

The Yorik Eye

Pro scientia atque sapientia

February 2nd, 2017 A.T.

Harodom Soldiers Murdered

Four soldiers on a regular patrol within the outlying boundaries of the Town of Yorik have been found killed, marked with a triskallion. This mark, claimed by the being known as Valikar, and combined with a positive identification of the forces of Valikar by the deceased, makes it appear extremely likely that it was either Valikar himself, or forces in his service, which have attacked serving members of the Harodom military in a time of war.

Marks of injury and a thorough

investigation of the area strongly suggests that the murdered soldiers were in retreat from a physically and/or numerically superior force when they were killed. Cause of death appears to be wounds to the back, followed more a more thorough savaging once fallen.

Without a formal declaration of intent to make war, we are forced to assume that Valikar or those in his service are now simply choosing targets of opportunity – or worse still, deliberately undermining the Harodonian

forces in this area to strengthen his own military position. It is at this point unknown whether the soldiers that were slain have been able to resurrect.

In light of this most recent attack, the Eye urges all who have encountered Valikar or his servants to behave with extreme caution. The savaging of the bodies was extreme to the point of being grotesque, and the branding of the bodies post-mortem is a new level of depravity heretofore unseen in this conflict.

Wendigos Return: Be Prepared

Last year, our community was plagued by wendigos – cannibalistic undead victims of possession with a penchant for brutality. Vicious, ruthless, and prone to ambush tactics, wendigos pose a very real threat to all travelers, and extreme caution is recommended, particularly when traveling at night and alone.

Perhaps most distressing, these creatures possess the ability to temporarily re-animate the recently deceased, at least enough to use them as bait for further victims. Using the voices of their existing victims, they cry out for non-specific help, using the best intentions of those rushing to the aid of the fallen, against them.

Wendigos are extremely dangerous creatures, especially when striking from behind.

What To Do in Event of Suspected Wendigo Attack

The Eye recommends the following procedure, that we have named the S.M.A.R.T tactic.

Stop

Although your initial reaction to help is good, stop and take an account of what the situation appears to be, and what you can do.

Mention

People going solo are easy prey for ambush predators. If you hear something, say something.

Assess

Count your resources and figure out who's missing.

React

Now, fully prepared, go and react to the situation.

Treat

Offer aid to the fallen.

Doomsayer Not Murdered: Wendigo Victim

Reports of a murder within the vicinity of the Church of All Gods is erroneous, investigations conclude. One of the many doomsayers that by now are a familiar feature of the various crises of Yorik was found with his heart ripped out in mid-January. This was not, as was initially thought, a murder performed by any mortal killer, but rather the work of the returning Wendigos (see article, left).

While this death is of course tragic, it is not the work of any mortal killer, as has been rumoured. Public push-back against the doomsayers has sparked some tensions within the area, as those locals by now well familiar with the scope of crises which have in past afflicted the Yorik region

are likely to qualify the current situation as troubling, but not likely to be the literal end of the world.

If you know of someone who has gone missing within the past few months, or if you or someone you know has resurrected recently and the cause of your death is unknown to you, please inform the guard at your soonest convenience.

The best way that we can stay safe from these creatures is to have an accurate idea of where they have struck, when they have struck, and who might be missing. In so doing, we can help to take preparations to prevent any future deaths. Always travel in groups when out of doors at night.

Mystery Animal Deaths Worry Local Farms

Local wildlife and farm animals have been seen behaving strangely by local farmers and hunters in the past few weeks. Creatures that have otherwise acted normally have been suddenly exhibiting panic reactions, and then behaving erratically, before finally expiring.

Examination of the animal remains suggest that the cause of death is heart failure from excessive strain. Similar in some ways to the toxic side effects of certain

herbal preparations, particularly those that enhance speed, strength and reflexes. The exact cause of this reaction is unknown.

If you see an animal behaving strangely, act with caution. Do not make eye contact, and do not raise your hands above your head. Move slowly, and in a non-threatening manner where possible.

The Eye seeks assistance in this investigation from local survivalists.

Mine Lockout Ends Peacefully

A combined effort of local adventurers and nobility, led by Sir Manon, has ended the prolonged mine lockout first reported in this paper last month. The two-headed giantkin which led the lockout has apparently fled the scene, and had left the goblins working in the mines to starve.

With this happy news, the production of iron in the region should soon return to normal. Just as importantly, this peaceful resolution is

a positive sign for peaceful relations with the local goblin tribes. As well, it should mean that the mines will be functioning at peak efficiency much sooner than if the entire staff had been incapacitated.

