

Raven's Herald

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Courage and Honor

March, 598

Warlords Greystone and Zomar Smash Sessuar at Arkham

After the Sessuar's ill-conceived second attempt on the Capitol City, Duke Alaric Malinruin himself, led half the elite ducal forces, bolstered by a contingent of minotaurs under the guidance of Warlord Zomar in a counter-push to force the Northern Army into a retreat pattern. Meanwhile, Warlord Maximillian Greystone utilized the remaining military might of Ravenholt to further force the now-leaderless Southern Army to retreat towards Sercia.

His Grace's best scouts were sent in a scattered coverage to scout the areas between the two Armies, and in so doing successfully intercepted scouts from the Southern Army calling for aid. Attempting to move stealthily through the Winter snow, the Sessuar Northern Army, led by the General known as "The Red Hand," moved to encircle the Greystone's forces. Scouts brought word to the Minotaur Army in time for Warlord

Zomar's troops to force march ahead of the ascending Northern group and cut them off at what was once Gurn before they could reinforce the now desperate Southern army.

Meanwhile, Warlord Greystone and his valiant troops showed themselves admirably, as they continued to eat away at the ever dwindling pack of Sessai that were once the proud and deadly Southern Army. Few citizens lost their lives in this final push, and there

were no reports of final deaths on our side, but the bodies of Sessuar scum spread in a wide swath from the capitol to the lower reaches of the Grey Hills.. Duke Alaric spoke briefly to those remaining to protect the capital, saying wearily, "The end is in sight! We have persevered, and we shall grow strong again as is our right and our duty to this great land!"



Strange Monster Activity

Springtime usually has a mixed meaning for the common folk of Ravenholt. On the one hand, the weather warms, new livestock arrives, planting begins, and merchant wagons arrive. On the other hand, for those of us in this frontier Duchy, it also means another yearly tradition: Monster raids. Early spring marks the time when monster races, the weather warm enough to make travel possible, stage raids upon the farmers and smaller towns in Ravenholt seeking food and supplies. Preparedness is everything, and usually the peoples of Ravenholt are ready for these raids.

But this year, for many towns, all was for nothing as of yet.

There have been no reports of the type of large-scale monster raids Ravenholters have come to expect, other than some clusters of Lizardmen attacks. In fact the most commonly reported phenomenon seems to be one of migration: over thirty confirmed reports of large numbers of orcs on the move have been collected by the Raven's Herald by press time. The normally territorial orc tribes of the area seem to be abandoning their settlements en masse and rumors have begun to circulate that their destination seems to be somewhere near the capitol city. Other monster races such as Ogres and Trolls do not seem to be following suit, but their numbers have likewise been equally

low and few to no significant raiding parties of any significant size have been reported. Strangest of all, the area's most prolific monster race, the goblin has seemingly disappeared from the Ravenholt area. Sightings of Goblins themselves are astoundingly low, and those that are seen seem uncharacteristically willing to approach the peoples of Ravenholt. This, surrounding farmers assure us is completely unlike these monsters. In all previous years, monster raids have been a near constant phenomenon during the months of March through May, and the change has some people nervous.

"Yep, sure is strange, About his time, we should be seeing

whole bunches of gobbies coming down out of the forests- they's run outta food by now, and gotta feed the younguns! But this year, not a one!" said one eyewitness Billy Bobob, a farmer in Lower Eastwyck. Although the absence of the yearly raids is by no means a cause for sorrow, especially during the hardships caused by the Sessuar War, many of the common folk are concerned about what the sudden drop in monster numbers might mean. As Billy Bobob said, "Yep, With all the orcs on the move, and the Gobbies gone missing, a body can't help but wonderin' what they knows what we don't."

The Tale of Squire Bethan

by Nivienne Brule

There are a few noble souls who though they did unlawful and treasonous deeds in life are able to absolve themselves of all crimes after their death and finally attain a state of peace. They deserve to have their stories told. So is the case with the shade, Bethan Artain Kenzy, whom we have learned to deeply respect.

