

A Dungeoneer's Guide to Dominion



Created by Joe Treff, with contributions from Tina Stalker, Matt Ciommo, Miles Coe, and Aly Suman.

Credits

Lead Designer: Joe Treff

Developers: Matt Ciommo, Miles Coe, Aly Suman, Tina Stalker

Editors: Arianna Zelle

Artists: Sophie Bishoff, Erika Valova,

Special Thanks: TalonNail, Daas, Crixmann, Esumiwa, and everyone else on Twitch, YouTube, and elsewhere, who have joined us for this adventure.

Want to see some gameplay in Dominion? Check out “Adventures in Alberon” on www.twitch.tv/AlberonRPG!

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Dominion

In a sandstone pyramid sixty feet tall, a group of adventurers are the first to set foot in these strange halls in four thousand years. As they solve the riddles of a trapped sphinx and puzzle their way closer to the treasure that MUST lay at the pyramid's heart, something old watches and waits.

In the walled city of Nocturne the infamous Gazel, the Last Dragon Slayer, has gone missing. As The Shepherd, a purported prophet who whisper's the words of old gods into the minds of his followers, gains power along the Somber Cape, who will step in to protect a city already in so much need of protection against itself?

A large ship cuts across the ocean, but a shadow falls across it's crew as they near the Kraken's Pass. The near-constant water spouts that resemble tentacles that rise and thrash down to the ground are a product of the jagged rocks that line these shallows, but it's the fastest way out of the Kingdom of Serentyl...

Alberon is a relatively young world compared to it's planar neighbors, but has already seen the Age of Giants become fable, and the Age of Dragons only a distant memory shared by a few. It seems, in fact, to be at the edge of the end of it's third great age, an age marked by relative peace: The Age of Civility.

Magic is a material manifestation of a practitioner's ability to manipulate The Weave, Melora's final gift to Alberon before she perished during the Age of Dragons. There are places such as the floating cloud giant city of Yorn, or the region around Melora's final resting place, the Sol Tree, that find magic more common than places such as The Kingdom of Serentyl, which has

actively sought to regulate and control magic. It is used as a weapon by the pirates of the west coast, as a means for influence by the Church of the Six, and as an entire toolbox for the secretive dwarves of Kol Stoneflow.

Heroes in Dominion tend to hail from the "civilized races" that found their genesis on this continent: human, gnome, dwarf, firbolg, and the odd kolbod. More uncommonly, the goliath from the Timeless Valley, an aarakocra from the northern mountains, or a half-elf with wood-elf heritage might be seen. Halflings are exceptionally rare but widely welcomed as exceptional guests.

The last of the wood elves still keep to the hidden places, and a handful of dragonborn who fled Gath as it burned can be seen. Tiedflings are widely mistrusted due to their physical similarities to the demons who pushed the Kingdom of Serentyl to the brink of annihilation in it's earliest days after the event known as The Tear.

True fighters and adventurers are exceptionally uncommon, as Dominion has had nearly two-hundred years of relative peace. This means the actions of heroes are often amplified in the minds of those who hear them, and though word travels slowly they are often remembered.

Dominion has had unparalleled safety for so long, that it will be woefully unprepared for large-scale threats. The Kingdom of Serentyl, which maintains The Knightly Order of the Shields and few other standing troops, might fare the best. Nocturne has a powerful navy, but no army to speak of. On the west coast, Dungannon is proud of it's freedom, and mistrustful of allies; it's ruling nobility relies on mercenaries and privateers to fight for their interests.

Using This Book

A Dungeoneer's Guide to Dominion is designed to provide all of the information a dungeon master will need to run a full campaign or one-shot adventure on the continent of Dominion in the world of Alberon. This section provides the broad strokes of this continent: it's calendar, the themes that make it come alive, and the basic history of those who call this place home.

Chapter One will explain the lore of each race as it related to the continent of Dominion, in addition to a new subrace, the mountain elf. There is also lore pertaining to each class and the ways in which adventurers might have acquired their skills and abilities, as well as one new subclass: The Way of the Falcon Knight.

Chapter Two has an overview for each Region in Dominion, the major powers in each, and a slew of lore and details for fleshing out a backstory or setting your adventure!

Chapter Three focuses on the town of Port Quinn, the perfect setting for the start of an adventure on the eastern coast of Dominion. Though not a metropolis like Nocturne (which would require a whole guide in it's own right) it is a vital trading post, and nexus of non-magical travel from The Kingdom of Serentyl, to the Dwarven Kol's to the north, the Sunrest Islands to the east, and Nocturne to the south. Chapter three will have a variety of sights and things to see and do while in Port Quinn.

Chapter Four will contain starting points for your adventures in Port Quinn and the wider spaces of Dominion as a whole. The evils of the continent will also be introduced here.

Chapter Five details unique magical items for adventures set in the world of Alberon.

It also looks at how one might make a magical item.

Chapter Six contains 26 new monsters and NPCs to aid in bringing the fight to your party!

Five Important Principles of Dominion

How can you sum up a whole continent in just a few points? Nevertheless, a crash course to Dominion as a setting might present five points:

1. **A Place of Peace.** Dominion's last known dragon was slain by a group led by The Gazel, a fabled dwarven hero, nearly 200 years ago. The mountain range that runs up the center of the continent serves as a natural barrier between the two largest united powers of Dominion: The Old City of Dungannon along with its surrounding territory, on the west coast, and The Kingdom of Serentyl and it's many cities along the Sunward (eastern) Coast, and into the centrally-located Valley of Tranquility. As such, a large-scale war has never truly occurred on the continent.
2. **Ruins of the Past.** Dominion is in it's Third Great Age, but there are remnants of older civilizations: All the way to the Somber Cape, the influence of the dragonborn Fazzarakian Skald of the first age can be seen, from the architecture to art. In the north, the remains of the cloud giant city Yorn float on arcane clouds. Even the tiny island of Byss, easternmost island town of The Kingdom, houses the remains of it's society before it collapsed into the Abysal Mistveil in the early Third Age.

3. **The Center of the World.** Dominion sits in the center of the Alberon world map. As such, it bears bits of influence from the various other continents it has dealings with. Most prominent are the tropical Sunrest Islands to the east, where conditions allow for the growth of highly sought-after spices and fruits. To the south east are the desert-heavy twin Kimpet Islands. Far to the south are the misty lands of Mythilstrean, the ancestral homeland to the tieflings. South across the Emerald Expanse is the fey-touched continent of Everest, where many elves can trace their lineage to. Northwest, the continent of Gath is a shadow of what it was: a sudden plague ended the world-spanning Fazzarakian Skald in the same event that wiped out many dragons. The land bridge that once connected it to Everest now smolders with pools of magma. To the north lies The Auld, once a continent the size of the other's combined, now mostly beneath the Valecrest Ocean, is the birthplace of halfings and aarakocra alike. In the northeast, the many kingdoms of Darby engage in political intrigue and frequent small skirmishes to claim the Crown of Constellations. All influence Dominion and it's denizens.
4. **The Gated Marsh.** The southern portion of Dominion is dominated by a massive, corrupt swamp. The west coast features the Moazri desert that serves as a natural barrier between the twisted creatures that wander out of the swamp; to the east, One-Thousand-Gates began as a military camp that has slowly built

up into a military city. Within the marsh is the Twisted Knell, a hillside of knotted root grown over the remains of the birthplace of humanity. Almost nobody willingly enters this place, and few if any have returned.

5. **The Dwarven Kols.** To the north, there was once four great dwarven citadels known as Kols. Of those, only two still remain: Kol Stoneflow, which is wildly secretive in it's dealings and allows few insiders within; and Kol Taram, a city that has seemed cursed to tragedy after tragedy. Each is a mighty force in it's own right, but mostly expand within their mountains, content to create new riches rather than seek out old ones. Artifacts of dwarven make, however, are particularly prized, and often the reason a dwarf might take up the adventurer's mantle.

History of Alberon

In the beginning, there was Aurillion, the God of Life, who created two siblings for itself:

Auchrona who was given the domain of time, and Aultoris who was given the domain of space.

Between the three of them, the planets Alberon and Kalindre were created, and placed within the stream of time and space. Few know this history.

More commonly, creation begins with the arrival of the Prime Gods. *Melora, the Green Matron* arrived to a world of rock and magma, and using the Blocks of Life that Aurillion had left, she set about attempting to create life. *Kord, The Storm King*, brought roiling oceans and tempests that matched the fury he felt at being uprooted to this place. *Mystra, The Weaver*, was more subtle in the other two: she set about weaving invisible strands of power in and

amongst reality, allowing her to pluck each strand of her web to manipulate the world in different ways.

Alberon's new landscape originally consisted of the supercontinent Auldwynn (one day separated into The Auld, Dominion, and the Sunrest Islands), and the smaller satellite continents of Veristoon (which one day would become Darby and the subcontinent of Canon) Gath, Everest, and Mythilstream.

Melora created beasts of fang and talon from the Blocks of Life she'd found. Aurillion would return through the years, each time depositing two new shards of crystal that would compel those it touched to bring them to the Blocks of Life closest to them, in an attempt to usher in a new form of life. Over time, these structures, known as Pillars, would reawaken at the return of Aurillion.

Mystra was the only one who could feel that there was more beyond the localized space of Alberon, and eventually built the Halo of the Far Traveler with her cloud giant followers and connected Alberon to the multiverse.

In the Feywild, a great lottery was held that allowed five to lead efforts to settle this newly opened world.

In the upper planes, celestials began to search for pathways with the promise of new followers and domain.

In the Plane of Ice, beneath the Mountain of Ultimate Winter, an alien mind began to consider how it might index the thoughts of this place.

The First Age was the Age of Giants and saw the expanse of the various giant types from the Canyon of Law to points across Alberon.

The Second Age was the Age of Dragons, and saw these new forms of life overwhelm the

giants, and cause a slew of problems for the few fey who had Spirephased into Alberon already.

The Third Age is the Age of Civility, and the present. From the Pillar of Civility located in what is now known as The Gated Marsh, humans, new dwarves, gnomes, and more emerged. After the Era of Heroes which lasted for the first thousand years of the age, and the Era of Expansion for the next two-hundred, we entered an unparalleled 271-year-span of peace.

Major Powers of Dominion

Dominion has only one expansive power, the human-centric *Kingdom of Serentyl*. It spans from Port Quinn to the north, to the island of Byss in the east, and as far down as One-Thousand Gates in the south. It is a religious place, dominated by the Church of Law and Light. The church has an interest in limiting other arcane practitioners, and does so subtly through politics than through force or outright subjugation.

The most obvious example of this is the TIGHT regulation on magical items. Each is licensed with the Shields of Serentyl, and must be sold through them as an intermediary if they are traded at all. The creation of magical items is highly illegal, as is the import of those from abroad. Worship of deities outside of the Six is tolerated, though any god that demands sacrifice of any kind is outlawed after the events of The Tear.

Across the continent on the western coast is the *Old City of Dungannon*. It is the oldest city on the continent, and features museums and art galleries of stone. Glass is more common here than elsewhere, as are teleportation circles. Dungannon is home to the Sojourn Network, a series of teleportation circles that

span much of Dominion (and more recently, beyond!). It features a standing, mounted militia known as the Riders of Gallaney, though it mostly hires mercenaries and local privateers for protection. It is a rough-and-tumble toss-up between the golden age of pirates, and the wild west.

Dungannon is ruled by a complex caste of noble families in a process that is highly bureaucratic and largely not understood. They are a benevolent ruling class for the most part, and have worked hard to provide for the proud port city.

Kol Taram and **Kol Stoneflow** are the two remaining dwarven citadels on the continent. Kol Taram is built into the interior of the hollowed-out Mount Taram, and is currently ruled by the brutal Clan Goldglow. It is a truly massive city, though highly dwarf-focused, and it's mines produce the only mithril in the world. It seems to constantly experience one tragedy or another. Beneath it, lies the Undercity, an entirely separate city of the cast-outs and non-dwarf denizens that were unwelcome above. It is currently ruled by the Clan Coldwrought crime clan, who operate out of the sprawling casino-like fortress known as The Dark Hive.

