

The Yorik Adventurer

amicus certus in re incerta

February, 2020 A.T.

An Unforgotten Soldier: One of Yorik's Own Returns

The war with Eldersire lasted long enough to leave horrible wounds in our community: parents, brothers, sisters, those who marched to war and did not return home. Even in a world of magic and miracles, not every soul is willing or able to return from death, and those who see the face of war are often traumatized by the experience.

It is to our great delight then to report the return of one of Yorik's fallen; Gorik, of no family name, the scion of a local

farming family. Thought to have been definitively slain in the battles against the elven invaders, Gorik's unexpected return appears to be but one of many leading many to wonder precisely how this miracle has occurred.

The family of Gorik is holding a celebration in the name of Apenca, Mother of the Living, a thanks giving in honour of the return of their lost soldier. Although no specific time has been set for this celebration, all

are encouraged to leave an offering at Apenca's local temple, or to light a candle in thanks. At present, we can merely hope that our fortune continues fair.

We have all lost a great deal in the last two decades of near-constant warfare. There are few who cannot name a lost loved one or friend. While the people of Yorik know their duty in the face of war, we should all take this opportunity to express our gratitude for some good news.

Running Away With the Circus? Locals Intrigued by Carnival Jobs

The recent visit of the 'golden carnival' to the Yorik region has led to some local residents stating an interest in leaving the village in order to join up with the performers. The tradition of 'running away with the circus', an oft-cited fantasy of children, seems to have very real foundations locally.

Local serfs are reminded that if they wish to leave the barony, they are required to request permission to do so from the local aristocracy. Although the local nobility is often even-

handed, oaths of vassalage and serfdom do form a significant obligation that must first be negotiated before departing.

Overall, we wish all the best for those who aim to seek their fortune outside of Yorik's often treacherous borders. The perils of the open road may be numerous, but it is difficult to seriously argue that they are significantly more fraught than those faced within our town's confines. Those that leave should know however that their absence will be keenly felt by the community.

Unseasonable Weather Continues to Vex Locals

Rain and mud have ruled the day this winter, with occasional snowfall as the only real reminder of the season. Local residents have complained of rising waters from the rainfall, as well as muddy furroughs foundering horses and halting carts in their tracks.

The continued warmth has some worried that we will not get enough snow this year to allow for meltwater to help the crops in the spring, and unseasonable warmth has led to plants, apparently confused by the warmth, budding in the middle of February.

It is difficult to say whether this is merely a shift in weather or the displeasure of Balaxa, but, although worried, locals have taken the opportunity to continue to do handiwork and chores usually precluded by the winter's snow and icy winds. It is thought that winter festivals including the Lover's Dance will have unusually high turnouts.

At press time it was snowing heavily, giving hope that winter, though much delayed, has not yet given up on our small hamlet. The warmth has proven some respite, but we are ready for winter.

Our New Advice Column: *Ask Carissa*

Yorik faces its share of unique strife and uncertainty, but we at the Adventurer have the wise aid of Carissa of Alejandro to consult on matters of the world.

Q: *Help! My mother-in-law is visiting from New Fowler for the first time and I'm nervous. My husband says his mother is very proper. I've lived on the farm my whole life, what if I break some rule of city etiquette without realizing?*

Nervous Newlywed

A: Dear Nervous Newlywed,

Try not to worry too much. Her son obviously loves you, and that will count for something!

Spend a bit of time just before she arrives doing things that make you feel confident - cook dinner from something you've grown on the farm, spend a bit of extra time on your makeup, or go for a walk through town.

You could also ask your husband

for a lesson in the manners he grew up with. Maybe you could even make a fun date of the night!

In the end, remember that she loves your husband and he loves you.

Thanks for your question Nervous Newlywed, and for all of you readers out there, please keep your questions coming!

Phillip of the Green Pony Tavern is pleased to inform all of his **Auction of Wonders**
This **Marvel of Value** is set to occur in the early afternoon of

FEBRUARY THE 8TH

BE THERE – OR FOREVER WONDER WHAT YOU MIGHT HAVE WON!

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)

No matter how far your journey has been, it is never too late to make right that which you have set wrong. The world is not a game of zero sums; each time a window closes, a door opens. Your lucky number will be four, and the colour blue shall portent mightily this month.