If you happen to see Sir Manon or any of the adventurers who took part in the intervention, be sure to cheer their diplomatic efforts on behalf of our town. The end of this lockout may spell a return to economic growth.

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)

Curiosity killed the cat – but satisfaction lived it. Ask difficult questions, but be prepared for difficult answers, because there are a fair few waiting in the wings for you. Earth is at the forefront of the elemental cycle, encouraging the building of a stable foundation.

The Harp (Jan 29th – Feb 27th)

The next month's actions will determine greater events than they immediately appear. A wise word, spoken at the right time, could stave off disaster. Be honest with friends, and doubly so with loved ones, because deception and treachery punish with their proliferation. Choose your words and deeds with care.

The Fount (Feb 28th – Mar 30th)

Corporeal undead are likely to feature prominently in the next month's doings. Turmoil from world events will have a significant impact on your life in the immediate future, and you should be prepared to embrace new challenges, or to reap the whirlwind.

The Dice (Mar 31st – Apr 28th)

The cards you now hold are of greater value than their facings suggest. Play them wisely, as the stakes of the game

have not yet been determined. Water will play a significant role in an upcoming decision, and beware the colour blue.

The Arrow (Apr 29th – May 27th)

Death walks across the world, and we in its shadow. Recent events are likely to induce peril particular to you – be informed and be cautious, and you may pass through the shadow unscathed. Infernal forces are likely to feature prominently in your next month. Be on guard for an enemy in disguise.

The Stone (May 28th – Jun 25th)

As the drop of water wears away the mountain, triumph comes through persistence. Large obstacles may appear before you in the weeks to come; those which you cannot avoid, endure. You may find a demonic influence in days to come; it does not hold your best interests in mind, but seeks only self-betterment. The number four is likely to feature prominently.

The Coin (June 26th – July 28th)

Devote some time and energy to self-care. An empty purse cannot be spent from. You may feel as if your efforts are going unheeded in the world, but rest well assured that there are those that take notice. You are likely to observe conflict between friends – or former friends – and relatives. It may be advisable to keep your head down for that.

The Spade (July 29th – Aug 30th)

Plant more than you harvest. This adage is not simply useful for farmers; it reflects within your life as well. There will come a time when surplus, set aside

against the likelihood of want will come in particular use. Give to those that are hungry, and you may find charity in your own times of need.

The Blade (Aug 31st – Sept 27th)

Measure your movements and efforts. Those that oppose you, in their efforts, may reveal more than they intend; that is entirely to your benefit, but only if you avoid doing the same. Conflict over material goods seems likely; decide what you can live without.

The Mask (Sept 28th – October 31st)

Every action spirals out from the intended to the unintended. No deed, however simple, has entirely straightforward consequences. Therefore, you are well advised to know that which is knowable about yourself, to best guide the consequences of your bolder strokes.

The Shield (Nov 1st – Nov 29th)

Stand tall. You may be an inspiration to those around you if you act wisely and well, but be careful what paths you lead the impressionable down. Be careful of those who would try to use you to achieve their own ends. No one is beyond the reach of chance, and the right path is rarely the easiest. Infernals seem likely culprits in mischief to come.

The Hearth (Nov 30th – Dec 30th)

The cynic is often right, but at personal cost. Do not give up your warmth in an effort to appear wise. Luck will come to those who take preparations; the gods help those who help one another.

Editorial: The Valikar Crisis, Part 2

A rogue power continues to operate within the boundaries of Harodom. Valikar, a being from Harodom's ancient history, continues to act not in accordance with law, nor divine rule, nor even any authority but his own, answering to no one, and without regard to those he claims to be leading or protecting.

In recent installments, we are presented with a mixed bag of anecdotes of this somewhat chaotic figure; in the course of a single month he slays Harodom soldiers, heals and resurrects an entire battlefield – yes, to our advantage, but also to the remedy of elven forces with which our army was locked in pitched battle.

While it may be tempting to only view this as a positive, such an action speaks to a disregard for the self-determinations of nations or individuals. Valikar 'knows better', and has elected to show us so, simply because he possesses great individual power.

Power comes with responsibility. And Valikar has declared himself responsible to no one.

Today he is healing wounded soldiers. Tomorrow, perhaps he will take their weapons, leaving them defenseless, because he disapproves of the fighting. Or perhaps he will kill all aggressors, frustrated that we do not fall into his wake. We simply cannot predict him. This is a problem.

