

# Gerrid Rientha

Baron of Egorn  
3<sup>rd</sup> Circle Water Elementalist  
Brotherhood of the Radiance

AC 1014

Originally written by Markus Olavi Montola, updated by Michael Berry

*"I see your point. Would you say, twenty crowns would make my offer more... attractive?"*

## I. Appearance

Archduke Gerrid is a man in his late thirties. He has short, dark brown hair and elegant moustache cut in the latest Darokinian fashion. He dresses like a Darokinian Merchant-Prince, in modest but very fashionable high-quality clothes. One cannot see it, but he actually puts a lot of money into his tailor, but he actually does. Complimenting him for the design or quality of his clothes makes a good impression on him, for usually only Darokinians pay attention to things like this. His Darokinian ways can be also seen from his laboratory. His tools are lavish, to say the least, as he uses instruments of gold and platinum, decorated with jewels and crafted by the best artisans. But being an accomplished wizard, few people ever get to see his workspace.

His appearance has one distinctive feature. He always carries an ordinary-looking, black walking stick. He does not actually need it to walk, but he has a habit of playing with it, spinning it when he walks or pointing it at little children he is speaking to. Archduke Gerrid is a man of average build. He is neither tall nor short, neither fat nor thin—just the way he likes, making it easy to vanish in a crowd. In parties, of course, he can use his magic to be in the spotlight, literally. He dresses according to the most correct and proper fashion, a habit he learned from his mother, who used to work for the Darokinian Diplomatic Corps. He rarely attracts attention, either positive or negative.

## II. Personality & Quirks

Gerrid Rientha is both a Darokinian gentleman and a Glantrian wizard. He tries to fulfill the both roles, even though they are quite contradictory. If asked, he would always say he is first a Glantrian, but his manners and style would say he is first a Darokinian. Lord Gerrid is well-versed in economics and mercantile business, and he tries to draw more people to his Barony with lower taxes and lower license costs. He hopes that the non-magical business will thrive in his dominion, if he gives them a financial advantage, profiting himself in the end.

Lord Gerrid enjoys his life, and that can be seen. He is rich, enjoys what he does, has fallen in love and has always had a positive attitude towards everything. He never uses sarcasm or irony, and always treats everyone without prejudice. It is very easy to like Lord Gerrid. He is always witty and polite, and a conversation with him is always a pleasure. After chatting with the Baron in a gondola, many people feel upset that they have to stop when they reach their destination. And Rientha always throws in a few compliments to everyone he addresses.

Gerrid has two major tactics in keeping his secrets his own. First, he appears to be very open candid. He usually answers every question satisfactorily and above suspicion. Second, if he cannot tell the truth for some reason, he tells outright lies. But Gerrid is master of making lies appears innocent and honest, as well as backing them up in the rare cases he was caught. Actually he really is quite transparent for a Glantrian noble, as he seldom does anything too clandestine.

### III. History & Background

Lord Gerrid's family originally comes from Darokin but lived in Glantri for many years. His mother, Alysa, was the Ambassador of Darokin before Lady Diaura Scrutina. His father Gertran Rientha was a Merchant leading the Glantrian division of House Corun. Gertran and Alysa had tried to have a child for more than a decade before finally Gerrid was born. (Gossips say that a Glantrian Witch brewed them a magical potion that made Alysa fertile once more, but Gerrid has never deigned to confirm or deny this).

As Gerrid's parents lived in Glantri City, Gerrid tested positive for magical ability as a child and they decided to give their only child a proper magical education. Young Gerrid showed strong magical talent from his earliest years in the Great School of Magic. He never was a prodigy, but as an intelligent and philosophical thinker he never had any problems in his coursework and excelled socially at the school. He graduated from the Great School in 986 but not long afterwards his father, Gertran Rientha died in AC 991. His mother decided that she did not want to stay in Glantri City any longer, as the whole place reminded her of her husband. They packed their belongings and moved to Darokin City.

However, Darokin City never became a home to Gerrid. He had grown up in a country full of magic, and the *ars magica* had become his passion. It was a relief to him when his mother was promoted to Diplomat First Class, and was commissioned to lead different kinds of diplomatic envoys to all over the Known World. He assisted his mother with negotiations with a plethora of folks these years, even with hin, orcs, dwarves, Ethengar and Ylari. He always took his books wherever they went, always studying and planning a return to the Principalities. In AC 999, Alysa Rientha retired after a long and successful diplomatic career. Gerrid decided that his place was in Glantri and returned there. He applied to the Great School of Magic and with his experience and knowledge gained as the child of a prominent Darokinian diplomatic family was signed on as a part time lecturer to teach Mysteran Geography to beginning students as part of their basic core curriculum classes. Rientha himself was graded by the Masters of the Great School and made a positive impression with them and was retained for the 1001 school term. Gerrid continued to teach these basic classes for the next couple years until the Master of Economics and Trade offered Gerrid a chance to earn a promotion from an unpaid (benefits only) part-time lecturer position to become a paid full time Professor by *teaching Introduction to Market Economics* for a term. He again impressed the Masters at the Great School and was promoted to Professor of Economics and Trade at the end of the 1004 term.