The Harp (Jan 29th – Feb 27th)

The devil always lies, except when the truth would hurt you worse. Beware a blade in the shadows far more than the brandished one in plain sight. Your trust is a priceless commodity; do not be surprised at the dividends of investing it wisely.

The Fount (Feb 28th – Mar 30th)

There is no dishonour in a bended knee, if the cause to which you would give your service is a worthy one. The example that you set this month will have lasting results among all who look to you for guidance – and if you seek to spot them, you may be surprised just how many of those there are.

The Dice (Mar 31st – Apr 28th)

It comes down to chance, just as it always has. The strength of your worthy

convictions will carry you further than the strength of your sword arm, but both will fail you if you do not plant your feet upon a solid foundation. Beware the shifting sand, and the creeping vine; the sign of the broken lock is an ill omen.

The Arrow (Apr 29th – May 27th)

This is a month to bet on a sure thing. Your fortunes will sour; all that you rely upon simply on the strength of these alone will surely fail. Reach for the unreachable star; simply have a plan to regain your fortunes if you should take a flight of fancy along the way.

The Stone (May 28th – Jun 25th)

You will be buffeted by life and death both this month. Stand sturdy, strong, resilient; as constant as the northern star, to whose true fixed and resting features there is no fellow in the firmament. Then and only then, you will be able to see the truth concealed by the crow's dominion.

The Coin (June 26th – July 28th)

The guilty flee where none pursue. Your pockets will be deep enough not for what you want, but for what you need. A right-handed person will do you a good turn this month; drink only from known wells though, for poison may hold a place in your future.

The Spade (July 29th – Aug 30th)

Those that set you aside do not know the value that they so readily dispense with. The world will hold the virtue that others cannot, if you will allow it to bear you forth. Beware false friends and truthful enemies, for neither bears you any well-wishes, however fond their smile.

The Blade (Aug 31st – Sept 27th)

The sign of the shroud will be significant to you this month. Fear the candle that burns alone in the darkness. A flatterer will attempt to pour poison into your ear; allow it only if you welcome such poison, for poison shall go everywhere that poison is welcome. Be wary of how much you pay in order to walk the path, or you will come up short well before the end.

The Mask (Sept 28th – October 31st)

The deceiver will not know their own face when they see it in the mirror, for they are so used to seeing the lie that they put there instead. If you see someone in distress this month, give them your aid; you will be repaid, although not necessarily in kind or by the same hand. Beware the poisoner's ring, and the adder's bite.

The Shield (Nov 1st – Nov 29th)

There is no winter, however long, that will not give way to spring. Stand. Withstand. You form the bulwark against injustice and ill faith, and those that you protect may not know how much they benefit by your presence. Do not be afraid to take care of yourself, but do not be afraid to allow others to take care of you either.

The Hearth (Nov 30th – Dec 30th)

The fire that waits for us at home warms us more than any we light for ourselves along the way. Be wary of those attempting to extinguish your light, but do not turn away the bona fide traveler in fear of the destructive deceiver, or they will have slain you in forestalling your deeds.

Yorik: A Newcomer's Guide (pt 5)

As Yorik may be a hostile place, we here at the Adventurer want to give everyone the advantages we can. Columnist Mist is researching the next installment, so Oren has picked up this chapter.

Let's face it: swords are expensive, and there isn't always a smith or a Repair spell available when some mighty monster sweeps the blade from your hand or renders it into shattered shards. What do you do when a new weapon isn't in the budget right away?

Happily, nature's bounty and peasant weapons are ready at hand for just

such a situation! While not necessarily as effective as a specifically crafted weapon, the very woods that surround us can provide a veritable armoury, at least enough to keep you alive until you can get a more reliable weapon in your hands.

1. The humble club. Probably the first weapon ever developed, and it can be yours at the cost of wandering into the woods and looking around for a few moments. A few notes about finding the ideal bludgeon; while a good amount of heft is healthy, too much of a good thing

can be a bad thing. You want something a couple of feet long, ideally with no significant branches or forks, narrow enough that you can easily and comfortably hold it in one hand. Be careful of poison oak and poison ivy, or you might find your cure worse than the disease!

