

Sita Peshwir

Viscountess of d'Ylourgne
3rd Circle Master of Witchcraft

AC 1014

By Michael Berry

*'how many times must Glantri be attacked before you see the need to act **first** to protect itself'*

I. Appearance

Peshwir is one of if not *the* most recognizable nobles in all Glantri not only because of her exotic beauty but also for being the only Sindhian noble in Glantri. Sita is a petite woman who is only 5'2" and weighs less than a hundred pounds. She has the typical wheatish complexion of high born northern Sindhian women and long black hair and flows past her shoulders. She sports ample curves that her clothing, tailored by the famous Sindhian tailor Akshani Bhojana, accentuates most seductively.

Sita well recognizes her unique place in Glantri and always promotes Sindhian culture and dresses in traditional Sindhian clothing preferring to wear baby blue floral embroidered Lehenga Choli which leaves the midriff exposed. In the Sindhian culture jewelry is not just for enhancing a women's beauty but symbolizes wealth power and status and Peshwir leaves no doubt as to hers as she is often seen in public wearing a fabulous silver (silver is only worn from the waist down in Sindhian culture) teardrop naval ring with a ruby gem as its center piece. She also wears ornate gold pieces (gold is worn above the waist) necklaces, earrings set with diamonds.

II. Personality & Quirks

The Viscountess is fiery, intense, and passionate woman who does next to nothing by half. She is consumed by the desire to achieve her personal goals and to see that her larger goals and plots succeed. The highly charismatic Peshwir commands attention with her exotic beauty thus feels no need to speak forcefully or loudly to make her points when either speaking privately or addressing an audience such as The House of Lords. She has a low throaty voice with a heavy Sindhian accent when she speaks the Thyatian common that forces listeners to focus completely upon her which serves her purposes as well as her ego quite well.

In addition to her formidable social skills among the elite of Glantri Sita also has a way with individuals. She is a keen listener and always appears to be interested in what she hears. Unlike many nobles Sita is not aloof to commoners, especially those of d'Ylourgne or Sindhians in general and always finds time in her schedule to meet with Sindhian advocacy groups that constantly petition her for her support. Sita is not married and has no plans to marry but has a weakness for men, especially Averoignian men, and has taken many lovers for her own pleasure and is not above taking lovers to sway or influence as she did when she competed for the Viscounty of d'Ylourgne.

III. History & Background

Sita Agarwal was born in 983 in the town of Gauhati, some 32 miles northeast of the city of Karakandar in the northern Sind Mumlyket of Peshmir. Her parents, Leander and Sania, were both magic users of the Jadugerya caste. Sania worked as tax collector official for the Raja of Peshwir and Leander was a rich merchant of the Sindhian Trading House Pritamdas who moved Obsidian from the nearby mines around Gauhait to the capital of Peshmir, the great city of Karakandar. Sita was their 3rd child and the first girl and grew up happy in a prosperous home that lacked for nothing, and she had many friends of her caste that she was able to play with. Due to the many centuries of societal consolidation of magical ability into the Jadugerya caste nearly 3 in 4 children are born with the ability to cast spells so it was assumed that Sita, as any child of the caste, could cast spells and thus upon turning 7 she was enrolled in basic magic education under supervision of the senior wizard in Gauhati who was responsible by tradition for the beginning education of children. Sita did indeed have ability to learn magic and cast spells and at age 9 became a 1st level spellcaster.

