

THE COSMIC BALANCE



Issue # 185

December 2001

PANAGEANEWS

This month we begin in Eastern Panagea. On the Crystal Plains outside of Narga Thum, Arty's Legion (Chaotic Kodan Raman Gnolls), Howling Winds (Chaotic Kodan Raman Gnolls), Moondogs (Chaotic Kodan Raman Gnolls) and Vulture Legion (Chaotic Kodan Raman Gnolls) teamed up to defeat the Rampaging Dragons (Lawful Avatar Humans). Though defeated, the Rampaging Dragons put up a tremendous fight. Several Weeks later in the region known as Kythos outside the city of Trevington, Dark Warriors (Chaotic LOOT Trolls) defeated Avenger (Lawful Terminator Centaurs).

Moving to Central Panagea, on the isle of Mycenea outside the city known as Dead Elf the Trekkers (Lawful Terminator Humans) devastated Shhvoon's Eye (Shhvoon worshipping Lizara). Several days later Shhvoon's Eye was hit again, this time by Bloodguard (Lawful Terminator Humans) costing them several hundred more non-warrior casualties.

On the Isle Of Medes at the city of Peladon, Mental Militia (Chaotic Kodan Raman Orcs) destroyed Fabian (Lawful AIM Elves). At about the same time, Manslaughter Ring (Chaotic LOOT Gnolls) easily stormed the city of Peladon (Lawful Terminator Humans), slaughtering all of the city defenders.

We finish in Western Panagea. On the Illyrian plain outside the city of Gildazar Rick's Reserves (Chaotic Kodan Raman Gnolls) destroyed Midnight (Lawful EGA Elves). At about the same time the S.F. Giants (Chaotic Kodan Raman Giants) defeated the Emerald Knights (Lawful Terminator Centaurs).

In the Elderwood forest outside the city of Altheria, Lupine Legion (Chaotic Kodan Raman Gnolls), Wolverine Psychos (Chaotic Kodan Raman Gnolls) and Lomorian Wolf Pack (Chaotic Kodan Raman Gnolls) teamed up to smash and all but destroy Sun Blazor (Lawful AIM Humans).

In the region known as Aurumia, Thunder (Lawful Terminator Humans) defeated Silver Sails (Elves).

In the Mireland region outside Ky'Lesh, Lions Of The North (Wicca worshipping Humans) defeated Black Lords (Lopra worshipping EGA Humans).

LORASIANEWS

This month saw most of the fighting occurring on the Agerian Plain, an area best avoided, for the time being, by otherwise peaceful traders.

At the city of Kingston, Thunder (Titans) defeated Nazghouls (Humans). The next day Lift Tail Legion (Lawful Centaurs) defeated Howling Fury (Chaotic ROC Gnolls) in a hard fought battle. Two weeks later, in separate and apparently unrelated attacks, Lift Tail Legion and Thunder all but destroyed the tattered remnants of the Nazghouls.

At the city of Isengak, Kosmos (Gnolls of the Cosmic Balance) ambushed and destroyed Believers Of The Way (Dark Elves). At about the same time, in an unrelated attack, Wolfhounds (Gnolls of the Cosmic Balance) defeated Eat My Shorts (Chaotic Orcs). Elsewhere....

On the Vardian Plain outside of Kaffa, Aeternus (Lawful Elves) smashed Torocious (Minotaurs of the KIL alliance).

On the Nulean Plain outside of Kingston, Gesellshaft Narren (Lyredh worshipping Giants) mauled K-9 Knights (Lawful CW Gnolls) in a horrific battle involving nearly 3,000 warriors. Elsewhere on the Nulean Plain, Clan Broadbelly (Lawful HARM Dwarves) defeated the Headbangers (Trimorph worshipping Dark Elves) in a costly battle.

In the Grimwood forest, Crimson Tide (Kobolds) destroyed the Blood Lords (Chaotic ROT Vampires).

In the Cambrian Range outside of Magdenheim, the Teutonic Knights (Humans) defeated Gallifrey (Giants).

