

The Testament

Moot 2, 1108 – Opening Edition

From Master Cosaint

The below letter was delivered to us in less than salubrious circumstances, and has caused something of a stir. I have been informed by the editors that they were visited by a mob who threatened all sorts of physical harm on them were they not to print it. Allow me to state, categorically, that we do not take kindly to threats directed against our staff, and should we come across the perpetrators it will not go well for them.

Anyone who is so desperate to see their name in print might be better occupied coming up with something worth saying, rather than cheap rabble-rousing agitprop and puerile insults.

And so the question of whether to print this arose. Clearly, it is designed to incite, a tactic we are all too familiar with and disapprove of in the strongest terms. Those amongst the Lions will know exactly of what I speak here. It also speaks in none too flattering terms of the Queens of Caledonia, all of whom have been guests in our Guild over the years and comported themselves with honour, respect and a level of decency which many of the Heartlands could learn from. I won't pretend that said comments have not inspired a certain amount of anger within the Guild, and I would like to assure the Avatars of Anu that the Guild still hold them in the highest regard.

So why print this? This is not about neutrality or impartiality. It is about identifying threats. The letter below clearly states an intent to instigate violence, and it takes no great leap of the imagination to suggest that such threats might be acted upon here on these lands which Agruul claims dominion over. Taken in that light, I am unwilling to leave people ignorant of a possible threat to their safety. And so here it is - a letter from one who believes right of conquest includes threatening family men who have committed no greater crime than to work at a printing press. I leave you to draw your own conclusions.

*Master Cosaint,
Pendermydd of the Bards Guild*

Threat Warning

To the people of all lands,

I Agruul Sevenskins, claim by right of conquest the lands around the Southern Grampions and Loch Aber.

My kind have been persecuted by the followers of the three faced harridan for too long, it is time those who worship Fuugshal can be free of the yoke of oppression given by the rulers of Caledonia. They will be once again free to worship any ancestor they wish, rather than forced to follow Anu by the traitors to their own kind.

We will not bow to the will of the three faced hag, not face this oppression any more. Fuugshal the festering one stands opposed to the hag, and if the hag's followers seek recompense they can try and cut it from my flesh.

Agruul Sevenskins, Chosen of Fuugshal

How To Ritually Mend Aberration

In order to fix an aberrated pattern, you must finish your ritual. Aberration occurs because you have tried to make something that requires more power than you can draw in from the Outside in one ritual. As such, in order to complete the item, a piece of your pattern has been torn from you and placed in it. When you return to the ritual circle to complete the item, you can then draw more power in from the Outside, enough to complete your ritual and release your pattern back.

Void-tainted aberrants are those who have either tried to use more power than is available in the ritual circle on two separate occasions, or who have on one occasion tried to use so much extra power that they have almost killed themselves. I say almost because the Dragon has saved them by placing a piece of Her pattern within them, thus keeping them alive. However, in doing so, She has allowed herself to be hurt, and this is obviously not acceptable. A ritual must be done with upmost urgency to resolve a void-tainted aberration and the focus should certainly be upon healing the Dragon and restoring Her pattern, at least as much if not more than on healing the individual.

Thenni of the Harts

The Testament

Moot 2, 1108 – Opening Edition

BEAR FACTS



This Testament Supplement is brought to you by the Bears Faction, your glorious hosts!

[For further information about Testament Supplements to add flavour to your Moots, or for those important Guild gatherings and announcements, ask at the Bards Guild. Very reasonable rates for issue sponsorship.]

People of Erdreja, welcome to Caledonia!

It is good to know old friends will be joining us at Loch Aber as well as, for some of you, a first visit to the home of the Bears.

Our land is held together by the grace, might and wisdom of Anu, united behind our three Queens. This above all is sacred on our lands.

The diversity of the clans of Caledonia is its strength. You will find hospitality, honour and faith amongst the clansfolk. You will find a resourceful people behind the tales you have heard. You will find as many different skills amongst the people as there are tartans from the clans.

