

# The history of Vampires

## The Necromancer

The story of the Vampires began thousands of years ago in the ancient lands of Nekekhara. Long before the reign of Emperor Karl Franz I., long before the Incursion of Chaos and even long before the birth of the legendary Sigmar Heldenhammer. In those ancient times the lands of Nekekhara were reigned by powerful Priest-kings who lived in their mighty cities and ruled over a vast army of priests, scholars, magicians, soldiers and slaves while the ordinary folk worshipped them as if they were gods. The greatest, brightest and most powerful of this cities was Khemri and it was ruled by the Priest-king Nagash, a cruel and merciless ruler and practitioner of the dark arts. Nagash, second in line as successor to the throne of Khemri, killed his brother to access the throne himself. It is said that he accomplished this only because he struck a deal with dark powers. With his dark magic he was able to rise the dead from their graves and command them like marionettes. But all his dark powers were not enough to stop his body from growing older and older. For years he searched for a way to stop the decay of his torn body. During this time, he wrote the foul "Nine books of Nagash", tomes full with ancient and forbidden knowledge about necromancy and worse. As his body became weaker because of age, Nagash thought that he had found a way to immortality. He ordered his subordinates to build a Pyramid made of black stone. This Pyramid should concentrate the dark powers to preserve his body from further decay. Thousands of slaves died when building this Pyramid, but the cruel Nagash didn't allow them to get peace in death: he raised them to serve him even in death. At the same time the other priest kings of Nekekhara became more and more nervous about the longevity of Nagash and his powers in the dark arts. Alarmed by the rumours about the dead walking through the streets of Khemri, they realized that Nagash was too powerful and that it was just a matter of time until he would become a threat for them. The Priest-kings formed an alliance against the dark ruler of Khemri and started a campaign against him and his undead minions. When Nagash realized the danger, he withdrew into his black pyramid and by chanting a powerful spell he raised a huge army of undead warriors which he sent against his adversaries. But the troops of the alliance advanced into the very heart of the Necropolis of Khemri, led by the Nekekharian prince Lhamizaar. The alliance got assistance from the frightened citizens of Khemri, who revolted against their cruel ruler. Eventually they managed to fight the unliving soldiers back. Finally Lhamizaar and his son stand before the Necromancer and in a mighty battle they overwhelmed the foul priest king, although Lhamizaar lost his life. When Nagash fell to the ground, hit by the spear of Lhamizaar's son, the Undead troops under his command crumbled to dust. The alliance-troops looted the pyramid and many of the dark artifacts found there were destroyed.



## The bloody Queen

After the defeat of the great Necromancer the Nekekharian princess Neferata ascended to the throne of Khemri. She was a beautiful, intelligent woman and ruled Khemri with wisdom. It was said that she was the most beautiful woman in the known world. But she had a drawback: her vanity. Her greatest fear was the knowledge that she will become older and her attractiveness would vanish at one day. This knowledge made her embittered and she invited scholars, healers and magicians from all over the world to search for a way to prevent her body from ageing. Somehow Neferata was always fascinated by the Black Pyramid of

Nagash, which still stood in the center of the city of Khemri. Attracted by the monument, one day she decided to explore the secrets of the floors and rooms that lied within. So she found one of the nine books of the great Necromancer and following the will an inner voice, she took it with her and began it to read. Although her intentions were good in the beginning, as she tried to use the knowledge within the book to fight against the evil, soon she became more and more fascinated by the experiments Nagash described in his books. Neferata realized, that she had found the key for eternal life. No longer she would have to live in fear of becoming old and loosing the beauty of her youth. Long nights she experimented with unspoken, forbidden rituals from the book in the search for a elixir of live. And her efforts were not useless: in a stormy night she created a black elixir, ignorant that she had created something that even the great Nagash himself was unable to find. Neferata drank greedily from the black potion of life. Horrible pain came over her, and she nearly lost consciousness, but soon the pain became a pleasure. Her heart stopped to beat, but she still was alive, filled with a unnatural thirst for warm blood of the living: she became the first Vampire on the World, a being cursed by the gods, not dead but also not alive.

