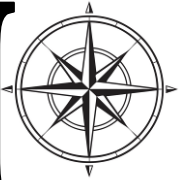


THE DISPATCH



Brought to you by the Guild of Caravaneers and the Church of the Explorer

Nov 21st 614

CLASHING BLADES IN THE VENDICAL DUELLING RING!

Such great times were had in the Vendical Duelling Ring last week. Many an Alfar and a few of the other races fought, enjoying themselves greatly as they clashed swords, maces and throwing rocks. The Celebrant Church sent an impressively large delegation, its humans being the few who were able to best our captured Reptile. The Crusader's Heart too is now in the possession of a member of said Church. May any who wish to claim it have a great duel to do so. This is not a declaration of war, more of intent to reclaim this great prize, which has been carried through the lines of ten previous great owners. It beats with the glorious heart of an Alfar. It is a stone which can cover the skin in its protection.

-Vali of the Vollen

NB, The Reptile is now returned, as it made attempts to break free which were almost successful. This has been to prevent the greater crime of a disturbance in the Portal Camp itself.

Missing persons

Sadly, the number of missing people is increasing day by day at the Camp- people are being advised to be very careful travelling after dark, and not to travel alone by the walls.

Merren, Hegemony Dead Collector, last seen at the Portal Research Evening.

Igant, Explorer bard, who left camp with songs unfinished. Some argue better that way.

Sara, Caravaneer Baker, alongside her bread business.

Ezra, renowned Cartographer who disappeared whilst mapping around Mat Sellah.

Igrin, Heraf, Url, bodyguards who accompanied Ezra, also presumed lost.

Arrac, Vendical duelist, no signs of struggle at his residence.

The Dispatch is clearly in need of good, well-researched and informative articles about the current state of the Portal camp and its surrounding environs. This would be perfectly acceptable, if not for the fact that there are number of Ozgur researchers we have sent in the area, who seem **HIGHLY** indifferent to the chances for publication it offers. This is a cut-throat academic time (quite literally for those researching Hellion cults), and it is foolish for those who are involved in high level research aren't staking their name to it. Rumours spread, and blossom into monstrously half-formed papers which will crush those who originally discovered the evidence. The Dispatch is a valid publication, and is carefully perused in Democracy lands for evidence of achievements at Mat Sellah. We are being shown up by Aspirants, Antiquarians and even Factionless who are pronouncing their views on Portal related affairs and experiments, whilst our researchers are providing nothing. There is no use sitting on your glow-stone and hiding its light, because other researchers **WILL** steal that light, and **WILL** use it to guide their bladed words to your throat. Our message to our agents at the Camp- Publish or Perish.

N.B. No actual death will result from not publishing material. That is not how we do things. All the above is merely figurative. You have been warned.

Mehren of the Democracy, House Lamak

A Report

Since the failed attack on the Hegemony Revenant Depot, and the running off of Larry and other assorted members of the Arrangement, it is my pleasure to announce that attacks on Revenants have dropped to previous levels. That is; wildlife, some thievery and the odd pirate. This is a happy state of affairs, because it is legal. on the other hand, it should be noted that my personal position is still that Revenants are still inherently not things we want to have around.

The unhappy addition to this state of affairs that I should mention: as well as continued disappearances of shipwrecked and a few desertions, the number of thefts of valuables inside the Portal Camp has increased. This is a hint that maybe not all the activity has dropped off. These thefts all seem to be in connection to a purpose, but I cannot fathom what.

Liam of The Church of Celebrant. Wordspeaker.

Poem for lost love

There was a man who went to sea.
My heart, it went with him
I waited for him, full of glee
My wait, it was in vain

There was a man who returned from sea
My heart did not come home
He had made a deal with me
But now that deal was gone

The salty water from the breeze
I taste it on my cheek.
My heart is lost upon those seas
And I will never be complete.

Anonymous Caravaneer (vetted)

Random magical item instances on rise

Across the camp this week there have been several disturbances caused by people using various pieces of magical item. Several have been harmed though none severely, at least one was seen sobbing and fighting against their own hand. The Hegemony engineering corps have issued a statement reminding people that they should be careful when interacting with magical devices that they find, and that the corps offers a means of safely disposing of dangerous items for the Hegemony agents.

21 days since last moderately large avian beast attack

Over 21 days have now passed since the last major attack by the predatory avian beasts that knock people over.

Reports have surfaced though that the camp is being ever more frequently pestered by small brown birds that accost people who are eating or moving food around. One naturalist commented that they seemed to be developing into a commensal species and the consequences of this could be dire for the integrity of the camp.

Lady Jane's Warehouse

Need goods transporting then stored, and want to know the best routes from the mainland? Worried about the unreliability of Revenants and the possibility that they might damage YOUR precious shipments? Want a name that you can trust? Ritual Courier YOUR messages to Lady Jane at the Portal Camp, and rest easy!

WRITE FOR THE DISPATCH!

The Dispatch seeks writers, both on a long-term retainer and an ad hoc basis. In accordance with the teachings of the Explorer and the ethos of the Guild of Caravaneers, we are willing to print articles on any subject, especially those which increases the knowledge of the general populace, provided that they are not openly libellous or provably factually incorrect. Articles submitted must be attributed to their authors; we do not accept anonymous submissions or untraceable pseudonyms.