

Lions Faction Packup Summer 2015

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Editorial

Hello, my fine nerdy friends! How's it going? We keen? WE BETTER BE! Guys, I literally cannot believe that it's basically August already. Where did the summer go? What did you all get up to? Why didn't you invite me? What are you planning for the Moot? It better be awesome.

I don't have as much as usual to ramble about this time, but I do have something I'd like to bring up. Specifically, the packup itself and what goes into it. I love doing this, I really do. Even when I was on plot team, this was my favourite part of the whole thing. I mean, seriously. I get to snoop on all the cool shit you guys write in and see it first, put it all together, and do it all while wearing slippers and being dry. I'm tellin' ya, it's more thrilling than the misbegotten offspring of Download, Alton Towers and a truckload of pixie stix. Or maybe I need a more exciting life. Whatever, the point is, I really like this job, and I think you'll all agree that the content in this here publication is great!

What I would really like, though, is to see more of you writing in! If you have an idea for something that you might like to put in, but not sure if it fits, PM me, I'm on Facebook as Niamh Carey and on the faction forums as Noodle. Doesn't have to be serious or angsty if that's not your jam, I promise. Just ask and we can have a chat about it. Suggestions: letters to the editor. You know you want to be Outraged Of Orlagnon or Aggrieved of Akamon. G'wan, give it a lash.

What I'd also like to see is all of you lot on Friday, getting stuck in and having fun! Or, if you're not making the Summer Moot, to see all of you lot on Thursday, getting stuck in and having fun! Either way, the goal's pretty clear. Unlike the structure of today's ramble. Without further ado, here's the summer packup! Have fun!

Noodle

P.S. - And another thing! Our lovely bearded benevolent Benefer has stepped down from Plot 4 after doing a fabulous job. He's worked his ass off to bring us all great plot, be a brilliant baddie, and other awesome things beginning with B. From everybody here in Off The Hook Land, I'd like to say a very sincere thank you for everything you've done, Robble Dobble, and wish you mad enjoyment with whatever you decide to play next. (Hint: FRENCH BLAAAADE)

Totally back on topic,
Noodle

From the Plot Team:

Hello!

Hello Everyone.

As anyone who was at the GEF will be aware Rob has decided that he wants to be a player again and so has stepped down as head of plot for the Faction. I'd like to thank him for the awesome work he has done and for giving up so much of his time so that everyone can enjoy the suffering and misery that he's inflicted upon your Characters.

His Reign of terror is at an end and now begins a new reign of TERROR! With that in mind HELLO I'm Will McKeever and I'll be your new head of plot for the faction. Rob has left me in a fantastic

position with a fantastic team and with that in mind we'll be moving forward with some new plots

and ways to make your IC lives miserable. AS before the same guidelines for plot will still apply

(don't fix what isn't broken).

(Ed: See below for plot interaction guidelines)

Character and Group Backgrounds

Have you ever wondered what would happen if the past came back to haunt your character? If the fate of your character's brother was not what you thought? If a group of angry-looking Orcs came knocking on the gate, asking for you? Or a letter is found, stained in blood, with your name on the cover?

Well, submit your background to Plot Team, or you'll never know!

New player? Awesome! Welcome to the Lions! We'll be happy to help you make sure that your character concept fits with the game-world in general, and the Lions in particular.

Here at Plot Team, we can't get enough of your submissions, and love each and every time we receive one. Please send them (and group backgrounds) to plot@lionsfaction.co.uk

Note: By doing so, you are giving Plot Team the power to mess with you.

Research requests

If you submit a research request to the LT please follow this up with an email to plot@lionsfaction.co.uk with the details of the research so that we can ensure that you receive a timely and accurate response.

Lions Plot Team Guidelines.

What follows is a brief FAQ covering how the Lions faction plot team operates and how to get the most as a player from us as your plot team.

Will I get my plot on the field?

We at the Lions plot team always aim to use personal plot and backgrounds if they are submitted, because we enjoy reading them as much as you enjoy writing them. They often help lay deeper foundations for existing plot lines or new ones. However we simply can't fit them all into the brief time we get on the field, so whether yours runs is a roll of the dice but we can promise we will try.

Is there downtime?

Short answer: No.

However, with some exceptions, we won't tell you what your characters have been doing over the gaps between events. If you want to pad out your in-character discussion by saying you have been working in 'X tavern' or travelling to see 'Y character' for a non-plot related chat, we will not contradict you. We will not, though, tell you about plot that is going on, even if you live at the location of the plot, nor is it possible to talk to NPCs over a gap period, but you can send letters to them from the field and should get replies.

If I can't act what's the point emailing?

Even if you can't act in the gap time we love hearing what you would like to be doing (not conducting troop movements or information gathering for example, as previously stated) such as whether you're becoming an alcoholic or just starting to gather rabbits in your house on Gallathrix.

Chances are these emails will be added to our 'just for information pile', but now and then there is a gem we can use and it can help with plot and or character progression.

