

Black Glass Gazetteer

Bringing you the dirt, the gossip, the sensationalism, and the rough of Obsidian.

Today's News at Last Year's Prices! (Yes, still free!)

Issue 18, Festival of Renewal, 124 YE

Wanted: 2-headed snakes!

The Arcane & Chicanery Guild has expressed an interest in anything to do with two-headed snakes, especially statues found in the ruins of Obsidian. They will pay real gold for any such items: just take your findings up to the guild's shop.

Source: Arcane & Chicanery Guild.

Discount Weapons!

Korrigan's Firearms have a end-of-year sale on, for the next four days only! All dwarven firearms are a 10% off their normal price!



Source: some bearded dwarf

Dragon Hunters disappear!

No one has seen the mighty Dragon Hunters for several days; they were last seen drinking in the Seaview tavern, making a scene, and reliable witnesses said they were talking of heading into the forest in search of elven ruins! Good riddance to them!

Source: Ripper.

Circus of Dreams

Excitement reaches a peak as this year the fabulous Circus of Dreams has come to distant Obsidian to put on a show!

Only here for the four days of the festival, this reporter urge everyone to attend. It is a rare treat to see the shows and who knows when the circus will return this way?

Source: The Seeker.

HAPPY RE-BIRTHDAY

As we all know, the festival of Renewal is a time to renew vows, sign contracts, reflect and conjugate. It is also the day celebrated as being the Eternal Empress's day of re-birth, when her rule over the Empire is forced down our throats again! Happy Day!

Source: the government.

Lost: cat familiar

The hedge wizard "Ormir the Cruel" has lost his familiar, a spify cat called "Flounce". If seen, please report it to the Arcane & Chicanery Guild. A reward is offered!



Source: Ormir the Cruel.

A Plague of Tentacles!

How you seen them? The exploding heads? Which reveal a mass of rubbery tentacles that attack anyone in reach? If so, then you are not alone, as our intrepid reporter has discovered.

It started, as far as anyone is aware, with a bloody eyed fisherman stumbling into the rowdy *Fisherman's Friend*. Within moments the poor man's head exploded, showering a nearby group of looters and would-be adventurers in gore. From the remains of the unfortunate man's head a plethora of tentacles poured forth and the corpse stumbled as if animated, attacking the nearby patrons of that fine, fishy, tavern.

Luckily for all, those adventures were on hand to cleave the tentacles and pummel the corpse into submission; hooray for them.

But while it May well have been the first such occurrence, it wasn't the last.

A Plague Upon Obsidian!

Over the past couple of weeks more of these explosive encounters have occurred; exactly the same, heads shattering to reveal tentacles that attack, but the victims have come from all walks of life.

The butcher known locally as *Big Jim* died when serving up his famous lamb chops (despite having run out of lamb weeks ago); he'd been complain-

ing of a headache for some days, according to his widow. The poor man had exploded, the tentacles attacked, and it was only the quick reflexes of his assistant and his skill with a meat-cleaver, that saved the customers.

A wealthy merchant of House Kwin, know for his love of fine wine and finer women (halflings especially) was being seen by a cleric of Lucas for his aching head and nightmares (according to semi-reliable sources) but before any prayers were uttered, the man's head split and tentacles came out. The divine light of his god saved the cleric's life, but not before the merchant's wife had been strangled by the writhing appendages.

Six cases were reported by healers and clerics, whose patrons had been suffering from headaches, nightmares or insomnia, but no amount of curative salves or divine magic seemed to help; all six victims died and the tentacles quickly dealt with.

The Watchers Keep Watch!

The Alliance has issued a decree: anyone suffering from headaches, nightmares, insomnia, hallucinations involving tentacles or alien monsters, should seek out their nearest cleric or wizard and ask for their help: that helper should place the sufferer in quarantine until the Alliance can send someone to investigate; someone such as a patrol of Watchers who are more than likely to cart the victim away to the jails to keep an eye on them and see if their heads explode.

The Alliance is considering martial law until the source of this 'plague' is discovered and dealt with, but

until it becomes more widespread they remain reluctant to do so.

What Can You Do?

So, what can we poor citizens of Obsidian do to ward off this plague, and what do we do if we know of someone, or ourselves that suffer from headaches and the other symptoms?

Well, first off, **do not panic**. It doesn't help anyone. If you or someone you know is suffering, seek out a cleric and ask for their advice: don't ask a wizard, since they are generally less sympathetic, and do not seek out the Watchers as they are likely to throw you in jail and leave you there, even if it turns out you only have a cold.

If you see someone's head explode then keep clear; those tentacles are dangerous. Tell a patrol or a band of adventuring types and watch as they deal with it.

But best of all: stay indoors or go for a long trip in the wilderness, and hope the plague goes away!

Good luck!

— Black Glass Gazetteer Reporter "Seeker".

Known Symptoms of the Tentacle Plague:

- Headaches (constant)
- Nightmares or insomnia
- Blood leaking from the eyes, ears and/or nose
- Exploding head!
- Tentacles sprouting from remains of head.

