrayed them – the rings must have been sold off or carelessly lost. One of the elven wizards, however, Sylviree, came to the others and prophesized that the latent magic of the rings would endure; when two of the rings (one human and one elven) were reunited, hope for Myth Drannor would be reborn. A hero would rise from the union of the two rings to restore Myth Drannor to start a Renaissance in Cormanthor, and humans and elves would be reunited in brotherly peace.

A fairly simple moon elf, Jhaer Brightsong, happened in her pursuit of lore and ancient tales upon both of these legends. Intrigued, she studied each of them further until a hunch told her to compare the details of the two against each other. As it turned out, the vessel in which Aencar's sage stored his essence was no mere vial or other such mundane item, but a person! Fesri'ez chose, in fact, a daughter of Aencar's (illegitimate though she was) in which to place a bit of the Mantled King's spirit. The daughter, Iela, was a child begotten by a mistress of the king, a moon elf maid of Shadowdale. The sage wisely chose this vessel, a descendant of the king himself, because her body would prove quite a hospitable place for Aencar's essence.

It was in the vessel's mother, however, that Jhaer found the thread that hemmed together these two tales as one. The mother, Ashi'nen, was herself descended from the great wizard-protectors of Myth Drannor and had been bequeathed one of the rings forged by the human and elven allies centuries earlier. And, in turn, that ring later came into the hands of Iela, Aencar's daughter and vessel!

Jhaer knew that if she could find Iela (now a mature moon elf-blooded woman), and find a trace of one of the human rings from Myth Drannor and bring them together, the two separate prophecies (Aencar's reincarnation and the rise of the Savior of Myth Drannor) might come to be fulfilled as one!

It is little known to others that Jhaer is a member of the secretive Harpers. But thanks to her affiliation, she was able to, in time, track down and recover one of the human defender rings. This she found to be in the possession of an aging human missionary-priest of Tyr by the name of Nerval Watchwill. Seeking out Nerval, she was able to persuade him to come to her home in Ashabenford in Mistledale and meet her to further pursue Aencar's daughter and the elven counterpart ring. Nerval came around to see the links in her stories and agreed that he would help, but he was delayed in embarking upon this quest by his temple duties for some time. He promised to come to Ashabenford as soon as he was able.

In the meantime, Jhaer set about piecing together Iela's identity and whereabouts. In this she was successful, and it happened that Iela was now living out her days in a monastery of the Sun Soul Order in Tasseldale just on the border of the Dun Hills. Beyond her martial prime as a fighting monk, and less useful than she liked to be, Iela eagerly agreed to join Jhaer in venturing to the Standing Stone to see if these old prophecies might finally come to pass.

Jhaer surmised from the various legends and lore that she could muster that at the Standing Stone – a place that embodied the brotherly love of humans and elves – the rings forged so long ago might find the right magical balance in which to summon up Myth Drannor's savior

once they were reunited there. Further, a mystically and cosmically significant time foretold by Aencar's sage Fesri'ez was soon to pass; it would be a clear, moonless night lit bright by the stars and constellations whose alignment would be just so. Fesri'ez's notes suggested that the king's essence, now within Iela, would be reignited and become alive at just such a time. Iela would be able to summon forth Aencar's spirit and fulfill his vision of uniting the dales! And at the same time, the magic of the two rings reunited in the presence of the Standing Stone would empower Iela and make her the Savior of Myth Drannor – a force that could drive the drow and other evils from Cormanthor and bring about a Renaissance of peace and prosperity! Jhaer was beside herself with anticipation, nearly unable to believe that she would have a hand in driving history!

Jhaer realized that the ideal time for the reunion of the rings was nearly upon them, and acted quickly to send word directly from Tasseldale to Nerval Watchwill to come to her immediately. She and Iela headed directly to the Standing Stone.

As Jhaer and Iela came to their destination, Jhaer saw that in fact the heavens were just as Fesri'ez said they would be. Iela had the ring and a hopeful look in her eye. All was well. Jhaer knew that as soon as the priest arrived her long pursuit of these prophecies would culminate in something truly climactic.