What questions can I ask plot team?

There are a lot of things that are unknown in terms of plot to the average player (or there were to me at least) so if you have a question sling us an email and we'll try to get back to you with an answer.

No question is stupid. [If computers could support it, this sentence would be in 12 foot letters of fire. Noodle.]

How long can I expect to wait for a plot reply?

We try and get back to you as soon as we can but our plot team is made up of amazing volunteers that give their spare time to sorting what is sometimes a raging torrent of plot, so be please be patient. We always try and get it done as soon as we can but no true time scale can be given.

Backgrounds and background submission?

Backgrounds are great to receive and give us a great starting point for some plotlines or how to interact with your character. They can take the form of a few descriptive paragraphs or pages of story, however we do ask that once a background is submitted that changes be kept to a minimum (we are not going to hate you if you make the odd change). If we decide to use that character 'Evil Uncle Bill' and then when he reaches the field we discover he's been written out in favour of 'Kind Aunt Margaret' it's a tad awkward.

Plot requests. E.g. Evacuations etc?

If you have made a request *in uptime* about for example evacuating your island because 'it's got ants' or some other perfectly valid reason pop a reminder to us on our plot email after the event (preferably soon afterwards) to make sure it's logged and we will get back to you. These tend to take one of the two following ways, either an email of what's happening or a brief at the next event. We may also run encounters to give the results.

Players in Peril?

If you are a player in peril, e.g. you transported to a battle zone or dangerous area at the end of an event or you live in an area that has been invaded, just pop us an e-mail detailing this. We will either give you an emailed brief before your next event (we don't know your next event unless you warn us) or we will brief you in the field before you go IC in some manner.

If you have any other questions please ask – plot@lionsfaction.co.uk or ask any of us in the field.

Will McKeever

A Lions of Lantia production.

**Wrangled by Niamh 'Noodle' Carey, with It's All A Series Of Tubes assistance from Russ Phillips,
and special thanks to a particularly good bolognese**

Contents by (in no particular order)

Neil McDermott

Sarah Johnson

Sarah King

Emma Cunliffe

Matt Stockton

Nick Fitzgerald

William McKeever

Chris Cunliffe

Niamh 'Ithinkthatseverybody' Carey

Tip of the season:

Rob Benefer likes KitKat Chunkys. Show your appreciation to a Benefer today!



- No Lion Stands Alone -

Lions Faction Dispatches

Summer 115

Compiled and Published in Camelot by the office of the Adjutant General of the
Lions faction

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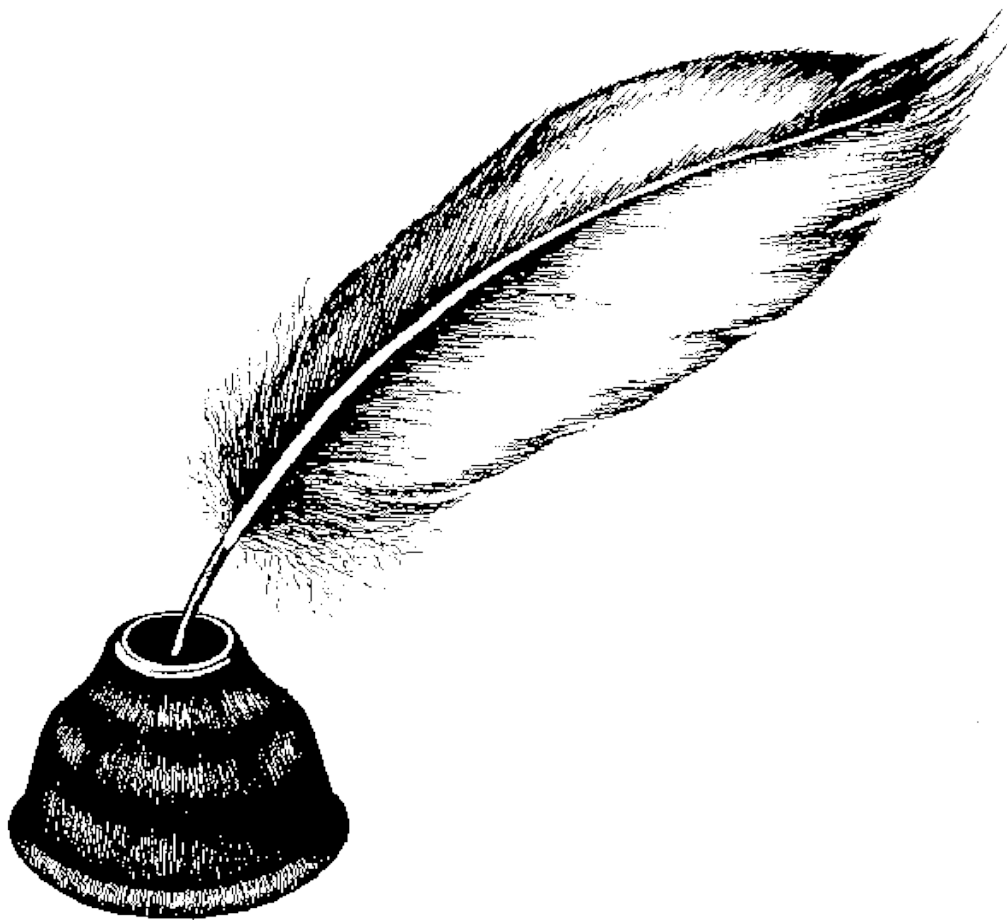
Writings intended for publication can be submitted to:

