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Inlyrico**

**Special Thanks**

**Staff Writers:**  
Cag of the Alved

**Copy Editor:**  
Zara of *The Tranquil*

**Attention All:**  
*The Garioch Gazette* is a  
independent newspaper,  
or “circular” dedicated to  
bringing news and  
information to the people  
of Fortune's Bend and  
Rues as a whole.

**Writers Wanted!**

# The Garioch Gazette

– *Bringing You All The News That's Fit To Print Since 1214* –

**Weather:** What's the difference?  
Vol. 3

Point is, it's too damn cold! Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>  
Issue 1

## Corruption Feared in Anbara



Remains of Lord Adad's Glassworks Factory

During an ongoing Imperial investigation of Lord Adad's Glasswork's last year the factory, as well as the owner – one Lord Adad of Anbara – were destroyed in a fire. However, reports indicate

that after Adad was killed that the factory was ransacked and all records, ledgers and documents belonging to Lord Adad were taken and the workers locked in the basement before the factory was set ablaze.

Adad has long been suspected to have used illegal slaves in his factory to manufacture and produce his glassworks. Imperial agents were contacted and asked to investigate the factory and determine the veracity of the claims of illegal slave labor, as well as who was purchasing the illegally manufactured goods.

Before the investigation could be concluded the factory was destroyed, as well as the records and information which could demonstrate who was acting as the middle-man for his allegedly illegally produced merchandise and who was supplying him with his work force. Currently all of the recently freed factory workers are being held in Imperial custody.

Sources have claimed that Adad did not formally use “Illegal Slave Labor” to operate his factory, but instead utilized a legal version of “indentured servitude” which allowed him to keep workers contained in the factory and under his complete control.

However, during a recent interview with reporters from *The Garioch Gazette* an anonymous source revealed that Adad had routinely ordered beatings and sometimes outright

torture of factory workers; brutal and excessive punishments for either indentured servants or a factory force. In addition to this, Imperial guardsmen were routinely seen patrolling the factory when it was currently under operations.

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### Forging New Friendships and Beginnings

At the last Gathering an individual named Arctos, a member of the Order of Flagellen, made an honorable and conciliatory gesture to a follower of Garioch to help ease any lingering tensions because a misunderstanding which occurred in the past between both himself and the citizen.

During evening meal Arctos made a general announcement to the entire town explaining the issue and then offered a public apology to the aggrieved party because of the unfortunate incident which had happened between them in the past.

Hoping for the chance for reconciliation Arctos presented the individual with a piece of artwork as a demonstration of his sincerity.

The artwork was an ancient ceramic pot, which Arctos personally fully repaired and restored to better symbolize the chance to shape new things, including both friendships and alliances, as well as the chance for creating a fresh start.

“As I have repaired this, I offer it as a symbol to demonstrate my desire to repair any misunderstandings and I hope that we can create new and lasting friendships for the future,” he said.

The gift was gratefully received and was in turn offered to the Reverend Mother Gralen Leatherby to be donated and kept at the local Temple of Garioch in *Fortune's Bend*.

“I sincerely appreciate this wonderful gesture and was deeply moved by it. The reason I donated it to the Church is because it is my hope that anyone who enters the Temple of the Shaper will see that wonderful gift and remember that no matter how grave a situation between two parties might seem that there is always the chance to forge something better if people are willing to try,” said the recipient of the gift.

### Innocent Citizens Held In Custody

- From "Corruption" Continued from Page 1

The anonymous source also stated that an elite guild of Bounty Hunters were used to track down escaped factory workers and may have also been used to capture or “recruit” for Adad’s work force.

- Story Continued on Page 2

the community of  
Rues as a whole.

To protect the safety of all staff members and sources, all submitted works shall be kept confidential unless the author wishes to have their name formally published.

All authors who wish to be recognized shall have their name noted in a byline above the appropriate article.

The Garioch Gazette exists to promote free thoughts, ideas and the exchange of said ideas and thoughts without any bias or prejudice.

All the information that is published in this circular conforms to *The Rules of Piety*.

