# The Umbral Hierarchy

In ancient times, as in other un-unified places in the world, the high moor was populated by a disparate people who gave worship to the diverse and spontaneous deities of the land. These were termed the small faiths. Though inharmonious, an equilibrium existed.

That all changed when the Orcish nation attacked; veneration of the foremost of the Orcish pantheon, Gruumsh, was mandated, and other religions persecuted unless subordinated.

During this time clerics and lay members of the small faiths congregated secretly, and built temples in hidden places. Caves, ruins, groves. To preserve their lore, histories were written, and confided to a member of a unity of clerics from the disparate faiths, who would live secretly within the orc ruled society, showing no outward dedications of their faith.

Time passed. Before this order of clerics could enact their grand plan of liberation, the bard Senji arose and led a military campaign against the Orcish order. Having grown complacent and decadent, the most ambitious of their warriors having left for conquest abroad, victory was quick.

Though the Moor was reclaimed, the clerical order is said to have remained hidden and vital, pledged to continue to defend the small faiths through secret knowledge, and to maintain the sanctity of the concealed temples.

This Templar order, then, is thought to have remained in existence from that ancient time, stewarding affairs of the moor, and growing in wealth and lore through their double lives. Though some doubt and even ridicule the existence of such an organisation, there exist many coincidences and theories that render such doubts risible, indeed likely a plot of the order to remain obscured.