



*A Report from Jack Spears  
Head - The Iron Table -  
Acting Head - The Black Table -*



*To the Golden Table*

*Re - The Rescue of Edmond Lionsgold and his Fae, the recovery of Celyn Hall, The Accidental Tharinos which followed and the discovery of the true Nature of Olebid and his Ironmark with honourable mention to the Court of many tales.*

*As dictated to Hamish the Reluctant, Order of Thurid Queak.*

*I'll kick off this ramble by pointing out that I was only physically present at the start and very end of this affair. The minutia of what happened is going to be found in the reports of those that were present for the rest of it so let's hope they do some writing.*

*A few weeks ago, I wrote to you of the affair in which a boldness of folk swept their way into the glamour and wrested the Oaths of Edmond away from his tormentor. Here they spoke with a being that transcended the wickedness that they perceived and informed them of Celyn Hall and the hope that they might find there. If you want refreshing on that flick back through the reports because I am in no mood to repeat myself to extent here.*

*The Charter that was assembled by me was gathered aboard the Dirigic Vessel "The Protector" and briefed on what little we knew of the area. This boiled down to the basics that the Hall that they sought was at the edge of the Blackwood itself which had been Torakaylin stomping grounds back in the day and represented as a nest of villainy, at least in potential, if ever there was one.*

*However, the Hall itself reeked of Fae: I myself hail from that area and stories of the Hall are few because no-one goes there. No-one WANTS to go there, not because of stories but because of some inherent desire to stay clear no matter what reasons might present themselves to go. If that wasn't glamour, I thought to myself and may also have vocalised loudly to those that would listen, then I didn't know what was.*

*So in given fairness that was all that I could really brief my folk that travelled down, in old fleet parlance, to the surface which left them with little choice bar to investigate with all that they had at their disposal. I'll break this down for you as succinctly as I can by telling you the story of what they discovered post discovery rather than guiding you through, piecemeal, the facts as they surfaced. The details of what each individual did you can wring out of them.*

## **Kasamorya – A Dark Place**

One of the principles of the Charter's discoveries keys us to the fact that The Natherons (along with the Lionsgolds and the Torakaylins) entered into Oaths which tied their ancient, empowered blood to the direction of the civilisation that the Gillieabad had allowed them. That is to say that the way of the Earth Tribes was clearly over: The coming of the comet had altered the state of the world in ways that they were only just beginning to see and that had weakened them and taken their guardians down a new path.

They needed to allow and bless the concepts that their creations now had: Civilisation, cities, the growing of their own beliefs and direction. This certainly led to more danger for the Gillieabad in that they stepped away from their direct and more passive nurturing of the land and the spirits. However they have certainly stepped up to the challenge of fighting to protect the land, the world at every opportunity. The other two Houses' activities are well noted and it is clear that they used their Oaths to affect their destinies in ways that the Oaths were not intended.

The Natherons however were very different: Whilst they involved themselves in the business of civilisation, politics and posturing and became good at it; their commitment to their Oaths was their primary and the rest a secondary. The actions that they took were long term and directed toward a process of Gillieabad recuperation and to the purity of the Oaths. According to what was uncovered by the Charter, they became experts in the rituals of Hidden Things, obfuscation, growth and secrets. Alongside this they worked to become generically excellent Ritualists as well as politicians and manipulators of the threads of the fates of ages.

The Natherons became, without a doubt, the most powerful of the three houses. It turns out that Azilir became one of their primary projects: A hidden sanctuary of broken Gillieabad and depleted power and a place that spawned creatures such as the Cragier, which seems to be some long and unrelated tale, who the Natheron created to replace the Ibbikans. From what I can gather Azilir existed within a huge dark place until it outgrew its confines and slipped into the world.

This tremendously Wyld place appeared in 2010/2011 and piqued some interest but not enough that any proper investigation was warranted, I imagine we were busy with other more dynamic issues at the time.

Anyway. The Natheron formed a strong but secret family connection to most other families and operated a network of spies and operatives throughout the Courts, The Guilds and the Military which, I think, is news to most of us. This has allowed them to manipulate court, who is married to whom, which officers are loyal to them, control entire battalions, that sort of thing. They have also tried to keep the Oath lines out of the hands of those that would utilise them for their own desires. This included, for a very long time, the opposition of the line of Torakaylin although they were never sure what their true intentions were.

