Dawn Sisters Hold

Creator Name: *Whitney Ware; revised by Ron Swartzendruber; currently unowned*
Hold Contact: *adoptable Lord Holdership (morgav@kadanzer.org)*
Current Holder: *Lord Mendius*
Badge and Colors: *a dawning yellow sun against a royal purple field.*
Minor Holds Beholden to Dawn Sisters Hold: *NewDawn Hold, others TBD*

CLIMATE & ECONOMICS

Dawn Sisters lies a hair north of the 50º South Latitude line. The climate is moderate due to the marine influence. There is a fair bit of precipitation in the southeast, near the Great Bay across from Ierne Island, but it is dryer inland and northward towards Cibola. The hold is a major grain producer, including corn, oats, rye, barley, and so forth. It is a close trade partner with Cibola Hold, and a rival of Izmir Hold.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The people of Dawn Sisters Hold are generally decent and hardworking folk. They tend to dislike the people of Cibola, seeing them as greedy, and the dislike is returned. This doesn't stop both holds from carrying out a profitable trade. The people aren't very fond of their stingy lord, Mendius, but he has been Lord longer than most of them have been alive, so they are used to him.

In 2852, Mendius founded a new minor hold, New Dawn, on his western border with Izmir Hold. The hold is actually *across* the border, but as there is no actual landmark, this is difficult to prove. The lands across the border are sparsely settled and a known haunt of Raiders who prey on Dawn Sisters and Cibola, and Lord Mendius has invited a contingent of Lord Morgav's Rangers from Cibola to base themselves at New Dawn Hold to keep the raiders in check. They make up almost the entire defense of New Dawn, Mendius being too cheap to pay for guards of his own.

IMPORTANT PEOPLE

Lord Mendius, Lady Vignali (third wife), youngest son and heir Lavin, his wife Nikamena. A daughter, Cevana, is married to Gibran of Drake Hold. Another daughter Jazelle is married to Lord Kabur of Maori. Still another daughter (name TBD) is married to Masterweaver Valorian. Other children tbd.

Lord Mendius -- M, HT= 5'7", H=white, E=grey. This elderly lord (75 as of 2857.TE) is a notorious skinflint and his love of profit is often a point of amusement to others in the Conclave. However, he is a cunning man who can usually see beyond his avarice, and will not follow his greed off a cliff. He is a friend and often a political ally of Lord Morgav, and always eager to follow any suggestion that might benefit his purse, as long as he is not called on to risk his own neck or marks too far. He doesn't like most of the other lords, especially the more recently ascended ones like Andlin, Gibran, and Danis. Mendius also dislikes the Weyr, and has long favored mutiny against it; he was personally offended by the return of Thread, which he views more as a personal insult to his mutinous plans than as a threat to farm, field, or folk. He grudgingly allows Searches on his lands, and always will try to find a way to ensure that the Weyr pays for each boy taken. He doesn't place any value on girls, unless they are pretty, and if a pretty girl is taken on Search the Weyr can expect to hear complaints about dragonman depredations against Dawn Sisters holdings. He has many sons and daughters by his deceased first wife Mariala, but of his sons only the youngest, Lavin, has proved competent. Mariala died in 2822, and Mendius married his long-time mistress Chorina later that same Turn. She bore him several daughters, the oldest of which was Cevana and the youngest Jazelle, before she grew to old to bear more children. She died in 2850, whereupon Mendius married Vignali, his current Lady, who is so far childless. Since late 2855 Mendius has become quite frail, but refuses to loosen his grip or retire. (Adoptible NPC)

Lady Vignali (vig-NAHL-ee)-- F, HT=5'2", H=black, E=Blue. At 36 (as of 2857.TE) Vignali is less than half the age of her husband; when she was a young widow of 30 Turns, she used her looks to catch his eye for the sake of his money, only to be disappointed by how little of it she could get her hands on. She has black hair, deep brown eyes, and extremely fair, almost clear, skin. She is childless, beautiful, and bored, but Mendius keeps such a jealous eye on her that she dares not stray. However, there are rumors among the servants that she has her eye on her foster son Lavin, who is actually older than she; but there is no evidence and no one has dared say anything openly. The fact that she took an instant dislike to his new wife is seen as proof by some, but the more kindly say instead that she is merely jealous of the woman who will soon supplant her as Lady of Dawn Sisters. (Adoptible NPC)

Heir Lavin (LAY-vin) -- M, HT=6'0" H=Sandy blond, curly. E=Aryan blue. Mendius's youngest son (38 at 2857.TE) and official heir, Lavin is getting extremely impatient to take over. His father has named no official heir, but Lavin has proved his ability by serving as steward of the hold and his brothers have not amounted to much. He is quite able, and thinks his current successful management will translate into great political success as Lord Holder. He wants to be a powerful leader with other Lords under his

thumb, and has already begun scheming to that effect; but he is actually getting in over his head and likely headed for disaster. (Adoptible NPC)

Nikamena (NIK-a-MEEN-a) – F, HT=5'3", H=Blonde, E=Blue. 21 Turns old (as of 2857.TE), Nikamena is a daughter of Lord Morgav who married Lavin at Cibola hold on 2856.TE (Mendius jumped at the chance not to pay for the ceremony, much to Lavin's disgust.) Nikamena is quiet and loves embroidery and the other "womanly arts" but is also quite intelligent and capable of managing a hold. She does not do well in outright confrontations, but even if she gives in for a moment, she will never give up completely, and will try to find another way to get what she wants. She is very glad to be out from under the constant scheming of her birth hold, but keeps up a correspondence with her father and some of her siblings via her bronze firelizard Needle (a wedding gift from her father.) She does not get along with her mother-in-law Vignali. (Adoptable NPC)