Then, however, came the unexpected. Nerval arrived, and he and Iela gasped at the sight of each other. They uttered each other's names in disbelief. Then, to Jhaer's great surprise, the two embraced and kissed passionately...

Nerval was just a young man then. He and his company, calling themselves the Bringers of Faith, were on a mission to deliver Tyr's grace to those in Tasseldale. Iela, a student of Ilmater's ways was part of an escort group that ensured Nerval's company safe passage across the Dun Hills to the Abbey of the Just Hammer. In an unexpected and uncommon attack on the convoy, Nerval and Iela found themselves fighting back-to-back for their own and one another's lives. The experienced sparked a passionate bond between the two. Sadly, their separate paths never allowed them time for one another... until now.

The now High Priest of Tyr and veteran monk-priestess of Ilmater consummated their long-lost love near the Standing Stone. As they did, their ringed hands remained clasped firmly together. Jhaer believes to this day that many power forces mingled together on that night... the night when Wyndess Faithbringer was conceived.

And though today Iela has passed and Nerval is a venerable man spending his last days overseeing a small, new temple to Tyr in Ashabenford, Jhaer is sure to keep a watchful eye on the one she and the Harpers believe just may be the child destined for greatness – Savior

of Myth Drannor and Queen of the United Dales... Soon, in fact, they plan to put her greatness to its first test!

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Wyndess grew up traveling the dales with her aging father, bringing messages of hope and promise to the people they came upon. She studied her father's patron, Tyr, but also pursued the study of her mother's god, Ilmater. As she continued to pursue her studies, she learned about all of the gods of the House of the Triad, and found in each of them a different but important theme. She took all of them to heart.

Though her mother passed when she was very young, Wyndess' father Nerval tells her she has all of the grace and strength of her mother's line. In fact, he tells her that she is destined for greatness, like her grandfather Aencar was. Wyndess was raised on tales of glory and high expectations that she would one day, with the guidance of the Triad and the spirits of her ancestors, come to save all the dales and Cormanthor, and bring about a golden age.

Despite these lofty visions presented to her by her father, Wyndess has found so far no greater motivation than the study of the Triad of which both her parents were a part throughout their lives. The devotion of all of the Triad gods' followers to the pursuit of goodness and right through their various means is an inspiration to Wyndess. And while she questions whether she'll really save the world or not some day, she does aspire to spreading goodness and some day forming a group she will call "The Bringers of Faith" (partly in honor of her father). She envisions this group embracing and embodying all of the virtues espoused by the Triad, and she may be the first to try to walk the righteous but harrowing path of one devoted to Tyr, Torm, Ilmater, and Helm all at once!

She has had a number of experiences traveling with her father through the dales and nearby lands. Recently, though, her father has convinced her that it is time for them to settle down for awhile and bring the word of the Triad to Ashabenford. There, he will leave his mark on the world before passing in the form of a temple to Tyr. Secretly he knows that it is there, too, that a pair of friendly eyes will be present to watch over his daughter when his days end...

Appearance

Wyndess is a strikingly beautiful and wondrous-looking creature. From afar she appears to be an average woman of small stature. The observant will notice her pale hair and a slight, greyish hue to her skin belying a trace of moon elf blood. However, upon seeing the lady up close, her otherworldliness becomes overwhelmingly apparent. She seems to radiate an aura of goodness and serenity – it is a tangible force around her. And her eyes are quite literally a starry night sky. Her irises are all a deep black, but where her pupils would be are shining pinpoints of starlight. In the right ambience, onlookers swear to themselves they can see the very heavens in her eyes, dim points of starlight swirling all about within her orbs. She only looks out of place when she adorns herself in the regalia of a warrior of the Dalelands: bulky banded armor and a swath of deadly weapons. Upon her warhorse and laden in steel she is someone else completely, and those that have seen her fight would swear that her serene starry eyes turn to a vision of holy vengeance when she is angered. Her strength must certainly be divine, for her slight frame could not possibly wield steel the way she does when in battle!

