

DARK TIMES

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DUNDEE; AN ENCHANTED EVENING

By Matthew St John

Another year another Toreador party, it is only April and anyone who is anyone has had their diary jam packed full of evening galas this year, however the recent soiree held and hosted by Prince Carmichael and the simply enchanting Marie Darnley at the McManus Galleries in Dundee really did take the cake. That was until it was rather rudely interrupted by some uninvited guests who thought it would be a good idea to gate-crash a party that had almost every Prince in the UK attending.

The evening started well with many guests being greeted by fabulous music from the up and coming string quartet band, 'Beauty and the Bass' who played a variety of popular modern songs in their own soulful style. The music carried throughout the venue with no extra amplification, as if the wind itself was transporting the music to each of the galleries. Whilst the music continued throughout the whole venue, the scent provided by Elder Darnley's floral decorations were simply divine, dictating the nature of the conversation in each room. Truly all the fragrances of Spring filled the McManus Galleries.

All the big names were in attendance, including many of the Princes from the UK such as Prince Carlisle, Prince Leslie and the Princes of Severn and York. Also in attendance were two Princes from France, fellow Toreadors supporting their Scottish cousins, Prince Melanie D'Medici of Lorraine and Prince St. Angelo Bonnefoy of Marseilles. Although unable to attend the party, Lady Anne Steward of London and Prince Francois Villion of Paris sent representatives from their domains and gifts to the hosts. Indeed, Prince Carmichael and

Elder Darnley received many a fine gift from their guests causing the large table in the foyer to be frequently cleared by staff in order to receive more.

However the true beauty of the evening was Elder Darnley herself, resplendent in an elegant light blue dress embroidered with a crystal flower motif throughout. There was not a single head that was not turned by the elegant Lady Darnley no matter what room she entered. Some believe this was due to some effect of the blood however others more acquainted with such things confirmed that this was indeed something different. Nevertheless she was the life and soul of the evening.

Not from a lack of trying from others however. The recently returned from the grave Viscount Aldworth also attended the party as the plus one of the recently returned from Spain Elder Haile and was just about as captivating and charming as the hostess herself. Indeed there were a few visitors from the Domain of Glasgow including the Seneschal, Sheriff, Harpy and Primogen, however no sign of the Prince himself, who, if he was in attendance, would have found himself the chief topic of conversation.

Prince Brown was not the only one everyone was talking about; the party had a late addition in the form of a representative from the newly created and held Domain of Carlisle, from the Caitiff Prince Seth Mikelson. Another favourite bit of gossip was the recent business with the Tremere and it did not escape of those gathered that not a single Tremere had been invited.

Later in the evening, Prince Carmichael gathered everyone in the main

BOON TRADING:

For further information on boons please see your local Harpy

- Gwent Lyr Owes Lady Salisbury a Minor Boon
- Daniel Smith Owes Elder De Savigny a Minor Boon
- Prince Carmichael owes a Minor Boon to Simon Haile, Charles Augustus Aldworth, Marshal Michel Ney, Ethan Fletcher, Sebastian Fawkes and Antoinette De Savigny
- Primrose Thassalo Owes Levi Tius a Major Boon
- Priscilla Garrett owes Marshal Michel Ney a Major Boon

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room to make the joyful announcement that he and the ravishing Elder Darnley were soon to be married, sending cheers throughout the room and a few shocked expressions, especially from one Prince of Edinburgh. However, the celebrations were short lived as the Sheriff of Dundee informed Prince Carmichael that there were a few unexpected guests at the door. Party revelers were encouraged to leave the building in an orderly fashion through a passageway that would see them taken

out several blocks from the galleries where transport was arranged for their safe return to their respective domains.

However some brave souls, including many of the princes and Elder Darnley herself decided to head towards danger rather than away from it and gave those uninvited guests a good seeing too. The threat was contained easily by those that took part and the reason for their turning up revealed. It would appear that this incursion was due to the fact that these ruffians had

intended to kidnap one of the guests, for what purpose or why however has been kept quiet. When I asked Prince Carmichael who the intended victim was he had shrugged and said, "It does not matter, they did not bother to attend."

A rather exciting and thrilling end to what had been a truly splendid event. Let us hope that the next event is even better with no more interruptions.

FROM THE PRINCE'S DESK



PROBATIONARY KINDRED

By Prince Brown

As indicated, all new members among the Domain's Kindred are subject to review to ensure their benefit to the Domain. The following is the list of new members whose reviews are happening this Court and in following Courts.

Torsten McKenzie was accepted to the Domain of Glasgow and recognised as a Neonate within the Domain of Glasgow in the April Court.

- Gwent Lyr has his review at this upcoming court.
- Martin Strain has his review at this upcoming court.
- Guilia Giovanni has her review this upcoming court.
- Gerry Giovanni has his review at this upcoming court.
- The Viscount has his review at this upcoming court.
- Marshal Michael Nay has his review at the June court.
- Ben has his review at the June court.
- Ethan Sullivan has his review at the June court.

- Gordon has his review at the June court.
- Rose has her review at the June court.

THE SABBAT PROBLEM

By Prince Brown

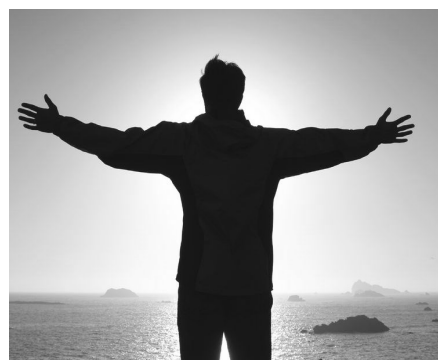
In this last month the hunt began with myself and several of my Kindred in our continued efforts against the Sabbat infiltrators and assassins. They had apparently left the Domain of Glasgow, presumably to capture me on my journey to, attendance at or my journey from a party held within the Domain of Dundee. Sadly, as I had the Sabbat attacking my Domain and my Kindred, I decided it would be better use of my time to hunt those invading filth. How desperate those Sabbat dogs must be to silence me and end my crusade against them that they would show themselves to many of our fine isle's Princes, Sheriffs and Scourges.

I hear that they have been dealt with will all appropriate measures and I will be continuing my extermination of any and all Sabbat lingering within the Greater Glasgow Area. I urge all Camarilla Domains to remain vigilant.

OPEN ARMS

By Prince Brown

Many of our Southern Domains have seen members of Clan Tremere replaced within court positions or kicked out of their domains entirely. Our Isle's history with Clan Tremere is a much discussed matter, especially of late. Though of course with recent events it is understandable why some would take that approach, the Tremere within my Domain have long proven themselves assets to the Domain of Glasgow as well as trusted allies to myself. I would have it be known that Tremere who seek alternate residences are welcome to complete Glasgow's much discussed entrance criteria for a new home. I will not judge an entire clan by the actions of a few too lightly.



LOYALTY

By Prince Ricky Brown

It has likely been spread and discussed at length by many Kindred at this point. I speak of course to Glasgow's Court in April wherein I petitioned the Kindred present a question of loyalty. I did so to root out potential collaborators that may have been hiding within the ranks of my

Kindred - To which I am overjoyed to report all is well. This question was asked outwith Elysium and then all present were safely returned to Elysium and the Court continued wonderfully.

I understand that some may be upset on the matter but I will remind all of two things. We are at war and our society is not a Democracy.

