

# The Brighthelm Babblers

29/08/1313 – A shinging light in the darkness

## Draconian laws instated!

A set of sweeping new legislation has been introduced this week from the mayor's office, being approved by the largely-elven city-council in record time. These laws range from the suspicious to outright bizarre. Are ordinary citizens really going to be rounded up for dusting out the cobwebs? Only time will tell, but we at the Babblers have to question where this city is going when after only one week in office the new drow Mayor has so quickly instated laws which there was previously no call for, nor mention of in any election campaign. The three most controversial are as follows:

**1.) No spiritually awakened priest may enter college premises without prior written consent of the college proctors.** This law is allegedly to protect students and the integrity of their study from “interference from outside groups” - but leaves us with the question of what they have to hide. Why have several tunnels in the dark college suddenly become much more guarded? Why have the colleges also been granted special powers to deal with legal infarctions occurring on their own grounds? What does this mean for priests who seek to learn about magic with a view to better being able to combat supernatural threats?

**2.) A census of all city inhabitants to be taken.** What does the mayor's office want with this information? What business is it of hers how the decent people of this city make a living, or how many children under the age of twelve are in each household? Concern over the true motivation for this census has been echoed from a number of other minority groups within the city, most notably the High Elf population.

**3.) Spiders to be given the same legal protection as “other” sentient creatures.**

“Murder” of spiders “off all shapes and sizes” is to be punishable by death, and treated as gravely as the cold-blooded murder of humans or elves. The Babblers said at the time that it was the start of a slippery slope when legal protection was extended to kender, and here we see the definition just getting more ridiculous. City watch officials suggest taking the time to free your home of spiders using a glass and piece of paper – clearly until such times as it's considered cruel and unusual to put insects out in the cold.

## Economic Crisis Averted!

With incredible insight and alacrity, the looming economic crisis stemming from a lack of small-denomination currency has been prevented by creating more small denomination currency. Barney Farthing, local ale connoisseur, had the following to say: “It's great to get more one shilling pieces in circulation. The wife wasn't too happy that I had to buy five drinks every time I went down to the pub.”

However, the question remains as to where all the shillings went? Rumours that the silver they are produced from is in fact worth more than one shilling, and hence individual silver pieces were being smelted and sold as a precious metal have been thoroughly debunked when it was revealed that the coins are in fact made of tin. Others suggest that they have mostly gone to Gaul as soldiers leaving the shore at Brighthelm carried away a “lucky shilling” bearing the face of the king. Some say that it has all been transferred to Cymru as a large number of trades involving small denomination coins have been taking place recently.

*Seen someone with bulging pockets recently? The Babblers is interesting in talking to you!*

# Swog Saviour Incriminated!

The plot thickens, dear readers, in the tale of “swog saviour” Thomas, the man once described as “quiet and unassuming” by ourselves at the Babblar. His swoggy powers were empirically confirmed by our investigative field-agents, but it seems that was only the first curious thread in a woolly jumper of mystery and intrigue.

Respected alchemist Horace Wainscott, a man with many friends and few enemies, inventor of the Waterbreathing potion and rumoured swog-afficionado himself at one stage supervised young Thomas in a series of laboratory experiments. Eyewitness reports state that Dr. Wainscott was last seen sporting a black eye, and ranting that the beloved swog-saviour was behind this plot and had made further threats against his family. It is understood the two gentlemen had an altercation in the Sussex Arms. The city watch were called in to mention Thomas, but on their way out they found the body of none other than Dr. Wainscott brutally mutilated with the unholy symbol of the Mad King branded upon his chest, along with one word: “Traitor”. While the city watch say they are “not pursuing Mr. Slater as a suspect at this time”, an alchemists' guild spokesperson did tell us that his guild membership has now been suspended and he is no longer welcome on guild premises.

We at the Babblar have to ask, what is the true power behind “Swog Saviour” Thomas' seemingly benign regenerative powers? What shadowy cult did Dr. Wainscott “betray”? Is this something to do with Dr. Wainscott's own “swog farm” in the downs? Where do the homonculi come into all of this? More on this story as it develops.

## A letter from a concerned citizen.

Known Atenite Finn Yager was arrested yesterday evening after cold heartedly attacking and executing an elemental elf going about his business. Such was the savagery of his monstrous assault that nearby medics and alchemists were unable to save the poor victim before he collapsed into his element. Were it not for upstanding individuals of this fine city speaking against him and informing the City Guard, Finn's devilish plan would have gone undetected.

How often he has gotten away with murder we can't truly tell. With no bodies left in his wake, who could say how many innocent citizens have been reduced to a flash of fire or light. Good people such as yourself who are guilty on nothing more than not being like him.

Despite this great multicultural city and even an elven mayor, some Atenites see themselves above the law and above decency. For year upon year we have seen the more zealous Atenites pursue their agenda of racial cleansing and hoarding power.

This writer says enough is enough. We must show them these actions are truly unwelcome in our grand city. Finn Yager must serve as an example and be prosecuted to the full extent of the law for his disgusting crimes.

This writer urges all of you to remember that not all Atenites are murderous psychopaths but realise that if we don't set an example here and now, that race is not a crime, then how long before they come for you? Speak up for your City!

We at The Babblar would like to take this opportunity to remind our loyal readers that we are heavily reliant on donations to be able to keep providing the good people of this city with low-cost, high-quality journalism. Please do keep this in mind when submitting subjects that you would like to see brought to the public attention.

## Kender Koloring Korner



A noble savage from The Weald