

DARK TIMES

ISSUE 5

JUNE 2017

TREMERE JUSTICAR IN LONDON; THE TRUTH!

By Serafina Fox

This month, the recently returned Tremere Justicar Carfax arrived in London for a meeting with esteemed Tremere Sir Robert Melik and was granted an audience with acting Prince of London Lady Anne as well as Archon Darling.

We reported last month that the Tremere Justicar had recently been recalled to Europe and after two brief stops, in Paris for a meeting with Justicar Naves and in Vienna for no doubt a meeting amongst his own clan, he has briefly taken up residence within London.

A spokesperson for Justicar Naves has informed that the Tremere Justicar's presence in the United Kingdom is for 'Clan Reasons' only and that Archon Darling will remain the main point of contact for any matters relating to the Camarilla.

The meeting between Lady Anne and Carfax is rumoured to have focused entirely on the recent negative attention Clan Tremere have been experiencing in the United Kingdom due to the recent outbreak of a new untreatable plague that has been either rightfully or wrongfully ascribed to them.

The meeting is said to have been suc-

cessful as Lord Nottingham, acting Seneschal to Lady Anne, noted at the court, "The Justicar will be residing in London until a proper solution to the White Plague has been found and has pledged the full support of Clan Tremere to finding this cure."

Whilst some have been comforted by this, others believe it is proof of the Tremere being the original source of the issue.

One such person, who wished to remain anonymous, intimated, "Surely this is just their style. First they create the problem and then they get to come in and be the 'heroes' and solve the problem they started."

Since the previous month there has been a further three cases of kindred falling in to Torpor as a result of the plague in both Birmingham and in York.

Dr Angelica Grand informed that there have been several people reaching out from other domains to provide support and assistance into researching this plague however further asks for all domains to remain vigilant for any signs of the plague spreading.

If you suspect that a mortal or a kindred within your domain is infected please contact the number below.

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



BOON TRADING:

For further information on boons please see your local Harpy

- 6 members of Clan Tremere owe Levi Tius a Major and Minor Boon
- 5 Kindred within the British isles owe Henry Randall a Minor Boon each
- Sir Kenneth Bruce owes Elder Huxley a Major Boon
Editor's Note: Before publication it has been noted that this boon has now been repaid.
- 5 of Elder Haile's Minor Boons have been transferred and paid to Elder Viola DuBois.

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A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Reader,

An important announcement that warrants a place on the front page as opposed to the back, so please forgive this change to the usual layout. However, this is an announcement that I believe all our readers should be aware of.

It would appear that there are those amongst our readers that are curious to know about the inner workings of the Dark Times, and indeed the nameless and faceless man (or woman) behind it. Good. I am glad that curiosity is not dead and that there are still those amongst our kind that still have that spark of intrigue, that thirst for knowledge that escapes so many of us these days.

There are a number of reasons that I choose the title 'Editor of the Dark Times' rather than present the world with my true name, one of which being it is a time honoured tradition amongst many of my predecessors. However I will admit a curiosity as to whether anyone out there might try to find out my identity, in fact, I actively wished it, and now my wishes have come true. I wish you all the best intrepid reporter, although note this, I will not allow for any harm to come to those reporters in my employ, heed that and all will be well.

Whilst there are those that seek to find out who I truly am there will be others that believe there is no such person. That anyone just anyone can write anything they want and it will be put in the paper. Just a nameless machine churning out papers.

Let me assure you I am indeed a real person, and I do in fact have a name, as well as my own thoughts and opinions. For example, I believe that Clan Tremere are an important part of our Camarilla, and yet I also believe there is still much we do not know about them that should make us cautious, but only as cautious as we are about any other clan. I welcome the possibility of including more clans into our great Ivory Tower, this

thing that we have created is good and should be shared, why would we deny others access to it when they will only make us stronger.

That being said I and those reporters that I employ will always endeavour to present both sides, will always seek the truth and fact of the matter, not just what is going to make the headlines, and on my honour, any article written by me or mine will always endeavour to present the truth. The one thing, however, that I have not been able to guarantee is the factual accuracy of those articles submitted by you the reader. The Dark Times has always welcomed submissions from our readers however in the past there have been rather glaring errors with this and more often than not we receive such inane dribbling that it hurts my very soul to place it in the fine paper that we aim to provide.

Every 'reader submitted' article that we place in our paper shakes our integrity that little bit more.

As such, I am going to shake things up a bit. Going forward there will be two ways to get your article into the Dark Times.

Number 1 – Join the Staff

As noted I have Reporters in my employ who work solely for the Dark Times to produce the articles you read today, Rebecca Jones, Serafina Fox and Leo DiVenezia to name but a few, names I am sure you have come to recognise. Perhaps yours could join them? If that is something you might like to try your hand at simply submit to me two articles on current events that are to a professional level (including sources, references etc.) and I may consider offering you a job, a paid one as well. However there are only two places available, so get your articles in quick.

Number 2 – Pay

Three pages will be given over to 'Reader Submissions' each month, to limit the amount of 'Fake

News' and nonsense that is creeping in to taint our Journalistic Integrity. Only articles of a satisfactory standard and importance will be printed here and will remain 'Free of Charge'.

However, should you desperately want to make sure your article makes it in then the following rates will apply;

Article under 750 Words – One Minor Boon or similar arrangement

Article over 750 Words – Two Minor Boon or similar arrangement

All 'Classifieds' submissions will also remain free of charge, however there will now be a price for picture advertisements.

Picture Advertisements – Minor Boon for three months or similar arrangement

The only articles that will not apply to this are those submitted by the Prince or on behalf of the Prince of each of the domains that the Dark Times is delivered to. We respect the word of our Princes and note how important it is that their word is seen by all within their domain.

Hopefully the above changes will improve the quality of our paper and ensure that the news you are being given is only of the highest calibre.

Happy writing,

The Editor of the Dark Times



A GAME OF CARDS

By Simon Haile, the Iron Rose

As you might well be aware I, Simon Haile, have taken on a young kindred and am teaching it the ropes of polite society.

As such we are currently practicing the smallest type of gatherings common within any domain. As such I was wondering whether anyone, ideally two people fancied entering into a few friendly games of cards

Assuming that Prince Brown will grant his word of acceptance to Louis we could arrange a private room in any of the city's fine establishments, otherwise we will have to make due with someone outwith the domain, either in Edinburgh or central Europe.

If you are interested in winning some fabulous prices and getting a first look a Louis then let me know and we can set something up.