Bethan Artain Kenzy was a squire of Eastwyck in the year 565. In the time he was a squire, he witnessed many other squires rise to knighthood while he himself was left behind. Squire Bethan questioned his liege on why this was so. The reason Bethan was given was, "The answer lies within."

Bethan should have been content with this answer, but he had befriended another squire named Eldbrit Duff Farswin. Eldbrit made Bethan believe that he had something that the other squires did not, and so these other squires met with "mishaps." In response to these mishaps that Bethan had caused, many of these squires

were demoted or sent away. In the meantime, Eldbrit had been knighted and had begun teaching Bethan. Still Bethan was not knighted, nor did anyone catch on to his scheming. Soon all was to come to a halt.

In the year 568, Squire Acare Couley was to take his last test

o f
knight-
hood.
Bethan,
as he al-
ways did,
"fixed"
the e-
quipment
for the test.
He was
not pre-
sent for the
test, but

word soon came to him that Sir Gregor might have to be resurrected, and that was all he was told. He wondered what had gone wrong. Soon he found himself in the Squire's quarters with Squire Acare who was

unhurt. In a fit of rage, he beat Acare senseless, and ran away, leaving Acare there to die. And die he did.

Some time later, Bethan was arrested for the death of his liege, breaking the bond of the land, and the death of Acare.

At his execution, he asked for-

giveness
for his
crimes.
He also
asked
for a fa-
vor, -
that the
oath of
the Land
be placed
on a
tablet of
East-
wyck

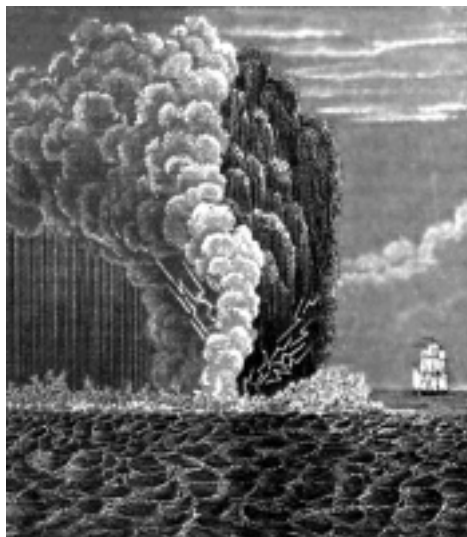
stone, and placed on his coffin. Cecil granted him this favor, and saw that it was done.

When it was time for him to die, he looked up with honor into the eyes of his executioner. It was Eldbrit, grinning down

at him. It was then that he realized everything that Eldbrit had done, and what he had done to himself. In his heart formed feelings of hatred, despair, and hope. The next conscious thought that he knew was confinement, but not confinement. The tablet on his coffin was the only thing that he could affect, but that tablet had been broken into many pieces and scattered.

He dedicated himself to a quest. To right the wrongs, and restore the oath. Then and only then would he be able to rest.

The oath was restored, thanks to our brave heroes, who risked hordes of undead to retrieve the pieces. In a touching ceremony witnessed by those present, Bethan was squired by Sir Zomar and recited the oath in a loud, powerful, resonant voice. Then he went to his rest not as a treasonous murderer, but as a true and valiant soul, and so shall he stay.



Lizards Seek Aid

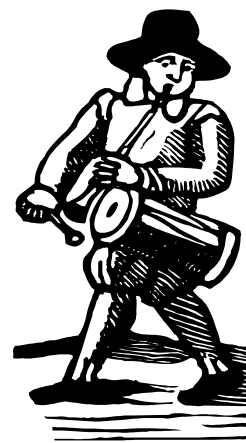
A recent area merchant fair had some very unusual guests - creatures that have been described to the Raven's Herald as "ice lizards".

These creatures peacefully approached townsfolk and asked them for help in a quest to save one of their friends. Apparently, this friend was somehow melting. The ice lizards needed adventurers to

retrieve items called "glacial hearts" to help restore her. They brought bands who agreed to help them to speak with a being called Kalgreth, who appeared to be human, but with veins of ice running through his face like ore in rock. Kalgreth had offered to help the ice lizards restore their friend using these glacial hearts. He told groups what to look

for and then gated them to where these hearts were hidden, guarded by hostile fire elementals.