Kol Stoneflow is wildly isolationist, with non-citizens being allowed into the small exterior port and no further. The dwarves here have harnessed interior thermal vents of their mountain to utilize steam as a fuel source; the technology in Kol Stoneflow is unlike any in Dominion, and it is currently the only producer of firearms. The sea around Kol Stoneflow is frozen with thick sea ice, and only the steam-powered dwarven ironsides can safely make the trek.

Deep in the north, the **Xinyi Monastery** sits nestled within the small community of Squall's End, high atop Mount Yishi. The Xinyi work toward achieving various forms of enlightenment and perfection in their chosen pursuit, finding equal worth in a perfectly crafted pot or a neatly placed kick.

The Xinyi are a serious people who are focused on helping those in their community, and the small communities of the north that surround it. The largely-aarakocra Watch patrol the frozen north to aid travelers when they find themselves in need. They do not utilize money internally. Rarely, they will trade with outsiders but take great care to not interfere with "foreign" affairs.

Life in Dominion

Dominion has a variety of cultures and traditions that are highly localized, but the following details pertain to everyday life in the majority of the continent.

Languages

In Alberon, **Common** is the most... well, common language in both written and spoken forms. From Squall's End in the north to One-Thousand Gates in the south, it would be incredibly rare to find someone who doesn't speak, write, or at least understand common. It is the official language of both the Kingdom of Serentyl and the Old City of Dungannon, as well as most of the smaller city-states such as Gulver's Bay or Nanuc.

Dwarvish is the first language in Kol Taram, and is used primarily within the Ring of Gold and Ring of Silver sections of that citadel. Kol Stoneflow uses Dwarvish as another way to disguise their ideas, but on top of that they write

in a complex cypher-version of the written dwarvish runes. Dwarvish is also quite common as a second language in the north around the two Kols, but also in the region surrounding Muddtown, as the Hill Dwarfs had settled around Lake Tannic nearby.

Elvish is a popular second language throughout Dominion, though the region would determine the specific dialect. Each of the courts (Spring, Autumn, Winter, and Summer) have their own dialect and accent. The summer dialect tends to favor long, looping sentence structure that wanders like a lazy stream; the winter dialect is terse, yet beautiful in its efficiency; and autumn is softest of all, yet often heavy with double-meanings. The spring dialect is the most common, as it was used in the living wood elf city of Verdurich (Jungleroot) before its disappearance in 653 T.A.

Surprisingly, *Giant* is the third most popular language in Dominion. It is spoken by many of the hermits that inhabit the semi-wild places of Dominion, and by some in Darkmeadow who have found extremely tentative trade with Trukvar, a frost giant exiled from the Wrath Circuit for attempting to overthrow the Cold King. The Upper Bow firbolgs are also to be given credit for spreading the language as they pilgrimage across Dominion to find new plants to bring back to the the Hollow Lodge.

Gnomish is fourth, but owing primarily to their willingness to adapt to other languages. Often gnomish will be lost from one generation to another, as a gnome who took on another language to master a craft, passes the language down to their offspring in pursuit of pushing the boundaries of said crafter further. Academically, gnomish script is most frequently

used for mathematics due to the simplicity of their base-ten system.

Halfling has a handful of speakers, mostly concentrated around the northern regions having immigrated across the Shifting Ice when The Auld was drawn beneath the waves in 1002 T.A.

Standard Languages of Dominion

Language	Main Speakers	Script
Common	Most civilized people	Common
Dwarvish	Kol Taram, Kol Stoneflow, Muddtown	Dwarvish runes
Elvish	Wood elves, mountain elves, drow	Elvish
Giant	Giants, giantkin	Giant runes
Gnomish	Gnomes	Gnomish Base
Halfling	Halflings, The Haunt	Halfling
Draconic	Kobolds, dragonborn	Draconic

Exotic Languages of Dominion

Language	Main Speakers	Script
Celestial	Celestials	Celestial Glyphs
Infernal	Devils	Infernal
Orc	Orcs, some goblins	Orc
Primordial	Elementals, some giants	-
Abyssal	Demons	Abyssal
Undercommon	Underworld	Common

	traders	
Deep Speech	Aberrations	-

Names and Surnames

Names are important in Dominion, typically one's family name over the individual. The conventions vary by both race and region.

Almost everyone has a first name followed by a surname. Middle names are extremely rare, and usually in nobility within the Kingdom of Serentyl. Many family names originate in a family trade, though some reference a homeland or town.

Dwarven last names are always their clan name, and typically are evocative and concrete. Trueteel, Goldglow, and Coldwrought are all examples that originate, at one point or another, in Kol Taram. First names are abrupt and stout, like the dwarves they represent: Grunvar, Helia Doldrum, and Tadra are all examples.

Elvish first names are most often multisyllabic and vowel-heavy, though this depends on the dialect of elvish: Aieshelveise or Hylan might be a darker example associated with the autumn or winter dialects, while the flowing Ariadne might represent a spring or summer court variant.

Halfling first names generally have either two syllables, and the last names usually represent the place they live or a geographic feature they hail from. First names might include Gambol, Eldrot, or Avery. Last names would consist of things like Overbrook, Saloo (of the Saloo Divide canyon in The Auld to the north) or Viahill.

Dragonborn names are heavy on Z's and X's. They are harsh and abrupt, and last names are typically earned honorifics. Tokkavax, Ovark, and Xaxael are all appropriate first names, while honorifics might include The End of Days, The Scales of Iron, or Rider of the Black Death. In a sharp contrast, though often draconic in origin as well, the kobold names tend to be based more on

adjectives that are phonetically close to their favorite sounds. Krajek, Tik, or Caxaq are all known kobold names.

Humans possess every name under the sun. Though typically rather human-centric in their thinking (especially within the Kingdom of Serentyl) elvish-sounding names are especially in vogue. Not everyone has an adventurer's name, and so Jared and Sue are just as common as Gareth or Lillania.

Calendar

The calendar of Dominion is simple, and consists of twelve months of thirty days each. For simplicity, the seven days of the week are identical to those in the real world (Monday, Tuesday, etc.) This calendar is almost universally accepted across the world of Alberon.

Recorded time began with the creation of Alberon which is considered 1 F.A. (First Age) and spans across three great ages: The Age of Giants, the Age of Dragons, and the Age of Civility, in that order.

By default, a new campaign set in Dominion would begin on Wednesday, the 26th of The Rotting, 1470 T.A. (Third Age.)



Alberon Months

Month	Name
1	Summertide
2	Highsun
3	The Fading
4	Leaffall
5	The Rotting
6	The Drawing Down
7	Deepwinter
8	The Claws of Winter
9	The Claws of Sunset
10	The Claws of Storms
11	The Melting
12	The Time of Flowers

Currency

Currency is based on gold, and is handled across Dominion at a universal rate. The shape, mint, or design on a gold piece varies: The Kingdom of Serentyl features mostly universal currency, whereas three separate mints each have their own designs within Kol Taram alone. Regardless of its appearance, a gold piece in Kol Taram weighs the same as a gold piece in The Kingdom, and is thus worth the same.

Copper pieces in the Kingdom of Serentyl depict a stylized “S” on one side, and the Starcrosser Bridge on the other. The Kol Taram Second Mind prints the golden dome of Kol Taram on one side of every coin, and the ornate wording “Taram Stands Against Time” on every denomination of coin. This is the lowest denomination of coin, and might fetch a half loaf of bread.

The Silver Star of Serentyl is the most ubiquitous coin in Dominion. It is the average day’s pay for an unskilled laborer, and often the highest denomination of coin anyone handles day-to-day. In Dungannon, the silver piece features Castle Koch on the face, and “The Old City of Dungannon: Freedom Before Mercy” on the other side.

The Golden Double Dragon of Serentyl features a double-headed dragon on the face. These are the standard of currency because it was used and coveted by both dragons and giants before, and has maintained value through the ages.

Platinum coins are unusual; in Serentyl they are ornate profiles of the Cathedral of Light with a symbol of each of the six gods of the Pantheon of Law and Light on the opposite side. In Kol Taram a platinum coin is a narrow rectangle piece with a golden inlay of dwarven runes that acts as a serial number for each piece. In both places, when dealing with this much money, trade bars worth ten platinum each are more often used.

Electrum is both extraordinarily rare in Dominion and also viewed with suspicion in The Old City of Dungannon due to the metal’s prominent use in artificing techniques employed by the Fazzarakian Skald that invaded at the beginning of the first age. For both of these reasons, they are not used in trade. Old Fazzarakian Skald currency, called “Scales” are in the shape of scales and neatly stack. They are highly sought after by dwarven collectors and come in a variety of unique metals.

Twisting Adventures

Alberon is a breathing world, and the continent of Dominion features a richly developed set of cultures that inevitably lead to subtle conflict. “Good” and “evil” are never so cut and dry, and a boon to one ally could easily be a curse to another.

Points of Light in a Dark Place

The Kingdom of Serentyl has established a largely safe zone on the Sunward Coast of Dominion. Along the west coast, Dungannon, Muddtown, and Darkmeadow serve as the only points of light in an otherwise dangerous swath of land that has thwarted attempts to settle it dozens of times over the years, resulting in a plethora of ruins and dungeons scattered throughout the wilds.

Heroes are Uncommon

Many commoners make their living as guards, police, or even privateers during the centuries of peace that have just ended. Without a single war being fought between the civilized races in the 1470 years of the Third Age, even the career soldiers would see but a handful of monsters in their entire career.

While many face threats for the first time in their lives, these dangers offer many a unique path to redemption. Many members of The Portent, given power in a moment of desperate need at a price they did not fully understand, might seek to leverage great deeds to break their pacts, and find power from a more benevolent source. A pirate, her ship destroyed by the Dungannon navy after a crewmate sold them out, might find herself swept up with a new motley assortment of individuals as they work their way back to a position from which they could seek

revenge. With new attacks in the north, the normally aloof monks of the Xinyi spread out across the continent in search of three powerful artifacts. As prophecies begin to come to fruition, churches, cults, and those in-between find their powers grow alongside their congregations and followers. Though they are rare, now might just be the start of the second Era of Heroes... if the world doesn't end first.

DM TIP: Create rival heroes that begin at roughly the same level as the party. Then, through word of mouth, town criers, or traveling bards, keep the party updated on their successes and failures. This can serve as a way to help the players from feeling overwhelmed; the entire weight of the globe-spanning crisis to come will not fall on their shoulders... just most of it.

The reverse is also true: if your party is finding too much quick success, throw a rival group in their way to cause complications. This works especially well if the rivals are better funded, especially likable, or both! Not only will this increase the difficulty in encounters, but it will also cause your players emotional distress, and what dungeon master doesn't enjoy a little bit of that?

Villains are Plentiful

A scarcity in monsters, aberrations, and the like left a vacuum to be filled by members of the “civilized” races. The villains on Dominion often work in subtle ways, relying on subterfuge, bullying, or simply staying behind the scenes to make money, gain power, or obtain lost secrets.

More compelling still are villains with understandable motivations. A necromancer is a well-explored concept, but a scarier one might

blur the lines between healer and monster. For instance, Dr. Twee Lightfoot is a cleric to Helm who has found a way to fuse his divine magic with his gift for tinkering. The result are miraculous prosthetic limbs that people from as far away as the Kimpet Islands would come to Port Quinn for a chance at restored function. Twee began to wonder... if he could fix an arm, why not a stomach? A heart? A soul? Slowly, his goal of helping people begins to blur the lines, and as he finds materials harder and harder to find, he begins to form a network of providers who share his vision. The Midnight Assembly helps him create the Assembled Souls, “divine” amalgamations of clockwork machinery, clerical power, and human remains. Killing him will stop Twee’s descent into madness... but during the day he still helps so many. Finding ways of encouraging players to solve problems through means other than sheer violence is difficult, negative consequences for what can be perceived as the “right” choice can sometimes help encourage out of the box thinking.

Everyone Has a Secret

One does not become an adventurer because they had a perfect childhood. Many player characters are gritty, and feature early tragedy or dark themes. Even a goody-two-shoes character has, at some point, made a mistake or had an influence in their life to cause them to be that way. Are they so instant on working alone because they lost their true love to an old party member long ago? Did they obtain their power through a pact they did not fully understand? The Secrets table provides a few examples of things a character in Dominion might go to great lengths to conceal.

