

Session/Game: 5 Hacks Deep #16

Date: January 17, 2021

Episode 16: Personal Business

Campaign Date: July 8-16, 1130 AD

Characters:

Tariq, Moorish, Venturer-3 (Quinton L)

Father Siegfried, Frankish, Senior Priest of Hill Camp, Cleric-2(Jason L.)

Angus McNasty, Reeve of Hill Camp Hundred, Scottish, Barbarian-3 (Bob L.)

Duda, English, Soldier-1 (Andrew S.)

Lady Osouf, Norman, knight-1 (Marlon K.)

--Plus guest appearances by many of the other characters.

Judge: Dave N.

LOG

Part One: The Hundred Moot of Hill Camp Hundred (Worm's Ferry, July 8th)

One of the duties of the Reeve of Hill Camp is to run the Hundred Moot in place of a Lord.

Angus called a moot for July 8th and settled several cases brought to his attention by Elder Worm of Worm's Ferry and Elder Moss of Shepherd's Hollow.

1—Chonk vs Chester Porkins: Chonk sued Chester for interference with his livelihood for carrying stuff for coins. Reeve Angus commented that Chonk has never carried anything for anyone and proposed charges be dismissed, to which the moot agreed.

2—Handsome Steve vs. Alistair: Steve accused Alistair of being behind the kidnapping of three of his children who were then handed over to Croktars last month. The freed children said that the masked kidnappers smelled like bog water and radishes, which is an apt description of Alistair. He denied the charges vehemently. Angus proposed delaying judgment until the next moot so that a complete investigation might be made. Father Siegfried proposed that Alistair swear on the bible to not flee the village and to return to face judgment. The moot agreed to both proposals.

3—Brian O'Turnips vs. Handsome Steve: Brian, the new turnip farmer in town, accused Handsome Steve of lewdly interfering with both his wife and his newly planted turnip field. He says that he witnessed both acts with his own eyes. Angus proposed, at the suggestion of the Elders, that Steve pay his wergild in compensation, however, the churls of the hundred rejected this solution. Angus then suggested that Steve hand over 2 barrels of unspoiled turnips to Brian as recompense. This passed the moot and was so ordered. Father Siegfried reminded them all that Steve was also accused of adultery. Angus suggested a period in the stocks, accompanied by turnip-pelting, to which the moot agreed.

4—Beverly vs. Miller: Goodman Beverly accused Miller of not handing over required payment for the farm he had sold him. Miller responded that he had 30 days under the law and it had only been 6. Beverly claimed that they had made a deal for immediate payment, making Miller an oath-breaker. After much wrangling, Angus and the moot decided that since there was no witness to the deal it was void and neither the farm nor the money would change hands.

5—Johnny Venice's Petition: Johnny Venice made an obliquely worded petition to the Reeve about what was to be done with the Atlantean Bricks received as tribute from the Dill gang. He implied that both Angus's men and his superiors might really be interested in a cut. Angus decided to keep all the profits "for increasing the defense of the village."

6—Chonk vs Moss: Chonk accused Elder Moss of cheating him out of a coin for carrying a basket of mushrooms. Moss replied that he simply asked Chonk to pass the mushrooms at dinner. Charges were dismissed.

7—Chonk vs Wulfric: Chonk accused Wulfric of Ascalon of breach of contract for not continuing to give him coin after their first meeting. Wulfric declared that he had no memory of ever meeting Chonk. Reeve Angus, weary of Chonkian shenanigans, order charges dismissed and that a good spanking be performed, to which Elder Worm eagerly complied.

Part Two: A night of spies (Worm's Ferry, July 9th, the early hours)

After the moot, market-fair and pleasant banquet, the various folk returned to their various homes. However, many of our heroes were disturbed by a series of comings and goings.

Raoul, working in his laboratory heard loud foot-steps outside. He leapt to the door to see Alessandro trying, badly, to sneak away. When questioned, Alessandro explained that he was going to pray. Raoul asked him to give his regards to Father Siegfried but Alessandro added that he was going to pray outside the church. Raoul bade him be on his way.

