

# DARK TIMES

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## THE RESIDENT—A REPORT ON THE CONCLAVE

The conclave began formally when Madame Guile – dressed resplendently as always in green and black – began by announcing the order of proceedings and explaining her reasons for calling the conclave. Given the recent turmoil of the area, it is refreshing to see such an important matter dealt with in a civilised and traditional way.

Each contender for Dundee begins by making a formal statement. Carmichael first, his look classically understated and dashing, a casual but no less appealing combination of simple shirt and trousers, states his case eloquently. Carmichael argues that Dundee was already in the hands of the Toreador, lost by Aberdeen and claimed and protected by Toreador – particularly in light of the recent Sabbat attack, where the fore-runners of the defence were the Toreador.

Lesley's countering argument was straightforward. Dundee, he says, was not lost but given to someone to look after. He explains that Dundee would not need to be defended from the Sabbat had they not been allowed to enter in the first place. Lesley's argument is primarily that Dundee was safe in his hands in the past, and would be safe in them again.

The next event in the official proceedings was the presentation of physical evidence. As some of you may know, Edinburgh's initial claim on Dundee came from the idea that they had been

given it by John Kline, who gifted it to them before disappearing.

The evidence consisted of two pieces, firstly a letter from Mr Kline, allowing Edinburgh to do with Dundee what they willed – there was something suspicious about the letter that many picked up on, though other kindred at the conclave made use of their assorted gifts to glean much more information on the nature of the letter and how it had come to be written.

The second piece of evidence, a Mr Ian Dunnoch, was brought before the conclave in obvious distress. Struggling to speak, he stated that he had not killed John Kline, but that he had a hand in his disappearance. He also admitted to having broken the traditions.

Madame Guile spoke quite harshly to the offended guests, a tone quite justified given the severity of the situation, her domain had been breached and she would have it fixed, or there would be trouble.



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Once the evidence had been given, it was time for more speakers to say their pieces in support of the claimants.

Adam Edelstein spoke in support of Carmichael, expressing his typical eloquence and charm as he implored the listeners to think not of the he-said she-said, but of what was best for the Camarilla at large. The stability of Dundee, he said, was forefront, and in order to keep it safe and successful, Carmichael was the man for the job.

Angus McDonald spoke in favour of Lesley. He spoke of how the traditions were broken in order to get Dundee for Edinburgh, and this was unfair. Everybody, he said, helped to remove the sabbat, and if success in this particular battle was the most important thing then Dundee would go to him instead of either Carmichael or Lesley. It was Edinburgh who allowed the Sabbat in by his assessment, and the breach of the traditions was the most important thing to consider.

Prince Haile joined the debate, also in favour of Carmichael. He agreed with Angus on many points, however agreed with Adam that the manner of the domain changing hands is not important, the stability of the domain is forefront. He does not want Lesley's actions – of arriving with an army to scare away the watch, allowing the Sabbat to infiltrate – to set a precedent. He also notes that Lesley arrived somewhat late to the battle – a battle fought and won by Toreadors, who should now have the right to the domain they defended.

At this point, the gathered kindred were unavoidably distracted from the important decision they were here to undertake – Madame Guile was rushed urgently from the room, returning only

moments later to request Haile, Carmichael and Lesley to accompany her, alone.

Shortly afterwards she returned once more to make a serious announcement – there was a human hunter in the castle, almost certainly armed with a true faith weapon. Three kindred had already fallen to their blade, and perhaps most shockingly of all – Prince Haile had gone missing.

The room became a flurry of activity, the kindred of Glasgow rallied around Angus to arrange a search party for the prince. The evidence was gathered – a map marked with a cross, and a book with scripture-like writing, both with blood-like wax drips upon them suggesting writing was done by candlelight. Camer as at the castle picked up a vehicle heading north.

Almost all of the present kindred left with Angus as soon as the clues had been deciphered, returning triumphant with the prince before the night was out. Another glorious victory for Glasgow.

The assembly turned, somewhat more sombrely under the circumstances, to the original matter at hand. No closing statement was given and Madame Guile moved directly to the vote.

