



THE SULTANATE

For many years, the Sultans of Istanbul have laid claim to the holiest lands of the world and defended them against the depredations of the infidel, the raider and the thief. Grown idle and lazy with the wealth of their realm, the Sultanate for a while appeared in danger of collapsing under the pressure of foreign enemies. Now enriched by the font of knowledge unlocked by the New Learning, the Sultanate has been revitalised as a world power. The New Learning has not been the only revelation received by the Sultan and the Sublime Porte – secret friends of the Sultanate have explained that all is not quite what it seems in this Dystopian Age. A greater threat than the petty sabre-rattling great powers exists, and it is the duty of all to oppose this dark curse before it destroys the world.



[*Intercepted epistle from Sircan Osman.*]

My High Sircan,

Greetings under the light of the Allshard! From the congregation of the Holy Order of Man in the Levant; greetings to High Sircan Abner from Sircan Osman, may the Allshard forever bless us with its revelations.

First, let me beg your indulgence for I felt a written report was the most useful way of fully updating you as to our situation here. The man I have entrusted with this packet is amongst my most dutiful Spica here in Istanbul and I have much confidence that this packet reached you far swifter than it might otherwise have.

Secondly, may I communicate my thanks for your own recent epistle distributed last month? Our congregation was enthused by your words concerning the ever increasing threat posed by the Tainted, and we have redoubled our efforts here to secure our Order's position and to bring about the final victory.

The situation here in the Sultanate continues to be positive, but I fear we will soon reach an uncomfortable moment of crisis. As you have so often warned, only by being prepared for an event can we ever hope to control it. I have tried my best to place our forces in a position to exploit whatever should happen here. Nonetheless, I feel that I would benefit from your own expertise in this situation.

I hope you will forgive the following historical background, but I feel only by explaining the context in which the Order finds itself today can you truly understand the predicament we face...

THE OTTOMAN ADVANCE

The modern Sultanate owes its existence to the conquests of the Turkish people begun in 1299. At first merely a tribal confederacy under Osman I, the Sultanate soon expanded into the rest of the Middle East and the Levant. After 1354, the Ottomans conquered much of the Balkans, becoming a transcontinental power.

Under the leadership of one Sultan Mehmed, called the Conqueror, the Sultanate finally ended the existence of the last vestige of the old Roman Empire, dismantling all that remained of Byzantine power and eventually breaking their power entirely with the capture of Constantinople itself.

From this new capital, the Sultanate and its officials have weathered many crises through their history. Many wars and campaigns were fought against encroaching European powers in the Mediterranean – as well as many Ottoman attempts to expand into Europe proper. Under the reign of several wise Sultans, the Sultanate also expanded south and west along the Middle Sea and east to the shores of the Iranian Gulf and the Arabian Sea.

These Persian and Arabian conquests had a major impact on Ottoman culture and society. A renaissance of Persian literature sparked resurgence in ancient forms and practices amongst the people of the Sultanate and its rulers. They adopted the title Padishah, meaning "Great King" from the Persian language – and incorporated Persian styles and forms into their government. Even today, the governors of provinces are referred to as "Satraps", whilst military generals of sufficient



wealth and influence may claim the title of “Spahbed” which conveys suitable authority over all military dealings in an entire province.

The dominance of the Ottoman Sultans over all the holy sites of Islam, Christianity and Judaism has ensured its spiritual as well as political hold over its people. Relaxed toleration laws, particularly when compared to European norms, helped to develop a culture that cut across religious lines. Not to mention the wealth brought in by trade between East and West that flowed through the Ottoman domains.

THE SICK MAN OF EUROPE

Such was the strength of the Sultanate that many expected her to join the ranks of the Great Powers around the dawn of the 19th Century. Yet for all this success in charting a course amongst the other nations of the world, the Sultanate was not in a strong position after the end of the Prussian Wars.

Decades of mismanagement had left the Sultanate militarily and economically weak. Dissident movements in the Arabian and Persian territories fought on-again off-again campaigns of politically motivated brigandage. Prussian and Russian expansion threatened to destabilise the Ottoman Balkans, whilst mercenaries took up the cause of Greek independence. At sea, Ottoman power waned on both sides of the Dardanelles Straight as both the League of Italian States and Russia made plays for overall dominance in their respective areas. The Ottoman military was underfunded and poorly equipped, a shadow of the organisation that had once made the walls of Vienna shake. [*Postscript: It is likely that much of these disturbances owed something to*

the presence of Hex taint amongst the outcast and oppressed populations of the Sultanate.]

