

# *Fanes of Barovia*

Long before Dark Price came, Barovia was once a wildland. The valley was largely populated by scattered familial villages, usually no larger than a couple of dozen people living in three or four houses to a village. These people were used to the harsh landscape and were overall hearty, somewhat barbaric people.

There were also groups of forest folk (druids) that lived in the wilds and did not settle. The settled people and the forest folk have had a famously tumultuous relationship over the centuries, with periods of hate and periods of peace scattered across history.

The lands of Barovia was separated into three Fanes: The Swamp Fane, the Forest Fane, and the Mountain Fane.

## **The Three Feys**

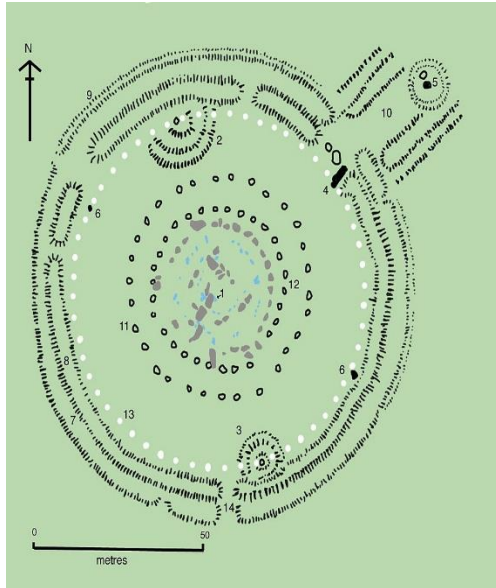
The original residents of the valley worshiped a trio of fey that was magically connected to the three fanes of the land. Because of their magical nature, these fey were literally "the land." They were:

- ❖ The Weaver from the Swamp Fane
- ❖ The Huntress from the Mountain Fane
- ❖ The Seeker of the Forest Fane.

The fey almost never showed themselves to the people that worshiped them. Instead, they would appear in auguries, dreams, and omens, speaking through the mouths of animals and in the wind that mused the leaves on the trees.

## Shrines

The people of the valley used to worship the fey inside large stone circles of three shrines.



- ❖ The swamp shrine is the circle of stones in Berez
- ❖ The mountain shrine is the circle atop Yesterhill
- ❖ The forest shrine is the circle at the edge of the forest near the Windmill.

## Offerings

The people of the valley made offerings and prayers at the three shrines, during the different times of the year. Thanking the Feys for bountiful harvests and surviving the seasons.

- ❖ Spring Equinox – Tser Flowers
- ❖ Summer Solstice – Loaves of Bread
- ❖ Autumn Equinox – Apples and Pumpkin
- ❖ Winter Solstice – Tusk and Deer Skull

## **Fey Gems**

The fey, pleased with the people and their respect of the land, gifted the people three gems, one from each fey.

- Green Gem from the Seeker, the Fey of the Forest Fane.
- Red Gem from the Huntress, the Fey of the Mountain Fane.
- Blue Gem from the Weaver, the Fey of the Swamp Fane.

The gems had great powers and buried in the land they would provide bountiful harvests, protection from the elements, evils, and plagues. The fey instructed the peoples of the valley where to bury the gems. For centuries, the fey and their gems provided bountiful harvests, peace, and prosperity.

## **Fall of the Fey**

The fey presided over the valley until the Dark Prince conquered the land. Seeing the power of the fey, he desecrated the three shrines and reconsecrated them in his own image, giving him dominion over the land. Now, the Dark Prince is literally, "The Land".

The fey would not reveal where the gems had been buried. The Dark Prince, unable to kill the fey, cursed them to the mortal plane for eternity, destroying their beauty, and leaving them to watch the land turn to darkness.

The Dark Prince searched the land for the gems. He sent his minions and allies to hunt the land, but for centuries the gems eluded the Dark Prince.

## **Reinstating the Fey and Lands of Barovia.**

The fey, wander the land as immortals slowly aging and stricken of beauty. While they retain their knowledge and some abilities, they are cursed to roam the land and see it rot and turn to darkness.

They hide their true identity from the peoples of the land, cursed, and without power, they fear the Dark Prince's minions and his spies.

To defeat the Dark Prince's curse over the land, the three gems must be found, each returned to the shrine of the fey, along with the gift of the people (depending on the season) and a ritual performed to reinstate the shrine and the fey.

The immortals, once fey, have searched the land for the gems, but they have long since disappeared. Stolen from the lands in which they were once buried. Rumors abound the gems have been stolen by dark forces looking to draw upon the power of the gems and to unlock their secrets.

Unless the gems are found and the rituals performed, the land will forever be cursed in darkness.

***The Dark Prince continues his search for the gems.***