Lady Osouf was awakened by the sounds of slapping and muttering outside he window at the manor house. She saw a 4-fingered man talking to a man-creature with a tail beneath her window. She rushed over to Reeve Angus's room and alerted him. The two of them, and Osouf's retainer Bumpo armed and went outside. Angus tracked down and slew the tailed-creature, a Croktar spy. Lady Osouf and Bumpo caught the other, the notorious 4-Fingered Tom north of the manor, between Miller's and Beverly's places. She and Bumpo killed him after he was very low and disrespectful in his conversation.

Sean the Irish bastard was taking his evening salt-pork and biscuits when he noticed that the weevils in his biscuits weren't the normal biscuit-weevils, but rather some unknown weevil, smelling of EVIL. Put out, Sean headed over to the house of Wulfgang the Baker and roused him out of bed. He complained about the weevils and when he found that the ingredients were flour, radishes and bog water (Wulfgang is a terrible baker), he insisted on inspecting Wulfgang's flour shed. Inside was lurking another Croktar spy. Sean wounded it with his sword and Wulfgang wanged it over the head with his grandpa's flour-shovel as it attempted to flee. Sean used his healing kit to prevent the creature from dying of his wounds and they dragged it back to the manor.

Welshie was awakened by an awful racket from his dogs. He investigated and found half of them barking toward the East and the other half toward the south. Welshie examined the tracks and found some Croktar tracks heading East and human tracks heading South. He slipped into the darkness after the trail to the south. Detecting an ambush, he sneaked around and ambushed the ambushers, killing 2 cannibal spies waiting for him among the bushes. He returned to the village to consider things.

Meanwhile, over at the Dragon's Codpiece Trading Post, the stock "boy" Big Ox brought a piece a cloth he had found on the ground outside to Tariq. It was Tariq's intended, Isolde Beverly's, handkerchief. This filled Tariq with alarm since it indicated that she was nearby that very evening, but no sight of her could be made. Tariq found the trail of 4-5 men carrying Isolde and heading south, he tracked them past Welshie's and into the wilderness beyond. About 2 miles south he discovered a large cannibal encampment with over 50 men in it. He slipped back to the village to warn the Reeve.

Reeve Angus summoned his housecarls and they had meeting on what to do next. First, they questioned the Croktar prisoner that Sean and Wulfgang had taken. It revealed that the Croktars had come from far away to go to Deadman's Town to release their messiahs, Carzag and Morko. The Croktar leader, Sleestan, had made an alliance with the cannibal priest Chubert the Hungry, that they would destroy Worm's Ferry and proceed to Deadman's Town and release the imprisoned Atlantean servants of the Cannibal God.

Angus and his men realized that there were 2 camps, a Cannibal Camp, seen by Tariq, at Fence Hill, 2 miles south of Worm's Ferry and a Croktar Camp, somewhere yet unlocated near the river. They decided that they would call out 20 of the militia and crush the cannibals in the morning.

Part Three: The Battle of Fence Hill (2 miles south of Worm's Ferry, July 9th)

Fence Hill is a small flat hill with an Atlantean Obelisk on the top, the circumference of the hill top is surrounded by a low, stone farmer's fence. The hill is set in a large clear area, in which are an old barn and a ruined stone building. The entire area is surrounded by forest.

The cannibal leader, Chubert the Hungry had set his tent on the hill top and was protected by 6 of his best men as guards and 10 of the ordinary cannibals. A further 20 cannibals were roaming around the clearing below. A squad of 8 heavily armed mercenaries were encamped at the ruined stone building, guarding the supplies and the 2 wagons. No one seemed to come near the barn (which unknown to all the Reeve's men was filled with 20 imps under Chubert's command).

