



Rite Publishing Presents:

In The Company of Angels

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Dedication To Sean K. Reynolds for Anger of Angels.

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In the Company of Angels

Be Welcome Qwilion of Questhaven,

And be not afraid, long have I watched you and your line, a few I have brought messages to of inspiration and hope. For you I placed the writings of Korvak Cynmark from before his fall from grace, and placed for you to find in your youth within the library of Our Lady of Ladies. I had to move it seventy seven times, until you found it, but it did help to set you upon the path to becoming the City's foremost sage. Now I have come among you openly, for you have been delving into the lore of the grigori and the angelic paragons. I am here to shepherd you out of the darkness of ignorance into the illuminating knowledge given unto me by Our Sovereigns in Heaven, and I will teach you many things.

Zohar of the Lion Host

Of The Grigori

You name us Angels, Celestials, Archons, Azata, and half a hundred other epithets for the divine spirits that serve the holy Heavens, my kind are called grigori, and we are kith and kin to what you and your sages name angels. Though we are more akin to mortals than you might realize, as we are spirit permanently placed in a mortal vessel, rather than being wholly of spirit, like most of what you term "outsiders." We however are to angels as the astral deva is to solar. We find both comradeship and inspiration in our unchanging fellow celestials, regardless of how rigged and traditional The Great Pantheon has made them.

Some of my people have been around since the dawn of creation, existing to carry out a single task governing a part of creation, while others were formed whole yesterday.



Yet many of us make a choice or are fated by the heavens to change and grow, this is especially true of those chosen to watch over and teach the mortal races. We can take up mortal roles and act on their behalf, though most chose like myself to become an exemplar of our celestial nature, and draw upon the divine might found within all angels. We, the angelic paragons, grow in power and attain new ranks within the hierarchy of the Celestial Halls Above be they in angelic, archonic, or azatanian choirs and hosts.

My fellow grigori and angelic paragons seek to inspire mortals to greatness and to help you resist the temptations of evil. Yes sometimes the Heavens send us to punish, but we more often serve as messengers to the mortal realm bringing the holy word of Our Sovereigns in Heaven. Other times an Emyreal Lord will send us to free wrongly imprisoned souls whether a fiend of Damnation tricks them, some mortal magic

imprisons them, or due to some supernatural misfortune they cannot find their way to the afterlife. On occasion, our creators send us to fight the fiends of Damnation directly, and while we do this with righteousness and anger, always remember that fiend was either once our friend, companion, or colleague in the Celestial Halls Above or is proof of our failure to help a mortal soul resist the darkness within. Either way this fills us with a great sorrow, and if possible, we will always reach out with compassion offering forgiveness, be it seven times rejected or seventy-seven times. For while mortals sometimes rage against the Heavens for the unfairness of their existence, know that my kind fight and die to give you that choice to rage, lest you be ground under the iron heel of Damnation's legions.

Today many of us walk secretly among you in the city of Questhaven, seeking to shepherd the Questors Society toward the way of heroism and away from wonton theft, murder, and destruction. All the while opposing the machinations of my former comrades such as Kauriel the Enabler and Sivan the Court Fool of Orcus.

Physical Description

My fellow grigori, at our creation can range from 4 feet up to 8 feet tall depending on the will of our divine creator. However, those like me that chose to embrace their celestial nature and advance in the hierarchy of heaven can transform and become as tall as 16 feet. It can become stranger yet as one advances in the hierarchy, a grigori can chose a specific celestial form, taking on the physical traits of an astral deva, bralani, ghaele, hound archon, lantern archon, lilend, planetar, solar, or trumpet archon. And yet there are still more bizzare forms such as the orphanim and seraphim that are in no way human. In addition, these changes go to such an extent that no celestial can tell the difference between a grigori angelic paragon with all the aspects of a solar and one who

Grigori Doom

Grigori in the Campaign Setting of Questhaven have an additional racial trait.

Grigori Doom (Ex): It is the curse of grigori that their non-grigori offspring become horrible monsters.

was created to be a solar angel at the dawn of creation.

There are those who do not take on the form of a specific member of the celestial hierarchy such as myself. We are usually tall, slender with almost no fat and little to no muscle, we never have body or facial hair, and we have large, expressive dark eyes, which when combined with our demeanor often hint at our sorrows. We also known for are large hands, and careworn appearance.

