

The Korranberg Chronicle

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1 Copper Crown

TRADE DISPUTE ESCALATES AT CRAGWAR

House Orien lodges formal complain; Military dispatched from Sword Keep

The editor warns that the following article may be disturbing to read. It features the death of a child as well as heavy injury on several people. Continue at your own risk.

Early this morning at Cragwar a tragic situation threatened to spill out of control entirely, when an aundairian and brelish merchant clashed over a major transaction and an accident killed the aundairian man's young daughter.

The man from Aundair, Hagro Serontain, came to Cragwar with a House Orien caravan to sell the high-class aundairian wine he had acquired. The goods were from Thelant, a well-known origin for tart reds, and held the Crown-Seal of Queen Aurala, bestowed upon such high-profile spirits made for export. Mister Serontain was looking to offload the goods and return back to his hometown with his young daughter, Mirala, when his negotiations turned sour.

The buyer, a brelish merchant by the name of Oarsen Jonz, was doubting the legitimacy of the Crown-Seal and attempted to haggle Serontain's prices down to dishonest prices, involving a Cragwar guard he knew personally to strengthen his argument. Witnesses speak of Jonz' behavior negatively, indicating he wanted to force Serontain to sell at a near-loss.

The argument began to escalate when Jonz became insulting towards the aundairian, offering a few choice insults and speaking of the Last War in a manner not befitting any brelish citizen.

Serontain, who lost four siblings and several nephews and nieces in the war, became enraged and threatened to strangle the brelish merchant on the spot, to which the guardsman on-site threatened the law's involvement.

At this point a nearby merchant coming down from a street that was higher up in terms of elevation lost control of his wagon as the draft animal broke free and damaged the vehicle. The brakes were non-functional and the cart began barreling down the street, narrowly missing both merchants but skirted the guardsman, tossing him violently into a nearby businessfront, injuring him greatly.

Of more imminent tragedy, Mirala Serontain found herself in the oncoming wagon's path and was impacted fully, dying on the spot according to Jorasco healers that arrived on the scene soon after.

Serontain saw the moment happen and was overtaken by emotion and by all eyewitness accounts alternated



between disbelieving grief and seething rage, beginning to accuse the brelish merchant of orchestrating the accident to rid himself of another aundairian, referencing the total destruction of an aundairian village not far from the border by brelish troops in 968 YK.

While Oarsen Jonz tried to aid the man after the accident, Serontain's mental state deteriorated, ending in him drawing a knife and fatally wounding Jonz.

Onlookers attempted to pacify the grief-struck man but failed to do so initially, only containing him in the nearby area at the price of several wounds to themselves.

When the guard arrived, they saw well-known Oarsen Jonz dead on the ground and moved to quickly detain Serontain, an attempt that quickly escalated into a lethal melee. Serontain had been an active soldier in the Aundairian army and used his magical and martial talents to terrifying effect when brelish-liveried guards moved to pacify him more thoroughly.

Eyewitnesses report that Hagro Serontain began to scream obscenities and slipped into a mental state where he thought the Last War was still ongoing.

Five guards perished trying to detain the man. Hagro Serontain was finally rendered unconscious by the arrival of House Orien caravan guards who used arrows and magic to attain the result.

House Jorasco healers were quickly on-site and placed the aundairian merchant into a temporary coma while trying to stabilize and heal the other wounded.

The political ramifications have already begun spiraling outwards, with aundairian merchants in Cragwar speaking up against the deceased Oarsen Jonz' business practices being discriminatory, the guard's silent compliance with the selfsame fact, and other issues that were voiced with surprising vehemence. Jonz' family has come forward with accusations and calls for violence.

Soranda Redeker, chief parliament-member from Cragwar, was reached via House Sivis message, as they were still in Wroat due to yesterday's turbulent political debate and stated the following: "Today's sad events show clearly why I was so vehemently against Argonth's renovation efforts while our borders still remain coiled with tensions caused by the Last War."

"While I am truly sorry for the loss Mr. Serontain felt on this terrible day, it does not give him any right to attack all of us in the manner he did. It is quite obvious the man was harboring ill sentiment towards my constituents and his violent outburst shows clearly the hatred he held within his heart."

The cart that went out of control was investigated by members of House Cannith and House Medani, both confirming that the fault was simply due to heavy use and material fatigue, a tragic but not planned accident.

