



Dyrisa is the second largest settlement in the Kingdom of Kanday and the principal seat of King Andasin IV and the royal House of Kand. The town prospers from its position on the road between Aleath and Coranan, two of Hârns largest towns. Its importance as a defensive position dates from the time of the Kingdom of Aleathia. The area around Dyrisa was sacred to the Ariathe tribe and is the site of many barrow graves.

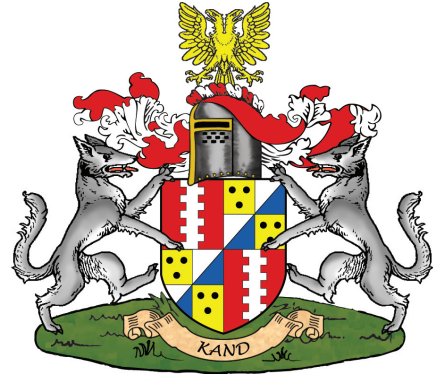
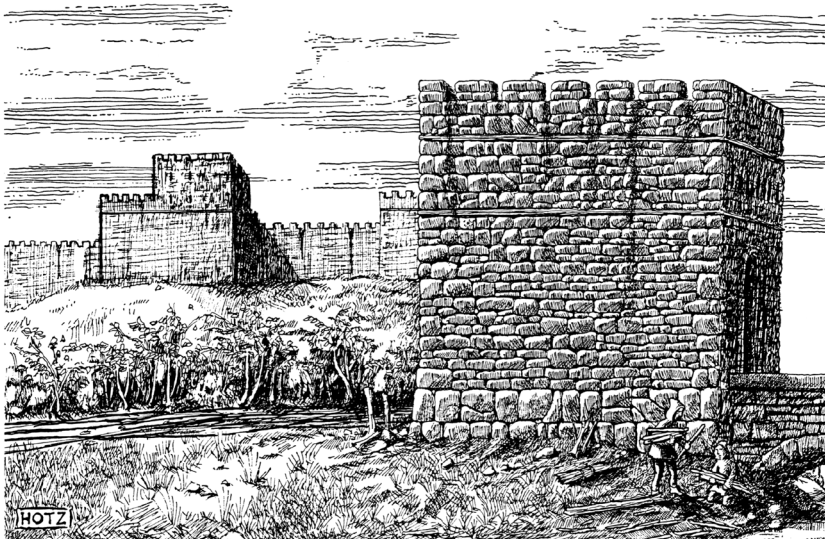
HISTORY

The district was first occupied by the Ariathe tribe around 800 BT. By 250 TR, a thriving settlement had developed at the "rock on the Eryn." The first fortification was built around 350 to counter the growth of Aleathia. In 388, Calin, the second king of Aleathia, conquered the Ariathe and strengthened the fortress to defend the crossing of the Eryn.

In 446, Dyrisa fell to the Corani Empire's armies under Mejenes the Great during the empire's war with Aleathia. It became an Imperial district capital after the annexation of Aleathia in 453. Aleathia province prospered under the Imperium and escaped much of the discord that plagued northern Tharda in the sixth century. When the Empire collapsed in 565, the city of Aleath founded a republic and attempted to create a unified state in opposition to the Balshans. Dyrisa, ruled by its former Imperial governor, was an uncertain ally of Aleath. This alliance proved to be of little help when the armies of Horahnam of Tekhos marched south in 569. Dyrisa surrendered after the forces of the Theocracy forced a crossing of the river. Most of the existing authorities were executed and replaced by a tribunal of Morgathian fanatics.

The leader of this tribunal was Asagran of Khidlar. His despotic administration survived the fall of the Theocracy and became ever more cruel and brutal. Bizarre stories of terrible rites conducted in secret were widespread and, by 575, Asagran was commonly called "the Ghoul." His rule ended with his assassination in 609; his Morgathian successors were plagued by unnatural deaths and bloody power struggles.

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Location: Daenshire, Kingdom of Kanday, E8

Holder: King of Kanday, Clan Kand

Government: King and Constable

Population: 2,765 (includes nearby villages)

ROYAL DOMAIN

	DYRISA Andasin IV
	ERYNROTH Constable
	AVERTU Sheriff of Selionshire
	CHISON Sheriff of Urienshire
	EDINO Sheriff of Daenshire
	IBONOST Constable
	IMIDEN Sheriff of Perishire
	KEDIS Constable
	QIVUM Sheriff of Noreashire
	TORTHAN Sheriff of Toreshire

Taxes

Property: 8% per annum (residential)
6% per annum (business)

Hawking: 7% of goods' value

Bonding: 2% of goods' value per month

Wharfage: 1d per foot per day

Registry: 40d per year

CREDITS

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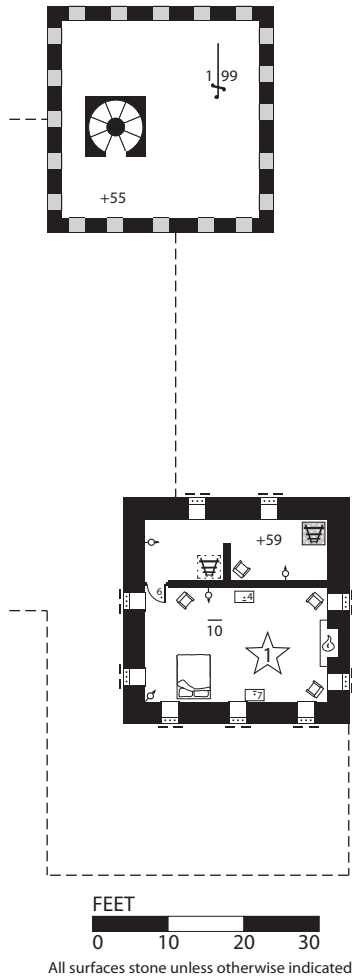
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FIFTH FLOOR

[1] **King's Chamber:** The king's private room dominates this floor. Andasin is considering having stairs built to this floor to replace the ladder, which is the only access. The ladder beside the door of his room leads to the roof, which contains a pigeon loft.



