

# THE IRON CITY POST-INTELLIGENCER

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FREE

A CHARTERED SUBSIDIARY OF THE LIRIA POST INTELLIGENCER., LTD.

## OGWE FORCES MOBILIZE ON BEHALF OF LIRIA

A supposed skirmish at the Ogwe coastal border between the confederacy and Jhandihar turned into a much more substantial battle when the captured Mt. Hooker, a formerly Lirian Ironclad steam warship under the command of Jhandihari forces, arrived at the coast and began a cannon bombardment of Lirian forces. All would have been lost except for the unexpected intervention of several oar and sail propelled vessels under control of the until now inactive Lirian Ogwe Corps, which successfully surprised, boarded and retook the vessel and turned its cannon's on the exposed and pursuing Jhandihari infantry on the shore, pursuing what seemed to them a certain victory.

The Ogwehoweh forces, a combination of Kildaire and Boudisark under the command of Foreign Major Sarna, of the Boudisark clans are said to have acted without explicit orders, seizing the initiative and devising a plan on their own when the Lirians training them were suddenly called into action. Foreign Major Sarna issued a formal letter of apology to the commander officer stating, amongst other things that "though Lirian victory is certain in this conflict it is impossible for we Ogwe, in good conscience, as allies and friends of Liria to sit idly by as our mentors suffer casualties that we might act to prevent."

In light of this act of heroism Foreign Major Sarna and her troops, who blindsided the Ironclad by posing as local fishermen who had strayed too close to the battle in order to disable the ship, are being issued a Conspicuous Gallantry Cross and, it is speculated, an early offer of citizenship.

The Mt. Hooker is in excellent shape and is expected to be operational again very quickly.

## IRON CITY BLOCKADED BY AIRSHIPS

Speculation has been put to rest about the reasons for the deployment of two carrier airships to its North and South of Iron City roughly a month ago. It has now been made public that

after General Cornwall attempted to temporarily garrison his troops in Iron City en route to the Jhandihari border Wells, acting on unknown motives, ordered his subordinate Major Weatherby to lead a covert raid and robbery of Cornwall's men's supplies on their way to the border.

During the course of this illegal action Major Weatherby was reportedly fatally wounded, and according to all reports, Wells used this as an excuse to openly attack the visiting friendly forces, following the already regrettable incident.

After several months of review of the facts the Commanders in Her Majesty's court have issued an order that General Wells return to Liria for Court Marshal, and, concerned that he may have misled and hence still exert influence over troops stationed in Iron City, the airships and their complements of smaller vessels have been deployed to both reinforce the border against Jhandihari where Wells' men have been lax and scatter leaflets explaining the truth of the situation to the troops in Iron City. It is the expressed hope of all of Liria that General Wells will submit to judgment in Liria quickly, rather than continuing to create a weakness in the line of defense against Jhandihari incursion and forcing the military to commit resources to defending the area around Iron City in his stead.

## MURDER SUSPECT ACQUITTED IN IRON CITY BY DR. TEMPERANCE DARBY

On the 30th of April an Ogwehoweh murder trial was held in Iron City at the Cog and Sprocket Tavern. It is customary for the Ogwehoweh to hold their trials outside of their own cities so as to prevent prejudices against the accused. Iron City residents were chosen to conduct the court with the Ogwehoweh Diplomat providing guidance on the proper proceedings. Two Fact Finders were chosen to question and present the facts of the case. Two Morality Finders were chosen to question and present the moralities of the case. Two sub-judges jointly decided Guilt or Innocence of the accused based on the findings, and one Ruling Judge determined the punishment.

The case presented to this gathering was the alleged murder of twelve Clan Kelly men of the Kildare that were found in their beds each with multiple stab wounds all in the same night. The accused was a Hirokone woman sent to them on a diplomatic mission and was in the village the day of the murders. The accused stated she was sent on a peace effort to stop the Clan Kelly attacks on local Lirian settlements. When she arrived in town she found the heads of Lirian children on pikes decorating the village. She attempted to speak with the people of the village to discourage their acts of aggression but was turned away. She claimed to have left and made camp some distance from the village that night. She ate and slept and returned to her village the next day, although she did report disturbing dreams of blood in the night. The author would like to note that the Hirokone are reported to have prophetic visions.