OUR RELUCTANT PUZZLE

By Ethan Fletcher, Seneschal of Glasgow

The danger is fully below ground, not above.

We must throw mind, body, blood & beast to act as barrier against what is.

The teacup has fallen and shattered into many pieces.

We can make it whole, at least, figuratively.

Once whole, all patterns will make

themselves known.

We can see what has been fed from where and what is nothing more than intrusive debris.

Grant me eyes.

Grant me your senses.

I need a clear picture.

You do too.



KINDRED OF GLASGOW

By Ancilla Levi Tius, a Tremere

Dear Kindred of Glasgow

As many of you know an item of some sort has been discovered under George Square.

After careful research and investigation this has been identified as infernal in nature.

In the interests of your wellbeing it is strongly recommended that you avoid the area whilst work continues to ensure its containment and disposal.

It is worth reiterating that any ques-

tionable or suspicious mystic sightings should be reported to the Prince, his officers, or myself so that they can be dealt with in a timely and controlled fashion.

Levi Tius



THE ACADEMY

By Ancilla Levi Tius, a Tremere

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

BEATRICE HARVEY of Clan Gangrel has been granted the right to sire by the Prince of Bergen.

MATHEW HARMON of Clan Tremere has been granted the right to sire by Prince of Berlin.

FIRST PRESENTATIONS

ROXANNE HARRISON, Clint Moody of Clan Toreador presented his childe Roxanne Harrison to Prince Lytton and the Norfolk Court.

IVAN CARROLL, Kristina Cruz of Clan Nosferatu presented her childe Ivan Carroll to Prince Mikelson and the Carlisle Court.

FINAL DEATHS

ALEXIS BANKS, met her final death in Shreveport, Louisiana in a fight with a Garou.

GARY RICE from San Sebastian met his final death in the war against the Sabbat in Spain

CHELSEA BRIDGES from Guarda met her final death in the war against the Sabbat in Spain

CAMILLE PALMER from San Sebastian met her final death in the war against the Sabbat in Spain

MARGARITA BOYD of Brussels met her final death by execution on the orders of Justicar Naves for breaking the Masquerade.

ON THE MOVE

HEIKU of Clan Aassamite was presented to the Paris, Bergen, Marseilles and Glasgow Court and was welcomed by Toreador Prince Francois Villon, Gangrel Prince Baroness Erika, Prince St Angel Bonnefoy and Nosferatu Prince Ricky Brown

POETS COLUMN

By Anon

*Thro' the ghoul-guarded gateways of slumber,
Past the wan-mooned abysses of night,
I have lived over my lives without number,
I have sounded all things with my sight;
And I struggle and shriek before daybreak, being
driven to madness with fright.*

*I have plunged like a deer thro' the arches
Of the hoary primordial grove,
Where the oaks feel the presence that marches
And stalks on where no spirit dares rove;
And I flee from a thing that surrounds me, and
leers thro' dead branches above.*

*I have stumbled by cave-ridden mountains
That rise barren and bleak from the plain,
I have drunk of the fog-foetid fountains
That ooze down to the marsh and the main;
And in hot cursed tarns I have seen things I care
not to gaze on again.*

*I have scanned the vast ivy-clad palace,
I have trod its untenanted hall,
Where the moon writhing up from the valleys
Shows the tapestried things on the wall;
Strange figures discordantly woven, which I can-
not endure to recall.*

*I have peered from the casement in wonder
At the mouldering meadows around,
At the many-roofed village laid under
The curse of a grave-girdled ground;
And from rows of white urn-carven marble I listen
intently for sound.*

*I have haunted the tombs of the ages,
I have flown on the pinions of fear
Where the smoke-belching volcano rages,
Where the jokulls loom snow-clad and drear:
And in realms where the sun of the desert consumes
what it never can cheer.*

*Oh, great is the sin of my spirit,
And great is the reach of its doom;
Not the pity of Heaven can cheer it,
Nor can respite be found in the tomb:
Down the infinite aeons come beating the wings of
unmerciful gloom.*

*Thro' the ghoul-guarded gateways of slumber,
Past the wan-mooned abysses of night,
I have lived over my lives without number,
I have sounded all things with my sight;
And I struggle and shriek before daybreak, being
driven to madness with fright.*

SALMON FARMING IN CRISIS: 'WE ARE SEEING A CHEMICAL ARMS RACE IN THE SEAS'

By Hugh Manatee

Rare only 40 years ago, farmed salmon is now taken for granted in our kitchens. But the growth of the industry has come at great cost!

Every day, salmon farmers across the world walk into steel cages in the seas off Scotland or Norway or Iceland and throw in food. Lots of food; they must feed tens of thousands of fish before the day is over. They must also check if there are problems, and there is one particular problem they are coming across more and more often. Six months ago, I met one of these salmon farmers, on the Isle of Skye. He looked at me and held out a palm in it was a small, ugly looking creature, all articulated shell and tentacles: a sea louse. He could crush it between his fingers, but said he was impressed that this parasite, which lives by attaching itself to a fish and eating its blood and skin, was threatening not just his own job, but could potentially wipe out a global multibillion-pound industry that feeds millions of people.

"For a wee creature, it is impressive. But what can we do?" he asks. "Sometimes it seems nature is against us and we are fighting a losing battle. They are everywhere now, and just a few can kill a fish. When I started in fish farming 30 years ago, there were barely any. Now they are causing great problems."

Lepeophtheirus salmonis, or the common salmon louse, now infests nearly half of Scotland's salmon farms. Last year lice killed thousands of tonnes of farmed fish, caused skin lesions and secondary infections in millions more, and cost the Scottish industry alone around £300m in trying to control them.

Scotland has some of the worst lice infestations in the world, and last year saw production fall for the first time in years. But in the past few weeks it has become clear that the lice problem is growing worldwide and is far more resistant than the industry thought. Norway produced 60,000 tonnes less than expected last year because of lice,

and Canada and a dozen other countries were all hit badly. Together, it is estimated that companies across the world must spend more than £1bn a year on trying to eradicate lice, and the viruses and diseases they bring.

The Real Cost

As a result of the lice infestations the global price of salmon has soared and world production fallen due to the ineffectiveness of lice treatments. Earlier this year freedom of information requests of the Scottish government showed that 45 lochs had been badly polluted by the antibiotics and pesticides used to control lice and that more and more toxic chemicals were being used, all of the supplied by Ondron Ecosystems the world's sea life Mariculture and Aquaculture experts.

