

~ CHIRAM'S HOLLOW ~

Shiney Dreadfuls Newspaper

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Inside this issue: *An Interview with Justicar Tavistock: The Status of White Sun*

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<i>Shiney Dreadfuls</i>	6	Dreadfuls: Can you tell our readers how White Sun

has changed? And are the rumors true you may be changing the name to White Forest?

Justicar Tavistock: The rumor is indeed true! The idea has been almost unanimously accepted by the Elder council and their Thelucian allies, as well as myself and the other ranking nobles. With the Queen's blessing we hope to make the change official soon.

Physically, the Bastion has almost quadrupled in size. The Life energy contained in First Forest spread itself out after the Heirophan and the Legion of the Vigil purified the ley line running underneath the area, turning once-blighted ground fertile and green.

Dreadfuls: That's truly excellent news! We've also heard that the human curse may have been altered? Some humans in the bastions suddenly found they could taste food again. Do you know if this remain true? And if that's the case, any word on Human resurrection or the possibility of them harvesting crops once more?

Justicar Tavistock: The reports we've been receiving from other Bastions are universal: it appears that humans can taste food again, regardless of their location. It's a small gift, but one the humans in White Forest have not taken for granted. Sadly, Twice-born humans are still barred from resurrecting in Earth circles. As always, despite the Bastion fires spreading outward, there are still innumerable dangers at our borders and citizens should take great care. We have not had much contact from the Barons of Eire who are in charge of the majority of the farmlands, but I am led to believe humans are still incapable of farming and harvesting crops.

Dreadfuls: The life energy of first forest you mentioned partially came from Thelucia's failed "great pattern", correct? Can you tell us the status of the great pattern at present time?

Justicar Tavistock: As I understand it -- and I am not an expert in the advanced ritual magics involved -- the Great Pattern was effectively neutralized by the melding of White Sun and First Forest. When the Elders rescued the Pattern and brought it into the Forest, it reacted with the Life energy already present. Bonding First Forest to the mortal plane allowed the supercharged Life energy to disperse into the land. Because of this, our mages believe the Great Pattern would never truly have been able to sustain itself as a long-term replacement Icon.

Do you have information to share?

Speak to your local Shiney Dreadfuls Delivery Agent!*

All Classifieds Welcome!!!

*Know Your Foe: Beings of Unthinkable Power: Entities Both Ancient and Malign:
Not On Your Best Day: Otherwise Unclassified: I Don't Care Who You Are, It's
Suicide: The Beast in the Brine*

Hello again, Foe-Knowers! I actually got a request for this article, which I'm pretty sure was a prank but I figured I'd write it anyway because the end of days is nigh and the good stuff ain't cheap.

So the thing that is sometimes called the Beast in the Brine, also at times called the Evil Beneath, the Maw of the Depths, the Besieger of the Seas, and the Scourge of the Pearl Trade. This thing may well also be the Whisperer, the creature that speaks to Biata and tries to make them crazy. Until very recently nobody has had any idea of what this creature actually was, but as luck would have it there have been some recent developments in that line of inquiry which are downright unsettling. So, what is the Beast in the Brine?

Short answer: it's a Fing dragon, made crazy by being exposed to the home of those cerebral devourers, and if "Insane Extraplanarish Underwater Dragon" doesn't tell you everything you need to know then the key point you're failing to infer is "Stay on dry Fing land, feeblemind!"

Let's talk some numbers. The number of ships that are confirmed to have been destroyed by the Beast over the past five years is 114, including 22 warships of Her Majesty's Royal Navy, including *Caldonian*, *Thundermont* and three days before I wrote this *Earthstormer*, the new iron-sided flag ship of Lord Admiral Larissae O'Kilardy, who perished with her ship and all her crew less than twenty miles from the Hollow Isle. As many as twice that number are suspected to have been broken apart or dragged under by the Beast but cannot be said to have for certain. The number of ships to successfully engage the Beast and escape intact in that time is zero. Out of as many as 300 attacks, no ship has survived a direct encounter with this evil.

