

HOUSE THALUS



"IN THE END, WE WILL REMEMBER NOT THE WORDS OF OUR ENEMIES, BUT THE SILENCE OF OUR FRIENDS."

- MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. (1929-1968)

It is believed that House Thalus is the oldest of the Atlantean Houses to have survived the fall of the First Atlantean Empire. Its parent House; the House of Dardanus was an influential House within the First Atlantean Empire.

This is what is known of the House of Dardanus in the time before the fall of Atlantis; the House had connections all throughout the Empire, and even Troilus, one of its members sat as an Emperor for a time. During the time that Lilans began becoming more visible in Atlantis, Podarces (that would become known in later years as Priam) was born to the House.

Even during the waning years of the First Atlantean Empire, the Lilans were seen as a corruptive influence. So corruptive in fact, that the Atlantean Senate went to great ends to deny any members of the Cult of Lilith access to any real positions of power.

During his formative years, Podarces saw the level of fear and influence that the Lilans had on the Atlantean people as a whole. He saw in them the ability to never have to fear death or the Keentars of his enemies. The House of Dardanus, by the time that Podarces had become an adult was on the down slide; the influence that it had in centuries previous was fading and he could see no real way to stop their fall from power. If anything, it was this very situation that drove Podarces to join the Cult of Lilith. At least within the cult he would have some safety. Within the Cult of Lilith, all of its members had an equal voice in making decisions that would affect the whole. After six months, Podarces was allowed to undergo the Ritual of Rebirth.

From the moment that Podarces became a Lilan, his father, Zeus disowned him. For many years Podarces travelled the First

Atlantean Empire, looking for a place to settle in, a place that was away from Atlantis and the House and Family that had disowned him. Eventually Podarces found the lands of Greece and Asia Minor. After finding a place to claim as his own on the coast of Asia Minor (modern day Turkey), Podarces journeyed back to Atlantis one final time. Upon arriving in Atlantis, Podarces could see that in his years away that the Lilans were not the only corruptive influence there. Now there were strange religious cults forming almost every week, all of them seemingly coming about because of artifacts that former Atlantean scientists had recovered from the lands in the far south of the world (in what we today call Antarctica).

Upon seeing the horror that his home had become, Podarces gathered unto him all of the followers that he had gained during his time with the Cult of Lilith. He told them that his plan was to leave Atlantis and to go into the eastern provinces and make a new home there. Through his force of personality, many of his followers chose to make the journey with him. And in around 6411 BC, Lord Podarces and his followers settled in the lands of Greece and Asia Minor.

Eventually Podarces worst fears about Atlantis came true when one night, all of his Orichalcum devices ceased to work; not long after that Podarces learned of the destruction of Atlantis. Without Atlantis to help guide the surviving Atlanteans and humanity, the world descended into what is referred as the Atlantean Dark Ages. It was during this time that humanity rose up against its former masters and began destroying everything that was connected to Atlantis. Within 20 years, Atlantean cities, monuments and tombs were destroyed in humanity's quest to destroy the memory of the oppressors.

Thousands of Atlanteans died at the hands of humanity. Lord Podacres knew from the moment the uprising began that the survivors of Lost Atlantis had to go into hiding or risk extinction by the end of the current generation. Podacres sent messengers to his allies on mainland Greece telling them to go to ground and to wait out the ravages of humanity. The only thing that saved the Atlanteans in Greece and Asia Minor was the fact that you could not tell the difference between an Atlantean and a human just judging by appearance. After sending his messages, Podacres immediately changed his name to Priam, and an attempt to through off anyone that might be looking to put an end to Lord Podacres of Atlantis.

As the centuries went by, the world continued its descent into barbarism. Most Atlanteans by this point had decided that it was better to blend into the throngs of humanity and attempt to rule from behind the scenes rather than risk losing their lives to some human that might have heard the tales of the wicked Atlantean Empire and its people.

By the time of the Trojan War, all of the alliances that Lord Priam had formed under his original name were long gone. Most of the Atlanteans that he had made the alliances had been dead for at least 3,500 years. The Atlanteans of Greece were not the noble men and women that had willingly followed Lord Priam into the lands of the East; they were now just as savage as the humans that they lived with and ruled over. To make matters worse, most of the Atlanteans of Greece were more than willing to make war on their fellow Atlanteans if it meant that they could control a larger section of Greece.

Realizing that if the Atlanteans of Greece and Asia Minor didn't find some way to unite under one banner, within a few more generations they would be no more Atlanteans left in Greece, much less in Troy. Lord Priam came up with a simple plan, he would draw all of the warring factions to him. He would kidnap Helena from Agamemnon through his son Paris, and he would draw them to him.

