

Greetings to you, Senator Tanwyn of the Spire of Ankarien and Achillies of Damakan's Forge. I have instructed my amanuensis ushabti to transcribe two copies of this letter, one for each of you. It will be of most interest, I hope, to Achillies but, and I mean this as no insult Senator, Tanwyn is well known for her martial bent and so, as a matter to do with a Spire of your newly appointed province, I considered it would be worth bringing to your attention as well.

I am Hieraklytos of Whitewatch Spire, merely a humble scholar and Seer. I make no claims to greatness, but my path of research and study has brought me to curious knowledge. I have been attempting to follow the stories and accounts relating to two famous swords supposedly created by Damakan and, after the recapture of Cinon by valiant Imperial armies these past few seasons, I was finally able to travel once more to the Forge and see what I could glean from what is left there. I have done this under my own volition and of my own desire to see the truth of Damakan's final and, so it is said, greatest works so that I might turn hearsay into known, hard fact. Perhaps what I have discovered will be of no interest to anyone but myself, in which case I apologise for wasting your time.

The story of these swords begins with a poem, the verse of Damakan.

Honoured by all warriors, the precious Saber slays the Drake.
It commands the world.
Who dares to disobey?
If the Labyrinth Sword does not appear, who can challenge it?

The poem is said to refer to two blades that Damakan forged as her final legacy to Urizen. One is called variously the Drake Sabre, Drake-Slaying Sabre or even, worryingly, the Throne-Slaying Sabre. Of the two weapons, the Drake Sabre is the best accounted for, as it was only lost during the fall of Spiral around fifty years ago - sadly, before my time, because I would love to have been able to see it in pride of place in the ancient spire of its birth. The second is termed the Labyrinth Sword, Labyrinth's Edge or, in a few accounts, the Spectre Blade.

There are two elements that are noted as special about these swords. The first is that they are the last work of Damakan herself and are attributed with various mystical properties as a result, as well as the strange poem above. They were possibly made for greater things. There are claims that Damakan hid deep secrets within each, truths of her mastery of the weaponsmithing art or revelations of Virtue, locked safely away in their steel.

The second is that they are ascribed incredible qualities as individual swords. The Labyrinth Sword reputedly holds such an edge that it can cut into the very soul, while the Drake Sabre's keen blade could supposedly cut a warrior's skill at arms from her. The Drake Sabre is often attributed qualities of martial and leadership nature, while the Labyrinth

Sword is associated with spiritual prowess.

What history I have been able to assemble indicates that Damakan's Forge was attacked shortly after the death of Damakan herself - some sort of cult or rival faction led by a figure called Zephyria, 'The Tempest Jade Maiden'. She took both swords and, according to a Highborn account (the Book of the Light Kindled, which I was fortunate enough to access a copy of at the Watching Grove Chapter in Necropolis, where it is maintained by Archivist Uriel) she used the Labyrinth Sword 'for great evil' until her death. The Drake Sabre, however, was retrieved by a warrior called Flavius of Damakan's Forge, and returned to the Spire. There it remained until the fall of Spiral to the Grendel, given pride of place amongst the Spire's treasures. Swordmasters over the centuries examined and meditated with the Drake Sabre in search of the answers to its supposed power, but most returned only the obvious observation - it was, and presumably still is, an artifact of great power. Magicians who examined it believe that the true answer could only be found were it reunited with its twin. However, the Grendel did not loot the sword during their conquest of the region - it was stolen by a notorious Sentinel called Leontos, who craved its power for his own. He fled with the blade and was not seen since, barring a report from Sentinels in Morrow that he had evaded capture when following the trods to head further north-west into the Empire.

Thus both swords have fallen into obscurity. The old poem about the pair remains, yet where are the blades now?

We have no accounts relating to the Labyrinth Sword following Zephyria - it may well have been buried with her - while if Leontos is still alive, he would be a very old man by now, wherever he may be hiding. At the Forge itself, I found one last clue that might provide guidance on the Labyrinth Sword at least. A cracked stone tablet, carved with an ancient message - a frankly chilling one despite its polite phrasing. "The famous Tempest Jade Maiden, humble student of the most holy paragon Sulemeine, invites you to grant her the honour of stewardship of Damakan's blades. It would be better, after all, that their custodian be a mistress of the Sword-Scholars rather than a Spire empty but for the corpses of fools."

For now, I have done all I can to trace the final resting places of Damakan's legacy. If it is within your capability to take up that mantle, I would ask only that you were to let me know if it bears any fruit. Every piece of our past that we can retrieve from the cold grave of ignorance is one step further for our civilisation.

Seer Hieraklytos of Whitewatch Spire, Redoubt