

The Yorik Adventurer

amat victoria curam

September, 2023 A.T.

Town of Yorik Transported to Marius' Realm

The town of Yorik, its local geography, citizenry, and a great deal of the local magic and amenities were taken, in their entirety, across the curtain to the area of the divine plane where Marius has established his realm.

While there, the townsfolk were offered a great many deals, often but not exclusively in the coin of the realm.

This abduction was an apparent reward for aid given to a Marian celestial the previous month. Nevertheless for an approximate

24 hour period, the region was endowed with additional properties specific to the will of Marius over his domain.

That this coincided with the Yorik town Faire and Festival may be considered to be no true surprise. Trade and exchanges are common at that Faire, and this resonant energy may have made the transfer more straightforward.

Representatives of a number of divine beings, including some

of faiths not legal within the bounds of Harodom, as well as many that were, could be found in the Marian realm. It is important to remember that despite this not having occurred in Harodonian territory *per se*, doing business with representatives of illegal faiths should not be undertaken if avoidable.

If you or anyone that you know is still missing following the events of this planar excursion, please inform the town guard.

Scarinsvale Reports: Zorii Defeated!

Our sister publication, the *Scarinsvale Saga*, has recently reported that the Zorii, a parasitic fae mindworm, has been defeated by the joint efforts of heroes, clergy, merchants and mystics in the region of Scarinsvale.

Some locals to the Yorik area have met with visitors that have traveled to the Broken Reach and returned with altered mental states. For the most part, these visitors should now be well (assuming that these mental adjustments were caused by the Zorii).

Through cunning and artifice, the heroes of the Broken Reach were able

to breach the Zorii's mystical stronghold, and put an end to this nearly year-long crisis.

With the Zorii defeated, the settlement of Scarinsvale once again feels confident in making plans for the future, according to a traveler with knowledge of the the Reach.

Congratulations to Scarinsvale for their victory over what may well have been a truly existential threat.

For a complete account and local perspective on this struggle, please see the *Scarinsvale Saga*, found wherever newspapers are sold.

Undead Artifice Sent to Destruction

While the Twins may be defeated, the Undercity over which Yorik has long been positioned remains a perilous threat.

To this end, it was no small accomplishment that Yorik residents working with travelers from the Broken Reach, were able to make a surgical strike, with an aim to recover a sealed chest that held an ancient undead fragment within.

Now recovered, the fragment, which was taken away under cover of night, has been sent to a secure location pending its inevitable destruction.

This is a hallmark of the collaboration and goodwill between our

two settlements. With the sharing of information, we have been able to forestall another undead crisis that Yorik frankly does not need more of right now.

Please be alert that in addition to the standard undead now drawn to the area by the Stasan Scar at the foot of Astrologer's Hill, there may for the near future, be some lesser undead sent in search of this fragment. If this is the case, and you are unable to dispatch these undead, inform them that it has been sent from the area, and at time of publishing, plans are under way for its destruction.

Duke Hayden: Tax Holiday For Lawful Churches!

In an effort to foster the growth of goodly churches that align themselves with the interests and morals of our nation, Duke Gregory Hayden of the Duchy of Gelrich has declared a holiday on the taxation of churches of legal faiths established prior to Sunday the 13th of August, 2023 AT.

For six calendar months, all fees and costs for such churches will be covered by the House of Hayden within the Yorik area. This means that this tax holiday will expire February 13th, 2024.

In accordance with this, no fees will be levied for the use of land, the maintenance of buildings available to the public. However, the maintenance of private shrines, such as those held by individuals or in private dwellings, will be charged as usual.

This initiative reflects the efforts of the Duchy to support the lawful faiths of the area. As a key part of our community, social structure, and local defense efforts, these churches have

collectively contributed a great deal to our community's health and well-being.

According to a source familiar with this decision, "the faithful of the various faiths represented in Yorik have been a front-line against the terrors of infernals, undead, and countless others over the year. His Grace wishes to reflect this in his largesse.

Churches are advised to take advantage of this opportunity while it remains available.