Some groups also retrieved items for this Kalgreth, who in turn offered them knowledge and answers to questions, as he was very learned. A number of these hearts were retrieved and given to the ice lizards by helpful townsfolk. It is



as yet unknown whether the lizards were successful in helping their friend.

Public Notices

Wanted: Weapons and Armor whose use has effectively expired. Please contact Amra Asland Al-Quadim! Safe Journey to You!

Do you need jewelry appraised? Items exchanged for currency? Access to a Technician's delicate art? If you want to get anything, or need to sell anything, contact Amra Asland Al-Quadim! Safe Journey to You!

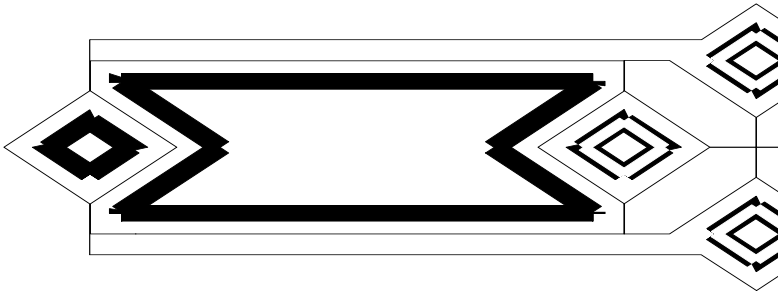
Foxy: Good to see you back. Really have missed you. -Hans

Wanted: Everything!! I am looking to but/sell/trade for many items. Potions, scrolls, components, armor, weapons, crystals, jewelry. Also wanted: Craftsmen to fulfill contract work as well as a place to sell your wares! Please contact Amra Asland Al-Quadim! Safe Journey to You!

Wanted: Weapons and Armor. For Weapons, I am especially interested in silvered Longswords, Scimitars, Main Gauches, Spears, and Axes. For Armor, I am interested in all suits from Leather to Full plate. Please contact Amra Asland Al-Quadim! Safe Journey to You!

The Behir and the Beholder Magic Shop specializes in Celestial magicks. Scrolls, potions, ritual components and magic items bought and sold. Novice adventurer discounts. Celestial training available. Located in Central Ravenholt.

The Court of Eastwyck will be offering open and formal court upon the first gathering in Ravenholt. Matters of any kind may be brought before the court at that time. The court invites any in need of aid, counsel or resolution to speak freely.



Dearest Friends at the Funeral Parlor, I would like to thank you for the service you did for me this fall. Rest assured, I will repay the favor in full.

Sincerely, An Employer.

Wanted : Multiple Low circle celestial scrolls. I need to purchase multiple scrolls to fulfill an order. Please contact Amra Asland Al-Quadim! Safe Journey to You!

Let It Be Known To All Vornae: A challenge to all Vornae has been issued. It shall take place at Garson's Bridge in Westmarch on the stroke of midnight, March 27. For Inquiries, and acceptance of this challenge, please send messengers to Master Merchant Calvin, at the Headquarters of the Three Ravens Caravan in Garson's Bridge. NO DRAE PLEASE.

The group Omega is now accepting candidates for Town Guardsmen and Guardswomen. do the right thing, work for justice! Contact Sheriff Logan in Ravenholt if interested.

To All of the single women of Ravenholt, especially the Wild Elves and Sarr. I pledge my undying love to all of thee on this fine season of romance. I would do so personally, but will have to wait until the Sessuar Scourge is wiped from the face of Evendarr.

Until then... Lovingly All of Yours, Kel'Trebeck Iianthanas Silverbow of the Northlands Wild elves.