At this time House Jorasco has refused to hand over Hagro Serontain to the authorities, stating that the man was still intensely wounded and unfit to stand trial or be handed to any state authority.

An Aundairian envoy is on their way from Marketplace to speak for her people. The Chronicle has been made aware that the Crown will seek to repatriate Serontain, though he will have to stand trial for crimes committed under the Galifar Code of Justice.

House Orien has lodged a formal complaint about trade malpractice against Jonz, citing previous incidents and warnings going back to 996 YK. Despite the current unrest, House Orien has stated that Jonz' prior infractions had summed up to a last chance offered and ultimately left by the wayside. The spokesperson stated that they regret the man's death and that their censure will not extend to the Jonz family business, so long as the new owner abides by Orien regulations.

A riotous mob gathered in front of the House Orien enclave within hours of the communique, while the House Jorasco compound likewise was surrounded by angry citizens. At least four other incidents involving aundairians have been reported since the original accident.

The garrison commander of Cragwar's military has ordered martial law with the mayor co-signing the order and has requested reinforcements from Sword Keep.

Aundairians are urged to stay indoors for the time being and await the deployment of the military for martial law as well as the arrival of the aundairian envoy.

Belran Nagel, Aundair Correspondent

SWORDS OF LIBERTY: FAILED ATTACK ON DARK LANTERNS

The infamous group of terrorists known as the Swords of Liberty – ostensibly clamoring to turn Breland into a full democracy – have attempted to strike at the King's Dark Lanterns, the intelligence branch of the King's Citadel.

The attack was, however, not simply avoided, but instead agents of the Swords of Liberty were led to believe they had found a sympathizer on the inside of the organization who was willing to lead several of our kingdom's great agents to their doom.

As yet we do not have much information beyond what little we could garner, and we do not expect to attain much more information.

Captain Vron, the commander of the King's Dark Lanterns, refused to comment on the specifics of the matter, though he confirmed the Swords of Liberty cell was captured and wiped out during the operation. He refused to comment further.

Meryl Lanna, The Commons

Soranda & Daughters Rings and More

Memories Remembered.
Occasions Celebrated.
Marriages made real.

Tradefair District, Near Ambassador Towers

SHARN CLASSIFIED'S

OFFERING: Schooling in writing, reading, mathematics and history. Graduate of the Wrenspire Academy, 34 years old ungendered Khorovar. I teach at my home in Sunrise. Come to Dawnlight Tower and ask for Wren. Stay – quietly – for a lesson, if you wish. 1 Crown a day, 2 Sovereigns for a full month.

Midnight by Lanternlight? Shameful move, Whitehall. This should teach you better: G4 to F7, capture your piece.

OFFERING: Teach your children the way to eternity in paradise. Discover the power of the blood within. Happy to teach any willing person the way of the Blood of Vol. Cipher "1091-A"

ANNOUNCEMENT: Sirhian ir'Karavastar of Sigilstar is seeking for an artist of great merit but little renown to commission a large painting from. Galifaran 'Wrenlast' style is required, payment superb. Apply at the Thrane Embassy with a painting in the proper style within the next four weeks.

ANNOUNCEMENT: The *Wily Badger* is a new tavern opening in Daggerwatch. Come to Upper Cliffside and enjoy the beautiful sunsets with a drink in your hand! Ghalanda-certified with a dragonmarked cook in our kitchen! Only the best at the Wily Badger!

Shii marhu polto huuntad ka ruuska atchot, Lhevket.

Strong workmen find work at Sanne Ebinor's Import/Export business. You are strong and able to transport heavy goods for hours on end? Come on by in Ship's Towers and show what you can do. Every good worker can earn a few coppers day! Warforged and Ghaal'dar preferred.

SEARCHING: Three capable and adventurous people to seek out the secrets of the Tilorn Expanse. Preference for people who can speak sylvan. Have a few ties as possible when you join, we might be gone for a long while! Cipher "1091-B"



The Moon Overview

The Shifter's Best Friend



- Nymm – ●
- Sypheros – ○
- Therendor – ○
- Rhaan – ●
- Olarune – ●
- Eyre – ○
- Vult – ○
- Zarantyr – ●
- Aryth – ○
- Dravago – ●
- Lharvion – ●
- Barrakas – ●



NEW INFORMATION IN VELENA IR'ROOK CASE

At the start of Therendor Sharn lost the beloved Velen ir'Rook, affectionally called "Angel of High Walls", to a vicious attack by a believed to be defunct cell of the Swords of Liberty.