*The Stelton Playhouse is pleased to announce the debut of a new production of
" 'Tis A Pity She's an Amateur Instructor In Unarmed Combat".*

**A DISCOUNT is offered on admission to see this new reworking of a familiar play.
Gods: 2c, Stalls 1s, Boxes 1g.**

Horoscopes

The future is an unknown country. However, ideas and visions of the future may stem from information of the present; your decisions help to make the world you live in tomorrow. To that end, we have published a generalized horoscope for each of the Calendar Birth Signs, and hope that it will serve to amuse and enlighten. Horoscopes provided by Seer Oren Freedman.

The Shroud (Dec 31st – Jan 28th)

Truth reveals itself when complexity is resolved. If you would seek justice, you must first find truth. Thus, the surest way to find justice in your own life is to seek to uncomplicate – simplify, simplify. Lucky numbers are seven, three, and twelve.

The Harp (Jan 29th – Feb 27th)

If you would have a friend, be a friend. Seek someone in your community that is in need of your aid, and find that the time and energy that you spend giving succor are revisited upon you a dozenfold – if not immediately, then in the fullness of time.

The Fount (Feb 28th – Mar 30th)

Never give anyone a small injury. Strike surely, or do not strike at all, for small wounds fester. So it is with all of your endeavours – if they are worthy of pursuit, give them all that you have, for this is the path to success. A person in red and black will have an offer for you – judge wisely.

The Dice (Mar 31st – Apr 28th)

For want of a nail, the battle was lost. Pay attention to the small details in your life, for they will surely pay attention to

you. If you do not find fortune in the first few hours of this month, then seek a lucky charm or token to change your luck. Lucky charms may include a clover of four leaves, a silver horseshoe, or the heart of a hated foe.

The Arrow (Apr 29th – May 27th)

You may not find a joyful ear for dire warnings, but if you have them to give, you must. The truths that you would speak need to be heard whether others are happy to hear them or no, because only by giving them voice can you save them from ignominy.

The Stone (May 28th – Jun 25th)

You cannot unring a bell. Some deeds, set into motion, will have ripples and lasting effects that you could not possibly have foreseen. With this in mind, you must now choose; how will you adapt to a world that is changing as a result of your actions, but not your will?

The Coin (June 26th – July 28th)

There is treasure waiting for someone to find it, and that someone could be you. Do not turn away someone with a proposition out of hand – hearing them out will let you choose whether to follow or to decline, or to take your own path to seek that which could fill your purse or your heart.

The Spade (July 29th – Aug 30th)

The Shroud will have wisdom worthy of your ear. Work half-done is a peril; an issue that you have been meaning to resolve will come back to haunt you this month. Do not be afraid to seek aid from others, and remember that a tool poorly maintained is a threat as well.

The Blade (Aug 31st – Sept 27th)

You do not need to lead from the front in order to lead. Consider where your skills are of most value, and place yourself there; not out of any want for courage, but out of the desire to find the best fulcrum to lever your abilities to great effect. The colour blue will be fortunate.

The Mask (Sept 28th – October 31st)

The face that you show the world is not the one that you hold in reserve for yourself. Consider whether it may be time to show a little more of that inner face; your truth, once spoken, cannot be unspoken, but the trust of friends and neighbours can show you greater dividends than any scheme.

The Shield (Nov 1st – Nov 29th)

It is time to use a resource that you have held in reserve. Too many go to their graves with purses of gold and favours unspent, that are not used to the way that they would have sought, had they been able to work their will. This does not mean that you have to spend it all at once – just that when you need them, they are there to be spent, not had.

The Hearth (Nov 30th – Dec 30th)

Keep the home-fires burning. The light that you give off may be invisible to you, but will serve as a benediction upon those that need a guiding light in the darkness. There is a shadow cast over the world, and by keeping a place of warmth and comfort, you provide relief from the chill that shadow casts. Lucky numbers are one, two, and seventeen.

Caring For Your Armour

It can be hard to save the region, fight evil fae, and still remember to take care of yourself. In this ongoing series, the Adventurer will give some tips for keeping your gear in functioning order.

