

## Legends of Steel Session Summary 07/05/2009

### *Attendance*

*Chuck* comments, “As a long-term, hard-core radical I find it completely unreasonable that Google has as much power as it does! It needs to be banned, along with the Department of Education and Applebees!”

*Paul* (Oka) points out, “I think mostly Google is looking out for our own best interests. Though I agree that Applebees needs to be banned. Evil! Evil they are!”

*Chris* (Singh) offers, “You know, lots of 1960’s era radicals thought that the government was tapping their phones and spying on them but after some recent Freedom of Information Act requests it turns out that the government really didn’t even know most of them existed.”

*Bruce* (Baba Ali) rants, “That’s because the *real* information is still hidden! It’s radioactive! It’s too hot to release!”

Chuck agrees, “They’ve got it hidden right next to the Roswell files.”

Bruce starts muttering something about Echelon and the Pacific Northwest. The others suspect he is trying to figure out how to speak without vowels to confuse the electronic surveillance.

*Georgina* says nothing. She knows that if the others know about her recent trip to New Mexico they might start asking too many questions. Better to just change the topic to *Reno 911!*

*Tim* (Kaitamo) shows up. Everyone calls out, “Hi, Tim!” Tim allows as to how things are okay, but he doesn’t seem so convinced of this. He’s been having flashbacks to 1980’s pop tunes (“MO-TO-Rin!”). Then he asks, “Hey, I’ve been thinking. Can I give up on the Mongol archer and swap over to my old *Star Wars* Hutt character?”

Chris is skeptical, “You mean, your *transgendered* Hutt character?”

Paul corrects him, “As a dedicated *Star Wars Utterly Expanded Universe* fan you should already know that Hutts are hermaphroditic entities that reproduce by budding and adopt whatever gender role best fits their personal preferences and the situation.”

Bruce offers, “Hermaphroditic budding creatures? In popular culture? Visible in a context in which adults and children might see them? Quick! We must contact the Massachusetts War Room!”

The others swiftly silence him with plastic bags and piano wire. All celebrate.

<i>Character</i>	<i>Player</i>	<i>Concept and Notes</i>
Oka	Paul	Tarzan-like native, accompanied by his panther Kura
Singh	Chris	Thuggee assassin
Manoj	Ernest	Sikh warrior
Kaitamo	Tim	Mongol archer
Max Harkness	Matt	Escaped pleasure slave, along with his love slave Yanto
Baba Ali	Bruce	The bumbling Sufi monk with a penchant for bestiality

### *You Guys Are Pretty Messed Up*

*Baba Ali* rejoins the group to help celebrate their victory against the Stone Wolf shaman. He finds the others taking turns putting the shaman’s *Mysterious Stone* down their pants to see what kinds of strange mutations they can get. “I got leukemia!” chirps *Kaitamo*.

“I turned into a wraeththu!” offers *Oka*. “Now I need to have sex with another party member every week or die!”

*Singh* consoles him, “It’s been nice knowing you.” He starts composing *Oka*’s obituary.

Everyone decides that leaving *Manoj* in sole custody of the valuable prisoner *Jobert* is dangerous, so they deputize *Max Harkness* to accompany him and make certain that he doesn’t betray the rest of the party.

Between shiny baubles and cash the characters are able to pull a paltry 46 silvers off the dead Stone Wolves. *Singh* muses, “I guess cannibalism didn’t pay all that well for these guys.”

## Disposing of the Mysterious Stone

The conversation swiftly turns to what to do with the *Mysterious Stone*. Kaitamo suggests giving it to the government, because a government wouldn't be tempted to use the power to create cannibals. Oka suggests, "It came from the sky. Let us bend a young sapling over and use it to fling the stone back into the sky."

After some discussion, the characters choose Oka's plan as the best. Kaitamo says, "I'm glad to see that when we all work together we're able to come up with a plan stupider than what any one of us could come up with on our own."

The characters fling the stone, but Baba Ali is able to see that it doesn't make it all the way up into the sky again. He tells the others (after a bit of reflection) that it is actually in a field over thataway.