PRIMOGEN NEWS

By Elder Huxley, Ventrue Primogen

I would like to announce the completion of my floating hotel business between Glasgow and America. Up until now, this was only open to my fellow Ventrue, but based on its success I am now opening the route to all members of the Camarilla. I am working feverishly to open new routes to Europe and North Africa and will pass on updates as this develops.

In other news, after attending the Ventrue's UK Board Meeting last month, I am both surprised and delighted to announce that MR. Henry Randall has been elevated to the rank of Ancilla. And while I myself was generously elevated to the rank of Elder of the Camarilla, Henry's elevation makes me just as happy due to his strict adherence to the princi-

ples and precepts of the Camarilla. Congratulations Henry!

Although I have been called to London on a monthly basis now, I must assure you all that I am still resident in Glasgow and treat my duties as Primogen extremely seriously. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you require advice, a message passed to the Prince, or indeed seek an audience with the Prince himself.

As Springburn has very recently been gentrified, I move now onto Maryhill for redevelopment. As this is a very popular area of the city, please contact me if you have Domain or interests in the area and I will show you the plans I have worked up for the regeneration of the area. Any conflicts of planning or construction can of course be negotiated. I have no intention of demolishing anybody's haven after all!

KINDRED OF GLASGOW

By Ancilla Levi Tius, Tremere Primogen

It has come to my attention that it is hard for some voices to be heard by the Prince and Elders of Glasgow. Given this time of turbulence this is to be expected as there are so many duties to manage, meetings to attend, and political minefields to traverse. To alleviate this issue, unless specifically requested for by the Prince, I shall be taking my seat away from the top table. That way the information you have but need channelling upwards will have an avenue for approach.

I look forward to speaking with you all.

THE ACADEMY

By Ancilla Levi Tius, Tremere Primogen

Experts in a wide variety of skills are ready to aid in diagnostics and possible resolution of supernatural, occult, and mundane issues. Please contact the following mailbox with details and your query will be examined and evaluated. If appropriate an agent will be in touch to further the investigation as per your needs.

Investigations@theacademy.com



RIGHT TO SIRE

ALBERT COPELAND of Clan Malkavian has been granted the right to sire by the Prince of Prague.

JASMINE WRIGHT of Clan Tremere has been granted the right to sire by Prince of Vienna.

FIRST PRESENTATIONS

REGINALD HORTON, Mae White of Clan Nosferatu presented his childe Reginald Horton to Prince Lytton and the Norfolk Court.

CHELSEA CURTIS, Bobbie Schneider of Clan Toreador presented her childe Chelsea Curtis to Prince Melanie and the Lorraine Court.

FINAL DEATHS

FRED PAUL, met his final death in Miami, Florida in the swamps.

HORACE ROSS from Guarda met his final death in the war against the Sabbat in Spain

GRACE VEGA from Guarda met her final death in the war against the Sabbat in Spain

DIANA ROMERO from San Sebastian met her final death in the war against the Sabbat in Spain

PRINCE BEATRIZ of Guarda met her final death in the war against the Sabbat in Spain

ON THE MOVE

ANGUS MACDONALD and SIMON HAILE were presented to the Glasgow Court and were welcomed by Nosferatu Prince Ricky Brown

ENGAGEMENTS

PRINCE CARLISLE of Edinburgh happily announces the engagement of PRINCE CARMICHAEL of Dundee of Clan Toreador to ELDER MARIE DARNLEY of Clan Toreador childe of PRINCE FRANCOIS VILLON

GLASGOW IN SPRING

By Elder Haile, the Iron Rose

I have a long history writing articles for the Dark Times, heck I am the reason that articles these days have to be 750 words or less to be necessarily printed in whole in one issue, and I sit here, at a table I abandoned what feels like an eternity ago and write on the very same stationary an article that could have been in the Dark Times before I was forced to leave Glasgow or even shortly after my arrival in Glasgow and no one would have blinked. Sure we have different people in charge but fundamentally very little ever seems to change.

Glasgow is a city of contrast, a city where we have two neonates and an ancilla, none with any office or official recognition at the time on their own hunt down the Sabbat pack that has been hiding in our midst whilst the officers of the domain were busy outside the domain or having left without passing word.

It is a city where this very paper is intensely critical of the domain's prince and it is hard to tell how much of this is the voice of the random members of the domain writing articles and how much of it is bias of the editor.

It is a city where the Prince decides to frog march most of his court out of Elysium, claiming that anyone not going along with it will be declared guilty, myself included, and have the Viscount dominate us to establish whether we wrote some of those critical articles, to no avail. Which of course makes you wonder whether these articles were written by the members of the court or by the paper's staff.

You might well ask yourself. But Simon, why did you of all people go along with this without questioning Prince Ricky or demanding that the protections of the Elysium are inviolate. Didn't you write, at length, in this very publication, about the sanctity of Elysium, the reasons why without it the whole Traditions of the Camarilla would fall apart, etc. (If you are

APOLOGIES

By Henry Randall

A few days ago one of my creditors informed me that my words had offended a number of important people in the domain and that I should do my best to make reparations. I considered those words for a while and thought back to a conversation where Primogen Tius was trying to warn me of this, he told me that I "grossly overestimated my position" as far back as February, and you know, he was right.

I thought, a little naively, that as Keeper of the Elysia of Glasgow I was an officer of the court and could converse with other officers of the court as equals, be that in praise or criticism. That was of course a complete falsehood and entirely my own fault for forgetting my station in the Camarilla

interested those articles aren't hard to find in the back issues, which I would recommend).

Well my reasons are numerous.

First and foremost I have just buried all the hatchets and have to come to Glasgow to deal with the Sabbat and some private reasons, none of which are aided by opposing its sitting prince. Especially one that I, on that very night, have accepted as the Eldest of the domain.

Secondly, as much as it pains me, violating Elysium is a habit which goes back through the Glasgow history. At least Prince Brown had made everyone aware and taken them outside the Elysium, where as previous Princes simply undeclared their Elysium without letting most attendees know and then attacked people who rightly believed in good faith that they were protected by the Promise of Elysium.

Thirdly I was curious whether this "new" Viscount actually had the power to compel the 15 odd people into answering the question truthfully, which I can attest to, he can. It is therefore more likely to be the Viscount and not some imposter, unless the imposter has the same rare power which the Viscount only rarely claimed to have.

And lastly, I have no designs on

and proving myself ungrateful for the faith Prince Brown had bestowed upon me.

The whole business of Quiet Removals and Blood deliveries is one of removing problems and it appears that I have instead become the problem myself and as such I am hoping that those I have wronged and I could find a constructive way to allow me to make amends for the insults and problems I have caused. Therefore I offer to anyone above my station, if my words have wronged you, I will offer you a personal favour for the privilege to discussing the matter with me, and allowing me the chance to find some way which might prevent matters from escalating into something which is not productive for either of us and instead keep both parties satisfied

running the domain of Glasgow, or becoming involved in the running of the domain. If someone wishes me to give advice to them then sure, but otherwise I very much intend to stay back and let people get on with it. I might comment on what I see in the paper, a long running habit of mine, but at least I am putting my name to my words.

TRANSOCEAN LTD, ANOTHER IN A LONG LIST OF DISASTERS

By Hugh Manatee

When Connor McIver awoke on a brisk Monday morning he was affronted with a most terrible sight from his bedroom window in his home of the hamlet of Dail Mòr. First reactions from the ol' boy was "Yes, still alive! I'm bollock naked, overlooking the cemetery as always so I'm not deed yet as yae get buried with claes oan!" The second "Shit on a loaf an' punch it! What in the name aw gawd is that!" said the 64-year-old.

