

# The Capital City Herald

23rd Day of the Elder's Moon of 1116

## KING FOUND GUILTY OF REGICIDE, DETHRONED BY INQUISITION

**Lord Marshall Charles Dalton  
Appointed King Regent in  
Wake of Regicide Revelations**

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**Damasque Disgraced: Legacy  
of the Once-Illustrious House**

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## KING REGENT SERPENTSWHO?

by SORIDYLN ARAFEN

King Regent Charles Dalton Serpentsbane was born to Sun Priest and Priestess Nathan and Lia Dalton of the Church of Jeredith. Though he exhibited strong spiritual connections to the Queen of Light from an early age and wished for nothing more than to serve her alongside his parents, Charles was not suited to the quiet life of the Sun Priests and resolved instead to someday join the ranks of the Paladins. He spent his youth training in the art

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## TRUTH BEHIND QUEEN NEHEMIAH'S DEATH REVEALED

by LINUS PENDRAGON

**VONDARA** — Twilight softly fell upon the capital on Sunday, the ambient murmur of its bustling streets slowly fading as the night's fauna began their overture.

A blinding flash of brilliant light exploded from the city's center. With a deafening boom, a tremendous thundercrack ripped through the air, instantly shattering the tranquility of this otherwise unremarkable Spring evening. The ground beneath the great city shook violently as the shimmering silvery-white energies of the castle's protective barrier began to take shape, as if the very foundations of the Kingdom itself trembled in fear and horror at the events which had just unfolded. Perhaps they had.

Several hours later, Lord Marshall Charles Dalton Serpentsbane of the Jeredithian Inquisition stepped forward to address the large crowd of concerned citizens who had gathered outside the castle walls. No one could have been prepared for the revelations that would soon be brought to light. What follows is a transcription of his address.

"It is with the deepest of regrets and heaviest of hearts that I stand before you tonight", began the Lord Marshall.

"Shortly after King Damasque first began courting our late Queen, the Jeredithian Inquisition began an investigation after having taken notice of the abnormally close relationship between him and the Archduke. Duke Damasque and Queen Nehemiah were wed before our efforts had yielded anything substantial, so following their union we devoted as much of our resources to the investigation as was possible without drawing attention. What we uncovered—not once in my 21 years of service as an Inquisitor have I—has anything ever horrified me to my core so deeply as that which I must reveal to you this evening."

"When the late then-Princess Nehemiah retook her rightful place on the throne, Archduke Stonehearth feared that as a result of her troublesome and rebellious childhood, the attempt on her life and her subsequent disappearance, and her having been removed from royal society for so long—he feared that these things left her unfit to rule, so much so that it would cause her to inadvertently place the Kingdom in danger. When he learned that Damasque felt similarly, the Archduke set in motion his plan to ascend the Duke to the throne.

"It wasn't long after the two had wed that the Queen became pregnant, and with the birth of Prince Regus, the King now had the heir

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# *Tobin Preyset's* **PREMIUM** SALVES -&- ELIXIRS

## MONTY'S MAGICAL VIGOR NOW IN STOCK

*Only the Best, for Only the Best.*

## KING REGENT SERPENTSWHO?

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of combat while studying the ways of Truth and Light under his parent's tutelage. After overcoming the myriad of tests and trials needed to prove oneself worthy of service, he was inducted into the Jeredithian Order of Paladins at the age of 19.

After serving dutifully for two years, he became a probationary Inquisitor at the behest of his mentors and was partnered up with Verrin Terris, another probationary Inquisitor. During the years the two young men spent working together, both demonstrated time and again great loyalty and dedication to their charge, though perhaps their greatest accomplishment came while investigating a small forest village the two had passed through once before during a previous assignment.

Though the village was not currently being watched by the Inquisition and despite never having done anything to draw the organization's attention, Charles and Verrin had suspected Ethalian influence during their previous visit and returned at a later date of their own volition to investigate further. To their horror, they soon discovered that the roots which drew them back to the small town stretched far deeper than either of them had previously thought possible. Cut off from support, the two acted alone and were able to eliminate the threat

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## TRUTH BEHIND QUEEN NEHEMIAH'S DEATH REVEALED

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he needed to ensure his line remained on the throne. With his and the Archduke's plans nearly fully realized, only one task remained. It was then that King Damasque ended the Queen's life, mere moments after having brought their son into the world. It was a simple task for the King to spread the lie that his wife had died following her accouchement, but speaking as the Lord Marshall of the Jeredithian Inquisition, I implore you all; make no mistake—Nehemiah Varrow, daughter of King Regus and Queen Calithandra Varrow, did not die during childbirth—she was murdered.”

“Earlier today, I was summoned to appear before the crown. As Sir Hendrickson of the Golden Briar here can attest to, the King proceeded to inform me of his decision to dissolve the Jeredithian Inquisition after having consulted with the Archduke. It was at this moment, just over a year since the Queen's murder, that it became clear that the two sought to eliminate the only power which could remove Damasque from the throne before they discovered the truth—a check on the crown's power nearly as old as the Kingdom itself which entrusted the Inquisition with the authority to remove the reigning monarchs should they themselves become a threat to their people—a check which, until now, has remained in place for over a thousand years without ever having been invoked.”

“At my command, the Royal Guards, Sirs Hendrickson and Elision of the Order of the Golden Briar raised their weapons and turned towards Damasque. Drawing his blade, the former King refused to obey the laws set in place and maintained by his predecessors, leaving us with no choice but to attempt to subdue him by force so that he could appear before the people of this great city and answer to the loyal subjects he had forsaken.”

“The two Inquisitors by my side and I were unable to reach the throne before Damasque was able to escape through Dorithan's Pass—a hidden crawlway constructed long ago for emergency use protected by a powerful enchantment that grants entry only to those which the one attuned to the crown wills it. The knights bravely attempted to apprehend the King but were quickly overcome by his formidable combat skill, fatally wounding Sir Elision and nearly killing Sir Hendrickson before reaching the tunnel's entrance. The former King's current whereabouts are unknown, and he is currently wanted for the high crime of regicide.”

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and come out alive. Upon their triumphant return, both Charles and Verrin were made fully-fledged members of the Inquisition and granted the names Serpentsbane and Truthflame respectively. Serpentsbane would move on to achieve many notable commendations during his career, and after many years of distinguished service was chosen to replace Lord Marshall Elmire as the new Lord Marshall of the Jeredithian Inquisition.

## TRUTH BEHIND QUEEN NEHEMIAH'S DEATH REVEALED

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"Archduke Stonehearth has been placed under arrest for his crimes, and the arrangements for his trial are being made as we speak. Duke Castille, with the authority granted unto him by right of order of succession, has appointed me King Regent to serve until the young Prince comes of age upon his 13th name day, an honor I humbly accept. Thank you all for your time, and may the blessings of the All-Mother and All-Father's children guide us through these dark times into an era of peace under the future reign of King Regus Damasque. With unity comes strength; with strength comes prosperity."