

DARK TIMES

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THE RESIDENT

This month the question I would like to ask is why Glasgow? I do not ask this disparagingly, it is not my intention to be negative towards the city in which I have now made my home. I am simply intrigued, Glasgow has experienced many troubles in recent years, it has withstood trials and tribulations beyond those found in many other kindred cities, even going so far as to experience more than its fair share of death and disaster... and yet the influx of new arrivals into the city seems constant and certain.

What is it about this city that draws such a consistent flow of new people, many of whom do go on to stay for quite some time? The most recent court saw what, at first, appeared to be no fewer than 8 new arrivals. Though of course one or two of these had already made their Glasgow debut at the recent conclave, and it later transpired that some of the new arrivals were merely returning after a long absence, it still could not have gone unnoticed the sheer volume of new faces gracing our Elysium in such a short space of time – even I am a relative newcomer to these streets.

The very fact that some of these supposed newcomers *were* returning is enough for comment, considering – as rumour has it – that their previous departure was not a happy one, the very fact that Glasgow holds enough temptation that they would return despite unhappy memories is surely worth tak-

ing into account.

Is it perhaps because of the recent upheaval that kindred are drawn – whatever their personal reasons may be – to settle here? That they feel Glasgow is the kind of city one can make their mark, whether by proving themselves in combat or getting in at the ground floor of a very up-and-coming city. Perhaps they see Glasgow in the manner some entrepreneurs see emerging new technology, something to get in with now, because the only way is up – and there is a lot of up to go.

Perhaps it is because more established cities, with their solid rankings and their adherence to old traditions, do not offer much place for the modern young vampire – or older kindred who choose to move with the times instead of staunchly resist them – and a city still finding its feet after recent changes is the perfect place to escape the drudgery of more static courts.

Perhaps it is a more pragmatic reason, perhaps there is nowhere else that will have them. Glasgow is a more welcoming home for those who



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THE RESIDENT CONT...

might otherwise be turned away by cities more worried about their image – Glasgow has had other things to worry about beyond what other courts think of them, and this leaves the door open for people to be allowed entry because they are useful, rather than because they are particularly wanted. Come to Glasgow, they then say to their small pool of friends, it is safe here, we can make a home.

Whether looking for advancement, variety or simple a home that will have them, it cannot be denied that Glasgow is a fashionable place for kindred to flock to these days, and ultimately that can only be a good thing – the more people see Glasgow a place kindred want to go, the bigger and better it will grow.

Niklas Takala
Dark Times Staff Writer

FROM THE PRINCES DESK

Dear Subjects,

It is easy to become complacent, after all we have beaten the crusade by our foul enemies, we have stood firm with our brothers from Dundee and Edinburgh and we have faced any horror the adversary can throw at us.

Now I already see a number of old faces returned and accepted without question. I see otherwise sensible kindred touching members of clan Tremere without any express need to do so or advantage from taking the risk. I see people with frankly outrageous stories about day to day business being accepted at face value. I see people reveal the locations of their havens to one another and I think many members of my domain have gone mad in the amount of trust they put into each other without any bond or boon, favour or promise to protect them.

So, dear subjects, I urge you, no I command you. Be vigilant. Always examine what motive your opponent, and make no mistake, you have no real friends in our society, might have. What might they gleam when you lower your guard, how can they turn that against you and don't be surprised if those you trusted the most are responsible for you being dragged before the Clan council.

So, once more, be vigilant and root out those who are not who they appear to be.

You have been warned.

Simon Haile
Prince of Glasgow

A MESSAGE FROM ANGUS

Kindred of Glasgow,

I am taking this opportunity to announce my withdrawal from the Domain of Glasgow and my role as Senechal for an indeterminate period of time beginning after the Conclave of Justicar Madam Guiel.

Adam Edelstein will be acting Senechal in my stead. All Domain business can be discussed with him forthwith.

All personal business will have to wait. Emergency contact can be made through Prince Haile in dire necessity only.

Angus McDonald.

ELYSIUM

It is with great delight that I announce that our wonderful Elysia will soon be housing the most extraordinary and interesting exhibitions in the months to come.

This month, in the Kelvingrove Art Galleries there will be a an exquisite exhibition of paintings from some up and coming talent within the city, as well as some beautiful paintings from my dear sister and sire Elisabeta Edelstein.

