

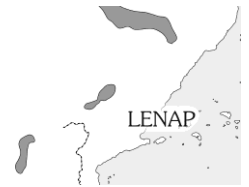
Lenap

Overview

What Harbormaster Artonan knows

Background

The city state of Lenap was founded as one of the western colonies of the Ghinorian Empire. After the Empire's fall, a thousand years ago, Lenap became an independent Principality. Similar to other Ghinorian realms the Church of Mitra dominates. Here it has grown corrupt, more oriented to accumulation of wealth than of souls. Since its foundation Viridistan and Lenap have been rivals for trade in the Trident Gulf and the Sea of Five Winds. Since the fall of Viridistan, the reach of Lenapian commerce has expanded. This only adds to the problems of corruption that Lenap suffers.



To the northwest are the Desert Lands. This great expanse of wasteland is home several desert tribes. For centuries they were content to trade spices and minerals with Lenapian merchants. Forty years ago, a new cult rose. Led by a prophet named Horus, it united the desert tribes with the promise of paradise if the world is cleansed of the corrupt and unholy. Lenap grew to fear the appearance of the falcon head banner, Horus' followers carried. Then twenty years ago, Horus disappeared in the midst of a desert civil war. Since then the desert has been a bloody battleground.

Lenap was once a colony of the Ghinorian Empire. It was established as an outpost for trade around the Trident Gulf. Like all former colonies of the Ghinorians it is dominated by the Church of Mitra. After the fall of the empire, most colonies developed a feudal system with a Prince as sovereign. In Lenap with the emphasis on trade, several competing merchant houses dominated society. The largest of which are known as the Five.

A prince is still sovereign but unique among the Ghinorian colonies the position is only semi-hereditary. The Prince has to be elected or confirmed by a vote of the Council of Five. Ever since the War of the Five Houses 150 years ago, it is traditional for reigning Prince designates an heir, and upon death for the Council to only to vote yea or no on the heir.

The current Prince of Lenap, is Palamund V of House Tolvar. He is old, age 81. While magic allow the Prince and lord of Lenap to live long lives and remain productive even into their final decade, the Prince has let a lot of things slip.

His heir is known as Palamund the Mariner, who currently an admiral in the navy of Lenap. He is rarely in the city, which makes things considerably easier for all concerned.

The Prince is assisted in the rule of Lenap by the Council of Five. The head of the five largest houses, appoint a representative to the council. In addition to confirming the heir as prince, the Council also elects the prince's ministers.

The Five Houses

House Caranad

Once the most powerful house in Lenap over 500 years ago. Once had a hammerlock on the election of the prince, but now is hopelessly divided into competing factions. They cooperate just enough to maintain their seat on the council but little more. They suffered the worst during the War of the Five Houses.

The ancient rivals of the House Caranad is House Belgan. The two houses hate each other and the war of shadows never ceased between the two.

House Tolvar

The house of the Prince of Lenap. While old the Prince is careful in making sure that the various ministries and patronage are evenly distributed among the other houses.

House Belgan

The other ancient house of Lenap with ancestors who were Viceroys of Lenap under the Imperial Prince of Ghinor. Their victory over the Caranads in the War of the Cousins made the two ever-lasting enemies. Today the Belgan are known for trade in fine luxury goods and exotic pleasures.

House Lassiter

A younger house that once controlled the Principality of Lenap before their main line of descent faltered and caused the War of Five Houses. They quickly came to terms with the Tolvar and has remained their firm allies since. They are known for their extensive trade network in the desert and were the most vocal about dealing with the desert tribes and the prophet Horus. But since the disappearance of Horus, they have aggressively re-establishing their trade network.

House Ort

A house known for their luck. Came to prominence after the War of the Cousins when the main line of descent of Belgan faltered and resulted in Caedmon II in becoming the first Prince of Lenap from the House of Ort. However he only had daughters so next Prince was elected from another house. However that brief moment in the sun was enough to raise House Ort to the Council of Five. During the War of the Five Houses they became allies of House Tolvar and supported them since. House Ort is noted for their control of most of the bulk trade in Lenap particularly the grain supply.