The characters travel over to the field and search for the stone, but fail to find it. Baba Ali suggests that perhaps he was mistaken, perhaps the essential Evil Essence of the stone separated from its physical structure and went up into the sky, which is why it can no longer be found on the earth. Kaitamo agrees, but suggests waiting until nightfall to verify: the foul glow of the stone at night will allow the characters to confirm that it has passed on.

In the meantime, Kaitamo brings back a couple of rabbits. Baba Ali cooks them up.

In the dark, the characters have no problems finding a glowing green stone. They bring it back to camp. Oka tells the others, "The gods have punished you for your unbelief by casting it back to earth!"

Singh suggests, "I just heard a feminine voice telling me to bury it in a cave! The gods of the earth will keep it safe for us."

Baba Ali offers, "I believe both of you. The gods of the sky have turned their backs upon us, we must rely upon the gods of the earth now."

Kaitamo mocks, "Yes, they're like people with tongue piercings – they'll swallow anything."

Singh ignores the Mongol as he organizes the three surviving pirates into a work party to blockade (and possibly collapse) the cave. They eventually succeed, though the characters lose a pirate in the process.

### *What Do You Mean "He Tried"?*

The characters make their way back to the pirate camp to find a lot of apologetic pirates sitting around. The pirates explain that Jobert tried to escape, but that the characters' two companions went to bring him back. Singh suggests, "It sounds to me like he did escape, that that our friends are off hunting him down again..."

The *Bear Clan* cultists are also at the pirate camp. They are somewhat sorrowful to hear that the characters killed almost all of the Stone Wolves, but they are quite happy to learn that the shaman has been defeated. They offer to hold a feast in the characters' honor. The Bear Clan chief proceeds to list off a long list of dead animals that will be served ("Stoats... goats... oxen... wildebeests... springboks... elks... whelks... smelts... belts..."). The characters are pleased.

The characters are even more pleased when they see the feast. Everyone eats to excess, and then they tell their stories. Baba Ali relates how he was always a disappointment to his father, who sold him to a ragged wanderer, a man who smelled bad and had lost several teeth. But that wanderer possessed great wisdom: he sold Ali to a monastery, where he learned herbalism and gardening.

Singh tells of how he was the son of a farmer until strangers came to his town and attempted to slaughter everyone. He was rescued by yet another filthy old man, one who taught him that hard work will get you nothing that cannot be taken away by someone stronger.

Oka tells a story that, strangely, does not feature filthy old men with bad teeth. He relates how he was raised by wolves until he was almost a man. But then Grandfather Tiger desired to kill him because he feared man. Fortunately, he was rescued and taught to dance and sing by orangutans.

Kaitamo simply sneaks off with his native lover for one last rendezvous.

The Bear Clan chief accepts all the characters into the tribe. He names Singh as Wolf-Who-Thinks-He-Is-a-Fox. Oka is Dances-With-Monkeys. Baba Ali will be Talks-Like-Old-Woman. But then when he asks after Kaitamo, he finds that both the Mongol and his daughter are missing. He is furious. He proposes flinging stones at them until they are both dead.

## Things Go Wrong for Kaitamo

While the other characters are working to persuade the Chief to not execute his own daughter, Kaitamo and *Puna* are confronting a completely different set of problems. They are interrupted in their assignation by two city-men armed with crossbow and blade. Puna takes a bolt solidly in the shoulder, while Kaitamo is merely grazed.

He leaps up with Puna in a fireman's carry and rushes back to the camp howling, "We're under attack! We're under attack!"

As Kaitamo emerges from the woods, unclad with his girlfriend over his shoulders, Singh muses, "That's the weirdest sex game I have ever seen."

