

The Elysor Reaches

Faction · High Elven Sovereign Territory

Alignment: Lawful Neutral
Leader: The Sun King Aelindrath
Headquarters: Elysor

Goals

Sovereign preservation of High Elven civilization and the Life Tree. No stated external goals. The Reaches do not participate in Settled Lands politics and have not done so since the sealing.

The homeland of the High Elves (Halvaen), sealed from outside contact generations ago. The Reaches do not participate in Settled Lands politics. Wild Elves patrol the borders and are the only sanctioned point of contact with the outside world. No nation has attempted a military incursion into the Reaches in recorded history. Historians attribute this to pragmatism.

The Elysor Reaches are named for their capital city, Elysor -- a city of living wood grown into towers and canopy bridges around the Life Tree at the heart of the forest.

Why the Reaches Sealed

The High Elves were partners in the Weohstannuk Empire. Not junior partners -- the Halvaen brought institutional memory stretching back to the Empire of Venn, arcane traditions the Orders of Wizardry had only partially reconstructed from second-hand sources, and a diplomatic presence that gave the empire credibility with factions that did not trust human leadership on its own. The alliance was genuinely mutual for most of the empire's life.

What the High Elves saw in the Maygus's rise, they recognized before the human institutions did. The Halvaen think in centuries. They had watched movements like the Maygus before -- not in Weohstannuk, but in Venn, in the long history that the Time of Nightmares had erased from human memory. A reform movement whose ideas spread faster than its founders could control, whose definition of necessary compromise kept expanding, whose most articulate proponents were the ones who should have known better. They had seen what that pattern produced.

The High Elves raised their concern with the Imperial court. The records of exactly what they said have not survived, but the outcome is documented: the warning was received politely, taken under advisement, and not acted upon. The Maygus's influence in the court was, by that point, sufficient to ensure that concerns raised through formal channels would be weighed by people already sympathetic to Maygus ideas.

The Halvaen withdrew their formal diplomatic presence. This was not announced as a permanent break -- it was framed as a temporary withdrawal pending the resolution of internal Imperial disputes. The resolution never came. The empire fell. By the time it became clear that the Weohstannuk collapse was not a temporary crisis but a final one, the High Elves had already been absent from Settled Lands politics long enough that returning would have required re-entering a landscape they had watched fracture into factions they did not trust.

The sealing came later -- a formal decision by the Sun Court, some years after the empire's fall, to make the withdrawal permanent and to close the borders in a way that required active effort to approach rather than simple political distance. The stated reason, in the one document the Reaches released to outside parties at the time, was the protection of the Life Tree during a period of regional instability. This was true as far as it went. It did not go very far.

What the Sun Court did not state publicly: the Halvaen had identified the pattern of Charoth's

influence in the Maygus's development. Not as a certainty -- the evidence was circumstantial -- but with enough confidence that the prospect of remaining engaged with mortal institutions during a period when Charoth had been active and recently successful felt like an unacceptable risk. The High Elves could not seal Charoth's prison themselves. They could seal their own borders and wait. They have been waiting for approximately three hundred years. In Year 2368 FW, Charoth's prison is empty. Whether the Sun Court's intelligence on this development is current -- and what, if anything, they intend to do about it -- is not known to any outside party.

Current Relations

The Wild Elves who patrol the Reaches' borders will turn away travelers, sometimes politely and sometimes not, without explanation. They do not carry messages to the Sun Court on behalf of outsiders. They do not confirm or deny anything about conditions inside the Reaches. They are, consistently, the last word anyone outside the Reaches receives on any subject involving the Halvaen.

Several Settled Lands nations have attempted, over the past three centuries, to reopen formal communication with the Elysor Reaches. None have received a response through official channels. Whether the messages were received and ignored or never reached anyone with authority to answer them is not established.