In March there will be another exhibition in the Gallery Of Modern Art displaying the most thought-provoking and stylistic forms of art that is becoming wildly popular in the young artists of today.

In April, we have various scientific institutions that will be displaying their most recent findings, inventions and breakthroughs at the Glasgow Science Centre, including technology relating to Telecommunications, Entertainment, and Space Tourism.

Finally, as we move into the summer months, during May and June there will be several 'Evening Picnics' filled with entertainment, in the beautiful grounds of Pollock House, and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

As promised there have been many upgrades to the various Elysium around the city, especially in terms of comfort. The Private Rooms have also been reviewed and various technological improvements have been made to make these rooms even more secure for all your secret conversation needs.

As always, I am happy to hear any suggestions anyone may wish to make in regards to what further improvements could be made to any of our Elysia. If you have an exhibition, performance or event you wish to see at any of the Elysia in the city please do not hesitate to contact me.

Amadeus Edelstein
Acting – Seneschal and Keeper of Elysium

THE “IN” FACTOR

It is without question that when it comes to deciding what is ‘In’ within our society the Rose Clan takes the cake. Other clans have their influence here and there but there are none quite like the Toreador to raise a man’s reputation for the great works he does, or destroy him for the terrible deeds he takes part in, sometimes at the same time. This tends to be done (although not always) with nothing more than a scathing wit and a wicked tongue. One would think a man’s physical defeat would be worse than a reputational one, however the dangers associated with the latter can have a direct effect on the former.

None know this better than the Toreador, each one seeming to rise and fall in terms of reputation over a week by week basis if not less. There are many that would proclaim that our eternal life is a still and stagnant thing, however you would not think so within the beautiful ranks of the Rose, where life can seem more like a race, trying to reach the top before the next up and coming starlet.

To give an example, and my apologies it is a cliché, it is not unlike the Entertainment Industry. The young Toreador has to make sure that they are an ever changing thing because those that decide what the ‘In’ thing is may not think they are ‘In’ tomorrow. They must continue to market themselves as something pleasing not just to those who know what’s ‘In’ but to everyone, or else fall into obscurity, if there is anything worse than a poor reputation it is having *no* reputation. Like the Entertainment Industry you find yourself waiting for the next competition, although I suppose there are many clans that could associate with this other than the Toreador (e.g. The Ventre, the Tremere). The more established of our kind, still look down to the promising young protégé’s

with suspicion, the same way the young protégé looks up waiting to be cast aside by the more experienced better. However most of the time this partnership between mentor and student, for want of a better term, can be advantageous. Both help and aid the other whilst continuing to better themselves in order to outdo them. It is a complicated balance but many achieve it, much to their greater improvement.

However, who decides what is ‘In’ and what is ‘Out’? You would most likely hear a flock of Toreadors giggle that it was them, while a boardroom desk of Ventre might sniff dismissively of such petty delusions, all the time a coven of Tremere in the corner just sit and smile knowingly, whilst a Malkavian tries to stand on their head. Perhaps it’s not a clan thing at all? Perhaps we should really be looking to the Princes for our guru’s of what is ‘In’. Their world is always final and so surely anything that they disapprove of would most certainly be ‘out’. However the Princes surely have much more important things to be doing than concerning themselves with those so beneath them and if they are ‘In’ or not. Perhaps instead this is left to another member of the council, or is it the Harpy? Or is it just the masses, so easily swayed by one careless little opinion that decides what everyone else should believe. To think, that a man’s reputation could hang on one silly little Toreador neonate gossiping with some friends, but it can happen and it has happened.

And what of the notoriously ‘faddish’ nature of the Toreador? It is a stereotype often attributed to the Rose Clan and one that they seem unable to distance themselves from. Is this a product of the constant change that seems to cling to

them? The need to continuously prove ones artistic, mental, social or physical talent? To move on to the next great success? In any case the Roses are the worst for dropping something after someone decides that it is 'out'; whether it be an artistic project or an acquaintance that had once seemed interesting and useful, now reduced to a burden to be rid of. It is a stereotype that paints the Rose clan as flighty, changeable and shallow. However, how true is this? In equal measure there appears to be some who have worked for centuries on the same sonnet, whilst the artist beside them tore their painting to pieces after hearing that ballerinas just were not the painted thing anymore. There are stories that both confirm and deny such a thing so what are we to believe?