Don't forget – if you look after your gear, it will look after you.

There are some obvious signs that your armour is about to fail you. Large holes in your breastplate may not successfully stop incoming blades, and if an axe has torn a long strip out of your maille, it won't stop a second axe coming the same direction.

However, in the normal routine use of your armour, there are some less drastic pieces of maintenance that you can do to

help ensure that your armour is there when you need it.

Leathers

Before every use, check your leathers for wear or scuffmarks. Ensure that stitching remains in good condition, and if your armour has any metal fittings, ensure that they are in good condition and not showing rust or fatigue.

After every use, make sure that you wipe down your armour. Beyond this, if your armour is wet, let it dry naturally. If you wish to waterproof your leather, consider applying beeswax or alchemical waterproofing solution.

When cleaning, try to avoid stripping leather of its natural

Oils. Condition your leather about every six months, but before first use, check the conditioner on a less visible part of the armour as it may interfere with the dye.

Metal

Before each use, check all fittings and clasps for wear, and repair, maintain, or replace as necessary. Ensure that you keep your metal armour oiled between uses, as this helps to prevent the buildup of rust.

After use, ensure that your armour is clean and dry. Metal armour is susceptible to rust, and this can both weaken the integrity of the armour, and bleed red rust across underlying garments. Apply oil to the clean and dry armour before storage.

Community Board

This section is reserved for information about the community, and may include unverified information as well as community events.

Any or all forms of art are encouraged, provided that they are suitable for public display. Please contact editor Oren Freedman for details.

Frost has been seen on the grass and flowers despite the unseasonably warm temperatures. Local Balaxans claim no direct knowledge of this phenomenon.

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The *Adventurer* continues to offer a full year-long patronage or any artist or artisan willing to produce one piece of sponsored work within a calendar year.

Curious things found in local wells suggest that an underground river may be carrying strange detritus from somewhere into the local water supply.

Portents: Bats flying during the day. Dreams of locks and chains. Wine in deep cellars turning to water.

If you have **news**, an **announcement**, a clever **contribution** or a piece of **art** you would like displayed, don't keep it to yourself! The *Adventurer* is happy to help you reach a broader audience!

Do you worry that TERROR'S BREACH will see TERRORS BREACH your defense?

Concerned that DEMONS will DEMON-STRATE skill at arms?

Let ISAAC'S ARMS make a blade for your bastion!

Enter orders now to be ready in time for Terror's Breach!

“Trust the Blade with the Brand Displayed!”

Editorial: Mental Well-Being

In Yorik, we have become somewhat blasé to the pains and struggles that we frequently undertake.

I mean this in the best possible way – to be hardened against some hardship is not a vice. However, it is also worth remembering that if someone declines to throw themselves into mortal peril, this is not a sign of weakness; rather, it is a sign that this person's sense of self-preservation has been maintained far better than the local average.

It is, and it is difficult to put these words to type in a way that does not sound like I am being facetious, still a hardship if you do not die.

Our ability to mend the injuries and travails upon the bodies that have seen many a battlefield is nothing less than wholly miraculous. However, pain is still painful, injuries traumatic, and not wishing to face either is if anything, a mark of sense.

We do not forget those that

regularly put themselves into harm's way in Yorik. But sometimes those persons forget to take care of themselves. It can be easy to view every conflict as a fight that will cost in blood and tears.

Take time to recover. If you have been injured, consider speaking with a friend about your mental state. And if you have died, know that this is not something that we take lightly, whatever bravado and blasé attitudes may suggest. Your struggle is valid and important.

Oren D'vann Freedman, Editor

Matters of Faith

Holy Days Just Past

July 16th: Summer's Fair (Marius)

Patron of trade and travel, the faithful of Marius celebrate his holy day in the Ides of July. Common observations include receiving the blessings of a Marian priest on contracts and deals, purchasing large-ticket items, and ensuring that all deals conducted are fair and equitable. It is bad luck to try to swindle someone in business on this holiday.

