

# SIGIS

SIGIL'S INDEPENDENT GLOBAL INFORMATION SERVICE

Issue 12 Year 1

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Fourth Week of Retributus

## MERCENARIES TURN STAG

**FAUNEL**—In a bizarre turn of events, the entire crew manning the Spireward tanning operation were put in the dead-book, apparently by the mercenaries who so recently fought to protect them. The bodies were discovered this morning by Jacob Alderman at the kip of Lyle Lackwit, the village idiot, who had not reported to work. Seven bodies in all were located, among them Adam Tanner, the Master of Spireward's tanning operation, and Lyle himself. The bodies showed signs of armed conflict and had been searched and stripped. Scattered among the corpses were symbols of The Paingivers, as well as a number of Vile Hunt tokens.

The mercenaries hired to protect the loggers were pinned as the killers by tell-tale

markings on arrows found on the site, a torn strip of cloth and a clear set of tracks. When attempts were made to locate the mercenaries, investigators discovered that the mercs had brazenly collected their pay in the small hours of the morning and made use of Spireward's portal to Tradegate to slip the blinds on the law. A reward of 4000 jinx is being offered by Spireward to anyone who can bring these berks in to stand trial.

"I just can't understand why they would do something like this!" ranted Lambert Whytcote, head of Spireward Trading. "It's not like I didn't pay them! I don't like those knights of the post giving me the laugh like this. I want them to stand trial, and I want to see them pay for what they have done!"

Some think otherwise. "I don't care about payment, or trials," stated Ivanna Shirehorn, a fire mage and one of a number of bloods collecting at the grave of Errol Greenleaf to say their final good-byes. "That's too much effort to waste of these stag-turning sods. I just want them lost. Preferably by fire. A number of us think that way. Mind you, we agree on precious little else, but we agree on that. See, Errol died with more than one blood owing him a favour. The lot of us don't necessarily find each other the best of company, being from different sides of many a moral fence, if you catch the dark of it, but we all do pay our debts. So, we've started a little collection, to kind of... encourage people to look up this group of berks

and, well, inquire politely about why they made such a mess of poor Errol, if you know what I mean. I expect that it might be a bit more than that pompous ass Whytcote is offering."

In other news, chant about Faunel has it that Wrath was seen to move one of his fingers. Wrath has refused to comment on the incident.

(rm)

## CAMBION ARREST: HARMONIUM DISCORD

**SIGIL**—Following our report in our last issue that the cambion Don Julio had been arrested for attempted murder, further developments in his case have sent chant swirling around the Cage concerning the importance of this case to the Harmonium. The day before we last went to press, Don Julio was arrested by an Harmonium patrol outside P'charni's Bar in the Hive Ward in the aftermath of a brawl. Subsequently SIGIS revealed that although Don Julio himself had not been involved in the brawl, his presence at the bar alone may have incited the violence.

The actual reason for Don Julio's arrest was declared to be the attempted murder of a githzerai named Franz who had been assisting Julio in what was described as covert operations of a suspect nature by Jasmin Tealybuck, the Harmonium Mover Three investigating the case. Although the crime took place in Waterdeep, on the Prime world of Toril, the Harmonium said that due to Sir Julio's keen desire to be a Sigilian and the apparent involvement of at least one other faction in the crime (it was not stated which), the case would be tried in the Cage.

Clarion of the Guardians and Fenris Cassre of the Xaoticians spilled the chant

exclusively to SIGIS that, in fact, the Harmonium really wanted Don Julio for Blood War conspiracy activity. The story became even more complex four days later when it was revealed that Franz, the victim, had died of his injuries, and that the investigation was being upgraded to a murder inquiry. An Anarchist source told SIGIS that there was a cover-up in progress, and, following a number of disturbances, the Harmonium decided to move the trial back to Waterdeep of Toril to be free of faction influence.

The trial begins in three days time and, although it will be tried on the Prime, the Harmonium and Guvners will be participating fully in the court process. "It's a ztitch-up" said Kzzz Bzzzurzz, a chasme-blooded tiefling following the case closely. "The Hardheads are getting worried that they'll be implicated in a conspiracy of their own so they moved the trial to an out-of-touch cluelezz Prime world to cover it up. It's outrageouz—I hope you cullerz make your way to that backwater Prime to keep an eye on those zodzzz."