Through winter's chill, I homeward still am yearning;
now spring is nigh, and soon am I returning.
Though far they roam, the birds come home to nest;
'Tis there my heart and mind will find their rest.
And as the bird's bright song is heard on wing,
I will rejoice, raise up my voice and sing!
-Daphne Green

Highlanders of Ravenholt:
Prepare for a gathering on the 18th of April at 11 a.m. I will come to get you.
-Harold MacDonald, Cruaigh

Black Rose

Citizens of Ravenholt : While the war we wage against the Emperium takes up many of our waking, and too many of our sleeping, hours and our energies, we must not forget that Ravenholt has other enemies at hand. During the past three years, the members of the court of Eastwyck have spent considerable time and effort in researching the nature and history of a number of organized groups of undead abominations. In particular, those groups which have been active in Ravenholt and the nearby Duchy lands have been of particular focus, for obvious reasons. The group known as the Black Rose is well-known and long-time foe of the citizens of the Duchy. For this reason Eastwyck has pursued information on and insight into this group in specific. Countless citizens of Ravenholt have been interviewed on this matter. The information gained has been carefully collected by all members of the Court and has been Archived through the good offices of a Friend of the Court.

Upon beginning this toil, every member of the Court, as well as the many others who have kindly volunteered their assistance was made aware of the necessity of making all inquiries in a manner as subtle and considered as possible. The reason for this precaution is clear. Any group which would be of interest must not be alerted to any inquiries into their activities, lest they react in violent retaliation. The members of the court and those who have aided this effort have consistently heeded this advice to the greatest extent possible.

Recently, the efforts of the court of Eastwyck relating to the Black Rose in particular have been made public knowledge. The specific claims which have been made of actions taken by the court with regard to the Black Rose are wholly erroneous. It is my sincere hope that such a revelation will not result in the very provocation which the court has succeeded in avoiding for nearly three years. Nevertheless, the deed being done, the court would like to take this opportunity to publicly invite and request all who are possessed of reliable information regarding the Black Rose, or any similar group, to recount such to any member of the court. All information will be held in strictest confidence, and will be utilized to provide greater knowledge and safety for the people of the Duchy, our sworn and cherished duty.

By my hand in faith,
Baron Johann of Eastwyck

Household itself that unarmed lizardmen are not to be harmed, leading many to give credence to the rumor that nobles of Ravenholt have granted the lizardmen permission to resurrect in the circle along with citizens of Ravenholt. The Herald will print more as we discover further facts on this story.

BRAVE ADVENTURERS WANTED! Are you tired of sitting around reading the wall inside of the tavern? Do you yearn for excitement and fun? Well our motto is: "If you can't make it to the people, then bring the people to you!"

We of the Three Ravens Caravan have had a slow winter, what with the Sessuar nastiness, and we are looking to get rid of stock so that we can pay for our Spring Shipment! Everything Must Go! There will be a gathering of several merchants at our winter headquarters in Garson's Bridge, and only the Bravest, Most Fearless Adventurers are invited! Everyone knows what a Merchant Gathering Means! A Festival!! Something to let us all forget the unpleasantness of the War! This means of course that there will be games, a treasure hunt, a unique riddle competition, and of course, plenty of strange and unusual items from around the lands of Evendarr and beyond to buy! There will also be a Harmonic Ritual Demonstration for those who are interested.

If you wish to attend this impromptu festival, ride drive, or walk to our winter headquarters. Where is this fantastic event occurring, you ask? Why at Garson's Bridge, Westmarch! The safest and best protected Barony in the World! When, one might ask? Why March 27th to March 29th! Just as the snows break!

Do you need training? Are you new to adventuring? Every Spring, our caravan is attacked by goblins, orcs and other less desirable creatures in the early raids. To make the sport easier, our scouts have already found the lairs of these despicable creatures! We will pay you for every one of these creatures that is removed from the caves just north of our encampment. How do we want them removed? Anyway you can! No Questions Asked! The More of Them the Better! Is there anything special that you are looking for? Anything that we can have ready for your perusal and discriminating tastes? Just send a message to the Three Ravens Caravan. We Aim To Please!

Lizardmen

Inhabitants of the capitol city of Ravenholt have been witness to yet more strange monster activity; Lizardmen!

Rising from the muck well before their usual time, (some suggest that the unseasonably warm weather of February and March may have confused them. Large groups of 10 or more lizardmen have been systematically marching into Ravenholt center, unarmed, and staring fixedly at the Healer's Circle before turning and wandering off.

Even stranger the order has come down from the Ducal