

Aegarius Times

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VALDARIN'S GATE

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New Lords Reign Over Valdarin's Gate

Late last year, the Lich Lord Vroktis was somehow released by the enigmatic beings known as the Shadow Fey, and with their help he has since claimed ownership of our fair town. It would seem that Valdarin's Gate (and our humble local paper) is under new management.

Early in October, several mischievous beings were seen roaming the streets bearing strange facial markings and black wings. At first they caused little harm, merely asking citizens for treats and stealing bits of food. But shortly after, a few of them strode boldly through town marking the buildings with an unknown symbol, which we now know is the glyph of the Shadow Court. Why they marked the buildings in this way is still unknown, but it soon became clear they were up to no good.

Out of the misty night strode the towering undead form of Lord Vroktis, his eyes blazing like fiery coals, unleashing his wrath upon anyone unfortunate enough to draw

his attention. After a short time he wandered off with his minions, apparently satisfied with just letting us know he's returned.

Any relief the citizens may have felt was short-lived, for in the Lich's wake came the Lords of the Shadow Fey. They loudly declared themselves the rulers of the town under Lord Vroktis, and harangued the citizens in the tavern for almost an hour. After humiliating the heroic orc known as Mugthar, they declared him their new Champion, then left as mysteriously as they came.

Now Valdarin's Gate is cut off from the rest of the world, surrounded by a large force of undead led by the Shadow Fey. We have no choice but to accept the fact that for better or worse, we are no longer under the rule and protection of King Teros Montell.

There hasn't been many raids from orcs or attacks from undead, and the town has been relatively safe since the occupation. So far the Shadow Fey have kept their word

that they aren't here to kill us or destroy the town, but how long that will last is anyone's guess.



New Library for Citizens

I have been "politely" ordered to announce that a new library is being prepared for the town's use. The library will be placed in one of the buildings in Lowtown, and is a generous gift from our new Lords, the Fey of the Court of Shadow.

The Marquis Nightwatch has declared that the library will be free for all officially-recognized citizens to use. Citizens in good standing will reap the benefits of the invaluable knowledge contained within, and the Marquis has assured me that many of his own personal tomes and scrolls of knowledge will be invested into the library.

All citizens are encouraged to donate any valuable information to the library, a voluntary action which will be enforced by the Shadow Guard. Citizens found withholding such information, whether in the form of books, scrolls, or any other such written words, will be fined and punished accordingly. Citizens have until the library has opened to donate willingly - after that the Shadow Guard will collect all such information by searching every building and person.

A Ward of Protection will be cast on the library to keep anyone from stealing or destroying any of the items and knowledge in the building. The Warlock Grimheed will cast this ritual when the time is right, and any citizens who wish to aid in the casting will be rewarded.

Citizenship Papers Required by Law

The following is a proclamation from the Shadow Fey Lords:

Let it be known that all residents of Valdarin's Gate must register with the Court of Shadow within one moon. Once registered, you will be an official citizen recognized by the new government of Valdarin's Gate. Those who fail to register will be severely fined and punished accordingly.

Those who register will receive citizenship papers that must be carried on your person at all times. If you lose your citizenship papers you must pay to receive new ones. Those who fail to produce these documents when asked for will be severely fined and punished accordingly.

Registered citizens will be under the protection of the Shadow Court and will enjoy all privileges granted to citizens, including, but not limited to: the right to hold office, the right to vote in elections, the right to fair trial, and the right to utilize official buildings such as the Library, Temple, Permanent Circles, and the Tavern. Unregistered citizens receive no rights.

Registered citizens will also receive a special Boon - a gift from the Shadow Fey that will provide them with protection.

Registration will take place in the Drunken Dragon on Friday the 25th of April at 10:00 in the evening.

Temple of Light to be Restored

As we all know, the Temple of Light was closed by the King's men due to various circumstances - I hear that one reason is that the town failed to pay its taxes. Since the Good King and his nobles are not to be found anywhere near this area these days, I suppose his ruling is a moot point.