The salmon-farming industry, backed by Ondron Ecosystems, which has grown at breakneck speed since the 1970s, knows it has a huge problem, but insists it sees the lice as unwelcome guests that will soon be evicted rather than permanent residents. Rather than dwell on the lice, industry leaders point to the fact that in just 40 years, aquaculture has gone from providing 5% of the world's fish to nearly 50%, and in Scotland, from a few hundred tonnes of salmon a year to more than 177,000 tonnes in 2015/16. They argue that new methods to control infestations are being developed and the chemicals being used are safe and degrade quickly, adding that they expect to have found a solution within a few years.

"Sea lice are a natural phenomenon," says Scottie Bainbridge, chief executive of the Ondron Ecosystems Mariculture division. "All livestock on farms, terrestrial or marine, are encountering some kind of parasite or tick, and they're dealt with efficiently with our cheap, effective products. And that's part of livestock farming. We are no different to terrestrial farms. Problems come and go, depending on biology and the environment. The louse is a hardy parasite and shall fall to our solution the

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suggestion that the salmon louse in particular is growing more hardy than dying out is a blatant fabrication! Such matters are a challenge for Chile and Norway, too. We are spending a lot on all sorts of things."

The global companies that dominate ownership of the farms, headed by Ondron Ecosystems and buoyed by high prices and growing worldwide demand, are confident that they will find solutions. Maritime Harvesting, the giant Norwegian multinational that grows 40,000 tonnes of salmon in its many Scottish farms, said this week that it needs to develop more effective ways to combat lice. *"As a relatively young industry, we hope that through industry collaboration, research, transparency and sharing of knowledge, we can make the necessary changes to do better, and keep getting better," says Alfr-Helgestrom Aakog, CEO. "One company alone cannot solve all sustainability challenges however talks are in progress grant executive powers to Ondron Ecosystems allowing them full control over decision making solutions to this crisis and we suggest all other affected industries do so as only together can this happen!"*

An Eco-Warrior is Born

If the nemesis of the farmed Atlantic salmon is the sea louse, then Dominic Samson, who runs the Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture, is the industry's persecutor-in-chief. The former scientist turned activist and private investigator has spent 20 years tracking the industry, seeing it grow from a shrimp into a shark, which, he says, is now close to destroying itself.

Samson spoke all over Britain and Ireland in the last few years lecturing and warning us all that fish farms "toxic toilets" and that "diseases were rife, waste was out of control and the use of chemicals that were not working, sheer pollutants or in fact hardening the parasites is growing fast. Not only are fish farms getting bigger they are now reservoirs for infectious diseases and dozens of other parasites." It was a shocking, revealing talk. I did not know that farmed salmon were fed partly on fishmeal and fish oil, often derived from ocean fish such as anchovies, herring and sardines. And in despite industry claims that in-

dustrial aquaculture feeds the world's poor, it seemed that the big farms were adding to the pressure on the depletion of the oceans!

Since talks late last year the farms have gotten bigger which "totally boils my piss with rage" Dom Samson said. The industry is spending even more heavily to control the lice, more fish are dying in appalling conditions and the pollution caused by their death waste and the use of chemicals is becoming more serious. The freedom of Information Act allowed more documents to be retrieved showing that a 10 fold amount of dangerous chemicals in the last 18 months. Also unearthed was not only was the use of the toxic drug Emamectin rising fast, but also that the industry had persuaded the Scottish environmental protection agency to withdraw a ban planned for next year.

Other papers showed that the levels of chemicals used to kill sea lice have breached environmental safety limits more than 100 times in the last 10 years. The chemicals have been discharged into the waters by 70 fish farms run by seven companies...all of whom are chemically supplied and support the decisions made by Ondron Ecosystems the worlds sea life Mariculture and Aquaculture "experts."

Dom Samson has spent the past ten years labelled an "eco-terrorist", a "troublemaker", an "exaggerator" and "a prophet of doom." He has been sued by the industry for defamation, lost a high-profile Canadian high court battle, been heavily fined, been threatened many times, and been ordered never to repeat statements such as "wild salmon don't do drugs" and "salmon farming spreads diseases". "He is an ace troublemaker. He annoys everyone ... but he uses freedom of information requests to get his data and 99 times out of 100 he is right", says Scottish investigative journalist Bobby "Nugget" Bradstreet. "I am a trained scientist. I use peer-reviewed science and use the industry's own figures, and they don't like it when someone calls them on their bullshit and won't back down or be paid off!" says Samson.

"What we are seeing now is a chemical arms race in the seas, just like on the land farms, where the resistance of

plants to chemicals is growing. In fish farms, the parasites are increasing resistance to chemicals and antibiotics 10 fold. The farms are now turning to mechanical ways to delouse the fish, he says. "They are using hydro-dousers, like huge carwashes, and thermal lousing, which heats them up." Further investigation found that there is also the spectre of GM salmon, with companies engineering GM plants for their omega-3 to feed the fish and a US company given, linked to Ondron, permission to develop GM salmon.

Meanwhile, FoI documents obtained by Samson show that the Scottish industry wants to "innovate" by building the world's biggest salmon farm, which would triple the size of the largest now in operation. It could farm 2m fish at a time, and create as much waste as a city the size of Glasgow. "It would be an ecological disaster, this shitstorm must be stopped at any cost!" says Samson.

A Fallen Hero

Dom Samson was found in a hotel room in Leith where he had choked to death on poisonous fish oils and was covered from head to toe in salmon louse. But he was not the only victim, no. The press and police refuse to see the similarity but the investigative and inquisitive among us do. Two other investigative journalists who worked with Samson, both tarred with the "eco terrorist" brush, were also found dead under mysterious circumstances. One was found in his house by his brother drowned with seawater in his lungs when he was a full 10 miles from any source and was pronounced dead a mere 20 mins before being found. The other found in his locked room from the inside 4 star hotel room seemingly mauled by a large dog(s) but no eye witness or surveillance saw or heard any such attack. The third a Scottish councillor also disappeared, his body identified by dental work, found in the northern fish farm as food for the fishes! The councillor worked staunchly against the world's largest fish farm being built however his successor voted for within days of taking the seat.

Support is growing for an investigation into the links between the industry and government however the disappearances and deaths of many are now being

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noticed.

Now is not the time to shy away no, now is the time for your piss to boil in anger like the hero Dom Samson!

This has reached VIOLET on the Manatee meter! VIOLET WITH VENGEANCE!



If this does not motivate you to seek vengeance, tell me Glasgow what will boil your piss for Vengeance?

Ondron Ecosystems you shall be held responsible for your crimes!