The Office of the Adjutant General
Publications Department
Camelot
Lantia

(lionspackup@gmail.com)

A Note from the Adjutant General's Office

The office of the Adjutant General thanks all who contribute regularly to this publication. We would like to remind all readers that the invitation to contribute is open to all Lions, on any topic pertaining to the business of the faction, personal notices and obituaries, or material of a diverting or entertaining nature.



Concerning The Council

When I first joined this faction I was awed by the people in it, and felt very small in comparison. I often felt that like I was too inconsequential to make a difference, or not important enough. I was quiet and I often watched from the edges of things. I imagine that all of us have had moments like this, unless of course, you are gifted by an amazing level of confidence. Sadly I am not, but during my time in the faction it has grown thanks to the support of some amazing people.

This faction to me feels like a family, and I know a lot of people feel the same way. Like any family, we don't always get along but at the end of the day I know we would pull together for any of our own. Over the last year or so I have found myself as Caerie's deputy, and now as acting head of council. I was not expecting this but I intend to do the best I can while I hold the position. I think as Head of Council it is important to have the ability to be impartial, and to understand many points of view, regardless of personal opinions and I will strive to do this.

By the gathering I will have a new council charter in place, I have done a lot of research into this, and taken the suggestions put forth by others in mind as well. I am currently putting my last draft into place. I will be discussing this with the crowns and the interim council at the moot. I know that there has been a lot of dissatisfaction in the past, and a lot of people have had times where they have felt that their voice has not mattered, that important decisions have not been shared with the faction, or that there was no progression amongst other things and I want my charter to address this. I want to make sure that even the quietest of us can feel like they have a place to go in the faction, I want everyone in the faction to feel valued, I want there to be the chance to progress and a sense of fair opportunity.

I also believe in transparency and communication. I want the mystery to council meetings to be blown away, and for the most part I want council meetings to be open for all Lions to view. I will add that if there is a topic for discussion that involves requests from members of the faction or delicate security matters then these will be discussed in private to allow for confidentiality.

The council is there to help the crowns with the day to day running of the

faction, and it has blown me away in the last few months just how much work goes into it. I would never have dreamed that there was so much involved. It has also opened my eyes to how much work it takes to keep the faction running smoothly. I respect anyone that has taken the time to take this on for the faction. I know that at times there will be things that come up that will be unpopular, that is the nature of things, not everyone will be happy all of the time, but I am striving to make things as fair as possible. I hope that you will support me in doing so.

Arya

Acting Head of Council

Mentioned in Dispatches

*Mentioned in Dispatches
Summer 1115*

We did it - we defeated Tatalus's children - the demons are gone from the Jewelled Isles. To all the Sirene and the Wardens who stood with us, and those others in the rite, thank you. You stood firm, made yourselves targets, and held fast against the demons when it seemed as if we could never hold long enough to complete the rites. To those who protected us - I know how hard that fight was. We could not have done it without you, could not have defeated Tatalus and cleansed our islands from the demonic taint. You are amazing.

And is if that weren't enough, this year the praise has flowed thick and fast! All spelling mistakes are my own, and if I have spelled your name wrong, I apologise, and I owe you a drink to make sure I get to know you better. (The following are in no particular order, and are based on the Order they were sent to me).

The Lions nation wishes to recognise those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty, in particular

- ▣ To all those who wear the armour, swing the swords, patrol the night, Un-named, un-noticed, un-recognised. Your work & sacrifice is valued by us all in military command.
(This was from the Lions military, but really, it's from all of us - without you, we wouldn't be stood here)*
- ▣ Forxnat and Traefon for their teamwork casting counterspells to cure petrifications at the Spring parliament.*
- ▣ Kamali and River Bashir - for their healing triage work, which saved a lot of petrified people at Moot 1, and for their work assisting Caerie and Arya at Moot 1 and the GEF.*
- ▣ Moonshadow - for managing to get the Guilds to come to camp when the petrifications were happening.*
- ▣ The Lions Faction recognise that petrification is a team effort, and the fact we have lost so few people to petrify, despite the strength of some of the creatures we have faced, is a testament to the exceptional teamwork of the Lions and the ability to work together under pressure.*

We don't know all the names of everyone involved - we wish we did - but thank you.

