

# THE PARISIAN HERALD

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## Leaked letter from King Philip- Miasmatic terror strikes France!

-Submitted by Count Edmond Dante

Hark, Ye noble denizens of Paris. We come to thee today with tidings both fell and fair, guided surely by the oft-absent hand of providence. A certain correspondence, reliably attributed to his majesty Philip, sixth of his line, long may he reign. This correspondence has been inadvertently slipped from the battlements of his lordships correspondents in Rome, and thusly, has become common knowledge to the noblemen in the city. Lest we confuse any esteemed Parisian, let us list this letter in its entirety henceforth.

"Your holiness, The esteemed Clement VI.

I must extend my eternal gratitude towards you in this time of great turmoil. The support of your church has been invaluable in the campaign to unseat the despotic tyrant Edward III. Alas, this great scourge had taken a heavy toll among the ever steadfast denizens of France- for the sickness has been both merciless in its aim, and brutal in its efficacy. This...Astral alignment, as my physicians call it, surely will cease soon, God willing, and dispel the ignoble miasma with great celerity. Alas, it would seem even providence doth fall into error, and I fear his hand shall not move to aid us for some time now. Forgive me if I encroach on blasphemy, but one is incapable of mustering much hope in these trying times. As I have said in our previous correspondences, the great economic machine that is feudalism at first weathered the assault of this plague. However, soon, even the counts and barons and landowners who stood to restore order to France have fallen victim to this horror. One after the other, I have seen men of great fervour and greater-still thrift fall first to those accursed pustules, then to the blood vomit, and finally, fall prey to death. Still, providence does still take mercy upon us wayward souls- for the grand army of France stands, at least in comparison, no less proud than in the times of Emperor Charles himself. For while our army has suffered heavy casualties, much alike the rest of the nation, our enemies too fall prey to this miasmatic terror, and leave that great tyrant in England no stronger in comparison to us. I fear greatly for my reign, however, friend- for though they have little time remaining on this mortal coil, I am sure, the serfs of France dare to aspire beyond their station with a brazenness I have never before seen. They have inherited a taste of the land and power their former liege lords held, and they are wholly intoxicated. Riots are becoming more and more commonplace, and I fear we shall soon be in open revolt, heavens forfend. The people

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talk openly of instituting *democracy!* Bah. These unbecoming and churlish dissenters shall cease this treasonous prattle soon, I think. We have ruled the nation of France through the monarchy since the time of the Merovingian Dynasty, and we will not stop now. Regardless, I digress. We have, of course, employed only the most reputable doctors to cleanse France of this scourge. I am told that the cures they ascribe must surely take effect soon- I need only be patient. While these doctors have not had any great success as of yet, I am loathe to dismiss the entire medical communities better judgment. You mentioned that fire may help with the miasma? I shall be sure to pass word on to my physicians. Surely it could not hurt to keep the braziers lit at all times- we have no shortage of fuel now, for all those who would desire it are dead. While we have no definitive information on the death toll, my doctors say that more than one in every three men falls to the plague. The situation is dire indeed- any aid your holiness could offer would be met with the utmost gratitude, either in dealing the coup de gras against the English, or dealing with this thrice-damned illness.

My most sincere thanks,

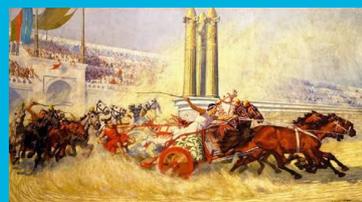
Philip VI "

As the esteemed reader was no doubt aware of prior to reading this correspondence, this "plague" has been carving a bloody path through the fair kingdom of France, brining discord and dissent wheresoever it strikes. Treasonous rebels have no doubt been capitalising upon this affliction, wooing the disenfranchised over to their misguided cause with honeyed words. Those noblemen with sufficient wealth and connection have already fled to the country side, living out their days in luxurious estates while those few lords who choose to remain face squalor and death on a daily basis. The Parisian Herald urges the esteemed reader to offer their support to the brave men and peers of France who choose to remain, and to report any who come with treasonous mutterings of sedition against the crown. Remain steadfast and pious through these trying times, and serve thine lord with the utmost respect and loyalty.

## SPORTS NEWS

"Best chariot race since Caesar"- says Basilieus.

-Pg 18



Performance enhancing stirrup scandal!

-Pg 20



Royalist general killed in duel, Nortier de Villefort denies culpability!

-Pg 23