Yeomen and serfs answer to the laws of the land. Noblemen answer to their duties. Even kings and emperors are responsible to the systems of power that support them, and all of us are subject to the judgement and will of the gods. There is no one, be they ever so powerful, that is simply above reproach.

But Valikar is claiming that status. He seems to believe that if it is within his power to do something that he is entitled to do so. Of such things, tyrants, oppressors, and usurpers are born.

This editorial series will continue as the Valikar Crisis continues.

Carter's Left Boot Emporium

All individual left boots, all the time.

We stand up for individual Rights.

Amaranth's Merchant and Retail

The finest in utility goods

Specialty in weapons, alchemies, scrolls and potions.

Limited purchase of weapons and armour.

Available Feb 11th, Green Pony Inn, Lunchtime for trade and negotiation.

Devil Presence Increases in Yorik

The presence of several presumably unaligned devils has been confirmed within the area of the town of Yorik. Several local residents who have chosen to remain nameless have reported sightings of large, red-skinned humanoids with horns, dark markings on their faces, and the ability to shrug off blows of steel or silver.

These devils were seen to be making war with a being that matched the description of Valikar, who swiftly dispatched them, but we should not rest easy. Even if these devils are

here to do battle with the Usurper, devils have never been known for their sense of fair play or boundaries. These creatures should be treated with extreme caution. Under no circumstances should they be approached, if they are at all avoidable.

This recent spate of infernals, usually only manifesting when summoned, forces one to wonder whether there may be active agents of Kazzok within the regions of the barony. If any signs of Kazzokian presence are found, please report them.

Icculan Serial Killer Identified, Seen

Locals have reported encountering this man being approached by a man known to them as Adarin who matches the given description of the murderer of a number of Yorik town residents over the past year. Adarin has been missing for the same period of time that the Yorik Slayer has been on the run, and anyone with information about his whereabouts is asked to speak with the town guard as soon as possible.

Adarin has expressed an interest in Valikar and his symbols in his recent encounters with local farmers. It is advised that any person

encountering this man be advised that he is considered extremely dangerous. He has, without any shown remorse, tortured multiple Yorik residents to death, in the name of Iccula.

Recent evidence suggests that Adarin has lost faith in the Lady of Pain, but all evidence still suggests that he may bear a grudge against the town and its residents, and that he should not be trusted. Do not go anywhere alone with this person, described as having long dark hair, facial hair, gaunt features, wearing red.

Heroes of Yorik: Camlo Hearn

In an effort to help the people of Yorik learn more about their friends and neighbours, we sat down with Camlo the Physician for an interview.

Oren: So, first question: What brought you to Yorik, Camlo?

Camlo: Oh, that's easy. I learned the basics of being a physician from my aunt. I always wanted to learn more; to be a better physician. I heard about the hospital here, and came to learn more.

Oren: Are there any ambitions

that you want to pursue while you're here?

Camlo: Ambition? It's good to help people. I want to help more people. Not sure how to do that here.

Oren: A worthwhile ambition! On the more light-hearted side, You're a helpful guy: is there any special food or drink that someone could buy you to say thanks?

Camlo: *laughs* That's nice to ask. Folks want to thank me, they can pay it forward; help others.

Oren: Any advice you have for people new to the area, hoping to get involved?

Camlo: Huh. It can be a bit daunting to be new round here. New folk should remember that you may not be a Dinger or a Samwise, but you can still have an impact and do some good.

Oren: I think that's about all the questions we'll have space for, but I wanted to thank you for taking the time to talk to me.

The Heroes of Yorik interviews will be a recurring feature of this paper.

Matters of Faith

Holy Days Just Past

January 13th: Loving Lash (Iccula)

The holy day of the dark goddess Iccula, this year's Loving Lash passed without significant comment. As priests of Iccula are known to seek out victims and to congregate around their patron's holy day, it is advised that all citizens be on the lookout for the faithful of Iccula who may remain within the area.

January (Friday) 13th: Stasa's Harvest

By a stroke of ill-luck, the holy day of Stasa this year fell upon the same day as the holy day of Iccula. Going into it, one could only speculate as to the potential misfortune that would follow in such a day. As with the Loving Lash, followers of Stasa also tend to be more active during their holy day, so please be advised of such a potentiality. Deaths after a 13th should be thought suspicious.

\Forthcoming Holy Days

February 14th: Festival of the Lover's Dance (Alejandro)

The holy day of Alejandro is observed midway through February when the stars show Alejandro's Harp in dominance among the constellations. This festival is traditionally celebrated with expressions of love and affection for those around one, in whatever form, and through the sharing and recitation of poetry.

