

DARK TIMES

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DIVINE RETRIBUTION

Last month saw two religious men – one Catholic priest and one Church of Scotland minister, Father Romano and Minister Allan Logie – found killed in highly suspicious circumstances in a graveyard in north Glasgow. This month, a chain of events seems to have unearthed the reasons behind their deaths, with explosive results.

The story broke across a number of newspapers that both men are now under police investigation for child sex abuse. A number of young boys have incriminated both men for abuse which had taken place over a number of years, and detectives are assessing the extent of the allegations and if anyone else was involved.

Police are still struggling to understand the connection between a Protestant minister and a Catholic priest, one who had apparently rarely been to the UK. They are completely sure of the identification of both men though, and the other details were consistent between the boys' stories. Officers would have made arrests, but the men were discovered slain in St Kentigerns RC cemetery.

While no definite evidence has been found yet as to the killers, the police are working on the assumption that someone connected with one or more of the victims was responsible for drumming up a vigilante group. The ensuing violence suggests that the churchmen had allies of their own, and that both groups were armed and dangerous, though neither suspect used a weapon themselves.

Since that fateful night, details have been gradually leaked to the press, which has been poorly received by the Glasgow community. Up in arms about the accusations, the city has been split by those who blame



One example of the graffiti covering church buildings in Glasgow

the Catholics, others blaming the Protestants, and those who staunchly defend one of the faiths. Often the same people deny the accusations against one denomination and level accusations against the other.

The result has been large amounts of vitriol towards religious figures, and vandalism of church property, along with protests and calls upon the police to break down the doors of churches to root out any conspirators. The worst of the rising aggression came with an attack upon Glasgow Cathedral, which saw homemade firebombs thrown through the church windows and the word "paedo" scrawled on the walls of the Cathedral in spray paint. The damage inside was extensive, and a number of practitioners were injured before the resulting blaze could be brought under control.

The city remains on the precipice of a descent into serious violence. Official sources are hoping that if the truth of the accusations against Romano and Logie can be discovered, this might help bring some closure to the matter. Both the

BOON TRADING:

- *Minor Boon from Edward Bulwer-Lytton to William de Montfort*
- *Minor Boon from Thomas Carmichael to Alastair Farr*
- *Minor Boon owed to the Duke of York repaid by Cameron Swift*

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DIVINE RETRIBUTION CONT...



A fire has been lit

Church of Scotland and the Catholic Church are denying any knowledge though and have closed ranks. Given the Serious Crime

Unit's recent difficulties, there may be no-one left with the talent to get to the truth.

GLASGOW IN JUNE—SIMON HAILE

Last month saw the celebrations honouring Mary Jezabelle's half a decade within the tumultuous domain of Glasgow. By all accounts a number of interesting games, competitions and riddles were held with elder Angus, ancilla Trenchard, ancilla Cambell and others all winning at various events. Other business precluded me from attending but I would love to know what was behind the curtain. Was Mary Jezabelle recruited by the representatives to Norfolk? Did they require access to other kindred or resources within Glasgow?

For it being the last affair with neonate Chauncey being Glasgow's seneschal it was curious to see just how little time he spend at the celebration. Of course with his resignation already accepted behind closed doors maybe it reminded him far to much of all the things he has lost over the last few months. Interestingly enough in spite of him being there for only a few short minutes he found enough time for yet another attempt to wriggle out of his debts. By now who would have expected anything different from him. I for one am glad that ancilla Trenchard took that debt off my hands.

Speaking of debts, conflicts about debts and prestation as a whole I have read Anne Jacques', the self proclaimed Harpy of York, article on matters of prestation. I feel that in parts she has misunderstood or misquoted me and in other parts it is interesting to see that she found the time to list the problems with a common way of resolving conflicts and yet completely failed to mention how it is resolved in her domain. I hope she takes the time to read this article and furnishes us with how things are done at the court of the Duke of York, a staunch traditionalist.