There was only one witness to the murders, a ten year old boy, son to one of the victims. The boy recalled waking in the night and seeing his father's slaughtered body and a woman covered in blood standing outside the window. When asked to identify the woman he pointed to the accused. The Ogwehoweh Diplomat overseeing the trial gave testimony that the other villagers were interviewed, but no one recalled seeing anyone

After reviewing the evidence and questioning the accused on her beliefs and past behaviors, the judges came to a unanimous vote of not guilty due to lack of unbiased evidence tying the accused to the murders. In order to protect the identities of those involved and prevent retribution should the victims' families take offense to the ruling, names have been stricken from this record.

## FARMSTEADS AND RANCHES VICTIMIZED

Reports of extortion and violence against owners of farms and ranches in the Ogwehoweh Territory around Iron City have increased exponentially over the last few months. An organized group of bandits appears to be operating in the area, employing intimidation and strong-arm tactics to gain money, food, and other goods. A local Kildaire woman, on promise of anonymity, stated that the self-proclaimed "Bandit King of Kilkieran" called her family "vassals" and that they owed a portion of their harvest as tax. Many homesteads are seeking local talent to help them defend against the aggressors.

## SONS OF SABIEN STRIKE AGAIN

Explosives disrupted a stretch of rail north of Copperbrook this past month. The Sons of Sabien, an anti-Lirian terrorist group consisting of primarily of Ogwehoweh, have claimed

It takes balls to  
use a muzzle  
loader ...

**ARTEMUS ARMS & AMMO**

Have more fun with your gun!

else in or around the village that night. The accused was the only stranger to have been seen that day. The villagers also reported feeling a bit groggy and out of sorts on the morning of the murders. It is Kildare custom that all members of a village eat from the same shared food sources. No further witness or evidence was provided.

responsibility for the bombing. In an anonymous letter, the group's leader, Brian Creven, promised more attacks as long as Lirian soldiers remain on Ogwe soil. Rumors of a connection between the Sons of Sabien and The Cult of Ashes seem tenuous, as sophisticated timing devices and other technology are a signature of the Sons' work.

CONTRIBUTORS NEEDED! THE ICPI NEEDS MORE REPORTERS, WITH GENEROUS COMPENSATION, WHAT SCHOLARLY TYPE WOULD EVER PASS UP AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THE NEWS OF THE WORLD WITH HER PEERS? 3 QUEENS PER 200 WORDS OF NEWS ARTICLES, RATES MAY DIFFER FOR EDITORIALS AND WORKS OF FICTION.



**STOCK MARKET FRAUD.**

Allegations of fraudulent trading have caused the Ministry to enact regulations requiring physical representations of all shares held. Details to follow after the formal investigation

has grown immensely over the past several months after overcoming initial skepticism and prejudice due to their strange uniform and almost monastic ways, but have since been recognized for incredible steps forward in the medical field, as well as the many philanthropic projects and charities the group has either

hemoglobin lead to close relationships with others of the same Persuasion? If so, then we may be attending some rather unconventional ceremonies in the relatively near future.

Alas, while the Musings and Observations shared here indicate how unlikely we are to witness additional Blessed Unions, do not lose heart. Variety, as has often been noted, is the Spice of Life, and there is a Special Someone for each and every one of us. After all, even Mr. Nez, and others of his ilk, must yearn to capture someone's heart out of Love rather than Hunger. And so, Dear Reader, fear not. You, too, may just find yourself someone to Love in Iron City.

**EXCHANGE RATES**

**ALL PRICES IN QUEENS OZ.**

**ALDER (LA) ..... 0.274**  
**EMIR (JE) .....1.086**  
**EMPEROR (XE) .....0.022**  
**KAISER (DK) .....0.071**

instructing me to respond to you with absolutely anything you can use to fill space. I do not care about you. I do not care about your problems. I do not care about your demands. I do not care about your ignorant "readers". This will be the last you hear from me. Please feel free to continue sending me weekly amounts of Lirian Queens.

Master Ping Ghu

P.S. It just occurred to me that a woman as desperate for material as you would consider publishing this without even realizing it is a letter and not the article you requested. Do not do this. I would not be pleased. Remember, I never forget.