The battle commenced when the 20 militia burst from the trees from the north. They were arranged into 2 ranks: the first was 10 spearmen in a shield wall, the second were 10 men with hunting bows. On the first volley, the bowmen shot down 7 of the cannibal rabble in the clearing. This got the attention of the entire cannibal force who all arranged themselves to meet them. This action was in fact a clever ruse on Reeve Angus's part in order to distract the enemy while he, Tariq, Siegfried, Duda, and Lady Osouf could climb the hill behind Chubert's tent to come at him by surprise.

THE MILITIA ENTERS THE CLEARING



The mercenaries form up and attempt to come to grips with the militia, but are never able to make contact. Meanwhile, Tariq slips through the tent comes at Chubert the Hungry from behind and grievously wounds him. Lady Osouf then charges around the corner and cuts Chubert's head clean off. Angus and Duda rush in against the guards and kill several of them, the rest try to flee, but only one manages to escape.

The remaining rabble cannibals all rush the hill top. The mercenaries form up to do the same but are shot in the back by the militia bowmen and decide to withdraw from the battle, their paymaster dead. At first they attempt to go to the supply pile and take it with them, but after another two are killed by the militia arrows, the remaining sell-swords flee in panic.

The cannibal rabble prove themselves to be of sterner stuff. They swarm the heroes on the hill. They beat Lady Osouf and Duda into unconsciousness, and nearly do the same to Angus, Siegfried and Tariq. Angus indeed is knocked prone by the battering of their big clubs. Angus finally gets to his feet, rushes over and saves Father Siegfried from his foes. Siegfried then manages to get Duda and Osouf back into the fight by the blessings of the Lord. This turns the tide and our heroes kill or put to flight the remaining cannibals.

IN THE BRAWL: ON THE HILL TOP



When the battle is complete, the Reeve's men rescue 2 prisoners: Isolde, and Young McAlistair, the son of Alitstair the accused kidnapper. It is revealed that McAlistair was kidnapped as leverage by Four-Fingered Tom.

They paid each of the militia a 2gp bonus and handed them the 2 barrels of cheap beer and sent them home. After spending a couple hours healing up, they inserted an Atlantean orb into the obelisk. This released a demonic brass-horned ox creature which charged over to Chubert's corpse. Angus wounded it with Chubert's silver pitchfork and the rest finished off quickly with numerous blows. Tariq was torn up badly by the beast, but managed to limp away.

Part Four: The Shire Moot (Jorvikburg, July 16, 1130)

Earl Godric summoned a shire moot for the nobility to settle certain legal matters. Angus, Kildare and Siegfried were all summoned to give evidence, and many of the rest of the Reeve's men were summoned to perform their duty as guards for the great hall at Jorvikburg.

While many issues were settled outside of the Hill Campmen's ken, the first issue that involved them was the question of whether Lord Ulfwin or Reeve Angus has authority over Frogtown. Ulfwin disavowed any connection to Sir Clovis, whom he called an exiled heretic. But, he said he has claim to the village through his late great-uncle Feremond. Angus then claimed that Ulfwin was paying the cannibals' allied mercenaries, showing a captured coin purse to prove it. This Ulfwin rejected as no evidence at all, an accident or coincidence. Earl Godric proposed to the moot that the village belongs to Hill Camp Hundred (hence him). However, Bishop Osmund objected because of the mention of heretics resident in the village and demanded that the question be put off until the October 1 moot, in order to allow for an investigation. Since to vote against the bishop would be a vote in favor of heretics, his motion passes.

The second issue was who was to be senior priest of the Hill Camp Hundred, Kildare (the bishop's choice) or Siegfried (the Earls' choice). Siegfried made a clear and direct claim, and Kildare seemed to have an ambivalent attitude about the head position. The Earl was most insistent that his man Siegfried should have the job (although he started calling him Sigmund halfway through the case). Eventually, the moot sided with the Earl and Siegfried was confirmed.

The final issue was an accusation by Sheepy Tim the Weasel against Reeve Angus that he had received tribute from the Dill Gang and had not passed any along to his lord the Earl. This accusation was entirely true (and Johnny Venice was trying to warn him about it earlier), but the Earl was feeling generous. He just insisted on Angus giving him all the tribute and let it go at that.