

# Lions Faction Despatches

OCTOBER 1108



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## EDITORIAL

### - LIONS PACK-UP OCTOBER 2008 -

**G**etting close to season's end... and it's been none too shabby a season.

From my position with the guild observers on the Gathering battlefield, the faction looked magnificent. We've got some brilliant new groups joining our ranks and those veteran groups that make the Lions line always easy to spot. What a team, aye?

Of course it's not all about lining the faction up by the transport circle for all to see and marching up to repay a debt to our good and dear friends on the "other" field. Seemingly small things can make a big difference and we're blessed with a host of creative folk that apply their skills to make the Lions just that little bit better. There's Joe who has written a few amazing anthems to underscore some of the most dramatic and angst-ridden moments for the faction these last couple of years. Marianne has produced some beautiful eye-catching hangings that really set off our command tent/hall/tunnel and will stand as a reminder for many years to come of who we are. Dave has been putting up with late submissions and last minute changes and still producing a stylish and well designed packup for seven issues now. No small effort goes into these things and there should be no small appreciation for them. We love you all.

It ain't over yet though. Just one quick trip to Andulus before we hibernate for the Winter. I'm sure it will be entirely pleasant and nothing bad will happen while we're there. Sure it'll be grand...

*Amanda*

*P.S. Isn't the calendar awesome? Hats off to my fellow photographers and the interminably sweet and lovely Des-sie.*

### A LIONS OF LANTIA PRODUCTION

**STARRING:** AMANDA HILL, BARRY HOLLIDAY AND DAVID HEATON

**ALSO FEATURING:** ADAM SULLIVAN, PAUL WARDMAN, DORIAN GRAY,  
TONI BADNALL, BARNEY SMART, FERGAL O'BRIEN

**INTRODUCING:** RICK ANDERSON

**SPECIAL THANKS** TO BRUCE MYERS FOR PERMISSION TO USE THE AWESOME LIONS LOGO

EXCEPTION ERROR: WITTY COMMENT GENERATOR OFFLINE.

PLEASE ADD CAFFEINE & ALCOHOL, THEN SHAKE TO MIX.

# CHARACTER BACKGROUNDS

*Ever thought it would be cool if the monsters turned up looking for you?*

*Ever wondered what would happen if that drow that killed  
your village arrived with your father's sword?*

*Ever contemplated how people would react if it turned out you were neck deep in trouble?*

*Well now's your chance! Send the plot team your character background, or any details about your characters and we may include them in future plot lines! Send all information to [plot@lionsfaction.co.uk](mailto:plot@lionsfaction.co.uk), preferably in a word document.*

*Thanks,  
Barry*

*PS: Bear in mind by sending us the information you agree to us using it without consultation (we can't go asking people if they mind the monsters turning up, that would just ruin it!) Please also note that sending in a character background does not guarantee we will use it - or that we will use it in the manner you might expect. The only guarantee is that we will read it and if we think we can use it... well, you'll see!*

## FROM THE CROWNS OF LANTIA;

My people,  
Such a busy year, and looking about me I can only think that changes are happening everywhere.

As a faction we attended the Gathering of Nations and as a faction we made our presence felt. I never thought that I would see it again but the Heartland Nations now have a Gathering Treaty signed by all of the Factions. It is initially for one year but it is the culmination of so many people's work over the years!

We defeated the Demon Alosair and his army, sending a message out across Lantia that we are going to clean house and all who cross us will be scattered like so much chaff.

New faces have joined the Lions and I would like to take the opportunity to welcome each and every one of you. We are a welcoming nation and are happy to stand with you and have you stand by us as we turn our heads to other matters.

Our parliament approaches and so does the Winter. We have many enemies and it is time we push ourselves even harder and end their threats, all of them. The Akari, Xivantal, the Kalisto Company, Shimmer trade... I don't care who they are, they will be dealt with because much as the world has changed, so have the Lions.

We are stronger and more determined than ever and we will see an end to our enemies. We will tear asunder any who threaten our lands or our people!!

