

The Phargol-Horn

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The Literacy Project (Part Five)

It was a beautiful morning. Pree was still fast asleep. Taking advantage of the quiet Sal walked to a small clearing and sat down. Crossing his legs, straightening his back he took a pose that always brought him great relaxation. Besides the physical benefits the mental cleansing was wonderful. Slowly he took a deep breath and held it in for about 10 seconds. He slowly exhaled. Again and again he repeated this exercise, feeling his stomach move in and out each time. With each breath he could feel tension leaving his body. He stayed in this position for quite some time. Sal would have stayed even longer if not for pressing matters.

He wondered how this mission had gotten blown so far off course? What he had found out was shocking and Sal knew there was very little he could do by himself. They must return to the Obelisk and report to the wizards.

By now Pree was awake and with little discussion he and Sal gathered up their belongings. Placing them on the carpet they started their long journey back to the Obelisk. What they had to tell would start a chain of events that would have far reaching consequences.

When Reammon first started the Literacy Project he had in his mind the way it would progress. As he reviewed his thoughts he came to realize he may have over simplified the process. Let's see, you gather the items needed, set up a distribution network and establish programs to support the learning process. It did seem simple. You can not blame him for being a bit naive. This is often the case of the overly intelligent. They tend to not understand how others do not see things through their eyes. Whatever his thoughts his first meeting with Reymon made him realize that things were not going as he had hoped.

Reymon's report started this way.

Materials:

Bree and Dree had gathered huge amounts of books, scrolls and a new item called magazines. Huge amount was not an exaggeration. The bins were overflowing. This had caused them to have to rent more storage areas. The only source that had them readily available was Myzer. The rate he was charging was naturally very high. This was only one part of the situation they were facing.

The materials being donated were not all in good order. Certain individuals seemed to be taking this opportunity to clean out their dwellings. Bree and Dree had no way to distinguish between what would be good for the program and what would be defined as trash. Not just for their contents but by their condition.

A wide variety of subjects and opinions were covered in these items. This was a good thing. How can a society prosper and grow if a diverse range of subjects and opinions are not available.

With all this said it was obvious that all the materials had to be sorted through and organized. This process had started and Reymon had recruited volunteers to help. As is always the case what is one persons treasure is another's trash. To handle this Reymon put together a manual. Needless to say this took much time and didn't answer everyone's questions. The items that were hard to make a determination on would be given to Reymon for final disposition. This proved to be a Literacy Project in itself.

The magazines were more of an underground phenomenon. Most were done by individuals and modeled after magazines that were left behind by the ancients. Some of the names were Krystonia Geographic, Better Caves and Gardens, Krystonia Illustrated and one that was quite shocking called Playdragon.

Distribution:

Most local materials could be delivered by cart. The outer areas would need mahoudha's to pull the carts. Dragon transport was the most logical way to reach the more isolated areas.

This seemed simple until the mahoudha went on strike. Grunch always one to make extra profit saw an opportunity here. Grunch loved to negotiate deals and where at one time they were counting on him to donate the dragon services this was not going to be the case.

Support Programs:

This mainly consisted of teaching literacy and encouraging reading. Reammon and Reymon had developed these programs when they first discussed the project. Once again it seemed simple enough. But when they tested the programs they found that dragons, trolls, mugrahs, and every other group needed to be worked with in different ways. Not to mention each group had very strong opinions on how things should be done. Even though many of these had no rational basis for what they wanted.

They wanted fast easy results without much effort. Control freaks were abundant. The programs would have to be tweaked to meet the needs of each group. This could be done but would require help and take more time.

Reammon listened carefully. He was used to handling difficult situations. After all he did work with wizards at the Obelisk on a daily basis. Nothing could prepare you for adversity and diversity more than this group.

Reammon pondered what he had just heard. At first glance it seemed like a lot to deal with but logical solutions are often found when you take time to thoroughly digest what is in front of you. Anyway the teapot was sounding a loud pitch signifying that it was calling for attention.

