

The Sahûl Chronicle

Turn 1

1451–1455 SA

Nothing except a battle lost can be half so desolate as a battle won. (Colonel Xitar of Pexiki)

Welcome again to *Cruenti Dei*; the first Turn is always full of surprises! Rules clarifications may be sought on the Cruenti Dei forum on the Sardarthion web site at WWW.SARDARTHION.COM/CRUENTIDEI. Some errata are posted there, and more is on the way. I will be providing some clarifications on the movement rules, as it appears that I have been less than clear on this subject. It is also apparent that one paragraph was inadvertently deleted from the movement rules prior to publication. Stay tuned to the forum for updates.

QUOTE CONTEST: Every turn I will grant IHC to those realms who correctly identify the original source of the quote at the top of the newsletter.

SIGN UP BONUS: For every paid player you recruit, I will credit your account with two free Turns.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO WED: The lovely Francine and I will be married on the 25th of January. Consequently, the next Turn will not be due until **TUESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2008**.

FREE COMPANIES & ERRANTRY

WHITE LOTUS COMPANY—10hi 24mi 22li
Captain: Mistress Chitithi (LA841) IL age 27
Location: Salamir, Dramul Province
Min. Bid: 32gp/Turn

COMPANY OF THE BLACK CLAW—3sc 28hi 15mc
Captain: Tirabinis Aranthes (L995W) YG age 33
Location: Nigata, Kordier Province
Min. Bid: 25gp/Turn

RED DRAGON COMPANY—10cv 15pk 30mi
Captain: Tarrid the Fierce (LB66s) UR age 40
Location: Sardarthion
Min. Bid: 30gp/Turn, will not fight Urdans

KNIGHTS OF ST JARRAD—5hc 25mc 8lc
Captain: Sir Balorri Withini (L976W) TR age 37
Location: Sardarthion
Min. Bid: 20gp/Turn

PIRATE ARMADA—2cf 23wf 20tr 8mr
Commodore: “Wild” Trang (LA94W) YG age 28
Location: Puchega, Arbedon Province
Min. Bid: 35gp/Turn

Lord Adhnggar Drathnes (L76BW) YG age 36
Location: Zadres, Biralis Province



COUNTY OF TOKATL (10 I/TA)
Her Excellency, Tinikatua IV, Mistress of the Totek Hive, Countess of Tokatl.

Trade: Averon, Chi'tixi, CM, Kachar, Taneki
DP: None

Tinikatua IV ordered “a new springtime” for Tokatl. Accordingly, investments were made in education and military technology, none of which has yet paid off. Ahnupat expanded.

DUCHY OF TANEKI (13 I/YG)
Her Grace, Toktoka II, Mistress of Aketl, Duchess of Taneki, Baroness Ketatl, Imperial Governor of Tramelis.

Trade: Averon, Chi'tixi, Itaxik, Kachar, Pexiki, Tokatl

DP: Tzuk'bir (F)

Taneki diplomats scored a triumph in Tzuk'bir, which agreed to join the Duchy following the construction of the river port town of Tzurn and a lovely little priory in the foothills. Similarly, the Saurian town of Witzir expanded into a city.

In the south, word was given for a new campaign against the Xinite heretics. Accordingly, the

armies of the feared Equerry Marshal Chitor and the Lady Sak'uich, numbering some 61,000 horse and foot all together, crossed the mountains into Koten, seeking revenge for the sack of Ch'akem these thirty years gone. There they met in battle with a Xinite army scarcely numbering 5000.

The battle, if battle it may be called, was a rout. The Xinites died to the last soldier, while the Taneki forces lost a mere 1000 light foot, all allies under the command of the Lady Sak'uich. The Equerries rejoiced at the victory, wishing only perhaps that it had not quite been so quick.

Even deeper to the south, in 1454, the Taneki fleet rounded the Cliffs of Sak and anchored just off Tepeuh. They put ashore a force of some 23,500 medium horse under the command of Colonel Kitkicha. They faced stiff resistance from the native forces and lost some 2000 cavalry before subduing the region.

While the Taneki celebrated their military success, it proved to have unexpected consequences...

THE CHURCH MILITANT (13 1/IL)

Her Holiness Aketika VI, Iluvarian Matriarch of the West, Archemandrite of Tikata.

Trade: Averon, Tokatl

DP: None

The Church expanded Tikata into a city. Pilgrims from Averon have begun to flock there during the holy days in midsummer.

ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF AVERON (18 SI/IL)
His Gracious Majesty, Muldalan II, Lord of Clan Drax, Count of Darida, Lord Admiral of the Green, Electoral Grand Duke of Averon.

Tiketua of Tishrak, Margrave of the North.