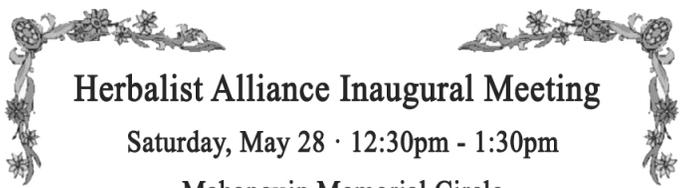
**LOCAL SCHOLAR HAS GONE MAD**

I am sorry to inform you that I would never waste my literary talents writing for a barbarian. I would never sink so low as to have my name attached to the "newspaper" of a dirty little town I've never even been to. I understand how hard it must be in this part of the world for you to find the literate people necessary to meet your deadlines every week. I understand why you would try and convince a Master Storyteller such as myself that he had written for your paper in the past. An older man like me would seem the perfect target to attempt to con into thinking he worked for you. What you did not anticipate, however, is that the mind of a Xingsol is sharp at any age. I remember quite clearly every event I have ever experienced. I have never and will never write for the "Iron City Intelligencer".

Stop sending me letters detailing how my next article is already past its deadline and

**BROKER RECOMMENDATIONS**

- DRT - Sell
- LSF - Buy
- ACG - Hold
- YA - Buy
- FTL - Buy
- NBL - Sell
- RTS - Sell
- NRL - Buy
- ULT - Hold
- FGS - Buy
- BBM - Sell
- FAS - Sell
- HOF - Buy
- GAN - Buy
- MIR - Buy
- SDL - Sell



## Herbalist Alliance Inaugural Meeting

**Saturday, May 28 · 12:30pm - 1:30pm**

### Mahanguin Memorial Circle

All Herbalists are invited to attend the inaugural meeting of the Iron City Herbalist Alliance. Topics to include individual introductions, level of mastery, contracts, beneficts of our goods, recipes, gathering components, and potential discussion on prices.

**HEAVY WEATHER**

An unusual number of electrical storms have been reported across the Ogwehoweh Territories stretching from the Jhandihari border south to Acria. The populace is warned to stay indoors or wear galvanic protective gear when venturing outside when thunderheads are present.

**GEOFFREY H KILLINGWORTH'S SERIES SELLS OUT!**

Bad news for slow acting fans of renowned action mystery serialist Geoffrey H Killingworth, whose first tale in his recently announced "Section 12" series of novels "Watch City: The Infinity Engine" has sold out in pre-order subscriptions.

For the one thousand lucky pulp adventure enthusiasts who have already ordered the series, however, the first issue "Plimsley at the Gazebo: The Legacy of Dr. Macguffin" is going to press sometime in late May and should be in the mail by mid or late July. The series is sure to be a hit, and a collector's item to boot.

VITAL ACCESSORIES



IRON 2 PM CITY  
BLOOD LODGE

**THE AMBER WATCHERS COME**

An emerging group of fringe healers and philanthropists from Liria known as The Amber Watchers are making their way to Iron City on a mission to extend their own expertise in the fields of surgery, herbalism, and disease prevention to the people of Iron City in order to better combat the Luen Disease that runs rampant through the area. The organization

founded or supported. One of the organization's leaders is heading to Iron City straight from being a guest lecturer at a symposium held by the Academy of Zoology & Medicine and is quoted as "looking quite forward to lending a helping hand to the people of Iron City in whatever way they may require."

**MUSING & OBSERVATIONS BY MADAME PAPIILLON**

Warmer weather is upon us at last, and it would appear that Wedding Season has arrived in spades. The impending nuptials of both General Lydia Trelane and Sir Montgomery Alcock, as well as those of Miss Elizabeth Merriweather to her beloved Prince Augustus lead one to wonder which among us will be the next to take on the Mantle of Matrimony. Let us ponder...

Miss Sanura K.? Hardly likely. The poor dear seems more apt to single handedly tame a Carrion Wolf than a husband. The man who strives to become closer to this lady had best be in possession of a strong backbone. For that matter, what of Professor Philius Wolfinson and Miss Felicity Merriweather? Gentle whispers have reached these ears that said match was greatly disapproved of by the lady's sister, and who can blame her?

Perhaps if the gentleman in question had maintained of a better sense of propriety, he might not have breached common etiquette and would still be with the lady today. Ah well! Several bullets seem to have been dodged at that parting.