2. Staves take a little more looking, but if you're willing to settle for a humble weapon, you don't need to look far. Here, it's safe to take something with a bit more heft – only a fool tries to use a staff one-handed. You might not be able to run quite as

fast, so consider the trade-off between weight and heft; you might be able to strike a doughtier blow, but it might come at the cost of speed, and speed can be the difference between life and death.

3. This one's a bit of a cheat, since it requires you to bring it along, but don't forget to take a sling with you. Ammunition is as plentiful as the stones around you, and consequently free.

Stay safe out there, and look out for one another; teamwork is a mightier weapon than any listed here.

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.

Yew trees in the region long dead and dormant have burst into abundant life, blooming in the dead of winter.

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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.

Two silver, three copper have been found in a small pile by the bridge out of town. To be returned to the owner if they can provide a good description of the missing coins.

Portents: a hand with flames at the tip of each finger, seen in dreams and visions. A die, cocked upon a corner, spinning in place. The sound of laughing ravens and dying swine.

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 now has an Advice Column! Questions anonymous, answers snappy and useful! Answered by our very own Carissa of Alejandro!

Don't wonder anymore!

Editorial: The Dirt Path

As I write this, snow that I have been awaiting for over a month is just beginning to fall, and I'm letting out a breath I didn't know that I was holding. The world is changing, and whether it is for good or evil, it is difficult to say.

Even for those who can see glimpses of what is to come, exactly how it will play out is occluded with the mists of chance and free will ensuring that nothing – *nothing* – is set in stone.

We are not on a stone path. We are on a dirt path, and the way that we pull our cart will dig furrows into the soil. Whether we can then shift out of them will depend an awful lot on how often we go through the old tracks, again and again. We will never be stuck, not truly, but it might become a devil of a job to free ourselves.

The Adventurer will be trying new things. Giving a voice to people who have things to say, and giving things to say to

people willing to raise their voices. So I challenge you to do the same.

Try something you haven't before. Build something. Let yourself be creative. Sometimes the things that hold us back turn out to be fears that will never come to pass. Sometimes those things will come to pass, and the only way out is through.

Adventure. Pathfind. Go to new places, and do new things.

The old things aren't working.

Oren D'vann Freedman, Editor

Matters of Faith

Holy Days Just Past

January 1st: Year's End (Jerroh)

Every year gives us new chances and new hope to pursue in the year to come. It's not too late to decide on a way that you're going to improve your life, or to find some way to celebrate the end of the old year and the beginning of the new.

Just as importantly, do not forget to remember those who have passed in the year to come. We owe them no less.

January 13th: The Loving Lash (Jerroh)

This past loving lash was long on piety and the acknowledging of what necessary suffering marks our lives, and short on priests who would transgress against the law and impose their blessings upon those who do not seek them. Locally, that went fairly well, and let us hope to remain pious in this new and much preferred manner.

\Forthcoming Holy Days

February 14th: The Lover's Dance (Alejandro)

The beginnings of betrothals and marriages are common on this day dedicated to the god of love and verse, but even if you have no special person in your life to share this holiday with, it may be worth considering a donation to the local church in honour of a beloved cause, or the composition of verse or song. If nothing else, there are few better ways to spend this holy day than in the company of friends and loved ones.

February 29th: Time's Paradox (Elieff)

“The Day that is not a day”, according to the old verse, this holy day of Elieff appears but once every four years on the calendar. Oaths taken on this day are said to bind four times as strongly, and it is not inappropriate to spend this day in quiet contemplation of the divine. Hourglasses and sundials are appropriate gifts on this day.

A Message of Faith

Faith is in your life to be used.

This is not to say that it is merely a means to an end. Faith, held deeply, is a worthy end unto itself. It is a cause to serve, it is a value to uphold, and it is a characteristic of worth even if it had no physical utility whatever.