On the other hand, the number of people the beast has killed inland is also zero. This should suggest a very strong course of action to those who do not wish to have this particular unmatched enemy murder and or eat them: don't get on a boat, dummy!

For the benefit of the brainless at heart, here is what I do know about how the Beast fights. It usually attacks from below, rarely even bothers to come all the way out of the sea. Instead, it just batters ships to pieces with its tentacles, which may be close to 800 feet long, accordin' to the guesses of some poor terrified bastards that were "lucky" survivors, or else it overwhelms the crew with attacks against their minds and brains. When the Beast does break the waves it will use mind powers like those of a biata and a stone elf, and without the need for physical contact. So that's bad. It has a crazy-powerful ability to work magic, and the magical ability to make people powerfully crazy. At least two times the Beast has used some sort of power to warp and weird the bodies and spirits of those he fought, rather than simply kill them like a decent Thing From Beyond ought to. So that, and many other powers and whatnot that are unknown to scholars of modern magic, make clear that this is a foe like nothing in our world. Thankfully, it also seems to avoid coming to the parts of our world that we use the most! So unless it grows some legs, just find a better hobby than sailing, and you'll be fine. Dummy.

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Dreadfuls: Have there been any more threats to the Bastion from the Malwolken we heard tried to prevent the melding of White Sun and First Forest? Do you know the status of the Puriel Shard in the Teshvan Isles that it is rumored they were also attacking?

Justicar Tavistock: The Malwoken who identified himself as Boren has not been sighted near White Forest, but our scouts are attempting to track him down. If anyone has any information regarding him or his allegiances, I invite them to please contact me. In the interest of public safety I cannot release any information regarding the Puriel Shard of Fertility at this time.

Three Dragon Siblings; A real life story of betrayal and regret

Though the Shiny Dreadfuls were not the original recipients of this letter, we can confirm from accurate sources the validity of its origin. Both the one who brought it to us and the Dreadfuls itself feel that what's contained within this letter is important knowledge for the public to know, as if rumors are true all of our fates may rest on the dragons mentioned within coming into accord with each other.

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Collan,

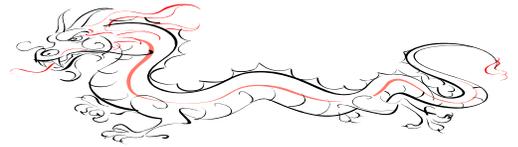
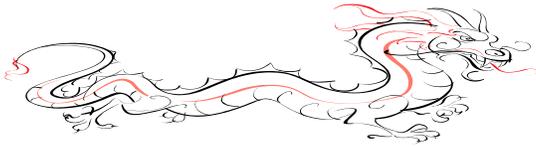
Pretty much everything I'm about to fill you in on is learned from Visions I've had, and from Thauphidian. It might not be entirely accurate, especially from Magentus's point of view, as I can only speak to what Viridia saw. Here is what I know, everything so it's simpler, not just the things about Magentus.

A mother dragon had three eggs, those of Midnight, Moon and Sun. From the day they were hatched, Midnight and Sun were both best friends and biggest rivals. Viridia, on the other hand, was quiet and hung back, more the observer rather than her more boisterous siblings. These three when they were older became the Guardians of the Shield of Puriel (its only form at that time), along with the Dragon known as Grandfather (his aspect was Fire). I am beginning to suspect, though Thauphidian has never said so, that Grandfather may have actually been their father, I have no clue as to their mother.

They guarded the Shield hidden in a bustling city on a lake. They all had followers there, and guarded the people and their city. They had an uncle, the dragon who would become the Shadow dragon, though he wasn't that at this point. I don't know what he was called before this, so I shall simply refer to him as such. The Shadow dragon was interested in Puriel. He tried to speak of the children about how it might be safer with him. The girls distrusted him, they knew that anyone who wanted the shield couldn't have good purpose with it, it was simply to be kept safe till it was actually needed to fight Void. Magentus listened to his uncle because he found him interesting, and the girls began to show concern he might be taking the Shadow dragons words to heart, they did not show to much concern though because they all trusted in Grandfather to protect them. However, at some point, Puriel disappeared. Cerulean blamed Magentus. She was outraged. She told Grandfather that Magentus had given Puriel to the Shadow dragon, and despite Magentus's adamant refusal, Grandfather believed her. It is at this point I believe Grandfather took off to try and get Puriel back, demanding the children stay put.



