

The Scarsinvale Saga

Conemur iterum

August, 2024 A.T.
Year of the Dancing Mouse

Halls of Hemulis Raided By Undead To Swell Forces?

In a stunning act of desecration, a great tomb dedicated to heroes that spent their lives in service to Hemulis have been assaulted by forces of the Undead in service to the Empress.

This brazen attack interrupted the eternal battles of the servants of Hemulis who, even in death, have continued their battles in training and dedication to their faith that death itself could not shake. Using fell magics, the forces of the Empress were able to co-opt the fallen of Hemulis

and to sway their power against their will, against the living.

In addition to being a profanity against the sanctity of a place of rest, this has led to certain practical concerns for those living nearby. These Skeleton Warriors are extremely capable by dint of training, in addition to any powers that their undead form may give them.

It has been determined through prayer and investigation, that defeating the undead, removing

a glowing organ where the heart should reside, and crushing it while speaking a prayer to Hemulis, is enough to free these fallen warriors from the Empress' sway.

This is yet another way in which the depredations of the Empress have proven both a threat to Scarsinvale, and a profanity against the greater good. To steal the faithful of a god from that god's service and their own free will is an abomination unto Hemulis the Hero.

“Tangled” Siphoning Murders? Investigations Continue

Recently, a number of bodies have turned up with the mark of a handprint upon them, burned with arcane energy into the center of the abdomen. A typical mark of the ‘siphoning’ ability that some mages cultivate, this mark suggests that there is someone seeking to improve their personal power. Early inquiries implicate the ‘Tangled’, a group of arcanists working near the town of Scarsinvale.

More troubling than the siphoning alone, it appears that a number of the victims may have been subject to torture before their ultimate

demise. As this is not a requirement of the siphoning ability, it may indicate that there is more than simple power being sought in these cases.

While early inquiries have yet to produce any substantive suspects, they are ongoing. If you know of anyone who has been behaving unusually, alerting the townsfolk of Scarsinvale for the benefit of these inquiries may be of use. As there has yet to be a pattern determined in these attacks, it is advised that anyone who is not a goblin travel in groups (as goblins are immune to this effect).

Day of the Blade “Capture the Flag” Event Enjoyed by All

In recognition of Hemulis' holy day, the town of Scarsinvale participated in a ‘Capture the Flag’ activity led by priest of Hemulis, the physician, warrior and scholar Bales Dreadbane.

The event took place on Saturday of the last major town gathering, and provided much entertainment. It is considered meet and measured that such activities include as much of the populace as possible to help train people in tactics, stealth, strategy, guile, as well as some martial skills. The act of training on Hemulis' holiday is a traditional part of the

faith of the god of heroes.

This town activity is yet another way in which Scarsinvale is coming together as a community. These activities allow us to better know our neighbours, and to build a camaraderie between groups that might not otherwise interact all that often.

The *Saga* encourages this sort of activity, and is happy to list upcoming such activities that are planned, or to report on similar town events that may occur in the future. If you tell us, we are happy to share the news with the community.

Tool Highlight: Blades vs. Blunts

The Saga seeks to highlight a few of the tools useful in the business of adventuring, and how to use them to the greatest effect. Some warriors-at-arms prefer bladed weapons, whereas others prefer blunted weapons – what's better?

The selection of a weapon can be a deciding factor for success or failure in a battle – and often, second place is not rewarded in that context.

In general, weapons of comparable proportions – swords and maces of similar length, for example – will do

comparable degrees of injury to a subject. But which weapon type is preferable?

Blades include daggers, knives, short and long swords, great swords, and axes, and are typified by having one or more sharp edge, as well as (potentially), a sharpened tip. They are often more expensive than blunt weapons of a comparable size, and in many cases require specialized training to use effectively.

However, a knife or dagger can be an effective holdout weapon that does not have a parallel in length with a blunted weapon.

As well, blades benefit from **blade oil**, an alchemy that enhances bladed weapons.

Blunts include maces, clubs, hammers and staves. They tend to be effective against skeletons and other creatures that lack vital organs or blood, in ways that blades sometimes are not.

As well, short, one-handed blunt weapons and staves can be used without a lot of specialized training. Clubs and staves are easily found (in basic form) in wooded areas, although they do less damage than purpose-built weapons.

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)

A feather is light, but still carries weight; it may be the slightest weight that turns a burden that can be carried to one that cannot. Even if the individual piece that you are adding to your load seems inconsequential, think carefully before taking on more responsibilities.

