

Excerpts from the Personal Journal of Magnus Cornario

The Seventeenth Day of June, in the Year of our Lord 1530

My house, Barony of Cornario

An eventful day. The manikin was again set to scribe another scroll of Freedom of Movement. Most of the rest of the day I spent studying an enchantment for use against the kraken. This spell calls forth a ray that saps the strength of whatever creature it strikes.

During the lunch hour I made two spells upon myself permanent. The first was the basic cantrip used for detecting mystical energies. The second was Orcvision, so I can now see in absolute darkness. I now have this strange urge to loot and pillage, though.

Note:

Be wary of the spell to make enchantments permanent. It seems to drain much more of the casters vital energies than does the ensorcelling of items.

Something I forgot to mention in yesterday's entry – a new guard sergeant for the library has been rotated in. Normally this would not be of much interest, but he is called "Jacaranda Pete" and has a wooden leg. He told me that the leg was made from wood of the jacaranda tree, which is how he got the name.

I have reread that last paragraph. It still isn't of much interest.

I questioned Caliban regarding the events that we think are going to happen on the night of the new moon, but he could not think of anything else.

We dined with Prince Roger at David's keep tonight. He had some news from the "Hapsburg Office of Mystical Development" that he we wished to share with us upon the state of the world. Key points:

- Many nobles have died since the return of magic to the world. His highness referred to this return as "The Opening."
- Many of these were killed by the new mystical denizens of their lands. Others were killed by terrified peasants. Some have simply disappeared.

- The various rulers have had hard time replacing the barons. They have had to look outside of the standard dynastic rules of inheritance to find barons capable of dealing with the new magical menaces.
- His highness recounted an anecdote about Count Hassar of Konigsburg who is offering human sacrifices to a "dragon " on his lands.
- The empire has given larger land grants to the Dwarves, Gnomes and Elves in order to help deal with the problem. Areas with the largest problems are Greece, Poland, Switzerland, Norway and the Netherlands.
- Italy, France and Spain are reacting negatively to the return of magic. The Grand Inquisitor of Span, Alonso Manrique de Lara, archbishop of Sevilla, is said to have ramped up his efforts to stamp out heresy. The church still does not officially recognize the existence of magic. There are rumors of witch burnings in England, but what else can one expect from such a backward, barbarous people. His Highness recommends that Christshon and Adam, as well as other more "exotic" people, stay out of the West for the time being.
- Prince Roger did have some good news. The Turk appears to be in disarray. He has ceased offensive actions in Austria. The Venetian fleet reports that the Ottomans have practically abandoned the Mediterranean. Prince Roger believes that Suleiman will be forced to retreat. I am not so sure – the current Sultan is well known to be cunning and adaptable. He is a most skilled general. I spoke to Caliban later and he said that while it is true that few of the Turks seemed to deal as well with magic as General Zon, Zon seemed to think quite favorably of the Sultan.

Also at the dinner was David's sister, Sarah. Apparently, she has been studying the art of magic item creation. No ability to cast spells, but quite skilled at the art of artifice. A charming woman, for a Jewess.

The Eighteenth Day of June, in the Year of our Lord 1530

Manikin created another scroll with the assistance of Haldar. I spent the day learning a spell to temporarily suppress the vital energies of a foe, enervating them.

Celeris reported back on the kraken. Its tentacles have been seen a couple of times, but it has never surfaced.

The Nineteenth Day of June, in the Year of our Lord 1530

Yet another scroll created by the wright. I learned a spell from Adam to that calls forth a vertiginous ray that makes the target suffer from extreme dizziness.

The Twentieth Day of June, in the Year of our Lord 1530

The last scroll before we face the giant enchanted squid on the morrow. I learned one last spell from Adam – yet another ray attack. This one causes exhaustion in the target.

The rest of the group went to Korinth to purchase a ship. They bought a beat up old keel boat for 950 gold (less than a third of the normal price). The seller assured them that it didn't look like much, but that the "Century Devil Ray" was actually a fine vessel. I saw it after they brought it through the canal into the Aegean. It looks like a piece of junk.