- *The children of the Lions: the work they have done for the faction has been exceptional.*
- *Obrint Pas - for his plan to deal with the Ancestral Were, connected to the attack on Keremar specifically, and for all his work in matters of faith.*
- *Holegn - for his dedicated work guarding the Lions Gate no matter the weather, often with little company.*
- *Ysabel - for her work and dedication on the Lions Gate assisting Briar Rose as her Deputy, and for her work assisting the High Diplomat.*
- *All those who have helped the High Diplomat and carried messages.*
- *The Sherriffs' department - for all being so awesome that none of you are standing out individually because you're all jostling at the top.*
- *Traefon, Forxnat, Nyanthi and Dyrt - for their excellent scouting work, particularly on the last day of Moot 1, when they made sure the shrine was guarded from the earliest possible opportunity, preventing anyone from compromising it.*
- *Forxnat - for his willingness to take messages between the camps, regardless of distance, and for his initiative in making sure information was passed to those who needed it.*
- *Traefon - for his work as deputy High Mage organising the mages at the Spring Moot final battle, ensuring information had been disseminated effectively amongst the mages so that less power was wasted through the battle, and for his initiative in making sure information was passed to those who needed it.*
- *The mages generally for their willingness to assist the High Mage and Deputy High Mage, no matter how large or small the request. You are a pleasure to work with, and whilst some of them may have seemed like thankless tasks, here is a very big thank you from the High Mage, and the Faction.*
- *To the ritualists and contributors, all of you - you're amazing, and*

apparently that's about 45 of you. You are a true testament to what the Lions can accomplish together, and I hope you know how much you are appreciated.

- Caerie - for constantly going above and beyond to assist Hodari
- Xanthior - for his stunning help in planning, and cat (ahem Lion)-herding.
- Jehanne and Garm - for being willing to contribute at the last minute without hesitation: stepping into a circle without preparation take courage.
- Tyrell - for his willingness to put himself in harm's way to fix his mistakes, despite taking a huge amount of complaints and criticism, which deserves our respect. Everyone makes mistakes - not everyone is so willing to do whatever it takes to fix them. We also thank him for his work assisting the High Diplomat.
- Ravenfire - for making possibly the most powerful (and bad-tempered) ancestral in the field on her first attempt.
- Kaliyo - for her work as Deputy High Alchemist, and specifically for her work on the bug threat, which "may be the key that wins that fight".
- Althea - for all her work assisting the Faction with research. So often it has been her knowledge and her unrecognised work in libraries that has found us the knowledge to defeat our enemies or save our friends.
- Virago - 'for the excellent and hard work she has put into maintaining and distributing the faction stores to everyone so they all get to play with fun toys', and who has 'turned the quartermaster's position around'.
- Irinaye - for her work keeping the Faction safe and training new Regulators, and for being generally 'fab' and for caring so much about the Lions. The current bodyguards are probably the best the Lions have ever had (so thank you to you all too).
- Mordecai - for general dedication, diligence and energy when bodyguarding.

- *Joshua* - for his continuing work for the Lions; for his help assisting us with supplies, for ensuring the return of the Green Knight's Axe, for his assistance to Prince Gaius, and for physically carrying Prince Gaius to the rite to save the islands from the demons.
- *Amargar* - for ensuring that when the scouts were needed, scouts were present.
- *Frax* - for being exactly where he's needed and knowing exactly what needs to be done.

I don't have the words for how proud I am to be a Lion right now. I only wish you all could have heard the discussion on how amazing this Faction is and how much work everyone is putting in. Three pages of names might be a new record. I think the reason the Faction has been so amazing and so effective lately is that everyone is pitching in, and doing their part. No Lion stands alone, we say - well here's the proof of how awesome we can be when that happens. We have worked together, and together we have accomplished great things. Not just big things, like defeating the demons and keeping people safe from the bugs, but even the smaller things - running messages, learning about our enemies, efficient power use - these add up and make a difference. Every group in the Lions has contributed to keeping us a strong, proud, principled pride. I can't list you all here by name, and for that I'm sorry, but everything you do - all of you - makes a difference, and makes us who we are:

Lions.

*In light and faith
Karen Aldain-Darkendale*

An Announcement from the High Alchemist's Office:

I am pleased to announce that after dedication and service in the role of “acting” Deputy High Alchemist, Kaliyo is now my Official Deputy. If you have any queries regarding alchemy, please ask either of us, we will be happy to assist you.

Ser Malcolm Krafter,

Faction High Alchemist.

Arborealists from Another Egg!!!

The isle of Loddiburna, main base of operations for the Alien Creatures who have cost our guilds and friends so greatly in recent years has yielded strange secrets and surprises. A recent expedition revealed a sight described as the activity of Arborealists from Another Egg!!! Strange shrubbery, rooted in a meteor, and nourished by the bodies of innocents! Poisonous sap from space! Who knows what vile variegation the Hunters were trying to cultivate on the far side of the egg?! More on this as our Alchemists and Researchers divine their foul, mercifully defeated plans!

