



Elvan Races  
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When they first came into being, the first thing they perceived was the light of the new Stars. So it is that of all things, Elves love starlight best and worship Varda, whom they know as Elentári, Queen of the Stars, over all Valar.

And further, when the new light entered the eyes of the Elves in that awakening moment, it was held there, so that ever after it shone from those eyes.

Though far less beings in stature and might than the god-like Valar, Elves share the nature of those powers more than the Secondborn race of Men do.

It is said that Elves always walk in a light that is like the glow of the Moon, just below the rim of the Earth. Their hair is like spun gold or woven silver or polished jet, and starlight glimmers all about them, on their hair, eyes, silken clothes and jeweled hands.

There is always light on the Elven face, and the sound of their voices is various and beautiful and subtle as water. Of all their arts they excel best in speech, song and poetry.

Elves were the first of all people on Earth to speak with voices and no earthly creatures before them sang. And justly they call themselves the Quendi, the "speakers", for they taught the spoken arts to all races on Earth.

~Eldar(west-elves)or Calaquendi (light Elves)~

In the First Age of the Stars all Elves were named Eldar, by Oromë the Huntsman of the Valar, but later this name was taken only by those who undertook the Great Journey to the Undying lands in response to the summons of the Valar. Those who remained were named the Avari, the "unwilling".

~Avari(unwilling)or Moriquendi (Dark Elves)~

At the Tme of Awakening, all Elves lived in the East of Middle-earth on the shore of Helcar, the Inland Sea. But when the summons of the Valar came those Elves who chose eternal light and set out on the Great Journey were named the Eldar, while those who remained were called the Avari, the "unwilling".

Their land became barbarous with Dark Powers and evil races, and they dwindled and hid themselves. They lived always close to the wooded land, built no cities and had no kings.

In the High Elven tongue the Avari were named "Moriquendi", the Dark Elves.

The Eldar were divided into Three Kindred:  
the Vanyar, the Noldor, and the Telari.

~Vanyar (fair-elves)~

Of the Three Kindred of Elves who undertook the Great Journey, least is told in the histories that have come to Men of that Kindred which is counted First and whose king, Ingwë, is named High Lord over all Elven peoples.

This race is the Vanyar, who are also known as the Fair Elves. They seem golden, for their hair is blondest of all peoples. They are most in accord with the Valar and are much loved by them.

The Vanyar have had little to do with Men. Only once have they returned to Middle-earth and it was to fight against Morgoth the Enemy in the War of Wrath, which ended the First Age of the Sun.

Though they are the least numerous of the Three Kindred, the Vanyar are the most wise and valiant.

With the Noldor they built the city of Tirion on the green hills of Túna. The tallest of the towers of all the Elves was Mindon Eldalieva, the Tower of Ingwe. From this Tower shone a silver Lamp over the Shadowy Seas, but after a time the Vanyar came to love the Light of the Trees still more, for it inspired them to compose songs and poetry which are their chief loves.

Thus Ingwë led his people out of Tirion to the foot of Taniquetil, the Mountain of Manwë, the High Lord of the Valar.

Here under the Light of the Trees they pledged to stay, and there they have remained, though the Trees have faded long ago.

~Noldor (Deep-elves)~

Mightiest of the Elves of Middle-earth, for they wrought the Great Jewels called the Silmarils, as well as the Rings of Power.

Their name means "knowledge" and they helped build Tirion.

They were the first to bring forth the gems that lay in the mountain heart and the beaches and pools of Eldamar shone with the scattered light of the gems.

Finwë was thier King, their Queen, Miriel, and thier son was Feänor who wrought the Silmarils and the Palantír.

They came to Middle-earth and had many kindoms rise and fall including Gondolin and Nargothrond.

After the Great Battle and the War of Wrath, Gil-galad, son of Fingon, son of Fingolfin set up the last Noldor High kingdom in Mortal Lands, Lindon.

Gil-galad was slain by Sauron during The Last Alliance of Elves and Men and thereafter there was no High King of the Noldorin Elves in Middle-earth, yet kingdoms remained.

The last Noldor realms were Rivendell, ruled by Elrond and Lothlórien the most beautiful kingdom where the Noblest of the Noldor of Middle-earth resided, Galadriel.

When at the end of the Third Age the One Ring was unmade and Sauron was destroyed, Elrond was summoned out of Rivendell and Galadriel came out of Lothlórien, to the Grey Havens where Cirdan took the Last of the Nolder to the Undying Lands.

With the Queen gone Lothlórien faded, and the Noldorin kingdoms of Middle-earth dwindled and were lost.

~Telari(sea-elves)~

They were the largest in number of the Three Kindred. On their journey West, by the call of the Valar, they were encamped in a great forest beyond the River Gelion, when they lost their king, Elwë Singollo. Some would go no further without him.

The larger part of the Telari had taken his brother Olwë as king and had gone West again to the Great Sea.

