

THE STARKPOOL REPORT

Issue #1, March 8, YN 1025.

"All the things that people are talking about"

ITEM 1: SINXTH ISSUES AN ULTIMATUM TO DORGSTYN

It has been widely propagated that the Earl Ronstudd of Sinxth has demanded satisfaction of the Dwarf-Lord Earl Rockhank of Dorgstyn as follows:

By the will of the heavens and the blood of the noble lineage of newly crowned Earl Ronstudd Sinxth, let it be proclaimed to the Starkpool reaches that the Holy Avenger "Kindness," rightful heirloom of House Sinxth, unlawfully hoarded by the dwarves of Dorgstyn, must be returned without delay. This sacred blade, wielded with valor by the earl's grandfather in defense of all free peoples, is no mere trinket for dwarven greed to clutch but a symbol of honor and divine justice. Failure to restore it to the Port of the Reach within the span of a fortnight will be deemed a declaration of contempt against the legacy of the Sinxth line and an affront to the gods themselves, inviting the wrath of both mortal steel and celestial judgment. Let the halls of Dorgstyn tremble under this warning, and may wisdom guide them to swift compliance.

Rumors have swarmed that the forces of Sinxth are already on the march headed for the mountains.

ITEM 2: BARON FANG OFFERS A BOUNTY

Baron Clyve Fangola IV, Imperial High Cleric of the Slaughter-King, has offered a reward of a magical axe or sword and 3000 gp for the recovery of the Hammer of the Slaughter King, thought to be left somewhere in ruins in the NW of Starkpool.

ITEM 3: LORN VS. BRANT: IT'S FARGIN' WAR!

Baron Humbert has issued the following declaration of war:

Whereas Baron Fiyero of Brant, that notorious nest of thieves, was seen spitting on our village of Spuddington on the second of March,

Whereas the next day a band of diminutive marauders, whether goblins, gnomes, hobbits or kobolds is unknown, let a rain of arrows fall on our peaceful village of Turnipville, killing and injuring many villagers,

It is my solemn duty to declare that a state of war exists between Lorn and Brant from this day hence.

Lord Humbert, Baron Lorn, March 5, 1025.

The baron offers as evidence, some papers left behind by the raiders.

The village west of here grows bold, thinking Lorn's knights can protect them from our reach. Tonight, you'll teach them the price of defiance. Strike after dusk. Break their wagons. Scatter their livestock. Set fire to their granaries. Break their wills and make them bleed so that they remember this lesson well. Pay or perish. Leave the message clear for all to see: Brant rules and Lorn drools. Return before dawn, and don't fail me. By my hand, Lieutenant Drevik

An anonymous source in Lorn has hinted that there is a possible alliance for Lorn against the Brant bandits in the works.

ITEM 4: EARL ROCKHANK AND BISHOP McSMASH RESPOND: CONCLAVE OF THE CHURCH OF LAW CALLED

A missive has arrived at every capital of the Reach from the Earl and the Bishop of Dorgstyn.

Let it be known that Earl Ronstudd of Sinxth is a liar and a villain. Dorgstyn has no sword as described by the boy Ronstudd, and has never had such a sword. We will defy his lackeys in any attempt to despoil our land and people. Yet, perhaps the lad has not wandered away from the Law and the rules of our King Baldwin and Holy Mother Church. So, Bishop McSmash is summoning his fellow bishops: Bishop Enzo of Sinxth, Princess Starbrite of Elfdeep, Bishop Trigerio of Harken, and Bishop Giles of Starkpool and Tunburg, to come to Dorgstyn Town for an official conclave to settle this dispute on March 15. I also call upon the Knights of Castle Harken to keep their oaths and ride to the defense of Dorgstyn during this invasion.

May the wisdom of the church and the gods inspire the holy bishops to settle this conflict as soon as possible!

ITEM #5 WEIRD CONSTRUCTION IN FANG

Rumors are reported that weird timber construction projects are being initiated at the gates of various settlements and strongholds across the Barony of Fang. Whatever these might be, it must be evil.

ITEM #6 STRANGE MIST OVER HARKEN AND BRAXX

Castle Harken and the Imperial Province of Braxx were shrouded in a strange mist for the last few days, making travel and communication impossible. Reports from Barlborg confirm that it was impossible to enter Braxx for some few days.

ITEM #7 QUEST OF MIGHTY FEASTING BY JARL INGVAR

Ingvar the Mountain, Jarl of Barlborg, held his annual Fest of Mightiness on March 1. At this feast, Ingvar and several of his henchmen swore an oath to go to the ruins of Smarshburg and explore and loot the remains. They left within 2 days, but no word has come back yet.