In 995 Sita's father was offered a chance to move up in the ranks of House Pritamdas when they decided to challenge the near monopoly on trade with Glantri that Aryan Pasayat has established after moving to Glantri and establishing his own trading house. Leander and his family moved from Gauhati to the dusty frontier village of Kern in the Sablestone Free Province of Glantri and he established the Pritamadas trading house and oversaw sales of Sindhi goods to Glantrian merchants and the purchase of Glantrian goods for export back to Karakandar. Upon seeing the city of Glantri City for the first time Sita immediately fell in love with the exotic city of magic and immediately decided that not only would she become a powerful wizard some day but that she wanted to study at the Great School. Upon declaring her desires to her father an immediately family row broke out. Her father naturally forbid it, while Sania took her daughter's side which mean in the end Sita got her way and upon passing the entrance examination was enrolled in the Great School of Magic. However the excitement of her first year of studies at the Great School was marred by the sudden passing of her mother who dropped dead suddenly one evening at the family home in Kern and was later determined by a physician to be the result of a stroke. The grieving Sita considered dropping out and returning home to be with her family but with her father's blessing decided to remain at the Great School.

As Sita was one of only a handful of Sindhian students at the Great School she would have been an object of great curiosity, but she was already blossoming into a very beautiful woman which made her extremely popular among her fellow students, especially with male students. Due to the lack of knowledge and experience most Glantrian had with Sindhi she was often called Sita Peshwir, as many who were first introduced to her formally thought the introduction 'Sita Agarwal of Peshmir' to be a formal version, mispronouncing the countries name, of her real name Sita Peshwir. Sita thought it highly amusing and did not take offense nor bothered to correct those who misinterpreted and mispronounced her name. Sita excelled in both her academic coursework and her magical studies and discovered a passion for politics no doubt influenced by her master of magical studies High Professor of Politics Yolanda de Belcadiz. Yolanda, the aunt of Princess Carnelia, became quite fond of her young student and introduced her to many of the most important nobles in Glantri and came to see her as the daughter she never had and even asked the 15-year-old Sita to be a bridesmaid at her wedding

ceremony when she married the Marquis of Satolas Fernando de Casanegra. Yolanda also introduced the beautiful young lady to the Secret Craft of Witchcraft to further maximize her chances to get ahead in the competitive high society and political games of Glantri. The next year however tragedy struck again as her father and oldest brother disappeared along with the entire caravan they were accompanying, somewhere in the Adri Varma, between Kern and Karakandar. After a month of fruitless searches Leander was declared legally dead and the extensive financial holdings were split between Sita and her remaining brother, Vihaan. Vihaan decided to return to Sind for he was not fond of Glantri and missed his homeland. Sita decided to remain at the Great School as she was so close to graduating and unlike her brother had not only come to love Glantri but more importantly was becoming an adherent to the ideal of Glantri as a haven for magic users run by magic users. It was around this time she set her goal to not just become a prominent Sindhi wizard in Glantri, of which there were but a few, but to become the first noble of Sindhi origin. In 1001 the now 18-year-old Sita graduated the Great School with her prized diploma.

Left quite wealthy by her father's death she purchased several floors of a residential building in the Amaryllis Precinct and made herself part of the social scene of Glantri City and continued to meet many of Glantri's most influential and powerful people even entering into short term passionate relationships with those she felt were most interesting, and good looking! Not long after graduating however she received an interesting job offer from her former master, Yolanda who in addition to being the wife of a noble had also been promoted to Master of Politics at the Great School. As Yolanda was busy with her duties at the Great School and her husband busy with his magical studies the couple offered her the position as their representative at the House of Lord. Sita immediately jumped at the offer and became the couples representative at Parliament. Through her work she became not just more familiar and known to the nobles of Glantri but learned a great deal about the inner workings of the Glantrian political and governmental structure. Though known now as one of the most prominent Sindhians in Glantri she was also becoming known for her passionate and often firebrandish oratories on the greatness of the nation and in particular her fiery oratories exalting the openness of her new home, the melting pot that was Glantri, where a recent immigrant as she was could advance simply on her skills and talents and not be held back based on her ethnicity or even if she had been born here.