Secrets

d10	Secret
1	I obtained some money by picking the wrong pocket, and now The Silent Circle has my description. Should they learn my identity, it is only a matter of time until I wear the Silent Smile.
2	I was once a member of a religious order, academic institution, or adventuring guild. I stole something from them, and if they should ever find me, I will be judged harshly.
3	To obtain my abilities, magic, or skills, I entered into a partnership I didn’t fully understand. Slowly, the tasks I was being asked to complete became harder to bear, until I found myself forced to commit a despicable act. I live in constant shame, and fear of discovery.
4	I was born under conditions that fit an obscure prophecy. True or not, events around me continue to match the predictions. I do not wish to fulfil this prophecy, and what’s more, there are others that will kill me to either ensure it comes to pass, or to thwart it outright... or both!
5	I had worked at a boring job in a town-sponsored stew kitchen for poorer folks. I was paid to leave food unattended, or to add an additional ingredient, which caused a huge swath of the town’s poor to die or become cursed or ill.
6	I washed up on the beach with only one memory: a forest of crystalline trees. I was naked, but for a strange burn in a language I do not understand.
7	Earlier in life, I found true love. My ambition toward a different goal resulted in me losing her to a rival, who stole my estate and business. I live with shame, resentment, and fury.
8	I hear a voice that nobody else seems to hear. It is not necessarily evil, but I constantly worry that my secret might be found out, and that I may be sent to the Halls of Atonement, or worse, burned for consorting with demons.
9	I have changed my name, accent, and appearance to escape my old life. I left behind a family I still care for or a successful enterprise in order to protect those I care about, and it will all be for naught should my secret be discovered!
10	I have learned of the existence of a powerful artifact, and wish to obtain it for myself. I must find help to do so, while still keeping my goals a secret for fear that my discovery will be stolen!

Everyone Has a Cause

Why did you become an adventurer? What reason compelled your character to risk their life, day in and day out, when all the land has known peace for so long?

Often, it is easier to break this down into two types of goals: Short term and long term. Short term goals might consist of: regaining my family's heirloom weapon; obtaining a powerful spell; purchasing a horse; or finding a romantic interest. These are good for in-the-moment character motivation. Long term goals are the sweeping points that characters wish to explore in their own character growth. These are often more vague, or could even consist of an "endgame build" idea the player wishes to pursue.

Causes

d10	Long Term Goal
1	I wish to regain the titles, lands, and fortunes my family lost.
2	I want to find my way back to the plane/world/time I came from.
3	I wish to revive a dead loved one.
4	I aim to take control of an organization, city, or kingdom, or start an empire of my own.
5	My only goal is to achieve godhood.
6	I wish to be the greatest of my class, and to have my deeds sung about for centuries so my legacy lives forever.
7	I wish to see the strangest landscapes and most alien creatures while making friends along the way.
8	Gold makes Alberon turn, and all I wish for is to make the planet spin.
9	Ancient secrets and forgotten lore have alluded so many so that I might be the one to discover them. To amass this knowledge is my life's work.
10	Straight up I just don't want to die.

What Brings You Joy?

Most play characters have a somewhat dark backstory. It's easy to focus in on the negative, and forget that moments of joy provide excellent contrast, and reasons to keep fighting when things look bleak. They can also serve as ways of making the characters feel more human to each-other, and allow for excellent roleplay opportunities that otherwise won't arise. DMs might try asking their players before a campaign "What single thing would make your character happier than anything in the world?"

Places of Fear

Another great question for DMs to ask before a campaign begins is, "What is one place your character would do anything to avoid returning to?" This allows your player to connect themselves to at least one location outside of their starting area. It will give them some context for the layout of the world, and when the adventure inevitably shows signs of leading there, another thing to consider (and some built-in lore for them to be able to drop at the table!) What works even better is if the Secret the player character chose earlier would be exposed should they reveal why they want to avoid this place, forcing them to go despite knowing how dangerous it might be!

This will also give you some insight into things that might be easy cues to make a player experience emotions. "The pillars here are eerily reminiscent of the location you dread most" will instantly put a player on edge, and foreshadow an eventual journey to confront their fear.

Magic in Dominion

The Weave connects everything, and magic practitioners have learned to manipulate it in various ways. The uncommon nature of magic in Dominion means that it's users rarely lead common lives.

Magic users training along similar schools of thought, beholden to similar gods, or in the service of nature might all gather together to further their studies.

The Lorebinder Academy

Located just north of the furthest boundaries of the Kingdom of Serentyl in a politically neutral place where it can still receive aid from both Port Quinn and Gulver's Bay if needed. While not even a majority of it's members (called Lorebinders) are magically inclined, but the more secret sections of the library (The Restricted Stacks, the Archive of Stars, and the Vault of Protection) all house numerous arcane texts, scrolls, and scripts of incredible interest and importance to those who seek to further their magical knowledge.

Public access is granted to all, but to gain access to the more restricted (and valuable) sections of the library, visitors must bring new knowledge to the Academy. Membership is merit-based. They wear blue robes, and their campus features willow trees with purple bark and iridescent, crystalline leaves.

The Bearded Consortium

A group of politically neutral mages who also happen to indirectly heavily influence Kol Taram's policy. They are all dwarven, and until this year, entirely male. Zelga the Stonestaff has recently taken a seat, and might be the most

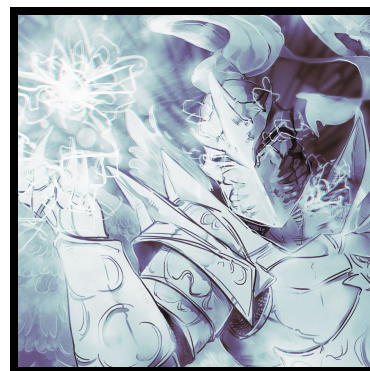
powerful evoker ever born within a mountain. By and large, the Consortium are warmages, and serve as the magical counterpart to the Stoneguard who serve as both military and police.

Communication

The physical makeup of Dominion means that communication from coast to coast is exceptionally slow and expensive. Magical communication is more reliable but only available in larger cities, and even then, within the Kingdom of Serentyl only accessible by a few government officials.

Birds are unaffected by the mountains, and are often used to transmit physical messages: the Xinyi keep ravens trained to return to select locations, and Kol Taram featured several services that ranged from public criers to discreet word-of-mouth messengers.

Hand-in-hand with communications is security. What good is a quick order to your forces abroad if they are intercepted on the way? The Blackhardt Exploratory Company employs wizards to apply Arcane Locks to it's relics when they are being transported, and is one such example. Below, the Communication and Security table provides some typical prices, though they will fluctuate based on availability.



Communications and Security

Service	Cost
Arcane Lock	35gp
Courier service	3sp in the same town, 5sp in the same city, 2gp per mile outside of the city.
Bonded Sending (Spell)*	15gp per cast. Each bears a spell tattooed on their neck that will explode should they break confidence with a client.
Locksmith	5sp (create, fix, or reinforce 3 locks)
Sending Stone (Pair)*	1000gp
Mail-by-Bird	8sp, 10% chance message won't arrive.
Red Shield Caravansary Services	Varying rates, provide guides, carts, guards, and mounts at various rates.
Sojourn Network Teleportation Circles	300gp (to teleport up to six creatures from one Sojourn location to another.)

*Illegal in The Kingdom of Serentyl

Convenience

Depending on where you go, magic is used to help ease aspects of everyday life. The wealthy import stylish arcane lanterns from across the Emerald Expanse. Entire repair shops in large cities hinge upon careful implementation of elbow grease and the *Mending* spell. A massive driftglobe is suspended in a tower central to the Lorebinder Academy, which dispels invisibility and reveals glamored objects or illusory text. Due to magic's rare nature (and it's restricted status in Serentyl outside of Pendelton) most magic is used to enhance the life of it's user and those who count themselves fortunate to be considered friends.

Entertainment and Fashion

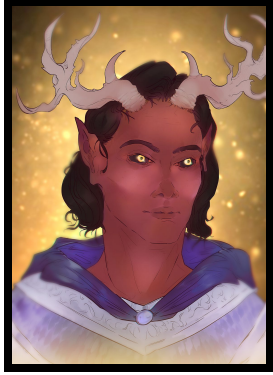
One of the rare exceptions to Serentyl's ban on magic is that of the Society for the Arts. Cantrips are used to enhance major plays, while conjuration spells aid in magic routines unlike any possible through mundane means.

Glamorweave is incredibly rare, but not banned within Serentyl once King Oren II's wife Jaquell Oren took a keen interest in the material's potential. Expensive to the point of being an indulgent even for the rich, glamorweave is capable of creating shifting patterns, blooming flowers, the illusion of shimmering gold, or even a swarm of clicking beetles. A simple tunic of glamorweave might begin at a price of about 1,000gp for a simple effect. The only producers of glamorweave fabric in Dominion, though it is more often imported from across the Emerald Expanse.

Medicine and Healing

Every city or town has a healer of one kind or another. Most employ cutting-edge medicine (which is dubious at best, and more often than not includes rusty implements and liberal amounts of alcohol) and traditional cures to heal.

The Healing Services table shows typically prices in the continent of Dominion for services rendered.



Healing Services

Service	Cost
Minor non-magical care	5sp
Major non-magical care	1gp per day
Non-magical disease cure	10gp, 25% chance of failure
Cure Wounds	40gp per spell level
Lesser Restoration*	150gp
Greater Restoration*	500gp
Regeneration*	1,500gp
Raise Dead*	5,000gp and a dangerous secret

*Illegal in Serentyl

Transportation

Roads vary widely in their design and quality: The Kingdom of Serentyl maintains standard roads of packed dirt with a graveled surface. They often curve and loop around geographical features rather than creating steep inclines or drastic curves.

The Kol Taram roads feature slowly looping, broad avenues of gray Taram stone blocks. Residential streets were maintained by the neighborhood, and vary widely but generally use smaller bricks, with alternate color bricks set to label to street names in the road material itself.

In Squall's end, roads are dirt, but of a mixture that compresses well and naturally resists icing. They bear a dull orange-red hue over the brown earth.

Horse-drawn carts, and horses themselves are the featured terrestrial transport in Dominion. Some regions have mounts bred for local conditions, such as the dreadlocked

donkey-like creatures called Aughaug in the northern mountains.

Several companies offer guards, guides, or carts and horses for travels, merchants, and others. Most prominent amongst them in Dominion are the Red Shield Caravansary. They offer several local guides at each of their outposts located in Port Quinn, and menu-like set of options for those who need help getting from point A to point B. They operate compounds in Port Quinn, Nocturne, One-Thousand Gates, Bluefield, Dunn, Serentyl, Gulver's Bay, and Darkmeadow.

Due to the central dangerous mountain region known as the Sunbreaker Chain separating the west and east coasts, most transit is conducted by sea. Hibsidium's Haste dominates naval travel along the Sunward Coast, across the Idlewild, and down around the Sombre Cape, but their ships cannot pass north of Gulver's Bay. Only the dwarven ironsides out of Stoneflow are capable of passing the Frozen Straight.

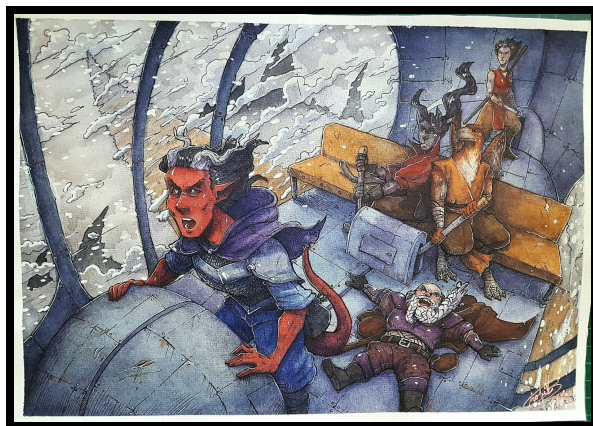
On the west coast, an abundance of private vessels, privateers, smugglers, trading vessels, and naval vessels provide many options for negotiating your price for passage. A citizen of Dungannon or Darkmeadow can book passage aboard Dungannon Navy vessels.

In the mountains of the north, Euriel's Watch has repaired and repurposed ancient winch-operated lifts that cross the peaks of mountains on wooden platforms to help patrol the land they are newly pledged to protect.