The row between Magentus and Cerulean continued. He couldn't believe that Cerulean wouldn't believe him and had harbored such a distrust of him all along. He was enraged. He turned his back on her, and flew off. It was the last thing Cerulean ever knew, as she turned to shout at him, the Shadow Dragon, apparently



watching the Chaos from somewhere hidden, swiped her throat with his claw, slitting it open and ending her life. Her blood spilled into the lake the cities banks rested upon and now is the Lake of Blood in the western dessert. I highly suspect the Cerebral Devourer Bastion that was discovered there is the remnants of the City they guarded.

Magentus didn't know that the Shadow Dragon had killed his sister, he simply took off in a blind fury at what he considered Cerulean's betrayal of him. Cerulean, likewise, thinks that Magentus left her to die, and left so that the Shadow dragon could kill her. They've both carried this hate and feeling of betrayal with them into their new forms. They STILL do not know the whole story. Only one person does, and that's Viridia.

The truth of the matter is, she was always the quiet and shy one. She often walked among the city in a human form, preferring to pretend she was a mortal and live a simple and quiet life. She wasn't loud and outgoing like her siblings, though she loved them dearly she could never stomach the competition they always seemed to have with each other - she loved them equally. And when Cerulean and Magentus got into their screaming match, she was too afraid to tell them the truth - that she had been the one to take the shield of Purial. She had hidden it because she was afraid Magentus was going to give it to the Shadow Dragon, and she couldn't bear the thought of them being so angry with her. She thought she could wait for it all to blow over and put it back. That didn't happen. As she watched, the screaming match occurred, she watched Grandfather leave, watched Magentus take off in a rage, and then saw her sister murdered. She knew that her uncle would destroy the city if he didn't get the Shield, and at this point she was the only Guardian left. She was never a fighter, she instead put Purial where the Shadow dragon could take it so that the City would be spared.

A small amount of time passes. Grandfather returns. He finds Cerulean slain and Veridiya missing. Magentus is gone. Grandfather jumps to conclusions. He uses some form of Dragon Magic to place Cerulean into the Sun Spike. Her spirit explains Magentus betrayed her and left her to be murdered. Grandfather seeks out Magentus, attacks him, and likewise places him into the Midnight Spike so he can suffer the same fate as his sister. When he gets back to the city, he finally finds Viridia sobbing and traumatized. Eventually, he gets the whole story from her, and takes pity realizing everyone has made some terrible mistakes. Unlike Magentus and Cerulean, he takes Viridia's spirit and places it into a mortal heart, binding her into the body of her best friend - a woman known as Celeste. There she will stay - Celeste will be immortal while Viridia's spirit slumbers. At least that was the plan.

Thauphidian comes into play, dabbling as he does. He too likes to play the mortal on occasion, and also likes to annoy Grandfather. He meets Celeste, thinks she's simply a dragon playing at mortal likes him, and begins to court her. He actually falls for her, and they get married, all the while Thauphidian still never actually says he's a dragon, he's simply "enjoying the game". Eventually they have a child, a daughter. On the night his child is born, something goes wrong. Thauphidian can't sense that Celeste is a dragon any longer, instead the infant is the dragon. He confronts Celeste and gets the truth, that Celeste was only harboring a dragon's spirit. Viridia in her slumber felt the child's heart as well, and fell in love with it, and passed on into the new body. So it's been ever since, Viridia passes along to each new daughter born, and honestly she was forgotten about in my family line, until I came into contact with Cerulean's blood and she began to awaken.