The Ottoman economy likewise faltered as the other powers began industrialising. Where once the fine artisan crafts of the Sultanate would have fetched high prices on the international market, they were now tawdry relics in comparison to the mass-produced goods churned from the factories of the established powers. Much wealth was squandered by the Sultans of this time on personal luxuries and excess and Ottoman infrastructure began to crumble and rot away. Only the Herculean effort of a few reform minded ministers within the Grand Vizierate prevented the Sultanate from collapsing under the weight of its own contradictions and being carved up by the other world powers in a feeding frenzy.

THE NEW LEARNING

As with all autocracies, the character of the supreme ruler often has a disproportionate effect on the realm that they control. Thus, after decades of weak rulers more concerned with their own indulgence than the realm they were supposed to steward, the Sultanate appeared wracked with poverty, crumbling infrastructure and host to a dissatisfied and fractious populace.

Into this vacuum stepped the late great Sultan Mehmed the Learner, named for the conqueror of Istanbul and successor to perhaps the most dissolute and indulgent of all the failed Sultans. The previous Sultan, who even now is not named in official histories for his cruelty and debauchery so shocked the nation, was Mehmed’s uncle – and rumours persist that his death was so decadent as to forbid description for fear of embarrassment. With his death, that



line of the family failed, and a new dynasty was raised to the throne. [*Postscript: A convenient story. Mehmed was a great man but was not above violence when necessary. In truth his uncle likely died at the sharp end of a blade travelling at high velocity.*]

Mehmed the Learner launched himself immediately into a bold reform movement; incorporating many scholars into his government. The Sultan himself made stringent cuts to the budget allocated for his own personal amusement and ploughed huge reserves into developing education and technology throughout his realm. The fruits of the “New Learning” were almost immediately felt: rapid modernisation led to a booming domestic economy, private incomes soared as wages rose, whilst once dwindling support for Ottoman rule rebounded exponentially.

There were few areas that Mehmed the Learner did not excel in. An accomplished scientist, he was at home discussing revolutionary new metallurgical methods as he was discussing theology with the scholars of Istanbul. His faith in the abilities of his own people was rewarded time and again, most markedly when Ottoman engineers unearthed great petrochemical wealth within the Sultanate’s territory that filled the coffers of the government and permitted further investment.

By the time of Sultan Mehmed’s death in 1858, the Sultanate had experienced a sea-change in its fortunes. No longer were its borders and sphere of influence under attack by rapacious foreign powers; no longer was the economy and government mere months away from collapse.

A SINGLE FLAW

Yet Sultan Mehmed did have a flaw; one area where he failed to uphold the standards of excellence to which he had striven for the duration of his reign. Mehmed the Learner was not a family man, distant from his children and often by turns spoiling or chastising his progeny to extremes.

Of his many partners during his reign, Mehmed produced only two children who survived to adulthood. The eldest, by his first wife, was Princess Scheherazade – a highly intelligent young woman hardened over time by parental neglect. The younger of the two, sired from a concubine who remains hidden, was Prince Mustafa. [*Postscript: Ottoman medical science took a while to fully embrace the fruits of the New Learning – only now can their medical schools truly claim world class.*]

Scheherazade proved to be as enthusiastic in learning as her father, ploughing through the rigorous curriculum imposed on her and demanding more. In her academic pursuits she sought the attention and praise of her absent father, but in burying herself in her studies she made bridging the gulf between the two even harder. The slightest flaw in her work would bring harsh criticisms that she took to heart, whilst her greatest successes were damned with faint praise. [*Observation: Forgive the time spent sketching her character, but I think such information will be useful in time.*]

It will come as no surprise then that the Princess soon sought better environments in which to develop her work. First she involved herself with major projects within the Sultanate, but later took on studies in the greatest universities of Europe. Her time



there put her in contact with the Amis, and from there her intellect and her ambitions grew. As far as we know, the Princess was a founding member of the Covenant of the Enlightened, and her activities since then have become notorious.