New information came to light by ways of a leaflet distributed to several wards of Sharn, including High Walls itself. The leaflet caused quite a stir, as it claims that Lady Velen ir'Rook was not truly a genuine person, but an aristocrat holding her vast wealth over the common people and demanding love and obedience for her many gifts.

Despite the wild claim, however, Lady ir'Rook has been giving freely of her wealth for years, particularly since the Day of Mourning, which took from her even the beloved ancestral homeland of her own mother.

The chronicle has also received a statement from Auriana ir'Rook, eldest daughter of the deceased Velen ir'Rook:

"The death of my mother comes tragically and struck a low blow to all of us, be they aundairian, cyran, brelish or any of the other countless heritages. My mother believed not in disunity and hatred, but in sharing, in a better tomorrow.

The Sword of Liberty struck at her for her circumstance of birth, which is no different than striking a poor man for the circumstance of his birth. Their supposed ideals are but ash and blood and hate."

"With heavy heart I must accept my mother's death, for I cannot bring her back, nor can any other. She has moved on and her spirit rests forevermore."

"I can, however, continue her legacy, and that is what I shall do. There remains much work to be done, and I shall attempt to do it."

"Yet I must be aware of the dangers, just as my mother was when she fell to a vile attack. I will return to the cyran people in Sharn once the week of mourning has ended. With me, I shall have my good friend Irlain d'Deneith, who shall act as my bodyguard, my shield, so I may carry my mother's flame of purpose into the future."

The Chronicle applauds Auriana's spirit and wishes her well in all her efforts.

Oarsen Arendt, Sharn Correspondent

"THE PYRE OF PALLID FLAMES"

Part 54, from the collected stories of Khiran Torsend, Wayfinder

Deciphering the full volume of the inscriptions in the giant scroll was a difficult task, not only in the academic sense, but also the logistical one. The note-taking scroll of a Cloud Giant could easily outclass one's bedspread in terms of size, so studying the writing and moving the thing about was rather tedious and difficult.

Nevertheless, T'zarssh managed to handle the difficulty with some physical laborer provided by yours truly and Pythinas, with Merian keep a watchful eye on all of our collective back.

At this point it was largely a matter of "when" and no longer "if" we would find the Pyre of Pallid Flames. The directions were hard to relate to modern-day Xen'drik, particularly this area near Pra'xirek, but even that we managed in the end.

The journey then was once more the tedious sort. Much walking, swatting at mosquitos I wish I could simply strike down with my spellblade, plenty of exhaustion, heat, humidity and the ever-present danger of this land that goes beyond anything you could experience in Khorvaire, I felt like.

Of course, after my more recent venture into the Mourndal, I can no longer fully agree to my prior statement, but my notes at the time make it precisely clear how I felt about the journey across Xen'drik's dense and deadly jungles.

Some measure of excitement came on out 19th day on the move. We almost ran straight into a Vulkorian ambush, the onyx-black elves watching us keenly. Luckily we had Merian on our side, who had established a rapport with these people on her journeys before. She spoke

the language fluently – the only one in our group – and managed to talk them out of murdering us and letting our corpses cool in the jungle, to be devoured by it's countless natural predators.

Instead we were escorted for a while, moved out of their claimed lands, and given fair warning to not return any time soon. This, of course, was rather difficult considering the curse this place labors under, but we took it to heart, offering gifts as recompense for inflicting us upon their jungle home.

Let me tell you from an experienced explorer to you, dear reader: It is unwise to tangle with any of the elves of Xen'drik, be they Vulkoori or Salatar or any of the other tribes. While they might appear primitive, their skill at arms and magic is staggering to behold, much akin to the deadly nature of the Valas Tairn I have encountered before. Should you ever find yourself in Xen'drik, be careful, be respectful, and do not – under any circumstances – mock their culture or religion. That much only leads to death.

Khiran Torsend, Wayfinder, first published Lharvion of 997 YK

– AN EASY TO MAKE MISTAKE –

Yesterday's issue of the Korranberg Chronicle (Sharn Issue) wrongly identified the chapter of THE PYRE OF PALLID FLAMES as Part 55. This is, of course, wrong, since the prior issue had released Part 52. The correct chapter is, by simple math, Part 53.