When the shocking sight sank in he saw that he was being greeted by the amorphous bulk of the Transocean Ltd "Winner", a sprawling 17,000-tonne drilling rig that had run ashore in the bay. "Ah nearly shat maself! To see

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this big bastard'n thing a stone's throw away fae ma hoose an dear ol' sleepin' granny pissin' fuel aw oer the place." he added. "God only knows how long it's gonna be there. If it had been a tanker, all hell would have broken loose by noo. And ah bet yae ten bob the buggers get away wi it an all."

With the semi-submersible rig still grounded 24 hours later concerns are that up to 52 metric tonnes of diesel have leaked into the sea from two breached fuel tanks, there remain acute fears it could result in Scotland's worst environmental catastrophe since the Braer tanker ran aground just west of Shetland's Summargate Head, shedding its 84,700 tonnes of crude oil into the North Sea.

That disaster and its devastating ecological fallout prompted a full-scale inquiry, tens of millions of pounds in compensation payments, and a resolve on the part of the mari-

time industry and the political establishment to ensure that it could never happen again. Some 23 years on, however, questions are being asked of whether complacency, incompetence and government cost-cutting have conspired to once again put Scotland's waters and shorelines at unnecessary risk.

The perilous fate of the Transocean Ltd "Winner" has sparked a series of questions, from whether the existing Hebridean Deep Sea Water route – which passes just four miles off the coast – is far enough out at sea to protect the archipelago from ships in distress, to why such a vast rig was towed along such an exposed route when forecasters warned of treacherous conditions to just how big a kick in the bawsack are these nobbs at Transocean Ltd going to get for their ongoing list of crimes!

As you read this motions are being pressed but without your help the scummy buggers shall no doubt grease their way out of another disaster, 10 in all major ones so far and counting.

This has reached RED on the Manatee meter! RED WITH RAGE!

Tell me. Shall you carefree generate your giant carbon footprint, drive in your 14 mpg car and throw your plastic in the ocean like a giant twat? Or shall you join the noble



quest to bring Transocean Ltd to semblance of justice? Or give the Ritchie Rich a few swift kicks in the bawsack, farming off some of their US \$26.329 billion net worth of ill-gotten gains.

If this does not get you angry, tell me Glasgow what does fill you with rage?

Transocean Ltd you shall be held responsible for your crimes!

You know who you are,

We know who you are,

You shall soon know us!

ELDER MACDONALD

By Angus MacDonald, Kindred of Paris

After a carefully orchestrated hunt for the Sabbat in the Domain recently, it seems that most of the Sabbat have been destroyed in their nests and the survivors have pulled back to regroup. At the minute they seem to be massively terrified of something or someone in the Domain. In my opinion, the Sabbat won't attack again until this threat is destroyed or otherwise removed. I will continue to hunt the Sabbat and let the Prince and his officers deal with this new emerging threat.

The Sabbat force in Scotland has recently been joined by a certain Bishop Martinez of Madrid. We have a personal history and I won't stop hunting this animal until I've torn his heart from his chest and claimed his blood back for Clan Gangrel. Martinez works closely with a twisted Tremere and I have received intelli-

gence very recently that this Tremere is targeting our very own Mr Tius. Beware Levi. He seems competent and powerful. When you destroy this snake, you strike a major blow for the Camarilla!

I will travel through the Domain periodically until the threat from the Sabbat has been dealt with but unfortunately I can't reside here on a permanent basis. My work now includes Canada as well as Europe and I can't long tarry in one place.

I would like to publicly thank Prince Villion of Paris for his extremely generous gift. You are far too kind, my lord.

Finally, I would like to honour Prince Beatriz of Guarda, Clan Toreador. A more warlike and honourable spirit I have seldom seen. The greatest of all the Portuguese Camarilla. Your murderer will suffer unspeakable agonies in your name, my friend.

VENTRUE BUZZ

By Henry Randall, Edited by Harpy of Glasgow

Lightning can strike twice, and it has. But those things are mere rumours and so I will focus on the general buzz around the British Ventrue. First and foremost things have gone a bit quiet in anticipation of the UK Ventrue Board meeting. Seeing all the monumental changes which occurred since the last UK Board meeting I am sure that they had a lot to talk about. Any day now we will hear the publicly announced outcomes of the meeting and we will likely also feel the matters taking shape behind closed doors. It will be interesting to see how the high level politics affects the man on the streets.

Next we have to mention a few words about Dundee. There are things going on that I even a short month ago would have considered are impossible, but in this day and age the impossible seems to become almost the regular. Still many eyes will be on Dundee to see how that situation develops.

During the month many people have asked me what happened in Glasgow at the last court, but I can honestly say, I did not see anything particularly unusual, and nothing particularly untowards happened to me.

We do indeed live in interesting times, as per the Chinese curse, and I hope that the shortening nights will bring some more peace and quiet.

TLDR; Paragraphs summarised.

The Ventrue Board are doing something and I'm not important enough to know.

I mention sweet nothing about Dundee.

I have nothing to say about last court.

Nothing of interest here.

GREEK TRAGEDY: DRAMA OF ACTION OR DRAMA OF SPEECH? (PART 1)

By Marshal Ney

We have all of late been much concerned with matters political and military. Likewise my first assault into the pages of this publication were entirely dedicated to my own soldiers trade. However, I was, as I always am on such occasions, much taken by the splendour and the beauty of the ball thrown by Prince Carmichael last month. Indeed I offer him here my profound thanks for the invitation, my congratulations on a successful event (despite the interruption), and my sincere best wishes to him and to his consort on their engagement. The elegance of it all was quite breath taking if I had any breath left to take. It inspired me that in our moments of quite repose it does well for us to take time to invest in the finer things of life. In art, in creativity, in construction – in all the things that actually make immortality worth living. So this month, depart the field of conflict an return to the first great jewel in the Brujah crown. Before there was Carthage there was Athens. And in Athens we created the foundations of political and cultural institutions and forms that even Rome in all her glory could only copy or assimilate, complimenting Athens by imitation. So here I have picked one particular object of ancient culture – the theatre, and tragedy in particular – and discuss it with a view of indulging both myself and others who care to take the time to enjoy scholarly discussion of art and the cut and thrust of debate rather than that of the mortal combat.

A claim that could be made of Greek tragedy is that it is the drama of speech, not the drama of action. If one is going to discuss this allegation, then one must first be clear as to what one means by the “drama of speech” or the “drama of action”. In the former case, the English word “speech” would simply imply speaking, that is to say that the most prominent feature of the play is what the actors are saying to each other or to themselves or to the chorus or to the audience. This defini-

tion is perhaps a little too specific and inflexible for the purposes of interpreting Greek tragedy. It is perhaps preferable to use the Greek word and instead talk, as Goldhill does, of the “drama of logos”. In this way, we are free to discuss not just the importance of speech but also of the importance of rhetoric, of language, of structure, of form etc. By discussing the “drama of logos” we elevate the words of the play as the most important subject of study and it is in this slightly broader sense that this essay will treat the drama of speech.¹ The “drama of action”, on the other hand, is more self explanatory. The student of the drama of action is more concerned with the physical, the comings and goings, the gestures and gesticulations, the body language and the bar-brawls, the tearful eye and the knife in the back. The nth degree of drama of action might be said to be a modern action film of, say, the Battle of Stalingrad or, to be more risqué, a pornographic film (so far as the word “drama” can ever be acceptably applied to such a genre). So is Greek tragedy the drama of speech (logos), not action?