Further reports will be released as soon as possible and SIGIS is even now sending a reporter (at the bequest of Sir Bzzzurzz naturally) to Toril to witness the trial. (ar)

## PLAGUE-MORT RETURNS

**OUTLANDS**—Much to the dismay of many berks who wished it good riddance, the Outland's least popular gate-town came staggering back just under a week ago. Chant around the burg hints that the chaos cultists whose bloody religious war had triggered the slide have been put in the dead-book by the Hounds. During an in-depth investigation, SIGIS discovered that before the time of the disappearance two separate cults had established strongholds near the Gate-town (these were dubbed the "Kaos Kult Kamps").

The two sects turned out to be vicious enemies and their brawling escalated into a full-scale war. The burgher curymushy looked set to burn the place down, and it was about

that point that the burg vanished. According to witnesses in the burg, during the disappearance the Arch-Lector ordered the Hounds (Plague-Mort's militia) to kill as many cultists as they could, orders the Hounds carried out with great relish.

This savage act of bloodshed could have easily sent the burg spinning down into the Abyss were it not for the self-sacrificing actions of an unknown paladin, who started a fire in one of the Kult Kamps drawing the warring barmies out of the city.

Although many believe that the Arch-Lector wished to see Plague-Mort join Broken Reach on the Plain of Infinite Portals, the Hounds apparently were too caught up in their mania to further the Arch-

Lector's goal. Instead, they pursued the cultists back to camp and shortly afterwards the city rejoined the Outlands. Fifteen Hound officers, including three alu-fiends and a cambion, are missing, along with a *posse comitatus* of about thirty locals. Chant from Broken Reach tells of a new settled area about three days walk from the town, which is thought to be the remnants of the Kult Kamps. If this proves true, this would be only the third documented occasion of part of a district switching planes rather than a Gate-town, and the Fraternity of Order are planning an expedition to both Plague-Mort and the Abyss to investigate this possibility.

—Dharvash Smig, SIGIS culler based in Curst (ar)

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Editorial

# SECOND CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE CADRE

SIGIL—In the continuing saga of the Cadre's terror attacks on Sigil, SIGIS has received a second correspondence from the Anarchist cell. Though the style seems dif-

ferent (i.e. more coherent) the letter still places blame on any cutter in the Cage with jink. Interestingly, the Cadre finally announced threats aimed directly at the Fated,

Sigil's beloved tax collecting faction, and depicted them as the true slave drivers of Sigil.

What follows is the statement, in its entirety:

*Slaves to Jink*  
by the Cadre  
**CENSORED!**

**Note from the Editor:** At press time, the Harmonium told SIGIS that the letter from the Cadre was the property of the Hardheads for explicit use in their ongoing investigation, and thus unprintable. Undue pressure was placed on our offices, and we were forced to capitulate or lose our press license. Instead we substitute Zeines Pauchs commentary on the Cadre letter, and the Harmonium censorship incident.

## Commentary on "Slaves to Jink"

While we laboured to bring this edition of SIGIS to our readers, we were confronted by those who vow to protect the Cage from the harmful forces of entropy and evil. With our presses rolling, these self-proclaimed saviours burst into our offices, scragged the lot of us, and seized our property in order to "shield us" from its harmful influences. This is all well and good, and our beloved editor is keen on the way his face looks, so we did not put up a physical fight. However, we are determined to get all the dark out there that we know, so I continue with my impressions and excerpts from the Cadre letter, entitled Slaves to Jink.

As mentioned earlier, the style is more coherent than the previous Cadre letter. However, the letter still fails to delve into the real philosophy or reason for the choice of methods used by the Cadre. While it is true that they have caused considerable harm to many Sigilians, their statements and views do represent a sentiment shared by

others in our infinite universe. In fact, we at SIGIS regularly give ear to Anarchists views as a whole, and should not discount that some of their points are within reason. However, their methods are generally cowardly, misplaced, and in the Cadre's case, deadly.

The Cadre, with this statement, have crystallised further their views that there are a few berks in the Cage who hold all the jink and all the power. This is not a new philosophy, as anyone who's had to do without a meal or desired some object which was denied for lack of money will attest. The one point that disturbs most who examine the Cadre's views is that they offer no alternatives. They have not called for a redistribution of wealth. (They claim they want no jink for themselves.) Mainly, they seem to be calling for a universal cancellation of the idea of money as a whole. While a Signer may be able to wish jink away, we know that this is not at all a very likely thing to happen.