Anyhow, let us continue our musings. Mr. Sanjar? Oh! Now that poor little man would do well with an equally tiny Special Someone! He likely would not be nearly as cantankerous if he could return home to Tender Loving Care every once and a while. As for companionship, those Blood Lodge fellows seem generally to be found in each other's company. Does a penchant for

**STOCK LISTINGS**

**LATEST QUOTES PROVIDED COURTESY OF DAWKINS & EMBERWELL BROKERAGE.**

**ALL PRICES LISTED IN QOZ UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED**

<b>Equity Market</b>	<b>Price</b>
D&E Composite Index.....	<b>20.97</b>
Dornham Royal Teas (DRT).....	<b>14.47</b>
Lirian Steamship & Foundry (LSF) .....	<b>54.18</b>
Amalgamated Coal & Galvacite (ACG) .....	<b>21.85</b>
Yoban Agricultural (YA) .....	<b>18.55</b>
Farthingham Tool & Leather (FTL) .....	<b>12.61</b>
National Bank of Liria (NBL) .....	<b>25.26</b>
Royal Tonics & Distilling (RTS) .....	<b>20.37</b>
Northern Railway & Locomotive (NRL) .....	<b>32.05</b>
United Lirian Textile (ULT) .....	<b>8.84</b>
First Galvanic & Semaphore (FGS) .....	<b>13.99</b>
Bosswink and Bosswink Assay & Mining (BBM).....	<b>9.51</b>
Fourth Age Shipyards (FAS) .....	<b>20.00</b>
Hoffmaster Catalog Corporation (HOF).....	<b>10.03</b>
Gandalou Company (GAN) .....	<b>23.14 JE</b>
Mirabaud Bank and Trust (MIR) .....	<b>96.15 LA</b>
Sebor Airship Design and Lift (SDL) .....	<b>30.77LA</b>

# THE IRON CITY POST MEDICAL JOURNAL

*A special section in honor of the new year.*

## RED WILT IN COPPERBROOK

Cases of Red Wilt, the nigh incurable wasting disease, have been reported in Copperbrook. Medical personnel and local Blood Mages have traced the infection back to Madame Willoughby's Comfort House and Coffee Shoppe, but have confirmed none of the current personnel are Wilt ridden. A local town source observed a small group of employees make away three days ago in the wee hours of the morning. The only information to date is that the now missing ladies were not Copperbrook natives and had come into town during the winter to "stay warm and well fed."

### OBSERVATIONAL REPORTS: PRIORITY UNDIAGNOSED PATIENTS BY: J. JANE, PSYD.

This article is to be the first in a series of my observational reports of my Priority Undiagnosed patients at the Lead Barrow Asylum. As part of my fellowship at Lead Barrow, I am now responsible for the care and observation of 6 patients in Block 9 of the Asylum. Two of these are considered to be my Priority Undiagnosed patients, as they seem to suffer from some psychiatric irregularities that we as of yet have been unable to identify. These two patients will be the focus of this series of articles. This first article will focus on the histories of Patient #1, an adult male, age 30, admitted 4 years ago; and Patient #2, a young adult female, age 12, admitted within the last 6 months.

Patient #2, was admitted to care after several episodes of what was recorded as attempted suicide. On two separate occasions in a 12-month period, she was rescued from the edge of a parapet at the estate she shares with her husband. She appeared to onlookers to be sleepwalking, awakening in a state of terrified confusion only moments before being rescued. However, servants and estate staff interviewed after these events report her coherently commanding them to stand aside and stating that she knew what she was doing. Patient #2 has no recollection of these exchanges with the staff or how she arrived on the parapet. On one occasion in that same 12-month period, she wandered into a busy street and stood facing an approaching carriage until someone forced her out of the way to avoid getting run down. Reports from witnesses claim she wandered into the street purposefully, and appeared to be in a trance-like state. When questioned on why she did not move from the route of the approaching carriage, she claimed she felt as if she was commanded to stand there and couldn't move. The final incident occurred, when she attempted to jump from a moving

rail car and was restrained by her husband, during which time she screamed fitfully, according to reports, "let me go, don't push me". Her husband admitted her to the East Argel Home for evaluation, and declared as a danger to herself, she was then transferred to Lead Barrow Asylum.

Patient #1 was admitted to psychiatric care after an unexplainable psychotic episode in a city courthouse. The patient was on trial for the alleged murder of his wife, for which there were no witnesses. According to court records, during prosecution, he stated his innocence and claimed that he had been asleep the night her death took place. Moments after his statement, he stood up and shouted, at no one in particular, "You fool! She was poisoning me!" then immediately sat down. When asked what was meant by this statement, he appeared confused and had no recollection of either standing or making any such statement. When questioned further, he insisted that no such event had taken place, accused the prosecutor of trying to trick him into confessing because they couldn't find the real murderer, and broke down into a sobbing fit. The trial was held in recess for the next day and he was removed from the courtroom.

