



Alecta of Green Wisdom, and her Pendulum

The Green Wisdom spire in Redoubt was founded by magi out of Sunspire around 180YE. To this day, they are known for expertise in the healing arts; the study of herbs and apothecary preparations; and an almost monastic tradition of apolitical introversion. Yet one of their most famous scions is none of these things.

Born in 276YE, Alecta of Green Wisdom spire was a politically savvy master of the Day realm, who eschewed her spire's tradition of studying magic alongside the skills of the physick. At an early age she expressed a great love for mathematics, and shortly after passing her Test of Citizenship petitioned for (and won) entry to the prestigious Diodara University in Sarvos. Four years of study in the City of Jewels no doubt helped to shape her interest in politics. Following a further two years studying engineering in Holberg, Alecta became a regular feature at the seasonal Anvil summits supporting the Senator for her home territory.

Professionally, Alecta put the skills she had learned among the cities of the League to practical use. She was quickly recognised as a prodigy at the art of locating and enhancing mana sites. She wrote two short, dense treatises on the practice of enhancing the flows of mana (*Shaping Mithril Mirrors* in 296YE, and *The Flow of Water* in 301YE). Both works were well received by her peers and several of the techniques she outlined for manipulating the currents of natural mana are widely employed today.

Following her professional successes, several spires attempted to woo Alecta away from Green Wisdom but she resisted all their advances. In correspondence with friends, she made much of the quiet tranquility of Green Wisdom, and the value of being “grounded” by living among the practical, calm people who populated the minor spire.

For much of her career, even before finishing her studies in the League, Alecta worked closely with the magistrates and the militia to investigate significant crimes with the power of Day magic. On more than one occasion, she served as a proxy for Imperial law-enforcement in negotiations with Eternals of the Day realm – especially Roshanwe and Leviathan – and her skills were key to securing more than one significant conviction.

In 299YE she successfully stood as Senator for Redoubt; she again served as Senator in 305YE for six months following the death in battle of the incumbent. She is primarily remembered as a staunch advocate for the “Mana Sentinels” movement – the cross-Spire group calling for Senatorial recognition of, and support for, the unique role played by the nation of Urizen in supporting the armies of the Empire with powerful ritual magic. While her successes were not spectacular, she did secure funding for a program of improving the mana sites so vital to the performance of true magic.

In between her Senatorial terms, Alecta was also active in the Conclave. She was several times encouraged to Declare as Archmage of Day, but only stood once (in 303YE) as opposition to Mattheus of Stonewall – the infamously dogmatic Highborn exclusionist – and primarily focused her campaign on ensuring that “anyone but Mattheus” took the staff and the belt. This opposition won her few friends among the Magisters, however, and may have contributed to the politically-motivated Inquisition of 304YE during which she was accused of Idolatry.

Roget and Roshanwe

Alecta first began using the Pendulum that became her legacy in 295YE. A polished beautifully cut piece of crimson tempest Jade suspected from a weltsilver chain, the talisman was a gift from her classmate (and eventual husband), Roget di Sarvos. A scion of a long line of master artisans, and a talented jeweller, Roget attended many of the same lectures and seminars as Alecta and became smitten with her intellect and passion for mathematics. He



crafted the Pendulum himself, and offered it to her as a gift during the Empire Day celebration at the Diora.

While Diora used the Pendulum in her magic, it is not believed to have possessed any magical power when Roget presented it to her. Rather, the carefully selected dimensions of the tempest jade crystal, coupled with the Rune Sular, helped to center her thoughts and focus her incantations and rituals. She employed it in every divinatory magic, from simple detection of magical energies, through her studies of mana flows, to her work with the Imperial militia.

In 297YE, the Pendulum changed dramatically. No longer crimson, the medallion was now clear crystal and possessed an undeniable potency. The reason for the change was the Eternal Roshanwe, who is called the Fisherman, and the Weaver of Nets.



Alecta began her relationship with the Navigator during an investigation into the activities of a Whisper Gallery cult in Sarvos and Tassato. Called "The Fellowship of the Corkscrew", the cult were engaged in a campaign of intimidation and vandalism against several scholars and historians, culminating in at least two murders – yet proof of their involvement proved extremely elusive. With the aid of Roshanwe, Alecta was able to penetrate the obfuscation employed by the cult members, locate their hidden base of operations, and help the militia in bringing them to justice.

The Eternal was said to be very much impressed with Alecta's focus and commitment, and her ability to pursue her goals with single-minded passion.

After several months of working with the Herald of Roshanwe known as Caradaemon, Alecta was invited to an audience with the Eternal herself. Offered a boon, Alecta requested something to assist her in finding "the Truth" – whatever that happened to be. The Pendulum as it exists today was the consequence of that

boon.