They hired a crew and captain for fifty gold. Expensive, but they did tell them that we would be hunting sea monsters.

I had Caliban surreptitiously look at the ship. It said that it would take some effort, but it could be made "as new."

The Twenty-First Day of June, in the Year of our Lord 1530

The battle with the Kraken was anticlimactic, as we defeated it handily. Christshon, Haldar and Jean-Claude were not with us, as they were busy making preparations to defend the bridges over the canal.

We left early in the morning, sailing the keelboat. Celeris informed us when it saw some tentacles break through the waves. David, Sigurd, Wulfgar and Caliph then split one of the potions that allow breathing underwater. David used the freedom of movement scrolls upon all of our party. He also provided us with several crystals that augment the wearers ability to swim, when they are attached to armor. He said that Sarah had made these.

We sailed the Devil Ray to the spot where Celeris saw the tentacles. The kraken obligingly wrapped its arms around our ship. David began a morale-boosting sea chantey. Sigurd threw his hammer at a tentacle, severing it. The hammer then returned to Sigurd's hand. Wulfgar went and severed another tentacle with his greatsword.

Caliph earned the title of "Krakensbane", though. He cast a spell which caused his hand to become covered with frost. Caliph then went and struck a tentacle with his hand. Little beads of ice appeared all over the kraken. The tentacles seemed to shiver for a moment and then relaxed completely. He had paralyzed the kraken.

We dove into the water after the sea monster. As it was helpless, completely unable to move while under the effects of Caliph's spell, it was easy prey for our warriors. We had the crew pull the body up on to the deck, as several of us planned to have calamari for dinner.

We discussed plans to rescue the kraken's prisoners. While we were doing so, I had an invisible Caliban make 2800 feet of 1" thick hemp rope, to assist us. We tied the anchor to the rope and rode it down to the sea floor.

There were thirty human prisoners as well as five of the lizard-men. Upon closer inspection, the lizard-men seemed to be about half-lizard/half-fish. They were bipedal, standing about six feet tall, with green scales like a lizard. The scales were darker on the back than on the front. They had webbed fingers and toes with fins on their arms, backs and head. Their heads were very lizard-like, but their mouths were filled with sharp fangs and the eyes were large and black. They did not blink. The fish-men had long, bent tails that ended in a curved fin.

The human prisoners were overjoyed to see us. We split a potion of water-breathing among them and had them swim up to the surface, following the rope tied to the anchor.

The fish-men were somewhat wary. David cast a spell of translation upon himself and talked with them for a good quarter-hour. At the end of the conversation, he handed one of them a Star of David. Afterwards he said that he was laying the groundwork for a trade agreement and that he had offered them the cave as a home.

In addition to the sunken keelboat on the beach, there was a tree trunk that had been sunk into the sand. An open chest that had gold and several items spilling out of it, was in the sand next to the tree trunk. It reminded me of an acquaintance at the university of Padua. He was studying marine life and was attempting to keep seawater fish alive in a glass box filled with water. He had put similar items in it for decoration. The fish still died, though.

We decided the keelboat was not worth salvaging, but the items in the chest were quite worthwhile. It contained:

- 6,000 gold pieces
- A short sword with a basic combat enchantment of the first magnitude.
- An enchanted brass telescope. The enchantments are virtually identical to the crystal lenses we found in the mirror lair beneath Kydonia.
- Five black pearls, whose value we estimate to be about 500 gold pieces each.
- Ten normal pearls. These were evaluated to be worth about 100 gold each.

We returned to the surface with our booty. We definitely made extra potions – there are four of the water breathing potions left over.

I spent some time harvesting the ink of the kraken as well as several other items that I thought might be useful. A great feast was laid on at David's keep – calamari being the main course.