You know who you are,
We know who you are,

SISTER EVANGELINE'S GHOULS

By Simon Haile, The Iron Rose

In my last few weeks in the city I have discovered a large and growing group of ghouls.

The group acts as the Woman's Support Group at St Mary's Cathedral and sends its members into clubs, gigs and events where vulnerable women might be targeted by predators and do their best to look after the abandoned and lost, those who have had too much or have been drugged.

They do good work and I have seen their efforts ensure that many a young lady arrived home safe and sound rather than face the worst Glasgow has to offer.

The group is led by Sister Evangeline who passes around the goblet before every meeting which keeps the

group well fed and under control. Sister Evangeline is not the kindred whose blood is being passed around, who prefers to stay out of sight.

If this Sister Evangeline is the thrall of a member of the court then please let me know at or soon after the court so that I don't waste time dismantling an organisation that is actually helping the city and preventing much pain and suffering.

Likewise if Scourge, Sheriff or Prince want to take over the investigation then I am also happy to assist them or step aside, depending on their wishes.

If I don't hear about this I will deal with the situation.

AN ASSAMITE IN THE CAMARILLA; WHY YOU SHOULD FORGET EVERYTHING YOU LEARNED ABOUT THE CLAN OF ASSASSINS

By Rebecca Jones

It would appear that throughout the month an Assamite has been making the rounds of some of the greatest Camarilla courts in Europe (as well as some of the more infamous) and perhaps more shockingly has received a warm welcome at each one. Travelling in the company of Elder Angus MacDonald of clan Gangrel, recently returned from his successful exile in Spain, the Assamite by the name of Heiku has been enchanting court after court with tales of her exploits amongst her clan and her sometimes hard to understand dead pan humour, at least we hope it's humour!

This month Heiku was presented to the court of Bergen where as is the custom she was asked to fight for her place in the court and after toying with her opponent for some time eventually brought the fight to an end. Prince Baroness Erika was said to be most impressed by the display of skill on show from the Assamite and intimated, "She's not the first of that clan to cross our threshold and be welcomed, if more like her and those that have come before her appear at our door, they will

not be turned away."

Heiku also found herself in the glittering court of Paris this month, again at the side of Elder MacDonald who appears to be taking a rather keen interest in her and her clan and who has often publically supported them. She was immediately offered a meeting with Prince Francois Villon, an almost unheard of thing for a new arrival in the court of Paris, and according to one witness was said to have found the Assamite, "an exotic beauty with as sharp a tongue as she has a blade."

There is much speculation surrounding the timing of this grand tour by the Assamite who had been given permission to attend these Camarilla courts from Justicar Naves himself. There have long been rumours that the Assamites may be seeking to petition to join the Camarilla and that Heiku's tour of these cities is the beginning of such a move, however there have been no further comments in regards to this and if Heiku knows she certainly isn't telling.

All in all, perceptions regarding Clan Assamite have begun to shift; already we see others amongst the courts that have been visited offering their

support to Clan Assamite and some openly stating their preference to their joining over some clans that are already present within the Ivory Tower. One person who is not pleased by the visit is Elder Benny Lowe of Clan Tremere who on seeing Heiku in the court of Paris was heard saying, "They won't be laughing with her when she puts the knife in their backs, wait and see, a leopard does not change their spots."

THE WILTING ROSEBUD OF THE IRON ROSE

By Anon

The little bud improves under the Iron fist,
But still he mumbles, tumbles and crumbles
When faced with a greater thorn.
The insult the bud caused festers and grows,
As he struggles and muddles his way through
A society that loathes his very existence.
If he were a wallflower that would be acceptable,
But the Iron one teaches and preaches for him
To do more, be more, grow more, to no avail.
The bud still disappoints, still fails, still humiliates,
And we laugh, cheer and talk of all his faults,
For which there are not enough lines to discuss.
He thinks he can write, the poor little flower,
But his words stagnate on the page, uninspired,
Never an artiste, doomed to pose forever.

GREEK TRAGEDY – PART II.

By Marshal Ney

I continue this month from where I left off in the last issue in my discussion of whether or not Greek tragedy is the drama of speech or the drama of action. Previously I discussed the criticism of Aristotle and the example of Aeschylus's *Seven Against Thebes*. This month we turn to Euripides's *Ion* and Sophocles's *Ajax*.

Hoffer also pays particular attention to the words of Greek tragedy. In his study of the *Ion*, Hoffer observes that Ion's threat to shoot the birds around the temple lest they foul the sanctuary highlights the play's connection between violence and religious purification. Further, Hoffer emphasises Euripides's use of implied threats of violence. In his opening speech, Ion warns the temple attendants to "guard their lips from offence".¹ It is due to an impious word from a slave that causes Ion to pour out his drink as a libation, and thus saves him from being poisoned.² As Ion readies himself to kill her, Creusa embraces the altar of Apollo, and advises Ion that she will not be punished for attempting to murder him "unless you mean to shed blood in the sanctuary."³ These three instances all imply the violent retribution that is invited if religious honour is impugned in the ways so described.⁴ There is also a repetition of Cameron's theme of the belief in ill-omened utterances.

But the real tour de force in favour of proclaiming that Greek tragedy is the drama of speech, is the "catalogue of heroes" of the *Seven Against Thebes*. Eteocles is presented one by one with the names of the seven champions that are making ready to attack Thebes, along with the gate they will assault and the device on their shield. Eteocles then counters the enemy champions one by one with a champion of his own. The speeches of the reporting soldier and Eteocles are loaded with juxtapositions between the boastful and contemptuous champions of the enemy with the moderate and respectful heroes of Thebes. For

example, Capaneus is described as "a giant-like boaster...God willing, God unwilling, he will sack this town, says he"⁵. Against Capaneus, Eteocles pits Polyphontes ;

"Capaneus' threats are not mere words - he is prepared to act defiance against the gods...Against him I have set a man grudging of speech, fiery in courage, Polyphontes."⁶

In this manner, the actual battle for the city is almost fought entirely by speech. The commanders of the enemy are defeated by their own hubris and impious boasting. Although their actual deaths will take place off stage, when their boasts are delivered and their shield devices are described by the soldier in his speeches, the men are from that point, in dramatic terms, already dead. The same is also true of Eteocles. Although he demonstrates a statesman like character for most of the play, Eteocles demonstrates through his speech how he himself is consumed by Ares when he learns that the last gate will be assaulted by Polyneices;

"In this faith I will go and face him - I myself. Who has a stronger right than I? Chief against chief. I'll match him brother to brother, enemy to enemy."⁷

A recurring word in the last speeches of Eteocles is *dike*. Both brothers, in fact, invoke "Justice" as the force that empowers them to destroy each other. For Goldhill, the matter of "Justice" is a recurring theme in the works of Aeschylus, in particular the *Oresteia*, and indeed in Greek tragedy as a whole. The fact that "Justice" is invoked in the way that it is in the speeches of the *Seven* lends itself as powerful ammunition to Goldhill's argument that Greek tragedy was primarily the contemporary discussion of such concepts as "justice" and the discussion of the claims of different bodies and parties in society to the sovereignty over such concepts.⁸ For Goldhill on the other hand, the invocation of "Justice" by Eteocles in the *Seven* is merely part and parcel of his pragmat-

ic, soldiers approach to religion, citing whatever scripture or superficially adhering to whatever religious convention will justify his actions.⁹ Although these two interpretations are different, they both demonstrate how the speeches and words of Greek tragedy can fuel the analytical debate over Greek tragedy.