Indeed, her involvement abroad was tolerated by the Sultan because it achieved a private objective he had held for many years. Princess Scheherazade, for all her abilities, would never succeed him to the position of Sultan. For one thing, her gender excluded her, and for another the Sultan had grown increasingly fond of his son Mustafa, and it was to him that he intended to pass the throne when he finally died. [*Postscript: Truly, the sins of man are often born in their follies.*]

Prince Mustafa was not cut from the same cloth as his father. His academic achievements were limited, and he received much praise for very little effort (to his sister's eternal envy.) In many ways, Mustafa's interests ran more to those of his grand-uncle's family than to his father's; although in his mind, Mustafa was as much a "Man of the New Learning" as the rest of his family. Mustafa, however, valued (and still values) the appearance of success rather than the reality of it. Grand projects, glorious monuments and stupendous works are to him the hallmarks of the New Learning – instead of the rational deliberation of policy, and the evaluation of its effects. [*Postscript: I believe, somewhat ironically, that the term most appropriate here is that the Prince is a "Renaissance Man"*]

A SHINING NEW ERA

Therefore, in 1858, the twenty-six-year-old Prince Mustafa succeeded to the throne

of a realm at peace with its neighbours and with itself. The occasion was elaborate and glorious, full of speeches proclaiming the wisdom of the new Sultan's father and the glorious rule of the rejuvenated Sultanate. The only cloud was the absence of Princess Scheherazade. In truth Prince Mustafa's sister received, at the instructions of the Grand Vizierate, a generous cash lump sum and annual stipend upon his coronation but was politely asked not to attend the event itself.

Sultan Mustafa quickly earned a reputation as a garrulous and cheery monarch. Whilst already a large man, he quickly grew several sizes as he indulged a bit too much in his appetite for fine foods. Yet even the return of the harem, and the rich gowns and turbans of the old Sultanate could dim the peoples' love for their new ruler. [*Postscript: A curious truth. Sultan Mehmed was an excellent ruler but austere and distant, he was universally respected but not loved. Mustafa, on the other hand, is dissolute and disinterested but is almost unfailingly loved by his people. Curious.*]

Much of the day-to-day operations of the Sultanate fell to the Grand Vizier, Mehmed Pasha, who had served Sultan Mehmed faithfully in his final days as ruler. Many of the old policies continued, yet Sultan Mustafa quickly made a point of embarking on grandiose projects to demonstrate Ottoman prowess and ingenuity. Amongst these projects were the massive fortifications that now straddle either end of the Dardanelles, the construction of brand new warships for the Sultanate Navy, and the extensive "Gardens of Paradise" initiatives – where technology bought dearly from Covenant



of the Enlightened sources was used to “green the desert” and establish new and expansive cities throughout the Sultanate.

In the process, Sultan Mustafa made quite the name for himself. He was touted in the press as a liberal reformer, feted worldwide for his great building projects and lavished with praise at home and abroad. He was dubbed by admirers as Sultan Mustafa the Golden, although in private his advisors began to doubt the wisdom of this public display of largesse. The Sultan’s projects quickly exceeded the nation’s ability for pay them.

SULTAN MUSTAFA THE GOLDEN PLATED

Grand Vizier Pasha was, and remains, a cynical rationalist. Unfailing calculating, Pasha weighs every option within his finely tuned mind to determine the best course of action at each step. Nonetheless, he is a servant and not a ruler, and is dedicated to furthering the Sultanate’s prosperity. It was Pasha who masterminded the exclusion of Princess Scheherazade from the succession, doubting her commitment to traditional Ottoman values, and it was Pasha who realised many of the Sultan’s grand visions.

The Grand Vizier was also the man who ensured the stability of the Sublime Treasury as the Sultan’s vanity projects took their toll. New financial measures were introduced to raise more revenue, whilst in secret Pasha arranged loans from various sources. Amongst his highest-ranking officials, Sultan Mustafa was soon referred to as “the Golden Plated” a play upon his popular name, Mustafa the Golden. It is clear that such whispers and rumours eventually reached the Sultan’s

ears, for he became more insecure even as further praise was heaped upon him for his national projects. It was around this time that Sircan Dylan Callus came into contact with the Sultan for the first time.

THE GREEK INSURRECTION

Greece is a stubborn and fractions region within the Sultanate, its ancient history and legacy of resistance inspires certain sections of European society. Nations seeking to embarrass the Sultanate frequently take up the cause of Greek Independence, when it suits their interests.