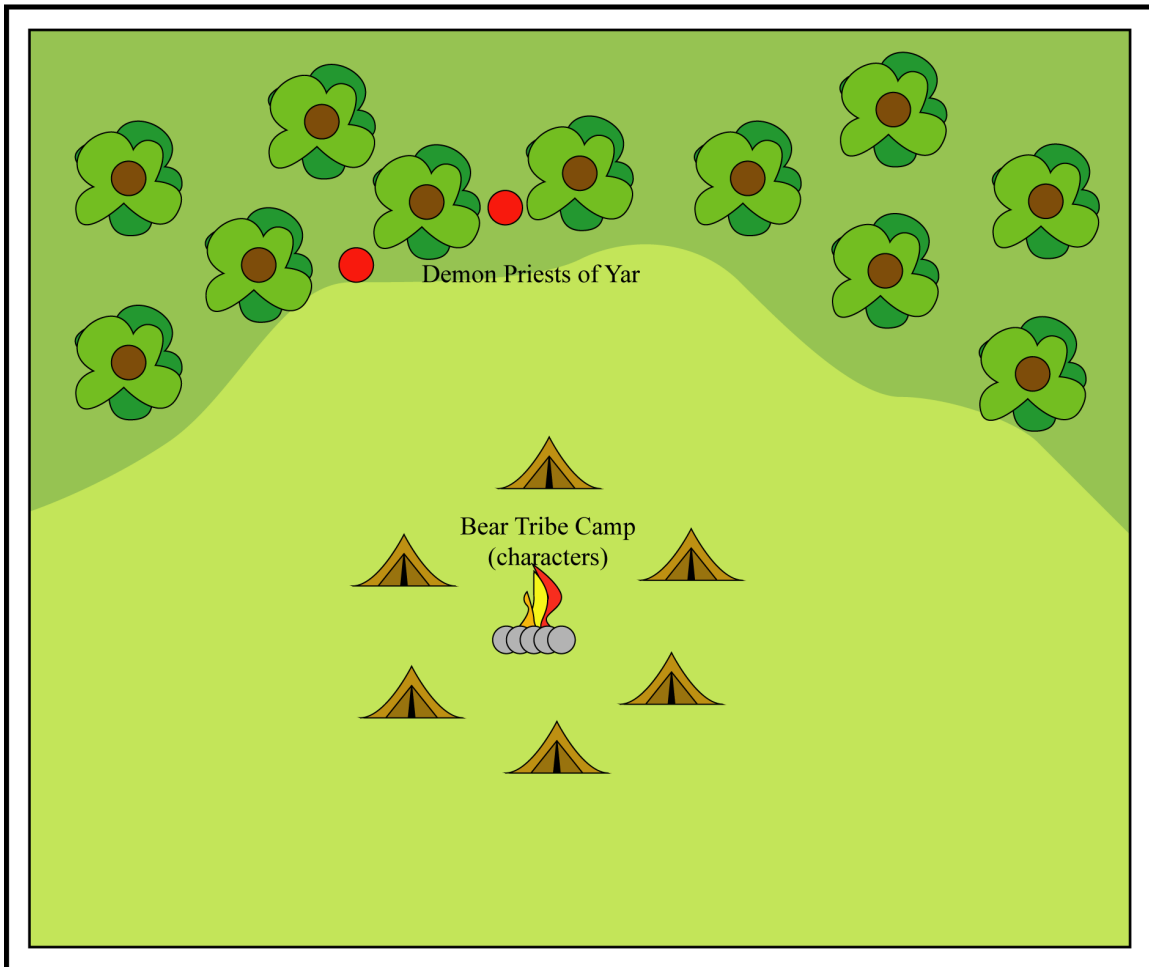
The two attackers attempt to shoot at the characters from the treeline, but the characters waste no time in eliminating them.

The characters pull the bodies out into the open and find that the attackers are both shaven-headed warrior monks, probably *Priests of Yar*, worshippers of the demon god *Yago*. Apparently the god *Yago*, in addition to being in charge of death and chaos, believes that hair is unhealthful. All of his followers are completely shaven. Completely: the characters check.

Oka helpfully comments that priests of *Yago* have to travel in pairs, because they can't shave all over themselves without help. He suggests that this is a way for them to develop a sense of esprit de corps.

Baba Ali ignores the others. He's too busy helping himself to one of their crossbows and observing that they have 30 silvers between the two of them. At least until Singh explains that the world is actually on the skin of a huge beet, which in turn sits in the mouth of a huge turtle. Someday the turtle will chew through the whole beet at which point the world will end. Baba Ali speaks up, "Speaking as a man who knows something about growing beets, your new religion interests me."

