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**Vlean Dispatches
Ambassador to the
Freelands**

Local News:

**Adventurers Warn of
Incoming Veilwalker Siege**

**Blight Alternative
Experiment a Success**



**Your Insight to
the Freelands**

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The End of the Pisceans' Civil War Future of Lake Pinedale Still Uncertain

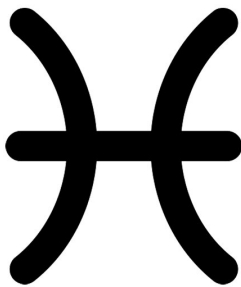
LAKE PINEDALE

Reports from sources monitoring the region of Lake Pinedale indicate that the civil war among the Pisceans has come to an end. However, the exact terms and implications of this action remains shrouded in uncertainty, as Draconic forces are still maintaining their military presence along the shoreline.

While the Draconic forces are not withdrawing from the area, observers confirm a significant shift in their operational strategy: the hard blockade that previously trapped all Pisceans within the lake has been partially lifted. According to reports, Pisceans who were confined to the water are now being permitted to exit, though the extent of their

freedom of movement is not yet known.

In a related development the god-beast Draconus has reportedly begun granting ordeals to the Pisceans, an intervention he had previously



withheld from this population during the conflict. Further complicating the situation are claims emerging from the newly-released Pisceans themselves- Pisces has reportedly issued a new directive, commanding her followers to actively

avoid infection by the Veilwalker curse. Previous information had suggested Pisces-aligned factions were actively hostile to efforts to contain the spread, going as far to help spread it themselves. This new intelligence suggests a cooperation between the dragons in the wider war against the Entity and its Veilwalker minions.

The cessation of the war is a major development for the Freelands, but the situation at Lake Pinedale remains complex and uncertain. With Draconic forces still in position and both dragons appearing to pivot their strategies, the future for the Pisceans and the health of the lake itself is unknown. *Special Investigative* will continue to monitor this story as it develops.

FREELANDS – Reports from adventurers in the Freelands indicate a potential non-violent method for de-escalating encounters with Fauna Elementals. One recent incident involved an elemental that was exhibiting aggressive behavior and reportedly "trying to eat people".

The creature's hostility was successfully calmed when it was offered food—



New Intelligence Reveals Veilwalker Nest Locations; Authorities Warn of Incoming Siege

MAPLEWOOD, FREELANDS – Recent encounters with the beings known as Veilwalkers have brought critical new knowledge regarding their operational patterns. Adventuring groups report that the entities appear to originate from underground caverns near Maplewood, and have been observed emerging directly from pools of standing water. Commander Tiny of Sable Company reported engaging with as many as eleven Veilwalkers that spawned from such a source, indicating a previously unknown method of rapid deployment.

Public caution is strongly advised, especially near puddles, wells, and other bodies of water, until it is known where

Traveler's Advisory Re: Fauna Elementals

specifically a sausage—which it consumed before departing the area peacefully.

This encounter suggests that some Fauna Elementals can be pacified through offerings and non-aggressive communication. While extreme caution is advised when encountering any elemental creature, travelers are encouraged to consider non-violent options before resorting to force.

and how these emergencies occur.

Furthermore, during the recent "Mass Mass Leylines" ritual the collective consciousness known as "the Entity," delivered a coherent message before being interrupted. Several individuals present for the broadcast reported hearing a unified voice state, "Our creator will join us, his suffering will end as all suffering must end." This is the first clear indication of the Entity's potential motives and hints at a higher power it may serve.



Most urgently, intelligence gathered by local adventurers suggests the Entity may be planning a large-scale, coordinated assault on Maplewood, projected to occur in November and December of this year. All citizens are urged to report

any unusual activity to the Constables and to ensure their homes and provisions are secured, and to not engage Veilwalkers unless armed with the blight resources needed to completely eradicate them.

Vleanoan Theocracy Dispatches

Official to Freelands, Seeks Census Data

An official from the Theocracy of Vlean, identifying themselves as Ambassador Andrea Sabini, has begun operations throughout the Freelands. His stated mission is twofold: to conduct a formal census of Vleanoan citizens and to support what he describes as efforts to "spread the good word of Vlean," a clear reference to the nation's state religion.

The appointment of a Vleanoan ambassador comes over a decade after Civen established its own Consul in the region, marking a second case of formalized national representation within our traditionally ungoverned territory. Vlean, known for its rigid theocratic structure and historic animosity toward Civen, appears unwilling to

allow its rival to be the sole major power with an official diplomatic presence.