The plan worked flawlessly, through the abduction of Helena by Paris, Agamemnon gathered all of the warring factions unto him, by alliance or the threat of war, and all of them made their way to Troy to confront Lord Priam in his fortress city. Long had Agamemnon wanted the power and wealth of Troy, so Helena's abduction was the excuse he had been longing for, to end Troy.

Upon arriving on the coast, the warriors of Greece made their way to Troy. Over the period of a year, the Achaeans besieged the fortress city. And during that time, under the cover of darkness, Lord Priam began meeting with the Atlantean leaders that were willing to speak with him. His plan was simple, the Atlanteans of Greece and Troy would unite under one banner. Unfortunately the plan required the sacrifice of his beloved city in order to sate the terrible hunger that Agamemnon had for the wealth of Troy. In return for the sacrifice of his beloved Troy, Lord Priam wanted the Atlanteans to join him under the banner of one single Atlantean House; House Thalus. Priam was careful to never imply that the Families that would be uniting under him would lose their autonomy, this was an alliance of

mutual defense and political power.

Many years after the founding of House Thalus, Lord Ramius of Italia sent a messenger to Lord Priam requesting an audience. Being a fellow Lilan, Priam was willing to meet with Lord Ramius. At this meeting, Lord Ramius laid out his plan to establish a Second Atlantean Empire. At first, Lord Priam simply scoffed at the notion that it was even possible to reestablish control over the throngs of humanity. When it was made clear to Lord Priam that the Atlanteans would be ruling from behind the scenes, he laughed at Lord Ramius and told him good luck, but no thank you.

Several years would go by, with messengers being sent back and forth between Lord Ramius and Lord Priam; the final messenger came with an entire Roman Legion following in his wake. This last messenger had a simple message for Lord Priam, "Join the Second Atlantean Empire or there will be no tomorrow for you". The fact that Lord Ramius had control of the Roman Empire, even to a small degree convinced Lord Priam that it was time to join the Second Atlantean Empire.

Once House Thalus joined the Second Atlantean Empire, the Atlanteans of Greece began to see that it was possible for Atlantis to live again, if only through its descendents.

As the centuries would pass, House Thalus would slowly begin its rise in power and prestige within the Empire. By the time that Emperor Ramius disappeared, House Thalus and its Senators made up a good third of the assembly. When the Atlantean Senate was reformed into the Antiquarians Guild, the power of House Thalus slowly began waning. Unlike the Atlantean Senate, the Antiquarians Guild was not based on representation by population or even equal representation for that matter. The Antiquarians Guild was an assembly of old men and women that were able to choose who they would allow to join them.

During the reign of Emperor Dominic of House McCullen, the Antiquarians Guild's power was slowly stripped from them through the Imperial Throne. Eventually Emperor Dominic pushed them too far and the Antiquarians Guild and half of the Centurion and Praetorian Legions turned on him. All throughout this period, House Thalus and its Lord simply sat in the background waiting for their time to act.

With the fall of Emperor Dominic and House McCullen, Lord Priam began directly the Antiquarians of House Thalus to begin pushing for a weak candidate for the next Emperor. In the end, it was decided that Lady Andrea DeLyones would become the new Empress of the Second Atlantean Empire. During this period, with a weak Empress in power, the power of the Antiquarians Guild rose back to the levels it had previously known in the early years of Emperor Dominic's reign.

House Thalus during this period in Atlantean history was able to begin making alliances that it would never have been able to under the watchful eyes of Emperor Dominic and the Scarlet Brotherhood.

Also during this time period, there was a blood feud keeping House Draconis' attention away from the politics of the Antiquarians Guild. The Draconis-Dracul blood feud literally had all of the other Houses backing away from the situation, the way they saw it was it was better to let the Draconis sort the matter out than it would be to give aide to an enemy of the Atlantean Sorcerers.

By the time that Empress Andrea announced the Family Dracul was becoming House Dracul; the new fifth House of the Second Atlantean Empire, everyone was breathing a sigh of relief. For almost 300 years, the Draconis and the Dracul feuded, all of the other Houses within the Second Atlantean Empire simply wanted the conflict over with. Empress Andreas decree ended the blood feud and restored peace to Eastern Europe.

Not long after Empress Andrea allowed the Dracul to become a House, she willingly abdicated the Imperial Throne. It was finally time to House Thalus to act, it was finally time to call in all of their favors within the Antiquarians Guild. The end result of all of House Thalus' political alliances was Lord Priam being elevated to the position of Emperor of the Second Atlantean Empire.

One of Emperor Priam's first actions was to order the reconquest of Ireland. After the fall of Emperor Dominic and House McCullen, Ireland was slowly taken over by Scottish Atlanteans of Clan MacKlintoc. It was Emperor Priam's goal to remove these intruders and to repopulate Ireland with an Imperium population. This one action, started the war between the Second Atlantean Empire and the Renegade House of Clan MacKlintoc. By the end of the conflict, the Imperium was removed from the British Isles, it had only a small foothold in Northern Ireland and both Houses Ramius and Lionnes had lost Families due to betrayal.

