

The History of the Sword coast and The Great Dragon Wars



Chapter I: The First Great Dragon War

Long ago, before the peace of the land, the many kingdoms of the land were at constant war. Each Kingdom fought solely for itself, and would not stop at anything until every other kingdom was burned to the ground, giving the name of the land "The Sword Coast". The battles continued for decades, and no ground was made by any side. The kingdoms knew not what their selfish and evil actions would bring about.

In the midst of war, a great army of winged beasts flew from the East and laid waste to many cities, villages, and capitals of the land. Thousands of men, women, and children were killed. A truce, known as the King's Alliance, was called amongst the kingdoms to rid the Sword Coast of the beasts, which would become known as Dragons. Both man and Beast fought valiantly in the war. Men created contraptions to overcome the dragons in combat, and would attack their young just as the dragons attacked theirs. However, not all was blood and death.

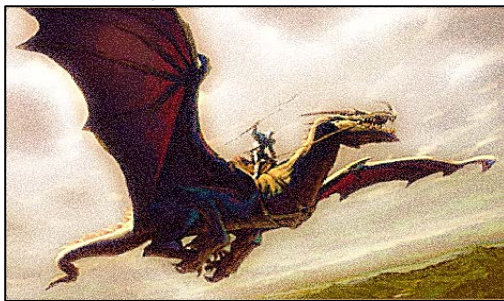


A group of mages sought to capture the dragons and study them, rather than kill them. The dragons were indeed intelligent, and could even speak to one another using their own language which man would call Draconic. Some mages were dedicated to researching and studying the dragons, while others began to see the dragons as gods, and began to worship them. As the war continued, the researchers grew closer to the captive dragons. They learned their language, their history, and their motive for attacking: the dragons' home had been destroyed in a cataclysmic event that was blamed on the humans. Meanwhile, the worshipping mages were conducting their own research...

Indeed, the dragons had been fooled by Tiamat, the evil goddess of the Abyss, into attacking the sword coast. Upon discovering this knowledge, the mages knew that this could stop the war and give peace to the sword coast. And so a council was called in the city of Waterdeep, to sign a truce between man and beast. The war would be known as The Great Dragon War and the mages who discovered the truth would be known as the Dragon Riders, while the other group of mages would go on to form a cult known as The Way of the Dragon.

Chapter II: The Change

The Riders bond to the dragons continued to grow. The mages taught the dragons to communicate though telepathy, and the dragons taught the humans the way of flight. However, the most important thing the riders and the dragons learned was The Ancient Language, which was written by both man and dragon alike. The words of the Ancient Language hold true magical power. The more time the riders spent with the dragons, the more isolated they were from their fellow humans.



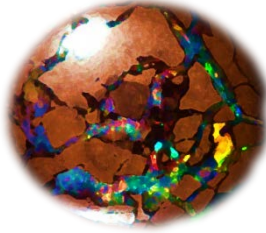
Despite this, the tradition of the riders continued for hundreds of years. As the bond between the two species grew, the riders and dragons used the Ancient Language exclusively. Because of this, they began to show similar traits. Dragons began to show more human emotions and facial features. But the humans changed the most. They began to grow scales over their skin and grew to tremendous heights. Eventually, they were able to breathe from their mouths the same breath weapons as their companion.

Although the riders had long since abandoned their human ways, they still worked to keep the peace of the sword coast. If there was ever an attack by another land, a monster, or a rogue dragon, the riders would step in to maintain peace and order. However, not all riders used their powers for peace and order. A select few rose up and rebelled against the riders, but were ultimately defeated. The humans saw this, and their trust for the riders began to fall.

Chapter III: The Fall

In her realm, Tiamat witnesses as her plot to destroy the humans was broken apart. Along with that, her most loyal worshippers had joined side with man. She grew infuriated, and began plotting ways to destroy both dragon and man. This time, so she would make a presence to The Cult of the Dragon. She promises the cult that they will be the rulers of her new domain when she takes over the material plane. Using the blood of every known dragon, the cult synthesized a dragon egg using dark magic. This new dragon had two purposes: To destroy every dragon that it came in contact with, and to serve as a means to summon Tiamat to the material plane.

One of the Cultists, however, was an undercover rider. The rider stole the egg from the Cult, and took it to the Riders' keep for safe keeping. The riders debated what to do with the egg. Some wished it to be destroyed, others said that an innocent dragon must not be killed. While the debate was going on, the riders didn't realize that a human spy had been in their keep as the riders had brought in the egg. The spy reported back to the King's Alliance that the riders had created an ultimate dragon that could wipe out all of mankind. The humans prepped for war...