### The Ancestors

Although she got great power through the change into a vampire, she soon realized that her uncontrollable thirst for blood of the living was a handicap. In the beginning she ambushed servants and handmaidens in the dark hallways of her palace and fed on their blood, but she knew that sooner or later her dark doings would be discovered. If she had allies, everything would be easier. Therefore Neferata granted the power to eleven individuals, who she considered worthy and gave them a sip of the elixir of life. Intrigued by the illusion of power and eternal life they were more than willing to accept the dark mistress' gift. They became the first of their kind and were to be known as Master Vampires or Ancestors. So it came that once again an elite of unliving Priest Kings and Queens ruled over Nehekhara. Only the Captain of the Palaceguard, Abhorash, wanted to refuse the elixir, but he was tricked by the Queen and became a vampire against his own will. For a long time he tried to fight the strong desire for blood but finally he succumbed. In a single night he slew twelve men and women and drained them of blood to quench his red thirst. It is said that Abhorash wept tears of blood for his victims when he realized what he had done and he vowed to learn a discipline to keep his raging thirst under control.

In the meantime the other Vampires who got the gift from Neferata enjoyed their new acquired powers. Being able to confer the kiss to willing mortals, the number of the Vampires in Lhamia increased dramatically and soon an immortal aristocracy of blood-sucking Undead ruled over the lands.

### The return of the Great Necromancer

For centuries that came the Vampires ruled like gods over the ordinary people, which were nothing more than cattle for them. On the other hand there was at least order in the kingdom. Laws were upheld and bandits were kept in check. Officials were so afraid of their immortal masters that corruption and bribery became virtually unknown in Lhamia. In the other kingdoms of Nehekhara the fear of the Vampires increased more and more, but the Priest Kings feared the power of Neferata and her followers. Then the rumours started that Nagash, the great Necromancer had returned from death to revenge his defeat centuries ago. The Priest Kings of Nehekhara called up a council how to deal with the new treat. Neferata was also asked to join the alliance against the Great Necromancer and she pretended that she accepted the invitation. But unknown to the other Priest Kings, the Vampires of Lhamia already had

struck a deal with Nagash. When the other Priest-kings learned of Neferatas betrayal they united against the foul alliance and swore to drive the undead out of the lands of Nekekhara.

### The fall of Lahmia

Under the command of the Priest King Alicazaar the countless armies of mankind marched over the Worlds Edge Mountains and thus war came over Lhamia once again. Abhorash, who had risen General of the armies of Queen Neferata tried to stop the human invasion but the vast number of enemies forced him back. Finally the gates of Lahmia itself were broken and the ancient tombs, pyramids and even the great Library were destroyed by the upset human armies. Street by street, building by building the grim soldiers of Khemri fought their way to the very heart of Lahmia, where Neferata hid in her Temple of Blood.

Here Abhorash led the bodyguard of the Queen in a last, hopeless defence but finally he was forced to retreat. Thus the Vampires were driven out of their once so mighty city. Many of them were killed by the ravaging humans but some of them managed to escape into exile. Of the originally twelve Vampire ancestors only seven escaped the cleansing flames of the Priest Kings.

### The dark Scholars



With the fall of Lahmia the kingdom of the Vampires came to an end. During the ages of their reign, the scholars of the Vampires under the command of the great Wsoran had collected wisdom and knowledge and stored it in the Great Library of Lhamia. Among the Vampiric ancestors Wsoran was the only one who remained loyal to his dark Master, Nagash. While the others fled from the ravaging hordes of the priest kings, he stood beside the Necromancer and commanded his armies against the intruders. But Wsoran's loyalty was not selfless: he hoped that Nagash would reward his services and reveal his darkest secrets. Under his command the armies of the dead fought back the troops of Alcadizaar. Nagash was very pleased when he saw the victory of his servant. He allowed him to study his dark books and Wsoran absorbed all the forbidden knowledge. During the short time he was able to study under the great Necromancer, Wsoran learnt much about Necromancy and the nature of Death. But Alcadizaar returned with a new army and this time he challenged Nagash and killed the dark Master in a duell.

