

Imperial Declarations

By: Commander Ito

People of Raskaz, on the next high holy day we will be visited by representatives of the Imperial Ministry of Finance. The purpose of their trip is to assess requests placed by myself to allocate additional resources, both human and material, to our region in the upcoming year. I trust that you will treat these individuals with kindness and respect, and that you will help them to have a safe, yet authentic, Raskaz experience.

May the blessings of the gods and the Ivory Dragon be upon you.

Tending Hearts

The High Holy Day of Zahar is upon us. The outside is cold with biting winds, and the dark comes early, as Darkfreeze adds to the dangers Raskaz already faces. Last gather we saw much success against the darkness that we face. It is important that we do not become complacent in the face of such actions, however.

Now more than ever we must stand against the darkness in our hearts. It is easy to fall into fighting amongst ourselves. Everyone carries such passion and warmth in their hearts - and this is what is needed to face our enemies, what is needed to move forward to not just victory of a grand scale but to bring safety, happiness, and joy to the small moments that keep us strong.

Trust your companions. Forgive your friends. The wounds of the heart is the injury that festers the most and is the source of the most difficult challenge that anyone faces. Tend to those wounds

with kind words, warm smiles, and remember to forgive you must also be able to forgive yourself and give apologies and thanks where it is due.

As always, be cautious when traveling around town. Especially with dark falling so early and the cold that settles over our valley. Feral attacks are still running higher than they were before the Sleeping Sickness, but they have decreased significantly, and when they do occur they are in much smaller groups. Wolves have been seen more often and local farmers are reporting livestock being slaughtered overnight.

With A Raised Glass, Ser Gloria

A Scaled Shield

By: Quillian Mier

When last we gathered the church of Solaron uncovered an ancient shield bearing golden scales. We had reason to believe that this item was of interest to the Kireyev, and Lady Kireyev's reaction to it in the field confirmed that suspicion. She seemed intent on taking it from us and will likely attempt the same in the future. You all should be aware therefore of one thing. The shield cannot be moved by those not initiated to Solaron, and any attempt to do so will result in immediate physical harm. I do not know a way to circumvent this defense, however our enemies will likely try to do just that. If the bearer of the shield should ever fall in your presence, I would ask that you defend that location until a Solaroni is able to come and move it.



Taking Matters Into Their Own Tiny Hands, or Just the Next Nuisance?

It has been several weeks since reports have been received of encounters with mutated goblins or the masked shaman that lead them. Thanks are surely owed to the constant vigilance of the Fujianese patrols who risk their lives daily at the very edge of our civilization. It is also likely not a coincidence that a new band of non-Zaharian goblins have arrived and taken up residence in the deep forest. Rumor has it the group is led by an unusually well-dressed and marginally more charismatic member of their kind. It doesn't appear that this new group has yet posed a threat to any gifted they've come across, but they're reported to be well armed and numbered in the dozens. It has been advised that you give the group a wide berth until their intentions have been ascertained.

Why are they here, and why now? Are they here to make amends for the chaos and destruction caused by their kin? Are they here simply to fill the empty hovels where other goblins once lived and bred, soon to be overcome by the corruption that has so easily tempted those that came before?

Report any suspicious activity or sightings to the nearest soldier or member of The Way.

Working Together

I would like to begin with thanking the town with the efforts made in defense of the local populace during the night of the burning blood. The Way appreciates the sacrifices that need to be made in these perilous times. A personal thanks must be given to the Marked Ones for assisting in the capture and subsequent trial conducted for the beast that ravaged the village a few months ago. The trial was swift and the execution handed out by the honorable Tonbo is commendable. As the days grow shorter more and more the creatures of the night will be lurking about. Keep safe Raskaz.

-The Way

Glory to Fujian:

Ask Father Utar

Can lizard men be made into vampires?

-Nervously Watching

Hello Nervous,
We do not know. But if you are watching someone who has been bitten, you can test in a number of ways if they are falling prey to the vampire curse. Try dousing them in Holy Water. If their skin burns on contact, then a silver stake to the heart is in order. If they do not react to Holy Water, try dragging them outside under the midday sun. If neither of these tests cause any harm, then you are probably in the clear.

Do marriage vows remain after someone loses a Gift? Or is the "death" we part at the next one to happen?

-Slipping the Leash

Dear Slipping,
While it is understood that purification means you have a new body and soul, it does not in fact free you from promises that were made. Someone who tries to leave an Oath just because they had a bit of bad luck is still an oathbreaker in my eyes. Now go back to your wife, Luka.



Tax Season

By: Karoshi Sado

Citizens of Sarov! A most exciting time for civil engagement is upon us, tax assessment. It has been decreed by the Imperial Ministry of Finance that the townships of the Sarov region of Fujian shall be assessed for incorporation into the larger imperial tax structure so that each may make the appropriate contributions to the common good of the empire.

"But I've never paid Imperial Taxes before!" you may be saying.

"What if I do it wrong?" Fear not citizen, this is only an assessment stage. Following this process each township will be assigned an amount to pay the following year based on their means. It is then up to each territory to organize the raising of funds as they see fit. This commonly takes the form of small payments at regular intervals, but flexibility is given to allow for unique situations. For example, some predominantly agricultural communities instead make windfall collections during harvest times, while some heavily industrialized areas handle collections with employers as proxy.

Town leaders should expect visits from ministry representatives over the course of the next half year. Expect them to assess natural resources, population, existing industry, and potential for expansion. Private citizens and the heads of citizen owned businesses should be prepared to aid town leadership in creating an accurate accounting.

Glory to the Ivory Dragon! May the Fujianese Empire stand ten thousand years!

Ask Father Utar

There have been quite a few of these bubbling green pools out in the forest recently. What should we do about them?

-Hugo Six-Toes

Dear Hugo,

Simply tell me where you have seen them, and I will go take care of it for you as quickly as I can. Such is the way of Faya.

In the meantime, keep your distance, and don't let anyone else get close to it.