

REGARDING THE DUNSIRNS OF GLASGOW

Let it be known that Giuliana Dunsirn (nee Giovanni) shall receive no protection from the members of the Glasgow Court. As the Giovanni have declared that her actions and those of Alexander Dunsirn are "Giovanni" business, Glasgow will uphold the Promise of 1528 in this respect.

However, I will not enforce the cessation of any business deals - public or private made between Giuliana and members of my domain. Any interference in those deals by other members of the Giovanni, I will hold in contempt of the Promise of 1528, as being interference with Camarilla business.

The Pax Vampirica and my hospitality will be upheld by any attempting to apprehend Ms Dunsirn. Transgressors found to be in breach of either, will be punished to the full extent.

I expect a representative of the Giovanni to present themselves to me in the near future to discuss the involvement of their clan in breaches of the Promise of 1528 within my domain.

Prince Esteban Korsgaard

UPDATE FROM THE SCOURGE

I've only had census information sent to me for three clans. I'm sure that no one wants me to come looking for it so get it to me asap, please.

Arrivals in July:

Neonate Lucien

Ancilla James Gordoun

Probation:

Neonate Lucien - arrived July

Ancilla Hugh Jackson - arrived June

Elder Kenzie Alexander - arrived June

Newly Accepted:

Ancilla James Gordoun

Ancilla Michael Brown

PAISLEY — A car crash has claimed the lives of a nun, 38, and a local man, 23. Shortly before 11:40 p.m., officers responded to reports of a crash involving a pedestrian along George Street, Paisley. When they got there, police found that a stolen vehicle had mounted the pavement and struck Sister Mary Slater before continuing on and striking a tenement. The driver, John Ferries, was found unresponsive in the vehicle. Ms. Slater was pronounced dead at the scene and Mr. Ferries was transported to Southern General where he later died. Detectives said Ms. Slater had been walking home when a black Tesla Model-S sped down the road erratically before losing control and mounting the pavement. The car had been reported stolen earlier that evening.

According to investigators, speed and alcohol consumption by Ferries contributed to the crash.

Clipping from the Paisley Gazette, presented without comment by Magnus Burton

Disease Killing 'Europe's oldest' Elm Tree is Reversed

By Sir Charles Douglas

What is believed to be Europe's oldest elm tree has succumbed to Dutch Elm Disease say experts. Dutch Elm Disease is a fungal infection spread by tiny bark beetles. It can rapidly wither and kill healthy trees. The disease arrived in the south of England in the 1960s and since then it has spread across much of the British mainland, massively reducing the elm population.

The wych elm at Beaulieu is almost 800 years old, with references to the tree found in records going back to medieval times. Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has laser-scanned the elm as part of work to document ancient Scottish trees and found the elm to be diseased. The HES has previously used the technology to create digital images of historic buildings but with new funding has expanded the scans to other important areas such as agriculture in which they have been extremely successful.

Ms Jessica Malcolm, a landscape manager at HES, said historical documents confirmed the existence of the elm at the time the priory was established in the 1230s. HES has been trying to establish if other elms, and other old growth species, are as old as the Beaulieu tree.

Ms Malcolm said: "We couldn't find other elms older in Europe. There is one in Italy 760 years old, but none reaching 800 years old. There are many species that grow to centuries old and these guardians of the forest must be protected." She said the Beaulieu elm was an "amazing tree" which was "gnarly and gothic in appearance and it was used in the 1950's Hammer horror film *The Fall of the House of Usher*."

Ms Malcolm said "The Beaulieu Elm is a most glorious and historical tree and will continue to receive the funding to be fully treated as it is of great significance and biodiversity of the area. This is the most prominent but certainly not the only example, a great many other trees and areas have also received funding for treatment and revitalization of the Scottish forestry."

Ms Malcolm continued "A fun history about the Wych elm, also called 'Ents' taken and made popular by JRR Tolkien, is the only elm regarded as being truly native to Scotland and it usually grows in hilly or stony woodlands, or near streams and ditches and is hardier than all other strains. Its name refers to how easily the wood can be bent and, in some histories, the supple nature of the wood allows it to move freely around the forest being its greatest protectors."

The disease is now being halted and, in many cases, reversed with the generous funding gained and utilized throughout mainland Scotland distributed by the HES, the Scottish Forestry Commission and the National Woodland Trust.

This is the next step in a line of successful agricultural rejuvenation in Scotland and long may it continue.

MASTERCLASSES IN MANIPULATION.

Chapter Six: A short instruction on Etiquette

Ms Caitlin Lawrence

Having heard the stories that are emerging from recent events of the Elysiums in Glasgow I have to confess that I was horrified by the lack of adherence to proper behaviour. There was a time when every childe knew how to behave and what was expected of them prior to their presentation and would not be presented until they knew how to conduct themselves in polite society. It would seem of late that these traditions and practices have been abandoned!

