

Chapter 4: प्रत्यक्ष अल्प उपद्रव अन्तःस्थानि दर्-पुराम् (pratyakṣa alpa upadrava antaḥsthāni dar-purām) (Direct Evidence of a small Rebellion in Dar-Purām)

The Detour

The PCs overhear Latdho explaining to Miss Dinyá that there is something unusual on the main road quite a ways up ahead, almost as if someone was coming from the other direction. This cannot be, of course, since there is no way a caravan would risk snow in the passes any more than Miss Dinyá already has. Latdho recommends a detour down a lesser known road which comes to a village only a little farther from the river that Miss Dinyá wants to use for the remainder of the travel. She acquiesces to Latdho, and he even convinces the PCs that the mysterious other may be dangerous.

The Village

After the harrowing and cold passage over the Kantara Mountains, the caravan halts in a small village in the foothills. The village is called Pūjāsthānaṁ, and it has an ancient temple to the Goddess Asha, depicted as a bison with huge breasts suckling a lion cub and a fox kit. The village is rather normal for a rural area.

The force that Latdho saw was an army patrol tracking a rumor that a large, illicit shipment was coming into Pūjāsthānaṁ. This is true, of course, since Latdho and a few of the porters are smuggling gunpowder for Hanuman. The force uses some Paksin members to find Pūjāsthānaṁ a few hours before the PCs show up. The army arrives at nightfall.

Knock Knock

The village is roused in the middle of the night by soldiers from the Battalion. Led by Captain Dhājīn, this group of a dozen or so crows, storks, seagulls, and pelicans descend upon the village and immediately begin inquiring about travelers. Unfortunately, the unloading of the caravan is quietly underway...

Hanuman's Heroes

There are a few other rebels hiding in the village. Any rebel can be identified by the small, generally hand carved, monkey icon they carry or keep in their home. All are made by one janah, and have an identification crystal embedded inside which causes the wood to become icy cold when within an inch or so from another icon.

Aside from Latdho, the rebels include: