

GONE DRAGON JOURNALS

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IT'S A KIND OF MAGIC

Understanding magic and its place in Allumbreve.

“It’s a kind of magic!”

Eamon says this to Magnus after he passes through a tree thanks to the magical powers of a Juniper stone. In truth, I took this line from a favourite movie of mine. Do you think you know what it is? There’s a lot of *magic* in the land of Allumbreve - that’s for sure. But it’s not accessible to all people and comes in all shapes and sizes.



So what kinds of magic are permeating through the forests, mountains, rivers, plains and dark depths of Allumbreve?

Gone Dragon – Book I touches on magic from the very first scene when Magnus whispers, “*Fara gin parshin-ar*” making a shaft of flame dance up the blade of his sword. It’s a simple spell, but it sets the scene for a lot of what’s to come.

Different magic for different Realms... and then some!

To start with, there are the *four* distinctly different types of magic deriving from the four realms of Allumbreve. Each draws on the dominant element of that realm.

Understanding the realms.

Readers will have learned that the four realms took their names from the four constellations of stars that fill the night sky over Allumbreve. These are Ertwe, Jaat, Spindlefax and Couldradt meaning Ice, Air, Earth and Fire, respectively. Within each realm, a unique dialect is spoken. It is these dialects that conjure magic.

SIDE NOTE: I have written Gone Dragon such that there is a common language spoken among all the people of Allumbreve. Thankfully, with the help of quite a few charms and spells and a lot of blood, sweat and tears I was able to translate this common tongue to English!

And so, each realm’s dialect conjures its own brand of magic, drawing on the dominant element of that realm. In Book I, we learn the basics of realm magic within the Fire Realm with only a few spells wielded from other realms (do you remember these?). In subsequent books, we shall learn a LOT more about what the other realms bring to the world of magic.

Magic of the Fire Realm – the ‘Fireisgh’ dialect.

Within the Fire Realm, magic is conjured using the *Fireisgh* dialect. Fire is the dominant element in this realm. It shapes how the people of the Fire Realm live and the wisdoms they have received living among the dragons who call this realm their home. Magic using a Fireisgh tongue is often about playing with fire! From a young age (seven, to be precise) Magnus began to bend fire to his will. But he was not as young as some. It is Catanya’s younger sister - Hannah - who shows him up with her fire-baiting spell that angered the flames in a fireplace – and all at the age of six!

What is a lot more complicated is the ability to produce fire. Few are able to do this, but once the power of producing fire can be wielded, one is certainly ready to keep the company of fire dragons. The dragon priests known as the Irucontî most certainly do.

To make things more complicated, within the Fireisgh dialect there are sub dialects. Such variations in dialect create spells that are unique and can therefore have the side effect of leaving a trail as to whom the spell caster was. This is something that comes back to haunt Catanya in Book I...

Other forms of Magic.

Realms magic is far from the only form of magic in the lands of Allumbreve. Some forms are much, much older than the realm divisions themselves, such as *gypsy* magic. The gypsies claim their magic to be of *Paragon* descent - from the first age of Allumbreve. In Book I, Sarah uses her extensive skill set as a gypsy to get herself and her companions out of various sticky situations. Other forms of magic are more malevolent in both their means and effects. Within Allumbreve, there is a dark form of magic underpinning the growing ambitions of a bitter and vengeful Quagman named *Delvion*. Such dark magic rears its ugly head in several forms in Book I and this is the scary part about this form of magic – it seems to come from the most unlikely of sources. It is a magic that gives enemies strength and turns friends into foes.

In Book II of the Gone Dragon series, you can look forward to seeing how Magnus comes to terms with magic that he is learning to wield and furthermore, how he deals with others who are learning to exploit magic for their own ambitions!

Happy reading!

T.P. Sheehan

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