

The Yorik Adventurer

adaequatio intellectus nostri cum re

November, 2019 A.T.

Infernal Invasion Repelled: More Yet to Come?

Although incursions of evil beings around the time of Terror's Breach are not uncommon, it bears noting that once again, we have repelled a significant force of infernal beings. Powerful beings, usually but not always malevolent toward life upon our plane, and frequently torturously twisted by their path through the Curtain, infernals are frequently called forth by wicked spellcasters those who wish to inspire fear and submission by their fellow mortals.

In addition to being the holiday of Kazzok, the god of infernal beings, fear and madness, Terror's Breach is also a time when the curtain between the worlds is weakest – and hence, year after year, we see more of these creatures.

This year, we mark the successful repelling of a number of infernal beings, by vigilant and upright members of our community. Tales of heroism are now being spread of the valiant efforts of these heroes.

Local johnny-on-the-spot 'Beth of Dales' is said to have repelled a group of infernal hellspawn, saving the group of townsfolk that she accompanied with a hunting spear. Her heroism is to be recognized at a celebration during the new year.

Still, stories continue to come forth about infernal sightings and incursions. While the Breach is the most likely time to see extraplanar menaces, we must be constantly vigilant and prepared to stand up for one another.

Number of Bandit Raids Diminishing: Roads Declared 'Safer'

Due to a combined effort of the town guard and economic prosperity in the local region, a recent survey from caravaners and traveling merchants has discovered that the roads and king's highways surrounding the region of Yorik have grown increasingly safer over the past year. In essence, it has apparently been discovered that crime doesn't pay enough to be worth the risk.

Although this is unquestionably positive news, it is the position of the Adventurer that we must not allow ourselves to slip into complacency.

If it is increased vigilance that has staved off these bandit raids, then it is only by continuing that vigilance that we can keep our current record of success in holding back the scourge of highway robbery. If it is our prosperity that has made other means of revenue more appealing, then we need to keep helping one another and growing as individuals and a community.

Any person who happens upon any form of robbery, is recommended to inform the town guards at once.

Residents Begin to Take Down 'Breach' Defenses

Serfs and homesteaders of the Yorik region have begun to disassemble the fortifications that were put in place to reinforce windows, doors, and other potential points of entry into their homes during Terror's Breach. A common but effective deterrent to infernal attack, such defenses are of limited use against a determined attacker, but may lead to a disinterested assailant to seek easier prey elsewhere.

Other townsfolk are less optimistic however, and have decided to leave such defenses in place

until the portals which have been plaguing the region cease to manifest.

However, it is now recommended by experts that any defenses that cannot be easily disabled from inside be removed.

As these portals can manifest anywhere, bars over windows or doors that cannot be disabled easily will prevent escape as significantly as they prevented ingress. If you see such a portal, you are recommended to flee; your surest chance of survival stems not from force of defense, but from distance.

“Unique” Circus Coming to Town

Yorik locals are abuzz with discussion of an oncoming circus that is due to reach town sometime in the next few months. With rumours of an upcoming performance, few details have been available, apart from the circus' nature as a unique and special performance.

If this circus performance brings with it a sense of levity, it will hopefully help to dispel the gloom that is pervasive with the sobering reminder of the Terror's Breach recently passed, and the passing of

brave defenders of the region. While no information is currently available about fees for admission or similar, those interested in attending performances should be prepared to support them with coin. With any luck, this will be a positive influence on the town, helping to restore *esprit de corps*, and perhaps opening the way to more performers and artists visiting our settlement.

It is somewhat remarkable that a traveling show is still moving this late into the season, but as

we have not had snow since the beginning of November, it is possible that the roads will remain clear long enough for them to perform their show and then depart.

As always, with traveling shows in this region, we should be aware that these are visitors to our town and treat them with politeness and respect. We should also remain vigilant for anyone abusing the hospitality of the traveling show, as the crowds that often flock to see such performances may draw thieves and cutpurses.

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)

Walking alone will only get you so far, before the path becomes impassable. Look for people alike but different from you, the better to walk the path with you. Only with such companions can you overcome the stones that will rise before you.

The Harp (Jan 29th – Feb 27th)

Silver and gold do not shine in the dark, for their only light is that which they reflect. So it is with the travails of the spirit; only by sharing who we are with others can our hopes, joys, and dreams exalt us. Show others what matters to you, and you will find that the light they give you will set your joy to shine.

The Fount (Feb 28th – Mar 30th)

Beware a wind that screams but does not blow, and a chill it does not carry. The spectral undead will carry some import to you one way or another in the month to come. Lucky number is five, and the sign of the spade will cross your path at least twice. Be prepared for when it does, and have an answer ready.