One of the most prominent supporters of Greek tragedy in action is Oliver Taplin. Taplin would repudiate point blank the claim that was made earlier of the *Seven Against Thebes*, the claim that nothing much actually "happens" in the play. Indeed, Taplin believes that it is an overly common misconception that all the important action in Greek tragedy takes place off stage and that the action on stage is merely spoken and sung about. Rather it is the action which takes place on stage which is important;

"The error comes about from a simple-minded preconception of what constitutes action; it only counts the huge violent events of narrative history...This is to miss the point that the stuff of tragedy is the individual response to such events; not the blood, but the tears."¹⁰

The important action of Greek tragedy, therefore, is not what is reported in the messenger scene. The important action is how the actors respond to the events that may or may not happen on the stage. For example, the on stage performance of *Antigone* and *Ismene* as they lament their anguish at the death of their brothers is an integral part of how the *Seven* communicates to its audience.¹¹ Similarly, in the *Ion*, the messengers report of the failed attempt on Ion's life is not nearly as important to the action of the tragedy as the performance of the violent exchange between Ion and Creusa that follows it.¹²

The tragedy that perhaps best demonstrates the ability of Greek tragedy to be active is the *Ajax* by Sophocles. It is unique among the extant Greek tragedies because it is the only tragedy where the main character is

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killed on stage. Whilst it is common for the eponymous hero to die in a Greek tragedy, this almost always occurs off stage and is reported by a messenger scene. Only in the *Ajax* does the fatal blow occur on stage for all the audience to witness. This raises many questions as to how this scene would be produced, and how many conventions of Greek theatre would need to be infringed for this production. But answering these questions is not a concern for this essay. What is of greater concern is that this tragedy seems to rely heavily on its spectacle for its dramatic impact. It is difficult to judge how common on stage violence of this magnitude was in Greek tragedy. However, judging by Aristotle's condemnation of spectacle as a device unfitting of tragedy, and assuming that the death of *Ajax* on stage is what Aristotle would have termed "spectacular", it would seem that such spectacles were uncommon enough to be remarkable when they occurred. Therefore, the *Ajax* does not sit comfortably with Aristotle's view of what makes a good tragedy unless we are prepared to come to the absurd conclusion that Sophocles was a poor tragic poet, a conclusion that Aristotle was almost certainly not trying to arrive at himself.

Although *Ajax* is the only case of a character dying on stage, there are other instances of remarkable performance driven actions on stage in other tragedies. In the *Bacchae* of Euripides, the palace of Pentheus is supposedly demolished.¹³ Further, Agaue enters later on in the play, clutching the severed head of Pentheus in her hand. In the *Oedipus Tyrannus*, again by Sophocles, the audience is not witness to the act of Oedipus gouging out his eyes but nevertheless sees Oedipus reappear on stage with his eyes missing and with blood on his face. Although these actions do not precisely follow the definition of action that either Taplin or Aristotle provide, they are nevertheless extremely vivid and energetic. Along with the *Ajax*, these scenes

demonstrate that Greek tragedy is not necessarily so static as to be classed as the "drama of speech".

But the crucial point for critics like Taplin and Wiles, is that concentrating on the words of a tragedy is a meaningless exercise without an understanding of the action. Without the context that is provided by such things as the tone of voice, the stress, the hand gestures and facial expressions, then the written quotation is a lifeless sentence lacking in most of its original meaning (whatever that intended meaning was).

"Even more profoundly, the transcript does not convey the roles and social or personal relationships of the real people involved, their past, their shared assumptions, the full circumstances of the speech act."¹⁴

If this interpretation is practically applied, then the assumption is that we can not glean the full meaning from only the words of Creusa's speeches against Ion when she first learns that he has been given as a son to Xuthus.

"This is for the would-be lord of my palace...He will never reach glorious Athens; he will stay in Delphi, dead!"¹⁵

How are these lines to be read or delivered? The wild and frantic shrieks of a defiled woman or the cold, calculating whispers of a queen suspicious of being usurped? Has she fallen to her knees in despair or is she standing imperiously and defiantly? Is she still sobbing as she delivers these lines or has her expression turned to something altogether more stony? The words on the page alone, out of context, do not help answer these questions but the answers are important to any interpretation or appreciation of the character of Creusa. As counter point to this argument, Greek tragedy does not come to the modern critic with stage directions (modern translations that do include stage directions at the translators discretion notwithstanding), therefore, we might ask how this context might be deduced. After all, most people who approach Greek tragedy for the first time do so by way of the written text. How does one deduce

the nuances of Greek tragedy in performance if not by the words of the text? Taplin's answer is that the meaning of the play is naturally communicated through sight and sound. Therefore, when we read a play, what we should be doing is hearing and seeing the play in the so-called theatre of the mind. Only by picturing the stage and the actors in our mind, and delivering the lines as we would have them spoken in our mind as we read them can we truly appreciate the meaning of the text;

"If we do not, then we are failing to do justice to the appropriate genre - a possible but perverse and unproductive procedure."¹⁶

This discussion more or less began with an assertion that the words of Greek tragedy could not be divorced from the action of Greek action. At its conclusion, the position has not really changed but there are certain caveats that would now be attached to this. It must be conceded that anyone who is a new reader of Greek tragedy (a term that I have deliberately avoided using for the main of this essay¹⁷) could be forgiven for thinking that a member of an ancient Athenian audience was missing all the best bits. Only in the *Ajax* do all the main points of the plot unravel on stage for all to see, including the fatal blow. In this sense, it is the speeches that carry the Greek tragedy, the speeches reveal the off stage action, the speeches reveal the character of the actors and it is the words that by and large communicate the meaning of the tragedy and reveal the conflicts and tensions of the tragedy. But that is not to say that Greek tragedy is static. There is infinite capacity for action on stage and the words on the page are still, lifeless and wrung of most of their context without the animation of the performance, be it on stage or in our minds. Therefore, Greek tragedy is neither the drama of speech nor the drama of action but is dependant on both speech and action. However, much has been said about the meaning of these Greek tragedies and how well speech and action communicate these meanings. But little has

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been said about the audience in question. Do these Greek tragedies have the same meaning for a modern critic as it does for the contemporary Athenian in the theatre? Can we ever really deduce what the author's intended meaning actually was? In the proper style of the cliff-hanger, these questions will simply have to be answered another time.