Grandfather believed, and told Viridia before her spirit went to sleep, that none of their spirits would find peace until everything was known and they could all forgive each other. None of them were ready at that time however, that's why Grandfather left them as they are - two swords and one heart. It's been centuries since that

occurred, and he was hoping that in that time they would all mature so that when they time came and they were reunited - that they would all see their own mistakes - see why what happened, happened, and be able to learn and forgive. I guess, we'll have to see.

One last thing to consider - as I mentioned before, the dragons all had followers. Of Ceruleans, Viridia's, and Grandfathers I know not, but I do know about Thauphidians and Magentus's. Thauphidian's followers became known as the Death Shamans (don't ask me why). Eventually they became twisted and instead of Chaos in the.. chaotic sense, they turned to Chaos in the Necromantic sense. Thauphidian has disavowed them, he hates Necromancy, but they still seek him out, I suspect hoping to turn him into a Draco-liche. Thauphidian recently sensed them once over the winter, but they disappeared from the Hollow again quickly and he hopes they were only passing through. He's still nervous about it however, because he fears if they sensed any of the other dragons, they may attempt to get a hold of us as their hosts to force Thauphidian to show himself, but he is hopeful they don't actually know of our existence though he advises caution.

Magentus's followers are much more dangerous to us directly. They are called the Attainted, after Magentus's betrayal. They think they can bring about their master by having him consume the spirit of his two sisters - and Thauphidian says this is actually true - whether he actually wishes to or not. He knows they've been on the hunt for the Sun Spike for years, but since it's in the hands of a highly guarded and powerful noble, and a highly resourceful and powerful liche in turns, they haven't been able to do anything about it. Thauphidian doubt's they know the truth about Viridia though they've been looking for her, though who knows what will happen when she wakes up more fully. I doubt they've bothered you at all to date, because there is nothing to be done with you until they can get either Viridia or Ceruleans spirits to Magentus, but be cautious - they are out there and more than likely are keeping a close eye on you. Thauphidian can tell you more about it directly.

For now, that's all that's coming to mind. I wouldn't leave this letter lying around of course, if it can be helped. If you have any questions let me know, and I'll try and answer as best I can.

~Keely

## Classifieds

**Contact Aidan of the Hollow Isle Bastion  
if you're looking for Alchemical elixirs  
or globes!**

**Discount rates for the Legion of the  
Vigil!**

**Your add could be here now! Contact  
your local Shiny Dreadfuls salesman for  
rates!**

*The End is coming; After-  
wards is Nothing*



*There are Those who can take  
us from this place.*

# Shiney Dreadfuls:



~Several junior earth casters in Finn Castle went missing a few weeks ago.

~The Sons of Thunder and the Daughters of the Storm have been turning away lucrative contracts, saying they are all but booked solid.

~Duke Southkin was seen outside of his golem for the first time in months at the Queens palace recently, he was reportedly there to sign an important document that the Queen herself had to witness.

~Paladin Crowe has been having trouble adjusting to his bond with the land, he's been rumored to have gone comatose without warning, waking minutes later looking shaken.

~Guildmistress Keely is having an affair with Jonathan the werewolf in which toes feature prominently.

~Justicar Bella is rumored to be smitten with the newest sky-captain of Aolia.

~Princess Ariel is pushing to be married by the end of the summer as fears she will never get the chance if not now.

~The Tattercloak was seen observing the cerebral devourers recently, his brow furrowed and a thoughtful look on his face.

~Numerous citizens of Stoneroost report hearing the Forge of Essences calling to them in their dreams.

~The Healer's Guild in the Sun's Forest bastion is actively recruiting, but many are finding the presence of the land bond uncomfortable.

~According to the resurrection story of a tortured spirit, Dr. Paolo Oscarot has caught the attention of a powerful Horror with his knowledge of humanoid anatomy.

~Many adventurers seem to owe debts to Void; debts which Void is starting to collect. Even if that means making those adventures into their own worst nightmares.

~The kin Kaftar is very interested in what people know about fighting vampires, and has a distinctly Kalcadian accent.