In the final sections of their letter, they outlined a convoluted plan for deposing those who they claim are the real slave drivers of Sigil: the Fated. By destroying valuable properties, the Cadre believe that the tax base of Sigil will begin to decline and this will cause a full-scale economic depression. They also call for the Fated to:

"...dispense the yoke on our Sigilian's, cease your continuing theft of our souls."

In the final sentence, the Cadre have made another of their cryptic threats:

"Heartless they may be, and fire is the cleanser. The ring is round, and the fire comes from the air."

Is there a solution for these misguided philosophers? Or is there a deeper meaning to all this violence and terror? If the Sigil justice system has its way, we will never know. But rest assured, this culler is on the trail of the truth and you will know the dark of this sordid affair as I come to know it.

—Zeines Pauch,  
independent culler (pw)

## DON'T GET WRITTEN ONTO THE DEBT POST

If you owe jink to Zadara the Titan, now's the time to wash yourself clean!

A **one-month amnesty** has been declared by the **Titan of Commerce** for all sods who owe her jink but haven't been posted.

If that's **you**, basher, then **don't be slow!**

The new residents of **Jangling Hiter** can lann any berk to the **consequences of turning stag** on one of Zadara's contracts.

Payments accepted by either **Gog** or **Kubriel at Zadara's Tower**, between peak and dusk.

**All jink must be Free League approved.**  
**No kender coins accepted.**

NewsChant

## FULL DARK ON RECENT PRISONER EXCHANGE

SIGIL—Following our exclusive report last week on the death of Loz'gok'k'lova the pit fiend as a result of Tanar'ri treachery, a further tragic development has overtaken those involved. With characteristic precision, the Baatezu who had been fatally peeled had stuck to the letter of their agreement whilst pulling a fast one on the Tanar'ri. Pleshnerk-ri, the balor whose release had secured the alleged freedom of Loz'gok'k'lova, had been infected with a specially engineered contagion whilst in captivity, and died in "writhing agony three days later" according to a Tanar'ri we managed to pin down.

With this second bit of cross-trading, the recent decline in Blood War confrontations will certainly come to an end. Both sides are rumoured to be massing fresh armies, and the Field of Nettles and Avalas are likely to be ravaged by vicious combat in short order. Loz'gok'k'lova was a trusted aide to one of the Dark Eight (which of the Eight is

not known), and his position is likely to be taken by his deputy, Galzephon. However, Galzephon was not available for comment and an Abishai in his employ said that he had gone away on business and that he did not know when Galzephon would return.

However, a pit fiend was sighted near Plague-Mort shortly after its return to the Outlands [see the *Plague-Mort feature story in this issue*] sparking rumours that Galzephon was about to turn stag on the Baatezu. Yet, it seems that the presence of a pit fiend in Plague-Mort, if confirmed, would only be a sign of renewed fiendish interest in the burg not necessarily a betrayal. (An Arcanaloth was also seen snooping around the day after the burg rejoined the Outlands.) In any event, it'll be a tick before any firm announcement about promotion comes out of Baator, so there's time yet for other ambitious Baatezu to try to impress members of the Dark Eight.

(ar)

# CULLERS AND ARTISTS WANTED FOR S.I.G.I.S.

MUST BE LITERATE AND ON THE CASE

WE ARE IN SEARCH FOR INTERIOR ARTISTS FOR UPCOMING, RECENT AND PREVIOUS VERSIONS © REMAINS WITH THE ARTIST

Applicants should contact the Editor, Scott Kelley

# CITY OF SHACKLES SOLD

Jangling Hiter Purchased by Titan of Commerce  
by Malacyst Mord, Lower Planar correspondent

**MINAUROS (Baator)**—Zadara, the reclusive Titan of Commerce, today announced that she had purchased outright, down to the last smallest link, the Baatorian burg of Jangling Hiter. In an exclusive interview with SIGIS, the titaness confirmed that she not only bought the city, she would be moving it as well! A short trip through a portal to the town itself, dangling above the swamps of Minauros, confirmed the chant. Evacuation and apparent dismantling of the City of Chains has already begun. Kytions, the mysterious native inhabitants of the burg who act as the local police, are now swarming about the place, picking apart the locks and bindings that suspend the burg above the ooze of the third layer of Baator. The chains that comprise the city are now falling.