You will also find good ale at the local inn, 'The Royal Haggis', where, at 8PM on Saturday evening, there will be a Grand Cèilidh to celebrate this gathering of nations on our lands.

The Loch Aber circle is at your disposal to use for your rituals, the guilds will all have representation and of course traders are welcome to Caledonia.

I also send out a warning! Some of you may have heard rumour of Orcs who follow Fester moving from the Great Forest and amassing near Loch Aber. I can confirm that this is true - although, at this moment, their full intent is not clear this is a situation our war scouts are keeping a close eye on.

As this is crown lands we are all under the will of the Queens of Caledonia, and in all disputes their word (or the word of their appointed representatives - the ruling Lairds) is final.

We are the people of the Bear - keep faith with us and our friendship is freely given, you will have a constant and unshakable ally; abuse us and you will have an enemy unrelenting in its vengeance.

Jander-Kai,
Laird General for the Bears



The Testament

Moot 2, 1108 – Opening Edition

Laws of the Land

All peoples visiting Caledonia pay heed!

The Nation of Caledonia is ruled by three Queens; the Blodwyn, the Cerridwen and the Morrigan. They act as Regents until the High King In Waiting comes of age. The Queens have appointed three Ruling Lairds to help lead Caledonia; Laird Jander-Kai, Laird Cedric D'Vanion and Laird Conall Mac Aedan.

There are no laws in Caledonia. The will of the Queens is what holds sway. The Queens have decided in their wisdom to give their Fianna permission to administer their will and punish those who breach it.

Having said that Caledonia has no laws, there are a series of traditions that have developed based on the Queen's will. It is important to note, however, that there is no such thing as a precedent. All actions are interpreted in their own context.

Some of the traditions of Caledonia are:

Lawyers and Lawyering are not allowed in or on Caledonia. For the purposes of the weekend of 20th to 22nd June 1108, all lawyers must seek a license from a member of the Queen's Fianna, at a cost of 2 stell. They must carry their receipt with them at all times and, even with a license, they must not practice Lawyering.

The Queens find the colour pink offensive, so if you wish to wear such clothing then an appropriate gift must be presented to the Queens in apology.

Faces must not be covered, and you must uncover your face if asked by a member of the Fianna or the Militia Guild on duty.

For more information, or if you have a problem during your time in Caledonia, please contact a member of the Queen's Fianna. We will be found out and about, but advise your first point of call to be the Bears camp.

Mat MacFinn, Bran Laoch of the Raven of the Queen's Fianna

Letters Page

Dear Testaments,

It is a matter of great concern to many people that, at this time of great threat against the Heartlands, and indeed the whole of Erdreja, that the Bears and the Vipers appear determined to bicker and start a war over factional politics. The threat the Akari pose should not be underestimated – they are servants of Entropy who wishes to destroy us all. It is understandable that the fall out from the murder of the Bear, Cassius Sly, will have blood rising on both sides, but I and many others would urge them to put these aside at least until the current threat has been dealt with. It has become more and more clear that the Tribe of the Vipers are fundamental to the defeat of the Akari – their success with the Vipers' circles proves this, and without their aid I doubt that any of us stand a chance. It is time for faction politics to be put aside and for all of us to stand together against this greater threat.

Yours sincerely,

Bran Isbest



The Testament

Moot 2, 1108 – Opening Edition

The Greatest Love Story of All Time?

As factions came together to talk politics and fight demons in sunny Trieste last week, a tragic love story was being played out under Teutonian skies.

At first glance, it seemed so simple: at the Grand Edrejan Fayre, the Vipers had killed the brother-in-law of Laird Conall of the Bears, and in response he had shouted at Lady Stesha of the Vipers and made her cry. Then, at the Viper moot last week, she showed her displeasure by snubbing him and imposing a restraining order on him, not allowing him within ten paces. But on seeing her distress at his actions, it is said that Laird Conall was distraught and forced to finally admit his true feelings for her.