Prince Rupert joined us for the feast. In addition to being fond of calamari (something I can't understand), he had news to impart. King Charles the First of Spain, a.k.a. Emperor Charles the Fifth of the Holy Roman Empire, etc., has been assassinated. Most of the Hapsburgs want Charles' brother Ferdinand to be crowned emperor. The papacy and the Spanish Hapsburgs wish for Charles' three-year old son Phillip to take the throne. The Prince says that this may be the beginning of the dissolution of the empire.

David has finally named his County. He is calling it Salem, after Jerusalem.

The Twenty-Second Day of June, in the Year of our Lord 1530

With the threat of the Kraken over, I set my dedicated wright to enchanting my rifle, which I have named "Argent", in honor of the silver bow of Apollo.

I also created a Hebrew printing press today for David, using a spell of fabrication. He told me that this is only the seventh such press in the world.

The Twenty-Third Day of June, in the Year of our Lord 1530

We now know who the mysterious "E" is. It is Euryale, sister of Stheno and Medusa.

David was woken this morning by several of the residents of the County seat – they were in a panic. Eight people had been turned into statues., including the guard on the printing press.

Each of the statues had the following note on it, printed in Hebrew (presumably using the new press) as well as hand-written in Greek:

"People of Salem – You have until the first light of the full moon to leave this land. You have been warned. – E"

Celeris questioned the various owls and other night birds in the area. They said that they had seen a woman flying about. She had appeared out of nowhere, flying, then she disappeared. Wulfgar found smallish footprints around the printing press. Based upon the size, the guess is that it was a woman who used the press.

Given the facts that:

- People were turned to stone
- A woman was seen flying around the area
- The footprints around the printing press are consistent with those of a woman
- Euryale was of the Gorgons and her visage would turn people to stone
- The notes were signed "E"

it is easy to deduce that this is Euryale, out to avenge her sister.

David asked Sarah to make some device or devices that would allow us to fight a medusa without being turned to stone. She came up with the idea of creating a crystal to bend one's

vision away from the face of the creature, while still being able to see the body. She said the crystal would have to be attached to a shield in order to work, just like my fire crystals are attached to weapons or the water movement crystals she created are attached to armor.

For those of us who do not use shields, Sarah suggested that we obtain dastanas, metal bracers of Ottoman origin, that the crystals can be attached to. Wulfgar went to Corinth and managed to purchase a masterwork dastana from an arms merchant. Per my request, he also purchased some raw mithral. I used a spell to enhance my smithing abilities and then used a fabricate spell to make a mithral copy of his dastana. Putting it on, in seemed to not even be there – certainly it had no effect upon my spell casting.

David wrote some mocking songs, insulting Euryale's courage, hoping to draw her out. I didn't pay much attention, but there was something to do with plants in the song.

The dedicated wright finished its enchantments upon Argent, my Dragon Rifle.

As this is the night of the new moon, we will be keeping a watch upon the bridges over the canal.

The Twenty-Fourth Day of June, in the Year of our Lord 1530

Nothing happened at the bridge. It is possible that the divination could be the night right after the full moon, as that is the night that Diana's standard begins to "fall."

Euryale struck again – she turned two men into plants, possibly as reaction to some of what David said in his song. The plants had a couple of the printed notes attached.

Haldar attempted to break the enchantment on the eight people turned to stone as well as the two plants. He was successful on one of the guard statues.

Sarah made another one of the vision crystals, this time for Wulfgar.

The Twenty-Fifth Day of June, in the Year of our Lord 1530

Sarah made another crystal.

We kept a watch out for Euryale. We did not see her, but Caliph spotted papers being dropped from the air. I had Celeris gather all of the papers together, before the local citizens could read them.

They were handwritten copies of a new message:

"Your baron can't protect you."

The Twenty-Sixth Day of June, in the Year of our Lord 1530

Guard Room Outside Printing Press, David's Keep

Other than the notes, nothing happened last night. Celeris, Sigurd and Caliph are keeping watch outside, searching the skies. Adam, Wulfgar and I are taking turns on watch in case the witch returns to use the printing press.