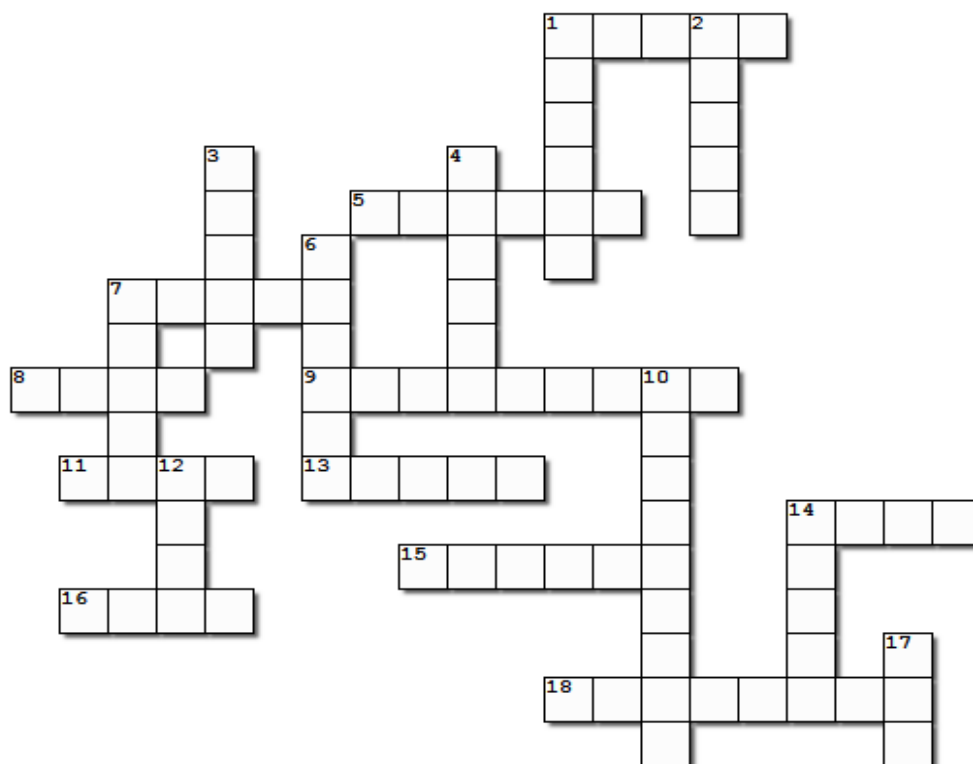
Nor do I refer here to the conjuring of miracles through prayer. This is useful, but this too is an act of devotion.

What I mean is this: that when you feel that glow that warms and protects, you should use it to drive you to holy purpose.

That when you take a position of devotion and prayer, you should use it to the benefit of your community. If you are of personal faith, then let it guide you. If you are a faith leader, then bear your faith forward like a beacon for those who need the light.

And if you fall to your knees, mop the floor while you're down there.

Crossword



Across

1. To pink at the cheeks or play a poker hand
5. A crying tree
7. A bug that bears a house upon its back
8. A flying leap
9. A bar that's a horse of a different colour
11. The point of the paper
13. Highwayman's end.
14. A hint at a puzzles solving

15. A hunger for water
16. A bear-like pest creature
18. A mournful lament

12. A friendly gesture or a crushing bore
14. A trinket or oddment
17. A soap ingredient that sounds like a deception

Down

1. A field untended.
2. Alwyn's wrath
3. Move in silence and shadow
4. The god of pestilence
6. A cup that rhymes with a drake
10. A scavenger creature that resists all blows

Riddles

Riddle 1:

Though I'm tender, I'll break your teeth to bite, and not icy, though made of the mint.

Answer 1: nioc A

Riddle 2:

I pierce armour, and break swords, yet for all my might, a tree is safe from my grasp. What am I?

Answer 2: tsuR

Riddle 3:

I give mirth and merriment, foolishness to the wise, courage to the coward; though I impart no more wisdom as I grow older, I am the finer for it.

Answer 3: eniW

Riddle 4: The more that you feed me, the smaller I shall become.

Answer 4: eloh A

November Crossword Solutions

Across: 4. IAMB 6. PORTNOS 8. THEOLOGY 9. QUEUE 10. DANCE 12. GHOUL 15. WIDTH 18. SCRAMBLE 20. SNARE **Down:** 1. VERSE 2. GAROTTE 3. ALWYN 7. BOUNTYHUNTER 11. ORANGE 13. MAGEDOM 14. REDCAP 17. QUEST 19. CUE 20. STEW

***Due to a lack of interest,
auditions for the Yorik
Stumbling Players have been
canceled.***

*Copies of 'A Testament of Brack' will be available within the
Green Pony Tavern for anyone interested to read at their
leisure.*

*Anyone interested in mounting the show are invited to speak
to Oren D'vann, C/O The Adventurer.*

Please enjoy the play.

