

To the Mouth

From the lobes of the brain, particularly the right lobe (with input from the fingers in Masque)

Honored Mouth,

As you know, we now have considerable numbers of people in Masque – well – we have very few, but we have regular reports from those who were already there.

Yesterday, it is almost certain that in the city of Whitewall – a port on the west coast of the mainland holdings of the Empire – a group of merchants, together with members of one of the combatant orders of Masque unmasked and killed an assassin who was of the seen but unseen (the servants of the abominations called they that come before in the old chronicles).

We know that he was able to change form into others and siphon their knowledge to enable his mimicry to be near perfect

We know that he was not a doppelganger

We know that his blood was ichor – as the warnings state it should be

We know that he was very difficult to kill and took one of the merchants, a general of the order of the Fox and a number of Pigs and other assorted animal order members with him into death.

We know that he was susceptible to a particularly strong mental “enchantment” cast by one of the gifted among the merchants – and was then killed while stunned by the animal masks.

We know that he then... well... dissolved is the word used by our contact... into ichor.

We know that Serpent masks (sorcerer scientists) have been summoned.

We know that the Fox general was a special envoy from the goddess-empress of Masque.

We are, beyond that point only able to extrapolate. We believe that its mission was to destabilize the rule of the goddess empress – but we are guessing on that point, and we cannot discern why he would wish to do that. The likely alternative, should she fall without issue – is the very warlike Baron of Kroiden. Even after her baby is born, it is likely that he would become regent. This seems a counterproductive move to the analysts. Regardless, the assassin’s death before he could kill more of the handful of nobles waiting there for a fleet to carry them to the capital only marginally weakened Flana. Had he been able to eliminate one or more of the other 3 nobles (a powerful upper mid range Serpent Mask – Sir Vartor; a powerful Horse general, who is the son of

the Grand Constable of the Order – Sir Martus Blord, and Contessa Emilia Grondsford, by adoption a Heron Mask and a powerful member of the Sisterhood. She is the niece of Lady Alina Herentius, Grand Constable of the Order of the Mink, and exceptionally loyal to Flana.) Then he would have done considerable damage.

It appears that a lack of situational understanding was the downfall of the assassin. It took the Fox, as best we can tell, as a target of opportunity while he shopped in a bazaar for a gift for his wife. It was easily able to dispatch the general's guards and killed the general with little more difficulty. It lacked the understanding that would have made it cautious around a merchant caravan powerful enough to carry and protect elven silk weave – and so fell to other troops after the helpful intervention of the merchant party (a minotaur merchant, M'Gurl, was felled in the process, unfortunately – but his partner, a kobold Wizard named Grrrr ??? and others including one of the gifted gamely fought on, and helped end the threat.)

I have directed agents to obtain, if possible, the rapier that the assassin used, so that its poison can be analyzed. If it can be obtained, the agents will pass it through the regional office to a transport to deliver it to our labs here.

I await the directions of his Grace through your agency.

Respectfully

The Right Lobe - and others.