PANAGEARUMORS

Lawfuls are coming out of the woodwork again! Chaos beware!

The Terminators have managed to drive all Chaotics from middle Panagea. Onward to the East!

Kodan Raman spies report that Xanthor has been seen in Hillsdale!

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Kodan Raman spies report that Xanthor has been seen in Featherwood Lodge!

Coming from the sea, a new menace....

Kodan Raman spies report that Xanthor has been seen in Hampton!

Kodan Raman spies report that Xanthor has been cloned!

The Avatars are poised for a comeback!

The great Treasure of Rualle has been discovered in— AARGH!

LORASIA RUMORS

Greybeard's Mama was an Orc.

Law and Chaos uniting against the neutrals? What has ICON done now?

Ez'zak seems to be preparing for a grand celebration. A wedding perhaps?

Now you see them. Now you don't. Which way shall we go?

Tlatoani was last seen headed back under a RoC.

Sertorix lied again!

Crystalian Warriors, just another defunct Guardian looking for recruits so they don't become... defunct too?

Riots in Ez'zak? The marketplace in shambles?

Why are so many "Lawfuls" wanted by City Leaders??

C.A.T., some say the beginning of the end...

BULLETINBOARD

LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

To: Layter
From: The On-Looker
Re: CB#182

Lord Layter. Forgive me for sounding a little miffed but you make me wonder exactly what you are thinking. You say one thing, then do another.

"Proof." The first sentence you wrote in your comment to me was, "First off I will not respond to your comments/questions that are intended simply to antagonize me." Then you write half a page responding and commenting on what I stated. Please make up your mind. I have yet to see where any other warlord hasn't been able to figure out what they want to do.

I was going to take up for you concerning the comment by C#764 Deidre, but it seems he has hit the nail on the head.

And who do you speak for? You state clearly in your comment to me, "The rest of us are not supposed to...". So I ask you, who do you represent when you say "the rest of us"?

I didn't know you took a survey on who believed what I said or not. You did state clearly the words "... I don't think too many people buy it." And of course you noted my use of the word "we". I can see where you might think I was referring to the K-9s. But since I am role-playing the "we" refers to me and my army. Boy did you let your imagination take you way out there. So much for your pointing out a freudian slip. But that is your opinion.

I am not the Watcher or related to that person, anymore than you are related to the Triad. It's your lack of truth and constant twist of things plainly written that make even the most liberal neutral lean the other way.

And when was the last time you scouted the K-9s? My sources tell me the K-9s have been with the CW for 11 months now. I guess you have some really old scouting reports.

And what is to say the ICON notices weren't sent by Chaotics? Have you thought about that? And if they were true, why would they be in the "Rumor" section?

You can not be a Devil's Advocate. You already have a side you are on. Your comments to me prove that. And if you weren't so biased, you'd see that.

And yes, you do try to cloud issues. I've listed just 2 that can be found in CB#182. So much for you having truth on your side. When you want to reach up to my level of precise wording, let me know. Until then, just keep shoveling. You'll dig your way out sooner or "Layter".

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LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

The On-Looker and myself are two different entities. If you think you're so smart, figure who is the On-Looker instead of taking blind stabs at guessing the connection between two different people. As you saw in the same CB, I did congratulate the giants on their victory over my army. As for the On-Looker, I like what he writes about the Chaotics and their hypocrisy. However, you're just another nameless Chaotic who didn't even have the guts to sign your message with a pen name.

Tlatoani

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LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE
AN ENCYCLICAL TO WORSHIPERS OF
THE COSMIC BALANCE

Question: Is the Cosmic Balance “Neutral”?

I sat in the dark of night meditating on the way of the Balance. Suddenly a flash shone in my mind. A voice thundered — “The way of the Balance is not Neutral.” Quivering in awe, I asked: “As worshipers do we not treat all alike, helping the one and then the other in order to maintain the struggle... thus being neutral?”

“No!” The thundering voice replied. “Such is not being neutral. You do not yet fully understand. Harken and increase in the way of the Balance. For it is written between the words of the Holy Book. Seek it out. You are the Chosen One, The Prophet, and will see.”