The Dice (Mar 31st – Apr 28th)

The punishment for liars is that they come to believe their own falsehoods. If

you can pierce a deception that you have built to protect yourself from an unwelcome truth, you will grow in power and ability measured by the loss of comfort that you have endured.

The Arrow (Apr 29th – May 27th)

Beware the colours yellow and red; one who bears these colours may prove an ill-omen in the days to come. When you see a fork in the road, remember that there are not two paths available but three; the path you came upon may carry you to new places if you allow it to.

The Stone (May 28th – Jun 25th)

Bearing the weight of concern for others has strengthened your back. If you set your feet, there is no grief so great that it must overcome you. Do not be afraid of the opportunity that will present itself, but beware of false paths that would lead you to ruin.

The Coin (June 26th – July 28th)

Nothing that you do will free you from responsibilities that you freely undertook, except abandoning them. Do not do this lightly, for the consequences of such an action will ring through history, forward and back. It is essential to remember that few will honour a bargain struck under duress; your life and the lives of others may depend upon this recollection.

The Spade (July 29th – Aug 30th)

A lie can make it around the world before the truth has its boots on. Do not rely on what you hear first, but rather take the time to see that which passes verification. Your steps may be dogged by demons in the days to come; if you

are careful, you may thread the needle's eye. The truth's boots are sharp when she begins to kick.

The Blade (Aug 31st – Sept 27th)

Reflection and introspection will reveal the answer to a question that has dogged you for some time now. The answer won't be what you expect, but might well be what you have privately feared. Be bold and resolute, for to quail before possibility is to fail in the face of certainty.

The Mask (Sept 28th – October 31st)

A recent gamble has paid off; do not be so foolish as to believe that this indicates a change in your luck. You will make your own fortune, if you are wise; preparation and precision prevent a piss-poor performance. One gamble paying off is good fortune; if you wish to win each time, you are well advised to learn how best to cheat.

The Shield (Nov 1st – Nov 29th)

The only certainty against hardship is fellowship. If you support others in their times of need, you may gain allies, but more importantly, you may learn to value them as friends. Fair-weather passes, but storm clouds beckon.

The Hearth (Nov 30th – Dec 30th)

Do not pretend to be wise. Admitting ignorance is not a marker of the fool, however foolish it may make you feel. Gather roses while you may, for the calendar turns on, and chances will slip like sand through your fingers. Prepare to make a stand.

Yorik: A Newcomer's Guide (pt 3)

As Yorik may be a hostile place, we here at the Adventurer want to give everyone the advantages we can. Columnist Mist has once again weighed in on the matter.

As Balaxa's blessed breath chills the land we at The Adventurer have prepared a special winter edition of the Yorik survival guide. With winter upon us, new and familiar threats come with it.

1. New weapons for old foes. It has been observed in the past that familiar threats like Vrecks and Gnolls can weaponize the blessings of Balaxa.

This has given many of them a ranged ice-based attack. Be aware that just because they are not in immediate striking distance, it does not mean you are safe during this time of the year.

2. As winter is upon us, the veil between her world and ours is much thinner. This has been known to lead to ice elementals appearing in our world. Ice elementals are powerful combatants, and it is strongly recommend to engage them in groups. Be aware that many of them are also quite intelligent and can speak if they so wish.

3. While it is still early yet for wendigos to start appearing, they certainly do come with the season. Wendigos are savage cannibals that eat all sentient life. Apparently created from starved souls, they are inquisitive and clever pack animals.

More than willing to yell for help in order to facilitate an ambush, they grow in power the longer they are alive. If you see some report it to your local guard so they can be dealt with before they become more serious problems. If we can find and root them out early, they may not pose such a threat this year.

4. The weather itself may be a threat. Dress in layers and try to keep active – this is not the season for lying in wait, for cold is as sure a killer as any spell or monster, if less direct in its means. Dress warm!

5. While deep snow and ice can make it more difficult to move through the woods, those same factors make it easier to track fleeing prey. Know that simply running may not be enough, if pursued by a monster or predator.

And there you have it – five more vital tips for surviving the perils of Yorik!

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.

The year 2020 is being dubbed 'the year of Fiddler's Grace'. What this means has yet to be determined, but it's a fairly catchy name!

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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.

Small copper objects have recently been going missing when left unattended out of doors. No direct pattern has been discerned, but the laughter of magpies detected.

Portents: a scent that leads the mind down memory's lanes. A casting of lots with an even divide, and one bone left standing on end. Calf with two heads born at river's bend.

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 Need Advice?

The world can be a dizzying place filled with uncertainty and troubles. Your question might be shared by dozens of your fellow townsfolk.

Why not share it (anonymously) with the world?