Trade: Atuburrk, Chi'tixi, CM, Taneki, Tokatl

DP: Vendeer (F), Teumeda (F), Tramades (A)

Grand Duke Muldalan worked quickly to recover the regions that had rebelled at his uncle's death. Averese diplomats, typically at the head of huge armies or airfleets, swarmed eastward to good effect. Two new towns were raised: Polyimia in Porrectis and Selth in Podates. Both are ports on the Bay of Duhrl. Princess Jera celebrated her tenth birthday with a brand new pony!

COUNTY OF PEXIKI (16 1/YG)

Her Excellency, Ixix III, Mistress of the Coactoka Hive, Countess of Pexiki, Lady Amoxcali.

Trade: Itaxik, Kachar, Taneki

DP: None

Determined to wipe the stain of heresy from her realm, the Countess ordered that Kisar be settled by orthodox Yagnarists. The forces of Colonel Xitar (the "hero of Kisar") were engaged to ensure the success of the endeavour.

The locals were having none of it. Gathering farm implements and mining tools, they rose against the Pexiki, determined to drive them from the hill country. Colonel Xitar's forces made short work of the rebellious peasants, and their leaders were drawn and sixthed in the high street of the heretics' former stronghold in the village of Nassikar. This did not end the rebellion, but only further inflamed the locals. With sticks and stones they attacked the colonists and the Pexiki army. Colonel Xitar retaliated, wiping out whole villages where incidents had occurred. By midsummer of 1453 the repacification of Kisar strongly began to resemble genocide.

Within two years, it was over. Though the army had sustained several thousands of zombie casualties, and parts of the hill country are partially or wholly depopulated, the taint of heresy has been removed from Kisar.

Naualpilli played host to the Baroness of Mimicha and her 21,000 "retainers".

THEOCRACY OF XIN (6 1/XN)

Xin-Sikkath, High Priestess of Xincalli, She Who is the Voice and the Arm of the Eternal Eye.

Trade: None

DP: Teutan (H), Suntzah (A), Ocut (F), Uxanib (T), Uitzetla (F), Tlicata (F), Uetzi (F)

Alarmed at the ongoing genocide in Kisar, and appalled by the conquest of Koten and Tepeuh, the Council of the Xinite Priestesses met in Xincalli in 1455 and chose one of their number to lead them into battle against the northern Pexiki and Taneki. To the assembled she preached holy war against

their enemies, to avenge the deaths of their Xinite brethren at the hands of those who “only pretend to worship Cleansing Fire, but instead worship only their comfort and wealth”. Thousands, perhaps tens of thousands, flocked to the cause.

ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF ITAXIK (21 I/UR)
Her Gracious Majesty, Chass'ika I, Mistress of the Tis'chak, Countess of Takkikik, Electoral Grand Duchess of Itaxik, Golden Beetle of the West, Imperial Governor of Chos and Kastier.

Trade: Kachar, Pexiki, Sakkar, Taneki, Yax'te

DP: None

Grand Duchess Chass'ika invested wisely and looked with alarm at events unfolding in the west. The treasury filled to bursting.

COUNTY OF KACHAR (9 I/UR)
Her Excellency, Kassa III, Mistress of Calpolli, Lady Tchantli, Countess of Kachar, Protector of the Fair Isles.

Trade: Itaxik, Sakkar, Taneki, Tokatl, Yax'te

DP: None

Kachar invested in their navy, and otherwise tried to be extremely circumspect.

BARONY OF SAKKAR (9 IS/IL)
Baroness Neallatalah II of Sakkar, Mistress of Nelhuayotl, Heir of the Prophet, Beloved of the Light of Iluvar.

Trade: Itaxik, Kachar, Yax'te

DP: None

The city of Ixkana expanded. Otherwise, the frugal and pious Sakkar continued to save their pennies and pray. And exercise their navy.

ICEMARK OF YAX'TE (9 S/IL)
Margrave Tillein the Silent, Grand Master and Knight-Commander of the Champions of the Renewal.

Trade: Itaxik, Kachar, Sakkar

DP: None

The Yax'te settled Saurian refugees in both the gloomy forests of Ercle and Medor, bringing those regions to (2132)s and (3123)s respectively. The river port town of Anatet rose in Ab'te near the Priory

of Silence, and Firreltet expanded into a city. There remains only one small band of homeless refugees, and they have been promised a homeland before the decade is out.

A Yax'te explorer lost her life in the ruins of Akki. The explosion was quite spectacular and could be seen for miles.

Thacia and Aret

HIGH PLAINS & NORTHERN COAST

ELECTORAL QUEENDOM OF THE GREAT HIVE OF CHI'TIXI TIRRIX KI (36 I/YG)
Her Most Puissant Majesty, Xant'ki VIII, Mistress of Tirrix & the Great Hive, Duchess of Chax and Tix'itikata, Countess Itax, Electoral Queen of Chi'tixi, &c., &c.