They allied strongly with the Fae, specifically the Banner House, Seelie and Unrelenting Courts that had strong connections to the Wyld and remembered the old tales of the Gillieabad. Together they created a Dark Place filled with Glamour and tale where Gillieabad could be taken to live among rescued Gillieabad trees, possess mythical beasts and be tended by stories of the Ibbikans This was Kasamorya where the alliance of mortality and fae stood against the terror of the Velvet Days (another long story) and where the old Oaths were prepared and also forgotten.

## **Kasamorya and the Velvet Days**

The Velvet Days seem to have been a fearsome time for both the Six Assembly of the Waking Kings (who seem to have been a term used, long ago, by the Fae for the alliance of the six Duchies) and the Dishevelled Courts of the Whispering Mists (a Fae Coalition of sorts it seems). They battled against the rising presence of the Unseelie Courts and Gloaming Powers. The Unseelie had come to the mortal realm intent on feeding on the stories of mortality and through the theft of the weakened Gillieabads power: Making their Eidelos the core of the three worlds: Those being Eidelos, Vaklam and The Shadowed Lands.

The main battle was for the control of the core principals of magical power upon which all other forms of power were based and found strength. That was, of course, Oath Magic made in the first days of the world between those that shared love, respect and compassion. It was something that the Fae could never have realistically obtained and the wars that they fought happened in vain and in ignorance. However, it led to the need to protect the validity of certain Oaths that the Natheron needed to keep intact and out of the hands of Fae before they gained too much strength that belonged to the world.

It is from this time that the Fae seem to have gained the ability to make those bloody irritating pacts. Although the story is garbled this also seems to have been the time of the emerald armour, the rise of cursing and the theft of gifts occurred: The making of the Masks is a mentioned thing. Anyways: The ability to pass on Oaths of power, as has been noted, could only be achieved by the writing of them as things of power. I'll explain as it was vaguely explained to me.

Many Oaths had to be rescued or recovered by Natheron family and their alliance and in their desperation, they created a way in which this might happen. The Natherons created a Dark Place, before they made Azilir, a prototype you might say which existed in the provinces of the Ferns in a place that is now called Jailors Arch. The land here is saturated with Oaths: Everything here ties into all the knowledge that we have ever discovered regarding the power of the Gillieabad and the Fae and the attempts by the Blackwoods on behalf of the Velvet Alliance to create a blending of the three Oaths and an empowered Gillieabad.

Looking at geography and topography: Celyn Hall is built in the very Northeastern point of the Fiefdom where it touches the Black Wood. It was built here around the bones of one of the last Gillieabad Trees to have survived the time of the Comet to hide it from the Fae. The Fiefdom sits across the water from the twin fiefs of King Sleep and Queens Gate which speak to the first Lady and Lord of the people of

the Chosen. The Water itself has had many names over the years, all are relevant: Third Crescent, Hollymere, Pumpkin Water, Congal Tarn and Claen. When the moon sits in the lake the water literally takes on mystical qualities and it is believed to be one of the most sacred places to the spirits by those in the know.

Hundreds, if not thousands, of rites have been dedicated here by the Natherons and others down throughout the centuries. The Lake is a sacred place to the Gillieabad and the spirits that can be found here are very specific: Congal Claen of course, Jakuta, Heidrun and Palagon are all very strong here. Between the King and the Queen and effectively their rise to power sits the Dukes Key, the embodiment of the Regent who guards the lands and the Oaths till all are one. At its back is the fiefdom of Master's Dawn which carries with it the fiefdom that is simply named Banner.

At its side is the fiefdom of copper which is known to be a hearth of the Copper Citadel and a factor of that ancient place. The whole stands in the Shadow of the Blackwood and the County that is known as Delvehome. There must be so much Oath magic and foreshadowing sunk into this area it must attract Bards left, right and centre. So they built the whole Dark Place as described and they put a lot of ritual into it to prevent people finding it easy to break in but they wanted to beef up security, so to speak. The Fae built a Hearth over the Dark Place and named it for, in their own words: The once and future High Kren - Celyn Hall.

Celyn Hall became many things during the years of its operation under the alliance of the Waking Kings, before they all went to sleep in the Hills near Koren: A War Room for their battles against the Unseelie and other enemies, A Feasting Hall for stories and celebration, A Court of the Alliance which became known as the Court of Unheard Tales, A Hall of Oaths and Promises where the Oaths of the fallen, the rising or the reaffirmed would be heard and written into the Weave and Glamour of the World by the rites of Gillieabad parchment and ink. Beyond the Hall was the entrance to the Great Black Wood of Story, not the real one but a reflection of the Black Wood that sits in the Ferns.

