

SHOCKING POLITICS IN RUSSIA!

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Prince Kuznetsov of Saint Petersburg has always run his Domain with an iron fist. All Clans but the Brujah are overshadowed and are forced to pay tribute to the Clan to survive. With the latest setback in Kuznetsov's long standing desire to acquire Helsinki costing him one hundred seasoned fighters, the other, downtrodden, abused, and forgotten Clans of Saint Petersburg have been taking advantage of the lack of thugs the Brujah tyrant can call upon to strike back at him.

The weakened Prince has had no less than 8 assassination attempts directed at him in the past few weeks. The cost to the underdogs has been steep, with the executions of more than a dozen Nosferatu, Toreador, and Ventrue of all ranks due to their failed attempts to seize Praxis. But the cost has been dear for the Prince as well, both in terms of Influence and manpower, as his powerbase is attacked and his Clanmates fall dead while attempting to protect him.

The Prince is rumoured to be bunkering down in his summer home on Lake Ladoga as we wait for further developments in this most exciting of times!

- Jean-Paul Eclair,
Dark Times Correspondent



SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE; ISTANBUL

The Dark Times were sadly informed this month that Prince Mustafa who has ruled over the city of Istanbul for over three centuries has regrettably fallen into torpor. The circumstances surrounding his demise remain unknown however investigations are being led by his once Seneschal, Danica and once Primgoen member Tiberius.

'Once' as these two Elders have now both laid claim to Praxis of the city of Istanbul and have come to the decision that they shall rule

in tandem with each other. Prince Danica has laid claim to the West of the city and Prince Tiberius has claimed the East. Both will continue to hold court together with the location moving each month between the East and West domains. There are many in the domain who find the move unusual although in keeping with the city's history of multiple rulers.

However many have commented that prior to this agreement Prince Danica and Prince Tiberius have often been at odds with one another so there are some that

speculate that the arrangement will not last, again, in keeping with the city's history. Prince Tiberius has already issued a proclamation that there will be no mercy or sympathy for those that wilfully or accidentally break or come close to breaking the Masquerade. Prince Danica issued her own decree that those residing in her domain will be expected to pay a monthly tithe in order to do so, and in return will be shown mercy from the 'stringent rules of others'.

- Leo D'Venezia,
Dark Times Correspondent

TOODALOO TOULOUSE

Out with the old and in with the new! Well that's what you get for sending fools into a hunter magnet like Lourdes. I do hope Prince Chevalier enjoys her 'retirement' and that Prince Dominique Germaine does not make the same mistakes as her predecessor. Although with another Toreador in the big chair I'm sure it won't be long before another Justicar (although it'll be hard to beat the one that turns up with a very large owl and alligator in tow) has to turn up and turf out the 'mad Prince' before they go completely loopy, then again, such is the danger of living within reach of the 'Lourdes Effect'.

It has always been extremely potent where it concerns Toreador, affecting them even when they are out of reach from the exclusion zone in the city of Toulouse. However it would seem that the reach of this effect may be spreading further in recent months, whether that has anything to do with the amount of fools venturing in or perhaps the influx of devotees heading to the city, is uncertain. Rumour is that even those Toreador as far away as in Paris have started to hear the singing (which is how it manifests), although only with a select few amongst the clan of the rose.

Either way, that's another Prince of Toulouse off to the mad house, we shall see how long this one lasts before she too succumbs to the angels in her head.

-Jean-Paul Éclair,
Dark Times Correspondent

CHANGES TO THE DARK TIMES

From the Editor in Chief of the Dark Times International

The Dark Times is delighted to announce that we will no longer be accepting anonymous submissions.

All of our keen contributors will be expected to put their names to their submissions which will be verified via the harpies.

No exceptions.

*"Tis much when sceptres are in
children's hands,
But more when envy breeds
unkind division:
There comes the ruin, there
begins confusion." ✠*



What a piece of work

What a piece of work is man! How noble in reason, how infinite in faculty! In form and moving how express and admirable! In action how like an angel, in apprehension how like a god!

These words were spoken of Kine, but how much more fitting are they when applied to Kindred? Do they not sing to us of our condition?

How noble in reason; what reason have we but to continue our existence? What reason beyond that of the wolf or lion or hawk; the predator who hunts to hunt, and hunts because it is a predator. What is more noble? What is more savage? What else can drive a creature so far and so fiercely? We are not clouded by mortal morality, we are not bound by worldly concerns, we move through them like current through metal. Such things as money, fame, influence, power itself, are tools for us, tools just as the maw of the lion, the talons of the hawk and the claws of the wolf are tools. Tools for the hunt.

How infinite in faculty? Do you think I speak of our abilities? Do you think I will draw a crass comparison to the otherworldly feats that we may perform through our blood? Those faculties may indeed be vast, but how low and meagre they feel compared to true infinity. For what limits the faculties of the Kine? Their mortality, and it is that which we lack, and that, more than our blood which gives us infinity. Speak to the oldest and wisest mortal and what can they tell you? Merely their own limited perspective on their own limited slice of history. How much more can be spoken by one of our august company? Speak to one who saw Enoch fall! Speak to one who fought at Carthage! Speak to one who has counted centuries like days and seen through myriad eyes. Speak to them of infinite faculty.