Miscellany

Pattern Scanning: A Discussion

One of the things that has happened at the last campaign was a very in depth discussion over the future of pattern scanning in the faction. This has always been a hot topic for many, and has come up time and time again, and has come to a head many times. It is something that is unique to us as a faction, no other faction insists on it at the gate.

Something that had not happened till the GEF was a full and open discussion on the future of pattern scanning after the changes to the way it works. For those that aren't aware, pattern scanning has always allowed us to tell if someone is poisoned, or has pattern altering effects, it lets us know if someone is wounded or diseased. Since the rule of scanning on the gate was implemented the pattern scan now allows healers to know just how much damage a person can take before they will be at deaths door.

Some have pointed out that this concerns them as it can be used as a tool for assassination, and has been. I can't say that I think any lion has used this as a way of assassinating other lions but it was a concern to be addressed, and I feel should have been the moment the nature of the scan changed.

It would never have been viable to invite everyone to discuss this at the time, it would have led to a debate that lasted all night and no resolution would have been met, however as well as the core members of the interim council, the High Alchemist, the Captain of the Gate Guard, Irinaye, head regulator, and Althea as a lore keeper for the faction were invited to attend. I would love to write the meeting up point by point but it is impossible to write up notes in that level of detail but I will try and make a brief note of what happened.

Several points were raised, including the history of pattern scanning at the gate, why it was implemented and why it is still used. For those that do not know, in a very basic description, it was instigated after an epidemic known as Pod People. It spread like a disease, many lions died, and it infected many in the faction. A simple pattern scan would have prevented much of the damage caused.

It is still used today as a preventative measure, to prevent epidemics like this from spreading again and to prevent pointless death, though it also has secondary benefits, including allowing newer people to learn who the faction healers and physicians are, it allows for slowing non lions at the gate when they visit, helps to prevent diplomatic incidents caused by death or injury while in the camp. For many it is considered a welcome tradition.

These points were discussed in detail, as well as the drawbacks, including the use as an assassination tool, whether it can cause diplomatic difficulties by making non lions uncomfortable when coming into camp, whether it is an archaic tradition, and as I am sure we all know, not everyone feels comfortable with just anyone scanning them.

It was decided that the benefits of pattern scan outweigh the drawbacks after a long discussion, and that suitable steps should be taken for those that wish specific people to scan them, which includes the pattern scan ribbon always being present at the gate to allow non healers to scan. This was something that had dropped by the wayside and will be enforced.

It was certainly a heated discussion at points and something that I think we all feel strongly about in our own ways, I hope that you'll support us in this decision, and support Briar Rose in enforcing them.

Arya



An Open Letter to the Lions

This year Lantians have already seen and done wonderful things. Tatalus has fallen once and for all, and even now the Heartland Nations rally against the Unliving threat, willing to set apart differences in order to protect the freedoms of all. We have also been blessed with two new artefacts, to act as embodiment of that which we are, 'For as Long as there are Lions'.

Lenny and Leo have long been of great value to our people. For the last eight years they have become a familiar part of the vast majority of Lions rituals. When the Lions are in the circle, you *know* it, as the cry echos across whichever part of the egg we make a small part of Lantia for fifteen minutes or so:

NO LION STANDS ALONE!

So, I ask you this; In these modern times what does this mean you *you*? Is it simply four words with no meaning or consequence? Is it a motto to which you pay lip service? Is it a worthy but unrealistic ideal? Is it a battle cry that will one day either save your life, or cause you to sacrifice it?

Over the last few years I have seen many interpretations of this cry, ranging from 'No popular Lion stands alone' to 'No Lions stands alone so long as I'm not having a conversation or it's drizzling a bit'. The ever-popular 'No Lion wearing a crown stands alone' seems enshrined in our culture, as recent events on Azurlon prove without doubt. I wonder if this currently extends to 'No Lion who can be a bit annoying annoying or emotional stands alone' or even 'No Lion who I can't remember having done something for me stands alone'. In shame I know this is rhetoric. Of course it does. You've seen it. Maybe even you have done it. Malar knows I've thought it on more than one occasion myself.

But it has never stopped me making pickup.

I know so many of you. I think it's safe to say that in my time as High Mage (when the faction mages trained to gather the fallen and wounded) and the time since then I have made pickup on at least half of the faction. Sometimes that was simple. Other times it was not. I say this only to show that you don't have to be a hero with enchanted gear and all the skills. We can all help. We can all do our bit.

I would not be alive today to scribe this if it wasn't for so many of you. Irinae and Moonshadow took grievous wounds to get me to a healer - probably with seconds to spare. Markham saved so many of us with his selfless actions and fast thinking. Ysabel, Raven, Kamali, Cassie, Cade. All these, and so many others have made the difference between my life and my death. I humbly thank you all.

So I ask you now. What *will* this mean to you? When the cry goes up at the gate, will you answer? When the time comes to march, will you stand with your people? When those Lions unable to take up swords are threatened, will you stand between them and those who will do them harm?

Not as 'Heroes', but as friends who may or may not have met each other yet. Not alone. Together.