February 29th: Time's Paradox (Elieff) (Not observed)

Tradition holds that Elieff's holiday is held on the day that is not a day – February 29th, which occurs only once every four years. Priests of Elieff have assured me that the holiday, Time's Paradox, in fact occurs every year, but that we simply are not in the correct position to observe it. Toward that end, a happy Time's Paradox to all, commonly observed through the renewal of contracts and oaths.

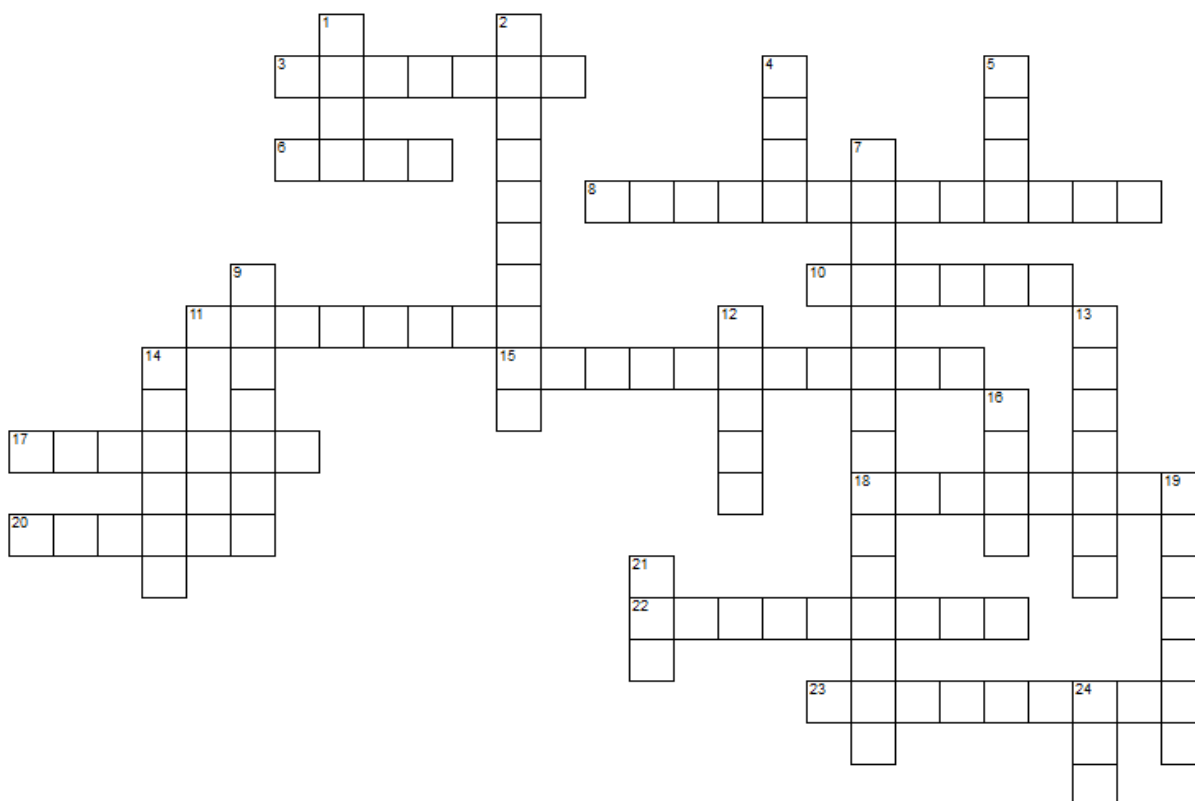
A Message of Faith

As we pass into the depth of winter – temperate though it has been – it behooves us to remember those that are less fortunate. More's the pity, this year of all years, we have those in abundance.

Refugees have flocked to our borders, displaced first by war, and then again by dragon fire. If we could consider ourselves to be of gentle and kind countenance, then we must act as such; give succor to those who have come to us seeking aid, and help them through this difficult time.

I have recently been told that the gods must have plans to deal with crises; I will not argue the point. But I will say this – those plans are embodied in us, as clerics or even as followers of the gods, to bring into being. If we wish to see the hungry fed, the homeless sheltered, and kindness shown, then we *must do so*.

