

The Brighthelm Babblers

23/10/1314 – When news is slow, give us a go

1 Sh.

Night Comes Early!

Parts of Albion and perhaps further afield have been affected by an unusual form of precipitation – what appears to be a dark cloud will form over a region, and yet what falls from it cannot be caught, nor does it cause dampness. These regions do become notably colder, but most strikingly, extremely dark, even during the day. The unusual weather formations are said to last from minutes to hours in most cases, but there are reports from longer experiences of these phenomena in some cases. There are also rare reports that sometimes people caught in such regions feel impacts as if from hail stones – the impacts are described as chilling and painful. There are no confirmed injuries resulting directly from this phenomenon yet, though there are rumours that some people caught in such storms have fallen unconscious and are unable to be revived, despite no sign of physical trauma or injury.

The Babblers will of course be the first to bring you more news of the cause and effects of these regions as it emerges. Until then those caught in such regions are advised to adjust their clocks to account for the fact that it is night time, so as to avoid confusing the swogs.

Missing Person

City Watch and family members of Jerome Woodward are searching for him following his disappearance following his 26th birthday celebrations three weeks ago. Jerome, who was last seen wearing a large blue coat and silver glasses, left “The Happy Hoblet” shortly after dark and has not been seen since. He is described as over 6 ft tall with brown hair and a beard. He was not sighted leaving the city, and so far no body has been found. The Woodward family are offering a reward of 40 Sh. to anyone who can provide information leading to the location of Jerome if alive or dead, so they can be assured he has been laid to rest. Friends describe Jerome as hard working and witty. His disappearance comes as a great shock as he was well liked and had no known enemies. Information may be submitted to the Woodward family through the Babblers offices.

Vivamortian Undead Sighted!

Will the torments never end? A new upsurge in Vivamortian undead sightings is afoot. Three separate cases have been reported of these creatures being spotted within the city bounds. However the plans of these necromancers alludes us. The zombies (as confirmed by the brave members of the Atenite church who dispatched one of these creatures) seem to be simply milling around. One eye witness reported seeing his neighbour wandering around her house naked and when he went to investigate found that she was dead. "Bloody rude it was, walking around naked like that. What are these Vivarmortians thinking". We don't know brave citizen, however the babler is on the case! Please report all sightings of undead the the Church of Aten or Azrael for disposal.

Diplomatic Insults!

Never has Albion been so insulted. A few days ago Lord Murray the King's envoy in Venice was visited, at his manor near Parco San Giuliano, by none other than Aemilus Cornelii the Doge of Venice. Murray amicably invited the Doge to drink with him on the veranda. What started as a pleasant chat soon turned into a heated argument. The Doge gave Murray his formal complaint over the treatment of Venetian merchants in Brighthelm, citing their lack of protection from privateers and certain disagreeable businessmen. When their argument reached its peak Cornelii was reported to have slapped Murray around the face with the back of his hand, sending Murray sprawling across the lawn with a glass of fine Boudreaux spilt down his clothes. The King is reported to be furious at this slight to the dignity of Albion. It is expected that the Doge's nephew Blasius Cornelii may be called to Londinium to give an apology to the King.

Goblins Attack!

In recent weeks there has been a sudden upswing in goblin activity. The watery pests have been terrorising innocent citizens with their horrible odours and foul gibberish. Mrs Mercy (42), of "Mercy & Daughters Famous Swog Pie Shoppe" said "These little monsters have been messing up everywhere, nicking my pies, throwing rotting fingers at me. The City Watch should exterminate them like they did last time." We asked for official comment from the Watch and got told "The Watch is investigating the reported goblin sightings and would like to warn citizens to be on their guard."

Is the Goblin King Crassus responsible? Were reports of his death exaggerated? The Babler welcomes any theories or suggestions as to what is behind the upswing in these beasts.

The scouts Guild are reporting an increase in the sightings and activity of Goblins both inside and outside the city. In connection with it has been reported that the city watch has been searching properties in the Orc district to try and find out how the Goblins have been getting into the city. Various Orc rights activists are condemning this action, one Orc told us "Just because we both look green does not mean we are hiding or covering up for those pesky bastards". Following last year's incident where the city's last mayor declared Orcs non-sentient this claimed invasion of privacy can only further alienate the Orc community. Citizens are advised to keep an eye out for the Green Menaces and to alert the city watch immediately should any be spotted.

The 'Mayor' Speaks.

Our 'esteemed' Mayor recently gave a speech on the state of Brighthelm and the world. The ghostly abomination told the citizenry to "Stay calm" and "keep on working". While the toady lackey of the Undead Mallanite regime has dropped taxes back to normal levels, he glossed over the current problems with society such as the goblin infestation and the magical terror in favour of dwelling on the Gaulish war and the brave sacrifices of our troops, neglecting to mention that army service has been extended to using your corpse when you die to produce undead monstrosities to torment the living. The Mayor brushed off shouted questions by threatening our intrepid reporter with imprisonment and then fleeing through the nearest wall.

Mysterious Disappearances from Entrepreneurs Guild

A total of 5 corpses, all Entrepreneur Guild officials of some rank have been found dead, some washed up on the beach and some merely slumped in alleyways. One was reported to have been killed right in the middle of the Sussex Arms by an assassin disguised as a Bard. The City Watch urges all citizens with any information to come forward and help end this spree of brutality

Review *Timothy and Cagnazzo*

In recent weeks a new piece of theatrical brilliance has been sweeping the city. Funded and written in association with the Temple of Aten *Timothy and Cagnazzo* is a brilliant, action packed and morally correct masterpiece. The play deals with dark themes such as the perils of using magic and consorting with demons. The Babler recommends that all citizens go and see this informative work of genius and rates this play 15/15.

A letter from a reader

Panic - the Authorities cannot Save us, Searing light grows in Vicious hearts. Extremists rule this kingdom and in their greed they care only for the power of the Light not stopping to consider the entropy spreading throughout the world. Agony will be all the people will feel but there will be no Gracious hero, there is no desire for Glory or Respect. Ending the world may be for the best, all that remains is Selfish people making Selfish choices. In the ending of the world, the destruction of the Verdant oasis we have taken for granted will Echo throughout the universe as the Light consumes all.

Enemies of the people under the guise of purity of Truth continue to control your Thoughts and actions, all hope is in Eclipse, the darkness is fading and with it our only Respite from the blinding light. It is too late, much too late for you to Survive, instead Perish with A hope that Somehow this Sickening end will lead to a new beginning. It is we who will pay the heavy and Violent price for the Excess of the powerful.

An anger Grows within us and it will be Greater than any of the self-proclaimed Righteous would believe, their hubris knows no bounds. Before the End, it is only fitting that we make them Suffer, why should they be left to enjoy their last days in Splendour? If nothing else we may be Victorious in seeing the Evil wiped from this place before the innocent.