Unlike 'modern' society, the practices of formal etiquette still hold and are expected within Kindred life and it is at considerable risk that they are dispensed with. Given the status of Glasgow in the eyes of other cities? I would have expected more attention to details such as ensuring that proper behaviour is observed, I have no intention of ever setting foot in that place until I start hearing much improved reports.

It is the duty of those who are older to instruct new childer in the laws and the codes of behaviour that are expected of them and so I discharge that duty by submitting to your request for this interview. Remember in future my dear that I do not consider that ignorance is an excuse for displays of lack of etiquette. Furthermore, I will again remind you that the personal details of another should never be enquired about in public discourse, including one's clan or age, it is quite distasteful.

It is always useful to remember the importance of eye contact. Whilst it may be said that meeting another's gaze carries risks of falling foul of another's skills the act of refusal to meet another's eyes can be taken as a slight and is generally considered to be the height of rudeness. If you are in an Elysium refusing to meet someones gaze? It is as if you are shouting from the rooftops that the person in front of you is dishonourable and cannot be trusted to follow the rules of Elysium.

There are a few simple rules that you should follow in polite society.

One should always show respect to one's clanmates and it is considered rude to interrupt them whilst speaking.

You should show respect to your equals, it is usually the safest option in preventing disagreements arising.

One should never interrupt or disagree with one's Elder in public and they should always be treated with respect and deference.

It is always safer to assume that a stranger is of a high social standing and they should be accorded with respect until one can ascertain otherwise. (A skilled Harpy is a boon to any city.)

Failure to follow these rules could prove a significant mistake as offending an Elder is certain to damage one's social standing.

If those who are Elder to you are seen treating a stranger with respect, it is unwise to assume that they are fully aware of their identity. They too may be erring on the side of caution. If you are uncertain on a matter, any qualms should be discussed with your Elder. It is important to remember that Court is possibly not the most suitable venue for such private conversations. It is so very difficult to ascertain exactly who is listening.

If you are asked to perform a task by an Elder it is generally useful to your standing to comply without complaint. However, you must ensure that you do not beggar yourself in these actions, failing to perform a service due to lack of resources is generally seen as incompetence. Discussion of recompense with an Elder may be seen as crass or beneath them however they are more likely to forgive it if you prove yourself consistently useful. Being considered useful by your Elders is a better option than finding yourself labelled as incompetent or untrustworthy if you fail to deliver something once it has been promised.

It is also important to remember that the term Elder is often synonymous with senior, particularly in relation to positions of power within a city. Princes should be shown deference and treated with respect at all times and addressed as members of the nobility with titles such as 'Sire', 'My Lord', 'Your Grace' or 'Your Highness'. Addressing them by their given name without their permission can be seen as incredibly forward and may well lose you standing in their eyes, it might even tip the balance toward the refusal of whatever it is that you are requesting so the appropriate level of deference is key.

Do remember that kindness should be shown to those of junior status especially if you find that their sire has been lacking in giving them proper instruction in etiquette. One should remember that our society is often frightening and confusing to those unaccustomed to our rules and traditions. It is only polite to offer assistance and advice should it be requested and benefits us all with an improvement in standards.

Equally one should remember that it is important to lead by example and proper behaviour is constantly under the scrutiny of those around you and that lapses could have disastrous social consequences. I encourage you, nay, I implore you to seek instruction in etiquette if you find yourself in the position of traveling to cities not your own in future. It will certainly save you from embarrassment and may well save your life

Dearest Kindred,

Continuing with my series of articles to assist the Neonates and Ancillae among you be better able to identify and counter the awful manipulations of Elders, I turn now to two very common behaviours you should be on the lookout for:

Deliberately misrepresenting your thoughts and feelings to the point of absurdity

In the hands of an Elder, your differing opinions, legitimate emotions and lived experiences get translated into character flaws and evidence of your irrationality.

Elders weave tall tales to reframe what you're actually saying as a way to make your opinions look absurd or heinous. Let's say you bring up the fact that you're unhappy with the way an Elder is speaking to you. In response, he or she may put words in your mouth, saying, "Oh, so now you're perfect?" or "So I am a bad person, yes?" when you've done nothing but express your feelings. This enables them to invalidate your right to have thoughts and emotions about their inappropriate behaviour and instils in you a sense of guilt when you attempt to establish boundaries.

This is also a popular form of diversion and cognitive distortion that is known as "mind reading". Elders often presume they know what you're thinking and feeling, with no need for any command of The Sight. They chronically jump to conclusions based on their own triggers rather than stepping back to evaluate the situation mindfully. They act accordingly based on their own delusions and fallacies and make no apologies for the harm they cause as a result. Notorious for putting words in your mouth, they depict you as having an intention or outlandish viewpoint you didn't possess. They accuse you of thinking of them as toxic abusers – even before you've gotten the chance to call them out on their behaviour – and this also serves as a form of pre-emptive defence.

