

Tagas requested parlay, and was met by the Duke outside of the Black Stag Tavern. Here, the pair discussed terms of battle, wherein Duke Frost had stated the only real term he would agree to was leaving the non-combatants out of battle. Duke Frost also stated this would not be a battle of honor, as he would know full well the Dominion would return to fight another day, and the battle would never cease until one of the kingdoms had been annihilated.

Oddly, through it all, the Iesenverfector was plain and polite in his answers, and thanked the Duke for the opportunity to meet him in battle. As the Duke gave the Iesenverfector moments to prepare himself for battle, Tagas stated he had not come to fight, and in turn the small group of soldiers mounted their gryphons and took off for the skies.

The Death of King Gareth

All of Icenia was in mourning upon news of the death of beloved King Gareth in mid-September of 607. It is appropriate then at this time that His life be reviewed.

King Gareth ap Moire began His career as a minor knight in the days of Queen Sidraste's first reign some 2800 years before the present day. Respected as an honorable and eloquent man from a small feif, He would never have been known to history had King Melagar not succumbed to the dark forces of the Mal Draco. Lord Gareth became the voice of the common people as King Melagar's injustices grew, resulting in His loss of title and imprisonment. Upon escaping from prison, Gareth led revolt against the Dark King, and successfully ousted him. He ruled faithfully and well for a decade until His unexpected and untimely disappearance caused further backlashes within the kingdom.

In 599, Duke Aramis Llyrr in particular came to personally believe that a this man of impeccable nature, King Gareth ap Moire, was in fact not dead but asleep, held in abeyance by the Virtuar for a time of future need. Duke Aramis Llyrr (with the help of many Adventurers of Ashbury) recovered and awakened the Sleeping King, and brought Him before the Mons Regalis — a revered place of power which is said to greet those worthy of the Throne of Icenia with song from the earth itself.

Just as the lifting of the Curse of Glantri freed the Icenian people, the assumption of the Awakened King did much to set them in order. King Gareth toured the land, bringing cheer and inspiration to the populace, and speaking in praise for such good works as were being performed by former Ashbans for the former Icenians together in this new kingdom.

In the dawn of the year 600, the newly awakened King Gareth ap Moire held a series of councils of Icenian nobility. It was at one of these councils in Castle Cil-Cilurion that King Gareth would first show symptoms of the Monarch Malady — a strange curse that was placed upon Icenian Royalty by the corrupt King Melagar. This disease did not affect all royal families, and not every member. Nevertheless it was this fatal disease that had claimed King Thrombolis Avacar. It was thought that King Gareth had been cured of the Monarch Malady in the early months of 601, during the time when the adventurers and nobles of Ashbury took a Fairy Rade to recover the Lady of Swords, Queen Sidraste, from her fate as well.

However, the condition reappeared in the early months of 607. The Royal Healers attending His Majesty were unable to discover a possible cure for the Monarch Malady, and King Gareth Himself requested the news of His weakening state be kept private. As the months grew on His Majesty's condition continued to weaken, until there was simply nothing that could be done. His spirit finally succumbed to the condition on the sixth of Gryphon.

As of this writing, His throne remains empty, the Grand Crown sitting upon a satin cushion which bears the sigil of King Gareth ap Moire's personal coat of arms. Queen Sidraste Deannen assumed all duties of the Monarchy, with the aid of Seneschal Dame Sonia Forthiatis.

In private life, King Gareth was known to be a dedicated father to His children Bron and Branwen, and sincerely in love with His first wife Dejah (who died in the rebellion against Melagar). He was generous with artists and tolerant of all races even though he was new to the acquaintance of the elves and biata, who did not inhabit Icenia in earlier days. His aptitude for strange customs and practices suited him well to rule over the many races and cultures now present in the kingdom.

His funeral was held on the 21st of September and was attended by grieving people from all across the kingdom and also from other kingdoms, including Duke Frost and the nobles of Ashbury, and most of the nobility of Icenia. Also in attendance were nobility and ambassadors from all over the world, including Imladar, Moorgrove, The Three Kingdoms, Tarzatterranzan, Dwarrenagor, Cuulanic, Stone Hollow, Trollsgate, Lempur, Saribdis and the Blas Getregan. Even the Wind Folk and some Lizardmen sent representatives. There was even a rumor that General Lochaber of Galanthia sent a missive of sympathy and a large assortment of flowers.

King Gareth's body was laid in state and visitations were allowed through the weekend. The viewing area was constantly crowded and a large line snaked its way outside, day and night. It

seemed practically all of Icenia and much of Tar'Navaria came to say goodbye.

On that Saturday evening, a somber feast was held for the nobles and high ranking representatives. At the feast, Duke Frost made a very public speech of support for Queen Sidraste which was well received.

The burial was on Sunday afternoon. It was preceded by a long ceremony where many spoke about the king and the man, Gareth Ap Moire. Afterwards, only the nobles of Icenia are allowed to go to the actual interment. Duke Frost himself, along with Gareth's other former royal knights, carried the coffin deep into the depths of the castle, to the crypt where the kings and queens of Icenia rest.

And this, dear reader, is where I must leave you. I implore you to read all editions of the Ashbury Times in order to have the most up-to-date history of the lands possible.



King Gareth ap Moire