And why must the Toreador be the only ones to be ascribed this stereotype? Is it because they proclaim what is 'In' so strongly? Or because the other clans fail to see what many within the Rose Clan do. That they are not 'fadish'; they are adaptable. With eternity before us, there are many that forget they cannot stay the same, that they must move with the times and experience the ever changing world around them. None do this better than the Toreador, who is always changing, always moving forward, always waiting for the next big thing. What some might snidely state as being shallow and flighty others will tell you is adapting for the modern nights, and you better catch up, you would not want to be left behind.

Anonymous

A REMINISCENCE

When I reminisce about all those years of tribulation, I mostly remember
Our songs. We died, and our blood
seeped away on the battlefields; but our
Songs survived, together with those of us
that returned. And as they too
Will die one day, our songs will live on,
and will be sung by our children,
And by our children's children. This is
how we will be remembered. This is

Who we were.

The following was inspired by a conversation between Levi & Mary Jezabelle.

Trusting your senses often feels like a good idea, it's easy to forget how often they let you down. Our senses evolved in order to cope with a world where our biggest problem was food, shelter and being eaten. No wonder most of the scientific discoveries of the last century don't make "sense" to us. We are discovering things all the time that are imperceptible to each of our paltry senses. How can we conceptualise ideas like dark energy when we can never experience them ourselves in any way? It bothers me every now and then that there are huge swaths of our universe that we'll never see and could be forever hidden from us.

No-one has ever seen an atom. By definition they are too small to reflect light waves. To see them, we have to put so much extra work into an approximation. To discover anything new, one has to be a

veritable genius and to stand on the shoulders of giants with tools that cost more than the buildings that house them. All that brain power, all that time and resources and effort and just so we can have an approximation of reality? I can understand why so many give up on the prospect.

As long as we accept the initial premise, being that full reality is outside of our reach, then how are we to react? Can we happily continue along with a series of ideas that we know will turn out to be false? It's only a matter of time and we seem to have that. We can't decide what we believe, we don't choose which arguments convince us and which don't. Where does one go from here?

Ethan Fletcher

Dearest Kindred of Glasgow,

I am ecstatic to announce that your esteemed Prince Haile accepted me into his dynamic city to enable me to conduct my research and hopefully interview some of the heroes of the various Battles of Dundee. I understand that you all will have your own personal affairs to carry out and intrigues to embroil yourselves in, but I would heartily appreciate any one to one interviews at the Court you would be willing to give. I don't know you all by sight so please feel free to approach me if you wish to speak to me.

I look forward to making your acquaintance in the very near future,
Your friend,
Alain.

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HARPY HOUR

It was a pleasure to meet this month with young Niklas. He appears by popular consent to have filled the void of harpy that has been absent in Glasgow since Simon Haile's elevation to that throne. It is most gratifying to see members of my clan partake so fully in the more social nuances of the Camarilla. I look forward to conversing with him more in the future.

Eleanor Plunckett
Harpy of Edinburgh

Good Lord! MJ is back! Well that is splendid news. Wonderful to here of your glamorous reunion with us all, Old Girl. We really must have a good old chin wag. Although, maybe not here in Norfolk, hey? Still that little thing hanging over all Malkavians here. The whole "do not enter on pain of death" thing that the Prince insists on. But, yes somewhere soon. Also, a little question for all of you. How are you all sleeping? Not been to disturbed I hope? No...interesting dream at all? I would very much like to know what you have been dreaming about. Very much.

Baron Oliver Bulwar-Lytton
Seneschal of Norfolk

It seems to be all I hear about these days is about Levi Tius. "Excellent ancillae of the Camarilla this" or "magical defender of Glasgow that". Seems to me that he has been flavour of the month among many a person. A shame then he seems to still be held so down at heal by those that...influence him.

Anne-Jaques
Harpy of York

Preparations are rumoured to be under way for the St Valentines Day masquerade ball here in London. It remains one of the trendier yet sophisticated events of the social calendar. Lady Jane Comyn prides herself on her festivities and it is one of the precious few events where Toreador of London really do get into their stride. I hope even a humble Ventrite like myself will have occasion to see a few of Glasgow's better known faces there.

John Collins
Harpy of London

Dark Times

Dark Times
Chambre Dix, Hotel Britannique a Paris
75001 PARIS
FRANCE
Phone: +33 (1) 47 77 12 34
Fax: +33 (1) 47 77 98 76
E-mail: darktimes@gylarp.com

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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