As creatures of pure spirit, we grigori are genderless, however our vessels can be male, female, androgynous, or any other variation they or Our Sovereigns of Heaven desire, though many of us identify our personality with a specific gender. We can even change this each time we advance in the celestial hierarchy though we cannot reproduce sexually with others to produce pure celestials; we can mate with mortals to produce half-celestials and aasimar. However, in the lands of Questhaven *Their Dark Lord of Fire*, he who was once the Lightbringer, has cursed our offspring to eventually become atrocious monstrosities.

Those of my kind that are created to serve a particular deity, such as *Our Queen of Wisdom and Mercy*, are often are garbed in the trappings of the worshipers, if not that of a priest all together, and follow the cultural norms of that church. While those who follow a particular ethos, a specific Empyrean

Lord, or The Great Church of the Pantheon may choose our garb, though to perform one's mission we are not above disguising or humbling ourselves in our service to Heaven.

Society

Our society is difficult to put in mortal terms as the Heavens are far more diverse than the whole of the earth, for there are spirits who have come there since the dawn of time, from uncountable and forgotten cultures. In addition, each deity constructs a different angelic culture for that religion. This does not even begin to speak of the various different types of celestial beings, some of which you are not even aware of yet. So when I speak here, I speak in generalities, and most often of the grigori and the angels who serve The Great Church of the Pantheon and its ethos of good, rather than those who serve a specific deity. There is a great harmony in the Heavens as all are united in the service of good, and due to all of us being of spirit what might provoke prejudice or a fear of the "other" in mortals is not remarked upon by celestials. For us it is as if remarking upon how big a child's pinky toe is, when all you could see is her shoe. What we care about is what you believe and do. The means azata will use to reach a good end horrifies an archon, while azata rail against the strictures archons impose without a thought. The angels are often in the middle of this; one of us might balk at a short-term alliance with demons, while not having an issue with a devil's alliance. We might even support the sacrifice of a thousand lives to save a single mortal soul.

Remember we are not mortal; we may take an eon to consider a difference in reasoning, and we are just as patient to see the exalted of Heaven to come view the circumstances as we do, as we are to see the vile of Damnation. As such, contemplation and meditation is a large part of an angel's life, and only the finite nature of a problem will move us to act without the supportive council of our fellows.

Even then, our peers understand the responsibility Heaven sent us to govern over.

In one way, mortals and we are very much alike; we appear to have free will. We can fall into Damnation, act in disobedience to our creator or empyreal lord, question the motives of our deity, or we can be cast out, exiled or banished for one transgression or another, I myself was cast out by my empyreal lord for taking a mortal mate. Within this free will is our own flaw, as told by the Tale of the Lightbringer, we have too much surety of our own righteousness. Our fundamental nature is good, we know to the very core of our being that we want is good, and can be no other way. However, since the fall of the Lightbringer, rather than anger we find only great sorrow when another being does not perceive the righteousness of our designs. The wise among us who would avoid failing themselves, seek not to enforce our designs upon others, but to understand why the divine has made a differing point of view that is also the embodiment of good. So rather than arguments or violence, harsh disagreements among celestials are marked by cold silence, hoping that one day our opponents will come to understand the error of their ways.

However, because of our personal responsibilities and the finite nature of mortal life, sometimes when we disagree and we will need to act. Therefore, we shape the future with all the power and authority we can muster according to our belief in what is best. Just as a deity has an agenda so to do empyreal lords down to even the lowliest of exiled grigori, it just never leads to violence amongst the unfallen. To do so would be akin to a mortal blinding himself because a painting offended him. It is far more likely that mortal proxies and other angels would be set to work using different means to affect the same solution to a problem, conflicts such of these are often the cause of entire hosts being condemned or cast out of heaven

by a deity. So yes, I do sometimes have to navigate Heaven's political factions in order to get my work done in the mortal world, but it is more akin to two mentors giving you differing advice and you having to ultimately choose your own path.

