

## **CLAN ROODBERG BY THE LATE ARDIMUN DERGOOST**

To look upon the origin of the Roodberg Clan of Perrenland with anything other than an objective and honest eye would be an exercise in folly. One I am not prepared to take. As an outsider to this clan but without bearing any particular animosity or favouritism to it, I judge myself to be as objective as a Perrenese historian can be. Thus I make no apologies for my history of this fascinating people and hope that they as well as their neighbours see this work as simply a historical recount of a long history.

The Roodbergs are true sons of the Aerdi, that conquering race of Oeridians who swept across the Flanaess forming the great kingdom in the process. Of all the Perrenese they hold closest to the ways of that people. Their customs, language and above all else racial pride set them firmly into an Aerdi cultural framework. To say, however, that they were similar to the Aerdi of today in the rest of the Flanaess would be ignorant, as enough of the old Flan race has seeped into their veins to make them unique amongst those who claim to be Aerdi.

The Roodbergs are a proud nation if they can be called that. They hold dearest their bloodlines, their children and their origins. Amongst the Perrenese the Roodbergs hold most fiercely to clan loyalty and the hereditary rights bestowed by birth upon those lucky few who rule them. Their Pfaltzgraf, who they style their prince, rules them under totalitarian governance, which they see, to quote an old Roodberg farmer I once met, "as a right and proper thing."

As for their origins, history states that the Roodbergs were one of the original Aerdi invaders of Perrenland in 97 CY. As invaders they were eventually contained in the mountain pass of the Central and Northern Clatspurs after drifting through from the Quaglands. In fact driven from the Quaglands may be more accurate as the Vossers Clan has several hundred Roodberg heads from a battle they call the DerRoodOosting that dates to this period, a matter of much contention from the Roodbergs. Over a decade, however, the Roodbergs drove off the native inhabitants (mostly Meerijders and Vossers) and settled the rich hinterlands down by the eastern lakeside. Strangely if questioned on this they have a tendency of insisting that they are a Highland people. It is possible that they may have been a high dwelling Yatil people in their past before they migrated and that this is a cultural relic. For today few of them occupy any territory that could be termed Highland, certainly no place names seem to support any form of long-term historical highland settlement in the Clatspur range. Even today it is the Vossers peoples who occupy most of the mountain valleys of this range, especially along the Kershane pass. This has been the cause of

much tension and even conflict, as the Vossers dislike the over-bearing ways of the Roodbergs.

The Roodbergs quickly urbanized after the invasions. They were well placed to accept the mantle of over-lordship of Eastern Perrenland during the rule of the Aerdi Kingdom of Furyondy. Roodberg nobles today are proud to list off the marriages and alliances that placed them in such a prominent position over other Perrenlanders. Some even follow the custom of enlisting their children in foreign service with a Furyondian noble, a continuation of the old fostering custom well known amongst the Aerdi.

To say that the Roodbergs joined freely into the rebellion of 320 CY that eventually broke the two centuries of rule of the Kingdom of Furyondy's is out of context. It is my suspicion that the decay that was rife in the institutions and nobility of the Kingdom of Furyondy that contributed to the loss of much of its territory was reflected in microcosm in the Roodbergs. Their duplicity in seeing Perrenland free of Aerdi rule but themselves established as an independent Canton of a yet to be unified Perrenland is well documented in their own oral and written history. They have ruled over and expanded the canton of Clatspurgen quite ruthlessly from that hilltop fastness of the Rood Berg in the past three centuries.

The Roodbergs are one of the founding clans behind the Covenant of Concantation by the eight dominant clans of Perrenland that formed Perrenland in 400 CY. The Roodbergs are also renowned for their resistance to the invasion of Iggwilv in the 480s. It was their stubborn resistance to her armies that allowed the resistance movement to eventually drive her out. The Roodbergs thus are quite proud of their role in the growth of Perrenland after this date, and it has helped remove much of the animosity towards them from other clans for their Aerdi traditions.

The Roodbergs follow the laws of Perrenland very closely and their Pfaltzgraf has often been seen as the defender of traditional laws in the House of Pfaltzgrafs. The Old Kerk has never been paid more than lip service by the Roodbergs, as Zilchus seem to be their most favoured god now that they have become a more mercantile clan. The Roodbergs have a history as a war like people and Hextor has always held a certain appeal to them and shrines to the scourge of battle exist in many Roodberg settlements. Clan Roodberg is a good example of Perrenland's diversity through unification.