The following day, a similar instance occurred, where during a witness' testimony, records state that he fell out of his chair shaking, repeating "She tortured him!" for 5 solid minutes. When this episode ended and court personnel attempted to help him into his chair, he again appeared confused and demanded to know what the people of this courtroom were doing to him. Due to lack of tangible evidence, the judge ruled him innocent of the murder. However, he was ordered for a psychiatric evaluation based on his episodes displayed in court. Shortly following his evaluation, he was placed under observation at Willow Lake House for the mentally ill, and then transferred to Lead Barrow Assylum.

Over the last six years of Patient #1's observation, little progress has been made and his condition appears to have worsened. During year 1 of observation, Patient #1 had developed a mild depression, coupled with a case of insomnia. During this time, he was medicated and seemed to yield a positive response to it. During year 2, he became less responsive to medication and began developing anxieties and mild compulsive behavior. Over the course of years 1 and 2, he participated in weekly

interviews with the attending psychologist. Reviews of interview reports indicated a mild deviation in Patient #1's behavior, mood, and mannerism between every few interview sessions, which the patient seemed to be unable to account for in each following session. These behavioral deviations have been noted in reports as side effects of the medication. During year three, Patient #1's symptoms became more severe, as he began having an increased amount of difficulty in recalling specific incidents or information. During a six month trial period, he was removed from medication, however his bouts of amnesia did not cease. In addition, he frequently suffered from severe headaches.

This past year, Patient #1's fourth year at Lead Barrow Asylum, his behavior during interview sessions has increasingly puzzled the attending psychologists.

Whenever questioned about family or childhood experiences, the patient seems to have attacks of anxiety so severe that the interview must be stopped and he must be sedated. During sessions where the subject of his late wife's death is broached, the aforementioned behavioral deviations are suddenly present. The previous Psychiatric Fellow who oversaw Patient #1's care has reported that his behavior and manner changed so drastically within moments, it was as if he had been replaced by a new patient. Subtle differences in posture, facial expression, and tone of voice have become more apparent. Mood fluctuations have been noted in many of our patients before, but this has been recorded as the most severe occurrence to date. Furthermore, the patient seems to have become generally unresponsive to medication, with the exception of his symptoms of headache and sleep loss.

As a Psychiatric Post-Doctoral Fellow, I am presented with an enormous challenge with the care and treatment of both Patients #1 and #2, as well as an extraordinary opportunity. The condition of Patient #1 remains to be diagnosed, and there are no preceding cases in any psychiatric records either in Lead Barrow or Liria Proper that match with this particular case. The case of Patient #2, however, seems to bear some resemblance to that of Patient #1, and if a diagnoses for the latter can be reached, it may be a key to diagnoses of the former as well. To do so would be considered a novel accomplishment and would no doubt lead to the prompt discovery

of a proper treatment for both patients. My personal interview sessions with each of these two patients begin this week to follow, the observations and analyses of which will be reported and submitted to *Diurnum Medicus ex Regina*; *West Shore Journal of Medicine*; *Central Press Digest*; and *Iron City Post-Intelligencer* for publication.

### JHANDIHARI BACON LOCUSTS THREATEN IRON CITY BY FASTIDIA FOTHERINGILL-PHIPPS

A swarm of Jhandihari Bacon Locusts have been spotted moving down the western coast of Ogwehoweh from southern Jhandihar. Entomologists from the Academy of Medicine and Zoology in Liria City suggest that the wet coastal winds may drive the swarm inland to the Iron City quarantine region.

Jhandihari Bacon Locusts (*Schistocerca gregaria*) are a subspecies of the more common Jhandihari Desert Locust. Both travel in swarms and can cover great distances in short periods of time. While the Desert Locust is herbaceous and contents itself with the hardy grain crops of south Jhandihar, the Bacon Locust is necraceous and feeds on dead and decaying flesh, though it never consumes living tissue. Cooked meat, particularly bacon, is especially appealing to the insect, from which it derives its' name.