Former Houses

House Mikil and House Dergan were once considered one of the five houses. But they been eclipsed by House Lassitar and House Ort. House Mikil still has some wealth due to it dominance in the magic item trade. They are closely allied with the Guild of Arcane Lore and the Order of Thoth in Lenap. House Dergan is much worse off. It is barely hanging on after being wrecked as allies of House Caranad during the War of the Five Houses.

Government

The Prince

The Prince is the sovereign ruler of Lenap. The Ghinorians are traditionally ruled by princes as the Ghinorian Kings were anointed by Mitra. When the line of Kings ended over two thousand years ago Mitra never called on the Church to anoint another. Traditionally there are eight Princes, seven for each tribe and one that is the head of the Church of Mitra. The ruler of the Ghinorian Empire was known as the Imperial Prince due to the fact that he held all eight titles. When the empire broke apart, each of the Ghinorian colonies crowned their own Prince including Lenap.

The current Prince of Lenap is Palamund V. He is old at 81 years of age. He has ruled competently but has his hands full with the feuding houses. He doesn't care about the rampant corruption as long as the treasury isn't effected and doesn't cause issues with the feuding houses.

The Heir

His 57 year old heir is Lord Palamund. He is an Admiral in the Lenap Navy and is seen little at the capital. Some say that the only reason his marriage lasted was because all the time and he and wife spend apart. He has a son, Salamund, age 9.

The Chancellor

Chancellor Wufdar, age 67, has been the Prince's right hand man for 30 years. It is reputed that he has a finger in every pie, and half of the nobles are under some form of blackmail from him. He not known to be vindictive as long as he gets his cut of any deal.

The Archbishop

The leader of the Church of Mitra in Lenap is Archbishop Saladic. He is young, 49 years old, and was elected to the position 3 years ago. It is rumored that he is a reformer and that he and the Chancellor have been in numerous arguments over the rampant corruption. However since $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Bishop are in the Chancellor's pay the Archbishop has been kept in check for now.

The Guild of Arcane Lore

The Order of Thoth is strong in all the Ghinorian colonies including Lenap. Three hundred years ago, A Mage's War was declared by the rest of the Order against nearly every conclave of the order in Lenap due to the widespread demonic corruption. Since then the inquisitors of the Order has kept a close eye on the conclave throughout Lenap. Grandmaster Horan is head of the Lenap conclave, the Guild of the Arcane Lore. Although he suffered a person setback when his tower on the western desert frontier of Lenap was attacked and ransacked by desert raiders.

The Red Hands

The Thieves Guild called themselves the Red Hands and mostly specializes in vice. The Red Hands moniker is a sarcastic reference to being caught red-handed. It was adopted a hundred years ago after then Prince and the Church tried to crack down on the rampant vice in the city. A popular catch phrase was "Oh you caught me red handed!"

The Harbormaster

Harbormaster Artoman is well positioned to maintain a far flung network of contacts. He is one of the primary sources of information to the Chancellor and keeps tabs on what being shipped in and out of Lenap. He has contacts in Tula the City of Wizards, in Viridistan, in Porttown (the Dragon Empire), in Mysk (also Dragon Empire). Satur (Lenap). One source of frustration is his inability to gain any traction in Tlan. Tlan is a Ghinorian Colony independent of Lenap and known for their piety and being straight laced.

The Lord of the Iron Wind

He appeared several years ago after the Viridian Civil War ended. It is rumored he is a full Viridian who was ex-Admiral serving the Emperor of Tarngol one of the claimants for the Imperial Throne. His personal ship, the Iron Wind is a fully manned Imperial War Galley kept in pristine condition. He has a small fleet of a dozen ships prowling around the Sea of Five Winds. He is seen most frequently around the Keys of Shadow.