

Excerpts from the Sudaar Shaman from the mines in the river valley:

A stranger came into camp yesterday. It promised manflesh and gold if we were to move a fortnight's march to the northeast and reactivate an old mine. Grimknife decided that the mine is near enough to a whiteskin road that the promise of gold from the stranger seemed a good idea.

We have set up shop in the old mine. The copper is good and the digging easy.

The Hanged Man says there's to be no sport along the open road, though. We are to dig and dig only.

The news made Grimknife angry and the Hanged Man killed him. I've never seen someone move that fast. Three more were killed establishing who would be the new chief and Livereater won out.

I have finished consecrating my space to the Barrowmaster. When the ritual was complete the Hanged Man laughed and said the old gods are useless phantoms or cowardly spirits. He said that, despite being almost empty, Tothkubad was the only remaining power in the North.

We have found a big lode of the quartz ore that the Hanged Man gets so hot about. When I asked him about it he said that it was for the war and told me to shut up. He was in one of his moods so I did.

The water weird took two of Livereater's boys yesterday. It was livid.

So was the Hanged Man - upset that copper production would drop.

Yesterday during pickup, the Hanged Man came with another of his kind. I heard them mentioning that Tothkubad is to be

completely emptied and their kin were to move to the south somewhere.

"Preparing for something special", he said.

The Hanged Man lied. It promised wealth but not for us.

At least we won't end up like Lockjaw's boys. I'd rather be digging here than working in the smelters up in Tothkubad. Coughing my last from copper lung or that wasting disease.

The Hanged Man let slip that he is one of Pale Night's minions. I'll probably be killed for writing their names down but I think we are dead anyways. Livereater disagrees and still thinks we will come out alive from this. I think not.

Livereater has decided to send scouts after the Hanged Man during the next pickup to see how that Grey stone works. Perhaps set

up an ambush. Perhaps cut out the middle man and deal with Pale Night directly.

They didn't come back.

The Hanged Man didn't mention anything about it, though. Not one word.

Livereater told me he's taking some of the boys south to the road. He says he's tired of digging and wants some sport. I think it's a mistake to upset the Hanged Man but Livereater just doesn't care anymore.