When civil war came to Sind late in 1004 Sita, with permission of the de Casanegas, used her bully pulpit to call for Glantrian invention but due to the heightening tensions with Alpathia and the possibility of war with Glantri's longtime nemesis she found next to no support either in Parliament or with the Council of Princes. A month later as was feared Alpathia declared war upon Glantri and any discussion of Glantrian invention in the Sindhian Civil War between the Loyalists of the deposed Rajadhiraga Chandra ul Nervi and his brother Kirtan who is directly supported by Hulean forces. In 1005 the Civil War came to Peshwir as it invaded and conquered by its neighbor Kadesh. As a result, many Peshmirians, especially of the Jadugerya caste, fled Sind and resettled in western Glantri. Seeing both duty and opportunity at play Sita resigned her position as a Parliament representative and went to Sablestone where she, along with the other prominent Sindhian in Glantri the new Minister of Trade Aryan Pasayat, assisted the newly arriving Sindhians in getting settled and acclimated to the culture and laws of Glantri. Sita adopted for good her GSoM nickname as Sita Peshwir as that was what most

Glantrians called her anyway, and became well known as a familiar, friendly, and welcoming face to many of the newly arriving Sindhians. In the process of helping newly arriving Sindhian settle and acclimate in the Sablestone region she came to work closely and gain the respect of the new ruling Prince of Sable Harald Haaskinz, though thankfully their good working relationship was not marred by dalliance brought on by long hours, stress tempered with too much wine where the two enjoyed a night of rather intense passion. Both realized it was a mistake, and Harald just a bit too old for Sita's tastes but thankfully did not affect either their professional relationship or the beginning of a burgeoning future friendship.

Sita continued her work in Sablestone assisting Sindhi refugees into 1006 which by now started to include not just those from Peshmir but Jadugerya from the war torn southern mumylets who did not want to live or serve under the Master of Hule who by now was known to be the de facto ruler of Sind, through his figurehead Kirtan ul Nervi, after the Sindhi-Hulean invasion of Darokin in Nuwmont of 1006. By 1007 it was estimated by the Ministry of Records that over 5000 Sindhians entered Glantri and settling in western Glantri with a third settling in the Principality of Sablestone. Just as the flood of Sindhi fleeing their country began to slow and Sita contemplated a move back to Glantri City she was presented an opportunity to achieve her goal when the Barony of Edleview, one of the new dominions created just the year before, came open for an awards festival. Sita immediately returned to her home in Glantri City, and after a quick meeting with Prince Harald who assured his support declared her candidacy for the open Barony. The Council decreed that the Council would vote on the 18th of Yarthmont. However, the next day after, as Sita and the rest of potential nobles were planning socials and private meetings with the Princes to woo their votes, word came to the Council of the disastrous Battle of Huledain and incomplete and confusing reports of a massive invasion of southern Glantri by the orc King Thar. Instead of lavish high society parties and boisterous campaigning the Awards Festival was for all intents forgotten as Glantri City became with each passing day an armed camp as troops and hastily called militia and reserves were called to man its city walls as it became apparent Thar was coming north towards the city. The Awards Festival came down to single prearranged 15 minute meeting with the Princes that were still in the city, or the representatives of those in the field with the army, in which each of the six candidates was given 15 minutes to state their credentials and their case. Sita made an impassioned speech about her background, how much she came to love the nation, and what she and the Sindhi could bring to Glantri. After all the speeches were given the Council voted and not surprisingly since Sita was well known to the Council already and many saw the benefits of having a Sindhi born noble she easily won, receiving all but one Princes vote (Brannart's naturally). No others managed more than half the vote and Sita Peshwir was declared by the Council of Princes to be the next Baroness of Egnorn.

While inclined to stay and help defend the city she was advised by both Yolanda and Aryan Pasayat to go to Edleview and take control of her Barony and to look after her new subjects and prepare for the years to come were likely to be hard ones for the nation. Sita left the city days later, but not before using her substantial wealth to buy herself a mansion in the Noble Quarter and headed west to her new dominion of Edleview. Upon arriving the first decision she made was wisely keeping all the local leaders the previous Baron, Niccolo Galateo, had installed and continued his policy of non-intrusive self-rule as long

as taxes due the Viscountess are collected in full. Sita decided to reside full time in her Barony and made many trips to Kern and encouraged many Sindhi, those already settled and those just arriving, to settle in Edleview which many did as the population of Edleview grew over 50% in her first year as Baroness. The plague of 1008 was partially muted in Edleview due to Sita's recruitment of the few Sindhi clerics that had settled in Glantri. The intervention of those clerics kept the fatality rate to a relatively low 5% of Edleview's population. After nearly two years as Baroness Sita felt secure and established enough to consider competing for higher nobility titles.