Erdreja has gifted us Lenny and Leo. It is my belief this is a reminder of what we were, as well as what we are and what we can be. Whether the cry goes up in the ritual circle, at the gate, or on the field of battle it is a reminder and a challenge. Will you stand by, or will *you* make a difference?

Simba.

Lions Faction Annual International Tea Party

Massive Thanks to everyone who came to the 3rd Annual Lions Camp Tea Party

Bigger Thanks to everyone who brought cake, ate cake, brought tea, drank tea, brought gin, got drunk and made the tea party a success.

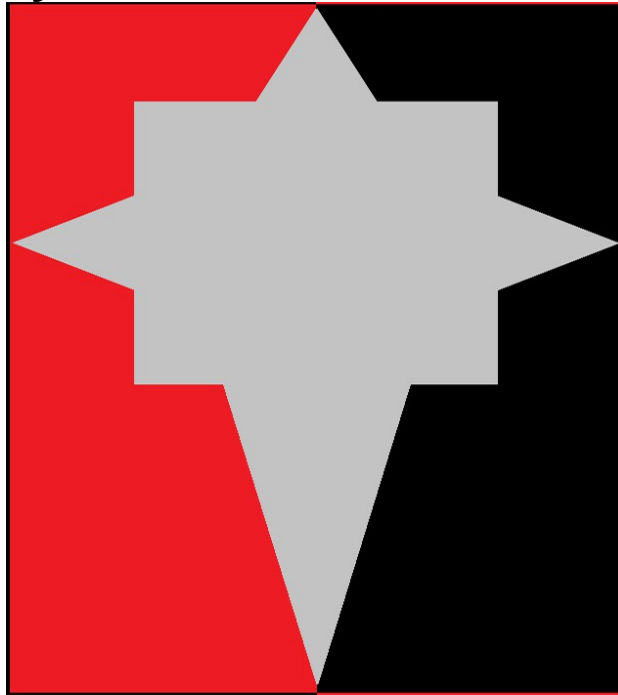
Special thanks to Amy and Lyn for helping to organize everything.

Well Done to Briar-Rose who's strawberry cream cake was deemed the best cake by the Tesseract.

The Tesseract Representatives said they enjoyed what we offered and hope everyone enjoyed a game of croquet. I have been told that the Tesseract is expecting an invitation to next years Tea Party, so consider this an advanced invitation to all Lions and friends to the 4th Annual Lions Camp Tea Party, GEF 1116.

Many thanks with sprinkles on top
Abby

Put yourself to the challenge!



Lantia is filled with bandits and criminals of all kinds.

The Purple Rose of the Darkendales flies above burned out villages.

The Sheriffs simply can't keep up – there is more crime than they can handle.

Lantia needs people like you – people who will stand against the rising tide of crime. People that will stand for the poor and the weak – those that cannot protect themselves. Too often have criminals gotten away with their crimes! Just over one year ago, a group of bandits on Gallathrix was ignored by the local sheriffs, simply because they told the sheriffs that they didn't do it! Purple Rose cards are left across Lantia, forcing people to live in fear from a family who has their fingers in Lantian politics at the highest levels.

There is one man who will not stand for this tide of evil and corruption. He is Sir Peregrine of the Celestial Knights. When he comes across crime, he puts a stop to it.

Permanently. He is now gathering like-minded people who will act in the same way across the whole of Lantia, for he is just one man, and there are many islands.

If you think this life is for you, I will be touring the islands to recruit on his behalf. I will be in the bar on the Saturday evening of the Summer Moot. If you would work to make a real difference across Lantia, if you would work so that the innocent of this great nation need not live in fear, then come and find me.

Tellator, Squire to Sir Peregrine.

Advertisements

There are 2 positions currently within faction that are vacant and we would like to see filled. These are the position of High Bard and that of Wavesinger.

Ideally for High Bard we need a charismatic, organised individual that will be responsible for preserving the lore, knowledge, history, stories and songs of the faction. They will also be responsible in aiding Lions with research requests. They will need to coordinate with the Wavesinger and all bards in the faction to ensure that our songs and stories are regularly heard.

We also need a Wavesinger, and we will be holding auditions, most likely at the Gathering though that is to be confirmed. The Wavesinger primarily is there to bond with and guide the Kraken in defense of Lantia through song. The right person with the right songs will sooth the creature.

If you are interested in either position, or have any questions, please speak to myself or Elspeth, Arcane Primus.

Arya

Acting Head of Council.