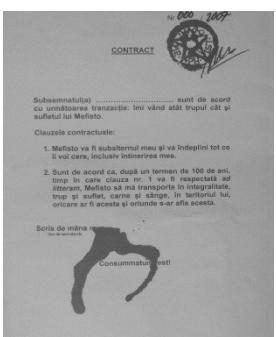
Further I find her classification into minor, major and life boon a little simplistic.

Whilst, of course, those terms could describe the three groups most commonly traded and commented about in modern night it would be remiss to fail to mention the others. First there are the trivial boons. A trivial boon is one usually done in a single action with no down side to the one doing them. Introducing a new arrival to the prince of the domain, allowing an ancilla to sit at a table of elders, causing a distraction to mask a minor faux pas by a peer or loaning insignificant assets. These boons, whilst rarely tracked are never the less noted and those who continuously incur those debts without ever repaying these favours or courtesies will find other opinions of them drop.

I also disagree with her definition of a minor boon. Minor boons require a Kindred to go out of her way to perform or pay off. They may have a small but permanent downside associated with them, or they may involve some small amount of risk. This risk needn't be physical. In fact, for many Kindred, the risk of social embarrassment or loss of an academic resource might be more distressing than physical harm. These favours are the grease that oils the machines of the Camarilla. If they were as insignificant as she makes them believe an awful lot more major boons would be traded but if you pay close attention there is usually less than one major boon openly traded a month across all of Britain.

Also in her definition of a major boon incurs major risk or inconvenience. Where would all the boons fall with a small amount of risk or inconvenience, if not to the minor boon. But regardless, a major invariably invites some amount of personal risk or a significant investment of effort. Major boons don't often take place on the spur of the moment, instead representing a steady investment of time or resources with an expected long-term outcome. That said, a Kindred desper-

“WAS MARY
JEZABELLE
RECRUITED BY
THE
REPRESENTATIVE
TO NORFOLK?”



The devil is in the details

GLASGOW IN JUNE CONT...

ate enough for a favour may well pledge a major boon for a quick but momentous action. These boons are often used to directly or indirectly alter the political landscape of a domain.

Beyond the major boon we have the increasingly rare blood boon. Harking back to the times when kindred lords would meet each other on the field of battle a blood boon is a boon for which a kindred might bleed. These boons are sufficient to force a kindred and those sworn to her onto a field of battle, both physical and of influence. Also it is the kind of boon required to give or consume vitae. These debts could force someone to openly and actively join someone challenging the position of prince of a domain, they could be used to force a kindred to be bound one step by blood to another, to hand over claim over an unreleased childe or boon of creation or any other matter equally significant. While it has been more than a century since last I heard about such a debt having been incurred there are certainly still some older debts of this type on the books.

Finally, the life boon is the rarest and most valuable of the boons observed. Ironically, these are usually the boons most often promised or called in on a moment's notice despite their gravity. As their name intimates, these boons are often all that stands between a Kindred seeing another night and meeting her own Final Death. They don't have to arise under those circumstances — a contentious elder may well promise a life boon to a rival group of elders in the interests of taking down a mutually despised Prince in exchange for honouring her own claim to the throne after the deed is done — but the majority of life boons are dire and sworn under great and imminent duress. The holder of the boon can command the other in all things, in theory even forcing them to end their existence.

With those descriptions out of the way we can now focus on our differing opinions. Harpy Jacques struggles to understand how referring one's arguments to the inner council of the domain would be practical. And how instead, correct me if I read this incor-

rectly, instead a debate of reasoned opinion should be held where opinions of influential kindred hold great sway. I would wager that as Harpy of York she is in fact a major proponent of York's inner circle of influential kindred and I would also wager that if she was approached by one or both sides of a dispute on matters of prestation she'd likely give her ruling without having a public debate of the details of the matter, very much because boons are personal and private. In my view, until a debt is witnessed by one or more third parties, it is a gentlemen's agreement between both parties and due to the lack of outside witnesses seeking restitution will be difficult.