Trade: Adndar, Araxes, Aradéc, Atuburrk, Averon, Cappargarnia, CotI, Golmath, Hyrágec, Ingazi, Kicitchat, Taneki, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tokatl, Udrahahn

DP: None

Queen Xant'ki VIII spent much of her time menacing her councillors, on the off chance that they might be thinking mischief. The treasury grew to unimaginable levels.

DUCHY OF THACE (9 S/UR)
His Grace, Willor IV, the Wise, Lord Goshtikka-Ourane, Baron of Brennadein, Duke of Thace.

Trade: Araxes, Atuburrk, Averon, Chi'tixi, Golmath, Ingazi, Kicitchat, ThaceE

DP: Shustanim (T), Gaslar (T), Deiss (F)

While Ourane expanded, matching even Snam-arthis in size, the small market town of St. Chlôe grew up around the priory of the same name in mountainous Genega. Count Biard took some time off from his elephants for a very successful tour of the southern steppe. Duke Willor, who celebrated his 65th birthday in 1454, has been looking sickly of late.

ELECTORAL COUNTY-PALATINE OF THACE (13 S/UR)
His Most Excellent Majesty, Basodir VI, the Bold, Lord Goshtikka-Snamarthis, Marshal of Thacia, Electoral Count Palatine in Thace.

Trade: Adndar, Araxes, Atuburrk, Averon,
Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, CotI, Golmath,
Hyrágec, Ingazi, Kicitchat, Taneki,
ThaceD, Urdraháhn

DP: None

Ebalondrir III unexpectedly died of an acute sinus infection in 1454 at the age of 49. His nephew and heir ascended the electoral throne as Basodir VI. Basodir's heir in the female line is his cousin Brannis, who was duly named Baron of Galluch. Baron Brannis, though seven years younger than his cousin the Count, could pass as his slightly more suave twin.

The Palatinate was paralyzed by the death of the Elector, and little was accomplished.

THE TIGERS OF URDA (1 S/TU)

Sar Gortahn, Master of the Horseclans, Scourge of Urda the Fierce.

Trade: We don't trade with infidel or heretics.

DP: Belorn (A), Esamocia (AW), Zaculo (A)

Sar Gortahn sent his couriers to all corners of the steppe, preparing to gather the clans...

GRAND DUCHY OF ARAXES (19 W/UR)

His Grace, Pangku Kapalless II, Baron Pinyerrel, Grand Duke of All Araxes.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia,
Chi'tixi, CotI, Einandhu (4), Golmath,
Hyrágec, Ingazi, Kicitchat, Taneki,
ThaceD, ThaceE, Tokatl, Urdraháhn

DP: None

Despite an enormous (and we mean *enormous*) investment in the navy, quality has not noticeably improved. The Grand Duke's nephew and heir, Count Pangku Tramandes of Thangkar, continues his streak of winning tourneys. He has developed a loyal cadre of tournament knights who are some of his most vocal supporters. There is some concern in the government that the young Count perhaps

does not take his future position with as much gravity as he ought.

COUNTY OF KICITCHAT (15 I/YG)

Her Excellency, T'cha'k IV, Lady Tchac'at, Countess of the Kicitchat Hive and Associated Dominions, Imperial Governor of Artier.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk,
Cappargarnia, CotI, Duedhyn,
Einandhu (4), Golmath, Hyrágec, Ingazi,
Kommolek, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tiryowglas,
Urdraháhn

DP: None

Kicitchat continued to expand its armies and kept a wary eye on the steppe. The number of pikemen drilling in the fields outside of Tchac'at is truly astonishing.

ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF ATUBURRK (14 W/YG)
His Gracious Majesty, Adhanggar Challik III, Count of Odol, Elector & Grand Duke of Atuburrk, Imperial Governor of Ardebon.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Araxes, Cappargarnia,
Chi'tixi, CotI, Einandhu (4), Golmath,
Hyrágec, Ingazi, Kicitchat, ThaceD,
ThaceE, Tokatl, Urdraháhn

DP: None

Grand Duke Challik led a force of 30,000 mixed troops into the mountains of Atoa with the stated intention of bringing the bandits and warlords to heel. The terrain was difficult, but with relatively few casualties the region was conquered. Thus blooded, Challik is hungrily eyeing the remainder of Atuburrk Island.

After several years of high living, the exiled Adhanggar Dranthes ran out of money in Zardres. Despairing of reclaiming the throne he believes is his by right, he has become a mercenary. He'll pretty much work for whoever pays him, though he harbours a burning hatred for his cousin of Atuburrk and will not accept a contract from him unless it comes with a throne.

Meanwhile, some of the pirates of the Wild Coast have organized into a mercenary fleet under the command of the notoriously bloodthirsty buccaneer Wild Trang. They're most happy to rape,

pillage, and despoil, though they will also accept transport or protection gigs.