Normally avoided because of their tendency to kill, rather than scrag, lawbreakers, the kytions are in places being attacked by other frightened Hitters. "It ain't fair," said Blandon Belfry, a three-month inhabitant of the burg. "That hamatula high-up what runs this burg, Pollus Windscream, he gave me a contract what lets me and my heirs export all the chains we can, for as long as Hiter hangs here. Only now them barmy Kytions are tearin' it down! Well, they ain't gettin' my case without a bash in the brain-box, that's sure as Sigil!"

The majority of the residents however, both fiend and non—, are instead packing up their kips and fleeing into the freezing swamps rather than face eviction at the hands of the kytions. When asked about Mr. Belfry's allegations, and the sale in general, Windscream had this to say: "Mr. Belfry is getting only what he was promised, and has no reason for complaint. Furthermore, he really ought to have read more closely the wording of our agreement. He is not just allowed, but required to export all the chains he can, and if he should stop before the last chain of Jangling Hiter falls, then he and his children are in default. At that junction the standard clause becomes enforceable."

"As to the sale of the city, I can only say that I am no longer in charge of the fetid place. I've acquired a huge number of souls recently, in such quantities that I am now being promoted directly to Styx fiend. Let some other pathetic sod deal with these chain-wrapped runts!" Windscream then vanished in a puff of sulphur.

In her interview, however, Zadara the Titaness was more forthcoming. When asked about the details of the sale, she said, "Well, cutter, even as good a business woman as myself sometimes picks up a deadbeat who won't pay her what's owed. And over the millennia that I've been doing

business, I've accumulated a few IOUs. So I decided to cut my losses and trade all the contracts I've got on my default list for something of value. And that Pollus Windscream, well, he had just what this high-up was looking for. If you don't think my contracts allow me to sell people that default on 'em, then you'd better think again, berk! Who was it you think taught them baatezu how to negotiate, eh?"

When questioned about why she had purchased Jangling Hiter, the Titaness replied, "Well, I must have a mighty big market for chains, eh? But then, most of what I've got is 'mighty' and 'big.'" She declined to comment on the subject further.

Finally, many must wonder why the normally aloof Titan of Commerce decided not to conduct this business in the dark, as is her wont. Zadara said, "This interview has a price, cutter, like everything around the Spire. Firstly, I wanted this story to get about town. I don't expect too many Cagers to try and bob Zadara the Titan after this. But mostly, I'm getting two free ads in this penny-gushing screamer. Two for one, that's my motto. And your 'one' is over." Rest assured dear readers, that SIGIS's coverage of this hell-shaking event is not over. Further news of the move will be reported as it occurs.

(Mr. N)

## Bloods Wanted!

### BIG JINK FOR BIG BASHERS!

Are you joten-sized or bigger?

Need quick jink?

Then look no further!

A Titanic hauling project needs your muscle now!

**Bags of merts** are going to the first cutters who can Get the Job Done!

See the planes and participate in possibly the **most gigantic moving day** in a turn or two!

**Travel required, resistance to cold and life-drain helpful.**

See **Kubriel** or **Gog**, at **Zadara's Tower**.

(Mr. N)

# SCARLING BIRD ATTACKS ON RISE

**SIGIL**—Three deaths and eleven disfiguring infections have been confirmed due to attacks from a disease-causing bird introduced to Sigil over a year ago. This starling-sized bird, dubbed a "scarling" by some, has increased its numbers from only a few mated pairs to several hundred since it was first spotted near the Mercykiller's headquarters, The Prison.

The sooty-grey bird prefers to nest in cavities near the Great Bazaar, where it is commonly seen picking at garbage. Merchants and property owners attempting to clear away Scarling nests have been attacked by adult birds defending their young. The birds attack the face and eyes, but only deliver superficial cuts and scratches. The scarling is so dirty, however, that these scratches quickly become infected and can lead to death if not treated within twenty hours of an attack.

