



RAM - GHOULS

Preview



RAM - UNDEAD THRALL

Preview



MISAN

"Listen to my warning or else you shall regret it, Arin be my witness!"

– Misan the Clairvoyant

INCARNATION

Misan the Clairvoyant, faithful of Arin among the faithful, is one of the greatest astrologists in all Alahan. In the stars he reads omens that always come to pass.



Misan's family can be traced back to the Lahmars. It proudly claims an unbroken lineage of sages and astrologists more than a thousand years old. Testifying to their greatness are the countless predictions written, generation after generation, into their prodigious family heirloom: the Book of Revelations, whose first page is said to have been written by the Chimera herself.

From a very young age Misan understood the weight of his lineage and worked to increase his knowledge and clairvoyance so that he may be worthy of that responsibility. He learned to read from the Book of Revelations and wrote his first words onto its pages, already transcribing his visions. Reaching adolescence, he became famous for a number of accurate premonitory warnings. The king himself summoned the youth to hear from his own mouth the announcement of the terrifying events that would rush Aarklash into the Rag'narok. Misan's forewarnings earned him the recognition of the king; but they could not prevent the coming of the age of Darkness.



Misan, who had foreseen the darkness a long time before it happened, prepared to defend the cause of virtue. The mere idea of war filled his soul with disgust, he who aspired only to peaceful studying. But his duty gave him no other choice than to prepare. Misan took some time to ponder what path he should follow in order to participate in the defense of the kingdom. Scholarly skills are hardly useful on a battlefield. The gods of Paragon had not blessed him with physical strength. Instead they had made him the gift of a swift mind and deep faith. And yet he lacked willpower. Though he learned the communions, he was unable to renounce the peace of his studies and walk away from the quiet and the safety of the temple of Arin.

In 999, Misan had the most important vision of his life. The stars aligned and the constellation of the Ram darkened the star of the Chimera, while the star of the Gorgon slowly crept up on Yllia. That night Misan's dreams were full of a dreadful future: a beast rising from the ice, a blood red moon and a headless woman. He saw an ancient evil, freed from a prison thousands of years old.



In the morning he called one of his faithful friends: Alahel the Messenger (see *Army Book: Yllians*). He entrusted him with his astrological calculations and his premonitory dreams. The messenger listened gravely and set out to prevent what he still could.

A few weeks later, Misan witnessed the stars aligning once more. The star of the Chimera was shining in the constellation of the Lion. The Book of Revelations had foretold this stellar configuration on its first page.

Misan did not need to wait for the return of Alahel to know he had failed; his warnings had come too late, the Atrocities had found a way back onto Aarklash. He found himself forced from the comfortable retreat of his studies. The decision broke his heart. Part of him was lost, but virtue filled his heart with renewed determination. Misan, incarnated, understood that the gods of Paragon agreed to the sacrifice of his peace and in exchange bestowed on him the strength for war.

One morning he presented himself before Baron Valdenar de Doriman, offering him his service. Valdenar recognized the valor within this pure heart and entrusted the faithful with troops, so he could travel anywhere his visions would guide him.

So Misan marched out to Tenseth with the Akkylannians against the alchemical hordes; and to the Behemoth Mountains against the legions of Acheron. Powerless, he watched the passage above of Asura de Sarlath's flying fortress (see *Army Book: Pandemonium*), fearing the threat it posed to the kingdom of Alahan.

As the battles continued, Misan understood the price he would have to pay for his glimpses of what lies behind the veil of the future. The burden of failure will weigh on him twice as heavy if he cannot prevent such days of ash and blood: he is unable to prevent them in his dreams, and can only hope to prevent them in reality.

STRATEGY

Misan is an excellent leader for units including a large number of fighters. The latter are indispensable as they help him call communions. The Book of Revelations gives him a large choice of communions, making him a valuable faithful. However, beware of asking the gods for more than Misan can handle: though he has access to all the communions, he might still have problems calling the more difficult ones!

Misan is of no use in hand to hand combat. It is therefore wise to keep him away from mêlées. A supporting role suits him perfectly, considering that his low strategic value allows him to be fielded cheaply. And even if he is slain, resurrecting him will not jeopardize your victory.

UNIT FORMATION

Misan can join any Lion unit. He does not replace a fighter, but is added to the fighters already there. His cost is added to that of the unit.

RECRUITING THE INCARNATE

Misan: 135 A.P.

Resurrection/Duel: 3 Elixir points.

ATTRIBUTES

Misan has 1 point to spend on artifacts and communions.

Misan is a faithful of the cult of Paragon. He masters the aspects of Alteration, Creation and Destruction.

