

The Journeyman

Est. 2301

30th March 2398 of the Fifth Age of Neothera

MAINLAND SAFE AS LLA DISMANTLED

L'Enarousse Liberation Alliance (LLA) mastermind Horace Humperdink was recently executed for treason following a conspiracy to detonate chemical weapons in the city of Jerrod's Front. Humperdink was apprehended by Tutela Law Keepers at the Sparrow's Rest tavern, located a few miles from the city on 18th September 2397, and his trial lasted only two days.

During their uprising, the LLA focussed on clandestine attempts to undermine the ruling class, particularly the Marsell family's grip on power. They were formed in 2392 by Humperdink, a leading academic and freethinker who was a lecturer at the University of Apprentissage in Jerrod's Front. The LLA saw Marsell as an increasingly despotic ruler with aims far exceeding the mere safety of the L'Enaroussian people, especially considering the recent attempts at land grabs by Marsell's forces.

LLA protests were originally peaceful, however, became aggressive following heavy-handed L'Enarousse soldiers attempting to put a stop to them. This led to tensions escalating to the point of violence, including street brawls and even assassination attempts, spilling out into Black Hammer Bay and Blightfoot Ridge.

Following an alliance formed between Admiral Robert Smith of Black Hammer Bay, Governor Philippe Marsell of Jerrod's Front, and with assistance from Head Minister Danny Henesey of Blightfoot Ridge, many LLA ringleaders were rounded up and imprisoned or executed for treasonous crimes. However, it seems that in a desperate attempt to bring down the L'Enaroussian realm, Humperdink sought outside help, determined to bring an entire city to its knees.

On the morning of 15th September last year, several carts containing large metallic cylinders appeared in various key locations of Jerrod's Front. Although they have now been safely deactivated and removed, the substance contained within the cylinders was believed to be a chemical weapon that would have killed anyone that breathed it in.

What is worse is that the dead would have risen as Wights. Although there is no solid proof, fingers have been pointed at the Frozen North for providing Humperdink with these chemical weapons, and the appearance of the Lich Apothecary, Damus V'dere in Marsell's court, only sought to solidify this conspiracy.

That said, new evidence has come to light that Charlie Henesey, sister of Blightfoot Ridge Head Minister, Danny Henesey, was responsible for acquiring and supplying Humperdink and the LLA with extremely deadly chemical weapons.

It is understood that the inventor Ingo Raspatten, and a group of kind-hearted adventurers located at the Tutela Syndicate-owned Tawsmeade encampment played a part in deactivating the chemical weapons from afar, although it is not currently known how they did this. What we do know is that some of the adventurers were members of the following guilds, so please make sure you buy their members a drink or two if you are lucky enough to meet them in your local tavern! Court Encarmine. Heralds of the Scarlet Star. Black Widows. Medics, Makers and Menders.

Article Written by Milakov Neuman.



NEW RELIGIONS, OR NEW THREATS?

Concerns are growing over a seemingly increasing amount of fanatical religious groups and cults growing in numbers across all continents of Neothera. We at the Journeyman understand several notable groups have been established, each with varying causes.

The largest of these groups calls themselves the Faceless Order, whose members are recognisable by the masks they wear, which are constructed from steel and Brillithor bone. Rumour has it that this group is led by none other than Nial Stormbringer, commander of the late Queen Maib's army, and responsible for murdering his son, Salvador Hanstez, that led the remnants of the armies of the Brotherhood of the Red Wolf.

The Faceless Order is amassing a large following and occupies the Ruins of the City of Netherlye and has been somewhat hostile to anyone venturing near the three gigantic rifts located there. The Faceless Order seem to perform the same protective duties as the Esyan that were once stationed there but disappeared in recent years. However, their true motives are not clear and attempts to glean any information from this secretive group either by talking to them or the use of magic have failed.

Another group that is growing in numbers calls themselves the Disciples of the Eighth Pillar. It is not known who they are led by, and their followers rarely seem aggressive. Some have likened this group to a cult, whereas others see them as saviours. They appear to dress humbly, and those who are fully initiated are recognisable by a star tattooed on their foreheads. They communicate openly about their cause, but often what they say makes little sense.

Their members tell of the end of the world as we know it, but not due to destruction. In fact, they speak of the imminent arrival of a saviour, one who will bring an end to all wars and hardships in the universe should they be accepted and embraced. That said, many people assume the Disciples of the Eighth Pillar are people driven to breaking point by the constant state of despair in the world, and they have ended up delusional to protect their sanity.

