

Egypt

Egypt has always been known as a rich and mysterious nation. As power of the ancient Pharaohs waned, they became easy victims and were invaded by Persia and later, Macedonia. Unable to overcome the loss of their nation the people became lost. Then the words of the Koran replaced the lost purpose of the Egyptian people. The nation became more cohesive and a new direction for the people was determined.

Currently, Egypt is ruled by El Hakim a Fatamid of Egypt. The Fatamids reject the Sunni ways and believe their way to Allah is by a different, more strict path, that of Shia. As the struggle began to rule with the new way of the Muslim, the religious leaders began to form factions. One force was terribly strict but seemed to strike a chord with the populace. El Hakim came to power in a brutal fashion assassinating even members of his own family and forcing the other religious leaders to submit to his interpretation of the Koran or die. Most consider him an unpredictable leader and some of his own advisors consider him mad. It was El Hakim that ordered the burning of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and began the attack on the local Christians in Jerusalem thus beginning the Crusade.

The real power behind the regime of El Hakim is his discovery of the ancient Egyptian death magicks. Once thought lost with the death of the Black Pharaoh, these writings have provided insights into reanimating the dead. El Hakim's Vizier al-Afdal, has begun to secretly engage in death magic, attempting to rebuild their armies. As their relations with the Seljuks is quite tenuous, this is likely a way to ensure that Malik Shah will not try to attack Egypt with an ongoing war against the Crusaders.

A strange and evil sickness has spread over the populace and a strict quarantine has been placed on all cities in Egypt. New laws are imposed and then retracted daily. An example of this is that all windows and doors facing the river be sealed. Another, is the end of

all public music performances and the request that everyone wear only black garments. These unusual requests are claimed as a method to decrease the infection but many others have their doubts.

It has been claimed that El Hakim is currently seeking the secret tomb of the Black Pharaoh to return this monster to life in exchange for more magick power. Some fear this is the source of the plague infecting the land.

Their secret elite forces are the Necro Knights. These are the corpses of Pharaoh guards that were entombed when their masters died centuries ago. These creatures are not the shambling decayed monstrosities of the standard zombie or skeleton troop, but powerful and quick, capable of inhuman speed and strength. One of these creatures is more than a match for any Crusader Knight. If the people of Egypt were to learn of this hideous disrespect of their former lords and ancestors they would revolt immediately.