

The Moordinai

A study in brief By Horquist von Odessa.

The following script is a lay summary of information pertaining to the peoples known as the Moordinai. It is written in brief for his Highness Duke Kainom of Teutonia, and in some haste in light of the current succession difficulties that the Kingdom is facing. Sources are numerous and given the slightly secretive nature of this text many of them have been removed or obfuscated. I have taken the liberty of removing some of the more esoteric and dubious statements made and thus whilst I believe this to be a relatively accurate understanding of these creatures, it is not a complete record of the Lore surrounding them.

They are an ancient and civilised race now rumoured to be found only in the deep realms of the Black Forest and the Shetian Alps. These creatures once held the realm which is now Teutonia, for millennia before the kingdom was founded, but with the coming of man they have retreated to the remote places of the land. Rumours of their existence, intermingled with infrequent and vague sightings are a common topic of tavern-talk in the Teutonian Interior. The myths surrounding these creatures are numerous and confused: evil monsters who prey on children; benevolent watchers that protect us in the night; ancient and alien, unconcerned with the affairs of men; all these and more are common themes in the legends portraying them. Beast of the Night, The Wolfen, The Changelings, The Weirers, The Lost, The Blessed. The names that surround them are as numerous as the legends that they exist in.

Historians are divided on many aspects of their nature, most notably opinion is divided on the fact that they exist at all. Beast Creatures are known within the realm of Teutonia, but they have devolved from their humane side and are far more beast than man. The fact that a collection of civilised beast creatures could exist within the confines of the kingdom and go all but unnoticed, is seen by many as proof that they simply do not exist. The following facts are known only to the King and his most closest advisors and all that know are sworn to secrecy under pain of death.

These creatures call themselves the Moordinai. They have existed in the lands of the west for longer than history has been recorded. The lands of what is now Teutonia is perhaps they're ancestral home, although no proof exists of this that we are aware of. Certainly the Moordinai are no longer believed to exist outside the boundaries of Teutonia.

The Kingdom of Teutonia has existed for in excess of a thousand years. Before that founding of the Kingdom by Corvad the First, the land was wild and the interior unknown. Only the costal regions had any Human habitation on them. Within the interior though, civilisation existed, ancient, wise and seemingly timeless. Early contact took place in -27, if the works of Vacof the Lay are to be believed. He indicates in his ancient work "The Founding" that an exploration party he was a part of, met a group of Moordinai, as he relates:

"..they are beasts as men rather than man as beasts as we have seen before, regaled in finery that made our clothing seem peasant like, with weapons of burnished, gleaming metal and armour of dark and dangerous form. They found and surrounded our explorative party in a manner that had us take them initially for ghosts and other fell creatures of the night."

Over the next 100 years the Kingdom of Teutonia was born and grew. As the realm expanded into the interior, the contact with these creatures became more frequent. On occasion violence resulted, more often though meetings were cordial if reserved but always the world of men encroached on the lands of these beings. Numerous scholars have indicated that the prowess of the early explorers was too much for the Moordinai and that the beasts were outwitted and out fought in the battle for the land. I contend however that there was no battle. The Moordinai granted us the ability to exist here. Perhaps the speed of the expansion took the Moordinai by surprise, for they are ancient creatures and see time differently to mankind. For them a decade can pass in the blink of an eye, yet a town can be built and mature in this time. And so was the building of the Kingdom, expansion and exploration in to the

realm of the beast, faster perhaps than the Moordinai could react. Yet I have seen their prowess in matters of war and the single minded purpose when set on a course of action. Had they resisted they may have been beaten but at what cost in lives and time. Certainly Teutonia would not be the nation as it stands today.

So these creatures, perchance with the wisdom of the ages, recognised the inevitability of change and allowed the emergence of the Kingdom of Teutonia. In doing so they avoided a war that, I will surmise they could not win, few in number as they are. Yet in acceptance of change they retained their identity and founded their relationship with the leaders of the human interlopers. As the Kingdom stabilised, contact became rarer and more obscure. The creatures seemed content to pass into myth and only the King and the immediate council of nobles retained any memory of these beings at all. Recently contact had all but ceased, the last direct meeting between a Moordinai and the King of Teutonia took place in the year 937 when Bai''Rend of Ursa met with the then King, Altdorf II. The meeting was recorded by the scribe Daelur D'illuminar and was described by him as:

“polite and reserved”, (always they are polite and reserved it seems) “and perused matters of some little consequence despite a full agenda of trade and diplomatic issues. These people seem to want little from us”.

The full transcript is available in the Golden Archive of the Royal Library at Odessa.

Yet we now know that it is not the will of these creatures, to pass into myth and legend and to be forgotten by history. To these beings, time is a concept so far removed from that of a man's that it is near impossible for a human to comprehend. Schemes and plans that span millennia are only now becoming known to us as the Moordinai secure the throne of Teutonia in their talon clad fist. I see now with the limited wisdom that human age can bring to me, the similarity in our cultures. Some scholars may deem that the Moordinai have adapted themselves to live within our nation, but alas the truth is far more sinister: they have adapted us to live in theirs.

Thus only now do we see the fruit of their labours manifest itself. The Noble Houses of Teutonia are bound to these creatures through links and eon long pacts, the extent of which can scarcely be guessed at. They have found the weakness, the greed of each and given the ruling houses exactly what each has desired, be it gold, magic or dominion. In accepting these gifts, often unwittingly I must state, they have never the less sold their souls to these beings that are more than men but less than human. And so they have waited with endless patience for the right time, the correct situation,, the perfect play of politics and power. When the Gods spoke, to whom was our freedom entrusted? To whom did the gods themselves bequeath us? Perhaps our freedom was simply another illusion of theirs, given to us that we may feel comfort against the darkening night. Perhaps the gods are yet another of their creations, sent forth to guide us. Perhaps then they have not stolen our freedom, merely that they have directed its course to a point where we were not free at all. Is our Kingdom not known as Teutonia, and are these creatures not our Tutors? Are we not simply “the Tutored”?

I remain, as ever, your humble servant.

Horquist von Odessa

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