The Yorik Adventurer will be starting an Advice Column! Questions anonymous, answers snappy and useful!

Don't wonder anymore!

Editorial: The Year's Turning

While the year's end is still around a month away, it behooves us to take time to be aware of the passage of time. As the seasons turn, we grow in ability and as people, but run the risk of dwelling only on the negative things which happened over the course of the year.

In Yorik, we are challenged more regularly than most face in the course of their lives. What few chances we have to reclaim control in our lives

have us healing shoulder to shoulder, rather than face to face. We remember wounds, and forget gifts, because we survive by remembering how we were hurt before.

While I will not pretend to know the hearts and souls of every person in Yorik, I can but give this advice; as we approach the year's end, take time. Reflect not merely on the year's ills, but on its gifts. Tell a friend that you appreciate them, and tell the people that

you care about that they are in your thoughts. Yorik gives us few gifts greater than one another.

We will never have forever. The sand falls through an hourglass, but the upper glass is opaque; we don't know how much time we have left. We do not go gentle into that night, but time turns whether we will it or no. Right now, we have time, we have a chance, and we have one another.

Let's use it well.

Oren D'vann Freedman, Editor

Matters of Faith

Holy Days Just Past

October 31st, Terror's Breach
Although dangerous, Terror's Breach is now well behind us. Let us consider the accomplishments, the losses and the lessons that we sustained in the conflicts stemming from this day, and let us allow it to steel our resolve against what may be a harsh winter to come.

We have overcome fear and hardship. Let us not allow it to overcome us, if the times to come are hard.

November 5th, Curtain's Watch (Clovis)

Let us allow the lessons of the Vigilant to bring us together as they have this past season. Curtain's Watch denotes the ever-standing vigil against those that would predate upon our friends and family. Let us bear these lessons from these moments with us the year round, and look out for one another; only by doing so do we stay alive.

\Forthcoming Holy Days

December 21st: Kell's Embrace
Very little is known about Kell's holiday or the practices of His faithful, but common folk-superstition holds that a secret written on vellum buried in untrammelled land upon nightfall upon this day will remain secret for a year and a day.

As most people do not know priests of Kell, leaving cookies and small gifts strewn about for anyone to take increases the chances that they will get one.

December 23rd, Frost's Sacrifice (Balaxa)

New priests of Balaxa are frequently initiated into deeper secrets of the faith during Frost's Sacrifice; the average layperson is recommended to offer gifts of wine, sweets and food at the nearest shrine or temple, begging the Frozen Tear to grant clemency against the worst excesses of the wind and weather in the doubtless harsh winter to come.

A Message of Faith

Hope is hard. And yet we do it anyway.

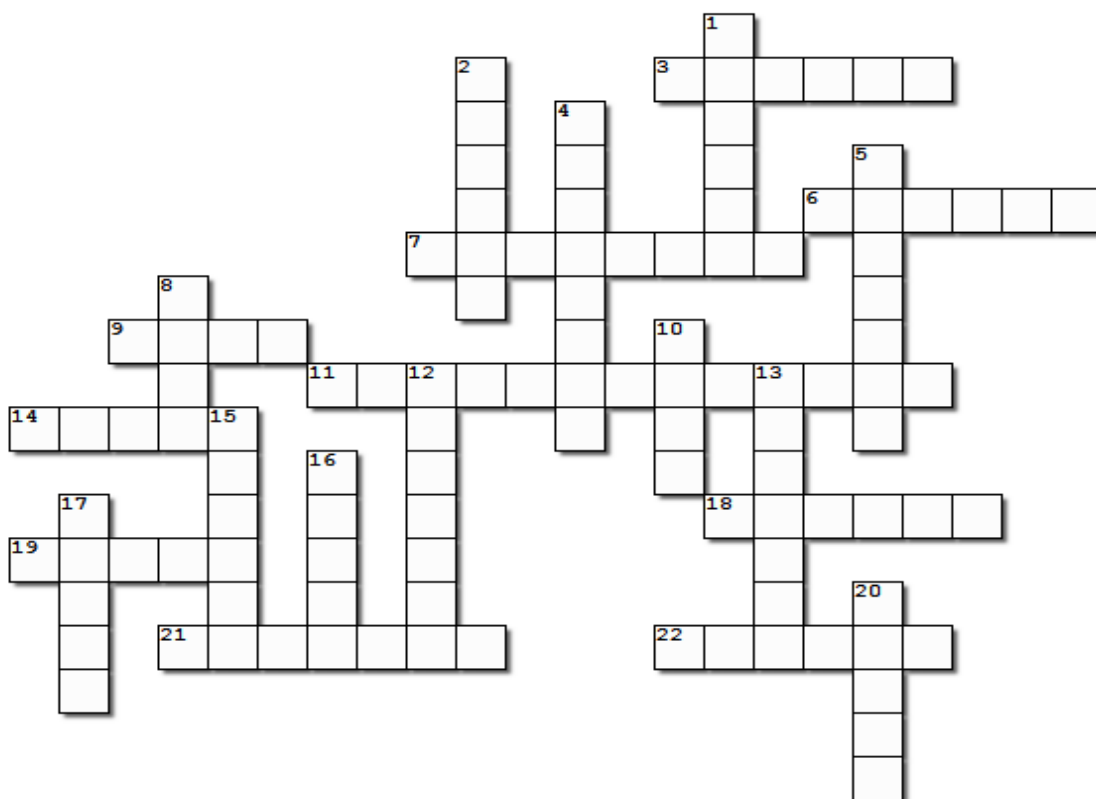
Despair is easy. Hope is hard. And yet if I had to define the peculiar quality shared by the majority of the people of Yorik, it is that intangible quality of hope that tomorrow will be better than today.

