

The Yorik Eye

Pro scientia atque sapientia

January 2nd, 2017 A.T.

Statement of Intent

The Eye is the product of ambition. It is our hope to provide a regular, reliable source for news that concerns and impacts the people of Yorik and the surrounding lands, in a timely manner, and without the additions that storytellers with more imagination than sense might work in to embroider the truth. Our motto, *pro scientia atque sapientia* – for knowledge and wisdom – are words that we stand by, and we endeavour to bring you fact, plain, straight, useful and importantly – *true* – as quickly as opportunity allows.

The Eye is Yorik's news-sheet. We are here to serve the community and to give our readers the world as we understand it. If you spot an error, let us know – we're only mortal, after all. If you think that there's a subject that we should cover, let us know that too, because while we'll try to give you all of the news fit for print, many hands make light work.

You deserve to know what's happening. The world is a fragile place these days, and

gossip can make things seem very different from how they actually are – often, scary or hopeless. Truth is the enemy of fear and despair, and that is what we purport to arm you with.

Together, we've done the impossible before. Taken on incredible odds, fought terrible beings, and won.

Come along. We're all in this together.

- Oren Freedman, Editor

Write for the Yorik Eye

Are you interested in current events? Able to read and write? Curious about what goes on around you and willing to indulge that curiosity for the public good? Speak to Oren Freedman and begin an exciting new adventure,

seeking out the facts of the matter, and telling the people the important information about the world around them!

Non-paid position. Artists and writers sought. Expenses may be covered.

Happy New Year From Local Leaders

As Jerroh's holiday (Year's End, Jan. 1st) marks the passing of 2016, we at the Eye have taken the opportunity to speak with some of our local leaders and ask them to share any messages or thoughts that they may have for the New Year. While not everyone was available, we have

received a few replies, with messages of good will and wishes for a productive year ahead, which we would like to share with you now.

Sir Anduin

Sir Anduin granted us a few sage words of advice

Following a harrowing dragon attack on the refugee camps currently housing those displaced by the war with Eldersire, those still seeking more permanent residence are justly concerned about the likely turn of the weather yet to come this season.

With local farmers predicting harsh weather this year, it seems more than possible that these

for the new year. “Lift one another, and we all rise.” Sound wisdom, as we face the challenges that the new year will doubtless bring with it.

Sir Manon

Sir Manon had this to say to the people of Yorik:

visitors to our barony will soon be in need of more significant aid, and as both hosts and Harodonians, it behooves us to supply it to the best that we are able.

Ten refugees have been confirmed dead in the wake of the dragon's attacks. With every effort underway to re-house the survivors, we must ask ourselves what can be done about this menace.

“Another year has come and gone, and as always, Yorik has stood fast. The amount of help and support that the guard had from the local townsfolk, and which they continue to give, has made a huge difference. Please, assist the guard where possible, and thank you.”

D'Shunn Raids on Farms Increasing

Troubling reports emerge from nearby farmlands that an unidentified group of D'shunn are stealing farm tools and livestock. While the D'shunn themselves have been confirmed, no identification has been made as to the allegiance or affiliation of this group, and none have yet been captured.

Although in the wake of a good growing year this menace does not yet provide a credible threat to the survival of the farms in question, losses

have not been light; one of the farmers spoken with had lost several valuable animals.

“It's not worth tempting fate”, one farmer told the Eye. “A cow, although valuable, can be replaced; my family is somewhat harder.”

If you have information about these attacks, or the perpetrators, please contact the Town Guard, the Duke's Estate, and/or the Yorik Eye. Some compensation may be offered for useful info.

Town Guard Recruiting: Help Your Town!

Do you crave excitement, as well as the opportunity to earn some good money, help the people around you, and take pride in a uniform that has the well earned trust of the populace?

Do you want to maintain peace and order in town, and to earn the respect and admiration of those that you assist?

The Yorik Town Guard is now recruiting able new guards hoping to

make a difference in the world around them. Successful applicants will be curious, able with weapon or willing to learn some weapon skills, and observant. Knowledge of the laws of Harodom strongly encouraged. Some other skills, including first aid, holy or arcane magic, assets. Literacy required, but taught if needed. History of crime a detriment.

Speak to Guard Captain, Sir Manon, and enlist today!

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)

From death comes new life. Fire is ascending this month, as Callis' influence begins to wax once more. Be wary of false faces, and doubly so of false friends, but open yourself up to growth. There is a strong possibility of incorporeal undead playing a role in events soon to come, so guard yourself against wraiths and ghosts.