There are fundamental truths about Greek tragedy that partially render this question slightly toothless before we even begin to answer it. One of these truths is that Greek tragedy was written to be performed in the theatre. Theatrical performance by its very nature, whether it be a performance in the Theatre of Dionysus at Athens in 409 B.C. or a performance in London’s west end in 2009 A.D., is a composition of dialogue and action. Having one without the other in a theatrical sense is either an oration or what we might call a mime or interpretive dance of some description. To try and disconnect the words of Greek tragedy from the action of Greek tragedy is not productive as the essential power of Greek theatre comes from its extraordinary combination of words and actions. “To neglect one is to impoverish the other”.² However, although the two elements are indivisi-

ble, a valid question remains as to whether Greek tragedy places a greater emphasis on the one rather than the other. To answer this question now, particular attention will be given to, but not exclusively to, the Seven Against Thebes by Aeschylus (which I will discuss this month), Ajax by Sophocles and Ion by Euripides (both of which I will discuss next month). I will attempt to demonstrate ways in which these three plays do show how the words they are made of are more important than the action they materialise. This will be followed with a demonstration of how the action does in fact sometimes show itself to be more prominent in a given Greek tragedy although my ultimate objective is to conclude that Greek tragedy is neither the drama of speech nor the drama of action but is generally rounded and balanced between the two. But first I turn, almost inevitably, to the critical position of Aristotle.

It is, by now, a truly unremarkable observation to state that Aristotle was in a better position to criticise and analyse Greek tragedy. Nevertheless, it is no less true that Aristotle had most of the back catalogue of Greek tragedy from which to form his judgments compared to the tiny fraction of extant material that is at the disposal of the modern critic. Such as it is, Aristotle’s Poetics is a very useful tool for trying to decipher whether or not Greek tragedy relies more heavily on its speech rather than its action. For Aristotle:

“Tragedy is an imitation of an action that is admirable, complete and possesses magnitude; in language made pleasurable, each of its species separated in different parts; performed by actors, not through narration; effecting through pity and fear the purification of such emotions.”³

The form that tragedy imitates is an action; the language (the words) is the medium of tragedy and is the same to the tragic poet as paint is to the painter or stone to the sculptor.⁴ We must be very careful not to confuse what Aris-

GREEK TRAGEDY CONTD.

totele means by "imitation of action". For Aristotle, the desired effect of tragedy (pity and fear) is not dependant on performance and actors.⁵ Action in Aristotle's sense of the word is not about the hand gestures and body language or entrances and exists. Rather, an action is a combination of plot (the order of the events), character and reasoning. That is to say, an actor is placed in a certain situation, time and place. Over the course of events from that starting point, the actor will be furnished with a moral choice to make. The decision that the actor makes when faced with this moral choice, and the reasoning he uses to make that decision (revealed through the actors speech), reveals the character of the actor. In tragic terms, the choice that the actor makes will usually result in suffering of some kind, and thus the audience is made to feel pity and fear.⁶ Further, Aristotle is not what one could call a fan of spectacle;

"Producing this effect through spectacle is less artistic, and is dependent on the production. Those who use spectacle to produce an effect which is not evocative of fear, but simply monstrous, have nothing to do with tragedy;"⁷

This appears to be a damning indictment of tragedies that rely on gratuitous violence on stage or relies overtly on the "suffering" part of the plot to produce the effect of pity and fear rather than on the moral dilemma of the actor.

Trying to use Aristotle's Poetics, therefore, to determine if Greek tragedy is primarily the drama of speech or the drama of action is a complicated affair. Aristotle makes it very clear that tragedy is an imitation of action, but this imitation relies on the actors speech to reveal his moral choices in the plot. By this definition, Greek tragedy is something of a philosophical thought experiment, where the ideas being communicated and how the audience responds to those ideas as they are materialised on stage are much more important to Greek tragedy than

the on stage performance. The most fitting conclusion that one can come to with regard to Aristotelian thought, is that speech and action in Greek tragedy as far as Aristotle is concerned enjoys a symbiotic relationship. So how then does this theory fit when actually applied to the extant material we have? And can perhaps more modern criticism be more useful in answering the question we have?

The Seven Against Thebes is a good case study in how speech takes primacy over action. It is an easy accusation to make against Aeschylus that not very much seems to "happen" in the Seven Against Thebes. As is standard in the extant Greek tragedy, the climactic event, the death of Eteocles, is not presented physically on stage but is reported in the messenger scene as having taken place off stage. Instead, the best part of the Seven is devoted to long exchanges between Eteocles and the chorus of women or between Eteocles and the soldier who presents him with the names of the champions making ready to assault the city. This play, therefore, sits extremely well with Aristotle's theory of Greek tragedy. It does not rely on spectacle or grand performance, but instead we see Eteocles presented with a moral choice as to whether he should or should not face his brother in battle. Eteocles declares his reasons for deciding to fight Polynices in a speech and this both reveals Eteocles' character and leads to his doom. As far as Aristotle is concerned, the Seven Against Thebes demonstrates his imitation of action in action (so to speak). However, we can in fact use the speech of the Seven to make different interpretations than Aristotle might have done.

As already stated, the Seven is very heavily dependant on speech to communicate its meaning. It provides ample opportunity to those who regard the words of the text as paramount to demonstrate their interpretations. Cameron, for instance, keenly demonstrates that the conflict between Eteocles and the chorus following the parados arises due to the poor choice of words used by the women of the cho-

rus. There are several instances in the parados where we can observe phrases of impending destruction:

"Death rushes upon us;"⁸

"Ares, what will you do? Will you forsake this land, your own from the beginning?"⁹

"See us, threatened with slavery,"¹⁰

By the practices of Greek religion and ritual, such utterances were considered ill omens because they insulted the gods and invited the very doom that they aimed to deter. Thus, Eteocles is very rightly agitated by the women and justified in demanding that they stop:

"With hands on holy images you speak such words?"¹¹

Although unable to stop the women from praying altogether, Eteocles is nevertheless within his rights to demand, in the interests of maintaining morale and public order, that the women at least change the wording of their prayers to something more optimistic:

"make a better prayer, that the gods will fight for us."¹²

Therefore, by examining the significance of certain words and phrases in the speeches, and how the actors respond to them, we can interpret the characters differently. Instead of interpreting Eteocles as an atheistic, misogynist for his berating of the panicking women, he can be interpreted as more statesman like and rightly irritated at ill advised language in a time of national crisis.¹³ I will continue this discussion of Greek tragedy in next month's issue.

References

- 1Goldhill, 1986, ch.1
- 2Taplin, 2003, p.ix; Goldhill makes a similarly apologetic statement for the logos camp, 1986, p.3
- 3Aristotle, Poetics, 4.1
- 4Jones, 1962, p.24
- 5Aristotle, Poetics, 4.4
- 6Heath, introduction to the Poetics, p.xviii-xix
- 7Aristotle, Poetics, 7.3
- 8Aeschylus, Seven against Thebes, l.88
- 9ibid,l.104
- 10ibid.l.112
- 11ibid.l.258
- 12ibid.l.266

HOW THE SABBAT NEARLY FOUND US LAST TIME

By Henry Randall

Before I start I must repeat that I am no longer the keeper of Elysium. I did not measure to the standards Prince Brown requires from his keeper and so I wish my successor the best of luck and the following bit of advice. I am trying to be really careful this time, after all I have a history of criticizing in a manner that leads to people feeling insulted. Never the less I feel it important to pass on what happened to the Elysium I built for Glasgow.

