

# THE ANCIENTS OF KALED

- From the Secret Files of Mycroft Holmes

© Alex Bagosy

*"They (the Ancients) were the last of their kind, the only antediluvian sentients besides humanity itself to escape the great Cataclysm, partly through their own devices and perhaps, partly owing to some benevolence on the part of the Universe. Even so, there were painfully few. Throughout our long friendship, Sek and I have discovered only a handful of his kinsmen, held in a sort of scientifically induced hibernation that defies belief by slowing the aging process and keeping them alive. Most of them are far too fragile to resuscitate at the present time; those that we have generally fail to survive more than a few hours, for they are a dying race, unaccustomed to this new earth, and unable to adapt as well as Sek, a species long overdue for extinction. And yet, in their final testimonies they speak of such wonders! Share such knowledge! It is from the seeds planted by this dying race that we may find our own salvation and to avoid the fate that has befallen so many civilizations before our own."*

- Professor David Von Rumprecht-O'Slattery, speaking in New York, 1889.

FEW threats that face the Empire, or indeed the whole of Western Civilization today, are as terrifying as the Ancients of Kaled. Mad, genocidal, without any moral compass with which to guide themselves, they make their nefarious plots and gradually work to overthrow the great works of humanity with a cold and calculating approach that makes the most insidious criminals of this world seem positively pedestrian by comparison. More frightening still, the very fact of their existence and the reality thereof must be carefully shielded from the common citizen. Indeed, the common Englishman on the street believes that the Ancients of Kaled are largely extinct and that the only fully ambulatory member of their species, a Scientist of incredible antiquity called "Sek" is merely the long-time advisor and friend of the man who discovered him, Sir David Alexander Von Rumprecht-O'Slattery. To expose him to the truth would be to expose him to a crawling terror that his mind, already saturated with the horrors that have been awoken by the new scientific age, still reeling from

the effects of the recent Martian Invasion, would likely be unable to endure.

Recently, we have been contacted by another being, an individual who seems to be wholly human and yet... something else entirely. This being claims to be an "Ancient enemy of the Kaled" though he knows them under a different name. He has offered to assist where he can. I shall reserve my judgement until I learn more of him. I am not sure what a mere physician can tell us that we do not already know.

*"I AM the God King of Skaro. The Emperor of Kaled and a thousand, thousand, thousand cities besides. To look upon me is to look upon the face of our civilization. Look upon my works and weep, primate."*

- The Golden Emperor to Professor James Moriarty, 1890

In his Archaeological Survey of the Empire of Skaro, Professor Sir David Alexander Von Rumprecht-O'Slattery tells us that the whole of the Empire were ruled by powerful "God-Kings" from the ancient city of Kaled.

Powerful, wise, and intelligent beyond human reckoning, even they could not escape the Great Cataclysm that saw the end of Skaro and the Empires of the Antediluvian Age.

While Sir David has not yet located Kaled, City of the God-Kings (and we are most thankful for that), it is believed that, incredibly, he may actually have stumbled upon one of their last rulers, deep within a hibernation vault. Initially, we dismissed these claims, made by none other than the "Napoleon of Crime," as little more than part of a grand scheme designed to throw us off the scent of the true evil in the world. But the Consulting Detective has convinced us otherwise. Why would Moriarty lie about such a thing when, indeed, he has everything to gain from such a revelation? We are less concerned about his own activities, and he is free to continue his efforts to manipulate the Great Powers into a cataclysmic war in which there can be

no victor. How sad for him that his arrogance blinds him to a terrible truth. For, if he has his wish, then the Kaled will become ever more powerful. And to the Kaled, Moriarty, brilliant as he is, is but a speck on the map of reality, easily wiped out, too corrupted by human avarice to be of any use in the new order that will emerge.

We know little of the being that Moriarty describes as "The Golden Emperor," except that he seems to be the highest ranking and most intelligent of all the Ancients. Even Sir David, it is said, treads lightly in his wake, for to anger him is to anger a living God, and to become his enemy is to become the instrument of one's own destruction. And so, for the moment, Sir David serves the Emperor, ever watchful, ever waiting...