Stoneflow's city (and surrounding mines) have a steam-powered train system called the Sargoshaw (Steam Shuffle). It has comfortable passenger trains as well as larger industrial lines that wind slowly through the mines at regular intervals.

Finally, to those with incredibly deep pockets, the Sojourn Network maintains a network of teleportation circles that connect several private, protected sights underground throughout Dominion and The Auld to the North. While not a secret, the prohibitive price and well-protected nature of the sites themselves leads them to remain relatively undisturbed. A Sojourn Hub is one of the safest places in Dominion.

Rarer, less-conventional means of transport exists as well. Your imagination can run wild, but one such example is the Iron Hawk, a one-shot “Controlled Falling Device” prototype sitting unused at the edge of Mount Yishi.



Another option might be the Abletoe Dogsleds, operated by the halflings Sally Abletoe and Pine. They operate a mixed team of huskies, samoyeds, and chinook dogs as well as a single, athletic miniature horse named Denchers.

Stoneflow and Dungannon offer perfect locations to place unconventional travel methods: Stoneflow is the most technologically advanced power in Dominion so cutting edge technology like trains, airships, and other such marvels of gadgetry would be right at home; Dungannon is the oldest city on the continent, and was built on top of the original location inhabited by the Frost

Giants prior to them settling north in the Wrath Circuit.

Travel Services

Service	Cost	Speed
Horse	75gp	60'
Aughaug	25gp	25', climb 15' Immune to cold damage
Red Shield Horse and Cart (rental)	8sp /day	30'
Red Shield Guide	1gp /day	Advantage on survival check
Red Shield Guard	2sp /day	1 guard (BR, pg.163)
Hibsidium's Haste Naval Passage	1gp /day	30 miles /day
Dungannon Navy Passage	5sp /day	20 miles /day
Sojourn Network Teleportation	300gp /6 creatures	Instant
Abletoe Dog Sleds	Barter	1.5x walking distance in snow, advantage on perception checks

Times of Trouble

Even in relative peace, several events since just before the death of the last known dragon, the young blue Kulthix, have defined the attitude and traditions of it's people.

Founding of the Xinyi - 6th of Summertime, 806 T.A.

The original founder's names are closely guarded secrets, but there were four. They erected simple structures just outside of the tiny settlement of Squall's End, to attempt to reach an understanding with the harsh environment of The North. For the aarakocra, it was their last chance at a new home, and they helped mightily. For many years it was a struggle, but by 1,000 T.A. life for the Xinyi had improved dramatically. They were isolated, but provided a perfect shelter for those seeking an existence simpler and more meaningful.

The Tear - 26th of The Rotting, 937 T.A.

In the Shaded Woods south of modern-day Port Quinn, Abernathy the Bender had constructed a laboratory tower called Garvedoir. He attempted to enslave a powerful entity to secure him safe passage to alternate planes, but ended up damaging the membrane of reality in such a way that swarms of horned abyssal creatures at once found their way into the Shaded Wood, and began a ten-year rampage that would rock the Kingdom of Serentyl and push the 700-year-old nation and it's small communities to the edge.

The Goldglow Coup - 1st of The Time of Flowers, 1002 T.A.

In a sudden coordinated strike, Clan Goldglow assassinated or exiled over 100 key individuals throughout Kol Taram, and imprisoned the

previous three ruling clans: Clans Coldwrought, Forgefire, and Redstone within the Black Cells in the Halls of Atonement. Only Doldrum Coldwrought would escape, and quickly rise to power within The Undercity. He would break out or retrieve the few members of his clan he could, and with his wife Helia the First, he began to rebuild, his blue eyes ever upward toward the Ring of Gold above.

The Silent Circle Rises - 1088 T.A.

Operating since the founding of Serentyl, the Silent Circle had already earned a reputation as the most sinister of criminal organizations. Famous members include the sociopathic crime boss known as The Wolf who disguised his half-orc heritage and Weaver's Circle training by filing down his tusks; Chopper Darkmind, the violent bounty hunter that operates out of the slaver city of Darkmoore; and many more. In 1088, Othea the Smiling Whisperer took on the role of Nightwarden in Nocturne, cementing their position of dominance throughout the criminal world.

The Abyssal Mistveil is Broken - 1107 T.A.

Omen, the tiefling warlock; Marmaw Trueshell, a turtle wizard, a Divine Court monk and other heroes lost to time banded together to end the threat of the hideous Mistwalkers (croteggos in dwarven) who had enslaved the hill dwarves who had settled on the nearby island of Byss. The Kingdom of Serentyl soon moved in to revitalize the fertile settlement.

Dinman's Disaster - 18th of the Time of Flowers, 1208 T.A.

Jerrold Dinmen was perhaps the most brilliant elf to have ever been born after the Spirephase itself.

He had fled from Everest after an experiment began to destabilize the Onyx Spire. The vampires within managed to infect him before he left. Desperate to escape his cursed body, Jerrod took on the persona of The Architect, and used a successful workshop in Kol Taram as a cover to secretly construct Azers in an attempt to build himself a new body. His final prototype was trapped, and a vestment of Orvenesker infected the Perfect Azer. This caused the others to rampage, slaying many of Dinman's Workshop's workers. The Bearded Consortium sealed the entire ward off for the safety of the rest of the Kol.

The Sinking - 1010-1017 T.A.

Far to the north, the continent called The Auld begins to sink. Tales tell of dark tentacles of slimy purple skin, with grasping mouths in place of suction cups that swallowed the land and all who couldn't escape. The mountain elves of the Ruby Spire moved south, many taking up residence in Squall's End. The Halfling settlement of Bitterbottom was swallowed early beneath the waves, the survivors also making it to Dominion's northern shores.

The Fall of Kulthix - 13th of the Claws of Storms, 1215 T.A.

Kulthix was a young blue dragon that had survived the Shatterscale Plague in Ganon and fled to take shelter upon the shores of the Gem Coast. A group of heroes hunted the beast across the lands to the edge of the continent, and defeated it. Of those heroes, only The Gazel remains. The masked dwarf was last seen in Nocturne, but has been missing for over five years.

The Grayfang Incursion - 1301-1308 T.A.

The rich suburb of Pendelton was rocked during its centennial celebration at midnight when werewolves burst out amongst the populace of the town. Many fled, but as the Church of Law and Light attempted to purge them from the countryside, a human named Auldus who took on the name Grayfang rallied the rest in a guerilla war for their survival.

The Chaos Crystal Experiment 18th of the Claws of Winter, 1468 T.A.

Abernathy the Bender attempted to harness a shard of chaos crystal to peel back the layers of reality. This briefly (and violently) connected Alberon to various planes. For the next several years, creatures from the feywild, shadowfell, and plane of water were pulled at random into Alberon.

The Midnight Curse - 1209 T.A.

The hill dwarves who had settled around Lake Tannic fell victim to a mysterious illness. As the dwarves fell ill, they would go to sleep, and come daylight be missing (thus earning its name.) Something seemed to have happened to the water, though it burned through the population so fast, it remains a mystery to this day.

The Quaking King - 1468 T.A.

After the sudden death of King Oren I, Prince Oren II departed suddenly on a "secretive diplomatic mission to the west. They never returned, having been sighted last heading north of One-Thousand Gates before disappearing into the Sunbreaker Chain. Rumors of Oren II being terrified of the weight of the crown have resulted in him being referred to as The Quaking King. Three years must pass before he is succeeded by

his advisor, Taelstin Winter. She currently leads in his stead with fierce resistance from nobles, generals, and merchants alike who all see the king's absence as a chance to seize more power.

A Blue Star Not From Our Skies - 20th of the Rotting, 1470 T.A.

Suddenly, any with eyes to the night sky would have seen a new celestial body wink into life, Aurillion returning to Alberon. Those attuned to the living things in this world would feel the planet gasp, and creatures that had slumbered for millenia stir once more. As Seven Shards of Aurillion fell to Dominion, each would corrupt those around it to try and bring the shard to the nearest Pillar of Life to activate it.

Prophecies

There was a time in Alberon where prophecies were real. Prophets, either through divine will of a patron or natural connections not yet closed, could read the future as a puzzle to decode rather than a true mystery. These are closely guarded secrets to those who know them, and entire orders exist to keep their message alive. As a DM, you are free to create your own to help guide your campaign, either as a starting point, or to help guide the party when they feel especially lost. A well-written prophecy can feel like a reward! I've included the two that have come up so far in our campaign as examples.

*"A Blue Star, not from our skies/
now appears before my eyes/
It's master is maker, and father, and son
When it's teeth gain purchase, this Age is done/*

*The first tooth was found by a man, his hair is orange,
his mind expands/
He is not too far away, but tarry too long, and to the
valley he'll stray/*

*The second resides in a purple maw,, where I smell
brimstone, and gore that's raw/
As her brood claws for the light, the dwarves of Kol
Taram take flight/*

*The third I see but do not hear, for the cacophony of the
Squall is near/
But at its center, it rests in the ring, upon the hand of a
cold cruel king/*

*The fourth is lost, out at sea, none have found it but
many seek/
Grey creatures spilling from across the void would use
the tooth to end all joy/*

*The fifth exists within a mind, that whispers lies and
leads the blind/*

*The sixth I see in a massive tomb, giants' boots walk
past this room/*

*The final piece gives me unrest, for she who seeks it reeks
of death/"*

*-The Prophecy of Seven Pillars, told by
the spirit of the wood elf prophet, Vera Waithe.*

The second prophecy is from her sister, Masildar Waithe, a drow separated at birth, and still very much alive, within the Azure Spire in the Underdark. *The Prophecy of Gran Machan* is her first, spoken originally in 203 T.A:

*When twilight begins to run red/
and the banner turns to ash/
When azure light rises 'bove your head/
and the dead find their speaker at last/*

*When the earth returns to the skies/
and when many minds become one/
When the tears of our people return to their eyes/
Gan-Machan has begun/*

*Silence the dead in the cradle of man/
And dig beneath the rot/
Break the Weavelock, end the curse/
And remember what we forgot/*

This prophecy supposedly speaks of the conditions that herald a restoration of Alberon's connection to The Feywild, restoring the elves' link to their gods, and their home.

Chapter One

Character Creation

You sail the Emerald Expanse, with your eyes on becoming the richest pirate ever to have traversed the western coast of Dominion! You have escaped wrongful imprisonment in Nocturne's dungeon, The Cellar, and must now bring those responsible to justice, and clear your name! You were the squire to a young Shield of Serentyl, but the knight you were sworn to was slain! You must take up his shield and Oath, and protect the Kingdom as they swore to do! There are many stories your character might pursue, and this chapter delves into the history of each race in Dominion, as well as the unique histories of classes like Artificer and Wizard that might effect the way the world interacts with you.

Races

Dominion is the birthplace of humans, several dwarven variants, and gnomes besides. Other races have come to find a home here, welcome or otherwise.

Each race listed in the Player's Handbook exists within the boundaries of Dominion. Many monstrous races, too, are found in quieter parts of the continent, but may come with heavy social penalties should a player choose to play them.

Tabaxi are not native to Alberon, yet three exist on Dominion. One is the lone keeper of the Glass Lighthouse in the norther Short Sea. The second is Sune, who bears an appearance similar to a white tiger, and operates in several parts of the world, but within Kol Taram and

Nocturne in Dominion. The last is Morwen, a chaotic black tabaxi swashbuckler serving aboard the Raging Harmony with the Robin Hood-esque Mudd Brotherhood.

Warforged are unheard of in Dominion but several exist within Ganon, thousands of miles to the north west. It is not inconceivable that some might find there way here.

Aarakocra

"The people of the north have a curious fondness for birds. I chalk this up to the aarakocra the drift overhead, tiny specks against the clouds and snow. I must admit, I do feel safer knowing they're up there. For their aloofness, the Xinyi keep balance in this part of Dominion..."

-Veetus Adder, *Adder's Almanac*

Quietly, the aarakocra are one of the oldest creatures to have traveled to Alberon from a different plane. They traveled originally from the Plane of Air during the Elemental Deluge of the first age, and have never been able to establish a permanent home. Most are keen to spend as much time in the air as possible, and claustrophobia is common amongst their kind.

Take to Wing

Aarakocra are natural travellers, and many live a nomadic life. Beyond their love of flying, this is also owing to the destruction of their oldest grounds when The Auld sank in 1001 T.A.