Central Sahûl

THE HEART OF EMPIRE

ELECTORAL REPUBLIC OF CAPPARGARNIA (18 M/TA)
His Sublime Majesty, Anabrin Caranthes, Lord Admiral of the Blue, Imperial Governor of Larloc, Electoral Prince of Cappargarnia.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, CotI, Duedhyn, Elphârec, Einandhu (4), Golmath, Hyrâgec, Ingazi, Kicitchat, Kommolek, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Udrahâhn

DP: Failed

Cappargarnia spent massive amounts in new public works projects, particularly in Erediar. The region, already a model of Cappargarnian efficiency and cleanliness, has equalled or surpassed any region in central Sahûl. The Prince's dissolute and erratic behaviour, meanwhile, continued to frustrate the expanding government.

Admiral Tiribissi Taræ took the Imperial Blue Fleet on a goodwill tour of Ebmadh coast. The Baron of Ebmadh entertained both the Admiral and the visiting Colonel of the IVth Regiment of the Emerald Watch. The diplomatic efforts of both of these worthies seemed designed to woo the Baron into giving up his hard-won independence. He would not budge. Even an offer of political marriage with Clan Anabrin was met with only polite bemusement.

CHURCH OF THE ILLIMITABLE (9 TA)
His Great Holiness, Fenric II, the Impenetrable, Pontiff of the Hidden Lords at Golluz.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Einandhu (4), Elphârec, Kicitchat, Kommolek, Tiryowglas, ThaceE

DP: None

Despite a series of horrific illnesses and at least one assassination attempt, Fenric continued to shuffle around the pontifical palace in ever larger and more ostentatious headgear. His most recent

hat requires the services of three strapping youths to carry its train and tassels.

IMPERIAL FREE CITY OF ADNDAR (14 M/TA)
His Excellency Tiribissi Dranthes, Guildmaster of the Chandlers and Burgrave of Adndar.

Trade: Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, CotI, Duedhyn, Einandhu (4), Elphârec, Golmath, Hyrâgec, Ingazi, IOC, Kicitchat, Kommolek, ThaceE, Tiryowglas

DP: None

Adndar ran smoothly, raking in the money. Dranthes' designated heir continued to concern the Council. It wasn't so much his illiteracy as his *smell*. The Burgrave continued to insist that he was perfectly acceptable as the future ruler of Adndar, which prompted some wags to speculate on Dranthes' opinion of his realm.

THE IMPERIAL DEMENSE

His August & Imperial Majesty, Paharnes VII, the Fat, Baron of Wanumarra, Electoral King of Aradéc, Sovereign of Sahûl, Lord of the Nine Hills of Sardarthion, Holder of the Emerald Throne, and Emperor of All the World.

His Excellency, Count Kerens III, Baron Kwilkyn, Count of Tiryowglas, Defender of the Faith, Chancellor of the Empire.

Imperial Influence Points: 12

For trade, see Aradéc. For appointments, see Gazette.

The Emperor sought the expansion of the Imperial demense. Some of the court suggested that this would be in keeping with the Emperor himself, who likewise continues to expand. Late in 1454, he came down with painful and debilitating gout. Since then, he has been largely bedridden, though he did manage several hunting trips in the summer of 1455, which he seemed to enjoy. Even from his sickbed, Paharnes took personal command of two regiments of the Emerald Watch and the Imperial Airfleet while he sent their seniormost officers on fact-finding missions throughout the Empire.

The ever-charming Air Marshal Andren wined and dined his way through the County Palatine of

Khûnatar, finally convincing the Count to ally himself with Emperor Paharnes.

The various Electoral proxies and representatives spent their time sniping at each other, a perennial pastime in Sardarthion whenever the Emperor is ill.

PRINCIPALITY OF DUEDHYN (10 S/RA)

His Highness, Prince Dallyn II of Duedhyn, Baron Dhanos, Hereditary Marshal of the Order of the Sacred Raven.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Cappargarnia, Einandhu (4), Elphârec, IOC, Kicitchat, Kommolek, Tiryowglas,

DP: Failed

Prince Dallyn (who celebrated his 70th birthday in 1452) continued his rebuilding project with the construction of four new priories. The Prince, and indeed the entire realm, were saddened by the unexpected death of his sister's-son and heir (also named Dallyn) at the age of 44. The succession has passed to his younger brother, Tewas.

A large excavation project was noted by many in the ruined city of Ordior in Dramûl. Duedhyn's sorcerers reported a breakthrough in the advancement of the magical arts, and they have petitioned the Prince for the construction of a University.

BARONY OF FELL KOMMOLEK (17 M/YG)

Baron Goesek Annavas of Kommolek, Lord Treskaw, Burgrave of Fair Belsûnd.

Trade: Aradéc, Kicitchat, CotI, Elphârec, Hyrágec

DP: None

The Uernos refugees were moved northwards. Many were settled in Treskaw, which became a city. The rest continued on to Korev, where the town of Kedhlow was rebuilt. The Academy at Fair Belsûnd was endowed as a University.