*"...Automata? A farce, a bauble dangled in the face of an over-imaginative public. No, these are sentient organics, a species far superior to our own in intellect and comprehension. Though few in number, their power grows. With my aid, they will soon overshadow every nation - from your pitiful pocket to that accursed Satan whose sun is long overdue for setting. No, my dear sir - they are no mere automatons. They make a mockery of your devices, and call into question the last vestiges of humanity to which you and your Master so desperately cling."*

- D.A.V.R.O.S. to a Latverian Agent, 1890.

Professor Sir David Alexander Von Rumprecht-O'Slattery was a brilliant young man of noble birth, a polymath born in Meath, ca. 1830, who had already written a number of brilliant scientific papers by the time he had barely entered his teens. At the age of eighteen, he was set to become the youngest man ever admitted to a senior position at the Royal Academy of Sciences and was already half finished with his studies at Oxford when he made the same mistake that has hampered many an idealistic young nobleman by

falling in love with a commoner, Ms. Molly Malone, a native of Dublin.

Sadly for Sir David, the young lady was deeply involved in troubles that were brewing in Ireland at the time.

When the uprising of 1848 shook the Empire, young Molly was arrested and imprisoned for sedition. Sir David attempted to use his influence to affect the release of Miss Malone, but it was only through a last minute intercession by his parents that the young woman was spared execution and scheduled for deportation; the price for Sir David was that he would cease all relations with her forthwith or lose his inheritance. Rather than see the love of his life killed, the noble young scientist made the proper decision to cut off his relationship with Molly.

Within days, sadly, she was dead of the fever, a mortality that Sir David blamed ever after on the cruel conditions of her imprisonment.

For a brief period of time, young Sir David continued his studies without any sign of undue stress or unhappiness.

But in 1851, with the sudden death of his parents, his interests suddenly shifted from Engineering and the Biological Sciences to the study of Languages and the newly developing science of Archaeology. After securing a Professorship and an appointment to the Royal College of India at New Delhi, Sir David arrived to begin what would become his life's obsession - the location of an ancient city referred to in mystical texts as "Kaled: The City of the God Kings." Sir David was so obsessed with his search for Kaled that the outbreak of the Indian Mutiny and the loss of an arm, the use of his legs, and partial blindness as a result of Sepoy terror bombing did little more than temporarily halt his work whilst he developed his "Mark 1 Transportation Device," the famous "steam chair" for which he has since become world renowned, a device that allowed him to continue his work unabated despite his injuries. Sir David disappeared in 1870 while leading an expedition in the Soudan. Here he was believed to have been taken and murdered by hostile natives until his sudden and shocking re-appearance in Alexandria near the conclusion of the Anglo-Egyptian War in 1883. He

claimed that he had made an amazing discovery and that it was only the outbreak of the Egyptian war that had delayed his return to the civilized world. But Sir David

Alexander Von Rumprecht-O'Slattery was not alone. Instead, he was accompanied by a strange new companion, "An Ancient of Kaled," he said, whom he had discovered in the ruins of an outpost somehow affiliated with the ancient Empire of Skaro. Skaro, Sir David claimed, was a great Antediluvian Empire that had ruled over much of the ancient world and Kaled, the shining "City of the God-Kings" was its capital. His companion, whom he referred to as "Sek," had been hidden away in a sort of hibernation, deep beneath the ruins, awakened only by an earthquake. While he had not yet discovered Kaled, to his sadness, he brought back with him a number of amazing discoveries that have since had a profound effect upon the scientific infrastructure of the British Empire.

Sek himself proved to be the main attraction throughout the world and the strange "Ancient of Kaled" toured with Sir David for several years, protected from the environment of the much changed earth by the construction of a device partly based upon the technology of Skaro and partly upon Sir David's own scientific advancements, the so-called "Mark II Transportation Device."

Now, much older and, it is widely believed, wiser for his many miseries, Sir David has retired to his family estate on Malta, though he still holds his seat in the House of Lords and has helped to author a number of important pieces of legislation. He serves as Professor Emeritus, the Oxford Institute at Malta, and continues his research with the help of his long-time friend and companion, Sek. Sir David is often at work in the field, throughout the Old World and the new, searching for more evidence in his obsessive search for the City of the God Kings.

