

# The Brighthelm Babbler

06/11/1314 – Does anyone read this bit anyway?

1 Sh.

## Lord of Darkness Vanquished by Forces of Good!

The self-proclaimed “Lord of Darkness”, a magical being of great supernatural power and favourite of the treacherous drow has been slain in an ambush laid by Atenite forces. The plan was executed in the Sussex Arms, a place where the creatures of darkness had come to feel comfortable and relaxed, and where mages often make sacrifices to demonic entities in the nearby ritual circle. We have, as presented below, an account given by the highly esteemed Nifel Cromage of the Honourable Albion People's Party (HAPPy), and so assuredly honest and capturing the very essence of the occasion.

We shall not endeavour to say otherwise what Sir. Cromage has already expressed perfectly below, but instead shall review current developments and prospects for the future. As Sir. Cromage most expertly predicted, it seems the wounded forces of the supernatural have already taken to expressing their

vexation in the numerous storms and other disasters that have battered Brighthelm in recent weeks. But how long can these beings keep it up? If it was within their power to crush humanity to their will through displays such as this, surely they would not hold back! We must be courageous therefore in the face of this intimidation, and know it for the puffery that it is! Is this all these so called Elemental Lords can muster in response to the defeat of one of their number? Is this response not clearly a sign that they are afraid that we have seen them bleed and know how vulnerable we are? Our magical experts inform us that there are between 6 and 7 elemental lords, and with one down there are now only 5 or 6 to go!

Below we present the text most generously provided to us by Sir Nifel Cromage:

I Sir Nifel Cromage of Downe on my honour as a knight declare this truth, Pepe of Gaul was the bravest and most honourable soul I ever did meet. We had become friends over a course of weeks speaking together in the Sussex Arms about how best to protect and serve the people through the light of Aten, as I am not a priest myself I relied greatly upon his counsel on issues where my own spirit might be conflicted. He always steered me truth to the path of righteousness. In the short time we knew one another, we struck strong blows against invasions from the demon Hob, who sent his foul minions to behead the citizens of Albion so that he could use their bodies as mounts for his warped and fell pumpkin monsters. Together we also journeyed across the sea to a land wrecked with war, so that we might save honest good people living in the light of Aten from a fate worse than death. Pepe became a dear companion to me, I feel his loss keenly. Yet the manner of his death is a story which must be shouted out to all the people's of the world.

On the Eve of Thursday 23rd Pepe and I were together in the Sussex Arms, when from the ritual circle within the establishment a great host of fearful beings from beyond the prime came forth. One declared himself to be the Lord of Earth and the other writhed and moaned with horrible tongues in an attempt to drive us to fear, he was the Lord of Dark known as Umbra. The mages went forward and submitted themselves, servants to these beings who told me from their own mouths that they believed the purpose of our realm was to be slave to them. I tried to warn them off and force them to leave, but I am sorry to admit my strength as one knight would not have been great enough to slay two Elemental Lords, their hosts and the cowardly mages who support them. I asked Pepe what I ought to do, what I could do, he bid me to bide my temper and wait. Then as the Lords turned to depart again, Pepe drew up his sword to the sky and called the name of Aten. He charged forward into the fray and invoking the holy name of the One True Lord Aten he struck down the dark foe Umbra, destroying him utterly. Then fell as the mages surged forth to stab him in the back as cruel reward for his heroism. As the room fell into darkness I called on Aten, I stood defiant and cursed the remaining Elemental Lord as he struck me down with heavy blows. As my eyes cleared I moved forward and battled against the mages to try and protect Pepe, but alas... he was too goodly for this world. Aten had already claimed him for his heavenly kingdom by the time I stood beside him. The mages battered and struck at me, with a guard of the city and others joining their side instead of mine. I was forced to flee from the scene, yet as I turned to leave a bright light came down from the heavens. A blazing sun crest, as in likeness to that which Pepe had always worn about him, came onto me. I felt his spirit within it and knew that part of my friend was still with me. I used that power he had blessed me with to destroy one of the Hob demons, to spite the mages, then as they struck at me I withdrew from that place.

Let us all remember what Pepe did for us, and what those mages did in response for his heroic deeds. As we move forward together we must be vigilant and prepare, for I fear it will not be long before these extra-planar invaders return to wreak revenge on the city that dared defy them. However, in my heart I know this... that when they come they will not find a city of slaves willing to submit before them. They shall find a city of strong men and women, good hearted folk with love for their fellows. Together we will stand and together we shall show these beings that Albion is a realm to be feared.

## Alchemists' Arms Arson!

News has reached us that the newly opened Alchemists 'Arms, a cut price alchemy shop has sadly burned down. The city watch were able to contain the fire, but the shop and its owners were sadly burned.

When asked about the cause the watch said that they were unable to confirm the exact cause. This is despite several people witnessing a cloaked figure hurling several potions through an open window.

It seems clear to those of us at the babler that the alchemist guild were responsible. Officially no-one in the guild was able to comment. However our reporter was told "if you print this I will break your fucking legs".

