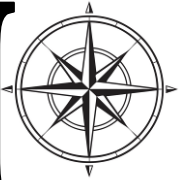


THE DISPATCH



Brought to you by the Guild of Caravaneers and the Church of the Explorer Oct 31st 614

FIRE MAGES "BUNCH OF LOONIES" SAY FLAME MAGES

In a shock twist that surprised absolutely no-one this week, there are reports of dissent within the Mage Guild. This war of words is, quite literally, alight, as the Flame Mage group have denounced Fire Mages as being 'a bunch of loonies' after a week of reports of unattended fires breaking out across the Mage section of the camp. Nothing of any strategic importance has been destroyed, but after an ambassador's eyebrows got burnt off from a sudden explosion the Guild is looking for answers.

Ahken of the Flame Mages had this to say- 'They're idiots! Complete and utter idiots! They're starting fires everywhere as the result of dumb experiments, and WE are getting blamed for it! People mistake us for fire mages ALL the time and it's frankly ridiculous, and rather upsetting. I mean, anyone can get excited about fire! It's flames, you see, THOSE are the real art. Consider, if you will, the thirteenth paragraph of my thesis on flame based paradigms, the refraction of light as the be...' (REDACTED FOR SPACE AND READER SANITY CONCERNS)

A representative of the fire mages, a Mr Erik Velaquez, was interviewed by our reporter in front of an ablaze research lab (his own) to have a chance to refute these accusations. 'We're sorry that fire is getting such a bad rap at the moment, just because one or two small things are maybe being a tiny bit singled in the name of Paradigmatic Progress. Maybe if people's stuff wasn't so flammable they wouldn't be able to blame us for their own mistakes. MAYBE people should think about that!' He then proceeded to smile inanely, as part of his hair got caught by the flames. More on this story as it develops.

Sex and the Portal

The Dispatch would like to welcome our new relationship columnist, Ezraim of House Desere, who claims that he is 'researching love'. Whatever that means. He claims that he is happy to research any aspect of love his readers are willing to provide case studies for... And ones that they apparently haven't provided case studies for, but you know that you shouldn't ignore the lustful looks her in the corner is giving you because that's a classic case of ... (Just get on with the article. Ed.)

So, I find myself, a single Ozgur (other than my research partner, who I am busy attempting to test the love of unrequited longing with, so will be appearing infrequently on this page), at a research station on the most bustling island in the world. Of course, when we're told that we can have it all in the advertisements, this never seems to hold out in reality. Love is forever, but flings are ephemeral and oh so easy to stumble across. So is it true, that in this Portal camp of unknown possibility, there is no place for anything more fulfilling emotionally than one night involving two biomanced Alfar and three oddly shaped appendages? The romantic in me holds out hope, but my experiences leave me nothing other than struck dumb, with a pounding sensation in my ... (Yes, we get it. Ed.). Just last week, I was taken for a tour of the Vendical camp, which was followed by a very different 'tour' of ... (That's more than enough smut. Ed.)

Guild of Physicians.

Wounds treated, reasonable rates. Open all day and night.
The Guild recommends against the services of "free" amateurs.

Exorcism 101

An extract from Aspirant Jakob Kramer's new pamphlet, *'Lancea Laruarum'* (available soon at all good research stations!), on the removal of unwanted strangers. Published here in advance at his (very loud) request.

As is well known by those who hunt the EVIL BEINGS that INFEST this land, sometimes foolishly termed strangers (STRANGE IN THEIR EVIL!), the LOATHSOME VISAGE of such MISCREANT SPIRITS often reappears with the STARTLING regularity if they are not SENSIBLY DEALT WITH.

For the recognizing of such MALEFICENT CREATURES before the stabbing and removal, it is important to note the HORRIFIC differences from the Alfar, the Ozgur, the Human, the Insectoid, the Lizard and the Avian... Which means such ABOMINATIONS don't appear to have the facial similarities to these various species.

Once one has achieved the finding of such a WICKEDNESS, and has removed the capability of the DISASTROUS DEAL-MAKER to do the moving and the speaking and the clawing, they are to pin the DIABOLO to this plane with the use of the Disrupts. From this, it is then possible to transfer the BINDING EFFECT with the Transference to a willing practitioner. Whilst this results in INEVITABLE ABSORPTION OF MALICIOUSNESS, it is of the necessary final part of the procedure to remove a VILE CREATURE from this realm.

Some Celebrants advise the 'conversation' with the MONSTROSITIES, for the discovery of what has kept them to this world, and then its removal. This is FOOLISH, INADVISABLE and A SIGN OF THE DECADENT SPIRIT OF THE TIMES!

Refutation of Unsolicited material

This week, the Dispatch has received the following, highly dubious missive from an unverified source. Explorer Church would like to take this opportunity to remind all guildless that resorting to only those present at the Portal Open Research Evening (PORE) is NOT the only option. Our doors are always open. These warnings being said, in the name of fairness it has been printed in full without correction, so that it can be judged fairly.

It has come to my attention that there has been a rise in unscrupulous activity on Mat Sellah. I encourage people to rely on the factions to protect us, and for the faction trial system to be taken as the only recourse for justice, even for factionless. Do not rely on shady people like this 'Black Cat' to reclaim stolen items, and rely on faction guards to fight off monsters and ne'er-do-wells.

The portal area, whilst dangerous, is a shining example of where justice can be found. The trials that have taken place there have been exactly what the factions agree upon.

Yours, Finnegan Powers, Factionless

Fish pirates spotted off coast

The Guild of Caravaneers report a loss of Biomantic Devices of Glamer in a ship lost this week. They suspect piratical activity, as evidenced by recent reports of rather "fishy-looking" and "gifted" pirates and rumours of black-market "physical enhancements". The Dispatch is at pains to point out there are no documented reports of mer-anything, and that lonely sailors are not a reliable news source.

The Vestri

The Sign of the Broken Mast at Daveths Landing is proud to announce it's serving the original Vestri, in honour of our most valued customer. It's a heady mix of Cap'n Jimlad's 1 Hour Extra-Cheap, venom from those big-arse scorpions, and apple juice. Bring your own scorpion venom, we're not hunting that. Are you GLORIOUS enough to drink it (and survive)? The Sign of the Broken Mast accepts no responsibility for scorpion or alcohol poisoning resulting from a Vestri.

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.