

## The Story of Rac'Val Volron

Rac'Val Volron encountered the Wraith during the Last Shadow War (Last Great War), as a Ranger. In his training and studies through out the Minbari worlds, he found signs of ghosts and phantoms in Minbari mythology. Some evidence showed that these beings influenced powerful Minbari leaders. Other evidence indicated that spirits were attributed to the early deaths on certain colonies.

Volron found many among his kind had spoken to “spirits” through the years. He found several common threads in these spirits influence – a search for Ancient knowledge and help in fighting the Shadows. Political leaders, scholars and religious leaders were all influence in some subtle way by these spirits.

Volron also found legends of whole colonial towns disappearing. These legends attributed the disappearances to these spirits. Volron's notes claimed that “ ... the soul was slowly sucked out of a town gradually, causing mortality rates to sink over a couple of generations ... ”. Every other factor favored these colonies flourishing, but instead, the population slowly degraded down to an unsustainable level, unexplainably. No disease or biological explanation could be found.

Volron became obsessed with this mythology. Volron's studies lead him to start an off-shoot group of Rangers searching for signs of these Wraith - ***Rac'Kothi*** or as some called them the *Wraith Rangers*. He was vilified by many within the Rangers. They called him crazy and misguided. However, a few were convinced and joined him in his hunt. It started out as a simply investigation and grew to an obsessive hunt.

As time went on, Volron's inquires lead to resistance from the Ranger and Minbari command structure. He began to suspect that the Wraith was influencing some at higher levels. This only egged him on. Volron and his “disciples” dug deeper as the Shadow Wars waged. The Wraith presence seemed to intensify as the War waged. Volron learned the Wraith had incredible mental ability as well as stealth ability. He believed that the Wraith influenced people through the strong telepathic ability. In some cases, the evidence indicated that the

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Wraith were capable of a telepathic drain, slowly sucking people's life out of them. He also suspected that they were limited in number.

**First Wraith Encounter:** While his **Rac'Kothi** sought out the proof he needed to persuade Ranger command that the Wraith were real, Volron took a short retreat to focus on his own mental abilities, fledgling as they were, on his new found adversary. He felt there was a reason why he was drawn to hunt the Wraith down. He honed and focused his mental strength on all he knew of the Wraith, meditating in the secluded northern mountains on Minbar for months on end. His senses heightened and his telepathic abilities emerged. Volron searched for an answer.

Meanwhile, in his absence, some in his **Rac'Kothi** ranks began to question Volrons motives. The information they were finding showed the Shadows feared the Wraith and wanted everything Wraith related destroyed. This caused them to ask 'Why?' The only conclusion they could come up with was the Wraith were a threat to the Shadows, somehow. That could only mean that perhaps the Wraith were not as evil as Volron had been preaching and perhaps they need to be contacted on a friendly basis. Some secretly sought to find Wraith to contact them. This coupled with the fact that none of his group had seen a Wraith began to falter the loyalty of Volron's **Rac'Kothi**

Back at his mountain sanctuary on one cold snowy night after a long period of meditation and visions, Volron opened his eyes after a long period of fasting and meditating to find something watching over him. It stood there as if it assumed Volron could not see it, but he could. When the creature realized Volron could see it, it panicked and attacked. This was Volron's first Wraith kill. Some disciples saw the body and were convinced but before Volron could show anyone else, it mysteriously disappeared.

Since his first encounter with the Wraith, Volron was convinced they were a threat. He hunted more evidence down, through the years, despite beings stripped of his commission as a Ranger and being banished from Minbar capital city. He was considered a traitor at war time, dedicating his recourses and efforts to a fictional enemy. Some attempted to have him

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committed but he escaped to his mountain sanctuary. Many of his disciples remained loyal and helped investigate the Wraith. Those that did were drummed out of the Rangers as well.

Volron and his group encountered more signs of Wraith hidden among his people. Some of this evidence led to dead ends, furthering the ridicule and lack of respect they received from their Ranger peers. This only caused more division in the group and some began to leave the Volron and his cause.

Being the only Minbari that can see the hidden Wraith, progress in their hunts was slow. He tried to teach his others how the ability, with no results. Many doubted his ability to detect Wraith. Things were growing dim for the Wraith Rangers.

**Second and Third Wraith Encounter:** Those who doubted were quickly convinced otherwise when Volron killed his second and third Wraith.

Volron's second encounter was on a forgotten Minbari colony. Inside a monastery where many had said could be heard haunting voices, Volron and his team set up another hunt. Through investigation, Volron's Rangers were able to find that it was this monastery where several high ranking Minbari officials and war ministers like to secretly meet. Here they meditated and discussed the war, away from the bustle of Minbar. This information, not known ahead of time, made it all too clear that this could be a place where Wraith activity occurred.

Volron's instincts were right and this led to a very violent fight where two of the **Rac'Kothi** fell before the Wraith was killed. Galvanized by this encounter, evidence found at the monastery led to another Wraith on another world, "watching" over one of the more higher ranking military leaders that met at the monastery. This too cost the **Rac'Kothi** a few in their ranks.

But a division within the **Rac'Kothi** remained. Many still believed that the Wraith could be a good ally. Those that believed this were led by Volron's second in command (and cousin), someone he thought was his closest ally – **Val Dra'enn**. His sub-group of **Rac'Kothi** – called the **Rac'Kothi Val** – sought to secretly undermine the hunts and perhaps capture a Wraith to make contact.

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Volron, through his loyal friend **Val'Hon Sor**, found out about this sub-group and sought to eradicate it as a threat. He was convinced that the Wraith had infiltrated and influenced his ranks. The infighting that followed led to the collapse of the **Rac'Kothi** and the assassination of **Rac'Val Volron**. No one knows who actually assassinated him.