

Report on Janon, its Cults and Associates

Prepared for the Assembly of Nine by Germano di Tassato

Cardinals and Imperatrix, we of the Silent Bell have completed a season's worth of investigation into cults, covens and other groups with a distinct connection to the Eternal known as **Janon**. Our findings are presented hereunder for your attention, and dissemination to any you think Vigilant.

Before proceeding, we would like to draw your attention to information that can easily be acted upon. We have identified a highly suspect coven of Imperial Orcs named the **Free-Beating Heart**, whose meeting-hall in the village of **Skenning, Southpine, Skarsind** is likely to be unoccupied for much of Friday evening. This represents an opportunity for you, or other Vigilant citizens, to investigate for yourselves, should the Sentinel Gate permit access. Further details are provided in a later section of this report.

On The Works of the Eternal Janon

As expounded by numerous Imperial scholars of the Realms, Janon is an Eternal of Night associated strongly with flame, passion and what perhaps is best described as *individual freedom* - that word evidently having rather suspicious connotations. It is perhaps more open about its intentions than most Eternals of Night, but still acts in measure to its epithet of the *Shadowed Fire*, and like all Eternals has goals often inscrutable to humans and orcs alike.

It is known to be connected to a number of groups and individuals across the Empire, appearing not infrequently as a patron to artists, lovers and any who make passion their life's work. Though it has, at times, venerated its work with the notion that it inspires humans and orcs to be passionate about the virtues of the Way, its disconnect with the Way is self-evident, and it should perhaps be implied that inspiring Virtue is merely an occasional side-effect of its attempts to inspire passion.

It will of course be known to the Assembly of Nine that the Empire constructed, through one of its Civilian Commissioners, a statue to Janon in the city of Temeschwar. The wisdom of such an act may surely be called into question, but it is not the focus of this report. In any case, there are many who claim contact with Janon within the city as a result - mostly painters and crafters, who strive to evoke passion in their art, although there are also ciccisbeo with a connection to Janon and its interest in the carnal passions.

Furthermore, reports suggest that in recent months, heralds and mortal agents of Janon have been identified working alongside, or at the very least supporting, many of the supporters of Yael of Highguard that have congregated in large numbers to hear her preach. Its agents are said to be praising those who speak and act passionately in favour of Yael, and spreading the notion that regardless of the Statements raised by their own National Assemblies, citizens should reach their own conclusions and trust their own instincts with regards to her teachings. It is left to the Assembly of Nine to best determine the implications of this meddling in what is distinctly a human affair.

On Potential Cults

It can be expected that there are no groups openly calling themselves cults to Janon - and the iniquity of idolators being what it is, those covens or societies with a deeper connection to it are less likely to show this in the open. Nevertheless, we have attempted to carry out the instructions of the Assembly as directed.

In the main, we have detected no clear Cults that worship the Eternal in question. Certainly there are many groups that mention its name - for instance, a massage parlour in Madruga named **The Dancing Flame**, whose proprietors have a recipe for spiced massage oil they claim was given to them by Janon. Similarly, there exists a group of Wintermarkers at **Hearth's Shadow Hall** in Hahnmark who are renowned for their passionate

oratory, particularly poems that incite each other to great deeds in line with their own skein - and they are known to invoke Janon's assistance in acting in line with their heart's desires. This skirts somewhat close to, but ultimately seems to fall short of, subsuming of human destiny to outside interference.

Thus do neither of these groups appear to tread the line into idolatry, although their close association with the Eternal could well be cause for concern.

On People of Note in Contact with Janon

We have been asked to identify any people of note that have contact with Janon. Unfortunately, this is something very difficult to determine - there exists no easy method to identify whether an individual has had contact with an Eternal without either of them admitting to such things (and we would not give much credence to any admissions made by that being anyhow).

Nevertheless, we have identified a few somewhat influential covens of Night that are known to have dealings with Janon. For one, there is the **Coven of Swirling Ash**, headed by **Ognjen Dobrona Radnich**, who are based out of Korotny in Karov - a group known for performing great Night rituals involving casting many items into a large bonfire. It is rumoured that each Autumn Equinox, they create a Flickering Flame covenstone, and commit it to the flames - and are said to receive a boon from Janon in return.

Further afield, there exists a coven operating out of a Striding known as **Ceri's Choice**, who have recently spent a great deal of their time in Liathaven. They are said to invoke Janon's assistance in bolstering their warriors to take the fight to the Jotun, granting them reserves of inner strength and willpower to strike daringly - and viciously - at their hated foes. It is implied that they create objects out of orichalcum to trade for these boons, and their chief Artisan, **Arianrhod Ceri's Choice**, is said to specialise in items made out of this material.

On an Opportunity for Further Investigation

In our investigations we have received information and potential avenues of investigation from many Virtuous citizens of the Empire. Of particular note is the information shared by one **Bloodcrow Wesk**, who detailed a coven of note within the newly-settled population of Skarsind, within the region of Southpine.

This coven, the **Free-Beating Heart**, is composed of orcish Night magicians who speak quite openly of the great value of freedom to the Imperial Orcs. They suggest that Imperial Orcs should take full advantage of their freedom under the Imperial Constitution; that now their chains have been broken, there exist no barriers to them seizing their own destiny and desires. Their impassioned speeches and choice of wording lead to the suspicion that they might rather be talking about Freedom in the sense of the False Virtue, something which we were specifically asked to be vigilant for - despite the clear inability of this coven to create auras using liao ceremonies.

This information has only come to light very recently - and as of yet we have not had the opportunity to investigate this coven further. We are reliably informed, however, that they meet regularly in a meeting-hall converted from a Wintermark structure, which is said to be their base of operations. We believe this to be known as Mistborn Hall in the village of Skenning, and the name of Janon has specifically been mentioned in relation to their activities, which appear to involve loud drumming through to the early hours of the morning.

Bloodcrow Wesk has indicated that the Hall is reliably empty on Friday evenings, when the members of the Free-Beating Heart go out drinking with each other at a nearby tavern. It is suggested that you, or those you trust, investigate the possibility of a conjunction through the Sentinel Gate by means of which trusted Imperial Citizens might gain access to the Hall and investigate the coven's affects for any evidence of Blasphemous or Idolatrous undertakings.