*The chief publisher, scrivener and owner*

Further reports suggest that Adad's people may have used monies to bribe local officials to look the other way so that his project could continue. The investigation, conducted by Constable Primya Haasbet, was concluded in barely a week. However, as of now all evidence of impropriety has been destroyed with the factory, with the possible exception of living eyewitnesses who had been forced to work in the factory.

At the time of this publication all the remaining factory workers who served Adad are currently still being held in Imperial custody (formally classified as "quarantine") in Fort Jaspas.

If any of these workers had witnessed any impropriety between Adad's people and local officials then it is clear that keeping them isolated from the general public is a sure way to protect any guilty parties from being examined further.

If you wish to assist in any way be sure to contact your local Imperial Magistrate. Informants who wish to have their identity protected may feel free to contact *The Garioch Gazette* if they wish to help anonymously.

More about this story as details develop.

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## Letter from *The Editor*

Well, a new year is upon us and I don't know about you, but I'm eager to see what it brings. Visits from nobles, a masquerade and knowing that spring is coming and with it some bright and warm weather are all things that I'm sure everyone is looking forward to.

But with a new year comes new challenges and one of the biggest challenges we all face in life is knowing what to do when the unexpected problem comes before us.

In this case we've all heard the reports of the declaration of secession in Volbrecht which is headed up by the Brechtish warlord Weinart who has augmented his forces with various local bannerman and minor warlords who have claimed they are formally rejecting Imperial Rule.

Most people are probably outraged and shocked by Weinart's actions. After all; Ravvin's army is still a genuine threat to Rues and if that various leaders or our world aren't prepared to stand together as a team then it'll just be easier for Ravvin to defeat us. Meantime, nobody likes a traitor and fighting the Empire hardly seems like an idea anyone would or should support.

But the more I thought about it, the more I started to consider some of the more subtle issues, not the least is what I myself might do if I was I was forced to bend the knee.

Now don't mistake me, I'm not agreeing with Weinart's decision, but I think that this issue touches on something worth considering. Specifically, what is our duty when we see someone doing something we find to be personally offensive, distasteful and in some cases outright immoral or disgusting, even when what they're doing isn't formally hurting us? Do we choose to fight and condemn anything that we find to be "morally wrong" or do we try to accept each other and other people's differences even though we may not agree with those beliefs?

As of now Weinart is a rabble rouser who's encouraged bordering provinces in his nation to ignore Imperial rule and declare independence from the Empire. I don't know why he wants independence and personally I think it's foolish to turn his back on Imperial support when Ravvin is still out there, but for some reason his chief issue seems to be that he doesn't want to be part of the Empire anymore.

To me, this is where things start getting complicated.

After all, the man seems to want the freedom to live his life how he sees fit and if that means he no longer wants the support and friendship of the Empire, is it really our place to tell him he's wrong? Should he, a Purposed Being with his own Free Will and the Genesori given right to chose his own Fate, be required to remain under the rule of a foreign power – even if that power is an Emperor who is benign, just and supported by the Genesori? Do we have the right to tell him he cannot choose another path simply because we find oathbreaking contemptible?

Of course, Weinart's secession probably won't be as genteel or peaceful as a simple declaration to reject Imperial rule. More likely that this is only the beginning of some hard fighting with his newly created army; in which case I know I won't be the only one to try to stop him.

On the other hand, if his only crime turns out to be breaking an oath simply to encourage his people to turn aside from foreign leadership and look instead to "home rule" with Bretchtish people being ruled by Brechtish leaders; well, is that such a terrible ambition?

After all, when it comes to an individual's Divine Right to follow the Purpose that the Genesori gave them, even if that Purpose means that the individual ends up doing something that I personally find to be disgusting, unethical, or even blasphemous – well, just because I personally consider something bad doesn't always make it so.

In the end I think that no matter what happens with Weinart the Faithful can at least take away one idea from this entire situation: do I, an imperfect being filled with my own faults and errors like everyone else, have the right to determine without any possible doubt that someone else's choices, and not mine, are the ones that need to be judged negatively?