The hierarchy of angels has been discussed by a number of religions and gifted scholars, however most fail to address the idea that by their very nature the azata askew such rigid structures, and that most hierarchies are unique to specific deities. I will only say that a shocking as it will be to the Questors Society, very few deities who employ celestial beings as servants, recognize power as the deciding factor in a hierarchy. It is more often based on aptitude and need. But because I am sure you will demand one, my scholarly friend, here is the rough Hierarchy of Heaven within the Great Pantheon: empyreal lords, archangels, seraphim, solars, cherubim, ophanim, planetars, trumpet archons, hashmalim, principalities, devas, ghaeles, dynamis, leonals, lillends, bralanis, hound archons, lantern archons, grigori, celestial template creatures and other celestial beings.

What do we do for fun...? Yes, mortals would ask this question, I think sometimes mortals have a greater fear of boredom than they do the punishments of hell. Angelic festivals and revelries are constant for we do not lack in resources and the joy of worship is shared to a greater depth than in the mortal world, due to the Heavens being spiritual realms, rather than a physical one. When we wish to discuss philosophy, theology, or some other piece of lore, we seek out the appropriate celestial being, be it our creator, or one of the faithful spirits who have found their way to heaven after their mortal death. I once communed with the faithful spirit, who in his mortal life was a renowned author who died before finishing his greatest work, and so I enjoyed a story that was never shared with the mortal realms. Such are the joys of Heaven. In our

afterlife the greatest faithful entertainers, artisans, and poets make their way here, and have eternity in which to work. Moreover, this does not begin to touch upon the unaccountable joy an angel experiences when listening to the music created by the angelic choirs.

This is but one of many reasons why I seek to no longer remain among the cast out, and desire a return to the Heavens.

Relations

Grigori love mortals and mortal life more than any other celestial being, but understand our interest is spiritual not physical. We care more about saving your soul than we do about saving your life. This can lead to some difficulty with those who seek vengeance rather than justice, and especially those who seek to punish the wicked with death, for a mortal soul has a greater chance of redemption while alive, that it will have in death. Therefore, while a paladin might seek to kill an evil tyrant, we might seek only to speak to him about the error of his ways. For while he causes death and misery to the living, he has no power over their souls. We might punish him, and imprison him, until he repents, and even then we may execute him as penance for his many sins for even with forgiveness, one must do penance. These deeds often baffle mortals who see only the suffering such a tyrant is causing in the physical world.

Imagine the outrage of a mortal when an angel kills an innocent child simply because the angel's deity desires its soul in Heaven. That deity may reincarnate that soul instantly or it the deity could transform it

into some celestial champion to stave off an assault by some vile deity. As such, it can be extremely difficult for any of me and my kindred to maintain long lasting friendships when we may not know or be forbidden to speak of the reasons behind our orders and



our actions. Such is the nature of our obedience and faith in the Heavens. So most often we go in disguise among the mortal world as advisors, sages, teachers and mentors for we do not enjoy the company of destructive beings be they the most righteous of paladins or the holiest of angels. Even when we do not go in disguise, we often walk among you hidden from your mortal senses by the power of providence or our heavenly gifts.

Alignment and Religion

We do not simply chose good, we are good incarnate, a physical manifestation of the exalted concept of good, we are creations of pure righteousness. We are holy, our very existence a veneration and hallowed existence. If I struck a fell creature of evil with my hand, it would suffer injury where all your mortal blows would leave nary a scratch upon him. Good is not just a way of life to us, but it is who we are. That being said, we still have free will, and have many choices in front

of us, some chose the way of the archons embracing what you mortals call Lawful Good, and others embrace the way of the azata becoming Chaotic Good. Most of my people remain what you mortals call Neutral Good, but this free will also allow us to become exiles and rebels in mortal world, or fall into the depths of Damnation though praise the heaven these are very rare.

In Questhaven, we worship the gods as a pantheon, each one controlling an aspect of creation and each one worthy of the same level of devotion, though some of us are created only to worship a specific deity, or ethos, though none of us without rebelling or falling will worship a non-good deity. My archon kindred cannot worship a non-lawful deity, nor may my azata grigori worship a non-chaotic deity. But again free will comes back to haunt us and a few rebels and fallen angels exist who serve other deities.

Since my exile to the Protectorate of Questhaven, I have chosen to worship as a