I had thought that having underground parking access, access for people coming from the sewers, sneaking into dark places in animal form and then privately turning back into mortal form and 24 / 7 mortals coming in and out of the Elysium would allow us to

avoid any unwanted attention but within weeks of being here, even half a Sabbat pack had narrowed down the Elysium site to a couple of city blocks.

I reckon another night spent looking and they might have even identified the building. So what happened? Well there are a number of people who like to be driven to somewhere relatively near the Elysium and walk the remainder of the distance, to avoid anyone at the Elysium getting a bead on their car, driver or number plate. In order to make it harder to spot a pattern some might even change their routes and walk in convoluted ways to spot anyone following them. There are others who like to walk through the city centre full stop.

I am not saying that everyone who walks in the door was individually a

problem, but there are some who can be spotted quite a distance away as kindred. Maybe it is the lack of breath, the pallor, or even the fact that every dog they pass almost loses their composure but even moderately smart birds can be made to look for kindred and they were found, grouping most often in the area of the Elysium.

And so it took someone entirely foreign no more than a few weeks to find the Elysium, whilst also setting themselves up, obtaining their bases of operation, safe houses and the like. Maybe I should take heart that had I not changed the Elysium location they might have found us in mere days. In any case birds looking for kindred is a weakness my successor will need to take into account.

WHITE PLAGUE IN YORK

By Serafina Fox

Recent reports have revealed that the White Plague that originated in Birmingham has now spread to the east coast and in particular the city of York. It is rumoured that the infected mortal had travelled to York from Birmingham prior to the quarantine ban being put in place. Doctors in Birmingham have confirmed that it can take several days for the symptoms to manifest and that it is possible that those who had visited Birmingham previously and come into contact with the White Plague may have travelled elsewhere prior to the quarantine.

The plague that began in Birmingham continues to claim further kindred victims despite the high level of scrutiny that is taking place within the domain. Two Ancilla and three more neonates of various clans have now fallen into Torpor alongside Henry Newbolt who succumbed last month. Further mortal patients have been infected despite the restrictions placed on the kindred of Birmingham to only feed from screened blood bags. To date there have still been no deaths, either mortals or kindred, however

doctors working on the White Plague have stated that they have not ruled this out as a possibility.

A further quarantine has been placed on the city of York and all kindred are encouraged not to travel to either city and that if anyone has recently returned from York or Birmingham contact Doctor Angelica Grand on the helpline.

NEWS FROM GUARDA

By Constanze Paliare, Harpy of Guarda

The unthinkable has happened. Our glorious Prince Beatriz has fallen. Killed by treachery by the hated beast Martinez of Madrid. Our noble martyr challenged the foul animal to an honourable duel, warrior to warrior. And when the vermin looked to be getting overwhelmed, his pet snake of a Tremere walked through a solid wall and crippled our Prince with but a

touch. As the stalwart Kindred of Guarda fought back against the horde of Sabbat, our new friends from the honourable and brave Clan Assamite charged to recover our great Prince at terrible risk to themselves. Just as they stood ready to strike down the vulgar fiends and recover Prince Beatriz, the treacherous snake laid a hand on the verminous Martinez and both they and our fallen angel were immediately transported to parts unknown.

The most tragic part of this terrible event is that the Kindred of Guarda and the Kindred of Spain had only just united in our war against the Sabbat. With the recent addition of warriors from Clan Assamite, the war had taken a leap forward and Portugal has finally pushed the Sabbat away from our borders for the first time in centuries. Who now will replace our fallen queen? Who now will replace Elder McDonald? Who now will lead the Kindred of Portugal to war?

Grieve with me Kindred. Grieve at the loss of heroes and the loss of hope...

Plague Helpline

If you or anyone you know has been affected by the plague,
we're here to help

Contact Dr Angelica Grand on 0800 376 2020



FROM MANCHESTER; THE THIRD DE- MAND

By Seneschal Hector Dunn

How unfortunate that Prince Brown bats away our attempt to broker a reasonable debate, after assurances of hospitality were given and everything. Unlike some, Prince Carter actually respects the tradition of hospitality and the protections of Elysium. It really is too bad Prince Brown, so now you leave us no choice. Hand over the imposter or further action will be taken against your domain in order to secure what it is that we want. This is your final warning.

TREMERE JUSTICAR; BACK FROM THE OUTBACK!

By Rebecca Jones

The news in Paris is that the Tremere Justicar Carfax has recently been recalled from Australia due to recent tensions that have arisen in the United Kingdom. Archon to Justicar Carfax, Morgan LaFern stated that the Justicar had been asked to return to Europe to help alleviate growing concerns amongst the Camarilla regarding Clan Tremere. Justicar Carfax will be visiting many domains within Europe to confirm to all Princes that Clan Tremere remains a steadfast, loyal and useful member to the Camarilla. Who has recalled the Justicar or for what reasons in particular were not stated by the Archon, however it is believed that the Justicar may have been recalled by the combined request of Justicar Naves, Guile and Thraces.

Last month saw a series of demonstrations for members of Clan Tremere throughout the UK and the expulsion of Clan Tremere from the domain of Norfolk. This has sent a domino effect throughout Europe where several other domains have started to follow suit following the rumours that have spread like wildfire regarding the clan,

CHANGE OF BUSINESS NAME

By Henry Randall

It has come to my attention, via one of my creditors, that some people were unhappy about calling parts of the service I provide to domain members Cain Removals. I believed it a catchy name that stays in the memory of the members of the domain but alas I fear that some believe it might attract unwanted attention.

Of course never was a company registered Cain Removals with Company House. There were no vans or lorries with it written on the side nor were there any bank accounts, paper trail or employees going by that name. The only place that Cain Removal could be found was in the Dark Times, and let's be honest, if that got into the wrong hands the company name of my problem removal company is hardly the problem, and on the 23 business cards I handed out to various members of the court, all of whom are trusted

to look after a copy of the Dark Times.

In any case though, it matters not why the name has offended a number of people more important than me and thus it shall be changed. Cain Removals shall now be known as Quiet Removals. The rest though is staying exactly the same. The same complete discretion and swift service. As always this service removes problems, be they in the form of people, organisations, dead bodies, red tape or similar.

As for the Bloodhawk Subsidiary, which just as before doesn't exist on paper, just in the hearts and minds of the members of the Glasgow court, that will likewise step back into hiding, but the service is still running well and good. If you need even a large amount of specific blood shouldn't take long to source.

If you have any questions or wish me to take further steps please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Quiet Removals
Watch your problems disappear

100% discreet
07779-325-527

in particular in regards to the recent plague outbreak in Birmingham. Further to this there have been reports in from the domain of Berlin that Clan Tremere are responsible for several masquerade breaking creatures that have recently been spotted in the surrounding area. There have been further reports on such things in the domains of Prague, Frankfurt and Nu-

remberg, which appear to implicate the Tremere in their creation.

Lord Melik of Clan Tremere has stated, "I am delighted that Justicar Carfax will be visiting our shores in order to clear up this misunderstanding so that we may all return to what is really important, the continued protection of the Camarilla."

HARPY HOUR

Well that was a bit of a shock wasn't it? Only one month in the domain and already Elder Darnley seems to have Prince Carmichael wrapped around her little finger, and now she's to be his consort. What does that even mean? How long before Prince Carmichael simply hands her the crown? I know one Prince that won't stand for it. It was a great party though, despite the minor interruption, and it was good to see the Kindred of Glasgow leaping into the fray, well after all that Sabbat Training they have been doing we would have been surprised if they hadn't!