I had suggested that we booby-trap the printing press. It would have been easy enough to attach a few magic powder bombs that would detonate if it was used. However, David was adamant against it. For some reason, he doesn't like it when I blow things up. I just don't understand – I told him I would make him a new press.

Must be a Jewish thing.

Sarah made another crystal, this one for Sigurd.

The Twenty-Seventh Day of June, in the Year of our Lord 1530

My house, Barony of Cornario

Euryale struck again, making statues out of citizens in each of the baronies. Celeris questioned the owls and other nocturnal avians and we established the following timeline on the baronies struck:

- Christshon's Barony - 1:00 AM
- Jean-Claude 1:30 AM
- Haldar 2:00 AM
- Caliph 2:30 AM
- Adam 3:00 AM
- Wulfgar 3:30 AM
- Sigurd 4:00 AM
- Magnus 4:30 AM

My guess is that her starting and ending point were the same, either in my land or Christshon's.

Haldar cast a divination at my request:

- Question: "Where can we find Euryale?"
Answer: "When you share your own secrets, hers will be revealed."

We must have spent the half the day puzzling on this, David and I particularly, but could make no headway. To our knowledge, we have no great secrets.

I asked Caliban if he knew any of her habits from history, but he came up with nothing.

Another crystal by Sarah - this time for Adam.

The Twenty-Eighth Day of June, in the Year of our Lord 1530

We are closing in on her, I can feel it, although the price was high. Jacaranda Pete was murdered, beaten to death with his own peg leg. We assume that this was Euryale, although it seems a little different than her usual methodology.

We found the body of Jacaranda Pete outside the library. His peg leg was found next to him, covered with blood and marked up. Haldar cast a spell to speak to Pete's shade:

- Question: Who killed you?
Answer: My leg
- Question: Why did they kill you?
Answer: I heard a noise outside.

- Question: What is your secret?
Answer: None
- Question: Where is Euryale?
- Answer: I don't know.

Haldar also cast a general divination, asking for any advice to find Euryale or some such. The result of the divination:

"The answer is in the name."

We found a drop of Pete's blood in the library, despite no evidence that he was in there at all, so we decided to question my new librarian, Adelpia Laconia, to see if she saw anything. We also questioned Andrea Palladio, my new architect.

Neither knew anything, although David thought Adelpia was hiding something. Upon further question, she said that she was a worshipper of one of the "old gods" and that she thought that would have been forbidden. She claimed to be a dabbler in the arcane arts.

Adelpia's pet owl is her familiar. I attempted to have Celeris speak with the owl, but the owl didn't understand or pretended not to. Strange – Celeris can speak with all manners of fowl. It being a familiar should make no difference. I detected magic on the owl – it was under some sort of transmutation spell.

David was able to cast a spell of translation and converse with the owl. He said that it did not see anything. I do not trust it. My guess is that it is in league with Euryale.

David also had Adelpia's and Andrea's things searched, but found nothing remarkable.

After we were done with the interrogation and before tonight's vigil, I drew some very fine razor wire and set it at the height most likely to catch a flying creature. Invade my library – lose your head.

David set his own trap. He had Stheno's head dug up and mounted on a pike, daring Euryale to come and get it. We will be watching it tonight.

Sarah created her sixth and final crystal of bent vision.

The Twenty-Ninth Day of June, in the Year of our Lord 1530

I have been played for a fool. Adelp^hia Laconia is Euryale... and she has escaped us.

We were watching Stheno's head on the pole, when a flying, veiled woman appeared out of nowhere (some sort of dimensional transit spell). The woman grabbed the head and disappeared. Caliph tracked her for a while using a detect magic emanations spell, but she then disappeared from that.

In the morning, we found that Adelp^hia had left in the night, taking her things with her.

I found that the wires I had strung had cut somebody. Using the blood on the wires as well as the body of Stheno, I scried upon the head of Stheno. I saw Adelp^hia in a clearing along with the head.

Thinking back on it - Adelp^hia is Greek for "Beloved Sister."

I can't write anymore. I am too depressed.