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Andasin I liberated Dyrisa from unimaginable horror in 620, when it surrendered after a three-month siege and the murder of the overlord by his followers. The Morgathian temple that stood at the center of town was razed and the ground exorcized and sanctified. The chapel in the castle suffered a similar fate. The priest who performed the exorcism was found dead, presumably murdered, on the Elanan Bridge two weeks later.

Nearing death, Andasin I dreamed of a “renewed Dark Church if the sod of its foundation remained unturned.” The Laranian Church convinced Andasin to commission the building of a new temple on the site of the old Morgathian temple. Initially, a modest structure was erected. Construction of the present cathedral did not begin until 669 and was completed in 715. The archbishop of Kanday now spends considerable time there, using its proximity to the king to increase his Church’s influence at court.

Building of a town wall began in 718. Pressure from local guilds and the desire to improve Dyrisa’s defenses are the primary incentives to complete its construction.

GOVERNMENT

As a royal castle and the king’s principal seat, Dyrisa is governed by King Andasin IV and his lieutenants. The king spends most of his time here except during the summer, when he usually resides at Ibonost. In his absence, Dyrisa is governed on his behalf by the constable, Sir Fodin Dravaen. There is a council of guildsmen that petitions the king on various economic matters but has no real power.

ECONOMICS

Dyrisa has prospered from its position on the road between Aleath and Coranan and the presence of the Elanan Bridge. The bridge is low and marks the head of navigation of the Eryn for all vessels except unmasted, low-freeboard vessels. Many goods destined for Coranan and Shiran are barged here from Aleath to be shipped inland. Some mercantylers prefer this route to the “slippery” docks of Golotha.

RELIGION

The churches of Larani, Peoni, and Save-K’nor enjoy tax-free status. Technically, the worship of Agrik, Morgath, Ilvir, and Naveh is punishable by death, although the penalty is seldom exercised. The proscription against the church of Ilvir is a holdover from the old Kingdom of Aleath. The reason for the law’s existence is forgotten and it is never enforced. Other faiths are not discouraged although there are restrictions on their activities.

DYRISA 10

ASAGRAN THE GHOUL

Asagran of Khidlar is one of the most grotesque figures in the history of western Hârn. Appointed the ruler of Dyrisa by Horahnam of Tekhos in 569, his career was one of violence and insanity. The depredations of his rule have left a grim legacy of terror that persists to the present day.

Asagran was considered depraved even by the unique standards of the Theocracy. His appointment as governor of Dyrisa was intended both to instill terror among the residents and keep him at some distance from the centers of power. His perverse excesses quickly made his name feared throughout the district.

Asagran himself conducted the ritual execution of Eladas Kand, the father of Andasin I. It was widely believed that he devoured Eladas' heart before heaving the corpse into the Eryn. From this time on, the sobriquet "Ghoul" was appended to Asagran's name. Rumors that he feasted on the bodies of his executed victims were not discouraged by Asagran.

Following the collapse of the Theocracy in 588, Asagran declared himself King of Dyrisa and was able to maintain his power by force of arms and the sheer terror of his reputation. Asagran's realm extended along the Eryn from the Tepr River to Edino Keep. During the Interregnum, Asagran and his minions indulged every degenerate whim at the expense of a terrorized populace. The Morgathian rituals over which he presided grew ever more creative as his sanity crumbled.

In 598, after surviving what appeared to be a crippling stroke, Asagran claimed to be "the Necromancer, the Befouler of the Dead," titles used by Morgathians to describe Klyss, the greatest of Morgath's demonic servants. Two years later, he began excavating the Ariathe barrows and was fond of meditating among the grave goods of the ancient chieftains. He is said to have devoured the bones of the barrows' inhabitants.

In 609, Asagran was murdered by Brovel of Leride, his closest deputy. He was entombed with 13 living victims in the barrow now known as Asagran's Hill. Within a week, the grave was found to have been opened,



and all trace of Asagran and the 13 sacrifices had vanished. Brovel died within the year, apparently of heart failure, and his successors were cursed with violent and unnatural deaths. All attempts to reseal Asagran's barrow were futile; on every occasion it would be found open within a few days. Tales sprang up that the barrow was accursed and there were frequent reports of sightings of Asagran's limping ghost.

The death of Daffyd of Welgar in 620 was commonly attributed to Asagran's spirit. Daffyd was the Laranian priest who performed the ceremonies of exorcism over the ruins of the Morgathian temple, the castle chapel, and Asagran's barrow. Thirteen days later, his dismembered body was discovered on the Elanan Bridge and Asagran's grave was found open. No attempt was made to close the barrow, which has remained open since 620. Trees were planted on the hill in 703 but they withered and died within two years. The barrow is covered by dense, thorny brush. It has become commonplace among Dyrisans to blame strange events and accidents on the "Ghoul of Asagran." Asagran's shade is still occasionally sighted. Some say the specter is not a ghost, but rather the undead form of Asagran himself.