

IF ANYONE OTHER THEN KING NIBBLES READS THIS, I WILL PERSONALLY SEE THAT YOUR SOUL IS BOUND TO A PICKAXE.

THE ORDER OF THE TWISTED TONGUE HAS BEGUN TO SEND OUR RATTY MINIONS INTO NEARBY LANDS. WE'VE GOTTEN THE SPELL-TOUCHED RATS TO MOST OF OUR NEIGHBORS, AND ARE BEGINNING PRELIMINARY SURVEILLANCE (THAT MEANS WE'RE STARTING TO LOOK).

OUR RATS HAVE SPREAD TO THE KEITAN LEAGUE, THE QUOTIDIAN QUORUM, THE TAUHAN EMPIRE, AND THE SEBERIAN EMPIRE.

OUR RATS ARE STILL BEGINNING TO PROPERLY INFEST THE SHIPS AND HULKS OF THE KEITAN LEAGUE, SO WE DO NOT HAVE MUCH INFORMATION FROM THERE YET. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THEY HAVE THREE MAIN FLEETS: ONE FOR RAIDING, ONE FOR FISHING, AND ONE FOR TRADING. THE RAIDING FLEET HAS BEEN CIRCLING, AND HAS TAKEN SOME OF OUR SURFACE SETTLEMENTS ALREADY, WHILE THE TRADING FLEET IS EXPLORING AND BEGINNING TO TRY AND UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON. IN ADDITION: IT SEEMS THAT THE KEITANS UTILIZE SOMETHING CALLED "MIND BINDING" ON SOME OF THEIR OWN CITIZENS TO ENSURE PERFECT UNQUESTIONING OBEDIENCE. I AM SENDING RATS IN TO SEE IF WE CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW TO DO THAT TO OUR OWN PEOPLE (IT WOULD FIX A LOT OF HEADACHES AND I COULD STOP HAVING TO WATCH MY BACK QUITE AS MUCH, WHICH WOULD BE NICE. THE EXTRA EYE I GRAFTED ONTO THE BACK OF MY HEAD GETS TIRED).

THE LEADER OF THE TRADING FLEET (AKIRA SHIMOYAMA) IS A STRANGE INDIVIDUAL, SUPPOSEDLY FROM SOME FAR OFF OTHER WORLD. THEY SPEAK A LANGUAGE NO ONE ELSE KNOWS, DRESS STRANGELY, AND OFTEN TALK OF THIS 'JAPAN' THEY ARE FROM. OUR RATS ARE LOOKING FOR JAPAN AS WE SPEAK.

THE SEBERIAN NATION IS PERHAPS OUR MOST DANGEROUS ENEMY. THOUGH THE KEITAN LEAGUE HAS MASSIVE BEASTS, MOST OF ITS MIGHT IS SEA BORNE. THE SEBERIANS HOWEVER, HAVE A LARGE AMOUNT OF LAND TROOPS, AND HAVE A COLLEGE OF ORGANIZED WIZARDS DEVOTED TO BOTH WAR AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

THE TAUHAN EMPIRE IS ALSO A SEABORNE NATION, WITH LITTLE TO NO MILITARY MIGHT ON LAND. THEIR PEOPLE, THE "SHELL FOLK", ARE SIMILAR TO THE MAN-THINGS OF THE KEITAN LEAGUE, BUT SUPPOSEDLY CLOSER TO FISH. THE RATS ALSO ENCOUNTERED SEVERAL LARGE CREATURES, CLOSER TO LEVIATHANSPAWN THEN TO PEOPLE, WHICH SOME OF THE SHELLFOLK SEEMED TO REGARD WITH KINDNESS? PERHAPS A SERVANT RELATIONSHIP (WHY ELSE WOULD YOU BE KIND TO SOMETHING UNLESS IT'S THREATENING TO KILL YOU).

RATS SENT TO THE ULTRA LANDS DID NOT COME BACK.

LAST. QUOTIDIAN QUORUM. SOMETHING VERY, VERY STRANGE IS GOING ON THERE. THE QUORUM IS INHABITED BY MANY SPECIES, OF MANY TYPES (EVEN SOME RATLINGS), BUT THEIR BEHAVIORS

ARE VERY, VERY STRANGE. THEY AVOIDED NEWCOMERS LIKE THE PLAGUE, WITH LARGE GROUPS OF THEM REMAINING OUT OF SIGHT (BUT WATCHING CLOSELY) AS DECOYS NEGOTIATED WITH ANY INCOMING TRADERS. MANY OF THEIR BEHAVIORS, EVEN WHILE ON THEIR OWN, SEEM UTTERLY NONSENSE: THEY SEEM TO HAVE AN OBSESSION WITH WATCHING EACH OTHER WHILE AVOIDING BEING WATCHED THEMSELVES.

SEVERAL OF THEM WERE OBSERVED TO, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, CHANGE THEIR SHAPES: MOVING FROM ONE SPECIES FORM TO ANOTHER. WORRYING.

WE ARE WATCHING CAREFULLY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEM. THE RATS, UNFORTUNATELY, ARE NOT VERY GOOD AT COMMUNICATING.

FROM,
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