Simply stating, "I never said that," and walking away should the person continue to accuse you of doing or saying something you didn't can help to set a firm boundary in this type of interaction. So long as the Elder can blameshift and digress from their own behaviour, they have succeeded in convincing you that you should be "shamed" for giving them any sort of realistic feedback.

Nitpicking and moving the goal posts

The difference between constructive criticism and destructive criticism is the presence of a personal attack and impossible standards. These so-called "critics", often Elders, don't want to help you improve, they just want to nitpick, pull you down and scapegoat you in any way they can. Elders employ a logical fallacy known as "moving the goalposts" in order to ensure that they have every reason to be perpetually dissatisfied with you. This is when, even after you've provided all the evidence in the world to validate your argument or taken an action to meet their request, they set up another expectation of you or demand more proof.

Do you have a successful career as a Kindred? The Elder will then start to pick on why you aren't a multi-millionaire yet. Did you already fulfil their need to be excessively catered to? Now it's time to prove that you can also remain "independent." The goal posts will perpetually change and may not even be related to each other; they don't have any other point besides making you vie for the Elder's approval and validation.

By raising the expectations higher and higher each time or switching them completely, highly manipulative Elders are able to instil in you a pervasive sense of unworthiness and of never feeling quite "enough." By pointing out one irrelevant fact or one thing you did wrong and developing a hyperfocus on it, Elders get to divert from your strengths and pull you into obsessing over any flaws or weaknesses instead. They get you thinking about the next expectation of theirs you're going to have to meet – until eventually you've bent over backwards trying to fulfil their every need – only to realize it didn't change the horrific way they treated you.

Don't get sucked into nitpicking and changing goal posts – if an Elder chooses to rehash an irrelevant point over and over again to the point where they aren't acknowledging the work you've done to validate your point or satisfy them, their motive isn't to better understand. It's to further provoke you into feeling as if you have to constantly prove yourself. Validate and approve of yourself. Know that you are enough as you continue to learn and improve, and you don't have to be made to feel constantly deficient or unworthy in some way. Compare yourself to you tomorrow, not to other Kindred today.

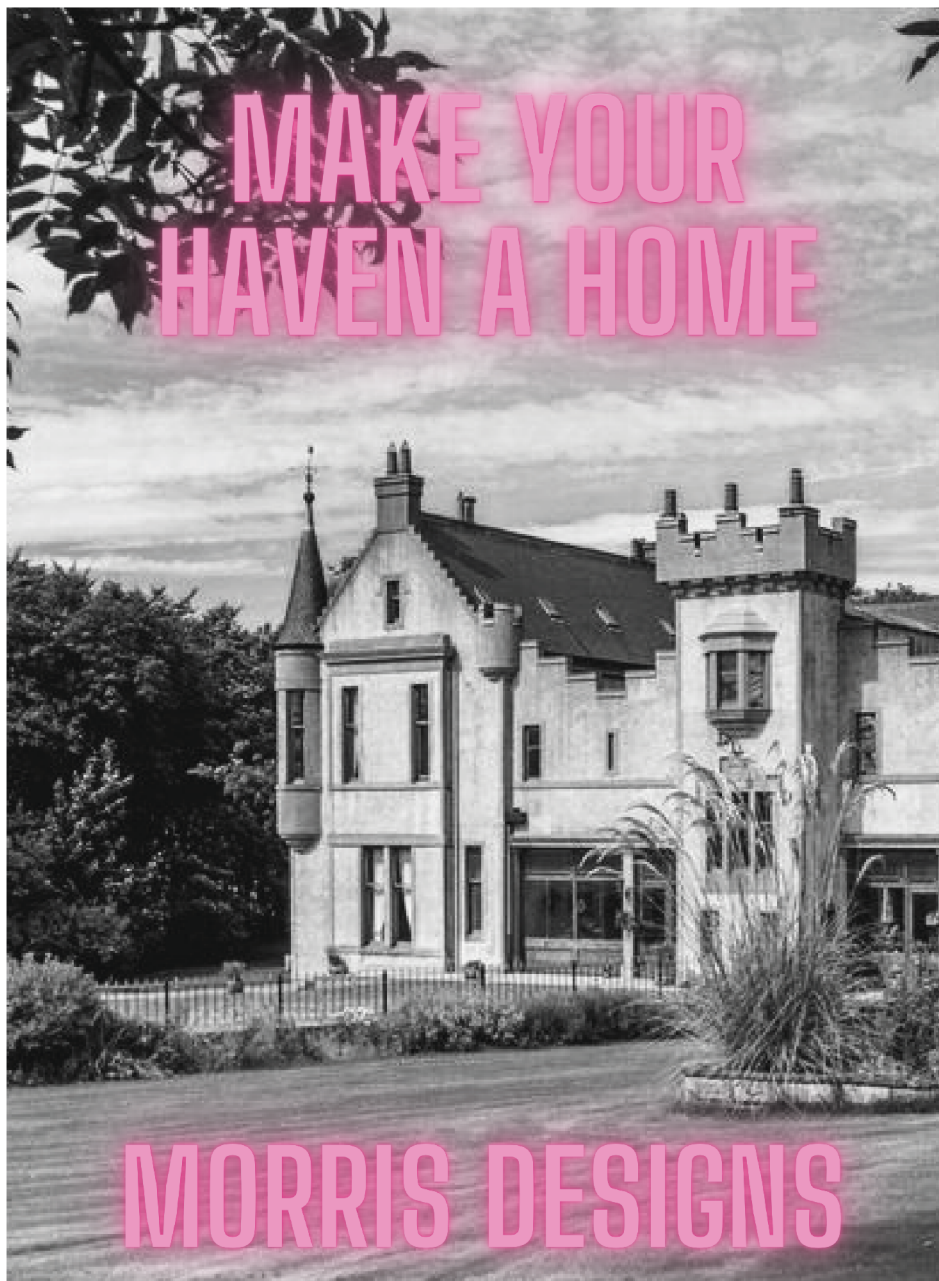
Mephistopheles The Thrice-Born,
The Banquet of Ashes.