There is one point though about the repayment of favours on which everyone I have ever discussed the matter with agrees. The completion of a boon is comparatively and universally simple. Once the Kindred who holds the boon declares it satisfied, that's it; it's done. Only in the rare cases of treachery or completely unrealistic demands will the inner circle of the domain, often the harpies and the prince, declare a debt is settled without the declaration of satisfaction of the Kindred holding the boon.

Before I finish there is the point of respect towards those who you are beholden to. Of course such respect does not automatically happen, while never the less it should happen. Just like a neonate should show respect to an ancilla and an ancilla to an elder you should be respectful to those who hold your debts, even if normally they are your social lessers.

A good rule of thumb is to treat those who hold a minor boon over you like your peers, those who hold a major boon over you like your betters and those who hold a blood boon over you like your prince. This can often lead to awkward situations if one finds themselves indebted to some form of undesirable or another and in the worst case, where the one you are beholden to is blood hunted you find yourself in a position where you either are required to forswear on your promises or aid a subject of the hunt.



“THE MAJORITY OF LIFE BOONS ARE DIRE AND SWORN UNDER GREAT AND IMMINENT DURESS.”



GLASGOW IN JUNE CONT...



On the flip side gaining debts over influential members of the society is the way to advance. Should sufficient members of a particular group treat you as their equal sooner rather than later you become their equal in the eyes of the society. Just like should you become beholden to too many of your social lessers in no time your former peers will treat you like one of them.

Lastly I would like to talk about those who attempt to welsh on their obligations. In my experience any attempt by a Kindred to wriggle out of a prestation debt is met with an immediate and overwhelming response. As soon as the harpies hear of the affair, the offender's reputation is effectively trashed. He loses status and finds himself followed by derisive gossip. Alliances, particularly those based on favours given in the past,

wither. Furthermore, the reputation one gets for welshing on favours is not easily shaken, and the stench of it will follow the kindred offender for decades. In the meantime, he finds obtaining help from anyone to be nigh-impossible, unless he's willing to pay usurious rates for assistance. That is but the tip of the iceberg. A Kindred who breaks a promise demonstrates that she places her own interests above those of others. And when the survival of the Kindred relies on keeping their existence a secret from the mortal world, a Kindred who can't be trusted to keep a promise can't be trusted to keep a secret. A treacherous Kindred will betray again, so princes often remove them from their domain.

Elder Simon Haile
Keeper of Elysium of Glasgow

RETURN TO SENDER

“NO ONE CLAIMS TO HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HIS TRUE NATURE”

It's been many a year since any solid news came out of Connacht – that mysterious domain which has sat ominously quiet. It was always believed that a Camarilla Prince laid claim to those lands, most likely one of Nosferatu lineage, but no one claims to have any knowledge about his true nature, let alone have met him.

Such is the lack of information that younger Kindred may not have even been aware that the fabled Prince existed, or understood why most stayed clear of most of the south of the Emerald Isle. That area must have seemed ripe for exploitation, with large numbers of untapped mortals.

It was these prospects which drew two Neonates from the mainland, who saw their chance to make a name for themselves. Rufus Thacker was a long suffering ventrue childe of one of Anne Bowesley's supporters in Birmingham and had finally been released years later than normal. Rather than become immediately embroiled in Birmingham politics, he instead connected with Matthew Everett, a young Brujah who had

struggled to make any headway in the stuffy and static domain of Severn.

They made arrangements to set up in Dublin, made contact with significant mortals in the region, and last month they struck out for their promised land. And that was the last that anyone heard from them. Until this month, when some of their possessions were returned to their respective domains by their own ghouls – each of whom were traumatised and unresponsive when questioned.

It slowly emerged that something dreadful had happened to both men, although the specifics are unknown. The effect on the ghouls is one which is only usually caused when the link with their master is severed, likely by final death. Their memories are far from intact though; even if they witnessed anything it is buried beneath layers of psychosis.

One Kindred in Severn took one of Everett's possessions to discern if there were any spiritual impressions left which might give an indication of what had befallen him. They



RETURN TO SENDER CONT...

have since refused to report what exactly they saw, simply insisting that Everett is "lost" and swiftly changing the subject.

