***Blood Faith II***

My dear Porfirio,

The explanation I provided of relics and their nature, much to my pleasure, has not satisfied you. And as such you have made of me several inquiries further regarding their nature. Namely, what made the club I mentioned so special? Might any object be a relic of power? And could a man who had absolute belief in his strength, thus turn himself into a relic?

The answer is both simple and complex. As I explained, relics hold power as symbols for Philosophy. They affect us insofar as we are aligned with our Philosophy and Converted unto it. In essence, a relic is a representation of all we are not, and as such is poisonous unto our nature. The power of the relic comes not from the symbol, but the belief in the symbol. And not just any belief will suffice, it must be the belief that moves to action: faith.

What then do I mean by faith? For our purposes it is the alignment with Philosophy. I stated previously that as we Convert unto our Philosophy we transformed into something greater, by way of the Shedding. Our bodies and souls become truly one. And so we attain Power.

But the Opposition is insidious in its nature, and long ago discovered that belief in a symbol would attain a form of Power and thus be a weapon against us. But here is where the fickle nature of mortals is to our advantage. As I said only pure belief, the faith unto action, bestows Power, as shown by the example I presented of the man who became a relic. Mortals rarely exhibit such faith.

Mortals are easily seduced into thinking they have faith or strong belief. And in fact some do. A boxer might surely believe that he can defend himself against a ruffian. And in this he is justified, but he holds no Power. Why is this? Therein is the rub and the key to all relics.

A belief must be tied to something greater than oneself to have Power. This is why we never forget that we gain our power from our Conversion to our Philosophy, our faith in it if you will. If we were ever to believe that our Power were of ourselves, we would quickly find ourselves losing Power. Or even wholly at the mercies of the Opposition.

No relic has Power unless it is connected to a Philosophy. Thus the strong man though he truly believe in his strength, is ever our prey. His faith did not connect to a Philosophy, but to himself. And there is no Power there. And so we can detect hypocrites by the simple expedient of being in the presence of their relics.

The club I mentioned had a sordid history. It did not gain Power overnight, not even with its first kill. It gained Power, as best we can deduce, by being an heirloom in a period of ancestor worship. It was a link to the ancestors and therefore to the Opposition.

Now, you may be wondering why we present no obvious symbols or relics such as the Opposition does. We do, but ours are weak compared to theirs, and so we produce fewer. This is not a problem nor a worry.

The need for relics has always been as a means to Convert a mortal. And the Opposition relies heavily upon them. We however, simply use the mortal himself. His very nature gives him into our domain. Neglected he will most often avoid the Opposition through his greedy and self-pleasuring nature. But with simple care he can become one of us.

That is enough for now. Anything more you wish to know on the matter you will have to learn for yourself.

Affectionately,

Hæmming