The dashing Lord Terthynn was granted command of a force of cavaliers, the command for which he was born.

COUNTY OF TIRYOWGLAS (10 M/IL)

Lord Kwilkyn Sarrik, Regent of Tiryowglas.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Cappargarnia, CotI, Duedyn, Einandhu (4), Elphârec, Hyrágec, IOC, Murali

DP: Hunnîr (T)

It was an open secret that Lord Sarrik greatly favoured the winner of the Caranes tourney, Dame Tesenn. The depth of that favour surprised even those close to the court, however, when Lord Sarrik announced their engagement in 1452. The groom's father had personally handled the betrothal negotiations with Clan Siljyk. The state wedding was held at the ancient Brogh Baronial priory of Kirbel near Bronnow in 1453. The first of the couple's children, a girl, was hatched in the following year.

Iluvarian missionaries with distinct Tiryowi accents flooded the bordering steppelands. Annedor converted, and about half the population of Antedon have likewise embraced Iluvar. A Tiryowi airfleet visited Tamris, another site of (unsuccessful) Iluvarian missionary activity, where they witnessed no less than three spectacular volcanic eruptions.

ILUVARIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH (20 IL)

His All Holiness, Harmony VII, Pontiff of Sistrameides, Archemandrite of Ilúhir.

Trade: Aradéc, Duedhyn, Einandhu (4), Elphârec, Hyrágec

DP: None

Pope Harmony proved the very model of good health through clean living, celebrating his 70th birthday in 1452. Not everything was peaches and cream for the pontiff, however. His plan to expand the abbey of Heyji in Garwel into a cathedral was frustrated by a lack of resources. There is some consideration in pontifical circles of charging 20AP for leaders to attend the Pontifical University or Diplomatic Academy. The pontiff may also be interested in purchasing arms points if the price is right.

MOST SANGUINE DUCHY OF ELPHÁREC (18 W/IL)
His Grace, Eparreb Caranthes IV, the Pious, Count of Angûron and Siddhan, Duke of Elphárec.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Cappargarnia, Duedhyn,
Einandhu (4), Hyrágec, Ingazi, IOC,
Kicitchat, Kommolek, Tiriyowglas

DP: None

Duke Tashnes came down with a sniffle in 1451 that quickly developed into a cold that settled in his lungs. His health declined rapidly, and he died in the spring of 1452. His energetic son, long confirmed as heir, led the mourners in a three-night vigil before entombing his father in the family crypt at Pindirri Priory.

Duke Caranthes wasted no time in consolidating his reign, assembling the clan mothers to confirm his young son Tashnes as heir. He then set about an ambitious building program, expanding Bodrhu in Siddhan, building the towns of Cul-lasiroc in Lósenor and Nodder in Verámes, and endowing no less than five priories. Investments were made across the board, though nothing actually managed to improve.

KINGDOM OF HYRÁGEC (15 W/UR)

Her Valiant Majesty Irrjir Sardira, the Virgin Queen, Reigning Queen of Hyrágec, Beloved of Urda.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia,
Chi'tixi, Elphárec, Ingazi, Kicitchat,
ThaceE, Urdraháhn

DP: None

Unfolding events in Golmath caused panic throughout the Hyrágecan court. When news of the massacre in Walu reached the court, King Rahnes suffered a fit and had to be restrained. He was taken to bed and rapidly declined, falling into a coma within a week.

The problem of Prince Torthes became acute as he upbraided his father's doctors and violently struck out at anyone else who got near him. That the Prince was dangerously mad was an opinion commonly held throughout the capital. Factions at court began to come together around the idea that the Irrjir clan mothers should be summoned to appoint a new heir. Some of the Hyrágecan clans

even broached the idea of a new royal house, or of a regency.

King Rahnes the Crook-Nosed died in his bed on November the eighth, 1454, without ever having regained consciousness. The crisis was at hand.

THE HYRÁGECAN SUCCESSION CRISIS OF 1454-1455

An attempt by the Irrjir clan mothers to meet at Kingschapel Priory on the ninth was broken up by the Royal Guard, who, true to their oaths, were unblinkingly loyal to the commands of the new (if yet uncrowned) King Torthes IX. In the confusion, several of the mothers were injured, one seriously, and all were placed under arrest.

As news of this atrocity spread throughout Pahasar, the streets filled with ordinary citizens. They shouted for the King to come and explain himself to them. Torthes responded with the imposition of martial law. When the crowds refused to disperse, he sent in the Guard to disperse them by force.

It was at this point that the cavaliers of the Royal Army, led by a young captain named Elgal Mendathes, decided that they had had quite enough. They charged from their barracks into the streets of the city and engaged the Royal Guard in defense of the people. A confused battle took place, which culminated in the utter destruction of the Guard and the siege of the palace.