Recipe of the Month: Hasenpfeffer

*When I was in service to Her
Majesty's forces, this helped to
make a meal of simple game fit
for an officer.*

- O Freedman

Ingredients:

3 lbs hare, cleaned and cut in
pieces
½ teaspoon salt
1/3 cup flour
½ lb bacon, diced
½ cup finely cut shallots
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1 cup dry red wine or sherry
1 cup water
1 tbsp chicken bouillon gran.

10 black peppercorns, crushed
1 bay leaf
¼ tsp crushed rosemary
2 tsp lemon juice
3 tbsp water
2 tbsp flour
1/8 tsp crushed thyme

Instructions:

Fry bacon, and remove once
evenly browned. Set aside.
Sprinkle hare with salt and coat
with 1/3 cup flour, shaking off
excess. Brown rabbit in skillet,
and remove, along with all but
2 tbsp of the bacon fat.

Saute shallots and garloc in
skillet for about 4 mins, until
tender. Stir in wine, 1 cup of
water, and bouillon. Heat to
boiling, then stir in pepper, bay
leaf, and rosemary. Return
hare and bacon to skillet. Heat
to boiling, then indirectly heat,
and cover, simmering until
hare is tender. Remove bay
leaf and discard.

To make gravy, stir lemon juice
into the skillet with the lard,
combine water and flour and
mix together, stirring over low
heat. Finally, stir in thyme.

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Tea Time in Yorik

A new feature article from the Tea Appreciation Society of Yorik, this article was penned by Moira, and requires no further introduction from me.

“Tea is sunlight held together by water. It sifts through your being and lights up your mood.” - Duccio Triskar

Greetings from the Tea Appreciation Society. We are a small group of women with a simple goal - to spread the love of tea throughout Yorik. After all, where there is tea, there is hope. And Yorik could do with some of that.

Each month we will feature a different blend, which will be sampled on Saturday at Four Bells. Our first selection is introduced here by Moira:

I have had a long and tremulous relationship with Earl Grey teas. At times it has been what I reach for every morning before I can bear to greet Callis. At others the thought of subjecting myself to another dose of perfumed bergamot makes me feel like Blythe himself were standing beside me.

However, my first cup of this creamy variation drew me in immediately with its smooth, comforting aroma. It was unlike any other Earl Grey I had every met.

While most know that the classic feature of any Earl Grey is citrus bergamot oil, most are unaware of the changes that the blend has undergone. Traditionally, Earl Grey has been made with Keemun, a black tea not intended to be drunk with milk. However, the newer blends are made with Ceylon or other stronger black teas that are well suited for the addition of milk or cream. In these blends, producers have also increased the amount of bergamot oil, leading to a tea that is at times sharp and all but overpowering in flavour.

As a traditionalist, I prefer my Earl Grey with only a touch of sugar for sweetness, and this does nothing to mellow out these stronger Earl Greys. I'm left yearning for a return to a more balanced and delicate blend. Such was my delight then when I was handed a cup of Cream of Earl Grey by one

of my favourite tea traders in Hoggspart's market, Davyd S'gal of Eldershire.

Though made with a strong black leaf, the addition of vanilla rounds the sharp notes of the bergamot into a smooth, creamy finish that only needs a touch of sweetness. There are further cornflower and marigold petals added to this blend that add unexpected depth and richness to the flavour. For those who prefer a rich and creamy finish, the leaves are strong enough to blend beautifully with milk or cream.

If you have never tried an Earl Grey, or if you have and were scared away by a cloying dose of bergamot, I urge you to give Cream of Earl Grey a sip and experience this delicious blend for yourself.

All are welcome to join the Yorik Tea Appreciation Society at the Green Pony on Saturday, February 8th at 4 PM (chaos permitting) for a sampling of this tea and chance to relax and chat with other tea lovers!

Want a Tale for the Table?

We here at the Adventurer take our name seriously. Adventuring is the act of going out, taking chances, and living to tell the tale.

So here's what we're going to do.

We want someone who will follow a treasure map, acquired by us at the paper's expense from the Cartographer's Guild, and then tell us all about what happened. We want 300 to 500 words that tell us about how you kicked in the door, found out what was what, and left with treasure and a story to inspire and entertain.

Sound like you?

Come see us.