Sita had passed on competing for the open Viscounty of Redstone in 1008 for several reason but mostly for having her hands full with the plague in her own dominion but when the Viscounty of Castelbianco came open in Thaumont of 1009 she tossed her hat into the ring and announced her candidacy. Denied the chance to wow and impress the princes and nobles in 1007 Sita spared no expense and threw lavish parties at her city mansion in the Noble Quarter and was supported as well by the Pasayat house which also hosted parties for Sita. After the two weeks of campaigning the Viscounty came down to Sita and two others, the Baron of Nandin Lord Borodin and the Baroness of Dovehold Lady Kristiana Wilhamine. The Council voted upon the three candidates with Baroness Kristiana Wilhamine of Dovehold getting 106 votes and being passed (Juliana (16), Jaggar (20), Etienne (25), Malachie (14), Brannart (16), Morphail (15)); Baron Borodin of Nandin getting 60 votes and rejected (Volospin (22), Jaggar (20), Carnelia (18)) and Sita getting 84 votes and referred to the House of Lords (Harold (14), Jherek (24), Urmahid (18), Carlotina (17), Innocenti (15)). Knowing she would have to face such a powerful and skilled combat mage in Wilhamine Sita expended little gold or time politicking in Parliament before it decided on her petition. After the week allotted for deliberation and politicking the Parliament voted: For: (Silverston) 44, (Alhambra) 36, (Ellerovyn) 31, (Kern) 18, (Singhabad) 33, (Krinagar) 22, (Sirecchia) 26 and to the surprise of everyone in Parliament... (Crownguard) 34, and (Igorov) 35 = 279/408 votes or 68% of the Parliament vote just reaching of the 2/3rds needed for approval thus accepting her request. Peshwir was now to face Wilhamine in the dueling court in a weeks' time. Bravely facing her opponent in the dueling Court, rather than lose face by withdrawing, Peshwir was quickly and violently overcome by the more experienced combat wizard. Peshwir did survive but not without severe internal injuries that she spent nearly a month recovering from at the General Hospital in the city.

Though Sita felt embarrassed by her poor showing at the Dueling Court she gained a lot of respect among the princes and lesser nobles for facing Kristiana and not withdrawing. The good will paid fabulous dividends later in the year when the death of the Duchess of Fenswick opened the rich Viscounty of d'Ylourgne for an Awards Festival. The fully recovered Baroness immediately declared her candidacy along with many other Barons but the race quickly boiled down to two candidates, Sita and the Baron of Adlerturm Waltter von Liebnitz. When the Council met, most expected von Liebnitz to win based on the desire many princes would have had to get their supporters into that rich and prosperous Barony thus it was to the considerable surprise of many that Sita not only won but crushed the Baron and was voted upon by all but three of the ruling Princes (Jaggar, Brannart, and Innocenti). Thus Sita was declared the new Viscountess of d'Ylourgne.

In the years since her elevation to Viscountess Sita has returned to the Capital and lives full time at her city mansion and represents herself at the House of Lords. Though not residing in d'Ylourgne many

Sindhi have moved to d'Ylourgne and taken advantage of the civic and educational opportunities she has funded tailored towards the Sindhian population including the first Sindhian institute of higher learning, the Dhirubai Ambani. Now back in the capital Sita has used her newly found influence and power to focus again on the situation in northern Sind and the flight of the Sindh Jadugerya in occupied Sind. In more private discussions she has brought up the idea of Glantri moving into northern Sind and annexing the region and 'liberating' the many Jadugerya still remaining in Peshmir and Kadesh. She is starting to see some benefits as some nobles and even some Princes admit to seeing the logic and benefits of such move but not agreeing the time is right as Glantri is still recovering from the Great War, Thar's Invasion, and the Great Plague. For now, Sita lobbies for the increased presence of Glantri's Sindh population and has identified several wizards whom she has offered promises of support if they compete for any future open Baronies.