All the accumulated knowledge of the ancient Nehekhara was destroyed when the ravaging hordes of the Priest Kings burned down this place of wisdom. Together with a handful of confidants Wsoran fled and survived the pursuit of the armies of the kings of Numas and Zandri. They took books, scrolls and other fragments of the dark lore Nagash had created with them and scattered all over the world, hiding themselves and waiting patiently for the death of their enemies. They built tall towers in remote areas where they could study the stars and continue their dark experiments. To the scholars of the old World this undead Necromancers are known as Necrarchs.

Over the centuries, Wsoran continued his dark studies until he was killed by his most potent students, Melchior. Nobody knows why Melchior did this act of treachery, but it is said that

one of the books of Nagash, which belonged to Wsoran, spoke to the young vampire and forced him to kill his master.

It is said that the hand of the Great Necromancer himself stands behind the corrupting work of the Necrarchs. The desire of Nagash is to turn the whole world into a kingdom of the dead in which no living creature exists. And it seems that the Necrarch try to follow this dark ways of Nagash. The Necrarch very rarely march to war but when they do they are more horrible than their undead cousins. The folk of Estalia still shudder when they remember the pain and terror Nourgul brought over their land.

## The Dragonlord

When Abhorash realized that Lahmia would fall, he escaped with his companions the pursoit of the vengeful Khemrians. But he did not join the other immortal aristocrats in their exile as he blamed them for their arrogance which had brought the armies of Khemri to the gates of Lhamia.



Together with his disciples he headed north seeking for a sign which would give his damned existence a new purpose. According to legends he came after years of searching to a great mountain. The pinnacle of the mountain was wreathed in fire. Magically drawn to this lonely mountaintop he decided to scale its face. Reaching the summit, a red dragon of immense size emerged from a crater at the mountains top and attacked the Vampire Lord. Abhorash drew his sword and the both fought the entire night until finally the Dragon was slain. The vampire seized its fangs into the throat of the dying dragon and drank its blood. And so the power of the ancient creature filled the veins of the undead creature. Now, the Vampire Lord no longer craved the lifeblood of men. He had found an escape from the curse of Undead and had become the perfect warrior: a man which had the strength and powers of a Vampire but without the need to hunt for blood.

He bid his minions to go forth and improve their marital skills until their prowess would equal his own and they could also be able to escape the curse of vampirism. Since those days the sons of Abhorash have called themselves Blood Dragons in memory of the great dragon.

Many of the Blood Dragons became infamous in the kingdoms of men. Walach, of the house of Harkon, Abhorash favourite minion, travelled north to the Empire and killed an entire order of Templars in single combat. To those he found worthy, he gave a potion of his blood to join him in his immortality. For centuries he reigned over the Undead Knights called the "Drachentempler" until the Blutburg (Bloodkeep) was razed by the Imperial Inquisition.

Although the Drachentemplers are by far the most famous of the Blood Dragons, they are by no means the only sons of Abhorash. Everywhere over the whole old world there are legends of Vampire Knights who challenge their enemies in knightly combat. The most infamous was the legendary Red Duke, the scourge of Aquitaine. This mighty Vampire lord was once a virtuous Bretonnian Knight until he was corrupted and became a vampire during the crusades against the troops of the Sultan of Jaffar. He reigned cruel over his league until he was defeated by Bretonnian forces at the bloody Battle of Ceren Fields. Though his army was destroyed, the Red Duke escaped and many believe that he still lurks in the mountains or forests of Bretonnia. Rumours even tell that he has been seen in the ruins of Moussillon...

## The web of the Night Queen.

Neferata, the queen of Lahmia had foreseen the fall of her kingdom. She and her sisters had fled to a hidden place in the Worlds Edge Mountains long before the ravaging Troops of Khemri destroyed Lahmia. It is said that the Night Queen's palace, called the silver Pinnacle, was once a mighty Dwarfen fortress. Stories about that place have been told for centuries and can be found in Bretonnian Ballads as well as in Tilean poems. Even in the kashbahs of Araby and in the sweat lodges of Kislev one can hear similar rumours.

