

BLOOD ON THE ICE

People of the North

By Ood Bnar



The settlement of Selainis Crystalis is one of the older sites on the planet. It is located within a modest mountain range, containing Selain mountain, on the northernmost continent of Selen. Originally the cavernous range held a vast wealth of crystal formations. The ancient Selenians mined out most of these however for use in their religious and cultural practices. Records indicate that originally, the miners lived in small settlements outside of the mountain. However, the climate did not support this type of habitation and after a few disastrous winter seasons, the Selenians decided to centralize the mining population in one central place, this to more easily and cheaply supply them with food and materials and prevent or better deal with future cases of famine and pestilence. A second decision was taken to move the settlement into the already exhausted upper segments of the largest crystal mine. And so Selainis Crystalis, Selen's rock hewn township was born.

These days, the people persist on a mixture of fishing, growing fungi in the deeper caverns, trade with other Selenian settlements, offerings & tribute (see religious importance of Selainis Crystalis later in the document) and hydroponic farming. The settlement is relatively large due to its cultural and religious importance to the Selenian people.

While the town is aware of Clan Arcona's rule over the system, and the Clan is aware of the existence and cultural importance of Selainis Crystalis, both leave each other alone. The Shadow Lords are careful not to be seen to interfere with the religious heart of the Selenian

culture to avoid all out war and the town is aware of the power of the Clan and hesitant to antagonise the offworlders.

1. GEOGRAPHY

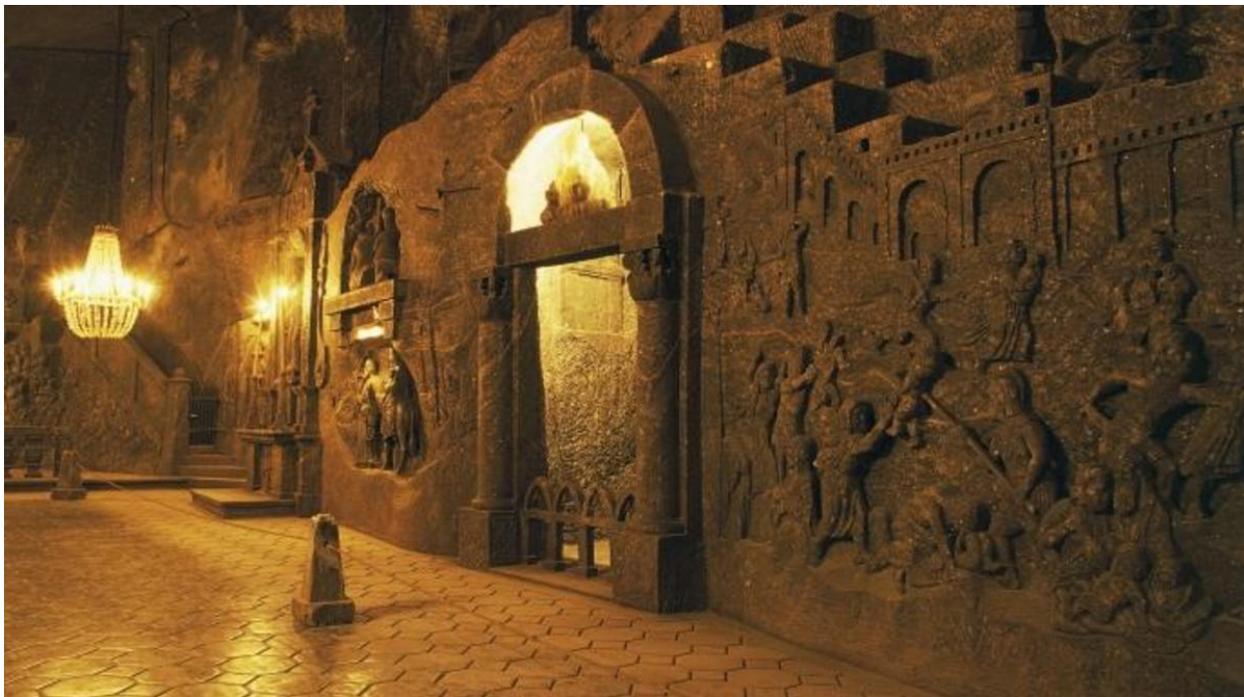
1.1 EXTERIOR

On the outside, the area consists of a mountain range near a jagged coastline, dotted with fjords. The largest mountain in the range has one hangar cut into it. The entire area is covered in a freezing mist or fog that can kill the unprepared fast.