Book of Revelations (1): During company building Misan gains one communion of the cult of Paragon, no matter its value.

FEAT: MOMENT OF BRAVERY

The player spends 1 Elixir point when the Incarnate takes a test. For this test, the Incarnate's Courage is added to the action value.





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ON-LINE

n° 105



COGS
Preview





COMMUNITY • AT-43 SHORT STORY

Written by Nicolas Lejeune

CLOSE ENCOUNTER

For four days, they were digging themselves into this planet. An unnamed planet discovered by chance by a probe which qualified it as inhabited. "Dante" they called it. A Morningstar recon contingent was dropped on this planet to survey its resource capacity. Maybe M.Ind would want to send some extracting units to collect minerals they need in their production.

"Captain Pierce?"

"Yes lieutenant?"

"Beta company is working on the perimeter defences. All troopers are doing well. We're on schedule. Alpha company is patrolling sector 12 ; so far nothing to report except some lichens, very small bushes and several dust clouds. Communications are difficult but not hindered. We're in constant contact."

"Good, dismiss!"

Captain Pierce was leading this contingent. It wasn't his first mission. But this time, he's the commander of the whole operation. He was quite proud of his small encampment. Prefab barracks protected by two field bunkers where coms and command post were settled. Between the bunkers, the few striders were hidden for surprise attack shots. The prefab containers are used as support of the perimeter wall. A forward sighting post located at 30m from the external wall gave a better strategic situation.

Beta company was ordered to organize the encampment defences and Alpha recon team 1 and 2 were patrolling nearby sectors to search for life forms and mineral deposits. So far, nothing to report.

"Captain, we have a problem. We've lost contact with Recon Team 2"

Pierce dropped his report, "I'm coming to Ops!". Things could go very nasty on an inhabited planet. He rushed out to the Comm. Bunker.

As he entered, the communication officer was checking systems while his assistant was getting data from Recon Team 1. "Report, Lt Barns!"

"Captain, comms were difficult but passing through. They suddenly failed as Sergeant Dickens was reporting strange movements on his scanners."



"Where's Lt Penton?"

"The other part of Alpha company is already closing on the Recon Team 2 position."

"Pass him through!"

Barns tipped a button and gave a headset to the captain. Radio quality was bad but understandable.

"Penton, this is Captain Pierce, report status!"

"Captain, we're not in range yet, we're moving to position as fast as we can. Our fire toad is covering us. Wings should be near target now."

"Lt, this is Wing leader, we're in position. Recon Team 2 is dead. I repeat Recon Team 2 is dead. It seems to be a surprise attack"

"Wing leader, take cover until we arrive to assess the threat."

"Lt Barns, send condition red through the base camp." Pierce knew the name "Dante" wasn't overrated.

As the alarm rang, the troopers dropped their work and join their defence position. A wing trooper unit with snipers and goggles took position on a protected container, to get a good view of the battle-field. Steel troopers were sent to the forward position. The TacArms unit, supported by a full unit of star troopers equipped with machine guns stood near the front wall. Three fire toads were taking their position throughout the camp. In less that one minute, all units were ready to defend the base.

"Penton, it is very important that you identify the threat."

"Yes Captain, we're joining wing leader now".

Lt Penton and his group arrived on target. Wing unit was concealed behind a bank. The area was a mess. The fire toad stood nearly intact but its joints were fused and a light smoke was emerging from the hatch. Steel TacArms were lying behind cover and the star unit was in pieces.

"Fire toad destroyed, no external impact. It seems to be some sort of jammer. TacArms were sniped and the troopers were taken by surprise. Shots are very precise. It's not Red Blok fire."

"Are you sure?"

"Positive"

"Is it Therian or Karman?"

"Not sure. Damage pattern is not very coherent with Karman fire, and Therians don't use many jammers. I'm ..."

And hell broke loose.

"Penton, Penton report!"

"Captain, this is sergeant Stirling, Penton is dead. We're under attack by unknown forces. We can't see them. Fire Toad is down. This is not Therian fire..."

"Sergeant , retreat to base, I repeat retreat to base..."

The comm. officer turn to Pierce: "They can't hear you captain, communications are down. I think this is some sort of scrambler."

"Maximum alert through the base, expect heavy fire."

"Yes sir"

In the command bunker, every one was quite. Reports from every unit were continuous. Minutes seemed to last hours and hours, days.

But two hours later: "Command, this is forward unit, I see a very tall infantry unit taking position at long range. I think they are waiting...". The forward unit sergeant couldn't finish his sentence as tall fighters emerged from nowhere and charged them with energy swords.

"Forward unit, report!"

