

This appendix to the Jameld Dictionary is intended to provide a little background information on Jameldic culture, and to explain some of the odder dictionary entries. Documentation of these things is at an early stage, so at present there are only a few notes here, but we hope you find them of assistance. There are a number of other matters which have been partly documented but are not yet included here, and it is intended that these notes will in time grow to form a sort of vestigial *Encyclopædia Jameldica*.

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Farghwifin (Pig-wiping)

There is a Jameldic legend of a knight (possibly Jorthel or his relative) who was wrongly accused of some heinous dishonourable act, stripped of his armour, and condemned to wipe the royal pigs clean. He was given no cloth with which to accomplish this task, and was therefore compelled to use his own underwear (all he was wearing, obviously). He was told that he would not be released until all the pigs were wiped clean – clearly, a near-impossible task.

Hence the expression that something is pig-wiping, i.e. deeply unpleasant, awful to have to do, with connotations of filth, futility and humiliation.

Fruitcake

The baked comestible is considered highly healthful and therapeutic in Jameldic culture. Hence, the Jameld word for pharmacist is *fruktkohkar* ('fruitcake-person', i.e. fruitcake vendor).

Names

Every Jamelŕ has an honorary or noble name, used in formal situations. This is often a royal name or one with noble meaning. e.g. Älvard.
Also, there is a personal name used only by friends and family, which appears formally as one's middle name, e.g. Jameŕ.

Hence, your humble editor's correct Jameldic name is: Älvard Jameŕ te Kraamlep; in formal situations he would be addressed as Älvard te Kraamlep (there being no need

for a *Mr* or equivalent, as the name Älvard is in itself noble), but friends would simply call him Jamefs.

Princings

Zuraaland consists of eight counties or administrative districts, known as Princings (see map below). Each is governed by (or, more correctly, has a legislature chaired by) an appointed 'prince' – not someone of royal or noble descent, but rather a respected local man or woman who has been nominated: firstly by their *wik* (civil parish) to the administration of the prancing, and secondly by that prancing council to be their presiding member.



Ravtaal

All the disturbingly odd (and etymologically untenable) bits of Jameld are due to the linguistic reforms – some would say *deforms* – wreaked by the 16th Century king Ravtaal II, who was only thirteen when he succeeded his father Ravtaal I (who had died tragically of a surfeit of marshmallows).

A truculent and petulant teenager, Ravtaal had received little training in royal matters, nor indeed in general good manners. It soon became clear that the nation would be gravely affected by his every whim when in 1547 he cancelled the rat harvest, an act which some commentators consider to be the cause of the Blue Plague which ravaged Jameldic society shortly afterward.

By the age of 22, Ravtaal had decreed a number of forced changes to Jameld, the national tongue. Among these were a shoehorning of all verbs – strong, weak, irregular, weird – into one absolutely regular class with minimal conjugations. When certain verbs didn't seem to fit, he made up new words at will, often jumbling up bits of words from other languages. [*The tyrant – what sort of maniac makes up their own language and then forces it upon others?* — Ed.]

The king then enforced these changes to the language by law – anyone found using the old, “debased” forms was to be imprisoned. The people meekly accepted the bizarre new laws, and quietly started to plan Ravtaal’s assassination. Unfortunately, the reclusive Ravtaal (whom the people nicknamed Rifttal – “rip up the language”) survived numerous attempts on his life, and lived to the ripe old age of 97, by which time the original forms and words were unknown to the general population, forgotten by all except for a few wizened historians who nobody took much notice of, and of course for the proud Börgeslantars who, hidden away in their hilltop retreats, had determinedly clung on to their ‘pure’ speech. Nobody took much notice of them either due to their national joke status as country bumpkins and cave dwellers, which frankly was a mite harsh.

Ravtaal outlived all his heirs, and at his death the Jamelteses gladly abolished the monarchy.

Taboos

A surprisingly strong taboo in Jameldic culture is the ‘creepy-crawly’, or unspecified small arthropod (in Jameld called “krüpinbesta” or “krüpkriüp”). This revulsive taboo is intensified if the creature in question is deceased. To imply that someone “mest araghines” (eats spiders) would be a great insult, but to say that he or she “mest dod’ araghines” (eats *dead* spiders) or “mest ickaldodarjas” (eats disgusting little dead things) would be just about the most appalling slur possible on that person’s character... unless of course they actually *do* eat such things, in which case they deserve all the opprobrium they receive.