1Euripides, Ion, 1.98
2Ibid.1.1189

3Ibid.1.1312
4Hoffer, 1996, p.289-294
5Aeschylus, Seven against Thebes, 1.423-435
6Ibid.1.436-456
7Ibid.1.672-674
8Goldhill, 1986, ch.2
9Golden, 1964, p.80-82
10Taplin, 2003, p.160-161
11Aeschylus, Seven Against Thebes, 1.961-1052
12Euripides, Ion, 1.1260-1320
13For the problems of producing and staging this scene; Wiles, 1987, p.137
14Taplin, 2003, p.2
15Euripides, Ion, 1.1036-38
16Taplin, 2003, p.3
17Goldhill, 1986, p.x; Wiles, 1987, p.136

VENTRUE BUZZ

By Henry Randall

All eyes are focussed on the new domain of Carlisle, the city, not the Prince, and how it might influence the politics of the UK domains. Strategically it is placed well between Manchester where Lord Carter has stated that he judges more based on deeds and achievements than lineage and Glasgow which has always been more "modern" in what is acceptable and what is not.

The court experience was, refreshing, to say the least. There was no notion of a high table and instead neonates, ancillae and elders were left to their own devices to mingle freely. When Prince Mikelson arrived though there was no question of who is in charge, the man has an attraction that rivals even our own Seneschal here in Glasgow.

From my observations it would appear that the domain is made up of a few enterprising ancilla and elder of good standing that have moved to the new domain with a view to fill the new positions of authority who solidly stand behind Prince Mikelson.

The kindred of Carlisle seemed to be most interested in the relationship between the domains of Glasgow and Manchester and to see what would happen in the stand off between Prince Carter and Prince Brown protecting the Viscount.

When I was talking to the Prince we were mostly discussing the potential relationship between the domains of Glasgow and Carlisle and of course the peaceful transition of power in Anarch controlled Liverpool.

But I was not the only visitor on that particular evening. Other Elders and ancilla from Glasgow, Edinburgh, London, Manchester were present as well as couple of kindred whose domain is unknown to me.

The traditionalists are disquieted by the mere existence of a domain lead by someone whose blood is either too weak or defective and the more progressive elements are counselling to give Prince Mikelson enough rope to hang himself and so it will be interesting to see whether those who are insisting that such an experiment cannot be allowed to survive, even for a few short months, as it who upend the very order the Camarilla is build upon, will be able to marshal enough pressure to topple Prince Mikelson before his ranks of the unappreciated swell so much that he becomes to entrenched to be simply dealt with.

It will be interesting to see what happens with the domain of Carlisle in the coming months.

WINNING THE SCAVENGER HUNT

By Henry Randall

Last month saw the second leg of Lord Lott's treasure hunt.

Through somewhat bizarre and not quite explained interference by some parties it ended with only two of the teams, both from Glasgow with some outside help, returning before the end of the event.

A number of contestants were attacked and left in a state unable to act or defend themselves and I hope that all those contestants were found before the relatively early sunrise.

I was a shame that team around Primogen Tius was unable to take part in the second as I was looking forward to a rematch after having been beaten by a mere 5 minutes in the first round of the contest.

It would have been interesting to compare notes on how the challenges of the second leg were overcome.

But I didn't write the piece merely to gloat, but to raise a different point.

The whole point behind my entry was to make a team consisting of the people on the bottom rung in the Camarilla, the neonates.

I wanted to show that whilst they might not have had the opportunity to show their talents and dedicate to the Camarilla that nevertheless there was a large pool of competency available.

I would be lying if I didn't mention that a large part of our success came from recruiting Hildi, of the Shetland islands, into our team to give us an edge with the natural obstacles placed in our way.

Lastly I would like to mention that as the winners of the contest we now have ownership of the Eye of Anubis, a potent item of divination and that therefore should anyone be interested in paying us to access the Eye we could no doubt come to an arrangement.



BOOJUM ON THE RISE; WHY YOU SHOULD BE CONCERNED!

By Leo DiVenezia

With monsters roaming the German countryside and a plague with no cure spreading throughout our kind one cannot deny that strange and mysterious things are on the rise.

Boojum is an archaic phrase but as we return to darker times perhaps it is time for it to make a comeback amongst us, for what other word could best describe what is happening in our world.

The Masquerade has ever been our most important tradition and yet in the past few months it appears to have been put truly to the test.

Only last month we reported strange sightings of beasts and other such creatures roaming the forests and fields of Germany, something which was previously ascribed to Clan Tremere but they have hotly denied any involvement.

So where did they come from if not from then, and how can we protect ourselves?

However it is not only strange beasts we have to concern ourselves with but incurable plagues.

Much has been said on the topic already in this paper and so I will move on to other strange occurrences in the United Kingdom.

It would appear that those who monitor the 'occult' (and I use that term extremely loosely) activity of Mortals, which usually amounts to nothing more than a few naked dances around the fire, have actually started to produce results.

On more than one occasion, especially amongst the Scottish domains, strange harmless rituals have, on occasion, produced very real results. In one particular incident the group of mortals conducting a ridiculous 'ritual' to call down a spirit for a good summer found themselves spontaneously combusting one by one.

Scientific reasons were looked for

CONTRACT BASICS

By Henry Randall

A short while ago I got into some trouble when I discovered that something I believed myself to have agreed with another member at court, had not been done, in fact the opposite what I believed I had agreed had happened, leaving me in the short term surprised and a little annoyed. The actual details here aren't important, the matter has since been resolved between the interested parties and needs no longer be examined.

I did though think long and hard about how such a problem could have occurred and believe that what must have happened was a misunderstanding of the terms used in the agreement. I had foolishly not taken the time to define the terms explicitly and so they were open to interpretation and it might have been that my interpretation was radically different from someone else's, and after all English is not necessarily the first language for some of the people in the court.