"When nations like Vlean and Civen begin counting heads and establishing formal missions in a place defined by its lack of government, it shows a potential shift in the political landscape," commented a local political researcher. "These actions suggest the major powers may be starting to see the Freelands as a territory to be more heavily influenced, since they cannot control it directly."

Ambassador Sabini has begun the process of identifying and documenting citizens, though the long-term purpose of his mission remains unclear. He has put out a call for any Vleanoan nationals in the region wishing to assist in his efforts to make contact with his delegation by courier.

The sight can be a compelling one for a good-hearted adventurer: a lone, seemingly pathetic Ratfolk, begging for a scrap of food. The compassionate impulse is to help, but beware- seasoned travelers and adventurers give unanimous warnings against doing this. To "feed" a Ratfolk is not an act of charity, but a misunderstanding of their culture.

Born in enormous numbers into subterranean dens where food and comfort are scarce, their entire civilization is built upon a foundation of survival. This has created a culture where trust is non-existent and every interaction is a risk. An act of charity, therefore, is not seen as kindness and is instead interpreted in one of two ways. Either the giver is a fool, a target to be marked for future exploitation; or the food is a trap, the opening move in a game that must be countered. In neither scenario does the Skaven see the giver as a friend.

A single act of misplaced generosity can

A Warning Against Ratfolk Charitable Donations

have widespread consequences. A Ratfolk that finds an easy source of food will report back to its clan, and soon one desperate Ratfolk will become dozens, all viewing the adventurer's camp or the nearby town as a resource. This is before considering the dire risk of disease. With many Ratfolk being devout followers of Nox, they are known to be a major spreader of diseases and plagues. Inviting one closer with an offering of food is to invite the potential for an outbreak in the entire community.

While the impulse to help the needy is a noble one, the unique nature of Ratfolk culture means that the greatest kindness one can show them is to maintain a vigilant distance. The old wisdom remains the safest: never, under any circumstances, trust a Ratfolk.

Leylines Influx: An Experimental Approach to Combating Veilwalkers

The following is the abstract of the academic paper "Experimental Flux of Mass Leylines" submitted by Jace Flynn to Earthhold in Terra and Mage Hall in Civen. The experiment contained within proved a method for defeating the Veilwalker menace through a direct application of the leylines:

Abstract - Prior papers have established the ability to temporarily influence the flow of the leylines using the spell Leylines, allowing for a temporary influx of aether to a location. Further, these experiments established that similar, but lesser, effects could be achieved using spells like Dissipate or Banish. Based on this, a theory developed proposing that a ritual of greater power, such as Mass Leylines, might produce a greater effect. With this theory in mind, an experiment was crafted to combat the ongoing Veilwalker emergency in the Freelands.

The experiment detailed within was constructed to use the redirection of the leylines to overwhelm the Veilwalkers. One component of the experiment leverages the Veilwalker's use of the leylines as a method to empower themselves, using a series of Aberrant Shrines as a focal point. A supporting theorem being tested was the belief that a sudden influx of power on the leylines might overwhelm either the Veilwalkers or the Aberrant Shrine. To produce this influx, a set of 5 simultaneous Mass Leylines usages were arranged, attempting to simultaneously put to proof the theory that Mass Leylines would produce a greater effect in directing the flow of the lines. Overall, the experiment successfully proved portions of each theory, delivering an influx of power on the leylines such that all fully transformed Veilwalkers in the vicinity were fully eradicated.

Harmony's Hearth Potato Rolls

Yields: 12 Rolls

Ingredients:

- 1 large potato, peeled and diced
- 2 ¼ teaspoons of active dry yeast
- ½ cup warm water
- ½ cup reserved potato water, lukewarm
- ¼ cup melted butter or lard, plus more for brushing
- 3 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 ½ teaspoons salt

Instructions:

1. Boil the diced potato in a pot of water until very tender. Drain, reserving ½ cup of the potato water. Mash the potato until smooth and let it cool.
2. In a small bowl, dissolve the yeast in the ½ cup of warm water and let it sit

for 5 minutes until foamy.

3. In a large bowl, combine the cooled mashed potato, the reserved potato water, melted butter, and the yeast mixture.
4. In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, and salt. Gradually add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients, mixing until a soft dough forms.
5. Knead the dough on a lightly floured surface for 6-8 minutes, until smooth and elastic. Place it in a greased bowl, cover, and let it rise in a warm place for 1 hour, or until doubled in size.
6. Punch the dough down and divide it into 12 equal pieces. Shape each piece into a ball and place them on a greased baking sheet. Cover and let rise for another 30 minutes.
7. Preheat your oven to 375 degrees. Bake for 15-20 minutes, or until golden brown. Brush the tops with melted butter while still warm. Best served alongside a hearty stew or on their own.