The Harp (Jan 29th – Feb 27th)

Harmony emerges when different notes are sung at once; so it is with life. You may survive or even thrive working individually, but your prosperity will truly flourish when you come to work with others in coordination, the better to multiply your effectiveness.

The Fount (Feb 28th – Mar 30th)

Hard times make for strange allies. This may be a time to consider extending a hand to someone that you may not otherwise care for, in an effort to oppose a problem too large for either of you to face on your own. Your lucky numbers are three, eleven, and fifteen, and your lucky colour is green.

The Dice (Mar 31st – Apr 28th)

There is no night however long that is not broken by the day. Find the peace that you need in the knowledge that your

future will involve new things that are not currently occurring. It can be very easy to get tied down with whatever is currently happening, and forget that time and fate changes all things.

The Arrow (Apr 29th – May 27th)

Taking no chances will not protect you from peril; it will mitigate the peril that you get into *deliberately*. Taking your life into your own hands will often create better outcomes for you than putting it in the hands of strangers or fate or both. If you encounter someone seeking aid, know that you will receive dividends.

The Stone (May 28th – Jun 25th)

Patience can be a virtue – or a trap! If you spend all of your time waiting for a good outcome to come about, you may find that you lose so much time in waiting that it precludes some of the outcomes that you had been hoping to realize.

The Coin (June 26th – July 28th)

You will encounter a stranger who will make you an offer you will initially find tempting this month. Do your due diligence! Sometimes a good-looking offer will look good because it is good, but never imagine that you are so very clever that you cannot be overcome by a sufficiently clever adversary.

The Spade (July 29th – Aug 30th)

The work that we put into our passions will not always pay us dividends of gold, but may often reward us in other ways. You will have an opportunity to advance on a matter that is important or relevant to you in the near future; embrace that opportunity with both hands.

The Blade (Aug 31st – Sept 27th)

Doing the work in front of you is often all the authority that you require. You will encounter a task that, while not strictly unpleasant, will be laborious and time consuming. Taking the initiative on it will help you speak with authority on a related matter.

The Mask (Sept 28th – October 31st)

You are not your nature; you are a free person, with the ability to make decisions and calls about what you choose to do. At some point soon, someone will try to tell you that you must do something that goes against your moral compass; you *may* do so, but 'must' is not obligatory.

The Shield (Nov 1st – Nov 29th)

Your emotional protection can sometimes protect you from opportunity! In the near future, you may benefit from a collaboration or partnership with someone, but may need to make yourself emotionally vulnerable in order to do so. You may prefer a life half-lived but safe, but know that even the simplest of defenses can still make you vulnerable to missed opportunity.

The Hearth (Nov 30th – Dec 30th)

A home truth is not always welcome, but sometimes is necessary. You are likely to have a difficult conversation with someone in the near future, that will benefit you for having spoken the words, and them for having heard them. If you do not take this step, then hardship will befall one or both of you, as the truths revealed would have benefited you both.

Editorial: What's Breach Got To Do With It?

Each year, we recognize Terror's Breach – a perilous holiday coming at or near the end of the harvest season. But while this is a holiday in service to Kazzok, god of Terror and Infernals, it's not always Kazzok's faithful that make it a perilous day.

Indeed, in Scarsinvale, it may be difficult to determine whether Kazzokites are at work at all. On the regular, the town faces off against dreadful horrors of many varieties.

One might even wonder if the Kazzokites might feel somewhat offended. Certainly the *Saga* would not oppose them fighting the undead, monstrosly mutated, and alchemically maddened forces that put the town on edge each year.

But if this mediocre attempt at manipulation fails to pass muster, let us instead resolve upon this:

It is true that Breach is perilous

even when it's just the demon-botherers getting up to their old mischief. But we know how to survive it.

Band together. Travel strong, and let your resolve not be swayed by easy deals or escapes. Be the peril to the foe. Protect those that you know, and those that you do not. This time of year, whether it be Breach-the-Day or Breach-the-Sentiment, we can hold fast and overcome, if we do so working together.

- Oren D'vann, Editor.

Matters of Faith

Holy Days Just Past

October 6th: Dreamers Wake (Bard)

The goddess of stories and dreams, celebrations of Bard's holiday are always a little more pronounced around Yorik, where she was awakened from her torpor a little more than a decade ago. Storytelling deep into the night, especially around a campfire, is a blessing upon Bard – and not forgetting to pass along the wine to the storyteller, the better their thirst to slake.