Aside from these notable groups, the streets of many cities seem to be filled with those warning of the end of the world, the coming of golden times, the reignition of the burning, talk of gigantic beasts devouring the realms, or the oceans rising to flood the land.

It seems madness has stolen the minds of many, and some scientists are blaming mass hysteria. That said, some respected mages have sensed a change in the winds of magic, and even felt fluctuations in the leylines that could point to something tremendously beautiful, yet frightening about to occur.

Article Written by Milakov Neuman.



VB3 KINGPIN FACES LIFE BEHIND BARS

Charlie Henesey, sister of Danny Henesey, Head Minister of Blightfoot Ridge recently stood trial in the Lawmakers Court. She was found guilty of several charges, including kidnapping, torture, the distribution of a now illegal substance and murder. Charlie has been handed a life sentence with no chance of parole. But what led to the Head Minister's sister receiving such a harsh sentence?

Charlie had been the ringleader of a large criminal organisation responsible for distributing the substance known as VB3, a drug that enhances the senses and strength of the user. However, the continued use of this substance, in the worst cases, led to a painful death for many users. Perhaps the most tragic part of this story is that one of the ingredients used to produce VB3 is the blood of Vampyres, and had to be harvested from the victim when they were close to death.

Many innocent Vampyres were snatched from the streets and their homes and held captive against their will in large underground facilities. Here they were kept in a perpetual state of dying for their blood to be taken, and when a victim showed signs of being unable to recover, they were executed and the bodies burned.

Reports of missing Vampyres have been frequent over the past few years, and Tutela Law Keepers have now closed many of these cases when evidence was obtained that Charlie Henesey and her gang were responsible for the kidnappings.

Danny Henesey was present at the trials and even offered evidence that led to the conviction of his sister. He is said to be distraught that she was involved in such heinous crimes, and does not wish for Charlie to be associated with the Henesey family any longer. All of Charlie's assets have been seized by the Tutela Syndicate bank, and after covering court costs, the considerable wealth she gained from selling VB3 is now being distributed as compensation to the families of the murdered Vampyres, or those recovering from VB3 addiction.

To raise further funds to compensate these families and individuals, an auction of Charlie's property is to be held at the Tawsmeade encampment, and anyone wanting to support this cause, or perhaps obtain a grisly souvenir belonging to a convicted mass-murderer who will spend the rest of their days rotting in a cell should be there on the Friday 7th April.

Article Written by Jorvas Franz.

ZOAS

ZAN'ZOULA ORPHAN
ANIMAL SOCIETY



WE ARE A CHARITY WORKING IN MAINLAND NEOTHERA TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THE CONTINENT'S ESTIMATED 5 MILLION STRAY CATS AND DOGS HUMANELY, EFFICIENTLY AND RESPONSIBLY. OUR KEY FOCUSES ARE RESCUE, REHABILITATION, AND REHOMING OF ANIMALS FROM OUR PRIVATE SHELTERS IN ZAN'ZOULA AND TALANOR, BUT ALSO OFFERING PRACTICAL HELP AND EDUCATION TO PET OWNERS.



FIRE IN THE MOUNTAINS

For several weeks now, the Great Volcano, Thoolmundae, located in the Mainland region known as the Morrdoun Mountains has continued to belch clouds of thick smog. Scientists from Blightfoot Ridge have reported that seismic activity in the area has increased in frequency and intensity, and they are certain that an eruption is imminent.

Despite this, the Arak'Char who occupy the region show no signs of concern, nor are they making attempts to evacuate the mountains. In fact, it is reported that those of Arak'Char heritage who have made their homes in other realms are making what some consider a pilgrimage back to the Morrdoun Mountains. I was lucky enough to encounter one such individual, a beastkin who did not wish to disclose his name, as he left the City of Jerrod's Front to begin his journey back to his homeland.

"We, the Arak'Char, have a spiritual connection to the Great Volcano, and when it speaks, we listen. I am making this journey back to my homeland because I believe something monumental is about to happen. An event that will define this age. I'll admit that I am not certain what this event will be, however, I feel it in my bones that Arak'almundae himself is calling to me, my brothers and my sisters of the Arak'Char. I cannot ignore this calling, and it would be an insult to my heritage to do so. This is why I must travel to the Morrdoun Mountains, and will follow any order my God demands of me without question."