I will look for you all at our Parliament. Be strong and remember that the Lions strength comes through our bonds with each other. Let all hear our Roar.

Until paths cross,

*Hergist MacConnell*  
KING OF LANTIA



## FROM THE ARCAINE COUNCIL

To All Lions

Greetings from your High Ritualist, your Viceroy to the Guilds and your Arcane Primus (in no particular order),

You may have noticed that has been a lot of buzz and commotion about things called 'rituals' through Lantia and even Erdreja, especially at big meetings of the Heartland Nations.

The faction are allocated 9 rituals a year, usually 5 at our 'on' moot and 4 at the Gathering. Rituals can be used to achieve many things and are a great source of power, when used carefully. However, while the ritualist is the focus of the ritual, they need 5 or more ritual contributors to achieve results. These are ordinary people, just like you, that have the ability to lend power to a ritualist – and they don't even need to have any arcane power! It may only be a small thing for you to do, but it makes a great impact on what we can do, and is a very good way to get to know more people and see what goes on in the faction.

Those of you that have this ability are very important to us, and we would love you to come and help us out by joining in with rituals. To this end, we propose to reward the more active contributors as follows: Those present at the Gathering will have noticed that preferential Guild training vouchers were used to reward those who made the most regular contributions. Having trialled this system, we plan to adopt it on a permanent basis as of the Moots next year in the hope that this will encourage more people to try this out.

Yours in faith and magic,

*Rhapsody, Fionnuala and Adara*

## FROM the VICEROY to the GUILDS

First and foremost, I would like to thank all of the people who made my life easier at the Gathering. Especially Adara, who forced people to complete census forms. (I hope to have the census completeable via the leys before next summer.)

Secondly, it is being rapidly borne in upon me that I need a deputy/assistant. If any Lion feels qualified to act as deputy Viceroy, I would be grateful if they would contact me, either by ley ([israfel@eircom.net](mailto:israfel@eircom.net)) or in person when next we are all gathered together.

Ideally, the deputy Viceroy to the Guilds will be or have previously been a Guild Liaison and will have both organisational and diplomatic skills.

Duties remain to be worked out, but will generally involve either substituting for me when I am unavailable, or taking over whichever part of my job I'm too busy to do at a given time. All of which means that the ideal person will be able to deal with Guildmasters/Guild Liaisons (*without* causing unscheduled diplomatic incidents!), organise the distribution of training vouchers, keep the Faction Census up to date, and/or sit in on Council meetings and (always) pass on information to me.

Any or all of which may be at no notice at all. I realise that none of this sounds at all appealing. But if I don't get any volunteers, I will simply volunteer someone. You Have Been Warned.

**Fionnuala Ní Ríáin,**

Viceroy to the Guilds.

## FROM THE HIGH INCANTOR (Acting)

### Incantor Training

All,

It is my pleasure to announce that the first Arcane 101 session will take place at winter parliament. Immediately after first muster on Saturday morning I hope to have an incantors muster.

I have decided on a basic running order for the session

- 1) Distribution of the faction's Wedge Primer,  
An updated version of Ezekiel's Wedge Primer
- 2) Identification of the faction's Wedge Masters,  
How to identify the faction wedge masters on a battlefield
- 3) Incantation 101

A practice and training session for all incantors, young & old on the best use of incantation in various situations & circumstances

*Caranthir Taralom*

Acting High Incantor

### Wedge Primer

Below is a copy of the updated Faction Wedge Primer, I shall be bringing smaller pocket sized copies to the winter parliament to be distributed then, In the mean time try to familiarise the commands.

Lions Incantors Wedge Primer 1109

If any of the Wedge Masters call "Incantors" you must respond immediately as there is a threat that can be most efficiently dealt with by dismissal.

*Faction Wedge Masters:*

Caranthir Taralom, Malachi Mac Geróid, To Be Announced

The following commands may only be used by the faction Wedge Masters to improve the efficiency of our wedges.