August 8th: Mushroom Feast (Blythe)

An unpalatable observance, the Mushroom Feast is the holy day of Blythe, god of decay and disease. While not ideal, there are still some observances that are well-advised on this day. Having a thorough physical, to say nothing of being especially wary of poisons in food, beverage, and the sting and bite of creatures are all excellent ideas.

\Forthcoming Holy Days

September 18th: Day of the Blade (Hemulis)

The god of warfare's holiday is celebrated by his faithful through trials of combat and tests of martial prowess. It is said that on his holy day, Hemulis spends the day embodied upon the plane, training with some of his faithful and recharging in holy battle. Servants of Hemulis spend this day in holy struggle.

October 6th: Dreamer's Wake (Bard)

The servants of Bard commemorate this day as the day that Bard returned to the world. The goddess of stories and dreams, Bard's servants often mark this as a day of rest, or a day to tell tales, both tall and true. Most importantly, it is observed as a day when anything, even outlandish things usually only found in fairy stories, can happen. Join friends in telling stories of times past or dreams yet to be realized.

A Message of Faith

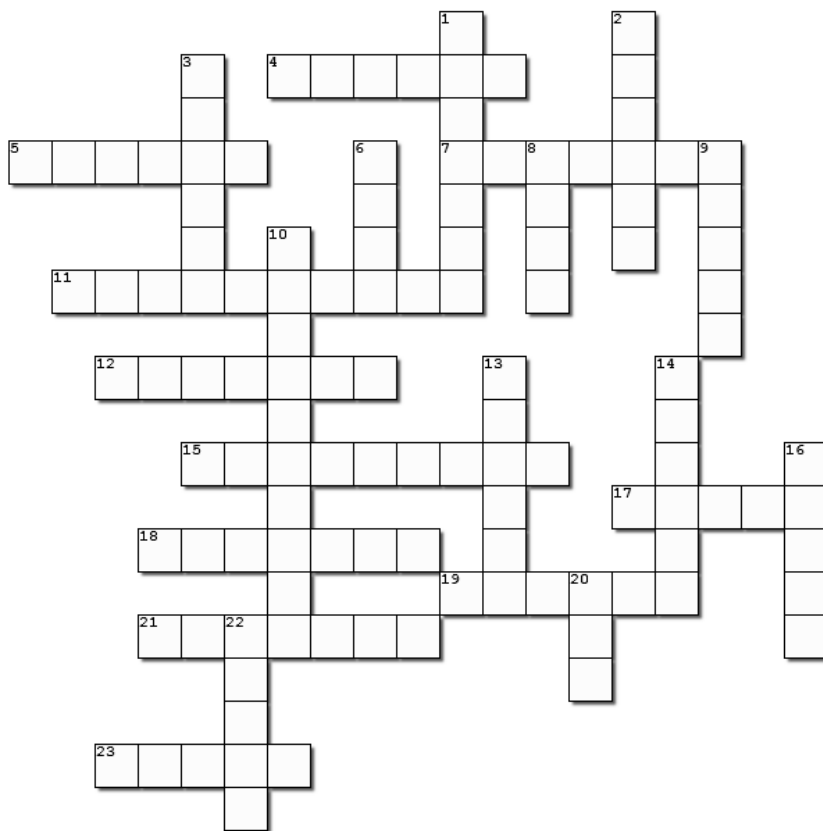
As the harvest comes, it is important to remember that despite the challenges that we face, we have been fortunate in other regards. Our harvest is bountiful, and while we face foes mystical and mundane, we have stout comrades by our sides.

This is not to diminish our losses; there is no one in our community who has not been touched by loss, and there is time to grieve these reversals as well. But let us remember our victories, our bounties, and our blessings.

As summer turns to autumn, so too do the seasons change on the foes that we face, and the new problems that we encounter. Taking a moment to remember the good times as well, helps us to endure the autumn's frights and winter's cold.

And that's worth hanging on to.