Sultan Mustafa’s reign has seen much investment in Greece in an effort, quite openly, to buy the loyalty of his Greek subjects. Concessions and reforms have granted further autonomy to the Greek people. At several points a general amnesty has been offered to Greek fighters holed up in the mountains – an innovation in Sultanate policy and an option which even the Sultan’s father never considered. Nonetheless, there are those too stubborn or too crazed to halt their struggle, and as we all know it is to these poor souls that the taint of the Hex calls most strongly.

I understand you are more than familiar with the following details, High Sircan, but allow me to emphasise certain aspects to more fully illustrate our position. As you know it was in 1867 that Greek rebels were identified using Hex weaponry during an attack on Edirne. While conducting observance in the region, Sircan Callus was in a position to save a young man from a horrific fate during that attack. In this selfless act, Callus won the gratitude of the young man’s father, an influential figure with the Sublime Porte. Sircan Callus was



summoned to Istanbul to meet with the Sultan the following month, and it is thanks to Callus persuasive words and sharp wit that we now enjoy the level of access and open influence in the Sultanate.

THE BLESSED & GOLDEN SULTAN MUSTAFA I

Callus explained to Sultan Mustafa the existence of two great forces at work upon the world. The Divine, whom we refer to as the Allshard, and the Antagonist, referred in our faith as the Hex. Callus presented these truths as but another layer of revelation upon existing faiths – as to a certain extent they are, and for his eager listener explained that only with the aid of powerful mortals could the Allshard vanquish the Hex and usher in a new age.

Mustafa saw in this narrative an opportunity to exceed his father's legacy and since that time has launched himself wholeheartedly in a new direction. No longer will his name be glorified for his largesse, it will also be remembered for his devotion and piety.

With the support of the Sultan, the Order was able to move freely throughout the Sultanate. Since our last report, I can confirm that the entire janissary corps of the Sultanate Army is now undergoing Spica training. Those who resist have been quietly removed to other corps within the army. At present, three regiments of Spica are now at full strength and are publicly recognised as the new face of the Divine Corps within the army. Mimreg have been placed in key positions throughout the remaining arms of the Ottoman military to provide oversight and identify those receptive to our teachings.

The Bastion Armature continues to grow apace, and other members of the congregation have been placed in positions of authority to ensure the further marginalisation of oppressed groups and root out the Hex taint wherever it is found or could potentially take root. The harsh penal code of the Sultanate has been incredibly useful in this project.

PROBLEMS IN THE SUBLIME PORTE

These successes have been bought at a price however. While our faith is openly tolerated within the cities and the Sultan's personal guard includes two of our Cor Caroli, we are still viewed with suspicion and resentment by those who would crave such influence for themselves. We have been denied leadership in the religious council, and our influence in civil government has only been secured in a few places where the Sultan's influence has been keenly felt or where we have had sympathisers within the government already.

Indeed, our presence here, whilst growing, remains constrained. It would not be impossible for a determined foe to disentangle us from our position and overturn all we have built. Our most dedicated opponent at present is the Grand Vizier himself. As I explained, the Grand Vizier is a cynical man and a rationalist. The logic of our mission here does not sit easy with his mind – especially weighing the potential damage we might cause to the realm with our rhetoric and policies. A viewpoint I understand – yet cannot condone given the true nature of the threat posed by the Hex.



It is Grand Vizier Pasha who has continued to frustrate some of our most dramatic reform proposals. He blocked our latest request for parity in the religious councils of the Sultanate, and frustrated careful plans to place Order observers within the halls of each of the Emirs and Satraps who govern the outer provinces of the Sultan's domain. Our last budgetary request to the Sublime Treasury was also entangled in bureaucracy for almost six months – a fact which cost us dear. That said, it was our influence with the Sultan that prevented a proposal from Pasha that would have gifted us new headquarters beyond the Topkapi Palace – inevitably isolating us from the Sublime Porte.

The Grand Vizier's bureaucratic obstructions are motivated by equal parts self-interest and self-preservation I believe. Without the controlling hand on the Sultan's actions Pasha fears he will be unable to moderate the Sultan's more excessive tendencies, Pasha also worries that the national interest is being suborned to the interests of a foreign cult, which is what he publicly claims when mustering opposition to us amongst the civil service. There is, however, another reason which I have recently discovered.

