

Sun Hing's saga [Easterling Priest]

Hing was born to the Sun family, famous in ancient days, but which had been reduced to tutoring the powerful. Early in life he showed a deep commitment to ancestor worship. He became an Honored One as a young teen and no one was surprised to see him study for the priesthood. His unusual, chanting voice and long, flowing hair are family customs relating to ancestors.

He formed a lasting friendship with a fellow acolyte, Wan Lo, who also sought to redeem his family's fortunes, as the Wan clan had become impoverished through politics and war some generations back. The two determined to bring their families to a higher spiritual plane by freeing a famous returning spirit from rebirth. To do this, they and several other youngsters, including the young beauty Meili, sought the location of a long-ago battle, now dismal and haunted.

Hing's life hit its first crisis when he and Meili fell tempestuously in love during the journey and equally tempestuously split apart over whether to have sex, as each was alternately reluctant and eager to lose his/her virginity. The adventure was a disaster: the spirit they sought was imprisoned in a cycle of hatred-filled rebirth, and it swore to exact retribution upon them. They barely survived an attack of soul-eating wolves, but as Wan and Hing congratulated themselves on beating the curse and the now-battered group struggled home, they were caught in a storm, and Meiling was struck and killed by lightning before everyone's eyes.

Chastened and doubting, Hing tried to concentrate solely on religious devotion, and at first it seemed a new romance was all to the better toward this end. He met the sultry and devout Dailu at a multi-family religious meeting, and they dated seriously, discussing marriage and perhaps retirement to a famous shrine to tend it as a couple. Physical relations, in this case, proceeded without issues.

Meanwhile, Lo became head of his family upon his father's death, and now all its financial troubles descended upon him. He found that he and his siblings faced slavery unless their debts were paid. Dailu and Hing argued about his concern with the Wan troubles. Dailu wanted him to concentrate instead on devotion and on their plans, but he chose instead to volunteer for hard labor at a local construction project, to raise money for Lo. All ended badly: his work failed to raise enough money, and Dailu split up with him, eventually becoming a rising star in the hierarchy of ancestor worship.

Lo became desperate and convinced him to help him in a secret project, which turned out to be stealing an ancient mask from the Wan ancestral shrine. Before he could convince Lo to put it back, they were discovered and pursued as desecrators. They are currently on the run.

He still practices his worship rituals, and as he still brings about wonders and assistance from ancestors, he's convinced that his faith may be renewed and reconciled with Dailu, and that Lo can be forgiven for his crime. Hing values friendship above all else and has a hard time understanding why others might not. Despite his regard for his ancestors, he learned from the vengeful spirit not to idolize any single person. To remind himself of wealth's lures and dangers, he keeps the last remaining coin from his wages on the construction project, calling it his luck piece as a joke. Unsurprisingly, he avoids potential romance and tends to be diffident towards women he meets, as he fears complications regarding his goals.

Coil's saga [Netherman Knight]

Coil is an imposing Netherman, heavily muscled and deep-voiced, with a golden mane and piercing dark green eyes. He stands high in the tribe, from a well-known warrior family and long-standing personal religious devotion. He worked with the shamans and associated himself with their hierarchy, took the Snake as his totem, and achieved the Cave Ceremony.

Life became more complicated when a visitor arrived to give him 58B, apparently left to him as the nearest living relative of a Netherman who long ago had left his homeland. This modest sum was a small fortune in local terms, and Coil utilized it to provision and organize fellow warriors against outlaws who'd recently grown bold. His campaign against them gained him mortal enemies but he was also renowned among the fighting-men for his honor and fairness to the fallen. He was also relied upon to interact with outside communities. By civilized standards, he is slovenly in that he eats and conducts himself as a Netherman, but he is widely trusted even by non-Nethermen he's dealt with.

Coil values his cultural and personal heritage and treasures a whetstone which his father used and has served him well. Secretly, he idolizes himself, believing he represents the best of his people, but this fault typically stays hidden unless he's stressed.

His family life is also well-integrated into his social position. He met Willow, the love of his life at an all-tribes festival, and they have a young son. By any standards, Coil is a true knight, successful in all walks of life.

Today, he realized that he just lost three years. He is entering his home village, expecting to meet his family. But where has he been? What has he been doing? And what has happened here?