Crossword



Across

- 3. only master smiths work it
- 6. apiarist's ale
- 8. burned down a decade ago atop the hill
- 10. Yorik's first knight, sir _____
- 11. maker of arrows
- 15. the acme of the craftsman's art
- 17. Feb. 29th; Time's _____
- 18. Kell; god of secrets and this
- 20. Alwyn; god of wind and this

- 22. the skill for crafting horoscopes
- 23. the nation's capitol

Down

- 1. what may be restored to the recently dead (spell)
- 2. laconic scavengers; smelly
- 4. Yorik-town's major export
- 5. The Great Mother
- 7. Hues of the duchy standard
- 9. Where (most) shrines may be

found

- 12. opposite of lies, and spell
- 13. proscribed group; the vengeful _____
- 14. that which is hunted; also source of stone
- 16. order of noble authority; lord, baron, _____
- 19. distilled tipples, to which life may yet be restored.
- 21. states illegal actions; *book of*
- 24. raw metal, direct from the mines.

Riddles

Question:

I ride and am ridden,
The wind gives me food,
And when full, go as bidden,
Though my road may be rude.
I've seen far-off places,
And brought treasure along,
With my weather-beat faces,
And my own special song.
What am I?

Answer:

.pihs gniliAs A

Question:

In distant lands, beyond Splishenfellow, an emperor died. After lying in state for three days, as befit his imperial person, he was carried into the mountains, to the hall of kings, wherein he was buried in a copper coffin.

Why?

Answer:

.daed saw eh esuaceB

Caravan Guards Sought

Trustworthy guards sought for the next couple of months, for Emissary of Mythostar. Must be capable fighters, and either citizens or possessing permission from master or employer.

Contact Flint or his bookman at Blackguard Estate for more information.

Last Month's Crossword Solutions

ACROSS: 1-STELTON, 6-YEARSEND, 9-GUILDARCANE, 11-TRAP, 12-SPIDERS, 13-ESTOVIC, 14-FIONA, 15-ORCS, 17-GELRICH, 19-DRAGON, 20-YORIK, 21-WAIT

DOWN: 2-ELDERSIRE, 3-ARCANE, 4-THEGREENPONY, 5-AMARANTH, 7-SILVER, 8-JERROH, 10-ALCHEMY, 12-SASHA, 16-CAVES, 18-COG, 19-DEATH

Announcing: *The First Annual "Wendigo Slayer" Chili Cook-Off*

Everyone knows that Wendigo hate the heat – so let's turn it up. Bring your best and spiciest chili recipes, and let's find one hot enough to kill a Wendigo!

The best – not necessarily the spiciest – recipes in the two categories of With and Without Meat will receive the Ladles of Power, trophies of the cook-off.

OTHER CATEGORIES TO BE JUDGED

- **Hottest Chili**
- **Meatiest Meat**
- **Most Creative Chili**
- **Heartiest**
- **Others to Be Declared**

An Additional Prize of 10 Gold Will be Awarded to A Chili Hot Enough to Actually Kill a Wendigo*

Requirements:

- *Chili must be fit for human consumption*
- *Chili must contain no poisons, toxins, or other herbals.*
- *Please provide an ingredient list, to avoid food allergy issues*
- *3 Silver Entry Fee*
- *Judging will take place Friday, February 10th, in the Green Pony Tavern, at 11:45 PM*

**No poison. Seriously.*

Recipe of the Month: Cornbread

Everyone knows that the best company for a bowl of steaming chili is a plate of hot cornbread! Sweet, salty, and very tasty, cornbread can cut the heat from spicy chilis, and adds a nice contrasting flavour.

Often, cornbread recipes can be a little dry, but this recipe, given to me by a friend, makes a tasty, moist corn bread.

- *O. Freedman, Editor.*

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ cups of corn meal
- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 ½ cups buttermilk.
- 2 eggs (lightly beaten)
- ¾ cups butter (melted and cooled)

Directions:

Heat oven to 400 degrees.

Combine dry ingredients together in large bowl. Lightly

beat together buttermilk, eggs, and melted butter. Stir quickly into dry mixture (don't overmix).

Pour batter into a greased 9" (23 cm) square baking pan. Bake at 400 degrees F until golden, and a toothpick inserted into the centre comes out clean, about 20-25 mins.

For a twist on the familiar favourite, consider adding half a roasted red pepper, chopped, or 2 tbsp of chopped jalapeno to the mix!

ADVERTISE WITH THE EYE

* * *

You may have the greatest guild, the finest product, or the best solution to a problem someone didn't even know they had.

But they won't buy it if they don't know it exists.

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Contact Oren Freedman, Editor, for more information.
