

The Verdant Protectors

Elder Grovemender

In my time I have wandered this plane and many others both in search and in service for the order. More moons have I seen than I can count and in all those times I have seen the many faces that the order has. To those that have no true knowledge of our ways think us to be nothing more than animal hugging tree lovers, they are fools. The ways of the Verdant are many and splintered like a tree forked by lightning, it is true there was a time when our goals were to protect nature and safeguard this world from the forces both internal and external that would threaten the balance. But nothing can withstand time, in time all changes in order to survive; the trees and the creatures all have adapted to withstand the turning of time and as such so did we. While our beliefs are aligned for the order it is the path we follow to forward those beliefs and goals to make this world a better place, this is where I must pass off the teaching to others. Listen to their words carefully as you will see each serves to protect the balance however they have very different outlooks on how to do it.

The Order over the years has needed to grow and as the ash it has grown into branches; The Keepers, lords of balance, those that attempt to keep the perfect measure between the world of man and beast; The Stormlords, those that keep the wrath and fury of nature at bay, they are the line that does their best to keep the tsunami from destroying all in its path; and the Beastlords, those that have master the wild beasts to ensure their survival. I will leave it now to the leaders of those lines to tell their side to the world.

Keeper Malinda Green

Balance. The key to harmony on our fragile planet is to find the perfect balance between progress and preservation. Man, society even, requires a certain amount in order to survive. Wood for homes and heat, animals and plant for food, stone for homes and roads. We all acknowledge these are necessary for the society of man as a whole to survive. But what happens when people get greedy? When a merchant takes a forest so that his already large home becomes larger. When a poacher kills beasts for sport. When a mine is opened solely to take the gold at the depths of the mountain. This is when that balance is upset and we must step in.

Our ways are not for all. While some of our order live within the confines of cities, most of us wander the wilds, protecting nature in the ways she needs us to most. If that means persuading loggers to take less trees, skinning a poacher or saving an injured bear, we will do it. Society has proven that they can take care of their own but they have shown that nature needs protection from time to time. That is our place here.

Join us if you see the runoffs, the deforesting, the wasted food and it breaks your heart. Join us if you want to help. Become one with the world and ensure that there will be a world for the future. It was not so long ago that mankind lived within the world using only the most basic of resources for shelter; but as progress finds its way so does our wants. Now don't get me wrong there are many of the order that live in nice, but small, homes made from the resources of this

world; but they are constructed in a minimalist fashion. And there are more than a few of us who carrier weapons born from the fruits of the land, but again it is where crossing the boundaries of necessity become misuse for greed. Everyday there are creatures of this world that are snuffed out of existence, as they are hunted as rare game or because their few natural habitats are destroyed. This is where we are called to serve, we are the shelter for the storm of progress, we are there to ensure that nature is not crushed under the foot of humanity.

It was not so far in mans past that that this world came to terms with what greed and excess can bring to pass. Mans greed for both the material and metaphysical power led them to delve too far and break into a world that too was greedy. The fury and wrath of the brood was unleashed upon our world and the beasts wasted no time to turn much of the world into breeding ground, and a place for them to take as they pleased. While we would survive this the brood this was but the first of the trials that the fates had for us, all because of there was no one there to guide the world and to ensure balance. In the years after the brood the world would struggle to recover from the devastation, and in this weakness our true unmaking would come at the hands of the planes. When the Reality War began no one was ready for what would come, the brood had been just wild vicious creatures that acted upon the most feral of instincts; however, the lords of the Inner Plane would bring organized forces to this plane all making a play for control. This world became just another battlefield wars that had been raging on the Inner Plane since the times of creation. As if the elemental invasion was not enough to bring this world to its knees, the true horror was still to come; in Vollois the Black Gates would open and the minions of shadow poured forth like a spilled damn. All of this started because a single person felt they needed more and tipped the scales of the balance. This is a tale of caution, this is not a demand you should never want things or have things, this is a warning about the dangers of excess in either direction good or bad.