The Night Queen chose her "children" mostly from noble families. Most of them were beautiful maidens who were sent by Neferata across the Old World to seduce and intrigue at the courts. The talons of the Lahmians reach to all levels of human society. As they take an active interest in human society, no one could guess how many powerful noblewomen were in reality one of Neferata's daughters. In truth all the Vampires of the Lahmian sisterhood descend from the Queen of Lahmia. Although it is said that she despises men there are a few male vampires amongst the Lahmians. The most famous was the Bretonnian Vampire Chamanac who gave the dark kiss to Genevieve Dieudonne, Heroine of the Empire and to Katharina, the bloody Tzarina of Kislev, who ruled the lands of Kislev for many centuries.

The presence of the Lahmians is seldom noticed, but their grasp is certainly felt. Everywhere the Queen of the Night spins her web of intrigue over the Old World and often a lawful and righteous man stands under the influence of a Lahmian Lady not realizing that in reality she commands over his troops...

## The Lord of Masks



One of the seven ancestors was Ushoran, the Lord of Masks. Being a great Diplomat and Politician he had foreseen the fall of Lahmia. He promised his brothers and sisters in blood a better future under a ruler which was more capable than Neferata: himself. But the other Vampires were not interested in founding a new vampiric nation and therefore resisted him and decided that nobody should rule over them anymore. They preferred to go further north and follow their own paths. Ushoran was furious and spitefully rejected and cursed them.

Ushoran guided his few remaining followers to the west, into the lands which are today known as the Badlands. There he found a small kingdom of Men, Strigos, which lied on the western foothills of the Worlds Edge Mountains. Within a few centuries, the children of the Lord of Masks were holding many positions of importance in the capital of Strigos, Mourkain. Eventually, Ushoran took over the whole kingdom and ruled over Strigos many centuries thereafter. Under Ushoran's reign the land prospered and became rich and influential.

The strength of Ushoran and his minions was not seen with benevolence by the other vampire ancestors. Especially Neferata looked at her brother with envy. She stirred up Empire noblemen and warned them from a great treat in the south. Soon a huge army of humans

marched south towards the kingdom of Strigos. When Ushoran heard of the danger from the north he marched with a huge army against the troops of the Empire. A bloody Battle started and the humans were slain by the mighty vampires from the house of Ushoran. But then the disaster struck: Out of the Worlds Edge Mountains erupted a huge greenskin Waagh! The ravaging hordes of Orcs and Goblins engulfed the rich plains of Strigos. Now Ushoran was in a situation of constraint: should he clash the human armies or should he return to Strigos and defend the city of Mourkain. He decided to do the latter. His army marched back to Strigos and started a horrible battle against the Greenskins while its flanks were continuously attacked by the remains of the Empire army. At the gates of the city the fate of Strigos was to be decided. Here Ushoran decided to make his last stand. In a duel against the Warlord of the Greenskins and his Shaman the Vampire Lord was killed. The Orcs turned on the capital and razed it to the ground, butchering or enslaving all the population. That what remained was killed and burned down by the arriving Empire forces.

The few human survivors of Strigos who escaped the Orcs devastation became nomadic people known as Strigany and are travelling throughout the whole Old world in small caravans. Also not all Vampire of Ushorans bloodline were destroyed with their Vampiric master: some survived and fled to the north. In their despair they remembered their cousins in blood and eventually found them in the forests of Sylvania. Here the Vampires of the Bloodline of Vashanesh ruled over the land. They still remembered the spiteful arrogance of Ushorans and turned on his minions, hunting them down like animals in the woods. The few remaining Strigoi Vampires who survived this bloody episode of betrayal scattered among the Old World. But whenever they met Vampires of other lines they received the same treatment. So they had to hide from the wrath of their own kin. Turned to a life of scavenging at the borders of society the once arrogant and noble members of Ushorans line transformed into desperate creatures, hiding in graveyards, digging out recently buried corpses to drink their cold blood. But the nomadic Strigany still remembered their former masters and came to serve them. Also packs of Ghouls are attracted to the Strigoi and often form grotesque courts around them. From this came the legends of the Ghouls Kings which is popular in the southern parts of the Old World.