Following this intriguing yet ominous conversation with the beastkin, I spoke to David Johnston, a scientist stationed on the outskirts of Abral, who had this to say about the situation. "In my professional opinion, I am certain that Thoolmundae is about to erupt. The instruments we use to monitor seismic activity in the region have rarely provided inaccurate results, and they are showing readings that are unlike anything we have seen before. At this rate, I predict Thoolmundae will erupt in less than two weeks, and every effort should be made to evacuate the Arak'Char from their capital city, Arka'Gharad. I understand that locals in this region believe that Arak'almundae, the God of Fire, is awakening, however, this is simply not true. Science can prove that Thoolmundae is the largest and most dangerous active volcano in all of Neothera. It is about to erupt, and thousands of people will die if they remain in Morrdoun Mountains."

Is the God of Fire awakening from his fiery slumber in the depths of the most dangerous volcano in the world? Is this simply a long-overdue, major eruption - a natural phenomenon? According to Professor Johnston, we will have an answer within the next two weeks. In the meantime, we advise all those planning to travel to the Morrdoun Mountains to cancel their journeys, and to the Arak'Char unwilling to leave the region, we strongly advise you to reconsider and evacuate as soon as possible.

Article Written by Bartholemew Bedsworth.

LUNA'S ENCHANTMENTS

"Hi, my name is Luna,
co-founder of the Heralds
of the Scarlet Star.
I'd like to offer you my
services!"

Friendly service, competitive prices

All common enchantments available

Various unique enchantments

Free cup of tea with every order

Find me at
Ayelston's Rest!

MASTER SCHOLAR TO THE CHILDREN OF THE DIVINE

Were you born different?

Do you feel you have a unique calling in life?

Do you possess quirks beyond the comprehension of others?

Perhaps your raw skills surpass those of the most well trained veterans?

Are you unable to control the raw power you were born with?

Are you marked by the divine with patches of gold upon your skin?!

Senpai Gokugo and his travelling castle of scholarship are visiting a city near you soon!

We are now accepting gifted students into our halls. Apply today!

A brief consultation could result in your acceptance!

MADAME LORENZA

PROFFESIANL EXORCIST SINCE 2372.

**UNRULY CHILDREN?
FLATULENCE?
HAIR LOSS?
EXCESSIVE SWEATING?**

THESE ARE ALL SIGNS OF DEMONIC POSSESSION!

VISIT MADAME LORENZA AT 6A
LITTLE BIG FOOT ST. AT JERROD'S
FRONT DOCKS FOR A FREE
EXORCISM CONSULTATION.

RAISE A MUG FOR SPRING!

Well met readers, Lt. Dredgen here. I am back with another 'Tales from the Tavern'. In this edition, I shall give my honest review of my time in Sirella, Talanor and Mortanis. Spring is around the corner, and I hope my knowledge will help you in choosing where you wish to spend your days, drinking good alcohol! Remember the rankings are as follows. One being utter dogsh*t, and five being completely divine.

Coming up with our first location on the list: Sirella. A lovely place, just like all elves it is a wonder to behold, pleasing to the eyes and a wonderful place to go for a drink. It's a short walk from the beach to the tavern but I recommend taking it all in. I entered and asked for a drink that my good friend Sontar Moonbow has recommended time and again. Ginger mead, though he prefers the old ginger spice of Faradome. Taking it in to start it has a soft, vibrant texture, and it complements the elven mug's design very nicely. The taste is sweet and strong. It is a gentle nectar, almost like drinking nature itself. The care in fermentation is sublime. I finished it quickly and couldn't help but ask for another. I for one wholeheartedly recommend you direct your patronage there! Getting into the scores, It gets a 3.5/ 5, a wonderful drink to be sure, with delectable ambrosia.

The second location on our list is the wonderful realm of Talanor! I must admit that regretfully I couldn't stay for as long as I wished to, I was in town visiting an old friend of mine who trades in horses. We shared a drink at the local tavern after business and reminisced. As usual, we start with the texture, the local favourite ale was given to me at a decent price, and that's always a plus, the mug was nothing too special but that's to be expected, having a colourful mug is merely flair.

The ale, on the other hand, had a nice dark texture, bringing it to my lips I was met with a gentle sweetness, the delightful taste of blackcurrant dancing down my throat, I'll be sure to save some of this in my hip flask for sure! The fermentation was standard by the books, but I will give them credit for cleaning well. On to the scores, I'll be giving the Blackcurrant brew a fine score of 3 / 5. By regular ale standards, it's a delightful drink and the price is a bonus. If you ever find yourself in Talanor I highly recommend giving them your patronage.