Secretly, Sir David has a much more sinister agenda, one which could shake not only London, but the entire civilized world, to its very core...

Sir David's Mark 1 Transportation Device (Steam Actuated Electric) is painted in a conservative Black, with

Silver Trim. He has equipped the device with an extremely powerful pair of steam claws, ostensibly used in his excavations and laboratory work, but more than capable of rending a man or beast in twain.



*"Emotion is... illogical. To say that I am condescending is to...call upon a useless verbiage meant to explain the actions of an inferior race. My purpose is not...to insult you. My purpose is to...see to your swift extermination."*

- Supreme of Skaro to the Consulting Detective in The Case of the Giant Sumatran Rat

At least one "Supreme of Skaro" has been identified working with D.A.V.R.O.S.; others may also exist, but no more than one has been identified at any time. The nature of the relationship of the "Supreme(s)" with Sir David is something of a mystery, even to his most dedicated enemies. Some surmise that the Supremes are, in fact, subalterns to the Professor, whilst others believe that, instead, the Supremes are actually manipulating the Professor for their own purposes.

A Supreme of Skaro is easily identified in the field by wont of the bright red carapace and hammered gold trim of its Mark 3 Electro Galvanic Transportation Device. The Mark 3 seems to be constructed of a strange alloy, tentatively identified as analogous to SRCP, which provides the Supreme with exceptional protection equal at least to that enjoyed by D.A.V.R.O.S. himself. In the field, the Supremes are believed to take senior command position with forces of the Ancients, displaying an unusual independence of thought and action for members of the species, an independence shared only by Sek (and perhaps the Golden Emperor), with a sophisticated mind more than capable of matching wits and tactics with some of the best officers, gentlemen, and adventurers in the civilized world.

Sir Alan Quartermain was the first individual to propose that more than one Supreme of Skaro exists, and claims to have "killed" at least one such creature. The Consulting Detective, the

Good Doctor, and Professor Tesla encountered an identically described being during The Case of the Giant Sumatran Rat, and while they did not kill the being, both agreed that the creature could indeed be slain, based upon injuries inflicted by Tesla's finest marksmen.



*"That is a...lovely dress, Mina. Would you...care for some tea... before we... Begin?"*

- Sek, to Mina Harker, 1891.

Sek is the only fully ambulatory Ancient of Kaled widely known to exist outside of the innermost circles of Scientific Elite and Intelligence Services. Those few who know of other members of his species have thus far been persuaded to keep the information to themselves for the betterment of mankind, or have been convinced by Sir David that what they have witnessed are automatons, rather than living creatures in their own mobile transportation devices.

Those who have experienced Sek and his other kin would likely describe him as very different from the standard "Ancient of Kaled." He speaks in reasonably measured, even pleasant tones, speaks a variety of languages, and seems to enjoy tea. In addition, during his whirlwind world tour with the Professor, Sek discussed a number of topics with the audiences that flocked to see him, and was even described as "displaying restrained, but unmistakable signs of human-like emotion."

Sek is the most brilliant of the remaining Kaled Scientists, and the most fiercely dedicated to the return of his race and the re-establishment of their ancient, glorious Empire. Nevertheless, he has learned to think very much like the humans with whom he has frequently interacted, and has secretly come to believe that the next best step in the evolution of his people would be to blend the best of the emotional and physical traits of humanity with the best assets of Kaled mental acuity. He travels the world in his "Mark 2 Electro-Galvanic Transportation Device," painted in dark grey, with polished black trim.

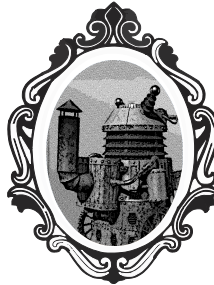
Sek also carries a precious piece of Kaled with him at all

times, a power generator that is capable of producing more energy in a single week than the City of London might produce in an entire year.