*Form:*

Place your hand on the shoulder of the incantor in front of you to form the wedge.

*Count:*

The Wedge Master will turn to face the wedge. When you are pointed to, in a clear voice shout the total amount of power, including any from items or skills that you will be adding to the wedge. If you join a wedge that has already formed report to the wedge master and advise him/her of the power you will be adding.

*Power:*

Focus the power of your ancestor to the Wedge Master.

*Break:*

The target is about to attack the wedge, break & skirmish near your Wedge Master until called to form.

*Dismissed:*

The wedge is no longer required, go about your business.

*Loose:*

This command is only heeded by the first rank of the wedge. Release your grip from the Wedge Master's shoulders to allow him get closer to the target to dismiss.

*Double time:*

The moving speed of the wedge is increasing. Keep pace with your wedge master while retaining contact with the shoulder of the incantor in front of you.

## REPORT FROM Camlann Halwyn, Scout

Your graces, I have received grave news from the scouts currently working on mapping Andulus as the council requested. The reports of the Achreios in league with the Akari are confirmed. Roving bands of fae with unliving have been seen at various locations on Andulus taking up positions near villages and circles.

I have considered the reports sent to me by the scouts in the field and it is my opinion that we stand on the brink of a full scale invasion.

These fae forces and their unliving masters are waiting for the opportune moment to strike and to strike as one at strategic points all over the island meaning we could loose it all in a matter of weeks.

I include below extracts of reports from the scouts in the field :

*Report from faction scout Abe Braeden:* I've seen some bad stuff in my time so I know trouble when I see it and this does not look good. Been out mapping as ordered, but keep running into fae and bloody unliving.

We've crossed steel a few times and each time we've lost someone. We've now taken to avoiding them so we can get this mapping done. When we've gone back we can't find the bodies of those we lost, nothing, not even bits! I'll bet you those bastards have raised 'em!

*Report from faction scout Carbry Dunstin:* We've been working, alongside the Sheriff's office, on mapping the rest of Andulus. It's been slow and hard work, we've ran into Akari bands and Achreios fae and for simplicity's sake we've just avoided them. We've seen a few unliving with them too, they seem to be ghouls for the most part with the occasional skeleton. We would have engaged them but we were under orders to get this mapping done and that's long work.

*Report from faction scout Elliot Fox:* Bad news sir, we keep running into fae and unliving. They've been moving round large villages and towns and they've been taking up positions and digging in round them. I fear they mean to attack at some point. We did not dare to attack them, they were too many.

*Report from faction scout Megan Bell:* Sir, further to our discussion I enclose my written report. We spotted an unknown vessel, Carrack Class I am advised, beached and deserted some ten leagues upriver from the western estuary on Amber. Upon inves-

tigation, and according to the ship's log this was the *Piety* under the command of Captain Miguel de Morillo. She bore Arrakechi markings and her last entry was in fact docking at Arrakech nigh on 2 months prior. Water butts and stores on this vessel were non existent and judging by the dust inlaid have been empty for some time, however the beaching marks on this vessel were fresh. There were multiple sets of tracks leading away from this vessel heading East, in the direction of the Circle of Amber and its surrounding villages. Therefore I am forced to conclude that some intelligent force, which does not require food or fresh water has recently landed a sizeable force upon Andulus.

We have also not heard from some scout parties since they were dispatched after the Gathering of Nations. We assume them lost. In addition we heard this morn of a village near the Amber East that has been sacked and razed, all villagers are lost, no bodies have been found. Given the losses we have seen in the scouts and sheriffs I can not spare more men, I pray that you will send help and reinforcements if we are to attempt to hold this isle when they attack.

Yours in service,

*Camlann Halwyn*  
Scout.

## LETTER FROM Rhapsody, High Ritualist

Lions, my friends.

**A**lmost all of you seem to know who I am – the bright glittery ginger Fae that is always leaping into things like fights and rituals – and so this is of interest to almost all of you.