Finally, it's the neighbouring home of my home, Mortanis' Wendigo's Reach in the Frozen North. Now here in the North we aren't well-reputed for our taste buds, the walk to the tavern was as cold as ever and I happened to be on my way home after a long hunt. Stepping inside the atmosphere was breezy, to say the least, few people paid attention to any newcomers, talk about a cold reception. I ordered the usual ale and anything fancy they had. I received a common ale and was met with a black bottled dark wine. I took a swig from the chilled mug and was pleasantly surprised, the taste was alright and even to some probably enjoyable, its texture was dark and frothy like its taste. Stumbling over to the wine I uncorked the beast and poured myself a mug, first of all, its texture looked almost repugnant but as my duty, I took it down the hatch, the taste was surprising, a strongly scented liquorice that lacquered its way down the mouth and into whatever's left of my innards. On to the rankings, I'll be giving the ale a 2.5 out of 5, a similar ranking to my home tavern of Winter's Bite. Now the wine was difficult, getting past the texture is a difficult one indeed, I'm sure those already intoxicated won't mind but those wanting to pour one out for friends and family it might leave something to be desired, but getting past that it has a wonderful taste. 3 / 5. Enjoy your trails and good luck on the path my fellow drinkers!

Article Written by Lt. Dredgen.

SIEGE OF JERROD'S FRONT OVER

For several years now the L'Enaroussian capital city of Jerrod's Front has barred its main gates against a seemingly endless number of mindless undead that has been attempting to breach the walls.

Although weak points in the L'Enaroussian defences were found several times, resulting in the dead clambering their way into the city, the military was successful in cutting down the invaders.

However, in October last year, the mindless dead's numbers began to dwindle, eventually resulting in the attacks ceasing altogether. It is believed that the sheer number of mindless undead was due to the Burning of the Mainland, where the living, previously afflicted with the undead infection, died in the fires, resulting in them rising as these ghouls.

It is not clear why the dead were drawn towards the coastal city. This is unusual behaviour for such creatures who normally roam a location without purpose - hence the term 'mindless undead'. Some speculate that the L'Enaroussian government is covering up the supposed possession of a relic or strange magic that was drawing them to the city, although such claims cannot be proved.

Others state that the Lich Apothecary, Damus V'dere was to blame for the siege, his appearance in Jerrod's Front seemed to coincide with the attacks, but again, no solid proof can be found. Others claim that Charlie Hensney and

the LLA somehow drew the mindless dead to the city to draw attention away from the chemical weapons they were producing and to ensure there was no safe means of escape for the citizens of Jerrod's Front.

Whatever the reason for the attacks, it is safe to say that the people of this city can finally breathe a sigh of relief. Repairs to the city's defences have begun, and the bodies of the mindless undead are being burned in the fields of Merchant's Glory. The Journeyman wishes to thank the brave defenders of the city, and we offer our sincere condolences to those who lost loved ones in the siege.

Article Written by Jorvas Franz.



MALON SHURBS SUPERNATURAL INVESTIGATOR

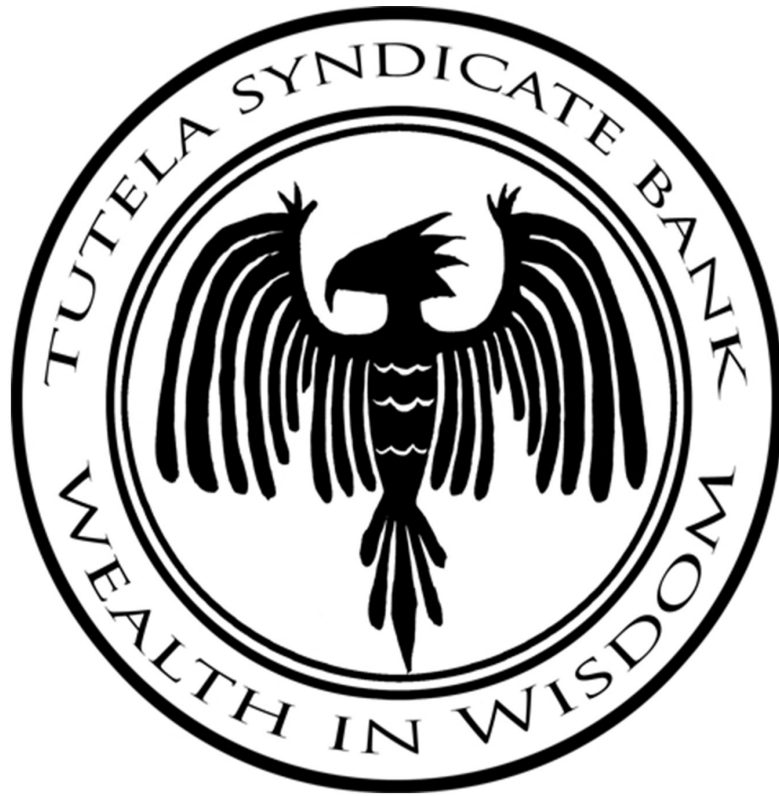
Are you troubled by strange noises in the middle of the night?