Far, Harpy of Edinburgh

Is nothing sacred anymore? Does he wish to spit on every principle the Camarilla is founded on, or just the ones where it suits his needs. Then again when it comes to a known tradition breaker is anyone really surprised? This is just one more in a long line and quite frankly I'm getting bored of the constant blunders of that northern domain. Time to move on to more interesting things, like this charismatic new Prince that has set himself up in Carlisle, now that is someone to talk about and keep an eye on, take note Prince of the north, that's how you do it.

Ann-Jacques, Harpy of York

I have heard that those that do not feel safe in the domain they currently reside in may find a place of refuge up in the north. Anyone within my own clan that has these concerns would do well to speak with me and I will place you in touch with a kind soul that has offered to open the doors for a very small price indeed. Bravo to Prince Brown for keeping his domain and those within it safe, regardless of what clan they are. Do not live in fear, your worries will soon be for naught, help is coming and they are bringing a very big broom with them.

Sarah Miles, Harpy of Birmingham

Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear. You've

made him very angry now Prince Floppy, he doesn't like that. Breaking the rules is bad enough, but even he could see past that if you were in danger (of course there was no danger was there? You just didn't like those sticks and stones and wanted to know who was being mean to you), no, no, no, it's because you let him do it. You let him look in the hearts of your people and who knows what he's planted there. Little black seeds in every heart Prince Floppy, and we both know, what we know.

Lucretzia Reflection, Harpy of Manchester

It is good to know that Prince Carlisle can still be surprised, guess the leash is not as tight as he thought.

Lady Salisbury, Harpy of London



A Harpy, wings disclosed.

Let us be very, very clear about something. No matter what we are told, no matter what propaganda they try to shove down our throats we will never be convinced of your innocence little warlocks. It is time for us to look back through the ages and find out what you have really done for us all this time. For I have heard a wicked little rumour that during the dark, dark days, that awful little plague that ran around then...well...it's not too different from the one we see now...and didn't your lot cure that last one? Isn't that what made us trust you? Time is running out, go on, as the song goes, Vienna waits for you.

Joseph Carroll, Harpy of Norfolk

Our kindest thanks to Prince Carmichael for inviting us to a most splendid party, and thank you for the surprise entertainment at the end there courtesy of some of your other guests. And of course congratulations on your engagement, let us hope that your future marriage lasts longer some of these other mortal celebrity whirlwind romances, let us hope Lady Darnley does not steal your seat from under you.

Ryan Harding, Harpy of Severn

Congratulations to Prince Carmichael and a thank you to all the brave Princes who helped us contain and eliminate the Sabbat Threat that was carried in from a south westerly wind. It was unfortunate that Prince Brown was not able to attend, we hope he has not come down with the plague, however thankfully we were able to fight them off without his 'considerable expertise'.

Katie Redding, Harpy of Dundee

So how is everyone's audit going? Ours is going great and I hear Edinburgh is about to pass with flying colours as well. How's yours going Glasgow?

Dougal Douglas, Harpy of Aberdeen

How nice of Glasgow to finally make an appearance, as usual the Glasgow court seem to be all talk and no actual substance.

Morag Cunningham, Harpy of Inverness

Oh hello everyone. As requested so earnestly I shall endeavour to keep up and tweet along with you all. My enjoyment peaked this month with my visit to Dundee where I got to see so many of you. What delightful chat I had and such a variety of guests. Why invites must have been flung far and wide considering the turnout. I'm particularly pleased that my Prince's advice on dealing with one such calibre of guest prepared me for their unruly tete-a-tete. Congratulations to the host and his to-be, their engagement party shall surely be a highlight of the year.

Sebastian Fawkes, Harpy of Glasgow

THE CITY OF THE FIVE PRINCES; MY TRIP TO THE GLASGOW COURT

By Katie Reading, Harpy of Dundee

Since the departure of the newly appointed "Archon" Amadeus Edelstein and the appointment of the new shovel head Prince, Glasgow has again found itself as the chief topic of conversation among most of us here in the former United Kingdom with the main question being - why haven't we burned this cesspit to the ground?

I had hoped for further information to prepare myself for my trek into the great unknown however the Glasgow harpy had been annoyingly quiet on the current events and I was forced to attend the court armed only with invitations to the swankiest party in town - details to follow - and my wits to protect me.

The court itself took place in the only Elysium Glasgow had to offer - an abandoned warehouse on the outskirts of the city. The reason, I was told, was that there were Sabbat in the city and they were afraid of an impending attack. So much for the prepared warriors all versed in Sabbat lore that we had been reading so much about. One has to wonder, if it's not preparing his subjects to fight against the Sabbat, what is it preparing them for?

This was only the first shock of the night however. The evening I showed up at court also saw the return of the former Princes Angus Macdonald and Simon Haille. For those of you who don't follow the events of Glasgow - and to be honest, I don't blame you - the former Princes were previously banished from the domain for a breach of the masquerade and sent to hunt Sabbat in Spain. They appear however have managed to find some loophole in their sentence. At the moment, the reason for their return seems unclear but I'm sure my little birdies will enlighten me shortly. Yes, dear readers, Richard the Lionheart has returned from his crusades. Perhaps he wishes to release his kingdom from the unjust reign of the tyrant King John and his snake advisor.

Their arrival, for those of you

counting at home, combined with the supposed return of the Viscount and the extremely brief reign of Seneschal Ethan Fletcher, has lead to an unusual situation where there are now five Princes residing in Glasgow. One has to wonder if at least one, if not all of them is looking for a way to reclaim their throne.

The crown, however, appears to be the last thing that the so called Viscount should be seeking right now. The Viscount's return from the dead, if that's what it is, has garnered mixed reactions throughout Britain, the strongest of which seems to come from Prince Carter who seems determined to finish what he started in Birmingham all those years ago. For those who are following the tale of the Viscount's resurrection carefully, here is an interesting piece of the puzzle, during the court, a woman appeared who identified herself as Nurse Effie. She was, by her own admission the nurse of the Viscount whom she affectionately referred to as "Charlie". When pressed on why the Viscount needed a nurse at all she ominously replied "You can't come back from the dead without consequences." Make of that what you will dear readers.

The Viscount wasn't the only one of Prince Brown's court to appear to be requiring some mental assistance. Half way through the night, the Seneschal began ranting and raving about a sigils that only he could see and while these kind of derangements are hardly uncommon amongst the Malkavians, one can't help but think it may impact of your ability to advise if you can't differentiate between truth and madness.

We can't of course talk of advisors in Glasgow, without at least briefly mentioning Levi Tius, the puppet master extraordinaire. His position in Prince Brown's court has made the Prince almost untouchable. While I only met with Mr Tius briefly at the top table, it was clear that he was a controlling presence, expertly steering the conversation in the way he desired.

Indeed throughout the night, he was never far from the Prince's side, whispering in his ear. Being as powerful as he is, one can't help but wonder whether Prince Brown is as in control as he would like to believe.

The final shock of the evening came when the entire court was forced out of the Elysium. Why? Had the Sabbat caught wind of the new location? Was a sudden attack imminent? Was this the reason the Prince required all his subjects to leave the safety of their Elysium to a new location without the proper wards and protections?

In a word - no.

