SIGIL'S INDEPENDEN+ GLOBAL INFORMA+ION SERVICE

Issue 7 Year 1

Third Week of Accordant

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HISTORIC PACT BETWEEN

SIGIL - After two solid hours of delicate negotiations, Factol Rhys of the Transcendent Order emerged suddenly from the halls of the Gymnasium to announce the most unlikely of pacts. "As of this moment, the Doomguard and the Society of Sensation have agreed to join forces in the Outlands in order to combat the invading armies from the gate-town of Rigus, "stated the Factol. Having said her piece, Rhys motioned to a nearby Guvner, Tenemus Al Karak, to step forward and reveal the dark of the contract as she quickly retreated into her faction's kip before any of the cullers might question her.

Al Karak, a factor of the

Fraternity of Order who acted as scribe and notary at the meeting, read the contract aloud to waiting cullers."The terms of the agreement are the following,"intoned Al Karak reading from a lengthy scroll."Approximately 3,000 Doomguard warriors, led by Doomguard Factor Ales Jehaad, shall engage the Rigan army alongside the Lady's Guardianship [Society of Sensation] under the overall command of the Guardianship.

Doomguard factioneers shall remain in Tir Na Og until either the Rigans are repelled from the land or until the Guardianship has sounded a call to retreat. The Doomguard shall maintain hold on all spoils surrendered by the Rigans over the course of the conflict regardless of their origin and the Doomguard reserves the unconditional right to retreat should General Jehaad order this necessary."

SIGIS had learned of the meeting between the two diametrically opposed factions barely an hour before anti-peak when the historic discussion

took place. Word leaked out of the Lady's Ward of a Sinker procession heading round the Cage towards the Gymnasium lead by Factol Pentar herself.

A wemic courier, running between the Armoury and the Civic Festhall, paused long enough to relay some of the chant to SIGIS cullers."Pentar sent word to the Sensates offering her faction's services,"panted the courier breathlessly."I think she saw something in it for the Sinkers and the Sensate bashers were just too desperate to tell 'em to pike it.'

Not long after Rhys made her announcement, heavily armed Sinkers from all over the Cage congregated at the Civic Festhall in preparation for departure to the Outlands where they will commence operations under the command of Ales Jehaad. Jehaad, a Ysgardian giant, has apparently left her home in the gate-town of Glorium at the bequest of Factol Pentar to rendezvous with her troops in Tir Na Og.

- Maija Intwood, culler (sk)

BIBCAGE THIPMENTY ARRIERS

Commerce ground to a halt today as the carters and porters of Ribcage refused to work, protesting the arrival of the ambassador from Fortitude, Lord Donald map Gwyllyn. The strikers, protesting what they see as the arrival of a corrupting influence"refused to ship any goods and instead parked themselves and their wagons in order to block heavily travelled streets, making the burg difficult to navigate. Though the Blackguard cleared the streets by mid-morning, it remains uncertain when normal cartage service will resume.

The reaction of the Senate to the ambassador's arrival was mixed. Lord Tandon von Hapstan lead the attack on the establishment of the new

embassies, claiming that "They [the embassies] will not only pollute the culture of Ribcage but will serve as a magnet to draw in outsiders who will flaunt our laws and sow dissension among the commons."He was strongly backed by Senator Figuesh von Ivlium, who, as chant has it, is the organising force behind the strike.

Ironically, Fiquesh belongs to one of the youngest of the Senatorial families who immigrated to Ribcage less than 200 years ago. Lord Peltar von Turmstadt, on the other side, supported the establishment of the embassies arguing that "With the aggression of Rigus looming so close at hand, it is ever more important that we maintain our

solidarity and strengthen our ties with our allies.'

He went on to add that despite the espoused reasons of the protesters, he suspected that "with the exception of our estimable Lord Tandon von Hapstan, I believe the matter to be more one of taxes to support the mercenaries than of any disruption the embassies might bring

Lord Paracs has given the protesters two days in which to resume work before he orders retaliation from the Blackguard. Although Lord Paracs continues to rule Ribcage, ever since the assassination attempt many cutters have wondered if Paracs may be losing his grip on the reigns of power. (rm)

- Eber Willburg, culler

MUST BE LITERATE AND ON THE CASE

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TRADEGATE LABOURERS Jinggor's Curios PROTEST NEW ABBIUALS

of labourers, craftsmen and farmers petitioned the Parliament of Tradegate today to establish laws preventing trlansients from taking work within the borders of the burg. The request, aimed at preventing recent immigrants from"stealing" work from the locals, was spurred on by the gradual increase in the number of jinkless arrivals coupled with soaring costs of basic items such as grain and wine. Sanctions aimed specifically at Dustmen merchants, most notably Anise the Black, were also requested, as they are seen by many to be the cause of the problem.

The workers of Tradegate, particularly labourers and small farmers, have found it increasingly difficult to earn enough to survive as the number of immigrants entering the burg has risen sharply. Adding to their fiscal woes, the cost of basic supplies such as grain and salt are soaring as merchants raise prices to match demand.