Carmichael was declared rightful prince of Dundee, and accepted his victory with grace and poise. In recognition of the wrongs done by the kindred Ian Dunnoch, he was giving over to Lesley to decide his fate. Prince Lesley challenged him to a duel to the death – a duel he assuredly and impressively won. He asked that this be an example to those who commit crimes and break our traditions. He accepted Carmichael's victory and new domain and announced that he

## THE RESIDENT CONT...

felt justice had been done.

The night, after everything, had been an exciting one, much more dramatic than initially expected to be – though that is not, of course, always a good thing. Justice was served and disputes were settled with dignity and class, and the majority of people are left happy with the outcome. Those who would have preferred things to go otherwise are nevertheless respectful of the decisions made and will abide by them.

Niklas Takala  
Dark Times Staff Writer

## THE RESIDENT ADDENDUM

The conclave, while the most political, was not the only event of December, and Adam Edelstein's Christmas Party can not possibly pass without mention. The feeling was festive, warm and cheerful, and all present parties seemed to quite enjoy the gathering. Adam was a lively and attentive host, ensuring that he spoke to as many people as possible and attending to his guests every need. Overall, the party was a great success and many a delightful Christmas jumper was on show - a perfect counterpart to the somewhat heavier events of the conclave.

Niklas Takala  
Dark Times Staff Writer

## FROM THE PRINCES DESK

Dear subjects,

Last month the Scottish kindred were invited to attend Madam Guile's conclave at Doone Castle. As was stated a year prior the event settled the outstanding questions regarding the authority of the domain of Dundee. Unsurprising the domain of Dundee will stay under the control of Prince Carmichael.

Iain Dunnoch, sire of Louisa Stevenson, was uncovered to have broken the traditions during the events which ultimately led to the handover of Dundee from Prince Lesley to Prince Carmichael and for his crimes was executed.

The event was marred by the attendance of mortal hunter of our kind who managed to slay members from the domain of Aberdeen and Inverness and who was ultimately destroyed by my Seneschal.

Whether this addition to the event was a complete coincidence or whether it was part of the "entertainment" is one of the many unanswered questions remaining. With the status quo preserved and the stability of Scotland's domains reinforced I believe that we can look forward to an era of stability.

Simon Haile  
Prince of Glasgow

## A REMINISCENCE

When I reminisce about all those years, I  
see many things. Life and death  
Strung together like the mountains and  
valleys in which we lived. There was  
Wealth and opulence, but also tribulation  
and loss. There was laughter and  
Song, and there was also tears.

But even more than tears, blood was shed.  
And so many were left to their  
Unadorned graves, unburied. But to us,  
death was but another journey. And  
Close by the darkness through which we  
strode, there was also light. The  
Light of life and immortality.

And after all, when I reminisce about  
those years, I mostly remember our  
Songs. We sang... As if to drown out the  
sound of clashing swords, as if  
The battle cries fell silent... Because war  
had lost it's meaning.

Jean-Yves

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## ELYSIUM

A new year, a new start!

Our Elysia are, in my own humble opinion, the finest this city has to offer. Over the past few months I and several others have been working hard to ensure the safety and the continued improvement of these great buildings and will continue to do so in the year to come. There are, I am told, technological advancements regarding security every day and I will endeavour to ensure that our islands of peace are fitted with all possible measures to ensure the great work that resides within them are protected. I also look forward to working more closely with other members of the Camarilla within our city to ensure that every *other* avenue of protec-

tion is considered.

However, security is not the only thing I will be improving this year; indeed, just as much as we must secure the outside we must also secure the continued beauty and delights on the inside. It is time to add to our great collection and to enhance the comfort of anyone who would visit our Elysia. I will be encouraging exhibitions, concerts, performances and I welcome any suggestions from those within the Camarilla as to what great work we may display in the Elysium. I hope to have a schedule of such things within the coming month and a full programme will be made available as soon as possible. Private rooms will of course

## ELYSIUM CONT...

continue to be made available to those that require it and I will ensure that every Elysium has somewhere that one might have a private little gossip.

Communication is another important factor of the Elysium, the ability to communicate with others in a peaceful and respectable manner. I have provided where I can the necessary tools in order to be able to conduct this however I feel I have been neglectful of the *written* communication that can be displayed within the Elysium. It is my intention to once again stay up to date with the latest advancements in technology and explore the possibility of using this to our advantage in terms of 'getting the message out'. In particular I will be looking into how these written notices can be displayed, and how these can be accessed when absent from the

Elysium. Should there be any member of the Camarilla that would wish to assist with this task then I would be happy to listen to their suggestions.