So without further ado, the following is yet another proclamation from the Shadow Fey Lords:

Let it be known that the Temple of Light that was closed will be open again once more for all Loyal

Citizens to benefit from. All registered Citizens will be allowed entry, regardless of affiliation.

The Noble Fey Lords shall cast a Ward Ritual to protect the Temple and grant beneficial and restorative effects to those who pay respect to it.

This is a Glorious Gift from the Most Noble Court of Shadow to the Loyal Citizens of Valdarin's Gate.

Those who disrespect, vandalize, or disrupt other Citizens within the temple will be severely fined and punished accordingly.

Taxes!

I know this is everyone's favorite subject, so here's yet another proclamation from the Shadow Fey that I'm "encouraged" to post:

Let it be known that all Citizens of the Fey Province of Valdarin's Gate must pay taxes to the Most Noble Court of Shadow for Protection and Upkeep of Valdarin's Gate and its Territories.

Taxes will be collected once per Moon, and will be at the cost of 1 Silver Coin per Citizen. Failure to pay taxes when due will result in Harsh Punishment. Citizens must pay when asked by the Shadow Guard.

Citizen Elections to be Held

The Viscount Devos has announced that he will be overseeing the elections of citizens to several positions he named. I'm not sure how much sway and authority these positions will actually hold, but it's a start. This town, in my humble opinion, has been far too lawless and it's about time someone stepped in to restore order. Alas, with the new Fey Lords in town, I don't know how safe these positions are, but it seems that the Shadow Court is actually sanctioning these positions, so there's hope yet.

The positions Viscount Devos named are Justicar, Tax-Collector, Warmaster, and Courier. He also stated he will elect a personal guard. I'm sure more information on these positions will be made clear.

Last I heard the Viscount was screening applicants. According to what the Shadow Fey have stated, these applicants will step forward and be elected by official vote by

the citizens. I'm assuming anyone else may step forward or be named just prior to the elections, but details are slim.

I'm not sure if the Viscount intended on popular election, but the Fey have proclaimed that they support the Viscount as official liaison to the Court of Shadow. I think that means that the Viscount will be the Citizen Lord of Valdarin's Gate, and along with his elected officials, will be somewhat left to rule as they see fit. I'm sure the Fey will keep the last word, however.

They also already put Mugthar the Orc up as the Warmaster, but maybe they will allow this to be determined by a vote as well. I couldn't reach the Viscount for comment, but he can't be far. I doubt the Fey will allow him to leave the town even if he wanted to.

The elections will be held, as far as I can glean, on Saturday, April 26th in the afternoon. I'm sure it will be an event not to be missed.

Undead Activity

The undead activity has greatly increased over the last few months. There are reports from all over Valdarin's Gate and the surrounding lands of hordes of undead patrols led by mysterious fey guards. What's most unusual about this is that they are moving about during the day as well!

It seems that our beloved Valdarin's Gate is surrounded by the undead army of Lord Vroktis and cut off from the rest of the Kingdom. There has been no sightings of the King's army or his nobles, and we've received no word that any help is coming. Either the King's couriers are being killed or captured, or the Good King has left us to our uncertain fate.

The borders are closed off for the time being, and the Fey aren't allowing any traffic in or out of Valdarin's Gate, save for those few folks they deem trustworthy or essential.

What does seem clear is that for now at least, we must come to terms with our new leaders until we receive word from the King. Citizens seem anxious but uncertain how to handle things, but for the most part we all go about our lives.

The Drunken Dragon Tavern

Come to the Drunken Dragon for the Finest Ales and the most delicious food!

Open Daily from Morning til the wee hours! We serve fresh food throughout the day and evening, and our fine selection of ales is always available! Fair Prices! Huzzah!!

Located in the very heart of Valdarin's Gate, in-between Hightown and Lowtown!