LORSANNA FALDREN, WAR-CRIMINAL, BROUGHT BEFORE JUDGE IN THRONEHOLD

Lorsanna Faldren, formerly a colonel in the brelish armed forces, was led in front of Judge Thul today on charges of crimes against the people under the Galifar Code of Justice.

Falren intercepted official commands to stand down after the Day of Mourning and led her soldiers to Siyar, a township in southern Thrane, where she ordered a full-on assault on the Siyar Militia in the middle of the night. Four days prior they had already engaged with – and lost to – the militiamen. The assault was swift and brutal, surprising the thranish formation and leading to a massacre. The desperate defenders rallied, forcing the smaller brelish force to retreat and regroup.

The then-colonel Faldren was unsatisfied with the result and ordered the troops to set fire to the township, to plunder and raze. Any objections were overruled or dealt with summarily on the spot. The wounded and harried soldiers began to attack the citizens under orders and caused the death of well over 300 civilians before the militia managed to rout them fully.

The colonel returned with her force to report a successful strike but was apprehended instead. Thanks to questionable loyalties, however, Lorsanna Faldren was freed from imprisonment and managed to flee into the eastern regions of Breland, where she continued to harry brelish forces hunting her down and striking occasionally into Thrane territory to wreak havoc.

Lorsanna was apprehended in late 996 YK, when her assembly of disgruntled soldiers and revenge-seeking deserters ran afoul of a Sentinel Marshal accompanied by one hundred soldiers from Vathirond, as well as a member of House Tharashk to help them track her down.

Falren put up a fight but was cornered by the Sentinel Marshal, choosing surrender over death in combat like she required of the men and women under her command. Falren has been in jail since her apprehension.

Judge Demodir Thul, hailing from Karmath, read Falren's accusations out in clear voice and asked her if she would plead guilty or innocent. The attendees – five representatives from each of the Five Nations – watched as Faldren rejected the rightful authority of the court and began a screaming rant before being cut short by one of the attending Deneith Blademarks on behalf of the judge.

The trial saw her assigned defender present her case as best as they could, but failed to sway the court's opinion that the charges of sedition, crimes against the people, and forming of a paramilitary organization all held true under the interpretation of the Galifar Code of Justice.

The hearing took well over two hours as plaintiff and defendant presented their case, though Lorsanna Faldren had to be gagged at some point for interrupting. She was given time to talk with her counsel but refused to avail herself of the opportunity.

Judge Thul considered the arguments for around 20 minutes before returning to the courtroom and asking voting along with the two additional judges that sat in on the case.

The vote was unanimously finding Lorsanna Faldren guilty of her crimes, including crimes against the people, which under the Code of Justice garners the death sentence.

The sentence was fulfilled shortly after the judgement.

Arlenne Mel d'Sivis, Thronehold Correspondent

RACE OF EIGHT WINDS: HIGHWATER PEGASUS HURT?

Like every year, Sharn already awaits the Race of Eight Winds with bated breath, the famous event in Lharvion garnering tens of thousands of spectators from Wroat and other cities with greatest ease!

Today, however, Highwater suffers an early defeat, before the race ever so much as began. Pelioist, the famous Pegasus steed being ridden in the competition for the district, was seen to behave strangely. Trainer were worried and called for a House Vadalis veterinarian to come and check out the magnificent creature post-haste.

Suspicious held true when Viadri d'Vadalis confirmed Pelioist was suffering from a minor but troublesome illness, likely incurred from training flights out over The Hilt. Highwall citizens were surprised by the news that quickly spread and came to cheer on their beloved mascot,

bringing food and memorabilia to remind trainers, riders, healers and perhaps even Pelioist himself of their devotion and high hopes to regain first placement after last year's loss to Rattlestone's giant owl swooping in last-minute to steal the cup from Highwater.

Playful banter and light tension between the two districts have surged since then, with both sides mostly enjoying a friendly competition. Some, however, saw the need to take matters further, attempting to hurt the owl – Vorakiss – in an ill-fated attempt at sabotage. The perpetrator was summarily killed by the beast before trainers could manage to calm it down, requiring the head of Morggrave University – the awakened giant owl Hruitt – to come in and calm his distant cousin.

Oarsen Arendt, Sharn Correspondent