The leaders of six of the seven other great clans of the kingdom publicly demanded to know Mendathes' intentions and condemned his act of rebellion, though there were reportedly private messages of support. Only Clan Whirippi of Endani Prefecture publicly supported the uprising. The clans mobilized their forces and several began marching for the capital. The palace standoff continued for several months and through the winter, during which time the king's sister Sardira was released from her monastic vows and joined with the Royal Army.

In the spring of 1455, the King let it be known that unless the rebels stepped down and handed over their captain, he would begin killing the Irrjir clan mothers—who included in their number his *own* mother, the late king's widow. This had the effect

of turning opinion firmly against the King and ending the threat of civil war.

It was at this point that the various clan and royal military forces converged on the capital. The clan heads and army colonels met at Kingschapel with Princess Sardira. Captain Elgal soon arrived there as well. He surrendered his sword to the Princess and swore to serve whatever punishment the clans thought befitting. The meeting was closed, but angry shouts could be heard through the doors. When the Princess and the lords emerged, it was with a charter of rights for the Barons and a coronation oath for Sardira, provided she could get the approval of the Irrjir clan mothers for her accession to the throne. As for Elgal Mendathes, he was stripped of his command but elevated to the largely ceremonial position of Baron of Zoelæ.

Princess Sardira returned to the palace courtyard at the head of the united clan and royal armies of the Kingdom and gave her brother the King an ultimatum: surrender or the palace would be assaulted. In response, a body was flung from the tallest tower of the palace. It impacted with a sickening crunch on the cobblestone courtyard. Upon examination, it proved to be the body of the King's great-aunt Finora.

Princess Sardira, clearly shaken, addressed the cavaliers of Hyrägec, telling them in no uncertain terms that a King who would murder his own kin—and an elderly aunt at that—was no King at all, but a madman and a tyrant, deserving not of a throne but of a sickbed or, failing that, a grave. So it was that on the third of Primilis 1455 the chivalry of Hyrägec attacked the palace of their own King, an event unheard of in the history of chivalry or of the Kingdom.

The battle was mercifully brief. The palace was destroyed and the surviving Irrjir clan mothers were rescued. King Torthes himself died in the fight, though who killed him none would say. With the assent of the clan mothers, Queen Sardira was crowned immediately, while the palace still smouldered, and took the coronation oath to uphold the rights of her nobles and her people, and to defend and protect her realm and the Church.

: The Gawan Peninsula:

THE FEUDAL NORTHEAST

COUNTY PALATINE OF INGAZI (6 W/UR)

His Most Urdan Excellency, Gwariva Razhim IX, Overlord of Gawan, Captain of the East Riding, Count Palatine of Ingazi.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Araxes, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Hyrägec, Kicitchat, ThaceE, Udraháhn

DP: None

Razhim's continued ill health forced him to give up drinking and whoring, an even nearly unprecedented in the history of the Palatinate. The Count and the Council of Ministers were enraged at the treatment of Golmath's Urdan subjects.

CHURCH UNIVERSAL & TRIUMPHANT (13 UR)

Her All-Holiness Ardonia XIV, Claw of the Dragon, First Matriarch of Urda, Protector of Sahúl.

Trade: Adndar, Araxes, Aradéc, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Dynath (3), Hyrägec, Ingazi, Istahn (1), Madramityi (3)

DP: None

Following the events in Golmath, the First Matriarch called together her advisors to determine how best to proceed. At a minimum, all trade between Golmath and the Urdan realms was to cease forthwith.

ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF GOLMATH (19 W/TA)
His Gracious Majesty, Walarri Parndarra II, Baron of Madran and Kamadhi, Count of Agdora, Elector and Grand Duke of Golmath.

Trade: Adndar, Araxes, Aradéc (31 only), Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, CotI, Kititchat, Murali, Runazar, Zarkhandu

DP: Daryis (F), Nappamiri (T), Kirtirri (F)

The city of Golmath grew, perhaps to accommodate the expanding government.

The doddering old Grand Duke was determined to forge his realm into a coherent whole. He sent diplomats to the heads of two of the great clans with offers they couldn't refuse. One did, one

didn't. He further ordered Captain-General Biswajit to effect the colonization of loyal Tarotists into the pacified Urdan prefectures in the northwest of the country. So with 20,000 horsemen and an unruly mass of civilians, he set out to do just that.

The colony emplaced in Dalkurnu quickly prospered, even if the native Urdans were sulky and resentful. In Dalgáni they encountered some minor resistance, and the local garrison took casualties while restoring order. And then they came to Walu. The population of Walu, having seen what had already happened in Dalkurnu and Dalgáni, were determined to resist the invaders. A great force of quasi-trained peasant rabble was raised to fend off the colonists. The Captain-General was less than impressed, and ordered his forces to obliterate them to the man. They proceeded to do just that. Unfortunately for the Urdan resistance, the Tarotists were professional and thorough. When the scattered remains of the resistance melted away, Biswajit's forces pursued them into their villages and their homes, using brutal force to find and destroy the rebel remnants. Whole villages were burnt to the ground, and their inhabitants were impaled on spikes lining the main roads. Only when Biswajit "the butcher" was finished despoiling the countryside were the Tarotist colonists allowed to settle in Walu.