### The Northerners Attack the Bear Tribe



#### *Where Did the Priests Come From?*

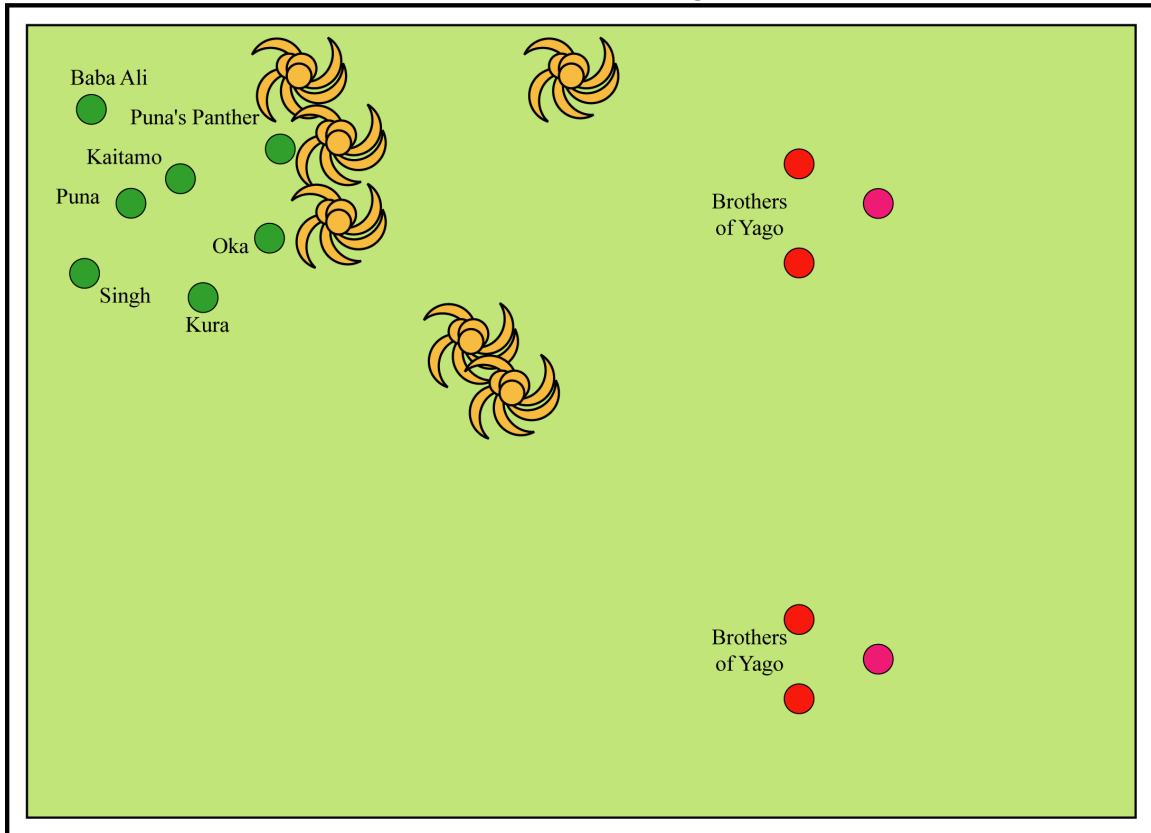
The characters eventually decide that these particular priests actually come from Yar proper, far to the East. This brings up several questions about why priests would travel from so far away to torment the characters (or, possibly the Bear Tribe). One theory is that the glowing Mysterious Stone may have belonged to them.

Oka volunteers to track them to see where they came from. He quickly finds that they made no effort to hide their tracks. Just after twilight the characters come upon a half-dozen priests of Yar moving through the underbrush. Singh makes motions to the others to freeze, then he moves towards the priests with his garrote ready.

The priests spot Oka and open fire. Their bolts tear through the brush, barely missing him. Oka hisses, “Forward Kura! Attack attack!” Kura launches herself through the air straight into one Brother of Yago, tearing out his throat with one mighty

claw-swipe. Oka glares at another Brother, who had been making magical hand passes, and shouts, “I do not like your hand-waving style of magic! Stop at once!” The Brother is shaken. Another Brother draws his blade and slashes at the savage. Oka evades the attack, looking even more manly in the process.

### The Brothers of Yago



The characters quickly move in. The Brothers of Yago (including the two spellcasting acolytes) do not last long. Baba Ali manages to save two of them, but the rest of them are done for.

Kaitamo and Oka take the lead in interrogating the two surviving Yago cultists. They don't make quick progress.