"I don't know what I'm going to do," griped Alger Bolger, a local cutter."I'm not so badly off as some, since I've got my land. My grain brings good price, especially with all the thrice-cursed Dustman jink floating around, but I've only got a half yardland. I was counting on hiring out to the larger holders, but with all these foreigners, a cutter can't rightly hope for much."

Many of the townsmen, like Alger, blame the Dustmen merchants for their current problems. A number Dustmen have set up their kips in Tradegate and are actively trading hefty sums of jink for a basher's afterlife, though there

are unconfirmed rumours that the deal requires the sacrifice of more than mere gold. Anise the Black, the most public of these merchants caters almost exclusively to the new arrivals, making her an obvious target of the Tradegate collective. Black maintains that she has done no cross-trading and that she is perfectly within her rights to spend her jink in this manner.

"Way I sees it," snapped Anise heatedly when question by SIGIS, "those bubbers just can't stand the competition. If they can't make the cut, they should cry in their bub instead of to Parliament and leave honest merchants like myself

Parliament has not issued any decision as of yet, but a compromise on the matter is

- Jacob of Adelmere, culler

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 X Dust - 5 jinx

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LA ADAKAR VEAD!

SPIREWARD OF FORTITUDE - Chant of an unbelievable nature has filtered in from several Indep villages near Fortitude. Apparently, many bashers claim to have seen a priest by the name of Crellis, who purportedly worships the lost god Aoskar. While this in and of itself is not surprising, what is unusual is that he appears to be receiving powers such as a priest of Aoskar would. This has caused great confusion in those who have witnessed the event, causing them to wonder if Aoskar is truly dead.

Several other priests who witnessed the Aoskian's appearance confirmed the fact that Crellis did, in fact, cast priestly magic when he formed a gate to the plane of Radiance just outside of town. So far, the gate has shown every sign of being perfectly stable.

Town officials are worried, and with good reasons. First, the portal to the plane of Radiance has yet to disappear, and it is a two way portal. Secondly, even if Crellis is not a priest of a supposedly dead god, his ability to open a, perhaps permanent, two-way portal is evidence of extraordinary power and he may pose a threat to the town. Thirdly, it appears that the priest's activity has attracted some plant life, in that a few large growths of the strange called Aoskar's Folly plant appeared in the area have

around the portal and have started spreading toward the burg. One resident was heard to comment that, "We have a supposed priest of a dead god and we have his plants showing up within a day. If his mutts show up, I'm making a break to the safety of Sigil!"

Reactions have been mixed to the possibility that Aoskar has returned from the dead. A local factioneer of the Athar swore that if "that cosmic deceiver" was drawing down divine power, he was probably drawing strength from Janus, a Prime god of portals, while making the rituals for Aoskar. He seemed very flustered by the possibility that one of the "great deceivers" might have come back into power. The local Dustmen were of the opinion that, since he was already dead, he could very easily return. The Harmonium officer present commented that Crellis would be allowed to preach as long as he did not break any laws.

Town officials have posted rewards for any information on the priest's background, or on the nature and location of the Isle of Aoskar in the Astral. They are also willing to pay those who help keep the Folly saplings pruned away from the city. Further developments on this story shall be provided to SIGIS exclusively as it breaks.

> - Khadarkhol, priest and wanderer, culler (cir)

SEVEN MORE
SIGNERS KILLED
POLSON

ANOTHER SEVEN MEMBERS of the Sign of One are dead today. Unlike the first assassinations, these are all believed to have occurred at different times and in different places: There is apparently nothing to link them together except for their faction allegiance, and the fact that each of them knew one or more of y esterday 's victims.

Mover Tens refused to comment to SIGIS cullers on the case. His deputy told cullers that food poisoning had been ruled out and this was certainly a case of multiple murder.

The Sign of One has offered a reward of five thousand jinx for information leading to the capture of the assassin, and allegedly employed a team of priests and psionicists to probe into the matter.

Stop Press -ATTATTION FEVER GRIPT CLERK'S WARD: LITEEN MORE

acceleration of the assassin's pace, 16 members of the Sign of One die yesterday, all showing symptoms of The case is poisoning. particularly disturbing considering half of these individuals were the psionicists and priests employed by the faction to investigate the matter. According to sources in the faction, the Harmonium are no closer to finding an answer.

Rumours as to the nature of the attacker are rife in the Clerk's Ward. The two most frequently-stated refer to the Bleak Cabal, long known to

dislike the Sign of One, and the Lady of Pain herself, retaliating after the recent formation of the controversial Will of the One.

Pristine, water genasi and high-up in the Will of the One commented on these allegations saying:"The Lady Flays. She does not poison. Find someone else to pin your blame on, berks! Besides, none of the Will of the One are among the victims. Go figure!"

A number of Bleakers are said to helping the Harmonium with their inquiries, and the Harmonium's Barracks are full to bursting with Signers seeking protective custody.(jw)

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