Each tree's reflection here was imbued with a tiny part of the essence of the Gillieabad tree around which the Hall was based. One or several Gilieabad could rest here, treating all the trees like a great herd to be possessed as one where they could heal. The reflections of the beasts that walked here, like ghosts in the Umbra, could be made as legend should the Weavers come forth and tell tales of legendary beasts that they resembled that the weave enhance and empower them. Then the Gillieabad could embody them and run with them, learning, and growing before they returned to the real world.

### **Some History of Kasamorya and Celyn Hall**

The story we were told focuses around Mazinar Oakheart who was the first of one of the intermarried lines mentioned in the Basanic Noble Lines Document. Their Father was Breakhand Natheron who was among the last of the long-lived Earth Tribe and Hashya who had no other name. They were blessed in Union by the Spirits and given Oakheart as their name and began that lineage with many children who spread their blood throughout the Six Duchies and beyond.

Mazinar was of the purest blood, and he too lived a long life spanning almost five hundred years, learning how to fulfill the Oath of the Natheron to the land and to the people that served it. Whilst he was still young the Fae came to the world, the ancient Fae, whose world was troubled at that time by the Nervish and the rise of the Courts: The Velvet Days were upon them. Through the last of these creatures, they came into contact with Lady Shadowsky of the newly forming Courts of Seelie Fae.

She had entered into an alliance with several other courts in a rebellious effort to oppose the rising power of the Gloamings and the Copper Citadel in accordance of the pacts with the House of the Moon. She told us that she is allied as follows: The Banner of Seven Stories - Banner House Fae of the Golden Cage, The Banner of Empty Hollows - Banner House Fae of the Golden Cage, The Long House of Cobwebbed Dreams - Seelie Court of the Twilight Branches, The Long House of Crow Filled Feasting Halls - Seelie Court of the Silvered Moonlight, The Long House of Forgotten Legacies - Seelie Court of the Broken Mirror, The Lock of Iron Waves - Ferrishyn Court of the Nine Long Ships and The Dreykon Wailing - Ancient Compaq of Lost repute

This alliance of Fae was destined to be the Library of the Lost, but the Gloamings destroyed much of the powerbase of each of the emerging factions forcing them into hiding. Their glamour was spent maintaining their anonymity which meant that their appearance lacked the usual Fae glory leading to them becoming Dishevelled Courts of the Whispering Mists. Towards what should have been the end of them they attacked the Gloamings in the mortal world as they attempted to steal the power of early Oaths and pacts but were rescued by a contingent of forces led by Mazinar Oakheart.

The Oakheart family had felt, rather than encountered, the arrival of Gloaming powers in the land that they controlled: That land now being the areas of the Ferns in which this story is set. Their observations led them to witness early alliances between the Torakaylin and the Fae Houses and that their intention was to strip power and intention from the Gillieabad. Initially they operated against them by severing the links that the Arches and Rings used by the Fae had to this world. This made the Fae's ability to come to Vaklam limited but the Oakheart and their supporting allies did not understand the strength of the Glamour that was to come and the Fae reestablished themselves and brought with them nightmares with which to attack their foes.

The distant Oakhearts soon found their members attacked in their dreams by Redcaps, Sluagh and worse. Some began to lose their lives and the decision was made to physically act against the alliance that was growing in the woods surrounding the Sacred Blackwood. The Unseelie and Torakalyin alliance had begun work there to attack the sacred tree and draw life and power from it which I suspect is the power that would one day manifest as the Torakaylin/Gloaming Blackwood Ritualists that used all that Backbiter stuff if you remember those days. Anyways.

They managed to steal a bunch of power from the Blackwood, a limb here, a sliver of the essence of a Gillieabad there and the Oakhearts were moved into aggressive action against them. But it's never that easy: The Torakaylins were a big family and in with the Lionsgolds at the time, they had the whole burgeoning religion thing going on and the Oakhearts were small, the Natherons had vanished off the

map and everyone thought that Wyld magic was some hokey, backwards religion. Still, they had to try and so they did but.... Meanwhile in the Background the Lady Shadowsky and her band of intrepids were trying the same thing from the other end.

From their point of view the Gloamings were being fed power by their human allies and that power was strangling the power out of the Glamour and subjugating the Fae. The pacts and stories of the houses were being undermined by their actions and that had to be stopped. No matter the cost. So, they followed the Gloamings through the Blackwood arch one day and engaged their enemy in the mortal realm. The battle of the Blackwood threatened to be brief as the Red Caps and Satyrs of the Gloaming houses threatened to overwhelm their foes but then the Oakhearts arrived and called out the Gillieabad. They turned Unseelie bones to salt, trapped their feet in giant shoes of iron and filled their blood with sand.

