

The City of Golashkanev

The city of the Trolls is a vast stone edifice literally built into a mountain. The walls around its perimeter are fifty feet high at their lowest point and their surfaces show no signs of age despite the city having stood for eons. Neither the walls and the city's only gate to the outside world have ever been breached by force and since the gate is now guarded by a huge golem, not even a traitor from inside, such as the one that caused the city to fall to the undead by opening the gate to undead forces, will permit an enemy to see the inside of those colossal walls. Within the walls are the stone dwellings that once housed thousands of Trolls when the city was at its peak, before the undead came. Now most are empty, collecting dust and waiting for the time they are needed again. At the city's heart there is the mountain itself, the city continues deep into its heart where the palace of the Troll King resides. On the peak of the mountain there is the one and only transport circle in the area and there is only one route down meaning any attack coming from that direction will quickly find themselves with nowhere to go unless they can climb down near vertical stone. Elements of the city continue deep beneath it, the deepest recesses are places where few ever go as the ghosts of Troll ancestors roam the dark corridors. There is one reason for people to go to those depths, down there is the purpose of the mighty city, a portal to the isle of the Spirit Elves, the home of the World Tree and what the entire city was built to protect. It is the only known way to get to and from the Isle of the Spirit Elves safely and the World Tree must be protected at all costs from those who seek to control its powers. For that reason the city was built and the stalwart Trolls were given custody of it to keep safe.

The portal in the city's depths was closed while the city was in the control of the undead and the key was hidden to keep it from them. Since the city has been taken back from their decaying clutches the portal has been re-opened and the Trolls are back in control although in much diminished numbers. Helping them keep the city safe are the Elementals, the Ananasi and many others who have migrated here to live or work to make it a better place for everyone.

The Trolls

There are three known breeds of Trolls. The first are those that inhabit Golashkanev, the second are a very similar race known as the Brown Trolls who were found living alongside the last known settlement of the Kraan, they had been sealed away for countless years and only superficially resemble the Trolls of Golashkanev. The final type are the wretched Corrupt Trolls, they serve the Lich King and bear little relation to their noble ancestors except for their size, strength and regenerative abilities which make them a terrible foe to have to do battle with even for another Troll.

The Trolls of Golashkanev are believed to be the origin of all three species and are by far the most common even in their currently diminished state. They are famous for being incredibly resilient fighters and it has been speculated that just as the city built to be as impenetrable as possible, the Trolls were chosen to be the ultimate defenders of its colossal walls. The average Troll stands between nine and twelve feet tall, is stronger than an ogre and heals almost as fast as you can injure it, which in itself is a challenge unless you are throwing fire around.

There are five castes of Trolls and the castes are obvious by the colour of their skin. All Trolls are born with green skin and many die without any change. Some Trolls turn red as they grow, exact reasoning is unknown but it tends to be the Trolls that have seen the most fighting that change, some have theorised that when a Troll reaches a certain level of wisdom rather than maturity they evolve into their next stage and as a Red Troll they are even tougher than the greens. However not as tough as the Blue Trolls who are the next stage, Blue Trolls are rare though and tend towards positions of trust and authority, whether that be as the leaders of troops or Royal Guards.

Rarely amongst even the uncommon Blue Trolls one will achieve the final stage which is White Troll. White Trolls are the only Trolls that can cast spells of any sort and are considered the wisest and most trusted of all Trolls and are usually advisors to the King and diplomats. Currently, there are only four known White Trolls, The first is Arador, he served under the Troll King when the city fell to undead and was the only White Troll to survive within the city until it was freed once again over two centuries later, now he serves the new King as his advisor. The second is Zath, he was in Sanctuary when the Impossible War happened and remained there since. He has not returned to Golashkanev since the city has been freed as he is by far the oldest known Troll and he feels he is stuck in the old ways of the Trolls and in these times they need to grow and adapt so he remains in his self imposed exile at Sanctuary. The third White Troll is the mysterious Eries who seemingly came from nowhere and was appointed the personal guard of the Troll Queen by the King. It is understood that he forfeited any and all authority or responsibility in order to take the position save for the safety of the Queen. Despite his mysterious origins, this was seen as a wise move by the King after the scandal about the Queens former guard. The final White Troll has been seen in Golashkanev recently but no-one seems to know who he is and the fact he is not at the Kings side has caused much gossiping amongst the population.

