

Freris Farisdottir's Family History

Fili & Kili Farisson: identical twins, Freris' older brothers. Both died when the Big Bad took over the Mine of Malorod.

Fari Dorisson: Freris' father. He was a miner, and inherited the Mine of Malorod ("Mountain of Gold") from his father.

Dori: Fari's father. He was a miner, and obtained the title to the Mine of Malorod from the local (non-Dwarf) lord in 1490.

Froris Floisdottir: Freris' mother. She was a weaponsmith, and made the waraxe Kirthol ("Helmsplitter") that Freris carries.

Floi Frarsson: Froris' father. He was a talented and versatile smith, and made the necklace Glamir ("Gleaming Jewel") for an Elf lord named Hurin Lorindol in 1260, when he was at the height of his powers [just before old age]. He married very late, and Froris was born when he was 255 years old [just after venerable].

Frar Lonisdottir: Floi's mother. She was a talented warrior, who killed the Orc chieftain Ugluk at the battle of Lugburz in 1080, when she was at the height of her prowess [just before middle age]. It was generally agreed by all that this feat of arms was of sufficient worth to fulfil the vengeance of Loni for the death of Nali.

Loni Nalisson: Frar's father. He was a warrior, and the only son of Nali. Loni struggled throughout his life to perform a feat of arms that would avenge the death of his father, and died early, worn out by this burden. Loni bequeathed his vengeance to his children.

Nali Narsson: Loni's father. He was a warrior, and died on the Ridge of Imloth at the great battle against the Orcs at Nanduhirion in 985. Although the Dwarves defeated the Orcs in the battle of Nanduhirion, it was the main body of the army in the Valley of Imloth who won the battle, and not the right flank on the Ridge who "retired in disarray" from the field. As Nali had no wounds to the front of his body, it was clear that his death would require of his kin a greater act of vengeance against the Orcs than was usual.

Nar Nainsdottir: Nali's mother. Nar was a talented and versatile smith, and made the adamantine full plate Mermeglin ("Dark Iron Glean") for her mother, Queen Nain of Meregroth, in 850, when she was at the height of her powers [middle age].

Queen Nain of Meregroth ("The Thousand Caves"): Nar's mother. Meregroth is a distant Dwarf kingdom.

Queen Dain Nainsdottir of Meregroth: Nar's oldest sister. The line of kings and queens of Meregroth runs through Dain, to the present day. This makes Freris a seventh cousin of the current king of Meregroth.

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Notes

1. Dwarves usually trace their lineage through their more distinguished parent. Freris has taken her father's name (because he owned a mine, and was thus more distinguished than her mother), but traces her lineage through her mother's line (which leads back to a queen seven generations earlier, and is much more distinguished than her father's family of labourers who owned a mine for only two generations and less than 100 years).
2. Dwarf names end in vowels for men and consonants for women, and use Icelandic patronymics ("-sson" and "-sdottir"). I've lifted every Dwarf name in Freris' family tree from Tolkien for that "authentic" feel and sound.
3. Nali's shame has been fully expurged by the actions of his granddaughter, Frar Lonisdottir. As a result, there's no social stigma or negative social consequences associated with his lack of courage: it wouldn't (as an extreme example) make her unfit to be queen of Meregroth, if somehow every other relative with a better claim died. However, her unfulfilled oath to avenge her family's deaths might be held against her in such a circumstance. While they didn't die a coward's death, their deaths haven't been avenged: that makes her social situation ambiguous, because she could in the end fail to fulfil her oath. Failing to keep an oath isn't as bad as actively (deliberately or accidentally) breaking an oath, but it's still a social faux pas among the Dwarves.
4. Dwarves prize three qualities above all else, and in no particular order: honour, courage and wealth (from an outsider's perspective, pride, foolishness, and greed). Freris' relative poverty places her low in the Dwarven pecking order. Even though she owns the family iron mine, it isn't being worked by anyone. By analogy, she's the equivalent of a country orphan who inherits the family farm when her parents die, has to leave school to eke out a living on the land, and winds up leaving most of it fallow while she grows subsistence crops near the family home. I expect she's had some tentative expressions of interest in the past from suitors looking to better themselves by marrying money, but has scared them off by being an Intense Vengeance-Seeking Crazy Woman.

Dwarven Sayings and War Cries

"Baruk Khazad!" = "Axes of the Dwarves!"

"Khazad aimenu!" = "The Dwarves are upon you!"

"You need gold to make gold."

"Gold and jewels are the toys of the Dwarves. Iron is our servant. We have no master."

Finally, a quote from Tolkien (*Silmarillion* p.327): "The Dwarves indeed proved tough and hard to tame; they ill endure the domination of others, and the thoughts of their hearts are hard to fathom, nor can they be turned to shadows. They used their rings only for the getting of wealth; but wrath and an overmastering greed of gold were kindled in their hearts, of which evil enough after came."

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