1.2 INTERIOR

In the course of mining the mountains, several underground springs were found and redirected to open up other areas for mining. As a result the underground complex has large submerged areas consisting of deep shafts, miles of tunnels and large caverns.



Additionally, several indications were found to indicate the mountain range was not the result of tectonic shift but rather ancient volcanic activity. To ensure no future eruptions occur, the Selenians have managed to purchase the technology required to keep the mountain inactive from offworlders. Several holes and shafts are utilized to let this hot air escape the mountain. A consequence of this implementation is a dense fog surrounding the mountains and coast as the hot air reacts to the polar climate. This is also the main reason why there is nearly no wildlife in the area as the fog soaks anything outside, before it then freezes rapidly. A visiting scientific

expedition tested the lethality of the area by releasing 3 tame tauntauns. The beasts lasted for 3 hours before succumbing to the environment.

2. POPULATION

Selainis Crystalis has few offworlders living within its cavernous complex. The town is permanently home to 35.194 Selenians but is known to house up to 500.000 Selenians during the pilgrimage season. The vast majority of the permanent population (75%) works in food production. There is also a large religious segment present (5%) (mostly monks, scholars, acolytes, priests and so on). The rest of the population is divided into



the service industry (medical, emergency services, etc) (5%), The hospitality industry (hotels, restaurants, clubs, bars, etc) (10%), and the staff required to monitor the energy generators, geothermal output, hangar functions, waste disposal, and so on (5%).

3. ECONOMY

Selainis Crystalis provides for itself by way of agriculture. There is no real industry beyond a few craftspeople providing basic items.

3.1 AGRICULTURE

3.1.1 FISHING

It is too dangerous to try to fish in the ocean, due to the icy mist extending several miles out from the shore. As a result of this, the locals have converted several of the submerged mining shafts into shallow lakes. These lakes serve as fish farms and provide the settlement with a steady, renewable source of proteins.

3.1.2 FARMING

Due to the warmth and abundance of water, the residents quickly moved into hydroponic farming. Large warehouse-like structures were excavated and filled with shelves of hydroponic bays. While in the past, due to energy concerns, the majority of food grown consisted of plants that grow in darkness, nowadays, the more efficient system which harvests energy from the



geothermal activity in the lower areas of the old mine provide ample power for the growing of other plants as well.

3.1.3 TRADITIONAL FARMING

In some of the deeper areas of the complex, the Selenians still grow fungi. This was the original method the miners used to supplement the food which was brought in by ship (before the tapping of the geothermals created the lethal fog).

3.2 TOURISM

Selainis Crystalis is one of the major religious sites for the Selenians. As such, it has infrastructure to support pilgrimages and tourists. Several hostels, hotels and such are present in the settlement.



4. CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 CRYSTALIS

The crystals found in this area were of high importance for the old religious beliefs of the Selenians and their place of origin is tied into the stories of their Old Gods. Supposedly, every altar to the Old Gods contains at least a sliver of crystal from Selainis. The higher quality of crystal was used to make statues, altars and such while the lower quality crystals as well as the refuse (chips produced while carving the statues and altars) were turned into amulets and good luck charms to be sold or handed out among the believers.

4.2 SELAIN MOUNTAIN

Legends indicate the mountain was once home to the god Tiexsema. As such, the settlement is seen as a holy site.

IMAGE SOURCES

- Exterior:
<https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/b/picturesque-nordic-fjord-landschap-met-mist-cloud-nevelwolken-die-heuvels-bedekken-197701294.jpg>
- Interior I:
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- Interior II:
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