CALL FOR WARDENS AND SIRENE

hey! you! yeah, you. are you interested in Lantia? help the draken? do you want to protect and SEVER...ER, I mean SERVE? why not become a WARDEN OR SIRENE? OR EVEN maybe try to become a GUARDIAN. IS IT POSSIBLE? who knows but we won't find out until someone tries.

do you want to serve something bigger than yourself? (I don't mean a darkendale's ego) that sounds like something akamon would like. do you just want to destroy your enemies, cause them pain and drive them from your lands? gallathrix or ontarix could be the island for you. do you think "meh" about the idea? hey we even have an island for that too. sammerix might find you truly "meh" worthy to be its warden. heck, they even have their own jewels if that what interests you.

there are plenty islands that all have their own aspect and jewels. so come find one you like or that might suit you well. if you are interested are becoming a warden or sirene (or even a guardian, if it's possible) or just want to know more about your island or another one, come talk to the high sirene/warden, the sirene/warden of that respective island, or gaius do lantia, who is envoy of the draken. or if you are really desperate you can talk to me, but who would want to do that? nobody wants to talk to me..... im so lonely....

ERIC LUND

prospective warden of akamon (if i can finally finish this damn trial without the island getting invaded...again)

Oh! and just because someone has applied for the position of SIRENE/WARDEN doesn't mean anyone else can't. even if they are doing their trial, the Draken may decide that you are more suitable for the role (except for me cos I will do bad things to someone that stops me completing my trial, again). also, I thought it might be a good idea to include a list of those that are already SIRENE and WARDENS: CARRIE SHADEFELLOW ~ HIGH SIRENE, HOLY ISLE, CLARA IRONTREE □ AKAMON, ALTHEA □ AZULON, CASSIE & MICHAEL D'ASCOYNE □ ORLAGNON, RHAPSODY □ PARDULON, FIONNULA □ AMNOR, AMY REDMAN □ ANDULUS, OLEC VARGSARK □ CERYPHUS, BRIAR~ROSE & RYNTHALION □ RYSARIUS, KAREN ALDAM~DARKENDALE & SIR IRANAYE □ TAMARUS, ARERA □ EMMERIX, ABBY WORMWOOD & RAMSAY WULL □ GALLATRIX, JEHANNE □ SAMMERIX

Ever wondered about the ways of the Alchemist? Ever felt that curiosity toward learning new things? Well for those who are, or just want to know what we can make, I am happy to present:

A Lions Guide to Alchemy

This publication will provide both understanding of our craft and guidance to those wanting to follow it. Copies will be available to purchase from the High Alchemist at all major meetings and campaigns.

Ser Malcolm Krafter,

Faction High Alchemist.

Obituaries

How do I start? How do I tell your story, those parts of it I knew? I cannot pretend I knew even most of it, but I knew you longer than most, and I called you friend. Most of those around you were recent friends and followers, so perhaps I can tell a little of your story that they have forgotten.

You stepped up to serve the Faction in 1102, and by the time I met you, in the Spring of 1107, you were High Scout. I was so full of my preconceptions, about the nature of good, and of bad, and of who fell on each side, and you were the first to challenge me, to show me a different perspective. Through you, I saw a side of the Faction I'd had no contact with, and judged despite that. Through you I saw a team of people I'd dismissed as the dark side of the Faction, as assassins, and as people who did not care and were not worth my time. You showed me them as people who shared the same deep love of the Faction I possessed, people willing to protect it, to fight for it, to die for it. I saw you speak up to do the right thing, and I saw you risk your life for those you felt responsible for, and in turn for all of us. You showed me I was wrong, and I took the lesson gladly, and have let it guide me ever since. I remember your face when I came to you, and told you that, and apologised for judging you, and your team: it was the beginning of our friendship. You left a legacy in that team of Scouts that has saved the lives of more Lions than I can count - we owe you, and them, so much.

You always did your best for the Faction: once you turned your ankle, but you were so determined to bring your healing to the fight that you limped along unknown behind the main force and nearly died when you were ambushed. Good thing I was around to save you (also known as fall down next to you, while someone else ran for help). You were so determined to do everything you could for us, to heal us, to protect us, and to make the tough decisions so we didn't have to. It was one of the reasons you took Head of Council, to try and do your best for the Lions. You were a voice for good at a time when there were few others, arguing for us to be better than we seemed to be, to hold to the values of Truth, Honour, and Justice. Did people see how deeply you thought about so many of the decisions you had to make? I hope so. We made some difficult, heartbreaking, decisions together, and we supported each other. You worked to make your Faction inclusive. You helped

your Council bond, kept those who might not have worked together from each other's' throats, and we saw a team, working together for us. When Seraphim stepped down as Crown Prince at the First Moot of 1110, he knew it would be you that stepped up and took his place. A year later, at the Spring Parliament of 1112, he was proved right. You were our Crown Princess for so short a time: at the Gathering of 1112, you became our Queen, unprepared but willing to serve your people.

You always felt a deep sense of responsibility for those under your command: as High Scout you would never leave one of your own, risking everything to save them. It was evident when you were Head of the Council, in the way you pushed yourself constantly, never resting, always looking out for us. And as Queen you worked so hard to maintain your composure, but every time one of your faction - one of your own - fell, you slipped away to grieve. You dealt with the loss of your islands and the deaths of your people more times than anyone should have to bear. We were yours, and you felt every death.

