Riggin Dale

Summary

Riggin Dale is an expansive inland region within the Kingdom of Cottalem, situated approximately twenty to thirty miles north-east of the Temple of Clewg at Estreham. Historically renowned for its agricultural productivity, particularly the rearing of high-quality cattle and horses, the dale serves as a vital logistical hub for land-based transit through the southern interior. It is characterised by the meandering River Riggin and is bisected by a major thoroughfare locally identified as the Great North Road but more widely known as *The Riggin Road* to distinguish it from the other road known as the great_north_road.

Description

Geography and Topography

The dale is defined by a landscape of vast grasslands interspersed with patches of deciduous trees and widely scattered rural architecture. The River Riggin meanders through the centre of the valley, providing the necessary irrigation for the region's extensive pastures. Travellers entering from the south-west must crest a steep ridge to view the dale, where the river appears as a glittering thread in the distance.

The most prominent infrastructure feature is the Riggin Road, which follows the western bank of the river. Despite being known locally as the Great North Road, local Board of Trade intelligence suggests it is neither the longest nor the “greatest” road of that designation on the continent. The road is frequently described as a wide, muddy swathe, heavily impacted by the constant movement of pack trains and livestock.

Economy and Industry

The regional economy is almost entirely focused on animal husbandry. Riggin Dale is a source of remounts for the Cottalemnese cavalry and serves as a major supplier of beef to the coastal cities. In addition to livestock, the region supports associated trades such as farriery and leatherworking, necessitated by the high volume of traffic on the Riggin Road.

The Wheel Inn

Situated at a critical fork in the road, the Wheel Inn is the main establishment for traders and travellers in the Riggin Dale. It is a large complex of buildings that includes a smithy, stables, and animal enclosures. The inn functions as a post-house where travellers can rent horses to increase their transit speed. It is a site of significant social and economic activity, where the sharp tang of animal waste mingles with the scent of burning charcoal from the forge.

Strategic Significance

In 774 AM, Riggin Dale became a theatre of counter-intelligence activtiy during the conflict between Rojden and the Department of Resolutions.

The Board of Trade Presence

The Skyssian Board of Trade maintains a permanent office in the dale, identifiable by its distinctive blue exterior. In 774 AM, this office was manned by Ormrun, an operative with a “Summer Isles” persona who was noted by Yngvild the Fierce to be bound by at least three separate geasa. The office serves as a primary intelligence post for monitoring the movements of “Captain Corruption” and local horse swindles, while also acting as a safe haven for Skyssian agents.

The Great Ruse

The dale was the site of a sophisticated diversionary operation intended to mask the flight of Noren and Yngvild. While the primary party fled toward the west coast, the Heroes **Alfauda** and **Gefjun** (using their shapeshifting abilities) appeared at the Wheel Inn dressed as the fugitives. This ruse successfully drew Rojden's cavalry search patterns northward, allowing the actual targets to reach Ocaso mostly unhindered.

Relationships

People

- Ormrun: The resident Board of Trade agent and intelligence gatherer.
- Yngvild the Fierce: Infiltrated the dale under the pseudonym “Arne Revnasson” during her escape from the temple.
- Inibrakemi: Orchestrated the logistics of the meeting at the Wheel Inn.
- Alfauda: The hero who performed the primary role in the diversionary doppelgänger party.
- Gefjun: A master shapeshifter who assisted in the 774 AM operation.
- Captain Corruption: A local figure of interest to Skyssian intelligence.

Places

- Kingdom of Cottalem: The sovereign power claiming the dale.
- Estreham: The cursed valley located to the south-west.
- The Wheel Inn: The region's primary transit terminal and rendezvous point.
- Great North Road/Riggin Road: The primary land-based trade artery passing through the dale.

Concepts

- Board of Trade: The Skyssian authority monitoring regional commerce.

- Geas: Magical compulsions noted within the local administrative personnel.
- Shapeshifting: The primary tool used by agents to bypass the Riggin Dale cordons.
- Department of Resolutions: The agency responsible for the 774 AM extraction operation.

Skyss - Story Background	Characters	Skyss - Places	Pantheons of the World	Other Background

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