### The Masters of Darkness

Of all the bloodlines the line of Vashanesh is the most cruel and the greatest menace to the Old World. According to the legend Vashanesh was also the king of Lahmia, but it is not clear if he was Neferatas father or her husband. He was always a master of intrigue and he looked with envy at his brothers and sisters as he wanted to be the only ruler over the vampires. It is rumoured that the forces of Alicazaar only could make it to the gates of Lahmia because of the treachery of Vashanesh. Like most of his other cousins he fled with his court to the north and hid in the forests of the land which should once become Sylvania. For the next two thousand years nobody heard something of the line of Vashanesh.

Sylvania was a haven of necromancers and other practitioners of the dark arts. In the year 1797 Count Otto von Drak, the current ruler at those times, died without a male heir. Just in that time a mysterious stranger appeared at the court of Drakwald Castle and married Otto von Draks daughter Isabella. The stranger was a certain Vlad von Carstein and he became the ruler of Sylvania. It is not known if Vlad was Vashanesh or if he was just a son of the Vampiric ancestor. Under Vlads grip the land of Sylvania was transformed into an efficient province. Vlad reigned over the land for



the next two-hundred years, using different names in different periods so that nobody became suspicious.

When the great comet fell onto the city of Mordheim, Vlad sent his undead minions to search the ruins for Wyrdstone. He used the chaotic power of the stones to enlarge his power. Then, in 2010 he revealed his true nature and attacked Stirland with a huge army consisting of Sylvanian regular troops and countless legions of living dead. During the next years Stirland and Ostermark were devastated and Vlad turned towards the Reikland, the heart of the Empire. In 2051 the undead hordes of the Vampire Count reached the gates of Altdorf and laid siege to the imperial Capital. Here, Vlad found his final doom. The Grand Theogonist Wilhelm III. sacrificed his own life in an attempt to destroy the Count. He challenged the undead Master at the citywalls. When Vlad stabbed the Theogonist with his sword the other grabbed Vlad and dragged both of them off the walls of Altdorf. Both fell and impaled themselves on one of the many stakes littering Altdorfs moat. As soon as their Master was dead, the Sylvanian army were forced to retreat. When she heard of her husbands death, Isabella von Carstein commit suicide by impaling herself on a stake.

The remaining von Carstein vampires fled to Sylvania where they hid from their human pursuers. But the power of the Bloodline of Vashanesh was still not broken. Another von Carstein rose in power. His name was Konrad von Carstein. He was a mad and violent individual, feared by his servants and enemies. In the last decade of the 22<sup>nd</sup> century he tried to conquer the empire like Vlad did 200 years before. Lacking the intellect and skill as tactician of a Vlad von Carstein, the advance of Konrads armies was stopped at the battle of the Four Armies in 2100. Konrad was finally defeated by a combined force of Dwarfish and Empire forces in the Battle of Grim Moor in 2121.

The last of the line of Vashanesh who became a treat to the Empire was Manfred von Carstein, a sly and cunning ruler. Shortly after his cousin Konrad was defeated he rised a new army of Undead creatures and marched through the lands of the Empire. The imperial Provinces were so entangled in private quarrels that the massive attack of the vile undead forces hit them unprepared. Province after Province fell under Manfreds armies. Manfreds hunger for power was so great that he marched with his troops down the river Reik to lay siege on the harbourcity of Marienburg. But he didn't expect the toughness of the Marienburgers who got support by the Sea Elves. Finally the Marienburgers defeated Manfreds troops and the Vampire Count fled with his remaining troops back to Sylvania. In the meantime the Elector Counts of the Empire had rallied and awaited Manfred at Hel Fen in Stirland. Manfred was finally defeated here in the year 2145. Although he was able to flee, his power was broken. The cult of Morr sent a large force of Raven Knights to Sylvania and with the assistance of the Sigmarite Inquisition nearly all lairs of the von Carsteins were destroyed. Since that time the von Carsteins lost their influence more and more, but who knows, perhaps a new von Carstein warlord will rise... It is rumoured that Manfred has been seen in Sylvania, but the source of this rumours is more than doubtful: the criminal Felix Jaeger.

Server Goddess