As a Professor at the Great School of Magic Gerrid was able to meet many of the most powerful mages of Glantri and soon met two of the people who would impact his life the most. At the beginning of the 1006 term ceremony hosted by the Grand Master he met the newly promoted Mistress of Glantrian History and Geography, renowned scholar of Flaemish history, and famed Flaemish beauty, Danira Voshane, with whom Gerrid immediately fell in love. Later in that term Gerrid taught his first specialized magical lecture 'Advanced Magical Dueling' which interested quite a few nobles and was quite successful. One of the attendees was the Prince of Sablestone and High Master of the School of Social Sciences, Harald Haaskinz, and two immediately struck up a friendship that grew stronger as the

years went by. Harald invited Gerrid to join the Secret Craft of Water Elementalism which Gerrid accepted though it was not a subject he was personally that interested in and progressed through its basic circles of mastery over the years. Gerrid and Danira became a couple later that year and were seen together at all the important social functions at Glantri City. Gerrid knew he wanted to marry Danira but was well aware that Danira, was close to both Princess Wilhamine Vlaardoen and Countess Sinaria Verlien who were both champions of Flaemish culture and the purity of its magical bloodlines and might not approve of such a marriage. As Gerrid was an experienced diplomat and a sensible man, he did not want to offend or anger either and started negotiating with them behind Danira's back, trying to make a good impression, and he used some of his father's fortune to win their favor by donating to Flaemish causes. After a year of intense lobbying and negotiations earned him their tacit approval on one condition that he would have their permission once he became a noble. The idea appealed to Gerrid not merely for being able to peaceably wed Danira but also the notion appealed to Gerrid in being the way to truly reach the upper crusts of Glantrian society in which pure wealth, intellect or magical talent alone could not. He started his campaign to winning over the nobles whose votes he would need by using his fortune to host extravagant parties at his large home in the Armaryllis Precinct.

The first chance Gerrid got was when the Barony of Goriidel came open early in 1008. Even with the amount of gold Gerrid showered upon the nobles of Glantri he earned little support and dropped out when he realized he would get no more than Harald and Vanserie's votes at the Council of Princes. Gerrid got his second chance when the Baroness Fiona MacInnes of Lantruen died heirless later in 1008 and an Awards Festival was declared for the open Barony in the far northwest corner of Glantri. Gerrid learned much from his failed first attempt at wooing nobles and found himself, after other competition dropped out, to be running against an elf from Erewan. Bookies on Kash Flow rated the coming Council vote a toss up and when the votes were tallied Iriel Newleaf earned just enough votes to have his petition approved and Gerrid fell just short of also getting enough votes to be accepted and thus had his petition referred to the House of Lords. After weeks of campaigning Gerrid fell agonizingly short of getting the 2/3rds votes he needed, being rejected by only 7 votes. Gerrid continued to pump more of his fortune into hosting parties for the nobles but the next opening for a noble seat did not come until 1009.

When the Count of Soth-Kabree Chandor Nyraviel was killed during the final battles pushing Thar out of Glantri and back into the Broken Lands in early 1009 the Barony of Dovehold in the northern Wendarian foothill above Fort Nordling came open for an Awards Festival. However, before Gerrid could declare his intent to contend for it Prince Harald called Rientha to a private meeting and informed him that the Council of Princes was secretly considered creating multiple new dominions and advised Gerrid he might stand a better chance of winning if he waited, for his main competition for Dovehold would likely be local Flaemish wizard who would win Flaemish support thus leaving only Harald as his only solid support. Gerrid took the advice and sat out the Awards Festival and bided his time. Sure enough only several months later the Council of Princes announced the creation of two new Viscounties and four new Baronies. Gerrid chose to run for the open Barony of Oxhill which proved to be the most violent and infamous Awards Festival in living memory. Several potential nobles were murdered and Gerrid himself felt prey to a poisoned meal at the Silver Tower Inn which nearly killed him, and which incapacitated him for several months. However, several baronies came open at the end of 1009 with vacancies due to nobles who were killed defending Glantri from the Alphatian wizard attack. The Barony of Egor came open and Gerrid, finally after nearly two years of trying, won the Awards Festival and became a Glantrian noble. He unsurprisingly declared Egor to be aligned with Prince Harald's House of Kern and took a sabbatical from his position at the Great School to get himself moved into Egor and start learning the ropes of his new position as a Glantrian noble.

Danira also took a sabbatical and joined Gerrid at Egnon and helped him with establishing himself and picking out new administrators and leaders for the Barony. With Gerrid now a noble and Wilhamine Vlaardoen two years in the grave the couple felt they could marry without undue political, social, or professional repercussions but still sought and received permission from the new Princess of the Flaem, Juliana Vlaardoen who was all happy to give Danira her blessing to marry a non-Flaem. The couple was married on Klarmont 11 and soon afterwards bought themselves a stately manor home in the Vlaardoen Precinct for the tongue wagging price of 125,000 dc. One day while looking for Danira he found an open book in her laboratory in their Glantri City home and having never seen it before naturally Gerrid started to read it and found to his immense surprise that the book was a set of detailed notes on the mystical magical force said to exist in Glantri called the Radiance. Gerrid later confronted Danira about the book and Danira took his hand and led them to their bedroom and sat him down on their bed and proceeded to tell him quite the story.