What had happened, dear readers, was Princy poo had taken umbrage with the fact that someone had dared to question his all powerful leadership. Turns out he didn't like an article in the Dark Times - or the "Failing Dark Times" as he has taken to calling it - or its apparent alternative FACTS about him.

He therefore decided, on the advice of his mentally unstable advisors to take everyone out of the Elysium to allow the former Prince Charlie to perform some old Ventrue ritual from the Dark Ages to make anyone who had been saying lies, or more likely truths, about the Prince to spill their guts out. Unfortunately, it appeared that the ritual either didn't work - which given the Viscount's current stability was always going to be an issue - or Anonymous simply wasn't present in court so I didn't get to watch the fireworks.

With all this instability in Glasgow, one has to wonder why the kindred stay there at all. Are they all actually enjoying the rule of the evil wizard and his puppet prince? Are they all developing some form of Stockholm syndrome and have grown attached to his tyrant ways? Or are they all biding their time? Waiting for the right opportunity to strike? There are five Princes currently in Glasgow right now - I can't help but feel that a new one might show up soon.

INTERVIEW WITH A NEW PRINCE

By Rebecca Jones

For those of you venturing either north of England or south of Scotland you may have noticed that a new 'domain' seems to have sprung up in Carlisle in recent months. Lying between the domains of Manchester and Glasgow, this new 'domain' appears to be under the control of the self proclaimed Caitiff 'Prince' Seth Mikelson. The Dark Times was lucky enough to secure an interview with the 'Prince'.

So what made you choose Carlisle of all places to set up?

It's a place that has been neglected, an area that no other domain appears to be taking control of. It's a very key point between England and Scotland and it has been left unattended.

Hmm, the domain of Carlisle does sit in an interesting place between the Domain of Prince Brown of Glasgow and the Domain of Prince Carter of Manchester. Now are you afraid of challenges from the Princes of these domains?

If any Prince has a problem regarding the domain I have claimed for myself then I will be happy to discuss that with them.

And obviously as anyone who has been reading the Dark Times will know there seems to be trouble brewing between Prince Brown and Prince Carter. Placing yourself right in the middle of that could be perceived as somewhat dangerous. Do you have any thoughts on the matter?

Others may perceive it as dangerous but 'thy domain is thy own concern' as the Tradition goes. What goes on in Manchester and what goes on in Glasgow doesn't concern me.

Yes, but they would have to go through you to get to the other, does that concern you?

It doesn't.

Now you spoke of the Traditions there, you've been calling yourself 'Prince' is that correct?

That is correct.

Do you not think that some people might view this as an affront to the tradition of domain. I mean you are taking land which technically could belong to either Prince and claiming it as your own, which has not been gifted to you by either Prince is that-

Domain isn't gifted. It's taken and I have taken the domain of Carlisle. If either Prince wishes to dispute this I'll be happy to meet them on it.

And what do you say to the traditionalists, who may be not so keen on your method of acquiring such a position?

I would urge these traditionalists to look much further back to when those who held domain did so because they could. Because they

were strong enough to do so.

And do you think you're strong enough to hold on to your domain?

I'll let my actions do the talking.

Right. You've also held yourself out to be a Caitiff Prince-

I have.

That is something you have been quite open about. There are quite a large number of Caitiff these days who don't claim to be Caitiff. Was that something you made a deliberate decision to identify as?

I am a Caitiff. It's not, to me, a big deal to have to say that. It is what I am, the same way you are a Malkavian. The same way that Prince Brown is a Nosferatu, Prince Carter is a Brujah. We are a Clan in our own right.

Well that leads me on to my next question. In recent months there has been a rise in Caitiff rights groups throughout the UK, trying to establish the Caitiff as the eighth clan of the Camarilla. Is that something which you would support?

We are a part of the Camarilla. There is no question about that. The eighth pillar of the Camarilla is already here and it is the Caitiff.

There are those who would say that the Caitiff's aren't actually a clan, they are merely thinner blood-

If anyone who thinks we are thinner blood wants to come and test that theory, they are more than welcome.

Very well. Now since you have proclaimed this, your domain has seen an influx of Caitiff and others who may have previously felt slightly excluded or marginalised within the Camarilla. Is that something that you are looking to do, to create a sort of haven for these people, or is that just something that has happened?

I would welcome anyone who fits our ideals. It doesn't matter to me what clan you are as long as you fit the ideals

And what ideals are those?

Honour, bravery and loyalty.

And where do the traditions factor into this?

They will always factor into this. They are a part of the Camarilla. They are the foundations on which the Camarilla is built and you will find them very much enforced in my domain. Unlike others.

Which others are we talking about?

I couldn't possibly say. We all know them.

As you may be aware there is a current audit taking place in all the Camarilla domains under Justicar Knaves rule. Do you know if you yourself will be subject to this audit?

I have had no indication from the Archon of whether we will be included in the audit. I imagine we shall have quite an easy time of it. Given how newly established we are. We have-

n't had time to have various Masquerade breaches.

That seems like a dig, was it?

A dig? From me? No not at all.

Well thank you very much for being with us today. Do you have any final thoughts that you would wish to share?

Only that our domain welcomes anyone who holds true to the previously mentioned ideals. And, like I said, if any Prince wishes to visit the domain to see how well it works, to see how well your domain could work. I'd be happy to invite them.

Are you offering tips?

Absolutely.

KINDRED ART OF THE MONTH!

By Rosalie Gypsy

Anyone who was present at Prince Carmichael's party this month couldn't fail to be impressed by the amazing musical talent of the band 'Beauty and the Bass'. Fresh off their tour of the French courts, the string quartet, comprised of four Nosferatu, specialise in playing classical covers of modern hits that had even the most curmudgeonly Gangrels tapping their toes. Indeed, until the unfortunate incident occurred, one could hardly move on the dance floor.

The band was apparently personally selected for the event by Marie Darley herself after she heard them play at her sire, Francois Villon's, party last year and with that stamp of approval the band are sure to go far. Indeed it has been announced just days after the party that the band has been booked for a tour of the British Isles which has already sold out in three major cities due to what French kindred already know well as the Marie Darley effect. Indeed as Lady Salisbury remarked, "If the Princess of Dundee likes it. It must have something going for it."



To Contact, Email Dark Times with Reference

FOR SALE

HARLEY DAVIDSON MOTORBIKE, 2013 Night Rod® Special red and black. £1500 ono.

REF: FSHARL25

LARGE HERD, all red heads. Will trade for Major Boon.

REF: FSLARG26

DAGGER, steel with jewel encrusted rim. Handy for escaping a tricky situation. Will trade for Major Boon.

REF: FSDAGG27

MUSIC BOX, would appear to be from the 1940s. Plays songs by Vera Lynn. £100 or minor boon.

REF: FSMUSI28

BUILDER, available for major and minor house hold repairs. Providing both a non intrusive and reliable service.

REF: FSBUIL29

PRESENCE - Will teach for major boon or for Potence.

REF: FSPRES30

ONE MIRROR. Slightly cracked. Free to a good home.

REF: FSMIRR31

TAYLOR SWIFT 1989 ALBUM. I miss when she used to sing country. REF: FSTAYL32

WANTED

200FT CHRISTMAS LIGHTS. All blue if possible. Price negotiable.

REF: WACHRI23

EXORCISMS PROVIDED. Price negotiable dependant on property and number of spirits.

REF: WAEXOR24

13 WISHBONES NEEDED. Will pay minor boon per wishbone or major boon for thirteen.

REF: WAWISH25

HERD WANTED. Italian sous chefs required. Price negotiable. Will pay handsomely.