October 15th: Harvest Song (Arkady)

A feast day, locally celebrating a successful harvest, Harvest Song is a benediction to Arkady and celebrates the beauty and joy of autumn. It is said that the turning of the leaves is a not from Atha to Arkady, as the trees dress with their splendour. Common practices include a feast with friends, wearing colourful clothes and masks, and a celebration of all beauty.

Forthcoming Holy Days

October 31st: Terror's Breach (Kazzok)

The god of fear and demons, Kazzok's holiday memorializes the fall of Kazzok from being the elven god of art and music. Frequently a perilous time of year, the followers of Kazzok have been known to call forth terrible infernals in the service of spreading fear throughout the land. A holiday best prepared for, and with ready arms and stalwart companions, to thwart these wicked deeds.

November 5th: Curtain Watch (Clovis)

Clovis' holy day, which stands in observation of Clovis' declaration that he would watch the curtain to ensure that the demons that might slip through the hold in the Curtain would be held at bay. The faithful of Clovis will often hold candlelit vigils, beginning at sunset, and feasting with rare teas, coffees, mulled wine, and incense are common in the halls of Clovis.

A Message of Faith

I would speak now on mercy.

Mercy is often controversial; of course, to spare someone is to offer the opportunity for them to betray you again, and to do so in a way that might harm you more than the act of denying mercy would have.

It is for this reason that mercy is a symbol of strength. It becomes weakness only when, overestimating your own strength, you overextend yourself. Pulling a muscle carrying a load of stones is one thing; pulling a figurative muscle by extending mercy when you cannot survive the consequences of that being a mistake is another.

It is for this reason that I recommend to those who might rely on mercy to respect it when it is given. A second chance is something all persons should have chance to benefit from. But if you sorely test those likely to extend such a chance, what you are likely to find is a short drop and swift stop.

Comic Strip



Suspicious Dave's Stews Presents:

Well Past Meat

*"At one point, we definitely had meat.
We've moved past that."*

Community Board

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

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The *Saga* is calling for donations to be raised in support of the Hammerfrost refugees. Offering up aid and succor to these refugees will help to show Scarsinvale's

character on the international stage, and also prove a chance to do real good.

*

A loaf of dwarvish rock-bread has been unearthed from an ancient ruin to the north of Haretoe. Centuries old, it is considered as edible as when it was first ~~for~~ baked.

*

A man claiming to be the true king of Muttercap was held overnight for public drunkenness in Lipwig.

*

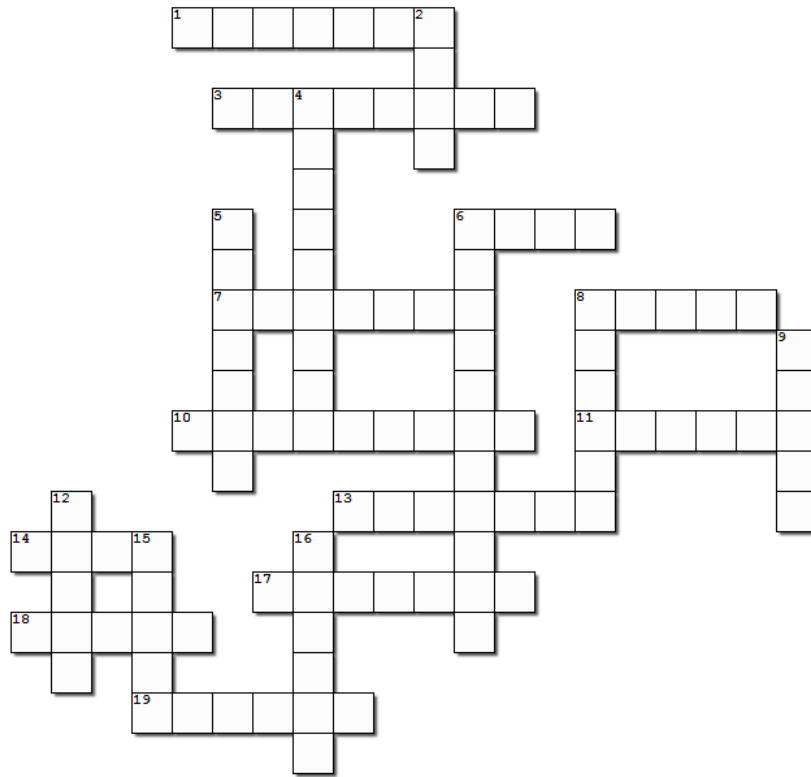
A massive carrion bird has been seen flying near the southwest of Deepingdale.

*

Portents: Shooting stars across the night sky. A flaring aurora of the nightwatch.