The magical properties imbued into the Pendulum by Roshanwe greatly improved Alecta's ability to perform the ritual known as the Clear Lens of the Eternal River, permitting the master of Day magic to easily work that magic without the need for a coven. Furthermore, the magic of the Boon reportedly provided additional insight to Alecta on occasions when she used it to uncover information about locations – whether uncovering the location of a Night-shrouded cult centre, or studying the flows of mana into a glen with an eye toward locating mirrors and crystal baths.



As with most such Boons, the magic was not permanent. Each year, Roshanwe send Caradaemon to Alecta to discuss her work over the previous twelve months, and renew the magic of the Pendulum. Over the course of a decade, these conversations lead to Alecta's third treatise *Conversations of the Shore*, a surprisingly human dissertation on the nature of the Realm of Day, its inhabitants, and the Eternal Roshanwe in particular. Unfortunately, few copies of this text still survive today following what several scholars believe to be a spiteful campaign by Whisper Gallery agents to destroy as many of the folios as possible.

Caradaemon itself attended Alecta's funeral, and renewed the Pendulum one final time so that it could be used in the investigation into the circumstances surrounding her death. The Herald cooperated fully with the militia, but following the inconclusive outcome of the investigations, has not since been seen in the Empire.

The Death of Alecta

Alecta of Green Spire died in 309YE. While attending the Winter Summit in Anvil, she accompanied an expedition through the Sentinel Gate to investigate an apparent haunting by a tulpa of the Drowned Man in Morrow. After the investigation – which identified and exorcised the tulpa in short order – Alecta

returned with the rest of the militia group and chose to have an early night. Shortly after midnight, a commotion near the Imperial Regio resulted in the discovery of her bloody body.

She had been killed with two strikes from a straight-edged sword. There were signs of a struggle – even dying she had attempted (futilely) to fight off her attacker – but she was already dead when help arrived. As near as the magistrates could ascertain, she had been struck down with a single blow and then killed with a second blow from the same weapon. She had been facing her attackers – but had been unable to prevent her murder.

Even in death, Alecta gave a clear description of her attackers – her body was found with enough time for one of the militia magicians to employ the Voice for the Dead. She described two individuals, a man and a woman. The man was of the merrow lineage. They were both dressed in dark colours, but she believed they were Urizeni like herself. Both were armed with swords. They asked her for directions to the Urizen encampment, but she was immediately suspicious. They gave no indication of their reasons for her murder but she heard the man say to the woman “mercy is weakness” just before she struck the second, killing blow.

A deeper investigation was attempted – but Alecta did not return through the Black Gate. Instead, the Varushkan ritualists called up a pale shade that spoke in riddles and believed itself to be a Kallavesi mystic named Anhuk of Marrowfold Hall. The ghost seemed to be unaware it was dead, and according to transcripts of the summoning it believed it was experiencing a vision quest inspired by a particular combination of herbs.

The magicians determined that in all likelihood this Anhuk was one of Alecta's past-lives, although this went little way toward explaining why it, rather than she, had appeared in response to the ritual. Alecta had experienced a past life vision in Autumn of the previous year, and there was a tenuous theory that this had influenced the result of the Black Gate.

The investigations continued, but petered out. The assailants were never identified – nobody attending the summit could remember seeing people matching their descriptions. There was little doubt that the murder was an assassination – there was no attempt to rob the body and the attack described by Alecta appeared too single-minded to be plausibly random.

The prevailing theories at the time all suggested that that Alecta was killed in retaliation for one of her investigations – either the associates of someone she had

brought to justice or someone she was involved in investigating at the time. Yet, as with all other avenues of investigation, these theories lead nowhere conclusive.

The legacy

Roget di Sarvos, Alecta's husband, campaigned after her death to have her recognised as an exemplar of wisdom but the Synod proved resistant at the time. There was little contest to the claim that she had demonstrated the Sign of Benevolence – her hard work bringing criminals to justice spoke for itself. Sadly, the Synod refused to acknowledge any other signs of the Exemplar – and Roget did his campaign few favours when he loudly denounced them as being influenced by “spiteful Highborn”

The campaign petered out completely after Roget's own untimely death in 311YE fighting a minor Grendel incursion in Spiral (one of several that marked the decades prior to the catastrophic events of 331YE). After his death the Pendulum was returned to Green Wisdom spire along with his body and personal effects, and is believed to have remained there since.

The Pendulum remains a fine tool for use in ritual divinations of the Day realm. However, any magical properties the talisman possessed have faded. As they are beyond the ability of Imperial artisans to replicate, and so cannot easily be restored. Indeed, it is likely that the only way to restore the potent magic of the Pendulum would be through the intervention of the Eternal who created it – Roshanwe – or potentially that of her Herald Caradaemon.

In the weeks after her death it is believed that the Eternal Roshanwe offered a boon to anyone who could uncover and reveal the Truth of what happened to Alecta. If the story of this boon is legitimate, it is certain it has not yet been called in.