With Emperor Priam in power, House Thalus has finally achieved supremacy over the other Houses of the Second Atlantean Empire. The capital of the Imperium has been moved to Athens Greece. Five out of every ten Praetorians are members of House Thalus, and 2 our or every five Centurions are members of House Thalus as well. As it stands; for the time being Emperor and his kinsmen are running the show, but for how long?

CREATING NEW FAMILIES

For Actors that wish to create their own Families within House Thalus, these are the default Advantages and Disadvantages that the Personas must take:

Advantages: House Thalus is one of oldest Houses in the Imperium, quite possibly older than both Houses Ramius and Draconis. Members of House Thalus gain the following advantages: 1 Rank of Sway: Human Society, +1 Rank in the Command Skill, and 1 Rank in Imperium Renown because of their connection to the House of Priam.

Disadvantages: All members of House Thalus gain the Disadvantage: Territorial because of their House's propensity for becoming possessive of their property and their perceived rights.

SEAT OF POWER: ATHENS, GREECE

THE FAMILIES OF HOUSE THALUS

DARDANUS FAMILY

Advantages: 1 Rank in High Education, Servitor, Honor Bound, 1 Rank of Command Skill

Disadvantages: Rival: Serrentus Family, House Ramius, Disadvantage: Territorial

The Dardanus Family is by far the oldest of the families of House Thalus; it is the Dardanus Family that lays claim to Lord Priam himself. Lord Priam, through the Trojan War was the great engineer that united the warring Atlanteans of Greece and Asia Minor during the Atlantean Dark Ages. Throughout its entire time in existence, the Dardanus Family have been leaders among the Atlanteans of Greece; this family goes to great lengths to ensure that its children are given a classical education and know that it falls upon their shoulders to always lead House Thalus through any trials that it may face.

In modern times with the ascension of Lord Priam to the Imperial Throne, the Dardonus Family has been given greater and greater responsibilities within the Second Atlantean Empire. Without question, the Dardanus Family can claim to have the members of Imperial titles that are only answerable to the Emperor himself and the Antiquarians Guild; a situation that has angered every other House in the Second Atlantean Empire. To date, Emperor Priam has done nothing to equalize this situation and many believe that he never will. Many believe that Emperor Priam is quite content to have his House fill all of the most important roles within the Imperium.

ABRAXAS FAMILY

Advantages: 1 Rank of Wealth, 2 Ranks of Persuasion Skill, 1 Rank in Black Market Connections

Disadvantages: Rival: Alastor Family, Disadvantage: Territorial

During the Atlantean Dark Ages, the Abraxas Family seemed to be at war with all of its neighbors in Greece. When the time of the Trojan War came, this family chose to stay in Greece and fill the void in leadership that was left when Agamemnon and his fleet set sail for Troy. In during the time of the Trojan War, this family ruled over much of North Eastern Greece with an iron fist. They were constantly taking what they wanted from the peasantry without regard for their wellbeing or the consequences that their actions might have when their surviving neighbors returned to Greece.

Upon the return of the victorious Greeks, the Abraxas Family were quick to silence any of the peasantry that they thought might have the nerve to speak of the evils that they had perpetrated. Eventually word did get out of their actions during the war, and the Atlantean Nobility of the time was quick to execute Phestos, the head of the family, and all of the other adult male leaders of the family. The Abraxas wives and children were taken in by the surrounding families in an attempt to teach them a better way of dealing with their neighbors.

In modern times, the Abraxas Family is known to have connections to the Black Market, which of course means that the lesson taught after the Trojan War has been forgotten by the current generation. The current head of the Abraxas Family is a Faux Blooded Atlantean by the name of Satanus.

DENAEGRUS FAMILY

Advantages: 2 Ranks of House Prestige, 1 Rank of Command Skill, Sway: Human Society

Disadvantages: Enemy: Dragosee Family, House Draconis, Disadvantage: Territorial

The founder of the DeNaegrus Family is a True Blooded Lilan by the name of Rhodius DeNaegrus. What little is known about him is he was a Roman by birth. Rhodius was a Roman General for a time, and later a Roman Senator. Through Senator Rhodius, House Thalus was able to gain a lot of power within the Roman Empire. The DeNaegrus Family has always been at the forefront of politics within Atlantean and human society. He is still the head of the DeNaegrus Family, even after over a thousand years. The DeNaegrus Family has branches all over the world, but the greatest concentration of the family is still in Italy.