The humans had secretly been working on a way to take down the all-too-powerful riders. A group of enchanting sorcerers had developed a magical armor designed to repel the ancient language and resist a dragon's breath. The armor would be worn by the human general to attack the keep and kill as many riders as possible. The mages who constructed the armor warned the generals of the army that this armor was made using dark forbidden magic. It was said that the one who wore the armor would not only bring about the end of dragons, but also the end of man.

One cold winter night, a platoon of human warriors ambushed the riders' keep while the riders were asleep. The warriors were able to kill off several dozen riders and dragons in the battle before the rest escaped. The humans then destroyed the keep, and made sure that no brick was left standing. The bodies of both the dragons and their riders were burned to ashes while the humans mocked their very existence. The Second Great Dragon War had begun.

Chapter IV: The Second Great Dragon War

Calling the fight between the humans and the riders is hardly worthy of the title "war". With the riders split and lost, the humans hunted them down one by one. It had been hundreds of years since the first dragon war, so the humans had plenty of time to perfect their dragon-killing weapons. These weapons were not meant to kill quickly, for many of them were designed to break the dragon's wings before finally finishing the beast off.

The riders eventually banded together to strike back. Using the ancient language, the riders turned once peaceful words of the Ancient Language into weapons of death and destruction. Hoping to strike at the heart of the humans, many towns that burned from the first dragon war were the favored spots from the riders. Many riders and dragons lost their good nature during these battles and grew evil. These riders would plunder and steal from the towns they attacked. They would fight not for the sake of the riders, but for the sake of their own greed. This caused further internal fighting within the riders, some even turning away from the war completely to attack each other.



Slowly, the riders began to fade. Riders without their dragons were weak and nimble, and dragons without their riders were lost without their riders to guide them. Sadly for the riders, none of the mages sought to give the dragons a second guess in this war. Some mages used

the known knowledge of the Ancient Language against the riders, attacking them mentally and driving them mad before finally finishing them off. The death of a rider was not a noble one.

The last resort for the riders was könungr, a massive 1500 foot tall red dragon that had no rider. Könungr, or king in draconic, had lived through dozens of wars of many species. This was the first war in which he thought his kind may go extinct. But even he was no match for the dragon resistant armor. The humans could not hope to kill könungr with all of his strength. Instead, they forced the riders to use the Ancient Language to drive him mad and subdue him. The riders in return were gifted their lives, and were cast out far into the wilderness. The fate of könungr lies unknown. Some say that the humans cast him out through a portal, and built a massive stone prison around him to keep him subdued.



The only dragons that survived were those who were evil enough to turn on their riders and serve the humans during the war for the price of their lives and mountains of gold. Some say that a few of the evil riders remained alive after the war as well, but this has never been proven.

Chapter V: The Aftermath

With the riders destroyed forever, the humans felt that they once again had peace. The untrusted riders were destroyed, and their dragon companions were written back in history as mindless beasts that wish to steal gold and burn down villages. The riders did not even earn this privilege, as they were completely wiped from all of the Sword Coast's history.

The humans recovered the dragon egg and attempted to destroy it. To their surprise, the egg was nearly impervious to both metal and magic. So instead, the kings of the land agreed to have the egg buried deep within a mountain, along with a few pieces of the dragon proof armor. The egg was then buried and guarded with a magical seal, and the mages and dwarves in charge of burying the egg were murdered in fear that they would reveal the location in the future.

Although the coast seemed peaceful, what the humans did not know was that they had just eliminated any resistance that could arise to challenge the Cult of the Dragon as they prepare to summon Tiamat from the Abyss. Over hundreds of years, the cult searched for the egg as it was the final means to bring their goddess to the material plane. In their searching, they found pieces of the now called Legendary Armor. The cult knew that anyone who wore this armor would be able to resist their dark goddess. In these years of searching, Tiamat granted member of the cult the ability to resurrect dragon bones as Dracoliches to fight for their cause.

Thousands of years have now passed. Dragons have been reduced to a fairy tale that parents will tell their children before bed. The cult has reached the peak of their power, and plans on summoning Tiamat very, very soon. The Sword Coast's major kingdoms rule together in peace, but this is soon to change. With the cult's increased power, the leaders of the

kingdoms have called upon a grand meeting to discuss the crazed cult and what, if any, action should be taken. Meanwhile, the egg of prophesy has been uncovered by a group of mages in the mountain where the egg was meant to be kept away. It will not be long before the egg hatches and grows into a full-fledged dragon. Will the dragon stick to the rider ways and fight for the cause of good? Or will the dragon serve the Cult of the Dragon and bring about the end of man? No one knows for certain. But one thing is clear: The sword coast will not be a peaceful kingdom for very long...