Their unique physiology makes clothing and armor a nightmare to acquire, and many have joined the xinyi monastery as it's elevated position atop Mount Yishi combined with it's preference for lighter equipment seemed a natural

fit. Indeed, most aarakocra in Dominion make their home in or around Squall's End.

Feathers and Auran

Aarakocra tend toward lighter clothing with tighter fit, as it will cause less drag while flying. Touching an aarakocra's wings is a very familiar action, and to be allowed to do so is a gesture reserved for close friends and family. For an aarakocra to give a feather to another is for them to grant a conditionless endorsement.

Aarakocra Names

The language of the aarakocra is auran, a dialect of primordial. It is the speech of birds, and as such features clicks, squaks, and other hard-to-replicate sounds. Non-aarakocran speakers are painfully obvious in their speech, but can be understood. Names are often based on sounds of the birds they resemble: **Krawtic**, **Krick**, **Howler**, and **Cotoot** are all viable names. Just as often, they will adopt names easier for humans and other races to speak, that are based in the community they are part of.

Dragonborn

"Though the Skald of Fazzarak devastated southern Dominion for the first two centuries, the relics of their techniques (called artificing) have the power to help hundreds, now!"

-A noble, arguing for the public release of one such device in Dungannon.

At the end of the second age, two great dragons remained: On Everest, the ancient blue dragon Fazzarak. On Dominion and the Sunrest Islands, the black dragon Xulcast, known as The Black Death. Both believed Alberon to be theirs, and confrontation was inevitable.

The Skald of Fazzarak, the fanatic warhost of Dragonborn who had grown up in Ganon and worshipped Fazzarak as a god, were better equipped and trained than any of the young races on Dominion. They invaded, spreading as far north as the Winter Waste and as far south as Muddtown, searching for Xulcast's layer. Just as they began to mount a successful crusade through the Gated Marsh, the Shatterscale Plague erupted in Ganon, and overnight the only globe-spanning empire to have ever existed crumbled to dust as the continent itself burned. Xulcast was slain soon after. Dragonborn remaining in Dominion are viewed with suspicion. Several have turned to worshipping Tiamat in the hopes of brining dragons back to Dominion, and that the Skald might once more span the globe.

The Shatterscale Plague

In the second century of The Age of Civility, in illness began to infect the dragonborn on their home continent of Ganon. It was incredibly infectious, and resistant to even magical healing. It caused scales to become brittle, so that damage would cause them to shatter like glass. The scales would take on a waxy appearance, like unhealthy toenails. In-game terms, a character infected with Shatterscale would be vulnerable to bludgeoning and force damage. In addition, any health lost due to damage dealt by these types will not heal through any means until after a long rest.

Finding a cure for this plague is a cause taken up by every dragonborn. Though active cases are rare, it is seen as a death sentence and a tremendous obstacle in restoring their status as Rulers of the Second Age.



Dwarf

“She looked across the quarry, whispered ‘Say a prayer for me’/

She broke her chains and took off, shouting ‘Dwarves we must be free’/

We could hear the guards come running, their giant footfalls loud/

They cut her down as she ran, her vengeance disavowed/”

-Ballad of The Heavy Hand, by Nillie Winsloe

At the dawn of the Third Age, three Great Kols housed the dwarves of Dominion. Kol Taram in northern Dominion still stands, under the rule of Clan Goldglow. Their complexions are pale, and their hair dark. They would be considered Mountain Dwarves in the *Player’s Handbook*.

Kol Stoneflow in the northeastern reaches of Dominion features dwarves of auburn, brown, and red-headed dwarves. It still stands, mostly due to it’s fiercely isolationist policies. Outsiders are not allowed in past a trade port, and access to that can only be achieved by using one of Kol Stoneflow’s steam-powered dwarven

ironside ships. These dwarves, too would be considered mountain dwarves, but they write in a different dialect using personalized ciphers to guard research.

Kol Erasta was the third, and the newest of the three. It was built over a wound remaining from the Elemental Deluge, and harness this rift to create a magical forge of elementally cold fire called The Coldforge. It was powered through a massively powerful blade known as The Forgekey, and the arcane forge at it’s base could produce items of miraculous power. It was the here that Zeistriess the Mindflayer first made his appearance in Dominion, summoned unintentionally. He enslaved the population though Erasta’s daughter, Kirten the Stonefisted Maiden. Kol Erasta, and the Coldforge within, are an Atlantis-like destination for treasure seekers across Alberon.

In the early 6th century of the Third Age, an ideological schism caused two factions of dwarves to leave Kol Taram. One settled in a hilly village around present-day Lake Tannic. The other sect settled far south, on the island of Byss. Many say they brought the curse of Kol Taram with them, as first the Byss sect was wiped out when T’ssarra rose to power in Byss; then, in the twelfth century, the group around Lake Tannic found themselves annihilated rapidly through The Midnight Curse.

The few who survive find themselves aging quicker than the mountains dwarves who remain in their Kols, but would use the Hill Dwarf stat block in the *Player’s Handbook*.

What’s in a Name?

No race takes names more seriously than the dwarves. Their last name is always the name of their clan, though a dwarf who achieves enough

in their life to earn an honorific can safely be considered a legend. When you hear the name “Erasta the Heavy Hand,” and not “Erasta Bluerock you can safely assume she should be afforded some respect.

Dwarves who commit crimes are exiled from their society, and their clan name taken away. In its place, they are given a name that speaks to the crime they commit. **Hillsbane**, **Kinslayer**, and **Breaththief** are all examples that exist within Dominion.

Elf

“With their connection to Lolth severed, the drow have often turned to less savory deities to fill the void: The Lord of Bones, The Raven Queen... as a result, my people have turned cruel, and angry. It was not always this way.”

-Aieshelveise, explaining how the drow came to Alberon.

The elves of Alberon come from Spires, massive structures of living crystal that were phased slowly from the Feywild to Alberon. They are somewhat rare in Dominion, though most are either of the wood or mountain variety. They are mostly disconnected from the Feywild now, and many would love nothing more than to reconnect Alberon to it’s wondrous echo.

The Five Crystal Spires

When Mystra opened the Halo of the Far Traveler to connect Alberon to the multiverse, Queen Titania in the Feywild felt the change, and drew together the first Court of Stars in millenia.

She bade every fey in attendance to write their name or the name of one they swore fealty to upon a stone, and to then cast the stone into a great stone basin. Five lots would be drawn, and

to each, they would be granted access to a Spire, a shard of crystal that could be phased into this young world of Alberon. Each sliver was a magical ark that could slowly phase an entire colony of fey from the Feywild to Alberon, albeit over time.

When the lots were drawn, Titania of course received countless enteries; a dozen or so stones had to be drawn to find the next person. All saw her bountiful harvests and beautiful creatures and sought to see her portion of the Feywild expanded. She sent the **Emerald Spire** through the largest conduit, in the Jeweled Oasis that separates Alberon from other worlds, seeded with the *high elves* and *star elves*, to where it rests now, in Everest.

Sarula Iliene, with support of the nixies, was drawn next; she set the **Sapphire Spire** down into the ocean south of the Sunrest Islands. *Sea elves*, *triton*, and *nixies* all arrived in this way, phasing into a spot where no natural life could grow. As a result, it grew slowly. When the nearby Kol Saltut began to crumble beneath the waves, the fledgling Spire took the dwarves in, forming the Anacrean Alliance, a small partnership of the fey and dwarves. They are currently pressing into the Sunrest Islands in an attempt to expand their influence and gain access to the magic font of the Soltree.

Kannoth, The Exsanguinator and the Undying Court of Winter drew a single lot, and were reluctantly granted a spire: Onyx, where multiple attempts to purge the vampiric influence have fallen short. Kannoth brought just nine others with him, and each of a single race: *vampire*. The **Onyx Spire** was destroyed, but the Kingdom of Unending Night continues to slowly draw in victims and extend its borders.

Zandaroth the Wanderer was the largest surprise; they held fealty to no court, and yet their single ballot, cast in the hope that they could wander ever farther, allowed them to form The **Ruby Spire** as they wished. They brought with them other kin who had hearts that longed for adventure: the *mountain elves*, and a small handful of *summer eladrin*.

Lolth arrived late from the dark places underneath the enchanted dusk of the Feywild, but she called her countless daughters and sons and their stones overwhelmed the basin, spilling over into piles on the ground around it. Even the votes for Titania seemed small in number compared to the votes for the Queen of Spiders. Lolth formed the **Amethyst Spire**, which still stands in the underground nation of Olotho'valduun. This is the home of the *drow*, who were inadvertently cut off from Lolth when Mystra created the Weavelock to help protect Alberon from entities beyond its borders.

Distinct Cultures

Though the different types of elves are mostly in line with a specific spire, this is not always the case. The following paragraphs detail typical attitudes and customs and the appearances of the elves that most frequently expressed them; wood elves largely came on the Emerald Spire, but some traveled on the Ruby and (unwittingly) the Onyx Spire as well (as an example.)

Each of these cultures, with the exception of the distant *drow*, have intermingled on some level with humans, and so half-elves are much more common than their full-elf kin. **Half-elf** characters in Dominion use the traits found in the *Player's Handbook* (PHB, 38.)

Star Elf. The Star Elves primarily came to Alberon aboard the Emerald Spire, which sits on the continent of Everest across the Emerald Expanse to the west of Dominion. The terms star elf, high elf, and moon elf are all interchangeable, and all bear the same physical characteristics: pale skin, ranging across a spectrum of whites, the palest of peaches, and a range of barely-blues. Their hair tends to be a white with a beautiful silvery sheen and texture, but can also range all the way to black, and across a spectrum of darker blues. Brown and blonde hair are rare, but not unheard-of. They are haughty, and believe the Emerald Spire to be the seat of civility. In terms of statistics, they would use the High Elf traits (PHB. 23)

Wood Elf. Extremely rare in Alberon but the most populous of elves in the Feywild are those of the wood variety. Their skin ranges from patinated copper hues to dark mahogany streaked with green. A wood elf's hair ranges across the human spectrum but can feature highlights of green or brown. A wood elf's eyes are indicative of their parent's court affiliation when they were born, and will be of a color associated with that season (blues and whites for winter, greens and lilacs for spring, etc.) They are more connected to nature and detached from society than the rest of their kind, and often live in small networks, each link spread out over several miles.

<p><u>Verdurich</u> - The lost Wood Elf city of Verudich (elvish for Jungleroot) is an important part of wood elf culture. When it existed, a great chamber of spirits was accessible to their people. They could gain the knowledge of the birds and the beasts; the trees</p>
--

and the flowers. The loss of this place weakened their connection to the natural world, and every wood elf is born with it's loss heavy in their heart. Any piece of information about it would be enough to pull this elf away from all but the most dire of tasks.

Drow. The Amethyst Spire is one of the only two remaining from the original spires of the Spirephase. It rests at the center of the Underdark nation of Olotho'valduun, located roughly two miles beneath the central corridor of the Valley of Tranquility. The drow came to Alberon to serve Lolth, but were cut off from their patron by The Weavelock, which was designed to keep certain entities away.

Drow are cruel as a product of being isolated, and alone. Back in the Feywild, they shared a psychic connection; in Alberon without it, they feel psychologically raw, and are easily drawn to the banner of darker forces. They are a bitter people, angry at being left behind by Lolth.

They were not always this way, and your player character probably isn't either. To fit a drow character into a party, you'll need to find a compelling reason to do so. While not outright evil, the infighting within the various factions in Olotho'valdun is a result of the drow's current predisposition to anger, violence, and a nearly animalistic need to seek revenge.

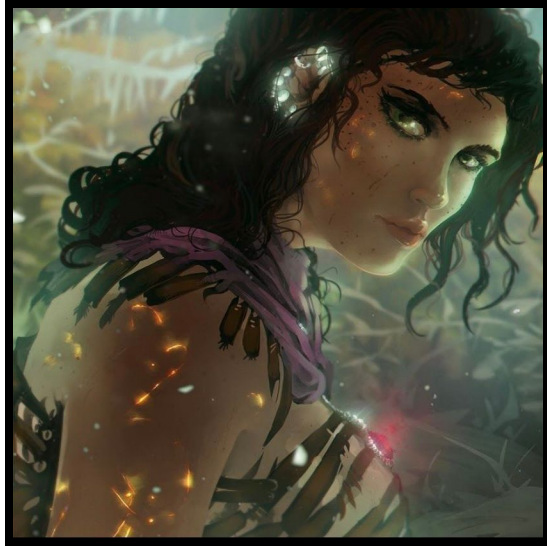
The following table contains some reasons a drow might leave Olotho'valdun or the underdark completely to pursue a more heroic goal.