The Elders of Severn and Birmingham have offered no public opinion on the matter, but

in private they recognise resignedly that it was only a matter of time before this happened – and that it will no doubt happen again in years to come. Certainly they do not seem surprised; so beware reader, you have been warned.



AND NOW FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT - ANON

Article 1

Why is Haile allowed to write things?

Article 2

What do we want?! Haile to Stop writing Dark Times articles!

When do we want it?! Now!

Article 3

Someone should just break his keyboard and get it over with...

Article 4

Whenever I read Haile's articles I can't help but hear the song "All by myself" and think he must be very lonely.

Article 5

No-one cares Haile... Just do yourself a favour and go rot somewhere else.

Article 6

Does he think anyone actually listens to him... Well Haile... We don't.

Article 7

Sometimes I think I'm being mean to Haile but then I realize it's Haile and he is already dead inside, so it doesn't really matter.

Article 8

I used to write long winded articles that no-

Article 9

one cared about, but then I took an arrow to the knee. Quick, someone shoot Haile in the knee.

Haile

Article 10

Oh look, another article by Haile. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~.

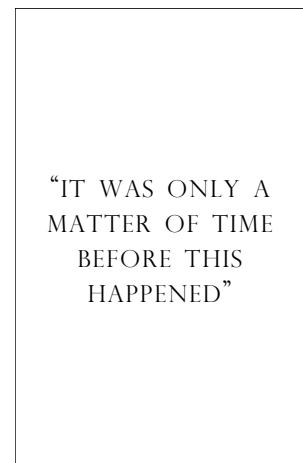
Article 11

H.A.I.L.E

Have Ass, I Lease Entry

Article 12

Haile, look to your left. Now look to your right. Actually, just have a good long look around you. See all those people... You know, all of them. They don't like you very much.



Article 13

The great sleep of Torpor comes to us all but this is the first time I have risked it by reading a Dark Times article. Thank You Haile.

AND NOW CONT...

Article 14

I think Haile should be Harpy. No...
Wait... That other thing. Dead.

Article 15

It's not a surprise Haile is an Elder. It feels like I have been reading his articles since the dawn of time.

Article 16

Why?!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

"I THINK THAT
HAILE SHOULD
BE HARPY.
NO... WAIT...
THAT OTHER
THING.
DEAD."

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Article 17

Read all the previous articles again.

Article 18

If he doesn't get the point by now we will need to try again, and again, and again...

FLASH-MOB-DANCE



Following last month's reporting of flashmobs springing up in parks across the city, the phenomenon has only intensified this month, with dozens of impromptu gatherings taking place in Glasgow. Given the dangers of the city's parks, police are becoming more and more concerned by these ongoing revelries.

Although it is proving difficult, some progress was made on identifying the individuals who have been leading the trend of meeting late at night, mostly using BlackBerry Messenger or Twitter. However, as

no serious crime has been committed, police could do little more than give a warning for breach of the peace.

Officers will be trying to keep a close eye on the usual online routes, to try and head off the flashmobs before they build, but given how quickly the momentum of the parties builds and the variety of individuals involved, there is little confidence. It seems just a matter of time before one of the revellers ends up dead.

HARPY HOUR

So Summer comes, and Margery speaks again! At last she has something more to say on Glasgow, and I for one will welcome her straight talking no-nonsense approach to Kindred politics. In other news, Chauncey's response to Haile finally emerged this month. I've attached the letter to this edition for you to read yourself, but it seems some facts have finally come to light. Prince Aldworth doesn't seem too impressed with Chauncey's conduct, though he did confirm enough to make things interesting...

Two members of Clan Malkavian attended Court in Glasgow last month, with apparently quite entertaining results. A few members of the Court won prizes for their participation in the games that evening. Lucretia Reflection gives her thoughts in this edition, but I did hear that Baron Edward Bulwer-Lytton enjoyed his evening – aside from one surly member of Clan Gangrel who didn't quite show the manners expected of him.