Waves of alarm and unrest spread through Golmath's other Urdan prefectures, though only Yukarra succeeded in throwing off their garrison. The Burgrave of Pudyagapa, the most senior Urdan official in Golmath, appealed to the Grand Duke to punish the butcher and to ensure the safety of the Urdans within his realm.

ELECTORAL KINGDOM OF ARADÉC (31+11 W/IL)
His Majesty, Prince Sansollen Deric, Prince-Regent of Aradéc.

Trade: Adndar, Araxes, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, CotI, Duedhyn, Dynath (3), Einandhu (4), Elphárec, Golmath (w/31 only), Kicitchat, Hyrárec, Ingazi, IOC, Istahn (1), Kommolek, Madramityi (3), Murali, Runazar, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn, Zarkhandu

DP: Khúnatar (A to Imperial Demense),
Milawalpayi (A)

Darnuldeis expanded into a proper city at last, and the fortress of Manád raised up beside it. Much of the army was modernized, though despite the eloquent pleas of Admiral Princess Dagamiri, the Aradécán Navy was not similarly improved. In fact, the Emperor removed his sister from command entirely and remanded her to the diplomatic service. The senior naval captains, while remaining perfectly obedient and cheerful, nevertheless made it clear that they regarded this as an ominous development.

Iluvarian missionaries were sent to Tarotist Kudirri and Urdan Payirri. The Urdans politely declined, but many of the Tarotists were convinced; Kudirri is now half Iluvarian.

COUNTY OF MURALI (6 W/TA)

His Excellency, Kilyara Drathnes II, the Lumberjack, Baron of Karrka, Count of Murali.

Trade: Aradéc, Golmath, Runazar, Tiryowglas,
Zarkhandu

DP: Pundhu (F), Pagadekki (A)

Murali commissioned a special battalion of Foresters to protect Count and County. An elegant priory was built on the hills overlooking the mouth of the Kollalla River in Mandri, just across from the Free City of Sarsis. In fact, the Count's son Torthes pointed it out when he visited Sarsis and dined with both the Burgrave and the Admiral of the Red.

The rumour that the Count himself supplied the lumber for the expansion of Thangír into a city is almost completely untrue.

ꝛ *Chill Zarkhu* ꝛ
IN THE SHADOW OF YARNI-ZA

COUNTY OF RUNAZAR (17 W/TA)

His Excellency, the Volpel Anu Zhotek Re, Baron Volpel & Count of Runazar, Lord Admiral of the Red.

Trade: Aradéc, Golmath, Murali, Sidith (2),
Zarkhandu

DP: Zadok (T), Vess (A), Iärdan (F)

The Count sent a mighty sacrifice up to the Hidden Lords and received... precious little. Ah, capricious fate! The heir *du jour*, Volpel Draktich Re, was married in 1454 to a beautiful young scion of the ruler of Vess, further cementing the new alliance. Diplomats journeyed near and far.

Meanwhile, Count Zhotek is eighty years old and still going strong.

ELECTORAL KINGDOM OF ZARKHANDU (34 S/YG)

His Great & Terrible Majesty, Onin Zhur, Lord Sakkath, Count of Vúhlath & Mlideen, Duke of Hyáglion, Electoral King of Zarkhandu.

Trade: Aradéc, Golmath, Murali, Runazar

DP: Cuppar (F), Ziman (A)

King Onin Zhur decreed that the northern reaches of his Kingdom become more urbanized. The town of Zhangan rose in Zahn at the terminus of the Old South Road, and the river port towns of Varek and Arion were raised in Mahn and Sundári respectively. Anxious to demonstrate his close rapport with Dread Yagnar, four new priories were raised to his glory. A bridge was built over the Minrao from the city of Zarkhandu into Meenath, at a considerable cost in slave labour.

The King and his mighty army surveyed the steppe frontier, as if daring any nomads to strike. The neighbouring Ziman were so impressed that their chief struck an alliance with the King.

The Zindeeran refugees in Zyleen were settled in Rúgnath, much to their relief. At least the winters have been relatively mild this time.

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IMPERIAL GAZETTE

Published by the Ancient and Undaunted Order of Heralds by Appointment to His Imperial Majesty



APPOINTMENTS

To Lord Admiral of the Green: Electoral Grand Duke Muldalan II of Averon.

To Governor of Kanmul: by *examination*.

To Governor of Larloc: Prince Anabrin Caranthes of Cappargarnia.