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# **Alved Bodies Being Used to Create Plague Purposed Race Close to Extinction in Underholme**

*Cag - "Speaker of Stone" is a Staff Writer for The Garioch Gazette*

## **An Appeal to All Alved, Citizens of *Fortune's Bend* and All of Rues**

The situation in the Underholme has become untenable. I have been informed that our people are close to extinction. There is hope, however, as it is apparent that we have been called to the surface to save our people from this extinction. There is a way we may be saved. If all communities are able to do so, I implore you to collect what you need and come to the surface. Gather in *Fortune's Bend*, and we will do what we can to place communities in areas of the surface where they can be safe and most easily assimilate.

I offer my services as a liaison with the surface community. I have been living on the surface for the past four to five years and am familiar with many of their customs and practices. The people here are eager to welcome you to our community and will do what they can to assist.

Our bodies are being used to create the plague in the Underholme. We cannot afford to lose any more of our people to this horrific threat. If we vacate we may be able to control the further spread of the undead. Please consider the offer the kind people of *Fortune's Bend* make to your community. It is my belief that this may be only a temporary measure, but we will see what the Will of the Genosori is in this matter after we are safe.

May They bless you and keep you in your travels. If you are having difficulty making it to the surface or to *Fortune's Bend*, please contact me there and we will be happy to assist in any way we can. Travel may be difficult, but we are informed that bringing with you any gems or precious metals you have access to will assist the surface people, and can be used in trade as needed.

With hope that you are well and able to make this journey, for the Genosori and our People.

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## **Otteril Clan Completes Quest with “The Songripper” Discovers Possible Link with Ancient City of Vahetesh**

During the last Gathering the Otteril clan was asked to join with a being named Terrance, sometimes referred to as “The Songripper” and help on a quest to find various pieces of information and decipher their somewhat confusing meaning.

During this quest they were able to discover various pieces of scattered text which referenced a being known as “The Tuneweaver” who gathered a host of “Bards” who sang mighty songs that inspired the citizens of the town who protected a “Pool of Fire”. However, before the song was finished the texts claim that the “Voice was ripped from the throats of the Bards...” and that “the music was unfinished; the song unheard and the last note untaught by The Weaver of Tunes.”

According to the texts, at the conclusion of this confrontation The Weaver of Tunes was dissuaded from continuing the song by a being known as “The Coward” who encouraged her to “Save those who wish to be saved.”

The sum total of the story outlined with the texts seems to be, at best, enigmatic and at worst an unfinished tale with little to no purpose. However, a close examination of historical records provide enough evidence to suggest that the piece is likely allegorical to the destruction of the city of Vahetesh. Furthermore, the allegory could be read as evidence which could provide useful information to confronting many of the troubles faced by the citizens of *Fortune’s Bend*.

First we must examine the parallels between this tale and the destruction of Vahetesh.

As everyone knows, Vahetesh was an ancient Al’tiesh city. However, perhaps its most important inhabitants were a woman named Tahin and her twin brother Arash; children to Yana and Graev.

Tahin and Arash were unique in that they were in fact Stars who had come to Rues in mortal form.

In the heavens there is a major constellation called “The Flame” which is made up of various stars which were conjoined under designated aspects that balanced with each other. These aspects included aspects which included The Campfire and The Open Grave; The Burning Inferno and The Abyss; The Hearth and The Precipice and lastly the Spark and the Void, who became Arash and Tahin respectively.

Each Star was considered “family” to the others in the Constellation; however, elements such as The Spark and The Void saw themselves as akin to Brother and Sister whereas they saw the other Stars in the Constellation as more akin to “cousins”.

Historic evidence suggests that during the last battle at Vahetesh Arash remained within the city limits to help the citizens exit the city through a Magical Gate which was known as “The Pool of Fire” (referenced in the texts found by the Otteril Clan). However, Tahin was not present during the attack.

Tahin was not present because she was leading an attack on a place called “The Gate of Moths” which was the location of Death. The decision to do battle with Death was inspired by the belief that if “Death was absent then no warrior would fall.” During this fight she was accompanied by a general named “Sarniak” and she herself was referred to as “The Voice”. The suggestion that Tahin would be called “The Voice” is certainly allegorical to the name “The Tuneweaver”; or a being that might use songs to fight with.