For a few years now it has been my privilege to be a ritualist in the Lions faction, and for most of that time, the High Ritualist. This may not sound long to you, but remember that I have only been around for 6 or so years.

Many of you have trusted me with your lives and patterns by coming with me into ritual circles, and into rites on battlegrounds. I am humbled by your trust in me.

Last year, I attempted a ritual to give two incantors in our faction, Ezekial Crane and Hargrim Vorall (both now unfortunately dead) access to the powers of High Incantation. This ritual was successful, but only at the cost of scarring both my and the Dragon's patterns. At the time, we were still not aware how the flows of power had settled and what was possible.

We had been feeling our way through the various powers available to us, and we have a reasonable grasp on things now. Once I had fixed myself in a ritual that so many of you aided me in, I swore that I would never again hurt the Dragon in such a way. Unfortunately, I went badly wrong in a circle in the Gathering just passed, and have once again been ritually scarred. While I believe my judgement on the theory of rituals to be sound, I find I can no longer trust myself to successfully carry this through in a circle.

In short, I cannot trust myself to run rituals, and, more importantly, I cannot ask you to trust me to the extent that you will join me in them. I am therefore intending to take some time out from running rituals while I learn some measure of suitable self-control.

I intend, if allowed, to remain High Ritualist, as I believe I have the abilities to continue to function in that role, and will most happily contribute to any ritual that a competent ritualist will have me in. It is also my hope that I will find the place in

me that will allow me to come back to running rituals for the Faction, but that is something only time will tell.

My friends, thank you for reading this far, and for trusting me so much. I hope someday to regain my trust in myself.

Yours,  
Rhapsody Talthor

## A SUMMARY REPORT upon the NATURE of the Kalisto Company

The following is a brief summary of known information about the company gleaned from various researches and resources. Every effort has been made to sift likely fact from speculation and unsubstantiated rumour has been omitted where possible. The information within this document has been compiled following research over the summer months.

### *General Workings*

The Kalisto Company would appear to be exactly what its name suggests - a trading concern. The Company deals mostly in slaves and view them as a simple commodity, no more and no less. The company is rigidly organised, with professionalism and paperwork being used to create an entity which serves one goal and one goal only - the pursuit of profit.

The company do not recognise the Laws of the lands where they operate and instead maintain their own laws, with all actions being considered fair should they fall within them. Additionally, they do not take actions based upon whims and try to remove emotion from their considerations wherever possible. Every effort is taken to make sure the company remains a business concern which is internally consistent and presents a singular facade in any interaction with any part of it.

The company symbol consists of a Capitalised 'C' with a 'K' placed within the confines of its jaws.

### *Areas of Operation*

As far as can be discerned the Kalisto Company has no business dealings within the borders of Lantia beyond performing slave raids, and they have only been active in these for a matter of months. Beyond the archipelago, the company does not advertise and no one will admit to having dealings with them, but the information gleaned indicates they have been trading here for much longer. It would appear that those who are aware of them offer them a certain degree of respect, which appears to largely be based on fear.

### *Current Debts*

As of the current time, the Kalisto Company have indicated that they are attempting to recover monies, goods and other items of value for what they perceive as a breach of contract by Hengist over an agreement for the purchase of Morbo. The breaching payment is set at ten times the sum owed on the original contract with additional penalties to be levied as required to cover the costs of recovering this sum. As of the current time, the notified sum stands at 20,200 Gold to be extracted from the Lions, who the Company hold as guarantor to the Crowns debts. The Crowns have indicated that this sum will not be paid.

### *Operations within Lantia*

Kalisto operations within the borders of Lantia have only started within the last few months. Slaving is the key activity, with the body dispatched to perform such an operation being a minimum of 20 assorted slavers - these are a mixture of Orcs, who are deployed as line warriors, and Beastkin, who appear to be utilized as berzerkers. Regardless of the mix, there will be a grey robed overseer. This individual is responsible for the coordination of the raid and the execution of company orders. All members of the raids have thus far been observed to have a yellow band across the forehead, as if bonded to their flesh. The purpose of this band is as yet unknown. It has also been observed that the Company will employ individuals who do not have such a band, particularly for the purposes of ambush, so it is not an infallible means for the identification of affiliation.