Do you experience feelings of dread in your basement or attic?

Have you or your family ever seen a spook, spectre or ghost?

If the answer is yes, then don't wait another minute.

Visit my office in Blightfoot Ridge for a free consultation.



ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE: VB3

Taking, possessing or distributing the substance known as VB3 is now illegal in all realms occupied by the Tutela Syndicate.

Following extensive testing of the substance at the Rowston Medical College in Blightfoot Ridge, VB3 has recently been deemed extremely harmful, with long-term use often resulting in death.

Promoted as a performance-enhancing drug, and often taken by those wishing to improve their combat prowess, notable side effects have been now been discovered, including but not limited to the following:

- Excessive twitching
- Accelerated heart rate
- Severe headaches
- Memory loss
- Vomiting
- Loss of muscle control
- Bleeding from the eyes, ears, mouth and nose
- Heart attacks

VB3 does not affect wights, however, the law still applies to all wight citizens.

Tutela law, applicable in all realms the Syndicate operate in, allows Tutela Syndicate officials the power to impose on-the-spot fines, make arrests and imprison those guilty of taking, possessing or distributing the illegal substance.

GARDENING WITH SONTAR

“I Weed Myself!”

Article Written by Sontar.

Hello all, it's that time of year for another Gardening with Sontar! I hope you all have had a festive time with your loved ones across Neothera and you've taken those tips to hand to make your garden mulched up and ready for this coming year. Now that we're entering spring, that's right even the trees are re-leaved for the spring warmth to arrive, it's time to get your beautiful gardens primed for planting.

Sontar, I want to start planting but my gardens are covered in weeds! Haha! A common enemy that we all face... the dreaded weeds! We all love plants (I sure do!) and these lovely little green friends like to sprout their heads up as things start to warm up, they're just wild plants, flowers and shrubs but we consider these pests given their unwanted plants growing in our grubbed up loved gardens. So! Given we're about to approach spring, I wanted to share my tips with you all on how we can keep these weeds at bay ready for our planting to begin.

But Sontar, why do weeds grow so fast and all over my garden? Well ya, little weedling... as we've spent the winter months mulching our soil and adding fresh nutrients into the soil, with us disturbing the soil as we cultivate it, it allows room for wild seeds to take advantage of this. Seeds can be spread by wind, animals or even us green-loving friends. These wild seeds see all of this as a giant meal fit for a king! An area filled with nutrients and no plant competition to impact them, the effect is mass weed growth can occur across your garden in a flash. Some might say to take that sign as good news that you've got nutrient-rich soil! They may say why are there so few good weeds out there. Well because weeds are no laughing matter! Didn't get the joke? Well, that's because my puns are weedy bad!

So to stop these growing out of control and get our gardens ready for a lovely flowering bloom, we need to get our hands dirty... yes that means no magic use and no burning (we've had plenty of that!). There are several tools you can use to help de-weed and these range from hoeing, hand pulling or a weed knife. You want to dig down deep and remove the entire weed alongside its roots (I'm root'in on you!), be sure not to chuck them in your compost heap as you risk spreading them further or having them eat away at your compost pile so ideally leave them out somewhere to dry up before adding to your compost heap. If your doing it by hand, ensure you don't pull just the stem off and you get the roots out. Many weeds can survive and regrow if their root system remains intact!

Spend a few hours de-weeding each day, enjoying the sound of nature around you and the enjoyment of preparing for the coming spring in your garden. Take the time to also think about what plants you want to place in there and be sure to keep yourself dry on these rainy days! That reminds me of a day I worked in a hayfield...after one day I bailed!

That's all from me, folks. Until next time!

