



HYPERBOREAN TIMES



Edition 3: Year Many + 1, summer

Cost: 1 goat or a barbarian slave

Peace Council suspended after assassination of Libentian delegate

As delegates from the great nations of Hyperborea gathered in Zawyet, in the shade of the great Pyramids of Dutret, hopes were high that the precocious boy-Pharaoh could achieve agreement on the pressing problems of the age.

Alas, the Council was marred from the beginning by controversy over the Kemet propagandists, who had been touring the continent encouraging nations against the alleged warmongering rulers. The Nirnyans had put down peasant protests with brutal force, the Libentinans fed protesters to the lions as a public entertainment, Sarissia issued free wine rations (and rumours of murders of Kemetian merchants abound) and Lamassu arrested the ringleaders of the protests, who have since disappeared. Perhaps in a sulk about this, the boy Pharaoh was absent for the first day of the Council.

When he finally arrived, he addressed the visiting diplomats, asking for their views on the great issues of the day, notably the invasions of the barbarians in the North (at which point the Finbroin delegate interrupted with a passionate plea for assistance against both the savage blond warriors from over the sea and the degenerate and corrupt Libentinans, who launched unprovoked attacks on the fair nation of bards that is Finbronia).

Unsurprisingly, this caused uproar as the Libentian delegate rose to dispute this claim. But before he could utter a word, a party of unknown men rushed to his side and stabbed him to death. The Libentian screamed "treachery..." before collapsing in a bloody heap. The assassins then cried "death is our only recourse" and dramatically cut their own throats.



Artists depiction of the brutal murder

The Kemetian Royal Guard intervened to protect their boy-Pharaoh and cleared the Assembly Hall. No further incidents were reported, but the Council was quickly postponed, several delegates leaving in disgust.

Hyperboran Times Reporter, Catus Adius, was on the spot and sent us this report and the following comment.

'A terrible day for peace. All are asking who could have committed this appalling act. There seem to be two major suspects, obviously we all feel that the most likely is the host nation of Kemet, who had every opportunity to perpetrate this deed. But there is also suspicion over the Finbroins, known hate and detest (with good reason) the rapacious Libentinans.

Is this the end of the Peace Council?

Does this mean war between Libentina and the murderer?'

The Hyperborean Times will bring you the latest news on this shocking story.

Battle of Annwyn

The Finbroins, under attack from Libentina and the Barbarians, have started to construct earthworks and defences to help defend. This prescience greatly helped when a raiding force of barbarians moved to attack the town of Annwyn.

Happily, a large force of Finbroins had been sent to garrison Annwyn and they confidently manned the fortifications against the hordes of screaming and stinking barbarian fanatics. There were no subtle tactics, just a headlong frontal attack by the 2000 or so invaders. Their ranks were depleted by bow fire, their charge disrupted by skillful skirmishing and then the survivors destroyed by a counter charge of the Finbroin warband.



A scene from the bloody conflict

It was a satisfying victory for the Finbroins, who suffered less than 5% casualties.

However, there may yet be an unhappy ending to the tale. Rumours of a huge barbarian force (up to 25 thousand) abound, they seem to be marching towards Annwyn.

And the Araxes King may have committed ritual suicide, as the barbarians overrun his territory. There seems to be no force able to stop this threat.

Diplomatic activity

Ikunum, veteran leader of the Lamassu, has been feasting and courting the rulers of Zabatus.

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Sarissia and Yuhan establish diplomatic and trading ties.

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Overtures from Ichthyophagus to Sarissia do not seem to have been confirmed.

News in brief

Kemetian traders have been attacked and murdered by angry crowds in Libentina, following 10 days of games and feeding finbroins to the lions.

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Lamassu finds major iron deposits

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Rumours of an abortive attack by Ichthyophagus on the neutral town of Coptos are confirmed by our HT reporters.

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Fishermen report intense and exciting operations and naval battles in the area of Ichthyophagus. Rumours of civil war are rife.

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Finbroin Admiral Cai is decorated for his valour against the Libentinans.

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The Finbroind have set up a Bards academy in Ysllwyth. This is attracting musicians from across the Continent.

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Trade in hot wine is established between Sarissia and Lamassu.

Strange but true

A Lamassu scientist has declared possible a chariot that moves without horses. Naturally enough he was scorned for his idiocy.

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An attempt to invite Finbroin scholars to the Sarissian School of Astrology has been rejected, the Finbroins announcing that stars are for twinkling, not studying.