REF: WASOUS26.

MODEL REQUIRED FOR LIFE DRAWING. Price negotiable dependant on appearance and experience. Nosferatu need not apply.

REF: WAMODE27

INFORMATION WANTED ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF A KINGUSAMA. Last seen in Tokyo in May 1984.

REF: WAINFO28

PEN PALS

NAME: James Watson

LOCATION: New York City, USA

CLAN: Gangrel

AGE: 100+

LIKES: Hunting, fishing and watching Antiques Roadshow

DISLIKES: Civil War reenactments

LOOKING FOR: Someone to shoot the breeze with.

REF: WATSOJ0013

NAME: Morgan McGrath

LOCATION: London, England

CLAN: Tremere

AGE: 50 - 100

LIKES: Signs, sigils and dreams.

DISLIKES: Muggles.

LOOKING FOR: Conversation that will engage my mind and soul.

REF: MCGRAM0014

NAME: Edmund Wickham

LOCATION: Currently London, UK.

CLAN: Ventrue

AGE: 200+

LIKES: I have a keen interest in travel, agriculture and fine blood mead.

DISLIKES: I cannot abide lateness.

LOOKING FOR: I am only in the UK for a short time and I am looking for someone who can show me the sights and aid me in navigating the political landscape.

REF: WICKHE0015

NAME: Genevieve Etoile

LOCATION: New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

CLAN: Toreador

AGE: 100 - 150

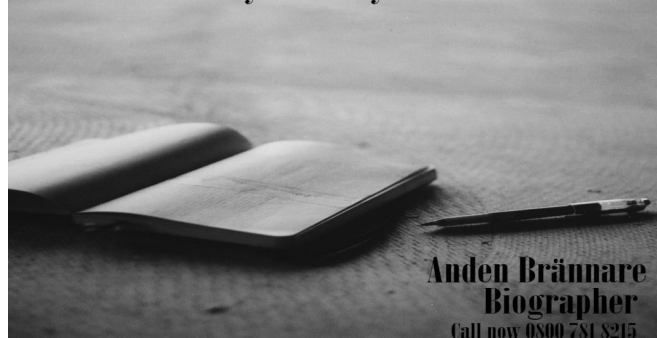
LIKES: Museums, galleries and theatre.

DISLIKES: Poor conversation and lack of etiquette.

LOOKING FOR: Someone with similar interests to spend these eternal nights with.

REF: ETOILG0016

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Biographer
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vehicles from Paladin
Automobiles Ltd.

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BY CRYPTIC CARL

The darkness is coming. The darkness rips through the cities and KILLS aND fEaStS aND RiPS ThROUGh ThE NIGHT.

PUT IT bACK IN THE bOX
wHERE yOu FouND It!
THIS IS nO tIME For tOYS.

wHErE HAvE AlL ThE
ChILDrEN GoNE!? a Hun-
dRED SOuLS IN a DEad
MANs ChEst.

BLACK EYeS. EVerYwHERe.
aLWAys wATchING. aL-
WAYS WatCHinG.

Mummy help me! I'll be good just make the voices go away. Daddy help me! PLEASE coME bACK SO FaR AWAY. ThE bElls of sT cLeMENTs rIng SO LOUD. sTOp It! stOP! nOT heRE! .

SHUT UP! STOP TALKING
SO LOUDLY! yOU stARt-
eD IT!

NO oNe iS saFE wHille He IS
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iT iS hERE



Dear Sam

Help! I'm starting to suspect my girlfriend might be in the Sabbat. We've been dating for a while now and I think I might love her but every now and then she says and does things that make me question where her true loyalties lie. At first it was just little things like she didn't want to introduce me to her friends or her sire and she didn't want any bright lights on when we were together - which I understood cause hey, I'm a Nosferatu - sometimes I don't like to look at me, but since then it has got worse. I'm the Sheriff in my domain and recently she has been asking weird hypothetical questions like 'What do I think the weak points are in the domain's security?' and 'Do I know where the Prince's haven is?' There has been a rise in Lasombra related crime in the area since she came to town and right now I'm

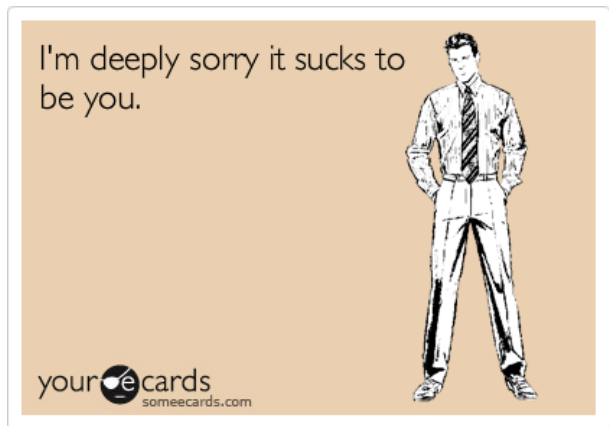
having a hard time figuring out if she really wants to be with me or if she's just plotting the downfall of the Camarilla.

- Hopelessly Devoted

Dear Devoted

Yup, she's Sabbat. Sorry bro.

- Sam



Dear Samuel

I require your advice. I am a kindred of considerable years and I am the eldest and most influential of my clan in my domain and my influence in the Camarilla is vast and far reaching. My Prince, however, refuses to acknowledge this and to promote me to the role of Elder and as such I have been stuck as an Ancilla for decades. How can I convince the Prince to acknowledge this obvious oversight and to provide me the promotion I so richly deserve.

- Patiently Waiting.

**Jesus loves you,
but everyone else thinks
you're an asshole!**

Dear Patiently,

Okay first of all. It's Sam, not Samuel. Not even my sire calls me Samuel - though he usually just calls me a disappointment. Secondly there are two parts to being promoted or demoted in status in the Camarilla and the Prince is only part of the equation. In order to have your status truly recognised the Prince has to acknowledge it within the domain and the other Princes also have to accept and acknowledge this outwith the domain. Otherwise you end up with the weird situation where you are considered an Elder in your domain and an Ancilla outwith the domain or vice versa. Clearly you aren't as vastly influential as you think you are or you would have managed to get the right people to whisper in the right ears and convince your Prince and others. Most likely they all really think you are a giant douche bag, like I do.

- Sam

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS FOR SAM PLEASE CONTACT DARK TIMES WITH REF: DRSAM616

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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

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Another month, another sign that the times are certainly a'changing.

For better or worse still remains up for debate, however we cannot deny that the next few months are set to be some of the most interesting. The plague spreading, Sabbat attacking the event of the season and not to mention the constant struggles of those domains burdened with a chequered past.

We seem to be quicker to leap to each others throats right now, especially if our Harpy Hour is anything to go by. Whilst some of those little birdies choose to coat their stinging words in some sugar, caution is thrown to the wind with others. One does not put their head above the parapet without a few shots being taken at it. I wonder if some of those little birdies are aware of this? Of course, I am sure the mother hen of them all will be sure to guide her little chicks in the right direction.

And what of the growing suspicion towards those that we once called a friend of the Camarilla? The next few months will be tough for the clan of magic and with more domains turning against them

than standing up for them the future does not look too bright. However from this are we seeing new stars arising, such as the latest Prince who has claimed territory in the North. Has Prince Mikelson finally achieved what no other member of his clan has? Has he finally brought organisation to a group of people that have been downtrodden all their un-lives? As with most of the above time will tell.

Yours Kindly,
The Editor of the Dark Times

