

The Tragic Song of the Boon'Sheh

From the Journal of Olson Steed

It was in a seedy spacer bar on the outskirts of Volkos while looking for a berth to work my way back to Truane's Star that I encountered Captain Aramis Caine. He was advanced in age and no longer had the look of the legendary rouge who had broke the hearts of a 1000 women, made and lost 100 fortunes, discovered 10 planets and captured 1 sathar carrier. In fact, I would have never recognized him unless the bartender had not pointed him out.

He appeared down on his luck, like me, but I felt obligated to buy his drinks and soak up the stories. Several days I spent feasting on his stories while he drank up my remaining cash. That was how I learned of the tragic tale of the boon'sheh.

The boon'sheh are a little know race from the Fokrik system with the misfortune to evolve on the same planet as the humma. The humma being humma hounded and fought with the boon'sheh till they were nearly wiped out. Eventually they had retreated into furthest recesses of the most inhospitable environments on Hum or herded into preserves under the protection of the hummarin king. That was until some valuable resource was discovered in one of the major preserves. At that time many were forcibly relocated to the barely inhabitable planet Larg.

Captain Caine had come to befriend a disgraced outcast of the boon'sheh and took him on as crew. Boon'Gig had traveled with Caine for six years before returning to Fokrik to reclaim his ancestral lands or die trying. Captain Caine was visibly choked up over Gig's death. It was obvious that he'd been quite fond of him.

Apparently, the death of his friend had, for once in Captain Caine's life given him a political cause. He became the champion of the marginalized boon'sheh. As the first human to have become a captain in the Capellan Free Merchants he had the clout to push for political recognition of the boon'sheh by the Rim Coalition.

He valiantly stormed the heights of power demanding autonomy and membership in the coalition for his friend's people. The Highest One of the humma banned him immediately from the Fokrik system. Though little reported in the Frontier the incident became a major firestorm in the Rim.

The power and influence of the Fokrik system went further then Caine anticipated. In short order he was expelled from the Capellan Free Merchants and his docking privileges were rescinded in the Capella system. His petition to the coalition government fell on deaf ears and no one would hire him to carry cargo in Rim territory.

The once great legend returned to the Frontier and climbed inside a bottle. I can now say a man should never see his hero at his worse. A legend seldom survives when you are confronted with its reality. I was the one who found his body just two days before I shipped out for Truane's Star working my passage on the Dixon's Dawn. Captain Aramis Caine was found dead in his quarters of a self inflicted wound from the multi-pistol given him by friend Boon'Gig.