Even curative magics used to stop disease and heal wounds do not prevent horrid scarring, as one prime druid attested. Caryai Meadowgrass, a druid of Sylvanus living near the Great Bazaar, treated several scarling victims. "Infected wounds left untreated for only six hours after a scarling attack will produce permanent scarring," said Meadowgrass. "Perhaps healing magic more powerful than mine can prevent this, but I have had no successes preventing it so far."

Scarling disfigurement has deeply affected one former prime priest of Sune, now a member of The Dispossessed, a sect originating from Pandemonium. Since his fateful encounter with a scarling nest

and subsequent facial scarring, he was ejected from the beauty-worshipping priesthood of Sune. This Chipper, who asked to have his identity protected, blames the Mercykillers for introducing the scarling into Sigil; "See, they got this nasty bird from the Lower Planes! Baator, I'll bet. You can see nest boxes up on the walls of The Prison. They put the scarlings up there as protection."

Accompanied by Druid Meadowgrass, I went to the Prison to confirm the Chipper's statements. Nest boxes housing scarlings were indeed spotted on the perimeter walls of the Prison. Meadowgrass pointed out that scarlings were also nesting within clumps of razorvine that covered the Prison's walls. They appeared to be unaffected by the vines' sharp stems, and were maintaining nests and broods successfully.

"Many prime bird species are able to nest within the spines of desert cacti," Meadowgrass states. "It is no wonder they have spread across Sigil. No one dares disturb their nests or young, and they thrive on the garbage of Sigil's inhabitants."

Faction high-ups and merchant leaders have met to discuss the scarling problem and resultant fatalities and injuries. Action on how to address the problem have not yet been determined. Dabus cells have not been observed removing scarling nests. The chant is that the Lady does not care that another source of pain has made itself part of the Sigilian landscape.

—Barrett-by-the-Spire,  
Special to SIGIS  
(jb)

# PHILLOSOPHERS WITH SWORDS

**SYLVANIA**—A new tempering technique for blades has been discovered in Sylvania that is causing the local smiths to beat plowshares into swords, for a hefty mark-up. A new tempering agent, developed by the proprietor of Addleman Alchemy, Xavier Addleman, has allowed the local smiths to turn out blades on par with the finest green steel. Among his other achievements, Xavier produces all of the specialty intoxic-

ants for the Dipping Dragon Tavern, has been hired by the Order to recycle their alchemical cyclones, and has supplied a number of prominent citizens of the burg with specialty items. The demand for blades created with Xavier's new tempering solution is a great boon to the weapon smiths of a town that has suddenly found itself pacified under the Order.

"It's a real blessing." Said Aleron Xanthes, working his

forge. "A week ago you could barely give the things away. Now, merchants from all over the Outlands are showing up looking for anything that will cut. Swords, axes, knives... I just can't keep up. Its all a foreign market, mind you, and that's the best part. I don't know where they go, but I'm just glad its out of Sylvania."

—Marcanto Di Capella,  
culler  
(rm)

Obituaries

# LOZ'GOK'K'LOVA

RAISED TO the Diabolat\* in the reign of Soretta the Spider, Loz'gok'k'lova had been a gelugon in the service of Levistus before his promotion, a well-deserved one by all accounts. Combining an admirable strategic talent with a ruthless cruelty that bought him respect in the eyes of all his equals, he commanded armies for the Dark Eight for many decades. Two years back he was captured whilst personally leading a foray deep into enemy-held territory in Minethys, Carceri. Some suggested that his deeply loyal deputy, Galzephon, had betrayed him to the Tanar'ri, but Galzephon travelled to Sigil specially to make an appeal for his release, and paid moving tribute to a commander he described as firm but fair.

In the two years that followed, Galzephon campaigned tirelessly for an agreement that would free his chief. A seeming break-

through came last month when the Guardinals and Yugoloths together persuaded the Tanar'ri that a partial suspension of hostilities might benefit their longer-term cause. Although many Balors were angry at this, the Marilith Taramanda maintained it would serve them well, leading many to be apprehensive about the bona fides of those striking the deal. As it transpired, the doubters were correct, as Loz'gok'k'lova was dead upon arrival at the exchange area. He will be missed by his troops, who looked up to him as an exemplar of the techniques that have made Baator great.

