

DARK TIMES

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MASQUERADE SHATTERED: PROPHET CAPTURED

This month saw some of the darkest days for the Camarilla. The Masquerade has suffered some of its greatest infringements in a decade. Indeed in the early hours of Saturday 14th November it was shattered like a hammer through glass at the hands of the so-called “Prophet”.

At approximately 1 am, the Prophet and his men invaded the STV TV studio at Pacific Quay in Glasgow. There they interrupted the early morning news headlines program by killing or holding hostage several of the staff. The news anchorman died, dramatically, on camera as the Prophet himself ripped his throat out with his own fangs. He proceeded to deliver to camera a message of terror and a statement of intent to bring around the end times by some as yet ill defined means. He espoused some religious garble about the divinity of his mission from or for Caine before he was eventually cut off by the network.

The rest of the night unfolded with outbreaks of riots and spontaneous attacks Scotland. Each domain had to endure waves of mob violence and pseudo-religious gatherings dedicated to the Prophet and his mission mixed with hordes of casual thugs and trouble makers. Destruction of property was greatest in Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness. Glasgow too had the same difficulties but on a smaller scale. It is estimated that Glasgow had gone to greater lengths to hunt down and eliminate the threat prior to these events.

But it is our pleasure to report that the story of the evening is one of victory for the Camarilla. Forces, led by Justicar Crowley and Prince Angus MacDonald,

fell upon the invaders of the Prophet’s forces and his thin blooded childer.

Justicar Crowley has asked him to pass on the following commendations from the nights events.

He is particularly grateful to Prince Angus MacDonald in conjunction with Elder Cosimo, Ethan Fletcher, Levi Tius and Lincoln Whittle for achieving the primary task of capturing the enemy known as The Prophet and successfully intercepting him before he could complete his plans.

In the task of maintaining the masquerade, which he is pleased to note has been restored to acceptable condition by his efforts, he is especially pleased by Niklas Takala. The cover story he created on the evening and his fast provision of a workable façade was crucial to saving kindred society on the night. For future reference, all masquerade efforts in this matter or to defer to this version of events – that The Prophet was in fact an insane fan of a work of vampire fiction that was yet to be published but was in production and leaked to the fan base by his efforts. He then proceeded to act out the most outrageous scenes within the pages of the text and induced others of his fanatical fan base to pursue these attacks in its honour by means of prosthetics and showmanship. For all other details please speak to Niklas Takala and Masquerade Keeper Ricky Brown.

The other efforts taken to restore order and maintaining a plethora of capitally offensive masquerade breaches by Elder Adam Edelstein, and Ancillaes Ricky Brown, Sebastian Fawkes, Alexander

CONT...

Barker, Gail Middlemass and John Pettit were of critical importance. Thanks to them, horrendous acts of public discipline use and more were properly contained and public disclosure averted. Their operation further succeeded in herding together an abundance of thin blood criminals. He is greatly pleased at their efficiency. He knew they would no better than to let the matter go.

And finally the continuing assistance of Glasgow's Chantry in rounding up the remains of the thin blood childer has been immeasurable.

Justicar Crowley extends his thanks to you all.

FROM THE SENESCHAL

Camarilla

What does it mean to be in the Camarilla, the little chamber. Sure we uphold the Masquerade and the other 5 traditions but there is more. Many historians claim the Camarilla foundation to be reactionary to the threads of the Inquisition, the assamite invasion and the first anarch revolt. Others claim that the enlightenment of the kine forced us to become more civil. Then we have the fact that whilst there are officially seven clans in the Camarilla it welcomes all who obey its laws and traditions and has purview over all kindred.

Yet the Camarilla is the little chamber, it is the group of courtiers or favourites who surround the Prince, the private cabinet as it were. The essence of the Camarilla is that of control. We all allow ourselves to be controlled by our Prince who is advised by his Camarilla.

Its approach to maintaining order involves enacting the traditions, which among other things means supporting our system of feudal domains and the responsibilities of sires for the conduct of their childer. We literally grant the sire complete authority over the childer, because we understand that elder vampires are intrinsically more deserving of respect and fit for leadership than younger vampires.

There are always those who disagree with these traditions and I hear that the Anarchs will tell you that young Kindred should

have the same rights as those who have protected our society successfully for centuries. It is therefore not surprising that most of the prolific anarch leaders are like Peter Fraser measure their age in decades and centuries rather than years.

That is not to say that we ignore those who prove themselves to work within the established order, through their ingenuity and usefulness gather boons and favours and prove that they understand prestatation and the commitment of ones word. I would here like to praise Professor Pettitt, Niklas Takala, Gail Middlemass and Levi Tius as having completely understood why they support their elders and stand for the status quo that has been the Camarilla for centuries.

Elder Simon Haile
Seneschal to Prince Angus of Glasgow

ELYSIUM

Welcome all of you to our 'Christmas Court' here at the Science Centre, because nothing says Christmas more than Science! I hope you will all enjoy the wonderful Christmas Themed exhibition the museum has put on for us and some classic Christmas serenades from some old favourites.