ESTROMA FAMILY

Advantages: +1 to Intellect, 1 Rank of Mythos: Occult Skill, 1 Rank of Higher Education, 1 Rank of Command Skill

Disadvantages: Disadvantage: Territorial

The founder of the Estroma Family is a True Blooded Lilan by the name of Dareios of Alexandria. What little is known of him is that he was born in an around the time of the construction of the Great Library of Alexandria in Egypt, and that he may be related to the legendary Pharaoh Queen of Egypt, Cleopatra. Many believe that Dareios met his end during the time of the Inquisition, but there are other tales that speak of sightings of him as recently as 1909. Because of Dareios' original teachings, his family was pushed to excel in the quest for knowledge and of the arcane secrets that are the legacy of the Children of Atlantis.

The current head of the family is a True Blooded Atlantean by the name of Ianos Estoma. During the late 1920s, Ianos moved his family from Athens Greece to New York City in the United States. There are some within Atlantean circles that whisper that this family is secretly breeding its own bloodline of Sorcerers, but to date no one has been able to find proof of this rumor.

ALASTOR FAMILY

Advantages: +1 to Psyche, Servitor, 1 Rank of Elite Military Training, 1 Rank of Command Skill

Disadvantages: Disadvantage: Territorial

The founder of the Alastor Family is a True Blooded Atlantean by the name of Khristophoros. The story is that Khristophoros was born in a small village somewhere in Thessaly in Greece in and around the year 35 BC. This father, Efraim fought in the Trojan War, and was one of the leaders of the army that besieged the city

of Troy. It is said that when Efraim learned that Priam had taken Helen as a means to gather the warring Atlanteans of Greece unto himself in Troy, Efraim silently strode across the battlefield under the cover of darkness in order to meet with Priam. No one is quite sure what Priam said to Efraim during that meeting, but what all know is that after that meeting Efraim was a loyal supporter of Priam's quest to unite to Atlanteans of Greece under his banner, that of House Thalus.

Years after returning to Greece, Efraim was murdered by an unknown assailant, some believe for his change of heart at the Battle of Troy. His son, Khristophoros took over as the head of the Alastor Family and declared a vendetta against those that had murdered his father. It took years, but in the end his father's was made to face Atlantean justice. The killer turned out to be a Dacian under the command of Lord Draco, the lord and master of House Draconis. The killing of Efraim was meant to look like it had been done by another family of House Thalus, the killing was meant to destroy the alliance that Lord Priam had built. From that day forward, Khristophoros made it the mission of his family to stand guardian over House Thalus, protecting it from its enemies. All children of the Alastor Family are taught the art of war, in preparation for the day that they will have to defend the House from all those that would oppose it.

When Lord Priam ascended to the Imperial Throne, the time for the Alastor Family's skills finally arrived; all of the adult males of that generation were immediately inducted into the Centurion and Praetorian Orders. As of the year 2000, 2 out of every 5 Centurions are members of the Alastor Family. Most of the other Houses of the Second Atlantean Empire despise this family because of its fanatical and sometimes mindless obedience in its fulfillment of the commands of the Atlantean Emperor.

HEKTOR FAMILY

Advantages: +1 to Psyche, Servitor, 1 Rank of Wealth, 1 Rank of Persuasion Skill

Disadvantages: Disadvantage: Territorial

The founder of the Hektor Family is a True Blooded Atlantean by the name of Herodotos, he was another of Agamemnon's lieutenants that made the journey to Troy to destroy Priam the crime of stealing Helen, the wife of Agammemnon. During the Battle that eventually did destroy the city of Troy, Herodotos had a prophetic vision; in his vision he could see all of the works that had come about from the Atlantean settlement of Greece burning. In the burning of Troy, Herodotos saw the end of his people and their legacy. The Greeks had already stormed Troy and were burning the city as they advanced. Herodotos decided in those moments of chaos and destruction to find Priam and to ensure that the great patriarch made it out of the city safely, regardless of the reasons for the war, Herodotos had to ensure that the future of the Greek Atlanteans did not meet an abrupt and final end.

Herodotos acted as a body guard for Lord Priam, ferrying the great lord out of the city into the hills to the east of it.

It was after the Battle of Troy that Herodotos and Khristophoros met with Lord Priam in the peace after the destruction of the once great city to discuss the future of the Atlanteans of Greece. It was decided that Herodotos would be sent back to Greece to begin the peace process. To this day, the Atlanteans of House Thalus view Herodotos as one of the great and legendary leaders of the House. Because it was through the inroads that Herodotos made with this fellow Greeks after the Trojan War that led to the formation of House Thalus. One generation after the Battle of Troy, the Greek Atlanteans finally came to together under the banner of House Thalus with Lord Priam as its Lord and Master.

In modern times, the Hektor Family is known for its political prowess within the Antiquarians Guild and for its ability to help keep the peace among the other Houses of the Second Atlantean Empire through its position as a mediator. The current head of the Hektor Family is a True Blooded Atlantean by the name of Nileas.