Of all Elves they were the loveliest of singers and loved the Sea the most. By some they were called the Lindar "singers", and by others the Falmari, the Sea-Elves.

Hearing the Elven-songs, Ossë, the Maia of the waves came to them. They learned much from Ossë of the ways of the sea and their love for those turbulent shores of Middle-earth increased. Some would not continue West and were named the Falathrim, the Elves of the Falas.

Most of the Telari went West with Ulmo the Ocean Lord, to the Island in the Bay of Eldamar, Tol Eressëa, the "lonley isle". However, the Valar, wished to bring the Third Kindred to their realm, so at their bidding Ulmo sent Ossë to them.

Ossë taught them the art of building ships, and when the ships were built, Ulmo sent to them vast winged Swans, which drew the Telari finally to Eldamar.

There they built the city of Alqualondë, the "havens of the swans". War came to them twice and each time was unlooked for and unexpected.

The first time Feänor, lord of the Noldor, after being denied ships to go to

Middle-earth, slew many Telari and took their ships.

The second time was the War of Wrath, but even the Telari did not fight but only used their ships to carry the Vanyar and Noldor warriors from the Undying Lands to Middle-earth.

After the downfall of Númenor, the Spheres of mortal and immortal lands fell apart. Thereafter only the ships of the Telari could ever cross the gap between the Spheres.

~Nandor~

The first division of the Telari recorded during the Great Journey came when Lenwë, a lord of the Telari, led his people southwards down the Great River Anduin. They were named the Nandor, "those who turn back", and they had no equal in ways of woodlore.

For more than two Ages of Starlight the Nandor lived in harmony in the Vales of the Anduin. Some crossed over the White Mountains and came into Eriador. Many were slaughtered by steel-shod Orcs, Stone-trolls and ravening Wolves.

However Denethor, son of King Lenwë, gathered many of the Nandor to him and set off once again on the long-abandoned westward march. He sought one who had once been king of all the Telari, Elwë Singollo, now named Thingol. Denethor crossed the Blue Mountains and entered Beleriand.

~Laiquendi(green-elves)~

When Denethor and the rest of the Nandor he had gathered, entered Beleriand, they were welcomed by the Grey-elves and given protection and many gifts.

There they were granted Ossiriand, "land of the seven rivers", in the south and were renamed Laiquendi - "Green-elves" - because of their garments, and for their love and knowledge of all that grew. They were second only to the Shepherds of the Trees, the Ents, as protectors of the Olvar of the forest, and of the Kelvar as well.

The Laiquendi sang in the woodlands like the nightengales, and it was so beautiful and so constant that the Noldor, when they came to that land, renamed it Lindon, which in Quenya is "land of song"

During the First Battle of the Wars of Beleriand, Their Lord Denethor was slain. His people were full of sorrow and would take no new king. They swore that they would never come into open battle with the Enemy but would remain under cover of the forest, where they could ambush their foes with darts and arrows.

They kept this pledge and became a tribal people, and their enemies were harassed but could not defeat them, for they made no cities that the Enemy could find and destroy. They were as the wind in the trees, which sometimes can be heard but never seen.

~Gwaith-i-Mirdain(elven-smiths)~

In the beginning of the Second Age of the Sun, many Nandor left Lindon and went to Eriador. Their lord was Celebrimbor, the greatest Elven-smith in Mortal Lands; he was the grandson of Feanor, who made the Great Jewels,



the Silmarils. These people were named the Gwaith-i-Mirdain, the "people of the jewel-smiths".

Celebrimbor and his people were overcome by a desire to possess mithril, a magical metal discovered in the Misty Mountains, and so travelled to Eregion, which was named Hollin by Men, and lived at the foot of the Misty Mountains in the city of Ost-in-Edhil, near the west door of Khazad-dûm, the mightiest city of the Dwarves.

The Dwarves and Gwaith-i-Mirdain made a pact. Both races chose to put all past quarrels to rest, and in fact that peace was kept for a thousand years.

For many years the trade between Dwarves and Elves brought prosperity to both races.

However, one came among the Gwaith-i-Mirdain named Annatar. He earned their trust over time and so it was that the Rings of Power were made by the Gwaith-i-Mirdain. For a full century Celebrimbor and his people laboured on this great work.

However, Annatar was Sauron the Dark Lord disguised, and in that time, in secret, he made the One Ring, the Ruling Ring that would wield power over all others, and with which he had hoped to rule the World.

Yet once Sauron placed the Ring on his finger, the Elves knew him for the Dark Lord, and they removed their Rings and hid them from him.

The War of Sauron and the Elves followed; Eregion was destroyed and Celebrimbor was slain with the greater part of his people. In that year, Elrond Half-elven came out of Lindon with a guard of warriors and took the surviving Gwaith-i-Mirdain to a place of refuge named Imladris but which

Men called Rivendell.

