

Karon: The First Lich of Gostar

There was a time, in Karon's earliest years, where he was very much mortal. Before the Age of Dragons and only a few hundred years after Gostar's Golden Age, there existed a time in this world's history where magic lay on the brink of extinction. In these desperate times institutions were erected on the basis of restoring magic to the world. Desperate mortals would do anything to live in an arcane world again and many would sacrifice their very souls in order to achieve it.

This was the Dark Age of Gostar. A world where people lived in fear under the "guidance" of an empire known as "The Red Circle". This conjugation of mortals devoted to the restoration of magic and the study of all things arcane and eldritch, gave hope to hopeless folk with their promises of a brighter world. Most things magical by this time have turned their back on the material plane and retreated back to the Feywild and Spiritual World, taking with them their last precious remains of magic, to protect it from the destructive touch of mortal's lust for power.

It is during this dark age, thousands of years ago, that Gostar's first lich to be, was born...



Starting his life as an orphan, sick with an incurable blight, left Karon with a stagger that he would never fully overcome. However, due to the guidance of The Archmage of the Red Circle, Karon learned how to wield his cursed blight to his advantage. In exchange for siphoning souls and feeding them to his infection, he managed to extend his own lifespan. No longer was he cursed to die before his late teens. Now, with a second chance at life, he began to devote his life to the study of the arcane. Magic allowed him to live, and so magic would become his life. Above all else, Karon's strongest attribute was his sheer willpower to live. Karon so desperately feared death. And that fear would drive him to do unspeakable things...

By his early twenties, Karon had risen to the ranks of Journeyman under the order of The Red Circle. This was a rank his parents had only barely managed to reach before their sudden ends. Now, after surpassing his parents achievements at almost half the age, Karon turned his eyes to greater ambitions. The Philosopher's Stone was his first great mission. Myths and legends spoke of this all curing remedy, and its promises of immortality, and so began his quest for this "holy grail".



Come the end of this epic journey he would learn his very curse that threatened to take his life, to be The Philosopher's Stone that he sought. A dark evil abomination and amalgamation of souls once created by a mad hag in her pursuits of magic. This "Stone" was sealed away due to the threat it posed on humanity, but some parts of it managed to escape through the small cracks in its prison. One such part that broke out was the living curse eating away at Karon's body.

Due to his innate connection with The Philosopher's Stone, he managed to appease the abomination and form a sort of alliance. With this new relationship Karon achieved many great feats including dethroning The Archmage of the Red Circle and taking his place. Karon now held endless power at his fingertips both in his relationship with "The Stone", and his empire of mages that ruled over almost all of Gostar.

Karon ruled for a long time, and did in fact restore magic to the world once more; not as it once was, but still, it was an accessible source. Immortal, all powerful his reign seemed to be never ending; he had it all. But, his own fear of death still skulked in the dark recesses of his mind. He knew most of this power was not his own, and was only a boon given to him by something he could never fully trust. And so, he marched his empire against the source of his power, all the while researching a way to extend his own life in other ways, once The Philosopher's Stone was destroyed.

Karon, in his many years, studied many magics. And in time, eventually learned of a way to store his very soul in a phylactery, where it could be unclaimed The Morrigan, by the god of death herself. But, this container could only be forged from willing souls made material. And so he gathered a council of only his most loyal subjects who would help him in his pursuits for immortality. He promised to share this immortality with each of them, should they help him achieve this goal. They all vowed to help, gifting him their willing souls whereupon the first phylactery was made. But, when the time came to store his own soul within, he hesitated, and instead, locked it away.

"What if his attempts to destroy The Philosopher's Stone failed?", "What if those keeping his soul safe, betrayed him?" Thoughts of paranoia poisoned his mind, and forced him to forgo lichdom, for now.

Eventually, and with great success, The Red Circle destroyed The Philosopher's Stone and severed Karon of his ties to the eldritch being. But with its destruction came the loss of Karon's power and immortality. And on this very same day, the very first Feylord was born; one of 6 who would one day rise up and destroy the Red Circle once and for all.

The Red Circle relied heavily on Karon's unmatched power up until this point, and had achieved many impossible tasks because of it. There now existed a power void within the circle and Karon was evidently aging. The fate of the circle looked dire, and so they began to turn to dark bargains with dark beings. One of which was Xakryell, the god of all creation who dreams at the very ends of existence, waiting for the day someone wakes them up.

Years later, Karon still refused to use his phylactery. He was withering along with the influence of the circle. In one final attempt to restore the circle, a large ritual was held to appease this eldritch god, Xakryell. During this ritual, The Dreamer, Xakryell would request the sacrifice of The Red Circle's greatest mages. Karon was enchanted by his peers to offer himself as a sacrifice, but in his final moments, his will to live shattered the spell and he managed to escape his demise.

In response to this betrayal, Xakrell eviscerated The Red Circle, with Karon being one of its few survivors. Paralyzed from the neck down and barely clinging to life, Karon conducted his greatest feat.

Karon summoned hands from beyond the grave and infused his spells with the ichor of eldritch gods. He sacrificed every morsel of his mind, every sinew of his body and every grain of his humanity to conduct the final steps of his ritual into lichdom. His soul was stored in the phylactery and he was made immortal.

To the universe's surprise, Karon kept his promise to all those who gave up their souls to him to produce this miracle. He brought back to life all of them and gifted them with eternal life. And perhaps it was guilt or maybe the last spark of his humanity, but he went further and revived every other being killed by The Dreamer. He offered each of them the option to live a life immortal. And for once, Karon was seen as a generous ruler. In his rebirth, his heart was rebuilt anew.

But nothing lasts forever. And just like Karon before them, each of his followers feared the loss of their immortality, which was held in the hands of someone so famously unreliable. And so, in the end, his own contagious fear of death was his own demise.

Each follower of Karon, banded together to seal him away within his own amber phylactery. The stone, made of souls, grew around him like a living crystal. During this ritual each member sacrificed a piece of themselves in order to secure their own immortality, along with Karon himself.

And so, somewhere in the sea of spirits, in a demiplane all to himself, Karon still lives, trapped in a cocoon of unbreakable amber, waiting for someone to break his seal.