The Masquerade Breach and the Capture of the Ravnos

Here, but a stone's throw away from the STV studios, please allow me to offer congratulations to the court of Glasgow who worked unanimously, effectively and efficiently to preserve the masquerade. Led by the wisdom of Prince Angus we each of us went to task in our own way to quell this uprising and the damage it could have done to our kind. I could delve into individual accolades. I could write for hours about the Prince and his excellent team including the scourge, Levi Tius, Mr Lincoln and Elder Cosimo and their astonishing actions in bringing down the Ravnos. I could describe in great detail and amazement the actions that our resident Harpy took to ensure that the masquerade was not torn to shreds. And of course, I could speak at length about the excellent coordination and talents of the team I was honoured to be a part of in George Square; Sebastian, Mr Barker, Ricky, the deputy scourge and John Pettit. Whether it was altering minds at the studios with Mr Barker and Mr Pettit, or watching Ricky, Sebastian and Gail cleaning up the mess in George Square, I was very pleased to

work alongside such skilled and talented people.

I could go into the individual accolades for these people...but even the brief descriptions above does not do them justice.

So congratulations to you all on the fine work that you, and we as a domain, have done.

Debate Topics

The subjects to consider for debate this evening;

'What defines a coward in our world?'

or

'Modern Technology Vs our own unique abilities. Who has the upper hand?'

Amadeus Edelstein

Keeper of Elysium

FROM THE SCOURGE

Evening all

Any and all of you who are well versed/gifted/knowledgeable in the various methods of psychic attacks please come see me when you have a moment? I have some questions and any information could easily result in a more secure domain which, in my opinion, we are due.

OUR GLASGOW

These last few months I have repeatedly found myself thinking about our domain, our influence on the domain and what, if any, responsibility we have towards the kine. Do we wish to create a domain that reflects our own values. Do we want to foster artists and inventors, creators and preservers of beauty? Do we want to make it as easy as possible to feed and talk away any slip ups created by those young to the blood? Do we want to sate the beast within by creating abject fear and misery? Do we want to cling to the morality of the days we breathed and walked in the sun? Do we want idle cowed masses ready for the reaping? Do we even care?

There are advantages and disadvantages to each of the above approaches. And over the ages I have heard the arguments for all of them. Even within my own blood there are those who claim that if your senses are keen enough you can find beauty in anything. Those who enjoy the complex interplay of the colours of emotions as a mother each night has to decide which of her family members is going to die that night whilst she listens to first their pleas and then their screams, all the while assembled kindred watch in silence.

I believe the domain we find ourself in is exactly a reflection of us at the court. Spend some time to read the local news and then look around the room where you are reading this. Of course we could make the area into an almost Utopian society where there is enough for all. Instead we have people scared to leave their homes lest they be caught in the crossfire, we have babies starving in their own filth whilst their addicted parents are overdosing in dens of inequity. It would take less effort then currently is being expended to annoy each other by taking away what others have. Imagine, for a moment, if say each month everyone in this court would work just a third of the month to improve matters for the mortals in our domain. Within the year how would the domain look? How would it look within a decade or a century?

But of course we cannot even agree what an ideal domain might look like. There are always those who wish to feel powerful by keeping others down, even if those others have no way to even fight back. There are those who trade in

misery and destruction, who validate themselves by fleeting things such as the size of their bank accounts or the stockpile of guns and explosives. There are those who are so close to their inner demons that they can no longer even see the effects they are having, let alone care.

So after tonight when you consider what you should dedicate yourself to in the coming nights spare a moment for the thought about what kind of domain you want to live in and maybe what you are willing to do make it so.

Simon Haile

BRUTUS IS JUST AS CUTE AS CAESAR

Be wary of making your Brutus.

I am not necessarily talking about 'traitors' here as is commonly done for this often misunderstood man but rather the ignorant Caesars that bring their own destruction upon them through the people they called 'friend'.

Could Caesar honestly say it was unexpected?

Time and time again Caesar had delivered swift kicks and crushing blows to his 'friend' Brutus, whether it was refusing to listen to his council or insisting that he left Rome. No one can deny that Caesar worked hard to gain glory for Rome, no one can deny the amount of effort that man poured into his city, but does that diminish the efforts and talents of Brutus? Did Brutus not want the same things as Caesar for his city, albeit in different manner? Caesar wanted to set himself up as an Emperor, Brutus wanted to strengthen the existing system along with his harshly named 'co-conspirators'. When faced with such a Tyrant, can you honestly say that you would not have doubts as 'Brutus' did?

From Brutus's point of view Caesar was bringing Rome to its knees, stripping it of everything that made it Roman. Brutus was embarrassed on Caesars behalf at what this supposedly 'Roman' man was doing to his country.

Is it really any wonder that Brutus took matters into his own hands?