For me, one of your finest moments as a Crown was one almost nobody was there for. We worked for a long time to reconcile Clan Watcher - the servants of Mal, the Winter King - back into the Faction after years of exile, to undo past wrongs, and to see past old hatreds. You accepted their oath of fealty to the Lions, told them we were one again.

And you were my sister, a Sirene - one of the first of the new Sirene when the Lions came to Lantia. It was that bond, that sisterhood, that helped us to find you when the time elementals kidnapped you. I tied my pattern to yours, became an anchor from which you could be found. For a long time I knew your every moment, your exact direction from me, and whilst it faded over time, it never completely left me. Until now. Your faith strengthened you, and whilst you served the Drakken, it was Malar you followed. Your pack were your family, the people who were there for you, bonded to you by faith and blood, your anchor in the Faction. It was a difficult line to find, and I know it tested you - Malar does not care for many of the things that the Faction is founded on, although others - pack, or brotherhood - are integral to us. No Lion Stands Alone. And like so many Crowns before you, you walked that line, and brought the best of your faith and the faction together. I know Malar was proud of you - he came and told us.

Somehow, despite everything, despite the responsibility that you took upon yourself, you never lost your ability to laugh. One of my favourite

memories was when Prince Nethaniel paid *stell* so you would jiggle to scare Seraphim - he was so straight-laced then. I couldn't breathe for laughing. And you loved the music of your Faction. You so rarely had time to listen, but if you could, you would come for just one song, maybe two. Raven was the song that drew you to the fireside, but you like *Tribute* too. We'll sing them for you again, loud enough for you to hear even now.

I'm probably one of the few who remembers your wedding to Hengist. It was a parliament, and you'd been out scouting. You were taken prisoner by something... breed, I think. And when the news got to King Hengist, he was beside himself. He had the Faction formed up quicker than I think I've ever seen and we were off, marching into the woods in the darkness, heading towards the sounds of drums and howls. And once we had you back, he swore he'd never let you go, and right there, in front of the faction, you were married. You stood together before the campfire, ringed by the Faction, and swore before Malar, married by a member of your pack. Years later, when Seraphim was courting me, and took me out for dinner and dancing, you remarked wishfully that you never got a chance to be with Hengist like that - you both had duties that prevented it. So we conspired to give you that date - my Crown Prince Seraphim stayed in camp so you could both leave. You looked so pretty, and you got to dance - you were so happy. It wasn't meant to be the last one. I was planning another night for the two of you, knowing you got so little time together, and then before I knew it, the time elementals had you. And when we finally got you back, you were dying, and the price of your life was Hengist. To be an endless fae, and the end of your life suddenly so close must have terrified you, and yet you were so determined not to worry people. I can't imagine how it must have felt in that ritual circle, as Hengist gave his time to you. I know Seraphim would have died a hundred times over for me, and took on armies at the merest hint I was in danger (facts weren't really a thing for him in situations like that). Hengist felt the same for you. I suppose some things there just aren't enough time for.

He left you some big shoes to fill, a big crown for your head. Before he died, Hengist said you were the future of this Faction - I think he was right. You weren't your husband, so loud and shouty, so good at riling the Faction up for a fight. You were quieter, better at the diplomacy, you knew people across the field, and stopped us becoming isolated as a Faction when so few of us had contacts outside, and you trained the new High Diplomat. You thought about your decisions - I wonder if people realised the number of terrible decisions you talked Hengist out

of! But you were never afraid to lead your Faction onto the field and into the fight. I was so proud to follow you - to follow both of you, and not just because you were my Crowns - time and again you earned my respect.

Oh my Queen, my friend, I owe you my life. That night you took away the fear, gave me back something I thought lost forever, gave me your forgiveness, and took my oath. I dropped to my knees before you, and swore to support you in caring for the Lions, that your people would be my people, and I would serve them with my every breath. In your name and Celestial's. You gave me back my life and in the end, did I take yours, or give it back?

You hated unliving, were always so determined to take the field against them. As a healer, linked to the planes of life, you felt them to be a corruption on Erdreja. I remember once you nearly gave Irinaye a heart attack - unliving had poured out of the ritual circle early on a Friday night, and straight away you formed the faction up, and marched them down there. But you got trapped by the circle, and nearly died before your bodyguard had even managed to transport to the field. You should have seen her face when someone told her! I think it was one of your proudest moments when your Faction went to the Planes of Unlife and took the fight to the unliving, and planted the flag of the Lions. I hope so. Because, in the end, you paid the ultimate price for that victory. They took you, and turned you, and sent you back to us as the thing you hated the most. I know I did what you wanted: you always made your wishes on that subject clear, but oh, my Queen... May your sacrifice not be in vain: may your faction have the courage to keep to your path. May we stand with the courage of our convictions, inspired by your memory, as I have done every day since you first showed me what this Faction is capable of. You have left a people to be proud of - we are you people. We are Lions.

May Malar give you good hunting, Mustang.

My Queen.

My friend.

Lenia.

In light and faith,

Karen Aldain-Darkendale.