In order to avoid mishaps like that in future I thought that it might be sensible to talk about agreements in general and define a few of the common terms used.

Before we start with any specific definition we have to talk about the strength of one's word in a formal agreement. The entire Camarilla is build upon trust. We trust that you will keep the Traditions. We trust that you will repay the favours others have done you. We trust that if you give your word, that you will deliver on it, because if we lose trust in you and stop believing that you will keep your promise made to another member of the Camarilla, then why should we trust that you will keep your promise to the Prince or the Camarilla as a whole.

I feel this is enough for the first instalment. Next month I will deal with terms regarding secrecy, confidentiality and privacy. If you have any requests though then don't hesitate to contact me.

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in regards to this strange event and whilst the facts were changed in regards to the mortal police force, kindred investigations revealed that there was a more 'occult' nature to it, although was no magic that they knew of.

There was a further strange occurrence just outside of the domain of Dundee where a strange woman was said to have offered mortals a 'love potion' which turned out to work a little too well.

In any case, this Boojum is increasing and right now, as far as I can see, there is not a way to protect ourselves from it, short of staying indoors and hoping it all goes away.

I realise that they may have a lot on their plate already but perhaps those of Clan Tremere have an answer.

Either way, probably best to stay away from any little old lady selling apples, and avoid any Mind, Spirit and Body sections in the bookshops.

HARPY HOUR

Another year, another Eurovision win. A tacky and downright ridiculous competition, but it is good to see another win for the recently formed independent Scotland. That is if the pretender that sits in London allows for it to remain that way. Already I hear she is influencing mortal discussions to, in her own words, 'Put it back'. One has to wonder if this is her own wish or that of the true King of London who I hear continues to make his presence known in the Colonies.

Far, Harpy of Edinburgh

Will there never be an end to this captivity? This damned plague has us all locked in our towers until it has been eradicated. I've had to cancel every social engagement outside of the domain for the next month and my dear childe, a darling that he is, is having to teach me the intricacies of something called Skype. Thanks Tremere.

Ann-Jacques, Harpy of York

Is the Tradition of Domain no longer sacred these nights? I hear anyone can rock up to the domain of Glasgow and demand entry these days, with no letter of introduction and no advance warning. I don't care whose future consort you are, you do not turn up unannounced and blatantly ignore the rules of Elysia. Thank goodness Prince Brown has a thorough vetting system, otherwise, unlike other domains. Tightening those borders seem like a good idea, especially when there are some domains that will let any old murderer in.

Sarah Miles, Harpy of Birmingham

Do you hear the people sing? We do, all the way down here we hear them sing, and they are singing louder and louder every day. Careful Prince Flip Flop, you might have secured the king's favour, but they are watching now, extra super close watching. The walls are closing in and the world will be turned upside down!

Lucretia Reflection, Harpy of Manchester

Just a little reminder to all my little birds, the position of Harpy is not given, it is earned. Careful, you are only in for as long as it takes the next little bird to sneak up and grab it. If you keep bringing stale gossip or not noting all the boons we'll start looking elsewhere for our information. That being said, my deepest thanks to Elder Huxley for a truly scintillating conversation in London, you are truly bestowed with the Queen's favour and a charmer too, I hope you don't go putting anyone's nose out of joint with your new shared patron.

Lady Salisbury, Harpy of London

It is time to rip out the disease that threatens us all and I am not talking about the White Plague. A new alternative has been making the rounds of our courts and whilst she can't help making people nervous it seems her and her kind might be a credible replacement. Some say it is better to keep your enemies closer, I have a better solution, lets just wipe them all out and be done with it, just like they did.

Joseph Carroll, Harpy of Norfolk

It would appear the Prince of Carlisle lasts another month! A full two months in the seat and neither Prince Brown or Prince Carter have made a move to kick him out. Either both are content to sit back and let their domains be split up, or they see Prince Mikelson as too much of a threat. Also did he have to take Carlisle? We already have a Prince Carlisle, this is just going to get confusing!

Ryan Harding, Harpy of Severn

Was that it? Was that all the tweeting you had? Surely you can do better than that, I searched and searched through your comment but couldn't find any barb at all. Would you like a little help with some of the bigger words perhaps? Let's face it, you're not cut out for this. As of now, I'm saying you can't sit with us!

Katie Redding, Harpy of Dundee

A whole month since their engagement

and already Marie Darnley is making waves throughout the domain of Scotland. Prince Von Pitt apparently couldn't keep his eyes off her, and I hear despite being told not to she enchanted everyone within the court of Glasgow as well. Perhaps Prince Carmichael won't be so keen to have his new fiancée wandering around the courts when he hears about all the attention she is receiving.

Dougal Douglas, Harpy of Aberdeen

Is anyone else experiencing strange occurrences in their domains? I wonder who might be behind them, probably the same people behind this plague, oh wait, was that supposed to be an accident?

Morag Cunningham, Harpy of Inverness

No comment available.

Sebastian Fawkes, Harpy of Glasgow

It was good to see so many visitors to the domain of Carlisle this month, including the Iron Rose himself as well as Seneschal Dunn from Manchester. Other representatives from other domains must have got lost on their way there, don't worry, we'll be sure to put our domain on the map before long.

Dianne Duncan, Harpy of Carlisle



A Harpy, wings disclosed.

10 THINGS THE TREMERE DON'T WANT YOU TO KNOW (YOU WON'T BELIEVE NUMBER 7!)

By JP De La Creme

1. Tremere means 'shiver' in latin. The clan are called this because their magic uses up a lot of energy and makes you cold. This is also why Tremere often wear robes.
2. Speaking of robes! Most Tremere who go for the traditional wizard look have trouble attaining appropriate robes for the purpose, so they are often forced to make their own. This means many Tremere are very good at sewing. For some rituals, dressing gowns are a permitted substitute.
3. Tremere often pretend to be jedi, some thaumaturgy paths have been specifically designed to help them do this.
4. Tremere refer to all other clans as 'muggles'. It is a common misconception that they stole this word from the Harry Potter novels. In fact, JK Rowling is a Tremere ghoul, and she wrote the books in order to improve the public image of wizardry.
5. Tremere staffs are just old curtain poles repurposed and decorated to make them look more impressive, most of them don't actually have any magical properties. Still probably not a good idea to touch them.
6. Chantries are named so because all Tremere must sing, or 'chant', everything they say whilst in one. This means that Tremere choirs have a lot of practice and are a must-hear whenever they perform, they are second only to Toreadors who, as we know, live in a permanent musical.