IV. Web of Intrigue

Peshwir has taken the mantle of leadership of the rapidly growing Sindhian community in Glantri and even though she is not the most powerful Sindhian wizard in Glantri she speaks for them and lobbies for their increased presence and participation in the various facets of Glantrian life. She identifies herself not only as proud Sindhian but a capable wizard of the Jadugerya caste, so she has also come to identify herself also as a Glantrian who cherishes the notion of the Glantrian melting pot of many different people and cultures.

Sita has two personal goals she is working towards though they both could be seen as being one and the same. Peshwir is an active player in Glantrian society and politics and means to ascend the ladder of nobility as quickly as she can using any and her means at her disposal to become not just the first Sindhian noble but Glantri's first Sindhian Princess. She also feels strongly that her native homeland and its many wizards would benefit under Glantrian rules and society and feels Glantri should take over the lands of northern Sind and establish a Principality for Sindhian wizards to supplant the clerics of the BLANK caste as the leaders in society with herself naturally as its Princess. As such she has educated herself on military matters and made an effort to meet many of the commanders of the Grand Army. She has started quietly feeling out her fellow nobles for support for takeover of Northern Sind and while she has found some support from some of the more militaristic nobles most simply are not interested in any kind of military adventure as Glantri is only now beginning to fully recover from the Great War. Peshwir is content to just wait and play the long game and be ready to take advantage of any events that might sway opinion towards a change in attitudes regarding Glantrian expansion into northern Sind.

Sita has many friends and acquaintances among the rich and powerful in Glantri, in particular the Pasayat family whom she has grown closer to since becoming the Viscountess of d'Ylourgne. The combination of her beauty, exoticism, and unique status as the first Sindhian noble have made her a popular invitation on the social circuit and made an invitation from her to her socials at her Glantri City mansion highly prized. Peshwir does have one enemy of note unsurprisingly and that is the Viscountess of Castelbianco Kristiana Wilhamine who came so close to killing her in a duel in early 1009. Wilhamine has become one of the leading voices against the Sindhians in Glantri and has proposed several motions calling for the Sindhians to be expelled and deported back to where they came. While Peshwir is no fool

and would not confront the skilled and cold-blooded killer of a combat mage directly again, she several spies employed that watch the Viscountess hoping to catch anything Peshwir can use upon her as Sita believes that the two may come into conflict again with the opening a future County to an Awards Festival.

V. Statistics & Style of Magic

Statistics: 14th Level Wizard, 3rd Circle Witch;
S-8 I-16 W-11 D-14 Con-10 Chr-18; AL - Neutral

Languages: Sindhian, Thyatian Common, Averoignian

Weapon Proficiencies: Dagger (Skilled), Staff (Skilled)

Skills: Alchemy (16), Alternative Magics (16), Magical Engineering (16), Persuasion (18), Glantrian Society and Politics (17), Leadership (18), Military Tactics (16), Planar Magic (16)

Peshwir is a typical mid-level mage in that she has no particular interests or specialties with the arcane arts and is very versed with most commonly known spells. After nearly being killed in 1009 she has realized she is not a combat wizard and has tried to improve her magical combat skills and knowledge but more for her own self-protection and she has decided to avoid direct confrontation of rivals and enemies and work behind the scenes to further her goals and defeat her enemies.

'of all the new nobles Glantri has seen in the last decade or so I think none will prove to be more influential or powerful than that Sindhian women '

(Prince Jherek Virayana IV to his wife over dinner)