"Command, this is Tac unit, forward unit is engaged by cloaked fighters. Forward unit is down. We saw bright flashes like swords of some sort. But can't see more."

Pierce turned on the base map: "Wing leader, what do you see of forward unit attackers?"

"Wait command, we are moving into position... Confirmed, forward unit is down. We see four fighters in the infrared spectrum moving away. They're tall and thin fighters equipped with two swords."

"Snipe them, we need to collect data"

"..."

"Wing leader, this is command, confirm that?"

"..."

"Command, this is sergeant Galstone, Wing unit suffered sniper shots"

"Who got killed"

"All of them"

"What?"

"Confirmed Captain, they all have a hole in their head."

"Captain, this is Tac unit, we see infantry movement coming in our direction."

"Engage, engage"

"They are still far away... "





As the Steel Tacarm unit prepare to shoot, a wall of incoming fire headed to their cover location. "Tac2 down, Tac 2 down, we are under attack!"

"Fire toad, this is command, close the distance with the threat, we are being shot at like sitting ducks."

"Roger that, moving at high speed to target."

The three fire toads left the camp to meet the small infantry group which was shooting the TacArms with infantry fire.

"This is Fire Taod 2, system is overheating. System failure... aaahh!". One fire toad stopped intact on the battlefield, dead. Some smoke venting from various locations. "Command, we lost Fire Toad 2, continuing on target..."

Pierce was feeling strange. Why were those infantry units coming out in the open.

"Fire toad, beware, this maybe a trap. Tac unit provide support fire to the fire toads"

"Roger that"

"This is fire toad unit, opening fire at close range now... Shots are deflected, I repeat, shots are deflected. Only one dead. Target seems to have a protective field"

The comm. officer saw blips on the radar. "Fire Toad: inbound AFV's are coming from your left"

Three robot-like striders were rapidly closing on the two fire toads. Their arms lifted a huge gun. "They opened fire!". The two fire toads were destroyed by heavy laser fire.

"Fire toad, report!"

"Command, this is Tac unit, Fire toads down, opening fire on enemy striders... Yeah, we blasted one, they're returning fire..."

"Report Tac"

"Command, this is Tac 3, the sergeant is dead. Striders are equipped with infantry weapons too. We suffered heavy fire. Most of our star support is dead. I think those machines have laser and machine guns worth more than two Light Princes. They have incredible fire power."

Pierce stood up with the headset in his hand: "All missile units, blast those bastards."

Three missiles flew to their targets, and blew them up surprisingly easily. Pierce was very worried, the battle was turning really bad. Most of his first line units were down, and they had only destroyed one strider unit.

As he was thinking of regrouping in the bunkers, the comm. officer turned to him: "Commander, we're receiving a message from the enemy"

"Pass it through"

Pierce was looking at the rooftop as if the voice could come from an intangible enemy. "Troops of the UNA, you're in the Cog Empire. This was only a warning. You have two hours to leave this planet or you'll be annihilated."



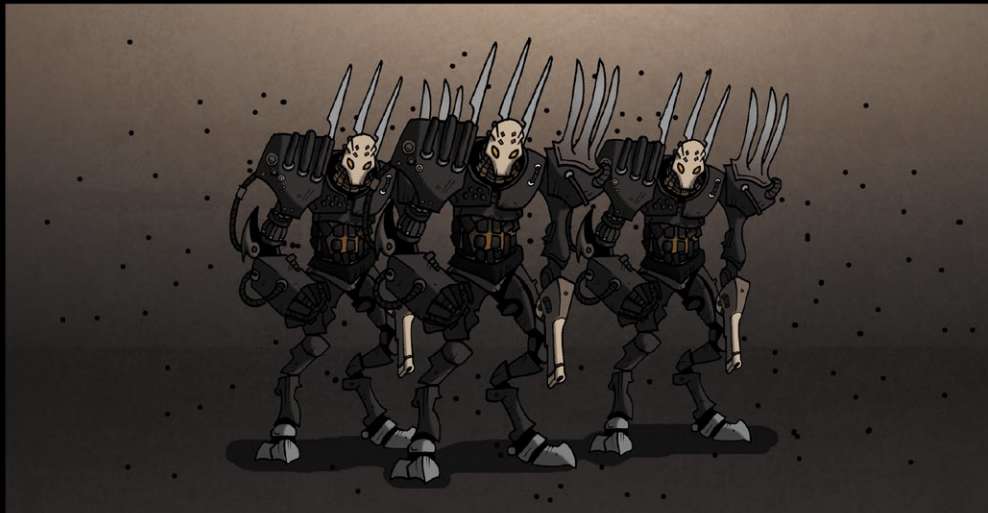


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