~

“Prince Carlisle, in a manner befitting the most gracious of members of our fair Clan, played host this month to the unsavoury Peter Fraser. He might be capable of holding a conversation, unlike so many of the Anarch brood, but his assertions regarding the Camarilla and its failings? Most distasteful.

“However, in his wisdom, Carlisle allowed the man to sit with some of the younger members of Court, no doubt filling their heads with nonsense. Now it falls to me, and other upstanding folks, to set those heads right again, and repair any damage done. Fraser is off to Birmingham now, I’m sure he’ll find more material in the cold war there than he did here in the cultural heart of this country. I wonder what Dominik Wallace and Anne Bowesley will make of the man.”

Lady Eleanor Plunkett, Harpy of Edinburgh

~

“Edward Bulwer-Lytton and I wanted to thank you, Glasgow, for allowing our little



Lucretia Reflection and Edward Bulwer-Lytton at Court in Glasgow

party for Mary Jezabelle. Congratulations again, my dear, on surviving life in Glasgow. You must have the patience and forbearance of a saint! Thanks also to Levi Tius and the other prize winners for taking part in our games. I do hope that you enjoyed them.

I must admit that your court surprised me with the complexity of your politics. A little crude and unsophisticated, perhaps, but the weave of backstabbing, manipulation and malicious gossip was quite fascinating. Take this unfortunate situation between William Chauncey and Simon Haile for example. I mentioned Simon’s letter, which was appended to last month’s Dark Times, to the signatories...one supported Simon 100% but refused to comment on the details, one was horrified that their name was on it and one professed no memory of any of the events involved. Curiouser and curioser! Based on those I talked to, Simon’s issues primarily involved a supposed conversation where William stopped Levi paying a boon to Simon. Perhaps Levi was just supporting his clanmate

“PRINCE
ALDWORTH
DOESN’T SEEM
TOO IMPRESSED
WITH
CHAUNCEY’S
CONDUCT...”

Dark Times

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The Dark Times is a publication for the benefits of members of the Camarilla only and is made available at the monthly court held by the Prince of Glasgow. The newsletter should only be made available to other Kindred, and all care should be taken to ensure that it cannot breach the Masquerade.

The Dark Times accepts submissions, and any Kindred should forward their contribution to the address to the left. We look forward to your efforts.

Yours,

Editor in Chief of the Dark Times

**DARK TIMES - BRINGING LIGHT TO
THE SHADOWS**

HARPY HOUR CONT...

but the charming young man was quite convincing when he told me that he knew of no owed boon in the first place. I have received a counter-letter from William which I have forwarded to Dark Times. William likes his detailed arguments, doesn't he? Your prince was kind enough to comment to me on their joint arguments - he steadfastly refuses to commit to a "side" but also seems rather disappointed with William overall and believes that William has made wrong choices in regards to his dealings with Simon.

"I am tempted to return to Glasgow to try to further unravel this puzzle further but I'm afraid that the atrocious manners of virtually the entire court may drive me to distraction!"

"Finally, here is a simple lesson on manners for you all. When you are with a visitor, or new resident, to the city and someone approaches you to join you in conversation, you should introduce the person of lower status to the person of higher status. I don't know if you were all just rude or ignorant of each other's names but it was a battle to find out who I was talking to and who they were! Then, when bored with the visitor's conversation, you introduce them to someone else then leave the group with apologies instead of just wandering away."

Lucretia Reflection, Harpy of Manchester

"This debacle between Haile and Chauncey has gone on long enough. Following the remaining details emerging this month, I have spoken with each of the harpies of the UK. Collectively, they and I declare that Chauncey's minor debt to Haile has been paid. However, I should warn that we shall be watching closely in future.

"I note that Glasgow is still receiving cast off Brujah and Tremere. Roland Laughn is a returning Ancilla but Derek Feldman is a young neonate that someone has mistakenly told him that Glasgow is a land of opportunity instead of somewhere to dispose the unloved and unwanted."

Margery Houndsorth-Stone, Harpy of London

~

Best Regards,

Editor in Chief



A monthly summary of British Camarilla news, politics, gossip and rumour, straight from the Harpy's mouth.