*[Note: The views displayed here were intended as a fair appraisal of the true talents of the late Loz'gok'k'lova, and are not to be construed as a political statement on the part SIGIS.]*

\* Diabolat is a formal name for those of pit fiend status or higher. (ar)

Stop Press

## HARMONIUM PURGE HOUSE

SIGIL—Sources inside the Barracks have told SIGIS today that up to 10 intermediate bureaucrats within the Harmonium faction have been dismissed from duty or detained for criminal questioning. In the aftershock of the dismissal and disappearance of Measure Three Havrm Ghex, Harmonium Internal Affairs launched a blitzkrieg investigation late last week. Our sources tell us that possibly up to 5% of intermediate administrators working in influential

or sensitive departments had taken bribes, performed personal favours for friends and family, and in 2 cases, were actually agents for another faction. It is thought that the investigation continues, and more demotions and dismissals could be forthcoming. No official word on the organisational shake up has come from the Harmonium Public Relations Department.

— Serafined Lache, staff culler (pw)

## LIBATIONS HOLDINGS COLLECTS BIG JINX

SIGIL—Over the past week, Libations Holdings Ltd. collected on an Assurance and Protection Agreement it held with a Fated-owned company for the destruction of the Square Bar in the Lady's Ward two weeks ago. Some bashers in the dark have whispered the pay-out might be to the tune of 200 thousand jinx.

If true, this would be the largest insurance pay-out in

recent Sigil history. The partners of Libations could not be reached to verify this as the amount. Last week, Libations Ltd.'s parent company, Three Rings Holdings Ltd. filed for debt protection with the City Courts. It is unknown at this time how this will affect the Three Rings suit.

— Felicity K. Ghwar, trades culler (pw)

Letters

## Sensate response to official Sinker letter by Sir Twist

To the Readers of SJGS,

I read with some amusement the official Doomguard response to its own members questioning Factol Pentar's decision to ally with the Society of Sensation. In his letter (apparently meant to soothe the trouble countenances of Sinker factioneers), Sir Twist asserts that the high-ups of the faction wrestled over which side they would fight for: the Rizans or the Celts.

Although this makes a nice little story, I find the merit of Sir Twist's assertion questionable at best. Two unalterable facts lead me to this conclusion. First, it is no dark that many Sinker factioneers believe the Multiverse is decaying (I might say evolving or altering instead, but I guess that is why I'm not a Sinker) at far too rapid a pace and more must be done to slow the rapid rate of entropy. By itself this is not noteworthy, but combined with the fact that the faction plans to put the Modron March in the dead-book, these very same factioneers surely would be upset at the thought of generating even more destruction by allying with the Rizans.

Second, it is also well-known that one of the main high-ups in the Armoury is a Tanar'ri. How might his Abyssal siblings respond to the notion that Ely Cromlich's very own faction allied itself with Baatezu trying to recoup their losses from that Blood War fiasco in Carceri? Personally, I don't even think that the possibility of siding with the Rizans ever even came to the floor in this meeting Sir Twist alludes to. (What kind of leatherhead would propose such an idea to a Cambion master swordsman?)

It is a pleasant enough thought to imagine the Doomguard succumbing in a faction meeting to its own philosophy with Cromlich putting a few sods in the dead-book, but the only berks who might have wanted to side with the Rizans probably mumbled this in the back of the hall under their breath. However, reading between the lines of propaganda in Sir Twist's letter (and listening to the chant in the Cage), I concluded that there was much dissent from Sinkers who can't stand the idea of allying with the Sensates. Their Factol no doubt convinced these berks that a little exercise would do them good in preparation for ending the Great March. Moreover, fighting to save Tir Na Oz probably appealed to the Sinkers who think the Multiverse is decaying too rapidly.

Indeed, I find it amusing to see canny Factol Pentar spinning the chant with such skill and playing both ends of the Sinkers so well. But what I find most humorous is the inability of the Sinkers to learn and grow from their experiences in Tir Na Oz. In his baffle, the beauty of the land and its people were juxtaposed against the violence and terror of war, a situation which threw into sharp relief the significance of the Blood War to the entire Multiverse. To myself and other Sensates, that resonates far more meaning than any field exercise ever could.

Dach Tchlorem

Guardianship Commander  
Society of Sensation

(sk)

**Brix's Guide to Sigil**  
for the most reliable information on The Cage