THE SIGN OF 40

A quick survey of the Grand Vizier's chambers was conducted three nights ago by specially selected Spica on my orders. The two managed to infiltrate that wing of the palace undisturbed and returned with copies of a few of his papers. These were not particularly illuminating apart from the symbol found etched into the corner – four lines enclosing four intersecting circles.

This symbol can be found all across the Sultanate branded upon individuals or goods, as well as locations. It is the “Sign of Forty” – an allusion to the Forty Thieves of legend and a symbol of the most organised and dangerous criminal fraternity in the world: The House of Gold. Written down it is strange to imagine how much fear that name invokes amongst the ordinary populace. In fact, the House is rarely named in full, called simply the “Thieves” or the “Snatchers” or other such metaphors when necessary.

The House of Gold began as narcotics smugglers, opium in particular, but have long since expanded into pretty much every single aspect of corruption. This has brought their Thief-Kings incredible wealth and influence. The least unsavoury of the operations is the lending of money to wealthy clients who have exhausted other options, and it was upon just such a transaction that this symbol was found in the Grand Vizier's office.

A SEA OF SHIPS

For much of its history, a large part of the Sultanate military has been led by the position of the Kapudan Pasha, commander in chief of both the navy and now the emergent air force too. Sultanate air power is a distinct element within the navy and provides air support to the modern “Gardens of Paradise” Sultanate naval battlegroups. With aging engine nacelles purchased from the Crown, the Sultanate navy was unremarkable indeed. Under the Sultan's instruction, this changed as engineers integrated magnetic impeller technologies from the Covenant of the Enlightened. Now Sultanate vessels such as those from Egypt and Greece,



have a reputation for unmatched speed and manoeuvrability. Though preferring lighter craft such as fast cruisers, destroyers and battle cruisers, the Sultanate use these advanced vessels to rapidly respond to threats and take advantage of a changing global situation.

With its ancestral naval and air command in the Turkish city of Karamursel on the Sea of Marmara, the Sultanate has collectively had a long naval tradition and has emerged victorious from many conflicts around the globe. Under the new Sultan, the military budget has increased twelve-fold and it now makes use of most of the Marmara Sea as a massive fleet manufacture, training and staging arena.

The Propontis region's critical nature to Sultanate military power cannot be underestimated. Indeed, the Great Powers all recognise that a move against the Sultanate would require a massive initial strike against the Marmara basin. Though the Crown favours a surface bombardment and the Alliance the polluting of the waterways themselves, the Commonwealth believes that skilful deployment of submersibles through the Bosphorus would achieve the greatest success, though certainly any such attack would wreak a terrible loss of life if successful. It is the more dispassionate military minds in the Covenant of the Enlightened who propose the most terrifyingly elegant, yet devastating solution - the detonation of a sizable atomic device on the North Anatolian Fault which lies along the Propontis. Even naturally, this geological feature has triggered many major earthquakes in recent years. The detonation of such a device would, in an instant, destroy not only the military

heart of the Sultanate but would annihilate Istanbul and its political and religious centres too. Both the Sublime Porte and its allies have dedicated significant resources of their own to counter any such threat. [*Postscript: Whether the absence of such an attack to date speaks more of the success of these agencies or rather a lack of resolve by the Great Powers remains to be seen.*]

OWING GOLD TO THE HOUSE OF GOLD

With expenditure such as the vast military programme, I have been aware for a while that the Sublime Porte's finances were not as strong as they had been, but I had not realised quite how poor they were. In order to finance the Sultan's lifestyle and keep him malleable, the Grand Vizier had also quadrupled the personal expenditure of the court. At the same time, of course, the government was ploughing money into the Sultan's projects like the "Gardens of Paradise" to develop the Sultanate and glorify its achievements.

After the civil unrest Sultan Mehmed had endured from heavily taxing Egypt, Mesopotamia and Persia, the Grand Vizier chose instead to finance much of this new extravagance with loans. Eventually he had exhausted all reputable sources of money and turned to the House of Gold. It appears that in the last few months the House of Gold has been buying up all the Sultan's debts and consolidating them in their own hand.

Quite why remains something of a mystery, but I can only surmise that the Thief-Kings in charge wish to ensure that the Sultanate is wholly indebted to them, and can therefore expect concessions and favours



in their own line of work. The House of Gold is something of an institution amongst the populace of the Sultanate and to move against it openly would likely create a crisis the government is unwilling to contemplate.