Crossword



Across

4. The Duke's surname
 5. Chases 3d's heels.
 7. Cured vegetables in brine
 11. A magical hole.
 12. Oversea kingdom of wizards.
 15. The tavern's title.
 17. A cooking surface.
 18. It's autumn and the leaves are...
 19. Home for boiling water.

21. Silvery anti-magic metal
 23. A feather pen.

13. Wax-dipped wick illuminates
 14. God of Sickness and 16d
 16. Rotting or natural dissolution.
 20. Five to a standard foot.
 22. Large, regenerating giantkin slain with acid or flame.

Down

1. An adder or viper, for eg.
 2. Humanoid species that can't learn magery.
 3. Season of Callis.
 6. Often made with lye; useful for cleaning.
 8. An 'ear' of golden treats.
 9. Another word for 'rock'.
 10. The simplest healing spell.

Riddles

Riddle 1:

I often rhyme,
 And told in verse,
 But have no song;
 Still you rehearse.

Answer 1: *meop A*

Riddle 2:

I'm golden treasure,
 In the ground,
 Within a field I can be found,
 But although I
 Can never hear,
 It's often said I have an ear.

Answer 2: *nroC*

Riddle 3:

I live within a home of silk,
 A parlour to my prey,
 I've very many fearsome ilk,
 Your fears I'll not allay.
 I have more eyes for deeper sight,
 But you should fear my venom bite.

Answer 3: *redips A*

Riddle 4:

I'm found within a murder,
 And I dip an inky quill,
 By the battle field a lurker,
 Fluttered wings when you are still.

Answer 4: *worc A*

Riddle 5:

I begin with a blow,
 And I end with a death,
 In the middle sustained,
 With food water, and breath.

Answer 5: *efil A*

Riddle 2:

I have a twin of heads,
 But I've bodies only one,
 Stand me still, and I am bled,
 Moving slowly if I'm spun.

Answer 2: *ssalgrouh nA*

Recipe of the Month: Apple Pie

A sweet way to mark the passage of summer into autumn.

- O Freedman

Ingredients:

- 6 Tbsp white sugar
- 6 Cups apples
- 6 Tbsp brown sugar
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1 Tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 Tsp salt
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/2 Tsp grated lemon rind (or 2 tsp of lemon juice)
- 6 Tbsp whipping cream
- Pastry for a 9-inch pie plate

Prepare the pastry and line a 9" pie plate. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees (F). A cold oven does not reliably cook a dish as desired.

Core, peel and slice apples. Combine sugars, flour, cinnamon and salt together, then mix with the apples.

Spread the apple mixture unto unbaked pastry shell. Dot with butter; sprinkle with lemon rind.

Pour whipping cream over top, then cover with top crust,

fluting the edges and making slits to allow steam to escape.

Sprinkle about 1 tbsp of milk over the top and then sprinkle about 1 tsp of white sugar.

Bake at 400 deg for 10 min and then reduce heat to 350 deg and continue baking 20-30 min or until mixture starts to bubble through the slits.

Allow to cool before consuming

Enjoy!

Miners Sought For Orenstead

A new mine, opened in the nearby settlement of Orenstead is seeking miners of skill and good character to work a promising vein of rich mineral ore.

Compensation will be generous and proportionate to skill and hours laboured. Tools and board will be provided.

Apply at the Printer's Shed for more information.

Poem: The Blood That Boils

Deep within the ocean's fathoms,
Down within the darkest depths,
There, within umbriel chasms,
There, a nightmare intercepts.

Elsewhere, in chthonic tunnels,
Where the eldritch and unseen
Stand on crags, unsightly gunnels,
In an ebon ocean's mien.

What are these but hidden horrors?
What are these but endless coils,
Ready to ensnare explorers,
Pierce the vein; the blood, it boils!

If these shadows so offend you,
If your heart is given pause,
Know we mean not to upend you;
Apprehensions given cause.

Oh beware! Beware your fury!
Given moments, takes your days!
Hanged before a faithless jury,
Moment's pause, fear, rage, allays!

Deeper shadows cast this autumn,
Bitter burns the lamplight oils,
To these questions, find the bottom,
But beware the blood that boils.