Jhandihari pig herders have recently developed a new type of incense, the ingredients a closely guarded secret. When burned in a censer or brazier, the smoke from this incense is incredibly effective at repelling the Bacon Locust from herds of livestock. Due to widespread usage, the new practices have driven the swarms down the Ogwe coast in search of better feeding grounds. "The Town Council is issuing a public health warning for Iron City and Copper Brook," said Dr. Verity North, 26, Medical Inspector of Iron City. "This is a matter for caution, not alarm. If we all adhere to very basic hygienic practices, we should be in no danger from these pests."

The Town Council recommends that all unattended corpses be reported immediately to Citizen Kahotep Menetnashte for cremation or disposal. Butchers, hunters, livery workers and taxidermists are encouraged to keep all animal carcasses indoors and cover windows and vents with a fine mesh. Kitchen staff members are encouraged to do the same with places of food preparation and service. "This is a time of great hardship and resources are scarce," said North. "We must all do whatever we can to preserve and share what precious little we have."



## EDITORIALS AND LITERATURE

*The opinions of the authors presented herein do not represent the attitudes and opinions of the Iron City Post-Intelligencer or its staff.*

**LIFE ACROSS THE CONTINENT**  
**BY KHALID IMAD ABDUL-ALIM**  
**SHARIF, RESIDENT**  
**CORRESPONDENT**

"Life Across the Continent" is a twelve-part series in which the author describes his practical experience with the various cultures of Talus. Part travelogue, part digest, we hope these articles provide you with a taste of life across the known world.

Part V: Acria

I've only been to Acria once in my life, but what I learned there could take me a lifetime to describe. A medley of various cultures, Acrians take great pride in their ability to get along with anyone, anywhere, anytime. Pragmatists at heart, they are quick to borrow habits and traditions from other cultures if they believe them to benefit their community. Their easy-going nature and sincere curiosity of foreigners is what makes the Acrians such welcoming hosts. So long as they believe you sincere, you can go an entire week without paying for a single meal or hospice, as it is understood that "you are good for it".

Perhaps the most festive of their celebrations is Oktoberfest. Their tastiest beers are bottled with the spring harvest, making them ready for drink during this auspicious month-long celebration. It is considered the final party before the winter months, a last chance to enjoy the relatively warm weather (Acria is very cold compared to Jhandihar) before the coming snow. Make sure you pace yourself when drinking during Oktoberfest. Even a small sample of the many brews you'll taste adds up and can lead to some severe indigestion.

By contrast, never have I witnessed a more cutthroat group of people than the academics at the Universities of Acria. Obsessed with their studies, they are more than willing to lie, cheat, steal, blackmail and extort each other in order to get their hands on a rare tome or hard-to-acquire treatise. You'd be wise to study intrigue and politics somewhere safer, like the Royal Courts of Liria and Jhandihar, before tackling these librarians and their books.

If you can endure the cold, Acria has some of the most creative sports that revolve around the snow. Brave people strap long planks of wood to their feet and coast along the snow, a practice they call snow gliding. Brave and adventurous Acrians will climb the snow peaks of southern Acria, and then glide down the other side towards the Lasai Valley. Once they've indulged on the local hospitality for a few days, they climb back up and glide back to Acria. Many a brave Acrian has met their true love while on holiday

at a Lasai mountain lodge.

Acria is a place for someone who is open to new experiences, long nights of drinking and storytelling and lengthy dialogues on the most obscure subjects. If such a lifestyle appeals to you, definitely visit Acria, but don't pack lightly, since a two-week trip can easily turn into a six-month sabbatical. Yes, I speak from experience.

Khalid Imad Abdul-Alim Sharif is a Jhandihari scholar who has studied many of the cultures of Talus during his travels. A fan of many games, his favorites include backgammon, Go and Poker. He would sooner do battle with a Boudisark war band than play Bridge.

**FROM MY CULTURE TO YOURS**  
**BY DR. TEMPERANCE DARBY**

As an Anthropologist, it is common that I ask people about their homelands and the ways in which they grew up. In the interest of give and take, I wish to offer this viewing into the village in which I grew up, a small village called Brunico in far southern Acria. Our village is nestled into the foothills of the spine where the majestic snowcapped mountains occasionally give way to fertile glacial valleys and glistening waterfalls and cold lakes. In this region of Acria we are separated from the rest of our countrymen by long winters that seal off passes leaving trade to the freedom of the Spring and Summer thaw.