To Governor of Thacia Minor: Electoral Count Palatine Ebalondrir III of Thace.

OPEN OFFICES

Due to the death or incapacitation of the previous office-holders, the following offices are vacant:

Governors of Dranmul, Kanapad, Narchoal, Thacia Minor, Thebia, & Yann.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS OF THE EMPIRE

<i>Province</i>	<i>Governor</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Governor</i>
Agador	bureaucrat	Kembul	bureaucrat
Anabreis	bureaucrat	Kiermon	bureaucrat
Aradaun	bureaucrat	Kinsidan	bureaucrat
Arador	bureaucrat	Kordier	bureaucrat
Ardebon	Atuburrk	Kumarand	bureaucrat
Artier	Kicitchat	Lambris	bureaucrat
Balashan	bureaucrat	Larloc	Capparg.
Belegarid.	bureaucrat	Mondahan	bureaucrat
Biralis	bureaucrat	Muralis	bureaucrat
Chos	Itaxik	Narchoal	vacant
Dorthacia	bureaucrat	Nauatidran	bureaucrat
Dranchoal	bureaucrat	Orinos	bureaucrat
Dranmul	vacant	Sachon	bureaucrat
Drazhan	bureaucrat	Sardior	bureaucrat
Endior	bureaucrat	Sistramidior	bureaucrat
Iantier	bureaucrat	Tepalis	bureaucrat
Iasedior	bureaucrat	ThaciaMaior	bureaucrat
Kaidu	bureaucrat	ThaciaMinor	vacant
Kanapad	vacant	Thebia	vacant
Kanmul	bureaucrat	Tramelis	Taneki
Kaparis	bureaucrat	Withidan	bureaucrat
Kassaria	bureaucrat	Yann	vacant
Kastier	Itaxik		

IMPERIAL STRENGTH INDEX

#	Realm	Player	Forum Name	E-mail	ISI
<i>The Great Powers</i>					
1	Aradéc / Emperor ...	Charles Hurst	Xanthi.....	charlesh@teleport.com	1,057.6
2	Chi'tixi	Steve Cagg	Priest King	ragnarstation@hotmail.com.....	881.1
3	Averon	Kevin Lawrence	Averon Inc.....	privatej67@yahoo.com	769.7
4	Thace, Ele%or	Nuno da Silva	Nuno	ndasilvaz3@hotmail.com	695.1
5	Golmath	Paul Flinton	Free Beer	cruentidei@gmail.com.....	654.2
<i>Major Powers</i>					
6	Zarkhandu	Theo Moriarty	Mandala of Blood.....	tmoriarty@gmail.com	638.1
7	Church U&T	Jacqueline Brasfield	Amphigori.....	.....	594.5
8	Itaxik	open for a player .....	.....	.....	583.7
9	Cappargarnia	David Adams	seattleda	seattleda@yahoo.com	583.4
10	Araxes	open for a player .....	.....	.....	560.5
11	Taneki	Ed Allen	Malathion	tgroove@earthlink.net.....	506.5
12	Pexiki	John Schmid	Magus	magus@spellcaster.org.....	489.8
13	Elphárec.....	Josh Buchanan	joshb	joshinstl@yahoo.com	487.4
14	Atuburrk	Ian Andrews.....	Seneschal	in.carcosa@gmail.com	476.9
<i>Minor Powers</i>					
15	Kommolek	open for a player .....	.....	.....	442.9
16	Kicitchat	open for a player .....	.....	.....	442.8
17	Tiryowglas	Mike Johnson	Minister of Defense	printermanmn@aol.com	437.0
18	Duedhyn	Alex James.....	Clan Dhanos of Duedyn	ClanDhanos@yahoo.com	434.7
19	Adndar.....	Joel Halfwassen	joelevan	joel@interserv.com.....	434.2
20	Hyrárec	S. Michael Kelley.....	angel_lord	archangelkelley@gmail.com	432.8
21	Runazar.....	Steve Speyer	Rogue Cleric	sespeyer@cox.net	385.9
22	Thace, Duchy	Jake Roberts	Jake	jakeroberts1@cox.net.....	320.3
<i>Miscellaneous Rabble</i>					
23	IOC	open for a player .....	.....	.....	291.9
24	Church Militant	open for a player .....	.....	.....	285.3
25	Ingazi	open for a player .....	.....	.....	284.8
26	Tokatl.....	open for a player .....	.....	.....	272.3
27	Murali.....	Corey Snow.....	Cyclometh	cyclometh@gmail.com	253.6
28	CotI	open for a player .....	.....	.....	250.2
29	Unholy Xin	open for a player .....	.....	.....	248.5
30	Kachar	open for a player .....	.....	.....	241.8
31	Yax'te.....	open for a player .....	.....	.....	231.1
32	Sakkar.....	open for a player .....	.....	.....	209.7
33	Tigers.....	open for a player .....	.....	.....	187.1

