

# Agabond<sup>(1<sup>st</sup> draft)</sup>

Within the Swamp Region, there lives an ancient terror. Those who are not strong with both the blade and arcane arts will do well to skirt this region, for within dwells the "Eye of Agabond". There are not one, but two Eyes of Agabond that dwell herein, one of good align who is kind and gracious and caring. The other, however, is the evil Eye of Agabond, bent of the destruction of order and good.

Agabond was one of the great Jahtha during the Age of Creation. He rose to great power; likewise so did his pride and disdain for all those he thought below him. During the Age of Creation, Agabond betrayed the other Jahtha, throwing them all into what is known as the Age of Conflict. They who stood by Agabond during the molding of Utaemia, who aided him unwittingly during the Age of Conflict and supported him during the first ages of open strife during the Age of War, were betrayed by their once trusted friend.

In the end, the remaining Jahtha, even those who were sworn enemies and rivals to each other, banded together as one and overthrew the rapidly growing armies and power of Agabond . . . at a terrible loss. It was during this time that Talc Eerie, the Crystal City of Vannar, was shattered and its halls thrown down.

Agabond was defeated and brought before a council. For his crimes, he was titled as a True Betrayer and sentenced to death (at which verdict he laughed at). The execution was preformed . . . and failed. Agabond, it seemed, could not be slain, so terrible was his dark power.

In the end, the Jahtha devised a plan. They summoned their most powerful allies from all the powers of Utaemia. Grondelem, the King of all good dragonkind, came forth to faithfully serve Utaemia. At his side strode the graceful dragoness, Zane, the Queen of all evil dragonkind. When she appeared with Grondelem, all hushed and bowed in respect to her. At Vannar's side was Arial Anarias, the Mother of Life, the wife of Vannar the King of Order and Peace. During this deadly trial, Arial kept all armies which fought for the freedom of Utaemia alive, though it taxed her strength greatly to heal and strengthen so many. As Ryagg appeared within the palace of Vannar, many began to retreat from before the King of Order and the Prince of Chaos, doubting the alliance between them . . . until, to their astonishment, Vannar embraced Ryagg, stating firmly, "I was hoping you would attend this council, Ryagg, my old and trusted friend." As Hoth, the Sovereign of all Mutants arrived, he was welcomed warmly by all present. Genie and Djinn arrived not by the front gate as all had come through, but appears in a smokey light, only bowing to Vannar and none else. Vannar did not approach them, but merely bowed in respect to each of them and turned as Neadra appeared at the gate in the form of moonlight and silver. She entered within the castle, gliding through its halls of splendorous crystal to stand before Vannar smiling warmly. Arial laughed with delight to see her, and they embraced and wept for joy at each others company. Vannessa came among them then, from the gardens of Talc Eerie, gracing all with her graceful beauty, which seemed a perfect image of Arial Anarias, though much younger. When Vannessa arrived, he father, Vannar, came to her and embraced her, holding her close to him, a fear etching across his face as he kissed her upon the brow. Revin the Wise was welcomed by all, and Ump seemed to have the favor of all, for he it was who graced their banquets with the most wholesome and magical of foods. Shaylan appeared from another tower bathed in holy light, though he was quiet and reserved. As Eshanti came through the main gate of the castle, all bowed in awe, for hers was the power of beauty and charm, and none who ever fell in to company with her ever stopped loving her. Astrous was present that day, but none but Vannar even acknowledged her, for dire spirits encompassed her promising death to any who would draw nigh. Amur heeded the call of Vannar, accompanied by two beasts, which had never been seen by another. They stalked before him in open anticipation should there be a conflict. Amur only met eyes with Vannar and nodded once, but as he laid eyes upon Vanessa, his countenance softened and his mood became more sociable. Then entered in Terrian, The Vengeful, who was the essence of all vengeance. A hush fell upon all as he strode boldly before Vannar without bowing. Vannar smiled and bowed in respect. Only as Vannar bowed, so did Terrian. The air within the massive crystal throne room seemed to be on the brink of shattering, and tensions rose like a black flame as Tyrrus and Gorothe came striding into Vannar's throne room, which place they had never before beheld. Grondelem's eye glinted warily as they boldly strode forth before Vannar. Vannar raised a hand to Grondelem in warning and then smiled. "Thank you, my lords, for heeding my invitation. I fear we are all doomed, every last one of us, should we not put an end to the design of Agabond. Let us put aside our differences, in at least this one task, and live." There was silence for a space of time as Gorothe and Tyrrus darkly gazed upon Vannar unblinking. Then they both agreed with silent nods and turned as a presence fill the entire throne room. Even Astrous backed a pace as Bane, the Master of the Dead approached the assembly, hand upon the hilt of a sword which radiated a chill which could be felt by all present. Coming before Vannar, Bane bowed respectfully and raised an eyebrow to see Zane in company with Vannar. "This is a critical moment in time for us, to see Zane, the Queen of the Underworld here among us. I will respect the wishes of Vannar and put away my own designs for the moment." He then bowed to Zane in respect and locked eyes with Tyrrus

unblinking. Vannar looked about the throne room. "Where are the others? If we are the only remaining, truly death is at our doorstep. Last of all Sentient appeared without sound before Vannar, bowing respectfully, his golden robes flowing as if within an unseen breeze. Vannar sighed in relief and smiled warmly, suddenly embracing Sentient. "I was hoping beyond hope, you would grace my halls with your presence." Sentient smiled, genuinely flattered and embraced Vannar in return. "Being the Master of Time, I cannot very well make any excuse of being late." Even Gorothe, the UnHoly, laughed at Sentient's words.

Many other of the Jahtha heeded the call of Vannar that day. When the gathering was complete, they held a Grand Council, lending their wisdom and mind to the overthrow of Agabond. In the end, even though they were all hard-pressed to succeed in this task, it was decided that Agabond would be cursed. The Curse of Agabond, his destiny, was to be literally dissected into the separate regions of Utaemia, to wander forever in a weakened state of being, never to know true power again. Though Agabond was never truly slain by this powerful curse, he was undone. But in this were created terrible monsters: The Mind of Agabond, The Eyes of Agabond, The Mouth of Agabond, The Hands of Agabond, and others which are not named. His body was scattered throughout all the regions, dimensions and planes of Utaemia, never again to know true life as he once lived. The destruction of Utaemia was thwarted, and the regions remained safe from his power as long as he was cursed to wander in his separated and eternal existence.

The Eyes of Agabond were banished to the Swamps. This is the fear of most who know of the Legend of Agabond. This is why the Swamps are avoided by the wise.