The Harp (Jan 29th – Feb 27th)

Let every word upon your lips be courteous and charitable. Diplomacy is called for in the days to come, and rising to the occasion could be rewarding. Do not give in to temptations as a strong will is most likely to be your ally in the days ahead.

The Fount (Feb 28th – Mar 30th)

Let your bounty be a wellspring. Good deeds, set forth upon the world, will likely be repaid in kind. Beware of large animals, particularly arachnids, and do not travel alone. Light and darkness are in flux.

The Dice (Mar 31st – Apr 28th)

The future is unclear – focus upon the present. Do not be too careful to reserve resources for tomorrow that may allow

you to live to see it today. As Ice begins to descend, so shall the future firm up, based on the actions of today.

The Arrow (Apr 29th – May 27th)

Be bold and resolute. As long as you stand for a just and noble cause, you will not falter or fail. Undead may have a great influence upon your month. Fly straight and true. Conflict with those under the sign of The Dice is likely, but know that when you strive toward a common purpose, your commonalities are more important than your differences.

The Stone (May 28th – Jun 25th)

Plant yourself, and be unswayed. Let all who would attempt to move you from your place of strength know that you are independent and resilient. Hardships and the loss of material possessions may typify your month; do not despair. Not all that wanders is lost, and not all that is lost is lost forever. Setbacks may be expected; overcoming is a sign of virtue.

The Coin (June 26th – July 28th)

Be neither spendthrift nor overly parsimonious. Money and time well spent will unquestionably return appropriate dividends, but foolish spending of either is likely to result in disappointment. Year's End is an appropriate time to be mindful of long-term investments, and to ensure their continued success.

The Spade (July 29th – Aug 30th)

The road ahead is hard. Conflict and death are inevitable, and loss touches every life, always unwelcome. Buckle down and work hard, and you will not be

disappointed with the results. Sloth will result in quite the opposite result. Be wary of travel.

The Blade (Aug 31st – Sept 27th)

Conflict is coming. Be ready for when the meat hits the metal – and if at all possible, be holding the metal. Interactions and conflict with extraplanar beings such as demons a virtual certainty in the next month or so. Be cautious of those under the sign of the Shroud, but be flexible.

The Mask (Sept 28th – October 31st)

Know thyself. Surrounded by secrets, lies and deceptions, it is easy to become caught up or lost in the tangled webs that come to define the worlds of those who are under the sign of the Mask. Seek those that you can trust; hold close to them. There is no sin that cannot be redeemed but one; betrayal.

The Shield (Nov 1st – Nov 29th)

You are the bulwark, and in the month to come you will take weights in excess of any reasonable expectation upon your shoulders. Conflict with infernals seems likely. Keep to your cause, and be prepared for aid from an unlikely source; be ready with a helpful word or hand, and you may reap the benefits.

The Hearth (Nov 30th – Dec 30th)

Bring bright light and warmth into your relationships. Be a safe place to which friends can retreat, and you will weather the coming storm. There is no night, however long, that will not end; bear this in mind in the troubles ahead. The night will end, but has not yet.

Editorial: The Valikar Crisis, Part 1

Recent conflicts with the being identifying himself as 'Valikar' have shook the local, national, and international landscape as clergy, even some senior in their faith, are being given ultimatums; renounce their faith, or perish. Having taken up arms against the very gods themselves, this Valikar seems determined to cow the faithful into adopting his flawed philosophy, by any means necessary.

While he has so far spared those he has successfully intimidated, the question hangs in the air; will he stop at a single ideology that he finds offensive? How long before he kills anyone who simply differs in any opinion, however slight? How long before the will of the free is crushed under the boot heel of one who claims to value freedom?

Valikar's motivations are at best, unclear. While the Valikar who lived some centuries past had both parents killed by mortal hands, and is said to have rebelled against the gods as a result, it is clear that any information given by the being himself or his sycophants is likely to be rife with propaganda, painting this man in a positive light.

His followers, as many as have been spoken with, seem dissatisfied with the supernatural powers granted to them by the divine beings that they swore to serve. Perversely, Valikar seems to be attempting to usurp the powers of the gods themselves to his own use, possibly adding hypocrisy to his list of crimes.

We of Yorik have withstood the petty tyrant before, be they ever so full of hubris. We survived the

wrath of Malabaskamakar, and the armies of Michian. We stood firm against those who usurped Hemulis' power, and restored that deity's power, taking it back from the Estovician heretics. Standing together, we may weather this as well.

