

## CZS004: FACT OR FICTION: SOL RING SHOULD BE BANNED!

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1) INTRO Josh, Gaurav & Rachel

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*After a long March of the Machine set review season, we are excited to return to our new three microphone format. This time, we've settled on a name. Introducing Fact or Fiction, for lack of a better term, a discussion-based show where we attempt to settle an argument in the Commander community. We'll start with a statement, like "Kingmaking ruins games," and decide whether it's fact or fiction. BUT BEFORE WE GET INTO IT:*

**\*\*CARD KINGDOM\*\* \*\*ULTRAPRO #1\*\* \*\*PATREON: SAMANTHA KRAMMER\*\***

### 2) MAIN TOPIC: **FACT OR FICTION: SOL RING SHOULD BE BANNED**

*Reminder: Josh and I are on the Commander Advisory Group. We advise on rules changes and bans, but do not ultimately make decisions or get a vote. Everything we say today is our opinion and does not reflect the current thoughts or future actions of the Rules Committee.*

#### **LET'S TALK ABOUT SOL RING.**

- Comes in nearly every precon and NEVER drops below \$1
  - Wasn't in the Painbow Dominaria United precon
- Is played in 2,090,444 decks on EDHREC, 84% of recorded decks
  - The next highest is Arcane Signet which is in 1,651,107 decks, 66% of decks
  - Rest of the top 10: Swords to Plowshares, Cultivate, Counterspell, Beast Within, Path to Exile, Rampant Growth, Kodama's Reach, Rakdos Signet
- Sol Ring is banned in Legacy and Oathbreaker. Restricted in Vintage.
  - Also banned in Oathbreaker - Dark Ritual, Mana Crypt, Mana Vault, LED
- Do you have any decks that you don't run Sol Ring?
  - Josh - No
  - Gaurav - No
  - Rachel - Sidisi, Octavia, Phelddagrif, Hazon, Princess Twilight Sparkle, Tayam
    - Would these decks be better with a Sol Ring? Probably.
- Is it safe to say that 95% of decks would be improved by simply adding a Sol Ring? 98%? 100%?

### WHAT DOES SOL RING ADD TO THE FORMAT?

- It's an iconic part of the format...
  - Sol Ring to Commander is Brainstorm to Legacy
- It helps colors that aren't green ramp
- For every time it puts someone ahead, it has also caught someone up
- Rushes through the first few turns to get to the good part?

### WHAT HARM DOES SOL RING DO?

- Imbalanced starts to the game
- Adds redundancy to fast mana packages so that players with all the fast mana, often have at least one piece.
  - Your odds of drawing a Sol Ring on turn 1 - 8.1%
    - Drawing it by turn 3 - 10.1%
  - Your odds of drawing a Sol Ring or a Mana Crypt on turn 1 - 15.6%
    - Drawing it by turn 3 - 19.3%
  - Your odds of drawing a Sol Ring, Mana Crypt or Jeweled Lotus on turn 1 - 22.5%
    - Drawing it by turn 3 - 27.6%
- Takes up a slot in almost every deck
  - Is homogeneity a good enough reason to ban cards?

### IS THE FORMAT BETTER WITHOUT SOL RING?

\*\*\*MIDROLL POINT\*\*\*

### THEY BAN IT: A HYPOTHETICAL

- Let's say it's banned tomorrow, how would you feel?
- What would you replace it with?

### WHAT ABOUT MANA CRYPT?

- Sol Ring is played in 2,090,444 decks on EDHREC, 84% of recorded decks
- Mana Crypt is in 310,607 decks on EDHREC, only 12% of recorded decks
  - Not in the top 100 cards (around 110)
  - That differential is largely informed by price, but also power limitations may factor in.
- If Sol Ring is banned, should Mana Crypt be banned?

### WHAT ARE THE REPERCUSSIONS?

- Precons, especially precons coming out in the near future would become illegal
- 84% of decks would become illegal overnight
  - I'd personally have to change like 17 decks.
- Represents a HUGE shake up in a format that is famously unwieldy and struggles with communication.
- Commander relies on consistency.

## **FACT OR FICTION**

- That leaves only one question: Sol Ring should be banned.
  - What do you think, Josh? Rachel? Gaurav?

## 3) **TO THE LISTENERS**

What do you think? Would Commander be better without Sol Ring? Does that mean the Rules Committee should ban it?

**\*\*CARD KINGDOM #2\*\* \*\*ULTRA PRO #2\*\***

## 4) CLEAN-UP STEP

Big thanks to our amazing team here at The Command Zone! **Craig Blanchette, Damen Lenz; Arthur Meadowcroft; Ladee Danger; Manson Leung; Josh Murphy; Jake Boss; Jordan Pridgen; Sam Waldow; Jamie Block; Mitch Trafford; Evan Limberger; Gabriel Pozos; Megan Yip; Eric Lem; and Jimmy Wong.**