

This is an Out of Character briefing for beaters regarding events in the Mournwold. You should not show the physical briefing to other character or players; it contains information specifically for beaters. If it's not appropriate to you roleplaying, feel free to ignore it.

After the Autumn Equinox there is a strange gathering of former Jotun thralls in Green March in Mournwold. All the known orc community leaders are there - Hamma the Lame, Casta the Black, Hap the Soft, and Sigdór the Wise. There are also maybe five hundred other orcs. It seems every orc community in the Mournwold is represented. They're not trying to move around stealthily - most people in the Mournwold know about the meeting.

It's impossible for a human to infiltrate the crowd, but beaters are inventive and this is clearly the kind of thing Bryce Tanner was talking about when he urged the beaters of the Marches to look to the protection of their lands.

At first it all just looks like a market or a fair. There's some drinking, a few games of foot-the-ball, and things of that nature. Then it all turns serious. Hap the Soft starts the ball rolling with a speech, but nobody can get close enough to find out what it was about. It's hard to be clear on specifics, but from what little you're able to overhear, the main topic of conversation is the Jotun. It's been forty years since they first conquered the Mournwold, and not even four since they were driven out. With the Jotun in Liathaven and Bregasland it's maybe unsurprising that the former thralls want to talk about them.

What is surprising is that there's evidence of actual Jotun at the meeting in Green Stead. They weren't exactly announcing their presence on the way in but it seems that one of them at least spoke before the assembled former-thralls. You may have personally spotted a female orc whose traditional Jotun garb, armour, and sword marked her out as distinct from the other orcs. There was no opportunity to try and capture them; they melted away when the gathering broke up, and presumably made their way back across the border to the north-west or south-west.

On the third day of the meeting, nearly fifty orcs abruptly left, The remaining orcs stood and watched them go, without saying a word. A lot of arm folding and glaring on both sides. If you didn't know any better, you'd say that the orcs staying behind were pretty much shunning the orcs who were leaving. Then the meeting went on for another day, and then everyone went home. Most people know about this as well.

What's not common knowledge is that over the last month or so maybe three hundred former Jotun thralls have quietly gathered their things, sold up, and left the Marches. In each case they're heading west. It's not exactly a crime to leave the Marches, especially given Marcher history. It'd be a crime to kill or detain them – they have the protection of the law – even though it's clear where they are going.

Most are heading for Liathaven, a few are going north into Bregasland. There are tens of thousands of orcs in the Mournwold, and this is only a best estimate of the number who have quit the territory in the last month.

There's one final titbit of information; a group of orcs have left the Mournwold travelling eastward via the trods. They're pretty clearly coming to Anvil, and they'll probably arrive very late Friday night. There's no information about why they're coming, but presumably they'll want to speak to the Marchers when they get here. They seem to all be former thralls, but there's no way to be sure. While it's not the Jotun way to hide, and the law of delegate protection gives them no reason to do so, it's not impossible there are barbarian orcs among them. Better to be safe than sorry.

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This is an OOC document you should not take it into play. Feel free to make in-character notes about the briefing, but you should not show the sheet to other players in or out of character.