The Torakaylins retaliated with magic of the soul, but the Dishevelled Fae saw to them and in the end the battle could be seen as a draw with both sides fleeing battle considering that they had each lost far too many people that day. With no way home, the Dishevelled Fae followed the Oakhearts back to their halls and both had a long chat about who they were and what was going on on either side of the fence. And so, long story short (which I understand it hasn't felt like so far): They became allies, friends and family and swore, at this time, to protect the common goals that they had.

Loosely put: Protect the Oaths that bound the sanctity of the Gillieabad and their protectors to the land, a group dedicated to repairing the damage that had happened to the Glamour by the Gloamings. The fulfillment of the Oaths of the three families and their awakening at a time when they are needed the most. This group that formed up should probably receive a brief explanation as it goes a long way to explaining what was happening when the Charter arrived at the Hall:

Mazinar Oakheart - A serious and dedicated ritualist who had time enough in his life to dedicate to the betterment of those around him. Lady Shadowsky - A Fae who was impassioned by her cause and the loved by those that followed her. She cuts a devastated figure of what could have been in Eidelos. These two marry and create an early union of the Fae and mortals and is a source of the remnant that fluctuates through the Natheron line to this day, it is from their love and passions that the glamour of beings such as Clewyn are born and given cadency.

Hitchin Grost - Senschal to Mazinar Oakheart and worthy recorder of histories, friend to the Fae and a warrior true and bold. Mara Kilain - A ritualist from the North, she was a prisoner of the Torakaylins and rescued at the Battle of the Blackwood. Guilt ridden for the secrets that she had told them under torture and determined to rectify the problem. Ulmak Vermillion of the Natheron line and speaker to the spirits who whispered to the Gillieabad and gave them voice when none could hear.

Fearblade of the Banner of Seven Stories - Warrior and leader of this Banner sworn to keep the Seven Stories alive and de facto leader of the Golden Cage Fae. Lord Marrowflax of Wearied Vagaries - Orator and politician of the Long House of Cobwebbed Dreams and defacto Leader of the Seelie Courts. Onearius (Won Air E Us) - Ritualist and Embodier of the Ferrisyn Courts and speaker for the Dreykon Wailing.

So, this group get together and the Fae create Celyn Hall whilst the Oakhearts create the Dark place that. It turns out that Celyn Hall is a physical location that exists in two ways: A ruined Hall that is explorable by people although there is little to it and once you have looked your curiosity of the building is forever and magically satiated AND: A Seelieesque Long Hall that exists as a Freehold with a Hearth which leads to the Longhall of The Broken Mirror and also out into the Dark Place of the Oakhearts. The Long Hall can only be reached by passing through the Unrelenting Portico which is basically what the Charter did on the first evening once they had worked out the trick to it.

The Oakheart Dark place is a small section of grassland and a short, wooded area that contains several trees imbued with the power of the Blackwood Gillieabad tree. Over the years many Gillieabad are summoned here and given the power to live and inhabit among the trees and beasts that are provided. These trees are weak because they are all the same Blackwood stretched thin by Ritual and the beasts do not last long because they are normal beasts given pseudo Ghurrahl form by enhanced glamour and story. Many Gillieabad ended up having strong ties to this location and were called here on many occasions as the alliance learned of fettering and what was happening to them properly. The group managed such miracles as taking the names of the Gillieabad, their purposes and storing them in the Hall on Oath paper. Which is something that the Charter picked up on and something that we now have access too.

This concept means, I think, that this excess corruption can be stored elsewhere but it is not a perfect method. Those bindings and fetterings still exist somewhere and anything could happen to them if they are taken and hidden away. Over the years the Blackwoods, the Torakaylins and the Gloamings went to War on what they refer to as the Court of Unheard Stories and diminished their power, killing many of their members. The resilience of the Court, however, meant that progress was slow and destroying them proved to be next to impossible as they were hidden away within Celyn Hall for much of the time.

However, this was to be their undoing: Over long years the Torakaylins et al prepared a trap that hinged around the kidnapping of Ulmak Vermillion who was taken and forced into servitude to the Torakaylin via their heretical magics. Entering the Court, he tricked the rest into leaving and entering the mortal world, the Torakaylin did not intend to fight them when they entered the world so afeared were they of the power that they had amassed and instead they prepared their own glamour, a twisted Unseelie Nightmare that extended around the Hall

The Court of Unheard Stories was swallowed up into this horror and vanished from the world, presumably they are still recoverable. This left Ulmak Vermillion alone in the Hall and ready to allow his enemies entry into the place that they had hidden from them for so long. With all his might he tried to resist the will of his enemy and as he stumbled toward the Portico, he mumbled words of a great Rite calling to all those spirits that had taken refuge and recovered in their Dark Place. To them he offered himself: A form that would act as host for but a moment but give safety to this place for all time.

