

Djayet

By Kevin Goebel ("Royal Scribe")

Most of the residents of the small village of Djayet on the western edge of the Eknapata Desert are self-sufficient, but just barely getting by. The village's water supply is enough to sustain the village's agricultural needs, and villagers trade turquoise-stone jewelry with the trading caravans that pass through the area.

Recently, a well-funded archeological expedition has come to town, paying the villagers handsomely to get their support for an archeological excavation of the ruins of an ancient temple once dedicated to the god Akh'Mashnazahd, Lord of the Sands. Some villagers expressed reservations about disturbing the ruins, but most welcomed the influx of gold brought by the archeologists.

But perhaps the warnings should have been heeded: three of the archeologists have now turned up dead from no discernable causes, one each week for the last three weeks.