*"Exterminate!"*

- Ancient of Kaled (Attributed)



The standard "Drone," so called because many who have encountered it believe that all such creatures are mere automatons, is in fact the lowest caste of beings yet identified among the Ancients of Kaled. Typically clad in Mark 2 Electro-Galvanic Transport Devices in brown with bronze trim, the Drones are certainly capable of thought and action that would indicate more than a basic machine like intelligence. They are, however, compulsively obsessed with following the orders of their superiors, rarely shy in the face of danger, and are singularly driven with a fanatical death wish to exterminate or be exterminated. Most speak in a staccato, electronically filtered voice.

A letter from the mercurial ruler of Latveria to the League of Insidious Gentlemen was intercepted by the Consulting Detective and the Good Doctor and published in the journals of British Intelligence. The letter details the examination of one such creature incapacitated when crossing into Latveria. The creature was "small and greenish, with tentacular appendages" and had no capability to communicate in any recognisable language when briefly revived outside its Transportation Device. The Device itself was "equipped with a long range Death Ray" but was "not as well protected" as other "high ranking representatives of Skaro."

Sir Allen Quartermain claims that the best means of dealing with such creatures, invariably hostile and obsessed with the destruction of anyone and anything in their path is to

"target the primary ocular receptacle on the little buggers." This is advice that has been quietly distributed to various allies of British Intelligence on a need to know basis.



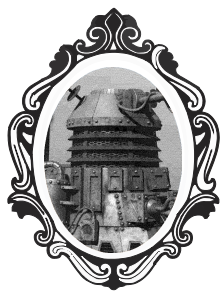
*"Exterminatus is the only approach for dealing with inferior beings such as yourself."*

- Heavy Weapons Kaled to the Ruler of Latveria, shortly before the death of the former.

Very rarely encountered in the field, the so-called "Heavy Weapons" Ancient seems to be a relatively recent development, perhaps inspired with the help of Sir David. While the Ancients would likely prefer to use more advanced weaponry than ordinary human machine guns, their continued search for relics of the Empire of Skaro seems to indicate that they are still attempting to recreate the lost technology of their civilisation. The machine gun seems to fill a need for ranged, rapid fire support, at the expense of the extreme killing power provided by the Flame Projectors commonly found with other examples of the species.



Pluck   FV   SV   Spd   Armour   Cost   Talents   Basic Equipment



The Golden Emperor

3	1	2	2	12	65	Impervious, Inspirational Leadership +2	SRCP Carapace, Flame Projector, Manipulator Arm
---	---	---	---	----	----	---	---



Professor Sir David  
Alexander Von  
Rumprecht-O'Slattery

3	2	0	1	12	62	Engineer, Erudite Wit Leadership +2	SRCP Carapace, Steam Claws, Steam Dynamo
---	---	---	---	----	----	--	---

Supreme of Skaro

3	1	2	2	12	57	Leadership +1, Terrifying	SRCP Carapace, Manipulator Arm, Flame Projector
---	---	---	---	----	----	------------------------------	---

Sek, Ancient Scientist  
of Kaled

5	0	1	2	11	48	Intuitive	Hardened Steel Carapace, Electro-Static Burst Generator, Manipulator Arm, Flame Projector
---	---	---	---	----	----	-----------	---

Kaled Warrior  
"Drone"

4	2	2	2	11	40	Fanatic	Hardened Steel Carapace, Flame Projector, Manipulator Arm
---	---	---	---	----	----	---------	--

Heavy Weapons  
Kaled

4	2	2	2	11	40	Fanatic	Hardened Steel Carapace, Machine Gun, Manipulator Arm
---	---	---	---	----	----	---------	---

### Kaled Weapons

Flame Projector

<u>Range</u>	<u>Modifiers</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Cost</u>
9"	+2 SV -1Pluck	Treat as Flamethrower	11

Manipulator Arm

<u>Range</u>	<u>Modifiers</u>	<u>Cost</u>
0"	+1 FV -1Pluck	3

### Special Rules

The Ancients of Kaled may select two models with the Leadership Ability, in the manner of most normal forces. However, the Ancients may never combine both the Emperor and Sir David. It's either the Emperor and a Supreme, Sir David and a Supreme, but no other option! You can use them in the same Campaign, even the same series of adventures, but under normal circumstances, they should never take the field together.