In form and moving how express. How can I say this more eruditely? The bard himself could have spoken of us when we hunt, when we slide through society. Keener than a razor's edge, slyer than a fox. In form what are we? In form we are fluid. In form we are remade by our whims, our goals our desires a thousand times, each permutation a tool; a mask, a life a philosophy. A position, an institution, a sect. The world shapes the form of the kine, our form shapes the world. And how could it not be? How can we fail to shape the world around us? Can we prevent our naked will from leeching out that which stands in our way and that which frustrates us? Bringing about new worlds and new forms, each one more apt, each one keener, slyer, more perfect. How admirable?

In action, how like an angel? How can that which descends from above, hard, dark and sharp not be a divine messenger? What is not angelic in the hunting pack, the striking snake, the lashing tongue, the ensnaring mind? What is not like a deliverance from God in the perfection of art, the grasping of power, the gathering of secrets, the rousing of the masses? What of these actions could not be the work of angels?

And last, last of all we come to it. The crux, the crucible, the fulcrum. The pivot around which all that we are turns. In apprehension, what are we? The coiled spring. The crouching tiger. The waiting destiny. The sword of Damocles. What is that? What is that moment before we strike? That instant before our aims are fulfilled? That second where everything hangs upon nerve, wit, power and will? And after? The discharge of force, the leaping predator, the toll of doom, the scything blade. We walk across this earth and we are above it, we see the cogs of the machine that is reality and we turn them to our purpose. When Cain snatched up the rock he took a step down a path we have all trod. He reached out and changed the world. We reach into the world and we make it ours. In apprehension, in deliverance, in short, how like a God?

Your Editor in Chief



Harpy Quotes



Glasgow –Lady Salisbury – *So Toulouse pays the price for the joint efforts of Glasgow's and Manchester's fools. I think we can all agree to be wary of those who would bother the divine lest we too hear His song.*

Edinburgh – Farr- *Our dear doctor is quite taken with the gypsy, expect a heart in the mail any day.*

Aberdeen – Dougal Douglas– *Prince Leslie extends the hand of friendship to our Scandinavian cousins and welcomes them to his domain.*

Inverness – David Griene – *Our thanks to Glasgow for information provided.*

London & Severn – Lady Salisbury – *Raoul Leroux; remember the name.*

Manchester – Lucrezia Reflection – *Father tells me they've lied, they're big fat lying liars that lie! He's not real! A ghost story! And apparition! Brought back like the boogymen to make us all quiet little boys and girls! Right Carl?*

Norfolk – Carl – *Right, she'll gobble you all up and if stop her you have to admit you lied and then we'll all laugh and laugh and laugh until we can't laugh any more.*

Birmingham – Bethany Trimble – *Little witchy, little witchy, come out, come out, wherever you are. I know witches too and they're meaner than you.*

York – Anne Jacques – *What a pleasure it was to host the Prince of Glasgow in our domain this month; a charming and erudite fellow of noble stock for sure, I don't know who the Duke enjoyed entertaining more Prince Barker or his other guest...*

Carlisle – Vanessa Norton – *Seems you can teach an old dog new tricks, well done biker girl.*

Derry – Hilda Bern – *It's rabbit season.*

Kindred of Glasgow,

After the long standing failure of the Anarchs to defend their Domain of Ulster, never mind summon the ability to reclaim it from the Sabbat, I decided it was time to finally answer their repeated calls to act and get involved in the fight for Ireland.

A few nights ago I led a massed airborne assault on Ulster, with strikes on Belfast and a dozen other major population centres. Kill teams spent several nights hunting down survivors in rural areas until the Domain was declared clear. The Camarilla Domain of Derry was avoided entirely. As of now, all 8 of the remaining counties of Ulster have been seized from the Sabbat.

My Veterans fought a tremendous campaign that capitalised on surprise, aggression, and speed to devastate the Sabbat packs garrisoning the Domain, and they will be remaining in country for the foreseeable future to stabilise the Domain.

It is only fair that I single out several Kindred for praise above and beyond the usual high standards displayed by my Kindred. Victor Crane of Clan Gangrel, Augustine Laurant of Clan Tremere, Archie McDubh of Clan Nosferatu, Nathaira of Clan Ravnos, and Raphael Sadere of Clan Assamite... I salute you all for your sterling efforts in taking Ulster for the Camarilla. I will be in touch with each of you to present your rewards. All except for young Rafa Sadere... I formally name Rafa as my Sheriff of Iberia. I am sure than any who have fought beside him will understand, and applaud, this appointment.