So I went to the Lorasian Scriptorium, adjacent to the Great Temple of the Cosmic Balance, to search the matter out....

I found that the Holy Book at section 10.1 tells the story of how the Creator created the Deities to partake in an Eternal Struggle as part of a Game to entertain Himself and the other Greater Ones. How the Deities battled among themselves and when one faction dominated, the Greater Ones stepped in and aided the other allowing the Eternal Struggle to go on. Thus They came to be known as the Cosmic Balance, as though They were actually neutral and not simply out for their own pleasure. How the Deities then created the races found today on Lorasias (us) to act as their minions. How the Deities were then stripped of most of their powers and how eventually we came to exercise our free will to either follow a religion or be on our own. The story is there in the Holy Book for all to read. It ends with us being here, on Lorasias, in a Game of Eternal Struggle... whether we like it or not. It is our destiny!

In the Holy Book at section 10.2 the issue of religions on Lorasias is addressed. For we who know the truth, there is but one religion... The Cosmic Balance. But is the Balance neutral, or is neutrality just a veil under which our true intentions are hidden?

We worshipers of the Balance know the Greater Ones are the true holders of power in the multiverse. It is our only hope that by loyal worship we may fulfill our duty, our fate, and serve the Balance by maintaining the battle, the struggle, between Law and Chaos. The Holy Book says we accomplish this: “... through devious political manipulations, occasional aid to the current underdog in the conflict, and, as a last resort, direct military intervention.” In other words we do what is needed to promote The Eternal Struggle! Our options are only as limited as our imaginations. But does this mean we are neutral?

I then looked deeper into the worlds of the Holy Book hoping to see more. My eyes strained to see something in the spaces between the writings. Then I began falling into the pages of the Scripture as my mind opened unto a new vista and I saw, truly saw, for the first time. Light shone all around and through me. It was as though I was a sun myself. My perspective changed. This vision filled me with wonderment and understanding simultaneously. I became enthralled by the overwhelming nature of that truth which I beheld... The Cosmic Balance is not neutral! We are the Arms of the Scale. It is we who weigh and act in the name of The Cosmic Balance. To promote ourselves as neutral is nothing more than a deception. “Neutrality” is a cloak we wear to clothe the naked truth that we, i.e. the Faithful, are against both Chaos and Law. That our ultimate goal is to play the one against the other creating strife. But how many of The Faithful understand? How many of us see that we are the decisive power on Lorasias? How many of us are banded together into a cord which cannot be broken?

If you are one of those who profess the Cosmic Balance then ask yourself... What have I ever done to promote the Eternal Struggle? If your answer is “nothing” then you are no better than an empty vessel which cannot satisfy one’s thirst. You are faithless! You need to repent and atone. You need to promote the struggle somehow. How do you repent? What can you do to atone? Heed the call of The Prophet! Harken to my words. Answer the call....

Establish contact with one another, with other members of the Faith. Help each other logistically, strategically, militarily to promote The Struggle. Do something! Anything! Plot something devious to get a Lawful to attack a Chaotic... or vice versa. Contact C#1487 PAX for some interesting ideas.

Be persuaded of this: We worshipers of the Cosmic Balance are not neutral! We are a contradiction, a mystery, an enigma wrapped within a riddle. We are for Law and against Chaos yet we are pro-Chaos, anti-Law. We dispel darkness with a torch then envelop the light with a shroud and ignite the flame once again... we come and we go, do and do not. We are false to our enemies and true to our friends but who is whom, which is what and what is real? Who does know? Who can tell? Where is the proof? It is in The Eternal Struggle.

Brothers and Sisters of the Balance... join together. Work together to the end that our faith is not in vain. The Balance will bless. The Cosmic Balance will bless your efforts. Visit the Great Temple of the Cosmic Balance and offer sacrifice... and gain the blessings of our Faith. Heed my words...