Danira explained that because she was considered by all to be the foremost Flaemish historian in Glantri it led Rad himself to appear to Danira in a vision soon after the beginning of the war with Alphatia. Rad explained that the rumors of the Radiance were quite true and such a force exists and can be used to protect Glantri as it had been used in the past. Rad explained to Danira that he needed her expertise in Flaemish history to help rediscover the ways the Flaem and Dragons had used the Radiance together to defend Glantri from the Overlord and forces of Entropy and that she would be working with a certain Brother, Brother Wilber, who was an expert on the subject. Danira explained to Gerrid that is how she came to know the Radiance and that its knowledge and use were once restricted only to nobles but due to the needs of the war Rad opened membership in the Brotherhood of Radiance to those not just loyal to Glantri but those who had knowledge, talents, expertise that could help Glantri. She told him that Rad has seemed to have disappeared since the end of the war that if Gerrid wanted to research this discover the keys to using the Radiance there would likely be little problem since he was a noble there would be no objections from the Brotherhood. After several months of independent research Gerrid was able to confirm what Danira had told him, that the Radiance did exist and how to access its powers. On the Winter Solstice of 1010 Gerrid joined the Brotherhood of the Radiance and was accepted into its membership and given the name Brother Darkforce.

Gerrid has spent the last couple of years between Egnon and his home in Glantri City. Noble life left little time for him to teach at the Great School and he resigned his full-time position in 1011 but will occasionally teach special courses on advanced subjects to invited students and those that can afford the prices such classes often demand to gain a spot in such guest lectures. It was with great joy that the couple announced to their friends this year that Danira is pregnant and expecting their first child next year. As Danira's pregnancy has advanced she stays at the couple's home in the city when Gerrid has to attend to dominion business in Egnon. As the effects of using the Radiance are unknown to pregnant women Danira has to not become a test case for it and stopped using the Radiance as soon as she found out she was pregnant. Though happy and liking the Barony of Egnon and its natural beauty the couple continue to host lavish parties and are keeping tabs on their fellow noble for the time comes when an Awards Festival for an open Viscounty comes for though they know Rad is not around to enforce the Order of the Radiance both continue to follow Rad's rules and will not use the Radiance outside of their dominion thus they want very much to continue to rise in noble rank.

#### IV. Web of Intrigue

Lord Gerrid has few allies and few enemies. As Gerrid knows that long-term alliances or feuds will not be worthwhile or needed, he is usually treated rather neutrally by the other nobles. Generally, Gerrid supports the House Haaskinz, as he trusts Prince Harald whom he befriended during the years at the Great School. And Prince Harald has also a policy favoring neutrality. The other important ally of Lord Gerrid is his wife, Lady Danira Voshane. Lord Gerrid is no weakling himself, but Lady Danira is a very capable mage. As she is distantly related to the Vlaardoens, she has her responsibilities since the death of Princess Wilhamine Vlaardoen mainly as a custodian of Flaemish history, thus the respect Gerrid showed to her parents and Flaemish customs has earned Gerrid a political ally in Princess Juliana through his marriage to Danira.

#### V. Statistics & Style of Magic

**Statistics:** 17th Level Wizard, 3rd circle Water Elementalist, Brotherhood of Radiance (Brother Darkforce); S-9, I-17, W-16, D-12, Con-9 Chr-15; AL - Lawful

**Languages:** Thyatian (Darokinian dialect), Ylari, Dwarf

**Weapon Proficiencies:** Dagger (skilled), Staff (basic)

**Skills:** Alchemy (17), Alternative Magics (17), Magical Engineering (17), Economics (17), Bargaining (16), Persuasion (15), Appraisal (17), Glantrian Society and Nobility (17), Mysteran Geography (17)

Gerrid is a Darokinian gentleman, a Glantrian mage, as well as very capable negotiator and a diplomat. As he considers excellency in the art of dueling an important gentleman's virtue, he has created a repertoire of spells suitable for dueling, such as Gerrid's shadow steps and Gerrid's shroud of shadows. Water Elementalism is not his main interest. Gerrid only joined the craft because he was invited by Prince Harald himself, but it has never been very high in his priorities. Actually he often forgets to use his Elementalist powers in the heat of a battle. He uses major conjuration (third circle) occasionally to ease his life, but so far he has not bothered to study the Fourth Circle. Gerrid also can draw upon the Radiance and its basic spells.

*"Show me a good-hearted politician in Glantri, and I'll show you a Darokinian who could not make it as a diplomat or a merchant!"*

(John Beaumarys-Moorkroft, Archduke of Westheath)