

THE PEOPLE OF THE DOG

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And it came to pass at a time beyond the memories of our fathers, beyond the memories of our grandfathers, yea, even beyond the memory of the Great Ras, that the Kingdom of Dog was beset on all sides by its enemies. They prayed night and day for their deliverance but to no avail. Their enemies were triumphant, their walls were cast down; their temples were destroyed and the great Dog Houses razed to the ground and the people were driven out and scattered to the four corners of the known world.

Wherever the people of Dog settled they banded together in order to carry out their devotions. They mixed not with the peoples of the lands where they dwelled and these people were sore afraid and scribed on the doors of their dwellings "BEWARE OF THE DOG".

For the people of Dog were not like other tribes, and their religion was a severe one which demanded constant and total devotion. When they were not praying at their shrines, all surrounded by fences of strangely linked wire, they spoke only of their religion. Should they be approached by a follower of some other faith such as Futbol or Politix or even Secks they would look askance as though he spoke in a foreign tongue and make all haste to return to their own kind.

Unlike the other tribes who visited their temples of worship only once in seven days, or even only three times in their life, the people of Dog visited their temples on every possible occasion, two, three and even four times in seven days, and the whole tribe would go in great procession.

The Holiest of Holy Places of the people of Dog is the Kaycee*, the greatest of all the temples; its halls are hallowed, its very stones are capable of affrighting the common people and here are stored all the records and tablets of all the people of Dog, and its coffers are filled with silver which the worshippers pay in dues and taxes.

It has priests and acolytes, but maidens it has not;* and only the veriest few of the people of Dog can aspire to become a worshipper at this, the innermost inner shrine. For those who enter here are great indeed and are very powerful among the people and held in awe.

Because of the dues and taxes the people of Dog were always poor; unlike the other tribes who visited only the nearest temple and stayed only a little time, the people of Dog travelled often a day's journey to worship. The many great pilgrimages which they made cost many pieces of silver and their devotions lasted all days, sometimes two days, and on the occasion of their greatest festivals, verily even three days were spent in devout worship.

When the people were not journeying to far-off places they tended their treasured possessions, polished their idols and worshipped before their personal altars where they set out the seals they had received; also the silver bowls and chalices which, with coloured ribbons, shields, and banners with wondrous words engraved were part of their religious regalia.

For it was the practice of these people of Dog to take to the temple their most

* Kaycee -- The Kennel Club (England) - K.C.

* The English Kennel Club is a far different organization from the top to bottom to our C.K.C. As yet it has not allowed any women to enter the "inner sanctum". No woman can hope to be head of the Kennel Club in England.

treasured possessions in the hope of receiving the seal of approval from the great priests, for their excellence.

(These seals varied greatly in degree and regard. The lowliest of all was the Aychsee,* which was often received with reluctance and regret that it was not of a higher degree. There was a Yellow Seal, a Blue Seal, and the great Red Seal which always brought great joy to the receiver and sometimes brought cries of acclamation even from the other worshippers.

But the hope of all who took their treasured possessions on the pilgrimage was to receive from the hands of a most high priest, the Green and White Seal, the most coveted of all, the Kaysee See See.* Once this seal had been put into his hands the owner was assured of a place in the Heaven of the people of Dog.

The receiver of this seal would either bow to the earth fondling his treasured possession while muttering devout thanks, or leap high in the air in his divine ecstasy while the other worshippers would bang their hands together in an effort to hide their envy and chagrin, and would speak to their companions saying that the priest was a bad priest, and that the seal should have been theirs, for their possessions were far superior.

It was the custom of the Kaysee See See holder to repair with any friends he may have left to the place of refreshment which was attached to every temple.

There he would pour libations of strong wine for his friends and rejoice in their acclaim. And oft times it came to pass that this custom caused many poor pilgrims to miss the large caravans which awaited the worshippers outside the temple to return them to their dwellings.

Many tales are told of the terrible hardships endured by these pilgrims and the adventures and encounters on their long journeyings. For they suffered much pain and poverty in the pursuit of the Great Seals, and in the Rainy Season their tribulations were great.

Should a worshipper be so fortunate as to receive three of these Great Seals in his lifetime, great were the celebrations; his name was written in the annals of the people of Dog and he was assured of immortality.*

For those who visited the temple and were given no Seal, and verily, these were in the majority, it was a bitter day. They wailed over their treasured possessions, gnashed their teeth, rending their garments, and even on occasion plastering themselves with ordure. They spoke evil of their priest, denounced his acolytes who guard the Great Seals and would go on their way vowing to renounce their religion and no longer be a worshipper of Dog.

But so great was their faith that before the sun rose the following day, they would again take up the small spade-shaped object, which was their penance, and in doing so forget their calumnies and bend low over the ground in their devotions to Dog. And the worship of the people of Dog is all-powerful and shall prevail for ever unto the seventh generation, so be it; and may the small spade-shaped object which is an eternal part of the regalia for ever serve to keep humble, the people of Dog. Yea, verily even unto the holders of the Great Seals and the High Priests thereof.

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* Aychsee -- Highly Commended (4th Place) - H.C.

* Kaysee See See -- Kennel Club Challenge Certificate (1 for Best Male, 1 for

* 3 Challenge Certificates = English Championship Best Female) - K.C.C.C.**

** NOTE: There is no "Specials" class in England - Champions compete in Open classes.