And on the topic of appointments, as I have seized Praxis of the Domain of Ulster, excepting Derry, I now formally abdicate as Prince of Ulster. In my place, the Camarilla's newest convert and former Anarch Baron, Eileen Doherty of Clan Brujah, has taken Praxis over the Domain and will run it according to the precepts of the Camarilla and the Lextalionis.

I'd like to be the first to welcome Prince Eileen into the Camarilla and I can't wait to see how her Domain thrives now that it is under the umbrella of the Camarilla and all that entails. I am extremely glad to see you back where you belong, my friend. Ulster was lost without your leadership and wisdom.

One final thing... congratulations to Grendel of Clan Gangrel for taking Praxis of Helsinki after such a hard fought defense of the Domain. I look forward to seeing you again at the upcoming Thing. And I hope you keep Victor busy as he assists you in getting your Domain, and your knowledge of this modern world, up to speed as soon as possible.

King Angus McDonald,
Lord of Iberia,
Regent of Orkney.

Message from the Justicars

Princes of Europe,

In light of recent events we encourage you to restrict movement of kindred between domains, granting permission to visitors only where necessary and where they have been given leave too by a Justicar. This is to assist with limiting the virus that is currently spreading throughout the world and affecting our food supply.

Should any domain require assistance with enforcing stricter measures regarding Domain the Justicariot can assist with this.

To My Family from Donna Rosa Giovanni

La mia famiglia,

I know many of you will be seeking to return to Venice for the celebrations on the 4th of April and any who wish to do so should contact me personally and I will make arrangements for them. We're not going to let a little something like this get in the way of our family dinner! There may be a shortage of fine vintages on the rise but at least in one respect we are growing infinitely wealthier.

I look forward to seeing you.

Dublin; It is time to fight

By Jim Hawk

As many of you are aware the fight in Dublin continues and although we met with many setbacks this month we maintain our ground. However, if we are to truly push this enemy out we need you to fight. With things the way they are I know some of you might struggle to reach us, but I have a team of people ready to help you over the water to Ireland if you are ready and willing to fight.

I cannot guarantee your return from the Emerald Isle once you are there, but be assured that I will fight side by side with you until the end. There can be no surrender for the last Anarch domain of Ireland. We will drive the Sabbat out or we will die trying.

Let's take back what is ours.

On Praise,

The following kindred are deserving of our thanks for helping to put the Ophelia research institute to the torch and rescuing the numerous individuals held captive there.

Teresa

Twig and Stone

Victor

Through their bravery, strength of arms, and moral fortitude were the foes of the domain defeated and their ashes scattered. They are a credit to their domain and should stand as an example to all.

Yours,

Levi Tius

Good news my everyone,

I have recently completed 2 projects intended to help with the keeping of the masquerade. The first is online database for mortal doctors, to report and discuss unusually cases. This will allow me to learn of, monitor and influence cases that may cause issues for us. This project will be going live this month, and will not wide spread asyet, I have a high degree of confidence it will be used by many doctors and researchers across the world.

However thuis is not the main purpose of why I have penned this piece. That leads me to the 2nd project. I have recently compiled a database of plausible medical explanations for some of the more commonly witnessed abilites of kindred. This collection of knowlege is designed to allow those who spend their time keeping the masquerade a greater degree of obfuscation when it comes to covering up those unfortunate indiscretions that so threaten our society.

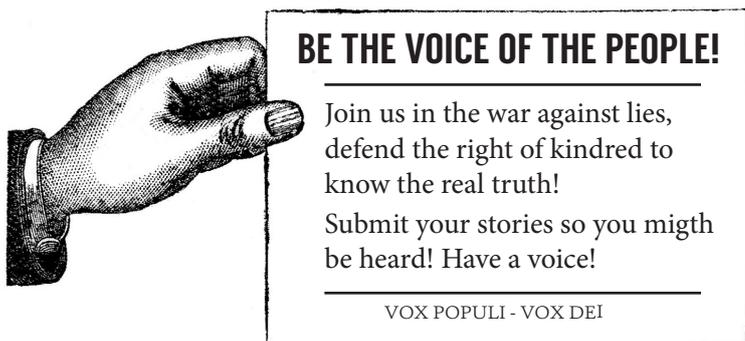
However as distributing this database would pose a risk to the masquerade, I will be offering to teach this information to any who wish it, for the good of the Camarilla and its respected allies. If you are interested please contact me, at (ooc: email address and a mobil number will be given here). If coming to Glasgow proves inconvenient, I am happy to arrange visits and lectures to other domains.

I look forward to all the exciting interactions the future brings.

Dr Corvus Brann.

I am told this is how to most easily get word to you, so I write to inform those who do not already know that I now rule the Domain of Helsinki. All I have met at the Glasgow Court are welcome to visit my Domain without reservation. Merely let me know that you are intending to visit and I will ensure your welcome is pleasant. Others from the Isles may also come visit, though they will need to gain approval to cross into my territory. Those who wish to stay in the Domain will need to have a separate discussion with me about the matter. Any who come to cause trouble will regret that decision...briefly.

Grendel



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