The Shrouding

- Overview
- Long Life Ancestries and The Shrouding
- The First Party Controversy

Overview

> “We do not speak of the night the world changed — we speak instead of the years that followed, for memory itself recoils from the beginning.
> The scholars name it The Shrouding, though none can say who first whispered the word. It was not a war, though kingdoms burned. It was not a plague, though the dead walked in numbers that eclipsed the living. It was not a storm, though the skies wept ash and the seas swallowed entire fleets whole.
> Something was unmade.
> The bells rang in every cathedral at once — though no hands pulled their ropes. Livestock refused their feed. Dogs howled until their throats bled. The sun dimmed, not darkened, but dimmed, as though the world had been placed beneath mourning cloth.
> And then the silence came.
> For seven days and seven nights the wind did not move.
> In that stillness, graves split.
> What followed was not immediate ruin — that would have been mercy. Instead, it was a slow drowning of hope. Borders collapsed. Faith fractured. Ancient wards failed as though their makers had never existed.
> Some speak — quietly — of champions who vanished that night. Of a final stand never witnessed. Of a covenant broken not by malice, but by miscalculation. But such tales are dangerous, and the Church of the Veil forbids speculation on “the precipitating cause.”
> We are told instead that the age simply turned.
> That this was destiny.
> Yet the oldest among us remember something else.
> They remember that before The Shrouding, dawn felt different.
> Brighter.
> As though the world had once believed it would be saved.

Long Life Ancestries and The Shrouding

> “The view of the world history for long life Ancestries such as Elven lines etc.
> The long-lived remember more — not better.

-
-
-
-

-
-

-
-

The First Party Controversy

> "The First Party did not save the world. They merely postponed its acceptance of truth. Their actions fractured necessary rites, <REDACTED>, and caused immeasurable suffering through false hope. Their disappearance was not mysterious—it was <REDACTED> does not punish. <REDACTED> outlasts."

> "Multiple independent town records confirm a cessation of undead activity for a period ranging from twelve to twenty years following the First Party's intervention. Trade resumed. Birth rates increased. If this was not salvation, it was at least reprieve. One must ask: what force was strong enough to unravel that reprieve?"

> Scholar Ren: "You cannot reconcile the dates unless you accept extra-material displacement."
> Scholar Heth: "Fairy stories."
> Ren: "Then explain why three separate witnesses describe the same heroes dying, decades apart."

Heth: “False memories. Cult interference.”
Ren: “Or time.”

> “The catastrophe was not caused by malice, but by grammar. ‘All those associated’ is not a merciful phrase—it is a net. When the wish was spoken, the dead did not rise. They were remembered. And some things are too patient to forget.”

> “People argue whether the First Party failed or succeeded. Idiots. They did both. What matters is that when the world needed them again, they were gone. Heroes are not measured by victories, but by whether they are present for the second disaster.”

> “They saved us once.”
> “No, they only made it worse.”
> “Doesn’t matter. They didn’t come back.”

> “If history cannot agree on what they did, perhaps that is because the world itself has not decided whether to forgive them.”