## Mad Mages Slander Heroic Atenite

We at the babler have been sent a ridiculous letter by one of the Black college accusing the great hero Pepin of being a "Terrorist" and the glorious Atenite church of being "mindless" and "extremist" and that it "MUST be outlawed for the safety of all." Who has been defending the prime against the depredations of the foul elemental lords? Who has been warning people of the devious machinations of demons? Not the ineffectual Warlocks, but the Atenites!

She further says that the elimination of Lord of Darkness "will cause untold destruction to our lands and the world". Destruction to the plans of scheming mages, more like!

## Goblins Threaten the Mayor

A source at the Mayor's office tells us they have received several badly spelled and scrawled letters apparently from Goblins. They appear to be demands for extravagant sums of money, slaves and strong booze; threatening serious "trouble" if these demands are not met. When we spoke to the Mayor's office they released this statement.

"We do not negotiate with Goblins. The City Watch is investigating the creditability of these threats and citizens are reminded that Goblins are vermin and their presence should be immediately reported to the Scouts Guild or City Watch.

## Relations with Venice Deteriorate

After a spate murders mostly of Venetian Dwarves it appears relations between Albion and Venice have reached a new low. Venetian ships are to be increasingly sited in the channel and battles with Privateers are becoming much more frequent. Inside the city clashes between Entrepreneurs and Venetians are becoming increasingly violent, large numbers of Dwarves have been found around the city with their horns removed. Some in the Dwarvern community are concerned that indigenous Albionese Dwarfs may become caught up in the violence.

## Foreign Affairs

Foreign sovereigns are becoming increasingly concerned with the situation in Gaul; the Archduke of Austria Leopold von Haltsburg has publicly denounced King Swordsworn for disrupting the balance of power on the continent. The Doge of Venice and the Kings of Burgundy, Napoli and Castillia have been invited to the Royal Palace in Vienna to discuss unified action concerning the Gaulish situation.

## The Village of Shadows

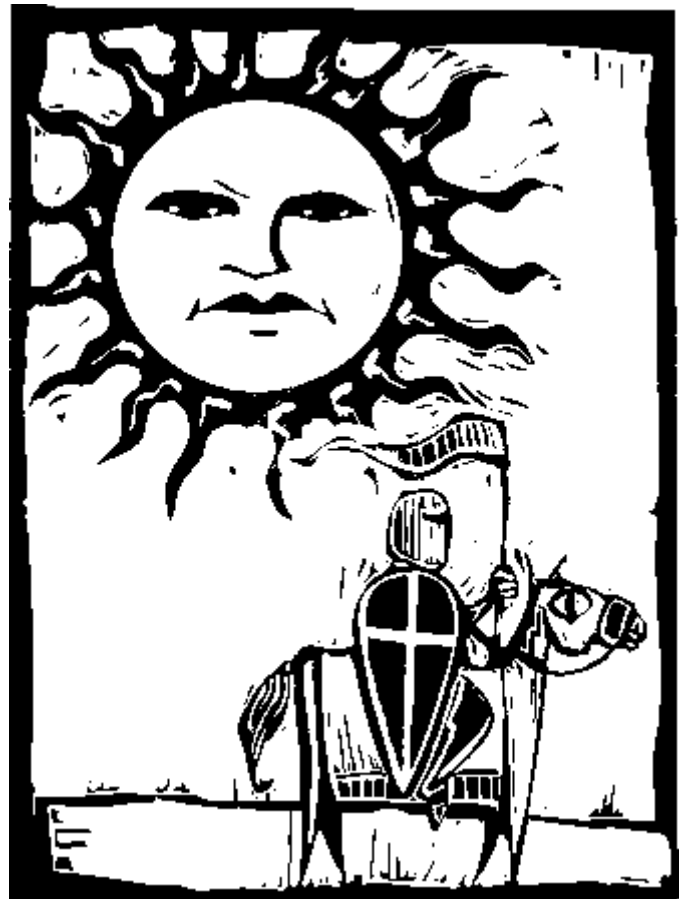
Last week, members of the scouts' guild encountered a curious phenomenon in the vicinity of the village of Stately Hop. The area has grown preternaturally dark, at all times of the day, and none of the residents had been seen by those outside the village for about a week prior. Scouts initially sent to investigate the interior of the village did not return. More cautious missions skirting the edges of the dark place revealed some information, but scouts found they could not remain within the area for long without losing consciousness.

In a valient rescue operation, scouts equipped with healing potions and protective wards entered deeper into the zone, where they recovered the initial search party, who were found unconscious, and remained so for several minutes before awaking. They were malnourished, but otherwise unharmed.

Reports from these scouts indicate rapidly onsetting feelings of tiredness. They reported seeing people from the village apparently asleep in the streets or in the houses, fully dressed and apparently alive, but who were incapable of being woken by any normal means and who presumably hadn't eaten in some time. They also reported potential signs of goblin or other lesser uruk presence in the area.

It is not yet known whether sufficient resources can be gathered to mount a full-scale rescue operation within the village, though surely for any who remain sleeping there time is running out.

# Kender Colouring Korner!



*Sir Pepin defending the realm on a bright Summer's day.*