The Prophet of The Cosmic Balance

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LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

Another Conversation at a Port Royale Tavern

“Heroes!”
“Raving Maniacs!”
“Tastes Great!”
“Less Filling!”

“STOP! Enough of this!” The really big scary Titan got up from his seat which amazingly was a table (wow!) and said, “Why don’t you bunch of sniveling cowards go back to your farms? My paltry army of 50 could whip all you wussies. Go back to farming. The only thing any of you have managed to harm is my appetite!”

Everyone cheered the powerful Titan’s insight into this minor squabble. The tavern returned to its merriment, the Titan to his mead, and the heroes and raving maniacs to their farms.

The End.

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LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

To: Gesellschaft Narren
Ref: Lorasias Player Notice: Lord Kundig
From: The On-Looker

Lord Kundig, in September’s CB#182 you made reference to a Giant army that was destroyed in March of ’97. JAGD! If the army was destroyed then how can Lord Torque ask them anything? Your logic of this deity you say you worship has escaped me. Please point out what I am missing?

Lyredh — Goddess of Joy and Beauty is a neutral deity who cares nothing for conflict between Law and Chaos etc...

Yet you voluntarily went against the balance and sided with Chaos. You have upset the Cosmic Balance and tilt the scales toward the Chaotics. You have taken the Goddess Lyredh and placed her on the side of Chaos. How she can stand in the shadow of the Chaotic Gods and allow you to smear her good name is beyond me. Don’t be surprised if she up and leaves you because of what you now represent. How can she grant you piety points when you go against all she stands for? Do the gods not care? If not, why are they here and call us to follow if we are not going to listen? And if we go against them, should we be punished by them? Do you have an answer?

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LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

On the plain of five dost the betrayer reside.
Under a common banner believed to be benign.
Travelers not searching but yet they will find.
Lost, not lives nor goods but the thief is time.

— Nostradamus —

LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

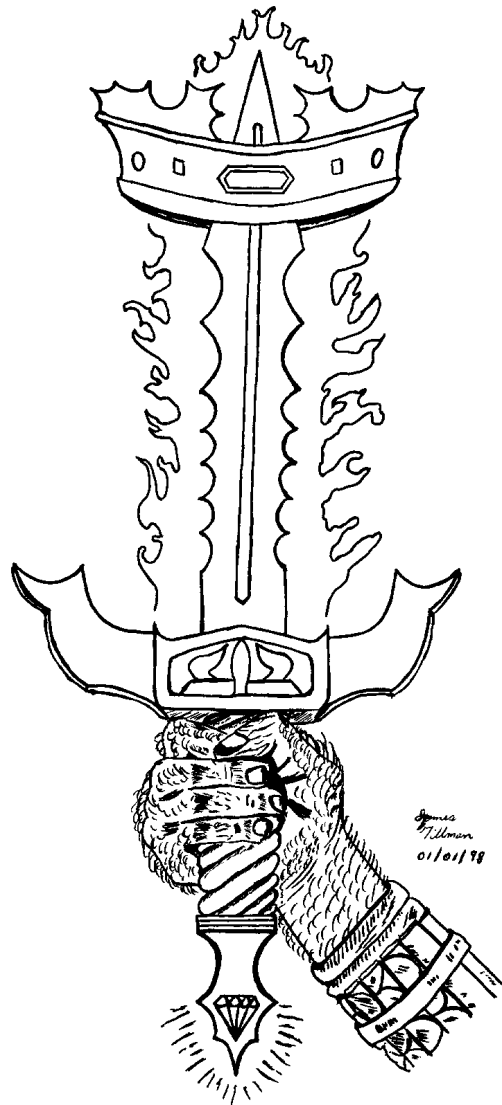
To: Layter
Re: CB #183

Layter, how can you honestly say that the RoC is wielding the Sword of Justice? What do you care if a weak army gets hit or taken out? Aren’t you Chaotic? Then act like it. “I hit Tonatiuh’s Torch because they are Lawful” IS a just cause. Not, “I hit Guardian armies because they started this conflict!”