A highly placed source, who wished to remain anonymous, had this to say of Valikar:

“The current turmoil is more than just a fight against clerics. All inhabitants of the land must put aside differences for the moment and band together in defense of one another. Also do not make deals with anything not of this plane; those never turn out well.”

A call to action, and wise words that we would do well to take to heart. *This section will continue each month as the crisis evolves.*

Mine Closure Sparks Iron Woes

Iron is the lifeblood of Yorik; the King's Mines, a proud industry within our town since its foundation provide vital iron to Stelton, the steel capitol of our country, and from there, the rest of the kingdom. All the more disturbing then that the mines have been closed.

The mines have been sealed magically by the two-headed giant-kin that has recently served as foreman within them. At the time of printing, we have been unable to get an interview with this being, but miners are being turned away, and no metal is emerging.

As a major employer within Yorik, the implications of this are disturbing, not least because of the need for new weapons and armour as the war with Eldersire gears up for a second – if reduced – season in the spring to come.

The Eye has it on good authority that relevant authorities are working toward re-opening the mines. With any luck, mine workers will be returning to their jobs by spring at the latest.

Anyone with additional information on this crisis are encouraged to speak with The Eye c/o Oren Freedman.

Icculan Serial Killer Still At Large

Travelers, hunters, and forestgoers are urged to remain vigilant and to practice caution at all times. Those traveling around the town are to be wary of strangers exhibiting strange behaviour, and to not walk alone. Please report missing persons as swiftly as possible.

A follower of Iccula, known to have killed as many as fifteen people over the last year, remains at large in the wilderness surrounding Yorik. He is thought to be camping somewhere in the vicinity of the woods surrounding the town, subsisting on foraged food, or that stolen from farms or

victims.

Although he has been brought to justice before, this killer has escaped armed guards before, and is considered to be armed and dangerous even when not visibly armed.

He is male, approximately five feet ten inches tall, with angular features, typically wearing red, and was last seen, with long black hair. Due to his lack of permanent residence, he may be disheveled. If you see him, or find an unexplained camp, run away, and tell the nearest guard at once.

Local and Community

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

*

The Eye will be hosting the first annual 'Wendigo Killer' Chili Cook-Off in February.

There is a 5s entrance fee, with prizes donated by *The Eye* staff. There will be a separate category for chili recipes with and without meat. Anyone interested in volunteering to help judge, please contact O. Freedman, editor.

*

We regret to report the deaths of as many of five local farmers to dragon attacks. Three farms have also been destroyed outright. Our thoughts are with the survivors and families, during this difficult time.

Anyone wishing to donate food or coin for the rebuilding effort and support of survivors, please contact the Duke's estate for information about what is still needed. It is at times such as this that our community must remain strong.

*

A gnomish man has been offering to purchase livestock and to award coin for those willing to take part in certain experiments. Please exercise caution and best judgment if you are approached.

*

Recent omens and portents include: rain of soup, two-headed dog born in Buriden's Elbow, visions of a triskelion, tea leaves forming no discernible pattern in cup, brief rain of frog (may have fallen).

Matters of Faith

Holy Days Just Past

December 21st: Kell's Embrace (Kell)

There are no known common observances for this holy day. Determined only through astrology, Kell's Embrace is the hypothetical celebration of the longest night of the year by the god of secrets and night-time. If any, his followers presumably have rites and observances.

December 23rd: Frost's Sacrifice (Balaxa)

This day of every year is traditionally recorded as the coldest, regardless of outside climate. Reverence, and offerings of food or coin to the priesthood of Balaxa is traditional at this time.

If you have missed making an appropriate sacrifice to your local clergy of Balaxa during the past month, the *Eye* guesses that any clergy so offended will take the philosophy of 'better late than never'.

January 1st: Year's End (Jerroh)

As the year changes over, the priesthood of Jerroh marks the death of the year past, and the birth of the new from the ashes of the old. It is also considered appropriate to raise a glass to absent friends or those who passed in the previous year.

Feasting with family, often informally, and attendance to graves is a common observance upon this holiday and the surrounding days. Tithing to graveyards tended by churches of Jerroh is also customary.

Forthcoming Holy Days

January 13th: Loving Lash (Iccula)

Distasteful as it may be, the holiday of Iccula is observed in the middle of January, and it bears mentioning that the followers and servants of the goddess of pain are often quite active this time of year. It behooves all to be wary.