If you look around you, you will discover that the people in this community that we have built – the people that, in spite of the madness and violence, fear and brief and scanty respite, *choose* to live here – are not content to tread water. With each breath in their body and each careful act and thoughtful gesture, they strive to build a better tomorrow than was conceivable yesterday.

They hope.

And if – when – we are knocked down, hope is what gets us up to stand for what we believe in once more.

Crossword



Across

3. A scroll's material, scraped clean.

6. The fate of things when Astridites arrive

7. A minor spell, or quality of might

9. A natural stone enclosure

11. An alchemical adhesion

14. A noble rank: put up your

18. An untimely end.

19. A lawn, a frog, a pony

21. Ornament upon a bird wing

22. Alwyn's gift to the living

Down

1. Unshared knowledge.

2. Arkady's domain

4. Woven wall-furnishing

5. Harodom: Great Library of

8. To give aid or concern

10. A binding of tales or wit

12. Absent sound

13. Apothecary's measure given moral weight.

15. A wall holding a torch

16. Cast this into darkness

17. The dragon-queen's gift

20. Atha's building blocks

Riddles

Riddle 1:

Turn me on my back, and gaze within my belly; there you will not find blood or entrails, but wisdom for the ages

Answer 1: koob A

Riddle 2:

Two brothers, that walk when they are filled and stand still when they are emptied, tired souls and filled eyes, but silent tongues

Answer 2: stooB

Riddle 3:

I grow as the sun rises, and mark your every step; I cannot escape you, unless you pinch the light.

Answer 3: wodahs A

Riddle 4: I never was, but always will be. I never come, but always beckon. None shall see me in person, but the wise may see the shape of my reflections in that which is.

Answer 4: worromoT

November Crossword Solutions

Across: 4. UNBIND 6. WINE 7. NIGHT 10. TEA 11. HOLY 13. TERRORSBREACH 15. SLEEP 17. WORTH 19. SORDID 20. ARMOUR 21. HERO **Down:** 1. BARD 2. NIGHTMARE 3. MAELSTROM 5. HERALDRY 8. CHICKEN 9. LETTER 12. GOLD 14. SWORDED 16. MARIUS 18. TORCH

The Yorik Stumbling Players Want You!

Auditions are now open for "A Testament of Brack" a dramatic telling of the ascension of Brack, god of Law, into his divine role.

This original play is having its debut in Yorik this coming Spring, and each performer will receive a share of any proceeds realized by this performance.

Please contact the Stumbling Players if you are interested in getting involved in this production, by the end of November

Gender/Species Blind Casting

***Interested parties should contact Director Oren D'Vann
Freedman, C/O The Adventurer***

Recipe of the Month: Winter's Soup

A hearty soup made with vegetables that winter well, this will keep you fed the winter long.

- O Freedman

Ingredients:

2 tablespoons of butter
3 cloves garlic, minced
2 leeks, white and light green parts sliced
3 large carrots diced
1 peeled and chopped acorn squash
½ tsp. Salt
Herbs de province
Curry powder
28 oz. Diced tomatoes

½ cup pearl barley
6 cups vegetable broth
1 cup chopped greens –
spinach or carrot greens.

Instructions:

Melt the butter in a large saucepan over medium heat, and then add leeks and garlic until soft and fragrant. Add in carrots and squash, stirring to coat with butter.

Follow with salt and seasonings, and then tomato, barley, and both, stirring regularly.

Simmer for about 45 minutes, then check to see if the barley is cooked through. If not, cook a little longer.

Immediately before serving, stir in chopped greens or spinach, until wilted.

For a bit of extra kick, experiment with other seasonings such as cayenne and other herbal additions, to taste.

Enjoy with crusty bread.

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