This is probably a lot more dramatic than I have time to indicate here but they come, and they possess him for but a moment and he is destroyed as a physical being utterly. So, he doesn't let the foes in and everything seems lost for them on that front but they have overcome their foe and locked them away elsewhere to be forgotten about so it's not terrible for the Torakaylins and Gloamings. However, from the dead form of Ulmak Vermillion comes an extension of his will and his regret: In order to protect the place and keep it running without actual ritualists and Fae on site AND with such a good offering (him) to the Gillieabad a powerful rite completes sort of to his specifications.

Felakiq and Galafeli spring into existence along with one Myrrigun and take over the running of the Hall. However, in all ways they try to emulate the being of those that lived in the court so you have Felakiq being the Oakhearts and Galafeli being the Fae which sounds a bit surreal but it has Fae in it so I will let that slide. The Myrrigun itself is a reflection of Ulmak Vermillion and is filled with remorse and regret and that is how the Mighty Hall of Celyn rose and fell.

### **The coming of the Iron Mark**

We have learned a fair amount about the Ironmark although we still aren't clear on what it wants or what its plan is. However, it is clear that in order to achieve much of what it wants to do the Iron Mark needs to dabble in Oaths in order to give credence to the Court of Stolen Tales. However, its ability with Oath Magic seems basically non-existent and this fact in itself gives us thought that perhaps it, if it is some kind of Mark, it could be extracted and written on Oath Paper but I think that it is probably beyond this as a concept. Regardless of concepts:

The Ironmark travelled here some years ago seeking direct answers but found itself almost overwhelmed by the power and majesty of the Gillieabad. Given what the charters reported I would say that the following things are true: When the Torakaylins and the Gloamings overwhelmed Kasamorya a Gillieabad had entered the Dark Place to be healed of the corruption and its fettering. The Gillieabad in question was called Skudasa and was known as the Gillieabad of voices on the wind, contrary whimsy, sternness, and the wellbeing of security. It stood under the auspice of Quinrath and was close to being free when the Iron Mark turned up.

There was a mighty battle but the Gillieabad, well there are few things as powerful as a Gillieabad, especially one that was plugged in like Skudasa was. The Iron Mark established itself in the Halls but could find no way to breach the gardens and permanently take the power of the Dark Place from Skudasa. However, it certainly made its impact on the Galafeli and the Felakiq of the court as it strip mined them for any and all information that it could manage regarding the movement of Oaths and Oath Paper etc. What it left behind when it went was a garden full of monsters and toxins, an environment that it hoped would kill the Gillieabad and would definitely kill other things that were made by them.

The minions of the hall became twisted, wicked, things that tried to trick folk into the gardens where they would be consumed by the strange Myrrigun that dwelled out there. Many of the secrets of the

Hall were locked away, probably whilst the Iron Mark was trying to break into the hall and were not found by it. Eventually it left with some information, most of which we don't know but specifically the knowledge of how to transfer Oaths although I am not sure that it got Oath paper and ink because that would need to be a thing that it got from the garden and it does not look like it got out there.

Skudasa was exhausted by its battle and fell into a slumber, unable to sustain itself properly in the terrifying atmosphere that had been created. It could be awoken if it is given strength through ritual or prayer or anything really. The Myrigun that is Ulmak Vermillion had become some slavering beast that roams the grounds and murders things out there. It laired in the burial grounds of the Ghurahl feeding on the marrow of their bones to such an extent that there are very few bones left. The Felakiq and the Galafeli have mostly been corrupted and turned into something heretical and nasty, but they can be easily dealt with by people. At least one was overlooked and was the butt of the other's attentions.

This leads us to one final question: How do I know all this? The Charter spent the evening among the Felakiq and Galafeli that were forced to masquerade as the people of the Hall. They experienced many bizarre things and were even turned to wood and metal and slumbered in such a form overnight. However, they also freed the spirits and learned what has been spoken of above and more than that they recovered the Gillieabad Skudasa but this brought consequences unexpected in nature. The Iron Mark returned to hall and stole away the remnant of Vermillion that existed there and fled to the only place that it could find to sustain the power of the Glamour: Tharinos.