And this is where the Caesars should really see it coming. Every ruler or notable person in a position of power needs their underlings, the people to work behind the scenes and handle all the things they are too busy to do or cannot be seen doing. This has always been the case and it always will be the case. However, we are not talking about underlings or lap dogs; we are talking about friends and allies. The strong noble people that

stand by your side, help promote your goals and support you when you require it. These friends and allies are not like your underlings. If you kick them as you would your lap dog they will do more than bite and snarl. They cannot be cowed like those under your thrall, nor do they rely on you for their wellbeing or for any other 'fix' you can provide. Friends and allies have minds of their own, and no matter how many kicks you send their way, no matter how many times you try to crush their progression they will simply fight all the harder against you.

Perhaps worst of all, they will do so, whilst all the time you call them 'friend'. An argument could be made for loyalty, we brand Brutus as a 'traitor' because he was Caesars friend, he owed him loyalty. To that I would say loyalty is earned and not always unwavering. Loyalty can be ascribed so many different meanings. Loyalty to one person might mean saving their 'friend' from themselves. Loyalty might mean making the difficult decisions so no one else has too. And then there are different loyalties, such as duty to a domain, to a family, to true friends, how does that rate against the tyrant who demands your loyalty and gives none in return?

Now I do not wish to bring about an atmosphere of distrust amongst us, I do not meant to imply that we should be wary of those we call 'friend', I mean nothing of the sort, quite the opposite in fact. Earn their loyalty, ensure it and most importantly maintain it. Fear not the supposed rival you see in a potential Brutus, as they grow in power they only become more useful to you and if their loyalty is ensured then what fear have you of the power they gain, they merely become a greater asset. Your Brutus, with your encouragement will act on your behalf more readily than if you diminish his capacity and belittle him.

Even the weakest underling you have you must show to have trust in, because even your weakest link can bring you down.

Caesars, beware the Brutus you make for yourself, you know not when you might meet him in the forum.

An Observer

FROM ETHAN

Evening all

Just a heads up. If you happen to see me or any other members of clan Malkavian spontaneously burst into flame, try not to be alarmed. There are some very familiar events that have been happening to us and if they all follow the same path, we may all end up with an incident like Lucretia Reflection. That being said, if you do see one of us on fire, it would still be appreciated if you could try to put it out.

Also, if you like Niklaus Takala and Daniel Smith have been privy to certain sights, sounds and sensations that have normally only been witness by the family, you may want to keep a bucket of water handy. That goes for anyone else who has dreams about the sun looking directly at them.

STORYTIME, THE PIPER

Once upon a time in a land far away there was a humble piper. The Piper lived in a rough and untamed village that had little care for the piper's song. However through time the songs he played worked their way into the minds of the villagers and soon enough they began to praise the piper for the melodies he played. They raised him up higher and higher until there was not much further the (no longer very humble) piper could go.

Other villages heard of the Piper's skill and they too were taken in by his harmonies, it was said that even the great king himself called the Piper to his court to play for him.

It seemed that everyone danced to the tune of the piper and followed him everywhere.

However, as is often the case with these things, the piper began to lose his appeal. His songs had granted him power in the village but that soon started to slip through his fingers as more and more people began to see the rat behind the pipes. So puffed up with his own self-importance, he did not see the villagers conspiring against him, laughing behind his back, plotting his demise. His tunes became old hat, grating on the ears, the annoying little notes that you could not get out of your head. The villagers

would go out their way to avoid him, shunning him for his arrogance. Even the great king himself would not grant the piper an audience, lest his name be dragged through the mud as well.

The Piper tried to hit back, however gone were the sweet tunes of before, they were of little use to him when he could use the same pipes to club the heads of those that disrespected or disappointed him. Even his most loyal and dedicated followers turned away from them, rubbing the backs of their heads wondering what had become of the once great piper.

Soon no one at all was dancing to the tune of the Piper, and all too late the rat realised that children of the village were dancing towards him, coming for him, carried on the song of another.

Anonymous

FROM THE PRINCE OF SAN SEBASTIAN

The Prince of San Sebastian would like it to be known that he is grateful to Simon Haile for his assistance.

Elder Haile was recently in Spain and provided his Highness with some very useful intelligence on local Sabbat movements and dispositions.

The information he has provided will be very useful to us in our continuing defence of our domain and thus also that of Camarilla Europe.

Simon Haile has a reputation as a defender of the Camarilla himself from his time as a prince and the much spoken of events in Dundee. We are pleased to note that he continues his efforts against our enemies abroad .

FROM PRINCE CARLISLE OF EDINBURGH

I have considered the matter for quite some time.

I have had much reason to be impressed by Adam Edelstein this past year. His performance here in Edinburgh as part of his ongoing tour was simply sensational. A credit to him and our entire clan.

He has served me successfully many times and has been rewarded for it as a domain elder within my lands. Moreover I was greatly pleased by his wisdom, compassion and clarity of purpose when he spoke at the conclave this month.

I have discussed the matter with Prince Angus of Glasgow, Prince Lesley of Aberdeen and the Duke of York. We have all agreed.

Amadeus Edelstein is of the age and wisdom that we hold him to be an elder of the Camarilla. We regard his word and his counsel to be of the high value that an elders word should carry and would expect others to do the same.

Prince Carlisle of Edinburgh



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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

Articles over 750 words may not be printed in full in the main publication

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