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 *Saga* is happy to help you reach a broader audience!

Crossword



Across

1. That's not fact, just your _____
3. Bread - Filling - Bread
6. The ruling house of the nation.
7. To dash something to flinders
8. How much something is worth to you
10. Two heads, one body; stands still, runs faster.
11. Not as precious as gold
13. Fine glasswork, or natural geode formations
14. God whose holiday is celebrated Oct. 6
17. A valuable gemstone
18. A cut of cow meat
19. Use it to hit nails

Down

2. When all you have is a (?), everything looks like this
4. The Adventurer or Saga for example
5. structure projecting outward from the curtain wall of a fortification
6. Arkady Holiday, Oct. 15
8. A magical work that holds energy
9. 52 or 54 pieces of drawn upon parchment
12. Belief or deep trust
15. A skull component type, say.
16. A lumberjack's call

Riddles

Riddle 1:

Everyone has me,
But I differ for each soul.
Some say wielding me gives
you power,
Others just 'nick' me.

Answer 1: *eman A*

Riddle 2:

A man road into town on
Friday,
Stayed but one night in the
tavern,
And then left town on
Friday.
How?

Answer 2: *eman s'seroh sih
saw yadirF*

Riddle 3:

Say once to seek water,
Twice when surprised,
"Very" to concede,
"Oh", hope's demise.

Answer 3: *llew A*

Riddle 4:

I have a bone that is my home,
The sea my neighbourhood;
But find my shining treasure
And your luck is very good.

Answer 4: *retsyO*

Riddle 5:

I am the answer at your hip,
For wrongs and debts
incurred,
When bared, displayed, men
may be slayed,
My end is writ as 'word'.

Answer 5: *dworS*

Riddle 6:

I bring low mountains,
Candles too,
When yours is up,
Your life is through.

Answer 6: *emiT*

Recipe of the Month: Pumpkin Pie

Large orange gourds travel well and can be used for this sweet dessert.

- O Freedman

Ingredients:

3 Cups pure pumpkin
2 Tbsp all purpose flour
2 Cups white sugar
2 Tsp ground ginger
2 Tsp ground cinnamon
1/4 Tsp ground nutmeg
1 Tsp mace
1/2 Tsp salt
6 Large eggs
1 cup milk

Instructions:

It is easy to find pumpkin pie filler, but you need to look for pure pumpkin (with no added spices or fillers).

Mix the pumpkin, flour, sugar, ginger, cinnamon, nutmeg, mace and salt together. Beat eggs, add to milk and stir into mixture. Mix well.

Prepare your favourite pastry recipe. Line a 9 inch deep dish pie plate with pastry and flute the edges. You will have enough to line a small 6 inch

pie plate as well. Pour the pumpkin mixture into the pie plates. They should be almost full to the top.

Topping:

3 Tbsp sour cream
2 1/4 Tsp milk

Mix the sour cream and milk together. Pour into a funnel with a narrow tube, blocking opening with finger. Remove finger and quickly drizzle mixture in a spiral pattern over filling.

Draw a knife through to create a spider-web pattern!

Hammerfrost Needs You!

Food, equipment and your **good will** are required to take the fight to the undead body snatchers!

Contact Kellskagg of the Scarsinvale Dwarven Enclave for more details!

Progress on Townbuilding

The hard work and dedicated effort toward reconstructing and rebuilding the settlement of Scarsinvale has not been without progress. Below, the Saga will detail the current state of reconstruction, and new projects on the horizon for Scarsinvale.

Administration Building:

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of town notables, as well as an influx of resources from the dismantling of Griff's holdings in Scarsinvale, the Administration Building is now complete. From this centre, more projects can now be planned and organized, and we can have a central

location for mapping of the local area, treaties with nearby settlements, and other important community work.

Barracks: The construction of town barracks for Scarsinvale gives our stalwart defenders a place from which to work. It also includes a small jail, which may be useful for holding people who need to be stopped but who should not be killed or maimed.

Roads: The construction of safe, good-quality roads is an ongoing project in Scarsinvale. Shifting rivers, as well as rockslides and other ground issues have changed

the safest paths in and out of our town. By surveying, mapping, and constructing good quality roads, we can export some of our town's quality goods, as well as importing necessary goods to help our community thrive.

Future Projects: Once we can safely defend them, we may be able to convince new farmers to come into town to help build up our agrarian base. As well, we can continue to improve our roads to help foster continued trade.

In future, we may be able to build on the basis of what we have built here with new projects to come.