The rules of Elysium are, at present, unchanged and are available for your perusal upon request.

Last, but not least, I would like to announce that from the conclusion of this court the Oran Mor will now be a *permanent* Elysia that can be made available to any member of the Camarilla within the city. The necessary security and other necessities are in place. This is just the first of many areas that I will be adding to our already exemplary list of Elysia within the city.

Amadeus Edelstein

Keeper of Elysium

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## A NOTE TO A FRIEND

Friendship.

What does this mean to our kind? Is this something we cling too? Our anchor to hold onto that part of us that was lost? Is it something to be cast off with joy? Hindrances, obstacles, tying us down, stopping us from becoming something so much greater, something that transcends the need of such meaningless human indulgence? Is it just a word? A word that we use that has the echo of meaning to us but the feelings associated with them have since become alien?

Is there a place in our society for friendship?

Friendship is not a word that is used often amongst our kind, never mind publicly applied in its original meaning. The word 'friendship' in these times is more often used to describe an alliance or an under-

standing that a particular kindred is trustworthy, rather than a show of camaraderie. However, does that mean that 'friendship' in its original form does not exist in our world? The rise of the Coterie would have you believe that there is a place for friendship, although are those that gather in a likeminded cause considered friends or simply 'colleagues'? Could they be both? It seems that more often than not friendship when it is offered amongst us appears to be regarded with either suspicion or disgust, which could contribute to the supposed 'death' of genuine friendship. It is true such things are built on trust, and if friendship is scarce then trust is positively extinct amongst us. So how are we to build genuine friendship when we cannot trust? Does every remark, every offer of support or kindness have some hidden barb, some catch that will come back at a later date? Many would say, 'probably'.

## A NOTE TO A FRIEND CONT...

There are those that say we can. We were capable of it before why should we not be capable of doing so now? There are those that see no reason to try, why should we hold on to the things that made us weak?

And what of Love? If friendship is possible then why not love? Is it not a different form of friendship? There are many that would say we are incapable of feeling such a thing anymore but surely even the faint echo of that feeling might be strong enough to make it feel real. One might live for many years, hundreds even but what a lonely existence it would be without someone to share it with. There are many stories amongst our kind of love that has lasted the years although who can say if such things are to be believed. Perhaps love is too out of reach for our kind, too far in our past lives to successfully unearth but perhaps we can find something similar. Companionship, a kindred

spirit if you will forgive the pun. Someone to share your ideas, your joys, someone to witness the life you continue to lead.

A friend perhaps.

I choose to believe that we are capable of friendship, but I know that it is rare.

However, knowing that it is rare makes it all the more precious to have found it.

And love, on that account I am not certain, although I am not quite ready to give up on it yet. If not love then companionship, for who would wish to face eternity alone?

Anonymous

Who knew a ghost could bluster so much? I bet he stole that trick from the little wooden boy. Don't look away though, the monster has the scent of the blood in the water and all the fairies in the world won't be able to help him. The feeding frenzy will be special. Good thing we sanitized it. Wish hard like you mean it!

Anonymous

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## HARPY HOUR

The Conclave as a whole and the kindred of Glasgow came to the only conclusion they could have done. Justice has been done and the true and rightful Prince, Thomas Carmichael, now sits undisputed on his Throne. May he rule wisely and peacefully for many centuries to come. We are given to understand that the esteemed Justicar Guile has now left the British Isles to return to her usual affairs.

Eleanor Plunkett  
Harpy of Edinburgh

Whilst all of us can, of course, respect the decision of a conclave, there are many kindred across the world who will, at the very least, raise an eyebrow at rewarding so obvious and proven a breach of traditions with the spoils of victory. True the real culprit has had justice served upon him and that will suffice for most. But still...there is arguably a wrongness that lingers to all this some would suggest.

Henry Newbolt  
Harpy of Birmingham

I happened to be in the court chamber when the result of the conclave was made known to our Duke. Unblinking, I heard him simply say; "Fine. Now let that be the end of that nonsense." I am certain that is a sentiment shared by almost everyone.

Anne-Jaques  
Harpy of York



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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