Drow Adventurer Reason Table

d6.	Reason
-----	--------

1	A friend or relative of mine was killed, collateral damage of one of the many conflicts in our hamlet. I had a sudden realization as to the cyclical nature of violence in our nation, and seek a way to change it.
2	I killed another member of my community over a disagreement, but now I must flee. There is safety in numbers, and this group seems to have some talented individuals.
3	My hamlet was destroyed/overrun/enlaved by stone giants/gray dwarves/mindflayers and I barely escaped. I must have my revenge, and perhaps this group can help.
4	One or more members of this group seems to be powerful. I may not have use for friends, but I always have use for tools.
5	In overhearing this party talk, one or more of the quests they are embarking on will further my goals. I must follow them to learn the whereabouts of an item/location/person.
6	The love of my life, the only bastion of happiness I have found in The Underdark, has been kidnapped. I need this group's help to locate her.

Work with your DM to figure out the best way to work a drow into the group. Also, bear in mind that drow have the *Sunlight Sensitivity* trait, and will be rolling many things at disadvantage unless you are in the underdark. The drow in Alberon use the official traits for *drow* (PHB, 24)



Mountain Elf. The mountain elves of Dominion are all refugees or the children of refugees who fled The Auld when it sank. Their skin is orange, and ranges across the warm spectrum of natural clay colors; adobe red, soft tans, and rich chestnut browns are all flecked with elements of copper in their skin. Their eyes are like burnished gold, or the fiery reds of the sunset, and their hair ranges across the brown and red hues.

The mountain elves are fierce survivors, and descend from the followers of Zandaroth the Wanderer, a powerful fey being that takes great pleasure in seeking out the unknown. He preaches toughness, and a resilience that has translated to a fierce warrior mentality since they were cut off from his distant guidance by the Weavelock. They frequently use a stick-and-poke tattoo method with arcane ink to create flowing tattoos across a large portion of the body that shifts subtly with magical effects.

Ability Score Increase. Your Constitution score increases by 1.

Elf Survivalist. You gain proficiency with daggers, handaxes, quarterstaves, short bows, and spears; and you are proficient in the Survival skill.

Zandaroth's Etchings. The magical technique of your people has imparted you with arcane tattoos that allow you access to one of the following spells: *Absorb Elements*, *Cause Fear*, *Feather Fall*, *Find Familiar*, or *Searing Smite*. Once used, you may not use this feature again until the end of a long rest.

At level 5, your etching fully heals, unleashing it's full potential. You gain access to one of the following spells: *Alter Self*, *Animal Messenger*, *Detect Thoughts*, *Locate Animals or Plants*, *Pass Without a Trace*, or *Spider Climb*. Once used, you may not use this feature again until the end of a long rest.

For any elf, the names fall into two categories: traditional, flowing elvish names like **Sylvandre**, **Ariadne**, and **Ranor'a'ven** are all elf names. The other school of names is more german inspired, and more common amongst the drow and elves of the Emerald Spire: **Aieshelvise** or **Eulhelm** are examples of these.

Firbolg

"The Upperbow firbolgs and the Lowerbow firbolgs are night and day apart. We are guardians of nature, and fierce protectors of our community. The Lowerbow firbolgs live in the dark places, obsessing over mold and creepy things."

-Thistle, explaining the different firbolg tribes.

Not technically native to Dominion, there are nevertheless a good number of firbolgs living in the wild places of the continent. Generally good-natured and shy, firbolgs tend to attach themselves to other communities, and are

welcome even in the xenophobic towns of Serentyl.

A firbolg typically stands between 7-8 feet tall, and will have skin that runs the gamut of natural colors along with softer neutral and pastel colors. Firbolg hair is similar to human hair, but thicker, and can be green or a more vibrant red than human hair.

There are firbolgs who come here from the Emerald Spire, and a large population on the southern continent of Mythilstream, but most firbolgs in Dominion are from The Upper Bow and The Lower Bow, islands belonging to the conglomeration of islands collectively forming The Sunrest Islands just a week across the Short Sea to Dominion's east.

Upper Bow Firbolg. Upper Bow firbolg live in a huge, fallen, hollowed-out tree that is an extension to the Soltree. The Hollow Lodge and the lands in the valley around it are some of the most verdant and biodiverse in all of Alberon. Every 100 years, firbolgs from this community leave for Dominion on a pilgrimage. They leave to find a special offering worthy of whatever beast lay within The Heart of Sunrest to appease it. It is the greatest honor to be selected, but none return.

These firbolg tend to have less hair than their Lower Bow cousins, and typically have skin that runs more toward a green or purple cast, though still primarily ranging from deep brown to a muted tan. They are, on the whole, taller than the Lower Bow firbolgs. These firbolg are good-natured, and are welcomed across Dominion as a sign of good luck.

Lower Bow Firbolgs. In stark contrast to the green valleys and lush jungles of the Upper Bow,

The Lower Bow has heavy volcanic activity that has forced the firbolgs to live alongside kobolds beneath the ground. These Firbolgs are lean and lanky, and tend to be toward the taller range. They have thicker, more plentiful hair, with elements of body hair manifesting as an almost fur-like consistency, and due to the narrow caverns they must often call home, they tend to be on the shorter end. Their hair ranges through muted red tones, and rich deep blacks and gray.

The dangerous nature of Lower Bow has caused these firbolgs to be far more cautious, edging on paranoid due to the doppelganger infestation that has occurred in the Upperdark. They are a guarded lot, and thought not evil, their stooped posture and frequently twitchy movements tend to cause suspicion from others, even when it isn't warranted... though it often is.

Both types of firbolgs use the traits for firbolgs (VGM. 106)

Gnome

"If they say it can't be done, you just haven't asked the right gnome."

-Dominion proverb

As a huge portion of earth fell from the skies, a huge crater pulled water from the River of colors. This slowly flooded the warrens of the sprawling gnome metropolis called Sunderwist, giving the gnomes just enough time to convert buildings to submersible craft that could move in the new network of underwater rivers, some of which were near oceanic in their own right.

Gnomes have had to be adaptable and inventive to survive. They tend to have flexible minds and optimism that can edge on annoying.

Gnomes tend to be about three feet tall. They can have a variety of natural skin colors that can transition into shades of brown-gray, and eyes that reflect the colors of the environment they're from (typically shades of rock and earth.) Their hair tends to be darker, but blond and red hair rarely occur as well. Gnomes in Alberon use either the Rock Gnome (*PHB*, 37) or Deep Gnome (*EEPC*, 5) traits.

Goblin

"For all the talk of bloodthirsty goblins, that Dindin put together a heck of a fine circus, he did. Too bad about your cousin though."

-Old Gran, upon hearing her neighbor's cousin had perished in a Black Snake goblin raid to the north.

Goblins have a bad reputation in Dominion that has not been unjustly earned. With an average lifespan of three years, there is a certain impulsiveness to "live life to the fullest" that possesses these tiny creatures, and often attributes to the gap between their average age, and the oldest goblins who tend to make it to their early thirties in some extreme cases.

Goblins are quite small, and have large heads in proportion to their body size with elongated ears. While they don't naturally grow hair, many wear hats or wigs to cover this fact and to do what they can to blend into society. Clothing is not easy to find, so often they wear highly customized garb.

Goblins tend to operate in tribes, though they can often be quite advanced. Though they are not imaginative in their own right, goblins have an incredible ability to repurpose tools and weapons to serve alternate functions. A

sharpened shovel works just as well as a normal axe, after all. Tribe names tend to be evocative of customs or visual themes that a tribe utilizes or engages in. The Red Cap goblins in the Undercity of Kol Taram wear various plundered red hats; the Black Snake tribe bear rudimentary tattoos of black dragons, which result in infection enough that amputation is common.

Lack of imagination does not equate to a lack in intellect; goblins can be every bit as clever as their human counterparts, which can cause serious issues when coupled with their impulsive nature. Goblins in Alberon use the traits for goblins (*VGM*, 119)

Goliath

"Of course I know what a goliath is. They're like... rock people. I'm sure of it."

-Guntir Truesteel, incorrectly explaining goliath to his friends.

Towering humanoids with no body hair, goliath are imposing figures that tower at eight to nine feet tall. They are often bald, but those that grow hair leave it as long, shaggy manes of black or brown. Their eyes tend to be a pupiless white, although those from the Timeless Valley tribes have more human-looking irises and pupils.

A goliath has skin in a hue of gray. One of the reasons people often believe that goliath are made of stone are the rock-like bony protrusions called lithoderms. These can appear like scales, plates, or rocky outcrops on the goliath's skin, but are actually bone. If broken, though painful, they will reform.

Goliath in Dominion hail from either the Timeless Valley, hidden in the shadow of Cinderbreath Mountain in the Sunbreaker

Chain. These goliath are expert hunters and survivalists, as the frost valley in eternal shadows has dinosaurs that dominate the region. Their tribes are a conjugation of their two greatest conquests; examples would be something like “Giant-and-Mammoth” which would translate to “Orduhgrut” in giant, the native language of the goliath. If any race in Dominion would not know common, it would be these isolated goliath.

The other goliath in Dominion would hail from the Mammoth’s Fjord, a chain of glaciers deep in the north of Dominion, right on the edge of the ocean that separates the continent from The Auld to the North. These goliath are all part of the Winter Hunt, a massive tribe that has united to face off the bleak conditions of their home. They survive hunting orca, seal, mammoth, and troll. For both versions, use the traits for goliath (*VGM*, 108.)

Halfling

“Have I ever told you of the time we stole a statue from in front of Pogrut’s Arena? Well, we needed this ore...”

-Gambol Overbrook, exaggerating his adventures with the Shadowscavs

Natural merchants, but avid storytellers, every halfling must have at least one heroic tale to tell to be considered an adult in halfling society. Some find a taste for danger and stick with it; most return to their community and take on a safer occupation.

The halflings in Dominion originate primarily from the distant city of Bitterbottom. It was a thriving city with beautiful pink quartz chandeliers that hung from public light posts. Bioluminescent moths would be attracted to the

stone at night, created living, moving streetlights of immense beauty.

Bitterbottom was destroyed during The Sinking in 1010 T.A. and many of it’s residence fled to Northern Dominion. Nanuc, Smuggler’s Dug, The Shell, Nanuc, and Squall’s End all have a larger-than-normal distribution of halflings. Halflings in Dominion are as described in the *Player’s Handbook* and use the traits of either the *Lightfoot* or *Stout* subraces (*PHB*, 28).

Half-Orcs

Often underestimated, at the head of most orc outfits in Dominion, a half-orc seems to sit.

Half-orcs are not native or common to Dominion, but the continent’s proximity to The Sunrest Islands just across the Short Sea see’s a number of them immigrate to the Sunward Coast. The majority can be found in Nocturne.

Half-orcs have gray skin, slightly sloped foreheads, and small vestigial tusks that are prominently featured on a pronounced underbite. Their hair is brittle and coarse. It ranges from black with subtle purple hues to dark greens and pitch black. Their eyes feature pupils surrounded by blues, greens, reds, and oranges. Yellow and gold were rare, but occasionally occurred.

Sunrest orcs feature carefree attitude and cultural sarcasm. They respect those that earn it, and are direct communicators, which can come off as rude. Those who spend time in their company will come to learn there is an efficiency with which half-orcs tend to view things with that doesn’t lead to excessive pleasantries.

Names are often and feature pronounced syllables: **Iluktai**, **Shade**, and **Caskar** are

examples that might be used. Half-orcs in Dominion use the half-orc traits found in the Player's Handbook (PHB, 41.)

Human

"The fastest way to solve a problem is by telling a human that it can't be done."

-Everest saying.

For their relatively short lifespan and small-picture thinking, humans have been disproportionately successful across Alberon. Of every continent, none features the human race so heavily as Dominion. The Kingdom of Serentyl is staunchly pro-human, and many of its citizens believe one of the primary directives of the Kingdom should be human-centric expansion.