Thereafter, this refuge of the Gwaith-i-Mirdain was the last Elf-kingdom between the Misty Mountains and the Blue Mountains.

~Silvan(wood-elves)~

Of the Nandor who settled on the Anduin River, some settled in Greenwood, and Lothlorien. These were named the Silvan Elves for most of them lived in forests.

In the years that followed the First Age of the Sun, the numbers and lands of the Noldorin and Sindarin Elves had dwindled and they took Silvan Elves as their subjects

The greatest power and beauty were to be found in the Silvan Elves whom Celeborn and Galadriel ruled in the Golden Wood of Lothlorien. Their power over the Golden Wood held evil at bay, and the Silvan Elves remained prosperous through the troubles of the Third Age though thrice attacked. These Elves were the Galadhrim, "tree-people".

Greenwood the Great (which later named Mirkwood) was ruled by the Sindar Lord Thranduil. The concealed city of the Silvan Elves of Thranduil was beautiful and magical, for it was the diminished image of the ancient Sindar realm of Menegroth.

In the Fourth Age of the Sun, the son of the king took part of the Silvan Elves of this realm to the woodlands of Ithilien in Gondor. This prince was named Legolas, one of the Fellowship of the Ring, and he became lord of the Elves in Ithilien.

~Eglath(the forsaken)~

When the Telari lost their king, Elwë Singollo, during the Great Journey, many would not leave Nan Elmoth and stayed for their love of him. These Elves were called the Eglath, the "forsaken" for they were divided from their kindred forever.

They searched for many years in the forest of Nan Elmoth and after their kindred departed West they waited many more.

In the end their faithfulness had it's reward, for their king did return. He was now called Elu Thingol or King Greymantle, and he was greatly changed. A great light shone about him, and with him he brought the source of his enchantment, his queen, Melian the Maia. The light of her face was brilliant and lovely, and the Eglath worshipped her and wept in joy at the return of their king.

~Sindar(grey-elves)~

After Thingol, king of the Eglath returned to his people, he no longer wished to go West but to stay in the Forest of Beleriand and draw about him his people and make a kingdom there. The light on the face of Melian was to him more fair than that of the Trees. So a new kingdom was made; it's people were called the Sindar, the "Grey-elves", and the Elves of the Twilight.

During the Ages of Stars the Sindar became the greatest of the Elvish people in Mortal Lands and all the Lands of Beleriand belonged to them. The Dwarves came out of the Blue Mountains in peace and traded with the Elves

of Beleriand. With the help of the Dwarves the greatest Elven city of Middle-earth was built, called Menegroth, the "thousand caves".

But the Ages of peace beneath the Stars drew to an end. So Melain cast a powerful spell and wove an enchantment in the Great Forest of Doriath around Menegroth, and the Sindarin realm became a hidden kingdom.

However when Thingol was murdered by a Dwarf workman, who desired the Silmaril, Melain veiled her power and, weeping, left Middle-earth for ever. In that moment the ring of enchantment fell from the Hidden Realm.

Now that the barrier no longer guarded it, the Dwarves of Belegost, and the Noldor sons of Feänor came to the citadel of Menegroth and laid it to waste.

Some of the Sindar Lords, with many of the Noldor, took ships to Tol Eressëa and built the city of Avallónë. Other Sindar Lords who remained in the remnant of Beleriand called Lindon. As the years passed some sons of the Sindar left Lindon for the lands beyond the Misty Mountains, where they made new kingdoms among the Silvan Elves. Some Sindar Lords settled in Rivendell with Elrond and in the Grey Havens with Cirdan the Shipwright.

The most famous Sindarin, in the War of the Ring was Legolas, son of Thranduil. Legolas was one of the nine heroes of the Fellowship of the Ring and after the War of the Ring he founded one last woodland Elf-colony in the fair forests of Ithilien in Gondor.

~Falathrim(elves of the Falas)~

At the time the Teleri were summoned by the Ocean Lord Ulmo, Cirdan and his people refused the final journey to the Undying Lands, even after the Change of the World, when Middle-earth and the Undying Lands were drawn

apart for ever.

For a time after the departure of the Telari, the Falathrim lived alone on the shores of Beleriand, and they built there two great havens named Eglarest and Brithombar.

Soon they discovered the Grey-elves of Doriath, just East of the Falas, and they became allies. In the years of strife that came with the Rising of the Sun, the Falathrim fought for them against Morgoth the Enemy, who arose in the North.

In the first Age of the Sun, the Falathrim were besieged by Orcs for a time, and later still their havens fell to Morgoth, but they took their ships and sailed to the Isle of Balar. There the Falathrim remained safe until the War of Wrath, when Beleriand itself was thrown down into the sea with the destruction of Angband. Again the ships of the Falathrim sailed and went south to the Gulf of Lune in the land of Lindon.

Here Cirdan built the last haven of the Elves on Middle-earth. This was called the Grey Havens and from this place the last Elven-ship sailed for ever from Mortal Lands