If we take the allegory further we may assume that the “bards” referenced in the text discovered by the Otteril were likely soldiers or warriors of Tahin’s army. Further speculation might suggest that Tahin gave power to her soldiers and that when she was absent (“The Voice was ripped from their throats”) that the warriors were not able to resist the darkness.

During the absence of Tahin and her army Arash and the city of Vahetesh were betrayed by an unnamed Council Member who took a good portion of the citizens through the Pool of Fire and collapsed the Gate after passing through, thereby trapping Arash and the remainder of the citizens behind to be overcome by the enemy.

While this concludes the allegory found by the Otters (specifically regarding the elements of the “Last Note Unfinished”) it is clear that there is more to the story.

When Tahin returned she found that only her brother Arash was alive. Angered by the actions of the traitorous Council Member she drew her Dagger and “tore a hole through the fabric of the Veil” and tried to pursue the Council Member to enact vengeance, but she left her dagger behind to hold the Veil open.

- *Story Continued on Page 6*

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# Mysteries of Vahetesh Explained Further

- *Otteril Quest Continued from Page 5*

During that moment Arash saw his sister’s dagger and drew it out and stabbed himself in the heart and thus fulfilled a prophecy which claimed that he would “die by his sister’s dagger”.

While these various elements are at least interesting, they certainly lead to many further questions and other possible speculations.

Tahin's dagger, if it was able to sunder the Veil, would allow anyone who possessed it to travel almost unobstructed without the need of a magical gate.

When Arash ended his life and his mortal body died then his spirit was allowed to return to the Cosmos. This would mean that his suicide had a Purpose; but it would also likely mean that the Star known as "The Spark" would have returned to the Cosmos when Arash died; though when the Star returns to wander Rues as a mortal it is likely that it was not shining in Constellation known as The Flame.

During the Gathering when Fortune's Bend was invaded by the Leviathan we discovered that this being came from a place called "The Shade" and was returned to The Shade by using powerful magic in the form of song. This entire action is consistent with the above tale in which "Creatures of Darkness" (allegorical to "The Shade") which attacked Vahetesh and were confronted and challenged by "The Tuneweaver" (or "Sirens" in this case) and used Songs or Incantations and return the beast to The Shade.

While all of the above information is no secret to those who are willing to read it (supplemented by mere speculation and guesswork) special appreciation should be given to the Otteril family for finding the texts during their time with Terrance "The Songripper" and inspiring this article.

As for discovering any further Songs/Incantations of power it would be wise to consider looking in the Great Library for supplemental details.

Further information might be discovered by using magical communication to speak to certain individuals who might possess unique knowledge on these subjects; such as the Siren Berryl (who was present when the creature called "The Leviathan" was defeated), the historian Evander Banrion (Ghostwalkers cannot die of old age), Tahin or Arash (they have been known to spend time with Death), a being that is extremely familiar with the Shade and possesses a strange or magical blade which allows them to travel through the Veil at will and is extremely powerful – though it should be noted it is possible that such a being may be Arash himself or traveling under an alias, and finally the being known as Terrance.

The next issue of *The Garioch Gazette* will include some additional information on this subject; including glyphs, symbols and names as well as translations and further sources cited.

Finally it should be added that although the facts are likely already known to many, the conclusions are mainly speculation and guesswork and it very possible that many of these speculations and conclusions may be incorrect.

### What Do You Think About Weinart's Secession from the Empire?



"The man chose to rebel. Perhaps he believes that if you do not wish to live on your knees then it is best to die on your feet?"

– Circe of the Ereskial

"So he doesn't want to be part of the Empire? Unless he's causing trouble for us personally I don't see how it's any of my business."

– John Dodger of Braeus

"Weinart turned his back on the Genesori who chose the the Emperor. To ignore the Genesori is blasphemy and must be stopped."

– Melesandra of Inlyrico

"The Brecht broke his oath to the Emperor. Therefore our duty is clear; the traitor must die. What else need be said?"

– Caius Pullo of Pyredom