For, dear reader, this is truly a tale of star-crossed lovers, torn asunder by faction politics. It emerged that Laird Conall has allegedly secretly harboured special feelings for the fair lady ever since she gave him a Teutonian Immigration form at the Convocation of Guilds, something he has treasured ever since. On seeing her distress at his shouting, which had in truth been the Caledonian equivalent of pulling her pigtails, it seems he knew that he must finally declare his true feelings for her.

And so, in the romantic setting of the beer tent on Friday night of the moot, he began to court her in earnest via messengers. He asked whether she was married. She accused him of mocking her. He sent her poetry – she gave him the dregs of a pint with cigarette butts in it in return. He asked her what flowers she preferred, and she replied “Nettles picked with his own bare hands” .

Hope in his heart at this last, the very next afternoon (once the hangover had worn off), he embarked upon the task she had set, suffering grievous wounds in the process, and went and presented them from his own swollen hands to his lady (via ambassadors due to the restraining order mentioned previously). She told him that she would think on what she would give him in return. Elated at this promise, Laird Conall returned to his camp to await her response.

He waited all day, and long into the night. Then news came that the Bears must return to Caledonia urgently – but he had still had no answer from his love. And as he went to the transport circle, it is said that his face was a cloud of agony, and that indeed, the brave Laird looked like he was on the verge of tears...



The Bears of Caledonia invite you to a
Grand Cèilidh

An evening of traditional Caledonian dancing and music (and probably drinking and carousing too)

8pm, Saturday evening
At the front of the Royal Haggis Pub.

(We promise it will hurt your ears less than the oompah band...)



The Testament

Moot 2, 1108 – Opening Edition

You Are Not Forgotten

As the inventively-spelled rhetoric of the ‘real’ Testament rings in your mind; as strangers come to your town and vent their well-rehearsed ire at you, and as you wait patiently to see if any genuine news makes it through the chaos that dissenters have created to support their arguments, you who are still loyal to the ideals of Guild and the Truth may be feeling isolated, afraid, perhaps even angry that the Guild has seemingly abandoned you. To you we send this message: you are not forgotten, and you are not alone.

The Guild promises you that we shall not bow before the pressure of those who would resort to the methods of the Enforcers to impose their principles on the world, nor shall we give in to the temptation to use such methods against them. When the Guild brings to account - and rest assured we shall - those who would use kidnap, mind-control, murder and fear as tools for political change, it will be the Guild that is worthy of your loyalty and respect. Until that day, you have our undying gratitude for the strength of your commitment and our promise that, should you choose to seek our aid, we will be here for you.

From an Irate Marigold

A quick correction from me to the authors and readers of the ‘real’ Testament: I want it noted that I strongly resent the accusation that I have committed murderous rampages and immoral acts as a means to attain power within the Guild. My murderous rampages and immoral acts have never been motivated by a desire for power - usually they just seemed entertaining at the time. However, I am still a Bard, so let me spread a little information among you to stop you embarrassing yourselves again: I am unreliable, unpredictable, irresponsible, sadistic, obsessive and possibly insane and I revel in all of the above. This is at least the second time you’ve tried to slander me and it’s not stopped being boring. Feel free to keep repeating yourselves though - maybe one day I’ll care.

Love and hugs,

Pillow

Trading Lives

For some time, the Lions have had representations from an interest referring to themselves as the Kallisto Company. The Company, who appear to have a base of operations in Erin, pride themselves on delivering purpose trained personnel of exceptional discipline. To put a less fine point on things, they break the wills of innocent victims and shape them into near-mindless slaves.

The Company claim to hold a contract with King Hengist of the Lions, despite their failure to date to show any reasonable evidence of the same. Recently, they delivered a demand for payment to the Lions, in the amount of 2,000 gold. Following the refusal of the Lions to pay, or indeed to engage in what amounts to slave trade, the Company announced that the debt, including penalties and interest, had risen to 10,000 gold. Subsequently, they launched a punitive raid on a settlement on Gallathrix, kidnapping women and children in a supposed effort to offset the debt.