An Open Letter to People Who Should Know Better,
By Wrath, Harpy of Soteria

It has been brought to my attention on numerous occasions that those outside of Soteria have drawn conclusions about our feeding habits. Therefore, as harpy of this growing domain, I am taking it as my responsibility to quench these unfounded rumours. Those who actually joined us at our recent Elysium can attest to the fact that we do indeed have our own supply of blood, and that we are not ungenerous in hospitality towards our guests.

We may not have unaware and unwilling morsels at our disposal as the mainland do, but we do have donors who live on the base and regularly give blood, which is kept in blood packs for use by any Kindred on the base, including guests.

We realise this may not allow for much variety in our diet and what we are able to offer, but so far we have not had anyone go hungry. It would behove those who are making unfounded claims about us to watch their tongues, lest their words cause any unnecessary confusion. Tongues that cause unnecessary confusion could just as soon become confused themselves.



Harpy Quotes



Edinburgh - Farr - I hear Prince Many-Face has got hunters coming for him. I won't say I hope you get dusted, I shall merely gloat over the possibility.

Aberdeen - Dougal Douglas - Now taking bets on when the next invasion of Glasgow will be.

Inverness - David Griene - Starting to wonder if we shouldn't have thrown our lot in with the Nordics...

London - Duke Benedict - I hear things just won't stay dead these days...

Severn - Benedict & Algernon - What's that? Necromancers can't be trusted? I'm shocked.

Manchester - Lucrezia Reflection - I hear a certain Scourge was seen selling home-made cakes at a homeless shelter. Don't worry, I won't tell.

Birmingham - Bethany Trimble - I suspect the Dunsirns are... Done Sirin'. I kill myself sometimes.

York - Anne Jacques - Still haven't been to our latest Domain, anyone else fancy a jaunt?

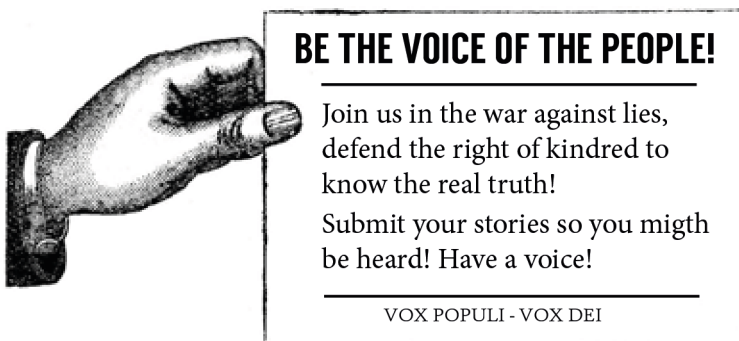
Norfolk - Carl - It's sad when respected kindred start scraping the barrel, it really is.

Carlisle - Samuel McAlpine - You lot laughing at people going off to fight sabbat wouldn't be laughing if they didn't. Show some respect.

Derry - Hilda Bern - Like the man falling from the 10th floor - we're fine so far...

Paris - Viola DuBois - Princes princes everywhere but not a one can think.

Soteria - Wrath - "Call him Mr. Raider call him Mr. Wrong. Call him insane." I'm coming for you, grandfather.



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