I hold you accountable for saying “No true Chaotic would use the title Lord.” One that quickly comes to mind is Lord Abaddon (CB#172) Lord of Destruction. Who are you to say he is not a true Chaotic? Even the other neutrals I have talked to speak highly of him and respect him as a very good role player. Your words are very selfish and self-centered because you don’t want to use the word “Lord” as part of your title. But you should respect, as I do, those who use it because they have earned it.

The On-Looker

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LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

A somber Prince Attalaus sat in his vault room pondering on why it was so empty. Was it due to poor management? Was someone stealing from the vault? These thoughts and more flowed in and out of his mind as he tossed his last gem towards the small pile of gold on the floor.

“Why Lord Trimorph have you forsaken us?” The Prince pleaded out loud to his God. As the Prince held his face in his hands, a small light appeared between his fingers. As he looked out into the vault he noticed the source of the light was the gem he had just tossed to the floor.

He watched with amazement as the gem slowly floated into the air and glowed brighter. He was quick to his feet, sword flying out of its sheath, as he suspected some foul magic. Then suddenly the gem burst into a blinding spray of light that seemed to have its own weight. So much so it forced the Prince to his knees.

He was not sure if his eyes were shut or open. If the image he saw was with his own eyes or burned through his eyelids. Yet there was no mistaking what he saw: there where the gem once was now stood the god Trimorph!

Majestically dressed in wealth beyond understanding, flowing with pure divine power, he began to speak to the Prince. His words were like music and the Prince's head ached from listening to the divine voice. Then as quickly as it started, the room was once again filled with blinding light, and Trimorph was gone.

Now in the darkened vault the Prince went over in his mind what was said to him. “Reclaim wasted wealth. Do so at all cost. Wealth that is not used is wasted wealth. If others will not use their wealth, take it from them and use it in my name.” These were the words of Trimorph, and the Prince knew these were his new commandments!

REMINDER

It is important to remember that the newsletter now covers two different game worlds: PANAGEA (COD I) and LORASIA (COD II). All newsletter submissions (Player Notices or Rumors) should clearly be labeled indicating to which world they refer. Not only does this make the information more useful to the reader but it also helps to avoid confusion between two positions with the same ID Number (one in each game). As stated in the House Rules, materials for the next newsletter must be received by the 21st of the month. Diplomatic messages should also clearly indicate what world they are for.

COD ON-LINE

Our presence on the Internet is growing rapidly with a number of resources currently available.

If you want to learn about the happenings in the CRACK OF DOOM (I and II) check out the following message boards:

<http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/conclavecodiichat>
<http://www.neosoft.com/~lanza/ICONdiscuss1.html>

Message Boards are a great way to share ideas and pick up the latest gaming gossip. As with anything you get off the internet - - don't believe everything you read! When in doubt, ask the GM. Also, if you have an important comment, question or complaint, send it to AGE rather than posting a message as AGE does not supervise or manage these sites and your comments may never reach us and will be unlikely to get an official response.

In a similar vein, the ICON alliance (COD II) has its own website that contains a wealth of useful information for members and non- members alike:

http://www.neosoft.com/~lanza/Main_Page_ICON.htm

If you want information on CTF2187 check out the following:

ORBO's CTF2187 HOME PAGE: Want to check out the latest CTF info including the current issue of the newsletter almost the same day it is published? How about player bios, many with color photos? All that plus lots of other useful information is available at the CTF website. Special thanks to Orbo (Rob Fackler) for his efforts in setting and maintaining this cool site: Check it out at:

<http://yourpage.blazenet.net/orbomaxx/ctfhome2.htm>

Brigadier General Them Bones [PN323] of the Berserkers [TM5] has set up a Chat Room at:

<http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/ctf2187>

He also has set up an email discussion list. For those of you unfamiliar with a mailing list, here is how it works. Folks interested in a common topic must JOIN (aka SUBSCRIBE TO) the list. All of these “members” will then receive all postings to this list and can also respond and/or post their own messages. All sorts of folks can have all sorts of topics going at the same time — so long as it is strictly CTF related.

