

Of Searchers and Madness

Much has been written on the stalwart heroes known as The Searchers. The original eight who set out in search of the source of the madness plague, led by the fearless Rothius Andivas, the man who would be king of Galpatria. The common story tells of a daring adventuring party that scoured the land until finally tracing the source of the evil to the Galpatrian fields themselves, though the old sources are want of any real explanation. Some have postulated that a demon or sorcerer lived in those fields, or perhaps a dread spirit, invisible to mortal eyes. Others have guessed that it was the land itself, perhaps averse to the biting axes and picks of the dwarves who settled on Galpatria. Whatever the case, history seems not to care for specifics, only that through battle with the rallied madmen of the world the same were victorious and the madness was lifted. Vilorda, the great heroin of all Natus Locus, was killed in battle and Rothius Andivas was crowned king of Galpatria for his leadership of The Searchers.

Conspicuously, precious little is written about the other Searchers, (they being Dargall, Laazureth, Evindal, Delsanra, Jarmaic, and Thamnoic) aside from being most sure that they survived the war and went on to become leaders of their respective peoples. Most strange and contradicting is the historic treatment of Laazureth the Wizard, who is said to have been the wisest and most powerful magician of all time. After the war, all that is mentioned of this great man was his founding of the wizards college at Dux Vilordan. Normal as it seems, this tale flies in the face of the supposed "first kingly decree" made in the same year as the start of the Andivan Dynasty. This decree commanded the ceasing of all magical study apart from clerical healers. This decree is often called upon to support the modern day bans on magic. That being said, why would Laazureth have founded a wizard's college in the very year that King Rothius banned the practice of magic?

Ignoring that first glaring contradiction, the historic account continues with the founding of The Searchers of Galpatria, the secretive order known by all today. King Rothius was said to have created the order as a bulwark against the returning madness, ever watchful for its return. Conveniently, this order follows exceedingly strict codes of racial purity and secrecy. No one may become a Searcher who is not a human born on Galpatria with lineage traceable to the original humans. Yet another curiosity when one remembers the multi-racial membership of the original Searcher party. And what do these Searchers do today? As far as most can tell they are elitist bullies who enforce tyrannical rule on the common citizen. The madness, until recently, has not manifest itself in any real way for centuries; it seems to most that The Searchers are a worthless lot of thugs.

Lastly, what of the "rallied forces of madness"? In this most tumultuous of times it is easy to see that the mad know no organization, so the thought of these poor fools "rallying" is just preposterous. The histories claim that the madness was defeated on the field of battle, but the myriad attacks by lone madmen do not suggest a united purpose.

Who are The Searchers? And wherefor does the madness come? Neither can be known for sure, it seems, but we can be certain of two things: The Searchers are NOT defenders of the common man and the Andivan dynasty is built on lies.

Down with Andivas! Up Sharok!