With so little land to farm, our goods are mainly goats and olive trees that are able to cling and climb the craggy hills, seeking nourishment amongst the rocks. From olives we manufacture oils that we use to flavor and preserve other trade goods that must survive the long winter. Our goats provide us with fibers for weaving and milk to culture into the most delicious cheeses that are aged in the caves that dot the hills.

We built our village around a central green at the center of which stands the Common House. This structure is our community gathering place and houses the library. In a circle around the green are the shops of the tradesmen such as the blacksmith, tailor, brewer, miller, etc. Surrounding them are the homes of the families that keep goats and tend the olive groves. The front doors of all homes and shops face inward to the green and each other.

Once a week we have Community Day at the Common

House in which votes on any concerns within the village are held, a communal dinner is had and other important events are handled such as the inauguration of a new book to the library. Voting is for anyone who would like to have a say and is present, including travelers who may be passing through. All children spend half of each day on lessons in the Common House and the other half of the day working their family herds and groves or as an apprentice to a tradesperson. If a child shows a special affinity to learning a vote is held to gather money to send that child to one of the Academies for further learning. I was one of these lucky children.

The people of Brunico are not much in the way of organized religion like some of the other cultures of Talus. Most believe in the spirits of our ancestors that watch over us and the spirits of Harvest and Stone and Winter, etc. Some Brunici give offerings to these spirits in hopes of appeasing and deflecting bad tidings or wear charms to do the same, others feel the spirits are best left alone or even that the spirit world is not a thing that can be known and to believe is to distract the mind from the study of the known. When our people pass, we carry them to a high peak where they can see the sky and land around them and cover them in stones and earth. The family then places living plants upon the cairn of the deceased creating a garden to bring life from death.

Due to the secluded nature of our village and the closeness of our Venkestra neighbors over the Spine, all villagers are trained in basic defense although in a village our size that defense is meager, mostly farming implements that can be used as weapons and bows with the occasional sword or gun purchased at great expense from traveling merchants in the summer months. We lived always with the knowledge that we stood in danger of a raid so fattened goats and special cheeses were set aside to appease the raiders should they come to stave off a bloody attack.

As you likely know, those offerings did not work and my village of Brunico is no more. It was razed in the early Venkestra invasions three years past and my people destroyed. I and a few others that had been sent to Academies, still live to dream of a high valley and the sweet cheeses of our people and in us Brunico still lives and in the sharing of her she grows in you. I hope that you

will do the same for your home and tell me of it so that your people may live on through me. Vive Bene.

**A LEGEND OF MY HOMELAND**  
**BY MALIK'AL ZINDANI**

Once, long ago, an infernal desert spirit terrorized the lands of Zindani (a small village in Jhandihar). After 72 years of the people living in fear, one man rose up to defy this spirit and free his people of constant terror. It was rumored that this man moved like a courier of death on the swiftest wings. And carried a blade that could pierce the very soul of evil. After 365 days of constant battle this man saved the people of Zindani from the spirit by banishing it from Talus. After the battle this man traveled the world and hid this blade from anyone who wished to use it for evil purposes. But unknown to this man his village was swallowed by the sands. It is said only a pure Zindani spirit can find this blade and wield it, but must use it to save the people of Jhandihar from tyranny and evil, and restore the Zindani village to its previous power as a home for all who serve the "jewels of the desert".

**AN OPEN LETTER TO**  
**THE TOWN COUNCIL**

Iron City has become a home to those of us living here for a variety of reasons. To that end, one would desire their home to be clean, safe, and free from Luen. Since we have been unable to achieve any of these... can you at least get rid of/find some place to put the damn Hobos?

Just this past week I counted not ONE but TWO hobos soiling in OUR town; sleeping on OUR benches. WHERE is a woman suppose to find a place to sit when the damn benches smell of latrine. OR WORSE, they are occupied by a mass of cloth and public obscenity.

I even hear that we're PAYING one of them to pick up our trash but all he does is HEAP it on himself. So there is a man, that we pay queens, that is a heap of trash... THAT THEN SLEEPS ON OUR BENCHES. Did I mention we pay him to do this?

Look, its bad enough we have to deal with Luen, Automatons, Crazy Fire Spirits, but will you cut a gal a break and deal with the homeless menace?

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**THE COMMITTEE FOR HYGIENE AND HEALTH AWARENESS**

**THE HOFFMASTER FAMILY- IN AN EFFORT TO RID THE CITY OF THE HOMELESS MENACE**