7. All Tremere carry small birds in their pockets everywhere they go.
8. Tremere are forbidden from naming themselves after great wizards such as Gandalf, Merlin or Magical Trevor, this is because the trend became so popular for a while in the early 60s that a chantry in Connecticut had no fewer than 14 Merlins residing there at the same time.
9. The only exception to the rule mentioned in number 8 is Tim the Enchanter, who up until recently lived in Norfolk. Tim the Enchanter suffers from several dementations and nobody has the heart to tell him he has to change his name. Tim's current whereabouts are unknown, as due to his terrible attempt at the accent, he has been banned from all of Scotland for roughly twenty-five years and cannot take refuge in Glasgow.
10. Tremere could bring back dinosaurs if they wanted to, but the leaders of the clan have seen Jurassic Park and they're not total idiots.



KINDRED ART OF THE MONTH!

By Rosalie Gypsy

For anyone looking to delve into the past look no further than the new release from historian Sally St Michaels, 'What really happened to Mary Queen of Scots'.

St Michaels is a respected historian amongst her peers who has wrote such interesting pieces as 'The Truth about Carthage' and 'The Last Romanovs and where they are now'.

This new novel looks into the history of the infamous Queen of Scotland and her association with our own Kindred History, including testimonials from various Kindred that were there at the time during that tumultuous time in Scotland's history that claim the Queen had a supernatural bearing about her. From her time in France and the influence surrounding her not just from the Paris Mortal court, to her being used as a pawn between the Gangel and the Toreador within Scotland.

"I am not one that believes that kindred have influence every part of Mortal history," St Michaels told the Dark Times, "but in some particular cases one can see the signs, and in this case there is definitely concrete evidence that Mary Queen of Scots was influenced by Kindred of the time."

The book has been met with resounding praise from many within the Courts of Scotland and France and St Michaels intends to tour around each of the domains promoting her new book. When we asked what she was planning on working on next she informed, "Well I have one book in the works in regards to Kindred in the military and another in relation to a top secret project that I am working on with my dear friend Sir Kenneth Bruce."

On the subject of her recent release Sir Kenneth Bruce had this to say, "A lot of nonsense. As usual St Michaels has favoured German Romanticism over hard facts. A thrilling read I must admit, but none of it based in truth."

To Contact, Email Dark Times with Reference

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REF: FSMAG35

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REF: FSPOR36

SOMMELIER, knows over 1000 vintages, let me expand your palette, price negotiable

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REF: FSTUB38

VICTORIAN LANTERN, authentic, £80

REF: FSVIC39

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REF: WAHOT29

TURTLE, preferably called George, will pay handsomely

REF: WATUR30

CHILDE - SITTER, going on long expedition, may not return, need sitter for

Childe, no experience required

REF: WACHI31

INFORMATION about the whereabouts of Mr King, Last Seen in New York on 19th May 2017.

REF: WAINFO32

WANTED, NOEL EDMUNDS, price negotiable

REF: WANOE33

WEDDING PLANNER, please submit CV's to Marie Darnley and the Prince of Dundee.

REF: WAWED34

PEN PALS

NAME: Caroline Hudson

LOCATION: Vermont, USA

CLAN: Toreador

AGE: 200+

LIKES: Sewing tapestries, cooking and political negotiating

DISLIKES: muddy footprints, bad manners and unruly childer

LOOKING FOR: companionship, maybe more ;-)

REF: HUDSOC0017

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE EDITOR

Due to the 'White Plague' the Dark Times will not be accepting any For Sales or Wanted Ads in relation to Herd or Disciplines for the time being. We apologise for the inconvenience

NAME: Arkady Pavlovich

LOCATION: St Petersburg

CLAN: Brujah

AGE: 100+

LIKES: dog fights, drinking and raves

DISLIKES: Garou

LOOKING FOR: rumours

REF: PAVLOA0018

NAME: Hubert Walker

LOCATION: Carlisle

CLAN: Caitiff

Age: 50+ years

LIKES: crosswords, debates and blacksmithing

DISLIKES: prejudice and the French

LOOKING FOR: healthy discussion

REF: WALKEH0019

NAME: Amelia Rose Oswald

LOCATION: New Orleans

CLAN: Toreador

AGE: 50-100

LIKES: writing, music and current affairs

DISLIKES: bullies

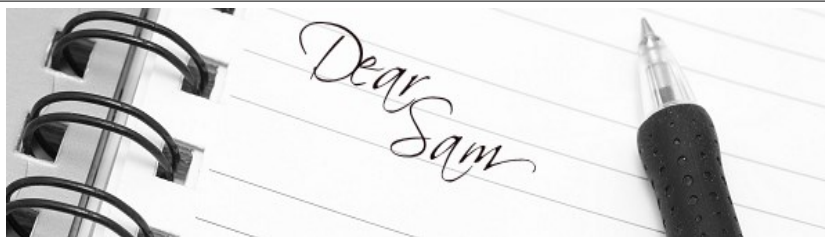
LOOKING FOR: chat

REF: OSWALA0020

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Dear Sam,

I need your advice! I have been chased by an important kindred in our domain. They have made up excuses to be near me. They have worked on the same projects, and ultimately they have wooed me with their style, power and sophistication. And then they caught me and I allowed our essences to mix. Since that night though there has been nothing. Not a single word, not a single challenge. My hints are ignored, my presents are not accepted. I fear that I was only interesting to them as long as I was unavailable. How can I show them that I can still be a challenge to be enjoyed?

Oppressively Overlooked

Dear Overlooked,

Listen close because I don't give my extremely successful dating tips to just anybody. First tip, one word, peacocking. Make yourself stand out from the crowd, bright colours often work, as does bedazzling. Sequinned gowns always catch the eye, male or female. Next, once you have got their attention, reel them in with the compliment-diss, such as, 'You dress well for someone your size' or 'you're not as stupid as you look'. And finally, if all else fails, just show up to court naked, at least they are bound to notice you. Good Luck!

Sam



Dear Sam,

I feel I may have done something terrible, but I also feel it was for the greater good. On the one hand I committed a heinous act deplorable to even the worst of us, but on the other, that's one less mass murderer on the planet. I feel both great and guilty, how do I reconcile these feelings?

Guilty

Dear Guilty,

That's just awful for you. Do you know what the real problem is here, you seem to be stuck on a pesky little path called humanity, here's my advice, try switching it up a bit. You might feel worse at first, A LOT worse, you may even succumb to your beast, but #itgetsbetter. Stick in there guilty, I'm sure you'll start to feel numb like the rest of us.

Love 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

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