The Grand Vizier has thus far managed to keep the uncomfortable truth of the government's financial troubles out from the public eye. It is only a matter of time, however, before the story emerges into the public arena. Such scandal would have far-reaching consequences, not all of them beneficial for us. Whilst the revelations would certainly end the Grand Vizier's career and remove him as an obstacle, it would also rebound on the Sultan himself.

Public confidence in his reign would likely collapse, and since the toleration of the Order in some ways relies on his good name, we would undoubtedly suffer in the fallout. The worst-case scenario could see the Sultan forced to abdicate – closing the Sublime Porte off to us and threatening to destabilise the entire Sultanate as different claimants fought for the throne. The looming threat in such a scenario would be the return of the Exiled Princess.

THE CRIMSON LEAGUE

Ever since the coronation of Sultan Mustafa, Princess Scheherazade has kept herself amused using the funds she received from the government of her brother to continue her research as a member of the Covenant of Enlightened. She was instrumental in funding and developing several Covenant projects and served as a Covenant ambassador to several capitals during the early years of her brother's reign. Exactly what role she played in the

Covenant's Schism is unclear – as is our understanding of the event.

In any case, her talents as both a leader and a strategist called her to explore other avenues for profit and adventure – and she expanded her own 'Promethean Complex' into a veritable armoury, developing many different advanced weapons for sale to the Great Powers or for the use of Enlightened forces. Her contact with the Covenant's "warmaster" Schneider fostered an interest in military activities and the romance of a mercenary life. It is no surprise that the Princess established her own mercenary outfit early in her Covenant career. [*Postscript: We believe the Princess is operating from somewhere in Morocco, although that is pure conjecture. I would ask that we consider a detachment of Iapetus or Astraea to investigate.*]

This 'Crimson League' is dismissed as a vanity project so far as I gather amongst the halls of power. Staffed uniformly by noble adventurers and outlandish aristocrats, the organisation has nonetheless developed a reputation amongst certain quarters as highly effective. Reports garnered from their operational activities indicate a technologically advanced force of unique aerial vehicles and experienced crews, capable of working together despite their flamboyant personalities and wreaking havoc in their wake. [*Postscript: A contract with the Crimson League can run into expenses of hundreds of thousands in sterling so I am told.*]

The Crimson League has become a thorn in the side of the Sublime Porte – frequently striking at perceived threats to the Sultanate without the government's blessing at the whim of the Exiled Princess and



frequently making a diplomatic nuisance of themselves. There is a more worrying side to these concerns however, if the Sultan were to fall, would his infant son be able to rally the military to his side against the might of the House of Gold? And would the Exiled Princess simply sit out and allow her nephew to succeed to the throne that she believes is rightfully hers? And if she did intervene – would she bring the Crimson League with her? [*Postscript: I believe a comparison with the Commonwealth's Black Wolf and his proximity to the Tzar's court would be apt here.*]

A CHOICE

As you can see, and I hope you will forgive the time it has taken to get here, the Order faces a cross-road here in the Sultanate. We have built up an excellent base of operations here and our influence is expanding rapidly – the military potential alone of our alliance with the Sultanate cannot be overstated. However, all our progress could be undone in the next few years if we cannot manage the turmoil to come.

The information about the Sultan's debts could be used to leverage the Grand Vizier out of office or at least make him more compliant to our demands in the future,

however, using this knowledge without due care could bring about the very scandal we seek to prevent. The wrong word to the wrong person could bring our position crashing down.

On the other hand, failing to act to prevent the crisis, either by bailing out the Sultan with our own funds or somehow inveigling ourselves into the Vizier's good graces could put us in a more perilous position if the secret does break. [*Postscript: Do we have ready access to that amount? Could we source it from our Union holdings?*]

And in the worst-case scenario, in the event of the scandal precipitating a succession crisis... who do we support? The deposed Sultan? His infant son Prince Murad? Such decisions are far too complex to be taken here, which brings me to my final words.

I ask you, I implore you, for the good of our Order to convene a council as soon as possible to discuss the information I have sent you. I understand that the expectation is that I will be able to make such decisions on my own with the guidance of the Cor Caroli but in this instance, I desire the advice and guidance of more experienced voices. If at all possible, a visit from yourself would help greatly in easing the minds of us here in the Levant.