Humans are adaptable and quick to learn. What they lack in time on Alberon (the average human lives about 65 years) they make up for with sheer willpower. Humans tend to range from 5-7 feet tall, with the vast majority clustered toward the average. Body types vary broadly, and both hair and eye colors span the normal color range.

Dominion is predominantly human, sitting at close to 60% of the town and city populations. The Valley of Tranquility, safely surrounded on all sides by the Sunbreaker Chain, is almost entirely human; the capital of the Kingdom of Serentyl, the city of Serentyl itself, only allows humans to own land, a policy unofficially extended through Dunn nearby.

Human names can vary from **Jane** and **John** to **Peetis** and **Rhodesia**, humans enjoy unique names. At present, it is in vogue to name your children "elvish" names, though through a combination of lack of research and subconscious

avoiding any actual elvish, most names just "sound" elvish.

Wanderlust is a trait found in many humans. Not all will brave the wilds of Dominion but enough will so that humans have spread further and faster than any other race. Human-centric cities have spread as far as the Kismet Islands, though the majority are clustered around Dominion, The Auld, and Darby.

From a statistical standpoint, human characters in Dominion use the *variant human* or *human* traits found in the *Player's Handbook* (PHB, 31.) The primary reason that variant humans are encouraged (assuming your campaign is utilizing fears) is that it better represents the breadth of experiences that humans have. Only goblins are more impulsive, but with their significant lifespan advantage, a feat represents a human's talent gained from exploring several interests and developing at least one.

Kobold

"...but for their appearances and their knack for petty theft, the kobolds do have one admirable quality: there is no creature better suited for digging sewers."

-Adder's Almanac of Alberon, 1465

Edition

The smallest of the dragonkin, kobolds live in strongly social communities where each kobold serves a specialist role. They do not form strong attachments to each-other, choosing mates for convenience over attraction or even specialization. A kobold's life is busy, and often brief. Though they can live into their second century, most kobolds don't see their 20th year due to their frequently preyed-upon nature.

Reptilian in appearance, kobolds prefer to believe they are distantly related to dragons. Kobolds typically feature scales that range across reds, browns, and grays. They are able to slowly change gender over the course of about a year, should the needs of the clutch demand it.

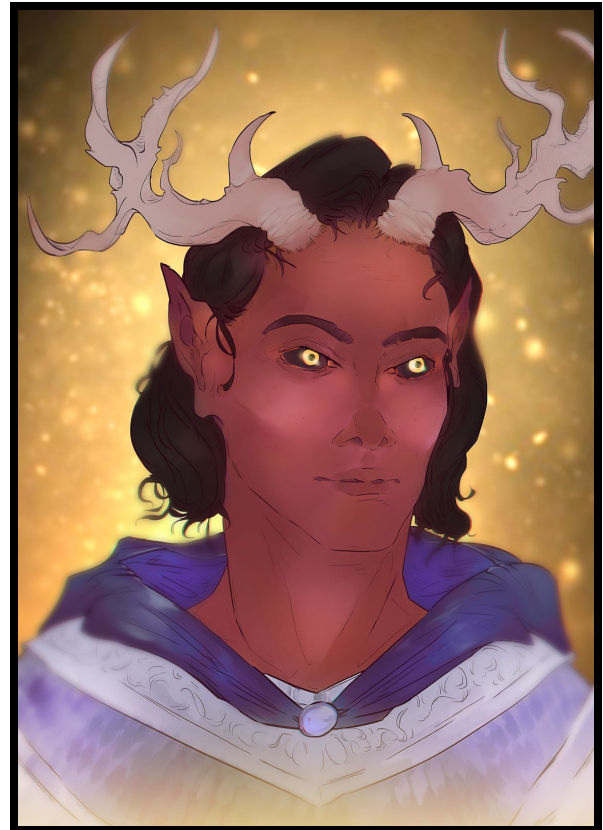
Kobolds often live in small clutches underneath cities. Places like Port Quinn tolerate and even encourage the kobolds, who maintain a complex sewer system in return. It branches off in places and lead to dryer, more comfortable warrens for the kobolds. At night, they scour the docks to collect useful discarded items, not-quite-rotten food from the garbage, and engage in the occasionally petty theft.

Clutches are many, and often splinter or join together. Much like kobolds, who often change their names when they reach adulthood or even to commemorate important events, the identity of a clutch is in constant flux. To add to the confusion, kobolds can actually change gender over the course of about a year. This is calorically intensive but is done when the needs of a clutch demand it.

What's in a Name?

Names are typically indicative of physical features or general descriptors. A kobold rarely becomes overly attached to its name, but Brownclaw, Winker, and Little-scale are all common translations of kobold names (**Bux**, **Javaks**, and **Za'skor** respectively.)

From a statistical standpoint, a kobold character will use the traits for *kobolds* (VOLO, 119)



Tiefling

“This is a tiefling bar, honey. You don’t like us anywhere, so we don’t like you here. If you don’t like the eyes on you, the door is where you came in, smoothtop.”

-Owner of Nafiresa’s Kiss to a human patron.

No group bears stigma in Dominion more than tieflings. The prevalent belief amongst the humans within the dominant power (The Kingdom of Serentyl) on the continent is that tieflings were once humans who set sailed to Mythilstream and returned, changed, having made deals with devilish creatures. Coupled with the events of The Tear, which saw hordes of horned devils infest the Sunward Coast, tieflings are viewed with suspicion at best.

Tieflings are little different from humans, and can trace their lineage back to a quartet of ships carrying humans kidnapped from Everest to the slavery port of Darkmoore. A terrible creature forced the ships to divert further south, and it chased them away from Dominion's shores. Two of the ships made it across the dangerous Boiling Ocean, and settled on Mythilstrean. This new, misty continent was incredibly dangerous, so when a devil appeared, and offered aid, the humans were willing to pay a steep price.

The pact stripped them of their souls, though they were not aware of this until after their death. Their children's children, however, were the first to show signs: much like the being who helped them, these newborns would exhibit horns, tails, and occasionally even red skin.

In this way, the tieflings came to be, and Even without the added societal distrust in their species, a sense of shame and resentment toward their ancestors is a part of every tiefling's psyche. They bear horns and a tail, though the shape of each (and the horns in particular) vary widely, and without a detectable pattern. From the water buffalo style of horns associated with most tieflings to deer-like antlers, they grow slowly throughout a tiefling's life.

Tiefling's skin colors range across the normal human spectrum, though in rare cases can be observed across the red, purple, and even orange spectrum. Their eyes typically have some elements of red through the iris, but can also manifest in all-red, black, gold, silver, pure white, and brown variants. Some take virtue names, such as **Valor**, **Omen**, or **Bristle**. These names denote the characteristics that person holds most important, and usually one who's cause that tiefling champions. Tieflings also take on names

of the community they are a part of, and name their children in a similar manner in an attempt to fit in as best they can. Heinrich, Zaris, and Maeve are all examples of such names. In terms of statistics, tieflings in Dominion use the *tiefling* traits (*PHB*, 43.)

Alberon is Large...

...and not all races that live on the world are listed within this guide. The races here represent the most common examples within Dominion, as well as those whose lore ties in with the continent in an important way. There are three "known" tabaxi in Dominion (the keeper of The Glass Lighthouse, in the north portion of the Short Sea; Sune appears as a white tabaxi in Nocturne, but is actually a demonic creature called a Rakshasa; and Morwen, a tabaxi swashbuckler who served aboard the Raging Harmony before it was destroyed by the Dungannon Navy. Kenku dot the landscape here and there, such as Kevin the junk salesman in the Undercity. There are those who believe in changelings. You are not limited to these races, but will find using them easiest in this setting.

Classes

A huge part of what sets a hero aside from a common person is the skills and abilities they possess. A ‘Can-Do’ attitude will get you places, but doesn’t quite pack the punch of an Action Surge or a Fireball! There are no classes or subclasses here that are new to Dungeons and Dragons; what you’ll find for the rest of this chapter are the various places a character might have acquired the skills, abilities, or training needed to take their first steps on their adventure!

In Dungeons and Dragons, being able to know where you came from and what that might mean for a character that grew up there can make the roleplaying aspect a lot easier. If you are a wizard, were you a member of the Lorebinder Academy, or did you learn from one of the great Mages of Dungannon? As a fighter in a relatively peaceful land, did you protect caravans from bandits for the Red Shield Caravanasary, or perhaps you honed your skills in the training fields outside of the Bloodroot Sanctuary.

Dominion has not seen war or terror in a long, long time. As such, adventurer’s guilds, armies, knightly orders, and holy crusades are relatively uncommon! You may need to add in your own organization.

Barbarian

On the battlefield, there are few classes that can stand toe-to-toe with a gargantuan monster like a barbarian can. Engines of damage powered by rage, a barbarian inspires their allies and terrifies their foes.

Dominion has been a safe place for a long time, so to find those with the skills and motivation required to engage in the type of combat barbarian’s thirst for is difficult. Deep

within the Sunbreaker Chain in the Valley of Time, goliath tribes vie for resources and survival against the prehistoric creatures that thunder across this landscape. The cold landscape and harsh terrain can push many to a breaking point. Their warriors, who engage in skirmishes with other tribes, are unparalleled in their natural ability to generate fury.

In One-Thousand Gates, a retired captain of Serentyl’s army perfected a series of meditations and chants that can induce a rage state. “Battle Meditation” is not endorsed by Serentyl’s army, but many soldiers find it helpful for coping with the flashbacks of creatures they’d fought in the Marsh. These practitioners of Battle Meditation would be considered barbarians as well.

One famed barbarian in Dominion’s history is *Aldus Grayfang* was the insurrectionist leader of the Grayfang Incursion. At about 5’9” with a gangly build, there was little to fear from the man. As he watched his people murdered wholesale for the lycanthropic fate they had not chosen for themselves, his rage grew. Eventually, he learned to channel that fury, and use it (alongside the lupine curse flowing through his veins) to become an engine of primal destruction that powered a war that lasted nearly a decade.

Kord holds a special place in his heart for berserkers, and as one of the primal gods, tends to look upon them with favor. For this reason, Path of the Storm Herald is one often walked by the goliath of the world, specifically those who utilize the “sea” aura.

When creating your barbarian, remember that rage can look very different from one character to the next. A raging goliath

howling a battlecry as they heave themselves into combat is a classic example, but anger can be quiet, too. A talkative, friendly character might become notably quieter when they rage. There might even be some who find a joy in battle, making their rage a gleeful, euphoric rush rather than an angry fury. The Path of the Storm Herald can be found in *Xanathar's (XGE, 10)* and the rules for barbarians are located the the *Player's Handbook (PHB, 46)*

Bard

A literal jack-of-all-trades, a bard might pick a lock, use a spell to disarm an arcane trap, and then seduce the guard on the way out. Highly charismatic and infinitely flexible, bards fill almost any role a party might have.

Unlike barbarians, who are rare due to the quiet nature of Dominion, bards are plentiful. In a time without trouble, circuses, theaters, sideshows, and more make good money providing entertainment to a populace safe enough to relax and enjoy such things.

Nillie Wenslow, the gnomish bard with an iconic baby-blue coat and fire-engine-red lute, is singer-songwriter known for his copious love of Stargrass (a plant-based compound used recreationally, known as pipeleaf in The Kingdom of Serentyl) and writes songs such as “Stargrass Valley” or “Greenleaf Brings me Back Again.” He wanders across Alberon and gathers friends here and there, but never sticks to one group long. The benefit (or drawback, depending on how Nillie sees you) might come a few months later when you hear your deeds, adventures, or even name on someone’s lips as

they pass you on the street while singing Nillie Wenslow’s newest hit!

Bards rarely come from a concrete “college” that exists as a physical space; most bards are adventurers, or at least attach themselves to one. A notable exception to this would be the Serentylian Conservatory, located in the capital city of Serentyl. It owns numerous theaters, performance halls, outdoor stages, and less-traditional spaces that it uses to train musicians to supplement it’s orchestras. The Royal Serentyl Quartet is one of it’s finest products, and tours the Valley of Tranquility extensively. It’s members weave magical illusions into the story they tell with their instruments in a truly unique and moving series of performances.

