

# Welcome to the Arena of the Ancients. You Decide!: The Top 4

Magicthegathering.com Staff

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

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Welcome to the Arena of the Ancients!

Before we get to the Top 4, let's see how we got here.

In the Top 8, we had 7 different expansions represented (*Stronghold*, *Betrayers of Kamigawa*, *Guildpact*, *Onslaught*, *Legions*, *Invasion*, and *Prophecy*) and a total of nine creature types (Sliver, Rat Ninja, Dragon Wizard, Gorgon, Angel, Minion, and Spellshaper). In the Top 4, that shook down to a Rat Ninja from *Betrayers of Kamigawa*, a Gorgon from *Onslaught*, an Angel from *Legions*, and an Angel from *Invasion*.

## Akroma, Angel of Wrath

The Hammerheim first seed strolled straight to the Top 8, taking out Hazezon Tamar; Kokusho, the Evening Star; and the overachievingTahngarth, Talruum Hero on her way to face second-seeded Phage the Untouchable in a highly anticipated match. Phage had arrived at the party fresh from defeating Isamaru, Hound of Konda; the Ghost Council of Orzhova; and Meloku the Clouded Mirror. Phage's tune-up fights (a dog, a bunch of ghostly bureaucrats, and a foggy mirror) failed to provide enough training, and Akroma won, showing that after all is said and done, an "Angel" is more powerful than a "Minion".



## Akroma, Angel of Wrath

Set: *Legions* (2002)

Casting Cost: 5WWW

Power/Toughness: 6/6

Creature Type: Angel

Flavor Text: "No rest. No mercy. No matter what."

Plane: Dominaria

Background: Created from the arm of the mage Ixidor and made in the image of his fallen beloved, Akroma's primary task was to eradicate Phage. She was the general of the Southern Order, the mighty army that routed the forces of Krosa and Cabal, and her Vengeance is well known, as is her Blessing.

### **Ink-Eyes, Servant of Oni**

Top Seed Sliver Queen's run to the Top 4 ran into a roadblock in the form of a Rat Ninja. Ink-Eyes had faced a murderer's row of superpowerful opponents: Memnarch; Arcanis the Omnipotent(he's *omnipotent!*); and Circu, Dimir Lobotomist before defeating the mighty five-colored Queen. The Queen had soundly defeated play-in game winner Vhati il-Dal; Silvos, Rogue Elemental; and Rorix Bladewing.



### **Ink-Eyes, Servant of Oni**

Set: *Betrayers of Kamigawa* (2005)

Casting Cost: 4BB

Power/Toughness: 5/4

Creature Type: Rat Ninja

Plane: Kamigawa

Background: After being cast out by the Okiba, Ink-Eyes was found by the ogre Muzan, who treated her like a slave. Eventually, Ink-Eyes cut down her master to curry favor with the oni Kuro.

Oh, and she's been [a wallpaper](#).

### **Visara the Dreadful**

The last remaining Pit Fighter in the competition started off by beating Johan and Kodama of the North Tree before taking it up a notch and slaying two dragons back-to-back. First Yosei, the Morning Star went down, and then Niv-Mizzet, the Firemind's run ended in the Top 8. Niv-Mizzet had beaten Kataki, War's Wage; Mirri, Cat Warrior; and Kiki-Jiki, Mirror Breaker, facing an unprecedented number of Ks and Rs in his opponent's names.



### **Visara the Dreadful**

Set: *Onslaught* (2002)

Casting Cost: 3BBB

Power/Toughness: 5/5

Creature Type: Gorgon

Flavor Text: *"My eyes are my strongest feature."*

Plane: Dominaria

Background: After Chainer destroyed the Cabal's original base of operations (in *Torment*), they moved to their southern city of Aphetto, constructing a Grand Coliseum to hold bigger and better pit fights than ever before. They needed more spectators and fighters, so they opened their doors to the rest of Dominaria, and hordes of beings flooded into Otaria. Visara was one of the most feared fighters in the Pits.

## Reya Dawnbringer

Pendelhaven started off as the Region of Upsets, and it carried that tradition all the way to the Top 8, where Reya (a fourth seed) faced off against eleventh-seed Mageta the Lion. Reya had faced a reasonably easy set of opponents, dispatching Godo, Bandit Warlord; Volrath the Fallen; and Keiga, the Tide Star, each of whom had won an upset victory in the first round. Mageta took a harder road, knocking off Karn, Silver Golem and the Ascendant Evincar before a stunning knockout of Rith, the Awakener in the third round.



## Reya Dawnbringer

Set: *Invasion* (2000)

Casting Cost: 6WW

Power/Toughness: 4/6

Creature Type: Angel

Plane: Serra's Realm/Dominaria

Flavor Text: *A beacon of hope for a battered army.*

Background: Little is known about Reya other than that she was a Serra angel who became a symbol of endurance for those who fought Yawgmoth's forces during the Phyrexian Invasion. Some speculate that she was one of the few survivors of Serra's Realm after Urza collapsed the plane into a powerstone that was used to fuel the skyship *Weatherlight*.

## Next Up

The Arena of the Ancients will be the region for the Top 4. We've got a monoblack matchup (Visara vs. Ink-Eyes) and a monowhite matchup (Akroma vs. Reya). Which one will win the ultimate battle of Legends? Which one will be deemed the coolest Legend of all? We won't know . . . until **YOU DECIDE!**

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