Any information leading to the location of the misanthropic Company is greatly received, either by the Lions or the Bards Guild. As their operatives appropriated two items bearing the Bards Guild colours during the Lions mission to curb their raiding, we would appreciate reports of any attempts to sell the same, which might help to trace back to source.

Consternation in Aegyptus

The Pharoah of Aegyptus is ailing, and well-wishers from across the land are praying to the ancestors for his deliverance. He has not been seen in public for some time, but Nomarch Mentuhotep has announced that the Pharoah’s health may be failing, explaining his recent lack of visibility to his adoring nation.

Mentuhotep was unavailable for further comment, but one of his scribes did tell us that the Nomarch was working hard in the Pharoah's name, and that, ancestors willing, the Pharoah would recover from this grave illness.

The Testament

Moot 2, 1108 – Opening Edition

Most Loved Bard for Hire

In a characteristic spirit of giving, the inimitable Mr Scruffy of the Bards Guild has decided to auction his highly sought-after companionship to the highest bidder. If you want Mr Scruffy's company for the event, then come to the Guild before it closes for the night on Friday and let us know how much you are willing to bid. The winner will be joined by Mr Scruffy on Saturday morning, and his safety and services will be in your hands for the rest of the weekend. A portion of the proceeds will go to the charity for unhugged bears.

For Sale

As the new chart of elemental relationships nears completion, its author has decided to share the knowledge therein with the world, for a small consideration. Anyone who wishes to make a copy of the chart (which includes the complete list of physical substances associated with elements) may do so for a Stell, and anyone with less time and more money can purchase one of a limited number of pre-made copies for a Gold. Included in the price will be any future updates to the chart as more information is found. Ask at the Bards Guild for Pillow.

Artist Available

Athelwyn, creator of the most collectable scroll papers in the Heartlands, will undertake commissions in her celebrated style. Place your orders now at the Bards Guild. Magic not included. Fees vary, special rates for anything involving mustelids.

Members wanted!

The Graecian Alchemical Society is once more recruiting new members. Join this illustrious organisation for just a single Gold piece. Please send all applications to Ophelos Euclid, Graecian Alchemical Society, Delphi – via the Bards Guild - detailing your skills as an Alchemist, and explaining your reasons for wishing to join this august fellowship.

To Followers of Blackbeard

All true followers of Blackbeard are invited to make their way to Al Boyadab to stand firm in their belief, and to show their faith is true and strong. The Prince of Merchant Shipping and Associated Trades opens his land to those who would follow Blackbeard's ways:

- 1.) Don't consort with demons
- 2.) Don't walk on the grass
- 3.) When the fish are swimming up the mainmast, make your peace with the world.

Any who can live by these tenets of faith are welcome to join the Prince, and they should report to him, with their own ships, a love of adventure and willingness to work hard in Blackbeard's name, at the island of Al-Boyadab, or they should seek his representatives at the Gathering of Nations.

Bards' Guild Meeting

To discuss all matters relating to the Guild and its members. Starts 8pm, Friday of the 2nd Moot. Ongoing discussions to continue throughout the evening, probably with musical interludes, so better be there late than never. Bring Brains!

Militia Announcement

The Militia invites members of all factions and guilds to both combat training and a cash prize tournament to be held on Saturday at the second moot. Talk to the Militia desk or see notices which will be posted around the site for details.

Warning To All Fae!

The world has changed. Existence has torn our heritage from us. The act of our creation has been changed, without our knowledge, without our consent. Our children are no longer created through tales, through dreams, through magic – they are created as though we are mere humans. No beauty, no magic – just disfigurement and blood and pain.

**White Owl seeks Otter with beautiful smile,
To keep warm through winter's bite.**