In Dungannon, in the Elven Quarter, even the street performers are expected to be of the highest quality. To the poor in Dungannon, elevating your craft as an entertainer is seen as a way to escape poverty. Less glamorous, to be sure, but many great performers have risen to relative stardom this way.

Quietly, the Kingdom of Serentyl makes use of bards in a more sinister way. A small group of spies, called the Office of Information, are trained in the College of Eloquence. This mastery of word and speech is then subtly applied throughout Dominion to manipulate matters in favorable ways. While almost all know - and fear - the Silent Circle, The Office of Information might be the only organization that matches their influence on continent-spanning events... and they remain nearly unknown.

The College of Eloquence subclass can be found in *Tasha’s Cauldron of Everything (TCE,)* and the rules for bards can be found in the *Player’s Handbook (PHB, 51)*

Cleric

Both full-on spell casters and decent hand-to-hand combatants, the cleric can find a home amongst any group that sees combat, or even frequent damage.

In Dominion, the vast majority of clerics serve the Church of the Six, a government-backed religious order based in the worship of the Pantheon of Law and Light. Though it is based out of the massive Cathedral of Light in Serentyl proper, it has at least a representative in every city and town across the Kingdom. They are, on the surface, an organization based around tending to the kingdom's faithful; beneath the surface, they also serve as the first line of defense against the influences of the Pantheon of Shadow and Strife.

The most elite agents of the Church of Law and Light are known as the Harbingers. *Euthilieus Sturlich-Asta* is one such individual, a grim star elf that had survived the burning of Ganon, and crossed the Tongue of Flames in order to find his purpose: purging the evils of Dominion that ally themselves with the Church of Shadow and Strife. His unblinking stare alone is enough to turn minor evil presences away, but he is also one of the most powerful magic users across the continent. He is of the Order Domain, found in *Tasha's Guide to Everything*.

Dwarves most frequently worship Moradin, the Dawnfather, and his place of worship is the largest spectacle of faith anywhere Dominion's Kols. Located between the Ring of Gold and the Ring of Silver, The Dawnfather's Ziggurat is a multi-tiered, 500-foot tall structure of pathways, forges, and altars in which to bend metal and burn ore in Moradin's name.

Reliquaries are hidden within many of the rooms designed to hone one's skills.

The Priesthood of Thunder has expanded to Dominion over the last fifty years from their native continent of Darby. They seek to empower themselves, and others, to revere the Thunderking and to crush evil in a demonstration of ferocity that might match a storm. They employ more paladins than clerics, but a handful of clerics form the leadership... at least in Dominion. These clerics fall into two categories: those who can help the paladins of the order in the field of battle directly in a support role find their spiritual journey leads them to the Solidarity Domain. Much more rarely, if a cleric is able to complete the Four Trials of Kord, set in temples dedicated to the worship of each of the original titans that Kord created to command each of the winds (North, South, East, and West.) These exceptional clerics are the rare few who enter into the Tempest Domain.

Clerics in Alberon use the rules for clerics found in the *Player's Handbook* (PHB, .) The Solidarity Domain is found in *Plane Shift - Amonkhet* (PS:A, .) The Tempest Domain traits can be found in the *Player's Handbook* (PHB, .)

Druid

Dominion has been a peaceful place for a long time, but that doesn't mean it doesn't have its fair share of wild places. Part of the reason beasts trouble Dominion less frequently than other parts of Alberon is its unusually high number of druids.

Outside of Melora's Creche in the crystal-speckled landscape of Everest, the second largest concentration of druids in Dominion was once the wood-elf city known as Jungleroot. After its disappearance, the druids of each Circle spread out across Dominion to avoid a similar fate. Though they were hunted relentlessly by agents of The Portent, The Green Matron's followers utilized their ability to assume the shape of Alberon's diverse wildlife to fade into nature itself.

After Jungleroot disappeared, three days passed before wild birds of an astonishing assortment descended from the heavens and began to whisper a message to those who knew how to understand the language of beasts: A new Greenseeker shall restore our home, and our people. Jungleroot can be returned, if the Blue Star does not eclipse Alberon first." Once every 500 years, Melora takes on the form of a stag, and appears to one that Melora deems worthy of the title "Greenseeker." The Greenseeker strives to maintain balance within Melora's domain. They will protect the wild places of the world, but will cull entire landscapes should they become overgrown. In this way, they are neither good nor bad.

The current Greenseeker is a copper-skinned young (by wood elf standards) woman named *Ariadne*. After a tragedy took her family from

her, Melora appeared in her stag form and named Ariande her champion. The Matron spoke: "Know this, child; in the coming months, the world, OUR world, is in grave peril. Perhaps the worst of this age. Do not fear; look inwards, and Seek." Ariadne has struggled with this duty hoisted upon her, and has resisted by settling down with Janis, another wood elf who owns the Spice Market in Port Quinn.

Druids are typically loners. While druids enjoy more leniency than most within the Kingdom of Serentyl, they are still sought out by Azrah and her agents. This makes friends and even acquaintances a risky prospect for druids, and drives them to be more secretive still.

A druidic circle is considered to be all druids within Alberon who have fully embraced a particular aspect of nature. The landscapes of Dominion are varied, and the solitary nature of most druids means that they seldom come into contact with each-other by accident. Melora will guide them through gentle breezes and harsh squalls, to one-another when the need arises. When a druid is doing so, they are considered to be *following the roots*. If Melora calls upon a druid to *follow the roots*, nothing but the most dire of circumstances will prevent them from taking up the call.

Most druids in Dominion that ally themselves with The Green Matron (and that is the vast majority) claim membership to a lesser circle, that of the environment they are from. The druids that practice along the ocean near Darkmeadow are coast druids. Some of the only folk that settle within the Gated Marsh are those of the druidic bend, and they would be called swamp druids. Both of these examples fall under

the Circle of the Land, which can be found in the *Player's Handbook (PHB, .)* In Dominion, druids utilize all rules and features for druids in the *Player's Handbook (PHB, .)*

Fighter

No class of hero is better represented through Dominion's history than the fighter. Magic is common enough that most people in a city will see magic a few times a year. Magic is often a gift, and when it is not bestowed, those with a brave heart and nerves of steel take up the blade or bow.

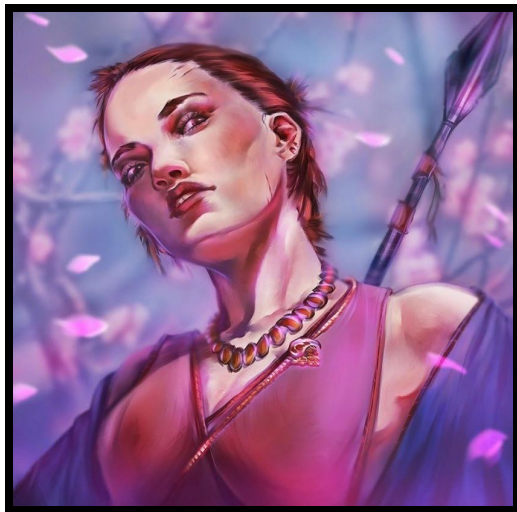
The Shields of Serentyl are the iconic fighters of Dominion. They serve the Kingdom faithfully, and have proven themselves worthy of the trust and power represented by their iconic shield, each unique and carved with glowing runes that speak of their deeds. These shields are created in the Peacekeeper's Keep in the capital of Serentyl, and serve as both a potent magical barrier as well as a symbol of authority; such a shield strikes equal measures of awe and trepidation when displayed.

In the beginning of the Third Age, a group of dwarves found themselves enslaved by a band of Fire Giants, who forced the dwarves to mine the dangerous underdark reaches for them. The giants used magic and violence to cow the dwarves... all except one: **Erasta Everbight**, The Heavyhand. She broke her chains, and with the muscles built over decades of labor, flung herself into battle with a giant's hammer. She was slain in the uprising, but became the face of a movement that would eventually result in the dwarves finding their freedom, and founding Kol Erasta. The Kol (and the magical forge it housed) went dark 800 years ago, but songs are still sung about The Heavyhand.

The Muddtown Alchemist's Association, a school of alchemists who keep Muddtown from being consumed by the mire around it, employs a large number of the bandits that infest the regions between the Spirtwalker Waste and the slaver town of Darkmoore. They utilize potions, balms, and traps, to give these common bandits a dangerous edge on whomever they are set upon.

The giants played an important role in Alberon's history, but as they faded into the mists of time, memory, and The Squall, their mark on the world remains. A subset of fighters look back to the First Age for inspiration, and draw the arcane runes of giants upon their armor and weapons. Giant magic pre-dates The Weave, and operates through runes that run along arcane laylines in the multiverse rather than relying on The Weave in Alberon. These Rune Knights venture through the forgotten places built for giant beings, in a search for new runes to augment their power. Some view this as a sort of spiritual journey, whereas others merely seek the power that comes with the runes.

Either way, Fighters in Dominion use the fighter rules in the *Player's Handbook (PHB, 70.)* and the Rune Knight subclass uses the traits found in *Tasha's (TCE, .)*



Monk

This class applies across a broad school of practitioners of a variety of martial arts that harness the power of the body (and the energy within) to become tools, or sometimes weapons, of startling utility. This inner energy, known as ki, can strengthen a monk's constitution, empower their strikes, or even bind their essence to that of The Weave itself.

Throughout the Old City of Dungannon, the dominant form of monk practice a combat style similar to the french savate, and train in "Schools." Traditionally, these schools are in obscure locations, and hard to find: The Pigeon School is located in a large, abandoned warehouse on Faulson's Pier that is so infested with Pigeons that the constant din of cooing nicely covers up the grunts of sparring; Ninth Street School is located, oddly, on Upperhill Avenue, under a barn used for distilling alcohol. The reason for their covert nature is the tradition of attacking other schools, to show dominance. Dominant schools attract more students; more students means more money.

Far to the north, atop snowy Mount Yishi, the Xinyi Monastic Order live a life in pursuit of enlightenment. It is a place that seems to attract lost souls committed to change: mountains elves fleeing The Auld as it was drawn beneath the ocean; halflings who could not find acceptance in Kol Taram; and humans with nowhere to turn to.

When The Auld sank, and The Ruby Spire was lost, Thousands fled south across a dangerous ocean of unstable ice in a desperate attempt to reach safety. Few made the journey safely, but the largest group was led by the mountain elf with peculiar silver hair, *Aera*. She joined the xinyi as a martial focus, but quickly found a home amongst the mystics who practice bending ki and magic together. Incredibly spiritual (if a bit short-tempered) Aera is one of the leaders amongst the Xinyi, and one of the most powerful healers in Dominion.

The Xinyi have several pursuits, which each monk specializes in. Those who wish to obtain enlightenment through studying the soul of the universe and how they might take their own fragment of this same soul and apply it to magic: The Way of the Mysic. Some monks follow The Way of the Ki Master, and learn to manipulate both their ki, and that of those around them. Finally, the Way of the Falcon Knight is for monks who find religion in combat and martial prowess.

Way of the Falcon Knight

Monks who hone their bodies to the edge of perfection find that a mortal's body is capable of so much more than the average person might realize. A follower of the Way of the Falcon

Knight uses their incredible speed to accumulate rapid strikes with consistent damage, while dodging their opponent's blows. They can use their ki training to push their bodies beyond the limit of ability for brief periods of time, but at the cost of exhaustion and weakness afterwards.

Swift Soul

Starting when you learn this tradition at 3rd level, you begin learn to use your increased agility to unleash further attacks. When you take the dash action, you may use Flurry of Blows as if you had just attacked, and difficult terrain doesn't cost extra movement for that turn. Additionally, if you make a melee attack on a creature, you don't provoke opportunity attacks from that creature for that turn, whether your attack hits or not.

Celerity

At 6th level, your body becomes suffused with the aspect of speed. Your natural jump distance is now doubled. You can spend two ki points to cast Haste without any verbal, somatic, or material components associated with casting it. When rolling to maintain concentration on Haste, you can use either Constitution or Wisdom to make your saving throw. This effect cannot be extended. You may use this feature a number of times equal to one-third your monk level (rounded down.) You regain all expended uses of this feature when you finish a long rest.

Galeforce

At 11th level, your affinity with the wind has made you more sure-footed, and enhanced your stance.

