

# HERPA THE MACE 1



ârn is home to many Agrikan clerical orders, but none is more mystical than the *Order of Herpa the Mace*, whose priests are known for their ability to foresee the future with remarkable clarity. Although village soothsayers may claim similar prophetic talents, the Herpans are reputed to gain their powers by feeding the appetites of the V'hîr, Agrik's demonic horde. The summoning of these demons as part of the order's rites lends it a fearsome aura, as does the fierce reputation of their sponsored fighting order, the *Order of the Red Shadows of Herpa*.

The order's roots are among the astrologers of the Corani Empire. These scholar-priests guided many emperors but their influence was diminished by hubris and swept away by the Balshan Jihad. With the founding of the Kingdom of Rethem, the order took its current form. Although its leaders earned the patronage of the crown, they were outmaneuvered by the *Order of Mamaka, Master of Steel*. In 708, the capture of a Thardic keep by the Red Shadows seemed to signal the Herpans' readiness for power, but the theological schism that led to the creation of the *Order of the Eight Demons* rocked the order and threatened its collapse. The temple war between the two orders continues, mostly through assassins.

Many who observe the infighting and politics of the Agrikan Church believe the Order of Herpa has been caught in an endless cycle of rise and fall, waxing and waning like one of the celestial bodies it studies so avidly, unable to reach the destiny its priests have foretold.

Today, the order's astute and ruthless grandmaster is influential at the Rethemi royal court and has started to forge an alliance with the Morgathian hierarchy in Golotha. Compared to the other Agrikan orders, the Herpans are more popular with the gentry than the ascetic Order of Mamaka and more feared than the arena-masters of the *Order of the Octagonal Pit*. Ezar's War has left the *Order of the Fuming Gate* greatly weakened and the rabble-rousing clergy of the *Order of the Pillar of Fire* have been all but exterminated. The Herpans see themselves as once again poised to dominate the political landscape of western Hâr.



**Badge:** Azure, a flaming mace proper.  
**Registry:** Sanguine Saltire, 689.

## CREDITS

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