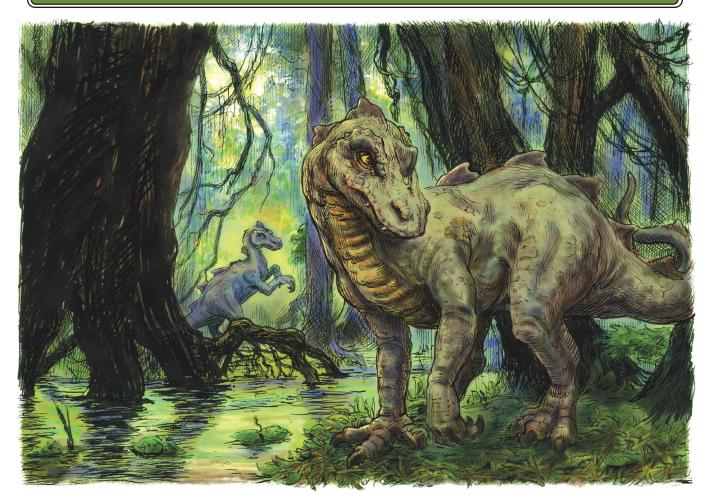
ILME 1





lme, often called meredragons, are among the most unique and mysterious of the intelligent races on Hârn. The Ilme have an ancient culture with a complex language and a deep mythology that suggests their origins predate those of the Elder Peoples and perhaps may be tied to the Earthmasters.

On Hârn, the Ilme are found only in the Ilmen Marsh along the shores of Tontury Lake. These large, reclusive reptilians

spend much of their lives in the water. They call their habitat *Haralen*, a name that translates approximately as "The cold water that lives amid the land." Their population is thought to be between 500 and 800.

Humans who know of the Ilme fall into two categories: those who have heard of their existence through myths, songs, or written works; and those who have, through accident or design, actually met them. Many who fall into the first category do not believe the Ilme really exist. For their part, the Ilme have no desire to increase their level of human contact.

There are several songs and tales that tell of the Ilme. Many of these depict the Ilme as true dragons. Some mention fanciful wealth, others the glory attained by slaying one of these "fell beasts." Every so often, these tales inspire youthful (and often foolish) adventurers to venture into the marsh in search of treasure or fame.



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