Stormlord Livanis

If you are here it is for the wrong reasons. If you are here because you have been led to believe that nature is weak and unable to stop the progress of humanity, then leave now. I am sure there are other softer souls that call themselves protectors, who would speak of protecting nature from the big bad men. Well then hear me now, it is not nature that needs to be protected. Does man strike at the ocean and bring it to its knees? I am sure that the hundreds of ships that are swallowed up by the crashing waves would beg to differ. Does man strike the skies, forcing the wind to be always calm? Spend anytime atop a mountain or in the plains and you will see the wind does as it pleases destroying everything in its wake, showing no mercy. Nature has its own plan, be it a tsunami, tornado, avalanche, wildfire, or flood; nature will win. Before man even existed nature ruled itself, so do not come here if you hold delusions that it needs to be protected.

The Stormlords are the tamers of the wild, within the order we serve as the force that must hold back the fury of the natural world from wiping clean the slate of life in a region. This does not mean that we save every plant and every life, one of the most important duties of the wild is to self regulate. A lightning strike that starts a forest fire may kill some and will displace many, but once it has cleared away the old new life will return, stronger than before. The important part to understand is that the forces of nature are not always natural, the ether of the inner plane has this way of seeping into our world and often magnifies a natural happenings making it a true

catastrophe. This is where we are called to serve, we must be there ready to break the forces in wake to preserve not only our ways but the ways of those that we share this world with.

Now I am not saying that there are not minor aspects of nature, like the animals that dwell in it, that do not need to be cared for. But since the dawn of time there has never been anyone there to be sure no rabbit is harmed. In fact it is a necessity that they die, man are hunters, they are not the top of the chain, but they play an important role in it. There was a time long before this age when the world had a natural flow unchanged by external forces, but those days are long since gone. When the planer barrier fell the and the planes made their play for the prime it was an event that would reshape the world and would leave its mark for all time. While the planes were pushed back and the barrier restored, it is impossible to make something whole one it has been destroyed; and the barrier has holes so to speak. Through these holes the planer energy, namely the Inner Plane, seeps through and it mixes with the natural energy of the prime; herein lies the problem. You see let's just take your average wildfire, once it gets rolling it will it will move at around five miles in the course of an hour which is bad; but, with a little bit of influence or fire from the Inner Plane and that disaster jumps up to ten or more miles in an hour. This is where we are needed most, a normal weather event natural can handle we just need to control where it goes, but when it has been influenced we must put an end to it; before great harm can come.

Beastlord Malfain

Where to begin; I chose to go last because I wanted all the scary stuff get out of the way. Well as you can tell by my title I am the rabbit hugger the others whisper about; all kidding aside. As the Grovemender said the Beastlords are just that we are the keepers of the natural animals of this world. That does not mean that we spend our time hugging animals, sure I might have a few hundred ferrets I call pets, but not all animals are treated the same. There is a unique food chain in our world, and each creature here plays an important part in that; we are all food for something after all, but that must be kept in balance. If you think that it is our task to protect the wild animals you are somewhat wrong, as they were here long before man and will likely be here long after. Now this does not mean that there are not some creatures whose species will be wiped out and made extinct if we are not careful. This is a major part of our duty within the order, and where you will be called to action. Maybe your task will be to relocate a family cluster to a safer habitat so that it can flourish, or maybe you must go and ensure humanity does not encroach into a protected habitat, but then there is always the one that is done with heavy heart; there is on occasion the need for us to cull the wild. From time to time the natural balance is thrown off for one reason or another and a species will somehow have a drastic population growth. Well this can be just as bad as if the same happened with man, but no one curbs their growth; however, sometimes we must reduce the population in an area so that the balance of the food chain remains. If this deed is not done quickly the species could find itself without enough food source to sustain them and then they would be drawn to move, this could lead to a number of issues. But cry not those that we must put down never go to waste as it is our duty to see that their bodies are fully used and that every scrap of them gives service to the world. I will keep my line short as I feel fewer words carry more weight.