- *What are you doing here? Keep your hands off us, you dirty, hairy blasphemers! It's none of your business.*
- *We can keep you tied up and away from your razors until you grow long beards. What are you doing here? That's disgusting!*
- *We have two leopards to threaten you! You don't scare me.*

- *Baba Ali – can you cut open their brains to read their thoughts? I don't know, but let me get out my brain-slicing knife.*
- *I love the fact that you carry something like that. Now tell us what we want to know!* The curse of Yago upon you all!

At this point, the acolyte attempts and fails to cast a spell.

- *Don't you people have any books? Not even a holy book? You fool! We are forced to memorize the words of Yago! I shall recite the eleventh stanza of the Demonic Verses of Yago to you! Agor a tuga vay! Bago wagga agga yop...!*
- *Shut up now! Dambu ubba pugu noo...!*

Kaitamo asks, “Baba Ali – can you find any herbs to make them loopy and compliant?”

Baba Ali answers, “I can certainly try, but why don't you try these opiates first?” Baba Ali heads off to find herbs anyway while Kaitamo and Puna feed the acolyte an impromptu Mickey Finn.

Puna eventually gets the acolyte to talk, though he isn't all that lucid. He seems to think that she is some kind of demon avatar of Yago, perhaps some sort of demonic herald come to reward him for finding the Demon Stone of Yago. He does mention that he and his companions were sent over by *Shen-Ka*. Shen-Ka is rumored to be the ruler of the city-state of Radu, for all that he is known to be a sorcerer-priest of Yar. And Radu is all the way over to the West, not to the East (where Yar is).

Baba Ali explains to the others that Radu is the Dark City, inhabited by sorcerers, beastmen, pirates, priests of forbidden gods, mortgage agents, same-sex couples and other monsters. They recently went to war against the city of Albana, summoning dragons to scorch the towers and merchant fleet. The city is one of the few where sorcery is openly practiced, among other perversions. Baba Ali lowers his voice when he tells the others that the city retransmits Major League baseball games with implicit oral permission, *not* explicit written permission! The others are horrified.

Puna continues to interrogate the drugged acolyte, learning that they do have a base camp along the river, near the mountains to the north. There are perhaps a dozen brothers, two or three acolytes, and the *Preceptor Vane-Ra* in charge.



## **Should We Kill Them All?**

The characters start to debate over whether or not they should attack the Yago cultists. Baba Ali suggests that in the interests of multiculturalism the cultists should be allowed to follow their own beautiful unique beliefs. He argues in favor of hosting a multicultural festival: the cultists could have a booth, as could the Bear Tribe, and Baba Ali could put together a presentation on sustainable agriculture.

Singh offers, "I'm all in favor of going to the camp and killing them all."

Kaitamo pipes up, "I agree with the psychopath!"

Singh continues, "But we could try a trick on them, by allowing them to overhear our so-called plan to go to Belsa and sell a glowing rock. And eventually let the captives go so they can take word back to their companions." Everyone agrees with this plan.

The characters leave the captives with the Bear Tribe, with instructions to not guard them so carefully. Their plan is to travel to the Pirate Camp and then to the city-state of Belsa. Unfortunately, one of the cultists figures out that the characters do not have the stone. The characters decide that killing them is the best policy, but their ability to do this is constrained by the relatively large number of Heroic characters in the group. The eventual plan is to release them and hunt them down, Most Dangerous Game-style.

The process of hunting the cultists down is somewhat complicated when the acolyte demonstrates that he can still cast spells, including *Fear* and *Bolt*. The acolyte manages to horribly injure Singh with a *Bolt* before Oka cuts him down. Fortunately, Baba Ali is able to heal Singh back to health with some herbs.

Once he recovers, Singh croaks out, "Can we all go hunt them down and kill them now?" All agree.