In terms of priority when raiding, the first step taken is to immediately eliminate any Lantians present of a military persuasion. Any men taken during the raid are slain outright, regardless of profession, social position or fitness and their bodies burnt, along with any other individuals adjudged to be 'Damaged Stock'. Healthy women and children are rendered unconscious where possible and dragged to the nearest transport circle. Female soldiers are taken as well, but appear to be given a lower priority for capture. It is hinted that this is due to the increased chance of resistance at a later date. Currently, the preferred point of destination for stock is Dragon lands. However, the Dragons are aware of this and have declared any Kalisto actions within their border unlawful. They have also extended the Lions permission upon occasion to pursue matters with the Kalisto Company within its borders.

*Postscript*

If you have any information which can confirm or disprove the veracity of the statements above, or indeed add information which is not already present, I would request that you make yourself known to me in order that this report can be refined and maintained in as accurate a fashion as is possible.

Your Remarkable Servant,

*Vincenzo Sangrado*

## Songs FROM the HEARTH

For poems of greatness, songs of despair, and all the chords in between.

### Cold

*by Cosaint*

In memory of Thrydwulf. Some things should never be forgotten.

There'll be tears in the morning when they understand what they've done  
What they've done

There'll be years spent pretending there were reasons they had to be strong  
To be strong

Sing sister, weep mother

Grieve father and mourn brother

There'll be hell left to pay but the debtor has always upped and gone

Flying on the dreams torn from the ones you pledged to hold

And fueled by the blood they shed for promises of gold

Do you warm yourself with thoughts of cleverness of lies you've never told?

Well learn to live with the cold

There'll be watchfires burning but they won't know for what it is they guard  
Why they guard

There'll be shamefaced turning from the faces of hope that they have scarred  
They have scarred

Lost kingdoms and spurned lovers

Wounds opened and lies covered

There'll be thousands all wishing they had chased you out of their yard

Flying on the dreams torn from the ones you pledged to hold

And fueled by the blood they shed for promises of gold

Do you warm yourself with thoughts of cleverness of lies you've never told?

Well learn to live with the cold

There'll be thousands watching when you walk those final few steps  
    Those lonely steps  
They'll be silently listening for the reasons for tears have wept  
    They have wept  
    What words will you give to them  
    The drained mothers of lost children  
There'll be no justifying all the losses you thought to accept  
  
Flying on the dreams torn from the ones you pledged to hold  
    And fueled by the blood they shed for promises of gold  
Do you warm yourself with thoughts of cleverness of lies you've never told?  
    Well learn to live with the cold  
  
Dying as their dreams tumble from hands to numb to hold  
    Crying for the homes cast off and futures that they sold  
Fallen on the long road to your promised land, a causeway built of souls  
    Left to lie in the cold  
  
There'll be tears in the morning, but I'll never forget what you've done

## Guardian

*by Footnote*

Walking down the river road  
Worn down boots on dusty stones  
The river's all that guides my way  
    Ten more miles to go today.  
  
I'm a guardian – but I'm no angel.  
    I am just a mortal man.  
I fight for you, for that's my duty  
    And I will do the best I can.  
  
A silhouette against the sun,  
The desert dust still chokes my tongue  
You scratch a life out from the sand,  
    This island is no promised land.

I'm a guardian – but I'm no angel.  
I am just a mortal man.  
I fight for you, for that's my duty,  
And I will do the best I can.

This well-oiled sword sits at my side,  
For every mile that I will ride,  
I see the ruins of the Wall,  
We promised it would never fall.

The villages that we must serve,  
In danger they do not deserve.  
Though Steelport feels so far away,  
The rising star still brings the day.