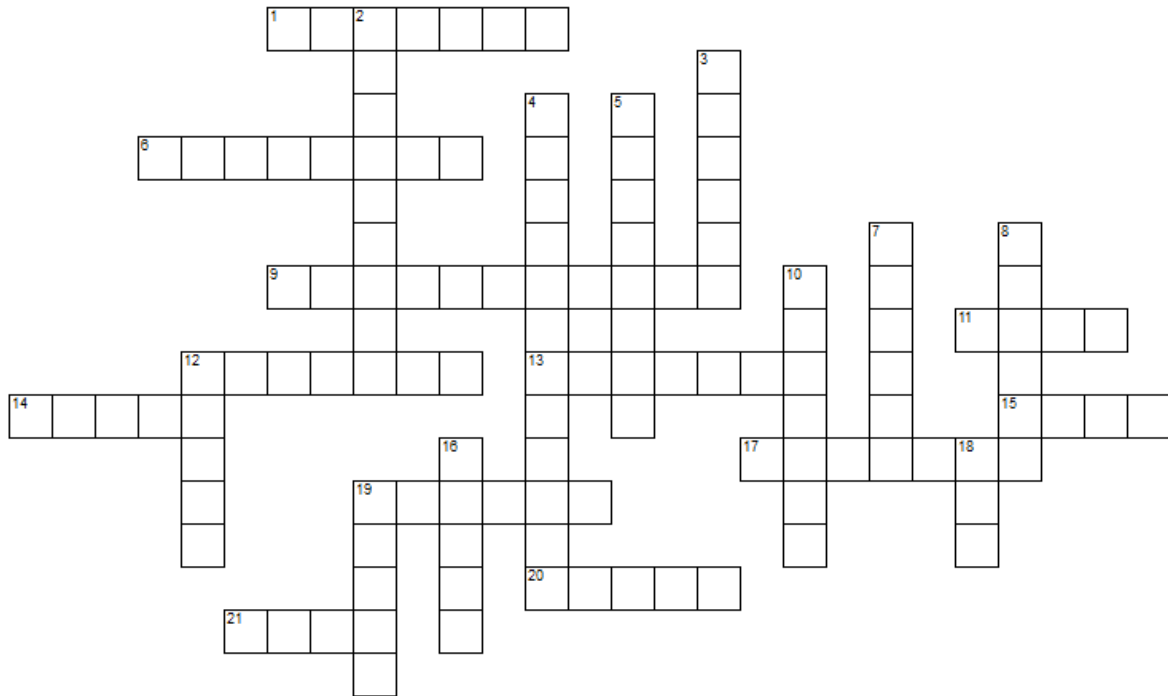
A Message of Faith

Priests, followers, faithful, consider the gifts and struggles of the year that has just passed. We now face challenges to our faith that have not been seen in many years, and it is to our mutual benefit to recall what brought us to faith.

Before we are workers of miracles, or imbued with wondrous powers, we found an ideal that spoke to us. The miracles granted us the ability to bring that ideal to fruition and to better serve it, and because we held that this idea was important, we did so.

Whatever the year may bring, recall what brought you to faith. Recall that we stood before those senior to us in faith, or prayed in silent meditation, or held fast in our hearts the idea '*this is important. This is relevant. This is worthy of worship, and of actions in the name and deed to advance this ideal.*'

Crossword



Across

1. where the iron the mines produce goes

6. the holiday just passed

9. all mages must join

11. a deterrent from running down ruin hallways.

12. what you don't fight

13. not this war, but the previous

14. keeps an eye or two on all the old gold

15. toothy, often warlike, green

17. the name of the duchy

19. an overgrown lizard with an ego problem

20. a practical verb for bad

decisions; "Welcome to ____"

21. what adventurers do; "hurry up and ____"

Down

2. this war

3. all magic that isn't holy or divining

4. minty horse that didn't pay for adverts this month

5. pigweed; successful merchant elf

7. all modern coin made of?

8. god of natural death

10. act of mixing oils, acids

12. the sun's daughter

16. where you don't fight them

18. a small gear for a mechanic

19. what happens when you run down hallways in ruins

Riddles

Question:

A dwarf finds herself in a snowstorm. She finds a small cabin, and in it, a candle, a lantern, a wood-burning stove, and a fully set fireplace. She has only one match – what does she light first?

Answer:

.hctam ehT

Question:

Throughout the day, I pool about,
At night, I spread like mist,
I lurk within shut boxes,
And inside your tightened fist,
You cannot shine your lamp on me,
Although your eyes insist,
You see me best when you can't see,
For I do not exist.
What am I?

Answer:

.ssenkraD

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* * *

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Contact Oren Freedman, Editor, for more information.