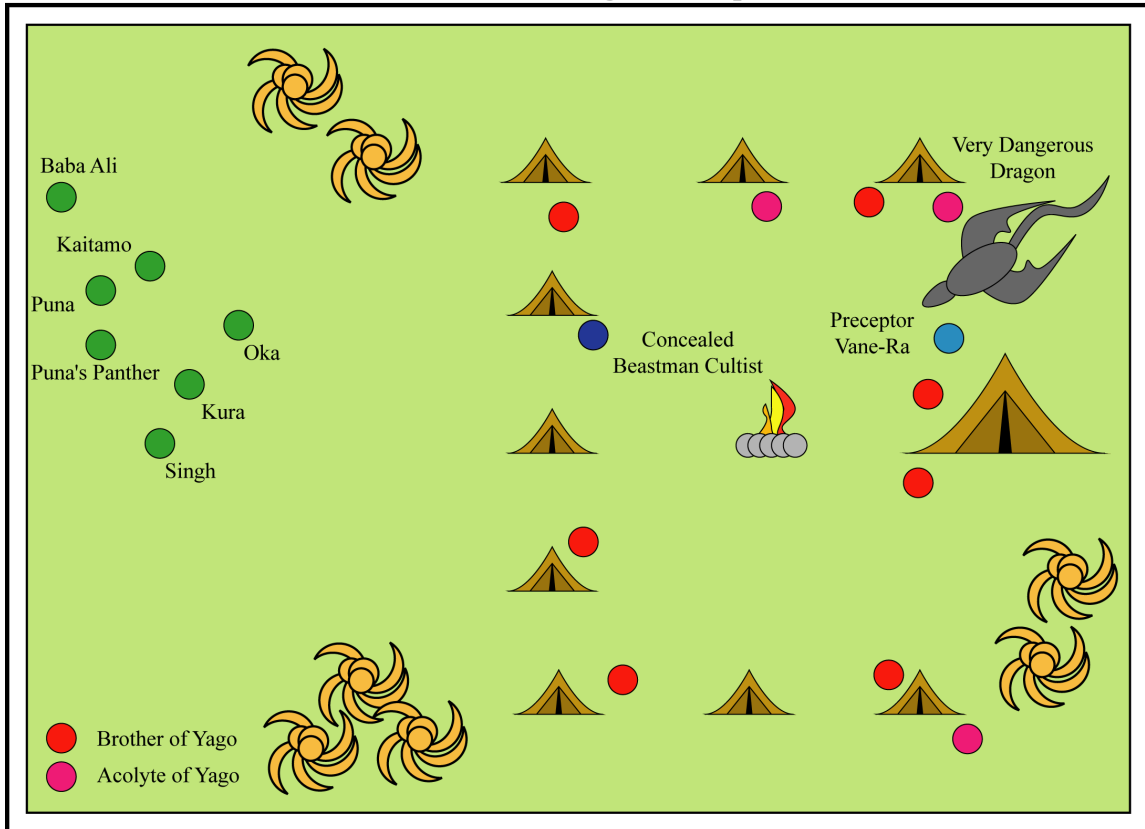
### *The Yago Cultist Encampment*

The characters trek upriver for two days until they reach the encampment of the Brothers of Yago. Their sentry knows his business and spots them as they are some distance out. Singh and Oka move forward to the attack, discovering in the process that some of the mundane-looking cultists are actually quite sharp-eyed: one of the sentries spots the characters some distance out and raises the alarm.

The characters move in with good confidence, right up until the cultist Oka engaged with changes shape and reveals himself to be a savage beastman. And then the

dragon slinks out from behind Preceptor Vane-Ra's tent. Vane-Ra strides out of his tent and mounts the high saddle on the dragon's back, clearly preparing to take the air and rain devastating burning death upon the characters from the air. With Baba Ali and Kaitamo providing ineffectual archery support Oka and Singh withdraw.

### The Brothers of Yago Encampment



Kaitamo and Puna find themselves on the tail end of the withdrawal, which helps them absorb rather more than their share of arrows. Puna takes an arrow through the wish-bone and staggers. Kaitamo stays back to help her but she very nobly calls out, “No! Save yourself, leave me to be rent asunder by the savage westerners!” Kaitamo reflects upon just how heroic he feels today. Should he attempt to rescue his girlfriend, or just try to find another one in the big city? As he contemplates, she is struck by an acolyte's *Bolt* and crippled. Kaitamo takes a second *Bolt* and finds himself shaken. Both of them struggle to their feet and flee out from underneath the blades of two murderous cultists.

*The End of the Session*

The session ends with the characters fleeing madly through the woods with the werewolf rampaging after them. Each character gains three experience points.