It was unusual for Reammon and Reymon to sit down to tea and not have some of the early discussion turn to childhood memories. The light hearted conversation often produced a spattering of light chuckles. After a short time Reammon started offering solutions to some of the issues Reymon had brought up.

Materials:

There would have to be even more specific instructions as to what items were acceptable for donation. When they put out their first request they had simply stated that all items were welcome. This was truly being seen as an ideal opportunity for some to rid themselves of items no longer wanted. Dee and Bree were not discerning enough in what they took. They could not be blamed as this was not an area that they had ever dealt with. Sometimes they would pick up cartload after cartload from one source. Upon inspection you would find that on some items the print was no longer legible.

To rectify this, a new procedure was instituted. The young dragons were now to inspect the items before loading them into the cart. If not acceptable they would be refused and left behind.

When they returned to the storage depot they would then place the items in designated bins by category. An individual with specific knowledge of that area would then make the final determination. These two procedures would cause them to need less storage space and to Myzer's disappointment lower rents.

Distribution:

To bring items from the outer reaches they would contract with dragon transport. This would be expensive but if Grunch received something in return it could work.

Many in Krystonia heated their living quarters by using stoves. Reammon would give a list to Grunch where unsuitable materials had been left. Grunch could pick these up and sell them to be used as fuel for stoves. Old scrolls were known to burn for hours.

Word was put out that Bree and Dee would recruit help from their friends to deliver the items. Maybe even open a delivery company for other items. This would make the mahoudha more apt to settle their strike. Competition was not something they relished or handled very well.

Support Programs:

Getting everyone to agree, accept or even use their initial literacy programs had no quick solution. This would take much thought. As the two turned their conversation to this area they were interrupted by a knock at the door.

It was Salander. If his appearance surprised them it paled in comparison in what he had to tell. After hearing very little they stopped him. It was obvious that the Wizards Council must hear this and there was no time to waste.

To be continued.....

The Canadian Collectors Club

We have had some emails concerning difficulty reaching the Canadian Club. We apologize for any problems this may have caused. The club has a new address and contact numbers. Their new information is:

Bridgman Importing
12-111 Fourth Avenue
Suite 346
St. Catharines, Ontario L2S3P5
Canada
Phone number 800-263-4491
Fax number 905-899-4661
Email address sales@bridgmanimporting.ca

A charming young lady, Ritika, is taking charge and although you may speak with someone else I am sure you will be happy with your results.

Gold Fever and the Fall Releases

No, this is not disco fever. It is a celebration. Every hundred years in Krystonia the twin moons align as one, creating a golden shower of light. The incredible brilliance makes there be no difference between day and night. This lasts for only a short time. It is celebrated as a time of awakening and for all to reflect on the wonderful things that life brings and put aside the worries that so often blossom into uncontrollable obsessions.

It is a festive time where most turn out for a grand party. I will leave it to you to guess who does not. They honor this occasion by adding touches to their bodies or clothing of a golden nature. This is done by using a substance that flows from several falls. It has a beautiful color but has no real value because of its abundance. When it was first discovered some tried to covet it as a great find. But with time others realized that it was more for decoration than to show one's true worth. They call it Knox since a sign was found by one of the falls.

The celebration is about to begin. Come join in, you also deserve to celebrate all that is good in your life.

Our new figurines celebrate as they are the ones who are responsible for many of the good things in Krystonia. They have added their golden touches. Some did it more grudgingly than others. Could we be speaking of Grunch?

Graffyn chose only his hat but he did sneak some **on Grunch's** toes. **Rueggan** and **Wodema** added golden trim to their garments. **Tokkel** has painted his egg. Poor **Owhey** just couldn't make up his mind and ended up stepping into the Knox by accident.

Graffyn Surprise was that he came back to the gathering after he and Grunch left in his gold outfit. Since it was all gold he adds a touch of green to his hat.