The fifth and final cast is the Black Troll, there is only one Black Troll at any time and that is the King of the Trolls. The successor to the Throne undergoes a form of ritual burning at his initiation during which his skin blackens and he is crowned King. A ruler can come from any colour of Troll.

Honorary Trolls

The Trolls of Golashkanev have a custom that any non-Troll who performs exceptional service to the Trolls may become an honorary Troll if they should choose, the title grants them the honor of becoming part of the Trollish nation and must abide by the laws of the Trolls and swear fealty to the Troll King but it also grants them the rights and benefits of any other Troll. There are three outsiders who have been made honorary trolls in recent times. The first is the Elf Elsquire Birchin for his actions during the liberation of the Trolls city, the second was Lacshimmie the bride to be of King Uthden, she was made an honorary Troll so the two could marry. The third was Sir Nial, knight of Sash il Olay who was made an honorary Troll for his actions in keeping the Queen safe. Sadly, Sir Nial was killed by Troll separatists over a scandal about his relationship with the Queen.

A Trolls Duty

While the Troll city was in the hand of the undead, the remains of the Trollish nation hid and fought in the depths of the ancient city, conducting hit and run raids on the undead doing what they could to drive off the invaders it became clear that the Trolls could not survive long if they did not take care of their numbers, few enough survived as it was without them being in a state of constant war. So the King issues a decree that the Trolls should ensure they kept their numbers up and survived even if it meant it took longer to get their city back. The decree still stands and today a Troll is often judged by the size of his family as a measure of his Trollhood.

The Troll King/Queen

The current Troll King is King Uthden, he was taken from the city just before it fell to the undead as a newborn Troll and son of the then King. No-one really knows what happened to him for almost two centuries until he was rescued from a slaver by a group of adventurers less than ten years ago, he travelled with them for some years and it was with them that he met his bride to be. He was there when the Golashkanev was re-taken and at the side of the old King when he was killed by the undead commander in the battle for the city. Once the city was back in the hands of the Trolls, Arathor crowned Uthden King and a new era started for the Trolls. He was wed to his Queen shortly after, normally it would not be permitted for the King to marry a non-Troll but Lacshimmie was made an honorary Troll by Arathor who could see how much the two loved each other. The Kings reign has seen scandal and he has almost come to war with his allies more than once but the Trolls have been at the heart of almost every major battle since retaking their own city and under his rule they have certainly made their presence known for the better.

The Golashkanev Hive

When the adventurers began the fight to liberate Golashkanev, Uthden negotiated with the spider queen in sanctuary for aid. In return, when Uthden controlled Golashkanev he would grant a portion of the city to her children, the Ananasi to call home. The deal was made and Uthden kept his word, many credit the deal as a clever move by Uthden as by having the Ananasi live within the walls of the Troll city, even if they do not answer to his command, they have a vested interest in helping defend the city.

When the Ananasi wars pitted hive against hive, the Golashkanev hive remained neutral and abstained itself from the fighting, instead choosing to keep the Troll city safe so if the worst were to happen the Ananasi would have at least one surviving outpost. The Anansi wars brought much distrust upon the species as a whole given their naturally enigmatic ways but the Golashkanev Hive has never wavered in its defence of the great city.

The Library

A little over a year since the Troll city was liberated it suddenly acquired a library, there are many rumours about where it came from as it was widely known that the undead stripped the city of all book while they were in possession of it. However what is known is that the vast quantity of books that suddenly arrived in the city came with a librarian who went by the name of Dermont. A mild mannered man until it comes to the protection of his books and answers few questions about the fact he has been tending to them for over four centuries.