To join, send a blank email to: CTF2187-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

If you prefer to get all of the postings in one “batch” mailing a day (rather than each one sent to you individually) then immediately send a SECOND email to: CTF2187-digest@yahoogroups.com

SCORE CARD

Can't tell the players (ie. alliance abbreviations) without a score card? Here it is:

Panagea (COD I)

A.I.M. — Aegis In Malum (Latin for Shield Against Evil).

C.S.A. — Circle of Steel Alliance.

D.O.A. — Defenders of Aldaryn.

E.G.A. — Elderwood Guard Alliance.

L.O.O.T. — League of Orcs Ogres and Trolls. Sometimes also referred to as L.O.O.(G.)T. when Gnolls are included.

P.T.L. — Panagea Trade League

R.P.A. — Royal Panagean Alliance

S.W.A.R.M. — Shhvoon Worshipers And Respected Mariners.

Lorasia (COD II)

A.C.E. — All Chaos Explorers

C.W. — Crystalian Warriors

F.R.C. — Fourth Reich of Chaos

Guardians — Guardians of Destiny. Sometimes referred to as G.O.D.

HARM — Heroes and Raving Maniacs

ICON — Independent Confederation Of Neutrals

K.I.L. — Kobolds Invade Lorasia

R.O.C. — Reign Of Chaos

R.O.T. — Raging Odious Terror

S.O.B. — Soldiers Of Balance

COMPANY NEWS

As you have no doubt noticed, postal service has been somewhat erratic since the events on 9/11. It is not uncommon for an item to suddenly take much longer than expected to reach its destination. This has resulted in odd and frustrating events such as turns that are processed up to a week before the Monthly Status Reports arriving up to a week after the player receives his MSR's. Part of the problem seems to be that many items that used to routinely travel by Air are now sent by truck. Currently, according to official Post Office announcements, items weighing more than a pound (16 ounces) will now be shipped by truck or train (even coast-to-coast). This clearly applies to First Class Mail and, according to our experience, applies to Priority Mail as well. It may also apply to Express Mail but that's not something we see very often so we have little first hand experience making it hard to tell for sure. Fortunately items that big are extremely rare (except for ordering rule books). However, if you are sending in a big set of joint turns be sure to keep the 16 ounce limit in mind and remember that when we return the results we will be including address headers and turn results printouts and you'll want to keep that below 16 ounces as well for the fastest possible service.

Now, has anybody noticed how slow the internet has been lately....

WHAT'S NEW — COD I & II

Having trouble keeping track of all the latest rule changes, hints and strategy articles published in the Cosmic Balance? Now available: "The Best Of The Cosmic Balance" covering Issues #126-#180 (more will be added as time permits). This publication is FREE for the asking when your request is accompanied by a turn or a payment to your account otherwise we ask \$1.00 to cover postage and handling. Another great service from your friends at ADVANCED GAMING ENTERPRISES.

HINTS FOR BETTER PLAY (COD I & II)

The time to renegotiate a contract with mercenaries is two or three months BEFORE the existing contract is scheduled to expire. If you wait until the last minute (one month) they may end up leaving before you are able to finish the negotiations (it is automatic and handled by the computer) — the mercenaries will simply not hang around unpaid and will seek employment elsewhere.

SPECIAL OFFER

To help celebrate the holiday season and reward you, our loyal customers, for your dedicated and enthusiastic support we have the following special offers: Send in a single check for \$50.00 or more for your CTF or COD account which is received by AGE during the month of DECEMBER and we will deposit that money plus an extra \$4.00 in game credit into your account. That's right, an extra \$4.00 FREE. Or, if you prefer, we will send a FREE copy of the COD (I or II) Rules or CTF Basic Rules to a friend of yours as a holiday gift from you. If you include a card, we'll send that along with your gift. It's just our way of saying Thank You! [Note: This is a "Cash Only" Bonus (which includes checks, Money Orders and the like) but does NOT include payments made by Credit Card.]

Happy Holidays!

Debbie & Duane

